**RECALLING THE 9/11 ATTACKS**

Micheal Arvizu

CSUN student Malek al-Marayati was in fourth grade on Sept. 11, 2001.

He remembers the day being filled with chaos.

“It was all pretty abstract to me at the time just because I wasn’t able to understand it completely,” he said.

He remembers his father, Al Salam al-Marayati, current president of the Los Angeles-based Muslim Public Affairs Council, worrying that, as word spread that the attacks on Washington, D.C. and New York City were the work of radical Muslims, Muslim-Americans would “be demonized.”

The younger al-Marayati described the days following the initial attacks.

“The transition period was so gradual between life before and after 9/11. It was such a momentous point of time for the Muslim-American identity, especially,” he said.

Al-Marayati, 21, a senior marine biology major and president of CSUN’s Muslim Student Association, remembers seeing footage of the attacks everywhere.

“I got to witness what everybody else was witnessing,” he said. “But I could not comprehend it completely until later on in my life.”

He remembers the stereotype of the Muslim terrorist flourishing in the weeks and months following the attacks. The attacks, al-Marayati heard at the time, were thought by Americans to be part of the “hidden agenda of Muslims around the world.”

Al-Marayati would experience the terrorist Muslim stereotype firsthand when he and his family were detained at the airport after disembarking from their return flight to the United States following a family vacation to Cancun about two years after the 9/11 attacks.

The authorities, al-Marayati said, never gave a reason for the detainment.

“My mom was freaking out,” al-Marayati recalls. “They had us detained for three hours.”

See 9/11, page 4

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**“GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN”**

Family and friends celebrate the life of CSUN student Jusdeep Sethi who drowned at Big Bear Lake on Aug. 11.

Alex Vejar

Dozens gathered to celebrate the spirit of Jusdeep Singh Sethi at a memorial service held in Matador Square yesterday to commemorate his 21st birthday.

Sethi, a CSUN student who drowned on Aug. 11 during a family trip to Big Bear Lake, was well-known for impacting many lives and always spreading positivity.

“He was limitless,” said Mohinder Sethi, Jusdeep Sethi’s mother. “He didn’t want to limit himself to his religion, to his ethnicity, to just this college, to just the four walls of his room, to just the four walls of his classroom. No boundaries, no limits.”

The celebration brought together some of Jusdeep’s passions including his culture, gardening, music, and art.

See JUSDEEP, page 5

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**SPORTS**

Matadors ice hockey team looks to improve off last season

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**OPINIONS**

Doctors, human rights groups say solitary confinement is torture

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**NEWS**

CSUN creates PSA’s addressing issues such as copyright

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**FEATURES**

Meet the president and founder of CSUN’s Improv club

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**LOREN TOWNSLEY / EDITOR IN CHIEF**

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**Mandeep Sethi hugs his mother Mohinder Kaur after his rap performance, which was dedicated to his younger brother Jusdeep Sethi who drowned at Big Bear Lake on Aug. 11.**

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**CSUN STUDENT Malek al-Marayati was in fourth grade on Sept. 11, 2001. He remembers the day being filled with chaos. “It was all pretty abstract to me at the time just because I wasn’t able to understand it completely,” he said. He remembers his father, Al Salam al-Marayati, current president of the Los Angeles-based Muslim Public Affairs Council, worrying that, as word spread that the attacks on Washington, D.C. and New York City were the work of radical Muslims, Muslim-Americans would “be demonized.” The younger al-Marayati described the days following the initial attacks. “The transition period was so gradual between life before and after 9/11. It was such a momentous point of time for the Muslim-American identity, especially,” he said. Al-Marayati, 21, a senior marine biology major and president of CSUN’s Muslim Student Association, remembers seeing footage of the attacks everywhere. “I got to witness what everybody else was witnessing,” he said. “But I could not comprehend it completely until later on in my life.” He remembers the stereotype of the Muslim terrorist flourishing in the weeks and months following the attacks. The attacks, al-Marayati heard at the time, were thought by Americans to be part of the “hidden agenda of Muslims around the world.” Al-Marayati would experience the terrorist Muslim stereotype firsthand when he and his family were detained at the airport after disembarking from their return flight to the United States following a family vacation to Cancun about two years after the 9/11 attacks. The authorities, al-Marayati said, never gave a reason for the detainment. “My mom was freaking out,” al-Marayati recalls. “They had us detained for three hours.”**

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**CSUN STUDENT Malek al-Marayati**

CSUN Vice President of Student Affairs, William Watkins, hands Jusdeep Sethi’s parents a Certificate of Recognition. Sethi, passed away this summer on Aug. 11. His life was celebrated at the Jusdeep memorial held at Matador Square, Tuesday, Sept. 10, with a variety of Sethi’s passions including his culture, gardening, music, and art.

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**CSUN STUDENT Malek al-Marayati**

Malek al-Marayati was in fourth grade on Sept. 11, 2001. He remembers the day being filled with chaos. “It was all pretty abstract to me at the time just because I wasn’t able to understand it completely,” he said. He remembers his father, Al Salam al-Marayati, current president of the Los Angeles-based Muslim Public Affairs Council, worrying that, as word spread that the attacks on Washington, D.C. and New York City were the work of radical Muslims, Muslim-Americans would “be demonized.” The younger al-Marayati described the days following the initial attacks. “The transition period was so gradual between life before and after 9/11. It was such a momentous point of time for the Muslim-American identity, especially,” he said. Al-Marayati, 21, a senior marine biology major and president of CSUN’s Muslim Student Association, remembers seeing footage of the attacks everywhere. “I got to witness what everybody else was witnessing,” he said. “But I could not comprehend it completely until later on in my life.” He remembers the stereotype of the Muslim terrorist flourishing in the weeks and months following the attacks. The attacks, al-Marayati heard at the time, were thought by Americans to be part of the “hidden agenda of Muslims around the world.” Al-Marayati would experience the terrorist Muslim stereotype firsthand when he and his family were detained at the airport after disembarking from their return flight to the United States following a family vacation to Cancun about two years after the 9/11 attacks. The authorities, al-Marayati said, never gave a reason for the detainment. “My mom was freaking out,” al-Marayati recalls. “They had us detained for three hours.”
ANDREW MARTINEZ
DAILY SUN DIAL

CSUN RECENTLY cooperated with the FBI to release six public service announcements (PSA), covering issues such as intellectual property theft and cyber-bullying.

CTV professor Nate Thomas was approached by the FBI to produce the spots after having previously worked with the federal government in 2010 for a cyber predator PSA. The FBI initially wanted to work with Thomas’ production company, but Thomas wanted to include CSUN faculty and staff in the process.

“Can’t make sure students are interspersed throughout this process as well as faculty members and staff members,” Thomas said.

Thomas said the FBI had a “nice sized budget” for the PSAs, and it allowed faculty and students to be paid for their work.

“It was a great experience for the students that helped us work on this, to have meetings with the FBI and to watch them critique the spots,” Thomas said. “A department like this should be using the talent of the faculty, staff and students for the better good, especially in the interest of the public.”

Two of the PSAs seek to raise awareness about movie and music piracy, issues that have grown in recent years with the growth of social media, many students still do not learn anything other than what they see on TV and on the internet,” according to Justin Martinez, a 22-year-old business law professional at CSUN.

A professor Nate Thomas at CSUN, said even though education is important to make people aware that intellectual property is just like land or personal property, controlling copyright infringement will still be an ongoing challenge to overcome.

“The internet has made copying a lot easier, and you can reach a wider audience through the internet, peer2peer and torrenting sites in ways you could not do 20 years ago,” Saunders said. “A lot of these people who really want to set up these sites are going to be one step ahead of MGM, the big movie studios and music companies.”

“While movie and music piracy might not be the most widely known topics covered in the PSAs, theft of intellectual property for copyrighted designs might even be more prevalent,” Saunders said.

“A lot of this stuff happens offshore. And it happens with books. It happens with designs. It happens with certain designs that are associated with fashion and that happens even more so than what happens online,” Saunders said.

Saunders also said that a student’s own experience with intellectual property is helpful in understanding the concept of copyrights and infringement.

“If the more authorities can crack down on the people who are doing the bullying,” Freeman said.

JSU counselor at CSUN’s University Counseling Services.

Dr. Freeman said PSAs focusing on topics like cyber bullying are important, as promoting a discussion of any kind would be useful.

“If the more people get involved in creating stuff, from being involved in entrepreneurship and businesses where intellectual property is important, they (will) get it more than just an abstract concept,” he said.

Another topic covered in the PSA is cyber-bullying.

Although the issue of cyber-bullying has increased in recent years with the growth of social media, many students still do not do anything about it, according to Dr. Allison Freeman, staff psychologist at CSUN’s University Counseling Services.

According to a 2011 report, more than 90 percent of teens who use social media have witnessed how “cruel behavior” gets ignored by others. More than 50 percent said this occurs frequently.

Freeman said students might not be accustomed to advocating for others and themselves, and this could explain peoples inaction toward cyber-bullying.

“More often than not, it will not be reported and one of the best ways to stop it is to report it and take action as quickly as possible before it gets out of hand,” Freeman said.

Dr. Freeman said PSAs focusing on topics like cyber bullying are important, as promoting a discussion of any kind would be useful.

“The more we know about it, the more authorities can crack down on the people who are doing the bullying,” Freeman said.

Justin Martinez, a 22-year-old junior transfer student, said he has seen some PSAs covering cyber-bullying, but does not believe enough attention is being given to the issue.

“Not that many people talk about (cyber bullying) and the media is the easiest way to send out a message. Adults don’t give enough attention to their children, and children don’t learn anything other than what they see on TV and on the internet,” Martinez said.

“For the moment a work is created in a fixed tangible form, the copyright immediately belongs to the person who created the work. For works of authorship that are prepared by an employee within the scope of his or her employment, the employer is considered the author for purposes of registration.”

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President outlines his case for Syria

In a nationally televised address on Tuesday evening, President Barack Obama made his case for a possible targeted military strike against Syria.

Speaking from the White House, the president said the United States cannot “resolve someone else’s civil war through force, particularly after a decade of war in Iraq and Afghanistan.”

The president said the outlook changed, however, when Syrian President Bashar al-Assad’s regime allegedly gassed thousands of its own people on Aug. 21.

Obama described images of the attack as “sickening.” Chemical weapons, the president said, are a “crime against humanity” and a “violation of the laws of war.”

In his speech, Obama referenced samples taken from victims of the chemical weapons attack as testing positive for sarin gas.

Failure to act against Syria would encourage the Assad regime to continue using chemical weapons said the president.

“Other tyrants, will have no reason to think twice about acquiring poison gas and using them.”

According to Obama, the strike would deter Assad from using chemical weapons and degrade his regime’s ability to use them.

It would also make clear to the world that the United States cannot “resolve someone else’s civil war through force, particularly after a decade of war in Iraq and Afghanistan.”

Early Monday, the Assad regime accepted a proposal by the Russian government to put its chemical weapons stockpile under international control. The Russian initiative came as a result of comments made by Secretary of State John Kerry in London on how Assad could avoid a military strike.

“We don’t know if Syria agrees to it, but if putting chemical weapons in this country under international control averts the military strikes, then we will immediately get to work on this with Damacus,” said Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov to reporters on the heels of Kerry’s remarks.

The president mentioned the initiative in his speech.

“It’s too early to tell whether this offer will succeed. And any agreement must verify that the Assad regime keeps its commitments,” Obama said.

The president said he has asked Congress to postpone a vote on military action while this diplomatic path is sought.

Kerry will meet with Lavrov on Thursday to discuss the proposal. Obama will then work in tandem with France, the United Kingdom, Russia and China to put forward a resolution at the United Nations Security Council requiring Assad to give up his chemical weapons and “ultimately destroy them under international control,” Obama said.

The U.S. military, Obama said, will maintain its position to “keep the pressure on Assad and to be in a position to respond if diplomacy fails.”

—MICHAEL ARVIZU, DAILY SUNDIAL
His family would be detained yet again several years later.

"That was probably one of the most dehumanizing things to be a part of," al-Marayati said. "That was really an emotional part of my life when it happened."

Although al-Marayati did not directly experience the demonization, racism and hate crimes some Muslims were subjected to at the time, he remembers learning about those acts through conversations with friends. Stories circulated among them about Muslim women who were given nervous glances when they ventured outdoors wearing the traditional hijab head covering.

"I pray for the people who were killed," Charif said. "I also remember learning about Muslims who committed terrorism in every religion who commit crimes against humanity, but other Muslims don’t consider the terrorists true adherents of the faith," al-Marayati said.

There are still a lot of people in America who still haven’t been convinced, who are still ignorant to what the truth is," al-Marayati said. "There is still a lot of work to be done."

A campus reacts

Archived Daily Sundial newspapers from the Wednesday, Sept. 12, 2001, issue describe a subdued, frightened, shocked, and mourning campus. Classes came to a halt as students listened to the former President Bush declaring to the nation that a terrorist attack had been committed.

The Wednesday issue contrasted sharply with the issue published one day earlier, which featured Monday reports of heavy rain affecting the campus. A campus wide that you did at one point." Borczon said. "Music can take the emotion and put it out." As a psychologist in University Counseling Services, Dr. Mark Stevens encourages people living in a time of crisis to continue to follow their normal routine and share their story to encourage healing. "Of course, there was just a tremendous amount of sadness," he said. "The healing process is not either/or. You never ever completely heal, but you also don’t hold onto the pain in the way that you did at one time." The 9/11 attacks changed the country forever, Stevens said, and are part of our collective consciousness, even after 12 years.
Mandeep Sethi performs a rap in dedication to his younger brother Jusdeep Sethi who drowned at Big Bear Lake on Aug. 11.

CSUN Botanical Gardens staff teaches CSUN Alumnus Brande Hoofkin (Right), 23, how to grow plants and herbs in an environmentally friendly way at the Jusdeep’s memorial held at Matador Walk, Tuesday, Sept. 10.

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Solitary confinement has to be reformed

Despite UN reports that say solitary confinement is torture and should be abolished, U.S. prisons continue their use.

LISA ANDERSON
DAILY SUNDIAL

ON THE SURFACE, the debate of solitary confinement is about torture, but it is only a part of a bigger issue. Are some people actually deserving of this treatment, even if it is a form of torture?

The California prison hunger strike in opposition to solitary confinement recently ended on Sept. 5, but the matter is far from resolved. As with most heavily debated issues, the arguments for and against solitary confinement are not perfect.

Solitary confinement is the act of isolating prisoners in closed cells from 22 to 24 hours a day, denying them direct human contact. To clarify, even if they are allowed visits, they can only see their visitors through thick glass, and the average term for California inmates is 6-8 years, according to anti-solitary confinement advocacy organization solitarywatch.com. To make matters more complicated, the term “solitary confinement” is not always or even usually used to describe this occurrence. Often, solitary confinement is referred to as “segregation” or a state-specific denotation such as Security Housing Units (SHU) for California.

Since states can’t agree on either the name or definition of solitary confinement, there are varying statistics on the exact number of people in solitary confinement. Solitary Watch estimates close to 11,000 prisoners in solitary confinement just in California, based on reports from the California Office of the Inspector General and California Assembly’s Public Safety Committee.

With that many people affected, it is important to consider whether or not solitary confinement is torture. Juan E. Méndez, the independent United Nations special rapporteur on torture, has said in a Reuters article that the U.S. government should abolish the use of prolonged solitary confinement under all circumstances. Méndez said that if the effects of solitary confinement are as severe as they are often reported to be, it does indeed amount to torture. You will be hard pressed to find a report that doesn’t show that the vast majority of those who endure prolonged solitary confinement suffer severe consequences.

Dr. Stuart Grassian, a board-certified psychiatrist who was on the faculty of the Harvard University, Northridge, published a monograph titled “Innovative and Inquiry-Based Leadership in Healthcare” in 2013. In his book, Grassian goes on to explain that the U.S. is responsible for being the world leader in introducing solitary confinement as a popular punishment.

Solitary confinement was abandoned due to the catastrophic harm to the prisoners. However, in 1983, two correctional officers were murdered by inmates at a prison in Illinois, and afterward the prison adopted solitary confinement. Many other prisons began to follow suit.

Detailed, haunting accounts from people who have suffered through solitary confinement are abundant online, and they closely resemble the popular portrayals on television shows like “Law and Order: SVU” and “Orange is the New Black.”

The bottom line is that human touch and socialization aren’t just nice to have sometimes, like some sort of luxury. As the World Health Organization asserts, they are integral components in the very definition of “health.”

Not to mention, how are these prisoners supposed to return to society and adjust? The effects of solitary confinement do subside after a prisoner is released, but their capacity to reintegrate into broader society is not, surprisingly, greatly compromised, according to solitary confinement.

Further, the effectiveness of solitary confinement needs to be put in a more practical and less theoretical light. It seems that Gov. Brown and others don’t listen to inmates because some may be attempting to regain power in their gangs, but the situation is not comparable. If the leader of a prison strike deserve their solitary confinement, adjustments still need to be made, at the very least, in the way California decides who will receive this punishment.

Even if the inmates who recently led the prison strike desire their solitary confinement, adjustments still need to be made, at the very least, in the way California decides who will receive this punishment.

Further, the effectiveness of solitary confinement needs to be put in a more practical and less theoretical light. It seems that Gov. Brown and others don’t listen to inmates because some may be attempting to regain power in their gangs, but the situation is not comparable. If the leader of a prison strike deserve their solitary confinement, adjustments still need to be made, at the very least, in the way California decides who will receive this punishment.

Even if the leaders of the hunger strike are only using the real issues surrounding solitary confinement as a platform for their agenda, these real issues still exist. The Pelican Bay SHU prisoners have five demands that are not unreasonable, one being to “provide adequate and nutritious food.”

Also, to grant their five demands does not necessarily entail success for the gangs and their leaders, except perhaps for ending long-term solitary confinement. That demand could be made conditional with legal guarantees of solitary having stricter requirements for what will land an inmate there and more frequent evaluations.

Solitary confinement should not exist as it is; a change needs to be made.
Kevin Shacter, a screening major, talks about his love for improv and the troubles he faced trying to create the CSun improv club.

For anybody off the street who wanted to come in and see us,” Shacter said. “It was just a great way to gain experience and meet friends and also learn about the art itself.”

But things took a nose dive when Shacter arrived at CSUN two years ago. “I got here and I was so excited to join the improv club and there wasn’t one,” Shacter said.

To fill his improvisational cravings, he took an improv class offered by the theatre department, and there he met others who shared his passion for comedy.

“We started to make stupid jokes and sneak into classrooms doing scenes and eventually we got some people who were interested, and it spread like wildfire from there,” Shacter said. “And so the club was born, but not without its ups and downs.

“When I first got here I tried to get this group started and it took me about a year because I didn’t know how to do it or what to do and I asked probably seven or eight [theatre] professors and I didn’t get any support or any help,” Shacter said.

But every cloud has its silver lining, and for Shacter that was theater professor Douglas Kaback, who has been the club adviser since 2011. “In Kevin’s case, his passion for acting and improvisation was evident and I was glad to be able to support him as he led the way.”

Once the club was given the green light, the group began its rehearsals with Shacter taking the reigns.

“I don’t consider myself a teacher because I’m still a student, so I can’t basically lead the rehearsal if I’m the all-knowing and powerful improv god,” Shacter said. “We can try to make it a group effort so we’re all pitching in our knowledge together.”

According to multimedia major and fellow actor, Shayna Woods, Shacter works hard to create a creative space for his club members.

“He puts a lot of work into making sure people have a place to come, and not that people take him for granted, but sometimes they don’t see how much work he puts into it so that we have a safe place to be creative.”

For Shacter, improv opened up a world of possibilities that wasn’t feasible before. From acting to screenwriting, he’s already had a taste of what his future could hold.

He recently signed with an agency and booked a role on the widely popular FX series “Anger Management,” acting alongside Hollywood bad boy Charlie Sheen.

“IT was so scary,” Shacter said. “We were on set and he was walking in smoking a cigarette inside the studio looking like he’s walking in slow motion, shaking everybody’s hands; he was really nice to me and saw how nervous I was but he just pet me on the back and it was a really good scene.”

Whether his writing scripts, acting on stage or just teaching improv, one thing is certain. For Shacter, improv will never be far behind. “If I can do improv for eight dollars an hour, like for the rest of my life, then I’ll do that. I’ll be happy,” Shacter said.
Ready to compete at highest level

With 14 returning players, the Northridge hockey team looks to build off experience and improve from last season

MELANIE GABALL
SENIOR STAFF

THE CSUN ICE Hockey team brings fresh faces along with experience as they develop their roster to compete in a challenging division.

From 2008-2011 the Matadors were dominant in the Division 3 Pacific Collegiate Hockey Association (PCHA) by making the championship three consecutive years. Because of that success, they were moved up to Division 2 in the American Collegiate Hockey Association, but struggled adjusting to the higher level of play and finished 6-12 last season.

“We moved up a division and we lost nine players, including three All-Americans,” Gale said. “Replacing them offensively just hasn’t happened yet.”

Coming off of a “rebuild year,” the team began their first week of tryouts Friday at the L.A. Kings Valley Ice Center, where they saw a large combination of returning and new players, according to junior defender Branden Casillas, who is starting his third season on the team.

“it was probably the biggest (tryout) turn-out that I have been apart of in my three years. There is such a big mix of players in different skill ranges that it made it a really fun try-out,” Casillas said.

One of the top new recruits on the ice Friday, was freshman Alex Reints, who Gale has been working to bring to CSUN for two years.

Reints was the top scorer on the ice Friday, was freshman Alex Reints, who Gale has been working to bring to CSUN for two years.

One of the top new recruits on the ice Friday, was freshman Alex Reints, who Gale has been working to bring to CSUN for two years.

The story of a life-long hockey fan, Casillas has been dedicated to the sport for 18 years. After seeing the “Mighty Ducks” movies when he was 3 years old, he began practicing in his garage before his mom found an ice rink near their home in Texas.

“On my last team, I was practicing five days a week with them and doing private lessons before practice, then we had games on the weekends,” said Reints, who did independent study his last two years of high school to focus on hockey.

Casillas has been dedicated to hockey for 18 years. After seeing the “Mighty Ducks” movies when he was 3 years old, he began practicing in his garage before his mom found an ice rink near their home in Texas.

“Hockey is what I know,” Kunisaki said. “For me, I don’t like just sitting there watching. It annoys me. I really want to play.”

Kunisaki spent the summer working for Base Hockey in Canada, where he taught kids how to perfect their technique.

“The Matadors are looking for guys that really want to be on the team.”

In addition to hours of practice, every member of the team has to pay upwards of $2,000 to fund part of the Ice Hockey budget. Associated Students also contribute around $17,000, Gale said.

“Everyone sacrifices four or five days of their time, everyone hits the gym on their own time and it’s not a cheap sport to play,” Casillas said. “We pay a little over $2,000 to play and that right there says commitment to me. It’s not a club that you can just come and go at, and I think that is why we become so bonded, because everyone wants to be there so bad.”

Sophomore Ryan Kunisaki found out about the ice hockey team midway through his freshman year, after recovering from a torn anterior cruciate ligament, and joined the team last year in the middle of the season.

“We play because we love hockey,” Kunisaki said. “For me, I don’t like just sitting there watching. It annoys me. I really want to play.”

Kunisaki spent the summer working for Base Hockey in Canada, where he taught kids how to perfect their technique.

“Hockey is what I know,” Kunisaki said. “Playing at CSUN was a chance to continue playing hockey.”

Captain Eric Roberts, who is starting his fourth year on the team, is looking to lead his team to the ACHA regional tournament and followed by the national tournament.

“As a team we hope to move forward. We fell victim to the injury bug last season and it kind of hindered the results we wanted,” Roberts said. “It all starts with taking it a game at a time and performing to our fullest capability night in and night out. With the guys on the team this year, all of these goals seem very attainable.”

For more information on the CSUN Ice Hockey team and game ticket purchases visit csunhockey.com.