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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2013 | VOL. 55, ISS. 32 | WWW.DAILYUNDIAL.COM

Alumna at the top of her class



JOHN SARINGO-RODRIGUEZ / PHOTO EDITOR

CSUN alumna Genein Letford, music teacher at New Academy Canoga Park is nominated for the inaugural People magazine Teacher of the Year Award.

Graduate in the running for People Magazine's Teacher of the Year

MICHAEL ARVIZU
DAILY SUNDIAL

WALK INTO Genein Letford's classroom at NEW Academy in Canoga Park on any given morning, and you may hear the unmistakable sounds of plastic recorders being played by a chorus of students.

Letford is the music educator and works in the gifted program at this kindergarten to fifth-grade charter school of about 500 students, located six miles southwest of the CSUN campus. Letford's assignment at NEW Academy is her first full-time teaching job since graduating from CSUN with her teaching credential and master's degree. She began at NEW Academy in 2005 as a third-grade teacher.

But even though NEW Academy is her first teaching job, Letford has already made an impact through her work with students. This is evidenced by the mul-

iple accolades she has received from her peers, including the Great American Teacher Award in 2010, and the National Sontag Prize in Urban Education. Now, Letford has been nominated for the inaugural People magazine Teacher of the Year Award.

Early this summer, People invited their readers to nominate their favorite teachers by submitting an online application. Based on those applications, People magazine editors narrowed down the finalists to six. The public was then able to cast online votes for who they believe should win the Teacher of the Year award. Voting ended Sept. 6, and the final winner will be announced this Friday.

Other nominees include teachers from Arkansas, Washington, Bakersfield, and Tucson. Kaylie Gomez, Letford's fellow CSUN alumna and a teacher at Wisdom Academy for Young Scientists in South Central Los Angeles, has also been nominated.

While teaching third-grade,

See **TEACHER**, page 7

Texting while driving can cost lives

CLARISSA PERKINS
CONTRIBUTOR

STEPHANIE GUTIERREZ, 23, senior public health promotion major, remembers the day her boyfriend was killed in a Metrolink train derailling accident in Chatsworth in September 12, 2008.

"Chaos is the best word I can

use to describe that day," Hernandez said. "And to think that the engineer and 100 texts stood in between the life of my boyfriend and his untimely death."

The engineer was texting while operating the train and refused to acknowledge several emergency notifications instructing a switch of tracks in order to avoid collision with a freight train.

The CSUN Health Administration Student Association (HASA) came together with

the Jacob Hefter Foundation at the Northridge Center Wednesday night in an effort to raise awareness among students about the dangers of texting while driving.

The Jacob Hefter Foundation was founded by Alan and Angela Hefter, the parents of CSULB college freshman and avid golfer Jacob Hefter who, along with 29 others, was killed in the accident.

Hernandez is passionate about the foundation and the

notion that no text is so important that it cannot wait.

"We all have the option, choice and power to make the right decision," said Hernandez.

The California Highway Patrol (CHP) and the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAPD) were in attendance and on board with the idea that "it (texting) can wait".

CHP Officer Gil Hernandez emphasized the importance of driving while distracted and the consequenc-

es that are sure to follow such a decision.

"As drivers, you should not only focus on the dangers of drinking and driving but also texting being involved with other distractions as well," Hernandez said. "Distracted driving is a comparable killer to drunk driving."

Among volunteers for the event were students from Palmdale High School, where Jacob Hefter graduated from as valedictorian in 2008.

Senior Nina Crosby, 17, became a volunteer because the Hefter tragedy hit close to home.

"My brother was a close friend of his and I experienced firsthand the effects a decision like texting while driving has on those left behind," Crosby said, "I joined as soon as I started at Palmdale High because I never wanted to have to go through that with my friends."

See **TEXTING**, page 5

CULTURECLASH

WHY GTA V IS NOT A MASTERPIECE



Mexican border open to CSUN program

CLARISSA CORONA
CONTRIBUTOR

TARAH DAVIS, a graduate student studying art at CSUN recently visited Ensenada, Mexico, located south of San Diego through the CSUN Mexico Teacher Project. During the trip, Davis was exposed to a new culture that broadened her understanding of the world.

"This trip was such a wonderful experience. I did not realize how different the education is in other parts of the world," Davis said. "I found myself mentally comparing and contrasting (schools in California to schools in Mexico)."

Under the advisement of Dr. Alfonso Nava of the Department of Secondary and founder of the CSUN Mexico Teacher Project, the program was reborn last weekend, Oct. 5th through the 7th, after a 13-year hiatus.

"We had, unfortunately, a decade of violence in Mexico where the state department had issued a warning to all the universities not to travel to Mexico," Nava said. "There are certain cases by case where you can present a proposal to go to Mexico with your students and they will investigate the area you want to go to."

The purpose of the Mexico Teacher Project is to give ESL lessons to high school students,



A CSUN student teaches English to an autoshop class on his trip to Ensenada, Mexico last Friday through Saturday. COURTESY OF CSUN MEXICO TEACHER PROJECT

in Mexico, that plan on working in tourism.

"You don't think about college not being an option for most people in other countries... I will be signing up for this trip in the future and I encourage other students to join as well," Davis said.

The project is ideal for those who one day want to become an educator, Dr. Nava said.

"If students come here from

Mexico, they get traumatized. When a teacher in training here at CSUN [goes to Mexico], they get traumatized. They get to actually feel what the students here, who don't speak English, feel," he said.

It was not an easy task to get the project going again. It required paperwork, time, and patience by Nava. He was fortunate to have the support of his department chair, Mike Rivas, and

the Dean of the Michael D. Eisner College of Education, Michael Spagna. The Chancellor's office was also supportive.

According to Nava, paperwork has to be completed with the office of Insurance and Risk Management. Every student has to pay 51 dollars for insurance. It is also vital that all students have a passport.

"Six months ago, I applied to the Chancellor's office at CSU with

Chancellor White, who is from Argentina. He wanted to get the project going again," Nava said.

The CSUN Mexico Teacher Project was ongoing for 30 years before their work was interrupted in 2000. Now, after 13 years without the program, Nava said it is now available to any student interested in experiencing a different culture. Those who go on the trip do not stay in hotels, but rather in the homes of welcoming families.

"Tourism is back. It's important to start reopening our agreement with the Mexican schools and universities. I think it's a good thing," Nava said.

The project also sponsors an orphanage in Ensenada named Familias Para Niños, in which they take supplies, food and diapers for the children. CSUN students collect and give their donations.

While on their trip, Nava and the Mexico Teacher Project received an award by a high school celebrating its anniversary. CSUN was there 40 years ago when it opened. The award was for the help the project has given and the government's recognition of CSUN's exchange program as well as their desire to reopen the program.

The Mexico Teacher Project is heading back down to Ensenada this November. For information on joining this organization, contact Dr. Alfonso Nava at 677-2531 in the Department of Secondary Education.



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Ceramics Guild serves up art and chili

JONATHAN DIAZ
SENIOR STAFF

COLORFUL CERAMIC bowls and mugs lined the tables at the CSUN Art and Design Center yesterday as students sold their creations to raise funds for the CSUN Ceramics Guild.

The club hopes to raise enough funds to send students to the National Council on Education for the Ceramic Arts in Milwaukee.

"The conference is a really good opportunity

for students to learn more about ceramics." The other goal of the sale was to provide visibility for the ceramics class, said Jack Shanklin, vice president of the guild. "It's fun, we're very open and welcoming."

Students that browsed the tables bought items to support their fellow art majors.

"I love having unique, hand-made bowls and cups to use," said Naomi Tarle, 32, graduate art student.

After students bought their bowl or mug they were able to fill them with chili, vegetarian chili or coffee. However, many students

opted to use the available styrofoam cups instead. The prices ranged from \$5 to \$45.

Lucia Sbardellati, a senior at CSUN and secretary of the guild, said she joined the club because of her love and passion for ceramics.

"I kind of like getting dirty and playing with clay," she said. "It's different than anything else."

Even though Sbardellati has been with the guild for three years she is not an art student.

"I'm a liberal studies major, but I love doing ceramics," she said. "It's almost like meditation."

Various levels of expertise were on display, from beginning to advanced, but Sbardellati picked out some beginning students ceramics that she enjoyed.

"The beginning students come up with interesting color combinations," she said while she held a small blue and orange bowl.

Another ceramics sale will be held Dec. 2 where the money raised will go directly to the artists. The Ceramics Guild Chili Sale will take place again today from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Art and Design Center on Plummer Ave.



CSUN students browse over a wide variety of student-made ceramic pieces where purchases helped the CSUN Ceramics Guild Club fundraiser for guest speakers and supplies.



VICTORIA BECERRIL / DAILY SUNDIAL

The CSUN Ceramics Guild Club hosted a chili fundraiser Oct. 16, to raise money for guest lectures and supplies for the students.



VICTORIA BECERRIL / DAILY SUNDIAL

Students were able to buy student-made bowls and fill them with vegetarian or regular chili, which helped support the ceramics club.

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CULTURECLASH

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See  TAKE CONTROL , page 2

TAKE CONTROL

Brutal violence tarnishes so-called "masterpiece"

ALYSHA GARRETT-BYRD
DAILY SUNDIAL

AS OF THIS WEEK, "Grand Theft Auto V" has broken seven Guinness World Records, including the fastest game to gross \$1 billion in sales. Multiple gaming sites, IGN among them, have given the latest "GTA" installment a perfect rating. Critics and gamers alike praise the title as a "masterpiece" and proclaim that it is "utter perfection." Why, then, do I disagree?

This isn't one of those "video games are too violent" rants about how the gaming industry needs to change. I'm all for bringing the pain, and occasional smackdown, on CPUs...but for a purpose. In "Tomb Raider" my ship crew was being held hostage and I had to fight my way to them to survive. In the "Arkham" games, I was making Gotham a safer place (criminals needed a good beatdown). Granted there are storylines and missions, but, let's be honest, people love GTA because of the crazy antics you can get into at any point. Beating random civilians to a pulp for no reason just isn't my thing.

SNL's skit involving the game hilariously summarized what people did while playing and further strengthened my thoughts that this game is so huge because of the unconventional antics within it.

The "GTA" series is known for its implementation of taboos and immoral acts. You can do anything from run down people with your car to solicit prostitutes over and over again. You can go spend your days in strip clubs if you choose to or do some drugs. Now that animals have been added in "GTA V" people have enjoyed uploading videos

of the horrible things you can do to them, like shoot them while they are mating (really?).

The game receives so much praise due to the open world it provides, but the concept of an open world isn't anything new. Many games have the ability to free roam. They are not all great, but the concept is there. Sometimes games require you to complete the main story mode before you can roam freely. Adventure games, such as the "Tomb Raider" reboot, use this to allow players to find special artifacts or upgrades that may have been missed the first time around. Another popular series, "Assassin's Creed," has been expanding the size of the game map and area the player can roam with each new title.

There have been many new features added to "GTA V" that can make me overlook the crude happenings, such as the great music selection and the being able to switch between the playable characters in different missions.

"GTA V" is in no way a horrible game, but let's be honest, people aren't buying it for the thrilling character development. Mayhem is fun and creates endless hours of gaming, making the \$60 spent seem worthwhile since the game isn't over just because the story has been completed. The success of the franchise doesn't seem to be

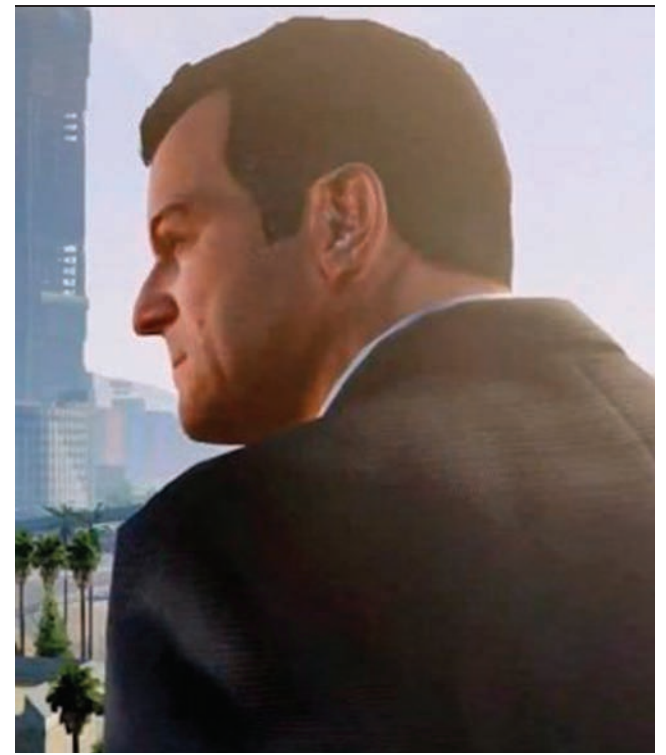


PHOTO COURTESY OF MCT

Michael De Santa, one of the three protagonists of GTA V.

slowing down anytime soon so it is unlikely that "GTA V" will be the last of the series.

The game is well made and if I wasn't so turned off by the prostitutes and senseless murder, I might actually buy into it. If you aren't phased by over-the-top violence and graphic sexual encounters, the game offers thrills and adventures that make for a fun gaming experience.



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PHOTO COURTESY OF MCT

The GTA V boys about to commit one of the many heists available to play throughout the game.



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CHECK THIS OUT

Poe with a modern twist

MICHELLE DOMINGUEZ
DAILY SUNDIAL

WITH HALLOWEEN lurking around the corner planning your fright night festivities is a must. From questionable costumes to ghoulish mazes, you need to be scared! But can you believe that reading a book could easily scare the hell out of you?

Well, thanks to legendary short story writer Edgar Allan Poe, it can. Recognized as the master of horror, the king of mystery and the ruler of terror, Poe's chilling dark tales come to life with a new hands-on app.

"iPoe 1," the interactive and illustrated Edgar Allan Poe collection, was introduced to iPhone and iPad users last fall by the Barcelona based company, Play Creatividad. This new app revolutionizes the typical reading experience by allowing you, the student, to visualize all of Poe's tortured characters.

In "iPoe 1," a stream of classical eerie music plays in the background, here you choose from three short stories and one poem, "The Oval Portrait," "The Tell-Tale Heart," "Annabel Lee" and "The Masque of the Red Death." After picking your heart-pounding tale this is when the horrific fun ensues.



JOHN SARINGO-RODRIGUEZ / PHOTO EDITOR

iPoe app gives readers a scary lesson in classic literature.

Accompanied with menacing graphics by illustrator, David Garcia Fores, Poe's stories literally come to life with a flick of your finger. Touch one and you'll be terrorized with live images of a beating heart, a walking grim reaper and a dying bride. The app actively uses sound effects throughout the stories to enhance your fright levels so if you really want to get scared turn off the lights, closed the door and turn up the volume.

The app has won awards for the Best Fiction App at the Publishing Innovation Awards 2012 and with good reason. In a world where classic literature has taken a nose dive, this innovative approach revives a lost art and introduces it to tech savvy students.

How many times have you been in class forced to read some ancient literary writing that you had absolutely have no interest in? Though Poe has been recognized as one of the country's most brilliant horror writers, his stories can be daunting to read for a busy CSUN student, so the next time your professor assigns you to read Edgar Allan Poe don't waste your money on a plain black and white book, download iPoe and be scared stiff as you learn.

Currently iPoe is only available for iPhones, iPads and iPods who carry iOS 5 or later. The app costs \$3.99 but you may be able to get it for free by downloading AppsGonefree. As of Sept. 27, iPoe 2 is available in the iTunes app store featuring stories like "The Raven" and "The Black Cat."

EVERYONE'S A CRITIC

Grim reminder of vile past

PATRICK WILKINSON
CONTRIBUTOR

IF YOU THOUGHT director Steve McQueen's last two films, "Hunger" and "Shame," didn't out right define his goals as a filmmaker, his latest, "12 Years a Slave," further propels his predilection for charting uniquely raw and bleak territory.

CSUN had the distinct pleasure on Saturday of viewing an advanced screening of the film. The unique occasion came about after Fox Studios reached out to the Pan-African studies department to screen the film in the Armer Theatre.

Within minutes of the opening, intelligent and charismatic Solomon Northup (Chiwetel Ejiofor), upon whom this true story is based, and whose freedom in 1841 is seemingly ahead of his time, is abducted from his idyllic vision of reality and violently thrown into the brutal life of slavery. It's bold, dark, disturbing and it's exactly what McQueen wants you to experience.

McQueen isn't focused on questioning the brutality and horrors of slavery. He's interested in exploring its darkness. His camera often lingers on moments most directors would cut away from. But it's these moments of skillfully handled violence and stark realism that make up not only the grit and despair but the astonishing greatness of this film. They're subtle

as they are explicit. They're quiet as they are loud. Not discounting the sensitivity of the subject matter—which is truly powerful—the film, like "Hunger" and "Shame" is as much about the madness and torture of existence, perseverance, the will and purpose to live, as it is about the 12 years of indescribable enslavement that Solomon endures.

There's a beauty to McQueen's touch, a beauty unmatched by few directors operating on this level. The film soars in its confidence, searing execution, robust direction and muscular performances of almost every single person who graces the screen, from the rawness of Ejiofor and Lupita Nyong'o, to the almost unrecognizable Michael Fassbender as Edwin Epps, who are all undoubted shoe-ins for Oscar nominations.

Its only obvious flaw and truly

glaring weakness is miscasting Brad Pitt and, frankly, including him in the film. Not to discredit him, for it weren't for Pitt, who's one of the producers, a film of this dimension would probably have been more difficult to green light and may never have been made. Pitt is only with us briefly, but he's unable to fully submerge into his role, coming across as distracting especially given his hand in affecting Solomon's fate. But in a film of this caliber whose only aim is high, it's a minor fatality.

McQueen may have been the only director capable of balancing the subject matter with such sensitivity and complexity. He's an artful British filmmaker known for his raw and brutally honest approach and his outsider perspective may have very well served him in good stead.



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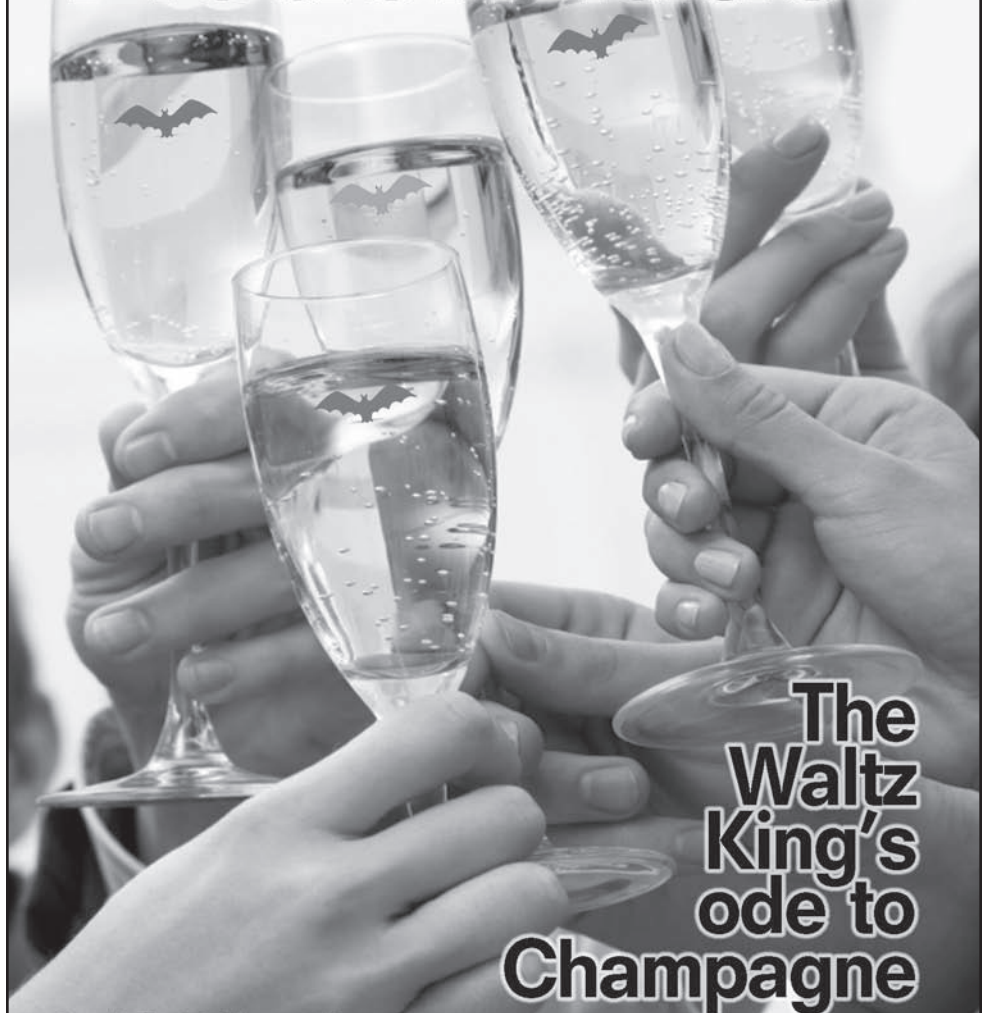
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19

10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

The 2013 Calabasas Pumpkin Festival

Juan Bautista de Anza Park, 3701 Lost Hills Road

Cost: \$5.00

Head out to the Calabasas Pumpkin Festival and enjoy some fall fun with family and friends! Paint a pumpkin, stroll through vendors for keepsakes and Halloween treats, jam out to music by DJ's spinning all day long, check out the car shows and costume parades, and try some pumpkin beer! It's a great way to spend your weekend getting into the Halloween spirit!

19

9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

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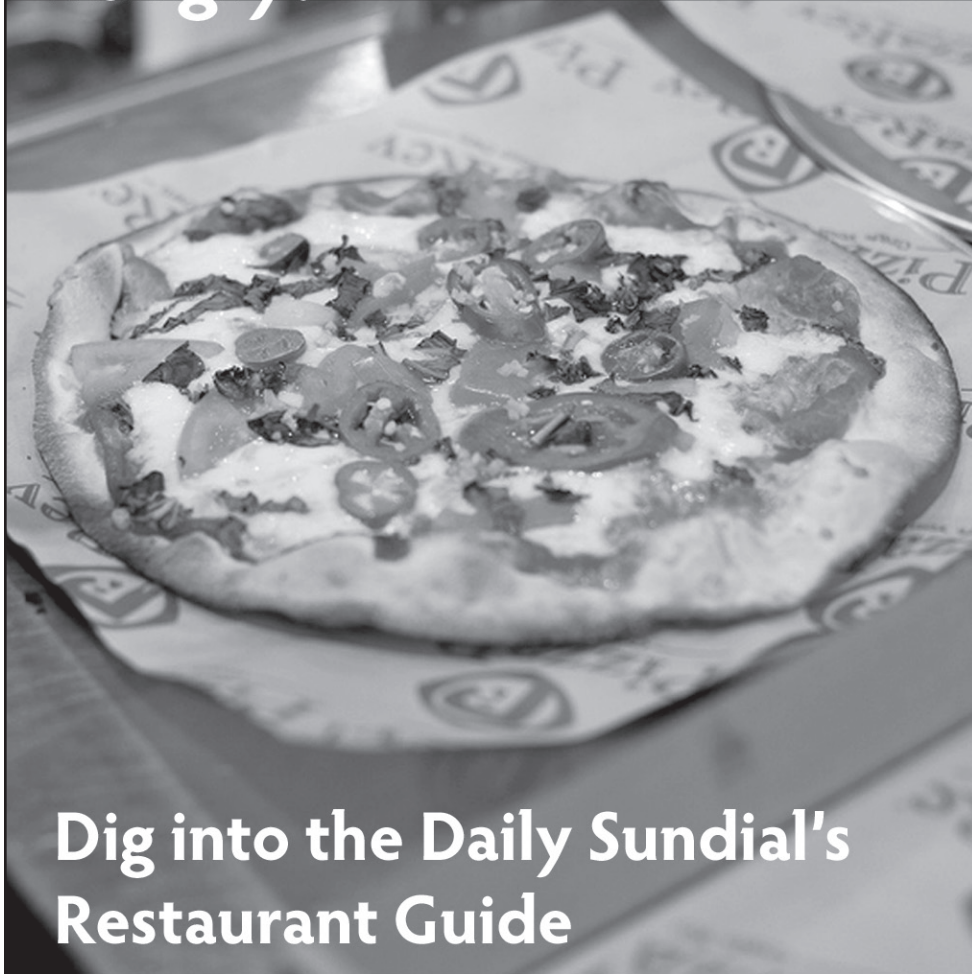
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DAVID HAWKINS / DAILY SUNDIAL

Students listen to Texting and Driving speaker Angela Hefter about the dangers of using your phone while driving. The event took place at the Northridge Center, USU on Wednesday.

TEXTING

Continued from page 1

High school senior Gloria Medina, 18, said she is glad she got involved with the Jacob Hefter Foundation through the Health Career program at her school.

"I use what I learn as a tool to help my family member make better decisions in regards to drinking or texting while behind the wheel," said Medina.

Captain Mark Kleckner of the LAFD, CSUN alumni, said that his fire station has been called to many traffic accidents caused by texting while driving. "Pull over, park safely, and then text or make your call," Kleckner said.

CHP Officer Rebecca Thomas shared photos of accidents along with the

story of losing her son, who was a passenger in a drunk-driving accident.

"It CAN happen to you," Thomas said. "I told my son every day to be mindful of the road and not drink and drive but he still was killed because of someone else's decision."

Officer Thomas also said that as a passenger, you have the power to speak up, take away the keys or phone and simply get out of the car. "Your phone is weapon especially behind the wheel of a car," said Thomas.

"Driving is an awesome responsibility," said Thomas, "anytime you decrease your attention, you increase your mortality possibility."

Upon exiting, attendees were asked to sign a pledge banner saying that they would "make the positive choice and pledge to not text and drive."

BRIEF AND ONLINE

Statewide Shakeout to commence

CSUN will be joining millions of Californians in the ShakeOut Drill today at 10:17 a.m. in an effort to learn the necessary safety procedures in the event of a future earthquake.

The ShakeOut Drill is a statewide program that happens every year in October with schools and various organizations throughout the state. "CSUN participates in this drill in order to practice safety procedures in the event of an emergency," said Kit Espinosa, CSUN emergency management coordinator. "The more prepared people are for an emergency, the better they will perform during the emergency."

The program is meant to have Californians practice the drop, cover and hold, the standard drill in the case of when an earthquake hits.

At precisely 10:17 a.m. phones will ring across campus to mark the start of the drill. Professors will then announce that the drill is commencing.

Espinosa said she hopes students will participate in the 3 to 5 minute drill in order to better prepare themselves for an earthquake.

"It is not will an earthquake happen," Espinosa said. "It is a matter of when it will happen. I can not tell you when an earthquake will hit, however having people be prepared for a disaster will prevent it from becoming a catastrophe."

—CALVIN RATANA, DAILY SUNDIAL

Alumni teach students to become entrepreneurs

During a business panel held by CSUN graduates, students were introduced to a new concept called "intrapreneurs."

"I definitely didn't know the term intrapreneurship," said Iris Chen, CTVA major. "There were so many things that caught my attention. I learned that we need to be humble and I learned about the traits to help you build your own business."

The term was new to some students, but the alumni helped establish how it differs from entrepreneurs during the "Intrapreneur/Entrepreneur: Which Will You Be?" event Tuesday afternoon at the Grand Salon.

An intrapreneur, according to the event flier, is someone who holds the spirit of an entrepreneur within an existing organization. The intrapreneur focuses on innovation and creativity and transforms a dream or an idea into a profitable venture by operating within the organizational environment.

—NEELOFER LODHY, DAILY SUNDIAL



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OCTOBER 17, 2013

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Opinion

Students dream of a resource center

Why supporting the creation of an undocumented student resource center will benefit hundreds of people at CSUN

JOHN SARINGO-RODRIGUEZ

PHOTO EDITOR

“GO BACK TO YOUR COUNTRY!” is often heard from anti-immigrant activists. Phrases such as these have a long-lasting effect on students and society as a whole. Immigration has always been a hot-button issue that sparks passionate responses from both sides.

Some undocumented students are especially bothered by how the label “illegal immigrant” is used to describe them and the immigrant community. Some students came to the U.S. at a very young age, and took no part in the decision-making process. Many students and immigrants know no other home. The United States is their home, their country, moreso than the country their parents are from. They cannot simply go back to their parent’s country as if it were their own.

Some people denounce the “illegal immigrant” label and argue that it is dehumanizing, while others are adamant that it is the rightful way to describe those who arrived in the United States by bypassing the government’s immigration laws.

“People want to make better lives for themselves and when using those words it is inaccurate as to why people come here,” said president of CSUN’s undocumented student advocacy coalition Dreams To Be Heard, Jesus Juvenal, 22, political science major. “They didn’t come to commit crimes. They’ve come to contribute.”

Undocumented students want to attend a university where they feel accepted and can study without the fear of being outed as undocumented and without fear of being harassed or worse, deported.

We all need to remember that it is human to move from place to place and not allow oneself to be confined by borders. The conservative mindset has fixed its position on the immigration issue as an “us versus them” fight. That mindset is dangerous and it is fueled by fear and hatred.

According to the FBI, there has been a consistent increase in hate crimes against immigrants. Civilrights.org attributes the rise in violence to the heated debate over a Comprehensive Immigration Reform. The media also continues to frame immigration negatively.

In order to really understand undocumented immigrants we ought to stop and ask why they came to the United States, and what goals they have for themselves and their family.

Many undocumented immigrants have college-age children who would like a fair chance at an education. They may want to pursue a career that will bring more meaning to their lives. In doing so, these immigrants are inadvertently bettering the lives of the people in their community.

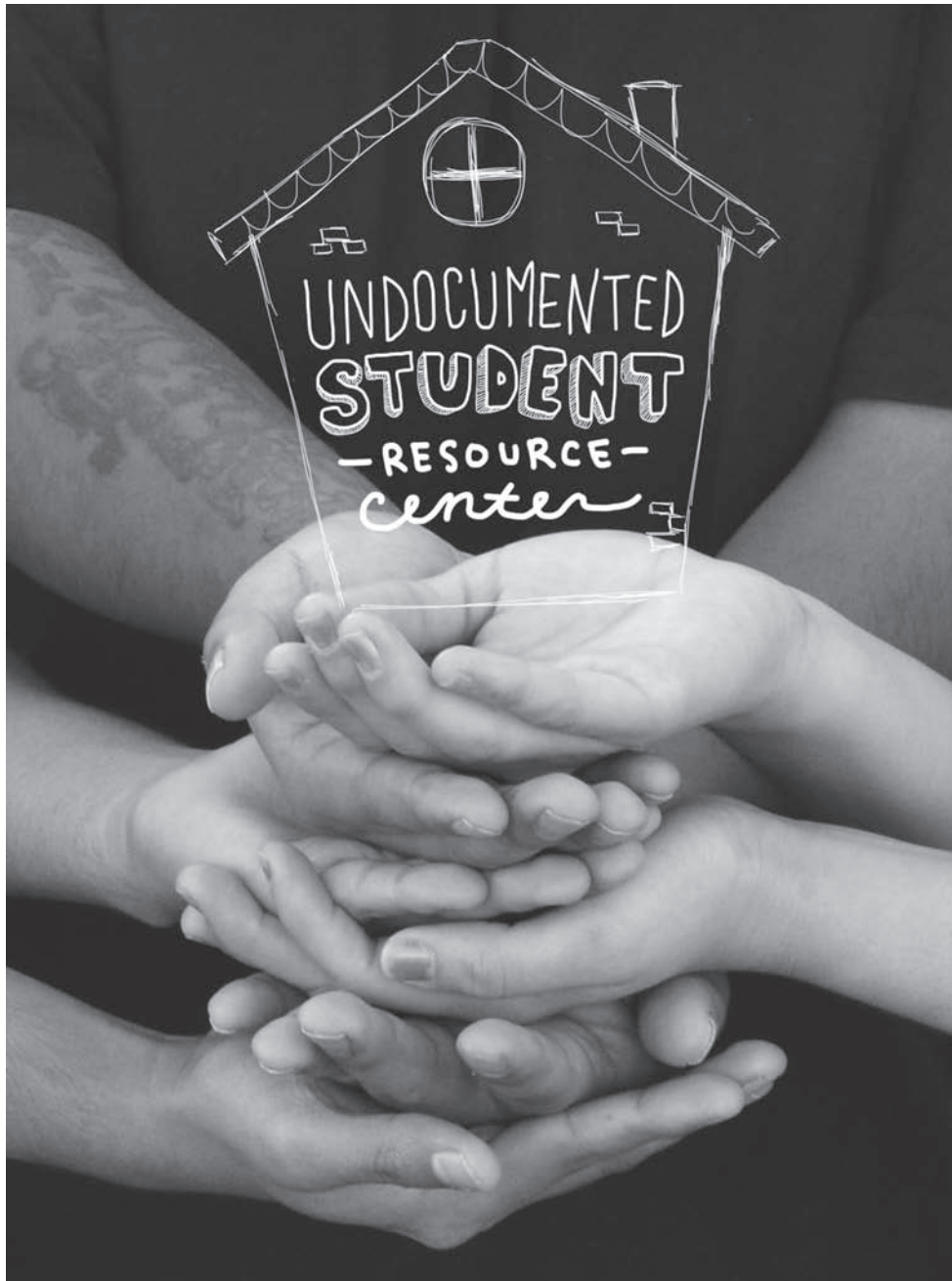


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY JOHN SARINGO-RODRIGUEZ / PHOTO EDITOR AND JASMINE MOCHIZUKI / VISUAL EDITOR

We need more safe spaces at CSUN for undocumented students to come together, share their stories and express their concerns. We need a place where undocumented students can find support in people who may be in a similar situation, to share ideas on how to communicate and educate others. But more than anything, we need to provide a welcoming space that gives undocumented students information on how to attain accurate and thorough academic assistance and help with finding scholarships and financial aid forms for undocumented students.

Dreams To Be Heard calculated CSUN’s number of undocumented students by estimating how many people received the Dream Act scholarship against how many applied for it. They found that 931 students applied for the scholarship while 452 students actually received the scholarship. This means there are anywhere between 452 to 931 undocumented

students enrolled at CSUN, and that is not taking into account those who did not apply for the scholarship.

Therein lies one of the numerous problems: many undocumented students do not know about the various resources available to them. Advisers and faculty members may not guide undocumented students properly—more than likely not a fault of their own—because they may not know of the vital resources offered.

We have needed a resource center for undocumented students at CSUN for a while now. It is time for that to become a reality.

At a Dreams To Be Heard meeting, journalism professor Jose Luis Benavides said, “The staff are concerned about the lack of resources. The university has sidestepped...there is a large number of Dreamers on campus. Why doesn’t the university serve them well?”

Other universities already have successful undocumented student centers. UCLA’s Dream

Resource Center has helped the university better understand the needs of their undocumented student population.

“CSUN can follow the example of UCLA and create the first Dream Center of the CSU system, which I believe serves a larger number of Dreamers due to its cost compared to the UC system,” Benavides said.

Benavides said that because Dreamers have already beaten so many odds by attending college, they are civic-minded and motivated to give back to the community when they graduate.

A resource center for undocumented students at CSUN is important because it will be an inviting space for students to find out more information about what it means to be undocumented and to have a place where students can go to get information on how to plan for their future. Many undocumented students have difficulty filling out forms that pertain to their education. With one of them being the AB 540 form that is necessary to attain financial aid.

Pablo Barerra, 23, an art major, said that if there was a resource center for undocumented students it would help potential freshman to continue to pursue their secondary education.

“It would have made such a difference to have an undocumented student resource center and not have to scout for resources. If you go to the office and ask for the AB 540 form, sometimes they don’t know what it is. If there was a resource center at CSUN I would feel as if our generation would have reached a milestone as far as becoming organized and unified,” Barerra said.

Historian of Dreams To Be Heard, Jose Rosas, 25, a Chicana/o studies major, also emphasized how important a resource center on campus would be.

“The undocumented student experiences constant marginalization and rejections among other challenges, and overtime these problems are internalized and ultimately affects the self-esteem or perspectives of students,” he said.

Hundreds of undocumented students graduate high school every year and many don’t continue a higher education, primarily because of a lack of awareness of available resources, Rosas said.

“So I envision a safe space for undocumented AB 540 students where they can get moral support and be provided with proper information. The resource center would bring a network of support to students and that will benefit their self-esteem which is crucial to achieve success,” Rosas said.

Taking into consideration that we have a resource center for the LGBTQ community (Pride Center) and a Veterans Resource Center, it would make sense that an undocumented student resource center would be next on the list. It is consistent with the idea that CSUN resource centers provide a safe space for an at-risk student population where students can gain the support that they need from a support network that would be within arms reach.

DAILY SUNDIAL

Published Mon.-Thurs.
by the Department
of Journalism at
California State
University, Northridge.

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Continued from page 1

Letford realized the importance of providing students with a music and arts education.

"I made sure that my third-graders knew how to play an instrument and read music," Letford said. "That expanded to the whole third-grade. So I was a third-grade teacher doing that program with every other third-grade [class]."

Her new music program, Letford said, came at a time when her principal was in the process of revamping the school's arts program.

"I took on the whole school and developed a program where music is the main focus, but we also bring in other disciplines as well," Letford said.

For Letford, the music and arts program has taught her that each student progresses at his or her own unique level. And although some students, after leaving her classroom, may not pick up an instrument again, that is OK, she said.

"As long as they have that exposure, they have more opportunities to make a choice, whether this is something they want to pursue, or just something that they enjoy and then they're going to move on to other things," Letford said. "If you give them the foundation, the basics, they take it from there."

Music and arts allows students to experience, for example, a story in many different ways, not just through text, Letford said. She likens not

being able to experience something fully to watching a movie without a score.

"When children have an opportunity to have an interdisciplinary approach, that just makes them more expressive," Letford said. "It provides just a deeper way of analyzing a concept."

Letford's inspiration for becoming a teacher comes from her mother, a fellow educator who, as Letford was growing up, used life experiences as teachable moments.

Letford remembers living in a single-parent home, going to school on a reduced-lunch program and being enrolled in the Individualized Education Program at her school for a speech impediment. Throughout these difficulties, not once did her mother allow her to develop a victim mentality Letford said.

"Sure, we don't have a lot of money, but let's do the things we can do," Letford said, recalling her mother's philosophy.

She recalls going on car trips with her mother "to see the world," Letford said.

"She used that as a teachable moment, as well. Yes, I read about the Lincoln Memorial, but we actually drove there," she said.

Letford would later take her mother's philosophy a step further while applying for her first fellowship to research the life of Abraham Lincoln. Letford credits her mother for allowing her to become the woman she is today.

"I don't think that would have been seeded had she not done that with me," Letford said. "She used differ-

ent experiences as a way to expand our thinking."

Today, both mother and daughter experience a form of synergy. Both talk about what is going in their respective classrooms and feed off each other, Letford said.

Letford calls her mom a "crazy thinker," in that she routinely thinks outside the box and is able to approach her lessons from different angles, allowing her students to become more engaged. Letford has found herself taking this approach as well in her own classroom.

She has also adopted her mother's affinity for helping kids attend college, as evidenced by the many university pennants that adorn her classroom.

Letford takes to heart one piece of advice her mom gave her years ago and continues to follow today as a professional teacher: "Make sure what you're passionate about is in your teaching as well," Letford said. "We all have those things that we're passionate about. For me, it's travelling, so I make sure that I have lessons about travelling."



SCAN THIS QR CODE
to see footage of Letford's class



JOHN SARINGO-RODRIGUEZ / PHOTO EDITOR

CSUN alumna Genein Letford, teaches a fourth grade class how to play different woodwind instruments.



JOHN SARINGO-RODRIGUEZ / PHOTO EDITOR

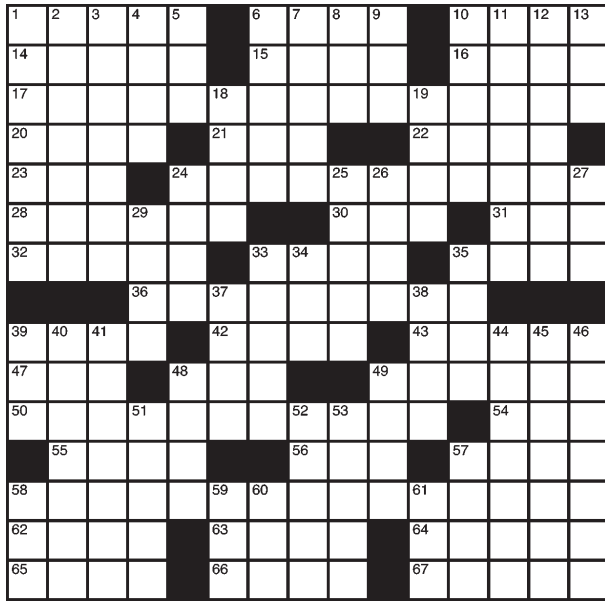
CSUN alumna Genein Letford, music teacher at New Academy Canoga Park, finds out if she wins the People magazine Teacher of the Year Award on Oct. 18.

Los Angeles Times Daily Crossword Puzzle

Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Lewis

ACROSS

- 1 Fur tycoon
- 6 "Due Date" co-star Galifianakis
- 10 Rock blasters
- 14 Conveyed
- 15 Bassoon cousin
- 16 Wreak havoc in the streets
- 17 "Victor at Little Bighorn
- 20 Zilch
- 21 Fantasy game brute
- 22 Latin lesson word
- 23 New Year's
- 24 "2006 "Survivor" setting
- 28 Attacked
- 30 November honoree
- 31 "I'm an idiot!"
- 32 Abs strengthener
- 33 Leave port
- 35 Apportioning word
- 36 "Nursed, in a way
- 39 Gp. that houses strays
- 42 Bowlers and trilbies
- 43 Millionaire's retreat
- 47 Strudel mode
- 48 Jon Hamm's "Mad Men" role
- 49 Vocation
- 50 "All-in-one appliance
- 54 Dye holder
- 55 Classy
- 56 Fish you can smoke
- 57 Ricky portrayal
- 58 Handy person suggested by the starts of the answers to starred clues
- 62 Nebraska native
- 63 Like lago, say
- 64 Rice/Lloyd Webber musical
- 65 Trees used to make longbows
- 66 Attends to one's whistle?
- 67 Unreactive gas



By Julian Lim

10/17/13

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved



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DOWN

- 1 Sawyer employer
- 33 Defensive effort
- 2 "Same here!"
- 3 Poseidon's staff
- 4 Day vitamins
- 5 Authority on a field
- 6 Masked hero who debuted in the 1919 story "The Curse of Capistrano"
- 7 Stunned way to be taken
- 8 Member of the fam
- 9 Casual greeting
- 10 Cookie shop enticement
- 11 Ferdinand's love in "The Tempest"
- 12 Ph.D.'s further studies
- 13 Jeanne d'Arc, for one: Abbr.
- 18 Old geezer
- 19 "Come no closer!"
- 24 Consigliere's boss
- 25 Penn et al.
- 26 Contained opening?
- 27 "Too noisy!"
- 29 Big band instrument
- 34 Ctrl-Delete
- 35 Correct
- 37 Superhero with a hammer
- 38 Even once
- 39 Chain
- 40 Give a sop to
- 41 Moneymaker
- 44 Not vacant
- 45 Charge for using, as an apartment
- 46 Potter or jeweler, e.g.
- 48 Style of a historic Miami Beach district
- 49 Get gooey
- 51 Outdoor outings
- 52 Bright again
- 53 Argues ineffectively
- 57 Comic Chappelle
- 58 Almond
- 59 Select group?
- 60 Roman salutation
- 61 T.

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ROCK CLIMBING

Students on their way to the top

The newly formed Rock Climbing Club tests members physically and mentally as they overcome challenging obstacles

ROY AZOULAY
DAILY SUNDIAL

YOU STARE up at the monolithic, gray, jagged monster as it stares back down at you. You can barely see the top of its head as it looms over your tiny human frame. You're intimidated at first but you tell yourself you will at least attempt to overcome this seemingly daunting obstacle.

You stretch your arms, legs and core as you prepare to step up to and take on the SRC's rock wall for the first time.

"Rock climbing is never impossible. There's never something you can't climb," said Andrea Garcia, treasurer of CSUN's rock climbing club and senior kinesiology major.

The climbing club was only established during the middle of the 2013 Spring semester, so this will be their first full semester. Many of the club members are new to the sport and some had never done any rock climbing before coming to CSUN.

"I started rock climbing when the SRC opened and had no climbing experience prior," Garcia said. "I just started climbing and from there I genuinely enjoyed the sport and enjoyed getting stronger."

Climbing can be intimidating at first but confidence is key to overcoming the initial hesitation of actually attempting to climb the wall and according to Garcia only 10 percent of the sport is physical while the other 90 percent is mental.

The mental aspect of climbing requires you to critically analyze the rock formation you're climbing and requires the problem solving skills to plan and execute how exactly you will climb it according to Mary Ann Ferrer, club president and junior geology major.

"It's about taking your time to look at the problem ahead of you, understand it, and from there to tackle it," Ferrer said. "Patience

is a big part of rock climbing. You're not going to get it at first. You have to work really hard, as with any problem."

CSUN's climbing community knows the importance of making those new to the sport feel welcome because they understand how it feels to be new to the sport.

"It's important to teach people how to have a great first experience on the wall," Garcia said. "We want that first experience to be good because climbing a wall is a very daunting task. It's essential to have the climbing club to be able to give everyone that first step to feel comfortable."

The club was conceived last semester after a few SRC climbing regulars who became familiar with each other decided to get together and form a team to both compete, expand the community, and share their passion and experiences.

"I don't think I've met a rock climber who wasn't friendly," said Tanner Dawson, club vice president, and junior jazz studies major. "Everyone's super chill, down to hang, down to climb, and down to help everyone else."

At their first meeting this year they had over 20 people attend and according to Ferrer they were excited with the turnout and their outlook going forward.

The club is constantly and actively looking for new members to expand CSUN's climbing club and welcomes everyone with open arms. They encourage anyone who is remotely interested to approach the sport with a willingness to explore and learn, according to Garcia.

"We want you to have an open attitude of wanting to try and to be around climbing. The community is very positive. We are more than happy to teach you," Garcia said. "The community is very open and accepting."

As with all sports, there is risk involved in climbing. It can be dangerous, so making sure new climbers are comfortable is about more than just them liking the sport but more importantly, highlighting safety.

According to Dawson, the



ALEX VEJAR / DAILY SUNDIAL

Andrea Garcia, 21, kinesiology major, swings off a rock wall Tuesday during CSUN Climbing Club practice.

sport is a lot safer than most realize and people shouldn't let their fear of getting hurt hold them back from trying it. Dawson said that the ropes will catch those who fall and even then there are big padded cushions below as well as other people spotting each other.

The sense of achievement that comes with climbing is emphasized by its members and the lasting effect it has on them, especially when you're new to it and are still grasping on to the fundamentals.

"Once you finish a route of a certain grade and difficulty, you feel very accomplished and it's a very rewarding feeling to finish

something you've been working on for a while," Garcia said.

The rock climbing club partakes in competitive climbing tournaments against other Southern California schools but competition is not the club's purpose.

"We want to do everything the right way and build everyone's love for climbing," Ferrer said. "Our major goal and main focus is to enhance everyone's climbing ability and less about winning competitions although it's nice to win."

Some members have found that rock climbing has even translated into improvements in other aspects of their lives.

"It has really taught me to

relax, let go, and get in a zone," Dawson said. "I can take that skill and apply it to whatever else I'm doing whether it be music, homework, or spending time with a person, just zoning in and really focusing in on one thing and being hyper sensitive to what's going on in any given moment. When you're on the wall, that's the moment."

CSUN's rock climbing club encourages everyone to give rock climbing a legitimate shot as it is very beneficial to the body and mind and has much to offer.

The rock climbing club is hosting the Spooky Rock Comp on Nov. 2 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the SRC.



ALEX VEJAR / DAILY SUNDIAL

Colby Decoteau, 18, film major, practices a dyno, an attempt to jump to a hold that is out of reach, during CSUN Climbing Club practice Tuesday.



ALEX VEJAR / DAILY SUNDIAL

Andrea Garcia, 21, kinesiology major, climbs up a route Tuesday during CSUN Climbing Club practice.