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Thursday February 5, 2009

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VOLUME 51 ISSUE 72 • A FINANCIALLY INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWSPAPER

Sisters receive scholarship

Award designed to enhance community with skills and knowledge

MATT VILLA
STAFF REPORTER

Two sisters from the Philippines were the first recipients of the Family Scholarship Pilot Program for migrant workers granted by the Western Union Foundation (WUF) Jan. 26.

CSUN students Carla Mae and Carmela Mae Ubalde are splitting a \$5,000 scholarship to aid them in continuing their college education. Carla is a junior studying nursing, while Carmela is a sophomore majoring in information systems.

"It will really make a difference. When we first found out, we couldn't believe it," said Carmela. "I mean, you never think you're going to win something. And then, to be the first to receive this kind of scholarship to help families who have more than one kid in college, is kind of cool."

Most scholarships only benefit the recipient, but Western Union is making other programs that will benefit their family.

Their family is eligible for an English Spanish Language (ESL) training program—a component many scholarships lack, according to Judy Cara spokeswoman for WUF.

"I'm not aware of any other scholarship programs that benefit not only the recipient but their family as well," Cara said. "We included ESL training to be a strong component of the scholarship because of the fact is that one of the toughest barriers for migrant families is to overcome English skill barriers in order to find work."

The Family Scholarship Program is part



of Western Union's Our World, Our Family signature program, a five-year, \$50 million commitment designed to provide communities with the skills, knowledge and resources essential to breaking the poverty cycle.

Carla and Carmela were born in the Philippines and immigrated to the United States at the beginning of the new millennium to join their parents, who like most immigrant families, came to make a better life for themselves.

Carmela was 12-years-old when she came

See **SCHOLARSHIP**, page 3



ALEXANDRA CHAVEZ / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER
TOP: Sisters Carla Mae, third from left, and Carmela Mae, fourth from left, Ubalde are presented with a \$5,000 check from Western Union Jan. 27 in University Hall 110.

LEFT: Carmela Mae Ubalde is a 20-year-old sophomore majoring in computer science, and her 27-year-old sister Carla Mae is studying to be a nurse.

Student dies after playing basekteball at Matadome

ADOLFO FLORES
CITY EDITOR

A junior cinema and television arts major died Tuesday night, collapsing after playing basketball at the Matadome during open gym. Diron Rivers Jr., 20, was pronounced dead on arrival at 11:12 p.m. at Northridge Hospital.

"I know he sat down and then passed out," said Mischa Cavaye, an eyewitness who was playing basketball at the Matadome. "The paramedics performed CPR for at least 10 minutes...it looked pretty hopeless."

The Los Angeles County Coroners Office hasn't assigned an investigator to the case and can't confirm the cause of death.

Central American studies, junior, Diego Hernandez, who works at the A.S.

recreation center said that two players, one a former emergency medical technician and a lifeguard, performed cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) until paramedics arrived on scene.

In order to play basketball at open gym players must sign a liability form, said Charlotte Cabeza an Associated Students Recreational staff member.

"We don't know exactly why but the doctors say that his heart just stopped," said Mercedes Burke, 32, Rivers' aunt. "He slumped over and then passed out."

Burke said he was diagnosed with a heart murmur at 16, but added that doctors told his mom it wouldn't have contributed to his death.

"Basketball and movies were his life," Burke said. "He was also very good at imitating people especially our family and he loved to make fun of



COURTESY OF **BLOGGER**

people he always kept us laughing."

Demia Jones, 25, Rivers' aunt, also described him as the family "joker" and agreed that basketball played an important role in his life.

"Basketball was his life, he lived, ate and dreamt basketball," Jones said. "His favorite movies were Billy Madison and Kill Bill."

"When he wasn't in basketball shorts you could say he was a preppy dresser."

Rivers lived on campus his first two years, but commuted to his Inglewood

140 units is the cap

KE'ONNA GREEN
STAFF REPORTER

CSUN administrators have implemented an existing policy in response to the State's budget cuts to the California State University (CSU) system by encouraging students who have over 140 units, more than enough to receive an undergraduate degree to graduate.

The goal is to have 1,800 full-time students graduate under this policy, said Harry Hellenbrand, provost and vice president for Academic Affairs. Current students who have 140

See **UNITS**, page 4



ALEXANDRA CHAVEZ / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Alexand“To be the first to receive this kind of scholarship to help families who have more than one kid in college, is kind of cool,” said Carmela Mae Ubalde.

SCHOLARSHIP

Continued from page 1

to San Fernando Valley and Carla was 21.

Applicants for the scholarship had to meet a certain criteria for consideration. Requirements include the applicant’s family to be from Guatemala or the Philippines.

They must also have community involvement in Los Angeles and plans for utilizing the scholarship.

The Institute of International Education (IIE), an international non-profit educational exchange organization, independently runs the scholarship program.

“Although we don’t accept out-

side financial contributions, we do appreciate people spreading the word of our cause,” said Karen de Bartolome, executive director of the Rocky Mountain Regional Center of the IIE in Denver, Colo.

IIE is an organization that is in partnership with the WUF.

IIE is an independent non-profit organization is among the world’s largest and most experienced international education and training organizations, said de Bartolome. IIE has offices in 13 international locations that assist the Educational Testing Service in offering Test of English as a Foreign Language and other U.S. college admissions tests.

Some offices include the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of

Educational and Cultural Affairs-supported Educational Advising Centers. They plan to expand their efforts to include the Mexican immigrants as well, said de Bartolome.

“We knew (CSUN) had good programs and that we could learn a lot here,” Carmela said. “The scholarship from Western Union just makes getting our education a whole lot easier.”

Students who meet the criteria to apply for Western Union’s scholarship must turn in their submission by Feb. 15.

Applicants can determine eligibility and initiate an online application through the Western Union Foundation Web site at foundation.westernunion.com.

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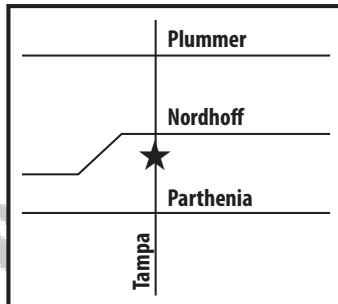
Workshops will be conducted by the CSUN Financial Aid & Scholarship Department
<http://www.csun.edu/finaid>

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UNITS

Continued from page 1

units or more will meet with department chairs of each major to discuss future enrollment.

"We're creating a way to inform people who are close to graduating and help them move on," Hellenbrand said. "Most (CSU's) are doing some versions of this."

While the policy had been in place, the campus only enforces it when necessary, which was the case in 2003 through 2005, because the language allows CSUN some flexibility in its implementation.

The Provost said some students may have switched majors several times which would explain why they have so many units. However, the reasons vary from student to student and the campus would try to be "flexible".

While he doesn't agree with the policy Hellenbrand agrees the implementation of the policy is necessary because of the budget cuts.

"However it's unfair that the state is taking this out on students," Hellenbrand said.

Amber Prince, 21, who is a graduating senior, agreed with CSUN's approach to decreasing the capacity of students, but thinks it should have been taken care of before the impact of the school occurred.

"There is no need to continue taking more classes unless it's one or two more," said Prince. "If they (students) want to take more classes then its best they transfer."

Jose Bustamante, 25, CSUN alumnus feels CSUN should promote education rather than taking it away.

Bustamante graduated from CSUN with a total of 170 units and a degree in communications and Central American studies, with a minor in psychology.

Although he was well over the university's required units to graduate, he feels faculty contributed to his delay in graduating.

"There was a lack of good counselors who actually took their time," said Bustamante.

Bustamante said the university should focus more on students rather than raising the cost of tuition. Adding, if tuition is raised then there should be more classes.

In situations such as availability of classes that cause a delay in a student graduating, department chairs will review student files on a case-by-case basis, said Hellenbrand.

Admittance for first-time students will become more competitive starting fall 2009 as CSUN prioritizes prospective student's enrollment by local residencies and high-test scores.

Because CSUN has exceeded its capacity by 1,800 students admittance will be decreased basing freshman eligibility on two tiers, according to a report written by Hellenbrand before the beginning of the semester.

The first category consists of graduates who attended high schools in Los Angeles and Ventura Counties and the second category is based on high school GPA, SAT or ACT scores.

Torie Takaki, 19, a sophomore, agreed with the approach CSUN is taking with future freshman enrollment.

"Enrollment should be strict by not letting in so many freshmen who have to take remedial classes," said Takaki. "I think they need to be ready for the college level classes."

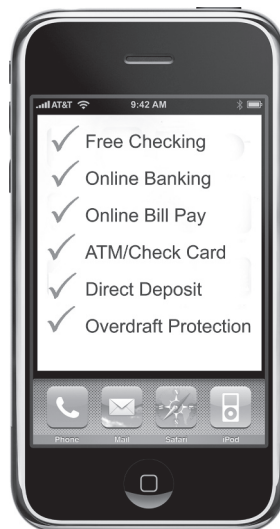
Hellenbrand also indicated once freshman students are admitted they have until June to take the EPT and ELM test, which is another way to curb enrollment.

However, Hellenbrand said cutting enrollment will have long term effects, such as an increase in high school dropouts and a decrease in college enrollment which will in turn produce an uneducated and unqualified workforce in the future.

He blames the state for not making higher education a priority in the budget.

"It's a short term solution to a long term problem," Hellenbrand said.

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February 5, 2009

News

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Campus Voice

Q. What are your thoughts on evolution?



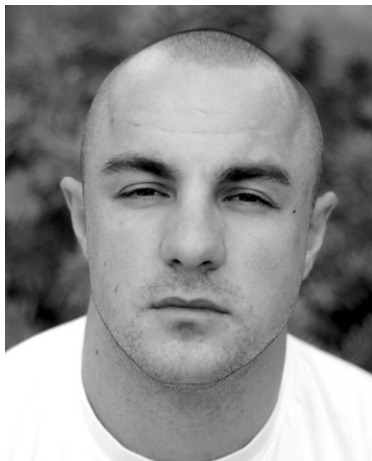
BEN ADELMANN,
PHILOSOPHY MAJOR

"The theories that evolution brings to me and the evidence they have isn't convincing to me at all. Because where are all the bones of the animals that are in between their evolutionary



TABITHA AMMARI,
CTVA MAJOR

"I believe we've taken evolution to a man-made sort of thing now. With all the advances in medicine and technology we've made it too easy to survive and it's almost a bad thing."



JESSE ELTON,
COMMUNICATIONS MAJOR

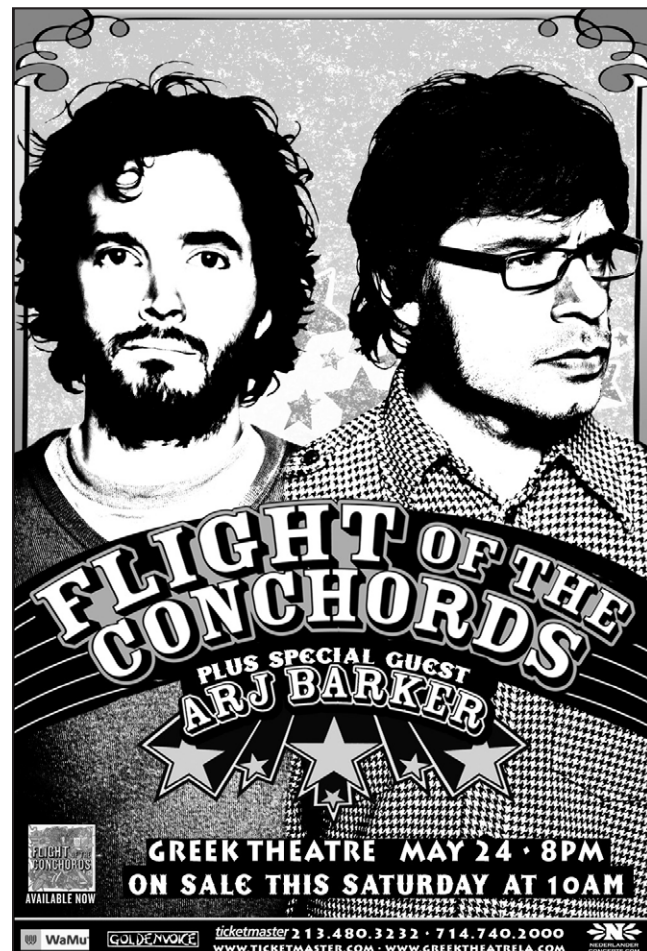
"I don't think you can say 'this is how god did it' but what we know is evolution and that we constantly evolve."

JESUS ESQUIVEL / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

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