



EDITOR'S NOTE

The Importance of Being Critical

Criticism. The word may make some conjure the image of an overbearing mother or easily agitated boss, but criticism for journalists is the essence of our civil duty. And in fact, it's not a dirty word.

As journalists, the Today staff uses our platforms, this magazine and our online product, csupueblotoday.com, as learning tools to exercise our role in society, which is to be critics of government, people or events for the benefit of society.

Freedom of the press, included in the First Amendment, was intended to allow a free press to be critical of the American government. It allowed the press to act as a watchdog for the people of America. In the microcosm of the CSU-Pueblo campus, we are encouraged in our education to be critical of our surroundings, to ask questions and to never follow anything blindly.

Most importantly, as student journalists writing for a campus publication, our publication reflects the students' perspective.

Last semester, our "20 Points of Advice to Our Professors" article garnered both positive and negative attention and to that we say, "Thanks for reading!"

It was in that article that we flexed our criticism and spoke to our audience by asking students, "What advice do you have for professors" and "What could your professors be doing better?" Students responded with real, albeit satirical or humorous answers.

In this issue, we allowed a professors rebuttal on page 18. Don't worry, students; we edited out anything we didn't agree with (Joke.)

As a journalist and foremost a critical person, I can look back on my career at CSU-Pueblo as I prepare to graduate and say I "critically acclaim" this university. It was here I learned to reflect on myself and my surroundings. I have enjoyed every moment of education here.

In this issue, the Today staff honors our president, Lesley Di Mare and our football coach, John Wristen. We look into where some of our alumni have taken their lives.

We also offer some advice to incoming freshman in our "Freshman Survival Guide," a guide to navigating campus for resources. The advice I have for CSU-Pueblo freshman students is: Always be critical.

Criticism of self, also called self reflection, allows us to learn from our mistakes and keep moving forward. When we are critical of situations, people and events, we create standards for the way people treat us and where we find ourselves.

Furthermore, if you have an interest in journalism and would like to write for our publication, join the Today in the mass communications department. We could use your leadership and viewpoint.

I would like to say thank you to all of the professors who have helped me along the way in my college career, especially the outstanding mass communications faculty. I would also like to thank Chelsea Reese, the online editor and my co-editor in chief for her support and teamwork.

I congratulate my fellow graduating seniors on the Today staff: Chelsea Reese, Diandra Howell, John Pantoya, Vince Caligaris, Nico Fatta, Tim Sparks, Joni James, Lauren Montoya and Janae Deas. Good luck to you all in your endeavors.

Please enjoy this issue and, as always, thanks to our readers for your continued support of the Today publications.

Sincerely,



Nikki Martinez
Co-Editor in Chief/ Magazine Editor



Above: The CSU-Pueblo Today Staff in all its glory. At right: The staff being critical.
Staff photos by Justin Bregar. Cover photos by Ye Ming.

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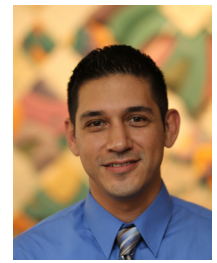
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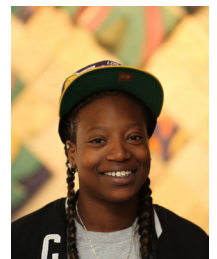
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THE FRESHMAN SURVIVAL GUIDE

By Tyler Shomaker

Attending a university is a big change and learning about the school can be tedious. If only there was a way to acquire the knowledge of the university to make surviving your first college experience easier. Here it is, a survival guide for freshman about the ins and outs of CSU-Pueblo. Read closely and this guide may make you feel like an upperclassmen in your first year.



The Rec Center

The Rec Center is located east of the Library and Academic Resource Center and is connected to the Massari Arena.

Hours : Monday-Thursday 6:00 a.m.- 11:00 a.m., Friday 6:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m., Saturday noon – 8:00 p.m. and Sunday 2 p.m. – 10 p.m.

The Rec Center has all the tools to keep away the “freshmen fifteen.” It has two basketball courts, a running track, swimming pool and a cardio/weight room.

The Library and Academic Resource Center

The LARC is home to many of the offices found in this guide as well as computer labs, studying tables and private studying rooms. Also in the LARC is the Cafe Libro where you can re-fuel for the next class. Of course what would a library be without books? Often times, a professor will leave one required class textbook on reserve per semester for students to use. This can be a great tool if you don't buy the book.

GETTING HELP
The Resources You Need

Student Health Services

Student Health Services is located behind the OUC and is open Monday-Thursday 8:00 a.m. – 6 p.m. and on Friday 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Services include acute and non-emergent illnesses, wound evaluation and treatment, STD screening and treatment, physical exams, minor dermatologic procedures and immunizations and screenings.



Photo by Manfrotto Tripod.

Tutoring

1. **The Gen-Ed Tutoring Center** is located in LARC 251 and offers tutoring for all general education courses.

The Gen Ed Tutoring Center offers individual and small group sessions for all General Education courses,” said Keli Hibbert, Writing Room Coordinator. “We are here to help all semester. While it can be difficult to ask for help, the sooner the better.” said Hibbert.

2. **The Writing Room** is located in LARC 251. The Writing Room provides support throughout the writing process on any writing including class assignments and personal writing.

3. **The Math Learning Center** is located in Physics and Math Building room 132. The Math Learning Center is a place where students can receive one-on-one math help on a walk in basis.

Clubs

Joining a club may be a great way for you to meet new people and try something new. Club sports such as weightlifting, paintball, bowling, rugby and many others are offered at CSU-Pueblo. These are student ran sports that allow you to increase your athletic ability and leadership. Search “Club Sports” on CSU-Pueblo’s website to find out more info.

Office of Student Activities

The OSA is located in the basement of the OUC in Room 002. “The programming mission of the office of Student Activities is to provide the campus community with engaging, educational, and diverse programming,” according to the ASG webpage. Student Activities promote homecoming, tailgates for football games, student and professional performances.

GETTING INVOLVED

Meet New People. Try New Things.

Associated Students’ Government

The ASG is CSU-Pueblo’s student government. They have elections every spring semester which include the president, vice president, senators at large and senators representing each school for its colleges. The ASG votes on what student fees go toward and many other important issues involving CSU-Pueblo.

Stay on top of your freshmen year at CSU-Pueblo by using this information. Remember, your tuition pays for these services, so utilize them! Stay organized, get involved, and most of all, have fun.

Debunking the 2012 Myth



By John Pantoya

The Mayan calendar end date of Dec. 21, 2012 has been a hot topic of discussion in recent years. Rumors of a possible doomsday scenario have become popular in television shows and movies alike. Despite what Hollywood may portray, NASA and Mayan elders in Guatemala foresee a more peaceful outlook for humanity.

Many have debated on what could happen on Dec. 21. Will there be massive earthquakes that cause giant tidal waves? Will a comet collide with the Earth? Putting speculations aside, there are indeed some interesting things occurring around this mysterious date in December, but will they alter life on Earth as we know it?

Galactic Alignment

It is known that there will be a galactic alignment in which the Earth and the sun will line up directly with the center of the Milky Way, according to the official NASA website. NASA also states that this alignment occurs every December and is a normal occurrence with no significance.

Solar Flares

Solar storms are a recurring phenomenon that take place every 11 years according to NASA. Furthermore, NASA agreed with the notion that the solar flares emitted by the sun will reach a maximum between the years 2012-2014.

However, unlike the Nicolas Cage movie "The Knowing", NASA says the flares will not be strong enough to wipe out humanity. Solar storms are known to temporarily disrupt satellite communications, but scientists at NASA see no threats to human life from these solar flares.

Polar Shift

Doomsday theorists also argue that a change in the Earth's rotation could occur causing a shift of its magnetic polarity.

NASA argues that it is simply impossible for the Earth's rotation to change, and despite the fact that its magnetic polarity has changed in the past, it is a rare event that only takes place every 400,000 years and there is no historical evidence to suggest that a drastic change to the planet takes place.

Meteor Strike

One of the most popular doomsday scenarios is that of a meteor striking the Earth and causing a mass extinction of life.

NASA states that smaller comets and asteroids are subject to impacting Earth, but we are in no danger of a large impact meteor to hit Earth like the one that wiped out the dinosaurs 65 million years ago.

Astronomers at NASA have a project called Spaceguard Survey in which they search for large near-Earth asteroids that

could impact Earth, but none have been detected as to date. What then does the future have in store for humanity on this fabled date? Perhaps it's smarter to go straight to the source to determine what will occur. Descendants of the Mayan people who remain in the mountains of Guatemala have been passing on their ancient knowledge for centuries.

According to one of their elders, great times are in store for humanity. Also a Mayan keeper of wisdom, Miguel Angel Chiquin is no stranger to CSU-Pueblo.

Chiquin first visited the university in March 2011 and spoke to a full auditorium in the Hasan School of Business. Founder of the Organization of Maya People in Exile, Chiquin has traveled across the United States as the unofficial ambassador of the Mayan people.

He has stated that he receives knowledge from the Mayan elders in the mountains of Guatemala and passes on their teachings and ceremonies to those who wish to receive them.

Chiquin stated in his visit how the myth of doomsday surrounding the Mayan calendar is false, and the truth is that a fifth and final cycle of the sun begins on this date.

What was also made clear by Chiquin is that he has never heard of an end of the world scenario happening on their calendar's end date of Dec. 21, 2012.

"Many are speaking of destruction or death. None of that is going to happen," he said. "Beautiful things are coming. We are just a few months from encountering the fifth sun which is for all humanity."

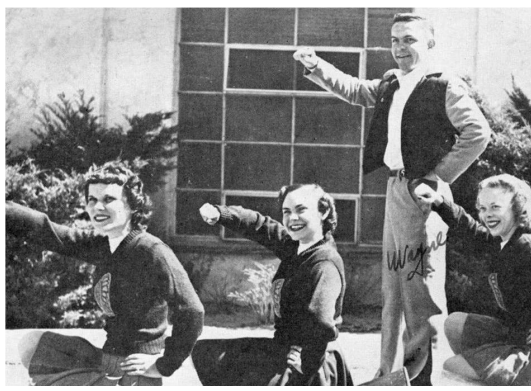
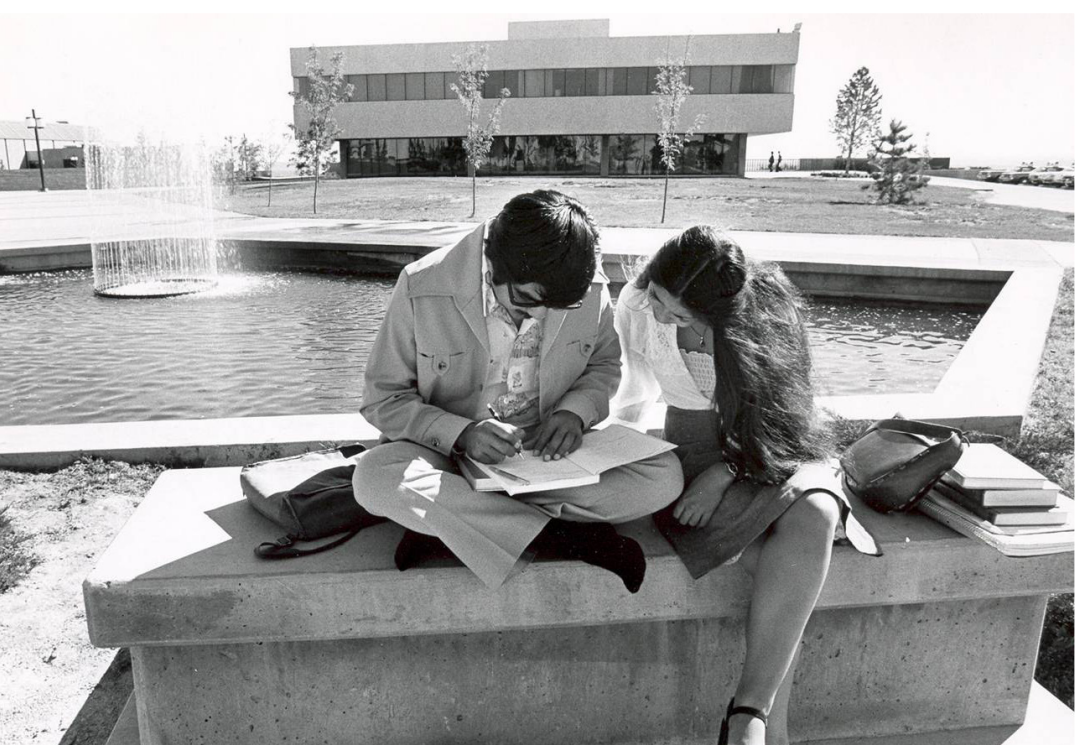
Chiquin believes that humanity is in store for a great cosmic encounter.

"Our first ancestors said that when we looked up we could see to the ends of the universe, but as they began to evolve they got lost in the intellect and they separated from the spirit," he said. "Our fifth sun is when men and women will begin to walk with the sacred flame of spirituality."

Though scientists at NASA and Mayan elders are in agreement that world will not end on Dec. 21, there are many who will continue to believe that we are all in store for chaos.

The truth is that no one can say for certain what will happen on this date, but Chiquin is confident about the future of mankind.

"Do not have fear," he said. "It's time to break the mysteries, brothers and sisters. We will see each other in the next 5,000 years."





ALUMNI

Where Are They Now?

By Chris Lujan

Colorado State University-Pueblo was first established in 1933 as Southern Colorado Junior College. Originally a two year institute, four year programs weren't offered until the '60s when it was renamed Southern Colorado State College. The school would subsequently undergo another name change to the University of Southern Colorado during the '70s. Effective July 1, 2003, former Gov. Bill Owens signed legislation changing the name to Colorado State University-Pueblo. As yet another class of seniors prepares to graduate, take this chance to look at what some former students are currently up to. A lot has happened since these alumni were roaming the campuses.

CLASS OF '66



David Cordova
Chemistry and Behavior
Science Major

Cordova received his bachelor's degree in chemistry and behavior sciences while attending the university in Pueblo. He later pursued his master's degree in health care administration at the University of Oklahoma.

**"I owe it all to
having a sound
academic foundation
from CSU-P."**

He then went on to Texas A&M where he received his doctorate in medical education.

Cordova has worked at the University of Texas for the last 30 years. There he has served as associate dean, the chairman of several departments and has educated over 10 thousand students as a full-time professor.

"I owe it all to having a sound academic foundation from CSU-P," he said. He was more than amply prepared to pursue advance education due to his time here, he claims.

Cordova was instrumental in establishing the current doctorate program in nursing practice here at CSU-Pueblo.

He is now hoping to start a bachelor program in health care for those in the medical field who hope to manage or teach within their respective professions.

CLASS OF '73



Michael Salardino
Mass Communications Major

After graduating, Salardino worked as a DJ and television sportscaster before venturing into the financial services industry.

Salardino said he believes his degree has played a huge role in the success he has had in all his careers.

"The education I received at CSU-P is first rate, I'm proud to have gone there, no question about it. I'd recommend that school to anyone," he said.

Salardino is a senior financial consultant at Security Service Investment Group in Pueblo. While attending CSU, Salardino worked at the school newspaper as the editor and had a column at The Today when it was a weekly newspaper.

Some of his favorite memories are of the time he spent working on the paper.

"Every Wednesday night, all of us who worked on The Today stayed until 10 at night eating pizza and working on the paper."

**"Every Wednesday
night, all of us who
worked on The
Today stayed until
10 at night eating
pizza and working
on the paper."**

CLASS OF '99



Priscilla R. Lucero
Business Major

Priscilla Lucero graduated with her master's degree in business administration and undergraduate in accounting. A non-traditional student, Lucero worked full-time and raised her two daughters while she was pursuing degrees.

Her time at CSU-P spanned almost a decade before she achieved her goals.

Lucero is currently the Market President at Wells Fargo and manages all five locations in Pueblo. A successful business woman now, Lucero is thankful for her time and is a proud alumni and supporter of the university.

"Take it seriously and figure out what you can do to network with other people"

"What helped me the most was the exposure to the international students. It gave me the ability to work with different people, it taught me how to

be patient, taught me that everyone has a different perspective," she said.

Her time at school helped Lucero to branch out and expand her mind and connect with different people, including the university staff and professors.

"Have a good time; take it seriously and figure out what you can do to network with other people. It will pay dividends for you in the long run," Lucero said.

CLASS OF '07



Stacie N. Shirley
Political Science Major

After graduation, Stacie Shirley attended Creighton University in Omaha, Neb., where she obtained her law degree. After passing the bar exam she moved back home to Pueblo, where she was born and raised. Shirley is currently practicing law at Buxman Kwitek and Ohlsen Attorneys at law.

While at CSU-Pueblo, Shirley was a part of the President's Leadership Program. She recalls the time during her senior year when she led the incoming freshmen and sophomore class on the annual orientation retreat.

"CSU-P prepared me for law school and for life."

"One night, we were hearing some very heavy scratching on the walls and the roof of our cabin and were convinced it was a bear. So of course we all freaked out screaming and panicking. Needless to say it was the underclassmen boys who had fooled us all and had a great laugh at our expense," Shirley said.

Shirley credits the university for her professional success stating the small class sizes and one-on-one interaction with the faculty gave her the confidence and experience she needed.

"That translated well for me in law school, I was used to talking to professors and enjoyed the same rapport while attending law school," she said. "CSU-P is a great school; it prepared me for law school and for life."

Photos courtesy of CSU-Pueblo archives and individuals featured.



A Man and

By Dalton Ries

Twenty-nine years ago was the last time Colorado State University-Pueblo experienced playoff football.

In 1983, the then-University of Southern Colorado football team made it to the NAIA national playoffs. Unfortunately, the university cut the football program two years later and it wasn't reinstated until 2008.

The man chosen by CSU-Pueblo to lead its new football program was the man who last led CSU-Pueblo on a road to glory, former USC All-American quarterback John Wristen.

Since being reinstated, the football program at CSU-Pueblo has only improved under Wristen's leadership.

In just its fourth year, the ThunderWolves had an undefeated regular season with an 11-0 record and claimed the 2011 RMAC championship. It's an amazing achievement for a team that is still considered a new program in most circles.

Wristen was named the 2011 National Coach of the Year by American Football Monthly magazine in recognition of his team's undefeated season and his ability to bring a program

to the nation's elite in just four short years. It's an achievement that could not go to a more deserving man.

Wristen always knew he was going to work with kids someday.

"I was either going to be a teacher at a high school or I was going to be a coach somehow," Wristen said. "I really believe that coaching is teaching at its very best. I enjoy that part where you get to take kids where they can't take themselves."

He followed through on his childhood goal and graduated from USC in 1984 with a degree in education and went on to develop an impressive coaching career that led to his return at his alma-mater.

For 17 years prior to his return to CSU-Pueblo, Wristen coached Division I schools such as UCLA, Northwestern and the University of Colorado.

He also served as the offensive coordinator at Fort Lewis College, head football and girl's basketball coach at Rocky

d His Team

The Coach Behind the Outstanding 2011 Season in ThunderWolf History



Left: Wristen speaks to his team before practice. Right: Wristen and members of his team put on a game face. Photo by Ye Ming.

Ford High School and assistant football coach at Weslaco High School in Texas.

“I’m very lucky to be at this point in my career,” Wristen said. “I was extremely fortunate.”

Coaching football is not just about getting wins for Wristen, however; it’s about getting better as a team and getting better as individuals.

He doesn’t coach for the glory or for fame. He uses coaching as an avenue to teach and develop young men into what they will become when they graduate from college.

“One of the most valuable things I will take away from having him as a coach is just learning how to have fun and pursue your dreams,” said Jesse Lewis, CSU-Pueblo All-American running back.

“He always told me to love, cherish and thank those around who have helped me get to where I am. And of course he taught me to always stay humble.”
Coaching an elite program at the collegiate level and having

your team be successful takes a lot of time. Many people believe a coach might think of nothing but football, even when he isn’t coaching.

Wristen coaches an elite program but when away from coaching, he doesn’t think about the game; he thinks about his players.

“You are so vulnerable at a young age, kids are not always going to make the right decisions,” Wristen said.

“Sometimes I lay awake at night worrying and hoping that they are holding each other accountable and doing the right thing and being safe.”

Wristen cares for his players more than the average coach, which could be attributed to becoming a father before a coach. He has three children, ages 23, 16 and 14, and was recently engaged to Rochelle DeVargas, who he met while attending USC.

Some might be shocked to find that a football coach has a life outside of football but Wristen is not a coaching robot

“We are going to keep getting better and plan to be Colorado’s elite football program year in and year out.”

and enjoys multiple hobbies such as golfing, fishing and barbecuing.

“I don’t really have time for a lot of hobbies but I do love golfing,” Wristen said. “I have a smoker, one of the big ones, and I put on a feast for the student-athletes at the end of the year.”

I really enjoy relaxing and doing pretty much nothing. This isn’t an 8-to-5 job and it’s not a Monday through Friday job. It’s 24 hours, seven days a week, so having time to do some relaxing is always nice.”

When it comes to football, however, Wristen never relaxes.

“As a coaching staff, we are always thinking about getting better and improving and developing our players,” Wristen said.

This type of commitment to his players does not go unnoticed.

Third team all-conference linebacker Louis Lozano describes the coach’s commitment to improving: “The times that I have been with him away from football he has tried to learn from me instead of me learning from him. He always asks different questions to try and gather a different perspective.”

“Whether it’s for football, school or even our personal life, you can see it in the relationships he has with the players,” Lozano added.

It is clear Wristen is more than a coach, he is a mentor to young men and his ability to develop athletes into men is a result of what he looks for in the players he brings to the university.

“The first thing I look for is a young man with good character,” Wristen said. “If that young man has good character, I make sure they are passionate about being a student before being an athlete.

“And then last but not least, I make sure they are a good athlete. We can always develop them athletically, but character is hard to teach.

“I want players I can hold accountable but I expect my players to hold me accountable as well,” Wristen said.



Wristen looks on as the team practices. Photo by Ye Ming.

This mentality has helped Wristen develop a foundation for a program that strives to be Colorado’s elite football program.

The recent success of the program has brought an unprecedented amount of exposure for the school and has been a contributing factor to the school’s exponential rise in enrollment.

“We are going to keep getting better and we plan to be Colorado’s elite football program year in and year out,” Wristen said.

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Professors' 20 Points of Advice to Students

Compiled by: Diandra Howell

1. If you arrive in class right on time, you are late.

2. If you don't know where you are going, you are bound to end up somewhere else.

4. Take care of your health; exercise, get enough sleep, and eat your vegetables.

3. Make an effort to speak to your professors outside of class. Stop by their offices and let them know that you have interests outside of your academic and career goals.

5. When you work in groups, remember that your classmates may be in a position to offer you a job in a few years.

6. Don't fool yourself into thinking that you can multitask while doing homework. The research is pretty clear that you can't perform at the top of your game when your attention is divided.

7. To the male students: if your pants won't stay up, and you cannot afford a belt, use a piece of rope, or *something*.

8. Don't become a victim of your excuses; accept total responsibility for yourself and everything that happens to you. That is empowerment.

9. Follow The Directions.

10. Complete one action of extending yourself in the interest of another student on campus each day.

11. Learn to write. Increase your vocabulary, practice good grammar and pay attention to writing mechanics.

12. So you want to leave class early? You are happy when a paper is cancelled? You are the customer! With the price of tuition, why are you negotiating to get less than you are paying for?

13. Most professors make all assignments for the semester clear in the syllabus. Start working ASAP! If you complain that mine is not your only class, I will ask if you would like some cheese to go with that whine!

14. Don't Procrastinate!

16. If your text is so important that it cannot wait, by all means, pack up, leave class for the day, and take care of your urgent texting addiction.

17. Yes, without a doubt, you are absolutely special. Now get over it. Please do not expect preferential treatment that gives you an advantage over other students.

15. You may think you're clever when you successfully steer your professor into giving a long-winded rant on a topic unrelated to the course, but you're really just wasting class time. Class time is limited; get the most out of it that you can.

18. If you miss a class, please do not ask, "Did I miss anything important?" This implies that I usually do not cover anything important during class. Ouch!

19. If you want the professor to think that you are on drugs or severely hung over, wear sunglasses in the classroom.

20. Unless you want to crash and burn, do not try to cram for all of your exams at the same time, nor write all of your papers in one week.

CSU-Pueblo Students “Break Away” in Service

By Joni James

CSU-Pueblo broke away from the mold in 2012 by launching the university’s first Alternative Spring Break Program. The program encourages students to unite, learn about current social issues and volunteer on a week-long service project over spring break.

The program is a local chapter of Break Away, a national organization dedicated to changing the way college students view and interact with current social issues. The ultimate goal of Break Away is to encourage students to become lifelong, active citizens, according to information on the organization’s website.

Break Away is a non-profit that aids college campuses in establishing alternative break programs. The programs, in turn, coordinate spring break trips for students that focus on specific social issues such as poverty, hunger, homelessness, etc.

It began as an alternative to the “traditional” trips that college students took over spring break during the 1980s. Today, individual schools coordinate trips by working with local non-profits to address social issues of interest to the participating students, according to the Break Away website.

In 2010, approximately 72,000 students participated in an alternative spring break project, according to the Break Away website. The students represented almost 150 colleges nationwide, a number that CSU-Pueblo added to during the 2011 fall semester.

“The idea for the Alternative Spring Break Program originated in PLP,” said Shelly Moreschini, director of the President’s Leadership Program. “The juniors in our program took on the project as their service activity for the year.”

All junior-level members of the PLP are required to complete a class project. The 2011-2012 junior class decided to serve CSU-Pueblo students by establishing a chapter in Break Away, she said.

“We wanted to pursue a different kind of project that particularly catered to CSU-Pueblo students,” said Sarah Mutz, a PLP junior that worked on the Alternative Spring Break project. “We thought this project might be a good way to promote involvement and community on campus.”



Jonathan Robertson, a South Dakota trip participant from CSU-Pueblo, lines up a cut to build a deck for a Pine Ridge resident.

Photo by Joni James.

In addition, Break Away presented the PLP junior class with a project that had a sustainable future, Moreschini said. The program is expected to continue at CSU-Pueblo in the future under the guidance of the Office of Student Activities or the President’s Leadership Program, she said.

During the 2011-2012 pilot year, 29 CSU-Pueblo students participated in trips organized by the newly established Alternative Spring Break Program. These individuals went through a process of applications, interviews and meetings to secure their place in the program.

“The application and interview process enabled us to learn about the population of students,” Mutz said. “In choosing the trips we tried to be mindful of trips that could potentially interest the CSU-Pueblo student population.”

In the end, two trips made the cut for the 29 Alternative Spring Break participants: Pine Ridge, S.D., and New Orleans, La.



Top: Nicole Abney, a sociology major from CSU-Pueblo, helps construct walls at a site in New Orleans. Photo courtesy of Alayna Abeyta. Bottom: Group picture of the South Dakota trip participants with staff from Re-Member. Photo by Joni James.

“The main objective for the Pine Ridge trip is to give students the chance to visit a struggling community in the United States and gain exposure to another culture,” Mutz said. “We worked with a non-profit organization called Re-Member that aims to improve the quality of life on the Pine Ridge Oglala Indian Reservation.”

According to statistics from the Re-Member website, the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation has approximately 85 percent unemployment, 80 percent alcoholism and the lowest life expectancy in the United States. The average per capita income of Pine Ridge residents is around \$4,000.

Participants on the Pine Ridge trip engaged in physical and hands-on service activities, Moreschini said. Building decks, painting trailer homes, constructing bunk beds and cleaning were regular duties included for the service project.

The New Orleans trip for CSU-Pueblo’s Alternative Spring Break Program collaborated with Habitat for Humanity to rebuild structures in areas still suffering from the effects of natural disasters.

“When I first heard about the opportunity to go to New Orleans for spring break I was interested,” said Steve Prewitt, a sophomore at CSU-Pueblo.

“The thought of being able to travel somewhere I have never been before is what really drew me in. I am also happy that I will be able to be spending a lot of my time volunteering in the area,” he said.

Not only does volunteer work with alternative break programs affect the lives of those receiving aid, it also alters how the volunteers behave after they return home, according to research conducted by Pushkala Raman of Florida State University.

Results of Raman’s research reveal strong indications that alternative break volunteers are more likely to vote, continue volunteering and get more actively involved at their campuses once they return home.

Although service was the primary focus of CSU-Pueblo’s Alternative Spring Break trips in 2012, participants also had the opportunity to learn about different cultures and areas of the United States.

“The Pine Ridge trip had several cultural days,” Moreschini said. “The Oglala Lakota live on the reservation and have a fascinating culture related to our nation’s history.”

Students on the New Orleans trip also explored their culturally rich host city by interacting with locals and dining out on free nights.

“Overall, the first year of the program was a success,” Moreschini said. “Our students and society were both served, and it was a great experience for everyone involved.”

“It was the best spring break I’ve ever had,” Prewitt said. “I definitely recommend it.”

To get involved with CSU-Pueblo’s Alternative Spring Break Program or learn more about it, contact Moreschini at 549-2060 or shelly.moreschini@colostate-pueblo.edu.



HOW TO GET INTO GRAD SCHOOL

By Ye Ming

There are several reasons for a person to attend graduate school: their future career requires an advanced degree, to further their studies in a specialized field of interest or they are in need of a career change. If you have a clear career goal and believe attending graduate school will help you in pursuing it, this option is right for you.

Students can only be successful if they have the dedication, said Michelle Gjerde, director of the Career Center at CSU-Pueblo.

If you have made the decision to apply for a graduate school, be an early bird. It is beneficial because you have more time researching and preparing for the applications. Applying earlier will also increase your odds of being admitted, according to the article “Graduate School Application Timeline” published by The Princeton Review, a standardized test preparation and admissions consulting company.

For schools that have rolling admissions, admissions are evaluated when applications arrive and therefore spots fill up quickly. For schools that only accept students in the fall, application deadlines are mostly in December, January and February according to The Princeton Review.

“Many students wait too late, and either they don’t get admitted because the school has accepted all they can, or there may be financial assistants but it’s all given out early to the students who applied first and have a strong record,” said Melvin Druelinger, dean of Graduate Studies and Research at CSU-Pueblo.

Step 1:

Get Your Standardized Test Scores

Most graduate school programs require standardized test scores as part of the enrollment requirements. The Graduate Record Examination is the most general test for students in most fields.

However, the Graduate Management Admission Test is for prospective students in business, the Law School Admission Test is for law students and the Medical College Admissions Test is for medical students.

Make sure you know which test to take for the specific major and start preparing early. It is recommended to take the test six months prior to the admission deadlines so you can have a chance to retake it if you don’t score well the first time.

Most tests can be registered online at the tests’ official websites. It is good to reserve the date early because spots at your most convenient test center can be filled up quickly. You can obtain registration material for GRE and LSAT at the Student Academic Services located at LARC 267 as well

Step 2:

Research, Research and Research

While you are at the researching stage, keep the factors you need to look for below in mind:

1. Research schools and their programs, and the one that suits you the most should help you with pursuing your career goal.

Don’t be fooled by the program’s name. Many schools set up their programs with a broad name such as “Communications,” but you can navigate through websites and look for emphasis areas, curriculums and course descriptions. You can get an idea of where the program

direction leads and how it can strengthen your skills and knowledge in the field.

2. Research tuition, fees and cost of living in the city or town where the schools are located.

If you think you won't have sufficient funds to attend look for financial aid, fellowships and graduate assistant positions information on their websites.

3. Research the employment rate of the graduates and where they are now.

Sixty-eight percent of the jobs are found through people you know, according to the National Association of Colleges and Employers. Hence, how many connections you make while attending that school is also one of the determinants of your success. Check out the city or town the school is located in too. There are generally more jobs in bigger markets.

Although researching online is the best way for most updated information, talk to your professors and see what their suggestions are.

Make a list of schools you are interested in and compare all the factors. Pick up the phone and call the program's academic advisors, professors or admission officers if you have questions. This way you will not only know the program better, but it will also make an early impression on the decision makers. Remember to apply to at least one school you are confident will accept you as a safety net.

Take note of the admission deadlines while you are researching and remember although your application can still be accepted if it's postmarked on the deadline date, send it early.

Step 3:

Impress the admissions with your amazing application package

It's time to start putting together your application package. The materials you want to include are the application form, official transcript, standardized test score such as GRE, resume or curriculum vitae, personal statement, references and letters of recommendation.

For some majors such as art or communications, it's important to include a portfolio with your work samples. Graduate schools often require applicants to submit a personal statement, also referred to as the statement of purpose. Like a cover letter for a resume, such an essay will show how you qualify for the program.

In the statement, state your strengths and explain why you want to pursue a graduate education and how the program will help you immensely in achieving your goal.

Always proofread your resume and essays, and get another opinion of them, too. Poor writing won't work even if you have an amazing experience to share. Pay attention to details, as they will increase your chance to be accepted.

Ask for permission when you are going to list your references. Choose the people who are most knowledgeable of your performance in the field, such as your professors and employers in related field.

After you have submitted the applications, don't forget to follow up. Ask if the admissions office has received all required documents, if you could have an interview with the department and if you could receive financial aid or scholarships.

CSU-Pueblo's Career Center will hold the Graduate School Fair on Thursday, Sept. 13 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the Ochiatto Student University Center. More than 15 graduate programs will display their recruitment information, Gjerde said.

For More Info About Grad Schools in Your Preferred Field Visit:

- **Graduate School Application Timeline**
<http://www.princetonreview.com/grad/application-timeline.aspx> comprehensive graduate school directory
- **Graduate School Search**
www.gradschools.com
- **The Newest College Rankings and Reviews**
www.usnews.com/education
- **Scholarships search**
www.fastweb.com
- **LSAT**
<http://www.lsac.org/jd/lsat/test-dates-deadlines.asp>
<https://www.aamc.org/students/applying/mcat/>
- **GRE**
<http://www.ets.org/gre/>
- **GMAT**
<http://www.mba.com/the-gmat.aspx>
- **MCAT**
<https://www.aamc.org/students/applying/mcat/>

President Lesley *DiMare*

Learning More About the *Woman* at the Helm

By Chelsea Reese

*A*fter a year of hunting for the perfect person to be the head honcho and leader of CSU-Pueblo, the Board of Governors finally found her. For the first time in the university's history, the CSU-Pueblo president is a woman and she is all smiles as she describes this job opportunity as her proudest moment thus far.

"It's like a lifetime achievement for me. My only regret is that my father is not alive to see this because he would've been so thrilled," the new president said in a more somber tone than before. "I've never been a bucket list kind of person and I think that's because I've been doing all the things I wanted all my life."

Lesley Di Mare, 60, was born Nov. 13, in Utica, N.Y., where she resided with Philip, her younger brother of three years, Gloria, her mother whom she considers her best friend, and her father, Jim.

Her childhood was as a typical one she said, however their home soon ended up being on the other side of the country in California. This is where she completed most of her higher education.

She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in theater arts in 1972 from California State University-Chico with a minor in English.



Photo by Ye Ming.

She then went on to complete her teaching credential at Cal State Sacramento's School of Education in 1974, according to the vitae she used to get the job at CSU-Pueblo.

She later earned her Master of Arts degree in speech communication at Cal State Hayward. Her doctorate degree in speech communication came after she moved and attended Indiana University in 1984.

While still attending school, she decided to put her teaching credential to good use and bestow the same knowledge she learned to her students for 25 years before she fell into administrative positions. Her most recent position was the interim president of Nevada State College.

When she got the call from the BOG, Di Mare was delighted to be a part of the university as the first female president and she quickly accepted the invitation to move to Colorado.

She not only wanted to escape Nevada's desert climate but also wanted to be a part of the thriving institution CSU-Pueblo has become, she said.

"We love Colorado. I mean it's just a beautiful state with what we've found to be very warm and welcoming people in every region," Di Mare said.

"I love the cold weather. It's not too cold, you don't get too much snow, it's just enough so that you actually have seasons and because I've lived in the desert now for over 20 years, I really am enjoying the seasons," Di Mare said.

"My husband said, 'Lesley never met a coat she didn't like,'" Di Mare joked. "I've got 5,000 coats and I just wear a different one every day now. I'm just so happy."

Di Mare met her husband David Walter on the online dating site oneandonly.com while she was in Scottsdale, Ariz. They met 12 years ago and later married Dec. 27, 2007, she said. "I believe my husband is my soul mate," Di Mare said.

Walter and Di Mare do not have any children together, but Walter had three children in a previous relationship that Di Mare cares for like they are her own, she said.

"I feel very close to them and our grandchildren."

So far, Di Mare is pleased with the decision to accept her new position and is very impressed with CSU-Pueblo's facilities and programs, she said.

"This campus has some of the most sophisticated equipment in the state, in biology, in engineering, in nursing, and our students are getting a very hands-on applied education that meets the industry's needs," she said.

"Just persevere and do what you think is right and you'll be successful."

"And plus that we have music, and art, and theater. So I really feel our students, between hands-on experience and education, athletics and the arts and humanities, we really have well-rounded graduates," she continued.

"If I were a student I would definitely choose to come here."

Does she have any advice for the students she will be leading? "Just persevere and do what you think is right and you'll be successful," she said. "Those two words, perseverance and right."

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Saying “No” to Paying College Athletes

By Weston Allenback

Discussions about collegiate athletes and whether or not they should be paid is a conversation that falls on deaf ears.

Certainly the NCAA isn’t listening. Maybe only these student-athletes are encouraging someone, anyone to speak up for them.

Let’s face it, these student-athletes aren’t going to see any changes plus they already get an outstanding deal. Free education, room and board and free meal plans are a few of the perks. Arguably, these athletes are getting some sort of payment already.

First of all, the NCAA doesn’t seem to have any desire look into the idea of paying the athletes, let alone start the process of changing. In a statement released by the NCAA, they discussed several arguments that get mis-construed.

“The student-athletes are students first and athletes second, they are not university employees paid for services and labor,” was the response released on the NCAA website regarding paying athletes.

In spite of the fact that it would be difficult to argue big college football and basketball programs aren’t bringing in a large amount of money for their school, it isn’t hard to argue that athletes are getting their fair share.

“College sports will become a business, just like professional sports. Paying student athletes will cause the real joy of college athletics to fly out the window.”

On average the student athletes are receiving nearly \$30,000 a year for school.

The average student graduating college is leaving with around \$35,000 in debt. These athletes are receiving the benefit of the doubt.

Many have argued that student athletes in big program should get paid because of the enormous amount of revenue gained by the universities on their behalf. However, these large amounts of money are coming from two predominant sports: basketball and football.

Could the NCAA get by passing a rule that only football and basketball players should get paid? Soon enough they would have every other sport knocking down the door demanding fair treatment.

Which brings up the next question: “What would happen if some schools couldn’t afford to pay players in their programs?”

This upper hand would put most school at a disadvantage when it comes to recruiting. Just 30 percent of football programs and 26 percent of basketball programs are actually creating revenue, according to the NCAA.

A top athlete would be automatically drawn to these programs, thus making the others fall farther and farther behind.

For those falling behind lets recap and prove exactly what is in it for the student-athletes.

Student-athletes have a restricted amount of time they can be working with their particular team.

As stated in the NCAA rule book, teams may only meet for 20 hours per week for the 21 week season. As for the other 23 weeks, they are only allowed eight hours of meeting time each week, not to mention the mandatory day off each week they are given.

Seems like a pretty well-paying part time job, if a job is the term that should be used. These student-athletes would be making upwards of \$70 an hour to do something they are clearly already passionate about.

What about the tremendous advantage these athletes have to succeed in the classroom?

A report issued by the NCAA in November 2011 found that four out of every five student-athletics graduate with a degree.

No one is explaining the real deal to these athletes. What the current state of college athletics is is a wonderful opportunity to get ahead in this world doing something that they love.

If we continue to attribute them not seeing cold hard cash to a failure we will continue to see athletes raise the issue.

Granted, these sports take a great deal of time and effort. Any parent interested in their child’s higher education would jump at the opportunity given to these athletes.

The definition of a professional athlete is one that gets paid to do their profession. This isn’t the case for collegiate athlete. If the NCAA decides at some point in the future to pay athletes, everything about sports at the college level will change, and not for the better.

It will become a business, just like professional sports. Paying student athletes will cause the real joy of college athletics to fly out the window. Watching March Madness and the passion that’s brought from mid major colleges will be gone.

All the fun would be taken out of college sports. Athletes would essentially become employees of their schools rather than enthusiasts of their given sport.

Watching the pride these athletes take in the schools they represent will become a distance past.

What ever happened to paying your dues? Everyone has to start from the bottom and work their way to the top. Nothing should be any different for some highly talented student-athletes.

These students and advocates for the changes need to take a giant step back and understand what it means to have pride in something that is bigger than themselves rather than focusing on their personal financial gain.

Illustration by Nikki Martinez



GOING GREEN ON CAMPUS

By Melissa Miller

>> Respecting limited resources is the philosophy of ‘going green.’

Alternative sources for energy and fuel are being explored as a possible, or, perhaps, a permanent solution for today’s energy crisis.

All over the world, individuals, governments and industries are making endeavors toward the effort to conserve, supply and distribute limited supplies of energy, water and materials.

People in many cities, like Pueblo, have constructed community gardens, encouraging local sustainability and vitality. CSU-Pueblo has taken part by offering a Master Gardeners class and incorporating ‘xeriscaping’ across campus.

CSU-Pueblo is a state-owned institution and must maintain the requirements of state initiatives. One such initiative is called LEED, or Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design.

To become LEED-certified, the university must meet all requirements for energy conservation and the incorporation of recycled materials.

The university buildings are considered ‘gold level’ on what is a platinum, gold, silver and bronze level rating, Deborah Proctor, project planner for facilities management at CSU-Pueblo, said.

Proctor sits on Pueblo’s Storm Water Advisory Committee for CSU-Pueblo. The committee represents some of Pueblo’s biggest water users, including Pueblo County.

According to the U.S. Green Building Council, “LEED certification provides independent, third-party verification that a building, home or community was designed and built using strategies aimed at achieving high performance in the key areas of human and environmental

health: sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection and indoor environmental quality.”

The Library and Resource Center was constructed using recycled concrete, glass and aluminum. Along with its use of low-flow toilets and energy-smart lighting, meeting LEED requirements has led to the designation of a ‘platinum level’ rating for the brand new building and has helped secure funding.

The CSU-Pueblo facilities management department looks at “2011 Campus Sustainability Practices and Procedures” in nine categories: building systems, roofing, utilities, waste disposal, transportation, construction, maintenance and custodial, storm water and education.

The department works within the available budget to responsibly address the needs of the facilities, while meeting federal guidelines and requirements of the departments of the state of Colorado.

“We have recycling in all 20 buildings,” Proctor said. Facilities management has been using Waste Connections of Pueblo for four years for solid waste disposal of trash, recycling and trash pick-up after events.

The company picks up paper recycling bins and plastic recycling tubs, as well as all trash and cardboard and handles all transfers, she said.

Detention basins on both the west and east sides of campus

help regulate water run-off. Campus facilities meet the “Storm Water Best Management Practices” requirements that encourage the use of grass swales.

A water-recycling program could be incorporated in the future to capture and reuse grey water from the new dorms, but students would need to actively participate in approving the use of student funds.

The grass swales, located along the east campus near the Neta and Eddie DeRose ThunderBowl and the Buell Communication Center, allow water drainage to percolate through the ground along lines of greens and trees before returning into the runoff.

This process makes for cleaner water returns.

CSU-Pueblo’s campus spends more money on electricity than water and the campus is

more expensive to cool than to heat.

One solution to the high cost of electricity was construction of the solar array, Proctor said.

The array sits on 3.4 acres, supplies into the main feed for campus and generates around one-tenth of total electricity used. It is a 1.2 Megawatt Solar Photovoltaic System, she said.

Large fields of grass help keep the campus cool during warm-weather months and help maintain air quality.

While being a place for students to relax, they also prevent the heat island effect, she said.



The CSU-Pueblo greenhouse in full bloom. Photos by Ye Ming.





TIRED OF ALWAYS BEING THE LAST TO KNOW?

THE CSU-PUEBLO TODAY

***CAMPUS NEWS
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Correction

In the Fall 2011/ Spring 2012 issue of the CSU-Pueblo Today magazine, a photo was misplaced in the story "Spotlight on Students: Graphic Designers" on page 18. The correction is as follows:



The photo at left, which was taken by photographer Jay Bernard, was misplaced. It appeared where the graphic design work of art student Chris Washington, at right, was supposed to be. The Today staff regrets this mistake.

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