

New Dance Squad Provides Halftime Spice at Games

By Chelsie Knowlton
Staff Writer

A new dance team at Cal State East Bay is pumping up the crowds at men's and women's home games this season.

The 19-person squad, which includes one male student, began last quarter after 30 people took part in auditions. With a choreographer, dancers work on creating a variety of routines to perform at both halftime and timeouts during basketball games.

Team members say they are eager to see how people will react to their presence as a new addition to the CSUEB sports scene.

"I think it makes the games go by faster because we provide more entertainment for the audience," said team member Corissa Johnson, a sophomore at CSUEB. "The audience seems to really enjoy it."

Member Miyuki Takahashi, a sophomore, has been dancing for seven years. She feels the addition of a dance team at games creates a mood that entertains crowds and

encourages the basketball teams.

Although some students may not be aware that CSUEB has a

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Team member
Corissa Johnson

who come, the more people come to know the school and it has a really good circular effect," said Takahashi.

The dance team hopes to provide a new dynamic to both the basketball games and other various performances in which they participate. While the choreography incorporates many different styles of dance, hip hop is the main focus because of its energetic quality.

Athletic Director Debby De Angelis says she is delighted to have the added attractions at the basketball games.

"They add a great dimension to the events," said De Angelis, who has worked as athletic director for CSUEB since 2001. "I have been impressed with the variety of performances that they have done at the games so far and that they are continually doing new routines."

This new campus organization is open to any CSUEB student willing to try out. They provide the opportunity for any student with a dance background to get together with others as a team and work to create a variety of entertaining routines.

Spectators at basketball home games can look forward to watching the dance troupe for the rest of the season. In addition, there are plans to perform at various dance showcases and festivals, including the second annual Renaud-Wilson Dance Festival held on campus Feb. 3-5.

Lecture To Focus on American Businesses Overseas

By Kerry Rief
Staff Writer

Conducting business in developing countries can have its legal pitfalls and traps.

Loretta Breuning, professor of international business, will explain next week how American businesses and personnel can avoid such problems in her presentation, "Bribery and International Business."

"As we expand our business, travel, cultural and political ties with emerging economies, we encounter the pervasiveness of bribery in routine public services," said Breuning in a news release.

Breuning, author of the book, "Greaseless: How to Thrive without Bribes in Developing Countries," will discuss the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, how American managers are subject to substantial penalties, and how travelers are confused and aid agencies' funds are drained. She holds a bachelor of science in labor relations and a Ph.D. in international trade, and, in the past year, her book has been translated into Albanian, Armenian and Chinese.

Breuning has taught international business in the management department on campus for 22 years.

"This particular topic, ethics in international business, touches all of us indirectly since we live in a global economy," said Joyce Podevyn, CSUEB's SCHOLAR-OLLI coordinator.

According to its Web site, SCHOLAR-OLLI provides a learning environment for mature learners, which fosters creativity, self-discovery, and peer education. It offers no-credit, low-cost lectures and short courses for people age 50 and over at six locations in the East Bay. It is one of 25 OLLIs in California and there are 70 OLLIs across the country.

Podevyn says that although the OLLI institute, sponsored by the Bernard Osher Foundation and the university's Concord campus, is designed for mature adults, they encourage everyone to attend and because the lectures are inexpensive for students, this is a great opportunity to hear an emeritus professor speak.

The lecture will take place on Jan. 18 at 2 p.m. in the Oak Room of the library building on the Concord campus, located at 4700 Ygnacio Valley Road. Admission is \$5 per person for the general public and free to members of the OLLI at CSUEB. Additional information on the institute is available online at www.scholarolli.com.

New Spectrometer To Aid in Study of Molecules and Proteins

By Mike Rosenberg
Staff Writer

A new half-million dollar machine is helping science students conduct their research in a huge new way.

The 500MHz Varian NMR spectrometer, which is located in the South Science Building, helps students study and identify not only small organic molecules but bigger molecules such as proteins, DNA and RNA as well.

"This is our half-million dollar baby," said chemistry professor Michael Groziak with a grin. "Anywhere the students go (after they graduate), they'll find this instrument."

The machine was purchased with various grants gathered by the chemistry department, namely a joint grant of more than \$400,000 given by the National Science Foundation. All told, the grants equaled more than \$660,000.

About 23 percent of that money was gathered from the Dean's office to upgrade from the 400MHz model, with another \$85,000 going toward outfitting the machine's home, which needs to be air conditioned at all times.

The joint grant was received by Groziak and fellow chemistry professors Anne Kotchevar, Chul-Hyun Kim and Richard Luibrand in 2004. Previous grant efforts were denied



Weird Science: Ron Hicks demonstrates the capabilities of the new half-million dollar spectrometer located in the South Science Building.

Photo/ Navipat Chomchergnapt

to replace the previous 60MHz model that was 35 years old.

"Nobody but nobody uses a 60 MHz," said Groziak. "It's like night and day."

Luibrand, who is chair of the department, says that no other CSU has a more powerful NMR spectrometer.

"(The spectrometer) is a very important analytical tool; it's vital to have it in any research institution," said Luibrand. "It is critical in structure elucidation for organic compounds."

Upon entering the room that

houses the machine, students must check their metal objects at the door because of the extremely strong magnet inside the machine that is capable of scrambling credit cards. This magnet is kept under extremely cold temperatures to keep its extremely powerful charge maintained. Inside is another cylinder kept at only 4 degrees Kelvin, just above absolute zero. These cylinders are filled with very cold liquids such as liquid nitrogen.

Test containers housing a sample

are put into the cylinder either by hand or by a robotic arm capable of doing large amounts of work when no one is present. The tube can be controlled by a nearby computer screen, which shows signals from the dissolved particles inside the sample. This 30-second test identifies the compound in the sample by figuring out how many of each elements in the sample are present.

Kim says the machine will enhance chemistry and biochemistry research as faculty members will regularly use the instrument in their research.

"Students participating in this research will have great research experience with this cutting-edge instrument," said Kim. "We surely expect to see more extensive usage of this machine in the next few years and beyond."

Kim described the machine as versatile, as it can be used to cover physics, physical chemistry, organic chemistry, medicinal chemistry and biochemistry.

Students can acquire hands-on knowledge with the spectrometer during various chemistry classes and labs. Students have already begun to use the machine daily to characterize intermediate molecules in their organic synthesis research and to study the structure and dynamics of virus RNA molecules.

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