A Message to Our Honored Students

From Dean Farrell J. Webb

Today, we celebrate you, a select group of students who have been recommended by faculty for Dean’s Awards as Outstanding Students in the College of Health and Human Development.

We are happy to formally recognize the dedication, accomplishment, and vitality you have brought to your studies, our campus, and our communities. You demonstrate what we mean when we call HHD “The College of Life.”

Your work reaches across the lifespan. You address personal and family development, wellness, early intervention for children, safety and prevention of trauma, and responses to illness and injury. You promote health and health care and fortify others through better nutrition, physical activity and recreation. You improve environments—from our homes and workplaces to the water and air quality of our planet.

On May 20th, nearly 2,400 students will graduate from the College in two ceremonies. The most outstanding graduate student and senior in each of our academic degree programs, as well as the College’s nominee for the CSUN Wolfson Scholar Award, are featured along with you today.

On behalf of our faculty and staff, I offer enthusiastic congratulations!

Dean Farrell J. Webb
College of Health and Human Development
May, 2019

Continued
Zaineb Ali Hussain: In eleventh grade, when financial aid workshops began at my high school, I quickly learned that I would not be eligible for financial aid. Frustrated and angry, I decided I was not even going to apply to any universities. However, I met a college counselor who told me about the California Dream Act. I was ecstatic—my dream of pursuing higher education could still become a reality.

A fascination with the effects of food on the human body led me to CSUN to study Nutrition, Dietetics and Food Science in the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences. The knowledge I attained through the Didactic Program in Dietetics helped me land my first nutrition-related job at Consulting Nutritional Services. There, I am team leader of the nutrient analysis project. I communicate with multiple LA County agencies that provide meals for homebound seniors, and I conduct Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Education (SNAP-Ed) classes with Registered Dietitians to help seniors focus on healthy eating habits, food safety, and physical activity. When I see their excitement to try a new food after a cooking demonstration, I feel even more excited to give back to my community.

In my last year at CSUN, I have provided nutrition counseling to students as a Peer Nutrition Counselor. I learned that many students also struggle with food insecurity, time management and mental health issues and I have been able to collaborate with CSUN physicians, psychologists and the Food Pantry, to help them. This led to my becoming a teaching assistant in FCS.

Outside of CSUN, I volunteer in the Dietary Department at Providence Tarzana Medical Center, engaging in nutrition discussion with patients. I’m also a volunteer nutrition consultant/ menu advisor for a meal program initiated by my local mosque. We provide fresh hot meals to all mosque members, five days a week. I develop nutrient-dense, cultural recipes and oversee food safety and presentation in the commercial kitchen we use.

My time at CSUN has been nothing short of life-changing, and I have fostered life-long relationships. This summer, I will complete my requirements to become a Registered Dietitian at the UC San Diego Health Dietetic Internship. Next, I plan to become a certified diabetes educator for nutritionally at-risk populations in underserved communities. Ultimately I want to pursue a PhD to research the interactions between diet, gut microbes, in the etiology of type II diabetes management and prevention. Ultimately I would love to come back to CSUN as a professor to teach and mentor future dietetic professionals, after all, once a Matador, always a Matador.

The Wolfson Scholar Award is presented each year in memory of CSUN’s first vice president, Leo Wolfson. Recipients must show an exceptional academic record and significant contributions to CSUN or to the community through co- and extra-curricular activities. Each college presents one nominee to the university. Zaineb Ali Hussain is the 2019 nominee from the College of Health and Human Development.
Outstanding Undergraduate Students

Cynthia Martinez is a graduating senior in the Applied Developmental Science Option. She grew up in the San Fernando Valley, and her parents are from Zacatecas and Durango, Mexico. Prior to enrolling at CSUN in Fall 2017, she earned her AA degree in Child Development from Los Angeles Pierce College and had her two daughters, Emma and Brisa. Through her education she has developed a passion for college counseling and student affairs. The faculty and staff in the Child and Adolescent Development Department (CADV) supported and facilitated her professional plans for counseling and mentoring students at the college level.

Through the academic internship and service learning courses in CADV, Cynthia has been able to join the Department’s Peer Academic Leader (PAL) program and provide one-on-one peer advisement, creating and conducting advisement workshops, and assisting in the Department’s annual Career and Internship Fair. In addition to serving as a PAL, she has worked with Virginia Huynh as a peer mentor and is an active member of the Child and Adolescent Development Association (CADA). Her long term plans include becoming a college counselor at a community college or 4-year university assisting first generation college students as they navigate toward their degrees.

Paulina Tov is also a graduating senior in the Applied Developmental Science Option. She works as the senior lead student assistant in the CADV Department Office. She also serves as a Peer Academic Leader advising and mentoring current and prospective CADV students. She grew up in the San Fernando Valley, and currently lives in Simi Valley. She attended St. Joseph the Worker middle school and Louisville High School—an all-girls’ private school. The eldest of 4 half siblings, she strives to be a positive role model for them, and she appreciates and values the support system that she has had in a blended family. Paulina has been highly involved in the CSUN Love Your Melon student organization which is a non-profit organization that raises awareness of childhood cancers.

Paulina says her family, friends and professors have encouraged her to broaden her horizons so that she can reach her full potential in academic and future career. Her immediate plans are to enter a Physicians’ Assistant (PA) program and pursue a career in pediatric and adolescent medicine.
Outstanding Graduate Students

**Natalie Medina** completed her master’s degree program in Communication Disorders and Sciences (CDS) last semester with a GPA of 3.8. She has maintained this high GPA while working full time as a single parent of a 11-year-old son and part-time as an SLPA throughout her graduate studies. Natalie is a first child and will be the first in her immediate family to obtain a master’s degree.

Natalie has volunteered at UCLA Olive View Medical Center in the rehabilitation department and for a local Aphasia book club with Michael Biel. She is currently a member of the California Speech-Language-Hearing Association (CSHA) and the SoCal Voice Chapter. Natalie earned her degree while striking a balance between being a single parent, working part-time, and achieving high grades throughout her pursuit of higher education. Natalie reports that her life journey has been filled with experiences of learning, overcoming obstacles, and perseverance that she couldn’t have made without the support of so many people along the way.

Natalie offers immense thanks to the whole CDS faculty and staff for their support, continuing guidance and commitment to form the future scholars and clinicians in our field. She would like to thank Michael Biel for always sharing his experiences and encouraging transparency and comfort with seeking guidance. Vickie Yu, her advisor, whose words were always extremely meaningful and supportive. In the clinic, she would like to thank Amalia Hernandez, her former USC clinic supervisor and diagnostics professor for her mentorship and always challenging her to think clinically and critically outside the box. Above all else, Natalie is eternally grateful to her parents, Albert and Livier Medina, her siblings, her son, her significant other, and many of her close friends, who have accompanied her on this journey through the past few years.

For her future, Natalie plans to work as a bilingual medical speech pathologist. Her vision is to specialize in Dysphagia while working with the early intervention and pediatric population in the acute care setting. In her philosophy, she values the meaning of hard work and she encourages anyone on a path to reaching a goal to remember that times will always get tough but with belief in one’s self the possibilities are endless – in other words like they say in Spanish – Si Se Puede!

**Detlev Wolff** completed the master’s degree distance-learning program last semester with a GPA of 3.90. Detlev’s undergraduate degree is in Business Administration, graduating Summa Cum Laude from CSUN in 2003. He has worked as an operations supervisor for UPS for the past 18 years since graduating. However, over this time he developed a passion for Speech and Language that put him on the path to returning to (continued)
(Detlev Wolff continued) CSUN after completing his post-baccalaureate coursework in Speech Pathology through Utah State University.

Detlev felt the online format was a logical choice to allow him to earn his degree and still work, so he applied to the CDS Distance Learning Master’s Degree Program in order to continue his journey toward becoming a Speech-Language Pathologist. Detlev had come to the US 25 years prior from (the former) West Germany during the fall of the Berlin Wall. He gained a strong interest in speech and language through his lifelong musicianship. A singer and guitar player, he was able to process acoustic information with ease. At the time of his first clinical practicum experience, Detlev and his wife adopted a baby girl, whose development over the last two years has been a joy to observe. Despite the challenges of juggling employment, graduate school, and parenthood, Detlev remained focused on his goal thanks to his wife and a strong support system. He left UPS last year when it was time to begin the adult externship, and traveled to Missouri to work in an acute rehabilitation hospital with a very experienced supervisor who challenged his thinking while keeping him busy and motivated. Detlev also student-taught at the El Segundo School District where he met some wonderful professionals.

Outstanding Undergraduate Students

Victoria Womble graduates with an emphasis in Speech-Language Pathology. At CSUN, she earned a GPA of 3.6 and has been recognized on the Dean’s List every semester. When she began her CSUN journey in fall, 2014, Victoria did not intend to major in Speech-Language Pathology. She was a student-athlete recruited on the Women’s Soccer team, and she planned on pursuing a major in Kinesiology toward a career working with professional athletes.

She became fascinated with the field of Speech-Language Pathology when her grandfather was admitted into a hospital for a speech-language evaluation. Victoria has a long record of involvement in research projects and devoted herself deeply to scholarly activities. Since her second year at CSUN, Victoria has been a research scholar in the National Institutes of Health (NIH) BUILD PODER undergraduate research training program. Through this opportunity, she served as a research assistant in several laboratories, including labs at Michigan State University, the University of North Texas — Health Science Center, and here at CSUN. Victoria has received offers of admission to several prestigious graduate programs beginning this fall for Speech-Language Pathology Master’s degree programs and is excited to expand her research and clinical skills as she continues in her training toward becoming a sophisticated speech-language pathologist working with, and on behalf of, people who have had strokes.
Outstanding Graduate Student

**Erika DeGuzman** is an outstanding Graduate student in the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health (EOH), with a GPA of 3.9. She is a second-generation immigrant. With a BS in chemistry/biochemistry from UCSD, she has served academic, private, and public communities over the past six-plus years in providing various Environmental Health and Safety related services.

While working toward her master's degree in EOH at CSUN, she transitioned from a technician in UCLA's hazardous materials division to a specialist in their chemical/lab safety division. There she had the opportunity to help communities surrounding Los Angeles to collect and properly dispose of their household hazardous wastes. Erika has provided health and safety services on many teams that were male-dominated. She hopes to continue to defy expectations and succeed in the EOH field.

Outstanding Undergraduate Student

**Johnny Wampler** volunteered to serve CSUN as well as its surrounding communities. He received the Student Scholar Scholarship from the CSUN Office of Community Engagement for his strong academic achievement (he has a 3.8 GPA), leadership potential, and participation in community-engaged service learning activities focused on building relationships between environmental health food-safety inspectors and community partners, namely restaurants, that are neighbors to CSUN. He helped EOH faculty create pathways that may be used by community partners to overcome barriers and build effective communications with government environmental health regulators, while educating restaurant managers about food safety, creating materials that may be utilized in educating future EOH students.

Johnny also volunteered for campus activities while he was a student. He was a student ambassador and lead a campus tour for a Parents and Community Engagement event in December 2018, sponsored by the Office of Community Engagement, that brought together community educators from the LAUSD and CSUN faculty and staff. The event brought awareness of the many educational opportunities, student services, and resources CSUN has to offer. One of the many vital roles Johnny has had was directing each group of attendees to access resources and information specific to their needs.
Outstanding Graduate Student

**Manpreet Pansear** is a graduate student in the Consumer Affairs and Family Studies (CAFS) Graduate Program in the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences. She graduated with a BA in Child and Adolescent Development at CSUN in 2015. She graduates this spring with a 4.0 GPA.

In addition to being an outstanding student, Manpreet has over 10 years of experience working with children and families in the community. For the past three years, she has been a Teacher’s Assistant at a Montessori School in the community. In addition, she has been actively involved with our Child and Family Studies Center on campus since 2013 where she served as a CHIME Assistant at the Center in her final year there.

Outstanding Undergraduate Student

**Brianna Newitt** will graduate with her Bachelor of Science Degree this month. Brianna transferred to CSUN in fall 2017 with a legacy of outstanding academic performance and extensive service to her community.

At Sacramento City College she had a 4.0 GPA and earned her associate’s degree in Interdisciplinary Studies: Social and Behavioral Sciences. Her service history includes teaching and coordinating camp activities for 200 children as well as coordinating a Mothers of Preschoolers program that weekly served 10-15 caregivers and 80 children. Having transferred 23 courses to CSUN, she continued the highest of standards to maintain a 4.0 GPA in her coursework here. Her service since moving to Southern California includes various roles with Keep Youth Doing Something. These included teaching elementary school children music theory and concepts, directing educational activities, and coaching. At Meeting Every Need with Dignity (MEND) she engaged clients regarding eligibility requirements and worked with confidential information in their computer systems. At Sacramento City College she was the Chapter President for InterVarsity Christian Fellowship and as Chapter President for her academic area in Family and Consumer Sciences.
Health Sciences
Lou Rubino, Chair

Outstanding Graduate Student: Health Administration

Lindsey Ngo is in her final year of CSUN’s Master of Science in Healthcare Administration program, while also completing a certificate in Health Informatics. While attending CSUN, she became inspired by health information technology and the growing impact big data has in changing how healthcare is delivered. She is currently a data analyst at a health and wellness company, and she sees first-hand the impact data has on organizational success.

Lindsey has demonstrated her passion for her community through several internships and volunteer opportunities for various organizations in the San Fernando Valley. Outside of her role as a Program Advisor for the Summer Youth Employment Program at Kaiser Permanente, she has also interned for Hope of the Valley Rescue Mission to raise funds for community homelessness prevention initiatives. This semester, she will be participating in the 2019 Health Care Executives (HCE) College Bowl in Southern California. In the future, she plans on becoming an expert in data analytics, furthering her education in Health Information Technology (HIT), and drawing from her experience and background in HIT to assist healthcare organizations leverage technology to drive performance and outcomes.

Outstanding Undergraduate: Health Administration

Tony Ngo will be graduating with honors and a 4.0 grade point average in Health Administration. He is a first generation American and the first in his family to graduate from college. Right out of high school he served in the Army and credits that experience, along with the support of his parents, for his determination to excel. Tony had to overcome many obstacles to achieve this distinction, including lack of motivation and what he described as less than stellar grades in high school, as well as significant financial barriers. Like many students at CSUN, Tony worked to help support both himself and his parents throughout school. He also found time to volunteer, working in the Orthopedic and Licensing and Accreditation departments at Glendale Adventist Hospital, where he received an award for exemplary service. Finally, in class Tony was always a leader among his peers, encouraging others and setting an outstanding example as a motivated, involved and all-around outstanding student.
Health Sciences

Outstanding Graduate Student: Public Health

**Steven Vetrone** is a graduate student in the Master of Public Health, Applied Epidemiology track. He graduates this month. Over the course of his graduate program, he has served as one of the department’s statistics tutors and as a teaching assistant for the undergraduate biostatistics courses in the department. Steven has shown diligence and enthusiasm for teaching and is widely appreciated by his fellow tutors, the faculty, and the students that come to him for help and guidance.

Steven is also a research assistant on a study investigating the role of household incarceration on health outcomes among Hispanic youth and young adults. His research assistantship tasks include data management, abstract development, and manuscript preparation. He is an active member of the research team where his conscientiousness, intellectual ability, and willingness to assume leadership positions are most appreciated. His thesis project examines the longitudinal impact of experiencing familial incarceration prior to age 18 on substance use and mental health outcomes in early adulthood. His involvement with this team has led to co-authorship of one peer reviewed paper in press (American Journal of Community Psychology), and two papers additional manuscripts under review (Addictive Behaviors, Cultural Diversity and Ethnic Minority Psychology).

Outstanding Undergraduate Student: Public Health

**Kimberly Mendoza:** I am a first-generation student, and the anxiety of not belonging followed me throughout my education. I come from a family that did not have the privilege of education. I challenged myself to earn a degree and was determined to make a difference in my family. Today, my career goal is to prevent diseases, and promote health, and wellbeing.

At first I thought perhaps getting a degree was a foolish dream and that it would always remain a dream. My advisor, Joanne Moreno, worked with me and assured me that I was worth it and was capable of accomplishing my dreams. She introduced me to a field that promoted health and wellbeing. After taking Carla Valdez’s class, I knew I wanted to become a health educator. I searched for methods I could use to
Outstanding Undergraduate Student: Public Health

(Kimberly Mendoza, continued) become a resourceful, knowledgeable, and well rounded student. I knew that this was the right fit because I saw changes in my life. I was elected as the VP for the Health Education Student Organization, a Peer Health Educator at the Klotz Student Health Center, the campus Liaison for the American Public Health Association, and the Ambassador for the Student Health Advisory Committee. I also became a National member of the Eta Sigma Gamma honorary while volunteering for the United We Serve Organization and completing my internship at the Klotz Health Center. I have been lucky to have met extraordinary and accomplished individuals who added credible knowledge and experience to my career development. Attending conferences in San Diego, workshops outside of school, and facilitating a presentation to over 80 middle school students has helped me become the peer health educator I set out to be. Now I endeavor to become the best version of myself, to be known, to be heard, and to use my authentic voice to cause a positive health change in my communities.

Outstanding Undergraduate Student: Radiologic Sciences

Andrew Cook is a senior in the Bachelor of Science in Radiologic Sciences (BSRS) program. He is from Chico, California and comes from a family of health care providers and engineers. After suffering a ruptured lumbar disc which resulted in many images and interactions with the medical community. Andrew found his passion and relocated to pursue the CSUN BSRS program. To strengthen his chances of getting into the highly impacted program he spent over 100 hours volunteering his time in the Radiology Department at Enloe Medical Center and Kaiser Permanente before he entered the BSRS program in fall of 2017. He takes his education very seriously and has taken an active volunteer role with the California Society of Radiologic Technologists (CSRT). He has also attended the national Association of Collegiate Educators in Radiologic Technology Conference (ACERT). He presented a scientific poster titled: Ghosting Artifact. Andrew is the treasurer of Radiologic Science Student Association club on campus. He volunteers by giving back through philanthropic events such as the Alzheimer’s Walk, Breast Cancer Walk and donates time to soup kitchens for veterans and the homeless in the San Fernando and downtown Los Angeles areas. He has become a leader within the program by teaching junior students anatomy in preparation for a game-show style knowledge competition at the ACERT conference. Andrew is honored to be part of the Dean’s List at CSU, Northridge and is proud to call himself a CSUN matador.

Continued
Outstanding Graduate Student

**Frances Werner:** I came to Los Angeles to spend a year to work, and fell in love with the weather, palm trees and the Pacific ocean. After having to return to Germany, I decided that I wanted to become a California girl, so I bought a one-way ticket, packed my bags, hopped on a plane, and started my new life here. I enrolled into SMC, completed my general education courses, took of a year to work and save money, and then got accepted to CSUN.

Not only did I discover my passion for conducting research here, which has significantly changed my life and turned my future plans upside down, but I also found out that I love to teach. Having passed my final defense, and with the submission of my thesis around the corner, the Master of Science is within short reach. And when thinking about the next step, adding my love of research and teaching, a PhD is the apparent goal to strive for. And maybe one day, it will be me that awakens someone’s love for research.

Outstanding Undergraduate Students

**Earl Lopez:** As a wandering senior in high school, undecided on my future, going to CSUN was a appealing decision due to its diverse community and education. My initial plan was to figure out the direction I wanted to take my education at CSUN, then transfer to a UC or private school that specializes in the field I was going to be interested in. However, an ephemeral stay became a permanent one as CSUN became a platform where I would discover my passion and my life’s intention.

As a kinesiology major, it is mandatory to take a unit of dance class. Never dancing a day in my life, I was nervous but optimistic about the experience. As I delved more into the technique and the holistic aspects of dance, I found myself falling in love with the art. A single unit of dance class would multiply into six and I soon found myself dancing for shows curated by the dance department and the Soraya. I started to notice a recurring theme with dancers. Most, if not all,
Outstanding Undergraduate Students

(Earl Lopez, continued) were dealing with some form of injury. Having a love for dance, and wanting to contribute in the flourishing of its community, I came to a realization that I wanted to become a physical therapist. Having this intention, I had the drive to do my best in school so I may hopefully get accepted into a Doctorate of Physical Therapy (DPT) program.

Now, as a graduating senior, I am happy to say that I will still be a part of the CSUN family for a couple more years as I have been accepted to the DPT program at CSUN. I am thrilled to be returning to CSUN, knowing how much it has contributed to my personal growth and that it will continue to provide me with unexpected opportunities.

Angelica Alberto: Throughout my time at CSUN, I have been trained as a student researcher through BUILD PODER, an undergraduate research training program funded by the NIH. My research allowed me to work closely with the faculty and graduate students in the Kinesiology Adapted Physical Activity lab to improve upon existing exercise interventions for individuals with special disabilities. This experience inspired me to be more involved within my community, so I served as the Program Director for the 3 WINS Fitness program, as well as the director for Healthy You, a supplemental diabetes prevention program. These experiences made me a competitive candidate for Northwestern University’s Summer Research Opportunity Program in Physical Therapy and Human Movement Sciences. I went on to present my work at various conferences across the country in states such as Minnesota, Indiana, Illinois, and Florida.

This summer, I will begin the next chapter of my academic journey at Northwestern University, where I will pursue both my Doctorate of Physical Therapy and Masters in Public Health. By pursuing this dual degree, I hope to continue building upon the skills I gained at CSUN so I can fulfill my goal of mitigating existing health disparities that affect many marginalized communities around us.
Naomi Shapira: My interest in sports medicine began with my background as a professional ballet dancer. At the age of 16, I moved to New York to train at the School of American Ballet. Upon graduating from high school, I received a contract to join Los Angeles Ballet.

During my time there, I experienced several injuries which led to tumultuous times but also led me to develop a new passion for sports medicine. I began taking part time college classes at Santa Monica College, and eventually decided to leave my career in ballet and become a full time student. I earned an Associate’s Degree in Kinesiology and then transferred to CSUN.

I was interested in CSUN’s Kinesiology Department and Athletic Training program because it would provide hands-on experience working with athletes on injury rehabilitation and acute care.

As part of the Athletic Training program, I spent 15-20 hours each week at clinical sites working with athletic trainers at USC, LA Valley College, Notre Dame High School, and St Francis High School. I also volunteered to help with faculty Paula Thomson and Victoria Jaque in their psychophysiological research on dancers at CSUN. I hope to apply everything I’ve learned throughout my time at CSUN to provide high quality rehabilitative care to dancers and performing artists.
Outstanding Undergraduate Student

**Erika Ramirez** is an outstanding nursing student in the RN-BSN program. As a member of Spring 2019 graduating class with a BSN degree and Public Health Nursing (PHN) certification, she achieves distinction in her academic and professional performance and in her capacity for critically appraising timely and significant nursing research and clinical practice issues.

Before joining CSUN’s nursing program, Ms. Ramirez earned her Associate Degree in Nursing (ADN) from Los Angeles Valley College in December of 2014. She has held the position of an Intermediate Cardiac Surgery nurse at Kaiser Permanente LAMC since 2015. In 2011, she received a certification for legally translating medical procedures for our Latino/Hispanic community.

She is a member of the Skin Champions, a committee leading the prevention of skin pressure injuries and is a member of the Unit Based Council Committee at her hospital unit.

The main function of this committee is to promote collaborative practice to help improve the quality of patient care. In 2018, Erika helped coordinate the annual Professional Practice Update for her critical care units and contributed to the phase II of the change project “Kindness is Contagious” at the hospital.
Outstanding Doctoral Student

**Jenna Gould** will be graduating with her Doctor of Physical Therapy degree from CSUN this month. A 2018 recipient of the Roy and Roxie Campanella Scholarship funded by the Roy and Roxie Campanella Foundation and the Los Angeles Dodgers Foundation, Jenna has been very involved throughout her three-year graduate program. She has volunteered for many events, including ECLIPSE (Exercise Community Living in Prosthetics and Supporting Everyone), and has attended professional physical therapy conferences at the state and national level. Jenna currently serves as President of the CSUN Physical Therapy Club where she coordinates outreach events with local high schools and community colleges and solicits guest speakers to present to current physical therapy students.

In addition to her presidential role, Jenna has been instrumental in initiating a CSUN student-run Physical Therapy Pro Bono Clinic, establishing a trial partnership with the UCLA Mobile Medical Clinic to provide physical therapy services to the unhoused and marginally housed. She and two of her classmates presented a research poster outlining this experience at the Western Regional Pro Bono Conference in Phoenix.

Last year, Jenna had the opportunity to travel with physical therapy faculty and classmates to Vietnam to conduct research on the standards for a physical therapy school in Da Nang. While there, she helped treat patients at a rehabilitation hospital, leading her to become interested in neurological disorders. She currently works one-on-one with a spinal cord injured patient and will be interning at a balance and vestibular clinic this summer. Additionally, Jenna works as a personal trainer at the CSUN Student Recreation Center and is a mentor to first-year physical therapy students through the CAMINO program. In her free time, Jenna volunteers in her community as a pick leader for Food Forward, helping glean surplus produce from all over the San Fernando Valley for donation to local food banks.
Outstanding Graduate Student

**Lluis Gonzalez Sola** is in his final semester of the Master of Science in Tourism, Hospitality and Recreation Management. Lluis grew up in the tourism industry since as he states he was “raised in a hospitality-related family [and] I spent my childhood at the hotels my parents managed.”

This led him to obtain a BS in Tourism as well as an MBA with a specialization in Hotel Management.

After living and working in the tourism industry in several countries (including his native Andorra) as well as Australia, France, Spain, and Thailand, Lluis was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship in 2017 and chose to pursue the MS in Tourism, Hospitality and Recreation Management at CSUN. His ultimate goal is to develop projects that promote sustainable long-term tourism and to explore mutually beneficial relationships between his home country, Andorra, and the US. He has started work in this regard by completing a thesis entitled **Pull Factors That Can Make A Microstate An Attractive Destination For American Tourists: The Case Of Andorra.** Lluis’ 3-minute presentation of his thesis at CSUNPosium in April 2019 won him the first place award.

In addition to his CSUNPosium win, Lluis was also awarded travel grants from CSUN Graduate Studies and Associated Students to present his research at the Tourism Hospitality and Event Conference for Researchers, Educators, Practitioners and Students in Las Vegas in April 2019. Lluis is currently assisting an RTM professor with a research project and is a student assistant for Graduate Studies.
Outstanding Undergraduate Student

Matthew Petrie is a graduating senior completing a Bachelor of Science degree in Tourism, Recreation and Hospitality Management. Prior to commencing this degree, he completed Associate degrees in French and Music (Guitar Performance). In addition to his French-speaking skills, Matt is also fluent in American Sign Language and has used this latter skill to assist students in Recreation and Tourism Management (RTM) classes, at his job and in the community.

Matt said that one day he realized that he should go back to school and get his Bachelor’s degree. He was nervous having been out of school for a while, but after getting back into it and finding the Recreation and Tourism Management (RTM) Department he knew he had found a great fit with a broad range of opportunities.

Matt has a history of volunteering and being of service to others including stints with Family Promise of the Verdugos, Therapeutic Living Centers for the Blind and Wildlife Waystation. He is currently training to be a volunteer firefighter.

Matt’s exemplary academic performance, his service to the department (e.g. outdoor experiential learning classes, Recreation Institute for the Lily Academy of Japan), his volunteering and the service to the community led the RTM faculty to award him the Byrne C. Fernelius Award in 2017-18 for Outstanding Junior and the Jack Foley Award in 2018-19 for Outstanding Undergraduate.

Matt would like to start a master’s program after he graduates. He hopes to find a position that allows him to help people while learning something new. He loves working outdoors and hopes he is fortunate enough to be able to combine aspects of outdoors and traveling into his career.
We Honor and Thank

the families, friends, mentors, teachers, staff, colleagues and community partners who have contributed to the success of the students receiving Dean’s Awards today.

CSUN is always here for you!

The process of earning an academic degree is transformational.

Thank you
to the
College of Health and Human Development
Student Services Center/Educational Opportunity Program

Mario Lopez, Director
Nereida Garcia, Academic Advisor
Ryan Mason, Academic Advisor
Mario Martinez, Office Coordinator
Reneé Martinez, Academic Advisor

And the Office of the Dean:
Dimitri Tamalis, Associate Dean
Jean O’Sullivan, Public Affairs/Communications