Welcome to the new academic 2012/2013 year; a time that is breached with upcoming decisions – the tax initiatives concerning budget cuts, a presidential election – Romney vs Obama, and the success of our new University President – Dr. Tomas Morales. Yes...there is much intensity, anxiety and promise in the air as this new academic year begins. In the midst of new classes, reuniting with peers and focusing on lectures, assignments and professors, I would like students to consider something else – an empty chair. Read on....

Last fall I read an article in the Chronicle of Education titled, The Suddenly Empty Chair by Marguerite Choi. I would like to quote the first two paragraphs:

“He only missed one day of class. As an instructor, when you look at your roster and see exemplary attendance, one day usually doesn’t raise concern. But there’s always that little voice in the back of your mind. The one that says, ‘This kid has record attendance. He’s never missed a quiz or an assignment. E-mails when he’s going to be late. Apologizes when he is. I hope he’s okay.

Then you read the headline: Student found dead on campus. Police investigating. And your heart sinks.”

Choi writes on to say that the student was hers; he committed suicide. His body was found several days later by frat brothers who noticed the smell and knocked on the door. She describes the day he came to class with bloodshot eyes, unshaved and tired-looking. She assumed “frat-boy night”, an all night “cram” session or an argument with a girlfriend. She blames herself for not asking if he was “okay.” I have asked this of myself at times....why didn’t I go ahead and ask my student – “are you okay?” Fortunately, Choi’s experience had not been mine....fortunately.

After reading this article, I have found brevity in asking students if everything is okay. Sometimes it’s monetary stress, divorced parents, death of a sibling, a mother with cancer, serious surgery scheduled, the first “D” on an assignment. The tears flow before I can reach the Kleenex box. We have to care; we have to ask – “Is everything okay? Are you okay? How can I help?”
We are trained to watch for warning signs – aggressive behavior, suicidal notes, excessive absences, or even falling asleep in class, but we assume college level students can take care of themselves. Sometimes...not so. I hope that all of us – students and professors – will guard the classroom, hallways and campus, wary of “suddenly empty” chairs. Choi states, “My student’s death has taught me that my friendship, honesty, and compassion must extend far beyond the boundaries of my classroom. I care for my students. And they deserve to know that.”

My students and your peers are not out of our reach in caring for their emotional, as well as intellectual, best interests. I hope you will all keep a close watch and carry the same brevity I have found in asking, “Are you okay? How can I help?” It may be as simple as “an all night cram session”, a “frat-boy” night, or an argument with a girlfriend. But what if there’s more? Times are tough right now. Respond to the signs and care....we all deserve to know someone does.

“God gave me life, but I decided to live it.”

Tanya Mercado, 6th Grade
Richardson Prep, Middle School

“Q”
www.quotationalso.org
Quotationals Quote Bee

If you are reading this, then you are in the minority. You are a member of a select minority of people on this planet that have found access to tertiary education.

You are far more influential than you think.

It is your class that spawned some of the most instrumental changes in recent human history. From the Civil Rights Movement to social networking, culture is frequently pushed forward by the passion and defiance of an empowered, educated youth.

So herein lies the most important question of your college career: What are you going to do with this opportunity?

Institutions like CSUSB will undoubtedly open your mind to other great minds and ideas. However, the legacy of your generation will not be built simply by being a vessel for lectures and books. Education is proactive, not passive.

Just 8 minutes away from CSUSB resides Salinas Elementary, the birthplace of the Quotationals® Quote Bee. Some would label us a competition. We identify ourselves as a movement. Some would label our students as underachieving. We see them as poet-warriors.

Quotationals consists of an annual quote bee comprised of the words of history’s greatest minds. Our lessons debate poem, song, and thought as Socrates would do. Our kids incubate ideas and form original quotations they share with the world. 8 minutes away lies an opportunity for you to shape destinies, including your own.

You are far more influential than you think.

Let books bring knowledge and lectures nurture thought. With your own hands take possession of the wet clay that is youth. And by helping others, define the self you wish others to see.

William Beshears, Teacher
www.quotationals.org
To Future Teachers

The following letters are from The California Educator, May 2012, Volume 16, Issue 8.
That favorite teacher who was your role model; did you ever thank that teacher? I hope each of you remember the reasons you chose to become a teacher. The rewards come – sometimes – many years later. But what rewards those are!

Dear Mr. Vogel:
Thank you so much for all that you did. My inner child and outer adult ever appreciate it. I am now in my seventh year of teaching and couldn’t imagine being anything else but an educator!

Rachel...
Former Kindergarten Student

“This note both surprised and deeply touched me.” Dean E. Vogel – CTA President

Dear Mrs. Gervase:
You are someone I have never forgotten. You were the best teacher I ever had, and the reason for this is because you believed in me and made me feel like I could do anything I set my mind to do. I know sometimes you might not feel like people see you that way, but just remember, you had one student who thinks the world of you.

Melba
Former Middle School Student

“Her lovely note serves as a reminder to all educators that we do indeed touch the lives of our students. One may never, never know the impact teachers have on their students.”
Ellen Gervase – a retired teacher
The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, federal legislation written in 1975 guaranteeing students with disabilities a free and appropriate public education and the right to be educated with their non-disabled peers.

**I.D.E.A.**

Individualized Education Program, a written plan that states goals, objectives and services for a student receiving special education. The IEP team consists of parents, teachers, administrators, and school personnel who provide services to the student.

**I.E.P.**

Local Education Agency, or school district participating in a Special Education Local Plan Area (SELPA), which coordinates with school districts and the County Office of Education to provide a continuum of programs and services for disabled individuals from birth through 22 years of age.

**L.E.A.**

Resource Specialist Program, a program that provides instruction, materials and support services to students with identified disabilities who are assigned to a general classroom for more than 50 percent of their school day.

**R.S.P.**

Special Day Class, a self-contained special education class that provides services to students with intensive needs that cannot be met by the general education program or RSP, and occupies more than 50 percent of the student’s day.

**S.D.C.**

Student Study Team is a group that evaluates a child’s performance, makes recommendations for success and develops a formal plan. The team includes the classroom teacher, parents, and educational specialists. Members may also make a recommendation for a special education evaluation.

**S.S.T.**
The Successful Student

To get things done and accomplish educational goals takes the following traits

**Resilience**
The ability to recover from setbacks and cope effectively with stress. Remember there is always another resolution.

**Grit**
Perseverance and passion for challenging long-term educational goals.

**Conscientiousness**
A tendency to be orderly, self-controlled, industrious, responsible, and willing to delay gratification. Accept the “B+” for your hard work; it’s the journey not the grade.

**Creativity**
The willingness to break with convention, challenge the status quo, and come up with your own new ideas.

**Focus**
The ability to zero in on one thing at a time, tune out distractions, and avoid multitasking. See the end and get there.

**Self-regulation**
An awareness of what matters and the discipline to avoid temptations and see a task through. No last minute assignments turned-in.
Creativity is possessed by everyone, you just have to learn how to use it. Dr. Seuss once mentioned “Think left and think right and think low and think high. Oh, the thinks you can think up if only you try.” I try my best to live by this quote. Dr. Seuss expressed his creativity to the world through his many books. I express my creativity by making an ambiance that people find intriguing, captivating, exciting, beautiful, and above all expressive. The creations I make are displayed in the PALS office.

I use paper, color, and creativity, in order to create something out of nothing... and a lot of tape. Dr. Seuss said that we should always try to create something because when we try, something great will come of it. I try everyday to make something unique, and innovative which my fellow classmates can perceive when stepping foot into the PALS office. I like to make my fellow classmates feel as if they are entering an enchanting place. A place that can only be perceived by imagination. A place where imagination is something surreal.

As future educators we should learn to cultivate creativity for the sake of our future students. Creating ideas to make your classroom captivating may seem difficult, but really it isn’t. If you put in the effort, the benefits are plentiful. If you want ideas on how to make your classroom appealing to the eye, and fun, you should come visit the PALS office. Here you can see, and ask how is it that my creations came to be. That way you can have some ideas on how you can create your classroom and make it something spectacular. If you come by, we can introduce you to Henry, our friendly owl. He is a hoot.

Come Check It Out,
It’s a HOOT!

By: Daniel Ayala
Welcome Back!

Let me start by introducing myself. My name is Nicole and I am the new director for Liberal Studies. My Liberal studies career started when I transferred here after going to Crafton Hills Community College and Riverside Community College. When I first got here I was on the Integrated track but have recently switched to the General track with a concentration in Special Education and a minor in Education.

I am really looking forward to doing the minor in Education. It is a brand new minor that requires classes where I will learn about how education influences democracy, youth cultures, globalization, social class and much more. This minor will coincide nicely with my Liberal Studies degree and my future teaching credentials, so I am very glad it is being offered.

Another aspect of the Liberal Studies program that has been added recently is the Special Education concentration for General Track students. Included in the concentration are ESPE 530 and ESPE 531 which are prerequisites for entering the Special Education Credential program. I have not yet decided if I will be doing a credential program on this campus, but am glad that if I did decide to do the Special Education Credential program here, I would have the option to.

Recently, I took and passed the CBEST and CSET. I decided to take them early so that I could relax knowing that I could enter credentialing on my own terms. Something that has been happening a lot lately is students are waiting until a couple months before entering credentialing to take the CBEST and CSET, and are falling short of the deadline which pushes back when those students can enter credentialing. Do yourselves a favor and take the CBEST and CSET early!

Here on campus we have something called the Accelerated Subject-matter Acquisition Program. This program offers CBEST, CSET and RICA preparation workshops, which we Liberal Studies students can attend. We have the dates and times posted in the Liberal Studies office as well as where the information can be found online. It’s a really good idea to attend the workshops, plus there is a discount for Liberal Studies students.

This year should be an exciting one! Throughout the quarter, make sure to stop by the PALS office to use our lounge to relax. Also remember to get advising once a quarter just to make sure you’re making the right progress towards graduation. Hope to see you soon!
This is about a girl who was born profoundly deaf. When she came into this world, she heard no noise announcing her arrival. Early in her life, she could not speak, she saw lips move, but couldn’t hear the words. On the playground, she had a small device on her chest with wires going into both of her ears; she could hear sounds, not word sounds, just loud sounds. At the age of four, she attended private school where she learned how to talk. While looking in a mirror with her fingers on her throat, she could feel the vibrations of sound while watching her lips move. She learned how to talk by controlling the vibrations and she learned to understand by lip reading. At the age of six, she was mainstreamed into a public school system without accommodations and she was moved through the grades as they really didn’t know what to do with her.
Growing older and wanting to validate herself, she turned to athletics, started swimming, and found out that she was pretty good. She trained for two years before going to Gallaudet University in Washington, D.C. for two weeks of grueling training prior to going on to the Deaf Olympics in Malmo, Sweden. It was there that she won a gold medal in the 50M relay and a bronze medal in the 50M butterfly. She got married, but she still enjoyed competition and started mountain biking and in 1997 and came in second at the Nationals in Mammoth competing in the hill climb; a race from the bottom of Mammoth mountain to the top of the mountain. She went on to become the California State Champion in the cross country event in 1999 in the 45+ Class, her team finished 1st place in one of the first 24 hours of Adrenaline in Idyllwild, and in 2004, she came in first place in the Snow Summit Amateur Cup Series.

In case you haven’t guessed it, that little girl grew up to be me. A few years ago, I found myself teaching American Sign Language, as a volunteer at the local library. My students ranged from high school students to people in their 80’s. We would meet once a week and I would teach them some of the basics of sign; because of the experience, I decided to go on and attempt to get my teaching credential. The fact that there are now accommodations for the hearing impaired such as; interpreters, captionist and note takers it makes it easier but it was still quite a challenge. Not only did I have to learn what was being taught in class, but because of my deficiency in the basics, I had to go back and try and get caught up. To say it was a challenge would be an understatement, but because of my limited achievements in sports I knew nothing came easy. In sports, in order to be competitive you must practice and then practice some more, so most of my weekends were spent in my pajamas studying and then studying some more. I graduated in June 2012 and received my B.A. in Liberal Studies with concentration in Psychology.

I still have some work to do before I can teach, but as I sit here writing this, I am thinking about how all the experiences I have had will help me in teaching. I want to teach special education with emphasis for the deaf or hard of hearing for obvious reasons; I would be able to identify with my students and be able to set a good example for them. Recently, when I observed a deaf class a cute little boy came to me and signed, “Deaf you?” and I signed back “Yes” and he smiled at me in a way that just broke my heart. You see, I know what his life is going to be like, the frustrations of trying to fit in a hearing world as well as the rest of the challenges he is about ready to face. I know it is not going to be easy, but I will hopefully be one of the people there to guide children like him through patience, understanding, and by example.
Attention Liberal Studies Students!

Education happens outside of the classroom. Studying and traveling abroad is life-changing, empowering and self-motivating. I am preparing to take Liberal Studies students to China for 12 days to see how children are educated and to experience the historical and cultural sights of this beautiful, scenic country...how about a bike ride on the Great Wall! This trip is for Liberal Studies students only. Please join us in an informational meeting at 2:00 pm on Friday, October 12th in CE 112. Come find out about how exciting education can be outside of the classroom! - Professor Thomerson