

Some new classes have already been developed within many departments that will be available to students as of next semester. These classes will be tested to see if there is enough interest to make them permanent offerings.

Before a graduate program is offered, Castro would need to submit a proposal for review to a consulting panel that reviews curriculum. If approved, the proposal would be sent to the Chancellor's Office. Castro plans on sending the proposal before the end of this semester.

Bill Smith, psychology professor and director of Gerontology Services, indicated that a lack of resources prevented the university from having a program in the past.

"The university was concerned that there weren't enough faculty to have the master's program," he said.

Castro has worked hard at recruiting instructors, and if the program is approved, he will look into hiring more tenure track professors.

sionals with the knowledge of managed care for the elderly. Courses in communications would deal with marketing products to the aging.

The art department would also play a large role, Castro said, since art can be used as a therapeutic and fulfilling activity for aging adults, promoting wellness and acting as a preventative medicine. Castro said many resident facilities for senior citizens use arts and crafts for therapeutic reasons.

Many organizations and businesses have expressed interest in the gerontology program, which has already established a reputation locally.

"With the resources we have; we could establish a program of national stature," said Castro.

CSUF has the biggest gerontology center locally, Smith said. Other universities having programs in gerontology include USC and Cal State Long Beach, yet they don't have the resources con-

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Volunteers demonstrate the glory of giving

A flock of volunteers host children who bring food donations and witness a Christmas tradition.

By **KARI KOLSETH**
Daily Titan Staff Writer

Robed shepherds wandered about the stage with little brooms and litter sweepers. They were picking up poop left by various animals whose later appearance would cause gasps from children more accustomed to coyotes than camels. The nave of the church smelled like a farm.

Here, the "Glory" meets the everyday as nearly 200 volunteers assist with a program which involves inviting 18,000 children over the course of two days to donate a can of food each for the

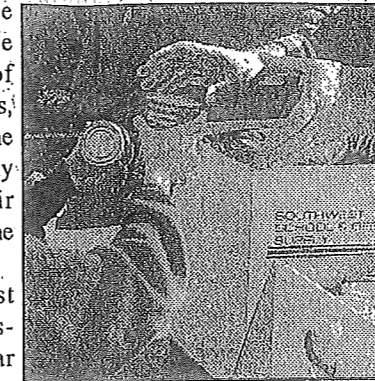
sight of an angel on a wire.

Wayward children were herded from the balcony stairs by people who wore the uniforms of museum docents, but had the same duty as the godly head of their faith: guiding the flock.

"The most common question I hear around here is, 'Where's the bathroom?'" laughed Ben Davis, a nonagenarian who has

been volunteering at the "Glory of Christmas" at the Crystal Cathedral in Garden Grove for 12 years.

He's by no means the only volunteer. The Crystal Cathedral, boasting one of the largest congregations in the Southland, can also boast of one of the largest fleets of volunteers. And the period between Thanksgiving and Christmas is when the boats come



to shore.

Calvie Hughson-Schwalm, the full-time volunteer coordinator at the church, counts almost 3,500 people in the volunteer database—enough to populate a small town.

"We have a red and green (volunteer) cast every night," she explained. "That way they don't have to do a show every night."

Volunteer they do. Nightly, nearly 500 volunteer cast members make sure that the angels fly, the shepherds have their crooks, the beards are glued on-straight and the water gets turned on for the fountains that sprout from the center

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A man of faith and courage

• **STUDENT:** Despite all of the hardships Rada Mey has endured, he is grateful for his many blessings.

By **SANDRA INFANTE**
Daily Titan Staff Writer

He lived in a concentration camp for four years, being beaten, tortured and starved. He trekked through jungles and around land mines—yet somehow he has survived.

Who is he? You would expect someone who has gone through all of these things to be well over 50 years of age. However, you might be surprised to find out that you might pass him as you dash off to class. A man of timid compassion, Rada Mey, claims to have lived a "normal life." His life has not been what most college students would consider "nor-

mal."

"I was really basically unconscious most of the time; I can't remember very much because I was so young," he explains, recalling life in a concentration camp.

Mey was a victim of a holocaust that most people don't hear about too often; a holocaust that took place half-way around the world from the Holocaust most are familiar with.

In 1975, the Khmer Rouge quickly defeated the weak Cambodian Army and took over the country in the Cambodian Civil War. For fear of rebellion by the people, all "important" and "smart" people in society were killed.

"Anybody that they thought might be smart they killed," Mey said. "Basically, if you even had glasses

you were dead."

At just one year of age he lost his father, who died fighting in the civil war. His mother was the only source of care, love, or hope for Mey and his two-year-old brother. To make matters worse, because Mey's father was in the military and his grandfather a member of the government, he and his family were prime targets to be executed by the Khmer Rouge.

"We just buried it all. All the pictures, any evidence. We just buried it all," this modest survivor explains the miracle of not being among the many killed.

Thousands were slaughtered and the remaining civilians were thrown into horrid concentration camps.

"(Adults) did hard labor ... my



mother worked as a cook for the Khmer Rouge Army and did slave labor out in the fields ... that was the only way that we survived," Mey explains. He tells of how prisoners were only fed half a cup of rice each day, which the Khmer Rouge gradually decreased even further until they were eating almost nothing. Because his mom cooked, she desperately tried to sneak what food she could to nurture her two starving boys.

With no father, no food, and no strength, will, or hope, somehow Mey and his mother and brother survived four years.

"Some people tell me 'It's all luck.' Luck doesn't work that well. I mean, come on. Luck for four years? I don't think so. It has to be something supernatural, something powerful - God, it's got to be God," Mey said.

After four long years in the concen-

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Reception held for student leaders

• **STUDENT AFFAIRS:** The SLI program enjoyed its largest membership ever this fall.

By **VANESSA DeRUYSER**
Daily Titan Staff Writer

The Student Leadership Institute at Cal State Fullerton honored students completing the program in a reception held on Tuesday in the Titan Student Union.

A total of 61 students received a certificate of completion from the program, which teaches students how to become effective leaders on and off of campus.

Certificates were passed out by Vice President of Student Affairs Robert Palmer.

"(SLI) is one of the shining jewels in the Student Affairs program," Palmer

said. "It allows students the opportunity to take command of their educational experience."

SLI broke its membership record this fall with more than 327 students participating in the program. The last record was set in 1994 with 320 students participating.

"The broken record can be attributed to the dedication and hard work of the Student Leadership coordinating committee, which implements and plans the program," said Will Daland, communications major participating in the program.

The committee is made up of 10 students who recruit other students into the program, making it the most successful program run by the Associated Students, Daland said.

On average, 250 students apply for

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Job market best in decade, survey finds MEY

• **EMPLOYMENT:** More than 70 percent of employers surveyed plan on hiring graduates in 1998.

By College Press Service

BETHLEHEM, Pa.— The best job market of the decade will greet the Class of 1998 this spring, according to the National Association of Colleges and Employers.

More than 70 percent of employers surveyed said they planned on hiring more college graduates in 1998 than they did this year.

A booming economy, low inflation and a labor shortage will add up to lots of job opportunities and decent starting salaries for college graduates, said Camille Luckenbaugh, the NACE information director.

"The unemployment rate is 4.7 percent, the lowest in 24 years," said Luckenbaugh. Because of the low unemployment rate, employers are having a harder time filling their positions with experienced employees, she added.

"This has created a trickle-down effect," she said. "Employees can't find experienced employees so they're hiring new college graduates."

Overall, hiring will be up 19.1 percent for new grads, according to Job Outlook '98, the NACE's annual forecast released in November. For the

report, 1,529 employers were asked to complete a survey about their hiring intentions, and 421, or 21 percent, did. Of those employers who responded, more than 25 percent said they expected to maintain current hiring levels. Only 3.1 percent of employers said they planned to hire fewer grads.

"This is the best job market in recent years," said Bradley Richardson, author of "JobSmarts: 50 Top Careers." "Companies are having a hard time finding quality employees, so they're offering more things, like benefits or other perks."

To snag qualified candidates, employers are traveling to campuses more to recruit new hires, according to the survey. More than half of the employers reported an increase in campus visits, and overall, campus visits are up 8.8 percent.

Luckenbaugh said that in the past, employers could take a "wait-and-see" approach to recruitment and often made job offers later in the recruitment season. This year, employers who wait risk coming up empty, she added.

"Those who have traditionally hired from the campus are elbow to elbow with those who are turning to experi-

enced candidates to round out their workforces," Luckenbaugh said.

Stiff competition isn't the only worry employers face. Preliminary data from NACE's most recent student survey show that 60 percent of 764 students responding said they would renege on a job offer if a better one came along.

Most in demand are graduates with computer skills, said Luckenbaugh. Entry-level computer science and computer engineering grads can expect to collect paychecks that are 6.3 percent higher than last year. Computer science majors will earn an average of \$38,475 annually, while computer engineers will pull down an average starting rate of \$39,593.

However, the biggest anticipated increase in starting salaries is expected to be for liberal arts majors, who will see their starting pay increase an average of 6.5 percent. While the \$28,875 starting salary of the average liberal arts major lags considerably behind "in-demand" disciplines such as engineering and computer science, the size of the increase "shows just how strong demand is [for new hires] across all industries," said Luckenbaugh. Job opportunities for liberal arts majors are most plentiful with insurance and merchandising firms, she added.

Business grads can anticipate a start-

ing salary of \$29,784, a 5.5 increase from last year's salary. These grads, like many liberal arts students, will find jobs openings in insurance and merchandise companies.

The salary increases for 1998 are in sharp contrast to 1992, the year in which the NACE recorded the worst job market of the decade. Then, 41 percent of the majors surveyed showed a decrease in starting salaries, said Luckenbaugh.

Whether employers are looking for computer programmers, accountants or retail managers, most say they are interested in hiring candidates who have integrity, are motivated and who are good communicators. Employers also said they don't have time to spoon-feed new employees.

"Employers said they want someone who has honesty, motivation, teamwork and interpersonal skills. They also want someone who has done research on the company and is able to ask intelligent questions about it during an interview," Luckenbaugh said.

Even though 1998 promises to be a job-seeker's market, Richardson advised students to remain flexible with their job choice.

"Don't pigeonhole yourself; don't limit yourself," he said. "You're not

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tration camp, the Vietnamese Army came into Cambodia and chased the Khmer Rouge out. This gave Mey and his family a chance to escape. With no energy, muscle, or even life, Mey's uncles carried his lifeless five-year-old body, and that of his sickly six-year-old brother to a refugee camp.

"We ran, through the jungle ... around land mines ... To be realistic, we were all going to be dead," he said.

This escape was only the first obstacle Mey and his family faced. They then had to wait for two years before they got their green cards to come to America. Life and hope seemed almost in their grasp.

Once in this country, they stayed with their cousins who had escaped just before the Civil War. Living in sheer poverty, Mey went into first grade at seven years of age, not knowing any English. His mother, a single mom and widow, attempted to support her two boys and go to school. Every day was a struggle.

A good friend of Mey's, Michelle Valenzuela says, "Rada is a strong individual. For someone to go through what he did, at such a young age, is remarkable. I don't think I could have been as strong as he was—and still is. He's a great guy and a great friend."

Somehow surviving through being

shoved into a different culture and language, Mey has thrived. Material things were not readily available and so he learned early on that he could be happy, even with very little. Because he lived with his cousins when he first came to America, he went with them to church. Through the faith he discovered there, Mey found strength to overcome such great obstacles as language, culture shock and not having what many would consider the "basics" of life.

Looking up to his mother, he describes her as a woman of great strength and is amazed at all that she has been through. The serious financial problem his family suffered from came to almost an end when his mother remarried. "He's the only father I've ever had," Mey says, explaining that his father died before he ever really got to know him.

Now, as a senior at Cal State Fullerton, Mey lives a quaint and modest life with his mom, step-father, who he says has always been there for him, and his two little half-brothers.

"By the grace of God, I have been blessed with financial help from my parents. God has, and still is, blessing me with a roof over my head, education, transportation, and most importantly, with His never-ending grace by forgiving me," Mey said. Despite all he has been through, Rada still prefers humility.

"It's no big deal," he says.

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jobs or even staff themselves to higher-paying private positions; the apparent disparity between campuses, some of whom may be helping the system pay back the debt for upgrades that the campus doesn't need; the possible lack of competition in marketing goods and services on campus; and the potential rise of a corporate mentality in a scholarly setting.

"Our worst fear is that the corporations could put some type of a chill

ship of the physical infrastructure once complete and will control the partners' access to it.

The sponsors will also provide the support for the communications equipment, while the campus has control of the staffing, according to the website.

While acknowledging the current safeguards, some cautious opposition questions the potential for conflict of interest of having a public/private venture and the possibility of legal wrangling regarding using public funds to assist in supporting a school system in which large corporations have a busi-

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the program each semester.

The program offers students a series of leadership training workshops that fall under specific tracks. The four tracks are: Public Service, teaching leadership skills in the political and community service arena; University Leadership, which focuses on administrative and overall leadership skills; Peer Education, emphasizing counseling and social skills; and EMBRACE, which promotes ethnic and cultural

topic. Some tracks exceed 20 hours in workshops.

"The program allows students the opportunity to know more about themselves as well as others," said Dyrell Foster, SLI advisor. "By attaining leadership skills, students can learn to utilize their full potential in life."

The main goal of the program is to encourage students to maximize their education by getting involved in skill-building activities outside the classroom.

"Through this program, I've gained many friendships and valuable skills which will enable me to be successful

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tained within CSUF.

One of these resources include the Continued Learning Experience, a program offering different classes to senior citizens. CLE has gained a reputation nationally by word-of-mouth.

Many have visited CLE from around the country in hopes of instituting a simi-

lar program. Those who have expressed interest in the program include St. Jude Medical Center, Fullerton and Kaiser Permanente.

Besides the cooperation of the mentioned organizations, CSUF currently has gerontology programs in the kinesiology and health promotion departments and at the Ruby Gerontology Center.

Besides the masters' program, Castro hopes to implement an undergraduate degree sometime in the future.