Q & A with Sally Casanova Pre-Doctoral Recipient

Terrence Wilburn, a Master Candidate in Mechanical Engineering at Sacramento State, was awarded the Sally Casanova Pre-Doctoral Summer Fellowship. This summer, Terrence will be at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks doing graduate research on a computational study to overcome mass transfer limits in micro-fluidic fuel cells with Dr. Jing Zhang.

Q: What has been the greatest challenge in graduate school so far?
A: A graduate school education is very expensive so the greatest challenge in graduate school so far has been trying to pay for it. Another challenge that I have encountered is that school takes up a lot of time. Also, I believe that it is very difficult to work and go to school on a full-time basis. I'm fortunate that I work part-time, but juggling work and school was still hard. It does not matter if you work full or part-time, if you effectively manage your time, graduate school is very doable.

Q: As a Pre-Doctoral Scholar, how was this award assisted you?
A: The pre-doctoral scholars program has assisted me in various ways. I believe that this is one of the best programs that can assist minority students. One of the ways in which the program has helped me was that it has given me the monetary support to apply to doctoral programs among other things.

Q: Why do you think the California Pre-Doctoral Scholar’s Program is important?
A: I believe that the California Pre-Doctoral Scholar’s Program is important for several reasons. My belief is if we didn’t have it, then minorities may find it harder to get the support that the need to pursue an advanced degree. The program provides the support students need to be successful.

Q: What doctoral degree are you going to pursue?
A: I plan to pursue an environmental engineering or sustainable energy doctoral degree

Q: What event or situation prompted your interest for your field of study?
A: There have been several events that have prompted my interest to pursue a degree in my field of study. For instance, two main situations or events come to mind. First is the need for policy evaluation. Second is my desire to give back to this great country for affording me the opportunity to be able to study and earn an advanced degree.

Q: If you could give other minority students advice about pursuing study at the graduate level, what advice would you give them?
A: First and foremost I would advise students to check all avenues of financing their education. Another piece of advice that I would give to a student is that if you are not in a relationship, stay single. If you get involved in a relationship, then your partner may not understand your situation and your commitment to your desire toward an advanced degree. Also, if you are currently in a relationship, then stay in the relationship because school is stressful already and you do not want to add anymore stress into your life.
FINAL DEGREE TRANSCRIPT REQUIRED

All students who were admitted for Spring 2009 and have not submitted their official transcript with their baccalaureate degree posted must do so immediately. If your transcript has not been received by our office, you will receive a REGISTRATION HOLD, preventing you from registering for summer and fall classes.

Please check your MySacState account to determine if you have outstanding transcripts. If you do, then ensure that the official transcripts are immediately submitted to the Office of Graduate Studies.

If you have any questions, please email Jose Martinez, Admissions Supervisor, at jose.l.martinez@csus.edu.

I APPLIED TO GRADUATE, BUT WILL NOT COMPLETE MY CULMINATING EXPERIENCE THIS SEMESTER, WHAT DO I DO?

If you have applied to graduate, and will need another semester or more to complete your Culminating Experience, you will need to move your graduation date. Failure to move your graduation date will prevent you from registering for classes for the following semester (because the system will have closed you out at the end of the Spring 2009 term since you have filed to graduate). If you need to move your graduation date, please submit the Change Graduation Date form to the Office of Graduate Studies by Friday, May 15, 2009. The Change Graduation Date form can be found at: http://www.csus.edu/gradstudies/forms/graduation_diploma_forms/grad_date_change_form.pdf

If you have any questions, please email Joanne Small, Graduate Degree Services Supervisor, at jdsmall@csus.edu.

SPRING 2009 COMMENCEMENT—May 22 – 23, 2009

Graduates should have filed an Application for Graduation with the Office of Graduate Studies and paid the appropriate graduation fees. If you plan to graduate this semester and have not submitted your application for graduation, please download the form from our website and submit it to our office. The form can be found at: http://www.csus.edu/gradstudies/forms/graduation_diploma_forms/graduation_application.pdf

Commencement will be held at Arco Arena. The Spring Commencement Schedule is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Friday, May 22 – Arco Arena</th>
<th>Saturday, May 23 – Arco Arena</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>College of Arts and Letters</td>
<td>College of Health and Human Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noon (doors to arena open and candidates assemble at 11:30 am)</td>
<td>8:30 am (doors to arena open and candidates assemble at 8:00 am)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College of Engineering and Computer Science</td>
<td>College of Social Sciences and Interdisciplinary Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:00 pm (doors to arena open and candidates assemble at 2:30 pm)</td>
<td>11:30 am (doors to arena open and candidates assemble at 11:00 am)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College of Education</td>
<td>College of Business Administration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:30 pm (doors to arena open and candidates assemble at 5:00 pm)</td>
<td>2:30 pm (doors to arena open and candidates assemble at 2:00 pm)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics</td>
<td>College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:30 pm (doors to arena open and candidates assemble at 5:00 pm)</td>
<td>5:30 pm (doors to arena open and candidates assemble at 5:00 pm)</td>
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Caps and gowns are available at the Associated Students, Inc. (ASI) business office on the third floor of the University Union. Purchase your cap and gown early to insure proper size. Call (916) 278-7916 to confirm their hours of operation.

Please visit the Office of Graduate Studies website at: www.csus.edu/gradstudies for important dates, forms, and other important information on graduate studies.

Questions may be directed to Malee Xiong, Director of the Graduate Center in the Office of Graduate Studies, at (916) 278-6470 or via email to malee.xiong@csus.edu.