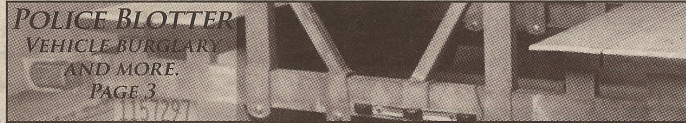




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CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LONG BEACH

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Army cadets at CSULB get life skills for military, civilian life

There are 41 cadets enrolled on campus — a 163 percent increase from 2007.

By **STEPHANIE HEMMENS**
Contributing Writer

Junior construction engineering and management major Anthony Nguyen wakes up at 4:30 a.m. to go to physical training, where he runs and does other body workouts.

After it ends at 7 a.m., Nguyen goes to engineering classes. He is exhausted by the end of the day. On Tuesdays, he is proud to be in uniform, representing the Army.

"ROTC allows me to lead a group of

people ... I hope when I graduate I will be in the corp of engineers as a second lieutenant," Nguyen said.

The ROTC is a leadership program designed for students to learn how to become officers in the U.S. Army, the Army Reserve or the Army National Guard.

Currently, there are 69 cadets — 41 from Cal State Long Beach and 28 from UC Irvine. Although some colleges don't have the program, their students can cross-enroll and take ROTC courses at CSULB.

According to enrollment and scholarship officer Maj. Tobey Humphries, the program increased by 163 percent when he started in 2007. This year, he taught a large military science freshman class.

Students have to meet physical, academic and medical requirements to get

accepted into the program. They also have to pass a stringent background check and possess the aptitude to serve.

"[Cadets must] know what it is [they] are getting into and have a desire to perform a civil service ... [they must] have the willingness to do the job," Humphries said.

ROTC cadets attend physical training from 6 a.m. to 7 a.m., Monday through Thursday. Afterward, they attend an ROTC class where they learn life skills, such as reading maps. Every Tuesday, the cadets attend a hands-on lab where they learn practical applications. They also wear their uniforms to school once a week.

A commissioning ceremony occurs at the end of each school year in the University Student Union auditorium. Guests are invited to watch the



ROTC

The Long Beach Army Reserve Officer Training Corps cadets participate in color guard. From left to right: Michael Moh, Adrian Silva, Anthony Stroma and Rory Hight.

ROTC cadets take the oath of office, transforming themselves from cadet to officer. While wearing their uniforms, they also give the "First Salute" to superior officers, shake their hands and receive their pins.

Senior political science major George Fields said, "The experiences I have had during my time in the ROTC

program have definitely provided me with skills and training that I know will be helpful to being successful in my military and civilian careers."

Freshman international studies major Kyle Esparza has high hopes for his future.

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Students dance, bond

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DANCE

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PAC Modern built a reputation with University Police for their late-night practices and loud music.

"We've had a few campus police [officers] give us warnings, but it's never been anything serious," Cruz said. "We're actually friends with a few of the police and they know plenty of us really well."

Most of the dancers have to balance their full-time commitment to the team, school and their jobs, said Cruz, who has danced with the team for four years.

"Being a part of PAC Modern has taught me the value of self-empowerment," Cruz said. "In the end, you are the only person that can push yourself to be better and that is a value I will carry for the rest of my life."

PAC Modern is known for its unpredictable, influential, original and innovative hip-hop styles, according to its official website.

"While everything changes around

us, PAC Modern tries to stay true to its roots and its hip-hop elements like whacking, popping, breaking and locking," Cruz said.

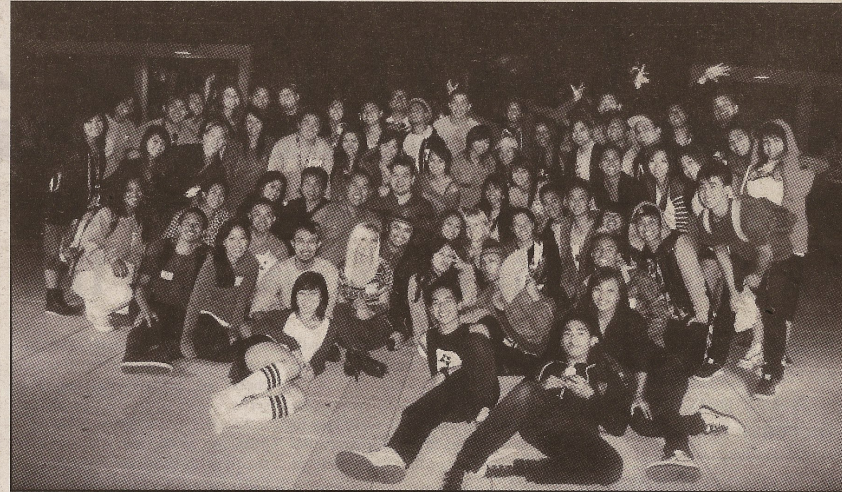
PAC Modern is a division from PAC, a student organization whose goals are to nurture increasing knowledge of the Filipino culture at Cal State Long Beach, according to its official website.

Cruz said, PAC Modern started out as a pre-show act for the annual Filipino Culture Night in 1995. It started with a small group of friends and now, PAC Modern is made up of around 40 people who share the same passion, dancing.

As a team, PAC Modern has competed in numerous events and earned 30 awards and recognitions in 15 years.

However, as a family, it is not about the competition or the awards, Cruz said.

"For the new members of the team, they have an expectation to always win at every single competition," Cruz said. "As a family, it is our responsibility to remind them that we don't dance for the trophy. We dance for us and that's all that matters."



COURTESY OF RICHARD ARRADAZA

The 2009-2010 PAC Modern team and all PAC Modern alumni attended the latest audition on Sept. 16.

ARMY

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"I like the fact that by participating in ROTC and contracting with the United States Army, I am heading down a path of discipline that forces me to hold myself to a higher standard and to choose the harder right instead of the easier wrong for the rest of my life," Esparza said. "I hope to one day commission as an officer in the infantry."

Upon graduation, the cadets are commissioned as second lieutenants and then have to train for their specific job. Afterward, they can be deployed,

should the need arise.

Senior human resources management major Ariana Brice will be graduating next year and begin training and gaining experience in South Carolina as a human resources officer.

"I have developed the necessary skills to lead people in the military and civilian world," she said.

After the cadets are commissioned as Army officers, they are obligated to serve for eight years — four years as active and four years as inactive. Before signing their contract, each cadet is aware that they could be required to serve at any moment as a member of the Army Inactive Ready Reserve.

PROFESSOR

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teaching one class, which would deny him health benefits, said senior journalism student Giovanni Cevallos, who was there.

Levy said he then asked the class to march to the president's office.

"He [Levy] told us not to give up and to stick it out and we would be added to the class," Cevallos said.

"I will never turn a single student away because it's so unethical," Levy said.

According to Levy, he was cited

by University Police for disrupting his class and is not allowed to be on campus.

"Once students found out that the professor wasn't going to be teaching any more, they dropped the class," Lucio said.

"I didn't like how they [faculty] acted. All Levy was doing was adding," Lucio said.

The Daily 49er was unable to contact Standley.

Karla Sosa contributed to this article