Currently, there are approximately 1.6 million men and women serving in the United States military on active duty, in the National Guard, and in the reserves. Some troops are stationed in the United States, others in combat zones in Afghanistan and Iraq, and others yet in peacekeeping roles in more than 150 countries across the globe.

Upon returning to the United States and making a transition back to civilian life, many military veterans are choosing to pursue higher education. The new Post 9/11 Government Issue (GI) Bill (2009), which impacts military personnel who served after 9/11/2001, offers greater levels of assistance than previous legislation. It provides money for tuition up to the cost of the most expensive educational institution in a given state and covers all enrollment fees. It also provides money for housing expenses and $1,000 per year for books and school supplies. One of the biggest improvements in the Post 9/11 GI Bill is the amount of financial assistance a student veteran can expect to receive, which allows higher education to be more accessible to many.

More than 300,000 veterans have enrolled at colleges and universities across the country since this bill became effective. Approximately 150 veterans and their dependents collecting benefits are currently attending UCSB and the numbers are steadily increasing each year. Most veterans transfer to UCSB after completing their general coursework at other schools. Many bring with them strong leadership skills and serve in prominent positions in academic and professional organizations. In addition, veterans tend to distinguish themselves for attributes such as mental and physical discipline, accountability, internal motivation, personal responsibility, respect for authority, focus, maturity, integrity; and a high value placed on comradeship.

The VRT, which is currently co-chaired by Lupe Garcia, assistant dean of student academic support services, and Marsha Bankston, acting registrar, includes representatives from Admissions, Financial Aid and Scholarships, BARC, Housing, Campus Learning Assistance Services, Educational Opportunity Program, Disabled Students Program, Student Veterans Organization, Dean of Students Office, College of Letters and Science, College of Engineering, Office of Student Life, Women’s Center, Student Health, and Counseling Services.

Veteran students and their families are encouraged to contact any of the following members of the VRT if they would like special assistance with accessing support and services:

- Gina Funderburgh, veterans benefits coordinator, Office of the Registrar – (805) 893-8905 or regveterans@sa.ucsb.edu
- Lupe Navarro-Garcia, assistant dean of student academic support services – (805) 893-4739 or lupe.garcia@sa.ucsb.edu
- Marsha Bankston, acting registrar, Office of the Registrar – (805) 893-8653 or marsha.bankston@sa.ucsb.edu
- Kirsten Gabriel, Ph.D., psychologist, Counseling Services – (805) 893-4411 or kirsten.gabriel@sa.ucsb.edu
- Francis Antonio, UCSB Student Veterans Organization – (805) 496-1231 or francis.antonio@umail.ucsb.edu

I noticed how many students were upset because they had to take an 8 a.m. class and all I could think about was how lucky I was to even be here and how much I am used to accomplishing before 8 a.m.

—Anonymous
United States Marine Corps and UCSB Graduate 2009

As tough as school is, Iraq was harder.
—Tommy Palmer, United States Army and UCSB Graduate 2010

Nonetheless, the transition to civilian and university life can be challenging. Veterans may experience difficulty returning to civilian occupations since military rank and awards are often not recognized or valued in non-military settings. Some have difficulty adjusting to new relationships and may experience post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression, or substance abuse. Finally, the lack of structure in academic settings can be challenging for veterans who thrived in the structure and predictability of military service. Despite these difficulties, however, most veterans are able to adjust well and make a unique contribution to their campuses and broader communities.

In 2009 I was in Afghanistan. I really didn’t think I would be here right now.
—Francis Antonio, United States Air Force and Senior at UCSB

In 2009 I was in Afghanistan. I really didn’t think I would be here right now.
—Francis Antonio, United States Air Force and Senior at UCSB
Gauchos Give Back: The Class of 2011 Senior Class Gift

Each year, graduating seniors have the opportunity to leave behind a lasting legacy. Since the early 1990s, UCSB’s graduating senior classes have raised money through the university’s Annual Giving Fund in support of special campus projects or designated areas of need. This outstanding tradition unites seniors to give back in support of UCSB’s fundamental values of scholarship, leadership, and citizenship.

Previous Senior Class Gift campaigns have raised funds for the Umfundi Emergency Scholarship Fund (2006), the development of the Student Resource Building facility (2007), renovations of the Recreation Center (2008), support for the Education Abroad Program & Non-Traditional Student Emergency Funds (2009), and vital upgrades to the office spaces below our historic Storke Tower (2010).

This year’s Senior Class Gift has been generously earmarked for the Alumni Association Scholarship Fund (AASF) and for the establishment of the Associated Students food bank initiative in order to provide direct and vital support to current UCSB students needing assistance during these tough economic times.

We invite seniors to “Live up to the Cha’11enge” and pay it forward once again this year. Parents are invited to encourage their students to participate in the Senior Class Gift and support current and future Gauchos. Students will be contacted in the coming months with details about how to give. In the meantime, students can direct their questions to Cory Calderon, Senior Class Gift campaign co-chair for the Alumni Association, at cory.calderon@ia.ucsb.edu.

Scholarship Leadership Citizenship
Nothing for Us Without Us: UCSB’s Guardian Scholars Program

Approximately 120 students who were formerly part of the foster care system are currently attending UCSB. While their stories all differ, many of them have had to overcome challenges unknown to most of their peers in order to succeed and attend college. As a result, they bring with them an inspiring commitment to helping their peers at UCSB and beyond. Moved by a desire to support these extraordinary students, in 2008 UCSB staff created the Guardian Scholars Program. Through this program, a network of UCSB and community resources work together to ensure the educational and career success of these students.

The national statistics on youth in the foster system are startling. The average foster youth changes schools seven times, or about once every six months, and loses an average of four to six months of educational attainment each time. Within 18 months of emancipation from the foster care system, 40-50% of foster youth are homeless. In addition, only approximately 2% of former foster youth earn a bachelor’s degree.

UCSB’s Guardian Scholars are the exception. In addition to their academic work, our students actively participate in youth groups, conferences, and college fairs, where they encourage high school and community college foster youth to continue their education and to consider higher education as a path to success. Working with community agencies in Santa Barbara, student representatives recently traveled to Oakland to create the Santa Barbara chapter of California Youth Connection (CYC), an organization that promotes the participation of foster youth in policy development and legislative change to improve the foster care system on state and national levels. In addition, many Guardian Scholars are preparing for careers in the social services with the goal of improving life for children in the foster care system.

At the same time, many Guardian Scholars feel like they have worked hard to escape the label of “foster youth” or “former foster youth.” A common question is “when do I get to stop being a former foster youth?” Guardian Scholars are reminded daily that their experiences are different from those of their fellow classmates. One student shared the sadness she experienced while moving into the residence halls as a freshman. While the day marked a personal victory in her journey, it was one she had to celebrate alone. Watching families hug and shed tears while saying their goodbyes highlighted the fact that she would not experience this transition with family of her own.

UCSB Parents Respond:
Parent-Student Communication on Alcohol and Other Drug Use

Attending college means new independence and challenges for young adults. During this time, what role should parents continue to play in their students’ lives? Despite the increased distance between parents and students, ongoing parent support and communication are positive factors in helping students through this developmental period. This is particularly true with regard to problem-laden areas such as alcohol use.

Although student records are largely confidential, national law provides exceptions for parental notification of student substance use, even as individual state laws impact the ways colleges operate. Since 2002, UCSB has used parental notification to inform parents of student citations or arrests for alcohol- and drug-related violations in the neighboring community of Isla Vista.

Last summer, Professor Merith Costlen and graduate research assistant Jennifer Hughes of the Department of Counseling, Clinical, and School Psychology in the Gevirtz Graduate School of Education conducted a survey to determine the impact of parental notification on parent and student behavior. This survey, which was sent to UCSB parents in conjunction with an issue of Campus Connection, asked about parental notification and parent-student communication on alcohol use and other topics. Surveys were completed by 326 parents of current or recently graduated students.

When asked if UCSB should notify parents every time a student is cited for a drug or alcohol violation in Isla Vista, over 86% responded affirmatively. The vast majority of respondents agreed that parental notification has many positive effects, such as holding students accountable for their behavior, sending the community a message, and enhancing communication between parents and students and parents and the university. Among those who received a notification, almost all reported that this resulted in their talking with their student about alcohol and drug use and about the citation or arrest. Over half of these parents reported a positive behavior change in their student, while approximately half imposed a consequence, such as a reduction in funds.

Interestingly, parents who received notifications reported greater difficulty in talking with their students about alcohol use than did parents who did not receive a notification. Because of the nature of the survey, we do not know if these problems existed before the incident and notification or if they emerged afterward.

Finally, over one third of parents used the open-ended questions to tell us more about their perceptions of student alcohol use. While responses were diverse, several major themes emerged. Parents who expressed concerns cited strong peer pressures to drink, difficulties in communicating with their student, and the need for more environmental controls on drinking, both in the residence halls and in Isla Vista. Parents who saw their students as navigating this area well indicated that they communicated often with their students about alcohol use and other issues and that they trusted their students’ judgment.

UCSB’s Division of Student Affairs would like to extend appreciation to all those parents who participated in this survey and who partner with us on an ongoing basis to promote a safe, healthy, and positive experience for their students at UCSB. The findings from this survey will be used to continue to strengthen our programs and resources in this area. Parents interested in learning about UCSB’s Alcohol and Drug Program or about how to communicate with students about alcohol and drug use are encouraged to visit http://alcohol.sa.ucsb.edu/index.aspx.

Scholarship Leadership Citizenship
Is your student still seeking housing? There is plenty left. Community Housing Office (CHO) is hosting their Spring Rental Faire on April 12, from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. in the Student Resource Building walkway. Students will have the opportunity to meet and greet Isla Vista property providers and university housing representatives to secure a place for the 2011-12 rental year. Community Housing Office will also have information on hand about summer subleasing and move-in/out videotaping services to help students secure their security deposits.

The fifth annual All Gauchos Reunion will take place on April 29-30, 2011. Many exciting activities are planned for you and your entire family, including sports and recreation events like the Gauchos Galloc Benefit Race, men’s and women’s soccer games, and an alumni softball tournament. Other highlights of the weekend include A Taste of UCSB wine and food event, a special appearance by alumna and ESPN radio broadcaster Jim Rome, and the annual Alumni Awards Banquet. For complete information, visit http://www.ucsbalum.com/agr/.

Does your student wonder what to do with extra “stuff” during move out in June? The answer is GIVE! Through this initiative, students can donate unwanted and reusable clothing, books, furniture, household furnishings, kitchenware, canned and packaged food, and miscellaneous items at designated residence halls and in Isla Vista. Proceeds from the GIVE sale that follows benefit local Isla Vista nonprofits. Information will be made available starting May 1 at www.giveit.org.

Parents & Family Weekend will be held during fall quarter to welcome hundreds of students’ families to explore our campus and get a firsthand look at life at UCSB. Families will have the opportunity to attend classes and faculty presentations, take part in campus tours and activities, and meet a variety of UCSB faculty and administrators, including Chancellor Henry T. Yang and his wife Dilling Yang. A schedule of events will be posted in September at www.ia.ucsb.edu/pfw/. If you have any questions, please email parent@ia.ucsb.edu or call the Office of Public Events at (805) 893-7382.

Financial Resources for Students In Need

UCSB students are not immune to the challenges created by our sluggish economy nationwide. For this reason, UCSB staff are working to provide students with all the information, resources, and support they might need in this area. If your student is experiencing financial hardship, here are some resources he or she can utilize:

- The Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships can help students explore any remaining loan eligibility they may have, process a budget increase to raise that eligibility in emergency situations, and look into emergency funding options. Students experiencing hardship should contact financial aid advisor Esteban Marin at (805) 893-3485 or esteban.marin@sa.ucsb.edu.

- Students who could benefit from additional income are encouraged to visit GaachoLink, Career Services’ online job search engine, or visit Career Services directly to speak with career peers and professional advisors. For more information, call (805) 893-4412 or visit http://careers.ucsb.edu/

- Social Work Services supports students who have been struggling with serious or complex financial, medical, familial, and other hardship situations and who could use extra support. To schedule an appointment with a social worker, students should call (805) 893-3087.

- The Dean of Students Office assists students experiencing financial hardship through step-by-step problem solving, referrals, and assistance in securing emergency funding as appropriate. Students who are not sure where to turn or who need to speak with someone immediately are encouraged to start here (appointments are preferred but not always necessary). Contact Linda Nurra at (805) 893-4521 or linda.nurra@sa.ucsb.edu.

- The Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) provides EOP students with counseling and problem-solving support, as well as grants for housing, medical, dental, optical, and other emergencies. To be eligible for an EOP grant, students must receive need-based financial aid and have exhausted all other resources. Please note that these grants are issued as reimbursement funding for payments already made. To apply, students need to make an appointment with an EOP advisor at (805) 893-4758.

- The Student Medical Emergency Relief Fund (SMERF) provides undergraduate and graduate students with grants to cover the costs of expenses related to medical, dental, psychological, and optical emergencies. SMERF is for students who were registered at the time of their medical emergency and have exhausted all other resources. Please note that grants are awarded only for medical bills not yet paid, of which the student will need to provide documentation. To apply, students should visit http://www.sca.ucsb.edu/smerf/index.aspx.

- A.S. Cashier’s Office loans of $100-200 are available to all undergraduate students who pay fees. These are short-term loans which are billed to a student’s BARC account 30 days later. Students can take out up to two loans per quarter or they must repay the previous outstanding loans to reapply. To apply, students should visit the A.S. Cashier’s Office near the Career peers and professional advisors. For more information, call (805) 893-4412 or visit http://www.sca.ucsb.edu/smerf/index.aspx.

- The Women’s Center provides small emergency loans to undergraduate and graduate female students who are single parents. To apply, students should make an appointment with Women’s Center interim director Kim Parent by calling (805) 893-2920.

UCSB is currently working to expand the resources available to students experiencing financial hardship. Among current initiatives, the Alumni Association Scholarship Fund is a new fund that allows scholarship donations to be directed annually to the area of greatest financial need. The fund, which is managed by the Alumni Association board of directors, has grown to more than $400,000 in three years and has awarded scholarships to students studying abroad, non-traditional older students, and students facing extreme financial emergencies. If you are interested in making a donation to the fund, please visit the Alumni Association website at www.ucsbalum.com or contact Assistant Vice Chancellor George Thurlow at (805) 893-4799.

UCSBBriefs

- At UCSB, we strive to maintain an environment that is welcoming and safe for every member of our community. The UC system is encouraging students to report any hate incidents via a more accessible venue – online, at http://judicialaffairs. sa.ucsb.edu/hate.aspx. In the event that a hate crime or incident does occur, students can report incidents anonymously 24/7. Visit the UCSB Judicial Affairs website to learn more about reporting options, information about hate crimes and support services. You may also contact the hate incident response coordinator at (805) 893-5016.

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Scholarship Leadership Citizenship

Dawn M. Danz, Psy.D., recently joined UCSB as clinical psychologist at Counseling Services, where she provides psychotherapy for UCSB students. Dr. Danz completed her doctoral training in clinical psychology at Argosy University in the San Francisco Bay Area and interned at Brigham Young University and the University of California, Berkeley. Prior to coming to UCSB, Dr. Danz worked in the Student Health Center at the University of California, Irvine. Her special interests include racial identity, women's issues, and transitional students (first-generation and transfer students). Dr. Danz is the single mother of a 4-year-old girl and a 2-year-old boy and enjoys spending her free time with them.

The University of California, Santa Barbara and the Division of Student Affairs recognize the diversity of our society and the many important people who have become “parents” to our students; these include steppoms, stepdads, uncles, aunts, grandparents, siblings, friends and others who play a significant and supportive role in the lives and successes of UCSB students.

Editor: Linda Nurra
Copy Editor: Debbie Fleming
Contributors: Carlina Alden, Cecilia Becerra, Catherine Boyer, Laurel Brown, Cory Calderon, Merith Cosden, Kirsten Gabriel, Jennifer Hughes, Micael Kemp, Don Lubach, Julie Miller, Linda Nurra, Lisa Przelop, Maya Salomon
Design: Brent Bernt Recheent

Office of the Vice Chancellor – Student Affairs
University of California
Santa Barbara, CA 93106-2056

If you need this document in an alternative format, please call (805) 891-4521.
www.sa.ucsb.edu/parentnewsletter

FAQs: Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships

The Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships strives to provide students with the financial resources and services necessary to achieve their educational goals. Parents are encouraged to read the following FAQ or contact the office directly to learn more about the financial aid process. Contact information is available at http://finaid.sa.ucsb.edu/ContactInfo.asp.

If a student has not yet applied for financial aid for the 2011-2012 academic year, is it too late?
No, although the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) priority filing deadline for 2011-2012 financial aid was March 2, 2011, students can still apply for financial aid for the 2011-2012 academic year to be considered for the Pell Grant, Direct Loans (subsidized and unsubsidized), and the Parent Loan for Undergraduate Students (PLUS). The FAFSA application is available on the internet at www.fafsa.ed.gov. UCSB’s school code is 001320.

What is the IRS Data Retrieval Option?
The IRS Data Retrieval allows financial aid applicants to transmit income information directly from the IRS to the FAFSA. We strongly recommend that parents and students select this option during the initial filing or when subsequent corrections are made to a 2011-2012 FAFSA. This option will streamline and expedite the processing of your financial aid application with the UCSB Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships. Additional information can be found on our website at http://finaid.sa.ucsb.edu/Bulletins/IRSDataRetrievalOption.asp.

If a student has already applied for financial aid for 2011-2012, when will he or she receive an offer of financial aid?
If additional documentation is required to verify the accuracy of the FAFSA information, the student will be sent an email in April or May directing him or her to check the “ Aid Status” on the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships website (www.finaid.ucsb.edu). When all requested documents are received, they are reviewed and an offer of financial aid is created. At that time, the student will receive another email with an invitation to view the Financial Aid Award Letter on the website.

How do I qualify for the 2011-2012 Blue and Gold Opportunity Plan?
Under the Blue and Gold Opportunity Plan, the University of California will provide that financially needy undergraduates with family income up to the median for California households ($50,000) and who are enrolled in their first four years (two years for transfer students) will have UC systemwide fees covered by scholarship or grant awards. UCSB students must have completed the FAFSA by the March 2, 2011, priority deadline. To learn more about the Blue and Gold plan, visit www.finaid.ucsb.edu.

What scholarships are available?
UCSB awards its limited allocation of scholarship aid primarily to continuing UCSB students who filed the FAFSA by the March 2, 2011, priority deadline and who meet the dual criteria of financial need and academic merit.

How does a student receive financial aid?
Most of the types of aid that a student has accepted will be credited to the student’s account with the UCSB Billing Office (BARC). If the aid placed on the student’s BARC account does not cover all of the institutional charges, he or she will be expected to pay the difference by the fall quarter fee payment deadline of September 15, 2011.

What is the PLUS Loan?
Parents may borrow a PLUS Loan on behalf of their dependent undergraduate student to help fund educational expenses. A PLUS Loan is a type of loan offered on the student’s Financial Aid Award Letter. The interest rate is fixed at 7.9%. Repayment begins 60 days after the last disbursement of the loan. Parent PLUS Loan borrowers may choose to have repayment deferred while the student is enrolled and for an additional six months after the student is no longer enrolled. Interest that accrues during these periods will be capitalized if not paid by the borrower. All PLUS Loan applicants must pass a credit check to have their loan approved.

Is financial aid available for Summer Session 2011?
Summer Session financial aid (grants and loans) will be available only to eligible incoming freshmen, transfer, and continuing UCSB undergraduate students who are in good academic standing and who have a complete 2010-2011 FAFSA on file with the UCSB Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships. To apply, a student must submit a Summer Session 2011 Financial Aid Application, which will be available on the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships website on April 14, 2011. The priority filing deadline for the Summer Session 2011 Financial Aid Application is May 27, 2011.

Staying Connected

UCSB Campus Calendar: http://events.sa.ucsb.edu/calendar/
UCSB Home: http://www.ucsb.edu or call (805) 893-8000
Campus Connection Newsletter: http://www.sacampus.ucsb.edu/parentnewsletter
Campus Learning Assistance Services: http://www.clas.ucsb.edu or call (805) 893-3269
Associated Students: http://www.as.ucsb.edu or call (805) 893-2566
Counseling Services: http://counseling.sa.ucsb.edu/ or call (805) 893-4411
Career Services: http://career.ucsb.edu or call (805) 893-4412
Division of Student Affairs: http://www.sacampus.ucsb.edu or call (805) 893-3651
Educational Opportunity Program: http://www.ucsb.edu/epo or call (805) 893-3235
Gaucho Parents website: http://www.sacampus.ucsb.edu/parents
Housing & Residential Services: http://www.housing.ucsb.edu or call (805) 893-2760
Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships: http://www.finaid.ucsb.edu or call (805) 893-2432
Office of Student Life: http://www.sa.ucsb.edu/osl/ or call (805) 893-4569
Office of the Registrar: http://www.registrar.ucsb.edu/ or call (805) 893-3592
Orientation Programs: http://www.sacampus.ucsb.edu/orientation/ or call (805) 893-3443
Student Health: http://www.sa.ucsb.edu/studenthealth/ or call (805) 893-3371
UCSB Crime Statistics: http://www.sacampus.ucsb.edu/Policies/CrimeAct or call (805) 893-7884
UCSB Bookstore: http://www.bookstore.ucsb.edu/ or call (805) 893-3271
UCSB Wellness Program: http://wellness.sa.ucsb.edu/
Graduation Corner: Class of 2011

Commencement Planning Begins Now

Schedule of Ceremonies:

- Sunday, June 5, 2011 – 11:00 a.m. – College of Creative Studies, Campbell Hall
- All Saturday (June 11) and Sunday (June 12) ceremonies take place on the Faculty Club Green
- Saturday, June 11 – 9:00 a.m. – Sciences and Social Science
- Saturday, June 11 – 1:00 p.m. – Engineering and Sciences
- Saturday, June 11 – 4:00 p.m. – Social Sciences I
- Sunday, June 12 – 9:00 a.m. – Social Sciences II
- Sunday, June 12 – 1:00 p.m. – Humanities and Arts
- Sunday, June 12 – 4:00 p.m. – Graduate Division

Students must make a commencement reservation for an open and available ceremony in order to participate in commencement. Special note: Parents, please remind your student that declaring candidacy for an official degree and making a commencement reservation are two separate actions in the GOLD system.

Please keep in mind that thousands of graduating seniors will be inviting family and friends to the commencement ceremonies. Students should limit their number of guests to a maximum of six to help maintain a high level of comfort and decorum. For more information, call the commencement hotline at (805) 893-8289, send an email to commencement@sa.ucsb.edu, or visit the website at www.santa.ucsb.edu/commencement/. For accommodations information, visit www.santabarbara.com. It is wise to book hotel rooms soon since space is limited, but be sure to coordinate with your student as he or she reserves a space in a particular commencement ceremony.

Spring Career Fair

Open to all students, this annual event targets approximately 50 regional employers who are seeking to hire UCSB students as they graduate. This year’s fair will take place on Tuesday, April 12, 2011, from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. in Corwin Pavilion. Employers will be recruiting for a wide range of positions, including sales, customer service, management, marketing, health care, engineering, and much more. If your student is not yet a senior, you should still encourage him or her to attend. Getting a feel for these events and learning how to work a fair when you’re not seeking a job is invaluable experience for when you are.

Grad Fair 2011

UCSB Bookstore’s annual Grad Fair and cap & gown photo shoot will be held on Wednesday, May 4, and Thursday, May 5, from 9-4 p.m. in the UCen lobby. Various campus departments and vendors will be on hand to answer students’ commencement questions. Students should go dressed to impress for their free photo sitting and pre-purchase their grad packs with this year’s Class of 2011 T-shirt. For more information, visit www.bookstore.ucsb.edu.

A Gift for Your Grad: Gaucho for Life

Need a special graduation gift for your son or daughter? Consider giving a gift that will last a lifetime – a life membership in the UCSB Alumni Association. Benefits include career connections, job postings, networking opportunities, the Coastlines publication, travel tours, and access to the alumni directory and locator service. More information can be found on the Alumni Association’s website at www.ucsbalum.com.

2010-11 La Cumbre Yearbook

Your student’s experience at UCSB is filled with many amazing events that La Cumbre Yearbook captures with stories and photos chronicling a year in the life of the campus and Isla Vista. It is the only detailed record of this UCSB school year from those who know it best – students. If you’d like to purchase a memoir of your student’s college experience that will last a lifetime, visit http://lacumbreyearbook.sa.ucsb.edu/.

My Baby’s Graduating

Your son or daughter’s graduation from UCSB is a once-in-a-lifetime event. You can show your graduate how proud you are by buying a unique, personalized advertisement in the Daily Nexus special graduation issue scheduled to appear on Thursday, June 2, 2011. For more information email Sales@dailynexus.com.