

FEATURES

Rare kicks, rare entrepreneur

Disabled student collects shoes, studies and starts business.

By William Martin
Features Editor

Most people walk in their shoes, but Adam Soto has muscular dystrophy, mandating that he spend a lot of his time in a motorized wheel chair cruising around COD with his rare shoes on display. He considers himself to be a "Hyper strike. One of a kind, a handicap shoe collector."

The 18 year-old business student is part of the new generation of collectors, many who were turned on to the shoe game when Nelly did his song about Air Force 1's. Still, he's not a hype beast collecting what the greater shoe community deems hot or expensive. Instead he wears what he likes, going for the old school basketball look, even if he can't play ball.

"My feet don't work to the fullest, so I'll get some nice kicks," Soto said, he even commented that when he walks it looks funny and people usually look at his feet; he just hopes they notice that he's "rocking some heat."

"Being handicapped there's not a lot of hobbies I can get into," Soto said, "But this is something that really makes me happy."

This all really started by a chance passing of information. A friend tipped him off about a shoe that caught his attention. "I was just after a shoe with the Puerto Rican flag on it," Soto said. After searching through over a dozen stores, he found his Nike PR 2, his impromptu shoe hunt became a success.

After that Nelly's song got him to start looking around the internet for information on these coveted shoes. After realizing that there was a

whole culture surrounding the releases of different colors and versions of the classic AF 1, he kept progressing in his shoe knowledge and joined an online forum, uptowns.net.

"Online forums are a good way to get into collecting," Soto said. His forum of choice is more of a family based forum, good for people who want to talk shoes, but are just starting. Everyone online knows him as "Pun, the handicap shoe collector from Chicago."

Uptowns.net is more laid back and conversational when compared to other forums like NikeTalk.com, where a lot of old and big-time collectors idle, often "flaming" the new people to the shoe game, never really talking about the basics.

Soto mostly sticks with collecting the Nike Dunk, SB, Air Force 1 and Air-Jordan lines. Now he's sitting on a collection of over 50 shoes, most are rare, while some are worth a lot of money.

His 'tiffany' AF 1's are now worth over \$700, which is a 75 percent gain from the initial \$400 cost. Shoes like these are often considered an investment; they can always be sold later, almost guaranteed to bring in at least what was paid for them initially. The shoes usually go up in value, the only questionable time they may drop value is if a re-release occurs.

The justification for the thousands of dollars Soto spent on shoes? "I'm addicted to shoe collecting, it's like a drug," Soto said, "The whole shoe thing is hard to put down, you can slow down, but once you start it's hard to

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Photos by Russell Augustine

Adam Soto in the halls of COD on his motorized wheelchair. He is wearing a one of a kind concept shoe that Nike collaborated on with Nort/Recon. This AF-X is made from ballistics material and Gor-Tex, featuring a steel toe. Soto made his shirt to wear with the shoes.

Three rare favorites from the man on wheels



Baby Jordan XI. This is a baby model of the Nike Air-Jordan XI in the black and red color way nicknamed the "breds." This is a sought after 2001 retro of the 1996 model that Michael Jordan wore after came back to the NBA from retirement. **The current value is around \$150.**



Brown Pride. This is an AF 1 collaboration between Nike and the popular Los Angeles tattoo artist who goes by Mr. Cartoon. The shoe has detailed laser accents and a patent leather swoosh. This is a very rare shoe that was only released in LA in 2005. **The current value is around \$350.**



Tiffany SB. Nike Skate Boarding shoes can be rare by themselves, there are only around six stores in Chicago that have SB accounts with Nike. This crocodile skin shoe was a collaboration between Nike and Diamond Supply Co, released in 2005. **The current value is around \$700.**

They won't be back next year

College hosts reception for retiring employees

By William Martin
Features Editor

The staff members who are planning to retire from the college this year were honored at a reception on Wednesday.

The reception was held in SRC 2800 and recognized 28 individual's plans to leave COD at the end of the semester.

Some are on the top ten list of highest paid employees, some are award winners, but all will be missed.

The following retired this year:

Administrators

- Joyce Abel
- Lesli Barger
- Suzanne Blasi
- Bernard Fradkin
- Rodney Hampton
- Terence Fuller
- Kay Nielsen

Faculty

- Frank Asta
- Lawrence Frateschi
- Rodney Holzkam
- John Modschiedler
- Vincent Panzone
- Robert Sobie

Classified

- Gloria Atkins
- Carol Beilfuss
- Joy Dunigan
- Rodney Hampton
- Bernadine Jarzab
- Michael Lanners
- Colette Lindsey
- Kathleen Litos
- Juana Murphy
- Janet Novak
- Carolyn Price
- Jeanine Rasmussen
- James Schweisthal
- Reiner Utria
- Vivian Wielgos
- Jody Zamirovski

ForYourInformation

Job Expo

There will be an employment expo for jobseekers with disabilities on Friday, May 18 in SRC 2800. The event will provide participants an opportunity to network, while allowing 16 businesses, service providers, vendors and exhibitors an opportunity to set up a table to interact with the attendees.

President of COD, Dr. Chand will give a welcome address at the expo.

The expo runs all day from 8 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. Registration is required and can be completed by going to the AbilityLinks.org home page and clicking on Employment Expo. The cost is \$10 for job seekers and \$35 for employers, exhibitors and service providers.

For more information contact Steve Fry at 942-3854, or by email, fryday@cod.edu



Photos by Russell Augustine

From left. Thomas J. Milleman, Terence Fuller, Pat Puccio and Joyce Abel talk at the all college reception.



The Chicago Council on Global Affairs presents at College of DuPage ...

THE LAST FOREST

With Mark London and Brian Kelly

The Amazon, the world's last great forest, is a landmass greater than the United States west of the Mississippi and has the richest diversity of plant and animal species on earth. Evidence has been found of centuries-old Amazonian civilizations. Twenty-one million people now live in the forest. What will become of the Amazon, as developers and environmentalists clash over the region's future?

Mark London and Brian Kelly are longtime explorers of the Amazon Basin and have traveled more than 100,000 miles in the area over the last 20 years. They discuss the state of the world's last and greatest rainforest, including solutions to global environmental issues and national growth issues.

Mark London is a Washington, D.C., attorney, and Brian Kelly is the executive editor of *U.S. News & World Report*. Their new book, *The Last Forest*, was recently published by Random House and will be available for purchase and signing at the program.

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7 to 9 p.m.

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Photos courtesy of Adam Soto

Adam Soto's collection. The shoes had to be brought outside to get them all together at once.

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back out, it becomes something you need."

Soto also continued and explained how this hobby can be more useful than other hobbies, using paintball as an example.

When someone is into paint ball, they spend money on equipment, outings and ammo. They spend time researching the guns and the tactics in order to come on top at the next match. But at the end of the day the paintballer hasn't really gained anything he can use in everyday life.

However, shoes have been embedded in world culture for cen-

turies, they invade many aspects in life, and a lot of businesses turn customers away at the door for not following the "no shirt, no shoes, no service" policy.

Soto seems to deal with his disability well, he's a friendly guy who cracks jokes and is easy to talk to, he even said, "I'm happy I'm disabled, I can't drive, I save on gas money and buy shoes."

He was born with limb-girdle muscular dystrophy, and since there is no cure yet, he is ready to live with it every day. When his muscles are worked out they break down like normal tissue, but never build back up. Still, he doesn't find much of a problem shoe hunting,

even if there are stairs that have to be scaled. A lot of boutiques in Chicago know him by name and will bring shoes outside for him to try on if accessibility is a problem.

He keeps his cheer and self-motivation at a high level and has even started up a clothing line centered on the culture of sought after shoes. Soto's business, Sofa King Fresh, is a sneaker orientated clothing company for people in small and big sizes.

"It was a project me and a friend started, we were wearing them, and everyone was asking for

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SKF shirt styled after the Dunk Dinosaur Jr.

To make a shirt

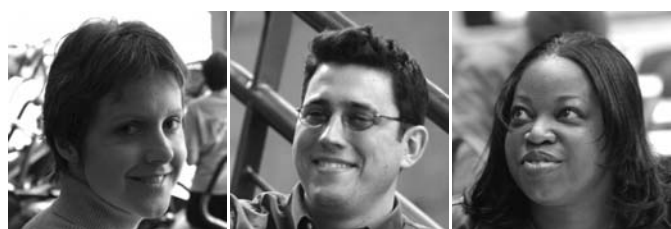
SKF clothing is based in Soto's basement, where the process from start to finish happens.

The first step is an interpretation study of the shoe that a future shirt is based on. This is where colors and designs are broken down so that a piece of clothing reflects the footwear.

Next the shirt goes through a design process aimed at honoring the theme of the shoe, as well as matching colors. The shirt is usually not immediately produced because of the time and expense involved, instead designs are posted on Myspace, which can be found by clicking the link on skfclimbing.com, which is currently under construction.

A lot of t-shirts are screen-printed, however, Soto uses professional image transfers and equipment to make his shirts. He has spent ten hours producing five shirts in the past, because it is all custom work done by hand. Soto said,

"It's like putting a puzzle together, where I cut out what shouldn't be there."



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STUDENT ACTIVITY LISTING

CLUB	DESCRIPTION	CONTACT	CLUB	DESCRIPTION	CONTACT
Academy of Law and Criminal Justice	Students whose goal is to educate and become better educated on the policies and procedures of law.	Deborah Lantermo Ext. 3019	Japanese Culture Club	Examines Japanese popular culture through books, movies and other media.	Shingo Satsutani Ext. 2019
Accounting Club	Provides information about the field of accounting and helps members meet and network with people in the field.	Kathy Horton Ext. 2176	Ju Jutsu Club	Offers practice outside classroom and opportunity for socializing. Also, a chance to meet and make new friends.	Donald Koz
Aikido Club	Aikido students can practice with members of the Aikido club and socialize.	Matthias Lynch	Le Recontre Francaise	Seeks to promote French culture through meetings, trips and cultural activities.	Jeffrey Fox Ext. 3340
Alpha Beta Gamma	Recognizes and honors academic achievement and provides opportunities for leadership for business and technology students.	Kathy Horton Ext. 2176	Latino Ethnic Awareness Association	Encourages awareness of Hispanic culture and offers speakers, field trips and other programs.	Michelle Roman Ext. 4154
Alpha Mu Gamma	Honor society for students with outstanding record in foreign language studies.	Shingo Satsutani Ext. 2019	Linux Users Group	Provides information for installing and using the Linux operating system, as well as a forum for ideas and experience sharing.	Mohammad Morovati Ext. 2478
Anthropology Club	Participate in Anthropological discussions and activities.	Alex Bolyanatz Ext. 2433	LTA Student Club	Networks together LTA students and professionals and encourages library advocacy.	Linda Slusar Ext. 2597
APPAC	The Appreciation of Pan-African and Caribbean Cultures Club is a social education club about the above cultures.	Lewis Jones Ext. 2039	Magie the Gathering Club	Provides a comfortable recreational environment to play, as well as provides deals at local shops. Regular tournaments are held Fridays.	Michael Losacco Ext. 3277
Architectural Region of Chicago	Offers opportunities in Chicago to learn about architecture and socialize.	Jane Ostergaard Ext. 2331	Men's Club Volleyball	The purpose of this organization shall be to give students the opportunity to compete at the collegiate level in men's volleyball.	John Pangan Ext. 2365
Baha'i Student Association	Purpose is to further the tenets of the Baha'i faith on campus through lectures, service projects, discussions and other activities.	Nancy Payne Ext. 3401	Model Illinois Government	Political club which participates in a mock government, including a simulation in Springfield.	David Goldberg Ext. 3722
Black Student Union	Promotes ethnic unity and pride by joining and collaborating the thoughts of COD students.	Kristina Henderson Ext. 2510	Model United Nations	Promotes knowledge about the United Nations and international diplomacy.	Chris Goergen Ext. 2012
Brothers and Sisters in Christ	Southern Baptist religious activity. Encourages students with studies and the God of the Bible	Melanie Robinson	Muslim Student Association	Encourages Muslim fellowship, scholarly discussions of Islam and outreach to the college community.	Shaheen Chowdhury Ext. 2438
Campus Crusade for Christ	Provides an outlet for students of Christian fellowship and service.	Erich Hauenstein Ext. 2494	Newman Association	Provides fun social activities, spirituality and faith programs, peace and justice awareness, and outreach service opportunities.	Karen Nykiel Ext. 54133
Campus Greens	Promotes awareness of grassroots, democracy and environmental issues. Promotes student activism to affect positive change.	Keith Yearman Ext. 2765	Out of the Shadows	Promotion, information and practice of nature-based pagan religions.	Karen Thomas Ext. 4600
Casa de Amigos	The Spanish club, devoted to developing leisure activities and conversation activities for both ESL and club members	Elizabeth Mares Ext. 3927	The Page Turners	Organizes community-building and cultural events that revolve around themes of writing and literature.	Lisa Higgins Ext. 3385
Chaparral Cricket Club	Purpose is to promote cricket throughout the community. Also, but not necessary, is to play cricket at a competitive level.	Rich Eliman Ext. 3447	Philosophy Club	A fellowship of students seeking to provide an open forum for philosophical interpretation through discussion.	Keith Krasemann Ext. 3407
Chaparral Magazine	A themed student magazine, published at the beginning of the spring and summer semesters.	Cathy Stablein Ext. 2650	Phi Theta Kappa	Strives for excellence through scholarship, leadership, service and fellowship.	Shannon Hernandez Ext. 3054
Chinese Culture Club	Explores all aspects of Chinese culture and seeks to share knowledge and experience.	Jane Wu Ext. 3402	Prairie Light Review	A humanities magazine published twice yearly; accepts submissions from students, faculty and community members.	Elizabeth Whiteacre Ext. 2311
Circle K	Service organization that promotes fellowship, leadership and service.	Maryann Kriegelstein Ext. 2103	Pride Alliance	Support, promote awareness and educate ourselves and others on specific issues with regard to diversity.	Dana Thompson Ext. 2528
Circolo Culturale Italiano	Promotes Italian culture and heritage through meetings and field trips.	Gino Impellizzeri Ext. 2553	Printmakers, Ink.	Provides a forum for exhibition and exploration of printmaking.	Chuck Boone Ext. 2477
COD Chapter of the PCMA	Teaches members the basics of the meeting industry, will work with the Professional Convention Management	Joanne Giampa Ext. 2556	Psi Beta	National honor society that encourages students to strive for excellence and acquire a sense of advancing scholarship and psychology.	Ada Wainwright Ext. 2509
Concrete Expressions	A place to discuss and collaborate with other poets and musicians.	Elizabeth Whiteacre Ext. 2311	Religions United Nations (UN)	Allows people of various religions to discuss aspects of religion as well as acceptable and beneficial behavior of all believers.	Jennifer Hereth Ext. 2057
Courier Student Newspaper	The weekly student newspaper, offering paid staff positions in a wide variety of journalistic fields.	Cathy Stablein Ext. 2650	Sci-Fi / Fantasy Club	Provides a forum for activities including books, movies, television, comics and role-playing games related to sci-fi and fantasy.	James Allen Ext. 3421
Dental Hygienists Club SADHA Chapter	Seeks to cultivate, promote and sustain the art and science of dental hygiene.	Lori Drummer Ext. 2430	Screenwriters Group	Write and evaluate screenplays, discuss screenwriting and act as a screenwriting resource.	Ron Eltanal Ext. 2825
Endowment for Future Generations	Helps all generations develop and maintain sound mental and physical health, protect the environment, and promote peace.	Naheed Hasan, Ext. 2028	Student Activities Program Board	Through selecting and coordinating events for the college, students learn valuable business, organizational and leadership skills.	Chuck Steele Ext. 2642
Forensics (Speech) Team	Improves public speaking performance skills through state and national competition.	Steve Schroeder Ext. 2514	The American Meteorological Society	Provides programs for experiences in and out of class, and serving others by promoting severe weather training and preparedness.	Paul Sirvatka Ext. 2118
Game Development Club	Students work as teams to create games. Also provides experience for work in the interactive software industry.	Sally Field Mullan Ext. 2941	Student Education Association	Open to students interested in pursuing a career in education.	Lois Stanciak Ext. 2974
Hapkido Club	Provides students with further learning outside of the classroom and a social opportunity with other martial artists.	Sherrie Henry Ext. 51232	Students for a Democratic Foreign Policy	Mobilizes and organizes the youth and students as part of a proactive, anti-war movement.	Joseph Filomena Ext. 2029
Hospitality Club	Further educate hospitality students through seminars, college tours and lectures from hotel and food service professionals	Marybeth Leone Ext. 2059	Students for Animal Defense	Students working to protect the rights of all animals.	Mary Jean Cravens, Ext. 2333
Human Services Network	Students that seek to develop professional friendships and take part in activities related to the Human Services field.	Rita Bobrowski Ext. 2024	Student Leadership Council	Preserves and protects student rights, interests and opinions; represents the student view to the administration.	Andie Richmond Ext. 2644
Interior Design Student Society	Supports the Interior Design program with seminars, networks and events.	Ann Cotton Ext. 3081	Student Nursing Council	Enhance communication among nursing students; sponsors fund raisers for Recognition and Pinning Ceremonies.	Maureen Waller Ext. 2204
International Students Organization	Provides international and American students with opportunities to socialize and experience cross-culture ties.	Anthony Maravillas	Travel and Tourism Association	Provides networking opportunities between alumni and students, allows members to broaden their academic experience.	Joanne Giampa Ext, 2556
InterVarsity Christian Fellowship	Interdenominational Christian Fellowship; students learning to love God and each other	Kent Richter Ext. 3404		To have your student activity listed, email Features@cod.edu with "Activity Listing" in the subject line	

How to create your new club

1. There are three requirements in order to charter a new club.
 - A. You must have at least three interested students who are taking at least one credit course and are willing to act as officers for the club.
 - B. You must have at least one full-time faculty or staff member who is willing to serve as adviser for the club.
 - C. You must have a club constitution.
2. It is the students' responsibility to find an adviser for the club.
3. Students interested in forming

- ing a new club should fill out the New Club Inquiry form.
4. The student will receive a reply with possible meeting times. A copy of the sample constitution (MS Word) file will be attached so the student may begin work on their document.
5. The interested students and potential advisor(s) will meet with the Coordinator of Student Activities who has been assigned as the group's Student Activities liaison. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss what is required to start a new club, and officer

- and adviser responsibilities. The club constitution will be submitted at that time to be reviewed by the liaison and Director of Student Activities. Required paperwork includes:
 - a. Final copy of constitution
 - b. Officer Update form
 - c. Adviser Update form
 - d. Club Information form
 - e. Information concerning outside or parent organization (if required)
6. Following the chartering meeting, all paperwork will be sent to the Director of Student Activities and the Vice President of Student Affairs

- for approval. Once approved, advisors will receive a memo and clubs can begin to utilize club benefits.
- General Information for New Clubs**
- New clubs are chartered with future students in mind, not just current students.
 - Student clubs are student run. That means club members are the decision-makers of the group.
 - Once a club is approved, Student Activities will copy

- up to 75 flyers for the club to promote their first meeting. After that the club must raise funds to cover all its expenses.
- It is the club members' responsibility to keep the club going. That means you should always be recruiting new members.
- All club members are encouraged to participate in the Leadership Connection Series sponsored by Student Activities.

Events form

■ The Courier wants to cover your events

If your club has an event coming up, fill out the form to the right and bring it to SRC 1560 and drop it off with the features editor. You can also contact the features editor at features@cod.edu or at (630) 942-2660. The Courier has covered many

events in the past, from bake sales to book discussions, so any event is perfectly valid. Please turn in your form at least a week in advance so that coverage of your event can be scheduled and your article prepared.

Clubs/EventsForm



New/Existing Club: _____

NAME of club/organization _____

ADVISER name _____

PURPOSE of club/organization* _____

TIME of meeting/event _____

LOCATION/DESCRIPTION of meeting/event _____

DESCRIPTION of event _____

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them.”

SKF clothing has online customers all across the country, from New York to Puerto Rico, along with a retailer selling his line in New Jersey.

“On the forums where someone posted a picture of what they’re wearing, sometimes you will see one of my shirts,” Soto said.



Currently the clothing line is profitable, with basic shirts raging from \$25 to \$35, with the premium line costing \$45 a shirt. SKF will celebrate their one-year anniversary in August.

The long-term goal is to keep the line as a trendy underground fashion label, while starting a chain of boutiques offering limited and rare collectable shoes and clothes not normally found at the average shoe store.

Soto plans on getting deeper into collecting as well, which is a long way from where he started, just someone who wanted shoes with the Puerto Rican flag, wondering what Nelly was rapping about in “Air Force Ones.”

Carnival de Mayo

By William Martin
Features Editor

Two \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded to recipients at the 13th annual “Carnival de Mayo.” The COD Latino American Awareness Association will host the event at 7 p.m. on May 5.

On top of the scholarship awards, there will be a dinner served, a guest speaker, a Latin dance performance and regular dance from 10 p.m. until midnight.

The club vice-president, Alejandro Morales, said, “It is a good way to experience how the Latino community works together at COD, and how they enjoy their traditional customs.”

One of the traditional customs that will be shared at the event is the dance presentation performed by Dance Studio 700. The studio will perform traditional Merengue, Bachata and Salsa dances.

Lorena Cuellar from the BP Corporation will present a short speech on “cash value trade control” before the live entertainment.

With a Latino DJ, attendees should expect the dance floor to be energetic with Latin dance ranging from the traditional Tango to the new age Reggaeton, a hip-hop and rap inspired type of dance that became popular in the early 1990’s.

The only part of this event that is not influenced by Latino culture is the food. While the desert will be a traditional flan, Olive Garden will provide the main course for dinner.

This semi-formal event is open to anyone interested, but carries a cost of \$12 per ticket. LEAA is asking people to RSVP their seat by April 30, by calling 605-2863.

For more information contact Morales by calling 445-3283



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