President’s Corner
Daniel J. Girard

Deaf Matador Alumni,

It’s amazing to see our NCOD alumni chapter grow stronger and more alumni are interested in learning what we do. The seed started with Julie Rems-Smario, the first NCOD Alumni Chapter president, and Roberto Solorzano. James “Manny” Johnson, the next president, along with his board ensured that the seed planted by Julie will grow stronger by taking the lead as the second president. I am thrilled to carry the torch for the next two years.

I am honored to work with my executive board. Together, we will achieve our goals to connect with alumni and provide support to our current students. Allow me to introduce the 2008-2010 Executive Board:

- Daniel Girard, President of NCOD Alumni Chapter
- Jerry Nelson, Vice President
- Dana Foster-Armendariz, Secretary
- Melanie Najaki, Treasurer
- Erika Guarino, eNewsletter Editor
- Manny Johnson, Past President
- Lisalee Egbert, President of NCOD Alumni-Sacramento Chapter

We value input from our alumni and current students. NCOD Alumni Chapter will work closely with NCOD on different projects and events. Many exciting events are coming your way and please check the website for future announcements. We plan to have the eNewsletter distributed to alumni every other month with news and events. If you have any announcements you would like to add to the eNewsletter, please feel free to contact our eNewsletter Editor at Erika.guarino@comcast.net. We would love to hear from you!

If you are interested in offering any assistance with our NCOD Alumni Chapter, please feel free to contact us at ncodalumni@gmail.com.
We wish you all Happy Holidays!

With Matador Spirit,
Daniel J. Girard, Class of 2001
President
NCOD Alumni Chapter

CSUN/NCOD News
Dr. Roz Rosen, Director

Season’s Greetings!

CSUN and NCOD take pride in being the largest and best mainstream university program for deaf and hard of hearing students west of the Mississippi River! Our CSUN NCOD community sizzles – with significant accomplishments.

- 2/3 of our freshmen students and new transfer students are enrolled in regular university-level English and math classes. The other 1/3 are in developmental English and math and are expected to pass within one year.
- The 2008 New Student Orientation included family orientation which was assessed as very successful.
- The students ran a highly successful College Student Leadership Conference in October, which attracted 85 students and 20 student volunteers from several states including Washington DC and NY!
- The 2nd Career Fair was implemented in November, attended by over 100 students. The title was “Flip-flops or Oxfords: Getting Your Foot in The Door in the Electronic Era.” The next event, Feb 18, will focus on “How to Interview”.
- CSUN alumni played a vital role in several events recently, including presenting at the Student Leadership Conference and serving on the Career Fair Panel.
- 2 of our students are on CSUN Division I varsity teams: Basketball and Track. Additionally, one student is on the cheerleading team.
- Dawn Sign Press selected CSUN student Malihe Ghazanfari of Upper Arlington, Ohio, as the recipient of the DawnSignPress Scholarship Award, which awards $2,000 annually in its commitment to finding and nurturing future leaders of the Deaf-World.
- CSUN has named CSUN student Manako Yabe from Japan as a Presidential Scholar for the 2008-2008 academic year. This includes a $5,000 scholarship and discount at the matador bookstore.
- Kudos to NCOD/PEPNet Director Cathy McLeod who was named Deaf Person of the Year by the city of Los Angeles in recognition of her sterling services and leadership. Cathy is more than halfway through her doctoral studies now.
- Waving Hands go to Gary Sanderson for the NAD recognition and award during the 2008 conference for co-chairing the NAD-RID National Council on Interpreting.
- Our alumni are tops. Past CSUN NCOD President Manny Johnson was honored for his commitment and contributions at the annual CSUN Volunteer Awards banquet. Dr. Bobbie Beth Scoggins was re-elected president of the National Association of the Deaf and Manny was elected regional board member.
Alumni holiday get-togethers are planned for Washington D.C. end of November and in Los Angeles early December. In between 3-D get-togethers, we can visit on Facebook, which includes a CSUN NCOD chapter with nearly 300 on-line members!

The Reseda Women’s Club has launched a $50,000 scholarship endowment and Kailyn Aaronlozano and Brittany Comenga are the first recipients. This story is (or was) featured on the home page of CSUN along with a photo of the awardees and NCOD staff member Aileen Rolon.

Recent graduate Michael Serrato and his family established a $50,000 Endowment program to support student leadership and ambassadorship programs.

For more updates on CSUN NCOD please visit the NCOD website at www.csun.edu/ncod. Be sure to visit the photo gallery there too!

Tis the season to be thinking of all of our blessings and how we can give back to those dear to us – our family, our circle of special friends, and of course the CSUN community! ‘Tis the season to be thinking of how to support quality opportunities for deserving students.

The economy and natural disasters in California seem to have a converse relationship – and the state financial situation is impacting on all of us. Your support is needed more than ever to ensure necessary and vibrant programs and scholarships for our students.

By giving $500, $2,500, or $10,000, you can “own” a leaf, an acorn, or a foundation stone, on our Tree of Honor. The words engraved there will be yours to decide – your name or the family name or the name of the person you wish to honor. Your name will also be listed on the NCOD website as Friends of CSUN NCOD.

Your donation is needed to support much needed programs for our students. CSUN NCOD is funded only for basic services. NCOD needs gifts and endowments to enhance learning experiences, environments and scholarships, and to enrich total student development. Your gift, no matter how much, does help to solidify roots and fortify wins for our students.

On the behalf of our students and the CSUN community, we thank you. We all wish you and yours a very happy, blessed, and inspiring holiday season.

We do want to stay in touch with you, our alumni and family members. Please email roz.rosen@csun.edu or visit us if you are in the Valley!

**eNewsletter Editor Note:**

Greetings everyone! I am pleased to be joining the board as the eNewsletter editor! Please feel free to contact me at any time with news or suggestions for the next newsletter at erika.guarino@comcast.net! The next deadline is January 16, 2009! Happy Holidays! ~Erika Guarino
This is the first eNewsletter coming from the new Executive Board. Please feel free to “meet” the people representing you. Their biographies are listed below and you can also check them out at http://www.csun.edu/ncod/alumni/board.html

President, Daniel J. Girard ’01

Daniel resides in Hayward, California and works as the school counselor at the California School for the Deaf (CSD). Outside of his work life, Daniel is involved with different organizations such as National Association of the Deaf (NAD), California Association of the Deaf (CAD), and NCOD Alumni Chapter. He has a strong interest in promoting leadership and personal growth opportunities with youth such as working at deaf camps during the summer. Daniel graduated with Bachelor of Arts in Psychology in 2001 and continued his education at Gallaudet University and obtained his Masters in School Counseling and Guidance with emphasis in Mental Health in 2005. Daniel is a proud brother and alumni of the Lambda Sigma Pi Fraternity and past President of the Deaf CSUNians (2000-2001). He, as the NCOD Alumni Chapter President, is looking forward to strengthening the NCOD Alumni Chapter and connecting with alumni and current students.

Vice President, Jerry Nelson ’82

Gerald “Jerry” Nelson is Director of Strategic Policy at Purple Communications (formerly GoAmerica). He is responsible for internal and external policy matters, with emphasis on building relationships internally among deaf and hard of hearing employees and externally with Purple customers. Jerry has over 16 years of experience in the telecommunications relay industry. Prior to GoAmerica, he was Senior Manager at Verizon Relay (formerly MCI Relay), overseeing marketing and outreach functions; he was also instrumental in growing and achieving dominant market share in IP relay services. He also served as Vice President of Strategic Solutions at Wynd Communications, which originally led the wireless pager revolution within the deaf market. Prior to entering the corporate world, Jerry was assistant professor at Gallaudet University, owner/president of a management consulting business, and executive director of non-profit organizations in Minnesota and Northern Virginia. His educational background includes a B.S. degree in mechanical engineering from Rochester Institute of Technology, M.A. degree in Education Administration and Supervision from California State University at Northridge (through its Leadership Training Program), mini-MBA certification from St. Thomas College in Minnesota, and several doctorate-level courses at Gallaudet University. Jerry resides in Annapolis, MD with his wife, Nancy Bloch, who is the chief executive officer of the National Association of the Deaf. Originally from Minnesota, he has two sons and three grandchildren who reside there.
**Secretary, Dana Foster Armendariz ’92**

Dana resides in southern California with her husband of 22 years, Rene. They have two children – Kaila, who is currently a sophomore in college and Daniel, a sophomore in high school. Dana recently joined Cognizant, an IT company, as a Senior Associate. Dana is also an active volunteer with Girl Scouts. She is a troop leader for a group of Senior level (high school) girls, and she has been involved in several committees for the local Girl Scout council office. Dana obtained her BA in Deaf Studies with an emphasis in Human Services in June 1992 at CSUN. Dana joined the NCOD Alumni Board last year as a Secretary, and she will be busy continuing her role with Daniel and the new Board members!

**Treasurer, Melanie Nakaji ’94 to’96**

Melanie and her husband, Daniel Nakaji (CSUN graduate ’92) reside in San Diego, CA. Last year, Melanie graduated with a Ph.D. in Human Rehabilitation from the University of Northern Colorado. Now she works at University of California San Diego (UCSD) Cancer Center as the project manager for three different grants related to medical sign language and improving the Deaf community's access to health information. In her spare time, she’s organizing fundraising functions for the “Deaf in Pink” 3-Day Breast Walk, lifts heavy weights, gets her money's worth at the “all you can” eat soup and salad buffet, and spins hard so she can indulge in desserts and pasta!

**eNewsletter Editor, Erika Guarino ’03**

Erika (Leger) Guarino, the eNewsletter editor, is a CSUN ’03 graduate who holds a Bachelor Degree in Liberal Studies with an ASL concentration. While at CSUN, she was heavily involved in Deaf CSUNians, Alpha Sigma Theta, and the 2000 College Bowl. She went on to receive her Master of Deaf Education degree at Boston University in December 2006. Erika married Matthew Guarino who attended CSUN for several years. The two of them are currently residing in Marlborough, Massachusetts while Erika works at her old high school as a teacher of the deaf and also is an instructor in evening adult education programs. In her spare time, she enjoys reading, crafts, watching good movies, and spending time with her family and friends. Erika is looking forward to hearing from the alumni and NCOD staff as she compiles each edition of the eNewsletter!
Past President, James “Manny” Johnson ’04

Manny and his wife, Sheena McFeely, reside in paradise that people call Burbank, CA. He currently has the pleasure of working for CSDVRS, LLC. as a Regional Sales Manager covering Arizona, California, Nevada, and Oregon and serving on the National Association of the Deaf (NAD) Board as a Regional Representative. Sheena and Manny are expecting their first baby in April 2009. As the Past President of NCOD Alumni Chapter, he still holds a special place in his heart for all the CSUN Alumni out there that are not yet connected as he still meets so many new amazing CSUN Alumni out there. Manny is excited about the upcoming reunion that will take place within a couple of years and the many things that this chapter is capable of.

President of NCOD Alumni, Sacramento Chapter, Lisalee Egbert

Lisalee and her husband, Steve Egbert (a fellow CSUN/NCOD alumni '90) live in Northern California with their beautiful children. Lisalee is on-faculty at a college north of the Greater Sacramento Area where she teaches in the Deaf Studies Department. She enjoys collaborating research with diverse disciples and universities whose focus is on the Deaf Community. Lisalee graduated from CSUN with a BS in Liberal Studies '91 and a MA in Special Education: Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing '93. She obtained her Ph.D. from Texas Woman's University in 2005 focusing on Reading, Bilingual Education and Deaf Culture. Lisalee and the other board member are excited about our sub-chapter: Capital Regional CSUN/NCOD Alumni Chapter in the Northern California area!

We are thrilled to be adding to our board! This just in from Daniel Girard, President:

It's always nice to share exciting announcement during the Holidays! I am delighted to announce our Reunion Chairperson for the NCOD Alumni Chapter. The reunion chairperson is Sheena McFeely!!! She has wonderful talent and creativity. She is dedicated and definitely enjoys this kind of thing. Without doubt, she will make the reunion memorable! We look forward to working with her.
Pictures speak a thousand words. Check these pictures out to see what’s been happening at NCOD!

Cathy McLeod (right), Deaf Person of the Year, with Dr. Roz Rosen, Director.

Alumna Sheri Farinha’s (2nd from right) role-playing exercise during the Student Leadership Conference. Alumna Kristin Macaluso served as the students’ advisor to this major event.

NCOD Alumni Chapter President Daniel Girard giving a workshop, “Hands On, Feet On” during the Student Leadership Conference.
Sheena McFeely (3rd from left), owner /planner of *The Soup Events*, and Mara Ladines (4th from left), designer, put on a fashion show showcasing Mara’s lovely work. The models are none other than current CSUN students Adriana Mendoza, Crystal Eusebio, Jenny Choi, Nancy Ngo, Didi, Rachel Tan, Kaitlin Fleming, and Chris Peters. Several alumni including Jessica Sanchez, Manny Johnson, and Jon Reyes were involved in planning the event as well. Many alumni attended this event and enjoyed themselves thoroughly!

The CSUN NCOD DC area alumnum got together recently and here is a picture and article from the gathering with special thanks to Josh Mendelsohn.

Back row: Mark McKay, Josh Mendelsohn, Steve Nover
Middle row: Janelle Duran, Lisa Herberger, Eden Vrieze, Al Sonnenstrahl, Jerry Nelson
Front row: Danielle Goyette, Roz Rosen, Erick Posner
On a chilly Sunday in November, a dozen CSUN / NCOD alumni gathered at a fellow alumnus’s Georgetown rowhouse. At the party, the alumni welcomed Roz Rosen to the District of Columbia and reminisced about their days at CSUN. The constantly sunny Los Angeles weather was mentioned by nearly everyone there (especially since it was freezing outside at the moment), and people also swapped quake memories. Roz and CSUN / NCOD Alumni Association Vice President Jerry Nelson spoke about CSUN and the Alumni Association. Mark McKay, the host, and Josh Mendelsohn, the party organizer, provided a scrumptious spread of hors d’oeuvres, desserts, and drinks.

Several participants—Al Sonnenstrahl, Jerry Nelson, and Steve Nover—graduated from the National Leadership Training Program (NLTP). Three more—Josh Mendelsohn, Lisa Herberger, and Mark McKay—received their bachelor's degrees from CSUN during the 1990's. And four more received their bachelor's degrees during the current decade: Erick Posner, Eden Vrieze, Danielle Goyette, and Janette Duran.

It is with a heavy heart that we inform you of the passing of an alumni, John R. Lopez. A brief summary of his obituary is below along with information for the memorial service. Further information can be found at: http://www.vad.org/Obituaries.html#John R. Lopez

John R. Lopez

John Ramirez Lopez, a member of the 1973 National Leadership Training Program at CSUN and longtime resident of Arlington, Virginia died August 20, 2008 in Columbus, Ohio.

John's life's work was dedicated to social justice and he worked with various Washington, D.C. groups and at the Policy Office during President Clinton's Administration to improve the quality of life for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing and Latino communities. John was also a role model to many young Deaf student leaders. He volunteered his time as a workshop presenter and speaker for the Junior National Association for the Deaf (Jr NAD) at national conferences, and the NAD Youth Leadership Camp in Pengilly, Minnesota. John also was actively involved as the first Chairperson of the National Hispanic Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (now called National Latino Council of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing) when the organization was formed in 1992 in San Antonio.

A Memorial Service will be held at "Ole Jim" Piekoff Alumni House at Gallaudet University on Saturday, December 6, 2008 at 1:30 p.m. "Ole Jim" is located on the campus of Gallaudet University, 800 Florida Avenue, N.E. Washington, DC 20002
Have you had a CSUN/NCOD gathering recently or plan to in the near future? Be sure to take pictures and send them along with captions or an article to the eNewsletter editor, Erika Guarino.

Help us!! Do you know of fellow alumni that do not get these e-newsletters? Let us know so we can include them in future mailings!!! Email us at ncodalumni@gmail.com.

The next eNewsletter will be going out in February. If you have any announcements or pictures or articles, please e-mail them to Erika Guarino no later than January 16, 2009!

Happy Holidays!