When he was a small boy, Robert Espinoza’s family believed his precocious fascination with creatures that slither would lead to something someday. The family was right. It has led the associate biology professor to Argentina many times during the past 13 years, and will again in July when, as a Fulbright scholar, he will embark with his own young family on a yearlong adventure in Salta, a province known for the natural beauty of its stark, windswept grassland and the majestic Andes range.

For Espinoza, the lizards of northern Argentina—in the genera Liolemaus and Phymaturus—are the region’s main attraction. His Fulbright grant, awarded in January through the prestigious organization’s Joint Lecturing and Research Program, will help him pursue the answer to a tantalizing scientific question: How do lizards cope with freezing temperatures?

“We’re trying to understand if they use different strategies in the far north, where they live within the limits of the tropics at fairly low latitudes, versus the south in Patagonia at higher latitudes,” said Espinoza. “The change is happening so fast, I think for any university not to have a program like this is a mistake.”

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New Minor Preps Students for Spanish-Language Media

Southern California has one of the largest Spanish-speaking communities in the nation, and the demand for journalists who understand how to cover it is growing. In an effort to meet that need, Cal State Northridge has officially launched the nation’s only interdisciplinary minor in Spanish-language journalism.

“The minor is designed to prepare our students to work in both English- and Spanish-language media,” said assistant journalism professor José Luis Benavides, director of the program. “The ultimate goal is to improve the coverage of Latino, Spanish-speaking communities.”

Launched in fall 2006, the program explores Latino-oriented media, Spanish-language communities in the Los Angeles area and the way in which the media have historically covered those communities. It also includes courses in the Department of Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures, the Chicano/a Studies Department and the Central American Studies Program. The Scripps Howard Foundation provided a $25,000 grant to support the program’s growth, and in summer 2006 awarded paid internships to two students—one in print and the other in broadcast journalism.

Twenty students already have signed up for the minor and about 40 more are taking courses in the program. “Employers from English- and Spanish-language media are dying to hire people who are bilingual and appreciative of another culture,” Benavides said. “Bilingual competency may vary, but the fact that these young journalists are comfortable in more than one culture and understand the Spanish-language community makes them a hot commodity.”

Journalists with the kind of training offered by the CSUN minor are in great demand, agreed Irantzu Pujadas, a researcher and assistant producer with KCET’s acclaimed educational series, “Los Niños En Su Casa.” Pujadas earned a spring 2006 bachelor’s degree in journalism after taking many of the program’s classes prior to its formal approval as a minor.

Orange County Register reporter Salvador Hernandez, a 2005 journalism graduate, also took Spanish-language media classes during the program’s developmental phase.

“The reality is that the demographics of this country are changing, and the media is desperately trying to change to keep up with them and trying to reach or create new markets,” he said. “The change is happening so fast, I think for any university not to have a program like this is a mistake.”

Biologist Wins Fulbright Grant for Research in Argentina

From Salta to Patagonia, Robert Espinoza Will Study Lizards’ Survival Tactics in Frigid Climates

Biologist Robert Espinoza, in his lab with one of the scaly creatures whose behaviors have fascinated him since childhood, has won a Fulbright grant to study lizards in Argentina.
Gormans Donate Nearly $100,000 for Athletics Scholarship

Sports Devotees Jim and Mary Gorman Establish Annual Award for High Achieving Athletes

Longtime Cal State Northridge sports enthusiasts Jim and Mary Gorman have donated $98,000 to the university to support a scholarship for outstanding student athletes. The gift brings their total contributions to the Jim and Mary Gorman Athletic Scholarship Endowment to $210,000.

“Jim and Mary’s commitment to Cal State Northridge athletics has been exemplary,” said CSUN Athletics Director Rick Mazzuto. “They are true friends of the university and its students.”

A Jim and Mary Gorman Athletic Scholarship will be awarded annually to a student athlete with a grade point average of 3.2 or higher during the prior two semesters. A preference will be given to members of the university’s tennis team, which the Gormans hold especially dear.

The first scholarship is scheduled to be awarded later this year. It was Matador volleyball that first brought the Gormans into the Northridge community, in the 1990s. The university’s athletics program had just entered NCAA Division I and the Gormans were curious about the teams.

“We fell in love, and have been following the teams ever since,” said Jim Gorman, a retired engineer with Hughes Aircraft. The Gormans started with volleyball, but their interest in Matador sports spread to tennis a couple of years later, when Jim retired and took up the sport himself. Eventually, their passion for Matador sports encompassed all the teams.

Their commitment to CSUN athletics led Jim Gorman to take on a formal leadership position as president of the Matador Athletic Association. On his own initiative, Gorman created the first Matador fan e-mail listserve to promote attendance at games, and Mary Gorman was instrumental in creating informal recycling awareness efforts at Matador athletic events.

Though the Gormans did not attend CSUN, both are members of the Alumni Association. Jim Gorman even serves on the association’s board. The Gormans were recognized for their support of the university’s sports programs at the Alumni Association’s annual Volunteer Service Awards luncheon in fall 2000.

“Cal State Northridge is the university of the San Fernando Valley,” Jim Gorman said. “We live in the San Fernando Valley and we believe in and support the university.”

Northridge tennis coach Gary Victor said he was moved by the Gormans’ generosity. Under the aegis of the Center for Community-Service Learning, for example, Northridge students apply what they learn in the classroom to real-world situations at local schools, nonprofits and governmental agencies.

Jim and Mary Gorman

Personal Social Responsibility to Come with CSUN Degree

Northridge Joins National Higher Ed Effort to Instill ‘Core Commitments’ in U.S. Students

What should a student take away from four years of a university experience besides a wealth of new ideas and knowledge? Cal State Northridge and 17 other higher education institutions nationwide believe a sense of personal and social responsibility is high on the list. Joining in a national initiative called “Core Commitments: Educating Students for Personal and Social Responsibility,” a two-year project of the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U), CSUN is part of an effort to educate students about personal and social accountability—both in and out of the classroom.

“We are delighted that the AAC&U saw fit to select CSUN as one of the CORE Commitment campuses,” said College of Humanities Dean Elizabeth Say, a coordinator of the university’s effort. “The goals of the program reflect the values already held at Northridge.”

The Core Commitments program incorporates such subjects as the dangers of cheating and plagiarism, binge drinking and the use of drugs, as well as broader issues that speak to a student’s evolution as a responsible contributor to society.

Plans are to design, implement and assess new curricular components for two courses already required of all CSUN freshmen, and to create a new certificate of achievement program that will motivate students to take at least 15 units of service-learning courses or approved community-service projects during their undergraduate years.

A team of senior administrators from academic and student affairs, faculty and an experienced academic advisor will form an advisory committee that will guide the Core Commitments project.

As a member of the initial Core Commitments Leadership Consortium, Northridge will receive a $25,000 grant from the AAC&U. CSUN has pledged to spend an additional $25,000 to ensure that the program effectively reaches its students.

Association officials said Northridge and the other participating institutions were chosen in part because of their work with their faculty, staff and students. Also that it will form an advisory committee that will guide the Core Commitments project.

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Robert Espinoza

continued from page 1

the northern provinces, some of these lizards occur at very high elevations, close to 5,000 meters, or 16,400 feet.” At those elevations, the hardy little lizards brave freezing temperatures on almost a daily basis, regardless of the season. Argentina’s southern regions, on the other hand, are nearly equivalent to the more moderate elevations and weather of New York City. “There you’ve got a long, deep winter—with freezing temperatures stretched over six months or longer—and a relatively short summer during which it’s fairly warm but quite windy, which can be cool for a small lizard,” he said.

Espinoza will try to determine if lizards that are closely related but that inhabit different regions use the same survival strategies. Do they employ freeze avoidance, going deep underground to escape the cold? Or supercooling, producing a kind of sugary antifreeze that bathes their tissues, allowing their body temperatures to drop a few degrees below the freezing point? Or do they use freeze tolerance, actually freezing solid and coming back to life? A botanist colleague of Espinoza’s, working at an elevation of about 4,800 meters, once witnessed that strategy in operation.

“At first, I wasn’t fascinated with lizards. ‘I think it was just sort of a genetic mutation,’” he said. Espinoza’s work is part of the Fulbright program. Espinoza’s, working at an elevation of rock hard corpses, brought them back to camp and placed them in a bucket overnight. Next morning when the sun hit the bucket, out popped two live, frisky lizards. “So we know at least some of them use freeze tolerance,” said Espinoza.

What he learns about his cold-blooded subjects will turn up in scientific articles Espinoza will publish when he returns to CSUN in July 2008. His Fulbright grant will cover three months of his working sojourn; his CSUN sabbatical will take him through the rest of the year. While in Argentina, he will work closely with principal colleague Fernando Lobo, professor of comparative anatomy at the Universidad Nacional de Salta, where the two will co-teach graduate courses or a herpetology class as part of the Fulbright program.

“His expertise is in comparative anatomy and morphology and mine is in physiology and ecology, so they complement each other well,” said Espinoza. Together with biology professor Félix Cruz of the Universidad Nacional del Comahue, the two will do field research in Salta’s Puna, a high-elevation, flat, open grassland dominated by a golden brown bunch grass called festuca, grazing cattle, goats, sheep and llamas. They also will work in the northwestern province of Catamarca and in Río Negro to the south, in the region known as Patagonia.

Espinoza’s wife, biologist Cindy Hitchcock, their infant daughter and three-year-old son will arrive in the 800,000-resident colonial city of Salta with little more than their clothing and a few toys for the children.

“We’ll have to start from scratch,” said the scientist, who did just that as a child, building his collection of lizards, snakes, rats, frogs and mice until their cages lined his room. “I begged my parents to take me anywhere, anytime, to go collect them.”

Espinoza’s mother and sister were chosen in part because of the work their faculty, staff and students already do that mirrors the initiative’s goals. Under the aegis of the Center for Community-Service Learning, for example, Northridge students apply what they learn in the classroom to real-world situations at local schools, nonprofits and governmental agencies.
For Your Information publishes announcements of events, public meetings, notices, classes and deadlines. Submission deadline is noon on Monday, one week before the next issue.

The deadline for the February 26 issue is Monday, February 19. We strongly encourage you to submit all items submitted by deadline occurring until the next issue. Submit future items by e-mailing them to pubinfo@csun.edu, sending them to drop 8242 or faxing them to (818) 677-4909. E-mail is the preferred method of submitting. Note: fmi—means for more information.

Events
Tuesday, February 13
Matador Dollar Day
Students, faculty and staff are invited to Matador Dollar Day, a financial awareness information fair, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Lamerson Hall Courtyard. Sponsors: Financial Aid and Scholarships Department, Student Outreach and EDUFUND. fmi—Gregorio Alcantar, x4148.

Tuesday, February 13
Puter, Redwood Hall Reading
Yale Reading center director Kenneth Pugh will discuss “Successful and Struggling Readers: What’s Different About What Their Brains Are Doing and What Can Our Teaching Do?” from 4–6 p.m., Oviatt Library, Presentation Room. Sponsors: The Distinguished Speaker Program, the Center for Teaching and Learning, Teachers for a New Era, the Special Education and Elementary Education Departments, and the Liberal Studies Program. fmi—Hedy Carpenter, x2138.

Wednesday, February 14
Daily News Columnist Talk
The Friends of the Oviatt Library host a buffet luncheon with a presentation by Los Angeles Daily News columnist Dennis McCarthy at 11:30 a.m., University Club, Northridge Room. Admission $10, reservations and checks (made out to “CSUN Foundation”) to Cindy Ventuleth, CSUN Oviatt Library, 18111 Nordhoff Street, Northridge, CA 91302. fmi—x2638.

Thursday, February 22
Jewish Studies Lecture
CSU San Marcos associate history professor and author Alyssa Sepprinwill will discuss “Towards Assimilation: The French Revolution, Modernity and the Jews” at 11 a.m., Sierra Hall 102. fmi—Jewish Studies Program, x3007.

Thursday, February 22
Sitting Volleyball Demo Night
The Kinesiology Department hosts a “Demonstration Night” by the world-ranked USA National Women’s Sitting Volleyball Team at 7 p.m., Activity Center. The event is free and open to the public. fmi—x3205.

Friday, February 23
Power Plant Dedication
President Jolene Koester will lead the dedication of a megawatt fuel cell power plant at the university worldwide—at 9 a.m. in the USU (Grand Salon, near the plant. A ribbon-cutting will follow. fmi—Theresa Hadden, x5473.

Friday, February 23
Memorial for John Guarerra
The university will celebrate the life of pioneering engineering professor John Guarerra at a memorial service from 2:30–4 p.m., Johnson Auditorium, Jacaranda Hall. Donations may be made to the John and Jo Guarerra Endowment in Engineering, in the College of Engineering and Computer Science. Checks should be made payable to CSUN Foundation, with a notation referring to the endowment, and sent in care of Tammy Glenn, Director of Development, College of Engineering and Computer Science: Cal State Northridge, 18111 Nordhoff St., Northridge, CA 91330-8295.

Saturday, February 24
Alumni Fan Day
Alumni, faculty, staff and community are invited to join in when the men’s basketball team hosts the University of the Pacific. Pre-game barbecue starts at noon. Tip-off: 2:05 p.m. Alumni ticket price for game, parking and barbecue: $10; Alumni Association members, $5; non-members. Tickets at www.csunathletics.com, call x2138 or e-mail cbyers@mcmillan@csun.edu.

Sunday, February 25
“Encounter Point” Screening
“Encounter Point,” an award-winning documentary about a Palestinian-Israeli forum for bereaved families, will screen at 10:30 a.m., Lassen Fellbrook Theater, 6731 Fellbrook Ave., West Hills. Sponsors: CSUN Jewish Studies, Valley Beth Shalom, Aフト Ari El, Shomei Torah Synagogue, Temple Judea and Temple Aliyah. Limited seating. Admission free. RSVP at x7241 or e-mail jews@csun.edu.

Saturday, March 3
China Institute Banquet
The China Institute will host the annual “Chinese New Year’s Banquet” in the Grand Salon, USU, at 6 p.m. Return membership and banquet reservation forms to Justine Su, Office Hall, Rm. 265, before Feb. 20. fmi—Justine Su, x2138.

Public Meetings
Educational Resources Committee
Meets 2–4 p.m. Tue., Feb. 13 University Hall 211

Personnel Planning and Review Committee
Meets 1:15–5 p.m. Wed., Feb. 14
University Hall 277

Faculty Senate
Meets 2–5:30 p.m. Thu., Feb. 15 Oviatt Library, Presentation Room 81

USU Board
Meets 1 p.m. Mon., Feb. 19
USU Grand Salon

Educational Policies Committee
Meets 2–4 p.m. Wed., Feb. 21
University Hall 211

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Senate Executive Committee
Meets 11:30 a.m. Thu., Feb. 22
University Hall 277

Faculty Research Awards
The 2007–08 Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity Awards provide faculty with up to $5,000 to pursue scholarly and creative interests. Faculty may apply for three units of released time and/or project funds. Applications, at www.csun.edu/research, are due by 5 p.m. Mon., Feb. 26. fmi—x2901.

Student Employee of Year
Campus units may nominate one work/study student each for the Student Employee of the Year Award to be presented April 13. Nomination forms, at www.csun.edu/fndaid/pdf/ ws-nomination.pdf, are due Feb. 15. fmi—x4148.

Spring 2007 Faculty Senate Elections
Any interested faculty member not yet nominated for Faculty Senate office may submit to the Faculty Senate Office a petition with 15 faculty signatures, by 5 p.m. Mon., March 5. Available posts: vice president (one-year term), secretary/treasurer (one-year term), CSU statewide academic senator (three-year term, one position) and senators-at-large (two-year term, six positions). fmi—Heidi Wohlfubar, x3263.

Catastrophic Leave Donations
Melina Riching (University Collections), out on medical leave of absence, has exhausted her leave credits and is requesting catastrophic leave donations on her behalf. To make voluntary donations of sick leave and/or vacation leave, forward completed catastrophic leave donation forms to Payroll Administration at mail drop 8228. Donation forms are available at www-admn.csun.edu/bre/forms/benefitsforms.html.

Chancellor’s Doctoral Incentive Program
Applicants are sought for the 2007–08 Chancellor’s Doctoral Incentive Program, aimed at increasing the number of doctoral students in future CSU instructional faculty positions. Those selected may borrow from $10,000 annually to a limit of $30,000 during a five-year period. Loans are “forgiven” for full-time CSU instructional faculty at the rate of 20 percent per year of service. Deadline: March 8. Applications at www.calstate.edu/ H11623. fmi—Hedy Carpenter, x2138 or hedy.carpen ter@csun.edu.

California Pre-Doctoral Program
The 2007–2008 California Pre-Doctoral Program increases the pool of potential faculty by supporting the doctoral aspirations of high achieving CSU junior, senior and first year graduate students—U.S. citizens or permanent residents with faculty sponsor—who have experienced economic and educational disadvantages. The program funds research, travel and other academic activities. Applications, at www.calstate.edu/prep/office, are due in the Office of Graduate Studies, University Hall, suite 205 by 5 p.m., March 28. Notification by June 2007. fmi—Hedy Carpenter, x2138.

A Matter of Balance Project
The Physical Therapy Department is seeking adults (65 years and older) with balance difficulties, for a study on the effects of physical therapist intervention on balance. Participants will receive free balance testing and fall risk analysis, a physical therapist evaluation and may be randomly selected to participate in a free community-based group balance or Tai Chi class beginning the first week in March. Criteria: impaired balance, physical clearance, no fracture within the past year and a physical therapist screen. fmi—Janna Beling, x7445 or janna.beling@csun.edu.

Professional Development Staff Training
Professional Development Programs provides free training workshops for CSU staff members in the Oviatt Library, room 211, by the day preceding the workshop by visiting www-admn.csun.edu/bres/training/index.html and completing the online registration form for each workshop. fmi—Janette Munoz, x8260.

Workshops:
- “University Orientation” Wed., Feb. 14, 8:30 a.m. to noon
- “Problem Solved!” Janice Eveland, presenter. Tue., Feb. 20, 9–11:30 a.m.
- “CalPERS Pension Overview” Wed., Feb. 21, 9–11:30 a.m. and 1–3:30 p.m.
- “Managing Stress in the Workplace” Craig Finney (Leisure Studies and Recreation); presenter. Thu., Feb. 22, noon-1:30 p.m.

Deadline
Fee Waiver and Reduction
The CSU Fee Waiver and Reduction Program deadline is Feb. 15, 2007. Check on http://www-admn.csun.edu/bres/benefits/FEEWAIVER/index.html and completing the online application forms. Fall 2007, spring and summer 2008 also are available at that Web site fmi—Sue Talavera, x2173.

Human Subjects Research
Faculty and students performing research with human subjects must complete Human Subject Protocol Approval forms. Original forms and nine copies must be submitted to the Standsley Advisory Committee for Protection of Human Subjects. Next deadline date: Feb. 13, for the Feb. 27 meeting. Download protocol submission forms at www.csun.edu/research/03_Research/06_HumanSubjectsResearch.html.
In Brief

Images Tell Stories for Black History Month
Photographs play a key role in two Cal State Northridge Black History Month commemorative events.

CSUN’s Cinematheque screening program will present “A Great Day in Harlem,” a documentary providing the back story of the iconic jazz artists photograph shot in 1958 by Esquire magazine by photographer Art Kane.

The film gives colorful details about the musical geniuses assembled for the famous photo session at Lenox Avenue and 125th Street, from trumpeter Dizzy Gillespie to the brilliant composer/pianist Thelonious Monk.

Following the documentary’s 7 p.m. screening on February 21 in the Usher Theater, KCSN 88.5-FM general manager Fred Johnson, Journalism Department chair Kent Kirkton and CSUJazz historians will lead a Q & A session.

An Oviatt Library exhibition, on display through March 2 in the main lobby, presents a look at the civil rights movement as seen through the camera lens of photographer John A. Kouns. Included are images from the 16th Street Baptist Church bombing and the Washington, D.C., march whose climax was Martin Luther King, Jr.’s “I Have a Dream” speech.

Among a range of items showcased in the exhibition are the literary works of CSUJazz student contributors to Koko-Sens: The Pan-African Studies Literary Review, assembled in tribute to the publication’s 20th edition.

Call (818) 677-3192 for Cinematheque information and (818) 677-2285 for library exhibit information.

CSUN, Architects Honored for Sol Center Design
Cal State Northridge has won the Best Client Award of the American Institute of Architects (AIA), San Fernando Valley chapter, for its work with the team of architects who helped design the university’s new student union, the Sol Center.

The center also won a Design Award from the institute.

The Best Client Award was created to recognize the positive impact a good architectural design can have on a community. Russell Myers, 2007 president elect of the institute’s chapter, said the Sol Center project represents the best example of “respect for the welfare of the community by providing an outstanding model of the AIA motto, ‘Good design makes a difference.’

‘Buildings with which the public interacts—even if only visually—benefit the built environment as well as the fabric of social interaction that makes each community special,'" Myers said in his letter of notification to the architectural firm of Harley Ellis Devereaux, which designed the center.

“This is a tremendous honor,” said Debra Hammond, University Student Union executive director. The Sol Center and the adjacent Plaza del Sol are “wonderful additions to the campus community,” she added.

Conservation, sustainability and affordability were important factors considered by the university and the team of architects as the facility was designed. A liberal use of green-tinted glass, for example, maximizes the effect of natural light while minimizing heat load. A chiller plant provides chilled and hot water, pumped through a series of pipes and over a fan coil to blow cold or warm air into each room. Bathrooms feature waterless urinals, hands-free faucets and paperless hand dryers.

Art and Exhibits

For gallery info, call (818) 677-2156. Main gallery hours: Mon. through Sat., 12-4 p.m. and Thursdays noon–8 p.m. Admission is free unless specified. For library exhibits, call (818) 677-2285.

For ticket information, call (818) 677-2488 or visit www.csun.edu/tickets. Admission is $20–$55.

Black History Exhibit
Civil rights movement photos, students literary works and more. Runs through March 2. Oviatt Library, main lobby.

Cinematheque
Screenings are free and take place in the Alan and Elaine Armer Theater on the first floor of Manzanita Hall at the southwest corner of campus. For more info, call (818) 677-3192 or visit www.cinematheque.csun.edu/html/events.html.

Music Recital Hall

Athletics

Music

Admission to all music events (unless otherwise specified): $10 general, $7 faculty, staff and seniors, $5 students.

Asian Pianists

Recital

Guest Artist Recital
Tantalus Guitar Quartet.
Sat., Feb. 17, 8 p.m.
Music Recital Hall

Music Recital Hall

Lafayette String Quartet
Hayen, Shostakovich, Grieg.
Mon., Feb. 19, 8 p.m.
Plaza del Sol Performance Hall
(formerly Performing Arts Center)
$5–$30

Pianist Ji Kang Jung
In celebration of Robert Schumann.
Tue., Feb. 27, 8 p.m.
Music Recital Hall

Theater Performance

Radio Days
Minnies-based Five by Design presents an affectionate tribute to the men and women who served during WWII.
Salutes the radio programming era.
Sat., Feb. 24, 8 p.m.
Sun., Feb. 25, 2 p.m.
Plaza del Sol Performance Hall
(formerly Performing Arts Center)
$20–$55

Cinema

Went the Day Well?
Genre: war film.
Directed by Alberto Cavalcanti.
Mon., Feb. 12, 7 p.m.

Stalag 17
Genre: war film.
Directed by Billy Wilder.
Wed., Feb. 14, 7 p.m.

Attack
Genre: war film.
Directed by Robert Aldrich.
Thu., Feb. 15, 7 p.m.

Men in War
Genre: war film.
Directed by Anthony Mann.
Mon., Feb. 19, 7 p.m.

A Great Day in Harlem
Genre: music documentary.
In person guests: Fred Johnson (KCSN), Kent Kirkton (Journalism) and Music Dept. jazz historians.
Wed., Feb. 21, 7 p.m.

In Brief

The A.S. Ticket Office in the University Student Union sells tickets to many events on campus, except for some held by outside groups. The Ticket Office is open from 10 a.m. –6 p.m. Mon.–Fri. For prices not given, call (818) 677-2488. To park on campus for performances, athletic events, lectures and other activities, guests must purchase a $4 parking permit.

The centeralsowon a Design Award from the institute.

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