Global Event Links Technology, Persons with Disabilities

Thousands of people will gather near Los Angeles International Airport in mid-March for Cal State Northridge’s International Conference on Technology and Persons with Disabilities. The annual conference is designed to give persons with disabilities the tools—technological and otherwise—to eliminate barriers to personal, academic and career success.

“This isn’t a conference about gadgets, though the latest in assistive technology will be on display,” said Mary Ann Cummins-Prager, director of CSUN’s Center on Disabilities, which coordinates the event. “This is really a conference about networking and empowerment.”

Conferences from around the world are expected at the March 19–24 conference in the Los Angeles International Airport area. More than 4,800 people attended last year, as did more than 170 exhibitors displaying the latest in assistive technology. The same number of exhibitors is expected this year.

For many people with disabilities, their families, teachers and other advocates, the conference presents a rare opportunity to share vital information, said Cummins-Prager. It explores strategies for dealing effectively with school officials to get needed assistance, working with government bureaucrats and business owners, finding legal or other ways to rectify inequities and discovering how assistive technology can make people’s lives easier.

More than 250 workshops are scheduled on topics ranging from networking and empowerment to rectifying inequities and discovering how assistive technology can make people’s lives easier.

Oviatt’s ‘Celebrating Comic Books’ is Vintage Americana

Light Side, Dark Side: Exhibits Traces Comics’ Controversial American Journey

Armed by a rise in juvenile delinquency during the early 1950s, Congress held a series of high-profile hearings to expose the culprit. In testimony, community leaders rose to accuse an American icon: the comic book.

The evolution of the comic book is examined in the Oviatt Library’s new exhibition, opening Monday, Feb. 26 in the library’s C.K. and Teresa Tseng Gallery. Beginning with the comic strips of the 1930s, it presents the art form through the emergence of the graphic novel at the end of the 20th Century.

Opening festivities for “Celebrating Comic Books—An American Tradition” are set for noon Tuesday, March 6, in the Oviatt Library Presentation Room.

Sponsored by the Friends of the Oviatt Library, the event’s featured speaker will be assistant English professor Charles Hatfield, a specialist in comic art who has published widely on the theory and criticism of comics as a literary form.

Exhibition curator Tony Gardner said DC Comics superheroes, early comics from the Sunday funny pages and Disney comics are generously represented in “Celebrating Comic Books.”

The show draws on materials from the library’s collections of illustrator Chase Craig, collector David S. Somerville and the personal correspondence of illustrator Carl Barks. Comic books from Eastern Color Printing Co., Dell Comics, Gold Key Comics, Marvel Comics Group and DC Comics are on display.

Gardner said a period of self-censorship followed the 1950s Congressional hearings, at which the publisher of EC Comics—known for horror and crime comics—was called to testify. “The negative publicity surrounding the hearings pretty much led to the end of EC Comics, which couldn’t meet the standards of the 1954 Comics Code Authority.”

Hoping to avoid further government intrusion, he added, the comic book industry set up its own code for self-censorship. “If you look at a comic book issued after 1954, you will see a little white label, the insignia of the Comics Code Authority,” he said, noting that subsequent revisions loosened up some restrictions on comic book publishers.

The differences between comic books and the “more complex... psychologically deeper” graphic novels also are explored. Generally, comic books had four-eight-page stories, Gardner said. “It wasn’t until the 1970s and Stan Lee and some of the Marvel comics that comic book stories started to have more pages, more complex stories and themes.”

Exhibition hours are Monday through Thursday, 7-45 a.m. to 11 p.m.; Friday, 7-45 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sunday, 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. For information, call (818) 677-2285. For opening festivities information, call (818) 677-2638.
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 March 12 issue is Monday, March 5. We strive to include all items submitted by deadline occurring until the next issue. Submit future items by e-mailing them to pubinfo@csun.edu, sending them to mail drop 8242 or faxing them to (818) 677-4909. E-mail is the preferred method of submission. Note: fmi–means for more information.

Saturday, March 10

‘CSUN-al Gardening’ Series

The CSUN Botanic Garden’s popular “CSUN-al Gardening” series offers a free course on tomato planting and selection strategies for San Fernando Valley gardens. Scott Daigre, owner of Powerplant Garden Design and Tomatomania!, will speak at two sessions: 9–10:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Registration is required by e-mail at botanicgarden@csun.edu or x3494. fmi–www.csun.edu/botanicgarden/

Monday, March 12

Disaster Readiness, CERT Awareness Expo

The campus Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Council hosts a Disaster Readiness & CERT Awareness Expo in the Oviatt Library Presentation Room. Disaster preparedness vendors will have supplies available from 10:30–11:45 a.m. CSUN Chief of Police Anne Glavin, John Biewar of L.A. City Councilman Greg Smith’s office, CSUN Emergency Management Coordinator Kit Espinosa, Capt. Stacy Gerlich of the Los Angeles Fire Dept. and Anna Burton, City of Los Angeles’ Emergency Preparedness Dept., will speak from noon to 1:30 p.m. fmi–x5975.

Wednesday, March 14

Provost’s Colloquium Series

The annual Provost’s Colloquium celebrating faculty achievement presents Suzanne Schield, the 2006–07 Jerome Richfield Memorial Scholar, who will speak at 4 p.m. on “Youth Consumism and the City: Dakar, Senegal, from 1950 to the Present,” in the Whitsett Room (Sierra Hall #41). The assistant anthropology professor is co-author of “Rethinking Urban Parks: Public Space and Cultural Diversity.” A reception will follow. RSVP at x2138 by Thu., March 1.

Wednesday, March 14 and Friday, March 16

Religion and Violence Forum

The Center for Ethics and Values presents discussions on religion and violence at 3 p.m., Oviatt Library, Presentation Room. Co-sponsors: Philosophy and Religious Studies Departments, Oviatt Library, Global Village Forum. Free. fmi–x854 or james.kellenberger@csun.edu.

Wed., March 14

Judaism and Christianity

Aryeh Cohen, University of Judaism, and Jon Myers, CSUN Jewish Studies, will present “Judaism, Christianity, & the Concept of God” in Eucalyptus Hall, room 205, 6:30 p.m.

Wed., March 16

Islam and Buddhism

Amir Hassian, Loyola Marymount University, Mehran Kamrava, CSUN Political Science Dept., Kenneth Lee, CSUN Religious Studies, James Fredericks, Loyola Marymount University.

Events

Thursday, March 1

Holocaust Education Lecture

Jewish Studies presents Michael Berenbaum, who will discuss “Holocaust Survivors as Moral Teachers” at 4:20 p.m. in Sierra Hall 279. Berenbaum, director of the Sigi Ziering Center for the Study of the Holocaust and Ethics at the University of Judaism, will draw from extensive experience shaping U.S. memorials and museums. RSVP or fmi–x4724 or jewish.studies@csun.edu.

Monday, March 5 and Wednesday, March 7

Business College Forums

Candidates for dean of the College of Business and Economics will be available for questionnaires, interviews and meetings in the college’s main campus forum in Juniper Hall #117 (formerly Business and Economics Building). fmi–x3312.

Forum schedule:

□ Gregory Ullerts, College of Business Administration professor, University of Detroit Mercy

Mon., March 5

Business college faculty/staff, 3–3:50 p.m.

Open forum, 4–5:40 p.m.

□ Robert van der Hooning, ast. dean of professional and executive education, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Wed., March 7

Business college faculty/staff, 3–3:50 p.m.

Open forum, 4–5:40 p.m.

Tuesday, March 6

Armenia & Karabagh Travelogue

The Armenian Studies Program is sponsoring a travelogue and slide show by Matthew Karanian and Robert Kurkjian, co-authors of “Armenia & Karabagh: The Stone Garden Travel Book,” at 7:30 p.m., Sierra Hall, room 451. Discussion, Q. & A. and book signing will follow. fmi–Vahram Shemmassian, x4546 or vahram.shemmassian@csun.edu.

Wednesday, March 7

Majors Fair 2007

Majors Fair 2007 will take place in the USU Grand Salon from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Representatives from all academic departments, programs, and options will provide undergraduates with information on majors, minors, campus resources and career planning. The Advising Resource Center/EOC co-hosts the event with Undergraduate Studies, the CSUN Office of Admission tours the California Career Development Association, the Career Center, CSUN colleges and Associated Students. fmi–x2108 or spencer.carraza@csun.edu.

Public Meetings

Personnel Planning and Review Committee

Meets 1:45–5 p.m. Wed., Feb. 28 University Hall 277

Foundation Board

Meets 6 p.m. Wed., Feb. 28

Judy Landy, x4197

Senate Executive Committee

Meets 1–4:30 p.m. Thu., March 1

University Hall 277

Academic Technology Committee

Meets 2–4 p.m. Fri., March 2

University Hall 211

North Campus-University Park Development Corporation

Meets 9 a.m. Tue., March 6

University Hall 250

Educational Policies Committee

Meets 2–4 p.m. Wed., March 7

University Hall 211

Educational Equity Committee

Meets 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Mon., March 12

University Hall 211

Educational Resources Committee

Meets 2–4 p.m. Tue., March 13

University Hall 211

Notices

New Department Chair

Harold Smith has been appointed chair of the Child and Adolescent Development Department for a three-year term effective Jan. 25 and expiring at the end of the 2009–2010 academic year.

JADE Presentations

JADE (Joint Advocates on Disordered Eating) lists its spring 2007 roster of presentations: “General Information on Eating Disorders,” “How to Help a Friend,” “Media’s Influence on Body Image,” “College Students and Eating Disorders.” To schedule a presentation, contact JADE at jade@csun.edu or x7500.

Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity

Research and Grants Committee announces the 2007–08 competition for Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity Awards. Faculty members may receive up to $5,000 to pursue scholarly and creative interests. They may apply for three units of released time and/or funds for project expenses. Application submission deadline: 5 p.m. Mon., Feb. 26. Download guidelines and applications at www.csun.edu/research/fmi–x2901.

Spring 2007 Faculty Senate Elections

Faculty members interested in Faculty Senate Office but not yet nominated may submit a petition with 15 faculty signatures by 5 p.m. Mon., March 5, to the Faculty Senate Office. Open for election: vice president (one-year term), second vice president and secretary (one-year term, one position) and senators-at-large (two-year terms, six positions) fmi–Hedi Weißbauer, x3903

Cancer and Developmental Biology Research Awards

Students interested in conducting cancer and developmental biology laboratory research for summer and fall 2007 should contact biology professor Steven Oppenheimer in Eucalyptus Hall, room 205. fmi–steven.oppenheimer@csun.edu.

2007 Graduate Student Awards

The Office of Graduate Studies is accepting nominations for the 2007 Graduate Student Awards: the Association of Retired Faculty Memorial Awards, three awards, $1,000 each; and the Nathan O. Freedman Memorial Award (formerly the President’s Associates Outstanding Graduate Student Award), one award, $1,000. Submission deadline: March 29. Criteria for selection and nomination forms at www.csun.edu/graduatestudies/fmi–Hedy Carpenter, x2138.

Recognition of Excellence Awards

Nominations are open for CSUN’s Presidential Award, Award of Merit and Team Excellence Awards for outstanding support of the university’s students and winners. Will be honored at the June 5 Staff Service and Excellence Recognition event. Visit www.admns.csun.edu/cobsr/ for criteria. Submit nominations by May 9 to Professional Development Programs, Human Resources, mail drop R229 or University Hall, room 165. fmi–x3820.

Pre-Doctoral Program

The 2007–08 California Pre-Doctoral Program supports the doctoral aspirations of high achieving but economically or educationally disadvantaged CSU junior, senior and first year grad students, providing funding for travel and research. Applications, at www.calstate.edu/psd/ are due by 5 p.m. March 28 in the Office of Graduate Studies, University Hall 265. fmi–Hedy Carpenter, x2138.

www.csun.edu/pubsrel/Refcsun
Fitzgerald Serves Academic Affairs, ITR in ‘Dual’ Position
Focus on Faculty's Tech Needs Geared to CSUN's Growth as Learning-Centered Campus

As Cal State Northridge's new director of academic technology, associate computer science professor Steven Fitzgerald will provide leadership and management for CSUN's academic technology initiatives, and will serve as the senior technology liaison between Academic Affairs and Information Technology Resources (ITR). Fitzgerald's new duties began Feb. 12.

In a January announcement to the campus community, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Harry Hellembrand and Chief Information Officer Hilary Baker welcomed Fitzgerald to his new role, a “dual appointment” between the two divisions. Fitzgerald had served for about six years as the campus’ chief technology officer, following a term as Northridge’s first information security officer.

“IT will be good to have coordination between Information Technology Resources and Academic Affairs,” said Provost Hellenbrand. “There is such an abundance of technological issues that require consultation between the two divisions that it will benefit the entire university to have someone with a foot in each.”

Fitzgerald's new role, said Chief Information Officer Baker, will “allow him to focus his skills on the leadership and management of CSUN academic technology initiatives necessary to support a learning-centered environment.”

The challenges and the possibilities of his new job appeal to Fitzgerald. “Within this role,” he said, “I can place a higher focus on meeting the technical needs of faculty as we grow as a learning-centered university than I could in my previous role.

“Activities that improve and enhance our learning management system and that support faculty in their development of hybrid courses and in their pursuit of curriculum redesign are very appealing, and of great interest to me,” he added.

He listed as priorities an assessment of the campus’ Learning Management Services, support activities related to the Accessible Technology Initiative within Academic Affairs, and working with faculty on the effective use of technology to support research and curriculum redevelopment.

Fitzgerald joined the Northridge faculty in 1994 as an assistant professor in computer science, after earning his doctorate in computer science from the University of Massachusetts, Lowell.

The operational and technical responsibilities of the chief technology officer position vacated by Fitzgerald are being reassigned to other directors in the ITR division.

Disabilities Conference…

continued from page 1

workplace and classroom concerns to increasing Internet access. A new track at this year’s conference will focus on aging and helping baby boomers re-think the way they use technology as they get older.

“Baby boomers in particular may find it hard to acknowledge that as they get older, no matter how hard they try to ignore the fact, their bodies are not going to respond the way they want them to,” said Cummins-Prager. “Many of them are going to have to deal with age-related disabilities.”

The conference’s keynote speaker is attorney John Kemp, a nationally recognized advocate for the disabled. During more than 30 years of experience in the disability movement, Kemp has partnered, worked for or served on the boards of many leading disability organizations, among them the United Cerebral Palsy Association, Disability Service Providers of America, Goodwill Industries and the U.S. International Council on Disabilities.

Goodwill Industries and the U.S. International Council on Disabilities, Kemp has partnered, worked for or served on the boards of many leading disability organizations, among them the United Cerebral Palsy Association, Disability Service Providers of America, Goodwill Industries and the U.S. International Council on Disabilities.

In 1995, Kemp co-founded the American Association of People with Disabilities. He serves on the Medicaid Commission and the State Department’s Advisory Committee on Persons with Disabilities, which guides the Secretary of State and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) administrator on U.S. foreign policy and assistance with respect to people with disabilities.

At the conference, The Electronic Information Technology Act Committee (TEITAC) will meet to discuss the effects of the act and the Telecommunications Act on people with disabilities.

For conference registration and other information, visit the Center on Disabilities’ Web site at www.csun.edu/coh/conf/index.html, call (818) 677-2578 V/TTY or e-mail conference@csun.edu.

FYI…

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Classes

Faculty Development Sessions
Faculty Development offers sessions for CSUN faculty. RSVP—Kelly Kroeker, x6536 or kelly.kroeker@csun.edu.

- Freshmen Faculty Summit Series—Best Practices for Teaching CSUN Freshmen
  Mon., Feb. 26 or Thu., March 1, 11 a.m. to noon
  Sierra Hall 439

- From Where I Sit: Students Talk about Equal Access to Classroom Information and Technology
  Tue., Feb. 27, 10–11:30 a.m.
  Bayramian Hall 101

- Being Ready for Class: Students’ Perspectives on Learning
  Thu., March 8, 12:30–1:30 p.m.
  Whitsett Room, Sierra Hall 451

Professional Development Staff Training
Professional Development Programs provides free training workshops for CSUN staff members in the Oviatt Library, room 16, Garden Level. Enroll by the day preceding the workshop by visiting www.csun.edu/brc/training/index.html and completing the online registration form for each workshop.

Defensive Driver Training
The California Department of General Services presents defensive driver training for employees who operate university vehicles, from 8–11:30 a.m. Thu., Mar. 29, in Physical Plant Management’s training room A. The course reviews safe driving techniques through video, lecture, test and personal experience. All state employees who frequently drive on state business must complete the program at least once every four years. Students receive a completion card valid for four years.

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

Workshops:
- "First Aid Basics"
  Mercedes Gallup, presenter.
  Tue., Feb. 27, noon to 1 p.m.

- "Social Security Benefits Overflow"
  Maya Debus, presenter.
  Tue., March 6, 10–11:30 a.m.

- "Presentation Effectiveness"
  Susan Leahy, presenter.
  Wed., March 7, 9 a.m. to noon

- "Defensive Driver Training"
  Thursday, March 29, 9:30 a.m.
  Physical Plant Management’s training room A.

- "Mercedes Gallup, presenter."
  "First Aid Basics"
  Monday, February 27, 2007, Noon to 1:00 p.m.

- "Sy Giannini, presenter."
  "Preparation Effectiveness"
  Monday, February 26, 2007, 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

- "Robina Baskin, presenter."
  "Safety: The Right Way"
  Monday, February 26, 2007, 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

For conference registration and other information, visit the Center on Disabilities’ Web site at www.csun.edu/coh/conf/index.html, call (818) 677-2578 V/TTY or e-mail conference@csun.edu.

Deadlines

Judge Beck Instructional Improvement Projects
The deadline for proposals for Judge Julian Beck Learning-Centered Instructional Improvement Projects is 4 p.m. Mon., March 5, in the Center for Innovative and Engaged Learning Opportunities (CIELO) office, Sierra Hall 418. Visit www.csun.edu/~celtact/beckapp07-08.doc for the request for proposals.

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

Demon Night for Dynamic Sport

The USA Women’s National Sitting Volleyball Team scrimmages with local players in a February 22 demonstration of the dynamic sport, hosted by the Kinesiology Department in the Redwood Hall Activity Center. The team, which trained at CSUN for the third time in two years, took fifth place in last year’s world championships.

www.csun.edu/jubrels/tcsun
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New Administration and Finance VP Named

President Jolene Koester announced on February 23 the appointment of a permanent vice president for administration and finance and chief financial officer for California State University, Northridge.

Randy Harris, who begins his new assignment on April 2, has served since 2005 as director of financial operations for the Church Education System within the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. That position included responsibility for Brigham Young University, BYU-Idaho, BYU-Hawaii and LDS Business College.

Prior to his service at the Church Education System, Harris served as the president of the Guatemala City North Mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in Guatemala City, Guatemala.

His experience also includes a five-year term as vice chancellor/vice president for administration and finance for both the 36,000-student University of Houston and its four-campus system of more than 57,000 students.

Harris, who earned a master of public administration degree at Brigham Young, also served as associate vice president for finance at the University of Michigan, and assistant vice president for finance and university controller at Florida State University.

The new executive replaces Jim Sullivan, interim vice president for administration and finance, who chaired the search committee for the division’s new leader.

“Editor’s note: Watch for the complete story in the next issue of @CSUN.

NCOD Pioneer is Dead at 95

Michael Blake, NCOD, whose pioneering work in establishing university access and services for deaf and hard of hearing students led to the creation of the National Center on Deafness at Cal State Northridge, has died at age 95.

McIntire, the father of a deaf daughter who attended the clinic, worked with education professor Ray Jones to develop an interdisciplinary curriculum in leadership and administration for deaf and hard of hearing students. Their efforts produced the National Leadership Training Program (NLTP), whose first students graduated in 1964 from what later became Cal State Northridge.

Their pioneering work led to numerous innovative programs for the deaf and hard of hearing and to the implementation of the country’s first comprehensive mainstream services for deaf and hard of hearing students, now known as CSUN’s National Center on Deafness.

Funeral services are scheduled for March 3 in Utah. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the National Center on Deafness, Cal State Northridge, 18111 Nordhoff St., Northridge, CA 91330-8267, or to the John Tracy Clinic, 900 W. Adams Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90007-2505.

Calendar

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.

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.

Bianchi Planetarium
For ticket info, (818) 677-2488 or visit www.csun.edu/physics/planetarium. Telescope viewing follows second show.

‘Winter Sky Show’ and ‘From Continental Drift to the Theory of Plate Tectonics’
Fri., March 9, 7:30 p.m.

Athletics (home games)

Women’s Basketball
3/1 Cal Poly 7 p.m. 3/3 UCSB 4 p.m.

Softball
3/12 Tennessee-Martin 1 p.m. 3/13 Canisius 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.

Women’s Tennis
3/3 UC Davis 11 a.m. 3/9 Virginia Tech 2 p.m. 3/13 Southern Mississippi 2 p.m.

Track and Field
3/5 All Comers 8:30 a.m.

Men’s Volleyball
2/28 USC 7 p.m. 3/2 Cal Baptist 7 p.m. 3/7 Lewis 7 p.m. 3/9 Quincy 7 p.m.

Water Polo
3/13 Northridge Mini 2 p.m.

Music

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

Guest Artist Series
Tue., Feb. 27, 8 p.m.

CSUN Youth Orchestras
Chamber Orchestra & Philharmonic.
Sun., March 3, 3 p.m.

American Guitar Society
Macieli Ziemski, guitarist.
Sat., March 10, 8 p.m.

Music Recital Hall
Sun., March 11, 7 p.m.

Theater Performance

Three Sisters
Explores the gap between hope and fulfillment in 19th century provincial Russia.
Studio lab series.
Wed., Feb. 28, 7 p.m.
Thu., March 1, 7 p.m.
Fri., March 2, 8 p.m.
Sat., March 3, 8 p.m.
Sun., March 4, 3 p.m.
Studio Theatre
$11-$16

Recyclable