Campus Mourns Death of Former President James Cleary
Respected Educator Presided Over University’s Evolution from Small to Major Urban Campus

James W. Cleary, who led Cal State Northridge as president from 1969 to 1992, died April 28 at age 80. Cleary, who oversaw CSUN’s growth from a small campus surrounded by orange groves into a thriving urban institution, died in Boise, Idaho, where he retired with his wife, the late Mary Cleary.

“President Cleary began his appointment at a pivotal time in the history of the university,” said President Jolene Koester. “During the late 1960s, Cal State Northridge experienced many of the same major upheavals and changes occurring at other universities and across the nation. Through his leadership and commitment to the university’s partnership with faculty and students, President Cleary brought stability to the university during difficult times.”

In tribute to Cleary, the county Board of Supervisors on May 1 adjourned briefly, ordering that a memorial tribute be forwarded to the Cleary family. A campus memorial service is planned for 10 a.m. May 22 in the Grand Salon, USU.

A widely traveled and respected educator, Cleary in 1986 was chosen by the Exxon Education Foundation as one of the nation’s 100 most effective college presidents. In 1974, he was given the “Key to the City of Los Angeles” by then Mayor Tom Bradley for his community involvement.

The former president came to what then was San Fernando Valley State College, during a period when unrest roiled over ethnic studies programs and the war in Vietnam.

In her announcement, President Koester said Peterson brings to Northridge extensive knowledge and experience in all aspects of university advancement. Northridge’s University Advancement Division includes the departments of alumni relations, community relations, development, public relations and strategic communications, governmental affairs and special events.

In her announcement, President Koester said Tom McCarron, executive director of The University Corporation, will continue to serve as advancement vice president until Peterson’s arrival. The president also commended former division vice president Judy C. Knudson for her years of service to the university.

Peterson began his career from 1974 to 1977 as a tenure track assistant professor of higher education and director of the Center for the Study of Higher Education at the University of Toledo. He also currently is a visiting professor at the University of Chicago.

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Peterson said “My family and I are thrilled to be returning to the Los Angeles area. I look forward to building on the solid foundation of the past and helping the university continue its upward trajectory as a vital center of intellectual, social, and cultural excellence.”

Peterson currently is vice president for advancement at the Culinary Institute of America, the world’s premiere culinary college with campuses in Hyde Park, New York, and St. Helena, California. He previously served from 2000 to 2004 as president of the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE), the leading international association for advancement professionals in education.

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Peterson will oversee the university’s current “Imagine the Arts” fundraising campaign to support the upcoming construction of a new regional performing arts center on campus. He also will serve as an adjunct professor of higher education and director of the Center for the Study of Higher Education at the University of Toledo.

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Entertainment, Health Care Execs are Honored Alumni
James Berk, Brad Bowlus, Michael Klausman Recognized by Alma Mater at Annual Tribute

At a gala Renaissance Hollywood Hotel dinner on May 12, Cal State Northridge’s 2007 Distinguished Alumni Awards were presented to three alumni whose achievements have placed them at the summit of the entertainment and health care industries. Honored were James Berk, chief executive officer of Participant Productions, Brad Bowlus, president and chief executive officer of PacifiCare Health Systems’ Health Plan Division, and Michael Klausman, senior vice president of CBS Corporation West Coast Operations and Engineering, and founder of James Berk (Music, 81) has served as chair and CEO of Gryphon Colleges Corporation, and as president and CEO of both Fairfield Communities, Inc., and Hard Rock Café International. He also led the planning and construction of Hard Rock’s humanitarian arm, and was the founding executive director of the National Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences Foundation.

Under Berk’s leadership, Participant Productions has produced such films as the Academy Award-winning “An Inconvenient Truth.”

Beginning as a high school music teacher, Berk became in 1990 the youngest principal in LAUSD history, at Hamilton High School.

Brad Bowlus (Accounting, 78) oversees PacifiCare Health Systems’ Health Plan Division performance. He has served as president and CEO of PacifiCare of California, PacificCare Washington and PacificCare Dental and Vision. Previously, the executive spent 14 years with WellPoint Health Networks, Inc.

In 1975, Bowlus was a member of Northridge’s NCAA Division II title-winning swim and dive team, finishing second in the 50-meter freestyle and setting a NCAA record in the 400-meter relay.

Michael Klausman (Biology, 74) began at CBS Studios as an usher, working on such shows as “The Mary Tyler Moore Show.” He eventually became vice president and general manager of CBS/MTM Studios, and in 2001, he became president of CBS Studio Center. In 2001, he was promoted to the position of CBS Television senior vice president, West Coast Operations and Engineering, and continues to be president of the CBS Studio Center.

Klausman’s role in establishing a relationship between CBS Studio Center and CSU’s Department of Cinema and Television Arts (CTVA) has led to the teaching of numerous CTVA classes at the Studio City location.

CSU Seeks Extra $70 Million to Cover Labor and Other Costs
Unfunded Contract Expenses Threaten a $41 Million Hole in CSU’s Budget for 2007-08

Trying to head off potential campus budget cuts, Cal State officials are seeking an extra $70 million in state allocations this year to cover a range of initiatives, including the unfunded portions of new labor contracts for faculty and other CSU employees.

During a systemwide budget forum last week, Chancellor Charles B. Reed and other CSU officials said they have been working to counter some widely circulated “myths” about the CSU’s finances. That misinformation, CSU officials said, has been hindering the system’s efforts to seek needed funding from the state.

Two major developments are slated on the budget front this week: first, state officials on Monday are due to announce their May revision for the proposed 2007-08 state budget. Then on Wednesday, CSU trustees are expected to approve a new four-year faculty labor contract.

The new CSU faculty contract will provide a 20.7 percent increase for all faculty plus funding for step salary increases and equity programs during the contract, which runs from 2008-09 to 2010-11. However, CSU officials warned that unfunded salary and health benefits costs in the faculty contract and other CSU labor agreements threaten to leave a nearly $41 million hole in the CSU’s 2007-08 budget, and similar amounts in future years.

Then, in addition to that looming deficit, the CSU also is seeking to restore $7 million in student outreach funding, and add funding for research, new nursing programs and preparing more K-12 special education teachers.

In total, the CSU is seeking to add about $70 million to its proposed $4 billion budget for 2007-08. The proposed CSU and state budgets also call for a 10 percent CSU student fee increase starting in fall 2007. Without that funding, either the state Legislature “buying out” the increase with additional funding, the CSU’s deficit would grow even deeper.

One of the “myths” that CSU officials said they have been fighting is the claim that student fee revenues cannot be used to help fund salaries. Although state law used to have such a provision, it was repealed in 1995. Thus now, state funds and student fees are the two main revenue sources that support the statewide CSU budget, including salaries.

The other major “myth” circulating lately is that the CSU doesn’t need extra funding or increased student fees because the system supposedly has a $1.2 billion surplus. In fact, CSU officials said, the system has no such surplus that it can spend as part of its operating budget on salaries and other routine operations.

CSU officials said the surplus claim, based on faulty accounting by an outside group, tallied five years worth of restricted funds that either legally must be held in reserve or can be spent only on specified projects such as construction. “The biggest myth of all is that I have a $1.2 billion I can distribute” to the campuses, said Chancellor Reed.

After this week’s release of the state’s May budget revise, officials from Cal State campuses will be traveling to Sacramento to lobby on the budget. The more the CSU is successful in obtaining additional funding, the more CSU campuses would be spared potential budget cuts relating to unfunded obligations, such as the new labor contracts.

New Vice President for Advancement…

continued from page 1

professor of higher education at the University of Pennsylvania, where he teaches advancement in the executive doctorate in higher education program.

Peterson’s other past positions include serving from 1996 to 2000 as president of Sierra Nevada College, Nevada’s only four-year private college, and from 1989 to 1996 as vice president of institutional advancement at Occidental College.

During the late 1970s and 1980s, he held a series of senior administrative and fund-raising positions in the Los Angeles area, serving at UCLA as associate provost for development in the College of Letters and Science (1984-89), and as director of campaign operations for The UCLA Campaign (1982-84), and at USC as executive director of university relations (1980-82) and director of academic relations (1977-82).

Peterson holds an A.B. in English Literature from Occidental College and an M.S. in Government and Business Administration from The George Washington University. He is married, is a U.S. Navy and Navy Reserve veteran holding the rank of captain, and has three daughters.
New Dean Chosen to Head Curb Arts College

University of Wisconsin Dean Robert Bucker Has Rich Arts Administration Background

Robert Bucker, current dean of the Peck School of the Arts at the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, has been appointed dean of Cal State Northridge’s Mike Curb College of Arts, Media, and Communication. Dean Bucker will begin August 1. “Bob understands the arts and particularly how to provide leadership in this challenging and competitive arena,” said President Jolene Koester. “He knows how public policy and the arts are connected, and I am confident he will have a positive and profound impact on guiding the college in the coming years.”

Music departments that define the college provide unusual and unique opportunities for the development of exciting interdisciplinary programs,” said the dean, whose varied arts background includes development of exciting interdisciplinary programs. “Few deans have worked in such varied public institutions, and even fewer have had such direct oversight over linking K-12 and adult education in the performing arts, and in conducting development activities,” said the provost.

Bucker, who has served at the University of Wisconsin arts school since 2001, helped lead Wisconsin’s Teachers for a New Era (TNE) K-12 education reform project, underwritten by the Carnegie Corporation in New York.

Bucker also has served as assistant dean for the College of Fine and Applied Arts at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign.

Founder, director and conductor of the Choral Arts Ensemble of Kansas City, Bucker will hold the rank of music professor and assistant dean for the College of Fine and Applied Arts at the University of Wisconsin in Madison.

Bucker also looks forward to working with the journalism and communication studies programs. “These days, he said, the medium is inseparable from the message.”

Prior to his term in Milwaukee, Bucker served as dean of the School of Fine Arts at the University of Minnesota, Duluth, and as director of education for the Metropolitan Opera-Metropolitan Opera Guild in New York. During his tenure with the Met, Bucker developed a semester-long residency program entitled “Leadership and the Arts in New York,” developed with Duke University faculty.

Academic Affairs Harry Hellenbrand said Bucker is well-suited for the post. “Few deans have worked in such varied public institutions, and even fewer have had such direct oversight over linking K-12 and adult education in the performing arts, and in conducting development activities,” said the provost.

Bucker also has served as assistant dean for the College of Fine and Applied Arts at the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign.

A brand new Biology 100 course will be offered to Cal State Northridge students come fall 2007, the result of a top-to-bottom overhaul—the first in some 20 years—that aims to make the course more relevant, exciting and accessible to the 2,000-plus non-majors who annually select it as one of their general education (GE) requirements for graduation.

Fall 2007 enrollees will be presented with a fresh lecture concept, a focus on “hands-on” laboratory learning, a system of computer virtual labs and online lectures that students can access from anywhere.

In the process, the small group of imaginative faculty biologists currently re-working the course also has found a way to significantly increase the number of students able to enroll in it every year. Their solution also addresses incoming Bio 100 students’ need to take more lab units, a new GE requirement that had left the department with a lab space dilemma.

“Historically, the popular Biology 100 course was taught in a ‘laboratory of sections’ that has enrolled between 2,000 and 2,200 non-majors annually,” said department chair Larry Allen, who pushed for the overhaul. “Our team has developed a course hybrid design that will enable the department to accommodate at least 2,400 per year. The unhappy prospect of having to join a section waiting list will diminish appreciably, they said.”

“Instead of one lab per section, we’ve developed a lab rotation plan that will enable the department to accommodate at least 2,400 students per year,” said department chair Larry Allen. “The new lab rotation system will enable the department to accommodate at least 2,400 students per year.”

“A major investment of sweat equity in the Bio 100 re-construction has been made by professor and Faculty President Jennifer Matos, special consultant/lecturer Janet Kübler; William Krohmer, the department’s manager of technical services and sales; and professor Cindy Malone; lecturers Jeff Thomas, Greg Fox and Michael Franklin, instructional support technician Michael Hogue, and part-time faculty Lynn Haugen.

In the new hybrid lab design, Kübler said a student will spend half of his or her time “in a hands-on wet lab experience with living things,” and half in computer lab activities and simulations.

Space in the present lab configurations will be freed up because half of the course’s required laboratory work can be done independently, online from home or in a campus biology computer lab. Instead of one group monopolizing a wet lab for weeks on end, groups will rotate from lab to lab in a rich, constantly interactive cycle of learning.

“This was a wonderful opportunity to update the whole freshman lab concept,” said Matos, faculty advisor with oversight of freshman laboratories. Matos added that labs also will be retooled to handle the different kinds of experiments non-majors will do in the new Bio 100 course.

Küblier said it is important for students to discover the fun of examining living things interacting and growing, and to take that experience into the rest of their lives and the world beyond classes.

“Everything else, from record-keeping to data and recording chores, will be done on the computer,” said Janet Kübler, “saving time for other activities in the wet lab. It’s a way of most efficiently using lab space.”

Working in close collaboration with the company that supplies the lab manual used in CSUN’s Bio 100, William Krohmer is streamlining lab activities and arranging to outfit the department’s computer labs with Bio 100 software, so that students can do their simulated lab work on campus or log in from home.

“The Biology 100 lecture component also has needed a major update for years,” said Cindy Malone, who jumped in as a key project leader despite the fact that in 2005 she was new to CSUN—with a baby born just two weeks after her first semester began.

Judging previous lecture texts to be less than friendly to non-majors, Malone and colleague Jeff Thomas launched a search for a new one, settling on “Biology: Science for Life,” by Colleen Bell and Virginia Borden, and using it to design a custom, cost-saving book that will use only the chapters needed for CSUN’s course.

They will be using the new text to share “things that will be applicable to students’ lives, what they eat, their health, how to not ruin our world. We’ll be tying lectures to the real world, so they don’t just have to take the classes and memorize,” Malone said. Her section will function as the lead for all Bio 100 sections, accessible to all of its instructors.

Online lectures began in fall 2006 as the redesign got underway, but in fall 2007 students’ online lecture resources will expand with a custom Web site linked to the course, voluminous individual lecture notes, Power Point presentations, self-quizzes, extra reading assignments in topical subjects such as stem cell research and sexually transmitted diseases, links to a learning resource center and to major scientific journals.

Malone also will add a community service-learning “trial run” component in her fall 2007 section, for 80 to 100 students working through the MOSAC (Mentoring to Overcome Struggles and Inspire Courage) program.

“People need to make educated decisions about lots of things that are scientific these days,” she said. Whether a student’s relative gets cancer or the student himself has an STD, “everyone needs biology. Our idea is to deliver it in a way that it’s not so painful to get the information you need. It can be fun.”
Publications


Scott Andrews (English) was invited to contribute a syllabus and commentary to a special issue of Studies in the Humanities, focusing on pedagogy and American Indian Studies.

Dorothy Barresi (English) wrote three new poems, published in the current issue of 88. A Journal of Contemporary Poetry. The anthology “American Poetry Now” from the University of Pittsburgh Press, has reprinted five of her poems. An anthology celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the Southern Poetry Review, from the University of Arkansas Press, will reprint her poem, “Pure Jesus, Early Morning Shift.”

Bob Carpenter (Biology) had his co-authored paper, “Thermal ecophysiology of Laurencia pacifica and Laurencia nidifica (Ceramiales) from tropical and warm temperate regions” accepted for publication in the Journal of Phycology.

Ranita Chatterjee (English) had her article, “Filial Ties: Godwin’s ‘Deloraine’ and Mary Shelley’s ‘Writings’,” published in the European Romantic Review (Vol. 18, no. 1, Jan. 2007). It examines the significance of William Godwin’s last novel to our understanding of Mary Shelley’s novels and short tales.

Dorothy Clark (English) wrote a review of “J.M. Barrie’s Peter Pan: In and Out of Time,” in the January 2007 issue of The Lion and the Unicorn.

Irene Clark (English) had her book, “Writing the Successful Thesis and Dissertation: Entering the Conversation,” published by Prentice Hall.


Paul Mason Fotsch (Communication Studies) wrote “Watching the Traffic: Go By: Transportation and Isolation in Urban America,” published by University of Texas Press, a book said to compel people “to consider the hidden costs of living in automobile-centered cities…”

Dave Gray (Biology) had his co-authored paper, “Behavioral specialization among populations of the acoustically orienting parasitoid Ormia ochracea utilizing different cricket species as hosts,” published in Animal Behavior.


Kate Haake (English) had her essays, “Dismantling Authority: Teaching What We Do Not Know” and “Against Reading,” published in “Power and Identity in the Creative Writing Classroom: The Authority Project,” and “Can It Really be Taught? Resisting Lore in Creative Writing Pedagogy,” respectively. Her chapter on creative writing appears in “English Studies: An Introduction to the Discipline(s).”

Mehran Kamrava (Political Science) is the author of “The New Voices of Islam: Reforming Politics and Modernity—A Reader,” published by I.B. Tauris and described as “a timely and telling collection of writings by creative Muslim thinkers whose views were neglected by those obsessed with the utterances of the fundamentalists.”

Steven Oppenheimer (Biology) had his co-authored article, “Microplate assay for quantifying developmental morphologies: effects of exogenous hyaluron on sea urchin gastrulation,” published as the lead article in Volume 15 of Zygot. The February 2007 issue of “Fortune Magazine” published his Letter to the Editor on how Nobel laureates invest. His letter suggesting that institutions such as Harvard alleviate the grant funding crisis by helping to pay for overhead costs on grants appeared in the January 2007 newsletter of the American Society for Cell Biology (ASCB). Oppenheimer’s co-authored paper, “Cyclostratin, A Probe for Studying Adhesive Interactions,” was accepted for publication by the biochemistry journal, Acta Histochemica.

Scott Plunkett (Family and Consumer Sciences) had his article, “Gender differences in adolescent perceptions of parent-adolescent openness in communication and adolescent empathy,” published in Marriage and Family Review. He co-authored two articles with Torah Sands (Educational Psychology and Counseling) and students: “Adolescent perceptions of parental behavior, adolescent self-esteem, and adolescent depressed mood,” in the Journal of Child and Family Studies, and “Neighborhood structural qualities, adolescents’ perceptions of neighborhoods, and Latino youth development,” in the Hispanic Journal of Behavioral Sciences.

Matthew Radmanesh (Electrical and Computer Engineering) had his book, “RF and Microwave Design Essentials: Engineering Design and Analysis from DC to Microwaves,” described as “an indispensable tool” for RF/microwave engineers and scientists working on high frequency circuit applications.


Beth Wightman (English) had her essay “Geopolitics and the Sight of the Nation: Elizabeth Bowen’s The Last September” published in LIT: Literature Interpretation Theory 18.
Honors and Awards

Barbara Boyd (National Center on Deafness) in April was awarded the IMPACT (Independently Merging Parents Association of California, Together) Professional of the Year Award at the CALED-Impact conference in Burbank. The award is given to an individual who is deaf, a professional and a positive role model both for parents and deaf students and children.

Carmen Ramos Chandler (Public Relations and Strategic Communications) has received the Outstanding Staff Award from the Center on Disabilities for bringing great visibility to the center and for her acclaimed annual biographical series about CSUN students, including people with disabilities, focusing on their triumph over great odds to graduate and excel in life.

Robert Espinosa (Biology) was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship to complement his yearlong sabbatical in Argentina.

Heinrich Falk (Theatre) has received a Fulbright Lecturer award for theatre projects in Sri Lanka.

Helen Castillo (College of Health and Human Development) in April chaired the Mexican American Opportunity Foundation’s National Hispanic Women’s Conference in Pasadena.

Shawna Dark (Geography) received $25,030 from the Urban Wildlands Group in continuing support of a project entitled “Snowy Plover Habitat Suitability Monitoring,” and $22,521 from the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project in support of a project entitled “Southern California Wetlands Mapping Project.”

Fred Dukes (Administration and Finance) received $18,771 from Washington State University in support of a project entitled “Afghan Equality Alliances—Participant Training.”

Gene Fritsche (Geological Sciences) received the Grover E. Murray Memorial Distinguished Educator Award from the American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG), for contributions to the teaching of students and other achievements.

Shut Ho (Mechanical Engineering) was awarded a grant from the Fullbright Scholar Program for spring 2008 research in Vietnam.

Gene Fritsche (Geological Sciences) received the Grover E. Murray Memorial Distinguished Educator Award from the American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG), for contributions to the teaching of students and other achievements.

Alexis Kravtsovy (Cinema and Television Arts) produced a documentary, “Women Behind the Camera,” that won an Outstanding Award of Excellence—Documentary: Editing and an Accolade Competition Award of Excellence: Contemporary Issues/Awareness Raising.

Research and Sponsored Projects

Robert Conner (Manufacturing Systems Engineering and Management) received $40,000 from Pratt & Whitney Rocketdyne in support of a project entitled “YAG Matrix Development Program.”

Shawna Dark (Geography) received $25,030 from the Urban Wildlands Group in continuing support of a project entitled “Snowy Plover Habitat Suitability Monitoring,” and $22,521 from the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project in support of a project entitled “Southern California Wetlands Mapping Project.”

Fred Dukes (Administration and Finance) received $18,771 from Washington State University in support of a project entitled “Afghan Equality Alliances—Participant Training.”

Peter Edmonds (Biology) received $54,212 and a supplemental award of $6,000 from the National Science Foundation in continuing support of a project entitled “RUI: Long-Term Coral Reef Dynamics in the US Virgin Islands: 1987-2008.” He also was awarded support from the National Science Council of Taiwan to conduct research seminars and to work on experiments with Tung-Yung Fan, a colleague at the National Museum of Marine Biology and Aquarium.

Alan Glassman (Management) received $150,000 from the California Children and Families Commission in support of a project entitled “California’s 5—Strategic Plan,” and $17,826 plus $589.50 as supplemental support from the L.A. Superior Court for a project entitled “Superior Court Manager Development Program.”

Charles Hanson (Educational Psychology and Counseling) received $80,000 from the Department of Children and Family Services as supplemental support of a project entitled “Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention, Intervention and Treatment Program Services.” He also received $25,000 from Catholic Healthcare West in continuing support of a project entitled “SART Case Manager.”

Sharlene Katz (Electrical and Computer Engineering) received $17,510 and supplemental support of $5,591 from the College of the Canyons for a project entitled “NSF-ATE CREATE.” Katz and Deborah van Alphen (Electrical & Computer Engineering) received $15,000 from Kenexa and Edwards Air Force Base in continuing support of a project entitled “The Application of Neural Networks to Target Recognition and Tracking Problems.”

Rheem Medhi (Biotechnology) received $214,500 from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in support of a project entitled “CCWG methylation in developmentally regulated B-cell specific gene listing,” and another $150,000 from the National Institutes of Health for her research investigating the control of the “on-off” switch in essential genes of white blood cells.

Cindy Malone (Biology) received $214,500 from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in support of a project entitled “CCWG methylation in developmentally regulated B-cell specific gene listing,” and another $150,000 from the National Institutes of Health for her research investigating the control of the “on-off” switch in essential genes of white blood cells.
Presentations

Scott Andrews (English) in March chaired a panel on American Indians and popular culture at the Native American Literature Symposium in Michigan, presenting a paper on a Southern California performance and installation artist: “James Luna: He Put the Man in Manifest Destiny.”

Tony Arthur (English) discussed his biography of Upton Sinclair on the “Sundays with Stu” WXGM-FM 92.1 radio show with Stu Levin in Madison, Wis.

Larry Barresi (Biology) organized and moderated a session of the Southern California American Society of Microbiologists meeting.

Randy Cohen and Maria Elena de Bellard (Biology) and students presented research at the Society for Neuroscience Meeting.

Irene Clark (English) in March presented a paper entitled ‘Genre and the Performance of Identity’ at the Conference on College Composition and Communication in New York, a lecture entitled ‘Writing a Senior Thesis’ for UCLA’s February Global Studies Seminar Series, and a paper called “Can First-Year Composition Papers Be Creative? And If So, What Does That Mean?” at the Northern Colorado, entitled “Small, Application” as a panelist at the International Federation of Educative Communities International Congress in Sarajevo. She co-presented a workshop, “Music: A powerful realm in which children can visualize a positive future and make visions become realities” at the Sarajevo conference. Kelly gave the keynote address for Educator’s Day at the North American Internat’l Child and Youth Care Conference in Montreal, Canada, where she also co-presented a workshop, “Voices of Children and Adolescents Across Borders: Our Stories, Our Needs.”

Janet Kübler (Biology) was on a team of biologists who presented a workshop on the topic of “Biomimicry for the sustainable built environment” at the American Institutes of Architects gathering in San Francisco.

Rick Mitchell (English) had his play, “Through the Roof: A Natural History,” presented as free professional staged readings with live musicians in February and March at The Onion in North Hills, at the Casa 0101 Theatre in Los Angeles, and at the Mark Taper Auditorium in downtown Los Angeles’ Central Library.

Robert Espinoza (Biology) was an invited panel member for a Diversity Forum and presented a departmental seminar at the University of Northern Colorado. He gave colloquium talks at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and at the University of Northern Colorado, entitled “Small, cold-climate lizards break the ‘rules’ of herbivory in reptiles.”

Fred Field (English) presented a paper, “The double whammy: linguistic minority writers, rhetorical strategies and salient grammatical features,” at a meeting of the Linguistics Society of America and the Society for Pidgin and Creole Linguistics, in Anahiem.

Tom Spencer-Walters (Post-African Studies) also made a presentation.

Fritz Hertel (Biology) and students presented papers at the North American Ornithological Conference.

Carol Kelly (Child and Adolescent Development) discussed “Current Research on Resilience: A Review of the Literature and Discussion of Application” as a panelist at the International Federation of Educative Communities International Congress in Sarajevo. She co-presented a workshop, “Music: A powerful realm in which children can visualize a positive future and make visions become realities” at the Sarajevo conference. Kelly gave the keynote address for Educator’s Day at the North American Internat’l Child and Youth Care Conference in Montreal, Canada, where she also co-presented a workshop, “Voices of Children and Adolescents Across Borders: Our Stories, Our Needs.”

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Joanne Moriarty (Biology) presented her research on suburban bobcats at the Defenders of Wildlife’s Carnivores 2006 conference.

Elizabeth Nagy-Shudman (Geological Sciences) in February presented a talk, “Engaging Minority High School Students in Geological Research at CSUN,” at the Second Annual CSU Conference on Community-based Teaching and Research, in San Jose. She presented “From Continental Drift to Plate Tectonics” at the Bianchi Planetarium in March.

Carole Oglesby (Kinesiology) spoke on “Strategies for Equality in a Climate of Commercialism” at a Stanford University conference entitled “Title IX Today, Title IX Tomorrow.” She participated as a panelist for the event, which focused on gender equity in college athletics and celebrated Title IX’s 35th anniversary.

Steven Oppenheimer (Biology) addressed K-12 administrators at the Field Flight to the Future Symposium at the Air+Space+Science/Institute in February and March at The Onion in San Jose. Oppenheimer, Ed Carroll (Chemistry and Biochemistry), Lisa Banner (Biology) and Virginia Hutchins-Carroll presented poster papers co-authored with students at the Experimental Biology 2007 gathering in Washington, D.C.

Sembiam Renganarajan (Electrical and Computer Engineering) presented a seminar on “Microstrip Reflectarrays and Waveguide Slot Arrays” at the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, in its Mathematical and Engineering Seminar Series.

Jennifer Romack (Kinesiology) in March presented “Being Ready for Class: Students’ Perspectives on Learning” at CSUN, based on her article, “Enhancing Students’ Readiness to Learn” in The Teaching Professor.

Ilene Rubenstein (Learning Resource Center) presented “How Can I Know What I Mean Until I See What I Say?: The Rhetoric of Visual Communication in the Synchronous Online Writing Center” and “Online Tutoring: Creating New Writing Center Identities,” at the Conference on College Composition and Communication in New York City, in March.

Stephanie Satie (English) performed her solo piece “Coming to America—Transformations,” at the Kaufmann Brentwood Library in Los Angeles and at three branch libraries in Sonoma County, during a guest artist visit to Sonoma State University.

Mary Schafer (CTVA) spoke at the FITC conference in Hollywood on “Cross Pollination: Collaboration and the Production Process.”

Paula Schiffman (Biology) discussed her research in a talk entitled “Reef analysis of California grasslands: Forbs, bunchgrasses, and homogenization by non-natives,” at UC Santa Barbara’s Chaucer Center for Biodiversity and Ecological Restoration. Schiffman also presented her work to the Santa Monica Mountains chapter of the California Native Plant Society.

Mark Steele (Biology) presented research at the Western Society of Naturalists Meeting. His presentation was entitled “Extrapolating from small-scale ecological experiments to large-scale dynamics: Density dependence in coral reef fishes.”

Jeff Thomas (Biology) presented several science topics to the UCLA Science Project, a UCLA Graduate School of Education program offering instructional development and presence content for LAUSD high school science teachers.

Joseph Thomas (English) presented his paper, “Curious Boys, or How William S. Burroughs Murdered Children’s Literature” and chaired a panel entitled “The End of Children’s Literature” at the Seventh Biennial Conference on Modern Critical Approaches to Children’s Literature in Nashville, Tenn.

Lawrence Stoffel (Music) and the CSUN Wind Symphony in February presented a music educators’ clinic/recital titled “Concert Band Music by African-American Composers: Music in Cultural Context” at the California Music Educators Association Southern Section Inservice in Burbank.

Mariellena Zavala (Biology) presented a research seminar at the University of Texas, San Marcos, as well as a research seminar and talk for DePauw University’s Distinguished Speaker program.

Paul Wilson (Biology) and students spoke to the Southern California Botanists in a symposium on the Santa Monica Mountains Wilson spoke on mosses. Papers will appear in a special issue of Crossosoma.
FYI

Events

Friday, May 18
Honored Faculty Reception
The annual Honored Faculty Reception and 2007 General Faculty Meeting is set for 12:30 p.m., Grand Salon, University Student Union. Faculty awards will be presented for Outstanding Faculty; Distinguished Teaching, Counseling, or Librarianship; Scholarly Publication; Creative Accomplishment; Extraordinary Service; and Visionary Community Service-Learning. Emeritus professors and faculty completing 25, 30, 35 and 40 years of service will be honored. Senate officers for 2007–08 will be installed. RSVP at x3363 or bettie@csun.edu.

Thursday, May 24
Lecture on Separation of Church and State
The Richard W. Smith Lecture in Cultural Studies brings Edward Tabach, chair of the national legal committee of Americans United for Separation of Church and State, to discuss “The True Meaning of Separation of Church and State,” in the Whitsett Room, Sierra Hall 451, 7 p.m. Supported by the Richard W. Smith Endowment for Cultural Studies, the free event is hosted by the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences. fmi–x517.

Public Meetings

Educational Equity Committee
Meets 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Mon., May 14
University Hall 211

USU Board
Meets 1 p.m.
Mon., May 14
USU Grand Salon

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 May 28 issue is Monday, May 21. 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

Research and Sponsored Projects...

continued from page 5

Gagik Melikyan (Chemistry and Biochemistry) received $240,000 from the National Science Foundation in support of a project entitled “RUI: Spontaneous Generation and Coupling of Cohabited-Complexed Propargyl Radicals: Inter-and Intramolecular Variants.”

Richard Moore (Management) received $221,30 from the California Postsecondary Education Commission in support of a project entitled “Higher Education Accountability Framework Project.”

Helena Noronha, James Castro and Werner Horn (Mathematics) received $550,000 from the National Science Foundation in continuing support of a project entitled “FERMAT—Fellows Engaged as Resources in Mathematics to Assist Teachers.”

Maureen Rubin (Undergraduate Studies) received $11,052 from the Corporation for National and Community Service in support of a project entitled “VISTAS for Center for Community Service-Learning.”

Elizabeth Say (College of Humanities) and Ludmila Posner (Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures) received $40,000 from Cal State Long Beach and the Department of Homeland Security in support of a project entitled “Strategic Languages Initiative.”

Gerry Simila (Geological Sciences, Virginia Vandergon and Steve Oppenheimer) received $75,000 from the UC Regents in continuing support of a project entitled “San Fernando Valley Science Project.”

 Yifei Sun (Geography) received $23,151 from the National Science Foundation in continuing support of a project entitled “Collaborative Research: A Comparative Study of ICT Industry Development in Beijing, Shanghai-Suzhou Corridor and Pearl River Delta in China.”

Ivor Weiner (Special Education) received $202,405 from the California Department of Education in continuing support of a project entitled “Family Focus Center-Family Empowerment.”

Merri Whiteclock (Center for Innovative and Engaged Learning Opportunities) received $45,051 from the Corporation for National and Community Service in continuing support of a project entitled “VISTAS for Center for Community Service-Learning.” She received $4,000 from the California Campus Compact in support of a project entitled “Building Partnerships for a Better California.”

Ben Vasepkin (Kinesiology) received $24,500 from the National Institutes of Health in support of a project entitled “Insulin Resistance: Mechanisms and reversibility by increased contractile activity in skeletal muscle.”

J Doug Tyle (Geological Sciences) received $70,094 from the National Science Foundation in support of a project entitled “Earthquake Geology of the Pakistani Himalaya: Characterizing Slip Rates and Recurrence of Potentially Devastating Earthquake Sources.”

Virginia Vandergon (Biology) and colleagues were awarded $400,000 from the California Science Project Teacher Retention Initiative to work with in-service teachers at high-risk schools, to help prevent them from leaving the teaching profession.

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May 14, 2007 • @CSUN • California State University, Northridge 7
In Brief

Student Films Showcased
Movie fans get a glimpse of Hollywood’s future box office draws at Cal State Northridge’s annual Senior Film Showcase on May 2 in the Leonard Goldenson Theatre, Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, North Hollywood.

The showcase represents four years of study for senior-level film students. Feature film producers Keri Selig (“Dumb and Dumber”) and Tracey Graham (“The Stepford Wives”), both Department of Cinema and Television Arts (CTVA) alumni, received Cinematicque Awards honoring their work.

Showcased films included:

- “Nureti Karta: Guardian of the City,” directed by Ami Cohen, the story of a young Hassidic man who must stand up for himself.
- “Honey,” directed by Felicia Carter-Aaron, about a Chinese-American drag queen who makes a great sacrifice to save a boy’s family.
- “POV A Documentary,” directed by Kate Ryan, detailing differing views of dogs and confronting issues surrounding culture and social class differences.
- “Barrio Thief,” directed by Michelle Mizner, about a mother and son facing the grim realities of a highly contagious, drug-resistant form of tuberculosis.
- “Book of Tomorrow,” directed by David Yohe, the story of Billy Allen, who discovers a mysterious comic book that reveals the future.

The showcase was sponsored by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association and the CSUN Associated Students Instructionally Related Activities Fund.

Academic Planner: Ready for Fall ’07
Know any students who’d like to plan their entire academic careers by clicking a few buttons?

Cal State Northridge’s Admissions and Records Department is rolling out a program—My Academic Planner (MAP)—that will enable the university’s undergraduates to do just that.

“This is a natural ‘next step’ for our students, who do most of their life business on-line—paying bills, locating movie times, registering for classes at Northridge,” said Cynthia Rawitch, associate vice president for Undergraduate Studies. “MAP will help students plan their academic futures more easily and will help them to see the goal—graduation—as attainable.”

Some 2,000 graduating seniors began using MAP in December 2006, providing vital feedback to Admissions and Records as the program was fine-tuned for a large-scale launch in fall 2007.

“Most students really like it,” said Information Technology consultant Tracy Shields, who works all over the CSUN campus giving demonstrations on how My Academic Planner works.

The beauty of the program, she said, is in its simplicity. A student logs into the CSUN Web portal, pulls up My Academic Planner and clicks on “Planning Requirements” to view the courses needed to meet a graduation requirement.

“A ‘Help’ button is at the ready.

The student picks a term from a dropdown box that will help her plan which courses she will take for semesters to come. Once the courses are planned, a resubmit button is clicked and My Academic Planner tells the student if her plan indeed meets a given requirement.

Time spent? A matter of minutes.

“This will allow advisors to spend more time on real issues with their students,” said Shields. “My Academic Planner simply takes care of the time-consuming basics of ‘What do I need to take?’

Future MAP enhancements will check for prerequisites, co-requisites, duplication and repeats, allow students to prepare and save multiple degree completion plans, check new schedules of classes when they are developed, and notify students if courses they planned in MAP will not be offered.

For more information, call Shields at (818) 677-3729.

Campus Safety is Roundtable Topic
U.S. Education Secretary Margaret Spellings (center), joined by President Jolene Koester and California Education Secretary David Long, convened a May 3 roundtable discussion at CSUN on campus safety issues. About two dozen California school officials discussed ways to improve campus security and student mental health issues in the wake of the Virginia Tech shootings.

Cal State Northridge is located in the heart of the San Fernando Valley, at 18111 Northridge Boulevard, Northridge, CA 91330-8112. Voice (818) 677-2310 / Fax (818) 677-4909 e-mail public@csun.edu

Web site: www.csun.edu A program—My Academic Planner and Records Department is rolling out a program—My Academic Planner (MAP)—that will enable the university’s undergraduates to do just that.

For gallery info, call (818) 677-2285.