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Business Alum Charles Noski to Receive Honorary Degree

Actor Marin, Beverly Hills Mayor Delshad, California Community Foundation's Hernandez to Speak at CSUN



Charles Noski

Hernandez, president and CEO of the California Community Foundation, one of the region's largest philanthropic organizations.

An estimated 9,823 candidates for degrees—about 7,900 bachelor's and 1,923 master's—are eligible to take part in the 2007 ceremonies, starting with the May 29 convocation, to which 1,800 students are invited.

Noski (*Business Administration*, '73, *Accountancy*, '95) serves on the executive committee of the university's "Imagine the Arts" campaign. He is a member of the California State University, Northridge Foundation board and is a longtime supporter of the institution.

The university's highest alumni honor, the Distinguished Alumni Award, went to Noski in 2002.

In 1973, he joined the accounting firm of Deloitte & Touche, where he became a partner in 1983. Later, he became the firm's national industry director for services to the aerospace and defense industry. In 1990, he joined Hughes Electronics Corporation, where he eventually became the company's president and chief operating officer.

Noski joined the AT&T Corporation in 1999 as its senior executive vice president and chief financial officer. In early 2002, he was named vice

Retired AT&T Vice Chairman Charles Noski, who earned both his bachelor's and master's degrees from Cal State Northridge, will receive an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters during the university's College of Business and Economics commencement ceremony for 2007.

Other luminaries participating in May 29–June 1 Northridge commencement festivities include actor/art collector Richard "Cheech" Marin, a CSUN alumnus; Jimmy Delshad, newly elected mayor of Beverly Hills and also an alumnus; and this year's Honors Convocation speaker, Antonia

CSUN Commencement Schedule

Honors Convocation

Tuesday, May 29, 6 p.m., Oviatt Library lawn;
California Community Foundation President/CEO Antonia Hernandez, speaker

College of Social and Behavioral Sciences

Wednesday, May 30, 8 a.m., Oviatt Library lawn

College of Science and Mathematics

Wednesday, May 30, 4 p.m., University Club lawn

Mike Curb College of Arts, Media, and Communication

Wednesday, May 30, 6:30 p.m., Oviatt Library lawn

College of Humanities

Thursday, May 31, 8 a.m., Oviatt Library lawn;
actor/art collector/alumnus Richard "Cheech" Marin, speaker

College of Engineering and Computer Science

Thursday, May 31, 4 p.m., University Club;
Beverly Hills mayor and alumnus Jimmy Delshad, speaker

College of Health and Human Development

Thursday, May 31, 6:30 p.m., Oviatt Library lawn;
alumna Mercy Siordia of Kaiser Permanente receives career recognition

College of Business and Economics

Friday, June 1, 8 a.m., Oviatt Library lawn;
retired AT&T executive and alumnus Charles Noski receives honorary doctorate

Michael D. Eisner College of Education

Friday, June 1, 4 p.m., University Club

chairman of the board. He retired from AT&T later that year. In 2006, Noski was inducted as an inaugural member of the Financial Executives International Hall of Fame.

He currently serves on the boards of Microsoft Corporation, Morgan Stanley and Air Products and Chemicals, Inc. ■

Convocation Accolades in Store for Top Graduates

Wolfson Scholar's 'Personal Best' is Dizzying Combo of Biological Research and Hammer Throws

Biology major Jessica Beach claims to be a morning person. Up by 6:30 a.m., she is in class from 8 a.m. to noon. But she also is an afternoon person, out on the track field perfecting her hammer and discus throws until 3 p.m.

Evenings, Beach tutors fellow athletes for four hours, heads home to study, then drops into bed, exhausted.

Still, when informed that her high-octane combination of superb academics and athletics had earned her the nod as Cal State Northridge's 2007 Wolfson Scholar, the modest high achiever with the sterling 4.0 grade point average said she wondered how she had made the grade.

"When they told me I was nominated, I thought 'wow,'" said Beach, who will accept the honor—the university's highest for a graduating senior—at the 6 p.m. May 29 Honors Convocation on the Oviatt Library lawn. "I looked up the history of the

award, to see who had won in the past. Some of the other students who had won were so amazing; some had overcome language barriers and other difficulties.



Scholar/athlete Jessica Beach practices on Northridge's track field.

I didn't know how I could compete." This from a scholar/athlete who, since entering CSUN as a freshman in 2003, has made the Northridge Dean's List every single semester.

Her record includes Mountain Pacific Sports Federation All-Academic Honors and a shelf full of Big West Conference honors, both All-Academic and athletic. *Wolfson Scholar continued on page 2.*

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New Campus Building Projects Line Up at Starting Gate

Construction on five Cal State Northridge campus projects will begin within the next two years. All aspects of campus life and scholarship stand to benefit from the projects, listed here in order of construction:

Science 5 Building

Construction starts in June 2007 on a nearly 90,000 square foot, four-story science building featuring “smart” lecture rooms, a genetic counseling unit, state-of-the-art laboratories and numerous other features.

Funded by a 2004 state capital construction measure, the \$46 million-plus building will be located south of the Botanic Garden. When finished in spring 2009, it will stand on the current Botanic Garden’s small southern edge, which will be replanted as a California native garden. Aged trees and plants will be removed from the garden—an outdoor laboratory vital to CSUN’s biology program—to permit planting of new specimens more useful to the program.

Several trees and plants in the garden and around the pond area will be relocated to a new rain forest environment under construction adjacent to CSUN’s new fuel cell plant. Using the carbon dioxide generated

by the plant, rain forest conditions will be created for student study.

To make room for the new structure, the current pond will be relocated to a lighted, path-accessible space—chosen by a faculty/staff group—at the eastern edge of the historic orange grove, better integrating the grove into campus life. Pond relocation/construction work starts this summer, with completion by spring 2008.

G3 Parking Structure

Construction of a 1,500-stall, five-level parking structure on the site of existing surface lot G3 is expected to begin by the end of summer 2007 and conclude by fall 2008, funded through campus parking fees. Associate Vice President for Facilities Development and Operations Colin Donahue said the \$30 million structure—off Zelzah Avenue between Prairie and Dearborn Streets, near the planned regional performing arts center—will add a net 1,000 parking spaces for campus use, factoring in the 500 surface spaces lost in the process.

Performing Arts Center

Construction on the center, planned for the northwest corner of Nordhoff

Street and Lindley Avenue, is set to begin in fall 2007, with completion expected by winter 2009. Funded through a combination of state bond funds and private fundraising, the project will include a 1,770-seat hall, a 200-seat black box theater, a 200-seat lecture hall, academic lab spaces for the College of Arts, Media, and Communication, and many other features.

Student Housing

A 400-bed student housing complex, to be built on the southern end of Parking Lot F9 south of Lassen Street between Lindley and Zelzah Avenues, is “ideally suited for the needs of first year students,” said Timothy Trevan, director of student housing and conference services. CSUN houses up to 1,500 first-year students annually.

“First year students need to be part of a community where they can make friends, meet faculty and get to know their surroundings,” said Trevan about the nearly \$31 million project, funded by student housing rents. It is due to break ground in December 2007 and open in summer 2009.

Accordingly, Trevan said a “cluster” concept was developed in which students will share large living room

spaces surrounded by double occupancy bedrooms, in two four-story houses containing four clusters each.

A 6,000 square foot community center also is planned, with a 24-hour resident assistant/security desk, a classroom to accommodate CSUN’s living-learning concept and other features.

Parking needs will be addressed for complex residents by maximizing utilization of the G9 parking structure just west of Zelzah, south of Lassen.

Student Recreation Center

A summer 2009 groundbreaking is planned for a 120,000 square foot student recreation center. Scheduled for completion in summer 2011, it will include a rock climbing wall, racquetball courts, gymnasium courts, multipurpose rooms for sport clubs and group fitness, an indoor jogging track, and weight and fitness space, said project supervisor Bryanne Knight.

The center—whose \$70 million cost was authorized by a recent CSUN student referendum—also will include a boxing studio, a space for drop-in babysitting services, an outdoor swimming pool complex and an outdoor artificial field complex for intramural sports. ■

Northridge’s Newest Fulbright Fellow to Direct in Sri Lanka

Heinrich Falk Looks Forward to Exchange of Western, Asian Theatrical Cultures

The student who walked into theatre professor Heinrich Falk’s office in the mid-1990s was a lawyer looking for a new life in the theatre. Falk, at that time the director of graduate studies for the Theatre Department, helped Namel Weeramuni enter its master’s degree program. Several years later, degree in hand, Weeramuni went on to realize his dream: to build and run a theatre in his native Sri Lanka.

Now, as Falk prepares to realize a dream of his own, his former student and friend Weeramuni will have a role to play. CSUN’s newest recipient of a Fulbright Scholar grant, Falk soon will be directing a play and conducting a workshop in the theatre Weeramuni built.

As a Fulbright Fellow, the professor



Heinrich Falk

emeritus will depart in October 2007 for Colombo, in southwest Sri Lanka, to lecture on American drama for the University of Sri Jayawardenepura, contribute to the postgraduate program of its Department of Languages and Cultural Studies, and direct a play for its English literary festival.

His work with Weeramuni’s Punchi Theatre (Little Theatre), a welcome addition to his scholarly activities in Colombo, will represent a kind of homecoming for Falk. In 2004, he directed Colombian playwright Enrique Buenaventura’s “In the Right Hand of God the Father” as the inaugural production for the newly built theatre. Falk and Weeramuni adapted the work to the Sri Lankan culture, employing a range of actors, from professionals

to young people who had never been on a stage.

The return to the flourishing Sri Lankan theatre world will enable Falk to enrich the offerings of CSUN’s Theatre Department, where as an adjunct professor he serves as the international theatre programs coordinator, among other duties.

“Sri Lanka has a theatrical and artistic style that we have not yet incorporated in any significant way into our theatre program here at CSUN,” he said. “Our department over the years has had a considerable interest in promoting international programs, so I see this as one more activity in a much longer, ongoing process. It will have a beneficial impact on our CSUN students.” ■

Wolfson Scholar...

continued from page 1.

She twice made the CSUN Varsity “N” Honor Roll, twice was named Northridge Female Scholar Student-Athlete of the Year, and earned the 2005–06 Heald Outstanding Junior Award for the College of Science and Mathematics.

“Super organization and time management, those are key,” said Beach, also a member of the Western Athletic Conference Women’s Indoor Track and Field Championship Team.

During summer 2006, Beach found time for a laboratory technician molecular genetics internship with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, identifying salmon stock and determining their parentage.

“I just fell in love with genetics,”

said Beach, who will pursue a master’s degree at CSUN, with an emphasis on biomedical genetics.

Other convocation presentations will include The Nathan O. Freedman Memorial Award for Outstanding Graduate Student for 2007, to **Emily Iland**, a special education major with an overall 3.92 grade point average. Iland co-authored “Autism A–Z,” winner of the Exceptional Parent Award.

Her thesis project—research on Latina mothers with autistic children—will be used to formulate recommendations for Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger. Iland serves on the transition committee that reports to the governor’s Blue Ribbon Commission on Autism.

Outstanding Graduating Senior Awards—funded by Alumni Association

and CSUN Foundation donors—will be presented to:

- Cinema and television arts major **Veronica Chavira**, who coordinated the CSUN AIDS Walk for two years, produced “The Vagina Monologues” as a fundraiser for the Haven Hills domestic violence shelter in the Valley, and received several awards for volunteer service.
- Chemistry major **Jennifer Nnoli**, a top student researcher under biologist Steven Oppenheimer and a summer 2006 honors research assistant at Harvard University’s Department of Microbiology.
- Physics and statistics major **Nadia Souri**, who served on President Jolene Koester’s Enrollment Management Committee and as a

supplemental instructor for a CSUN algebra course.

- Music major **Jonathan Timpe**, founder and president of the CSUN Media Composition Club. Timpe has written original music for student films and performance groups such as the CSUN Chamber String Ensemble and the CSUN Wind Symphony.

In other news about honored students, the Association of Retired Faculty this year selected four graduate students who will receive its award: **Shawn McClelland** in chemistry and biochemistry, **Michele Martinez** in art, **Patrick Ryan** in theater and **Arlyn Sabado** in Family and Consumer Sciences. ■

Spanish-Language Media Project Targets HIV/AIDS

Journalism Students' Stories About Tijuana Hospice Result in Extraordinary Multimedia Collaboration

The AIDS hospice sits on the outskirts of a Tijuana *colonia* called *La Morita*, near a cluster of industrial plants. By the time one reaches it, paved roads have turned to dirt. Beyond *Casa Hogar las Memorias* ("Home of Memories"), signs of human activity dwindle away to nothing.

In spring 2007, it was—for five life-changing days—the headquarters of nine Cal State Northridge students enrolled in the university's new interdisciplinary minor in Spanish-language journalism. The students went there on March 31 to research and report on AIDS in the Latino community, and came back with a deep sense of journalistic responsibility and personal growth.

Evidence of their ambitious undertaking is available at campus newsstands. *Relatos contra el silencio: El sida en la comunidad Latina* ("Stories Against the Silence: AIDS in the Latin Community") is a 48-page special edition of *El Nuevo Sol*, produced by students in the Spanish-language journalism program. In moving detail, it tells the stories of the *Casa's* inhabitants and beams a much-needed spotlight on the issue of AIDS in the Spanish-speaking community.

By the time they complete the project, conceived and overseen by Journalism Department chair Kent Kirkton and Spanish-language media minor program director José Luis Benavides, they will have compiled a multimedia oeuvre of radio, print, video, Web and PowerPoint reporting—leaving them at once



Student journalists Ana Cubías (center) and Alondra Hernández interview a patient at Tijuana's *Casa Hogar las Memorias* hospice.

exhausted and exhilarated.

Kirkton learned about *Casa Hogar* at a conference organized by *Promotoras*, a nonprofit network of health advocates. Soon afterward, he and Benavides developed the idea for the media project. The topic of HIV/AIDS in the Latino community, Kirkton said, presented a challenging reporting experience and the chance to provide a service to the community.

The Spanish-language minor was a natural springboard for an original multimedia project, said Benavides. "With traditional media dying and new forms emerging, it was a way to break some rules of what is going on in journalism." The CSUN students, he said, have created a hybrid news product with information and opinion

delivered on a variety of platforms.

Benavides and Kirkton accompanied student journalists Ana Cubías, Alondra Hernández, Natalia Zelaya, Alonso Yáñez, Adolfo Flores, Esmeralda Orozco, Moisés Reyes, José Luis Méndez and Nancy Molina to *Casa Hogar*.

Their preparation had included lectures from AIDS experts, assigned readings and required immunizations, but life at *Casa Hogar las Memorias* was "eye-opening" for most. The hospice's 29 current patients and seven volunteers taught the CSUN students the meaning of courage, honesty and optimism.

Yáñez, a junior who is radio coordinator on the project, covered a spirited individual who had helped

obtain food for the hospice before the man's own health deteriorated and he became a patient himself. Sensing a "bigger story," Yáñez and his radio crew went to the patient's *barrio* and learned that he had fought hard to bring in basic amenities such as electricity and water.

The day after returning from Tijuana, Yáñez and the other students were grieved to learn that the HIV-infected *barrio* hero had died.

Cubías, a senior involved with the project's print portion, acknowledged the "heartbreak" of the assignment. "As a journalist, you had to be understanding but at the same time professional, maintaining that respect with the interviewee, drawing the fine line between the subject and yourself as a reporter."

Molina, in charge of the video component, agreed. She recalled a hospice cook who, paralyzed on one side, walked with difficulty up the dirt path to a small grocery store to demand justice when Molina was shortchanged after a purchase. "His whole life had been injustice and rejection, but he still demanded justice for me," she said.

When Molina and her colleagues returned, they went to work on the extraordinary multimedia effort. The hospice will put to use their video piece, radio station KPDK-FM 90.7 will air the radio portion on May 31, the documentary may find its way to television, the Web piece can be viewed at www.csun.edu/elnuevosol, and *El Nuevo Sol* is in circulation. ■

Forecast: Valley Emerges as Vibrant Regional Job Center

Population Climbs at Moderate Pace; Housing Prices Flatten Out and Hold Steady

The San Fernando Valley's future continues to look bright as it transitions from a bedroom community into a vibrant job center, supplying workers for jobs outside the area and drawing businesses and workers to the region.

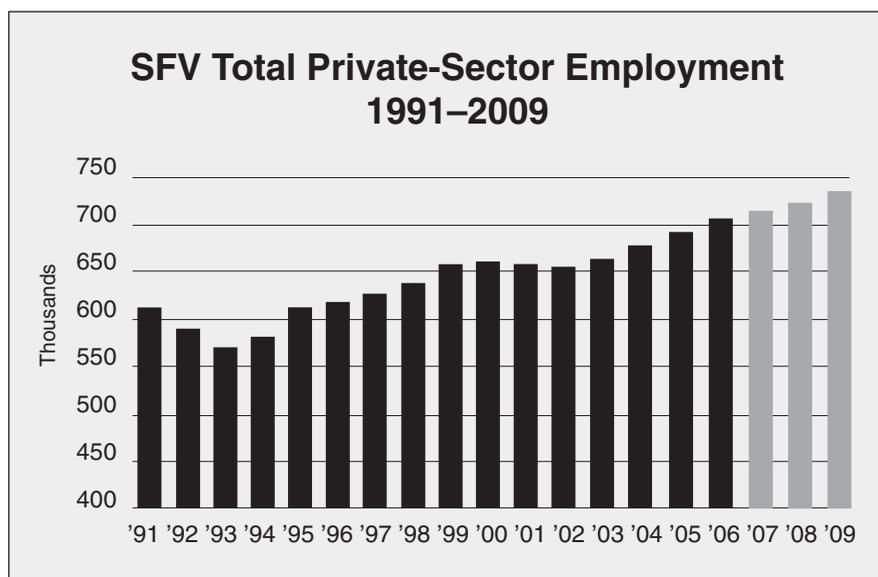
At the recent Economic Summit in Universal City, sponsored by the Economic Alliance of the San Fernando Valley and Cal State Northridge, the highly anticipated findings of the San Fernando Valley Economic Forecast were presented by economist Daniel Blake, director of CSUN's San Fernando Valley Economic Research Center.

"The forecast's more moderate growth rates for population and employment may provide local planners and policy makers with some breathing room and an opportunity to update the Valley's infrastructure to deal with the levels of activity we now have," Blake said.

Among the projections for the Valley economy:

Job growth

The Valley's economy continues to expand but has switched from the post-2001 recession "recovery mode," in which the Valley gained more than 25,000 new jobs from 2004–2005, to



a period of more "sustainable growth."

Forecasters predict that the Valley's private sector will add 10,800 jobs, up 1.5 percent, in 2007. It should add somewhat fewer in 2008, up 1.4 percent with 9,700 jobs.

Average salaries and total earnings

Workers' fortunes are expected to improve early in the forecast period as average wages and salaries for private sector employees grow at a

rate of 6.5 percent in 2007. After accounting for inflation, however, the 6.5 percent increase translates into a 2.9 percent growth in average paycheck purchasing power, which will continue to grow over the period but at a subdued 1.5 percent rate.

"Still, these projected growth rates reflect a respectable accumulation of real paycheck purchasing power during a period of normal and sustained growth," Blake said.

"The higher wages, combined with expanding employment rolls, will create a rising real income pool for the Valley and an attractive environment in which to develop and expand local businesses."

Real estate

Median home prices are expected to go flat after years of double-digit appreciation, as home building catches up and population growth slows. Housing prices will remain fairly steady throughout the forecast period.

"A housing bubble is not in the picture at the time, but dramatic increases in the Notice of Defaults and Foreclosure rates are sounding some alarm bells," Blake said. "The sub-prime mortgage market meltdown is still playing out."

The high price of housing encourages continued residential building at a measured pace. Limited space for development and rising construction costs push the mix of new residential units strongly in favor of condominiums and apartments, though single-family units continue to make a strong showing.

For copies of the forecast, visit www.csun.edu/sfverc or call the San Fernando Valley Economic Research Center at (818) 677-7021. ■

Honored Faculty's Close Connections with Students, Se

Northridge Professors Raise the Bar in the Art of Civil Argumentation, Music as The



From left, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Harry Hellenbrand, President Jolene Koester, Outstanding Faculty Award winners Ronald Borczon and Teresa Williams-Leon, and Faculty President Jennifer Matos



From left, Alexis Krasilovsky, Exceptional Creative Accomplishments Award winner; Preeminent Scholarly Publications Award winner Anthony Arthur; Visionary Community Service-Learning Award winner Kathleen Young and Glenn Omatsu, winner of the Extraordinary Service Award

It was the campus community's chance to applaud its faculty for hours of hard work, creativity, volunteered time and daily dedication to a shared goal—the education of Cal State Northridge's students.

The applause at the 2007 Honored Faculty Reception and General Faculty meeting was loud and long, led by hosts President Jolene Koester and Faculty President Jennifer Matos.

At the May 18 campus event, sponsored by the Office of the President and the Northridge Chapter of the California Faculty Association, nine faculty received special tribute from peers and well wishers. Seven more were awarded *emeritus* status, and 25 were recognized by their peers for service ranging from 25 to 35 years.

Reception guests also witnessed the installation of two new faculty officers for 2007–08: Edward Alfano (*Art*), as vice president of the faculty, and Cheryl Spector (*English*), as secretary of the faculty.

For a listing of faculty service recognitions, see page five.

Outstanding Faculty Awards

Teresa Williams-Leon

Asian American Studies

Williams-Leon believes in the right to air and defend one's position on an issue. She also believes in a culture of civil argumentation. In her classroom, argument and civility co-exist. Her ability to make it so has brought her the respect of both students and colleagues.

Widely recognized as a pioneer and leading scholar in the field of Asian American Studies, Williams-Leon was the first in her family to attend college. Her personal history, in her view, has created a special connection with the many students whose backgrounds are similar to hers.

The educator has served as the first woman chair of the Asian American Studies Department, one of only a

few in the nation. For her impact on Asian American multiracial identity studies, Williams-Leon received the Prism Award from the Hapa Issues Forum, an Asian-based educational/civil rights organization.

In its list of "35 Notable Accomplishments and Milestones for AAS at UCLA," UCLA's Asian-American Studies Research Center described Williams-Leon as one of the most "remarkable individuals its graduate program has trained."

Included in the 2006 Who's Who Among Teachers, the academic's record of publications is impressive, including her latest—"Bilingualism, Code-Switching and Transnational Identity Formations of Japanese-descent Multiracial Individuals"—on track for publication in 2008.

Ronald Borczon

Music

A man whose passion for music is matched by a passion to help human-kind, Borczon has built a remarkable career in which the two create a powerful bond.

With his new approaches to music therapy treatment for victims of post traumatic stress disorder, Borczon provided interventions after the Columbine and Santee High School shootings, assisted music therapists in New York after 9/11, and worked with caregivers after the disaster of Hurricane Katrina.

At CSUN, Borczon in 1996 established the Music Therapy Wellness Clinic, internationally recognized for its innovations in music therapy and serving more than 50 community clients weekly. Graduates of his music therapy program—95 percent of whom are employed within six weeks of graduation—currently score about six percentage points higher than the national average on the National Board Certification Exam for Music Therapists.

Borczon, whose "Music Therapy: A Fieldwork Primer" is a required text at several universities, views his clients

as "musical compositions in need of a musical intervention." Through art, he believes, "people with any disability, illness or disorder can improve on their condition."

Distinguished Teaching, Counseling or Librarianship Awards

Patricia Juarez-Dappe

History

Juarez-Dappe's experimental course—"Argentina: Past, Present and Future"—has become a regular course offering at Cal State Northridge, an indication of the professor's leadership in the education of the university's undergraduates.

Sensitive to the need for challenge and variety in lectures, the professor effectively incorporates technology in her instructional program, adeptly mixing media such as video clips, music and PowerPoint in her presentations.

Juarez-Dappe's enthusiastic teaching style and high academic standards have earned her excellent evaluations from her students.

Gary Pratt

Music

"I may be good at what I do," wrote one of Pratt's former students, "but professor Gary Pratt is best at what he does." The student, who works daily with what he called the greatest musicians in the world, added that "without fail, if Gary Pratt's name comes up, he's always spoken of with respect and admiration."

Pratt's legacy lives in the words of that student and others:

"I am a producer, songwriter and musician," wrote Mike Elizondo, who includes Dr. Dre, Eminem, 50 cents, Maroon 5, Fiona Apple and Sheryl Crow among the artists with whom he has worked. "Gary Pratt gave me private lessons on the upright bass. It was at this time that I began to make my biggest improvements as a musician, largely due to Gary. I attended CSUN from 1990–1994, so

that I could continue my studies with him. I turned to him for guidance and he would provide me with wisdom and encouragement."

Bradley McAuliff

Psychology

McAuliff's penchant for making connections between psychology and "real world" situations has drawn many appreciative students to his classes. A strong cultivator of critical thinking skills, he draws the disciplines of law and psychology into the mock trials organized for his students.

The educator serves on the editorial boards of Law and Human Behavior as well as the Child Maltreatment Newsletter, among others. McAuliff also is a reviewer for the Journal of Applied Social Psychology and Basic and Applied Social Psychology.

His dynamic teaching style, characterized by a scholarly approach to everyday problem-solving, has earned him excellent student evaluations.

Exceptional Creative Accomplishments Award

Alexis Krasilovsky

Cinema and Television Arts

Krasilovsky's groundbreaking documentary, "Women Behind the Camera," is the first to examine the lives, work and challenges of camerawomen around the globe.

The award-winning film represents years of intense production that took the filmmaker across the country and abroad in her effort to tell the story of women who "were the first to film in war zones, from helicopters, underwater and on Hollywood sets."

Krasilovsky marshaled campus resources as well as collegial and off-campus collaborators in her successful attempt to capture on film some 50 interviews with pioneering camerawomen. Based on her book of the same title, her film recently won an Insight Award of Excellence for documentaries, as well as an Accolade Competition Award of

Service to Humankind Bring Applause at Annual Tribute

Therapy, Film, Biography, Teaching Techniques, Community Outreach and Scholarship



Distinguished Teaching, Counseling or Librarianship Award winners: (from left) Gary Pratt, Patricia Juarez-Dappe and Bradley McAuliff



Acting Art Department chair Edward Alfano and English professor Cheryl Spector, newly installed faculty vice president and secretary, respectively

Photos by Lee Choo

Excellence: Contemporary Issues/
Awareness Raising.

“Alexis has not only paid tribute to female cinematographers and their struggle to make it in a male-dominated field,” wrote one colleague, “she has made a terrific film.”

Preeminent Scholarly Publications Award

Anthony Arthur

Emeritus professor of English
“Radical Innocent: Upton Sinclair,” Arthur’s scholarly review of the muckraker/social critic/novelist who exposed the meatpacking industry of his day, was one of “the most highly reviewed books of the year” upon publication in 2006.

To produce what Los Angeles Magazine called “a model of good biography, uncommonly well wrought,” Arthur sifted through the University of Indiana’s eight-ton Sinclair Archive and scoured the pages of nearly 80 books by the famous dissenter.

The result, according to USC’s Ronald Gottesman, is a “sensational” piece of scholarship. The *emeritus* English professor declared he knows “of few scholarly books of any year that have received greater acclaim, and none that have deserved it more.”

Brought out by Random House to coincide with the 100th publication anniversary of Sinclair’s 1906 classic in social protest literature, “The Jungle,” Arthur’s book also debuted near the time of his seminar on Sinclair at Germany’s University of Dortmund, where the honoree was a Fulbright Program senior specialist.

Extraordinary Service Award

Glenn Omatsu

Asian American Studies

Four areas have been the focus of Omatsu’s considerable energies: 1) the establishment of long-term learning communities for freshmen and the Faculty Mentor Program as part of the CSUN EOP Bridge Program, 2) working

in grassroots movements for justice, 3) the promotion of the alternative vision provided by Asian American Studies courses and 4) his “experiments in teaching and learning.”

As lead instructor with the EOP Bridge Program, Omatsu teams with other faculty to produce a focused curriculum transforming academically unprepared “special admit” students into students who often meet or exceed the retention rates of regularly admitted freshmen. The use of brain research, learning theory and experience with community-based education help Omatsu implement new and successful learning strategies.

As coordinator of the Faculty Mentor Program, Omatsu makes full use of the “mentoring on the run” concept, creating with every student contact an opportunity to teach and counsel.

Visionary Community Service-Learning Award

Kathleen Young

Health Sciences

Young has wasted no time in making an impact since her arrival at CSUN in 2003. Immediately integrating community-based research and basic service-learning pedagogy into her classes, she guided students to work with San Fernando Valley agencies, assessing community needs.

In collaboration with the Valley Care Community Consortium, for example, Young’s students helped conduct the Triennial Community Needs Assessment on HIV, hepatitis and substance abuse.

Young’s impact—described as “far-reaching”—has been seen in the grants her students wrote for the San Fernando Valley Trauma Rape Crisis Center, in their survey of convenience stores for the Tarzana Treatment Center’s Tobacco Grant Project, and in their development of focus groups and public service announcements for CSUN’s Klotz Student Health Center.

2007 Emeritus Faculty

John Adams	<i>Electrical & Computer Engineering</i>
William Dagodag	<i>Urban Studies and Planning</i>
Antonio Gilman	<i>Anthropology</i>
Antonia Hussey	<i>Geography</i>
Richard Miller	<i>Counseling Services</i>
Kyoko Sato (Handler)	<i>Secondary Education</i>
James Schaeffer	<i>Chemistry & Biochemistry</i>

Faculty Completing 35 Years of Service

Alyce Akers	<i>Family and Consumer Sciences</i>
Michael Barrett	<i>Reference and Instructional Services</i>
Marshall Bloom*	<i>Counseling Services</i>
William Dagodag	<i>Urban Studies and Planning</i>
Mary Finley	<i>Reference and Instructional Services</i>
Lawrence Fleischer	<i>Deaf Studies</i>
Jerald Schutte	<i>Sociology</i>
Nathan Weinberg	<i>Sociology</i>

Faculty Completing 30 Years of Service

Jean Daniels	<i>Sociology</i>
Timothy Fox	<i>Mechanical Engineering</i>
Catherine Jeppson	<i>Accounting and Information Systems</i>
Bruce Lammers	<i>Marketing</i>
Gerard Rossy	<i>Management</i>
Jerome Seliger	<i>Health Sciences</i>

Faculty Completing 25 Years of Service

Larry Allen	<i>Biology</i>
Don Brownlee	<i>Communication Studies</i>
Vera Fleischer	<i>Deaf Studies</i>
Nazimuddin Khawaja	<i>Mathematics</i>
Sharron Kollmeyer Gerfen*	<i>English</i>
Temma Kramer	<i>Cinema and Television Arts</i>
Jeffrey Lenham	<i>Deaf Studies</i>
Garlan Miller	<i>Deaf Studies</i>
Rex Mitchell	<i>Management</i>
Marta Sanchez	<i>Chicana/o Studies</i>
John Schillinger	<i>Environmental & Occupational Health</i>

* Belated Recognition

For These Determined Graduates, 'No' is No Answer

'They Are Truly What Cal State Northridge is All About,' Says President Koester

University officials will recognize the academic achievement of Cal State Northridge's thousands of graduates this year, but they also will salute the students' tenacity in earning their prize: a college education. "Our students have worked hard to get to this day," said President Jolene Koester. "Regardless of what they encountered, these students were determined to complete their education. They are truly what Cal State Northridge is all about—providing an opportunity for individuals to achieve their dreams."

The stories of six such graduates are below:



Rene Fleischbein, M.A., English Fleischbein is on the verge of receiving her master's degree in English, with a spot waiting

for her this fall in a University of Southern Mississippi doctoral program. She gives the credit to her 15-year-old daughter, Savana.

"She's been my rock, and a reminder of why I need to work hard to achieve my dreams," said Fleischbein.

The 38-year-old Oxnard resident was in community college when she met Savana's father, a German national, in the '80s. They married and moved to Germany. When the marriage didn't work out, Fleischbein returned to Oxnard in 1994, small child in tow.

She returned to school and, after meeting her second husband—a native Palestinian from Jordan—transferred to the University of California, Berkeley, where she earned her bachelor's degree in English. In the meantime, she found her second husband supportive at times, but sometimes emotionally abusive.

After 9/11, when her husband was deported and the family moved to Jordan, the abuse escalated into physical assaults. Fleischbein said she was lucky her in-laws realized her husband was dangerous; they supported her decision to leave him and return to the United States. "He could have easily killed me, claimed it was an honor killing, and gotten away with it," she said.

Fleischbein wanted to set a better example for her daughter. With the support of her parents, Robert and Mary Fleischbein, she applied to Northridge in 2004. "I hope to someday return to CSUN as a professor," she said.

Fleischbein will take part in the College of Humanities' commencement ceremony at 8 a.m. Thursday, May 31, on the Oviatt Library lawn.



Osvaldo Larios, B.A., French "I was not about to let my disadvantaged background and my family's income status

prevent me from achieving my dreams," said Larios, whose desire to share the benefits enjoyed by natural born American citizens drew him to enroll at Northridge in 2002.

Enduring hardships along the way, Larios' family moved to the U.S. from Mexico in 1991, when Osvaldo was seven. His father repaired appliances and his mother cleaned houses, relying on public transportation to get to their jobs and send their children to school. "Growing up in the U.S., being from another country, has been really difficult," he said.

Complicating matters was the cost of a college education. With difficulty, his parents paid for the first two years of Larios' education, with his brother at a two-year college and his sister soon to graduate from high school.

Larios took a job, easing the financial burden during his last two years of school. "Thanks to the installment plan, we were just barely able to make it work," said the 24-year-old, who plans to become a cardiovascular surgeon.

Larios will take part in the College of Humanities' commencement ceremony.



Patricia Lawrence, B.A., Liberal Studies A bachelor's degree seemed out of the question for Lawrence.

Growing up, she regularly encountered obstacles as she tried to navigate the world and deal with her cerebral palsy. She faced a barrage of negative comments about her dream of going to college, but Lawrence was determined to prove people wrong.

"A friend of mine, who also has cerebral palsy, earned her master's degree in education when there were no 'special accommodations' like there are nowadays," said Lawrence, convinced that she, too, could exceed the limits others imposed on her.

She enrolled at Cal State Northridge in 1995, determined to help people transcend mental, physical or social barriers. Some of her strength, she said, has come from CSUN faculty.

"A person who has a disability has two choices: either they [can] lay in bed all day and let someone take care of them, or the person, meaning me, can get up each and every day and do the best I can to show the

people around me that I am trying to live a life with a disability," Lawrence said. "My disability does not control me, I control my disability. I am still a person with dreams, goals and desires of the heart, just like an able bodied person!"

Lawrence's work as a tutor for young children gave her goals focus. "Students are being passed on to the next grade without mastering the subjects..." said the 47-year-old, who wants to work one-on-one with students lacking in basic skills.

"I have come to believe that until they are in my shoes, people should never tell someone else what they can't do," said Lawrence, who will participate in the College of Humanities' ceremony.



Cynthia Lieberman, B.A., Cinema and Television Arts Lieberman's graduation announcement reads "Degree at

Last! Degree at Last!" It is never too late, she believes, "to become what you might have been."

Her pursuit of education began in 1977, shortly after experiencing a tragic car accident that claimed the life of her best friend. After months of physical therapy, she earned her G.E. degree at Los Angeles Valley College, then entered CSUN with an interest in radio, television and film.

Lieberman's entertainment industry career already was off to a good start. At age 19, she had begun at Warner Bros. as an assistant to the payroll department chief. By 1989, she had moved up to head of corporate communications for Fox, Inc., reporting directly to the studio chairman. Years later, Lieberman went on to top tier positions in marketing and publicity for every studio except Disney.

Now the vice president of media relations for Sony Pictures Television, Lieberman decided to tend to unfinished business. She returned to CSUN in fall 2005 to complete what she had started nearly three decades earlier, earning two-thirds of her education in night classes despite a busy career and raising a family.

As she stood in line for her cap and gown, Lieberman's emotions overcame her. "When I reached the head of the line, I looked at the girl with the roster, thinking 'my name's not going to be on it.' Then I saw it, and burst into tears. I had to go outside and collect myself," she said.

Lieberman, who plans to pursue a second degree in sociology, will take part in the Mike Curb College of Arts, Media, and Communication commencement ceremony at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 30, on the Oviatt Library lawn.



Alejandro Molina, B.A., Theatre For much of his life, Molina has dreamed of establishing a theater company featuring

local talent in its own productions, and an after-school cultural center for young people, inspiring them to break out of the poverty that marks much of the northeast San Fernando Valley. But without an education, the 41-year-old native of Mexico said his future "looked chaotic."

Molina came to the United States in 1989 from Arteaga, Michoacán, with an invitation to study and perform with the Los Angeles-based bilingual Latin-American theater collective, *Tatalejos*. He began teaching after-school drama classes to children in Pacoima and San Fernando and co-founded a community-based theater group, *Tres Culturas*. To make ends meet, he worked in a drapery company, restaurants and as a swap meet vendor.

"I knew I wasn't going to really succeed if I didn't get a proper education," Molina said. The first step was to learn proper English, "the most difficult thing I ever had to do."

He enrolled in English classes at the North East Valley Occupational Center, and then Mission College. "Many times," he said, "I found myself studying and repeating the lessons like a weird character speaking to itself on the bus to and from school."

With the support of his wife, Maria Santa Cruz, whom he calls his "angel," Molina quit his jobs and devoted himself full time to his studies while his wife worked as a housekeeper to pay their bills.

When he transferred to Northridge two years ago, Molina was terrified "because I knew the challenges would be even greater, particularly since English is my second language."

The support of Molina's wife, the motivation of his teachers, financial aid and "the desire to influence children positively through theater" gave Molina strength to cross the finish line.

He will walk in the Mike Curb College of Arts, Media, and Communication ceremony.



Elaine Paletz Nashick, B.A., English Literature Nashick said her mother has been her inspiration throughout

her life. Now, poised to receive her bachelor's degree at age 66, she hopes she can become an inspiration to her own children and grandchildren.

Beating the Odds continued on page 7.

FYI

Events

Tuesday, June 5 College of Humanities Showcase

The College of Humanities will share its work with alumni, donors, *emeriti* faculty and friends at an Open House Showcase, 4–6:15 p.m., Jerome Richfield Hall, room 319. *fmi*—Tina Chewning, x4077.

Presentations:

- “The Bachelor of Arts in Central American Studies: An Interdisciplinary, Transnational, Area Studies Program Focused on Cultural and Ethnic Diversity,” Douglas Carranza, Central American Studies Program
- “HIP Café,” Ralph Tropf, Humanities Interdisciplinary Program
- “Expanding the Horizons of the English Department,” Scott Andrews, English Department
- “Technology Mediated Language Acquisition,” Patricia Miller, Modern & Classical Languages & Literatures Department

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.

Publication of @CSUN will resume with the start of the fall 2007 semester. 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 submitting.

Note: *fmi*—means for more information. ■

- “Gardens Telling Stories: The Japanese Gardens of West Los Angeles, or Infinity in Small Spaces,” Margarita Nieto, Chicana/o Studies Department
- “The Explosive Growth of Christianity in Korea,” Kenneth Lee, Religious Studies Department

to Martha Alzamora (*English*) and her family on the passing of her mother.

Physical Plant Management and the CSUN community also offer sympathy to Mauricio Avila (*PPM*) and his family on the passing of his father.

The campus community also joins with Physical Plant Management in extending condolences to Steven Dove (*PPM*), whose grandmother has passed away.

Workshops:

- “What’s My Communication Style?” Janice Evelyn, presenter. Thu., June 7, 9 a.m. to noon
- “Effective Team Member Profile” Janice Evelyn, presenter. Tue., June 19, 9 a.m. to noon

Public Meetings

USU Board

Meets 1 p.m.
Mon., June 4
USU Grand Salon

Foundation Board

Meets 6 p.m.
Wed., June 6
fmi—Judy Landy, x4197

Notices

Deepest Condolences

The English Department and the campus community extend condolences

Deadlines

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 Standing Advisory Committee for Protection of Human Subjects. Next deadline date: June 12, for the June 26 meeting. Download protocol submission forms at www.csun.edu/research/03_Research/06_HumanSubjectsResearch.html.

■ ■ ■

Classes

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.admn.csun.edu/brs/training/index.html and completing the online registration form for each workshop. *fmi*—Janette Munoz, x3820.

Politics of Hip Hop Examined in Pan African Studies Course

Course Examines Pros and Cons, Approaching Social Phenomenon from Scholarly Perspective

The academic year has been an interesting one for Karin Stanford, assistant professor in the Pan African Studies Department. Stanford is wrapping up her third year of teaching a timely course aimed at addressing the impact of the hip hop phenomenon on African American culture.

Entitled “The Politics of Hip Hop,” the upper division course analyzes the relationship between African American youth, society and hip hop.

“Students come into the course expecting a cursory look at the music, but after the course is completed, find they have acquired more knowledge than anticipated,” said Stanford.

“The Politics of Hip Hop” approaches the music from a scholarly perspective, providing a plethora of literature which validates it as a culture and as a source for political expression,” she added.

Since the mid-1970s, hip hop has developed into a genre of music whose performers provide illustrations of their life struggles and triumphs. Recent media accounts have explored a spirited controversy over the music,



Watts community activist Aqeela Sherrills addresses students in the Pan African Studies Department’s “Politics of Hip Hop” course.

ranging from the argument that it advocates justice through political expression to the argument that its lyrics are misogynistic, materialistic and violent.

Stanford said the positive and negative complexities spark lively and serious discussion during the course, which during the past semester fea-

ured speakers such as activist Aqeela Sherrills. After losing many friends to gang violence, Sherrills and his brother in 1999 established the Community Self Determination Institute, aimed at fostering positive growth and social change in the Watts community.

When senior Michelle Hartzog took the course, she prepared her

research paper on Hurricane Katrina. Hartzog studied the involvement of race, class and status in the aftermath of Katrina, discovering in the process how the hip hop community got involved in helping hurricane victims.

“I didn’t realize that hip hop was a culture until I took the class,” Hartzog said. It has a history, she added, of “making people conscious of sociopolitical issues.”

An annual journal, the Hip-Hop Think Tank, is published by the Pan African Studies Department and includes articles by students from Stanford’s course. Student writers for the journal’s second volume, “Hip Hop Think Tank: Battling the Dichotomy of the Hip-Hop Generation,” were recognized at the 30th Annual National Conference of Black Studies.

Stanford said her hope is that hip hop will continue to provide a voice for disadvantaged communities. However, she noted, it is a force that should be reclaimed from those who seek to profit from it through exploitation. ■

—Sheena Gray

Beating the Odds...

continued from page 6.

“My mom lived until she was 92, and she lived to the fullest,” said Nashick. “She was a homemaker for years and then went to work after my brother was born. The old ways left her and she came out of her shell.”

It is never too late to follow dreams, Nashick’s mother counseled her. Sharing her mother’s energy and thirst for life, Nashick has for the past

two years juggled full time school, job and family. “I’ve always been really good at multitasking,” she said.

Nashick first enrolled at CSUN—then San Fernando Valley State College—in 1959, straight out of high school. After only two semesters, she dropped out to marry and pursue a career in accounting, adopting two sons during her first marriage—a 17-year union—and bearing two more children

during her second, 22-year marriage.

As her career seemed to level out, Nashick suspected it was because she hadn’t finished college. “I always regretted not having my bachelor’s degree; I couldn’t advance in my career without it,” she said.

Her career plateau, coupled with the need for distraction from the pains of a second divorce, spurred her to return to school. Nashick tested

the waters, enrolling in an online class with her daughter at College of the Canyons. “I did well and started taking other classes and before you know it, I earned my associate’s degree,” she said. She was readmitted to CSUN in 2005, 47 years after first setting foot on campus.

Nashick will participate in the College of Humanities’ commencement ceremony. ■

New Degrees Offered in Nursing, Languages and Cultures

Two important new degree programs will be available in fall 2007 to undergraduates interested in nursing or languages and cultures.

The College of Health and Human Development has been given initial approval by the California Board of Registered Nursing to begin offering an accelerated bachelor's degree program in nursing in June. A bachelor of arts degree in languages and cultures is another new choice for CSUN students.

The 15-month nursing program targets people who already have a non-nursing bachelor's degree. Such individuals often go to a community

college for an associate's degree in nursing.

CSUN's degree provides "a new and needed professional alternative," said nursing program director Martha Highfield. It will help meet a critical shortage of nurses in the San Fernando Valley region.

Each summer and fall, a cohort of 18 students will be admitted to the program. Starting in 2008, two 18-student cohorts will be admitted per year, in summer and in fall.

Upon completion, students will be eligible to receive bachelor of science degrees in nursing (BSN), take the RN licensing exam and apply for Public Health Nurse certificates.

Students will get hands-on nursing experience at CSUN's local hospital partners—Northridge Hospital Medical Center, Providence St. Joseph Medical Center in Burbank and Kaiser Permanente. Valley Presbyterian Hospital also has lent its support to the program.

The Department of Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures' new major in languages and cultures began in fall 2006. Its two components include language—including Armenian, French, German, Italian and Japanese—and cross cultural studies.

"The reality is that this is a multi-cultural world, and knowledge of another language and culture will

give one a competitive edge in the workplace, whether it's banking or the creative arts," said department chair Brian Castronovo.

Castronovo said his department worked closely with business professor Rafi Efrat to develop electives within the major that reflect the interests of business students. They include three courses that examine the business cultures in Asia, Europe and Latin America.

Language professors Akiko Hirota, Luis Bonilla and Anthony Costantini prepared the business course proposals. The courses train students to develop cross-cultural sensitivity and communication skills. ■

Students, Entertainment Pros Interact at CSUN Conference

The creative and high technology side of the entertainment industry was well represented at Cal State Northridge's May 5 Entertainment Arts Conference, featuring one-on-one interaction between students and key industry professionals.

Video game director Cory Barlog of Sony Computer Entertainment America kicked off the day's events with screenings of the "God of War II" game. Barlog was animation director on the first "God of War" game—winner of Best Game of the Year—and was lead 3D computer animator on "X-Men" fighter games and feature films such as "Mighty Joe Young."

Discussions also were led by cinematic animator and CSUN animation student Artak Avakyan ("God of War II"), video game world creator/level designer Tyler Chiochio ("Saboteur," Pandemic) and lead 3D CG animator Mark Farquhar (Sony Pictures Imageworks' "Surf's Up" and "Open Season," and Pixar's "Toy Story 2").

Panels on Key Art movie poster design, moderated by art professor



Video game director Cory Barlog discusses the "God of War II" game with an attentive audience of Cal State Northridge students.

Paula DiMarco, included The Refinery Creative art directors Joshua Ecton—a CSUN graphics alum—and Michael Valle, as well as Photoshop World Guru Award winner Tomasz Opasinski, senior art director of Crew Creative Advertising, and multiple award winner Allan Taylor, CEO of AT DESIGN.

Students learned about animation story writing and pitching from CSUN animation alum Hadley Hudson of Radar Cartoons, developer for Cartoon Network Europe; and television cartoon writer Craig Miller ("Curious George," "Smurfs," "GI Joe"). Composer Dan Schatzberg, a CSUN music student who has composed for the television libraries of the "Dr. Phil," "Entertainment Tonight" and "Rachel Ray" programs, premiered his re-scoring of the "Spiderman 3" trailer.

Organized by Entertainment Industry Institute director Mary Ann Trujillo, the event was sponsored by the institute and the Mike Curb College of Arts, Media, and Communication. For more information, contact Trujillo at (818) 677-2221. ■

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.

Annual Juried Art Student Exhibition

Features works by CSUN students in animation, video, painting, sculpture and other media. Works chosen by art professionals. Exhibit runs through May 30. Main Art Gallery

Women in Music

Featuring women composers and performers. Curated by music graduate student Serena Vaquilar. Exhibit runs through June 1. Oviatt Library, main lobby



▲ Faces of Tientsin, 1946

Counseling services professor emeritus Harold Giedt's photographs, taken as a Marine lieutenant in Tientsin, end of World War II. Presented by the Oviatt Library's Old China Hands Archive. Exhibit runs through Aug. 1. Oviatt Library, second floor



▲ Celebrating Comics

Development of comic books from 1930s to 20th Century. Exhibit runs through Aug. 3. Oviatt Library, Tseng Gallery



▲ Bianchi Planetarium

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

"Spring Sky Show"

Fri., June 15, 7:30 p.m.

"Summer Sky Show"

Fri., June 29, 7:30 p.m.

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