CSUN Expedition to Retrace Allied Invasion of Normandy
Students, Alumni and History Buffs Will Journey to France for Up Close Study of WWII Assault

It is instructive to read about the famed World War II Allied invasion of Normandy, but to actually walk along the sands of Omaha Beach or to hear the echo of long ago battles from the cliffs at Pointe du Hoc are experiences that transcend classroom instruction.

Cal State Northridge students and alumni will delve into the history of the World War II beach assault during the June 2007 Staff Ride to Normandy, an expedition re-tracing the steps of soldiers who took part in the historic days of June 1944. The two-week trip will be offered under the auspices of the Cal State Northridge History Department.

For five years, said History Department chair Thomas Madux, the department has sponsored experimental courses taking students and alumni to important U.S. and European battlesites, among them the Civil War’s Gettysburg and Chickamauga sites, and World War I’s Belgian and French fields of conflict.

In 2007, CSUN for the first time will offer a regular historical field study course called “History 409N: Historical Field Study in Normandy, France.” It will focus on the 1944 invasion, with investigation of military operations from both the Allied and German perspectives.

Master Classes Enrich Arts Experience at Northridge
What Makes an Artist Tick? Students, Community Learn from World Class Performers

Sophie Monat (foreground), ballet mistress of Santa Barbara’s State Street Ballet, leads a master class for CSUN students and community members on the newly refurbished, state-of-the-art floor of the Kinesiology Department’s Redwood Hall dance studio.

CSUN students observe German defenses on Omaha Beach during 2003 expedition to Normandy. A 2007 CSUN field study course on the Normandy invasion is planned.

In one of the 2003 Normandy expedition’s quiet moments, CSUN student Meranda Seely contemplates the sacrifice of soldiers at the American Cemetery, Omaha Beach.

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Cal State Northridge Mourns Death of Engineering Pioneer

John Guarrera is credited with saving CSUN's College of Engineering from elimination in 1970s

Pioneering Cal State Northridge engineering instructor John Guarrera, credited by university officials with saving the College of Engineering and Computer Science from elimination more than 30 years ago, has died.

Guarrera, who retired two years ago at age 82, died December 6 near his home in El Cajon.

"His legacy of teaching, research, and service is well known nationally," said CSUN President Jolene Koester. "The well-being and success of our students were at the core of everything he did while at CSUN. He touched so many lives in such a positive way. John will be sorely missed."

S.K. Ramesh, dean of the College of Engineering and Computer Science, said Guarrera "has left an indelible mark on our campus" through his commitment to education.

University officials said Guarrera's contribution to the field of engineering and his recognition that it provided great career opportunities for Cal State Northridge students fueled his determination to save the College of Engineering and Computer Science decades ago. During the early 1970s, the CSU Chancellor's Office proposed eliminating the college in an effort to streamline system-wide academic offerings.

Dean emeritus Rick Ratcliffe recalled in an interview two years ago that Guarrera, then president of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers, rallied professional support for the college. Guarrera was instrumental in convincing the CSU Board of Trustees that Northridge needed a College of Engineering and Computer Science, said Ratcliffe, who headed the college from 1981 to 1992.

Another noted that the experience convinced former dean Charles Sanders to strengthen the college's ties with local industrial and professional communities, and in 1976 Sanders created the Center for Research and Services. Guarrera was appointed its first director, a position he held until his retirement in 2004. Guarrera continued to volunteer at the center and the college until earlier this year.

An expert on World War II German airborne forces during the invasion campaign, he did while at CSUN. He touched so many people, adding "he did while at CSUN. He touched so many people, and the well-being and success of our students were at the core of everything he did while at CSUN. He touched so many lives in such a positive way. John will be sorely missed."

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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 January 29 issue is Monday, January 22. 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.

Holiday Payroll Distribution
Payroll will be distributed in the lobby of Bayramian Hall on Fri., Dec. 29, from 8 a.m. to noon. Photo ID will be required. Employees unable to pick up checks may authorize someone to do so, in writing. Include the name of the authorized person, the employee’s department, the last four digits of the employee’s Social Security number and the employee’s signature. Uncollected checks will be available for department pick-up from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tue., Jan. 2, 2007.

Project P.E.D.
The Cal State Northridge Police Department is conducting Project P.E.D. (Pedestrian Safety Enforcement Deterrence), an educational safety and enforcement campaign aimed at reducing the injury to pedestrians and motorists on the CSUN campus. University police officers urge the campus community to obey all speed limits and stop signs on roadways, in parking lots and structures, yield the right-of-way to pedestrians, use designated crosswalks and refrain from using cell phones while driving or crossing streets.

El-Amin, a CSUN senior participating in the STOP program for a second year, and a Department of Justice intern, said the program helps her “professional development.”

Student volunteers in CSUN’s Students Take Out Prejudice program strategize for sessions with teenagers at Northridge Academy High School.

For Your Information
CSUN Students Score Major Media Arts Awards

Cal State Northridge contributed three winners at the annual Media Arts Festivals held in November by the California State University Summer Arts Program, held this year at CSU Channel Islands.

Television production alumnus David Brown, a spring 2006 CSUN graduate, was awarded a first place Rosette for his entry in the television category. His 60-second public service announcement film, “Unmask the Future,” depicted masked student artists on campus engaged in painting, graffiti art, animation, video production and other creative projects. At the conclusion of the short film, the students unmask themselves, accompanied by the simple exhortation to “unmask the future.”

“I was really surprised because I had entered the project under the experimental category,” said Brown. “I was going up against a lot of really good projects that were 10 and 15 minutes long.”

Film production alumnus John Duarte won a third place recognition in the festival’s documentary category for his entry, “Dairy Cow,” a 10-minute portrait of a dairy—from the cow’s point of view—filmed on location in Tulare, Calif.

Joanna Salinas, an art major with an animation concentration, was director and lead animator for “Chester & Princess.” The CSUN senior’s project took fifth place in the animation category.

Brown, Duarte and Salinas were among 45 finalists from a total of 222 submissions from 15 CSU campuses.

Model U.N. Team Wins Big at Las Vegas Conference

The Cal State Northridge Model United Nations (MUN) team in November won six awards at the three-day American West Model United Nations conference in Las Vegas, the largest number of awards achieved to date by the CSUN team at the annual conference.

“Changing Climates: Environmental Impacts on Our World” was the theme for this year’s conference, promoting greater comprehension of international affairs through simulations of multi-state diplomacy.

Samantha Carnell, a sophomore political science major, won an Outstanding Delegate Award representing Belgium in the European Union. Political science major Tim Lovessett, a senior, won both an Outstanding Delegate Award representing Saudi Arabia in the Organization of Islamic Countries and a Research Award.

Distinguished Delegate Awards went to junior Malte Humpert, a political science major representing Saudi Arabia in the General Assembly, and Justin Seuthe, a junior studying cinema and television arts, who represented Tanzania in the U.N. Environment Programme.

Justin Robertson, a senior political science major, won a Research Award, representing Nicaragua in the World Food Programme.

Funding of $3,600 from Associated Students supported CSUN’s delegation of 25 students, the largest number of Northridge students ever to attend the regional conference.

Northridge Participates in President’s Volunteer Salute

Cal State Northridge in October was named an awarding institution of the President’s Volunteer Service Award Program, a project launched by the President’s Council on Service and Civic Participation. The council was created in 2003 by President George Bush to recognize the valuable work of volunteers in America.

As the awarding institution representing the San Fernando Valley, CSUN annually will recognize Valley clubs, organizations, families, individual students and community members for their contributions to the community.

The Community and Volunteer Involvement unit at CSUN’s Matador Involvement Center will document the progress of each volunteer or volunteer group, with the first awards to be presented in December 2007.

Each participant who finishes the required service hours will receive a President’s Volunteer Service Award pin, a personalized certificate of achievement, a note of congratulation from President Bush and a letter from the council. Awards are bestowed based on the number of volunteer hours served during a 12-month period or hours accumulated over the course of a lifetime.

Gold level awards are for children (ages 5–14 years) who work 100 hours or more, young adults (15–25 years) who work 250 hours or more, adults who work 500 hours or more and families/groups who work 1000 hours or more.

Silver level awards are for children who work 75–99 hours, young adults, 175–249 hours; adults, 250–499 hours, and family/groups, 500–999 hours. Bronze level awards are for children, 50 to 74 hours; young adults, 100–174 hours, adults, 100–249 hours, and families/groups, 200 to 499 hours.

A President’s Call to Service Award, for all ages, is reserved for those who have performed 4,000 hours or more of volunteer service during a lifetime.

Individuals and organizations wishing to be considered for the President’s Volunteer Service Award may enroll with the Volunteer Program at CSUN’s Community and Volunteer Involvement program. To enroll or for more information about requirements, call the volunteer program at (818) 677-5111.

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) 677-2585.

Remarkable Impressions

Legacy of great illustrators on display, including prints by William Hogarth, Kate Greenaway and more. From Oviatt Library’s collections. Exhibition runs through Dec. 22. Tseng Gallery, Oviatt Library.

Women’s Basketball
1/22 Michigan State 2 p.m.
1/20 Pacific 4 p.m.
1/14 Cal State Fullerton 7 p.m.
1/16 UC Riverside 4 p.m.
1/18 UC Davis 6 p.m.

Men’s Swimming
1/12 Cal Poly SLO 1 p.m.
1/12 Cal Poly SLO 1 p.m.

Women’s Tennis
1/18 Hawaii 11 a.m.

Track and Field
1/6 All Comers 8:30 a.m.
1/13 All Comers 8:30 a.m.
1/20 All Comers 8:30 a.m.

Men’s Volleyball
1/9/10 Riverside vs. U. P. (Exhibition)
1/17 UC Irvine 7 p.m.
1/19 UCLA 7 p.m.

Music

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

Avalon String Quartet
Haydn, Mendelssohn, Beethoven. Mon., Jan. 23, 8 p.m.
Plaza del Sol Performance Hall (formerly Performing Arts Center) $5–$30

Duo Faculty Recital
Julia Heinen, clarinetist. John Roscigno, percussionist. Sat., Feb. 3, 8 p.m.
Music Recital Hall

Theater Performance

Radio Days
Minneapolis-based Five by Design presents an affectionate tribute to the men and women who served during WWII. Saluting the radio programming, serials, soap and songs of the era, with musical memories of the Lone Ranger and celebrity guest “appearances” by Betty Grable, Carmen Miranda and big band leader Kay Kyser.
Sat., Feb. 4, 8 p.m.
Sun., Feb. 5, 2 p.m.
Plaza del Sol Performance Hall (formerly Performing Arts Center) $20–$55