Devonshire Downs Groundbreaking Set for Fall 2008
Faculty, Staff Residential Community to Welcome First Residents in 2009

Sixty years after it opened as a popular harness racing track and fairgrounds, Devonshire Downs is poised to reclaim its glory days—this time as a planned village-style residential community for Cal State Northridge faculty and staff.

Nearly 160 two-story, for-sale town homes on about 15 acres between Lindley and Zelzah Avenues north of Lassen Street are planned for the new Devonshire Downs’ $60 million initial phase, which will break ground on CSUN’s North Campus in fall 2008. It will welcome its first occupants in fall 2009.

The remaining 15 acres at the site will be developed during the next ten to 15 years, in two or three phases smaller both in size and scope than Phase 1, ultimately yielding more than 400 units, some of which may be rental dwellings.

“The presence of Devonshire Downs on CSUN’s north campus will greatly enhance our ability to attract and retain the high-caliber faculty and staff associated with our university.”

—President Jolene Koester

Currently, CSUN’s only faculty/staff dwellings are 34 rental units located in the College Court Townhomes complex on Plummer Street, west of campus. An on-campus village environment in which colleagues at work become neighbors at home, President Koester said, will strengthen both the sense of community within the university and its connections with the surrounding neighborhoods.

To create that village environment, campus leaders worked with Steinberg Architects and TGP Landscaping on a plan containing intimate internal pedestrian promenades that provide “a neighborhood experience of open, low-walled porches or front yards along the promenades and parkways.”

Constructing in blocks of three to five attached units ranging from 1300-1950 square feet, each town home will have a private two-car garage with alley access. Generous, energy-efficient window space, lofty ceilings, high-grade insulation and sound attenuation in common walls will be features available in all the town homes. Some of the available floor plans can be modified to accommodate persons with disabilities.

Three acres of recreational space within Devonshire Downs will be given over to a central village green, pocket parks, groves of trees, a swimming pool, playing courts and a community building.

Pedestrian and bike paths will lead directly from Devonshire Downs to the South Campus via a shady, tree-lined parkway that will terminate at the corner of Lindley Avenue and Lassen Street. From that terminus, village residents will cross the street directly from Devonshire Downs to the corner of Lindley Avenue and Lassen Street. From that terminus, village residents will cross the street directly from Devonshire Downs to the South Campus.

Devonshire Downs continued on page 2.

Common Reading Program Puts Freshmen on Same Page
‘One Campus, One Book’ Pilot Program Spurs Dialogue About Vietnam War Chronicle

When Cal State Northridge freshmen walked into their classrooms on August 23, they were entering more than a bricks and mortar structure. They were entering a conversation.

The conversation revolves around “The Things They Carried,” author Tim O'Brien’s powerful, award-winning collection of 22 stories chronicling the narrator’s Vietnam war experiences. Many freshmen will be reading and talking about the book this year as part of CSUN’s pilot Freshman Common Reading Program: “One Campus, One Book.”

According to Cheryl Spector, director of the campus’ Academic First Year Experiences and prime mover of “One Campus, One Book,” the new reading program “places academic engagement—teaching and learning—at the very center of the community One Campus, One Book continued on page 2.

Freshman Darrell Tripp of Pasadena, a biotechnology major, reads “The Things They Carried” on campus. Tim O’Brien’s collection of stories is the book selection of the Freshman Common Reading Program pilot.
Supervisor Antonovich Allocates $500,000 for Arts Center

Performing Arts Center at CSUN ‘Will Draw Residents from Adjoining Valleys and Across the County’

County Supervisor Michael Antonovich has announced a $500,000 contribution toward the development of the new performing arts center planned for Cal State Northridge.

A collaborative effort between the county and the university to improve access to the performing arts for the residents of the San Fernando Valley, the new 1,700-seat venue will join the county’s Music Center, Center Theatre Group and the Los Angeles Opera to showcase quality music, dance, theater, film and theater productions.

“This new performing arts center is the culmination of a 49-year-old dream by CSUN’s founders, who intended for the campus to be the cultural and economic heart of the San Fernando Valley,” said Antonovich.

“It will be the largest arts venue in the Valley and will draw residents from adjoining valleys and across the county.”

California State University, Northridge

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The university is “very grateful for the contribution that Supervisor Antonovich has provided for the university’s planning performing arts center. It reflects his strong commitment to ensuring that the people of Los Angeles, and particularly the San Fernando Valley and its neighboring areas, have the opportunity to be enriched by high quality cultural arts programs and events.”

Large enough to accommodate full-scale Broadway productions and operas, the arts center’s main performance hall will feature advanced acoustical tuning to adapt for a variety of presentations in music, dance, theater, films or speakers.

CSUN, California’s leading public university in preparing future teachers, has committed to major arts education and K-12 outreach efforts in the new center.

One of the three largest performing arts centers in the nation, the Music Center of Los Angeles County accommodates nearly 1.3 million people annually to perform at its four major downtown venues. Its Education Division offers a professional development program for teachers. ■

Devonshire Downs . . .

continued from page 1.

One Campus, One Book…

we are asking students to join.”

Under the program, participating faculty can order the “The Things They Carried” for individual sections of freshmen courses such as University 100, 097 Developmental Reading, 098 Developmental Writing and the 155 freshman composition courses.

The 32 sections of University 100 alone include 600-plus students, said Spector, reaching across a wide swath of disciplines involved with those courses—from business and pre-dental to psychology, science and math—as well as freshmen who are officially undecided.

That number does not even include freshmen who are or will be reading the book for other areas of study, said Spector. Political science professor Virginia Lussier, for example, has incorporated an entire unit on the book into her Political Science 155 sections.

Spector hopes the idea of the program will prove infectious. “You can’t really mandate the book, because faculty members have to be free to teach what they believe is appropriate,” she said. “But it’s intellectual fun for the faculty.”

The Things They Carried” already is engaging students like freshman Matt DeMarco, a pre-cinema and television arts major. “It’s a great way to meet and talk with other freshmen, and to broaden your perspectives,” said DeMarco, who is reading the book in lecturer Linda Overman’s developmental writing class.

DeMarco appreciates being able to share ideas with a peer outside of his immediate area of interest; he has discussed ideas from “Carried” with a friend who is reading it in a theatre class. “It’s neat how they’re using the book as a universal thing,” he said.

Freshman Brian Hosseiniyar agreed. “Having a common book for freshmen does make discussion more available between students who are from different classes,” he said. For Hosseiniyar, the idea of being drafted hit home. “We are in a time of war, and a draft is not unforeseeable.”

DeMarco saw in a chapter entitled “Spin” a message relevant for freshmen.

One of its characters, he said, uses his immaturity as an excuse for his bad behavior. “I know a lot of freshmen who use that I’m just an immature freshman’ excuse.”

The spark of ideas is just what Spector and her committee had in mind when they gathered in October 2006 to create a common reading program at CSUN like those at other universities where such initiatives already are in place.

Reading programs are underway on at least five other CSU campuses.

Spector already is looking toward 2008–09; campus-wide suggestions for next year’s freshman book selection are being submitted to www.csun.edu/afye/CommonRead.html or at cher@csun.edu.

Interested faculty and staff may contact Spector for free copies of “The Things They Carried,” limited quantities are still available. Eight copies also have been placed on reserve at the Oviatt Library. ■

California State University, Northridge • @CSUN • September 17, 2007  www.csun.edu/pubrels/@csun
Tuesday, September 18

Geological Sciences Colloquium
Jorge Vazquez, assistant professor of geological sciences, will speak on “Taking the Temperature of Yellowstone: Using Quartz and Zircon” at 4 p.m., Live Oak Hall 1231.

Tuesday, September 18

Who Were the First Israelites?
Elaine Goodfriend of CSUN’s Jewish Studies Program, will discuss recent archeological theories and present her view on the emergence of the Israelite nation in the Land of Canaan during her free lecture. “Who Were the First Israelites and Where Did They Come From? A Review of Recent Archeological Evidence and Theories,” set for 4:40 p.m., Sierra Hall 206. fmi—Jewish Studies Program, x5007, or jewish.studies@csun.edu.

Wednesday, September 19

Envisioning California Conference
The impact of immigration on California will be explored at the annual Envisioning California conference, set for 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Skibball Cultural Center. Sponsored by CSUN’s Center for Southern California Studies and the Center for California Studies at CSU, Sacramento, the conference will feature political, business, academic and community leaders on an array of panels probing the subject. fmi—x6518, csc@csun.edu or www.csun.edu/~cscs/.

Wednesday, September 19

A Look Back at the Vietnam War
The Center for Ethics and Values presents “A Look Back at the Vietnam War,” 9:30 a.m. to noon, Oviatt Library Presentation Room, with special focus on “The Things They Carried,” a collection of stories about a Vietnam War platoon that is required reading for many freshmen this year. Offering recollections of Vietnam era involvement will be Kent Kirkton (Journalsim), William Forthman (Philosophy/English), and Gina Masequesmay (Asian American Studies). Virginia Lussier (Political Science) will provide a war timeline, and presentations will include: “The Vietnam War: The Political Scene,” Tom Hogen-Esch (Political Science), “Cartoonist Viewpoint: What They Revealed,” Charles Hatfield (English), “War Themes in ‘The Things They Carried,’” Cheryl Spector (English). Moderator: John Kellenberger (Philosophy, Center for Ethics and Values). The event is free. fmi—x4594.

Thursday, September 20

Benefits Fair
The Office of Human Resources Benefits Fair is scheduled for 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the USU Grand Salon. Benefit providers will be available to answer questions at the event. fmi—Monica Escontrias, x8310.

Tuesday, October 2

Effective Mathematics Teaching
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Harry Hellenbrand announces a talk by James Hubert, the University of Delaware’s Robert J. Barkley professor of education, on “Effective Mathematics Teaching What Does the Research Say?” at 4 p.m. in the Flintridge Room, University Student Union. fmi—Joel Zeltin, x7796.

Tuesday, October 9

Disaster Readiness Expo
The CSUN Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) sponsors a Disaster Readiness Expo from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., south parking lot, CSU. An array of presentations will cover topics from first aid to fire safety, rescue technologies, basic earthquake knowledge, and disaster preparedness. A tinge refresher is scheduled from noon to 1 p.m. in the department’s Public Safety Training Room, all CERT members are eligible to attend. The newest preparedness supplies will be available. fmi—x2401.

Staff advisor to the Lambda Sigma Pi Fraternity and a mentor for new interpreters, he had an international reputation as a storyteller with the Children of Dead Adults. NCCD will host a memorial service September 28 at the University Student Union, Lake View Terrace, from 5–7 p.m.

The English Department and the campus community join in offering condolences to the family and friends of Michael DeGeos (English), who passed away in August. A CSUN alumus described as “extremely passionate about his teaching,” professor DeGeos joined the English faculty in fall 2000. The English Department held a memorial service on September 7, celebrating his life, work and devotion to CSUN. Messages of sympathy and concern sent to martha.alzamora@csun.edu will be forwarded to the professor’s family.

New Department Chairs

2008 Faculty Retreat
The 2008 Faculty Retreat will be held January 14 and 15 at the Ventura Beach Marriott. Proposals for presentations and poster sessions are due Friday, Oct. 26. Information and proposal forms are available at www.csun.edu/retreat.html. fmi—Heidi Wollbauer, x3263 or heidiw@csun.edu.

Examinations and Religious Observances
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Harry Hellenbrand reminds faculty members that university policies replaces them to accommodate students when examinations conflict with religious observances. The provost urges faculty to refrain from scheduling exams on days likely to affect many students’ observances. For help in evaluating requests to reschedule exams for such purposes, call the Office of Faculty Affairs, x2962.

Health Plan Open Enrollment
Open enrollment begins September 17 and ends October 12 for employees who wish to change their health, dental or dental plans, or to continue contributing to their health care reimbursement and dependent care accounts. The effective date for all changes is January 1, 2008. fmi—Monica Escontrias, x8310.
In Brief

Former William Morris Exec to Launch Speaker Series

Samuel Haskell, former executive vice president and worldwide head of television for the William Morris Agency, Inc., will launch the fall 2007 Executive Speaker Series with a September 20 talk titled “Intermediate Film Production.” Haskell is a committed philanthropist whose many charitable activities include working with Mississippi Gov. Haley Barbour and University of Mississippi officials to organize a 2005 MSNBC telethon that raised more than $15 million for victims of Hurricane Katrina.

Haskell began his career in the mailroom of the William Morris Agency, in 1978. In 1990, he became the agency’s youngest senior vice president and in 1994, he was named West coast head of television.

Before his promotion to the worldwide head of television position, Haskell became executive vice president and a member of the William Morris Agency board of directors. His clients included entertainers Bill Cosby, Kathie Lee Gifford, Ray Romano, Whoopi Goldberg, Debbie Allen, Delta Burke, Marilu Henner, Martin Short, Kirstie Alley, Tony Danza and many more.

The Executive Speaker Series was initiated in 2004 to provide CSUN students with opportunities to learn directly from the distinguished executives who participate.

Public Safety Dept. Creates Threat Management Unit

The tragic events at Virginia Tech last April and the national dialogue that followed have underscored the importance of campus safety at educational institutions nationwide.

Cal State Northridge’s Department of Public Safety has formed a Threat Management Unit in an effort to help university officials evaluate the dangers posed by persons whose actions may raise alarm, or at least concern, in members of the campus community.

“The ability of the university police to be able to provide assessments of just how dangerous persons of concern within the campus community may be is vital to an overall campus safety and security plan,” said CSUN Police Chief Anne Glavin, who created a similar unit while she was chief of police at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1998.

“Identifying individuals who require the intervention of support services such as counseling is critical in managing individuals with behavioral concerns or those who are spiraling downward due to problems in their lives,” Chief Glavin said.

The newly formed Threat Management Unit is charged with evaluating all reported incidents of workplace violence, domestic violence or fear of violence. Officers will conduct extensive investigations into reported incidents and take appropriate steps to reduce or eliminate possible hazards to personal safety and/or property.

The specialized unit is modeled after an approach to threat assessment utilized by the U.S. Secret Service.

Three university police officers are assigned full time to the unit on an “as needed” basis.

China Institute Grants Awarded

Cal State Northridge’s China Institute has awarded its annual Faculty Development Grants totaling $3,000 to health sciences assistant professor Louis Rubino, finance, real estate and insurance associate professor Patty Born and music professor Katherine Baker—all of whom aspire to advance the field of China studies.

Rubino, co-coordinator of the Institute’s Medical Management training program for seven years, will use his grant to help advance nutritional health education in China.

Born’s grant enables her to study the market for Chinese life insurance and retirement products, and to further her understanding of international markets for insurance.

While on sabbatical in Shanghai during fall 2007, she will obtain data and resources for an insurance research project.

Baker used her grant to visit Shanghai with the CSU Women’s Chorale in June 2007. She led the 28-person delegation, which gave two performances, once in combination with a Shanghai women’s chorus as part of the Performing Arts Series of Shanghai Normal University, and one sponsored by private individuals at a major Shanghai performance venue.

Art and Exhibits

For gallery info, call (818) 677-2158. Main gallery hours: Mon. through Sat. 12-4 p.m. and Thursdays noon-8 p.m.

For library exhibits, call (818) 677-2285.

The Life and Times of Elizabeth I

“The Sun that Lights the Rainbow: The Life and Times of Elizabeth I” exhibit features period and modern books, pictures and artifacts from history, agriculture, theatre and the fine arts. Features photos from Senator Robert F. Kennedy’s 1968 visit to campus.

EDGE: Faculty and Emeriti Exhibition

Cross-generational exhibition showcases 36 CSUN emeriti and full-time studio faculty artists. Photography, graphic design, painting, sculpture, video, textiles and mixed media.

Run through Sept. 22.

Main Art Gallery

Women’s Soccer
9/21 Hawaii 3 p.m.

Women’s Volleyball
9/28 UC Irvine 7 p.m.
9/29 UC Riverside 7 p.m.
10/2 Cal State Fullerton 7 p.m.

Services and Events

Athletics (home games):

Men’s Soccer
9/20 New Mexico 4 p.m.
9/29 UCLA 4 p.m.

Women’s Soccer
9/21 Hawaii 3 p.m.


Features photos from Senator Robert F. Kennedy’s 1968 visit to campus.

Runs through Oct. 7.

Oviatt Library Lobby

‘Life and Times of Elizabeth I’

“The Sun that Lights the Rainbow: The Life and Times of Elizabeth I” exhibit features period and modern books, pictures and artifacts from England’s “Golden Age.”

Facets of Elizabethan literature, science, medicine, music, religion, history, agriculture, theatre and court life explored. Sponsored by Gus and Erika Manders and the Oviatt Library. Runs through Dec. 20.

C.K. and Teresa Tseung Gallery, second floor, West Wing, Oviatt Library

The Bianchi Planetarium

For ticket info, (818) 677-2488 or visit www.csun.edu/physics/planetarium.

Directedby Jon Avnet.

Mon., Sept. 17, 7 p.m.


Tue., Oct. 2, 7 p.m.

‘L’Ensemble de la Mer’ Directed by Jean-Louis Trintignant.

Thu., Sept. 27, 7 p.m.

‘Le Silence de la Mer’ Directed by Jean-Pierre Melville.

Mon., Sept. 24, 7 p.m.

‘The Passion of Joan of Arc’ Directed by Carl Theodor Dreyer.

Sat., Sept. 22, 8 p.m.

‘The Black Dahlia’ Directed by Brian De Palma.

Fri., Sept. 28, 7 p.m.


Fri., Sept. 21, 7 p.m.

Cinema Thque

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

‘Chaos’ Directed by Coline Serreau.

Mon., Sept. 17, 7 p.m.

‘In the Mood for Love’ Directed by Kar Wai Wong.

Tue., Sept. 18, 7 p.m.

‘Le Silence de la Mer’ Directed by Jean-Louis Trintignant.

Fri., Sept. 28, 7 p.m.


Fri., Sept. 21, 7 p.m.

‘The Passion of Joan of Arc’ Directed by Carl Theodor Dreyer.

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