New Residence Halls to Offer ‘Complete College Experience’
Small-Scale Design to Encourage Sense of Community Among Student Residents; First Phase Ready in 2009

Help is on the way for Cal State Northridge students who would like to move into an on-campus residence hall. At present, more than 400 are on the waiting list for University Park Apartments, the CSUN student housing units located south of Lassen Street between Lindley and Zelzah Avenues. But Tim Trevan, director of Student Housing and Conference Services, does not expect demand to outstrip supply forever.

A $30.1 million housing complex funded by student housing rents is scheduled to be built on a 2.8-acre site between CSUN’s main housing and conference site and the residence hall. Trevan said, “Student housing is important thro ughly—for example the library, the computer labs, tutoring—and they are more involved in activities” than students who commute.

Instead of containing stand-alone apartments, the new CSUN residence halls will be divided into clusters of 52 students, who will live two to a bedroom with shared living/meeting rooms, study rooms and semi-private bathrooms. Unlike traditional dormitories with rooms lining long corridors, CSUN’s smaller-scaled student housing will encourage a greater sense of community.

“We really want to create small pods of students to encourage them not to be overwhelmed and actually get to know each other on a deeper level,” the housing director said. Kitchens will not be included; students will be required to take a meal plan, increasing their involvement in the CSUN community.

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Chicana/o Studies Student Earns Top Hearst/Trustees Honor
Leaving Gangs and Gunfire Behind, Delbert Moreno is Out to Change Lives

Delbert Moreno no longer feels like a foreigner who does not belong on the calm, park-like Cal State Northridge campus. Moreno has excelled at Northridge, only a few miles but a world away from Pacoima and Panorama City, where years ago he and fellow gang members committed crimes and witnessed shootings. Now a graduate student in Chicana/o Studies who also is pursuing a social sciences secondary teaching credential at Cal State Northridge, he is determined to help other students from marginalized backgrounds.

“I want to have a significant impact. If I can change one life, and I know that I’ve given my best, I’ll be happy,” said Moreno, one of 25 winners of the 2007/08 William Randolph Hearst/CSU Trustees’ Award for Outstanding Achievement. His work already has begun, currently as a volunteer, soon as a high school teacher and, after completing a doctorate in sociology, as a college instructor.

Moreno, who also completed his undergraduate work at CSUN, won the top prize: the Trustee Ali C. Razi Scholar Award and a $6,000 scholarship, in a tie with Humboldt State student Adrianna Bayer. All scholarship recipients were acknowledged at the September 2007 CSU Board of Trustees’ meeting.

Funded by an endowment from the William Randolph Hearst Foundation and donations from trustees, the prestigious award honors students who have overcome obstacles, who demonstrate financial need, and who excel in academic performance, community service and personal achievement.

Hearst Scholar continued on page 3.
Two senior members of Cal State Northridge's leadership team will leave their administrative posts before the start of the 2008-2009 academic year.

Dean Philip Rusche of the Michael D. Eisner College of Education and Dean Helen Castillo of the College of Health and Human Development will remain at CSUN to focus on teaching and other pursuits, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Harry Hellenbrand announced in September.

Dean Rusche, leader of CSUN’s education college since 1999, will leave that post during summer 2008 to teach in the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies. “My time at CSUN has been professionally rewarding and fulfilling,” said the dean. “I have been associated with outstanding programs, involved in exciting initiatives and enabled to be creative. I consider myself fortunate to have had the opportunity to be part of this exceptional college and university community. I thank you all.”

Provost Hellenbrand said the dean “worked exceptionally hard and well to bridge gaps and crevices that separate arts, sciences, and other disciplines from education because of the force of habit.”

During Rusche’s tenure, CSUN received $7 million from The Eisner Foundation, created by former Disney chairman Michael D. Eisner and his wife, Jane, for the establishment of the Center for Teaching and Learning at the education college. University officials renamed the college in honor of Eisner.

Among many other achievements, Rusche helped launch and steward the landmark Teachers for a New Era model teacher preparation programs to improve student learning. He recently has worked to help implement CSUN’s upcoming doctoral in education program.

Dean Castillo, who accepted her college’s leadership position in 2002, will assume a CSUN professorship in health sciences and assist with the search for a new dean. She also will assist with the effort to establish clinical doctorates in audiology and physical therapy, and with the first accreditation for the new accelerated Bachelor of Science in nursing program.

“Over the last six years,” said the dean, “we have grown significantly while maintaining the highest academic standards in all of our professional programs consistent with renewed community support and new financial resources.” Thanking her faculty, staff, volunteers and friends of the college, Castillo said she will continue her work with the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education and Magnet Hospital Reviewers, through the American Academy of Nursing.

As dean, Castillo shepherded the accelerated path for a master’s degree in nursing while introducing the departments of Environmental & Occupational Health, Physical Therapy and Child and Adolescent Development, and led the renovation of much of the college’s physical plant. It was during her tenure that the college opened its $6 million Abbott and Linda Brown Western Center for Adaptive Aquatic Therapy, a four-pool complex that helps those with serious disabilities.

Casanova Scholars Keep Eyes on Doctoral Prize

CSUN Working Hard to Send More and More to Doctorate Universities Nationwide

For all 18 years of the California State University’s prestigious Sally Casanova Pre-Doctoral Program, CSUN coordinator Hedy Carpenter has made it her business to shepherd as many Cal State Northridge students through its process as possible.

Carpenter is an ardent proponent of the program’s mission to diversify the pool of potential university faculty by preparing a dynamic group of educationally and economically disadvantaged students for doctoral studies at great institutions nationwide.

“I can tell you that the program is working,” said Carpenter, also associate director of graduate programs in the Graduate, Research and Policy Studies Program, Northridge’s 14 Sally Casanova Pre-Doctoral Scholars for 2006-07, none began doctoral programs this semester at the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, Northwestern University, UC Riverside, UC Santa Cruz, Claremont Graduate University and Simon Fraser University in Canada. The remaining five are continuing in the pool of potential university faculty.

When late CSU administrator Sally Casanova and Chancellor’s Office colleagues created the program in 1989, the initial flow of applications from campuses was minimal. In 1990, Carpenter recalled, CSUN submitted six. For this academic year, Carpenter submitted 46 CSUN applications.

Over the years, the Casanova program has guided more than 50 Northridge juniors, seniors and graduate students into first-rate doctoral programs. The scholars work one-on-one with faculty members from both CSU and doctoral-granting institutions, and participate in summer research internship programs at doctoral universities.

The California Lottery funds these activities as well as scholars’ stipends, graduate school applications, test fees, and attendance at national symposiums.

“At the introduction in Long Beach, we were told that if we had the will and passion, the program would do all it could to get us into graduate school,” said Nomiki Kolettis, now pursuing a doctorate in cellular, molecular and developmental biology at UC Riverside. For Kolettis, whose program advisor was Rheum Medh (Biological), it meant that “financially, we could compete with other students” for whom cost is not an issue.

The summer research internship was “an amazing opportunity” for Shabnam Ozlati, a Claremont Graduate University doctoral student in organizational behavior whose CSUN academic mentor was Jill Quilici (Psychology). “I had direct contact with my future professors and . . . even developed a research plan for my doctoral research.”

Eliza Nicholson, entering the clinical-forensic psychology doctoral program at Simon Fraser University, said the program forced her to “map out a path for the grad school application process.” For her academic advisor, she said, was Andrew Ainsworth (Psychology) — himself a former Casanova scholar.

For Carpenter, the “best part is when they come to my office or send me an e-mail saying they have been accepted into a Ph.D. program or, in some cases, accepted everywhere they applied! Their excitement is contagious.”

For more information, call Graduate Studies at (619) 863-2808 or visit www.calstate.edu/predocs.

Student Housing . . .

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Trevan said the cluster housing — suggested by architect AC Martin Partners, Inc. and based on a similar style at Babson College near Boston — specifically addresses the developmental needs of first-year students, the segment of the enrollment that benefits most from living on campus.

“It’s a chance to get to know people and meet new friends of different backgrounds,” said freshman Alex Harris, 18, of Harbor City. Harris lives in the University Park Apartments, where two-bedroom units for four roommates cost $5,413 per academic year with a kitchen, and $4,356 without. “You get to know about their language, what kind of food they eat, how they live. You teach them your differences. They teach you their differences. We get along with each other.”
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continued from page 1.
The award will lessen Moreno's financial burdens and allow him to complete his graduate thesis project.

Surviving on the Margins: An Exploratory Study of Mexican Single Mothers.
Survival was his mother's focus as she worked in a factory and cleaned houses to support four children, at one point relying on welfare to provide for her family. "We only had one book in the house. It was a basic book of prayers. I didn't grow up having any exposure to literature," said Moreno.

Initially rejected by CSUN, he was admitted after interviewing with the Educational Opportunity Program, which helps highly motivated, low-income students.

On campus, Moreno met a student who invited him to church and challenged him to reassess his values. He spent hours with fellow church members who also tutored him. That discipline, he said, "spilled into my studies. "My whole life revolved around being at school by nine and not going home until midnight. The library became my home. That routine allowed me to distance myself from my neighborhood," he said.

Moreno, who expects to complete his master's degree this semester, said he had not been admitted to CSUN, he probably would be in prison or dead. "My mother wouldn't be attending a graduation; she probably would be attending a funeral."
‘Sing Me Your Story, Dance Me Home’ to Open at CSUN

Evocative Exhibit of Native Californians’ People’s Art and Poetry Arrives October 12 in Main Gallery

Art’s transcendent power to connect people—to express their stories and desires—lies at the heart of the multimedia exhibition “Sing Me Your Story, Dance Me Home: Art and Poetry from Native California,” which arrives at the Main Art Gallery on October 12.

“Sing Me Your Story” strives to represent the remarkable diversity of California Native peoples, with more than 300 languages and distinct geographical centers shaping communities, traditions, ideologies, and ceremonies. The title evokes “call and response” songs, as the exhibition’s artists and poets call out—telling their stories through poetry, painting, basketry, jewelry, printmaking, photography, and sculpture—the response is a desire to learn more.

In a first for the CSUN gallery, audio guides will be available, providing a forum for the artists to interpret their work as well as to read their poetry. Visitors will use their own cell phones to access the audio tour, offering convenience as well as a way to keep exhibit attendance affordable.

“As you walk through the exhibit, you will see more traditional kinds of materials and traditional expressions,” said Gerald Clarke, a participating artist and member of the exhibit’s advisory council. “At the same time, you will see more experimental or contemporary expressions, and then you will find others that are a little bit of each.”

“There is a lot of history in this exhibition because the impact of colonization, the Gold Rush, Christianity, treaties, assimilation, boarding school, and racism brought great disruption still lingers,” said curator Theresa Harlan of the California Exhibition Resources Alliance. The exhibition also is about celebration and healing.

She said, “California Native ceremonies, traditions, languages, and knowledge are in a resurgence.”

The artists’ works breathe life into the present while honoring ancient cultures and traditions. One of those heard on the audio guide is Lyn Risling, explaining her painting, “Tattoo Woman Returns.” “I am very development, transformation, and new beginnings as well as continuation of old beliefs and ways, such as our girls’ puberty ceremony and our women’s chin tattoos.”

The exhibit runs from October 12—November 17 in the Main Art Gallery. Its opening reception on October 12, from 7—9 p.m., will feature a blessing and storytelling by Chumash Elder Alan Salazar. A gallery talk is scheduled for 10 a.m., October 15. For more information, call Michelle Giacopuzzi at (818) 677-2156.

—Hillary Freeman