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November 2001

Choral Group Invited to Perform at Emmys & Hollywood Bowl

The Northridge Singers, Led by Professor Paul Smith, Make Their Mark on the Music World

ake it as a sign of just how high Cal State Northridge's premier choral music ensemble, The Northridge Singers, has risen lately in the music world.

When conductor Paul Smith told his students last month that they had been invited to sing "America the Beautiful" as part of this year's Emmy Awards finale on Sunday, October 7, no one thought Smith was kidding. Indeed, the unprecedented invitation was as real as the growing reputation of the Northridge program.

Although the planned Emmys ceremony was ultimately postponed because of the start of U.S. bombing in Afghanistan, the rehearsal tape of soloist Daniel Rodriguez, a New York police officer, backed by student choirs from Northridge, USC and Loyola Marymount was broadcast that night on national television.

(The rehearsal became the closing segment of an expanded "60 Minutes" news program aired on CBS in place of the Emmys, with anchor Dan Rather saying the performance proved "the voice and spirit of America still rings loud and clear." As of this writing, the lineup for the latest planned Emmys event in November had not been set.)

The Emmys invitation capped a year in which several choruses of The Northridge Singers had just performed for the first time ever at the Hollywood Bowl, helping jazz



Cal State Northridge's 66-member The Northridge Singers are moving up in the music world.

trumpeter Wynton Marsalis and the Los Angeles Philharmonic stage the West Coast premiere of his "All Rise" composition in mid-September.

The performance—just two days after the September 11 terrorist attacks on the East Coast—included a rousing rendition of "The Star Spangled Banner" that was broadcast nationally and internationally on cable news network CNN. Smith called the song's performance "the most moving version I've ever heard."

This spring, The Northridge Singers also were one of only six university choral groups from across the nation invited to perform at the national convention of the American Choral Directors Association—considered the absolute pinnacle of choral music—receiving standing ovations for each of their three performances.

"These events have been a great opportunity to demonstrate to worldwide audiences the quality that exists at Cal State Northridge," said William Toutant, dean of Cal State Northridge's College of Arts, Media, and Communication. The college houses Northridge's Music Department, which is ranked among the best in the nation.

"This is an outstanding university, and the Northridge Singers are one fine example of that," Toutant added. "In his own right, Paul Smith is launching an international career as a choral conductor. He is becoming a major force in choral conducting."

Smith came to Northridge in 1995 as an assistant professor of music after completing his master's in music at USC. In his long performance career, Smith has been a featured soloist with such notable ensembles as the Roger Wagner Chorale, and served as assistant director of the Albert McNeil Jubilee Singers.

While the modest-speaking Smith

says The Northridge Singers "are on it. They're really sharp," it is also true the professor's professional background and personal connections helped bring the university and its ensemble the Emmys show invitation and the Hollywood Bowl performance.

"I think it's a wonderful lesson that we have committed ourselves to work so hard, and as a result, we're getting these tremendous calls," Smith said. Not only do the Northridge students sing with power and grace, but they also have the versatility to move from traditional to avant-garde to multicultural music.

The Northridge Singers are a 66-member ensemble selected at Cal State Northridge each year by audition. The group represents some of the most talented voice majors in the Music Department, and notably remains comprised mostly of undergraduate students. They meet with Smith as a class twice a week.

"The Emmys invitation was an honor and it was really great, because we've been working really hard," said Bryant Mills, a 22-year-old tenor music major who has been a member for almost four years. "The program is flourishing and is getting better every year," said Mills, who aspires to be a professional singer.

"I think The Northridge Singers are an incredible example of what the Northridge campus is all about" in terms of students having exposure to great opportunities, added T.J. Harper, who is pursuing a master's degree in music/choral conducting while serving as professor Smith's graduate assistant.

Harper added, "The fact The Northridge Singers are so accomplished and so professional—and have proven themselves time and again—is a testament to what's happening in the Music Department and to Dr. Paul Smith. The opportunities here are just incredible."



Community Connection

By Judy Nutter, Director of Community Relations

Two Cal State Northridge professors—Barbara Rhodes and Ronald Borczon—will be honored for outstanding community service by the Northridge Chamber of Commerce at its upcoming Lifesavers Awards dinner. The event will be held at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, December 5, at The Odyssey restaurant in Granada Hills.

Rhodes, a Pan-African Studies professor, has spent most of the last 13 years building programs to mentor minority college students, assist pregnant minority teens, and establish leadership and advocacy training programs for young people from disadvantaged communities. Her outreach has touched and influenced young people from the North Valley to Compton.

Rhodes saw a need in the community and not only filled it, but did it at her own expense. She developed a program known as The Saturday Academy, in which Cal State Northridge students go into the community every Saturday to mentor and tutor high school and middle school kids who need assistance with everything from course work to life skills to helping plan for their futures.

Six years ago, the University recognized her efforts and successes by creating the Herman DuBois-Fannie Lou Hamer Institute, where Rhodes is the executive director.

Also being honored is Ronald Borczon, director of the University's Music Therapy Clinic. Borczon's Community Connection Continued on page 2.



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Northridge Named A Top Campus for Minority Students

University Ranks 20th in the Nation for Numbers of Bachelor's Degrees Awarded Students of Color

al State Northridge has been ranked 20th in the nation in an annual rating of thousands of colleges and universities based on numbers of bachelor's degrees awarded to minority students.

The ranking was compiled earlier this year by the magazine *Black Issues in Higher Education*, which examined data for all institutions across the country that are eligible for federal financial aid funds.

Cal State Northridge ranked 20th in the nation in the total baccalaureate degrees conferred to minorities in the 1999–2000 academic year. CSUN awarded a total of 1,567 bachelor's degrees to students of color, 607 to men and 960 to women. Those students accounted for 40 percent of the university's graduates that year.

"We are honored to be recognized for our efforts in serving a diverse community," said CSUN President Jolene Koester. "The faculty and staff at Cal State Northridge are proud of our diverse student body and the efforts we have made to ensure that we provide a quality educational experience for everyone."

Six other Cal State system campuses



Northridge President Jolene Koester meets with the university's diverse students.

also ranked in the magazine's top 20 for numbers of baccalaureate degrees awarded to minority students, including Fullerton, San Jose, Long Beach, San Diego, Los Angeles and San Francisco.

Black Issues ranked institutions based on data supplied by the U.S. Department of Education. The rankings are based on the total numbers of degrees awarded in each category; the percentages of degrees awarded are provided for informational purposes.

The magazine's rankings for CSUN awarding baccalaureate degrees to students from minority groups included:

☐ 11th in the nation for the number of degrees awarded Hispanics (814 degrees, 20.8 percent of graduates);

☐ 31st for the number of degrees awarded Asian Americans (507

degrees, 12.9 percent of graduates);

62nd for the number of degrees awarded American Indians (25 degrees, 0.6 percent of graduates).

The magazine also ranked CSUN nationally in the numbers of minority students awarded baccalaureate degrees in specific academic fields:

- □ 8th for the number degrees awarded in area, ethnic and cultural studies (39 degrees, 92.9 percent of graduates in that program);
- ☐ 14th in the degrees awarded in communications (87 degrees, 35.4 percent of graduates in that program);
- ☐ 15th for degrees awarded in education (121 degrees, 39.2 percent of graduates in that program);
- ☐ 15th in social sciences and history (222 degrees, 45 percent of graduates in that program).
- □ 17th in degrees awarded in psychology (131 degrees, 39.8 percent of graduates in that program);
- □ 21st for degrees awarded in English, literature & letters (67 degrees, 28.3 percent of graduates in that program);
- 26th for degrees awarded in the business management and administrative services (293 degrees, 38 percent of graduates in that program).

Athletics Department Urges Dropping Football After Season

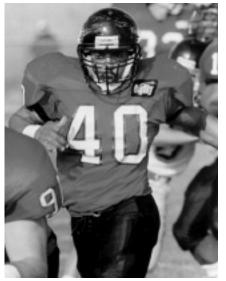
Report to President Says Action Needed to Solve Recurring Athletics Budget Deficits

acing athletics budget shortfalls that are heading toward nearly \$1 million-a-year, the Athletics Department at Cal State Northridge has proposed a plan to restore its fiscal stability by discontinuing football as an intercollegiate sport after the end of this season.

The Athletics Department recommendation was contained in a report submitted to university President Jolene Koester after a months-long study. Koester in June had asked the department to make recommendations on a future course that would ensure balanced budgets, a successful athletics program overall and progress in gender equity.

Northridge Athletics Director Dick Dull called the recommendation one of the most difficult he has had to make in his long career in intercollegiate athletics. "Head Coach Jeff Kearin and his players have represented Northridge with great style and dignity, but the football program simply has not generated the support it needs to survive," Dull said.

"The extraordinary costs associated with running a football program, without any significant contribution from the sport to offset its expenditures, make the continuance of this sport problematic," said Dull, noting



The Athletics Department has recommended ceasing football to remedy budget deficits.

that many other California universities have faced the same tough choice in recent years.

In receiving the Athletics Department report, President Koester pledged to widely circulate the department's report and recommendations among on-campus groups and in the community in the coming weeks. The report and an e-mail link for submitting comments on the report

are available at http://www.csun.edu/~hfpre001/athletics.html.

After considering the report and responses to it, Koester said she will make a final decision by Thanksgiving.

The department report cites a series of factors for its recommendation. Chief among them are athletics budget shortfalls projected at \$725,000 this year and expected to reach nearly \$1 million-a-year by 2004–05, combined with a football program that costs more than \$1 million-a-year as Northridge's most expensive sport, but generates very little revenue.

Facing similar budget problems in 1997, the university then decided to discontinue four men's sports other than football, but later rescinded that decision amid pledges of increased private support. In subsequent years, however, significant increases in private financial support for Northridge athletics have not occurred.

Other factors cited in the report are the university lacking appropriate football facilities and having little prospect of generating the private funds to build them; Northridge last year joining the Big West Conference, which no longer hosts football as a conference sport; and football hampering Northridge's efforts to improve its gender equity in athletics.

If athletics' report is accepted, Dull said the university would try to cushion the loss of its football team. Football players with athletics scholarships at Northridge could have those continued for the remainder of their eligibility or transfer elsewhere, while the coaching staff could remain employed through June.

Even without football, Northridge would continue to offer one of the broadest intercollegiate sports programs among comparable institutions, fielding 20 sports, 10 for men and 10 for women. The department had a \$7.8 million budget last year and involves more than 500 student-athletes.

Because of football's high costs and impact on gender equity, at least eight California universities have dropped the sport in the past decade, and more in prior years. Among those, NCAA Division I schools that ceased football in the 1990s included University of the Pacific (1996), Cal State Fullerton (1993) and Long Beach State (1992).

Northridge's football program has struggled in recent years. Last season, the team posted a record of 4–7 overall and 2–6 in conference in its last season in the Big Sky Conference. At the end of last season, CSUN had a cumulative football record of 179–224–4. ■

Community Connection Continued from page 1.

clients range from autistic children and children with Downs syndrome to the survivors of severe trauma and rape. Some 50 to 60 clients per week are served in his program.

Borczon has provided music therapy to victims of the Oklahoma

City bombing, the shootings at Columbine High School in Colorado and at Santee High School near San Diego. Most recently, he conducted a therapeutic drum session on campus to help students, faculty, staff and the Valley community express grief in remembering the victims of September's terrorist attacks.

Each day, Borczon, the therapists and students at the clinic try to give people back their lives, using music to develop a relationship with their clients. Borczon says, "Through that relationship and music, we help our clients meet the goals they are trying to achieve in life, whether it's helping a child to talk or getting back into their lives after a severe trauma."



California State University, Northridge,

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The College of Health and Human Development

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November Calendar

The Associated Students 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 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Mon.-Fri. For prices not given, call (818) 677-3093 or x2488.

Art and Exhibits

Admission is free unless otherwise specified.



▲ CUBA: Five Odysseys

The work of five artists from Cuba contradicts presumptions about Cuban art as revolutionary propaganda or tropical daydreams. Through Sat., Nov. 10. Main Art Gallery.



▲ Earthlinks: Africa/China

Photographs by Alan Weissman, who contrasts the traditional and contemporary worlds in China and in southern Africa.

Through Sun., Dec. 23. Performing Arts Center Gallery.

More In Store: Fifth Annual High School **Art Invitational**

Fifty-two San Fernando Valley high schools are invited to participate in this exhibition including painting. ceramics, graphic design, video, drawing and sculpture. Mon., Nov. 26 through

Sat., Jan. 12. Main Art Gallery.

Athletics (home games):

Men's Basketball

11/17 University of 7:05 p.m. Nevada 11/20 Dominican 7:05 p.m.

College

Women's Basketball

11/4 Love and Basketball 2 p.m. 11/12 National Women's 7 p.m. Basketball League

11/19 Syracuse 7:05 p.m.

Football

11/3 Sacramento 1:05 p.m. State

Men's Soccer

10/26 Cal Poly SLO 7 p.m. 11/9 Cal State Fullerton 7 p.m. 11/11 UC Irvine 7 p.m. 11/18 UC Riverside 7 p.m.

Women's Soccer

11/2 UC Irvine 7 p.m. 11/4 Long Beach State 2 p.m.

Swimming & Diving

11/17 UC Santa Barbara 11 a.m.

Women's Volleyball

11/8 Utah State 7 p.m. 11/10 Idaho 7 p.m.

Dance



▲ Diavolo Dance Theater

Leaping, flying, and twirling become metaphors for the absurdities of life and maintaining one's humanity in a technological world. Jacques Heim's internationally acclaimed company of dancers, gymnasts and actors performs high-risk choreography.

Fri., Nov. 2, 8 p.m. Sat., Nov. 3, 8 p.m. Performing Arts Center. \$19.50 general; \$15 seniors/ students/groups of 15 or more;

Film

Survivors of the **Hollywood Blacklist**

\$10 CSUN students.

An evening to meet with writers named as subversives in the '40s and '50s.

Wed., Oct. 24, 8 p.m.; Manzanita Hall; Free.

CSU Media Arts Festival

Come see the best of the state's voung artists in this competition and showcase for film, video and media students from the 23-campus Cal State system.

An evening with honoree Gene Revnolds

Fri., Nov. 9, 6 p.m. Screening of student finalist projects and student awards. Sat., Nov. 10, 6 p.m.

Campus Theatre in Nordhoff Hall and other campus venues. Free. Info: (562) 951-4060.

Music

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

Fharoh Showcase

An evening with up and coming hip hop artists including The Den, The Dubbs and Universal Kings, plus TCM Rock Band.

Thu., Oct. 25, 7 p.m.; Performing Arts Center. \$12 general.



▲ The Juan L. Sanchez **Ensemble**

Sanchez has created an impassioned musical universe where Spanish folk crosses rumba and Arabic melodies co-exist with Latin percussion.

Fri., Oct. 26, 8 p.m.; Performing Arts Center. \$15 general; \$12 seniors; \$9 students/children.

Faculty Artist Series

Saxophonist Jerry Luedders and pianist Ann Miller present a recital dedicated to Marcel Mule, the first professor to teach a saxophone class at the Paris Conservatory in 1942.

Fri., Oct. 26, 8 p.m.; Music Recital Hall.



▲ Saint Petersburg Opera

Musical history is made as international opera comes to the Valley for the first time. Mon., Oct. 29, 8 p.m.; Performing Arts Center. \$50 preferred seating with 6 p.m. artist reception, \$30 general; \$25 seniors; \$15 students.

American Guitar Society International Guitar Series

Guitarist Gabriel Guillen performs. Sat., Nov. 3, 8 p.m.; Music Recital Hall. \$12 general; \$10 AGS members; \$8 students/seniors.



▲ Daniel Heifetz with **The Classical Band**

"Cry of a People: The Jewish Soul." Renowned for his interactive concert presentations, the virtuoso violinist illuminates the Jewish experience through the music of Bloch, Gershwin, Copland and Bernstein.

Sun., Nov. 4, 3 p.m.; Performing Arts Center. \$24.50 general; \$20 seniors; \$18 students/children/groups of 15 or more/\$12 CSUN students.

Voices of Praise

Gospel music from the ministry that has gone into prisons, juvenile halls and convalescent homes, and been broadcast to millions around the world through television and

Sat., Nov. 10, 6 p.m.; Performing Arts Center. \$15 general; Info: (818) 819-0731.



▲ Bill Molenhof

A percussion performance of Molenhof and his quintet, Illinois Boy, from Nuremberg, Germany. Sat., Nov. 10, 8 p.m.; Music Recital Hall. \$15 general; \$12 seniors; \$9 students/children.

From the Studio of Ron Purcell

Thu., Nov. 15, 8 p.m.; Music Recital Hall.

The Discovery Players

Julia Heinen directing. Fri., Nov. 16, 8 p.m.; Music Recital Hall.



▲ INCA, **The Peruvian Ensemble**

INCA performs traditional and ancient music from Peru and the Andean region. For this evening, dancers join INCA to introduce Teatro Milagro's "PROFECIA." Fri., Nov. 16, 8 p.m.; Performing Arts Center. Free. Reservations: (818) 677-3943.

Winter Choral Festival

CSUN University Chorus with Elmer Heerema directing. Women's Chorale with Katherine Ramos-Baker directing. Sat., Nov. 17, 8 p.m.; Performing Arts Center.

CSUN Youth Orchestra Philharmonic

Jerry Luedders directing. Sun., Nov. 18, 3 p.m.; Performing Arts Center.

CSUN Guitar Ensemble

Ron Purcell directing. Thu., Nov. 29, 8 p.m.; Music Recital Hall.

CSUN Wind Symphony

Glenn Price conducting. Thu., Nov. 29, 8 p.m.; Performing Arts Center.

CSUN Jazz "A" Band

Matt Harris directing. Fri., Nov. 30, 8 p.m.; Performing Arts Center.

Theater/Performance

CSUN Fall Opera

Love connects these two one-act operas: Betly, a romance set in the Swiss alps presented in English. and Puccini's convent classic, Suor Angelica, sung for the first time at CSUN in Italian (with English supertitles). Fri.-Sat., 10/26-10/27 &

11/2-11/3, 8 p.m. Sun. 10/28 & 11/4, 5 p.m. Campus Theatre in Nordhoff Hall \$15 general; \$10 seniors/students/ faculty/staff.

The Eight Women

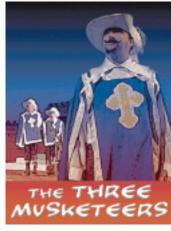
A Hungarian comedy presented by Thalia Studio. Sun., Oct. 28, 4 p.m.; Performing Arts Center. \$25 and \$30; Tickets: (805) 495-7285.

Latino Comedy Festival IX

Fri., Nov. 9, 8 p.m. Performing Arts Center. \$15.

PROFECIA/Prophecy

Teatro Milagro, the Northwest's largest Hispanic arts group, stages a sci-fi Mayan mystery. Fri., Nov. 16, 8 p.m.; Performing Arts Center. Free.



▲ The Three Musketeers

Adapted from the novel by Alexander Dumas. This Theatre for Youth adventure has swordplay, heroics, dark villainy, a dash of romance and barrels of

Fri., 11/16, 8 p.m. Sat.-Sun., 11/17-18, 2 & 8 p.m. Wed., 11/28, 7 p.m. Thu.-Fri., 11/29-30, 8 p.m. Sat.-Sun., 12/1-2, 2 & 8 p.m. Little Theatre at Nordhoff Hall \$10 general; \$7 seniors/students/ faculty/staff



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