

## Dreams and Determination Yield Degrees for Graduates

*Students Overcome Illness, Cultural Barriers, Job Juggling to Join June Commencement Ceremonies*

More than 6,000 proud Cal State Northridge students will claim their diplomas in June. Among the standouts are seven whose courage and tenacity prevented even war and grave illness from interfering with their dreams.

"We are proud to celebrate all they've accomplished," said President Jolene Koester.

**Jasmine Altounian**  
*M.A., Mathematics Education*

A London social worker showed up one day with stunning news for Altounian's parents, Armenian refugees: Seven-year-old Jasmine had to go to school.

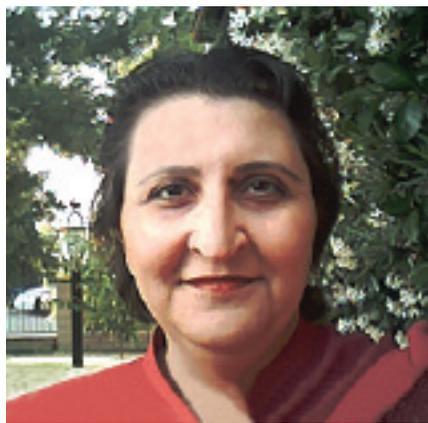
"All I remember is crying and wanting my mother," said Altounian, now 41 and living in Sunland. "I did not speak a word of English and I had never even heard the language. I was unceremoniously dumped in the back of the class and left to cope... School was a very cruel place."

But Altounian studied feverishly, graduating from high school at age 12. After a move to Southern California in 1983, she enrolled at CSUN and earned bachelor's degrees in biology and psychology, a master's in experimental psychology, a teaching credential in biological sciences and a supplemental credential in mathematics.

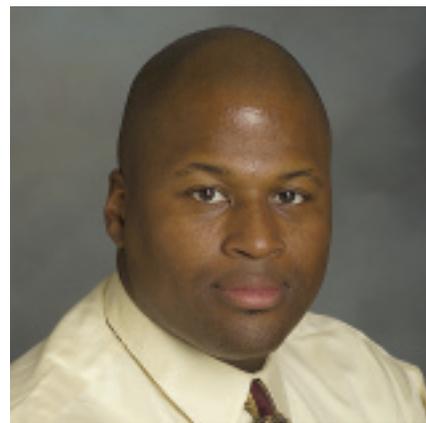
A master's in mathematics education was next when, two years ago, she was diagnosed with breast cancer. Chemotherapy stole a whole semester from her, but Altounian kept teaching at Garvey Intermediate School in Rosemead.

"I had my good days and my bad days, but the kids in my classes kept me going. When I lost my hair, they brought me hats and scarves, and would visit me when I was in the hospital," she said.

Altounian's cancer has metastasized. A year ago, her doctors gave her six months to live. They now say she has two years, but Altounian thinks



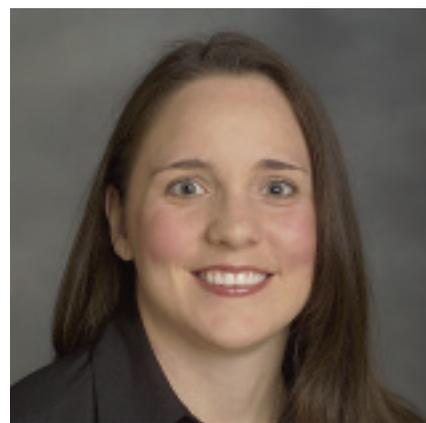
Jasmine Altounian



Calvin Barnes



Joe Cedillo



Carolyn Copps

they are wrong. She has a doctorate in her future, and many more classes to teach.

**Calvin Barnes**  
*B.A., Sociology*

Barnes, 34, of West Hills, missed his spring semester at CSUN last year. He was too far away.

Working in Kuwait as a mechanic on field service trucks headed for battle in Iraq, the U.S. Naval reservist kept his mind sharp reading books, many sent by CSUN professors. He used coveted computer time to register for the fall semester.

Barnes, who stuttered severely growing up in Florida, did not find

school easy. After high school, he signed up with the Marines, and was part of 1991's Operation Desert Storm.

In 1996, Barnes became a security supervisor with Sports Chalet, joined the reserves, and enrolled in classes at Pierce College. Sitting in a sociology class, a light flicked on in his head. Sociology was the field where he belonged.

Barnes transferred to CSUN in spring 2002, but was promptly swept onto a different field, in the Persian Gulf area.

Less than two weeks after returning from the Gulf, Barnes was back in school, shrugging off advice to take time off after his "traumatic" experience. "I really missed CSUN while I was

over there, and I was determined not to miss any more classes."

**Joe Cedillo**  
*B.A., English*

After a 10-hour operation last fall, Cedillo, 30, lay in a hospital bed thinking about getting his degree. The way has not been easy.

Fresh from the College of the Canyons, the Santa Clarita resident enrolled at CSUN in 1995, but lost interest in his studies. Academic probation was followed by disqualification in 1998.

A year later, he was back again as an English major. "I had always wanted to be a writer," Cedillo said, "but I never tried it." He tried it and found a true passion for theater in Northridge productions.

Last fall, Cedillo began coughing up blood and was misdiagnosed with walking pneumonia. During a performance, he lost the ability to speak.

Eventually diagnosed with testicular cancer, Cedillo led a life dominated by surgery and chemotherapy from November 2003 to April 2004. He lost 50 pounds, had to relearn how to walk and still cannot run.

"If I want stuff to happen, I have to do it now. I don't know if I have another five years," he said of his desire to pursue a master's in English at CSUN. "If you're not busy, you're dead."

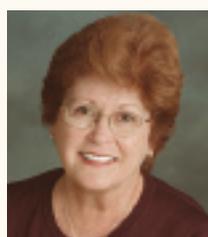
"Three Bulls," a work based on his experiences, will be performed in June at Tia Chucha's Café Cultural in Sylmar.

**Carolyn Copps**  
*M.A., School Counseling*

Born with a hearing disability, Copps was designated as learning disabled at her school in Stevens Point, Wis. Her parents, armed with tests revealing Carolyn's high I.Q., were confounded.

"But at school, I was constantly struggling and often answered the wrong questions," she said. "It was very hard."

*Grads Overcome the Odds continued on page 4.*



## Community Connection

By Judy Nutter, Director of Community Relations

Is it just me or is time moving faster these days? This academic year has passed so quickly. This will be

the last issue of Community @CSUN until September.

You will notice that there won't

be as much obvious activity on campus during the summer months, but the campus won't be at rest. Cal State Northridge is committed to providing community service programs and I want to tell you about a new summer camp that reflects that commitment to the community.

The camp is called "A Summer Camp Extraordinaire"—a fun and active learning camp that will

accommodate 50 high school students. There is an exciting program planned for each day. Thanks to a grant from the California Endowment, there is no fee to attend the camp and lunch is provided every day.

The idea for this camp comes from Helen Castillo, dean of the College of Health and Human Development. This college specializes in careers

*Community Connection continued on page 2.*

# Distinguished Alumni Honored at Awards Event

*Journalist Insana, Governor Lingle, Actor/Humanitarian Marin Saluted for Achievements*

CNBC anchor Ron Insana, Hawaii Governor Linda Lingle and actor Richard "Cheech" Marin were the honorees at Cal State Northridge's annual Distinguished Alumni Awards dinner on May 15, attended by about 400 guests at the Renaissance Hollywood Hotel.

"The awards allow us to celebrate the many achievements of those honored," said Northridge President Jolene Koester. "These three individuals and their outstanding accomplishments exemplify the best of Cal State Northridge."

Presented to individuals who have achieved high levels of success in their chosen fields of endeavor, the Distinguished Alumni Award is the highest honor bestowed by the university's Alumni Association.

Ron Insana, who earned a bachelor's degree in journalism in 1984, is anchor of CNBC's "Street Signs," which focuses on the New York Stock Exchange and commodities. Insana previously co-anchored "Business Center" with Cal State Northridge alumna Sue Herera.



Ron Insana



Linda Lingle



Richard "Cheech" Marin

A regular contributor for NBC's "Today Show" and "The Nightly News with Tom Brokaw," Insana began his career with Financial News Network (FNN) in 1984, and later became managing editor and chief of FNN's Los Angeles bureau. While at FNN, he received a Golden ACE award nomination for his role in covering the 1987 stock market crash.

"Trend Watching: How to Spot and Profit from Wall Street's Latest Fads, Manias, Bubbles and Busts," published in 2002 by Harpers Business, is the latest of Insana's three books on finance.

The first female governor of Hawaii, Linda Lingle graduated *cum laude* from CSUN in 1975 with a bachelor's degree in journalism. After graduating, she founded and published the

Molokai Free Press.

Lingle first served the people of Hawaii on the Maui County Council in 1980, and went on to serve five two-year terms, three representing the island of Molokai.

Elected mayor of Maui County in 1990, she won a second mayoral term before her election as Hawaii Republican Party chair in 1999.

First known as one half of the comedy duo, Cheech and Chong, Richard "Cheech" Marin wrote, directed and starred in the highly acclaimed "Born in East L.A."

His other film and television credits include "Tin Cup," "Nash Bridges," "Judging Amy," and the "Lion King." He also had success with his first bilingual children's album, "My Name is Cheech, the School Bus Driver."

Marin's personal Chicano art collection, one of the largest in the world, is part of a blockbuster museum exhibit that opened at the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C., and is now touring nationally. ■

# Northridge Faculty Members Join Fulbright Scholars

*Moore Will Teach, Conduct Research in Indonesia; Lew Will Work with Libraries in China*

Cal State Northridge management professor Richard Moore and librarian Angela Lew have been tapped for service in the prestigious Fulbright Scholar Program.

Established in 1946 under legislation introduced by the late U.S. Sen. J. William Fulbright, the State Department program aims to build mutual understanding between the people of the United States and other countries.

Moore, who received a Fulbright scholarship for spring 2005, will spend six months in Indonesia at the Bandung Institute of Technology in West Java. Assigned to the College of Management at the institute—the oldest university in Indonesia—Moore will devote half of his time to teaching and half to research.

"I will teach human resource management and organizational behavior at the graduate level," Moore said, "and provide advice about MBA curriculum to the college." He also will conduct a study of the human resource management practices of multinational



Richard Moore

corporations in Indonesia.

During the last ten years, Moore has worked on various consulting projects in Indonesia, including assignments for the World Bank and the Indonesian government on micro-enterprise development, industrial skills training and non-formal education program development.



Angela Lew

Angela Lew has been selected as the Fulbright senior specialist in library science for the next five years. Scholars on the senior specialist roster of the Fulbright program are offered short-term grants from two to six weeks each, to conduct teacher training, develop or assess curricula or educational materials abroad.

Once the plan is completed for Lew's first project, she will collaborate with the library director at the Ningbo Institute of Technology, Zhejiang University (NIT/AU), located in the coastal city of Hangzhou, China. During the three-week project, Lew will provide on-site assessment and troubleshooting for the operations and services of eight college libraries in the Ningbo College Park for Science and Technology. The project also will include training workshops for college librarians.

Lew also expects to work at a later date with former CSUN visiting scholar Honghui Liu, director of the Guangzhou Children's Library. They plan to initiate an information technology service providing children from low income families in and around Guangzhou with free Internet access and other digital library resources.

Lew expressed her appreciation of the support she received from Fulbright campus representative Justine Su, international programs coordinator. ■

## Community Connection...

*Continued from page 1.*

that improve the quality of lives of others. Summer Camp Extraordinaire will provide the students with practical experience in a university and show them the professional programs offered in the college, perhaps inspiring them toward courses of study at CSUN and careers in the health care field and related professions.

Dean Castillo has chosen George Wolfe, associate professor of physical therapy, to be the director of the camp.

Students will experience presentations from different departments

within the college throughout each day of camp and will utilize laboratories in the college for demonstrations. Some of the areas that will be explored are:

- Audiology labs in Monterey Hall (Communication Disorders and Sciences Department)
- Demonstrations on monitoring air quality (Environmental and Occupational Health Department)
- Food science, interior design, textile and apparel labs (Family and Consumer Sciences Department)
- Radiological technology labs (Health Sciences Department)

- Athletic training, exercise science, adaptive physical education (Kinesiology Department)
- Physical therapy, including electrical muscle stimulation, balance, assessment and demonstration (Physical Therapy Department)

Also on campus this summer, aside from the camp, remember that the CSUN Fitness Centre is open to the community. For daily fun and exercise, adults and children can come to campus for a swim for just \$1 a day or include a workout for only \$5 per day. The Fitness Centre and the pool

are open between the hours of 7 a.m. and 10 p.m. There is a lifeguard on duty at the pool. If you have any questions, you can contact the Fitness Centre directly at 677-7008.

This year, Cal State Northridge will graduate more than 6,000 students from eight colleges during the first week of June. Commencement ceremonies will be held Tuesday, June 1 through Friday, June 4.

I wish each of you a safe and happy summer. Until we make our next Community Connection in September... ■

# Forecasters See Valley Economy Shaking Off Recession

Northridge Research Center and Chicago Title Issue Second Annual Forecast Tailored to Valley

The San Fernando Valley is shaking off the recession and looking forward to a brighter future in most sectors of the Valley economy, according to the highly anticipated San Fernando Valley Economic Forecast.

Titled "The Recovery: Breakout or More Doldrums?," the second annual forecast is presented by Cal State Northridge's San Fernando Valley Economic Research Center in partnership with Chicago Title.

CSUN economics professor Daniel Blake, director of the research center, worked with Northridge colleagues and students to compile a comprehensive look at the future of the economies of the Valley, the region and the state through 2006.

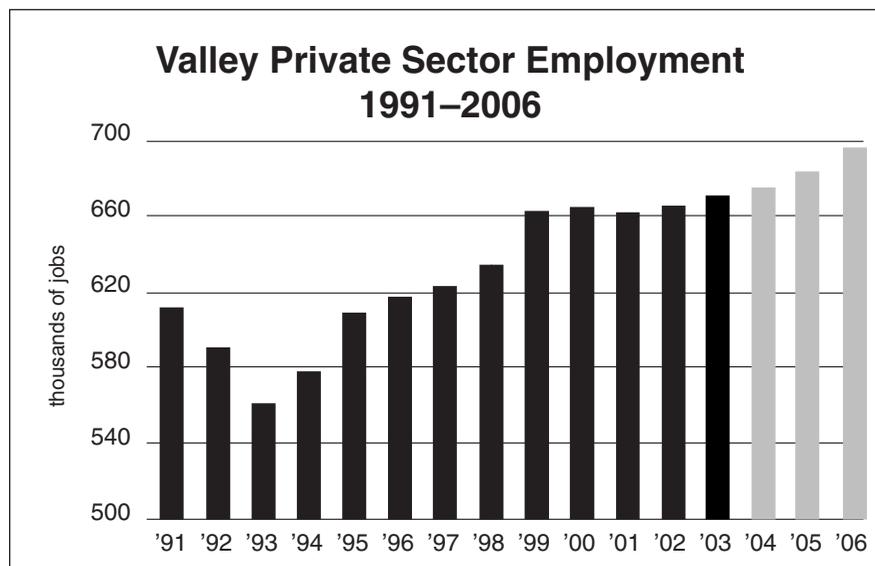
Issued on May 25 at a Universal City breakfast summit, the forecast includes a discussion of regional and state trends by Mark Schniepp, director of the California Economic Forecast and senior economist with the California Controller's Office. Gary Zimmerman, an economist at the Federal Reserve Bank in San Francisco, offers a look at national manufacturing and high technology trends.

## Among the Forecast's Projections for the Valley:

### Job Growth

In 2003, 6,250 new jobs—or 1 percent of the total—were added to the Valley's private sector job total, with projections that job growth will burgeon to a 1.7 percent rate during the current year, creating more than 11,000 new private sector jobs by year's end. At least another 11,000 will be generated in 2005. By 2006, the end of the forecast period, more than 17,000 new private sector jobs will invigorate the Valley economy, according to the forecast.

Employment services and temporary help agencies in the professional and business services area will continue to be major jobs contributors. Health and education's 2,800 added private sector jobs in 2003 will be boosted



by another 2,800 new jobs—or 3.3 percent—in 2004 and nearly 4 percent in 2006. The Valley's previously ailing information job sector is poised to add jobs at a "healthy" rate of 2.2 percent in 2004, or 2,000 new jobs. By the end of the forecast period, 4,000 more information jobs will have been created.

Construction, leisure and hospitality and trade sector jobs also are expected to make gains.

Higher interest rates will slow financial activity sector jobs to a "still impressive" 2.7 percent rate, or 1,600 jobs—in 2004, easing down to a rate of 1 or 2 percent in the 2005-2006 period.

Manufacturing will continue to lose jobs due to intense national and international competition. These job losses—largely confined to the durable goods sector—will slow to 2,400 in 2004, from a 3,000 loss in 2003. While manufacturing job losses will continue through 2006, they will drop to just 400 to 500 per year in 2005 and 2006.

### Average Salaries and Total Earnings

A return to robust rates of growth is anticipated throughout the forecast period, averaging 5 percent per year.

### Consumer Spending

The retail sector will flex its muscles in 2004 as inflation adjusted sales rise nearly 2 percent in 2004 and 2.6 percent annually in 2005 and 2006.

### Population and Net Migration

Due to a long-term drop in the birth rate and a stable death rate, the Valley will in 2004 add fewer than 25,000 to its population of more than 1.8 million people, and the growth rate will remain in a 1.2 to 1.3 percent range for the rest of the forecast period. In-migration will remain active in the Valley, but below the boom levels of the late 1990s.

### Real Estate

A residential housing price bubble is not foreseen for the Valley within the forecast period, with low supply and high demand still in force, but forecasters advised caution in the face of an expected end to double-digit appreciation.

The rates of residential rents are rising, with vacancies plunging to rates just above recent all-time lows. From 1999 to 2003, the pace of rent increases doubled from the previous five-year period, rising from \$899 to \$1,191. Normal vacancy rates of 4 to

5 percent are not within striking distance—the Valley's rate currently is less than 3 percent—so upward pressure on rents will continue. At the current pace, rents are expected to register a 6 percent rate increase in 2004. Forecasters believe that continued pressure on living space will drive residential building permits up during the forecast period.

The dynamic rebound from the recession has pushed vacancy rates in the Valley's industrial space market to record lows. Industrial space vacancies, at 3.1 percent, beat the county's 3.3 percent and the nation's 9.2 percent. The recovery also has made inroads into the Valley's office vacancy rate, which stands at 12.1 percent now, down from 14.4 percent last year. Pressure on industrial and office space will increase as the recovery spreads, leading to increases in non-residential building permits—including new building, alterations and additions—in 2005 and 2006, but not at levels set in 1998 and 1999.

Forecast sponsors include Bank of America, Citibank, Wells Fargo Bank, the Economic Alliance of the San Fernando Valley, First State Bank of California, the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro), Northridge-Porter Ranch Chamber of Commerce, Paris Industrial Parks and Westfield Shoppingtowns.

The Forecast also is supported by The Gas Company, a Sempra energy utility; City National Bank; College of Business and Economics Dean Emeritus William Hosek; Marvin Selter of CMS Inc.; NAI Capital Commercial; Valley Economic Development Center; Kirsch, Kohn and Bridge LLP; and the San Fernando Valley Business Journal. Davis Research LLC is the survey sponsor.

For more information on the Forecast, call Debi Klein of Northridge's College of Business and Economics at (818) 677-3621, or visit the Forecast Web site at [buslab3.csun.edu/sfverc/upcoming/forecast.html](http://buslab3.csun.edu/sfverc/upcoming/forecast.html). ■

# Governmental Affairs Director Honored for Service

Dorena Knepper Receives 40-Year Recognition at Staff Service Awards Event

Dorena Knepper, director of Governmental Affairs for Cal State Northridge, received special honors for her 40-year CSUN career at the university's annual Staff Service Recognition Awards ceremony on May 14.

Knepper's role as the university's government liaison began in 1982, when she began serving as a contact for legislators with inquiries or constituent concerns. Today, her work affects nearly every aspect of the university's relations with government, at the local, state and federal levels.

"I love this job," said Knepper. "Working in governmental affairs has afforded me opportunities I never thought possible and to meet people of great stature, who literally define the age we live in."

The administrator has served on or chaired nearly 100 faculty, administrative, staff and student committees on a broad range of subjects, from community service-learning to the protection of human subjects.

As governmental affairs director during the 1994 earthquake, Knepper coordinated the visits of governmental and elected officials to Cal State Northridge. Visitors ranged from then Mayor Richard Riordan to former Vice President Al Gore.

She was a key figure in the planning of President Bill Clinton's visit to the university on the first anniversary of the Northridge earthquake, and arranged for the President's call to a popular Los Angeles talk radio show broadcasting from an on campus mobile unit the day the university re-opened.



President Jolene Koester (left) and 40-year service award winner Dorena Knepper hold congratulatory proclamation from State Senator Richard Alarcon.

# Grads Overcome the Odds...



Bettymae McKenney



Doris Rosales



Cindy Trigg

Continued from page 1.

A new school in Tucson, Ariz., understood Coppins' disability and helped her catch up. Despite entering high school reading at a fourth-grade level, she graduated reading at college level.

Coppins, who will seek work as a school counselor, has a 2002 University of Arizona bachelor's degree in psychology. She came to Northridge for her master's because of CSUN's reputation for serving deaf and hard-of-hearing students.

As a full-time student with three jobs—counseling at Granada Hills High and CHIME Charter Elementary schools, and tutoring for a deaf student—Coppins has battled illnesses that often sent her to the emergency room.

Missed school days were made up. "I didn't want to give up," she said.

## Bettymae McKenney B.A., Religious Studies

McKenney's 82 years are a testament to her spirit, will and toughness. "You have to be committed to do this," she said of her degree quest.

"Some mornings it was hard to get up and keep going," said the Van Nuys octogenarian. "Your eyes, your whole body gets tired."

But McKenney has never been one to back down from a challenge. After dropping out of college in 1960 to take a secretarial position in Edwards Air Force Base's space program, she handled top secret correspondence between rocket scientist Werner Von Braun and her bosses.

Plunging back into school after retirement, she became Valley College's oldest graduate in 2001, drawing special praise from U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer.

Student life at Cal State Northridge was challenging but rewarding. "All the teachers were very polite to me, and respected me. When I asked, 'Am I really supposed to be here?' they said 'Absolutely.'"

McKenney's heavy CSUN class and study schedule required every ounce of her concentration. "I worked myself around the clock doing these," she said.

But they were hours well spent. "The learning process itself is what I love most."

## Doris Rosales B.A., Chicano Studies

"For my sister to almost make it to graduation is a great achievement," said Norma Martinez of Rosales, who died unexpectedly of an erupted ulcer last month at age 33.

The San Fernando resident is remembered by family and friends as

a single mother determined to make a difference in the lives of her peers.

Not only did she work full time as a social worker assisting victims of domestic violence, and part time at a YMCA shelter, but Rosales volunteered at Casa Esparzena, where she helped troubled teen-aged girls get back on track.

Rosales, who dreamed of opening a shelter for victims of domestic violence, attended Cal State Northridge full time to provide a role model and a better life for her eight-year-old son, Emmanuel.

## Cindy Trigg B.A., Liberal Studies

Trigg, 48, of Simi Valley, credits her success to her grandmother and other relatives who raised her. Her stepmother was abusive and her mother was a substance abuser.

After a failed marriage, the single mother of three worked three jobs at times to support her children. One job was at Cal State Northridge, where she has spent 29 years, the past 13 as an administrative support coordinator in the Marketing Department.

To set an example for her children, Trigg became a CSUN student in 1993 and, after more than 11 years of part-time school, will graduate *magna cum laude*. Her daughter is now a freshman at Northridge, and her sons are in the military.

"I wasn't going to let the people who hurt me ruin my life," said the future teacher. "I ultimately won." ■

## June Calendar

The A.S. Ticket Office in Nordhoff Hall 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) 677-2488.

### Art and Exhibits

Admission is free unless specified. For more info, call (818) 677-2156. Main gallery hours: Mon. through Sat. 12–4 p.m.

### Annual Juried Art Student Exhibition

Matador art students display their best work in this popular annual exhibition. Art professionals choose pieces to be honored during a special reception. Runs through Fri., June 4 Cal State Northridge Art Galleries

### Chinese Antiquities on Exhibit

Chinese antiquities from The Tseng Collection are on display, providing new insight into the exceptional craftsmanship of ancient Chinese artisans. The exhibit, "Possessing the Past: Mysteries of Ancient Chinese Art" features more than 100 rare pieces spanning 6,000 years. Runs through Fri., Aug 27 C.K. and Teresa Tseng Gallery Oviatt Library Exhibit info, (818) 677-2638



### ▲ Bianchi Planetarium

"Spring Sky Show" and "Understanding the Dark Universe"

Fri., June 4, 6 p.m.

"Spring Sky Show" and "The Voyager Encounters"

Fri., June 11, 6 p.m.

"Spring Sky Show" and "The Search for Life in the Universe"

Fri., June 18, 6 p.m.

"Summer Sky Show" and

"Genesis-Search for Origins"

Fri., June 25, 6 p.m.

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

### Athletics (home games):

#### Track & Field

5/28	NCAA Western Regionals	8 a.m.
5/29	NCAA Western Regionals	9 a.m.

### Cinematheque

Screenings are free and take place in 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.csuncinematheque.com](http://www.csuncinematheque.com).

### The Cinema of Alfred Hitchcock

"Alfred the Great" and "Alfred the Auteur," 2003 documentaries, and "The 39 Steps," Hitchcock's 1935 film

Mon., June 7, 7 p.m.

### "Strangers on a Train"

Lecture/analysis, and screening of "Breakdown"

Wed., June 9, 7 p.m.

"Hitchcock, Selznick and the End of Hollywood" and "Rebecca"

Mon., June 14, 7 p.m.

### "Suspicion" and "Shadow of a Doubt"

Wed., June 16, 7 p.m.

### "Saboteur" and "North by Northwest"

Mon., June 21, 7 p.m.

### "Spellbound" and "Notorious"

Wed., June 23, 7 p.m.

### "Rope" and "Under Capricorn"

Mon., June 28, 7 p.m.

### "Rear Window," "Vertigo" and "Psycho"

Wed., June 30, 7 p.m.

### Music

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

### Show of the Month

Golden Guys of Bandstand perform. Sun., June 6, 2 and 6 p.m. Performing Arts Center \$35



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