

Campus Celebrates Big Win for Valley Performing Arts Center

Community Leaders Join with University at Ceremony Marking City Council Endorsement

Cal State Northridge President Jolene Koester, City Councilman Greig Smith and a trio of community leaders led a celebration on November 15 marking the Los Angeles City Council's endorsement of the future 1,600-seat Valley Performing Arts Center project at the campus.

Councilman Smith, who represents the 12th Council District that includes the university, presented President Koester with the formal resolution of support that was unanimously adopted by the Los Angeles City Council on Friday, Oct. 29. The university also marked the occasion by erecting the first project sign for the future arts center.

"I want to welcome you to a very historic moment in the history of California State University, Northridge—but more importantly, a historic moment for the San Fernando Valley," said President Koester, adding that the PAC project "is going to fan the flames for the cultural and creative spirit of the San Fernando Valley."

Councilman Smith, noting that "there's an excitement around CSUN these days," called the Valley



Displaying the resolution of City Council support, President Jolene Koester is joined at the site of the future Valley Performing Arts Center by (from left) Bruce Ackerman, president and CEO of the Economic Alliance of the San Fernando Valley; industrial parks developer Sanford Paris, City Councilman Greig Smith and Valley arts activist Clyde Porter.

Performing Arts Center project "an important thing not just for Northridge, not just for the California State University system, but for the whole San Fernando Valley and truly for

the entire city of Los Angeles."

"One of the things I've always heard is, 'There's no culture in the Valley.' With this building, we will make a very strong statement that

culture is very big and it's a very important part of our lives here in the Valley," Smith said. "With this 1,600-seat facility, we will be able to bring major performances into the Valley that will be enjoyed not just by the San Fernando Valley, but by the whole city of Los Angeles as well as our neighboring communities."

Joining President Koester and Councilman Smith at the campus celebration for the Valley Performing Arts Center project were a trio of community leaders: Bruce Ackerman, president and chief executive officer of the Economic Alliance of the San Fernando Valley; industrial parks developer Sanford "Sandy" Paris, who also is a member of the CSUN Foundation Board of Directors; and Clyde Porter, a longtime arts activist and promoter in the Valley.

Although the Valley currently has a number of smaller performing arts venues, including several at Cal State Northridge, none are large enough to support large-scale performances such as a Broadway-style show or a symphony orchestra. Thus, the

Valley Performing Arts Center *continued on page 2.*



Community Connection

By Judy Nutter, Director of Community Relations

In this December issue of *Community@CSUN*, I usually talk about how the university community contributes to various charitable organizations and participates in holiday food, clothing and toy drives.

All of that charitable work continues in the university's colleges and student organizations, but this year, I want to talk about a gift that you can receive from a member of CSUN's faculty. This gift comes from Steven Loy, a kinesiology professor who has developed a no-cost health and exercise program for you—and you can make new friends at the same time.

The program that I want to bring to your attention actually got underway in late October, but Professor Loy says it's never too late to start. The program is called CSUN & You @ Half Dome. It culminates with a hike up Half Dome in Yosemite on June 18. Some folks have already made their reservations and will visit

the real Half Dome, but others are developing their own goals so their "Half Dome" will be something different. The whole idea is to aspire to a healthier and more active lifestyle and to take the steps to achieve it. Your goal may be the same as some others in the program or it might be something entirely unique to your life.

Initially, the program was meant for university faculty and staff, but the word has been spread by participants who are really enjoying the program. Now, Professor Loy is welcoming anyone who wants to join the group to learn how to be healthier and feel better. Every two weeks there's a lecture to attend, followed the next weekend by an organized walk or hike. There is so much enthusiasm for this program, it's quite like a party when the participants get together—except there aren't any refreshments.

To get started, you can access the entire schedule, including the

lecture subjects, by going to the Web site at <http://kinesiology.csun.edu/HalfDome/calendar.htm>. It will give you the dates, times and locations of all the activities. If you are interested in learning more about this no-cost health and exercise program and you don't have a computer, just give me a call and I'll send you a printed copy of the plan. Additionally, Professor Loy has been very generous in providing all participants with Web sites to additional health information. Once you're on the e-mail list, you receive updates and new information. How easy is that?

Professor Loy and his graduate students created an exercise program that the Los Angeles Fire Department instituted in 1999–2000. In his role as consultant to the LAFD, the professor provides additional information on nutrition and exercise, and is currently combining Half Dome and the LAFD nutrition program to help both programs. Flexibility is important because people and their requirements differ. Professor Loy says there is never only one way to do things.

I hope you will look at the CSUN & You program by using the Web address in this article. Why wait until January 1 to make that resolution? You can get started right

now and go into the new year with a new focus. And bring a friend. If you don't have someone to start with you, you'll make new friends in the program.

You are welcome to contact me with any questions at (818) 677-2123 or judith.nutter@csun.edu.

Best wishes to all of you for a happy and healthy holiday season. Until next time... ■



CSUN faculty, staff and friends set out on the first campus walk of the "CSUN & You @ Half Dome" exercise program, which will culminate in a Yosemite hike.

Theatre Alumnus Named Governor's Cabinet Secretary

Terry Tamminen Leaves CalEPA Post to Accept Job as Liaison to Heads of State Agencies

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has appointed Cal State Northridge theatre alumnus Terry Tamminen to the post of Cabinet secretary, where he will serve as chief liaison between the governor and the major state agency chiefs. He attended CSUN in 1973.

"Terry has been a bold and innovative counselor to me as a CalEPA secretary over the past year," said Governor Schwarzenegger. "I look forward to his guidance and advice as we work together with my cabinet secretaries to shape policy that benefits all of California and keeps our state on the path to economic recovery."

Tamminen took over the Cabinet secretary position from Marybel Batjer.

"I look forward to using my background in not only environmental



Terry Tamminen, governor's Cabinet secretary

policy, but also my experience as a small business owner, as a consultant, in agriculture, and in education," he

said of his new job.

Prior to his work at the Environmental Protection Agency, Tamminen was executive director of the Environment Now Foundation in Santa Monica. He was founder and director of Santa Monica Baykeeper, and co-founded Waterkeeper programs in San Diego, Orange County, Ventura and Santa Barbara.

Other career experiences include tropical fish breeding in Australia, and a seven-year stint as manager of a large sheep ranch. He has helped develop new methods to control livestock disease and has managed real estate. At various times during his career, he has helped the Nigerian government create its first solid waste recycling program, and participated in university studies of conch depletion

in the Bahamas and declining manatee populations in Florida.

Tamminen was chair of the Public Advisory Committee to the Southern California Wetlands Recovery Project, and served on the Los Angeles/Long Beach Harbor Safety Committee. As a Wishtoyo Foundation board member, he worked to preserve natural resources by using the traditional teachings of the Chumash Indians.

A licensed Coast Guard ship captain, the versatile Tamminen has used his Northridge theater training onstage, portraying William Shakespeare in his own children's play. Among his current book projects are a fictional diary of the bard, and a book about the "economic and environmental cost of our dependence on oil." ■

Northridge Senior's Choral Work Wins Top National Award

Honored with Second Invitation to Choral Convention, Northridge Singers to Present Work in February Concert



Kentaro Sato, choral composition honoree

A few months ago, Kentaro Sato began hearing voices—in eight parts, soprano to bass. Fortunately, he wrote down what he heard.

The result has brought the Cal State Northridge senior the highest honor of the nation's most prestigious choral music organization—the American Choral Directors Association's Raymond Brock Choral Competition Award—in recognition of his "Kyrie," a composition of sacred music for a cappella voices.

As part of its tribute, the ACDA will present the work in concert during its February convention in Los Angeles.

Honored for the second time in five years with an invitation to sing at the convention—which this year will attract up to 10,000 conductors and associates—CSUN's Northridge Singers will feature the "Kyrie" on their concert program.

Set for February 4 at both the

Cathedral of the Angels in downtown Los Angeles and at Immanuel Presbyterian Church on Wilshire Boulevard, the Northridge Singers' program will be presented again the following day at Immanuel. All performances will be open to the public.

Sato's own baritone voice will help interpret the four and a half minute piece. A media composition major, he became a member of the acclaimed choral group two years ago. "The piece requires at least eight voices, and the Northridge Singers are 50 voices strong," he said. "This will give it more power and warmth."

Music Department chair Diane Roscetti said Sato's award "graphically demonstrates what is possible when talent, discipline and enterprise combine to achieve the highest level of possibility."

Departmental support and guidance for Sato—"Ken-P" to his friends—

came from Elizabeth Sellers, director of the Music Department's media composition program, music professor Katherine Baker and Northridge Singers director Paul Smith, who said Sato's composition "uses close harmonies and creates an abundance of tonal effects."

It was Smith and the Northridge Singers, Sato said, who inspired him to write choral music. "The choral world is new for me," he noted.

Sato's reward came the first time he heard his "Kyrie" in full voice. "Before that, it was like everything was just notes, all in my head," he recalled. "When it went from paper to voice, it was like a part of my heart came alive."

For more information on the Northridge Singers' performances at the ACDA convention, call the Music Department Choral Office at (818) 677-3171. ■

Valley Performing Arts Center...

continued from page 1.

proposed 1,600-seat hall would be the largest facility of its kind in the Valley and would open the region to those kinds of performances.

As planned, the center also would have other spaces, including a 250-seat "black box" theater, rehearsal spaces, a lecture hall, laboratories specializing in sound and lighting, and would become the new home for campus radio station KCSN 88.5 FM. The state will financially support the project because it will be part of the university's academic programs.

The university has been planning the arts center project for some years, and has identified a site near the main entrance to the campus at the northwest corner of Nordhoff Street and Lindley Avenue. Half of the project's

cost is expected to be covered by state funds, while the other half would come from private donations. CSUN plans to complete the project before 2010.

The Valley Performing Arts Center, planned as a partnership between the university and area arts organizations, would become a cultural hub for the region. The center also would serve as an attractive meeting place for large community events. The center would host a mix of professional, community and university performances.

The university is readying a fundraising campaign to seek about \$50 million in support of the Valley Performing Arts Center project, and is forming a campaign committee co-chaired by some of the most prominent business and community leaders in the region.

"This project, a partnership between the university and the community, truly can become the cultural 'crown jewel' of the Valley, enhancing the quality of life for the entire region," said Ackerman of the Economic Alliance. He noted the Valley's long history of efforts to create a regional arts center, but added, "Nothing has ever gotten this close to being a reality."

Ackerman also said the Valley Performing Arts Center will be great for business in the region, and particularly for those in the surrounding Northridge area. "The economic impact alone of what a performing arts center like this will bring to the Valley is astronomical," he said.

"I'm glad the City Council has recognized what we already know," added Paris of the CSUN Foundation

board. "Cal State Northridge is the place where this outstanding project can become a reality.... To borrow a movie phrase, we have all 'the right stuff' here at Cal State Northridge to make this project happen."

Porter, who opened the 170-seat West Valley Playhouse in Canoga Park in 2000, said the 1,600-seat venue at Cal State Northridge "will raise the presence of arts in the Valley to a new level." Porter added, "The City Council's endorsement of the project is a clear sign that this project is real and on the move."

Porter noted in closing, "The Valley can achieve this long-held dream of having a full-fledged arts venue, but only if we as a community unite behind this project—the Valley Performing Arts Center at Cal State Northridge." ■

Cal State Northridge Salutes Volunteers in Annual Tribute

Al and Sherry Lapides, John Guarrera Earn Highest Volunteer Honors at Campus Ceremony

Al and Sherry Lapides, longtime university supporters, and John Guarrera, former director of the Center for Research and Services in the College of Engineering and Computer Science, received Cal State Northridge's highest volunteer awards at an annual campus ceremony in November saluting the top honorees and 22 other volunteers.

The Dorothea "Granny" Heitz Award for Outstanding Volunteer Leadership, awarded to alumni who serve as role models for CSUN's large corps of volunteers, was presented to Al and Sherry Lapides for service to Cal State Northridge that, between them, goes back 30 years.

In 1974, alumnus Al Lapides helped develop a career goal mentoring program for undergraduates before moving on to scholarship and special projects fundraising work with the President's Club—now the President's Associates. A member of the Foundation Board since 1990, he served as vice chair through its formative years, and became an advisor to the Family Business Center at its inception.

Lapides' wife, Sherry, began her formal CSUN volunteer service around 1990 as a member of the President's Associates. Active with the Dean's Council of the College of Arts, Media, and Communication, she has joined her husband in volunteer services to Northridge Hospital.

Residents of Northridge since the 1950s, the couple in 1972 helped found Replacement Parts Industries, now under the direction of their son, Ira.

The 2004 Emeriti Merit Award, recognizing support of the university by an *emeritus* or retired member of the faculty, was presented to John Guarrera.

Guarrera is credited with saving the College of Engineering and Computer Science more than 30 years ago, when the college was threatened with elimination in a move to streamline system-wide academic offerings. A past president of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc. (IEEE), Guarrera in 2003 joined with family and friends to create a \$100,000 endowment providing students with firsthand experience in state-of-the-art technology, with an eye toward successful careers in the field. The first Guarrera scholarship was awarded this year.

Volunteer Service Award Recipients:

- Alumnus **Michael Bessolo**, senior vice president for marketing, promotion and publicity for 20th Century Fox Television, has served on the Dean's Council of Business Advisors for the College of Business and Economics and on CSUN's Entertainment Industry Institute board.
- **Ethel Bliven**, retired secretary to the dean in the College of Humanities, has served the Friends of the Oviatt Library board as historian and secretary, and volunteers with the Cal State Northridge Arts Council.



2003 Emeriti Merit Award winner John Guarrera (second from right) is joined at CSUN's volunteer awards ceremony by Alumni Association President Gene Detchemendy (far left), President Jolene Koester and S.T. Mau, dean of the College of Engineering and Computer Science.



Dorothea "Granny" Heitz congratulates Sherry and Al Lapides, winners of the award named in her honor and given to alumni who serve as role models for CSUN volunteers. Heitz' "spirit squad" members were unofficial campus ambassadors in the 1960s.

- **Julie Fabrocini**, alumna and director of the CHIME Charter Elementary School, serves as liaison to the university, parents and the community.
- Alumna **Kathy Fein** and husband **Matthew** have been supporters of CSUN's Center of Achievement for the Physically Disabled for more than a decade, helping to plan and coordinate its Run, Walk and Roll fundraiser each spring.
- **Gene Fritsche**, professor *emeritus* of geological sciences and winner of the Society for Sedimentary Geology's 2001 Lifetime Achievement Award, teaches and mentors through field trips and presentations to students.
- **Edward Gilbert** has served as president of SAGE, a learning-in-retirement organization in the Roland Tseng College of Extended Learning, as a teacher in SAGE's "Senior Computer" program and as a university ambassador.
- Alumnus **Tom Hutchison**, an active fundraiser for the Matador baseball team, created the Diamond Club and helps maintain the team's playing field.

- **Theresa Jester**, senior director of engineering and operations for Shell Solar Industries, serves her alma mater as chair of the College of Engineering and Computer Science's Industrial Advisory Board.
- **Larry Layne**, owner of the Nova Development Company, was named to the Dean's Advisory Board at CSUN's College of Arts, Media, and Communication in 1995. He worked on the feasibility study for the planned Performing Arts Center and contributes to the campus' radio station and to its Performing Arts Center.
- **Sanford "Sandy" Paris**, an industrial parks developer, has served as a frequent guest lecturer for CSUN real estate classes. Active with numerous non-profit organizations—the Valley Industry and Commerce Association and L.A. Headquarters City Association among them—Paris is past chair of the CSUN Foundation's Major and Planned Gifts Committee.
- **Joy Picus**, who for four terms represented West San Fernando Valley on the Los Angeles City Council,

serves on the Dean's Councils of the Colleges of Social and Behavioral Sciences and Arts, Media, and Communication. She was on the first advisory board for the Center for Southern California Studies.

- **Paul Albert**, vice president of the Health Administration Alumni Chapter and a Kaiser Permanente project manager, recruited several of his firm's executives for a speed-networking event that allowed students to interact with industry health care leaders.
- **Kristin Amey**, project director for the Western Region Outreach Center & Consortia of CSUN's National Center on Deafness (NCOD), was in the forefront of a grass roots campaign to start the NCOD alumni chapter.
- **Keith Jajko**, Journalism Alumni Association chapter president, has been instrumental in helping the chapter communicate the needs of the Journalism Department to alumni. Jajko heads a public relations and government affairs consulting firm.
- **Dewayne Jones**, a consultant for Sourcetek Company, is credited with building the Finance and Real Estate Alumni Chapter, now one of CSUN's largest alumni chapters. He is past president of the chapter.
- **Annie Ksazhikyan**, secretary for the Association of Armenian Alumni board, devotes great effort to ensure the success of the chapter's biggest annual event—the Armenian graduation recognition reception.
- **Tammy Tolgo** helped found the Masters of Business Alumni Association, now a key complement of CSUN's MBA program. An executive recruiter with Ajilon Finance, Tolgo is the chapter's membership director.
- **Giovanni Triviño**, a Sepulveda Middle School teacher, a financial advisor and a real estate broker, is chief volunteer for CSUN's Association of Latino Alumni, marketing the chapter's *Fiesta Mexicana* event in the Ford Amphitheater to support the association's First Generation Scholarships.
- **Diane Visencio**, an adjunct faculty member in CSUN's Masters in Public Health program and a longtime employee of the Ventura County Public Health Department, played a vital role in developing the Masters of Public Health (MPH) Advisory Council and the MPH alumni chapter.
- **Liza White**, a retired speech therapist, helped create an alumni association chapter for the Communication Disorders and Sciences Department, helping alumni raise funds to furnish the department's Monterey Hall home.
- **Morris Zagha**, who works with the Walt Disney Company, has served CSUN students as an alumnus mentor and as treasurer for the Accounting and Information Systems Alumni Association. A frequent speaker for student information meetings, he has helped present career workshops and has volunteered as an instructor with the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program. ■

Photos by Lee Choo

CSUN Senior Ties for CSU's 'Best of Show' Media Arts Award

Greg Lacy Also Wins Rosebud Award, Northridge's Second Straight Win in Multimedia Category

A favor for an actor friend evolved into one of the biggest moments in the life of senior Greg Lacy, who tied for the coveted "Best of Show" award—a first for Cal State Northridge—at California State University's 14th Annual Media Arts Festival in November. Lacy's achievement also marked the first time a multimedia project has won in the "Best of Show" category.

But Lacy did not stop there. He also earned the prestigious Rosebud Award, making Northridge the winner of the statewide festival's top multimedia honor for the second straight year.

The talented student's entry was an interactive CD-ROM that allows actors to better market their skills and backgrounds to directors or other industry insiders, who can scan the actors' portfolio material quickly and efficiently.

"I chose to make this CD-ROM



Greg Lacy, double CSU Media Arts winner

because my roommate is an actor who is like my brother," said Lacy, a multimedia major in the Cinema and Television Arts Department (CTVA). "I wanted to do something that would help him get his name out there, so I came up with this idea."

Called a "Digital Profile," the CD-ROM displays an actor's biography, "head shots" (photo portraits), downloadable résumé, and clips from commercials, television shows, movies or other productions in which the actor has appeared. The disk even features a section in which the actor responds to a director's questions, such as "Why did you become an actor?"

Lacy's "Digital Profile" is the size of a business card. "It's small enough to fit in your wallet, which makes it convenient for handing out," he said.

The tiny disk already has helped Lacy's roommate, Romeo Brown, obtain

a modeling contract and a manager, Lacy said. "So I guess it worked."

Both Lacy and Brown have CTVA assistant professor Mary Schaffer and instructors Mary Ver Plank and Laurence Tietz to thank for convincing the reluctant student to enter the competition in the first place. "It's funny because, honestly, I did not think I would win the Rosebud Award," Lacy said. "There are so many talented students who go to these state schools."

More than 200 entries from CSU students at 18 campuses were screened by distinguished CSU professors and industry leaders at the three-day festival, held this year at Cal State Channel Islands.

Schaffer said students in CTVA's multimedia option focus on creating products for the entertainment industry, including the design and creation of Web sites, CD-ROMS and DVDs. ■

President Koester Joins AASCU Board of Directors

Organization Represents More than 430 Educational Institutions and Systems Nationwide

President Jolene Koester will join the board of directors for the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) for a one-year term that began in November.

AASCU, one of higher education's most prestigious advocacy organizations, represents more than 430 public colleges, universities and higher education systems in the United States and its territories.

"AASCU serves to promote and advance issues of importance to the higher education community, and

gives all universities and colleges a strong presence nationally," said President Koester. "For these reasons, I am honored to be able to contribute to its efforts."

The president's appointment became official at the annual meeting of the AASCU membership on November 23.

President Koester will serve with board members from institutions around the country, helping the association fulfill its stated goals:

- to promote appreciation and support for public higher education and the contributions of the association's



President Jolene Koester

member colleges and universities

- to analyze public policy and advocate for member institutions

- to provide policy leadership and program support for academic quality, access and inclusion, and educational innovation

- to create professional development opportunities for institutional leaders.

AASCU schools, according to the association, enroll more than 3 million students, totaling 56 percent of enrollment at all public four-year institutions. ■

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. To park on campus for performances, athletic events, lectures and other activities, guests must purchase a \$4 parking permit.

Alumni Events

For info or to RSVP, www.csunalumni.com unless otherwise noted.

Men's Basketball Rooter Bus

Men's basketball team boosters will travel to Long Beach on the annual Rowdy Rooter Bus. Round-trip transportation from CSUN will be provided.

Sat., Jan. 8, 3:30 p.m.
\$40

Howl at the Moon Happy Hour

Featuring a dueling piano rock 'n' roll show.

Howl at the Moon is located at Universal CityWalk.
Thu., Jan. 13, 6 p.m.

Music and Voice Therapy Workshop

Communication Disorders and Sciences Alumni Chapter hosts an evening of continuing education.
Tue., Jan. 18, 5:30 p.m.

Networking Mixer and Wine Tasting

The Finance and Real Estate Alumni Chapter hosts. Napa in the Valley, 8876 Corbin Avenue, Northridge.
Wed., Jan. 26, 6 p.m.

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.

Eighth Annual High School Invitational

San Fernando Valley high school students showcase their artwork through a variety of media including painting, sculpture, video and graphic design.

Runs through Sat., Jan. 8
Exhibit will be closed Fri., Dec. 24–Sun., Jan. 2.
Cal State Northridge Art Galleries

African Arts in the Life Cycle

Sculptures, paintings, photographs, personal arts and textiles reflecting the extraordinary range of expression in African art will be displayed. Curator: CSUN art professor Peri Klemm.

Opens Mon., Jan. 31, runs through Sat., April 9.
Reception: Fri., Feb. 4, 7–9 p.m.
Exhibit will be closed Thu., March 31, for Cesar Chavez Day
Cal State Northridge Art Galleries

Bianchi Planetarium

"Autumn Sky Show" and "The Search for Life in the Universe"
Fri., Dec. 17, 6 p.m.

"Winter Sky Show" and "Deep Sky Objects of the Winter Sky"
Fri., Jan. 7, 6 p.m.

"Winter Sky Show" and "Huygens at Titan: Breaking News!"
Fri., Jan. 14, 6 p.m.

"Winter Sky Show" and "Huygens at Titan: One Week Later"
Fri., Jan. 21, 6 p.m.

"Winter Sky Show" and "The Perils of Living in Space: An Introduction to Space Weather"

Fri., Jan. 28, 6 p.m.
For ticket info, (818) 677-2488 or visit www.csun.edu/physics/planetarium.

Athletics (home games):

Women's Basketball		
12/17	Wright State	7 p.m.
1/6	UC Irvine	7 p.m.
1/8	Long Beach State	7 p.m.
1/20	UCSB	7 p.m.
1/22	Cal Poly	7 p.m.
1/27	Pacific	7 p.m.
1/31	UC Davis	7 p.m.

Theater/Performance

"The Fantabulous San Fernando Valley Follies"

Starring actress/singer Ann Blyth.
Sat., Jan. 8, 7:30 p.m.
Sun., Jan. 9, 1 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.
Performing Arts Center
\$35



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