$1 Million Gifts from Harvey Bookstein and ‘Mory’ Ejabat Fund Chairs in Business, Engineering Colleges

Million dollar gifts from two Cal State Northridge alumni have established endowed chairs in the university's College of Business and Economics and in its College of Engineering and Computer Science. The gifts mark the first endowed chairs in both colleges.

The Harvey and Harriet Bookstein Chair in Taxation, in the Accounting and Information Department, will be funded by a $1 million gift from Harvey Bookstein (Accounting 70). Bookstein's gift to the college, recently reaccredited by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business International, also will fund the Bookstein Institute for Higher Education in Taxation.

Bookstein is known among his clients for taking a personal interest in their success, said College of Business and Economics Dean Fred Evans. "This gift shows that he is equally committed to the success of his alma mater."

Considered a specialist in the fields of real estate and tax and estate planning, Bookstein co-founded RBZ, LLP, an accounting and business consulting firm (formerly Roth, Bookstein and Zaslows) where he has been managing partner for more than 23 years.

In addition to serving on the board of CSUN's University Corporation, Bookstein is on the boards of the Entrepreneurship Institute and Students for a Better Tomorrow. He also has served on, founded or chaired the boards of United Cerebral Palsy, Phoenix House and Hathaway Children's Services, and was president and commissioner of the Los Angeles Telecommunications Commission.

"I am in the business of ensuring that my clients succeed and prosper," said Bookstein. "I hope that by establishing this chair and institute, which will support resources for faculty and scholarships for students, I can help Cal State Northridge business faculty and students do the same."

Engineering double alumnus Morteza "Mory" Ejabat (Industrial Engineering '76, Systems Engineering 79) has endowed The Mory Ejabat Chair in Engineering and Computer Science with his $1 million pledge.

"Mr. Ejabat's career is a symbol of the success of our alumni," said S.T. Mau, dean of the College of Engineering and Computer Science. "His gift is an indication not only of his generosity, but of his belief in the future possibilities for our college.”

Born in Tehran, Iran, Ejabat immigrated to the U.S. in 1970. He held senior management positions with Ascend Communications, Inc., which was successfully sold to Lucent Technologies, Inc., during Ejabat's tenure as president and CEO.

In 1999, Ejabat co-founded Zhone Technologies, a telephony/networking company where he is board chair and CEO. Delivering a complete line of telecommunications equipment, the company is the first dedicated to building total-delivery solutions for voice, data, and video services to access the local network.

"My degrees from Northridge in industrial and systems engineering have been the foundation of my success as an engineer, CEO and entrepreneur," said Ejabat, who was the 2004 Engineering and Computer Science commencement speaker. "I could not have done it without CSUN."

### Community Connection

This is the last edition of Community @CSUN for the summer. The next edition won't be published until September, so I wanted to be sure to tell everyone about the upcoming 5th Annual Twilight Garden Party on Saturday, Aug. 27, from 4 until 8 p.m. The garden party is held in the Botanic Garden located on East University Drive (Lindley Avenue), just north of the observatory.

I have attended this delightful event in past years and have always found it to be a lovely setting and a most enjoyable evening. There will be wine tasting and hors d’oeuvres, fine art to view or purchase, live music by the Steel Drum Band, tours of the garden and greenhouses and a raffle.

This year, a silent auction has been added to the activities. Also, each guest will receive a wine glass upon arrival; one of a series with etched leaves. This year’s leaf is from the Flutterbye Rose. You can also stroll over to the pond and sit at the fountain or the waterfall. I walked by the pond last week and saw that the water lilies were blooming.

Featured wineries will be Aquinas Napa Valley, Buttonwood Farms, Dobbin Lane, Firestone Winery, Giessinger Winery, Malibu Family Wines, Tantara Winery, and Waltzing Bear Wines.

Last year’s event was enjoyed by a near capacity crowd, over 400 guests, so I encourage you to make your reservations. Early bird tickets are $30 per person or $55 per couple. After August 10, tickets will be $35 per person or $65 per couple.

Parking is in Lot G3 off Zelzah between Prairie and Dearborn at a cost of $4.

I also want to remind you about the second lecture in the Gardening Lecture Series. The subject of the July 16 lecture is "Butterflies! Beauty in the Garden" and it will provide tips for creating gardens that welcome and nurture butterflies.

The Gardening Lecture Series is free and open to the public. This class will begin at 9 a.m. and will last one and a half hours.

For reservations for either event and to purchase raffle tickets, please visit the Botanic Garden Web site at www.csun.edu/botanicgarden or you can contact Brian Houck at (818) 677-3496.

A week or so ago, I came across some information that I found interesting and thought some of you might think so, too. Several times a week, I look at the CSUN sculpture (the spaghetti letters) as I drive by the corner of Nordhoff and Zelzah. Until now, I never knew who designed it. I drive by it several times a week and to purchase raffle tickets, please visit the Botanic Garden Web site at www.csun.edu/botanicgarden or you can contact Brian Houck at (818) 677-3496.

John Banks was a student here when he designed the CSUN sculpture in 1975. I am told that he partnered with Tony Federico of Superior Gunite Company here in the Valley to fabricate the pieces. The sculpture was featured in the November 14, 1973 edition of The Daily Sundial.

Mr. Banks left CSUN with a master's degree and became an award winning sculpture artist in Las Vegas. He also has a 25-year career as a firefighter. He certainly left a unique landmark behind; one that is viewed with affection by many in the San Fernando Valley.

So until September, my best wishes to everyone for a safe and happy summer. Until next time…
Disney CEO to Receive Honorary Doctoral Degree from CSUN

Doctor of Fine Arts to be Conferred on Michael D. Eisner During June 3 College of Education Ceremonies

Disney CEO Michael D. Eisner will receive an honorary doctor of fine arts degree from Cal State Northridge during its College of Education commencement ceremony on Friday, June 3.

President Jolene Koester will confer the honorary degree on Eisner from the college that bears his name for his philanthropic leadership, particularly in the areas of education and improving the lives of children throughout the Southern California community.

Eisner began his career at ABC, where, he rose to senior vice president of prime time production and development, taking the network from No. 3 to No. 1. In 1977, Eisner became president of Paramount Pictures, leading the studio to become No. 1 in box office and profitability.

Eisner has a B.A. in English literature and theater from Denison University. He serves on the boards of California Institute of the Arts, Denison University, American Hospital of Paris Foundation, the Aspen Institute, the UCLA Executive Board for Medical Sciences, and the World Trade Center Memorial Foundation, all of which are members of The Business Council.
More than 8,000 students have been invited to don caps and gowns for Cal State Northridge’s upcoming graduation. Most embody what CSUN is all about—providing opportunities to achieve dreams, even under adverse circumstances. Here are some of these extraordinary graduates.

Claudia Hernandez, B.A., Biology and Psychology

“I always had this dream of being a doctor and doing something to help the community and humanity overall,” said Van Nuys resident Claudia Hernandez, 24. Achieving her dream has not been easy. Separated at an early age from her father, who fled to the U.S. to escape harm from both factions of Guatemala’s civil conflict, Claudia and her family were left in her native country, facing continued danger.

Eleven years ago, Claudia’s mother decided to bring Claudia and her other daughter to the United States. While attempting to cross the border illegally, the family was caught by Mexican police, who initially thought Claudia’s mother was smuggling the girls for illegal organ harvesting. The sisters were taken away from their mother and interrogated for three weeks before the three were sent back to Guatemala.

Successful on the second try, after a journey in which they walked over deserts and mountainous terrain, they were reunited with Claudia’s father. Granted political refugee status, the entire family finally achieved U.S. residency.

At Northridge, Hernandez majored both in biology and psychology, despite warnings from her first in her family to receive a college education, she begins work on her master’s in both biology and psychology, despite residency.

Resident Claudia Hernandez, 24.

Education Credential

The first time Ed Montan walked into a classroom—four years ago—he was not sure he was ready. After 30 years of working in parks and recreation, Montan, 55, had decided to take an early retirement and fulfill a lifelong dream: to teach.

“When you walk into a classroom for the first time, you know if you can maintain control you have half a shot of succeeding, but that’s far from being a teacher,” Montan said.

Armed with an emergency credential, the former City of San Fernando parks and recreation director began teaching special education classes at Jefferson High School in South Los Angeles. He finished a yearlong internship program but passed up the district’s accelerated one-year credential program in favor of Northridge’s program.

“Part of it was the idea of being able to explore ideas, do research and try out new things—which I got to do at Northridge,” Montan said.

In the early 1970s, the El Segundo resident had enrolled at Cal State Fullerton to become a teacher, but a word there were no teaching jobs. He later earned a master’s in recreation and leisure services at CSUN, but held on to his dream of becoming a teacher.

“There’s a thrill when you’re trying to teach your students something and they finally get it,” he said, “or when you see that light of understanding in their eyes.”

Andrea Nemeth, B.S., Mathematics

When Andrea Nemeth walks across the stage June 2, her three biggest fans will cheer from the audience: her husband, Attila, and her three-year-old twins, Anna and Andras.

Nemeth arrived in America from Hungary 11 years ago. She knew no one except her husband and spoke not a word of English. With her husband’s encouragement, however, she was determined to make the most of her new life.

“We got out to master English, taking classes at the local community college in hopes of becoming a physical therapist. ‘The only problem was I really didn’t like chemistry or biology. I didn’t like memorizing all the things,’ she said, the 38-year-old Agoura Hills resident.

What she did like was math. She changed her major and transferred to CSUN in 2001, only to learn before classes started that she was pregnant. Confronted with the pregnancy and the birth of her twins forced her to postpone school and her dream of a doctorate in mathematics.

Nemeth persisted. She returned to CSUN, juggling a full load of classes, her children and a part-time job. “It wasn’t easy,” she said. “But I hope I am an example to my children and that some day they will follow in my footsteps, go to college and follow their dreams.”

Kanna Uehara, B.A., Social Welfare

At the age of five, Kanna Uehara of Northridge was diagnosed with juvenile rheumatoid arthritis, an illness that limits the movement of her joints. Nine of her 26 years have been spent in the hospital.

The severity of Uehara’s pain sometimes prevents her from sitting in the wheelchair she has used for most of her life, making class attendance impossible and concentration on her studies difficult. “They think I’m lazy when I want to give up everything,” said Uehara. “I wanted to give up fighting my illness and quit studying.”

Something in Uehara’s spirit made her push on. Denied admittance to a Japanese public junior high school because of her disability, she was told she should study with other physically disabled people.

Still, many others have helped Uehara since her diagnosis. Their help and her volunteer experience fired her desire to become a social worker for the disabled.

She enrolled at CSUN in 1999 but only months later had to return to Japan for hospice gardening. Upon her return the hospital two years later, Uehara returned to Northridge more determined than ever.

“My disability has made me stronger,” said the spirited Uehara, who plans to return to Japan to be an advocate for economic and social justice.

Julie Wallach, B.A., Psychology

When she is out running, Julie Wallach’s feet come close to flying over her beloved Santa Monica Mountain trails. She does not look back. It’s the way Wallach, a 55-year-old wife and mother whose nature is to fix on an idea and to act on it, leads her life. But it was not always so.

The Granada Hills resident, who has compiled a 347 grade point average at CSUN on her way to a degree in general experimental psychology, barely graduated from high school because of academic difficulties. “No one said to me, ‘Here, let me help you,’ said Wallach, who decided after her nearly failed senior year to return to Japan to be an advocate for economic and social justice.

She is actively working on helping four Compton College students secure academic scholarships to attend Northridge. Wallach, a teaching assistant at Compton for CSUN psychology professor August Hoffman, also serves as mentor, tutor and overall “motivator” for her students. Before class, she arrives at her classroom in hand to help students plant flowers and beauty the community college campus.

“Before I started working with Dr. Hoffman, I had a black thumb,” said Wallach of her own mentor.

“Once we started, people became interested. Before we knew it, the program grew.” As it grew, Wallach’s “can do” nature took over. She applied for and won a $25,000 grant to help students plant flowers and beauty the community college campus.

Wallach acknowledges Hoffman’s tremendous impact on her life. Her goal now is to be a professor who, like Hoffman, “communicates with students and pays attention to their needs inside and outside of the classroom.”
CSUN Forecasters See a Bright Future for Valley Economy

SFV Economic Research Center Says SFV Economy is ‘Large, Vibrant and Expanding’

The San Fernando Valley will remain the place to be as it moves forward into the future, according to the highly anticipated San Fernando Valley Economic Forecast.

Titled “The Recovery: Is This as Good as It Gets?”, the third annual forecast was presented by Cal State Northridge’s San Fernando Valley Economic Research Center. CSUN economists and professor Daniel Blake, center director, worked with colleagues and students to compile a comprehensive look at the future of Valley and regional economies through 2007.

“The Valley’s economy is large, vibrant and expanding at an impressive pace,” Blake said. “Private-sector jobs grew at a robust 1.6 percent in 2004, and will rack up a notch to grow at 1.7 percent this year and next as recent and projected gains in the national and California economies reinforce job creation in the Valley.”

Among the forecast’s other projections:

- **Job Growth:** Private sector job growth rate doubled in the Valley last year as the economic recovery hit full speed, and that pace continues through the forecast period. Job gains show no signs of abatement over the forecast period as the recovery broadens and gains momentum both inside the Valley and out.

- **Consumer spending:** The retail climate shifts from recovery to sustained growth as residents’ real earnings rise steadily throughout the forecast period and translate into expanding real retail sales.
- **Real estate:** Median home prices continue to rise, but at much slower rates of appreciation as home building rates catch up and population growth slows down.

The high price of housing encourages continued residential building at a measured pace after a banner year in 2004. Limited developable space and rising construction costs push the mix of new units strongly in favor of condominiums and apartments.

For more forecast information, call CSUN’s San Fernando Valley Economic Research Center at (818) 677-7021.

New Names Coming for Nine Northridge Buildings

Visitors to Cal State Northridge have witnessed its physical transformation over the past decade, with lush plant life and new structures enhancing its landscape. On June 6, they also will see new names on nine of CSUN’s buildings, a change prompted by progress.

The university’s ambitious construction program has in many cases made it necessary for departments to move a number of times. As a result, the names of some buildings have become inconsistent with the buildings’ occupants and functions, causing occasional head-scratching and aggravation.

Meetings to plan the change to mostly botanical names began in October, involving in the process the occupants of the nine buildings and representatives from all university divisions.

Faculty and division representatives began meeting at that point to develop a plan for a smooth transition through effective communication of the name changes to the campus and community, including electronic and print media, signage, maps, technology services and other methods.

The CSU Chancellor’s Office gives campus presidents the authority to approve temporary nomenclature for facilities or properties reflecting natural or geographic features, or reflecting a traditional theme of the university.

Art and Exhibits

For gallery info, call (818) 677-2156. Main gallery hours: Mon. through Sat., 12-4 p.m. Admission is free unless specified. For library exhibits, call (818) 677-2356.

Annual Juried Art Student Exhibition

An exhibition of works in all media by CSUN students. Ceramics, printmaking, painting, sculpture, drafting, graphic design and more. Runs through June 2. CSUN Art Galleries

"Fear No Art" Exhibit

Andre Minopoli’s murals and "Fear No Art" lithographs. Exhibit open during Performing Arts Center performances through fall 2005. Performing Arts Center lobby

Bianchi Planetarium

Shows will be followed at 8:45 p.m. by telescope viewings of celestial objects.

"Spring Sky Show"

Fri., June 10, 7:30 p.m.

"Summer Sky Show"

Fri., June 24, 7:30 p.m.

"Summer Sky Show"

Fri., July 8, 7:30 p.m.

"Summer Sky Show"

Fri., July 22, 7:30 p.m.

"Summer Sky Show"

Fri., Aug. 5, 7:30 p.m.

"Summer Sky Show"

Fri., Aug. 19, 7:30 p.m.

Athletics (home games):

- **Baseball**
  - 02/27 UC Santa Barbara 3 p.m.
  - 05/28 UC Santa Barbara 1 p.m.
  - 05/29 UC Santa Barbara 1 p.m.

- **Cinema Paradiso**

  Directed by Martin Scorsese. Wed., Aug. 3, 5 p.m.

  “Great Expectations” and “The Night of the Hunter”

  Directed by David Lean and Charles Laughton, respectively. Mon., July 25, 5 p.m.

  “Pennies from Heaven” and “The Singing Detective”

  Directed by Herbert Ross and Jon Amiel, respectively. Wed., July 27, 7:30 p.m.

  “The Long Day Closes” and “The Neon Bible”

  Written, directed by Terence Davies. Mon., Aug. 1, 5 p.m.

  “The Age of Innocence”

  Directed by Martin Scorsese. Wed., Aug. 3, 5 p.m.

  “Hope and Glory” and “War Requiem”

  Directed by John Boorman and Derek Jarman, respectively. Mon., Aug. 8, 5 p.m.

  “House of Mirth”

  Directed by Terence Davies. Wed., Aug. 10, 5 p.m.

  “Fanny and Alexander”

  Directed by Ingmar Bergman. Mon., Aug. 15, 5 p.m.

  “Cinema Paradiso”

  Directed by Giuseppe Tornatore. Wed., Aug. 17, 5 p.m.

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