Northridge is a Top Host for International Students

University Ranks Sixth Among Master’s Level Institutions Nationwide, with 1,343 Students from Abroad

Cal State Northridge continues its high standing among the top 10 master’s level institutions in the nation hosting students from foreign countries. A newly released national annual survey placed CSUN sixth—with more than 1,300 international students—among hundreds of master’s level institutions nationwide for the 2004-05 academic year.

CSUN has been ranked in the top echelon in the past years, climbing steadily from 17th place in 2000-01 to its present sixth place berth in Open Doors 2005, an annual report on international educational exchange issued by the Institute of International Education (IIE).

In its November 14 report, IIE researchers found a slight overall decline nationwide in the enrollment of international students at U.S. colleges and universities—off about 1 percent from the previous year’s total.

Researchers attributed the decrease to factors such as “real and perceived difficulties” in obtaining student visas, rising U.S. tuition costs, and competition for students from other English-speaking nations. The study found perceptions persisting abroad that it has become more difficult for international students to come to the U.S. Ultimately, the IIE indicated that this year’s national numbers—about 565,000 international students—represent a leveling off of enrollments after a 2.4 percent drop from the 2002-03 academic year, in the wake of terrorist threats following the 9/11 crisis.

CSUN’s sixth place ranking is down slightly from the previous academic year, when the university placed fourth in the Open Doors survey. The survey showed 1,345 international students enrolled at Northridge out of a total 2004-05 student population of 31,074.

In 2003-04, Open Doors reported 1,601 international students out of a total enrollment of 32,618.

Mack Johnson, associate vice president for Graduate Studies, Research and International Programs, expects the number of international students at CSUN to resume its upward trend during the next several years. "The U.S. Office of Homeland Security has been trying to improve its efficiency in the area of student visas,” he said, which should help boost foreign student enrollment nationwide.

Johnson headed an ad hoc campus group that recommended increasing the university’s international enrollment by enhancing CSUN’s Web site presence and increasing its focus on housing, visibility in international publications, and international recruitment fairs.

Research Team Wins $1.3 Million for Technology Project

Nicholas Kioussis and UCLA Colleagues Working to Improve Technology Used in Cell Phones, Computers

Physics professor Nicholas Kioussis and three colleagues from UCLA have been awarded a $1.3 million grant from the National Science Foundation for a nanoscale technology research project.

The prestigious National Science Foundation Nanoscale Interdisciplinary Research Teams (NIRT) grant—the first CSUN has received—will support researchers’ efforts to improve the microscopic technology used in products such as cellular phones, iPods, laptop computers and video games.

As electronic products decrease in size, Kioussis explained, the transistors or wires that carry the electrical currents must also decrease. Today’s electronic Technology Grant continued on page 3.

Photos by Lee Choo

Research Teams Wins $1.3 Million for Technology Project

Nicholas Kioussis and UCLA Colleagues Working to Improve Technology Used in Cell Phones, Computers

Physics professor Nicholas Kioussis (left) works in his lab with student researchers Ioannis Theodoreis (center) and Alan Kalitsis. Kioussis and three UCLA researchers were awarded $1.3 million by the National Science Foundation for a nanoscale technology research project.

Community Connection

By Judy Nutter, Director of Community Relations

Here we are in December, and the fall semester has nearly passed. In addition to long hours of studying for finals, CSUN students are well into the “season of giving,” which has created a flurry of activity among Associated Students, clubs and organizations. Did you know that there are 200 student clubs and organizations on campus? Early holiday events included Super Saturday at M.E.N.D. (Meeting Each Need with Dignity). A large number of CSUN students spent the day visiting with M.E.N.D. clients to assess their needs for the holiday giving program. Hermannus Uniódes and others participated in Operation Gratitude at the National Guard Armory packaging gifts for the military serving overseas. And Beta Gamma Nu held an auction with the proceeds going to support Feed-A-Family for Thanksgiving. A toy drive is being led by the Panhellenic Council for M.E.N.D. families. Phi Kappa Phi is collecting Community Connection continued on page 2.

Photos by Lee Choo
Northridge Program Paves the Way for 21st Century Scientists
‘Tomorrow’s Scientists’ Empowers Future Teachers, Ignites Passion for Science in Young Students

When assistant biology professor Virginia Vandergon began teaching at Cal State Northridge six years ago, she noticed a kind of unease among many of the aspiring teachers in her science classes.

"Their attitude about science just wasn't positive. It wasn't negative, either; it was just that they were a little leery of it," she said.

A geneticist who has taught at the high school and community college levels, Vandergon felt she had to do something about that. Research has shown that teachers who are insecure about subject matter impart that insecurity—or negativity—to their students.

Vandergon, the mother of a three-year-old scientist-in-training, is worried about the 'science literacy' of the nation's school children. She cites a recent National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) report that placed California students' average science test scores among the lowest in the nation and tracked a national decline in scores for high school seniors.

In the fall of 2005, the action-oriented Vandergon worked with Maureen Rubin of CSUN’s Center for Community Service-Learning to develop a program called 'Tomorrow’s Scientists,' now in its fifth year.

"My research showed that many elementary school teachers teach science when they feel they know something about science, when they feel comfortable with the topic," Vandergon said. "I also wanted to dispel the myth that science is boring and can't be any fun."

Rubin and other CSUN faculty have worked with Vandergon on the project.

Elementary Education Department chair David Krestchmer, geological sciences professor Gerry Simila, geological sciences assistant professor Elizabeth Nagy-Shadman, biology lecturer Michael Franklin and the staff of CSUN’s Service-Learning unit. Through the years, that team has helped bring the university to as many as 48 San Fernando Valley middle school students at a time—many from underrepresented groups—twice a week for intensive, innovative science education classes during CSUN’s fall and spring sessions.

"We’ve only been rained out once in the five years of the program," Vandergon said.

The sessions are conducted entirely by CSUN teaching credential students—there are 24 in this year’s program—enrolled in Biological Concepts, Vandergon’s general biology course specifically geared to liberal studies students on track to earn their Integrated Teacher Education Program (ITEP) multi-subject teaching credentials.

"The ITEP students don’t merely run the show. They design and implement science lessons from materials they’ve gathered at the library or on the Internet, and they construct their lesson plans in synch with California state science standards."

In a recent session, self-assured sophomores Jennifer Mazeika and Dave Miller led their seventh graders through the intricacies of nature’s food chain: from tertiary, secondary and primary consumers (snakes, mice and grasshoppers, respectively) all the way down to producers—grass, for instance.

"So a snake has to eat a lot of secondary consumers to get the energy it needs, right?" asked Mazeika, to a chorus of adolescent groans.

Vandergon chose to work with middle school students—this year from the Van Nuys, Sutter and Patrick Henry middle schools—because students who originally had an interest in science tend to lose that interest in middle school. Many of her middle school students benefit from early exposure to a university campus, she said, and the program gives them an important opportunity to learn science from young teachers who are well-grounded and enthusiastic.

"Many have parents who can’t afford to send them to a science camp," she said.

Funded this year by Learning Centered University (LCU) grants from CSUN’s Office of the Provost and earlier by Eisenhower grants, "Tomorrow’s Scientists has been a greater success than even Vandergon expected. Preliminary data reveals very good performances by Biology Concepts students in department-wide assessments."

"Students have indicated they have learned a great deal about how to prepare content-rich yet fun and engaging pedagogy in science," she said. "Significantly, they say they will make a concentrated effort to integrate science into their curricula."

That, Vandergon believes, is how new scientists are born.

International Students…

325 students. Korea is next highest with roughly 120, followed by Taiwan, India and Colombia.

More than 360 are majoring in business administration, the top draw for international students. Next is engineering, with about 140 majors; cinema and television arts, with nearly 70, psychology, with more than 50, followed by art and family and consumer sciences, with about 35 each.

Community Connection…

items for Toys for Tots, and Hermanos Unidos collected 150 toys to be divided between Devonshire PALS and Toys for Tots. The Latino Business Association will hold its annual adopt-a-family event on Dec. 17, and is gathering donations of toys, blankets, cash and clothes for a family of seven.

Clients of the San Fernando Valley Rescue Mission will benefit from a food drive by The First Year Experience, an on-campus living/learning experience for first year students. The Ballet Folklorico Aztlán de CSUN will hold its annual canned food and clothing drive, with donations going to the San Fernando Valley Food Bank/Rescue Mission Alliance. CSUN Hillel is collecting canned food for SOVA, a community food and resource program that is part of Jewish Family Services of Los Angeles.

These are just a few of the organized efforts taking place on campus. It is good to see people caring for others and this is the season when it is most prevalent.

Another side of the holidays is shopping and the difficulty of finding that sometimes elusive, perfect little gift. May I suggest a visit to the CSUN Art Gallery Gift Shop? This charming little shop offers a variety of unique gifts from around the world: jewelry, cards, etc. I say some beautiful baskets from Africa and for the musician in your family, some very clever wire figures from Barbados, holding various musical instruments. There are art books and purses, a lovely selection of note cards, and for Von Dutch collectors, 2006 calendars.

The Art Gallery and Gift Shop is located on North University Drive (Plummer Street) with parking in Lot D6 off Halsted Street. It’s open Monday—Saturday from noon until 4 p.m. through Thursday and Dec. 22.

My best wishes to all for a happy and healthy holiday season. Until next time…
Northridge Alumna Honored for Pioneering Work in Education

Ellen Moir Receives Harold W. McGraw, Jr. Prize in Education for Work with New Teachers

California State University, Northridge

Ellen Moir is the 2005 recipient of the annual Harold W. McGraw, Jr. Prize in Education, a prestigious national award saluting those who have dedicated themselves to the improvement of education.

Executive director of the UC Santa Cruz New Teacher Center, Moir (Spanish, '72) was recognized as a pioneer in new teacher professional development.

Harold McGraw III, chairman, president and CEO of The McGraw-Hill Companies, a global information services provider and sponsor of the award, said "few educators have thought more about student and teacher preparedness."

New teachers need support early in their careers, Moir has said, stressing that "teacher quality is the single most important factor in student success."

The educator joins a distinguished line of previous McGraw honorees, among them another CSUN alumna, charter school pioneer Yvonne Chan, former U.S. education secretaries Rod Paige and Richard Riley; former First Lady Barbara Bush and James Hunt, former governor of North Carolina.

After graduating from CSUN, Moir—who earned her master's degree at San Jose State—began her career in education as a bilingual teacher in Santa Paula. In 1978, she became UC Santa Cruz's supervisor of teacher education, and later its director of teacher education. For 15 years, she served as coordinator and then director of the UC Santa Cruz teacher education program.

In 1998, Moir founded the New Teacher Center (NTC) at UCSC as an international resource for new teacher development. The NTC's staff has grown from five to 65 educators and researchers who study, develop and administer comprehensive training in all scale and to assist companies in finding productive employment relationships with local and national businesses, and to assist companies in finding the right person for the job — not just a body to fill an opening," Miraglia said.

WAIV's success rate—it assisted 29 companies with job placements last year—is attributed to its thorough knowledge of its workers and their skills. "We won't send a candidate just because we have a hunch he or she can do the job," said Miraglia. "They've been trained, and we know they meet the company's qualifications; it's not a gamble."

One benefit of hiring an employee with a disability is the Work Opportunity Tax Credit program, which Miraglia said offers employers who hire registered DOR clients a tax credit of up to $6,000, depending on the period of employment.

Costs associated with hiring persons with disabilities should pose no great difficulties, said WAIV job placement specialist Isabelle Martin, citing a 2003 survey by the Dixon, Kruse & Van Horn research team that found reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities generally cost less than $500. A reported 73 percent required no accommodations at all.

Martin said interns can answer the need for qualified part-time employees, allowing employers to lower their hiring costs and evaluate an employee's potential before signing on the dotted line.

For information on hiring WAIV candidates, call (818) 677-0118, visit www.csun.edu/cod/sdr/workability, or e-mail: workability@csun.edu.

WAV's Students with Disabilities are Job-Ready

Help is at the ready for short-handed employers, say representatives of Cal State Northridge's WorkAbility IV (WAIV) job and internship placement program, a joint venture of Northridge's Center on Disabilities and the California State Department of Rehabilitation (DOR).

With the national emphasis on filling the inevitable vacancy might be a student with a disability who is part of the WAIV program, said senior job placement specialist Greg Miraglia. The program offers its job placement services free of commissions and fees, he said.

Now in its fourth year of assisting students in entering the labor market, WAIV has been recognized as a model program for universities in Los Angeles County. "The program's main goals are to help students form productive employment relationships with local and national businesses, and to assist companies in finding the right person for the job — not just a body to fill an opening," Miraglia said.

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Technology Grant...

continued from page 1...

products use wires made mostly of copper, which loses electrical stability when reduced to a certain dimension. Displacement of atoms in copper causes voids between the wires, he said, interrupting the flow of electricity and the performance of electronic equipment. The research team's goals are to identify the factors that cause displacement, and to discover how to prevent it.

Working with Kioussis are materials scientist King-Ning Tu, mechanical and aerospace engineering professor Nasr Ghoniem, and materials science and engineering professor Jenn-Ming Yang. Kioussis, who will do his research in CSUN's W. M. Keck Computational Materials Theory Center, is enthusiastic about the opportunity for Northridge students to assist his work. "Our students are the next generation and it is important they have the opportunity to work on nanoscale technology now," he said.

The transition from micro to nanoscale will happen within the next five to ten years, said Kioussis, stressing that the U.S. needs to emerge as a leader in downsizing the scale of microchips in order to stay competitive in the microelectronic industry. "Our research could have a broader impact and enhance the U.S. global position in producing electronic products."

Cal State Northridge will work with UCLA to develop classes on nanoscale structure and to provide students with comprehensive training in all scale sizes. "CSUN and UCLA each have different areas of expertise," said the researcher.

The results of the research could have a significant impact on consumer products, he said, adding that Intel Corporation already has shown an interest in the findings.

Kioussis pointed out that discovering how to strengthen copper wires at the nanoscale level and eliminating displacement would result in electronic products with increased memory capabilities, while the products themselves continued to decrease in size.

The ultimate solution, he said, would be to have free-standing wires. "Now we need to work hard and prove ourselves."

CSUN Soccer Champs Host College Cup Match

Before a near sellout crowd of 1,381 fans at Matador Soccer Field on Nov. 22, the CSUN men's soccer Big West Conference champions defeated UC Santa Barbara 3-2 in the first-ever NCAA Division I postseason match hosted by Northridge. The Matadors fell to the University of New Mexico in overtime after a hard fought match on Nov. 27.

Ellen Moir

Photo by Mario Contini

Van Horn research team that found reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities generally cost less than $500. A reported 73 percent required no accommodations at all.

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WAV's Students with Disabilities are Job-Ready

Technology Grant...

continued from page 1...

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“Heavenly Hands,” a monumental sculptural group by acclaimed Romanian-American artist Patricia Mateescu (Patrick M.), is a new and striking addition to the Cal State Northridge cultural landscape.

Permanently located in the courtyard of the university’s Art and Design Center off Halsted Street, the piece is a gift to CSUN from manufacturing systems engineering and management professor Ileana Costea and Ion Baroi, CFO of MV Medical Management. Mateescu was present at the November dedication of “Heavenly Hands,” a ceremony also attended by Catalin Ghenea, the acting Romanian consul general in Los Angeles, William Toutant, dean of the College of Arts, Media, and Communication, and its College of Engineering and Computer Science.

It does not surprise Costea that “Heavenly Hands” originally was sponsored by arts and engineering departments. “Its creation required engineering thought: foundations, resistance of materials, methodology.” In constructing “Heavenly Hands,” the New Jersey-based artist placed strips of clay one on top of the other, using an ancient technique similar to that used by Greek potters centuries ago. “This made him work very fast,” said Costea. “The sculptures grew with impressive speed, and were ready to be fired in the CSUN kilns in ten days.”

The sculpted hands are described by the artist as religious symbols of Byzantine influence, “strange formations of the clouds evoking from the sky or maybe directly from divine transcendence.”

“From building sand castles in my childhood to my present work, Mateescu said of his work, “the pleasure of hand modeling the clay remains the final formal expression of my sculptures.” The artist has a strong presence in the Los Angeles area, said Costea. Other Mateescu sculptures in the area include: “Love Five” at UCLA’s Sunset Recreation Center, and a work at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center. “In displaying his work, CSUN is in good company,” Costea said.

Mateescu was awarded the New Jersey Council on the Arts Fellowship, the gold medal at The Third International Ceramic Show in Faenza, Italy; the Diplome d’Honneur at The Third Biennial of Ceramics in Valturia; France; and numerous prizes from Turkey, Germany, Romania and elsewhere.

The A.S. Ticket Office in the University Student Union sells tickets to many events on campus, except for those held by outside groups. The Ticket Office is open from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Mon.-Fri. For prices not given, call (818) 677-2488. To park on campus for performances, athletic events, lectures, athletic events, and lectures, guests must purchase a $4 parking permit.

Joyful Parenting Seminar
Author Gail Small and Education Alumni Chapter host seminar on parenting. Small will sign copies of “Joyful Parenting: Before You Bink They’ll Be Grown.”
Sat., Feb. 4, 11:30 a.m. University Club
Free

Alumni Fan Night
MBA Alumni Association sponsors talk by Jim White, vice president of human resources, Vivendi-Universal Games, on the video gaming industry.
Tue., Jan. 17
Juniper Hall, Room 4117
RSVP online or via e-mail to rsvp@csumbaa.org
Free

Laser Space – Communication Talk
Electrical and Computer Engineering Alumni chapter and San Fernando Valley IEEE host talk by David Avad, radar and laser communication development expert.
Wed., Jan. 18, 7 p.m.
Alumni Association/Computer Engineering
RSVP online or via e-mail to
marcy.newman@alumni.csun.edu

Health Professionals
Alumni Mixer
Wine tasting, networking for health services alumni chapters.
Tue., Jan. 24, 6 p.m.
Napa in the Valley, 8876 Corbin Ave., Northridge
RSVP:
marcy.newman@alumni.csun.edu/ $10 Alumni Association members/ $15 non-members

Bianchi Planetarium
For ticket info, (818) 677-2488 or visit www.csun.edu/physics/planetarium.
Telescope viewing will follow the show, weather permitting.
“Winter Sky Show” Fri., Jan. 6, 7 p.m.

Women’s Basketball
12/19 Southeastern
12/21 Portland
12/23 USC Irvine
1/15 Long Beach State
1/26 UC Santa Barbara
1/29 Cal Poly
2/4 UC Davis
2/6 UC Riverside
2/18 Fullerton
2/25 Pacific

Women’s Swimming
1/14 Pepperdine

Athletics (home games):

Men’s Basketball
1/21 Alumni
2/3 Nevada
2/4 Nevada
2/10 New Orleans
2/11 New Orleans
2/12 New Orleans
2/14 British Columbia
2/17 Washington
2/18 Washington
2/19 Washington
2/20 Washington
2/24 UC Riverside
2/25 UC Riverside
2/26 UC Riverside

Men’s Volleyball
12/20 Fairfield
1/7 Fullerton
1/9 UC Riverside
1/19 UC Davis
2/2 Long Beach State
2/4 UC Irvine
2/25 Pacific

Women’s Tennis
1/2/1 Cal Poly
2/2 Saint Mary’s
2/5 Long Beach State
2/9 Hawaii
2/24 Nevada

Track & Field
1/8 All Comers
1/15 All Comers
1/22 All Comers
1/25 All Comers
1/29 All Comers

Women’s Basketball
1/2/17 Stanford
1/28 Pacific

Women’s Swimming
1/14 Pepperdine

Lectures
Caring for Roses
Tips on selection, placement, watering, feeding and pruning of roses. Presenter: Jo Ann Dillenbeck, rose enthusiast.
Hosted by CSUN’s Botanic Garden.
Part of seasonal gardening series.
Reservations required: Brian Houck, (818) 677-3496.
Sat., Jan. 21, 9 a.m.
Botanic Garden
Free