Ashley, Curb and Ejabat are 2006 Distinguished Alumni

CSUN Salutes Three Who Have Made Marks in Law Enforcement, Politics, Music and High-Tech Industry

Cal State Northridge’s 2006 Distinguished Alumni Awards were presented on Saturday, May 13, to three luminaries who have made their marks in law enforcement, politics, music and philanthropy, and in the high-tech industry.

This year’s awards honored Grant Ashley, former executive assistant director of law enforcement services for the FBI, former California Lt. Governor Mike Curb, philanthropist and chairman of Curb Records, and Mory Ejabat, co-founder, chairman of the board and chief executive officer of Zhone Technologies.

Grant Ashley joined the FBI in 1976 while still a student at Cal State Northridge. After earning his accounting degree in 1978, he left the bureau briefly to work in private industry as a certified public accountant, returning to the FBI in 1980 as a special agent.

As former executive assistant director of law enforcement services for the FBI, Ashley oversaw state and municipal law enforcement training, agent training, the FBI Lab, investigative technologies and criminal justice information services for the bureau.

Through the years, Ashley has investigated white collar and violent crime cases in Washington, D.C., Los Angeles and Chicago, and has overseen operations in San Diego, San Francisco and Las Vegas. In 2004, he was named executive assistant director of law enforcement services. He retired earlier this year and now is vice president for security at Harrah’s Entertainment Corp.

Mike Curb was 19 and a student at what was then San Fernando Valley State College when he launched his own record company. In 1969, Curb merged his company with MGM Records and became president of the MGM Company. At the age of 25, he turned MGM’s fortunes around with such hits as “The Candy Man” by Sammy Davis Jr. After MGM was sold in 1974, Curb built Curb Records and the Curb/Warner label, which released numerous hit singles from the mid-to-late 70s.

Mory Ejabat last year pledged $1 million to CSUN’s College of Engineering and Computer Science for the creation of the college’s first endowed chair.

Inventor, Space Pioneer Pledges $2 Million for Northridge

Ernie Schaeffer’s Gift Will Help CSUN Students Develop Innovation and Entrepreneurial Skills

Pioneering inventor and entrepreneur Ernie Schaeffer has had a long relationship with Cal State Northridge. Through the years, he has mentored students, collaborated with faculty and hired countless alumni to work at his former company, Schaeffer Magnetics, which has played a role in nearly every U.S. space mission since the 1960s.

Schaeffer, a Calabasas resident, has decided to take the relationship one step further by pledging $2 million to endow the Ernie Schaeffer Center on Innovation and Entrepreneurship in the College of Engineering and Computer Science. The center will promote the development of innovation and entrepreneurship-related knowledge and skills among CSUN students.

The center also will engage students directly with real-world inventors and entrepreneurs, support projects on new ideas, strengthen faculty professional development, hold seminars, lectures and panel discussions and conduct other activities consistent with its mission and subject to the resources available to it.

Mr. Schaeffer’s generosity and inspiration will be the foundation of a center where imagination and creativity will be encouraged and flourish. It is from such an environment that true innovation emerges, and we are proud to partner with Mr. Schaeffer in fulfilling his vision,” said CSUN President Jolene Koester.

Schaeffer has been leading a group of volunteers at the university, members of an informal entrepreneurs’ roundtable who have been discussing how to weave entrepreneurial themes into academic programs. He said it seemed natural, given his history with the university, to establish the endowment for the center.

“I’m impressed with the school and its diversity of students. If we are going to succeed as a region and a country, we need people like CSUN’s students, with their wealth of diversity and ideas, to become educators and contributors to society,” he said. “I don’t see that happening at some place else. Schaeffer continued on page 2.
Mo Qayoumi, Cal State Northridge's vice president for administration and finance and CFO since 2000, will become president of California State University, East Bay, in July. The CSU's Board of Trustees announced its selection of Vice President Qayoumi at its May 17 meeting.

"I am excited and honored to be named president of a university with such committed faculty, staff and students," said the vice president.

"There is a tremendous opportunity to build enrollment at the Hayward and the Concord campuses, and to develop the Oakland Professional Center further. I look forward to working with the campus communities to forge an agenda for the coming year," he said.

"I especially want to work collaboratively defining the East Bay experience and helping CSUEB become a crown jewel in the CSU system."

"Dr. Qayoumi's outstanding academic experience, administrative background and leadership qualities are reflective of the campus profile as a student-centered, inclusive and progressive institution," said Trustee Carter.

"Qayoumi's seven years of dedicated service, his achievements and contributions here have been considerable and far reaching," said Qayoumi.

"His leadership and presence will be missed by the entire campus community and me, and I know he will bring energy and new ideas to CSU East Bay."

The president has appointed retired UC Davis vice chancellor of administration James Sullivan as interim vice president of administration and finance and CFO for a period of six months to a year. Sullivan, who also served in that interim capacity from January 1999 to June 2000, will chair the search committee for Qayoumi's permanent replacement.

"Qayoumi's service as vice president in the CSU system, his management skills, will be a "tremendous" asset to CSUEB."

Meanwhile, Vice President for Administration and Finance Mo Qayoumi to Assume New Duties in July

Top Northridge Administrator Accepts CSU East Bay Presidency

Carol Shubin is Bound for Rwanda to Help Revive Educational System Disrupted by Genocide

Cal State Northridge Math Professor Receives Fulbright Grant

Ernie Schaeffer...
Valley’s Economic Future Bright, CSUN Forecasters Say
Jobs, Retail Sales Looking Strong; Home Price Hikes to More Slowly into Single Digit Range

The future continues to look bright for the San Fernando Valley’s economy while a tempered forecast demands we keep residential prices in check, according to the highly anticipated San Fernando Valley Economic Forecast.

Cal State Northridge’s San Fernando Valley Economic Research Center presented the forecast on May 19, at the Economic Summit in Universal City. Economics professor Daniel Blake, director of the center, worked with colleagues and students to compile a comprehensive look at the future of Valley and regional economics through 2008.

The Economic Summit was sponsored by the Economic Alliance of the San Fernando Valley and California State University, Northridge.

Blake pointed out that Valley has moved from a recovery mode to a strong and sustainable growth path, with its strength coming from strong performances in the Valley’s critical entertainment industry, and impressive growth in its large professional and business sector.

Among the forecast’s projections for the Valley during the next two years:

- **Job Growth**: The Valley’s strong job growth experienced during the past several years will continue through 2008. Forecasters predict the private sector will add more than 10,700 new jobs in 2006, and that job creation will step up a notch in 2007 with an additional 12,300 jobs. Job growth is expected to moderate in 2008 with the addition of only 10,800 new private sector jobs.

- **Average Salaries and Total Earnings**: Workers’ fortunes are expected to improve during the next two years, with average wages and salaries for all private sector employees growing at higher than average rates of 4 to 5 percent annually. The forecast calls for relatively improved rates of total payroll growth through 2008 as inflation-adjusted average wages and salaries grow at respectable rates and employment growth stays strong.

- **Consumer Spending**: Retail sales are expected to return to a healthy 2 percent inflation-adjusted growth rate each year through 2008. The rate of retail trade expansion roughly matches the growth in real wages and salaries and total earnings, and suggests that retail sales are returning to a normal expansion path.

- **Population and Net Migration**: The Valley’s population will grow through 2008, though at a much slower rate than in the last several years. Last year, the Valley’s natural increase was 13,400. Net in-migration to the Valley added just over 300 people for an increase of 13,700 Valley residents. The forecast calls for a population increase of 15,000 to 16,000 each year from 2006 through 2008, with housing prices keeping much of the influx of people in check.

Real Estate

Valley home price appreciation slowed in the last year, but continues to remain in double digits, fueled by strong demand and meager supply. The forecast predicts that housing appreciation will slow more into single digits as the supply of houses on the market increases while higher mortgage rates quell demand.

 Forecasters say the growth in demand for Valley housing will be fueled by the projected modest growth in the population from births naturally, along with a positive net in-migration to the area, coupled with a modest growth in earnings. This moderating growth in housing demand combined with the increased supply now coming onto the market and projected for the future, will keep housing prices in check.

“Valley home buyers should see relief this year from the recent home price spiral but Valley renters are beginning to feel the upward pressure on rents as displaced home buyers move into their market,” Blake said.

Faculty Member and Alumnus Candidate Tries for Assembly
Gabriel Buelna of Chicano/a Studies Puts in Nonstop Days of Teaching,Campaigning

Gabriel Buelna, an adjunct faculty member in Cal State Northridge’s Chicano/a Studies Department, is clocking full days and wearing out a good deal of shoe leather in the countdown days to the 45th Assembly District election on June 6.

Buelna wants to represent the district of nearly 420,000 that includes portions of East Los Angeles, Echo Park, Atwater, Hollywood and Mt. Washington and its diverse communities.

Sixteen short years ago, candidate Buelna was a college-hopeful 17-year-old from South Central Los Angeles with a discouragingly low grade point average.

In the summer of 1990, a CSUN professor named Alberto Garcia, who had mentored Buelna’s brother at CSUN, personally walked the young student to the university’s Educational Opportunity Office and vouched for him.

Three years later, Buelna graduated with a degree in Chicano/a studies. He proceeded to San Diego State, earned a master’s degree in social work, and in 2002 received a doctorate in political science from the Claremont School of Politics and Economics. His G.P.A. had soared to 3.7.

“CSUN is like a home to me,” said Buelna. “It was that mentoring quality in fact that someone believed in me.”

His list of mentors includes two of his brothers, three of whom preceded him at CSUN. Chicano/a Studies Department chair Mary Pardo and Chicano/a studies faculty Rudy Acura, David Rodriguez and Juana Mora are among them, he said.

“I learned a lot through my activism here at CSUN,” Buelna said, serving as MDC/CA chair, as an Associated Students senator and as a resident assistant.

When I met my wife here,” he said, Pilar, Buelna’s wife of 11 years, has a bachelor’s degree in English from CSUN, a master’s in social work and serves on the staff of the Families in Schools nonprofit educational organization.

It was Pilar, he recalls, who solved at least one cause of the low G.P.A. with which he started college. “I have bad vision, and in high school you don’t want to wear glasses, so I had stopped. My wife refused to date me unless I wore them, so I did it.”

A resident of Mt. Washington, Buelna left his job as executive director of Proyecto Pastoral at Dolores Mission in Boyle Heights to focus on campaigning.

He had oversight of two child care centers, an after-school program, an alternative school, a homeless shelter and a community safe passage program.

He serves on the boards of the City of Los Angeles Human Relations Commission, the Boyle Heights Learning Collaborative and others.

“Teaching classes in economics, social institutions and history at CSUN, it helps naturally me assist my students. “I have high expectations of them, but I work with them to make sure they have the tools necessary to be successful,” he said. “I have to be a role model, someone they can go to when they do well and when they don’t. That’s how I got here.”

Community Connection…

continued from page 2

Commencement Week will conclude on Friday, June 2 with 1,560 undergraduate and more than 900 graduate students eligible to take part in ceremonies for the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences and the Michael D. Eisner College of Education.

The summer months will be less active for the campus, but they will be energized by children of various ages who attend the Summer Academic Enrichment Program and the Sunny Days Camp.

Sunny Days Camp is an exciting and fun day camp for children in grades K-9. For more information, please call (818) 677-3617. You can learn more about the Summer Academic Enrichment Program by going to www.saep.net or by calling (818) 677-2621 for the Elementary Program and (818) 677-3333 for the Secondary Program.

The Art Gallery will exhibit The Chicano Collection between June 17 and July 29 (see the story and some of the artwork on the Calendar page of this issue). Entertainer “Cheech” Marin commissioned Modern Multiples to produce commemorative sets of limited edition reproductions of paintings by 26 prominent Chicano artists. These archival-quality digital prints depict scenes of Chicano life and the Chicano experience from 1969 through 2001. The Art Gallery is located on North University Drive (Plummer Street) and parking is available in Lot D6 for $4.

This is the last Community Connection until September. I wish each of you a safe and happy summer! Until then…

May 2006 • California State University, Northridge
University to Exhibit Prints from ‘Cheech’ Marin Collection

Works of 26 Prominent Artists Help Alumnus Marin Advance Recognition of Chicano Art

Fine art prints of paintings by 26 prominent Chicano artists, dedicated urban life and the Chicano experience between 1969 and 2001, will be on view at Cal State Northridge next month in an exhibition entitled “The Chicano Collection / La Colección Chicana: Fine Art Prints by Modern Multiples.”

Part of Marin’s effort to advance Chicano art as a recognized school of American art and to increase the public’s access to the artwork nationwide, the works will be exhibited at CSUN Art Galleries from June 17 through July 29, Monday through Saturday from noon to 4 p.m. Admission is free. An opening reception is set for 7–10 p.m. Saturday, June 17.

Drawn from the collection of actor and artist advocate Richard “Cheech” Marin, a CSUN alum, the exhibition features the work of Carlos Almaraz, George Yepes, Patsi Valdez, Leo Limón, Margaret Garcia and other top Chicano artists.

As part of the project, high-quality digital reproductions (giclées) were made of original paintings. The giclées were donated to 50 major U.S. art museums and universities, including Northridge. CSUN will be the first of the recipients to display them.

“Chicano art is American art. My goal is to bring the term ‘Chicano’ to the forefront of the art world,” said Marin. “Using the most advanced technology available today, we are creating these important artistic expressions of the American experience as ‘time capsules’ to embed into U.S. art collections and to expose them to the widest audience possible.”

“We are honored to receive such a generous gift of such important Chicano art from an alumnus of the university,” said William Toutant, dean of CSUN’s College of Arts, Media, and Communication.

Marin, a third-generation Mexican American from East Los Angeles, was the 1999 recipient of the National Council of La Raza’s Kraft Foods Alma Community Service Award. His television credits include “Judging Amy” and the CBS drama, “Nash Bridges.” Recent films include “Once Upon a Time in Mexico” with Johnny Depp and “Christmas with the Kranks” with Tim Allen.

Since the 1960s, Marin has built an international reputation as a comedian, film actor, director, writer, musician, and art collector.

Presenting sponsors of the exhibition tour are Bank of America and Farmers Insurance, with support from Starbucks Coffee Company, Univision 34, and CIBS / KCAJ. In 2004, Bank of America and Farmers Insurance teamed with Marin to produce “The Chicano Collection / La Colección Chicana.” Their generous support has funded all aspects of the multi-year project, from print production to portfolio donations as well as the exhibition tour.

“We’re proud of Bank of America’s role in bringing this dynamic project to fruition and in showcasing the prints at cultural venues that have long supported Chicano art,” said Leticia Aguilar, president of Bank of America-Los Angeles.

“Our investment in this educational project reflects Farmers’ continued commitment to recognizing the rich contributions of Latinos to American culture,” said Paul Hopkins, CEO of Farmers Group, Inc.

For more information about the exhibition, call Michelle Giacopuzzi at (818) 677-2150. To learn more about the collection tour, the print project and the featured artists, visit www.thechicanocollection.net or contact Melissa Richardson Banks of CauseConnect, (213) 972-0884 or melissa@causconnect.net.

3. José Lozano, “Recortando a Frida (Cutting out Frida),” 2003, acrylic on canvas, 19⅞” x 26”, Collection Cheech Marin.

Alumni Events

For info or to RSVP www.csunaalumni.com unless otherwise noted.

Hollywood Bowl

Fireworks Extravaganza

Alumni and friends arrive early and bring picnic dinners to annual evening extravaganza at the Bowl.

Musical guest: singer/songwriter/guitarist Kenny Loggins.

Sun., July 2, 7:30 p.m.

Hollywood Bowl, 2301 N. Highland Ave.

$38

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) 677-2285.

The Making of the Book

Exhibiting five centuries of the art and craft of bookbinding and decoration.

From the Oviatt Library collections.

Runs through August 4.

C.K. and Teresa Tseng Gallery.

Runs through August 4.

Oviatt Library. Free

Bianchi Planetarium

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

Telescope viewing will follow the second show.

“Spring Sky Show”

Fri., June 16, 7:30 p.m.

“Summer Sky Show”

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

Fri., July 14, 7:30 p.m.

Fri., July 28, 7:30 p.m.

Fri., Aug. 11, 7:30 p.m.

Fri., Aug. 25, 7:30 p.m.

Johann Koehler, President

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For more information about the collection tour, the print project and the featured artists, visit www.thechicanocollection.net or contact Melissa Richardson Banks of CauseConnect, (213) 972-0884 or melissa@causconnect.net.

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