Biomedical Research Program Receives $2.7 Million

National Institutes of Health Grant Helps University Guide Underrepresented Students into Research Careers

Cal State Northridge’s MARC program has received more than $2.7 million to continue its efforts encouraging historically underrepresented students to consider careers in biomedical research.

The five-year grant for $2,729,454 was awarded to MARC (Minority Access to Research Careers) by the National Institute of General Medical Sciences division of the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

“This award provides opportunities not just for the students who are directly involved in the program, but it is actually going to change the way we teach biology for all of our students by giving us the resources to make our courses even more competitive,” said CSUN biology professor Maria Elena Zavala, director of the MARC program.

MARC started at Cal State Northridge with only four students in 1990, with support from the NIH. The program, which has evolved into MARC Up STAR (Undergraduate * Student Training in Academic Research), now has 14 students. Its goal is to increase the number of competitively prepared, traditionally underrepresented minority students for research careers in the biomedical sciences.

The MARC program offers students the opportunity to participate in on-campus, long-term research projects. They also receive mentoring, research support, graduate school preparation support and a travel stipend for scientific conferences where they present their research results.

Since MARC’s inception, Zavala said, all of the CSUN students participating in the program have presented the results of their research at regional, national and international scientific conferences. All MARC students who entered Ph.D. programs also have been awarded five-year fellowships to complete doctoral programs in their chosen fields.

Zavala said CSUN’s program has developed a reputation for success. Ten former Northridge MARC students already have earned their doctorates, and another 16 are currently in Ph.D. programs.

“CSUN has a strong reputation for producing students who go on to get their Ph.Ds in science, math, engineering and technology,” Zavala said. “We really have a pipeline going here.”

Community Connection

By Judy Nutter, Director of Community Relations

There are two important dates coming up that I want to call to your attention. The first relates to Envision 2035, the Campus Master Plan Update. You may have received a card in the mail advising you of this public meeting, but in case you haven’t seen it, I want to make certain that you’re aware of the meeting and encourage you to attend. This information meeting will provide an overview of the Draft Environmental Impact Report and is scheduled for Tuesday, Nov. 29 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the Presentation Room of the Oviatt Library. The meeting will include a present-
Campus Says ‘Thank You’ to Volunteers for Valuable Service

Highest Volunteer Honors are Awarded to Tony and Chris Partipilo; Robert Gohstand is Emeriti Honoree

Volunteers Honored by CSUN Colleges and Alumni Chapters

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<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ann Bisno</td>
<td>special education professor emerita</td>
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<td>Jose Castellon</td>
<td>technology director, Space Technology Platforms &amp; Integrating Technology, Northrop Grumman</td>
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<td>Ghassan “Gus” Elias</td>
<td>material control manager and senior certification engineer, Moore Industries International</td>
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<td>Claudia Garcia</td>
<td>business information technology consultant, Office of Information Systems, College of Business and Economics</td>
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<td>Richard Gay</td>
<td>engineer, Rocketdyne</td>
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<td>Bert Glennon</td>
<td>Los Angeles Superior Court judge</td>
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<td>Joy Guihana</td>
<td>division manager, health promotion and policy development division, City of Pasadena Public Health Division</td>
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<td>Dena Hall Ivancie</td>
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<td>Cindy Hanks</td>
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<td>Claire Herzeg</td>
<td>manager of resource projects, J.D. Power and Associates</td>
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<td>Pastor Herrera</td>
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<td>Tony and Chris Partipilo</td>
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<td>Ann Maldjian</td>
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| Ani Maldjian                              | student, who won first place at the regions on October 22. At the age of nine, the soprano auditioned for the school choir, she said, “That was the first time someone told me I sounded good. From then on, I consciously knew I loved it and sang all the time.” When Maldjian bisted 10 other district finalists at the opera’s western regionals in October at USC, she became the tenth vocalist from CSUN to win in the competition, joining distinguished alumni such as soprano Carol Vaness and mezzo-soprano Michelle De Young. In March 2006, she will follow in their footsteps to New York, where she will compete in the national semi-finals on the CSUN Student to Compete in The Met’s National Semi-Finals

Soprano Joins Long Line of CSUN Vocalists to Triumph at Regionals En Route to New York City

Ani Maldjian’s victory at the Metropolitan Opera’s regional auditions—earning her a trip to the national semi-finals in New York—began long ago. “I have been singing for so long, I probably came into the world singing!” said the Cal State Northridge music student, who won first place at the regions on October 22. At the age of nine, the soprano auditioned for the school choir, she said, “That was the first time someone told me I sounded good. From then on, I consciously knew I loved it and sang all the time.” When Maldjian bested 10 other district finalists at the opera’s western regionals in October at USC, she became the tenth vocalist from CSUN to win in the competition, joining distinguished alumni such as soprano Carol Vaness and mezzo-soprano Michelle De Young. In March 2006, she will follow in their footsteps to New York, where she will compete in the national semi-finals on the CSUN Student to Compete in The Met’s National Semi-Finals

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Northridge Study Paints Bright Economic Future for Valley

Employment Rolls Gain Nearly 12,000 Workers; Housing Boom is Alive and Well

The future looks good for the San Fernando Valley as the area continues to build on last year's job gains, according to a new study by Cal State Northridge researchers. The Valley's private sector added 11,800 workers to its employment rolls in 2004, a 1.8 percent gain that outshines the 1.2 percent increase the area experienced in 2003. Valley growth outperformed Los Angeles County's job growth increase of only 1 percent and the state's overall increase of just 1.3 percent in 2004.

Job growth in the Valley is strong, and the outlook is for it to remain strong over the next few years, said Daniel Blake, director of the CSUN's San Fernando Valley Economic Research Center. The area's housing boom also is alive and well, he said, but infrastructure issues—such as traffic and transportation—remain a challenge.

The Valley's private sector payrolls increased by $1.9 billion, and average earnings by almost $2,000. However, inflation in 2004 dampened the payroll increase and three-quarters of the increase in average pay. Valley industries with strong job growth in 2004 included construction, with an 8 percent increase; management, support and administration, with a 5.3 percent increase; retail trade, with a 3.7 percent increase; and accommodations and food services, with a 3.5 percent increase.

Finance, insurance, real estate and leasing sector performances were weaker, down 2.9 percent, and manufacturing, down 2.8 percent.

The entertainment industry saw a 3.3 percent increase in jobs and 7.3 percent growth in its payroll.

The Valley's biotechnology industry lost 1 percent of its workforce, but added 9.3 percent to its payroll.

Among the study's other findings:
- Commercial vacancy rates dropped by more than 2 percentage points to register below the national average in the second quarter of 2005, compared to the nation's average of nearly 15 percent. The industrial vacancy rate fell to 2.5 percent from its 3 percent level last year.
- Median home prices rose to $600,000 in July 2005, but annual appreciation rates slowed from last year's mid 20 percent to low 30 percent range. Inventory is up from its record lows in 2004 but remain below normal.
- Apartment vacancy rates averaged 5.7 percent in the Valley. For the same quarter last year.

For a copy of the full report, contact the research center at (818) 677-7021 or at gsvs@csun.edu.

CSUN Alumni...

carried on a regional approach to air travel issues, better utilizing existing airport capacity by decentralizing passenger and air cargo services from LAX to outlying suburban airports.

The early counsel of CSUN professors Warren Campbell (Political Science) and Jose Hernandez (Urban Studies) led Patsaouras to a student internship in city government, a move that proved “critical” in her choice of careers.

“My urban studies and political science degrees from CSUN were the founding blocks for my subsequent master’s in urban planning from UCLA and my career in urban planning and regional policy,” said Patsaouras. “My education also helped me be an involved citizen, and I have been an active participant in city, county and state commissions after graduation from CSUN.”

Sylvia Patsaouras has served on many other commissions, among them the state Commission on Regions, the State of California World Trade Commission and the city and County Productivity Commission.

Jaime de la Vega, formerly budget director for Los Angeles City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo, in July joined Villaragusa as deputy mayor for transportation.

“My education... helped me be an involved citizen, and I have been an active participant in city, county and state commissions after graduation from CSUN.”

—Sylvia Patsaouras, airport commissioner

High on his priorities list are the reduction of traffic congestion, improvement of public transportation and development of a regional approach to aviation. “One of the top highway projects is completion of the northbound I-405 San Diego Freeway carpool lane between the I-10 Santa Monica Freeway and the U.S. 101 Ventura Freeway,” de la Vega said.

The new deputy mayor joined the Villaragusa team because of the chance to effect real change in one of the region’s “hot button” areas. Transportation, perhaps more than any other public policy issue, affects everyone,” he said.

Citing the influence of Tim Drogodog, current chair of CSUN’s Urban Studies and Planning Department, de la Vega said CSUN gave him “a solid, practical foundation in urban planning, especially in the areas of land use and environmental planning.”

Like Sylvia Patsaouras, de la Vega’s public service career began within a CSUN internship. Dedicated professionals at the city Planning Department encouraged his pursuit of a graduate degree at UCLA and a career in city service that has spanned the administrations of Mayors Richard Riordan and James Hahn, and the city attorney’s office.

Fortuna Ippoliti is the mayor’s West Valley area director, with responsibility for all communities west of the 405 Freeway. Her office is charged with managing area representatives, meeting with key stakeholders and engaging them in city affairs, and acting as the mayor’s representative at community events.

Ippoliti’s civic career began after a 30-year absence from school, time spent raising her family. Having left college in her junior year, she soon realized she’d need her bachelor’s degree to be competitive. She was accepted at CSUN, where her academic achievement eventually earned her an invitation to be commencement speaker for the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences in 2003.

While at CSUN, Ippoliti was offered a position as field deputy for Los Angeles City Councilman Jack Weiss, a job she held down while pursuing her studies fulltime.

Rafael Gonzalez, a Chicano/a studies and social studies alum, is the new associate director of the mayor’s Office of Neighborhood and Community Services.

Former senior field deputy for Los Angeles City Councilmember Mike Hernandez, Gonzalez coordinated the affirmative action education campaign of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF) during the Proposition 209 campaign.

He was founder and executive director of Collective SPACE (Social Power through Action & Community Education), a MacArthur Park/Westlake community-based organization.

Gonzalez’s values and commitment to public service were shaped at CSUN, he said, by “the collective spirit among (his) cohort’s peers, faculty, support staff and counselors during the 1980s.”

Community Connection...

Public comments on this document can be submitted by mail, during a 45-day period beginning in mid-November, to the CSUN Facilities Planning Office, Attention: Colin Donahue, 18111 Nordhoff Street, Northridge 91330-8219, or by fax to that office at (818) 677-6552.

If you plan to attend the meeting, please use the card you received in the mail as a parking pass. Parking for the meeting will be in parking structure BS at Darby and Vincennes (enter on Darby). The pass should be placed on your dashboard. If you did not receive a card in the mail, please contact me at (818) 677-2123 and I’ll have one mailed to you.

The second date I want you to know about is Saturday, Dec. 3, the date of the Annual Holiday Art Sale, where one-of-a-kind works of art by our talented students and faculty will be showcased, including ceramics, photography and paintings. The exhibit and sale will take place between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. in the courtyard at the Cal State Northridge Art & Design Center on North University Drive (Plummer Street).

Folks who have attended in prior years have told me that they had a great time, saw a variety of unique art pieces, met and talked with the artists and got some holiday shopping done at the same time. Some of you can just walk over, but for others who would drive, the most convenient parking is in Lot E6 (enter off Halsted Street, just east of Etiwanda). A parking pass can be purchased for $4 at the Information Booth at Lindley/Nordhoff or at Prairie/Darby or from a permit dispenser at the entry to the lot.

Until next month...
Art and Exhibits

For gallery info, call (818) 677-2156. Main gallery hours: Mon. through Sat., 12–4 p.m. Admission is free unless otherwise specified. For library exhibits, call (818) 677-2236.

Ninth Annual High School Art Invitational

More than 200 students from 35 Valley high schools exhibit in various media. Opening reception: Fri., Dec. 9, 7–9 p.m.

Gallery talk: Mon., Dec. 12, 10 a.m.


(Closed Dec. 23–Jan. 2)

Main Art Gallery

Athletics (home games)

Men’s Basketball

11/22 Tulsa

7:05 p.m.

12/1 Hope Int’l

7:05 p.m.

12/17 Illinois State

7:05 p.m.

Women’s Basketball

11/21 San Jose State

7 p.m.

Cinematheque

Screenings are free and take place in the Alan and Elaine Armer Theater, on the first floor of Manzanita Hall at the southwest corner of campus. The theme for fall 2005 is “Nudism in Film.” For more info, call (818) 677-3192 or see www.cinematheque.csun.edu/html/events.html.

Music

“Mo-loch” Directed by Aleksandr Sokurov.

Mon., Nov. 21, 7 p.m.

“Design for Living” and “Trouble in Paradise” Both directed by Ernst Lubitsch.

Wed., Nov. 23, 7 p.m.

“Endless Night”

Written and directed by Sidney Gilliat. Agatha Christie mystery series.

Mon., Nov. 28, 7 p.m.


Tue., Nov. 29, 7 p.m.

“Angel”

Directed by Ernst Lubitsch.

Wed., Nov. 30, 7 p.m.

“A Woman of Paris” Directed by Charles Chaplin.

Thu., Dec. 1, 7 p.m.

“The Last of Sheila” Directed by Herbert Ross.

Mon., Dec. 5, 7 p.m.

“L’Enfer” Directed by Claude Chabrol.

Tue., Dec. 6, 7 p.m.

“To Be or Not To Be” Directed by Ernst Lubitsch.

Wed., Dec. 7, 7 p.m.

“Le Fleur du Mal” Directed by Claude Chabrol.

Thu., Dec. 8, 8 p.m.

“Copland’s ‘Lincoln Portrait’ is evocative of one of the most significant periods in our history and the role that one of our greatest leaders played in it,” said Yaroslavsky. “The music conveys this awesome moment in our history—the Civil War, and the narration captures the pivotal role that Abraham Lincoln played at this most critical juncture in our history.”

Commissioned in 1942 by conductor Andre Kostelanetz, the work was meant to sustain the nation as it entered World War II. Copland wove into the piece excerpts from Lincoln’s speeches with 46 of the university’s finest woodwind, brass and percussion students. Forming a work the American people instinctively turn to times of crisis.

Yaroslavsky is not a novice at concert stage performance. “Very serious,” said Yaroslavsky. “I hope I can do it justice.”

For his baritone may be more familiar to Southland radio and television audiences in discussion of health care or transportation issues, but Copland is not a novice at concert narration. He was the voice for Camille Saint-Saëns’ fanciful “Carnival of the Animals” at the Zipper Theater of the Colburn School of Music recently, and at the John Anson Ford Theater.

Still, the supervisor—a Copland aficionado—is well aware that “Lincoln Portrait” has special resonance for Americans. “I’m sure I’ll be nervous when I mount the stage,” he said, “but for now I’m excited and honored by the opportunity to recite Lincoln’s words to Copland’s score.”

A chance meeting with Yaroslavsky this summer gave CSUN director of bands, to invite the supervisor to CSUN. “It was serendipitous,” said Stoffel, who had read in a Los Angeles Times article that the supervisor had a “fantasy about one day performing ‘Lincoln Portrait.’” Stoffel, who had planned to invite the work in his fall 2005 program, made a mental note of it.

One week later, at the home of his wife’s grandmother—located along the staging area for the annual Pacific Palisades Fourth of July parade—he noticed across the street an official car with Yaroslavsky’s name on it. He walked over, introduced himself and quickly got to the point.

“How serious are you about performing ‘Lincoln Portrait’?” he asked.

“Very serious,” said Yaroslavsky. Stoffel took the phone number at his word. A half-year later, Yaroslavsky will fulfill his “fantasy,” performing with 16 of the university’s finest woodwind, brass and percussion students.

To prepare for his CSUN debut, Yaroslavsky said he will listen to his compact disc of the piece, familiarize himself with the ensemble and rehearse with the ensemble. “I hope I can do it justice.”