Alumni and Husband Give Northridge Record $7.3 Million
Largest Cash Gift Will Expand Student Scholarships, Aid Valley Performing Arts Center

A former San Fernando High School art teacher who graduated from Cal State Northridge and her husband have donated their entire $7.3 million estate as a bequest to the university for expanding student scholarships, marking the largest cash and alumni gift in the university’s history.

The endowment created by longtime San Fernando Valley residents Mary and Jack Bayramian—who passed away in November 2002 and January 2005, respectively—will fund two major new university scholarship programs, including a $2.3 million portion to launch student scholarships for the future Valley Performing Arts Center project on the campus.

“This remarkable gift from Mary and Jack Bayramian will empower the university to support outstanding students,” said Cal State Northridge President Jolene Koester. “The Bayramians, who were devoted to each other during more than 60 years of marriage, now have extended that caring to improve the lives of hundreds of our students.”

To honor the gift, the California State University Board of Trustees in July approved renaming the university’s Student Services Building as Bayramian Hall. President Koester called the dedication a fitting tribute, because the building houses the university’s scholarship, financial aid and other student support services offices.

The president and members of the campus community gathered at the Student Services Building on September 13 for the official dedication ceremony for Bayramian Hall and the creation of the Bayramian Family Scholarship Fund, an “historic occasion” attended by Bayramian family members as well as representatives of the archbishops of the Armenian church and of Congressman Brad Sherman and Assemblyman Lloyd Levine.

“Because Aunt Mary graduated from Cal State Northridge, she had a great feeling for the university,” said Don Barsumian, Mary Bayramian’s nephew, who is the couple’s trustee. “I think she had a real love for young people and for education. Mary believed in education and she wanted to help. This was her way of helping,” Barsumian said.

Mary and Jack Bayramian each had Armenian parents from Aintab, Turkey, who came to the United States to escape persecution. The two lived near each other as teenagers and graduated together from Hamilton High School in West Los Angeles in 1939, marrying in 1942. After Navy service during World War II, Jack had a 20-year career as a Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Co. technician.

Cal State Northridge Responds with Spirit to Hurricane Crisis
Campus Community Launches Campaign to Raise Funds for Victims of Devastating Storm

A campaign to raise money in support of Hurricane Katrina victims was launched September 8 by Cal State Northridge students, faculty and staff eager to help others as the campus was aided after the 1994 Northridge earthquake.

“Cal State Northridge suffered tremendous damage during the earthquake,” said President Jolene Koester. “People and businesses across the country responded with an outpouring of support and assistance. Now it is our turn to repay that generosity.”

Student, faculty and staff volunteers accepted donations at a number of stations on campus through September 16, with proceeds to be donated to the American Red Cross.

President Koester also directed that the campus’ United States flag be flown at half staff over the Oviatt Library until sunset on September 20, in accordance with orders from President George Bush and Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger.

The university made available a room in its University Student Union for campus employees and students who wished to observe the September 16 National Day of Remembrance in a community setting, enabling participants to remember and honor the hurricane victims with “quiet reflection” or to contribute to the CSUN hurricane relief effort, or both.

In related news, CSUN joined with other CSU campuses in offering admission opportunities to hurricane-impacted students. CSUN received inquiries from about 60 students and had enrolled a dozen as of last week.

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Community Connection
By Judy Nutter, Director of Community Relations

The fall 2005 semester has begun and the campus is alive with activity. The new Parking Structure B3 is open, offering 2,063 spaces. The groundbreaking for the new Department of Public Safety building will take place this month. The two story, 28,000-square foot building will house the campus Public Safety offices, as well as Parking Services, and will be located near the southeast corner of Darby and Prairie Avenues.

I visited the Marilyn Magaram Center for Food Science, Nutrition, & Dietetics the other day to learn about any programs they offer that could benefit the community. I came away with much more information than I can share in the allotted space for this article.

The Magaram Center is a leader in the effort to educate the community.
Bayramians…

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After the war, the couple first lived in Reseda and later bought a Northridge house several blocks west of today’s university campus. A homemaker who returned to college in her late 50s, Mary Bayramian attended from 1960 to 1963, earning a bachelor's degree in art and a teaching credential from San Fernando Valley State College, which later became Cal State Northridge.

After graduating, Mary Bayramian went on to teach art at nearby San Fernando High School, where she was affectionately known as “Mrs. B.” until the couple retired in 1971. At age 50, they moved to Laguna Beach in Orange County and lived there another 30 years, investing, improving and managing real estate, and settling in an ocean-front home. The Bayramians led an extraordinary active life. Mary was an active cook and author of published cookbooks, designing and creating her own jewelry, painted and played golf well into her 70s. Barsumian described Jack as the unofficial greeter of Laguna Beach and a “Freemason” who in his younger years was an avid handyman skilled in electrical, carpentry and concrete work.

The couple’s $7.5 million endowment will create the Bayramian Family Scholarship Fund at Cal State Northridge and support two major new programs. The earnings from $5 million of the endowment will fund the newly named Mary and Jack Bayramian Presidential Scholars and related scholarships within the university’s premier Northridge Scholars Program.

The Bayramian Presidential Scholar awards, the most prestigious granted by the university, will ultimately go each year to two dozen or more high-achieving upper-division students through a competitive process. Recipients will partner with faculty members on scholarly projects. The scholarships include a $5,000 award, bookstore discount, priority registration and other perks. Earnings from the other $2.5 million will fund Mary Bayramian Arts Scholars and become the largest gift yet toward Imagine the Arts, the fundraising campaign for the 1,600-seat Valley Performing Arts Center. The campaign for the 1,600-seat Valley Performing Arts Center planned for private funds to match the state dollars that will build/operate the Valley Performing Arts Center, due to open within the next five years. Planned as a signature facility, the center will be the largest venue of its kind in the San Fernando Valley and open the region to high-caliber performances not currently able to perform there.

The university learned only recently that the couple had given CSUN’s largest-ever cash gift after the husband’s passing in January 2005. The university’s prior largest cash gift came from The Eisner Foundation in 2002 when Disney CEO Michael D. Eisner and his wife-Jane gave $7 million to create a new teacher-training program at the university’s Financial Aid and Scholarship Department, said the Bayramians’ gift will provide an additional boost to the university’s scholarship programs, which last year aided about 1,600 CSUN students based on their talent and achievement.

“I think she had a real love for young people and for education. Mary believed in education and she wanted to help. This was her way of helping.”

—Don Barsumian, Mary Bayramian’s nephew
Northridge Campus’ Founding President Dies at 97
Ralph Prator’s Ten Years as Leader of San Fernando Valley State College Capped Eventful Career

Longtime college administrator Ralph Prator—the founding president of the institution that became California State University, Northridge, now one of California’s largest public universities—died Monday, July 25, in his Ventura County retirement hometown of Camarillo. Prator was 97.

A lifelong athlete and avid golfer who briefly played baseball as a young man with pitching great “Dizzy” Dean, Prator amassed a 30-year career as a college and university administrator. That was capped by Prator’s 10 years as president of San Fernando Valley State College from its founding in July 1958 until his retirement in September 1968. In 1972, the college became a university and was renamed California State University, Northridge.

During that first decade of explosive growth in the San Fernando Valley, Prator oversaw the construction of the campus’ original core of permanent buildings (most of which remain today), quadrupled the college’s 3,500 original students to more than 16,000 by his retirement, and spearheaded major land acquisitions that assembled most of today’s 356-acre university campus.

Prior to that, Prator had served eight years as president of Bakersfield College in Kern County from 1950 to 1958, similarly helping that college develop a new campus. Before his retirement from San Fernando Valley State in later years, Prator once said, “I felt as an administrator I was best able to start and push something to its maximum possibilities. But to settle down and run it was not my cup of tea.”

After retiring, Prator became a professor emeritus in what became Cal State Northridge’s Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies and later was named President Emeritus.

“Cal State Northridge would not be the strong institution it is today without Ralph Prator’s leadership and vision. As the founding president, he gave us a solid foundation upon which to build the university’s excellence,” Koester said.

Born of a ranching family in La Veta, Colorado on Nov. 16, 1907, Prator attended the University of Colorado, earning a bachelor’s degree in history in 1929 and a master’s in the same field in 1931. After serving in the U.S. Navy from 1942 to 1945, Prator earned his doctorate in educational administration from the University of California at Berkeley in 1947.

His tenure at San Fernando Valley State, which became the only four-year public college and later university in its region, included recruiting most of the faculty hired in the early years and setting the academic direction for the institution.

In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting donations to the CSUN University Women’s Club Lois and Ralph Prator Scholarship Fund. Checks can be made payable to the Cal State Northridge Foundation, 18113 Nordhoff Street, Northridge, CA 91330-8275. ■

Community Connection…

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on healthy foods, childhood obesity, kids’ fitness and nutrition education. It partners with organizations such as the National Institutes of Health, Kaiser Permanente, the USC Keck School of Medicine, the North Valley YMCA, KCET, LA Project LEAN and the Office of Assemblyman Lloyd Levine to do research, educate and bring programs to the community.

I want to call your attention to three programs that the Magaram Center offers to the community:

The Brown Bag Film Series is a community nutrition education service. Various nutrition education films are shown every other week during each semester. The topics of the films usually focus on nutrition and food science. These same films are shown during the lunch hour on two different days of the week. Admission is free and you are welcome to bring your lunch.

- “The New Food Label” shows on September 19 from 3:15–4:15 p.m. and again on September 20 from 11 a.m. until noon.
- “New Food Guide Pyramid” and “Winning Sports Nutrition 2000” shows on October 10 from 3:15–4:15 p.m. and on October 11 from 11 a.m. until noon.
- “History of Cereals” food science video shows on November 14 from 3:15–4:15 p.m. and again on November 15 from 11 a.m. until noon.

The center’s nutrition lecture series is offered once a month at no cost to Cal State Northridge students, staff, faculty and the community. Lectures are provided by outside professionals in dietetics and food science on topics such as diabetes, organic fruits and vegetables, antioxidants and much more. You can find the dates for this series online at http://hhd.csun.edu/magaram/ or you can call the department at (818) 677-3102.

Diet analysis is a service provided by the center to help participants gain accurate information on their overall dietary intake. If you choose to participate in this service, you will be provided with a detailed analysis of your diet including a summary of your daily dietary intake of carbohydrates, proteins and fats. Your analysis will be compared with the recommended dietary allowances (RDA) for various nutrients including vitamins and minerals. After your report is produced, an intern will help you realize the strengths and weaknesses of your eating habits and provide additional help and information regarding your analysis.

The center also provides healthy and fun recipes to help encourage and motivate you toward healthy eating.

This service is offered to you at a cost of $10. You can find the Diet Analysis Guide, a 3-Day Food Intake Record and helpful hints at the Web site shown above.

Please don’t hesitate to give me a call at (818) 677-2123 if you have any questions about activities, programs or events on campus. Until next month… ■

New Names for CSUN Buildings

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<tr>
<th>Former Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Business and Economics Building</td>
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<td>Engineering Building</td>
<td>Jacaranda Hall</td>
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<td>Faculty Office Building</td>
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<td>Kinesiology Building</td>
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<td>Student Services Building</td>
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President Joinelle Koester with Ralph Prator, CSUN’s founding president.
Artists See Korean Calligraphy Through 21st Century Lens

A youth growing up in Korea, Art Department chair Dave Moon saw calligraphy everywhere. Later in life, Moon began not only to see but to appreciate the true meaning of the art form, and to love its “communicative power, style and spontaneity.”

In “Crossover: Contemporary Korean Calligraphy,” a CSUN Art Galleries exhibition curated by Moon and CSUN librarian Jina Wakimoto, the role of Korean calligraphy and contemporary graphics is explored in the works of three contemporary Korean artists: “Manhodang” Kim Soo-Hyung, “Hanong” Kim Sun-Wuk and Choi In-Young.

Calligraphy has long been considered the highest form of art in Korea as well as in China,” said Wakimoto, daughter of artist “Manhodang.”

“I thought it would be interesting to showcase (its) development from traditional to contemporary.”

“Manhodang” works with grass script in traditional calligraphy and “Hanong” perceives contemporary calligraphy as performance art, “not necessarily reliant on the textual meaning,” Both, said Moon, “push the boundaries of traditional calligraphy, using it not just on a scroll, but with other media and with fabric that traditional calligraphers would not have used.”

“Choi,” Moon said, “has been able to break down the core of the language to its essential components in simple geometric forms, and have it still understood.” The award-winning artist served as temporary artist-in-residence for a two-week workshop hosted in August by the Art Department for CSUN students and 14 students from Hanyang University in Seoul.

Together Moon stated, “The show ‘Crossover’ runs through October 1, Mondays through Saturdays from 12–4 p.m. in the gallery, and starts Sunday, Oct. 9, 2 p.m. – 7 p.m. Upisuee: Admission to calligraphy is free for all ages, which will be open to the public on the weekend of the 11th.

Lectures and workshops are available for two-week workshops hosted in August by the Art Department for CSUN students and 14 students from Hanyang University in Seoul.

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