New Mayor of Beverly Hills to Address Engineering Grads

Alumnus Jimmy Delshad, One of Nation’s Top Iranian-Born Officials, to Bring Message about America’s Promise

Jimmy Delshad, the newly elected mayor of Beverly Hills, has a powerful message of hope and fulfillment for the spring 2007 graduates of Cal State Northridge’s College of Engineering and Computer Science.

As the alumni speaker for the college’s commencement ceremony, set for 4 p.m. May 31 outside the University Club, Mayor Delshad will bring that message to them in person.

“The feeling I have is to try to convince them that anything their heart desires, this is the country in which they can accomplish it,” he said.

“When I graduated from CSUN, my biggest dream was to become a chief engineer at an electronics company,” said the engineering alumnus, who graduated from Northridge in 1964. “I didn’t even know there was a lot more, so much more I could accomplish.”

Mayor Delshad knows it now. In March, he made history with his election as the top official of Beverly Hills, instantly becoming one of the highest ranking Iranian-born elected officials in the nation.

His path to political success led him straight through what was then San Fernando Valley State College.

As a 19-year-old, he and his two brothers—Mike (Manouchehr) and Fred (Freydoon)—had left their native Iran for the United States, settling first in Minnesota. Before long, however, the promise of California attracted the three young men, who peeled their way through mounds of potatoes and cleaned dirty cafeteria dishes for rent money.

But they quickly made friends, one of whom told them about Valley State. All three enrolled in its College of Engineering, sharing books to economize.

“There weren’t many Iranians there at that time,” Mayor Delshad said, “but we felt at home. They made us feel very welcome.”

The brothers started an international club to embody other cultures at the institution. And since all three had received musical training in their hometowns, they soon started putting on music shows at Northridge, “creating an intercultural exchange with others,” he said. “Through music, we wanted to create harmony.”

That harmony paid their way through college. As the Delshad Trio, they played an international mix of music at Christmas parties, weddings...

Northridge Administrator Wins CSU’s Wang Award

Facilities Management Exec Tom Brown Saluted for Advancing Student Learning, Energy Sustainability

Tom Brown, Cal State Northridge’s executive director for facilities management, in mid-April was named a recipient of the prestigious 2007 California State University Wang Family Excellence Award.

Established in 1998 by then-Trustee Stanley Wang, the award is designed to celebrate “CSU faculty and administrators who through extraordinary commitment and dedication have distinguished themselves by exemplary contributions and achievements in their academic disciplines and areas of assignment.” Each recipient receives an award of $20,000.

“It is important for all segments of the campus community who contribute to the overall health and excellence of the university to be recognized for their work,” said President Jolene Koester, “and for these reasons I am extremely proud Tom’s achievements were acknowledged by this prestigious systemwide award.”

“What we accomplish here at CSUN is a result of many, not few, certainly not one,” said Brown, a licensed engineer and a CSUN engineering science alumnus. “I hope then that the many students, staff, friends, and colleagues here and within the CSU that contributed to our success share with me the sense of pride and accomplishment that this brings.”

Brown was cited for his innovative involvement of CSUN’s students in its physical plant operations, “allowing them to integrate classroom learning and practical application while sharpening their project leader skills.”

The executive director’s enthusiastic support of student learning was evident during the spring 2005 installation of Northridge’s $3.5 million environment-friendly solar electric system on the campus’ southwest side. Brown appointed Josh Gallo, a senior in electrical engineering, as project manager.

Brown’s action gave Gallo “the opportunity to come up with real solutions for real-life problems, just like any job I might find myself in after I graduate,” said Gallo. A 2004 engineering graduate, Gallo now is a field engineer for DMJM Harris/AECOM, one of the country’s top engineering firms.

More than a dozen other engineering students, also part of the...
Northridge Program Opens Doors for Head Start Teachers

By 2011, more than half of the teachers in the nation’s Head Start programs for low-income families will be expected to have a bachelor’s degree. For many of the teachers, some of whom once were parents in the program, getting that college degree is a daunting task.

Cal State Northridge’s Department of Family and Consumer Sciences has launched an innovative program designed to bring a college degree within reach for hundreds of Head Start teachers in the San Fernando Valley and Ventura County.

With the support of a $750,000 five-year grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services’ Administration for Children and Families, the department sends faculty into the communities to mentor, support and prepare the teachers to earn their bachelor's degrees. Once they are ready to attend CSUN, the department offers scholarships to cover their tuition, and additional evening and Saturday classes to accommodate their already demanding schedules.

Department chair Alyce Akers said the program targets Head Start teachers in urban San Fernando Valley and those who work with the children of migrant workers in rural Ventura County. “Regardless of where these teachers work, they are going to need a bachelor’s degree if they want to continue their jobs,” Akers said. “Our job is to make sure that we recognize their needs and give them the support and education to get that degree.”

Currently, more than 500 Head Start teachers take part in the program. “It’s really exciting to work with these women,” said part-time CSUN lecturer Barbara Rigney Hill, who oversees the program in Ventura County. “Many of the women worked in the fields for a long time before their involvement as Head Start parents led them into becoming teachers. This is a great opportunity for them to continue to move forward and get their bachelor’s degrees.”

Head Start is a national program that provides comprehensive developmental services for low-income, preschool-aged children and social services for their families. Since the program requires that parents have a say in how their specific Head Start unit operates, many parents become aides, teachers or even supervisors of programs their children attended.

Hill and part-time lecturer Anne Gill—her counterpart serving the San Fernando Valley—hold weekly seminars on such topics as early childhood education, improving child literacy, healthy lifestyles, nutrition, cultural diversity and how to prepare for college. “Each class is unique,” said Hill, “but the situations are particularly unique for the migrant teachers.”

Most Head Start programs mirror the traditional school schedule, but schools serving the migrant community follow the crop seasons, with classes starting in January and continuing through October. Children in the migrant program usually are dropped off at 5:30 a.m. In addition to educational enrichment, the teachers in these settings also must provide their charges with meals and help with social services needs unique to migrant families.

New Beverly Hills Mayor…

Continued from page 1

American history, he recalled with humor, was another matter. “My first year at CSUN, I had a professor who was not very tolerant of people who don’t know American history,” he said. On the first exam, the professor posed a question about early American minister Cotton Mather. “I didn’t know that gentleman,” said Delshad, who gamely wrote an entire essay on “The Matter of Cotton,” covering in detail the importance of cotton to the South.

Facing the possibility of an “F”, Delshad dropped the class, re-took it later—when his English skills had matured—and earned “A’s” and “B’s.”

After graduation, Delshad went to work for the Ampex Corporation in Culver City and later started his own electronics company. He served two terms as the president of Sinai Temple in Westwood, became involved with the nonprofit world and in March made headlines in the Beverly Hills election that broadcast his name around the world. “Since then, many former Valley State students have gotten in touch and we’ve had some wonderful reunions,” said the mayor. “Some even came to my inauguration.”

So Jimmy Delshad’s commencement message will come from the heart: “Only in America can you come from peeling potatoes to election as mayor. This country gave me the freedom to do it.”
Earth and Space are Northridge Alumna's Scientific Terrain

Scientist Adriana Ocampo Uria Finds Earthly Craters as Fascinating as the Starry Skies Above Them

The sky over Buenos Aires held infinite possibilities for the young Adriana Ocampo Uria and her fox terrier, Tauro. Growing up on the rooftop of her family home, the girl and her intrepid canine co-pilot launched countless imaginary missions to the moon and stars.

At 14, Ocampo Uria’s family left Argentina for Los Angeles. On arrival, she recalled, her first words were, roughly, “Where’s NASA?”

Luckily, she eventually found it. Today, the Cal State Northridge alumna is a science program manager at National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Headquarters Science Mission Directorate, responsible for the Juno mission to Jupiter and the Venus Exploration Analysis Group.

Today, the CalStateNorthridge alumna is completing her doctorate at the NationalAeronauticsand Space Unversiteit in the Netherlands.

“Earth is down to earth again at CSUN,” she said, while her starry childhood dreams began to take shape: she worked on the Viking mission to Mars as part of the imaging team, was involved in sequence planning and data analysis of Mars images and assisted both on the Voyager mission to outer planets and the Galileo Orbiter mission to Jupiter.

It was down to earth again at CSUN, where in 1997 Ocampo Uria received her master's degree in geology. Her thesis on the Chicxulub Crater—which at the end of the Cretaceous period caused the extinction of more than half of earth’s species—echoed her childhood interest in the Crater of Doom.

The young scientist was the first to realize that the buried Chicxulub impact crater was related to a ring of sinkholes, or “cenotes,” found in Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula. Since then, Ocampo Uria has led three geological expeditions to explore the crater sites, resulting in findings recognized as crucial to understanding the role of large impacts in Earth's history.

“Every professor in the Geological Sciences Department Cal State Northridge was exceptional,” she recalled, “but professor Gene Fritsche particularly stands out. He let me talk about impact craters on Earth even when those ideas were not popular. The education I received at Northridge was critical to my career advancement at NASA.”

Fritsche was equally impressed with Ocampo Uria’s determination and tenacity.

“To help her gather the data needed, she was able to engage the Planetary Society, several interested scientists, and 20 volunteers to travel with her to Belize on what turned out to be an outstanding, well-planned scientific expedition,” he said. “As newer data have been analyzed, her proposed asteroid debris deposit has become accepted as a sound scientific fact.”

Tom Brown…

continued from page 1.

Tom Brown, a San Fernando Valley native, project team, helped re-design some of the project’s installation equipment to make the process more user-friendly.

Brown’s work with the students was saluted in May 2004, when the administrator received the Outstanding Administrator Award from the Associated Students of CSUN.

In one of many other examples of his leadership in CSUN’s push toward energy sustainability, Brown was the “driving force” behind the design, fundraising and installation of the campus’ one megawatt fuel cell power plant, the first of its magnitude at any university in the world. The hands-on executive even invented components of the installation for which CSUN currently is seeking a patent.

The plant generates base load electricity for campus facilities, for heating the CSUN swimming pool and for surplus heat for buildings, showers and food service hot water. Its “green” operation lessens CSUN’s impact on green house gas emissions.

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Brown began at CSUN as a building service engineer in 1982, and except for a brief period at MCC Powers in Buena Park, has steadily ascended through the administrative ranks from maintenance technician to his current position as executive director for facilities management.

Community Connection…

Continued from page 1.

Community Connection…

consumer science, journalism and computer science students helped troubled teens learn academic and life skills.

Unique to the Northridge campus is CSU Mentoring to Overcome Struggles and Inspire Courage (MOSAIC). This model program links college students, some of whom have experience with similar issues, with youths struggling to overcome gang and family violence, drug and alcohol abuse, academic failure or abuse relationships.

Pablo, a CSU graduate who is guiding young people in MOSAIC toward brighter futures, was raised in a North Valley area that sees considerable gang activity. Early on, he decided to stay away from that lifestyle and as a pre-teen joined the LAPD Leopard program for at-risk youth, where he was encouraged to attend college.

At CSUN, Pablo discovered MOSAIC and became a mentor to other young people.

Through the AmeriCorps VISTA program, he coordinates MOSAIC activities, supervises mentors and acts as a role model for youths in local continuation high schools and after-school programs.

Pablo told me about an exciting MOSAIC project that involves a converted school bus used to transport the students from a continuation high school to their local league soccer games. The high school students are converting their bus from diesel to clean fuel—using vegetable oil. Each student has done individual research on the conversion process, and all have come together as a team to make it happen. When the conversion is completed, they will proudly advertise on the bus exterior that it is a clean fuel vehicle. Pretty amazing stuff, huh?

Because of space constraints, this article will be continued in the May edition. Please look for it and read about the experiences of two more CSU student volunteers.

By the time you receive this paper, the Cal State Northridge Department of Public Safety offices will have moved into its new building at the corner of Prairie Street and Darby Avenue. All available at this location. All telephone numbers remain the same, including the Livescan Fingerprinting Services Division number, which is (818) 677-2113. Until next month…
Calendar

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

Alumni Events
For info or to RSVP, www.csualumni.com unless otherwise noted.

Distinguished Alumni Awards
Annual gala honors outstanding alumni.
2007 honorees: Executives Jim Berk, Participant Productions; Brad Bowlus, PacificCare Health Plan Division; Michael Klausman, CBS.
Sat., May 12, 6:30 p.m. reception, 7:30 p.m. dinner and program Renaissance Hollywood Hotel 1755 No. Highland Ave.
$100
Info: cheryl.mcmilian@csun.edu

Art and Exhibits
For gallery info, call (818) 677-2156. Main gallery hours: Mon. through Sat., 12-4 p.m. and Thursdays noon–8 p.m. Admission is free unless specified. For library exhibits, call (818) 677-2285.

Annual Juried Art Student Exhibition
Features works by CSUN students in animation, interior and graphic design, video, painting, ceramics, sculpture and other media. Works chosen by art professionals from more than 300 entries. Opening reception: Fri., May 4, 7–9 p.m. Gallery talk: Mon., May 7, 10 a.m. Exhibition runs May 4–30 Main Art Gallery

Women in Music
Featuring women composers and performers, showcasing sheet music, biographies and more. Curated by music graduate student Serena Vaqalar. Exhibit runs through June 1. Oviatt Library, main lobby

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. For more info, call (818) 677-3192 or see www.cinematheque.csun.edu/html/events.html

Student Film Showcase
Annual presentation of outstanding films by CSUN students. Hosted at the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences, 5230 Lankershim Blvd., North Hollywood Wed., May 2, 7:30 p.m.

‘Scaramouche’
Genre: swashbuckler. Directed by George Sidney. Mon., May 14, 7 p.m.

‘Bad Day at Black Rock’
Genre: thriller. Directed by John Sturges. Tue., May 15, 7 p.m.

The Conformist’
Genre: political thriller. Directed by Bernardo Bertolucci. Wed., May 16, 7 p.m.

‘Tristram Shandy: A Cock and Bull Story’
Genre: art cinema. Directed by Michael Winterbottom. Thu., May 17, 7 p.m.

CTVA Multimedia Student Showcase
Works of multimedia students from 2006-07 academic year. Fri., May 18, 7 p.m.

TV Showcase
A screening of CTVA senior thesis television projects. Mon., May 21, 7 p.m.

Lectures
Separation of Church and State

Music
Admission to all music events (unless otherwise specified): $10 general, $7 faculty, staff and seniors, $5 students.

An Evening of String Chamber Music
David Aks, director. Mon., April 30, 8 p.m. Music Recital Hall

Master Chorale
Paul Smith, conductor. Tue., May 1, 8 p.m. Plaza del Sol Performance Hall (formerly Performing Arts Center)

From the Studio of François Regnaut
Wed., May 2, 8 p.m. Music Recital Hall

Guitar Ensemble
Ron Bonconz, director. Thur., May 3, 8 p.m. Music Recital Hall

Goldberg Honors String Quartet
Diane Rocci, coach. Fri., May 4, 8 p.m. Music Recital Hall

Discovery Players
Steve Thachuck, director. Sat., May 5, 8 p.m. Music Recital Hall

Vocal Jazz Ensemble
Matt Falker, director. Sun. and Mon., May 6 and 7, 8 p.m. Music Recital Hall

Piano Ensemble
Diane Ketchie, director. Tue., May 8, 8 p.m. Music Recital Hall

Jazz ‘A’ Band
Matt Harris, director. Thu., May 10, 8 p.m. Plaza del Sol Performance Hall (formerly Performing Arts Center)

Wind Ensemble
Lawrence Stafford, conductor. Fri., May 11, 8 p.m. Plaza del Sol Performance Hall (formerly Performing Arts Center)

Guitar Studio Recital
Sat., May 12, 7 p.m. Music Recital Hall

Northridge Singers
Paul Smith, conductor. Sat., May 12, 8 p.m. Plaza del Sol Performance Hall (formerly Performing Arts Center)

Media Composition Showcase & Studio Ensemble
Elizabeth Sellers, director. Mon., May 14, 8 p.m. Music Recital Hall

Nuveau Art Ensemble
Gary Pratt, director. Wed., May 16, 8 p.m. Music Recital Hall

Opera Workshop
A spring concert of operatic scenes. David Samnerud, director. Suzanne Racer, coach & pianist. Tue., May 15 and Thu., May 17, 8 p.m. Music Recital Hall

CSUN Symphony
Berlitz, Faure, Ravel, Mussorgsky.
John Rossignol, conductor. François Regnaut, piano soloist. Fri., May 18, 8 p.m. Alex Theatre 216 North Brand Blvd., Glendale

Teather/Performance
Student Directed One-Acts
Short plays by women playwrights. Wed., May 2, 7 p.m. Thu., May 3, 7 p.m. Fri., May 4, 8 p.m. Sat., May 5, 8 p.m. Sun., May 6, 3 p.m. Wed., May 9, 7 p.m. Thu., May 10, 7 p.m. Fri., May 11, 8 p.m. Sat., May 12, 8 p.m. Sun., May 13, 3 p.m. Studio Theatre $11–$16

Faces of Tientsin, 1946
Counselling services professor emeritus Harold Goldt’s photographs, taken as a Marine lieutenant in Tientsin, end of World War II. Presented by the Oviatt Library’s Old China Hands Archive. Exhibit runs April 30–Aug. 1 Oviatt Library, second floor

Bianchi Planetarium
For ticket info, (818) 677-2488 or visit www.csun.edu/physics/planetarium. Telescope viewing follows second show.

“Spring Sky Show” and “The Last Days of the Earth” Fri., May 11, 7:30 p.m.

“Spring Sky Show” and “The Search for Life in the Universe” Fri., May 18, 7:30 p.m.

Athletics (Home Games):
Baseball
5/10 UC Riverside 3 p.m.
5/13 UC Riverside 1 p.m.
5/26 Pacific 3 p.m.
5/27 Pacific 1 p.m.
Softball
5/6 Pacific noon & 2 p.m.
5/6 Pacific noon

Track and Field
5/5 Big West Multi-Events 11 a.m.
5/6 Big West
5/11 Big West Outdoor Championships 9 a.m.
5/12 Big West Outdoor Championships noon

Wednesdays
Music Recital Hall
8 p.m.
Thu., May 16 and Thu., May 17, 8 p.m.

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