Executive Director Named for Performing Arts Center

Former Cal Poly San Luis Obispo Arts Program Director Ralph Hoskins Leads Project at Northridge

Citing the importance of strong leadership during the project’s development, President Jolene Koester in January announced the appointment of Cal Poly San Luis Obispo arts director Ralph Hoskins as executive director for the regional performing arts center planned for Cal State Northridge.

“Although the project will not break ground until fall 2007,” said President Koester, “we recognize that strong leadership and responsible management during the project’s development will be essential to the center’s ultimate success.”

Hoskins, director of Cal Poly Arts at the San Luis Obispo campus since 1995, began his Northridge appointment in January. He predicted the new center, whose main hall will seat 1,700 people and host quality performances for the campus and community, will be a source of pride for the San Fernando Valley, and will spark its collective imagination.

“There’s nothing that brings a community together quite like a new performing arts center,” Hoskins said. “As someone who’s been involved in the opening of two performing arts centers, I’ve seen how a project like the one planned for Northridge can energize a community by building relationships and making new connections.”

“It will make the university an integral part of the fabric of this community in ways it never has before,” he said.

“With this facility,” Hoskins observed, “there is virtually no show, concert or event that we can’t do. It will mean that local residents who love live performance can see their goals and aspirations come to life in their own community.”

At Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, Hoskins oversaw programming of the newly constructed Performing Arts Center San Luis Obispo. While there, he expanded the university’s performing arts series from 26 events to 50, expanded the scope of its programming to include spoken word and contemporary music, and launched a celebrity concert and emerging artists series as well as an arts education program for K-12 students.

Under Hoskins, the Cal Poly performing arts center subscription base ballooned to nearly five times its original number, and both student attendance and endowment levels increased substantially.

Prior to his work at Cal Poly, Hoskins was executive director of Capitol Arts Alliance, an arts agency in Utah, and executive director of the Utah Festival Opera Company.

A graduate of Bowling Green State University, Hoskins lectured at Golden Gate University and has published fiction, non-fiction and poetry.

Northridge Celebrates Clean, Green Power of New Plant

World’s Largest University-Run Fuel Cell Plant Provides Research Opportunities for Students

Clean energy enthusiasts from across the region are cheering Cal State Northridge’s launching of a 1 megawatt fuel cell power plant—the single largest fuel cell power plant at any university in the world.

CSUN’s environmentally friendly new power plant, dedicated on February 23, will sustain continuous campus growth and improved programs, and will enhance the campus’ position as one of the state’s most energy-efficient institutions.

Located on the campus’ east side, off Zelzah Avenue, it will generate base load electricity for the university’s facilities and surplus heat for buildings, showers and food service hot water, and it will heat the University Student Union’s swimming pool.

College of Engineering and Computer Science faculty and students are actively studying the energy production and overall efficiency of the unique energy plant, and College of Science and Mathematics students will study the carbon dioxide enrichment potential of plant life provided by the power plant to the university’s nearby greenhouse.

Carbon dioxide exhaust from the plant’s heat exchanger will be routed into an adjacent miniature sub-tropical rainforest developed specifically to be sustained by the fuel cell plant’s operation.

Northridge purchased the high-efficiency Direct FuelCell® (DFC) power plant from FuelCell Energy Inc. (NasdaqNM:FCEL), a leading manufacturer of ultra-clean and efficient electrical power generation plants, for more than $3 million. Southern California Gas Company (The Gas Company) committed to providing up to $2.25 million in incentive funding to support the installation of the plant.

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP) committed an additional $500,000. According to 2006 data, CSUN’s plant is the seventh DFC plant of any size installed at a university and is one of only about a dozen of its size and capacity anywhere in the world.

Spring semester is underway and the campus is buzzing with activity. Among all the things there are to see and experience here on campus are three new exhibits that I want to call to your attention: “Celebrating Comic Books, An American Tradition” can be viewed through August 5 in the Tseng Gallery of the Oviatt Library. It traces the development of the comic book from its beginning in the 1930s to the end of the 20th century, and includes comics from Dell, DC, Gold Key, Marvel and Eastern Color.

It will be a trip down memory lane for many of us, with Little Lulu, Looney Tunes and Merrie Melodies.
Six years of intense production went into Alexis Krasilovsky's "Women Behind the Camera," the Cal State Northridge cinema and television arts professor's ground-breaking documentary that is the first to examine the lives, work and challenges of camerawomen around the globe.

A sneak preview of the award-winning film, free and open to the public, will be screened at 7 p.m. Friday, March 16, in the university's Armer Theater, Manzanita Hall. All told, 50 interviews with camerawomen will inhabit the screen, introducing women who "were the first in film in war zones, from helicopters, underwater and on Hollywood sets" despite long separations from their children, injuries during filming and other hardships. Clips from six continents will display their work from digital, video, 16mm, 35mm and widescreen film sources.

The idea for the film germinated in Krasilovsky's early days as an independent filmmaker when she was not able to get enough work to make a living despite membership in two industry unions. "The trauma of sex discrimination and harassment was so discouraging," she said, "that I needed to make this film as a healing activity, a means of breaking down barriers for women directors of photography."

Based on Krasilovsky's successful book of the same name, "Women Behind the Camera" is a case study in collegial support. CSUN's Office of Research and Sponsored Projects, its China Institute and the Milstein-Curb College of Arts, Media, and Communication stepped up time and again as the filmmaker struggled to bring fruition a project that ran to more than $200,000 in cash, in-kind services and Krasilovsky's own money.

With the university's help, Krasilovsky flew to Mexico, Paris and finally to India, where she filmed camerawomen helping their communities survive by picking up digital cameras and influencing policy makers.

Documentary unit producer Jahlia Haria, a CSUN graduate student, volunteer Mei Wu and others provided invaluable translation services for footage filmed abroad. "You can imagine making a film with eight different languages," Krasilovsky said.

Colleague Elizabeth Sellers, a composer and CSUN music professor, contributed the film's score; and art graduate student Mona Hasri helped secure an interview with Iranian camerawoman Rozette Ghaderi. "We sneaked the interview out the very week that feminism was declared illegal in Iran," Krasilovsky said.

Sponsors of the March 16 sneak preview include CSUN's Departments of Cinema and Television Arts and Women's Studies, Women's Center, China Institute and Phi Beta Delta. For more information, call John Schultheis, Cinematheque program director, at (818) 677-5193.

The Tax Man Cometh—CSUN Students Offer Free Tax Help

Low-Income, Disabled and Senior Citizens Who Qualify Get Help at Centers Throughout the Valley

The words "free" and "taxes" do not usually appear together in a sentence. About 170 Cal State Northridge students, however, are providing free federal and income tax preparation to low-income families and individuals, as part of the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program.

VITA continues until April 14—the day before taxes are due—at 16 locations throughout the San Fernando Valley and in Los Angeles. VITA coordinator Donna Watkins said the program benefits both Northridge students and the community as a whole. "Our students get experience dealing with real clients and tax preparation and members of the community get services they might not otherwise be able to afford," she said.

Certified public accountants and alumni who staff a variety of Southland accounting firms and businesses have provided intensive training for CSUN students. Thoroughly versed in this year's new tax laws, the students are equipped to complete basic tax forms, with back-up support from Internal Revenue Service (IRS) agents who serve as advisors at some of the VITA centers. Assistance is available on a first-come, first-served basis to low-income families, individuals, the disabled and seniors with a maximum gross annual income of $50,000. Special assistance will be available for senior citizens as well as non-English speakers.

Taxpayers should arrive early and with all necessary tax forms, including W-2 forms, interest and dividend statements, education and mortgage statements (1099-INT, 1099-DIV, 1098-E, 1098), receipts and records for deductions and donations, and a copy of last year's tax returns. Both spouses must be present when returns are prepared for married couples filing jointly.

VITA volunteers are also able to prepare 1099-MISC forms for those taxpayers whose expenses were under $5,000. Electronic tax-filing services are available.

For scheduling information and a list of the MTA routes that service VITA locations, visit the VITA Web site at www.csun.edu/vita/ or call (818) 677-4519.

Community Connection…

Covered from page 1. Tom, Jerry, Andy Panda, Flash Gordon—how many of you remember this intrepid space adventurer? Mighty Mouse, Chip and Dale, Captain Marvel, Mickey Mouse and Uncle Scrooge McDuck.

There will be a separate display of community Blenderbrite Carl Banks, who created Scrooge McDuck, the miserly uncle of Donald Duck, in 1947. A very different exhibit, "Island Affinities—Comparative Art of Oceania," is open through March 1 in the main gallery on North University Drive. Through sculpture, photography, video presentations, oil on canvas and acrylics, it displays the cultures of Samoa, Tonga, Papua New Guinea and Hawaii.

I was quite attracted to a large ngatu, or Tongan tapa cloth entitled "Nga tu'o Otufelenite." Measuring 24 x 16", it makes a very impressive wall display. Tapa cloth is made from the interior bark of the paper mulberry tree. The bark is stripped and the fiber is pounded by hand into sheets of tapa cloth and imprinted with island motifs using natural dye.

One quite beautiful presentation by artist Jewell Castro, "Red Room. The Daughters of Salamasma," requires an entire room of the gallery. After removing their shoes, guests walk into a fake room, the artist's interpretation of an historic Samoan village structure, draped and decorated in red and black.

Another exhibit, on display through March 2 in the Oviatt lobby, celebrates Black History Month. It includes many photographs of the civil rights movement following the marches in the early 60s that focused on jobs and freedom.

The photographs of the spectators watching the marchers are especially poignant, as is a ceramic sculpture in a separate part of the exhibit. Called "Mother Weep No More," it is by artist and alumnus Sean Beard. This is an interesting collection of materials that features the earlier years of the Angels City Chapter of Links, Inc., a predominately black women's and family organization that works for the educational needs of community children and young adults.

Please check the Calendar on page four for parking and exhibit contact information.

Stay tuned for updates on the opening of CSUN's new Department of Public Safety and Parking building, nearing completion at the corner of Darby Avenue and Prairie Street. Until next month…
Biologist Wins Fulbright Grant for Research in Argentina
From Salta to Patagonia, Robert Espinoza Will Study Lizards’ Survival Tactics in Frigid Climates

When he was a small boy, Robert Espinoza’s family believed his precocious fascination with creatures that slither would lead to something some day. The family was right. It has led the associate biology professor to Argentina many times during the past 13 years, and will again in July when, as a Fulbright scholar, he will embark with his own young family on a yearlong adventure in Salta, a province known for the natural beauty of its stark, windswept grassland and the majestic Andes range.

For Espinoza, the lizards of northwestern Argentina—in the genera Loxamnus and Phymaturus—are the region’s main attraction. His Fulbright grant, awarded in January through the prestigious organization’s Joint Lecturing and Research Program, will help him pursue the answer to a tantalizing scientific question: How do lizards cope with freezing temperatures?

“We’re trying to understand if they use different strategies in the far north, where they live within the limits of the tropics at fairly low latitudes, versus the south in Patagonia at higher latitudes,” said Espinoza. “In the northern provinces, some of these lizards occur at very high elevations, close to 5,000 meters, or 16,400 feet.” At those elevations, the hardy little northern ectotherms brave freezing temperatures on almost a daily basis, regardless of the season. Argentina’s southern regions, on the other hand, are roughly equivalent to the more moderate elevations and weather of New York City. “There you’ve got a long, deep winter—with cool for a small lizard,” he said. Espinoza will try to determine if lizards are closely related but that inhabit different regions use the same survival strategies. Do they employ freeze avoiding, going deep underground to escape the cold? Or supercooling, producing a kind of sugary antifreeze that baffles their tissues, allowing their body temperatures to drop a few degrees below the freezing point? Or do they use freeze tolerance, actually freezing solid and coming back to life? A botanist colleague of Espinoza’s, working at an elevation of about 4,800 meters, once witnessed that strategy in operation.

“A big, fast storm sweep through his field site,” Espinoza said, “chilling the air so quickly that the lizards froze on the ground surface; they didn’t have time to go into their retreats.” The botanist picked up a couple of rock hard carcasses, brought them back to camp and placed them in a bucket overnight. Next morning when the sun hit the bucket, out popped two live, frisky lizards. “So we know at least some of them use freeze tolerance,” said Espinoza.

What he learns about his cold-blooded subjects will turn up in scientific articles Espinoza will publish when he returns to CSUN in July 2008. His Fulbright grant will cover three months of his working sabbatical; his Fulbright sabbatical will take him through the rest of the year. While in Argentina, he will work closely with principal colleague Fernando Lobo, professor of comparative anatomy at the Universidad Nacional de Salta, where the two will co-teach graduate courses or a herpetology class as part of the Fulbright program.

“His expertise is in comparative anatomy and morphology and mine is in physiology, so we complement each other well,” said Espinoza. Together with biology professor Félix Cruz of the Universidad Nacional del Comahue, the two will do field research in Salta’s Puna, a high-elevation, flat, open grassland dominated by a golden brown bunch grass called festuca, grazing cattle, goats, sheep and llamas. They also will work in the northwestern province of Catamarca and in Río Negro to the south, in the region known as Patagonia.

Espinoza’s wife, biologist Cindy Hitchcock, their infant daughter and three-year-old son will arrive in the 800,000 resident colonial city of Salta with little more than their clothing and a few toys for the children. “We’ll have to start from scratch,” said the scientist, who did just that as a child, building his collection of lizards, snakes, rats, frogs and mice until their cages lined his room. He cannot recall a time when he was not fascinated with lizards. “I think it was just sort of a genetic mutation,” he said. “Before I could even walk, my family would spot me parting the grass, looking for bugs. As soon as I discovered frogs, lizards and snakes, I begged my parents to take me anywhere, anytime, to go collect them.”

Espinoza’s mother and sister tolerated escaped critters underfoot and mice and rats in the freezer. “They knew something was going to come of it,” he recalled. “They said, ‘Well, it keeps him out of trouble, what the heck.’” Their tolerance began to pay off early, when Espinoza’s expertise in breeding lizards and snakes funded his undergraduate education at San Diego State, which led to a doctorate from the University of Nevada, Reno, and to his quest in Argentina.

Locksmith by Day, Northridge Alum ‘Jams’ by Night
CSUN Employee Has Played for ‘American Idol’ Taylor Hicks and Legends Tony Bennett, Nancy Wilson

Some first-rate saxophone music accompanied vocalist Taylor Hicks during a recent appearance on NBC’s “The Tonight Show,” hosted by Jay Leno. Saxophonist Lance Rickman, a member of Cal State Northridge’s Physical Plant Management staff, gave special zest to the “American Idol” winner’s version of “Do I Make You Proud?”

The CSUN music alum said Leno was “such a cool guy” that he was able to have him on his show twice, in 2005 and 2006. “[He] was very complimentary of my sax playing. I should have asked him for a full-time job playing on the show,” Rickman joked. “The coolest part is that I was allowed to improvise the sax part live at the ‘Tonight Show’ taping.”

Rickman also played during Hicks’ July 2006 performance on ABC’s “Good Morning America” show, a hit with the audience despite technical difficulties and unexpected wet weather. “We performed outdoors at a park and three minutes after we finished our last song, it poured rain. It was hilarious watching some 500 people, our audience, scurrying for cover,” Rickman laughed.

A locksmith by day, the Granada Hills resident often is time-challenged. “Sometimes it’s tough to do both, especially after working a 10-hour day at CSUN, but somehow I’m able to find the energy,” Rickman said.

Longtime friend Andy Weiner said Rickman’s love for music can be traced back to his days as a CSUN student. “We performed outdoors at a park and three minutes after we finished our last song, it poured rain. It was hilarious watching some 500 people, our audience, scurrying for cover,” Rickman laughed.

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Recyclable Community

The 1930s to 20th Century.
Runs through March 2.
Closing reception and performance:
Workshop: artist Rosanna Raymond,
Thu., March 1, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Exhibition runs through March 1.
Photography, and video.
Guinea culture. Painting, installation,

RSVP: (818) 677-7580 or
sierra.hall@csun.edu

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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.

A “Island Affinities: Contemporary Art of Oceania”
Artists explore issues of identity, memory, and place through formal and conceptual affinities to Samoan, Tongan, Hawaiian, and Papua New Guinea culture. Painting, installation, photography, and video.
Exhibition runs through March 1.
Workshop: artist Rosanna Raymond,
Thu., March 1, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Closing reception and performance:
Thu., March 1, 6-8 p.m.
Main Art Gallery

Black History Exhibit
Civil rights movement photos, students’ literary works and more.
Runs through March 2.
Oviatt Library, main lobby

Celebrating Comics
Development of comic books from 1930s to 20th Century.
Exhibit runs through Aug. 3.
Oviatt Library, Tieng Gallery

Subvertisements
Exhibition explores use of ads and logos for protest.
Runs March 19-April 21.
Gallery talk Mon., March 19, 10 a.m.
Reception: Fri., March 23, 7 p.m.
Main Art Gallery

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

‘Winter Sky Show’ and ‘From Continental Drift to The Theory
of Plate Tectonics’
Fri., March 9, 7-7:30 p.m.

‘Spring Sky Show’ and “The Voyager Encounters”
Fri., March 23, 7:30 p.m.

Athletics (home games):
Baseball
3/2 Loyola Marymount 3 p.m.

Women’s Basketball
3/1 Cal Poly 7 p.m.
3/3 UCSB 4 p.m.

Softball
3/12 Tennessee-Martin 1 p.m.
3/13 Canisius 1 p.m. and 3 p.m.
3/20 Kansas 1 p.m.

Women’s Tennis
3/3 UC Davis 11 a.m.
3/9 Virginia Tech 2 p.m.
3/13 Southern Mississippi 2 p.m.
3/15 Yale 2 p.m.
3/16 Auburn-Montgomery 2 p.m.
3/25 Pacific 11 a.m.

Track and Field
3/3 All Comers 8:30 a.m.
3/14 Northridge Relays 11 a.m.
3/15 Northridge Relays 9 a.m.
3/16 Northridge Relays 9 a.m.
3/17 Northridge Relays 9 a.m.

Men’s Volleyball
2/28 UCSB 7 p.m.
3/2 Cal Baptist 7 p.m.
3/7 Lewis 7 p.m.
3/9 Quincy 7 p.m.
3/14 NJIT 7 p.m.
3/23 Brigham Young 7 p.m.
3/24 Brigham Young 7 p.m.

Water Polo
3/13 Northridge Mini 2 p.m.
3/17 UC Irvine 10 a.m.
3/17 Bucknell 4 p.m.
3/25 Arizona State noon

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.

‘I’ll Sleep When I’m Dead’
Genre: film noir.
Directed by Mike Hodges.
Guest speaker: Mike Kaplan, film’s producer.
Wed., Feb. 28, 7 p.m.

‘Gunfight at the O.K. Corral’
Genre: western.
Directed by John Sturges.
Guest speaker: author, film historian Michael Blake.
Mon., March 5, 7 p.m.

‘Hour of the Gun’
Genre: western.
Directed by John Sturges.
Guest speaker: author, film historian Michael Blake.
Tue., March 6, 7 p.m.

‘My Darling Clementine’
Genre: western.
Directed by John Ford.
Guest speaker: author, film historian Michael Blake.
Wed., March 7, 7 p.m.

‘Tombstone’
Genre: western.
Directed by George P. Cosmatos.
Guest speaker: author, film historian Michael Blake.
Thu., March 8, 7 p.m.

‘The Ice Harvest’
Genre: film noir.
Directed by Harold Ramis.
Mon., March 12, 7 p.m.

‘You are There’ and ‘No Name on the Bullet’
Genres: docudrama and western.
Directed by Sidney Lumet and Andrew Bergman.
Wed., March 14, 7 p.m.

‘Kiss Kiss Bang Bang’
Genre: film noir.
Directed by Shane Black.
Thu., March 15, 7 p.m.

‘Women Behind the Camera’
Documentary: sneak preview.
A film by Alexis Krasilovsky.
Fri., March 16, 7 p.m.

‘Robocopy’
Genre: science fiction.
Directed by Paul Verhoeven.
Guest speaker: Michael Miner, one of film’s writers.
Wed., March 21, 7 p.m.

‘Soldier of Orange’
Genre: war film.
Directed by Paul Verhoeven.
Thu., March 22, 7 p.m.

‘Fathers and Sons’
Genre: art cinema.
Written, directed by Bob Spera.
Rodrigo Garcia, Jareed Rappaport.
Guest speaker: Jareed Rappaport,
CSUN asst. CTVA professor.
Wed., March 28, 7 p.m.

Religion and Violence
Discussions on the rejection of violence in four religious traditions:
Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam.
Speakers: CSUN faculty and distinguished guests.
Moderator James Kellenberger, CSUN Center for Ethics and Values.
Judaism and Christianity:
Wed., March 14, 7 p.m.
Oviatt Library Presentation Room
Islam and Buddhism:
Fri., March 16, 3 p.m.
Oviatt Library Presentation Room

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

Guest Artist Series
In celebration of Robert Schuman.
Ji Kang Jung, pianist.
Tue., Feb. 27, 8 p.m.
Music Recital Hall

CSUN Youth Orchestrass
Chamber Orchestra & Philharmonic.
Sun., March 4, 3 p.m.
Plaza del Sol Performance Hall
(formerly Performing Arts Center)
$12-$15

American Guitar Society
Macie Ziems, guitarist.
Sat., March 10, 8 p.m.
Music Recital Hall
$10-$20

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Macie Ziems, guitarist.
Sat., March 10, 8 p.m.
Music Recital Hall
$10-$20

Bad Voodoo Daddy
Supercool, zoot-suited swing band is back where it began: CSUN.
Music of 1940s and 1950s lives again.
Sat., March 10, 8 p.m.
Plaza del Sol Performance Hall
(formerly Performing Arts Center)
$20-$45

CSUN Youth Orchestrass
Camera, Strings, Wind Ensemble, Symphony.
Sun., March 11, 3 p.m.
Plaza del Sol Performance Hall
(formerly Performing Arts Center)
$12-$15

Faculty Artist Series
Richard Hofmann, trumpet.
Evlin Rodriguez, piano.
Sun., March 11, 8 p.m.
Music Recital Hall

Jazz “A” Band
Matt Harris, director.
Fri., March 16, 8 p.m.
Plaza del Sol Performance Hall
(formerly Performing Arts Center)

Duos Recital
Jerry Luedders, saxophonist.
Timothy Howard, organist.
Sun., March 18, 3 p.m.
Nordhoff Hall 107

Faculty Composers’ Recital
Recent works by Daniel Hosken.
Daniel Kessner, Liviu Marinescu.
Elizabeth Sellers, William Tantout and Frank Campo.
Sun., March 18, 8 p.m.
Music Recital Hall

March Music Madness
Featuring music faculty performing an array of musical styles.
Sun., March 25, 8 p.m.
Music Recital Hall

Vivius String Quartet
Beethoven, Grieg, Tschaikovsky.
Mon., March 26, 8 p.m.
Plaza del Sol Performance Hall
(formerly Performing Arts Center)
$5-$30

CSUN Wind Ensemble
Lawrence Stoffel, conductor.
Wed., March 28, 8 p.m.
Plaza del Sol Performance Hall
(formerly Performing Arts Center)

Theater/Performance

There’s something about a town to boost the...