Devonshire Downs Groundbreaking Set for Fall 2008
Faculty, Staff Residential Community to Welcome First Residents in 2009

Sixty years after it opened as a popular harness racing track and fairgrounds, Devonshire Downs is poised to reclaim its glory days—this time as a planned village-style residential community for Cal State Northridge faculty and staff. Nearly 160 two-story, for-sale town homes on about 15 acres between Lindley and Zelzah Avenues north of Lassen Street are planned for the new Devonshire Downs’ $60 million initial phase, which will break ground on CSUN’s North Campus in fall 2008. It will welcome its first occupants in fall 2009.

The remaining 15 acres at the site will be developed during the next ten to 15 years, in two or three phases smaller both in size and scope than Phase I, ultimately yielding more than 400 units, some of which may be rental dwellings.

“The presence of Devonshire Downs on CSUN’s north campus will greatly enhance our ability to attract and retain the high-caliber faculty and staff associated with our university,” said President Jolene Koester. “Not only will we provide them with attainably priced homes, but homes that will be within easy walking distance to classrooms, labs and campus offices.”

Currently, CSUN’s only faculty/staff dwellings are 31 rental units located in the College Court Townhomes complex on Plummer Street, west of campus.

An on-campus village environment in which colleagues at work become neighbors at home, President Koester said, will strengthen both the sense of community within the university and its connections with the surrounding neighborhoods.

To create that village environment, campus leaders worked with Steinberg Architects and TGP Landscaping on a plan containing intimate internal pedestrian promenades that provide “a neighborhood experience of open, low-walled porches or front yards along the promenades and parkways.” Constructed in blocks of three to five attached units ranging from 1,300–1,950 square feet, each town home will have a private two-car garage with alley access.

Generous, energy-efficient window space, lofty ceilings, high-grade insulation and sound attenuation in common walls will be features available in all of the town homes. Some of the available floor plans can be modified to accommodate persons with disabilities.

Devonshire Downs continued on page 2.

New Residence Halls to Offer ‘Complete College Experience’
Small-Scale Design to Encourage Sense of Community Among Student Residents; First Phase Ready in 2009

Help is on the way for Cal State Northridge students who would like to move into an on-campus residence hall. At present, more than 400 are on the waiting list for University Park Apartments, the CSUN student housing units located south of Lassen Street between Lindley and Zelzah Avenues. But Tim Trevan, director of Student Housing and Conference Services, does not expect demand to outstrip supply forever.

A $30.1 million housing complex funded by student housing rents is scheduled to be built on a 2.8-acre site between CSUN’s main housing for single students and the outdoor track. Groundbreaking is scheduled for January 2008.

When completed, two buildings will provide living space for 396 students beginning in fall 2009. A third building—a nearly 6,000 square foot “common program” building—will include a recreation room, classroom, multi-purpose room, storage space, office and a reception and security desk, from which all students and guests will be visible when they enter or leave. Tall walls with gates that will be locked at night also will enhance student safety, and the parking needs of complex residents will be met by maximizing use of the G9 parking structure west of Zelzah, south of Lassen.

The project represents phase one of an expansion outlined in the 2005 Student Housing continued on page 2.
Supervisor Antonovich Allocates $500,000 for Arts Center

The entire Devonshire Downs site will be elevated, separating residences from traffic and noise without the sense of “cutting the community off from the world” caused by thick, obtrusive walls, said Rick Evans, associate executive director of The University Corporation. Faculty and staff interested in purchasing a home in Devonshire Downs should check the North Campus Web site www.csun.edu/northcampus for the latest information. Highest priority will be given to recently hired faculty.

The goal, said McCarron, is to price the homes at 20–25 percent below prices in the surrounding area, serving buyers whose annual household income falls between $70,000–$110,000. A minimal charge for the ground lease—buyers will own their homes, not the ground underneath—will be paid in monthly installments. A monthly fee for ongoing maintenance of common areas and infrastructure also will be assessed, similar to the process at other townhome complexes. Homeowners will be able to sell to other qualified employees of CSUN or its affiliated auxiliaries, under resale price control terms designed to keep Devonshire Downs homes affordable for future generations of CSUN employees.

The housing project was part of the Cal State Northridge campus master plan, developed with full community participation and approved in March 2006 by the CSU Board of Trustees. For more information, visit www.csun.edu/northcampus or call Rick Evans at (818) 677-6285.

C
ount Supervisor Michael Antonovich has announced a $500,000 contribution toward the development of the new performing arts center planned for Cal State Northridge.

A collaborative effort between the county and the university to improve access to the performing arts for the residents of the San Fernando Valley, the new 1,700-seat venue will join the county’s Music Center, Center Theatre Group and the Los Angeles Opera to showcase quality music, dance, theater, film and theater productions.

“This new performing arts center is the culmination of a 49-year-old dream by CSUN’s founders, who intended for the campus to be the cultural and economic heart of the San Fernando Valley,” said Antonovich. “It will be the largest arts venue in the Valley and will draw residents from adjoining valleys and across the county. Devonshire Downs…”

continued from page 1.

Three acres of recreational space within Devonshire Downs will be given over to a central village green, pocket parks, groves of trees, a swimming pool, playing courts and a community building.

Pedestrian and bike paths will lead directly from Devonshire Downs to the South Campus via a shady, tree-lined pathway that will terminate at the corner of Lindley Avenue and Lassen Street. From that terminus, village residents will cross the street to catch the CSUN tram, continue walking or resume their bike ride to campus.

“One guiding principle was that a resident should be able to walk in the middle of a summer day, shaded and comfortable,” said Tom McCarron, executive director and president of the University Corporation and the North Campus-University Park Development Corporation.

Orange groves at the community’s two entrances—at Zelzah and Lindley Avenues—will greet residents and visitors, providing them with a California-style welcome. A leafy atmosphere will prevail throughout the community, a thoughtful enhancement generated by the “green” planting ethic of the project’s Valley-based landscaping firm.

“The community’s landscape design incorporates some of the major themes of the campus master plan, ensuring that the community will be well integrated with the campus, while retaining its distinct residential identity,” said Colton Donahue, associate vice president of Facilities Development and Operations.

Student Housing…”

continued from page 1.

The new housing will not be identical to the University Park Apartments, which has 15 buildings, houses 2,400 students and was built between 1987 and 1991. Instead of containing stand-alone apartments, the new CSUN residence halls will be divided into clusters of 52 students, who will live two to a bedroom with shared living/meeting rooms, study rooms and semi-private bathrooms. Unlike traditional dormitories with rooms lining long corridors, CSUN’s smaller-scaled student housing will encourage a greater sense of community.

“We really want to create small pods of students to encourage them not to be overwhelmed and actually get to know each other on a deeper level,” the housing director said.

Kitchens will not be included; students will be required to take a meal plan, increasing their involvement in the CSUN community. Trevan said the cluster housing—suggested by architect AC Martin Partners, Inc. and based on a similar style at Babson College near Boston—specifically addresses the developmental needs of first-year students, the segment of the enrollment that benefits most from living on campus.

“It’s a chance to get to know people and meet new friends of different backgrounds,” said freshman Alex Harris, 18, of Harbor City. Harris lives in the University Park Apartments, where two-bedroom units for four roommates cost $5,413 per academic year with a kitchen, and $4,336 without. “You get to know about their language, what kind of food they eat, how they live…You teach them your differences. They teach you their differences. We get along with each other.”
Delbert Moreno no longer feels like a foreigner who does not belong on the calm, park-like Cal State Northridge campus.

Moreno has excelled at Northridge, only a few miles but a world away from Pascocan and Panorama City, where years ago he and fellow gang members committed crimes and witnessed shootings. Now a graduate student in Chicana/o Studies who also is pursuing a social science secondary teaching credential at Cal State Northridge, he is determined to help other students from marginalized backgrounds.

“I want to have a significant impact. If I can change one life and I know that I’ve given my best, I’ll be happy,” said Moreno, one of 25 winners of the 2007/08 William Randolph Hearst/CSU Trustees’ Award for Outstanding Achievement. His work already has begun, currently as a volunteer, soon as a high school teacher and, after completing a doctorate in sociology, as a college instructor.

Moreno, who also completed his undergraduate work at CSUN, won the top prize: the Trustee Ali C. Razi Scholar Award and a $6,000 scholarship, in a tie with Humboldt State student Adrianna Bayer. All scholarship recipients were acknowledged at the September 2007 CSU Board of Trustees’ meeting.

Funded by an endowment from the William Randolph Hearst Foundation and donations from trustees, the prestigious award honors students who have overcome obstacles, who demonstrate financial need, and who excel in academic performance, community service and personal achievement.

The award will lessen Moreno’s financial burdens and allow him to complete his graduate thesis project: “Surviving on the Margins: An Exploratory Study of Mexican Single Mothers.”

Survival was his mother’s focus as she worked in a factory and cleaned houses to provide for four children, at one point relying on welfare to provide for her family. “We only had one book in the home. It was a Catholic book of prayers. I didn’t grow up having any exposure to literature,” said Moreno.

Moreno, who also completed his master’s degree this semester, said he did not not be admitted to CSUN, he probably would be in prison or dead. “My mother wouldn’t be attending a graduation, she probably would be attending a funeral.”

Leaving Gangs and Gunfire Behind, Delbert Moreno is Out to Change Lives

Chicana/o Studies Student Earns Top Hearst/Trustees Honor

Making the Leap From CSUN to Cannes in One ‘Take’
Student Spiros Stathoulopoulos’ Film Wows Aficionados at Famous Festival

It’s a journey many would envy— from Cal State Northridge’s film school to the Cannes Film Festival. Student Spiros Stathoulopoulos spent the summer vacation between his junior and senior years making a movie. “PVC-1” is based on the true story of a middle-aged Colombian woman who could not pay a $7,000 ransom. As a result, criminals hung around her neck a timebomb made of PVC piping. “PVC-1” was screened in Cannes in May 2007. Out of thousands, the talented Stathoulopoulos’ film “was one of 22 selected for the section called the Director’s Fortnight, the section of the festival from which Martin Scorsese, Spike Lee and Sofia Coppola were discovered,” he said.

“I wrote it, directed it, did the camera work, produced it,” the director said of his self-timed, low-budget film, “and if there was editing, I would have edited it.”

The young filmmaker shot nonstop to release the tension in the film. “I had to train for three months to be able to support the weight for an extended time,” said Stathoulopoulos, who transported his equipment for miles, uphill and down, and through a river in and around a rural village about two hours from Bogotá, the capitol of Colombia.

CSUN cinema and television arts professor Temma Kramer said her former student “really embraced the academic environment as a place to both learn and to experiment with his creative ideas.” His movie, she added, “is stunning.”

Pursued by talent agents after the Cannes screening, Stathoulopoulos eventually signed with the Endeavor agency. He will screen and field questions about “PVC-1” at 7 p.m. Oct. 17 in CSUN’s Armer Theater (See Calendar, page 4).

Community Connection…

Wing of the library’s second floor, you will be struck by curator Tony Gardner’s careful work in depicting England’s Golden Age through period and modern books, pictures and artifacts.

Among them is a facsimile of Thomas Holby’s 1561 translation of “Il Cortigiano,” by Baldassare Castiglione, which describes the ideal court and courtier of the time.

A copy of the “Rainbow Portrait” of Elizabeth, attributed to Marcus Gheeraerts the Younger, is on display, capturing the essence of the exhibit’s title. “The Sun That Lights the Rainbow” is a reference to the Elizabethan motto, Non Sine Sole Iris, or “No rainbow without the sun.”

You will read about an interesting volume on display entitled “The Progresses, and Public Processions, of Queen Elizabeth,” records collected by John Nichols. Printed between 1788 and 1805, they describe Good Queen Bess’ elaborate processions through the south of England and the Midlands, with hundreds of courtiers and heavy furnishings in tow.

There is much more to see—a replica of Sir Francis Drake’s ship “The Golden Hind,” an 18th Century illustrated edition of poet Edmund Spenser’s “Faerie Queene,” and a facsimile of Thomas Tusser’s “A Hundred Good Points of Husbandry,” from which came the signification “A fool and his money are soon parted.”

Don’t miss the reproduction of a 16th Century woman’s costume, a rich pearl-trimmed, garnet-colored gown which demonstrates how the English incorporated the queen’s influence into existing styles. A man’s ebony and white costume, complete with a pearl-encrusted gold chain at the waistline, represents the luxury of the period’s court life.

The free exhibit, sponsored by Gus and Erika Manders and the Friends of the Oviatt Library, runs through December 20. Please call (818) 677-2688 for more information. Until next time…”
Alumni Events

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

Child and Adolescent Development Alumni Mixer
Annual fall social.
Wed., Oct. 17, 6 p.m.
CSUN’s University Club
RSVP at www.csualumni.com Free

How to Ask for a Raise
Job negotiation, promotion strategies workshop.
Mon., Oct. 29, 7 p.m.
University Student Union, Grand Salon
Register and more info at www.csualumni.com Alumni Assoc. members $10, non-members $25

Career Strategies Workshop
“Taking Your Career to the Next Level”
Presented by Randall Grossblatt of UBS Financial Services.
Sponsors: MBA Alumni Chapter, CSUN Alumni Club.
Tue., Oct. 30, 6:30 p.m.
University Student Union, West Valley Room
RSVP: www.csualumni.com Free

Semi/Conejo Valley Alumni Mixer
Networking and conversation.
Tue., Nov. 6, 6 p.m.
Bogie’s, Westlake Village Inn, 33145 Agoura Road, Westlake Village
RSVP: www.csualumni.com $10

Art and Exhibits

For gallery info, call (818) 677-2156.
Main gallery hours: Mon. through Sat. 12-4 p.m. and Thursdays 2-8 p.m.
Admission is free unless specified. Information is also available at galleryexhibits.csun.edu.

The Sun That Lights the Rainbow.
Mon., Oct. 15, 7:30 p.m.
Laemmle Theatres, 200 N. Foothill Blvd.
Hollywood
RSVP: (818) 677-7828.

‘Life and Times of Elizabeth I’
“The Sun that Lights the Rainbow: The Life and Times of Elizabeth I.”
Period and modern books, pictures and artifacts from England’s “Golden Age.”
Sponsored by Gus and Erika Manders and the Oviatt Library.
Exhibition runs through Dec. 20.
C.K. and Teresa Tseung Gallery, second floor, West Wing, Oviatt Library
RSVP: (818) 677-7828.

‘The Seven Little Fays’
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. Seating not guaranteed. For more info, call (818) 677-3163 or see www.cinematheque.csun.edu/html/events.html.

‘Mulholland Dr.’
Directed by David Lynch.
Speaker: Eric Edson, CSUN cinema and television arts professor.
Mon., Oct. 15, 7 p.m.

‘PVC-1’
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. Seating not guaranteed. For more info, please check the website www.cinematheque.csun.edu/html/events.html or call (818) 677-3163.

‘Lions for Lambs’
Starring Tom Cruise, Meryl Streep, and Robert Redford.
Screening: Oct. 27, 7 p.m.
Campus Theatre, Nordhoff Hall
RSVP: www.csualumni.com Free

Music

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

American Guitar Society
Philippa Villa, classical guitarist.
Sat., Oct. 27, 8 p.m.
Music Recital Hall
Sponsored by the College of Music.
$10–$20

CSUN Jazz Combos
Matt Harris, Gary Pratt and Gary Fukunishi, directors.
Mon., Oct. 29, 8 p.m.
Music Recital Hall
Sponsored by the College of Music.
$8–$20

Two Evenings of Chamber Music
Julia Heinen and Dmitry Rachmanov, directors.
Wed., Nov. 7 and Wed., Nov. 14, 8 p.m.
Music Recital Hall
Sponsored by the College of Music.
$8–$20

Growing Up Without Language
Author and human rights advocate Susan Schaller discusses her work promoting equal access to language for Deaf people.
Tue., Oct. 23, 4 p.m.
Oviatt Library, Presentation Room
Free

Whitsett Fellow Lecture
“Bound for California: Chilean Contract Laborers in the California Gold Rush.”
W.P. Whitsett Research Fellow
Kathy Siisson lectures.
Tue., Oct. 23, 7 p.m.
Whitsett Room, Sierra Hall 451
RSVP at (818) 677-3556 Free

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