Questions, Answers—Forum Tackles Immigration Issues

‘Envisioning California’ Conferences Will Gather at Skirball Center on September 19 to Probe Ins, Outs of Issue

What is a “typical” Californian? Where would California be without its immigrants? Can we all get along?

These and other probing questions about the impact of immigration on the Golden State will be explored at a conference to be sponsored by CSUN this year entitled “Immigration in California: Conflict, Resolution, Transformation,” which will take place at the Skirball Cultural Center. Political, business and community leaders will join with academics in addressing immigration from cultural, linguistic and economic perspectives.

The contributions of our immigration experiences continue on page 3.

Cal State Northridge—The Intellectual, Economic and Cultural Heart of the San Fernando Valley and Beyond

County Contributes $2 Million to Performing Arts Center

University, Music Center Officials Agree to Explore Unique Arts Partnerships for Valley

Seeking to expand arts opportunities in the Valley, county Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky has announced a $2 million county contribution for the new Performing Arts Center at Cal State Northridge, part of a unique new initiative to explore arts partnerships between the university and the county’s Music Center.

During a June 14 ceremony at the northwest corner of Nordhoff Street and Lindley Avenue, the site of the future center, Yaroslavsky presented a symbolic $2 million check to President Jolene Koester. The contribution is one of the largest yet for CSUN’s 1,700-seat, $100 million performing arts center project, due to begin construction this year and to be completed by late 2009.

During the same ceremony, officials from Cal State Northridge and the county-owned Music Center, based in downtown Los Angeles, also signed a formal agreement to begin exploring joint programming and other collaborations. The goal is to expand arts opportunities in the underserved Valley region that is now home to 2 million people.

Preliminary discussions have already commenced between Cal State Northridge and the Music Center and two of its resident companies—the Center Theatre Group and the Los Angeles Opera—regarding future presentations on the Northridge campus.

Supervisor Yaroslavsky, who represents most of the Valley, said he was proud to unveil “this unprecedented partnership between the county and Cal State Northridge to enrich the performing arts experience for the people of the San Fernando Valley.

“Thanks to the collaborative participation of the Music Center and its resident companies, I am confident this will become an outstanding cultural amenity for the Valley, the Music Center and arts lovers in general,” he said.

One of the three largest performing arts centers in the nation, the county Music Center draws about 1.3 million people annually to performances at its four major downtown venues. Upon its opening, the publicly operated Performing Arts Center at CSUN will be the largest arts venue in the San Fernando Valley and adjoining valleys.

“This financial support is an endorsement for our Performing Arts Center project,” said President Koester. “And, through our new alliance with the Music Center, we now have the potential to bring even greater arts opportunities to the university and the region.”

CSUN Vice President for University Advancement Vance Pettersen said the university is looking to finalize its private fundraising for the center.

‘Envisioning California’ continued on page 3.
Boating Safety Center Opens at CSUN Aquatic Center
Expensive New Facility Welcomes Community for Instruction, Fun in Idyllic Castaic Lake Setting

A spacious, well-equipped new Boating Instruction Safety Center (BISC) operated by Cal State Northridge opened its doors in July at Castaic Lake, the scenic Santa Clarita Valley paradise located northwest of Los Angeles near Six Flags Magic Mountain.

Built with grant funding from the state Department of Boating and Waterways, the 10,000 square foot BISC at the Castaic Lake Recreation Area now is one of just a handful of boating safety centers in California. The $1.8 million facility includes a $700,000 dock to support its boating safety programs.

Under the auspices of the CSUN Aquatic Center in partnership with the Los Angeles Department of Parks and Recreation, the new BISC features facilities and staff meeting rooms, small conference rooms and a section considered ideal for conference retreats or workshops. It can accommodate up to 300 individuals.

The new boating safety facility enhances programs already offered by the CSUN Aquatic Center, known since its establishment in 1976 for its excellence in boating and water safety education. Annually serving nearly 10,500 individuals through its credit, non-credit and community service programs, CSUN offers one of the two largest instructionally-focused aquatics programs in the nation. Other large programs are at CSU San Diego and CSU Sacramento.

John Van Arsdale, CSUN Aquatic Center director, estimated that about one quarter of those the center serves are CSUN students. “We get a lot of students whose first contact with Cal State Northridge is through all of the youth programs that we provide,” the CSUN alumnus said of Aquatic Center programs that serve such groups as the Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Los Angeles Police Department PALs (Police Activity League Supporters), and various groups serving people with disabilities.

Children can earn certification through the center’s “Aquatasm” water safety program, and adults—who come to learn everything from sailboat rigging to kayak maneuvers—also can earn state boating safety and sailing certifications.

Northridge Recreation and Tourism Management Department, CSUN students delve into courses such as an introduction to the back country, and lab work involving canoeing and kayaking. They enjoy activities offered by the center, from traditional water skiing, sailing, fishing, kayaking, canoeing and nature walks to wake-boarding and wake-skating.

“Over the years here,” Van Arsdale said, “we’ve had a lot of the clubs through nationally.” CSUN is the nation’s only two-time university-level winner of the National Recreation and Park Association’s National Aquatic Branch Excellence in Aquatics award.

To contact the CSUN Aquatic Center, call (818) 677-3202 or (661) 257-0571.

Tortillas Provide Sustenance for This Artist’s Soul
CSUN Alumnus Joe Bravo Looks into the Heart of a Tortilla and Finds Inspiration for His Art

Question: What does a Cal State Northridge commercial art major do when his painting project is due but he has no canvas to work on?

Answer: Improvise.

Result: Transformation of a tasty mealtime staple—the humble tortilla—into a tasteful “organic canvas.”

The tortilla art of Joe Bravo (Graphic Design, ’73) is making noise in the media, from The Washington Post to the CBS “Early Show.”

In August, it caused a buzz during a two-week exhibition in Hong Kong, where Bravo displayed 20 paintings on outsized tortillas and posed happily for flashing news cameras with Miss Hong Kong 2004, Kate Tsui.

Bravo could not have imagined all the fuss one morning in the 1970s when, as a CSUN art student, he sat in his kitchen pondering how to execute his art project without a canvas. Eyewring a tortilla, he became interested in its texture and shape. Grabbing his acrylics, he began to work on the tortilla. Then he painted another. And another. By the time he finished, he said he did five.

“Mexicans have a tradition of painting on cars, walls, whatever presents itself,” he said. “In the days of the Aztec, even feather paintings were created, where feathers were used for color. It’s called resourcefulness.”

Bravo assembled a hanging mobile of all five tortillas for display in a memorable 1972 CSUN art exhibition. But he did not apply a preservative to his organic canvases. “It was a spontaneous thing,” Bravo said with a rueful sigh. Santa Ana winds soon came gusting, shredding his art to bits. In one night, the pieces became the Lost Tortilla Art of Joe Bravo.

Lost but not last. Seven years ago, Bravo bumped into a CSUN alumna who had attended that 1972 exhibit. “She remembered the tortilla paintings and asked, ‘Was that you?’”

That got Bravo thinking. After a successful career as a commercial graphic designer, he was ready to take the reins off his creative impulses. “I started thinking about the tortillas again,” he said. “What would keep them from curling up? It’s a whole process to keep them flat so they can be kept.”

Answer: Improvise.

Using 32-inch tortillas from Tumaro’s Gourmet Tortillas, Bravo cooks them up, cools and flattens them, applies burlap backing and seals them with his own durable, Santa Ana-defying mystery varnish.

The uneven, often charred tortilla skin has suggested many images to Bravo. His “Marilyn/Madonna” painting, his Anime-inspired gamines, the Chinese dragons and the “Ethnic Elvis” he painted for the Hong Kong show, his “Findalope” rendering of artist Frida Kahlo as the Virgin of Guadalupe—all emerged from a combination of flour, heat, steam, imagination and resourcefulness.

“I come from a single parent household,” said Bravo. “We had no toys, so whatever we found in our neighborhood was what we used. A piece of found wood became a carving. Mud became a figure.”

“That’s what art is all about through the ages,” he said. “People work with whatever they find in their environment, and they produce art.”

$2 Million to Arts Center…

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through the Imagine the Arts campaign. About two-thirds of the $100 million needed for the project has been committed thus far by public and private entities. The remaining portion must be raised from private sources—individuals and organizations that care about the arts and the quality of life in the Valley.

“The new Performing Arts Center will be the cultural and architectural jewel for the Valley region,” Peterson said. “There are several exciting gift and naming opportunities available for donors who want to create a lasting legacy and provide leadership for this transformational project.”

Participating in the ceremony were John Emerson, chair of the Music Center’s Board of Directors, Howard Sherman, the Music Center’s vice president for operations, Laura Zucker, executive director of the Los Angeles County Arts Commission; Ralph Hoskins, the new executive director for the university’s Performing Arts Center, and attorney/Valley leader David Fleming, vice chair of the university’s Imagine the Arts fundraising campaign for the center.

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www.csun.edu/pressroom/community/secsun

By Jodi Huisentruit

Photo by Lee Choo

John Van Arsdale, CSUN Aquatic Center Director (left) shows off boating safety center to CSUN President Jolene Koester, LA County Supervisor Mike Antonovich and Raynor Tyunyovski, state Boating and Waterways director.

At left, Joe Bravo works at Hong Kong Exhibition. Above, one of 20 paintings Bravo created on outsized tortillas for August show in Hong Kong.
The CSUN Spirit Infuses Summer with Shakespeare

Independent Shakespeare Co. Thrives as CSUN Alumni, Faculty, Staff Pitch In

The CSUN Spirit Infuses Summer with Shakespeare

students received chef’s hats and certificates for completing the class.

CSUN theatre lecturer Melissa Chalsma and husband David Melville in “Macbeth”

Schwartz work with a number of newcomers to the Los Angeles theater scene; many CSUN students and alumni whom Chalsma met while teaching at the university.

I think it’s important to help young artists get experience and training and be part of the theatre community,” she said of the venture, which drew raves from such publications as the Los Angeles Times and LA City Beat.

“Some of the students at CSUN are exceptionally talented. It’s been great to incorporate them into the company,” said Chalsma. “They bring so much energy and enthusiasm that it’s inspiring for us more experienced actors.”

Chalsma has even corralled some of her university colleagues such as movement instructor Jaime Morrison and costume shop supervisor Maro Schwartz. “With ‘Time of the Twelfth Night’ CSUN theatre major Willy Donica served as the company’s technical director this season. Jinsoo Choi graduated from CSUN in 2004 as a film major with a minor in theater. She played Mustardseed in “A Midsummer Night’s Dream.”

“I’ve been going on a lot of auditions, but there aren’t a lot of roles for minorities in Hollywood,” Choi said. “I can’t say the same about the Independent Shakespeare Company. We’re a multiracial cast, but when we get up on stage it’s clear that it doesn’t make a difference what our race is. We’ve become immersed in the character and that’s what the audience is responding to.”

CSUN alumnus Matt Hurley, who graduated in 2006, said transferring to the university was one of his best moves in pursuing an acting career. Within days after enrolling, he won a part in a school play. During the course of his studies, he met faculty members like Chalsma who supported and encouraged his dreams. “You get a chance to learn something,” Hurley said, who made his debut with Independent Shakespeare last year as Guildenstern in ‘Hamlet’ and appeared in “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” and “Richard II” this summer. “I get to learn on the job and that’s even better.”

For more information, visit www.independentshakespeare.com/ support or call (818) 710-6506.

Envisioning California…

Val Zavala, Patti Morrison, Hector Tobar, Larry Mantle

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grants have made California a global innovator in industry, arts and science,” said Matthew Cahn, chair of CSUN’s Political Science Department, home of the Center for Southern California Studies. “Whether one views immigrants as partners or competitors, it is clear that immigration from all over the world has come to define the character of the state.

“This year’s conference will examine immigration through the lens of the state’s most pressing issues,” Cahn said. “Each panel is designed to assess the impact of immigration on a specific area, historically, presently and into the future.”

Speakers and panelists include Val Zavala, anchor of KCET television’s “Life and Times” news magazine program, Los Angeles Times columnist Patti Morrison; Los Angeles Times reporter Hector Tobar; radio host Larry Mantle of “AirTalk” public radio station 89.3 KPFK-FM; Karin Wang and Stewart Katok of the Asian Pacific American Legal Center; Isabel Alegria of the California Immigrant Policy Center; Robin Toma, executive director of the Los Angeles County Human Relations Commission, the Rev. Eric Lee, executive director of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference of Greater Los Angeles, John Travenita of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Funds; Blair Taylor of the Los Angeles Urban League; and Pillar Mattrero of the La Opinion newspaper.

One panel will take a look at where California would be without immigrants. “Our immigrant communities provide pivotal support to our local communities in ways that few people understand,” Cahn said. “This panel examines the often subtle role our newest residents play in holding our communities together.

Other panels will explore the definition of a “typical Californian,” delving into issues of multiculturalism and race relations; the hurdles facing immigrants in the areas of representation, legal protection and public safety; whether immigrants represent a positive impact on the state’s economy; how well California’s educational systems are serving its newest residents, and how the health care crisis impacts immigrant communities.

For more information about the conference, call the Center for Southern California Studies at (818) 677-6518, e-mail the center at cscs@csun.edu or visit its Web site at www.cscs@csun.edu. The Center for Southern California Studies was established in 1996 to provide research, education and service on public policy issues facing Southern California.

Community Connection…

Continued from page 1.

for Food Science, Nutrition and Dietetics offered its Summer Cooking Class for Children Program to children ages nine to 11. Students learned how to create healthy snacks, breakfasts and lunches. Acclaimed chef Cecilia de Castro was on hand to mentor the young chefs on the basics of food science, nutrition, food safety and cooking tips and tricks. The students received chef’s hats and certificates for completing the class.

New and renovated spaces emerged during the summer. The Matador Bookstore Complex has been completely renovated, offering a bright and more user-friendly atmosphere. The food court is larger and features new food options such as El Pollo Loco, Panda Express and Juice It Up. The new Arbor Court food court is located just west of the College of Engineering & Computer Science and north of the Oviatt Library. This is a beautiful installation with plenty of comfortable seating, misters for the hot Valley days and a lovely fountain.

Some of you have participated in biology professor Steven Oppenheim’s “Biology of Cancer” course. Offered as a two-unit general education class, this course is designed to help people understand a disease that is often misunderstood. The class attracts top experts who lecture on cancer epidemiology, quackery, pathology, breast and skin cancers, radiation, the diagnosis process and a variety of other topics. Oppenheim received the American Cancer Society’s Public Education Award for the class, which is offered Mondays from 6-7:40 p.m. in room 2132 of Eucalyptus Hall just east of the Sierra Quad. For more information, you can call (818) 677-3530.

Finally, a reminder that the Bianchi Planetarium is offering a last look at the mysteries of a summer night and a peek at the stars on an autumn evening, with presentations at 7:30 p.m. on September 14 and 28, and October 12 and 26. For more information on the shows, call (818) 677-5601 or visit www.csun.edu/physics/planetarium.

Until next month…

www.csun.edu/publish/community@csun

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Alumni Events

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

Fall Mixer
The Child and Adolescent Development Alumni Chapter hosts annual fall welcome and networking social. Alumni, faculty and students invited. Wed., Sept. 19, 6-8 p.m. University Club, Orange Grove Bistro. Free

Career Networking Workshop
Relationship building concepts and techniques at “Career Strategies Seminar: Power Networking.” Presented by Heather Hale, entrepreneur, author and speaker. RSVP: alumni@csun.edu. Thur., Sept. 20, 6:30 p.m. University Student Union, West Valley Room. Free

Course on Speech Disorders

Armenian Studies Banquet
Alumni and Friends of the Armenian Studies Program’s annual banquet. Keynote speaker: Richard Hovanissian, chair in Modern Armenian History at UCLA. Sat., Sept. 29, 7 p.m. University Student Union, Grand Salon

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.

* ▲ Life and Times of Elizabeth I*

Lessons of the 1960s

* ▲ Men’s Soccer*
Directed by Sean Penn.
9:28 UCLA
4:30
9:10 UC Santa Barbara
4:30
10:13 Riverside
2:30

* ▲ Women’s Soccer*
9:21 Hawaii
3:30
10:14 Long Beach
2:30

* ▲ Men’s Swimming*
10:13 Alumni Meet
noon

* ▲ Women’s Swimming*
10:13 Alumni Meet
noon

* ▲ Women’s Volleyball*
9:28 UC Irvine
7:30
9:29 UC Riverside
7:30
10:2 Cal State Fullerton
7:30

* ▲ 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

* ▲ Chaos*
Directed by Coline Serreau. Speaker: CSUN’s Alexis Krasilovsky, award winning film maker. Mon., Sept. 17, 7 p.m.

* ▲ In the Mood for Love*
Directed by Kar Wai Wong.
Tue., Sept. 18, 7 p.m.

* ▲ Into the Wild*
Studio sneak preview. Directed by Sean Penn.
Wed., Sept. 19, 7 p.m.

* ▲ Duck Soup*
Directed by Leo McCarey. Speaker: Actor/director Jon Stahl.
Thu., Sept. 20, 7 p.m.

* ▲ The Black Dahlia*
Directed by Brian De Palma.
Fri., Sept. 21, 7 p.m.

* ▲ Salvatore Giuliano*
Directed by Francesco Rosi.
Mon., Sept. 24, 7 p.m.

* ▲ 88 Minutes*
Directed by Jon Amett.
Tue., Sept. 25, 7 p.m.

* ▲ Margo at the Wedding*
Studio sneak preview, stars Nicole Kidman.
Directed by Noah Baumbach.
Wed., Sept. 26, 7 p.m.

* ▲ Autumn Sky Show* and “The Dawn Mission to the Asteroid Belt” Fri., Oct. 12, 7:30 p.m.

* ▲ Orpheo*
Directed by Carl Theodor Dreyer.
Sponsored by CSUN Association for Retired Faculty. Fri., Sept. 28, 2 p.m.

* ▲ Le Silence de la Mer*
Directed by Jean-Pierre Melville.
Wed., Oct. 3, 7 p.m.

Tue., Oct. 2, 7 p.m.

* ▲ Bob le Flambeur*
Directed by Jean-Pierre Melville.
Wed., Oct. 3, 7 p.m.

* ▲ Leon Morin, Prêtre*
Directed by Jean-Pierre Melville.
Thu., Oct. 4, 7 p.m.

* ▲ Le Doulos*
Directed by Jean-Pierre Melville.
Mon., Oct. 8, 7 p.m.

* ▲ Le Samourai*
Directed by Jean-Pierre Melville.
Tue., Oct. 9, 7 p.m.

* ▲ L’Armee des Ombres* Directed by Jean-Pierre Melville.
Wed., Oct. 10, 7 p.m.

* ▲ Le Cercle Rouge* Directed by Jean-Pierre Melville.
Thu., Nov. 11, 7 p.m.

* ▲ Mulholland Drive* Directed by David Lynch. Speaker: Eric Edson, CSUN cinema and television arts professor. Mon., Oct. 15, 7 p.m.

Lectures
Who Were the First Israelites? “Who Were the First Israelites and Where Did They Come From? A Review of Recent Archeological Evidence and Theories.” Elaine Goodfriend of CSUN’s Jewish Studies Program lectures. Tue., Sept. 18, 4:30 p.m. Sienna Hall 268 Info: (818) 677-3007 Free

Vietnam War—A Look Back
CSUN’s Center for Ethnic and Values presents “A Look Back at the Vietnam War.” Special focus on “The Things They Carried,” stories about a Vietnam War platoon. Featuring war timeline, individual recollections of war era, and presentations on the period's politics and cartoons. Moderated by James Kellenberger of the Center for Ethnic and Values. Co-sponsors: Global Village Forum and Academic First Year Experiences. 9:30 a.m.–noon
Oviatt Library Presentation Room 81 Free

Theatre/Performance
* ▲ As It Is in Heaven*
Thought-provoking, all-women’s play. A utopian, 1830s Shaker community is disturbed by “newcomers” claiming to see angels. Tue., Sept. 18, 7:30 p.m. Wed., Sept. 19, 7:30 p.m. Thu., Sept. 20, 7:30 p.m. Sat., Sept. 22, 7 p.m. Sun., Sept. 23, 2 and 8 p.m. No performances during Yom Kippur. Studio Theatre $8–$16

The Time of Your Life
Celebrating 100 years of the playwright William Saroyan’s birth. Melancholy and hope of period between the Great Depression and World War II. Fri., Oct. 5, 7 p.m. Sat., Oct. 6, 8 p.m. Sun., Oct. 7, 3 p.m. Wed., Oct. 10, 7:30 p.m. Thu., Oct. 11, 7:30 p.m. Fri., Oct. 12, 8 p.m. Sat., Oct. 13, 8 p.m. Sun., Oct. 14, 3 p.m. Little Theatre $8–$16

* ▲ Dervish*
Tradition-rooted Irish band expresses its heritage through instruments and vocals. Sat., Oct. 13, 8 p.m. Plaza del Sol Performance Hall $20–$42