The installation of more than 3,000 solar panels at Cal State Northridge earlier this year—one of the largest solar electric installations at a public university in the state—is expected to save the university more than $50,000 annually in energy costs while at the same time contributing to a cleaner environment. The $1.8 million photovoltaic project was developed through a partnership with the university’s Physical Plant Management, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP), Southern California Gas Company and Shell Solar Industries.

Constellations come alive during weekend star shows played on the 40-foot dome of CSUN’s Donald E. Bianchi Planetarium. The regular public programs, the largest of their kind in the San Fernando Valley, team a fast-paced talk on the night sky with a discussion about the latest research or a slide show on deep space exploration. Telescopes are set up afterward outside the campus’ stellar observatory.

The Office of Naval Research has awarded Cal State Northridge’s mechanical engineering department more than $120,000 to purchase state-of-the-art equipment to further strengthen the already respected program. The money will be used to buy advanced computer workstations and software as well as a rapid prototyping machine, which is used to provide designers feedback on the manufacturability of what they have created.

Cal State Northridge has named a lecture classroom in honor of alumnus Greg Wallace, who recently endowed a scholarship for accounting students. The classroom, which serves the College of Business and Economics, is located in the Business Administration Building.