Actor/comedian Sinbad hosted Cal State Northridge’s 15th annual “Student Film Showcase” at the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences in North Hollywood. The showcase highlights some of the university’s top student filmmakers. Each of the movies screened was written, produced and directed by CSUN students under the supervision of faculty members. The projects are designed to prepare students for the world of independent film production.

Cal State Northridge ranks among the nation’s top 25 graduate universities for awarding master’s degrees to Hispanic students, according to Hispanic Outlook for Higher Education. The magazine also said the university is among the top 25 universities in the nation for the size of its graduate enrollment of Hispanic students.

New state-of-the-art equipment in Cal State Northridge’s Advanced Materials Laboratories is providing the university’s engineering students a chance to do cutting-edge research alongside NASA scientists and engineers in the burgeoning field of nanotechnology. The purchase of an Imaging Laser Ellipsometry System was made possible in part by a $50,000 grant from The Ralph M. Parsons Foundation. Additional funding came from NASA and the university’s own funds.

Predatory payday lenders who swarm around U.S. military bases are the subject of a study by a determined academic sleuth from Cal State Northridge’s Geography Department. Working with a law professor at the University of Florida’s College of Law, assistant professor of geography Steven Graves is nailing down nationwide locational patterns that suggest military families are increasingly the quarry of unscrupulous lenders.