A former San Fernando High School art teacher who graduated from Cal State Northridge and her husband have donated their entire $7.3 million estate as a bequest to Cal State Northridge for expanding student scholarships, marking the largest cash and alumni gift in the university’s history. The endowment created by longtime San Fernando Valley residents Mary and Jack Bayramian will fund two major new university scholarship programs, including a $2.3 million portion to launch student scholarships for the future Valley Performing Arts Center project on the campus.

A mapping project developed by researchers in Cal State Northridge’s Center for Southern California Studies shows that voter support for Los Angeles’ new mayor came from nearly every corner of the city. The center’s staff analyzed geographic, ethnic and class dimensions in the voting patterns of the recent election involving incumbent Mayor James Hahn and election-winner Antonio Villaraigosa.

Cal State Northridge has received a $23,200 grant from the Albert Augustine Foundation to support the acclaimed International Guitar Research Archive (IGRA) housed in the university’s Oviatt Library. The grant will be used to develop and maintain a web-based interface to enable researchers from around the world to find rare guitar scores and biographical and historical information on composers and music.

Jerry Stinner, the former head of the University of Akron’s Biology Department, has been named dean of Cal State Northridge’s College of Science and Mathematics. A member of the American Physiology Society and the Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology, Stinner has served as a reviewer for the National Science Foundation and several academic journals. His areas of teaching expertise are comparative animal physiology, human physiology and physiological ecology.