Cal State Northridge's Center for Southern California Studies next month will co-sponsor the 17th annual Envisioning California Conference, “Retrofitting California: Rethinking Policy and Infrastructure for a Sustainable Future.” Political, business and community leaders will join with academics in exploring California's infrastructure—including its physical, political, social, economic and environmental systems. Los Angeles Times columnist Patt Morrison and former presidential candidate and Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis are among the keynote speakers.

Electrical and computer engineering professor Ray Pettit has been awarded rare first-round approvals from the U.S. Patent Office for two patents involving technology to improve satellite-to-submarine communications. Pettit's work involves the transmission of highly sensitive digital data messages—such as a go-to-war message from the commander-in-chief—from satellite to submarine or to some other recipient requiring inviolable security.

The Hollywood Foreign Press Association has awarded $89,080 to Cal State Northridge’s Cinema and Television Arts Department. Part of the money will finance a state-of-the-art editing suite and digital location sound equipment, and also maintain the projector in CSUN’s Alan and Elaine Armer Theater. The remaining $50,000 will support Northridge’s Hollywood Foreign Press Association Fellows program, which funds senior film projects.

Cal State Northridge's Center for Community Service-Learning has received a $125,000 grant to help combat the lure of gang life in the San Fernando Valley. The gift will fund the Mentoring to Overcome Struggles and Inspire Courage (MOSAIC) program, which partners with the LAPD and the Jeopardy Foundation to support after-school gang prevention programs in the Valley. The money will fund items including materials and field trips for youths in the program.