Several Cal State Northridge alumni sit on judicial benches: Robert Axel, Anthony Trendacosta and Daniel “Zeke” Zeidler are Los Angeles County Superior Court judges; Dana Senit Henry and Marilyn L. Hoffman are retired Los Angeles County Superior Court judges, John H. Darlington is a Nevada County Superior Court judge, Jeffery L. Gunther is a Sacramento County Superior Court judge, J. Lawrence Irving is a retired United States District Court judge, S. James Otero is a United States District Court judge, Daniel B. Proud is an El Dorado County Superior Court judge and Manuel Covarubias is a Ventura County Superior Court judge.

Cal State Northridge physics professor Nicholas Kioussis, along with three colleagues from UCLA, has been awarded a $1.3 million grant from the National Science Foundation as part of an interdisciplinary research team that is studying nanoscale technology. The grant will support the researchers’ efforts to improve the microscopic technology used in such products as cellular phones, Ipods, laptop computers and video games.

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors recently extended through 2009–10 the county’s contract with Cal State Northridge for its operation of the award-winning Los Angeles County Learning Academy (LACLA). A $2.2 million allocation for 2005–06 will be renewable annually over the life of the five-year contract. Created in 1999 to meet county workforce training and development needs, the academy now is regarded as a national model for public education partnerships.

Cal State Northridge English professor Robert Chianese was tapped for service by the prestigious Fulbright Scholar Program and traveled this semester to Plovdiv University in Bulgaria. As a senior specialist, he helped expand an American studies program and helped change how the university’s officials see higher education.