A state-funded $50 million science building set for completion in January 2009 will provide a modern new home for interdisciplinary scholarship on campus, as well as room for hundreds of new students to pursue science and math studies. The California State University Board of Trustees this month approved designs for the building that will add 13 new lecture classrooms and 33 new laboratories. Construction on the four-story, 90,000-square-foot project is set to begin in January 2007.

Real estate investor and philanthropist Robert Barbera has created a $52,000 endowment to support performances by music students in Cal State Northridge’s College of Arts, Media, and Communication. The Barbera Family Endowment in Music Performance will be used to underwrite performances by the college’s major music ensembles.

Two CSUN soccer players have been drafted by Major League Soccer teams this year, bringing the Matadors’ total to five players drafted in the past five years. Willie Sims, an All-American while at CSUN, was selected by the New England Revolution. All-Big West Conference honoree Daniel Paladini was chosen by Major League Soccer champions the Los Angeles Galaxy.

The lobby of CSUN’s acclaimed Center on Disabilities has been named for San Fernando Valley business couple Marty and Gloria Witkin. The Witkin Lobby was named in recognition of Marty Witkin’s $350,000 bequest to support the center and its work on behalf of students with various disabilities. Before his passing in 2004, Marty Witkin had participated in the center’s acclaimed international conference, held in Los Angeles each year, that features cutting-edge assistive technologies for people with disabilities.