Nearly 5,000 people from around the world gathered near Los Angeles International Airport in March for Cal State Northridge’s International Conference on Technology and Persons with Disabilities. The university’s annual conference, which includes hundreds of seminars and exhibits, provides technological and other tools to eliminate barriers to personal, academic and career success.

Cal State Northridge this fall will launch the nation’s first bachelor of arts degree program in Central American Studies. The new program will expand the university’s already highly respected ethnic studies offerings. Those include degree programs in Asian American Studies, Chicana/o Studies, Modern Jewish Studies, Pan African Studies, and a minor in Armenian studies.

Students from Cal State Northridge’s Model United Nations team won the Outstanding Delegation Award, the equivalent of first place, at the National Model United Nations Conference in New York City in March. More than 270 colleges and universities from around the world participated in the competition, which featured five days of negotiations, speeches and paper writing. Political science lecturer Peter Kappas oversees the Northridge program.

Tom Brown, a Northridge alumnus and the university’s executive director for facilities management, has been honored with an outstanding administrator award from the California State University system. Brown in May will receive a 2007 Wang Family Excellence Award from the CSU Board of Trustees for his pioneering work in bringing energy conservation projects to the campus and involving students in their design and construction.