A record 10,051 students were candidates to receive their diplomas this month during commencement ceremonies at California State University, Northridge. Approximately 8,256 candidates for bachelor’s degrees and 1,795 candidates for master’s degrees were eligible to take part in the ceremonies that began the evening of Monday, May 19, with the university’s Honors Convocation.

Imagination became reality in April as university and community leaders broke ground on the new Valley Performing Arts Center at California State University, Northridge. When completed in 2010, the center will be the largest venue of its kind in the San Fernando Valley, and will serve as a major arts education center for students and the community.

Cal State Northridge’s 20-member Jazz “A” Band walked away with national first place honors in the College Big Band division of the Monterey Jazz Festival’s annual Next Generation Festival, held in Monterey, California. The “dense-sounding” Cal State Northridge band earned the top position of the College Division and a performance slot at the 51st Monterey Jazz Festival.

The year-long celebration of Cal State Northridge’s 50th anniversary got off to a festive start, with more than 200 red, white and black banners unfurling across campus just in time for Commencement Week. The university also debuted its 50th Anniversary Web site: www.csun.edu/50/. The site, which will evolve as the year advances, features updates on anniversary events, a timeline of CSUN historical events and an opportunity for visitors to share their video CSUN stories.