Cal State Northridge’s Center for Visual Communication is moving directly into the fast lane of art design in the San Fernando Valley. In fall 2007, Viscom had just opened its doors to clients seeking innovative design concepts when it entered a first-of-its-kind student competition to create commercials for the launch of the redesigned Ford Focus automobile.

Music professor emeritus Daniel Kessner, a composer, conductor and flutist, has won a second prestigious Fulbright award. He spend two weeks this fall teaching, lecturing and performing at the University of Science and Technology in Trondheim, Norway.

Cal State Northridge has received a $23,500 grant from the National Collegiate Innovators and Inventors Alliance that will provide seed money to student entrepreneurs and faculty members to develop prototypes of their ideas. The grant to the Ernie Schaeffer Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship also will help institute a new course in product development and entrepreneurship.

“Flight delayed” is one of the most dreaded phrases for an air traveler. In an effort to address the problem, NASA has awarded $3 million to a consortium of universities, including Northridge, and the Boeing Co. Assistant mechanical engineering professor Nhut Ho and part-time psychology professor Barry Berson are working with engineering and human factors students on a project intended to expand the capacity of existing airports, like Los Angeles International Airport, by using technology.