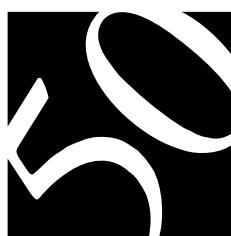




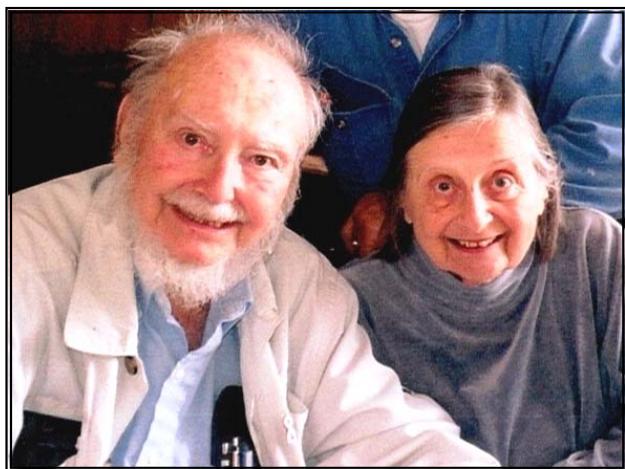
Elizabeth A. Say, Ph.D.
CSUN Alum 1981

California State University
Northridge



Years of
Life-Changing
Opportunity

Honoring the memory of Dr. Ralph Segalman: scholar, professor, activist, father, and husband.



Ralph and Anita Segalman, 2005

The College of Humanities Newsletter

Message from Humanities Dean Elizabeth A. Say

Message from Humanities Dean Elizabeth A. Say As most of you already know, California State University Northridge will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2008/09. The theme for this celebratory year, *50 Years of Life-Changing Opportunity*, has caused me to reflect on my own truly life-changing CSUN experience. When I graduated from Granada Hills High School in 1970, I had no intention of going to college. No one in my family had ever received a college degree and while no one discouraged me from going to college, no one knew enough to encourage me to do so. I wanted to get a job and "have a life!" Two years later, I thought that a few college courses might perhaps help me to get a better job and have more of a life.

I enrolled in a couple of night classes at Cal State Northridge; the following semester I enrolled in a couple more. The next semester I took three classes at night, and also the next semester. What had begun as a quest to improve my skills and become more employable became a quest for learning for its own sake. I changed jobs so that I could go to school during the day and began working toward a degree in English. As I neared completion of that degree, I added a second major in Religious Studies. In 1976, halfway through my university career, I took one year off; like many CSUN students, my path to a degree was not completely straightforward.

I eventually graduated in 1981. It had taken me nine years of taking 9 - 12 units each semester while working 40 hours a week. And it was indeed life-changing. I put myself through school working as a manicurist. When I consider where my life has taken me and what it might have been, it is clear that the single defining factor was my education. CSUN made this possible. I could not have done this at a UC campus (where one cannot be a part-time student) or at a private college or university (which I could not afford).

Like many of our students, California State University Northridge provided me with an opportunity I would not otherwise have had. Like many of our graduates, I stayed in the Los Angeles area, contributing back to my community. I am committed to CSUN because for me—as for many of our students—my university experience opened doors and created possibilities I had never dreamed of back in 1970. I hope you will join us during the 2008/09 anniversary year for one of our events and share with me your story of your life-changing opportunity!

Check out our new website <http://www.csun.edu/humanities/>

Anita Segalman has established a research fund for Jewish Studies faculty in memory of her husband. Ralph Segalman, who taught in CSUN's Sociology Department from 1970 until his retirement in 1986, dedicated his professional career to research on the community and family. A widely published and respected scholar, Prof. Segalman's books, edited volumes, and articles are characterized by their insight into and challenge of popular assumptions. He demonstrated how families teach the values of nurturing, individual responsibility, and mutual respect, while certain government welfare policies actually undermine the family and community and lead to a destructive cycle of dependence and dysfunction. Ralph translated his sociological theory into action by serving as Jewish Federation director in three U.S. cities; served in Europe after World War II aiding Holocaust refugees; and was an active participant in campus affairs while on the faculty of University of Texas at El Paso and CSUN. He and Anita, the primary caretaker of their family, raised three children and inculcated them with their values of individual responsibility, respect for others, and educational achievement. Proud sister, aunt, grandmother, and great-grandmother, Anita currently resides in Northridge and continues her life-long work as a painter.

Submitted by Dr. Jody Myers

ONE Campus, ONE Book, Round Three: An Update and an Invitation from CSUN's Freshman Common Reading Program

“Read any good books lately?”

You've probably asked (and answered) this commonplace question dozens of times; but over the last several months, it has taken on a new and even menacing tone. There is a committee hard at work here at CSUN, and the committee is engaged in a search for the *right* book: the one that will become a worthy successor to *The Things They Carried* by Tim O'Brien and *Nickel and Dimed* by Barbara Ehrenreich. Committee members are facing a daunting list of thirty titles (see http://www.csun.edu/afye/Titles_for_2009-2010.html) which they must whittle down to a handful of semifinalists by October 1 (less than a month away as I write). Then comes cover-to-cover reading, just in time to fill every available moment up to and through the winter break, followed by the no-holds-barred January 2009 meeting during which heated arguments will rage until the winning title is finally chosen.

The choice will be made with reference to the four questions developed as Selection Criteria in 2006 when the Common Reading program was only a pilot project:

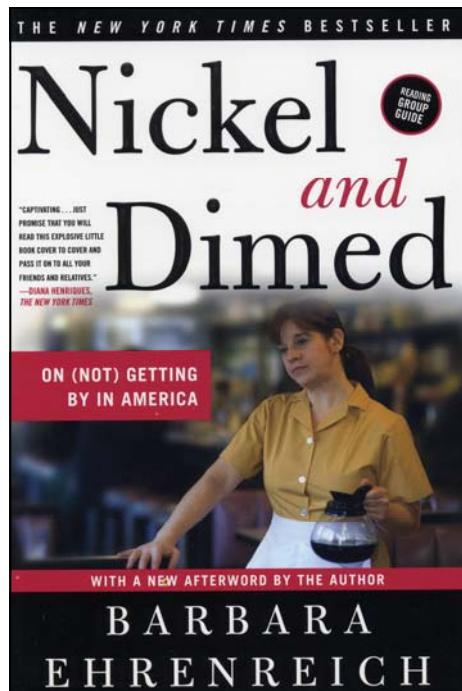
1. Does this book engage freshmen, and draw them into reading and reflection?
2. Does this book encourage freshmen to grow intellectually?
3. Does this book encourage thought and discussion in a variety of courses and contexts?
4. Does this book value diverse cultural perspectives and address contemporary social issues?

Behind the scenes, there will be emails and confidences sent to and fro; and there will inevitably be cunning calculations (as in, “Yes, it's a great book, but 500 pages is too long!”) and special-interest pleas (“This is the 250th anniversary of Darwin's *Origin of Species*; we need a book that acknowledges this fact!). New this year will be the challenge of factoring in the unspoken wish of the Freshman Convocation Committee: that we select a book with a still-living author who is not only personable and inclined towards public speaking but also (relatively) affordable and (crucially) available to come to campus as the keynote speaker when the entering Freshman Class of 2009 is welcomed to the campus community on the Oviatt lawn at CSUN's third Freshman Convocation. (See <http://www.csun.edu/nso/convocation/>)

If all or even most of this sounds like your cup of tea, then consider this your opportunity to nominate a title for consideration as the 2010-2011 Freshman Common Reading. Or go all out: join next year's committee and be part of the process throughout 2009 as we begin collecting titles and

debating criteria for One Campus, One Book, Round Four. (fmi: cheryl.spector@csun.edu).

Submitted by Dr. Cheryl Spector



Community Book Discussions on *Nickel and Dimed*...and you're invited!

This year's 2008 Freshman Convocation speaker was acclaimed author, Barbara Ehrenreich. Ms. Ehrenreich is a Ph.D. who performed a fascinating social experiment: she shucked her educational and social trappings to become a member of the working class; hard working Americans who subsist on minimum wage and menial jobs. She sought to learn answers to the following questions: *Is it possible to live at the current minimum wage working 40 hours a week?* The answer? No. Multiple jobs are required – and this was before gas was over \$4 a gallon! *Is it possible to secure safe and affordable housing on the salary of a minimum wage worker?* No. Living within her meager means meant living in crime ridden, insecure areas; some

continued on the next page

of her compatriots were living in cars or on sofas. *Do employers of working class Americans treat their employees well?* Her random sample says, "No." Wal-Mart dissuades their workers from unionizing. Managers exploit workers who have poor English skills or who are new to the country, and they disregard valid employee health concerns.

The College of Humanities is proud to host two evening conversations on the book in the coming academic year (2008-2009). The dates are Tuesday, Oct. 21st and Monday, November 17th from 7 to 9pm. The College has purchased copies of the book which will be distributed FREE to community friends and supporters. Come pick up the book (or we will mail it to you). Contact Noreen Galvin, Assistant to the Dean, at (818) 677-3301 or at noreen.galvin@csun.edu for your copy. Each of the two evening events will be facilitated by a member of the CSUN faculty who has taught the book in their classroom. The only requirement for receiving a book is that you pledge to attend one of the two events.

Possible topics to be discussed are the living wage (cities like Santa Monica require that all businesses within their city limits pay a living wage, an amount higher than the minimum wage), the role of unions in today's society, and conservative backlash against the book and the conclusions it draws (one young, healthy, upper middle class, Caucasian male conducted the same social experiment as Dr. Ehrenreich and in less than 6 months had a car, a job and a nice rental unit).

Exercise your mind! Let your opinion be heard! Contact Noreen today!



CSUN Mascot, Matty the Matador, reading *Nickel and Dimed*.

We can't do it without your financial support!

The College of Humanities is fortunate to receive private gifts and grants that boost student and faculty academic programs. Gifts to the college truly make a difference in fulfilling our mission to educate and inspire the thousands of students that we teach each year by providing exceptional learning opportunities in the Liberal Arts and Humanities. We are grateful to our loyal alumni, parents, and friends whose generous support enables the College to provide educational excellence.

It is our goal to raise over \$1 million during the 2008 - 2009 academic year in individual gifts and public and private grants which will lend invaluable support in the form of student programs, scholarships, graduate student fellowships, endowed professorships for faculty scholarship, and important research projects for both students and faculty.

Gifts and support to the College of Humanities have a tremendous impact on our ability to enhance the learning experience of both students and faculty by supporting applied research and experiential learning opportunities. We invite you to explore the College of Humanities and to becoming a key to our success. Raising financial resources to support our College is more critical than ever. We play a vital role in educating our future leaders, advancing our cultural knowledge, and solving complex societal problems.

Whether you make a small donation or a large endowment, every contribution makes an immediate difference to CSUN students and is deeply appreciated. For more information please contact Ray Cruz, Director of Development, at (818) 677-6881.

Submitted by Raymond Cruz

Honoring College of Humanities Community Supporters

This year, the College of Humanities and the University will honor Varaz and Karina Shahmirian at the University's Volunteer Service Awards. They have been wonderful supporters of the Armenian Studies Program and have helped members of the Advancement Staff to open doors of opportunities in the San Fernando Valley and Greater Los Angeles area. In support of the Armenian Studies Program, they established the Varaz and Karina Shahmirian Fellowship Endowment. They love the performing arts and look forward to enjoying the Valley Performing Arts Center.

Submitted by Raymond Cruz

“What my humanities courses contributed to who I am and what I am doing with my life.”

My experience in the Humanities had a profound impact on the man I am today and my professional contributions in public health. The particular coursework I chose was influenced by the qualities of the instructors offering the courses. As now, in the late 80s and early 90s there were some amazing people on the faculty at CSUN, especially in Chicano Studies, Womens' Studies, and Religious Studies. Each had unique faculty that grabbed my attention and challenged what I believed – or wanted to believe. These same faculty guided me on my path when I was contemplating *what next?*

Now, I work as the General Manager of a hospital in Bamyan, Afghanistan (best known as the place where the Taliban destroyed the standing Buddha statues). I came here looking for an opportunity to put my skills and self-righteousness to good use. This seems an incredibly dangerous and hostile place when looking from the outside and while I'm not suggesting it's safe, the vulnerability of people struggling to survive under these harsh conditions begs the question: *If not me, then who?*

I apply what I learned at CSUN about people and leadership and communication on a moment by moment basis here. This is not an exaggeration. I'm faced constantly with patients who are embodiments of desperation, abject fear, unyielding fortitude, and pure compassion. In the ER, I recently encountered a heavily-pregnant woman brought in after an accident in which three people from her village were killed (their van went over a cliff.) As she lay on a gurney suffering from multiple fractures, she was told her husband has just died in the next room from his injuries and she calmly asked, “and I will die, too?” The doctor (also an Afghan) equally calmly replied, “Maybe. We'll do surgery to deliver the baby. Then we'll see.” On the way to the operating theatre, she told me she'd lost all her first five babies during birth back in her village. Surprisingly they both survived this complicated surgical delivery. If it hadn't been for this tragic accident, she would almost certainly have delivered at home again, unattended, and probably lost this sixth child. Now she had a daughter but no husband. In recovery, before she asked about her baby or her own chances of survival, she took my hand and groggily asked me, “And your parents? Are they well and happy you come to Afghanistan as our gift?”

This is a rustic, grim, and inspiring environment, and to me, the perfect proving ground for a student of the Humanities.

Matthew Rodieck, MHS^c
Hospital Manager, Bamyan Provincial Hospital
Aga Khan Health Services - Afghanistan

Submitted by Matthew Rodieck



A photo of Matthew Rodieck taken while visiting Band-e Amir which is located in the Hindu Kush Mountains of Central Afghanistan near the famous Buddhas of Bamyan which were destroyed by the Taliban in 2001.

Initiate an Alumni Chapter in your discipline!

Want to reconnect with old friends? Looking for job networking opportunities? Wanting to attend educational lectures in your area of interest? Want to raise money for student scholarships or for special faculty research projects? An alumni group might be just for you.

Right now the College of Humanities has only two official alumni groups: La Raza and the Alumni and Friends of the Armenian Studies Program. Other departments and programs are keen to have their own groups, including Liberal Studies, Gender and Women's Studies, English, and Asian American Studies. Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures (MCLL) has an Italian club, the Japanese Student Association, an Anime Club, and Jishin Taiko (drumming) club.

Alumni groups can serve a variety of purposes – personal, professional, academic, and social. Keep up with new trends and ideas in your field. Bolster your resume and increase your professional contacts.

If you are a motivated alum who would like to take on a one year commitment to stage, along with your previous department or program, two events, contact Melissa Castro, Alumni Relations Chapter Assistant, at (818) 677-7580 or melissa.castro@csun.edu.

Submitted by Joshua Einhorn

G lobalization Film Festival

The 3rd annual College of Humanities International Film Festival: Globalization, 2008 will take place at the Armer Screening Room in Manzanita Hall, from 10am to 10pm on November 7th this year. This event is designed to explore a diversity of issues, cultures, thoughts and perspectives focusing on the themes of globalization, neoliberal policies and transnational labor. It will be co-sponsored by diverse departments and programs within the College of Humanities.

The festival captures the human stories behind the movements of goods and services through newly emerging markets, as well as the technology that transforms traditional relationships to time and space. Globalization affects the labor experiences of thousands at the local level in the Los Angeles metropolitan area as well as across the globe, through international free trade agreements (like NAFTA and DR-CAFTA), the WTO and neoliberal impulses that dominate world economy and labor.

There is a strong need for a space such as this festival on our campus, where alternative proposals, stories and experiences of globalization can be given visibility and discussion. Furthermore, the community surrounding CSUN as well a large number of students come from working class backgrounds and have been personally affected by globalization and neoliberalism.

This event will give faculty members from different departments within the College of Humanities the opportunity to present the films and lead discussions with the students, faculty, and general public in attendance. We will also be bringing some of the filmmakers to campus to engage discussions following the screening of their films.

The 2008 College of Humanities International Film Festival will, without a doubt, attract the community at large to the CSUN campus, and attract the media. This is the third time this film festival is celebrated on our campus, and we expect good media coverage for the event.

The Festival will showcase documentaries, feature films and shorts, among which will be a selection of CSUN student short films and films such as Made in L.A. (USA); John and Jane Toll Free (India); El Camino (Costa Rica) and Babel (USA). Several of the films have not been released in commercial venues in the United States and have only been shown at film festivals.

Submitted by Dr. Sheena Malhotra

R elocation of the Women's Resource and Research Center

On December 19, 2007, the CSUN Women's Resource and Research Center (WRRC), located at the corner of Plummer Street and Darby Avenue, suffered a fire that rendered the

continued on next column

building unsalvageable. The WRRC was closed throughout the Spring 2008 semester, hampering its ability to serve the CSUN student population. The WRRC is normally open 5 days a week and is undoubtedly the busiest of all student houses. It provides a range of services to students and also works with the Gender and Women's Studies department (GWS) to sponsor classes, lectures and workshops. While we work on long-term plans to relocate the WRRC closer to the center of campus and the Gender and Women's Studies Department, we have arrived at a solution for the short-term: the WRRC will share space with Asian House on Halsted Street. Since Asian American Studies and Gender and Women's Studies share administrative offices and support staff, this new arrangement builds on their collaborative relationship.

The shared facility is currently undergoing extensive renovation by Facilities Planning and Physical Plant Management and will include a new kitchen area, completely renovated office spaces and meeting spaces for both groups, and new outdoor gathering spaces to accommodate a variety of student and departmental activities. After the work is completed later this fall, we plan to host an event to introduce you all to our new and improved Asian House/WRRC.

Submitted by Dean Elizabeth A. Say

G ender and Women's Studies Department celebrate the eighth biennial Phenomenal Woman Award Ceremony, Saturday, November 8th!

The Phenomenal Woman Awards event celebrates women who have made outstanding contributions to our community. It also allows the Gender and Women's Studies Department to raise funds to sponsor special programming, support student and faculty research, and finance scholarships for GWS majors. These contributions support the Women's Resource and Research Center, the oldest continuing women's center within the California State University system. This year's awardees include: Dr. Jane Bayes, CSUN Scholar; Ms. Susan Burton, Social Justice Activist; Dr. Graciela Limon, Professor, Author and Artist; Dr. Nadera Shalhoub-Kevorkian, Scholar and Activist; and Ms. Karen Slade, General Manager/Vice President of KJLH radio station. This year's Phenomenal Woman Award ceremony will mark the 15th anniversary of the Gender and Women's Studies Department and the 30th anniversary of the Gender and Women's Studies program at CSUN. Tickets for the November 8, 2008 afternoon gala are \$75 each. The PWA ceremony and silent auction will begin at 2:00pm in the University Student Union's Grand Salon. For more information about the event, including sponsorship opportunities, please contact the Gender and Women's Studies department at (818) 677-3110.

Submitted by Prof. Shira Brown

R evitalizing The Center for Sex and Gender Research

The Center relocated to the College of Humanities two years ago. We promote multi- and interdisciplinary research, creative activity, learning, and sharing of knowledges about sex, gender, and sexuality among CSUN students, staff and faculty and communities off-campus. We work closely with the Human Sexuality Program, the Queer Studies Program, the Department of Gender and Women's Studies, the Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Alliance, the Center for Ethics and Values, and the Oviatt Library's Special Collections.

Our most successful events last year included "Administrating Gender," a lecture by legal and transgender studies scholar Dean Spade; anthropologist Pardis Mahdavi's lecture "Sexuality, Drugs and Rock 'n' Roll in the Islamic Republic of Iran: A Sexual Revolution" (co-presented with the Department of Gender and Women's Studies); and, "Out at CSUN Across the Generations" (co-presented with LGBTA), a panel discussion that collectively spanned over 40 years of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender experiences at CSUN. You can access the Daily Sundial's coverage of these three events in the archives section of the Sundial website.

This academic year we have a rich and exciting schedule, including a film series co-presented with the Center for Ethics and Values. We will be screening *Ma Vie en Rose (My Life in Pink)* in September, *The Wedding Banquet* in October and *Trembling before G-d* in November, on the first Wednesday evening of each month (respectively) at 7:30 p.m. in the Oviatt Library Presentation Room, with a discussion after each showing. There will be two additional special events this semester. Our first will be a reception, presentation and book-signing to honor the release of *Becoming a Woman: The Life of Christine Jorgensen*, by Richard F. Docter, Professor Emeritus, Department of Psychology. The news of Christine Jorgensen's "sex transformation" in 1952 brought about a media frenzy that profoundly shifted conceptualizations of sex, gender and sexuality in the U.S. Dr. Docter's book, the first full-length biography of Jorgensen, based on years of archival research and interviews, is a fascinating and scholarly examination of her life and influence. *Love, West Hollywood: Reflections of Los Angeles*, is a collection of non-fiction essays about lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender life in Los Angeles. Five authors whose pieces are published in the collection will be present to read, including Teresa DeCrescenzo and Eloise Klein Healy, both of whom have long-term connections to CSUN. DeCrescenzo, who is also the Executive Director of Gay and Lesbian Adolescent Social Services in Los Angeles, teaches in our Department of Sociology. Eloise Klein Healy taught for a number of years in CSUN's Departments of English and Gender and Women's Studies back when the word 'lesbian' was not allowed in a course title.

In addition to our film series the Center sponsors monthly faculty/staff discussion group series and our monthly colloquium. This fall's colloquia will be: Eli Bartle, Department of Social Work, "A Community Driven Needs Assessment: Establishing Competent Health Care for Transgender People" and Robert Oscar Lopez, Department of English, "Whitman's Revival of Homeric and Virgilian Love between Men." Both colloquia take place in the English Reading Room (Jerome Richfield 319). Our first faculty/staff discussion group meeting this semester was open to the public. Josh Einhorn, College of Humanities Grants Officer, led a discussion about what a CSUN LGBTQIQ (Lesbian Gay Bi Transsexual Questioning Intersex Queer) resource center might offer and the efforts to raise support to establish such a center. For additional details about our events, please visit our website at: www.csun.edu/sexandgenderresearch.

We want the infusion of new ideas, energy and enthusiasm for the Center for Sex and Gender Research to continue. Do you have fresh ideas for programming? Can you help organize programming? Are you able to contribute a small amount monthly, through payroll deduction, to support our work? Will you help spread the word about our events by inviting your students, colleagues and friends? Would you like to be on our confidential email announcement list to receive information about our events? Email the Center's Director, C. Jacob Hale (Department of Philosophy), at jacob.hale@csun.edu.

Submitted by Dr. Jacob Hale

T he Community Has Spoken!

At a meeting on September 12, 2008, community members, CSUN students, faculty staff and alum chimed in on what they want in an LGBTQIQ Resource Center:

- | | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|
| ^{3!} Support Groups | ^{3!} Pride Week | ^{3!} Mentorship Opportunities |
| ^{3!} Outreach to local community colleges and high schools | ^{3!} Lavender Graduation | ^{3!} Conferences |
| ^{3!} Educational lectures | ^{3!} Research opportunities | ^{3!} Information Fairs |
| ^{3!} Multicultural training | ^{3!} World AIDS Day | ^{3!} Web Site |
| | ^{3!} National Coming Out Day | ^{3!} Advocacy |

SAVE THE DATE!

"Reaching for New Heights" The Second Annual Liberal Studies Conference for future teachers and General Studies Option students will take place on Saturday, October 18, 2008, 9:30am - 1:00pm at CSUN's Johnson Auditorium. For more information contact the Liberal Studies Program at 818-677-3300.

The College of Humanities is proud to host two evening community book discussions on **Nickel and Dimed**. The dates are Tuesday, Oct. 21, 2008 and Monday, November 17, 2008 from 7-9pm. The College has purchased copies of the book to be distributed FREE to community friends and supporters. Come pick up the book (or we will mail it to you). Contact Noreen Galvin at 818-677-3301 or at noreen.galvin@csun.edu for your copy.

The Center for Sex and Gender Research presents, **Whitman's Revival of Homeric and Virgilian Love between Men**, Friday, October 24, 2008, 1:00-3:00 pm in the English Reading Room (Jerome Richfield 319) with Prof. Robert Oscar Lopez. For more information please email jacob.hale@csun.edu.

Preview CSUN is scheduled for Saturday, October 25, 2008 from 8:30am-2:00pm. This event is designed to inform prospective students and their families about CSUN and the application process for fall 2009. Interested parties can RSVP online by going to www.csun.edu/outreach.

The **Kazi Nazrul Islam Endowed Lectureship** will take place on October 29, 2008, at the Thousand Oaks Room in the University Student Union from 11:00am -1:00pm. For more information please contact Dr. Phyllis Herman, Religious Studies Department, 818-677-3925.

Join us for the 3rd Annual College of Humanities International Film Festival: **Globalization**. The festival will take place on November 7, 2008 from 10am -10pm in the Armer Screening Room, Manzanita Hall. This event is free and open to the public! For more information please email: sheena.malhotra@csun.edu.

The Gender and Women's Studies Department will be celebrating the eighth biennial **Phenomenal Woman Award Ceremony**. This will take place on Saturday, November 8th, 2008 from 2 - 4pm in the Grand Salon at the University Student Union. For more information or to purchase tickets, please contact Shira Brown, Gender & Women's Studies Department, 818-677-3110.

CSUN's annual appreciation event for community supporters, **Volunteer Service Awards**, the University's highest tribute to volunteers, will take place at the Odyssey Restaurant in Granada Hills, Thursday, November 6, 2008. For more information contact Cheryl McMillan, CSUN Alumni Relation sat 818-677-4938.

Margaret Gilbert, from the University of California, Irvine will lecture on Wednesday, November 12, 2008 from 4 - 6pm in the Whitsett Room, Sierra Hall 451, part of the ongoing **Philosophy Department Lecture Series**, co-sponsored with the Center for Ethics and Values. For more information please email: julie.tannenbaum@csun.edu.

The Origin and Concept of Evil in Judaism, Hinduism and Islam, Rabbi Ed Feinstein (Valley Beth Shalom), Professor Phyllis Herman (Religious Studies Department), and Professor Mustafa Ruzgar (Religious Studies Department), Thursday, November 20, 2008, 11-12:15 pm Grand Salon, University Student Union. Co-sponsored by the Jewish Studies Program, the Valley Interfaith Council and the Religious Studies Department. For more information contact the Religious Studies Department at 818-677-3925.



Years of Life-Changing Opportunity

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**The Mission of the College of Humanities is to
create a community of learners who...**

Explore and value the diversities of cultures, thought,
perspectives, literatures and languages of humanity;

Critically reflect on and analyze multiple dimensions of
human identity and experience;

Contribute to scholarship and creative production and
innovation, and

Act as responsible global citizens committed to principles of
freedom, equality, justice and participatory democracy.