

northridge

A magazine for alumni, friends and the community
of California State University, Northridge

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spring 2014

CSUN SPANS
THE GLOBE



THE INTERNATIONAL ISSUE



A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Los Angeles is an international city, a global center of industry and trade. One of our primary exports, entertainment, introduces Los Angeles to households around the world, and products flow in and out of our port to far-flung destinations. Los Angeles also has been a beacon, attracting immigrants who built communities we now know by names reflecting their heritage — Chinatown, Little Armenia, Thai Town and Koreatown, to name a few.

Higher education embraces the international community and all its knowledge. University students travel the world in staggering numbers. Western Europe ranks highest in study-abroad destinations for U.S. students, with Britain leading the pack, followed closely by Italy, Spain and France. China is a growing destination, with more than 14,000 U.S. students learning in the country each year. India, Brazil and Costa Rica all saw double-digit growth in the number of students in 2010-11. American colleges and universities remain an attractive study option for foreign students as well. China sends nearly twice as many students to the U.S. each year as its neighbor, India. South Korea and Saudi Arabia also send huge numbers of students to the U.S.

California State University, Northridge is No. 1 among Master's institutions in the number of international students,

according to the most recent *Chronicle of Higher Education* Almanac. These students add to the diversity on campus and enable us to better serve our California students.

Situated on the West Coast, we build strong partnerships with our neighbors to the south and west. This issue of *Northridge* magazine highlights those strong international ties, including an exciting new partnership with the largest and most prestigious university in Mexico, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM), and ongoing and deepening collaborations with institutions in China. I hope you enjoy reading about the international students we attract, the foreign study and research opportunities we provide for students and faculty, and the exciting lives our alumni lead overseas.

With our students, faculty and alumni working around the globe, it is fair to say CSUN reflects and enhances the diversity and international scope of Los Angeles. Enjoy this issue of *Northridge* magazine, and thank you for continuing to make CSUN Shine.

Dianne F. Harrison, Ph.D.
President



For presidential communications and updates, please visit csun.edu/president
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FEATURES

The International Issue

- 12 Around the World in 56 Years
- 18 Building Bridges Across the Pacific
- 20 Alumna Abroad: CNN's Barbara Starr '75

DEPARTMENTS

- 2 A Word from the President
- 4 In Brief: Campus News
Remembering the 1994 earthquake, actor Matt Damon kicks off lecture series — and more.
- 7 Focus On: Philanthropy
CSUN announces the David Nazarian College of Business and Economics
- 8 Focus On: CSU System
Board of Trustees members Talar Alexanian, CSUN student, and alumnus and professor Steven Stepanek sit down for a Q & A.
- 10 Word's Out
Recently published books written by faculty and alumni.
- 22 The Score: Athletics News
- 26 Alumni Association: Staying Connected
- 30 Alumni Notes: Class Notes and In Memoriam
- 38 Giving: Philanthropists Secure Students' Futures

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On the cover: International student Yayan "Zoe" Zhou, a graduating senior from Shanghai, holds a globe from the Department of Geography Map Library. Special thanks to the Map Library and Geography staff for their assistance.

This page: Student volunteers pick oranges for local food pantries, at CSUN's historic Orange Grove.

Campus News



Above, from left: President Dianne F. Harrison honors former President Blenda Wilson and her husband, Louis Fair Jr., at the dedication of the Blenda J. Wilson Courtyard.

CSUN Remembers 1994 Earthquake, Honors Former President

University officials teamed up with the Valley Economic Alliance and others in early January to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Northridge Earthquake. Later in the month, the university also honored the legacy of former CSUN President Blenda Wilson by dedicating a courtyard in her honor.

On Jan. 17, community members, faculty and staff joined elected officials for “The Valley of the Stars: Reaching New Heights” annual program, which reviewed the lessons learned following the devastation of the 1994 Northridge earthquake. Former Gov. Pete Wilson and former Los Angeles Mayor Richard Riordan were among those honored.

The new courtyard is adjacent to the Donald E. Bianchi Planetarium, in the center of the campus. The space surrounds the monument Wilson had erected to acknowledge the faculty and staff who helped rebuild the campus after the earthquake.

Wilson served as CSUN’s president from 1992 to 1999 and is credited with reviving and restoring the university after the massive quake. She furthered the university’s reputation as an institution that supports academic freedom, and she backed student efforts to bring diverse and often controversial speakers to campus.



English Professor Martin Pousson Wins NEA Fellowship

Martin Pousson’s writings, including his first novel, *No Place, Louisiana*, and his poetry collection, *Sugar*, have drawn comparisons to acclaimed writers Dorothy Allison, Frank McCourt and Carson McCullers. His work also caught the attention of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA).

The national endowment awarded Pousson, associate professor of English, with its 2014 Creative Writing Fellowship in Prose. The honor, which includes a \$25,000 grant through the federal government’s Art Works program, is for Pousson’s collection of interlocking short stories that chronicle the sexual coming of age of a young mixed-raced man in the bayous of Louisiana.



Bill Cosby with his crew of CSUN film students.

Film Students Craft Behind-the-Scenes Bill Cosby Special

Laughter, life lessons and hard truths wrapped with care are the gifts that Bill Cosby has given fans for decades. He and director Robert Townsend extended these gifts to a new generation of film students by hand-selecting several to capture behind-the-scenes footage for the new Comedy Central special “Bill Cosby: Far From Finished.” The program, which aired in November 2013, marked Cosby’s first TV concert special in 30 years. Townsend said a previous encounter with CSUN’s film students prompted him to reach out to the university after Cosby tapped him to direct.



Gov. Michael Dukakis and Gov. Linda Lingle

Governors Dukakis & Lingle Share Perspectives on Public Service

They hail from opposite sides of the political aisle and governed states more than 5,000 miles apart, but Michael Dukakis and Linda Lingle shared remarkably similar perspectives on public service, policy making and the importance of bipartisan governance during an event this spring at CSUN.

Students, faculty, staff and community members heard how each took an unexpected path to state leadership and view the current political climate. Teaching a senior seminar course on public policy in CSUN’s Department of Political Science this semester, Lingle’s connection to the university goes back to her days as a student. She earned a bachelor’s degree in journalism in 1975, and then relocated to Hawaii and launched a community newspaper before entering public service.

Southwestern Law School and CSUN to Offer Accelerated Program for Undergrads

Southwestern Law School and CSUN have established an accelerated program through which students can earn their Bachelor of Arts and Juris Doctor degrees in six years, rather than the usual seven.

Students participating in the “3+3 B.A./J.D.” program will have their first year of law school count as the fourth year of their undergraduate education. Each student admitted to Southwestern through the program will receive a \$10,000 scholarship. The first class is expected to enroll in the fall.



Actor Matt Damon Lends His Star Power to Kick Off Lecture Series on Education

Above: Matt Damon hugs CSUN speaker Diane Ravitch, a friend of his mother.

Actor and Academy Award-winning screenwriter Matt Damon introduced Diane Ravitch, former U.S. Assistant Secretary of Education, at an October 2013 lecture hosted by CSUN’s Center for Teaching and Learning that explored the pressures facing public education in the United States.

Ravitch, a research professor and historian at New York University, was the first featured speaker in the center’s “Education on the Edge” lecture series. A well-respected historian, critic, best-selling author and education analyst with more than 40 years of research and experience, she offered critiques of

popular ideas and trends for restructuring schools, including privatization, standardized testing, punitive accountability and charter schools.

The lecture series aims to push controversial issues to the surface by examining uncomfortable truths. To that end, Ravitch questioned the popular reasons given for “failing” students. While teachers are often targets for criticism, she suggested that poverty is at the root of the problem. Damon, a public-education advocate known for such films as “Good Will Hunting” and the “Bourne” series, introduced Ravitch, a friend of his mother.



Los Lobos plays live at the KCSN studios, helping launch CSUN's new Latin Alternative station.

KCSN Launches L.A.'s First 24-Hour Latin Alternative Radio Station

With a live performance by the Grammy Award-winning group Los Lobos, CSUN-based KCSN-FM in November launched Los Angeles' first 24-hour radio station dedicated to playing Latin alternative music. Listeners can find the station on digital channel KCSN HD2 or stream it live at LatinAlt.org.

The Latin alternative HD2 station is the only channel in the Southland that broadcasts all forms of Latin alternative music — alternative rock, electronic dance music, indie pop, hip-hop, salsoul and rock en Español — all day long. The Latin alternative channel and its accompanying website are designed to satiate the appetites of modern Latin music fans in Los Angeles and beyond.

CSUN, UCLA Host Reception for Valley Elected Officials

Elected officials from across the San Fernando Valley joined CSUN President Dianne F. Harrison and other college leaders in February to discuss issues of importance to higher education and the community.

Among those who took part in the inaugural San Fernando Valley Joint Higher

Education Legislative Reception were state Assemblymen Adrin Nazarian and Scott Willk; Los Angeles City Councilmembers Bob Blumenfield, Mitch Englander, Felipe Fuentes, Paul Krekorian and Nury Martinez '96 (Political Science); state Senator Fran Pavley '81 (M.S., Environmental Planning, Teaching Credential) and Los Angeles County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky.

The reception was co-hosted and sponsored by UCLA, and presented in partnership with Los Angeles Valley College, Pierce College, Los Angeles Mission College and College of the Canyons.



Touring the Brown Center.

Brown Center Celebrates 10 Years of Enabling the Disabled

When the Abbott and Linda Brown Western Center for Adaptive Aquatic Therapy opened in 2003, CSUN officials

knew that the center would positively impact people with disabilities, but they could only guess at the long-term effects.

The impact of the center's first decade was clear in November 2013 when about 200 members of the community — including donors, clients, employees and supporters — attended a 10th anniversary celebration. Guests toured the facilities and heard from speakers, including director Taeyou Jung and client and benefactor Al Lapidès, M.S. '68 (Business).

Valley Performing Arts Center Expands Its Children's Programming

The Valley Performing Arts Center (VPAC) this spring announced the expansion of its programming aimed at children and families.

The first show, in what will be a regularly scheduled set of weekend performances, was "Jim Henson's Sid the Science Kid: Live!" in March.

The show marked the first time the university's performance center actively targeted families with children, not just school groups. The show's theme was the five senses. After the performance, children visited exhibits at a science fair put on by CSUN students that explored the ability to see, hear, feel, taste and smell.

"On a university campus, we are fortunate to collaborate with our students to provide extra fun and education to the children who attend our shows," said Steven Thachuk, then-interim executive director of VPAC.

—*Edited by Carmen Ramos Chandler*



Sid the Science Kid with a young fan.

THIS PAGE - LOS LOBOS: KCSN; SID THE SCIENCE KID: RICHARD CHAMBERS; FACING PAGE - DAVID NAZARIAN: LEE CHOO.



Alumnus Leads \$25 Million Fundraising Drive with Transformational Gift to CSUN College of Business

In March, CSUN announced the naming of its college of business, the David Nazarian College of Business and Economics, in recognition of Nazarian's commitment to lead a \$25 million fundraising drive for his alma mater. Nazarian '82 personally has committed a \$10 million cash gift to CSUN, one of the largest in the history of the California State University system.

Already among the top 10 largest undergraduate business programs in the nation, CSUN will focus the new funding on expanding its resources and providing its students, faculty and alumni with access to an array of innovative educational programs and experiences.

"David Nazarian is an industry-leading businessman and philanthropist whose integrity and vision are second to none," said CSUN President Dianne F. Harrison. "We are so proud of his accomplishments and impact both on our city and our region. CSUN is a front-runner in educating future leaders of business and industry, and this unprecedented gift allows us to advance our programs and services to transform the business environment on a local and global scale."

Nazarian, known for his investing acumen, spoke about the impact of his gift and encouraged others to follow his lead.

"While investing in companies can change lives and improve our economy, nothing is more impactful and important than access to quality education and mentoring. That is why I consider this to be the most significant investment of my career," Nazarian said. "I'm encouraging my business associates, friends, family and anyone who wants to positively impact the lives of talented young people in our region to join me in supporting CSUN — and the amazing work being done there."

"I consider this to be the most significant investment of my career."

Nazarian's history as a visionary investor and business builder began with his active involvement in his family's early identification of the potential for wireless communications technology, which ultimately became part of Qualcomm, Inc. As founder and CEO of Nimes Capital, Nazarian has established a consistent track record of identifying opportunities ahead of the pack, actively managing investments in the real estate, manufacturing, water and solar infrastructure, technology and hospitality industries. These investment activities include serving as shareholder and on the boards of sbe, an international hospitality

company whose holdings include SLS Hotels in Beverly Hills and South Beach, Miami; Solar Reserve, a developer of large-scale solar energy projects; Poseidon Water Resources, whose Carlsbad Desalination project will be the largest seawater desalination plant in the Western Hemisphere; and Pacific Island Restaurants, which operates more than 80 restaurants in Hawaii and Guam.

Beyond his more than 30 years in business, Nazarian has proven a tireless philanthropist, donating his time and funds to an array of causes and organizations.

"CSUN provided me with a foundation for my later success and, thus, opened the door for many opportunities in my life," Nazarian said. "CSUN gave me the chance to realize the American Dream, and I want to make sure that opportunity exists for as many people as possible."

For more information on contributing to CSUN and the David Nazarian College of Business and Economics, visit www.csun.edu/nazarian.

Meet the Matador Trustees

By Carmen Ramos Chandler

For only the second time in California State University history, both the faculty and student representatives on the CSU Board of Trustees are from the same campus — Northridge.

CSUN computer science professor Steven Stepanek, '73 (Math), M.S. '80 (Computer Science), was appointed by Gov. Jerry Brown to a two-year term to represent faculty interests on the 25-member board responsible for the oversight of the 23-campus CSU system. He joined CSUN senior Talar Alexanian, 21, vice president of Associated Students and the first Cal State Northridge student appointed to the board. Alexanian, a journalism major with an emphasis in public relations, was appointed by the governor a year ago to a two-year term. She spent her first year as a non-voting member and becomes a voting member this summer.

The two discussed plans, possible collaborations and views on the future of the system during a roundtable discussion with *Northridge* magazine. Video of the discussion can be found online at youtube.com/CalStateNorthridge.

Northridge: It's rare to have student and faculty trustees from the same campus. What are some of the benefits?

Stepanek: Since Northridge is our home base, there will be incredible opportunities for us to collaborate outside the formal trustees meetings.

Alexanian: It's helpful that both Steven and I come from a campus that really emphasizes shared governance and investing in all our constituencies.

Northridge: What will the CSU face in meeting the future needs of the state?

Stepanek: We run into this interesting issue because the baby boomers are currently in the process of retiring from whatever professions that they're in. How do we train enough people in California to fill those positions? We're not even talking about the growth aspects of California. We're just talking about maintaining a properly trained population living in California for the positions that are already here. That's the challenge that is ahead of us in our very immediate future.

Northridge: Talar, as a current student, your generation is quite different than those baby boomers who are retiring.

Alexanian: We're diversifying the workforce. The education received at the campus level and the work done outside through

internships and other opportunities is really funneling us to the places we want to go and the jobs we want to have. I'm very optimistic. ... The policies we are putting in place are meeting the needs of most of the individuals in our system. I'm looking at the next 10 years and seeing more of an influx of students being able to access the CSU and even diversifying the pool we're already seeing.

Northridge: Why did you apply for the position on the board?

Alexanian: I immediately got involved when I came to CSUN. I was one of those people who got involved in different clubs, organizations and student government. I saw the power that you can have in terms of making change happen, and it made me feel that our voices were being heard among the administration. I wanted to take that to the next level and represent the entire student population.

Northridge: Steven, how did you find out about becoming the faculty trustee?

Stepanek: The governor basically called me directly, and we had a very delightful 10-minute conversation on the future of the CSU and education and the role of technology. ... One of the interesting things in my conversations with the governor

over the past couple of months is that my background in technology ... is one of the contributing reasons why he selected me, because he realizes there needs to be a voice on the board of somebody with some of these actual experiences — whether it's with online instruction or when is it appropriate or inappropriate to use technology to solve a problem.

Northridge: How do you see your role on the board?

Alexanian: There might be times that I might be that lone voice, but I always remember the reasons why I am in this position. The fact is, I represent the 437,000 students in our system.

Stepanek: The CSU is like a very large ship at sea. It becomes a question of what is the direction we want to steer this particular ship. That is the role of the board of trustees: looking out over that horizon and trying to set that destination.

Gov. Brown recently re-appointed CSUN alumna Debra Farar, an education consultant who was the national finance chairwoman for Hillary Clinton for President in 2008, to her third term as a full-voting member of the CSU Board of Trustees, bringing the total of Matadors on the board to three.

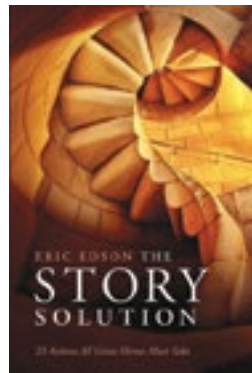
Word's Out

Recently published works in print by CSUN faculty, staff and alumni



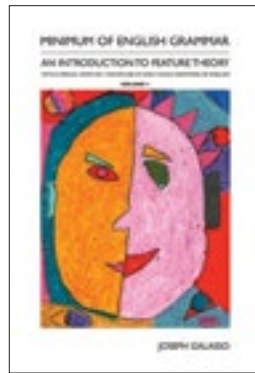
FACULTY & STAFF

Thomas W. Devine (History). *Henry Wallace's 1948 Presidential Campaign and the Future of Postwar Liberalism* takes a new look at the presidential campaign of the man who set out to dispute the conventional wisdom of the era by blaming the United States for the Cold War, seemingly siding with the Soviets. Wallace's welcoming of Communists to his platform led to his loss in the elections, but his gesture was strongly opposed by the American Communist Party. It is in this tension that Devine forms his perspective. The book offers a detailed account of the self-destructive behavior of the Communists and chronicles the challenges non-Communists faced as a consequence of the party's actions. (The University of North Carolina Press, 2013)



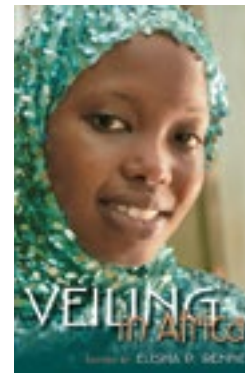
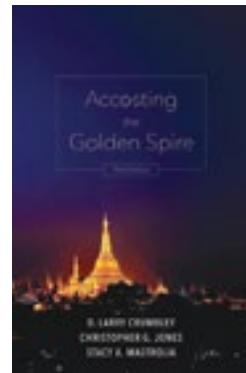
Eric Edson (Cinema and Television Arts). *The Story Solution: 23 Actions All Great Heroes Must Take* offers writers and filmmakers powerful storytelling tools to aid in bringing passion and depth to their screenplays. A professor of screenwriting, Edson uses examples, reasoning, speculation and a 23-step plan to explain how to develop the "hero" in blockbusters. (Michael Wiese Productions, 2012)

Joseph Galasso (Linguistics). *Minimum of English Grammar, Volume I and Volume II* give an all-inclusive breakdown of the feature theory of grammar, which dissects the typical parts of speech and provides an intensive analysis of English. These publications compare the feature theory to the periodic table, illustrating how sub-particles can be isolated and projected from one phrase to another. *Volume II* is considered a strong follow-up text to the first book, but also works effectively as a stand-alone text. (Cognella Publications, 2013 Revised)



Anna Joaquin (Linguistics). *Enculturation Processes in Primary Language Acquisition* combines research in anthropology, sociology, applied linguistics, developmental psychology and neurobiology to explain the acquirement of language through enculturation. The text provides an explanation of the different methods used to acquire language, the motivation to attain a new language and the biological systems that may have evolved. (Equinox Publishing, 2013)

Christopher G. Jones (Business and Economics), '74 (Business Administration). *Accosting the Golden Spire, Third Edition*, which Jones co-authored with original writer D. Larry Crumbley, includes recent updates in accounting theory and practice with a new focus on accounting ethics. Told through a fictional protagonist, the publication can be used in a variety of ways to augment an ethics course. (Carolina Academic Press, 2013)



Peri M. Klemm (Art). "We Grew Up Free But Here We Have to Cover Our Faces: Veiling Among Oromo Refugees in Eastleigh, Kenya" was published in the anthology *Veiling in Africa*, edited by Elisha P. Renne. Like the compilation, the article analyzes one aspect of the veil tradition in Africa. Exploration of varied experiences and the veil's diverse meanings reveal it in different lights, including religious symbolism and fashion statements across the region. (Indiana University Press, 2013)

Stella Z. Theodoulou (Dean, Social and Behavioral Sciences), **Matthew A. Cahn** (Political Science). *Public Policy: The Essential Readings, 2nd Edition* is a collection of 67 key classic and contemporary works on public policy that span a wide range of topics. The text introduces readers to the underpinnings and current practices of the policymaking arena. The authors note select readings as "essential" — some of the readings are generally argued to be among the most influential in the field or most frequently cited. (Pearson, 2012)



ALUMNI

Laura Grody '90, '08 (B.A., Radio/TV/Film; M.A., Linguistics). *Grace and Dignity* is a young adult novel that follows the lives of Prince Dignity and Princess Grace in their struggle to regain control of their kingdom from an evil cousin, Prince Denial. With clever use of linguistic elements and a bit of magic, Grody shapes a fantastic tale around the search for truth, love and justice in the Kingdom of Love. An independent author, Grody released the novel — her first — in August 2013 after 13 years of development and editing. (Tate Publishing & Enterprises LLC, 2013)

Janet Atkinson '79 (M.A., Art). *Wings of Eagles: My Story by Sari March Schnepf*, Atkinson's sixth book, is rooted in the journal entries of her late daughter, Sari March Schnepf-Terry. The CSUN alumna from the class of '84 (Liberal Studies) began chronicling her life and endeavors to become an airline pilot. The book follows her struggles and dreams, highlighting her successful career as the first woman hired by Pacific Southwest Airlines (later absorbed by USAirways in 1981) in an era when women were yet to be accepted as First Officers for major airlines. (Jan Irene Publications, 2013)

Kimberly Castillo '08 (Cinema and Television Arts). *The Convenience of Lies* is a young adult novel that cautions readers about falling into an abusive relationship. The novel tells a story of friendship, mystery, crime, sex and betrayal. Based on a true story, it is told through the eyes of a high school teenager, Mackenzie, who is trying to beckon the attention of "bad boy" Ramon. Meanwhile, her friendship with Kira begins to evolve and grow as they attempt to solve the mystery behind recent vandalism. (CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2013)

Sandra "Sandy" Chase '69 (History). *The Revolutionary War*, co-authored with Violet April Ebersole, follows a family and a tight-knit community after someone proposes they all write New Year's resolutions. As the year goes on and the group follows up on their resolutions, revelations become abundant and the upheaval of relationships begins. (CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2013)

Regina F. Lark '90, '92 (B.A., History; M.A., History). *Psychic Debris, Crowded Closets: The Relationship Between the Stuff in Your Head and What's Under Your Bed* uncovers the mystery behind clutter. A self-help book, it focuses on the outward expression of our cluttered minds in the form of cluttered closets and messy under-the-bed storage. Lark asks readers to change their self-perceptions and open their minds to resolving the issues pushed under the bed for so long. (Purple Books Publishing, 2013) —compiled by Sawsan Merritt and Chelsea Turner

Around the World in 56 Years

In its second half-century, CSUN alumni, faculty and students are taking their expertise and passion abroad in greater numbers — and bringing their energy back to campus. By Olivia Herstein

Stroll across the Oviatt Library lawn as the carillon tolls the alma mater just before noon, or pop into one of the campus coffeehouses any weekday morning, and the ear catches it immediately: the medley of languages. Mandarin Chinese. Saudi-inflected Arabic. Hindi. Korean. Farsi. Russian. Spanish. Armenian.

Today's undergrad and grad students sport the same supplies — backpack, skateboard, smartphone, earbuds — and don the same SoCal fashions — sneakers, skinny jeans, red-and-black CSUN hoodies. Despite these similarities, they hail from regions as diverse as the Korean Peninsula, the Middle East, Central America and the Indian subcontinent. In fact, this once-quiet Northridge campus has blossomed into one of the biggest magnets for international students in the nation, first among all master's institutions.

Since its founding in 1958 as San Fernando Valley State College, the university has grown into a world-class and worldly institution of higher education. The campus attracts students from six continents, with more than 38,000 students served by 4,000 faculty and staff. One of the largest campuses in the California State University system, CSUN offers a diversity that reflects Los Angeles itself.

Far from Home, Forging a Path

Yayan “Zoe” Zhou looks wistful when she talks about her favorite comfort food: the sweet, sticky bao (buns or dumplings) sold in the shops and streets of her native Shanghai. The buns sold in the Chinese restaurants of the San Fernando and San Gabriel Valleys? Just not the same — not like mom makes.

But Zhou has to admit: She's developed a serious taste for Persian food (and she's still thinking about that leg of lamb dish she ate earlier this semester at a restaurant near campus). Where else but Los Angeles, the senior finance major said, would a Mandarin-speaking Chinese undergraduate find a wealth of Persian restaurants, and the classmates to help her order off the menu in Farsi?

When she's not sharing her cross-cultural culinary

Marta Lopez, director, International and Exchange Student Center, shepherds international students through their CSUN journey.

adventures, Zhou's eyes dance when she describes her academic and career plans: She walked the Oviatt Library lawn in cap and gown at commencement this May with her David Nazarian College of Business and Economics classmates. She plans to work for an additional year on her F-1 visa and apply for a graduate program at CSUN. “More CSUN! More studying at CSUN!” she said, laughing.

Zhou meets weekly with the Cross Cultural Friendship Club, a student-faculty group committed to mixing international students, American-born students of many ethnicities, faculty advisors and community volunteers for mutual understanding and schmoozing. On a recent spring afternoon, participants included international students from Nepal, Bangladesh, China, India and South Korea, and self-described “ABCs,” American-born Chinese. The group's favorite topics of the moment? Hip-hop, K-Pop and pizza fundraisers.

The club is just one example of a thriving campus community that's attracting even greater numbers of students from abroad. CSUN's students from throughout California benefit from the opportunities to learn from their foreign peers, in and out of the classroom. It is a true win-win because the international students learn at a world-class institution — and enhance the institution — without counting against CSUN's student-enrollment target. Among the nationalities on the rise at CSUN are students from Saudi Arabia, Dubai, India and the United Arab Emirates. In the 21st century, the university's most attractive programs to international students include engineering, business, accounting and intensive English. And there's much more to come from North America itself.

Just this March, the university announced a major new partnership with the

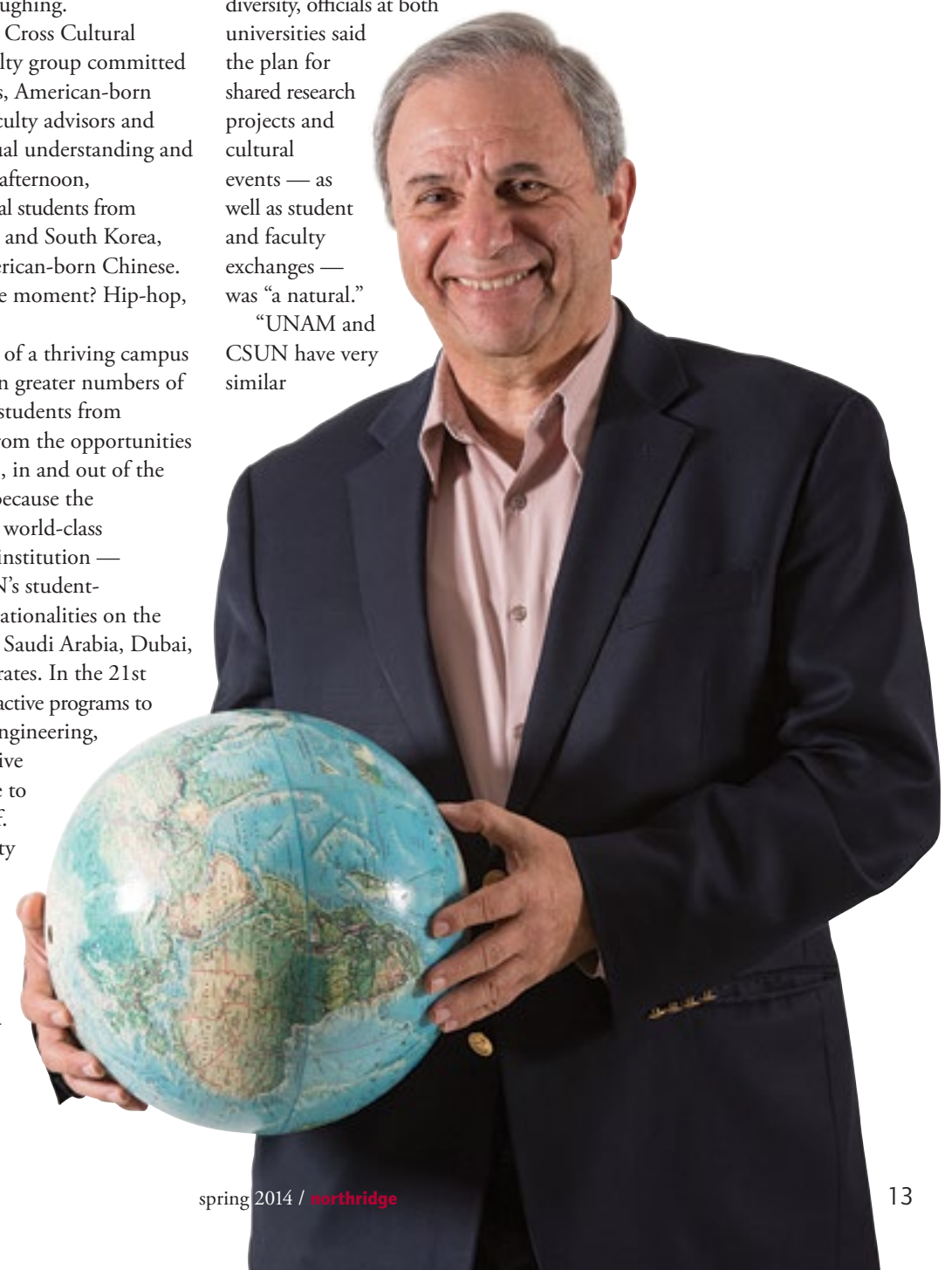
Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM), one of the oldest and highest-ranked academic institutions in Latin America, to create a center for scholarship and research on Mexico and Latin America at CSUN.

With this region's rich Mexican-American and Latino heritage, and CSUN's reputation for ethnic diversity, officials at both universities said

the plan for shared research projects and cultural events — as well as student and faculty exchanges — was “a natural.”

“UNAM and CSUN have very similar

Professor Vahram Shemmassian, director of CSUN's Armenian Studies Program, lectures all over the globe on the history of the Armenian genocide.



Around the World in 56 Years



missions: providing a quality education that is accessible by people from broadly diverse ethnic, social and economic backgrounds, with faculty who are respected scholars in their fields dedicated to teaching, service and research,” said CSUN President Dianne F. Harrison.

On March 3, President Harrison and UNAM Rector José Narro Robles were joined in Mexico City by numerous government leaders from the United States and Mexico at a ceremony to sign the partnership agreement.

It’s the fifth collaboration between UNAM and a foreign institution of higher education, but the only one with a U.S. university. CSUN will house the new center, expected to open this fall, in the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences. It will allow faculty and students from across the university to participate in cross-cultural research and scholarship.

In addition to CSUN’s new program with UNAM, it boasts partnerships with more than 100 universities in 22 countries, according to John Binkley, associate dean for graduate, international and mid-career education at The Tseng College. The college also coordinates logistics such as insurance for visiting scholars working on research projects at CSUN.

Taking Their Show on the Road

Engineering professor Nhut Ho is more than a distinguished faculty member teaching in Northridge and his native Vietnam: He’s a Matador at heart. After settling in 1988 with his family as refugees in Southern California, the professor of mechanical engineering earned his bachelor’s degree at USC. He went on to earn his master’s and doctorate at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and arrived at CSUN to teach in 2005.

In 2008, the Fulbright Scholar traveled to Vietnam to help academics design and bolster

engineering curricula to improve Vietnamese students’ skills in the global marketplace.

Ho’s work since has spread to major universities in Vietnam, including the country’s top institution, Vietnam National University-Ho Chi Minh City. During summer and winter break trips to the Southeast Asian nation, the professor has worked tirelessly to help scholars there implement a curriculum model called Conceive-Design-Implement-Operate (CDIO).

“CDIO is one of the game-changers for higher education in Vietnam,” said Ho, who grew up near Ho Chi Minh City. “Vietnam is moving to a new-age technology. Intel has built a billion-dollar chip manufacturing facility in Vietnam. Many multinational companies are coming to Vietnam. One of the demands for that is that you need a skilled workforce. Vietnam has a population of 86 million people, and half of this population was born after 1975. It’s a phenomenal challenge — how do you translate such a young population into a skilled workforce?”

“In Vietnam in particular, like other Asian cultures, they place a lot of emphasis on academic achievements,” he said. “The education system needs to continue to improve so these multinational companies can keep coming to Vietnam. ... You open any major newspaper in Vietnam, and there’s a column on education, talking about this problem.”

Back at CSUN during the academic year, Ho is working with his mechanical engineering students and colleagues to study those higher-education benchmarks for their engineering and computer science peers across the Pacific. Ho first brought the CDIO approach in 2007 and applied it to benefit CSUN undergrads, helping them prepare for engineering courses and retain them in the program. Growing up in the Valley, the professor said, he feels especially close to the needs of Matador students.

“At CSUN, we have a lot of students who are first-generation immigrants, who come from a disadvantaged background,” he said. “I understand the needs of developing countries, and I really want to help reform higher education — not just in Vietnam, but everywhere. This is a fantastic opportunity to try out new ideas. It means a lot to me, because it really makes a difference for the students.”

On the other side of the Asian continent, in the Middle East, professor Vahram Shemmassian is representing CSUN and the massive Armenian diaspora with prolific lectures on the history of the

Armenian genocide. The force behind the Armenian Studies Program in the Department of Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures, Shemmassian grew up in Lebanon and heard the stories of his grandfather’s fight in the battle of Musa Dag, Turkey (now Saman Dag, Hatay province). He has returned to Lebanon several times to speak about the genocide — and organizations and universities from Montreal to Prague invite the professor to speak on his people’s history and diaspora.

CSUN, with about 10 percent of its student body of Armenian heritage, is a natural fit for Shemmassian’s

program. Established in 1983, the Armenian Studies Program has grown from one course to 14, and it boasts a language minor and a languages and cultures major with Armenian as an option.

“Los Angeles is the only place where we see all sorts of Armenians mingle for the first time — from Eastern Armenia, near Russia, and others from Lebanon and the Middle East,” he said. “It’s a mixture, with all their regional influences — even the foods are somewhat different. UCLA, USC and Cal State L.A. also draw [Armenian students], but CSUN is one of the largest campuses. We also have about 170 Armenian staff



International CSUN students (R-L): Chisato Murata, Tahir Rizwan and Jonathan Lo play with CSUN student and Valley native Erik Flores in front of the Oviatt Library.

ALL PHOTOS: LEE CHOO

BY THE NUMBERS: INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS OF CSUN

Growing in numbers on all fronts, CSUN's more than 38,000 students come from many backgrounds. The university's population of international students is unique in the numerous countries of origin and large variety of degree pursuits.

THE BASICS

Ranked first in the nation among master's institutions for greatest foreign student population, CSUN is a large attraction for the college-bound from around the globe.

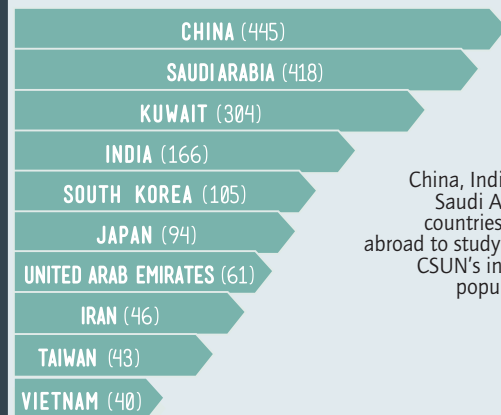
BY CLASS LEVEL

436 FRESHMAN | 311 SOPHOMORE | 426 JUNIOR | 536 SENIOR | 451 GRADUATE

BY GENDER

1410 MALE | 750 FEMALE
TOTAL: 2160

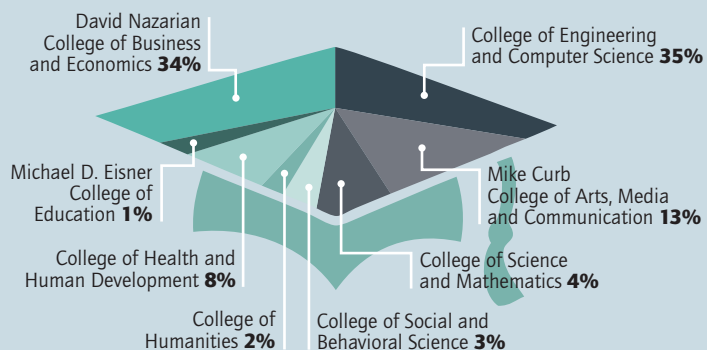
TOP 10 COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN



China, India, South Korea and Saudi Arabia top the list of countries that send students abroad to study at U.S. universities. CSUN's international student population reflects these national trends.

WHERE THE DEGREES ARE BEING EARNED

At CSUN, most international students earn bachelor's degrees in engineering fields, science, technology, business, management and marketing.



Around the World in 56 Years

and faculty working here. ... We're trying to make students conscious about their identity, their culture."

Shemmassian teaches a full load of courses, including Armenian 440, "Armenian-American Child and the schools," which fulfills a requirement for a bilingual teaching credential.

Hands Across the Water

CSUN sends full-time undergraduates for study abroad in 18 countries, including Chile, China, Denmark, Ghana, Israel, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Spain and Sweden. Students pay as little as CSUN's own tuition to earn full academic credit for their overseas studies. What sets CSUN apart from other universities, however, is the high number of master's-level students it sends to the Peace Corps.

The Peace Corps Master's International Program offers students Peace Corps service combined with a master's degree program — in mathematics or secondary education, curriculum and instruction. Participants teach or work in other education projects while abroad. The Peace Corps, an independent government agency that traces its roots to 1960, when then-Sen. John F. Kennedy challenged university students to serve their country by living and working in developing countries, provides volunteers for countries around the world.

Matador alumni also may study abroad in the world's most populous country, China. This academic year, seven CSUN students and alumni received the prestigious China Scholarship Council award. The scholarship, funded by the Chinese government, covers a year of tuition and living expenses for study at the country's top universities.

Brandon Violette, who graduated in 2013 with a bachelor's degree in cinema-screenwriting, is using the award to study at the Beijing Film Academy.

"I've packed my life into two suitcases and made that blind leap to a foreign country to start over, make a few friends and see walks of life I'd only read about," he said. "Once you go through that, with all the excitement and anxieties that go with it, it humbles you. It reminds you that you're not at the center of the world like you once thought you were."

Carmen Ramos Chandler and Alaa Bitar contributed to this story.

Graphics reporting by Chelsea Turner.

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Building Bridges Across the Pacific

By Shanté Morgan

南京



who greeted Harrison during her visit. Xiao studied math at CSUN in 2012. He joined a delegation of about 20 alumni in presenting Harrison with a welcome plaque and photos of Nanjing scholars who studied at CSUN in the 1990s.

At Nanjing, Harrison also presented the student winners of the 2013 U.S.-China Space Science Education Project to the university's president. The project is a collaborative effort between CSUN and NUST, in which Chinese officials may select the middle-school students' experiments for a Chinese space mission.

CSUN alumni and friends in Nanjing, China, gather at Moon Lake to welcome President Dianne F. Harrison, her husband, John Wujack, and professor Justine Su.

Tea Time for Administrators

Shanghai Normal University Vice President Yuhao Cong, also a CSUN alumnus, hosted a tea reception for alumni to welcome Harrison to Shanghai.



California State University, Northridge President Dianne F. Harrison's recent visit to China strengthened the university's international reach and expanded educational and research opportunities for students and faculty.

During the nine-day trip in September 2013, Harrison met with presidents and vice presidents from 10 Chinese universities, visited seven partner universities, renewed three agreements and met with educational and business leaders in five cities — Shanghai, Suzhou, Nanjing, Guangzhou and Wuhan.

Harrison capped her trip by speaking on behalf of more than 20 international university presidents at the high-profile 60th anniversary celebration at Nanjing University of Science and Technology (NUST).

"This trip served as an opportunity to deepen our collaborations with Chinese academic and business leaders, as well as reach out to our alumni network," Harrison said. "The university's strong bonds with China provide diverse learning and research opportunities for our faculty, staff and students."

Attracting an Olympian and Diplomat

President Harrison's visit set off a ripple effect in Los Angeles: This year, China's Olympic two-time gold medalist in taekwondo, Jingyu Wu, enrolled in classes through CSUN's Tseng College and Ambassador Liu Jian, the new consul general of China in Los Angeles, visited the CSUN campus. The *Chinese Journal of World Education*, a prestigious international journal published by the Chinese National Ministry of Education, also featured Harrison on its February cover (pictured at right).

These developments are the latest in a long history of collaboration with China. CSUN was one of the first American universities to pursue educational and cultural exchanges with Chinese universities when the late-President James Cleary signed the institution's first foreign-student exchange agreement in 1981.

Today, CSUN has agreements and letters of intent with nearly 50 universities in China. These partnerships have helped promote the academic and cultural exchange of faculty and students through joint

teaching, research, creative projects, visiting professor opportunities and other projects. Hundreds of visiting scholars and thousands of students from China have studied at CSUN, and many CSUN faculty and students have participated in exchange programs.

The *Chronicle of Higher Education's* 2013-14 Almanac ranks CSUN as No. 1 in master's-level institutions for international students, and it's held a place in the top 10 for at least a decade. This is true, in part, thanks to the university's relationship with Chinese universities, according to CSUN officials.

Living the Matador Life, in the People's Republic

CSUN alumni in China have created a network — another ripple effect of the president's trip — making it one of only a handful of California State Universities with alumni networks in that country.

"California has some of the best universities in the world, and CSUN has strong fields of study in many areas," said CSUN alumnus Wei Xiao, professor of math at Nanjing, one of dozens of alumni in China

teaching, research, creative projects, visiting professor opportunities and other projects. Hundreds of visiting scholars and thousands of students from China have studied at CSUN, and many CSUN faculty and students have participated in exchange programs.

His fellow Matadors at the Shanghai university include two vice presidents, 12 deans and directors, and associate deans and deputy directors. When he studied at CSUN as a visiting scholar in 2004, Cong said, he learned much from the theories and operations of American higher education administration, which contributed to his growth as a university administrator in China. Shortly after his CSUN studies, Cong earned a promotion to vice president at Shanghai Normal.

"President Harrison's short but extremely productive visit to China has greatly enhanced all the academic values guiding CSUN's international programs and relationships," said Justine Su, professor of educational leadership and director of CSUN's China Institute. "[She] has built a strong reputation and influence of CSUN in China — and in the international education community."

PHOTO COURTESY OF JUSTINE SU



On the Front Lines

CSUN alumna and Pentagon correspondent Barbara Starr '75 has reported for CNN from the world's hotspots — from Afghanistan and Iraq to the Chinese-North Korean border. By Olivia Herstein

Broadcast journalist Barbara Starr has logged millions of air miles and countless stamps in her passport since graduating from California State University, Northridge in 1975. One flight in particular, though, left a permanent mark on her heart.

In 2010, Starr rode along on a medical evacuation transport from the front lines of Afghanistan to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Ramstein, Germany, and then on to Andrews Air Force Base outside Washington, D.C. As a CNN correspondent, she accompanied 20 seriously wounded young U.S. soldiers on the C-17 cargo “medevac” aircraft, a flying intensive care unit, and profiled three.

“A couple of months later, I went back to Fort Campbell [Kentucky] Army base where they were, and they had recovered almost completely,” Starr said of the soldiers she profiled, who were with Fort Campbell’s 101st Airborne Division Screaming Eagles. “When you cover the military, you cover a lot of sad stories. And this was a happy story. The best part was seeing these guys, up and around, smokin’ and jokin’.

“At another army base, a young man in his 20s said, ‘Ms. Starr, Ms. Starr! You interviewed me! I was on that plane,’” she recalled, speaking by phone from CNN’s broadcast booth in the Pentagon. “He was one of the most seriously wounded. Not only was he now up and around, but he was getting prepared to go back on his second tour [to Afghanistan]. I couldn’t stop hugging him because he was doing so well.”

Close to Home

A Granada Hills native, Starr chose CSUN for its proximity to home. She called her Southern California upbringing “typical.” “We were in the giant, giant [Sylmar] earthquake of 1971,” she said. “Our house cracked in half. We lived in the hills and coped with earthquakes, brush fires, mudslides.”

As a freshman, she toyed with speech pathology and sociology as potential majors before finding her calling in the news.

“I didn’t go into journalism right away,” she said. “I was one of those people: I changed my major three times in the first few weeks. Then I took Journalism 101, with professor Jack Hart — and that was it.

“I was attracted to journalism because I could be paid to have access to things I never would have had

access to,” Starr said. “I never wanted to work in an office — I wanted to *see* things. And this is the only major I could find that required no math classes. So, once a year when the Pentagon budget comes out, you’ll see it with the press corps — you can tell who still remembers how to determine percentages!”

Starr and her sister, a fellow Matador and college of business alumna, returned to CSUN just a few years ago, and they marveled at the university’s tremendous growth.

“You could see remnants of the campus we knew, but it had grown so much — the stores and cafeterias on the main university drive,” Starr said, sharing the pair’s favorite Matador memory: “Devonshire Downs — it was this ranch, and you bought your schoolbooks there.”

The Pentagon’s Darkest Day

When she reflects on her broadcast career, Starr uses one infamous day as a benchmark: 9/11. Starr was working as a TV producer for ABC News in the Pentagon when Al Qaeda terrorists crashed American Airlines Flight 77 into the building on Sept. 11, 2001.

“The past 13 years have been different from everything I’d done [before],” Starr said. “9/11 changed everything. When I went to school at Valley State, I never could have fathomed what I’d be doing [in these past years].”

The war on terror has taken Starr from battlefield to battlefield — covering the wounded, the fallen, the families.

“Afghanistan is an unbelievably beautiful country,” she said. “The people are lovely, and the poverty would break your heart. As a journalist, you see it so often: It’s the people who suffer so much.”

She has taken comfort and inspiration, after covering so much war, in sharing the troops’ stories. Starr is back at the Pentagon as the U.S. war in Afghanistan winds down. “But there’s always a hot spot,” she said. “Right now it’s Ukraine, sometimes it’s North Korea, and then there’s Syria — the crisis that won’t seem to end.”

She’s a member of the Pentagon’s formidable press corps. “This is the most laughing, smiling press corps — it’s unusual,” Starr said. “We’ve all been to war zones, and many of us were here on 9/11. It gives you perspective in life. We’re competitive when we need to be, but we’re very, very collegial.”

“I was attracted to journalism because I could have access to things I never would have had access to. I never wanted to work in an office — I wanted to *see* things.”

Opposite: Barbara Starr '75 interviews then-Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Marine Gen. Peter Pace in Ramadi, Iraq, in 2007.



The CSUN women's basketball team celebrates its Big West Tournament championship March 15 at the Honda Center in Anaheim. The team advanced to the NCAA Tournament to play South Carolina in the first round in Seattle.

Matadors Punch Big Dance Ticket

For the first time in program history, the Matador women's basketball team is Big West Conference champion. The victory at Long Beach State on March 6 clinched the Big West regular-season title and the No. 1 seed in the Big West Tournament, both program firsts. The 12 conference wins were the most by the Matadors in their Big West Conference history.

Next, the CSUN women headed to the Big West Tournament at the Honda Center in Anaheim, where they defeated Cal Poly San Luis Obispo in the championship game on March 15. The win punched the team's ticket to the NCAA Tournament, or "Big Dance," for the first time since 1999.

The Matador women, seeded No. 16 in the NCAA Tournament, traveled to Seattle and fell in the first round to top-seeded South Carolina on March 23.

Junior guard Ashley Guay became the first Matador player in program history to receive the league's Player of the Year Award. She was also named Big West Conference Tournament MVP. Head coach Jason Flowers received his second Big West Coach of the Year award in three seasons.

Junior guard Janae Sharpe earned All-Big West Second Team honors. Co-captain Cinnamon Lister was an All-Big West Honorable Mention selection, and junior center Camille Mahlnecht was named Big West Defensive Player of the Year.

The Matador men's basketball team also made it to the brink of a "Big Dance" invitation, but lost a heartbreaker to Cal Poly San Luis Obispo in the Big West Tournament finals March 14.

Matadors Outscore Other Schools in the Classroom

CSUN student-athletes graduate at higher rates than the general student population — bucking a national trend in racial inequalities and college graduation rates. According to a report released by University of Pennsylvania (UPenn) researchers in February, CSUN graduates black male athletes at much higher rates than other NCAA Division I universities, including neighboring schools UCLA and USC. In fall 2013, CSUN participated in a UPenn study on the experiences of student athletes in minority groups, namely women and students of color. The scholars and officials behind the study sought ways to increase student-athlete academic success.



Pictured, from left: Brandon Martin, director of intercollegiate athletics; Cliff Abel, Tereza Simonyan, Lisa Erickson, Beverly and Joe Austin (accepting for Markus Carr).

Four Named to CSUN's Athletic Hall of Fame

More than 200 family members, friends, university President Dianne F. Harrison and supporters of Matador Athletics honored the newest members of the CSUN Hall of Fame at an emotional luncheon on Feb. 9 at the Warner Center Marriott Hotel. Legendary men's track and field head coach Cliff Abel and former star athletes Markus Carr '04 (Speech

Communications, basketball), Lisa Erickson '91 (Liberal Studies, softball) and Tereza Simonyan '04 (Business Law, tennis) made up the 2014 Hall of Fame class. They joined an elite group of student-athletes, former administrators, coaches and teams representing the 19 sports in the university's Hall of Fame, established in 1981.

— Bob Vazquez

Dig! CSUN Adds Women's Sand Volleyball as Intercollegiate Sport

Not far from the beaches that gave birth to the sport, CSUN this spring launched its first women's sand volleyball squad — the Matadors' 19th intercollegiate sport.

Jeff Stork, head coach of the Matadors' indoor volleyball team, also leads the sand team, which started competition March 6 at UCLA. The team features

indoor squad, which reached the second round of the NCAA Tournament.

CSUN is the fourth Big West Conference institution to add sand volleyball as a varsity sport, following Long Beach State, University of Hawaii and Cal Poly San Luis Obispo.

"This creates opportunities for player development, and there is a lot of interest

in sand volleyball in the San Fernando Valley," Stork said. "As an emerging sport, we can become very competitive very quickly." The NCAA has identified sand volleyball as an emerging sport, intended to provide additional athletic opportunities to female student-athletes. Nationwide, nearly 500,000 young women, ages 13 to 25, have taken up the



The CSUN sand volleyball team serves up its first-ever match.

Coach Reggie Theus Meets Up with Mentor and Legend Jerry Tarkanian

As a Saturday morning CSUN men's basketball practice drew to a close at the Walter Pyramid, Long Beach State's home arena, an extremely frail elderly man emerged from behind the bleachers.

From a distance, the CSUN coaches and players looked in awe at the elderly fellow who struggled to stand, even with the aid of a walker. He smiled. It was Jerry Tarkanian, the head coach who brought national fame to the basketball

programs at UNLV and Long Beach State. Tarkanian, 83, has coped with several major health issues in recent years. The Matadors' head coach, Reggie Theus, hugged Tarkanian and said, "I love you, coach. Thanks."

Long Beach State honored Tarkanian during halftime of the CSUN-49ers game on Jan. 24. The 49ers twice made it to the Elite Eight of the NCAA Tournament during his five years there as head coach.



Theus played for Tarkanian in the mid-1970s at UNLV. "Coach Tarkanian shaped who I am as a person and as a coach," Theus said. —B. V.



Faculty Basketball "Jersey" 58 Retired

In February, CSUN retired jersey number 58 to honor the university's faculty for their nearly 60 years of academic service and support of Matador Athletics during times of challenge and prosperity. The No. 58 jersey — the first number retired in CSUN athletics — also represents the university's founding year as San Fernando Valley State College.

University officials invited CSUN's faculty to attend the Cal Poly San Luis Obispo basketball matchup Feb. 13, as a gesture of thanks.

No CSUN student-athlete will wear 58 in future athletic competitions, said Brandon Martin, director of

intercollegiate athletics.

"The goal of Matador athletics extends far beyond the playing field and the win-loss record," Martin said. "Building a solid academic foundation is paramount for success now and later in life. We are fortunate to have the support of the CSUN faculty."

In the fall, the Big West Conference named 17 CSUN student-athletes to its Academic All-Conference team, from all five fall sports: women's volleyball, women's soccer, men's soccer, and men's and women's cross country.

The retired No. 58 jersey will hang on display in the Matadome arena.

President Harrison Opens Matador Achievement Center for Student-Athletes

CSUN reaffirmed its commitment to academic success for Matador student-athletes with a September ribbon-cutting ceremony at the new Matador Achievement Center in Bayramian Hall. The center offers mentoring, tutoring and other forms of support for CSUN's student-athletes.

The NCAA awarded grants to six institutions as part of a three-year pilot program, aimed at increasing student-athletes' academic performance. The association granted CSUN \$900,000 from a very competitive applicant pool.

The grant lays a foundation for the center's operation for three years.

President Dianne F. Harrison and CSU Chancellor Timothy White cut the red ribbon to open the achievement center, which serves nearly 400 student-athletes.

"To expand our academic resources is essential," said Harrison, who thanked Bernard Franklin, NCAA executive vice president; Brett Sanders, Matador Achievement Center director; CSUN staff, and the center's staff and team of student-athletes. —B. V.

CSUN Athletics Launches Matador Excellence Fund

In November 2013, CSUN's athletics department unveiled its Matador Excellence Fund, which supports scholarships for student-athletes in all 19 varsity programs. Memberships begin at \$50, and benefits include priority seating, reserved parking, pre-game hospitality and travel opportunities to away games and matches. Alumni and former student-athletes can access additional perks. To learn more, call (818) 677-4837 or visit gomatadors.com.

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Matador Statuette

This bronze look resin-cast replica is the perfect gift for an alum.
Height: 8"
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Show your alumni pride with this baseball cap. Cotton fabric with eyelets around the crown.
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Been there, learned that! Flaunt your accomplishment in this athletic fit tee. Fabric softened finish. Screen-printed. 27" long.
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The ideal polo shirt that's fit for all Matadors. Polyester. Embroidered. Black. S – 2XL.
\$42.00



Champion® Alumni Hooded Sweatshirt

Fend off chilly breezes in this sweatshirt. Double layer drawstring hood. Ribbed cuffs and hem. Front pouch pocket. Screen-printed. XS – 3XL.
\$39.95

To purchase: visit the Matador Bookstore at CSUN, visit matadorbookstore.com or call (818) 677-2932.

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Staying Connected

Alumni mingle at the Networking Mega Mixer on March 20 at the Culver Hotel.

Past Event Highlights

Mixing it Up, Matador Style

In the wood-paneled elegance of the Culver Hotel, Matador alumni gathered to dine, drink and reconnect at the Networking Mega Mixer, March 20. The Alumni Association hosted the event in the historic hotel’s Velvet Lounge, in up-and-coming downtown Culver City. A night filled with shared memories and new connections, the mixer united members of the association’s 25 alumni chapters. Alumni mingled with their fellow Matadors working in fields such as business, education, government, science, writing, and health and wellness.



Above: Alumni, faculty and students mingle at the annual College of Engineering and Computer Science Alumni mixer.



Distinguished Alumni Awards

The CSUN Alumni Association honored four outstanding alumni April 26: Bill Imada ’84 (Human Resource Management), chairman and chief collaboration officer, IW Group, Inc.; Diane Manzella ’71 (M.A., Speech Communication), pioneer audiologist and speech pathologist; and Philip Tauber ’68 (Music) and Gayle Tauber ’72 (Political Science), founders of Kashi Foods. The 16th-annual Distinguished Alumni Awards Gala included a dinner and awards presentations at the Four Seasons Hotel in Westlake Village.

Imada leads IW Group, one of the nation’s leading minority-owned and -operated advertising, marketing and communications agencies that focus on multicultural markets. Manzella is considered a pioneer in the fields of audiology and speech pathology. She initiated a pilot program in Maryland to mainstream hearing-impaired children into the classroom. Since 1972, Philip and Gayle Tauber have been co-founders of startup companies, concentrating predominantly in health and wellness and social responsibility. They may be best known as the founders of Kashi Company.

THIS PAGE - MEGA MIXER: NESTOR GARCIA; ENGINEERING MIXER: MONICA JOSE; PACING PAGE - FRANCINE OSCHIN; LEE CHOO; JOURNALISM STUDENTS: ALUMNI ASSOCIATION.

Francine Oschin Takes the Reins



Francine Oschin, Alumni Association President (2013-15)

When Francine Oschin ’84 (Journalism), M.A. ’85 (Mass Communications) returned to California State University, Northridge in the early ’80s after starting and stopping her education over two decades, she expected to complete her degree.

Oschin got much more.

The 30th president of CSUN’s Alumni Association said she made lifelong connections that created personal and career opportunities she never would have imagined.

“Through CSUN, I’ve had the ability to connect to individuals who had influence and connections,” Oschin said. “I would be nowhere if I didn’t have CSUN.”

The New York native moved to Los Angeles as a teenager. After high school,

she spent one year at Los Angeles City College and got married. She earned an associate degree from Los Angeles Valley College and started taking classes at then-San Fernando Valley State College. Oschin put her bachelor’s degree on hold as her family grew, however, and she relocated to Hawaii.

“I would be nowhere if I didn’t have CSUN.”

Oschin later returned to California, earned her degrees and went to work as a reporter for the *Glendale News-Press* and *Burbank Leader*. While working on a CSUN Department of Journalism anniversary event, she met a fellow alum who recommended her for a job working for then-Los Angeles City Councilman Hal Bernson, who represented much of

the Valley. She rose through the ranks and served as his assistant chief deputy for nearly 15 years.

“That was the launching pad for so much more in my career,” Oschin said.

In 2004, she narrowly lost a bid for the Valley’s 3rd District council seat. Today, Oschin is president of Oschin Partners, an Encino-based government relations consulting firm that focuses on transportation issues. She has served in leadership positions within the Alumni Association since 2003, when the organization appointed her as the university’s volunteer representative on the CSU Alumni Council. She also co-chairs (with Bob Rawich) the “Grass Tops” CSUN Advocacy Network, which advocates for funding and support from elected officials.

She serves in numerous civic roles, including the Valley Industry and Commerce Association board of directors.

—Shanté Morgan



Journalism students were treated to a lightning round of speed mentoring by journalism alumni working in the field.

Mentor a Matador

Help Matadors prepare for success by sharing your personal experiences, industry knowledge and expertise. The Matador Network is a new online mentoring system that matches CSUN students and recent graduates with seasoned professionals across all industries. Whether you live near Northridge or far from Los Angeles — even abroad — this is a great way to give back to your alma mater and stay connected to CSUN. The Matador Network system allows you to mentor according to your own schedule and convenience. Mentors are expected to respond to mentee questions via email, phone or Skype.

Mentor a Matador in four easy steps:

Step One: Visit csunalumni.com and complete a short online profile with basic information about yourself, your academic career at CSUN and current (or most recent) work experience.

Step Two: Select the number of students or young alumni who may contact you at a time and your preferred method of contact.

Step Three: Wait for email approval (1-2 days), and follow the steps to complete your application and post your profile online.

Step Four: Your mentor profile will be available for mentees to search and connect. The Alumni Association will notify you via email when a mentee selects you as a match and requests you as a mentor.

One person can make a huge difference in establishing a career. Be the one. Become a Matador Network mentor!

Save the Date!

CSUN Day at Dodger Stadium (vs. Milwaukee Brewers)

Sat., Aug. 16,
6:10 p.m. game time



Opening Night at the Hollywood Bowl

Sat., June 21, 8 p.m., featuring Hall of Fame recipients.
\$35 Alumni Association members, \$40 non-members

Family Movie Night on the Oviatt Lawn: "Monsters University"

Thurs., Aug. 7, 6 p.m.

Washington, D.C. Area Alumni Mixer

Wed., Sept. 17

Football Team Reunion

Sat., Sept. 20, 5 p.m.
The 1961-68 football teams are reuniting and honoring Coach Sam Winningham. For more information email gstjohns@socal.rr.com

Black Alumni Association Scholarship and Awards Champagne Brunch

Sat., Sept. 27



Alumna and former CSUN cheerleader Diana Cooley '69 meets current cheer team members at Founders' Day.

Founders' Day and Class of 1964 50-year Reunion

Remember the good old days? Join us in honoring the 50-year class of 1964 and reconnect with former classmates, faculty and colleagues. Sat., Sept. 20, 11 a.m., USU Northridge Center.



For more information and reservations, visit csunalumni.com or call (818) 677-2137.

Matadors Forever

CSUN Shines in the San Fernando Valley Business Community

CSUN contributes to the Valley through its business affiliations, academic programs, ever-growing graduation rates and outstanding alumni. CSUN gained further notoriety in July 2013 when the Valley Industry and Commerce Association honored the university as a member of the San Fernando Valley Business Hall of Fame.

Fulbright Tradition Shines On

Fulbright scholars Naomi Carrington, who received her master's in English from CSUN in 2013, and Alexander Olson and Lovina Tata, who completed CSUN's two-year Strategic Language Initiative Russian Immersion Program, are exploring Rwanda, Russia and Ukraine, during the 2013-14 academic year.

CSUN Launches Global Alumni Network

In 2013 the university's Office of Alumni Relations established the CSUN Global Alumni Network, including fostering connections with Matador alumni in China.

Members in Action

"Supporting CSUN has been a source of much pride in my life and for my wife, Stefanie DuBois. We're delighted to hear and read about the joys and successes of students and alumni through events we attend and publications we receive. There is great satisfaction in giving back to the academic community that helped us along. We would not have had nearly the college experience or successes in life if it were not for the alumni support and contributions. Alumni and friends of CSUN should consider passing on that experience to future generations of students."

—Bob Finkelstein '78 (*Environmental and Occupational Health*) and Stefanie DuBois '73 (*English*), Joint Lifetime Members

Bob and Stephanie are members of the Presidents Associates and have established a scholarship to support an EOH student. Join Bob and Stephanie in contributing to CSUN. There are many great reasons to maintain contact with the university through the Alumni Association. In addition to professional networking mixers and career industry panels, benefits include savings on health insurance, car rentals, theme park and movie tickets, and access to CSUN campus services such as the Oviatt Library, career center and discounted membership at the Student Recreation Center. Join online at csunalumni.com or call (818) 677-2137.



CSUN staff member Brenda Kanno (left) and volunteer Jackie Scheidlinger work in the campus botanical garden.

Volunteer Opportunities

Special-interest alumni chapters and clubs provide alumni with a chance to broaden their career networks, build lifelong friendships and give back to their alma mater through service and support. Many chapters have their own social activities, networking events, newsletters, scholarships and mentoring programs to benefit the constituency or department they represent. This year alumni and volunteers have reached out to the Alumni Association with plans to establish five new chapters and clubs, focused on the following common interests and regions. If you would like to join their efforts, reach out today!

Matador Attorney Networking Group:

Contact David Bobrosky '95 (Finance) at dbobrosky@lewitthackman.com or Michael Attar '95 (Marketing) at mdattar@lhclawyers.net

Conejo Valley Alumni Network:

Contact Doron Schnaid '94 (Radio/Television Production) at doron@schnaidinsurance.com or Elad Goren '99 (Finance) at goren@financialpointe.com

Educational Leadership and Policy Studies (ELPS) Graduates:

Contact Ricardo Sosapavon, professor of education, at ricardo.sosapavon@csun.edu

Nursing Alumni Chapter:

Contact Rosine Der-Tavitian, professor of nursing, at rosine.dertavitian@csun.edu

CSUN Hillel Alumni:

Contact Judy Alban, CSUN Hillel director, at judy@hillel818.org

Alumni Notes

Please submit notes for future publication to alumni@csun.edu
Red denotes Alumni Association members.

1960s



'62 Lionel B. Sanders (Accountancy) has merged his business, Lionel B. Sanders, CPA, with one of

Southern California's largest full-service accounting, tax and business advisory firms, Gumbiner Savett, Inc.

'65 Curtis C. Ebbesmeyer (Engineering) is the author of *Flotsametrics and the Floating World: How One Man's Obsession with Runaway Sneakers and Rubber Ducks Revolutionized Ocean Science*. He kicked off his career as a pioneering oceanographer in 1969, when he became the first in the field to work for Mobil/Standard Oil.

'65 Lawrence Newman (Biology) was recently promoted to vice president of Kirkman Group, Inc., and he remains its chief operating officer over technical and regulatory affairs. He began working for the company in 1999.

'67 Hasso Hering (Journalism) is spending his "golden years" with his wife, Kathy, in Albany, Texas. He was the editor of the *Albany Democrat-Herald* for 34 years, retiring in 2012. Hasso maintains a blog and occasionally participates in media events.

'69 James Adams (History) recently stepped down from his presidency at Chaminade College Preparatory in West Hills and is serving as president emeritus. He served as president since 1996 and had a 39-year career in Catholic education.

1970s

'73 Bill Handel (Political Science), the renowned radio host of "The Bill Handel Show," celebrated 20 years of waking Los Angeles on KFI 640 AM. He also hosts "Handel on the Law" on Saturday mornings, a topic he knows well, as he studied law.

'74, '78 Julio Blanco (B.S., Physics; M.S., Physics) is interim provost and vice president for academic affairs at California State University, Monterey Bay. Previously, he was the dean of the School of Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Engineering and a professor of physics at California State University, Bakersfield.



'74, '75 Opanyi Nasiali (B.A., Urban Studies; M.A., Urban Planning and Public Administration)

is the first black resident and native of Kenya to be elected mayor of Claremont, Calif.

'74 Gerald (Jerry) Pelton (Business Administration) has been appointed to Pathpoint's board of directors. Founded in 1964, Pathpoint is a California-based nonprofit that aims to provide services, programs and opportunities to people with disabilities and disadvantages.

'74, '76 Dianne Saylor-Wilburn (B.A., Psychology; M.A., Educational Psychology) recently retired from her 20-year practice as a marriage and family therapist. Her current endeavor is working with breast cancer survivors — she is an 18-year survivor of the disease — as well as participating in other community work.

'74 Craig A. Szabo (Business Administration) has been the president and owner of Szabo Accountancy Corporation since 1996. Szabo was recently appointed to the board of directors of Variety — The Children's Charity, a Southern California organization aimed at inspiring and "building a better future" for kids.

'75 Jeffrey Borenstein (Business Administration) achieved the designation of certified financial planner this year. In 2008, he joined Lamia Financial Group LLC, a financial planning and wealth management company. Borenstein is also a member of The Bequest

Society of Rotary International and the Financial Planning Association of Ventura County.



'75 William Covino (M.A., English) is the first new president of California State University, Los Angeles since

1979. Covino is a veteran of the Cal State system, serving as provost and vice president of academic affairs at CSU Fresno and CSU Stanislaus.

'75, '83 Melissa Lanfre (B.S., Office Administration; M.S., Accountancy) is the executive vice president and chief operating officer of Farmers & Merchants Bank of Long Beach. With more than 30 years of banking experience, she also served as executive vice president and chief administrative officer with Beach Business Bank.

'76, '86 Richard Flores (B.A., Art; M.A., Art) is a three-dimensional fine arts professor at The College of the Sequoias. His exhibit, "The Urban Sketch Experiment," showed recently at the college's art gallery.



'76 Adriane Lowe (Art) is a financial planner with MassMutual's Greater Los Angeles Agency. She earned the

Chartered Special Needs Consultant professional designation from The American College in Pennsylvania.

'76 Mark Morgan (Business Administration) is the new president of Anthem Blue Cross. Prior to his promotion, he served as the company's chief operating officer.

'77, '02 Janet Garufis (B.A., English; M.A., English) is president of the volunteer board of directors for the Scholarship Foundation of Santa Barbara. Garufis has served on the board since 2009.

'77 Terry Greenberg (Journalism), who was named an outstanding alumnus by CSUN's journalism department, is the editor of *The*

Lubbock Avalanche-Journal and vice president of audience for Morris Publishing Group's metro markets.

'77 Frank Lala (Community Health Education), founder of the Chatham County Association of the Deaf, was the 2013 recipient of Georgia's Deaf Community Leader Award for his work as a rehabilitation counselor for the deaf and hard-of-hearing community with Georgia's Department of Human Services in Savannah.

'77, '95 Kenneth "Ken" MacFarlane (B.A., Theatre; M.A., Theatre) is an actor in the independent film — recently released on DVD — "Caesar and Otto's Deadly Xmas."

'78 Rodney A. Scher (English) is living his "golden years" as an annotator and editor of sailing books for Sheridan House, and he works as a publication editor for *Smart Computing* magazine.

'78 Jonathon "Jon" Sutherland (Radio-Television Broadcasting), a former record-setting Matador runner who holds a CSUN top-10 mark in the two-mile run, is a cross country coach for Notre Dame High School in Sherman Oaks. He has been running every day since May 26, 1969 — pushing for one of the longest active streaks in the U.S. In addition to running and coaching, Sutherland made a career as a rock 'n' roll journalist and has authored four books.

'79 Jorge Alvarado (Political Science) was recently appointed New Mexico's chief public defender.

'79 Peter Charles Flanderka (Journalism) has been named partner in the Los Angeles law firm Fisher & Phillips LLP, one of the leading management-side labor and employment firms in the nation.

1980s

'80 Annette Nellen (Accounting) received the 2013 Arthur J. Dixon Memorial Award from the Tax Division of the American Institute of CPAs, considered the highest honor in the taxation industry. She is a tax professor and director of the graduate tax program for San Jose State University. She is also the lead author of the article "Tax

Policy Concept Statement No. 1 — Guiding Principles of Good Tax Policy: A Framework for Evaluation of Tax Proposals."

'81 Gilbert Dalmau (Business Administration) was hired by Sterling Financial Corporation as Southern California market president.

'81, '04 Michelle Rene Katz (B.A., Art; M.A., Mathematics Education) is a founding math teacher at Northridge Academy High School in the Los Angeles Unified School District. She teaches AP calculus. She was nominated for the 2013 Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching.



'81 John Krantz (Business Administration) is the senior vice president-controller of Stearns Lending, Inc., a major lending company.

'82 Matthew Geyer (Philosophy) spent eight years as a motion picture prop-maker while earning his degree, 20 years as a commercial lawyer, and 10 years as a commercial arbitrator and mediator. He recently published his first novel, *Strays*, available at independent bookstores and online.



'82 Michael "Mike" Herrington (Physical Education) finished eighth in the running

for the first-ever *USA Today* Best High School Football Coach in America competition. He received more than 35,000 votes for outstanding coaching at Hart High in Santa Clarita. In 23 seasons under Herrington, the Indians have racked up 15 Foothill League Championships, six CIF Championships and reached four CIF Finals. He played offensive line for two seasons at College of the Canyons and two seasons at CSUN.

'82 Diana L. (Thorn) Roemer (Political Science) is director of advancement and marketing for a continuing-care retirement community in Mt. Morris, Ill. She is also a published author and

started a small marketing consulting firm, Write it Right, in 2012.

'83 Liza Carbe (Music) was classically trained at CSUN and has used her talents on acoustic, electric and bass guitars in Incendio, a band founded in 1999. The band blends sounds of Spanish guitar and classic rock.

'83 Dirk Gates (Engineering) is the executive chairman and founder of Xirrus, a leader in high-performance Wi-Fi.

'83, '91 Rivka Schaffner (B.A., Art; Teaching Credential Program), a surrealist, contemporary graffiti artist, hosted a presentation for the Visalia Art League for the Artist Lecture Series.

'83, '09 Leslie Sobol, CPA (B.S., Business Administration; M.S., Taxation) became a partner in the accounting firm of Lucas Horsfall. She is also a professor of taxation at CSUN, where she created the peer-reviewed *Tax Development Journal* in 2009. The journal is the first student-run online publication to serve as a forum for intellectual discourse on emerging issues, for tax practitioners and policy makers.

'84 Nancy Soble Juetten (Marketing) is the author of *Bye-Bye Boring Bio* and leads the "Worldwide Virtual Get Your Client Attracting Story Done" workshop.

'84 Mark J. Kelson (Finance) was named one of Los Angeles' most influential mergers and acquisitions advisors by the *Los Angeles Business Journal*. He serves as chair of the Los Angeles Corporate Securities and Practice at Greenberg Traurig LLP.

'84 Faith Morris (M.A., Education) went on to earn her doctorate in curriculum from UCLA. She is now principal at Marblehead Elementary School in the Calabasas Unified School District.



'85 Eugene "Gene" Baur (Sociology), author of national bestseller *Farm Sanctuary: Changing Hearts and Minds About Animals and Food*, is the president and co-founder of Farm Sanctuary. Recently featured on "The Jazzy Vegetarian," he has

worked for the past 25 years to capture pictures and videos of industrial farming practices — earning him recognition in the animal rights community.

'85 Ken Davison (Speech Communication) is the president of Symmetry Electronics Corporation. He has worked in the industry for 29 years.

'84 Mary Jerez (M.A., Secondary Reading Improvement) will retire from her beloved position as an English teacher at Frontier High School in Camarillo. She has served the school for 39 years.

'85 Webb Weiman (Radio/TV Production) founded the non-profit organization Jump!, which helps senior citizens fulfill their dreams by checking off items on their "bucket list." He founded the organization after losing his mother, brother and father to illnesses. He worked as the head of post-production for the Magical Elves company, and he supervised award-winning shows such as "Project Greenlight," "Project Runway" and "Top Chef."

'86 Linda Keller (Journalism and Political Science) is the employee benefits practice leader of California operations for Hub International Limited, California.

'86 John Powell (Marketing) was named vice president of sales at Harman's JBL Professional. His responsibilities include sales planning and management.

'86 Doug Sirotta (Accounting Theory and Practice) is a partner in Ernst & Young LLP's Seattle tax practice. He has had a 25-year career advising multi-national corporations and entrepreneurial businesses on domestic and international tax issues.

'87 Dennis DeYoung (Finance), who served as CSUN Alumni Association president from 2011 to 2012, was named a Trusted Advisor Honoree of 2012 by the *San Fernando Valley Business Journal*. He is the branch manager of Financial West Group in Northridge, managing \$95 million in assets for about 200 individual and corporate clients.

Planned Giving

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75	5.8%	\$580
80	6.8%	\$680
85	7.8%	\$780
90	9.0%	\$900

Please contact our Planned Giving Office for your free, personalized illustration at no obligation. (818) 677-2136



Alumni Notes

'87 Raul Godinez II (Civil Engineering) is the city manager of El Monte, Calif. Previously, he served as executive director of public works in Santa Ana and for Oakland public works under then-Mayor Jerry Brown. He also served on the San Fernando City Council from 1994 to 1998.

'88 Joseph Slotnick (M.A., Educational Administration) was selected Deaf Person of the Year for the 12th district of Los Angeles. He is the co-founder of Telecommunication for the Deaf, Inc., and a longtime officer of Temple Beth Solomon.

'89, '94 Ramon Flores (B.S., Engineering; M.S., Mechanical Engineering) has joined the board of Ventura County's Community Action Agency, which helps low-income families improve their lives. He also holds a doctorate and serves as president of the Ventura County Board of Education.

'89 Serj Minassians (Radio, Television and Film), a Los Angeles-based filmmaker, joined colleague Edwin Avanes to present and discuss their new film, "Epic

Denied: Depriving the Forty Days of Musa Dagh" at the Film and Arts panel for the Armenian National Committee of America Grassroots Conference.

'89 Jessica Oei (Home Economics-Business) works for Tech Lighting and LBL Lighting as Western regional sales manager and Internet sales manager.

1990s

'90, '10 Gina Johnson (B.A., Child Development; MPA, Public Administration) is the chief deputy of institution services of the Ventura County Probation Agency. She worked her way up the ranks after joining the agency as a student aide in 1990.

'90 Hollie Krell (Home Economics-Business) rappelled down the side of a 30-story building at Over the Edge, a Denver event hosted by the Cancer League of Colorado to raise funds for cancer research and patient care. Krell has survived two types of cancer and is the mother of three children.

'90 Richard Plump (Engineering) is the chief executive of Plump Engineering, which executed

logistics plans for the space shuttle Endeavour's move across L.A. from the airport to the California Science Center.

'90, '96 Sharon Stuart (M.A., Computers in Instruction; M.S., Mathematics) retired in June from her 40-year position at Apollo High School in the Simi Valley Unified School District. She taught math classes of all levels and independent study courses focused on math-oriented trades such as accounting.

'91 Allan Graves (M.S., Electrical Engineering) has worked for the Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division for more than 30 years. He received the Navy Meritorious Civilian Service Award, the third-highest honor the Navy can bestow on a civilian.

'91 Vahe Markarian (Geography), a longtime Glendale resident, was recognized by the Los Angeles City Council for 20 years of service in public education. He is the principal of Santa Monica Boulevard Community Charter School.

'91 Liza Frias (Environmental and Occupational Health) is the new environmental health manager for the city of Pasadena.

'92 Nicole Duet (Theatre) is an art professor at Louisiana Tech University. The Louisiana native was a part-time lecturer at CSUN for seven years.



'92 Audrey Mathews (MPA, Public Administration) was awarded the lifetime achievement

award from the American Society for Public Administrators. She is a professor emerita in the College of Business and Public Administration at California State University, San Bernardino.

'93 Ronald C. Hasse (Organizational Systems Management) is the publisher and president of the Los Angeles News Group.

'93 Joe Mannetti (M.S., Marriage, Family, Child Counseling) was selected by the board of directors of the New Haven Pride Center as a recipient of the 11th Annual Dorothy Awards for his work with the LGBT community. The award honors Connecticut residents who have made significant contributions to the community.

'93 Genaro Ky-Li Smith (English) was one of three authors featured at the Festival of Words in Grand Coteau, La., which took place in November 2013. He has published work in many journals and earned first place in the Zora Neale Hurston/Richard Wright Fellowship competition.

'94 Nausheer Allibhoy (Finance) was appointed managing director of global professional services at Alvarez and Marsal. Previously, he led the valuation advisory practice at SingerLewak.

'94 Carol Cooley (Teaching Credential Program), an adult education teacher, retired from Monte Vista School and Virtual Academy after 38 years of service to Simi Valley Unified School District.

'94, '96 Harold L. Osmer (B.A., Geography; M.A., Geography) has released "Where They Raced — Speed Demons in the City of Angels" on DVD, which recounts the history of racing tracks in Southern California.

'94 Charlie Wiener (Electrical Engineering) is a senior systems engineer for Entech Computer Services, Inc.

'95 David Lee (M.S., Biology) is the new vice president of quality at OsoBio. He has more than 20 years of experience in his field.

'95, '10 Anne Yale (Teaching Credential; M.A., English) published her first book, *What's That Word? A Fun Way to Build Vocabulary*. The book focuses on building vocabulary for high school students, and exhibitors featured it at the National Council of Teachers of English conference in Las Vegas.

'96 Brian Begun (Theatre) is the CEO and founder of Everything's Made of Chocolate. His invention and business venture grew out of the combination of his skills and expertise in visual effects. He has made a 20-year career in the art of chocolate design.

'96 Jason Lawson (Accounting Theory and Practice), CPA, is a partner at Moss Adams LLP. He has 15 years of accounting and consulting experience, with a focus on middle-market, publicly traded companies.



'96 Nury Martinez (Political Science) is one of the newest elected members of the Los Angeles

City Council. Her work in the community includes founding Pacoima Beautiful and advocating for students within the Los Angeles Unified School District.

'96 Eric Nelson (MBA, Business Administration) is the vice president of commercial engines and helicopter programs for Aviall, Inc. He has served the company since 2005 and has more than 25 years of experience in the aviation OEM supply chain.

'97 Craig Pisors (Sociology) is president and community banking regional operations manager at U.S. Bank, where he manages compliance and operational procedures for retail, commercial and private banking.

'97 Donna Stapleton (Teaching Credential) is the new assistant principal for Vonore Elementary and Vonore Middle School in Monroe County, Tenn.

'97 Jason Thibeault (M.A., English) is the senior vice president of marketing for PokitDok, a health marketplace for consumers to research and shop for non-acute treatment.

'98 Phaedra Ellis-Lamkins (Political Science) has served as the head of Green For All, a Washington, D.C.-based group that unites unions and environmentalists to push for anti-poverty measures and a clean-energy economy, since 2009. With close ties to the Obama administration, she led the fight to include two key provisions — funds for job training and a focus on green jobs — in the House of Representatives climate and energy bill.

'99 Rebecca Bjork (MPA, Public Administration) has been appointed Santa Barbara's interim public works director. She oversees the city's transportation system, water and wastewater facilities, and city-owned buildings and fleet. She also manages a \$50 million budget and 124 staff members.

'99, '02, '07 Kelli Burns (B.A., Liberal Studies; Teaching Credential; M.A., Educational Administration) is the new principal of Mountain Meadows School, a Moorpark Unified School District elementary school.

'99, '03, '11 Julian Gomez (B.A. English; Teaching Credential; M.A. Educational Leadership and Policy Studies) is the principal of Moorpark Community High School, the continuation school for Moorpark Unified School District. His work there comes after a successful stint as dean of Chatsworth High School in Los Angeles Unified School District.

'99 Michael Lizarraga (Journalism) was the guest speaker at the Deaf Sports Academy's 2013 Stars Basketball Camp at California School for the Deaf, Riverside. Lizarraga played basketball for the Matadors during his time at Northridge.

2000s

'00 John Dagata (Criminology and Corrections), a former Matador track and field and football star, joined the University of Oklahoma Sooners football coaching staff. Dagata also has coached at University of California, Berkeley; Iowa State University; University of California, Santa Barbara; and United Kingdom Athletics.

'00 Brad Marsh (English) was recognized by *The Recorder* as a "Lawyer on the Fast Track" in 2013.

'00 Ara Soudjian (Radio, Television and Film Production), a filmmaker and activist, was honored with the Vahan Cardashian Award by the Armenian National Committee of America-Western Region at its annual banquet.

'00 Gard Van Antwerp (MBA, Business Administration) is the laser applications manager for Reis Robotics of U.S. and Canada. He coordinates all activities involving the company's extensive line of automation, robotics and optics.

'01 Joan Michaels Aguilar (Family and Consumer Sciences) has been promoted to deputy city manager of administrative services in Dixon, Calif. She also serves

on the California Society of Municipal Finance Officers board of directors.

'01 Lilia Galindo (MPA, Public Administration) was appointed to the 50th District Agricultural Association, Antelope Valley Fair Board, by Governor Brown. She also is the owner and host of a radio talk show, "Café Con Leche."

'01 Brian Ganley (MPA, Public Administration) is the new chief information officer in the information services department for the city of Glendale, managing three divisions.

'01 Jennifer Gorospe-Tull (Sociology) is a nationally certified school psychologist for the Coronado Unified School District in Coronado.

'01 Matthew Krupnick (Business Law) is a lawyer with Krupnick & Krupnick, a firm he founded with his mother.

'01 Eliza Minnasian (Accountancy) was elected to the board of directors of the nonprofit Partners for Potential, which allocates programs and services to multicultural adults with developmental disabilities. She is also a partner at NSBN LLP, working in the entrepreneurial services department, where she supplies accounting, tax consulting, tax planning and compliance services.



'02 Armond Aghakhanian (Political Science) was appointed to serve on the Park, Recreation and Community

Services Board in the city of Burbank, and the school facilities oversight committee for the Burbank Unified School District. He also is a participating professor at Woodbury University and a doctoral candidate in organizational leadership at Pepperdine University's Graduate School of Education and Psychology.

'02 Michelle Bonoan (Management) has joined Heidrick & Struggles, a provider of executive search and leadership consulting services worldwide, as a partner within the company's education and social enterprise practice.



California State University
Northridge

ANNUAL CAMPAIGN

2013-2014

A Great Success

So far this year, 5,681 people have given to the Annual Campaign 2013-2014 and many have attended President's Associates events at the Valley Performing Arts Center, the Petersen Automotive Museum, and in CSUN's Botanic Garden and Donald E. Bianchi Planetarium.

Do your part before June 30!

Your gift, regardless of the size, has a major impact. Last year, gifts of \$100 or less added up to more than \$200,000 in support.

Individuals and organizations that make large gifts often look at the overall number of donors as an indication that there is broad support for CSUN, making them more likely to give. Magazines and organizations that rank universities also look at the percentage of alumni who make a gift as a factor. The bottom line is your gift makes a difference. It is important. Whether \$25 or \$100, or whatever amount you are inspired to contribute, please join the thousands of others by making a gift today.



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Alumni Notes

’03 Esmeralda Xochitl Flores (Chicana/o Studies) was included in a *Time Magazine* article about more American women choosing “childlessness.” The magazine featured her on the cover of the Aug. 12, 2013, issue. She also has written and performed a stage play on Chicano childlessness and its impacts on the Chicano family unit.

’03, ’10 Scott Holloway (Teaching Credential; M.A., Science Education) has served as a physics teacher at Westlake High School in the Conejo Valley Unified School District for five years, teaching AP physics. He also encourages students’ participation in the International Physics Bowl. He was a science nominee for the 2013 Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching.

’03 Melissa Karpel (Theatre) was a stage manager for the Los Angeles Opera. A vegan and animal lover, she now works from home as a volunteer coordinator for the FiXiT Foundation, an organization that promotes the spaying and neutering of companion animals. In 2013 the

“Ellen DeGeneres Show” featured Karpel after she won a John Deere riding lawn mower, which she took home to her fiancé’s farm in Alma, Mich.

’03 Kariné Poghosyan (B.M., Music Keyboard/Piano Performance) has performed solo at Carnegie Hall, taught at Manhattan School of Music and performed at St. Vartan Cathedral in New York City, leading the St. Vartan orchestra in their inaugural appearance.

’03 Natalie Tronkina (Accountancy), CPA, is a director of the transactional advisory practice at CohnReznick, one of the largest accounting, tax and advisory firms in the United States. She is based in the Los Angeles office.

’04 Amy Bailey Jurewicz (Marketing) is executive director of the Ventura Family YMCA.



’04 Nancy Landa (Information Systems) was accepted to the master’s in global migration

program at the University College London’s geography department. Landa gained an international reputation for her efforts fighting for more immigration rights in the U.S., after being deported to her birth country, Mexico, in 2009. She is one of nine people who shared their stories with Eileen Truax for her book, *Dreamers*. The book explains the issue of immigration through the immigrant experience.

’04 Patricia Pape (M.A., Educational Administration) is the principal of Ascension Lutheran School in Thousand Oaks. Previously, she served as principal at Somis Elementary School and Ramona Elementary School. She has nearly 20 years of experience as a classroom teacher for K-5 students and eight years of administrative experience.

’04 Nema Pierce (M.A., Educational Administration) is the principal of Mariposa Elementary School of Global Education in Agoura Hills. She has more than 20 years of experience in education.

’05 Claudia Keith (M.A, Mass Communication/Journalism) is the first-ever chief communications officer for the city of Palo Alto. Recently, she served the CSU as the assistant vice chancellor for public affairs.

’05 Joshua Stephenson (M.A., Educational Administration) is the principal of Chaparral Middle School in Diamond Bar, Calif.

’06 Kyle Jean (Kinesiology General Studies), a former Matador baseball player, owns Pinnacle Performance Institute gym in Bakersfield. He focuses on full-body training for athletic performance.

’06 Kirk Jordan (M.A., Educational Administration) exhibited his art show, “Downtowns,” at Matthews Art Gallery in Spearfish, S.D. Prior to his work as a photographer, Jordan was a teacher, musician, comedian and actor who played roles in several films and television shows in the 1990s, including “Wings,” “Seinfeld,” “Chaplin,” “Dave” and “In the Line of Fire.”



’12 Jesse Allen Wilkes (Cinema and Television Arts) passed away April 27, 2013, at the age of 27. A Marine sergeant

who served two tours of duty in Afghanistan, Wilkes was an avid motorcyclist and San Fernando Valley native. After his passing, family and friends established the Jesse Wilkes Memorial Foundation, which promotes the installation of left-turn arrows at dangerous intersections.

FACULTY AND STAFF



Pete Accardy (Physical Education), 72, passed away July 13, 2013. His contributions to the CSUN

Matadors were astounding, bringing the men’s swim team nine NCAA Championships and the women’s swim team four NCAA Championships — a combined record for the university. He coached at CSUN

’06, ’09 Josh McDonald (M.S., Marriage and Family Therapy; M.A., Educational Administration K-12) is the assistant principal of La Mesa Junior High School in Santa Clarita.

’06 Andy Posner (Spanish Language and Culture) founded Capital Good Fund, a fast-growing nonprofit organization based in Providence, R.I. He is the organization’s executive director.

’06 Heather Sinclair Wood (Journalism) is a writer-producer for the CNN newsroom.

’07 Sommer Barwick (MPA, Public Administration) serves Simi Valley as the director of community services, overseeing the Simi Valley Public Library, various youth programs, neighborhood councils, waste franchise services, code enforcement, the transit system and community projects.

’07 Elizabeth “Liz” Camy-Blackwell (Health Sciences) took first among female runners at the Long Beach Marathon’s

half-marathon (13.1 miles). A former runner for CSUN and current member of Nike Team Run LA, Blackwell is a Camarillo teacher who works with autistic children.

’07 Regina Caskey (Urban Planning/Environment Analysis) was named planning commissioner for the city of Lemon Grove, in San Diego County.

’07 Nadia Chapman (Journalism-Public Relations) joined the Crowne Plaza Ventura Beach as sales manager.

’07, ’09 James Golden (B.A., African American Art and Literature; MPA, Public Administration) was appointed as the first poet laureate for his hometown of Salinas. He is the author of the 2012 NAACP Image Award-winning book, *Afro Clouds & Nappy Rain*.



’07 Michael Medel (M.A., Communication Studies), who served as a youth mentor for the Youth Making

Change program, is serving on the board of directors of the United Boys & Girls Clubs of Santa Barbara County.

’07 Ofa Tulikihifo (Journalism-Broadcast), a former Redondo Union High School (RUHS) basketball, track and tennis star who went on to lead the Matadors as an all-time leading scorer in basketball, was inducted in the first class of RUHS athletics hall of fame inductees. A former All-Big West Conference selection, she plays basketball professionally in Europe.



’07 Francis “Fran” Wagenack (M.A., Educational Administration) is the principal of La Cuesta and

Alta Vista high schools in Santa Barbara.

’08 Maryley Camacho (Marketing) led the tour of a mural painted by fellow alumnus Levi Ponce. She volunteers with

the Museum of San Fernando Valley, helping organize mural tours for its public art initiative.



’08 Kathryn “Katie” Holloway (Sociology), a U.S. paralympic sitting volleyball player and the

first amputee ever to play NCAA Division I women’s basketball, was a finalist for the 2013 Women’s Sports Foundation Sportswoman of the Year awards in the team category. At the London 2012 Paralympic Games, she led her team to a silver medal and earned the “Best Spiker” award. Holloway also accepted a position as a recreational therapist with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs in Palo Alto.

’08 Lindsay Mancha (Journalism-Public Relations) joined the project management team at Cyberset, after a stint on the company’s in-house writing team.

In Memoriam

ALUMNI

’62 Leonard D. Black (Accountancy) passed away July 27, 2013, at the age of 73. He devoted 40 years of his life to the San Fernando Valley as an attorney.

’74 Patrick John Halloran (Accounting), 63, passed away Feb. 2, 2013. He served honorably in the U.S. Army in Vietnam. Upon his return, he attended CSUN on the GI Bill, later earning a master’s degree in taxation and becoming a Certified Public Accountant. Halloran operated a tax practice in Templeton, Calif., until his retirement in 2010.



Emily Hobson (Cinema and Television Arts), 28, succumbed to cancer in June 2013 after a five-year battle. She was diagnosed with Ewing’s Sarcoma and underwent various treatments

to remove the tumor. In 2009, her illness forced her medical withdrawal from CSUN. After diagnosis, she was active with the advocacy group Stupid Cancer. She is remembered for her radiant smile, positive attitude and warm kindness.

’86 Ralph R. Olin (Geography) passed away May 16, 2012, at the age of 62, at the VA Medical Center in Charleston, S.C.

’84 Jean Parks (Sociology) passed away Jan. 16, 2012, at the age of 78. After earning her degree, she started her own home infant-care business, tending to several sets of children and preparing them for elementary school. In more recent years, she had become a caregiver for family members afflicted with Alzheimer’s disease. Always a caring woman, she valued her education from CSUN and treasured her college friends.

’73, ’77 Ruth Rothman (B.A., Speech Communicative Disorders; M.A., Communicative Disorders) passed away March 18, 2013. She began her CSUN career at age 46.

After earning her graduate degree, Rothman went on to work as a speech pathologist, speech teacher and therapist for 25 years. In 2010, she established a scholarship program that combines current gifts, an endowment and a commitment from her estate to help CSUN education and speech-language pathology students. Rothman and her nephew, John, in 2013 established Ruthie’s Kids Program, an early-intervention program for children up to age 3. The program provides assistance to families of children who attend the C-SUNFlowers preschool program and are not eligible for state funding. She also established the Rothman Family Trust.



’05 Matthew Michael Ursin (Recreation), a native of Southern California, passed away July 13, 2012, at the age

of 38. After graduating from CSUN, he made a life in Bellingham, Wash. A member of Sacred Heart Catholic Church, he is remembered as a cherished son and friend to many.

for 24 years, a period in which he developed the swim program and crafted the face of the sport on the West Coast. A CSUN alumnus himself who graduated in ’71, he was a dedicated Matador who inspired many students, colleagues and friends. Accardy coached more than 300 NCAA Division II All-Americans at CSUN. These included Michele Hampton, a 14-time All-American and a 12-time NCAA champion. He taught his students to be great athletes, yet he also focused on shaping them into phenomenal students and community members. Accardy still holds a place on campus in the Matador Hall of Fame, where he was inducted in 1994.

James Bracy, Ph.D. (Pan African Studies) passed away Feb. 3, 2014, just shy of his 70th birthday. Bracy was on medical leave from CSUN’s Pan African Studies Department (PAS), where he had served as professor since 1979. He was a dynamic professor who had passion for his discipline and loved and supported students. He served in several posts at CSUN, including interim chair of PAS and associate

dean of the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences — but many students first met Bracy through his class on “The Black Male.” Born in Everett, Mass., he attended Boston University before completing his bachelor’s degree in psychology at Tarkio College in Missouri. He received a scholarship to Howard University, where he earned a master’s degree in psychology, and he later earned a doctorate in social psychology from the University of Michigan. During his tenure as a CSUN professor, the university honored Bracy with the Distinguished Teaching Award. He is survived by his wife of 20 years, Jean E. Daniels, D.S.W., a professor in the Department of Social Work and Sociology. In memory of Bracy, his department has established the James Bracy Memorial Scholarship through the CSUN Foundation.

William G. Freeman (Speech Communications) passed away April 27, 2013, just before his 81st birthday. He earned his bachelor’s (’66) and master’s (’67) degrees at then San Fernando Valley State College. He joined the faculty in

1970, taught and published in rhetorical and homiletical studies, and retired as an emeritus professor in 1997. He was particularly devoted to advising graduate students and served as the department graduate coordinator for many years.

A. Eugene Fritsche (Geological Sciences), 76, passed away July 7, 2013. His service to CSUN began in 1963, teaching 12 courses and advising 29 master’s theses and 34 senior theses. Devoted to students and their success as professional geoscientists, he remained close to the university as a professor emeritus after his retirement in 2000. He began a program to help provide scholarships for geology majors through the organization of four GeoTreks between 2004 and 2011. After more than \$47,000 was raised, he worked with his wife, Sue, to create the Gene and Sue Fritsche GeoTrek Endowment. His philanthropy continues to provide annual support to deserving students.

Donald M. Hufhines (Health Sciences) passed away in October 2012 after 40 years of service to

CSUN in the health administration program. Instrumental in creating the program’s undergraduate and graduate majors, he took the helm and developed curricula for both programs in 1958. His insight into the demands of leadership in health administration enabled him to create the foundation upon which CSUN’s programs are based. After retirement, he continued to serve the university community by working for the Tseng College to develop a certificate in health administration. After his passing, Hufhines’ wife, Denise, helped create the Donald M. Hufhines Health Administration Fund, to support the program in its contribution to the education of future leaders in the field.



Greg Jackson (Education) passed away July 12, 2013, at the age of 67. He was a professor in the Department of

Educational Psychology and Counseling and worked as a coordinator in the career counseling program. He began his CSUN >>

Alumni
Notes

’08 Lizbeth Mateo (Chicano/a Studies) recently crossed the U.S.-Mexico border in a protest supporting undocumented immigrant rights.

’08, ’11 Eric Meyers (B.A., M.A., Geography), an honors graduate, celebrated his second year as the head of the Geography Information System department for Harbor Freight Tools in Calabasas. His education has given him the opportunity to bring a new way of doing business to the retail and tool industry.

’08 Rachel Rodriguez (Psychology) was honored at the College of the Canyons in Valencia, during the fourth-annual Empowering HeARTS Gala, a fundraiser for Single Mothers Outreach support services. The Empowering HeARTS award recognizes Santa Clarita Valley women who empower others.

’08 Gary Tuch (Marketing) is a co-founder of Professor Egghead Science Academy, a franchise dedicated to providing fun and educational STEM-based programs

to kids through after-school classes, summer camps, workshops and birthday parties.



’09 Ginein Letford (M.A., Elementary Education Curriculum and Instruction) is a music teacher and

coordinator of gifted and talented programs at NEW Academy Canoga Park. Her work and use of interdisciplinary strategies earned her a spot as a finalist in *People Magazine’s* “Reader’s Choice Teacher of the Year” contest. She is also one of 50 teachers celebrated and profiled in the book *American Teacher: Heroes in the Classroom*.

’09, ’11 George Paysinger (B.S., Finance; MBA, Management) is the media strategist and analyst for Hawthorne Direct, a full-service brand response advertising agency.

’09 Levi Ponce (Art) is the artist behind the popular art series “Drive By Murals” on the Mural Mile along Van Nuys Boulevard in Pacoima. His efforts to transform

his childhood community with attractive imagery earned him recognition by the Los Angeles City Council, which may lift the ban against murals on private property — where Ponce creates most of his work. His mural series has grown and surpassed much of this artist’s expectations.

’09 Suji Kang (B.M., Music Strings/Orchestral), a cellist for the Rolón Trio, teaches music in Los Angeles and maintains a private studio.

2010s

’10 Steve Brown (B.S., Finance; B.A., Cinema and Television Arts) was a 2013 Emmy nominee for outstanding picture editing for reality programming, for “Project Runway — Europe, Here We Come.”

’10 Jeff Hillery (Liberal Studies) relocated from New York City, where he was a senior producer for the talk radio division of the Fox News Channel, to Austin, Texas, where he serves as communications director for the Texas state senate.

’10 Allison Hata (Journalism) is group editor for Firebrand Media.

’10 Peter Pardini (Cinema and Television Arts) screened his co-created film, “Ordinary Man” in Fresno, after shooting the 16-minute movie in the area.

’10 Marla Schevker (Journalism) is the local editor for Hollywood Patch. She is also enrolled in a master’s program at University of Southern California.

’11 Emily Bush (Journalism) was on the action-adventure competition program “72 Hours,” produced by TNT. On the show, she traveled to New Zealand to race across the wilderness in search of a briefcase containing \$100,000.

’11 Aram Kouyoumdjian (M.A., English), Esq., is a practicing attorney and assistant general counsel for the Los Angeles Unified School District.

’11 Robert Plastino (MPA, Public Sector Management) is a sheriff’s department lieutenant heading the Isla Vista foot patrol in Santa Barbara.

career in 1992 after earning his Ed.D. from UCLA. Jackson was an admired colleague, teacher and leader. He will be remembered for emphasizing his expression of gratitude as a means to living a healthy life.

Gordon R. Lewthwaite (Geography) passed away Sept. 18, 2013, at the age of 88. He emigrated from New Zealand to the United States as a Fulbright Scholar to pursue his doctorate at the University of Wisconsin. After receiving his doctorate, he taught at the University of Oklahoma and Auckland. In 1959, he became a founding member of this university, teaching for 32 years. He is remembered at CSUN as upbeat and friendly, in addition to being a serious scholar who wished to advance research in historical and cultural geography.



Roberta Eleanor Madison (Health Sciences), a former chair of the health sciences department, passed away

July 13, 2013, at the age of 81. She came to CSUN after earning her degrees, including a doctorate in public health from UCLA. Known as “Bobbie” by her colleagues, Madison taught statistics and epidemiology, contributed to numerous committees and helped found the women’s studies department. In 2010, that department honored Bobbie as a “Phenomenal Woman,” for her contributions to the department, university and surrounding community.

Colleen Schaeffer (English), 56, passed away March 25, 2013. She retired from the CSUN faculty in 2007. A Matador through and through, she graduated from Northridge with a bachelor’s (’90) and a master’s (’93) in English. She was known for always going above and beyond for her students and the department. She was a significant contributor to online instruction programs. In addition to her passion for teaching, she enjoyed creating artwork.

Morris Schonbach (History) passed away April 18, 2013, at the age of 91. After earning all of his degrees in American history from UCLA and marching for civil rights in the early 1960s, he came to CSUN in 1964. While at Northridge, Schonbach was key in establishing the Department of Afro-African Studies and the Jewish Studies program. During his time at CSUN, he received the Distinguished Teaching Award for outstanding accomplishments. The university granted him emeritus status after his retirement in 1992. Beyond his love for academic pursuits, he enjoyed classical music, athletics — particularly tennis, baseball and all UCLA teams — and his animal friends.



Christine H. Smith (Family and Consumer Sciences), a CSUN emerita, passed away Dec. 20, 2013, at the age of 75. While studying for her undergraduate degree, she took a sewing job with the drama department,

where she met her husband and lifetime companion, Owen Smith. She continued her education, earning her Ph.D. in pharmacology and nutrition. She became a registered dietitian in 1978 and a certified nutrition specialist in 1995. During her career, CSUN honored her with myriad awards — including the Distinguished Professor Award. Smith was the co-advisor of the Family and Consumer Sciences Student Dietetic and Food Science Association for 21 years, and director of the Didactic Program in Dietetics. After retiring in 2001, she remained an active member of the program’s advisory board.

Owen Smith (Theatre), 76, passed away Sept. 30, 2013. As a young man, he served in the U.S. Army for three years as active duty and six years as an inactive E5 staff sergeant. After his honorable discharge in 1957, he continued his education and earned bachelor’s (’65) and master’s (’68) degrees in theater from CSUN. By the time he was a full-time professor, Smith had designed hundreds of shows as a set designer or technical director

’11 Jacque Robinson (M.A., Public Sector Management) is the vice mayor and District 1 councilwoman for Pasadena.

’12 Reid Ackerman (Cinema and Television Arts) is working on a comic book-based Web video series, aiming to be a panelist and exhibitor at Comic-Con International. The project, named “Strip Club” in recognition of classic comic strips, began as a short film at CSUN during Ackerman’s freshman year. He is also working on a master’s in screenwriting.

’12 Noelle Howard (Art) is the contract administrator for Access California Services.

’12 Chantal Khalilieh (Political Science) competed in the 2014 Miss California USA pageant, representing Santa Clarita. She hopes to serve as an inspiration and role model for young girls.

’12 Daniel Reynoso (Cinema and Television Arts) is the Web producer for *The Hollywood Reporter’s* online

magazine. Reynoso started as an intern for the Hollywood Creative Directory as an undergraduate.

’12 Katie Sheil (Cinema and Television Arts) was a 2013 Emmy nominee for outstanding sound editing for a miniseries, movie/special, for “Seal Team Six: The Raid on Osama bin Laden.”

’12 John Spiva (Cinema and Television Arts), a first-time director, is working with writer Shabaka Mu Ausar to develop “Roc City,” a drama revolving around a drug dealer attempting to change his life.

’13 Wendy Aguilar (Journalism) joined WZZM 13, an ABC affiliate in Yuma, Ariz., as an anchor and reporter.

’13 Lida Alikhani (Journalism) is a multimedia journalist and general assignment reporter for KAPP/KVEW TV in Yakima, Wash. Previously, she interned for ABC NewsOne, the network’s affiliate feed service, and the ABC News Los Angeles bureau.

’13 Jason Endicott (Communication Studies) is a talk show host on KHTS AM 1220 News. He provides Santa Clarita traffic updates, hosts interviews and occasionally rants on air.

’13 Cameron Harrison (Cell and Molecular Biology) is one of 60 students in the first class of the Frank H. Netter MD School of Medicine at Quinnipiac University in North Haven, Conn.

’13 Michelle Lewis (M.S.W.) received the California Association of Deans and Directors and the CalSWEC research and development committee’s Student Research Award.



’13 Eva Longoria (M.A., Chicana/o Studies) has had a busy year. She produced “Devious Maids,” which airs on Lifetime. She also received the “ALMA de tu Mundo” honor at Telemundo’s Premios Tu Mundo

Awards for her philanthropic endeavors, including support of more than 30 charities. At the 2013 National Council La Raza conference in New Orleans, Longoria also discussed the need for greater access to education for Hispanic youth.



’13 Patrick Miller (M.A., Educational Administration) is an assistant principal at A.E. Wright Middle

School in Calabasas. In his career, he also has served as head varsity golf coach and junior varsity basketball coach.

’13 Gabrielle Moreira (Journalism) is the Simi Valley beat reporter for the *Simi Valley Acorn*.

’11 ’13 Ana Urena (B.A, Social Welfare; M.S.W.) was a top-10 finalist for the California Association of Deans and Directors and CalSWEC research and development committee’s Student Research Award.

and library and information science, and she began working at the Oviatt Library in 1999. In 2004, the university appointed Woodley as the library’s collection development coordinator. She also served as project director for CSUN’s first digital library project, the San Fernando Valley History Digital Library, made possible by the Library Services and Technology Act Grant Program.

Lewis Yablonsky (Sociology) used his “rough-and-tumble youth as a springboard to a distinguished career: He became the ‘Sociologist With Street Smarts,’ as one headline described him, an authority on youth gangs, hippies and drug addicts whose personal experiences gave him insights other scholars lacked,” according to an obituary in the *Los Angeles Times*. Yablonsky, who gained national prominence as a sociologist, criminologist and author, died Jan. 29, 2014, at his home in Santa Monica. He was 89. A New Jersey native, he was a star athlete who attended the University of Alabama on a baseball scholarship — leaving

after a year to serve in the Navy during World War II. Yablonsky earned a business degree from Rutgers University and later a master’s degree and doctorate in sociology from New York University. In 1963, he began a 30-year career on the sociology faculty at then-San Fernando Valley State College. His published work included *The Violent Gang*, *The Tunnel Back: Synanon*, *The Hippie Trip* and his 2010 memoir, *Confessions of a Criminologist: Some of My Best Friends Were Sociopaths*.

Margaret A. Perez Young (Education) passed away Dec. 6, 2013, at the age of 64. She worked at CSUN as education director and an educational lecturer until her retirement in 2008. She found joy in reading, dancing, cooking, music, singing and socializing. She also enjoyed volunteer activities with the Los Angeles County Bilingual Foundation for the Arts of Highland Park, and Ballet Folklórico of Northridge.

Securing Students' Futures



Polland Endowment for a Course is the First of its Kind

CSUN alumna and former professor Barbara Polland (second from right) and colleague Whitney Scott (far right), professor of child and adolescent development, meet with students in Jacaranda Hall.

Had professor Whitney Scott not approached Barbara Polland in 2008 requesting to learn her teaching methods for a unique course, *Alternative Approaches to Discipline*, the course may have ended with Polland's retirement — and the Dr. Barbara K. Polland Endowment may never have come to fruition.

Polland '70 is a CSUN alumna with a master's degree in guidance and counseling, as well as a 37-year career as a professor in guidance and counseling, and later, child development. She designed and taught the popular discipline course for decades, until her retirement in 2008. The course draws on Polland's presentations to parents, teachers and administrators, and the empowerment principles in her book, *We Can Work It Out, Conflict Resolution for Children*.

When Polland retired, the course nearly left with her. Scott, a professor in child and adolescent development, stepped up to the plate, asking for all of the books,

tips and lessons Polland had taught in the original course.

"At that point, I realized I was unhappy that the course wasn't being taught," Polland said. "Whitney's an outstanding professional. She loves doing what she does and is only teaching this course — it is her No. 1 favorite."

Polland noted that Scott, a mother of two, applies what she teaches and learns from the various education conferences she attends (sometimes with Polland) and shares pin-point examples with the class to bring the material to life.

"Working with Barbara over the past five years, learning how to teach this course, awakened my understanding to the importance of modeling creative and shared-power methods of handling conflict," Scott said. "It was — and continues to be — riveting! Current and former discipline students are constantly stopping by my office or sharing in class how they have actually tried some of the

discipline strategies with family and friends. They share that 'it really does work.' One of the smartest decisions I ever made was 'electing' Barbara to be my mentor, friend and parent education coach."

The continued school shootings in the United States prompted Polland to establish her endowment, the first of its kind at CSUN, to support the course.

The course receives \$1,000 annually from the endowment to help with expenses in key areas such as stipends for speakers and funds for a faculty member to attend conferences. Like many CSUN faculty members, Polland has ensured her legacy will live on and impact future generations of students.

"If we can help parents and professionals work with their children in these ways," Polland said, "we will find that we can help change the future just a little bit at a time."

— Chelsea Turner

Jane Small Scholarship Honors Advocate's Memory

CSUN students have a new scholarship opportunity for their work in fighting for rights of the disabled, thanks to Jane Small.

Her name evokes praise and accolades. A Los Angeles resident and champion of disability rights, Jane Small has a permanent legacy at CSUN: a scholarship to encourage, promote and fund students who strive to follow her line of work and volunteerism.

Leadership is a trait clearly desired in college graduates, and finding students with the drive to change the world is often most prevalent in those who consider themselves advocates. The Jane Small Scholarship for Advocates for People with Disabilities — sponsored by her son Jack and daughter-in-law, Jennifer Kalfsbeek-Goetz, assistant dean of the Tseng College

of Extended Learning — honors the late advocate's accomplishments, opening the door for a new generation of advocates.

Small died in October 1999, after building a résumé the size of a novella. Of Small's honors, the most notable occurred when then-California Gov. Grey Davis declared Nov. 20, 1999, "Jane Small Memorial Day" for her legacy as a disability-rights advocate. She was a nationally recognized activist who advanced educational opportunities for students with disabilities in the Los Angeles area.

"I couldn't help but be inspired by her work," said Kalfsbeek-Goetz. "Her mission to create access for disenfranchised groups

is being recognized in this scholarship. In my mind, CSUN is the place for access. You could argue that CSUN is the place for people with disabilities to gain access to higher education."

With that premise in mind, the scholarship will provide \$10,000 (\$1,000 per year, per scholar over two to five years), to students using their studies or volunteer work toward advocacy for people with disabilities.

"We should always be reminded of those groups of people, and we need to support them," Kalfsbeek-Goetz said. "That's what this scholarship will help future leaders do." — C.T.

Peter M. Leonhardt Endowment Supports Future Engineers



The Peter M. Leonhardt Endowment supports junior and senior engineering students.

Like magic, students from all ages and backgrounds move from their world as CSUN students to real-world employees by crossing the stage at commencement. For some, this journey comes with strong community financial support.

The Peter M. Leonhardt Endowment for the College of Engineering and Computer Science recognizes promising junior and senior students who have maintained a minimum 3.0 GPA, demonstrated financial need and hold a part-time job to support their education.

Leonhardt, the donor, is the director of engineering for Chatsworth-based Dytran Instruments. His endowment is the

beneficiary of a life insurance policy he receives through the company. His work with CSUN began after many years of collaborating with Matador alumni.

"[Dytran] hired two CSUN grads to work under me, and each was exceptional," Leonhardt said. "CSUN seems to have a core skill to not only make graduates 'book smart,' but also impart a practical application sense to the educational skills."

He currently works with PCB Piezotronics in New York, spending half his time in San Clemente, Calif. Funding for the endowment comes from his own pocket and stems from his memories of life as a hard-working undergrad.

The latest recipient of his endowment, Jonathan Gjemso, has received the award twice. A graduating senior, Gjemso is majoring in mechanical engineering with an emphasis in product design.

Gjemso and Leonhardt met for a traditional "mentor lunch," and they found Leonhardt's perception that all "good engineering students and engineering professionals share a common bond" went beyond academic interests:

Leonhardt and Gjemso also share a passion for magic. Both hold memberships at the exclusive Magic Castle in Hollywood, which requires an audition for admission. With magic as a common interest, their mentorship relationship blossomed.

"With Mr. Leonhardt as my mentor, I can assess my career paths and whether I am on the right track," Gjemso said. — C.T.

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