

Community @CSUN

Cal State Northridge—The Intellectual, Economic and Cultural Heart of the San Fernando Valley and Beyond

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Valley Performing Arts Center Opening Gala on Jan. 29

Tickets Still Available for Gala, Spring Season for Sale Now

The San Fernando Valley community is invited to celebrate the opening of the state-of-the-art Valley Performing Arts Center at California State University, Northridge on Saturday, Jan. 29, 2011 at a star-studded, black-tie gala event.

Individual tickets, tables and sponsorship opportunities are still available. Individual tickets range from \$1,000 to \$2,500 and tables and sponsorships start at \$10,000. Table purchases and sponsorships of \$10,000 or more will also be acknowledged on the permanent Wall of Honor in the grand lobby atrium of the performance hall. A significant percentage of all donations will be tax deductible.

A star-studded show is planned that features outstanding artists and entertainers including jazz artists Dave Koz and Monica Mancini; opera great Carol Vaness MA '76 (Music), Hon. D '98 (Fine Arts); American Ballet Theatre stars Gillian Murphy



Patrons in the Grand Lobby Atrium of the Valley Performing Arts Center.

and Ethan Stiefel; Broadway legends Tyne Daly and Davis Gaines; renowned actors Brian Cox, Sandra Oh, Michael York, Nancy Cartwright; the CSUN Jazz "A" Band; and an orchestra led by music director Richard Kaufman '77 (Music). Robert Egan, former producing artistic director of the Mark Taper Forum, is the show's producer/director.

The 90-minute gala show will be followed by a magnificent dinner dance. During the dinner dance, the Cowling Band will play featuring music from the 1960s, 1970s and the 1980s. The performance will be preceded by an elegant reception in the grand lobby atrium.

"President Koester and the hundreds of donors and supporters have given an extraordinary gift to California State University, Northridge and to the region. The center will be the cultural hub of not only the university, Valley Performing Arts Center *continued on page 2.*

Campus Unites in 'Astronomical' Donations to Others

More than 13,750 Canned Food and Clothing Items Collected During Second Annual Campus-wide Campaign

Unified We Serve, Cal State Northridge's campus volunteer program, collected more than 13,750 canned food and clothing items during its second annual campus-wide campaign. The items were donated to MEND (Meet Each Need with Dignity), a Pacoima-based private social service agency.

"You have all helped to define the values of CSUN and for that, I thank you from the bottom of my heart," said Justin Weiss, coordinator of

Unified We Serve, to a crowd that gathered at the Oviatt Library on Nov. 17. The program displayed the food items and clothing collected on the steps of the library as "visual" evidence of the power of unity. The donations included more than 8,500 articles of clothing, 3,000 canned and boxed foods, 1,000 books and 700 toys.

Weiss said the amount of donations was "astronomical" for a campus-wide initiative. He recognized several individuals and departments for their

contributions including Susan Ghaemi, assistant to the dean in the College of Health and Human Development, who made the single largest individual donation of 52 items. The Department of Kinesiology donated a total of 480 items. The donation center with the largest amount of items was Bayramian Hall with 480 items

The student award was given to Unified We Serve member Hanna Khalifa, who collected six carloads of items; the Greek Society that donated the most was sorority Lambda

Sigma Gamma, with a total of 1,571. In addition, dorm building 12 was the student housing building with the most items with 249.

"You really made a difference in the lives of the MEND families," said Veronica Soto, clothing manager at MEND, to the crowd on Nov. 17. She said the items would be distributed to more than 150 needy families in the San Fernando Valley.

For more information on MEND, visit www.mendpoverty.org. ■

—Arman Sadri



From left, Cal State Northridge students Martha Morales, Ana Barrera, Alex Wyatt and Claudia Menjivar; Justin Weiss, coordinator of Unified We Serve: The Volunteer Program at CSUN; Merri Whitelock, director of Community Engagement at CSUN and co-sponsor of the drive; Veronica Soto and Richard Weinroth of MEND; and CSUN student Ekaterina Barajas.



Community Connection

By Brittany McCarthy, Director of Government & Community Relations

With the holidays and various festivals and traditions upon us, it's the time of year when we're reminded of the joy of giving. A recent trip to India reminded me of how much we have here in the United States, while also reminding me that one does not have to travel halfway around the world to find hunger and the need for other

basics, such as clothing and shelter. Those needs exist in our own backyards, right here in the San Fernando Valley. The holiday season is a good time to reflect on how we can give back to our neighbors and community, and maybe even start to put into place a practice of giving, beyond the holiday season. *Community Connection continued on page 2.*

CSUN Exhibit at California African American Museum

"Camera and Community" Among Collections on Display through June 15, 2011

A photograph can tell a story, without using a single word, about love, war, art, beauty and life.

Hundreds of individual stories from the archives in Cal State Northridge's Institute for Arts and Media will be on display next month at the California African American Museum.

"Camera and Community: Photographs from the Collection of the Institute of Arts and Media" opens Jan. 6, 2011, at the museum located in Exposition Park across from the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum.

The exhibit features the work of 20 California photographers, some legendary artists while others are still building their portfolios. Their subjects range from such personalities as the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and Cesar Chavez to the grounds crew at the Enterprise School District, and includes communities from the San Fernando Valley to the mountains of Colombia and the jungle of Chiapas, Mexico. They capture the tensions of a riot, the terror of war and the exhilaration of making music.

"The photographs in this exhibition provide an opportunity to see the



One of Harry Adams' photos on display at the California African American Museum.

work of some exceptional photographers as well as an examination of our collective past," said photojournalism professor Kent Kirkton, head of Cal State Northridge's Institute of Arts and Media. "They are bound to stimulate both memories and conver-

sation. It is rare that we see such a merging of artistic vision and social consciousness in one exhibition."

Among the photographers whose works are featured in the show are Harry Adams, David Blumenkrantz, Herb Carlson, Roland Charles, Emmon

Clarke, Richard Cross, Guy Crowder, Jack Davis, Bob Douglas, Maxie Floyd, Bill Harvey, James Jeffery, John Kouns, Enrique Romero Olivas, Ringo Chui, Augustine Tabares, James Warner and Charles Williams.

The exhibition includes Bob Douglas' portraits of such jazz greats as Billie Holiday, Thelonious Monk and Dexter Gordon; Harry Adams' photos of King speaking at the Second Baptist Church and Malcolm X at the funeral of Ronald Stokes; David Blumenkrantz' riveting images from the Sudan; John Kouns' documentation of Robert Kennedy assisting Chavez as the farm labor leader breaks a 25-day fast; and the arresting images of the destruction of the World Trade Center taken by three young photographers.

"Camera and Community" runs through June 15. The California African American Museum is located at 600 State Drive. For more information about the exhibition, call (213) 744-7432.

For more information about the collections in CSUN's Institute for Arts and Media, visit its website at: <http://csunartsandmedia.org/>. ■

—Carmen Chandler

Valley Performing Arts Center...

Continued from page 1.

but of the entire San Fernando Valley. The impact of this new center will be felt far beyond the reaches of the Northridge campus," said Robert Buckner, executive director of the Valley Performing Arts Center and dean of CSUN's Mike Curb College of Arts, Media, and Communication.

"This building is an essential cornerstone for providing the community with artists and performances that stimulate social consciousness and energize the exploration of perspectives from varied cultures around the globe."

One week after the gala, the 166,000-square-foot Valley Performing Arts Center will begin its inaugural season with a host of top performers in music, dance and theater, including soprano Dame Kiri Te Kanawa, the Russian National Ballet, the China Philharmonic Orchestra, Metales M5

"This building is an essential cornerstone for providing the community with artists and performances that stimulate social consciousness and energize the exploration of perspectives from varied cultures around the globe."

—Robert Buckner,

executive director of the Valley Performing Arts Center and dean of CSUN's Mike Curb College of Arts, Media, and Communication

and Rosanne Cash. Individual tickets and subscription packages are on sale now for spring 2011. Individual tickets range in price from \$15 to \$70, depending on the seat location and package. The packages offer significant discounts for purchasing tickets to multiple performances for the season.

The opening of the center will be the realization of a longstanding dream of regional leaders to have a major performing arts center in the heart of the San Fernando Valley.

Los Angeles County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky called the Valley Performing Arts Center at California State University, Northridge the "crown

jewel" of cultural arts in the Valley.

Joining the prominent ranks of the Walt Disney and Henry & Renee Segerstrom Concert Halls in Southern California, the HGA Architects and Engineers-designed Valley Performing Arts Center is a feat of modern technology and sustainability. The \$125 million center is comprised of three connected buildings forming a U-shaped complex wrapped around a central exterior courtyard. The main feature of the center is a 1,700-seat multi-purpose concert hall designed with the latest technology in acoustical flexibility to support orchestra, opera, Broadway, film, contemporary music and dance.

For gala tickets and more information about the Valley Performing Arts Center at California State University, Northridge visit, <http://valleyperformingartscenter.org/>. ■

—Shanté Morgan

Community Connection...

Continued from page 1.

Here on campus, students, faculty and staff through Unified We Serve, Cal State Northridge's campus volunteer program, collected more than 13,750 canned food and clothing items before the Thanksgiving holiday. This donation drive marked the second annual campus-wide campaign. The items were donated to MEND (Meet Each Need with Dignity), a privately funded Pacoima-based social service agency. The donations included more than 8,500 articles of clothing, 3,000 canned and boxed foods, 1,000 books and 700 toys.

In addition to this campus-wide drive, thousands of students, faculty

and staff at Cal State Northridge choose to volunteer their time and resources to a variety of nonprofit organizations in the San Fernando Valley and beyond. Some make these contributions on their own time, while many students contribute through programming to their coursework and service-learning projects. In fact, across the California State University system, CSU students participate in community service in record numbers—nearly 200,000 students contributed about 30 million service hours in 2007. Cal State Northridge has been recognized nationally for its service to the community.

Are you interested in giving of your time or resources and are not sure where to start? There are a lot of online resources that help one navigate the various opportunities, such as www.serve.gov, www.volunteermatch.org, www.charitynavigator.org or www.justgive.org. These resources allow you to search various nonprofits by location and by categories. Of course, you can also choose to give to a student scholarship fund that may support a student involved in service-learning projects here at Cal State Northridge by clicking on the "Give" link on the university's main webpage, www.csun.edu.

As always, this column serves to also highlight community resources and partnerships. Do you have a positive story to tell about a partnership between the community and Cal State Northridge students, faculty or staff? E-mail your idea to communityrelations@csun.edu to be considered for publication in this column.

The Office of Government and Community Relations now publishes a semi-monthly e-newsletter for community leaders, area business owners, and neighbors of Cal State Northridge. If you would like to receive the e-newsletter, please send an e-mail to communityrelations@csun.edu. ■

CSUN Soars to New Heights with Innovative Technology

Students Offered Jobs by Air and Defense Industry Companies

In a pair of quiet rooms tucked in the back of Cal State Northridge's Jacaranda Hall is the Systems Engineering Research Laboratory, where associate professor of mechanical engineering Nhut Ho and a team of undergraduate and graduate students from across disciplines are conducting experiments that could one day revolutionize air travel.

Ho and his team are part of a multi-million dollar research project being conducted by NASA to develop the next generation air transportation system.

"The way planes fly from point A to point B has not changed for decades: A pilot files a flight plan, the plane takes off and from the moment it leaves the ground and until it lands, air traffic controllers along the route monitor the pilot and tell him where he is supposed to be," Ho said.

"But as demand for air travel continues to increase, and, particularly since 9-11, safety concerns continue to grow and demands for 'green' aviation increase, we need to come up with a better, more efficient system," he said.

That's exactly what Ho and his team of graduate students are helping NASA to do.

The group is testing the capabilities of a new automation system that may one day provide pilots with a better, 4-D view of the planes, topography



Nhut Ho

of the landscape and weather thousands of feet around them. The pilots could use that data, aided by satellite communications and their on-board computers, to make split-second decisions that could save fuel and time, reduce turbulence and even save lives during an emergency.

Human factors engineering researcher Walter Johnson, of NASA's Human Systems Integration Division, said the work being done by Ho and his students, and similar research teams at universities across the country, is vital to the development of the new

"The reality is, there is an enormous amount of flexibility, thinking outside the box that takes place when you work with university students like these at Northridge."

Nhut Ho,
Associate professor
of mechanical engineering

air transportation system.

In addition to running the program through its paces and testing its limits, Ho and his students are trying to come up with problems that the automation tool's original developers may not have foreseen. They often bring in pilots to try out the system on a flight simulator in their small laboratory. They are recording the pilots' reactions as well as their responses to a more complicated and demanding air transportation system that would relay information that many of the pilots don't have

access to at the moment—from computer-generated projections of weather systems and suggested fuel-saving routes to multidimensional projections of hundreds of planes they could encounter along their flight paths.

"The Northridge students are testing what the system can do, and what it can't using computer-generated modeling and human-in-the-loop simulation," Johnson said. "The reality is, there is an enormous amount of flexibility, thinking outside the box that takes place when you work with university students like these at Northridge."

"Those of us who have been in the field a long time bring a lot to the table, but we can also get kind of set in our ways about what we think is or is not possible," Johnson said. "These students are young and haven't made up their minds yet about what is not possible. That's what makes their contributions so valuable."

Ho said his students are offered jobs by air and defense industry companies who are eager to tap into the skills they have developed while working on NASA research.

"When they leave CSUN, they have skills that make them valuable assets anywhere," Ho said. ■

—Carmen Chandler

CSUN Hosts 14th Annual High School Art Invitational

More Than Forty San Fernando Valley Schools to Showcase Work

The 14th annual High School Invitational will take place from Jan. 10–29, 2011. The event will showcase artwork from more than 40 San Fernando Valley high schools in California State University, Northridge's Main Gallery.

"It's our biggest year yet," said Jim Sweeters, director of CSUN's art galleries.

Each school is allowed to display up to six pieces of student art. Sweeters projected that at least 225 pieces of art will be available for viewing. The student artists use a variety of mediums from traditional oil paintings to digital graphic design.

For the second year in a row, teachers from each high school will also be allowed to showcase their art. The West Gallery will feature over 30 pieces from participating school faculty.

Ken Sakatani, newly appointed chair of the Department of Art, will welcome the artists and discuss his goals for the department during "gallery talk" on Jan. 24 at 10 a.m. On Jan. 28, a closing reception will be held from 7–9 p.m., with refreshments

and a live steel drum band.

Karen Hazama, art and social studies teacher at Stoney Point High School in Chatsworth, has had her students participate in the invitational every year since its inception.

"It's a good experience," said Hazama. "I think the students are pleased to see their art up on display and I'm for anything that helps boost their self-esteem."

Sweeters described the event as not only a recruiting tool for future CSUN art majors, but also as a community service.

"It's a part of our mission statement at the gallery," said Sweeters. "We're here to serve the community and these high schools are a part of our community."

The following high schools will be participating: AGBU Demijian Manogian, Amelia Earhart, Arleta, Birmingham Community Charter, Bishop Alemany, Campbell Hall, Canoga Park, Chaminade College Prep, Chatsworth, El Camino Real, Faith Baptist, Fulton College Prep, Granada Hills Charter, Grover Cleveland, Harvard Westlake, Highland

Hall, James Monroe, John F. Kennedy, John H. Francis Polytechnic, LA Baptist, Los Angeles Lutheran-Sylmar, Louisville, Miguel Leonis, Milken Community, New Community Jewish, North Hollywood, Northridge Academy, Notre Dame, Reseda, San Fernando, Sherman Oaks CES, Sierra Canyon

School, Stoney Point, Sylmar, The Buckley School, Henry D. Thoreau, Ulysses S. Grant, Valley Alternative, Van Nuys, Viewpoint School, West Valley Christian, William H. Taft, William T. Aggeler, and Zane Grey. ■

—Carly Gillis

Former Dean of Oviatt Library Norman Tanis Has Passed



Norman Tanis, former dean of the Oviatt Library, passed away on Nov. 28. His tenure, which spanned from 1969 to 1990, was marked with a passion for the written word. Tanis expanded California State University, Northridge's collection of manuscripts and rare texts, establishing the Special Collections in 1973 to display the university's procured historical treasures. He also founded the Santa Susana Press, which published works by local artists and authors. Beyond literary pursuits, Tanis helped develop and create a ceremonial university mace for CSUN's 25th anniversary. In lieu of flowers, Tanis' family has requested donations be made to the Pregnancy Counseling Center located at 10211 Sepulveda Blvd., Mission Hills, Calif. 91345. ■

—Carly Gillis

"It's a part of our mission statement at the gallery. We're here to serve the community and these high schools are a part of our community."

Jim Sweeters,
Director of CSUN's art galleries

Calendar

The A.S. Ticket Office in the University Student Union (USU) sells tickets to many events on campus, except for some held by outside groups. The Ticket Office is open from 10 a.m.–6 p.m. Mon.–Fri. For prices not given, call (818) 677-2488. **To park on campus for performances, athletic events, lectures and other activities, guests must purchase a \$6 parking permit.**

Alumni Events

For info or to RSVP, www.csunumni.com or (818) 677-2137 unless otherwise noted.

Starting the Year Off Right – Learning How to Tap Into Your Alumni Network

This free event is intended for recent grads looking for tips on how to build a network from scratch or for Matador professionals looking to expand their circle of influence. Cindy Chernow, trainer and creator of UCLA's Alumni Center Services program, will share her strategies for success.

Tue., Jan. 11, 6:30–8:30 p.m.
Orange Grove Bistro, University Club
For more info or to RSVP, contact Alumni Relations at (818) 677-2137 or alumni@csun.edu.

Pharmaceuticals and Personal Care Products (PPCPs) in Water Supplies: Potential Impacts and Sustainable Solutions

CSUN presents its 5th annual Environmental and Occupational Health (EOH) Technical Symposium at the University Student Union, Northridge Center Complex. Leading researchers and policymakers in the field of emerging contaminants will discuss potential impacts and sustainable solutions regarding PPCPs. The symposium will explore the presence of PPCPs in drinking and surface waters, investigate the potential human and environmental health impacts, discuss remediation technologies, and provide attendees with an understanding of the broad scope of challenges presented by this emerging issue.

Wed., Feb. 16, 3–8 p.m.
USU, Northridge Center Complex
The pre-registration fee through Feb. 11 is \$54; \$60 at the door.
For more info or to RSVP, call (818) 677-2137.

Art and Exhibits

For gallery info, call (818) 677-2156. Main gallery hours: Mon. through Sat. 12–4 p.m. and Thursdays noon–8 p.m. Admission is free unless specified. For library exhibits, call (818) 677-2285.



Richard Fish / Photographer

The latest lobby exhibition showcases the work of accomplished photographer Richard Fish, whose archives were recently donated by his widow, Marie Fish. Through Sat., Jan. 29. Oviatt Library Lobby
For more info, call (818) 677-2638.



14th Annual High School Invitational Exhibition

More than 40 San Fernando Valley high schools and dozens of students selected by their individual art teachers at each school will exhibit their works in various media including painting, sculpture, video, graphic design and mixed media. Mon., Jan. 10 through Sat., Jan. 29. Gallery Talk: Mon., Jan. 24, 10 a.m. Closing reception: Fri., Jan. 28, 7–9 p.m. Main Gallery, Art and Design Center



My Life as Art: James Robie

This exhibition spans four decades and showcases the graphic design and fine art of James Robie, featuring a decade-by-decade look at the evolution of his art. Opening reception: Sat., Feb. 12, 4–7 p.m. Gallery Talk: Mon., Feb. 14, 10 a.m. Through Sat., March 26.

One of a Kind: Celebrating Thirty-seven years of Special Collections

Exhibit features rarely seen pieces from the Library's Special Collections and Archives, including unique books, letters, costumes, maps, sculptures, paintings, engravings and manuscripts. Through July 22, 2011. C.K. and Teresa Tseng Gallery, Oviatt Library

Athletics (home games):

Alumni Association members receive discounted admission to selected home events throughout the year. For more info, call (818) 677-2488 or visit www.GoMatadors.com.



Men's Basketball

12/22	Santa Clara	7:05 p.m.
12/28	Pacific	7:05 p.m.
12/30	UC Davis	7:05 p.m.
1/13	UC Riverside	7:05 p.m.
1/19	Seattle University	7:05 p.m.
1/22	Cal Poly	7:05 p.m.
2/5	UC Irvine	7:05 p.m.
2/12	Long Beach State	7:05 p.m.



Women's Basketball

1/5	Long Beach State	7 p.m.
1/19	San Diego	5 p.m.
1/27	UC Irvine	7 p.m.
1/29	UC Santa Barbara	4 p.m.
2/3	UC Riverside	7 p.m.
2/12	CSU Fullerton	4 p.m.



Women's Tennis

1/14	Nevada	12 p.m.
1/29	Arizona	11:30 a.m.
2/1	CSU Los Angeles	2 p.m.
2/8	CSU Fullerton	2 p.m.



Men's and Women's Track and Field

1/8	All Comers	8:30 a.m.
1/15	All Comers	8:30 a.m.
1/22	All Comers	8:30 a.m.
1/29	All Comers	11:15 a.m.
2/5	All Comers	8:30 a.m.
2/12	All Comers	11:15 a.m.



Men's Volleyball

1/5	Laval	3 p.m.
1/21	UCSB	7 p.m.
1/28	Stanford	7 p.m.
1/29	Pacific	7 p.m.
2/11	Long Beach State	7 p.m.

Lectures/Classes

CSUN-al Gardening Series to Explore the Art of Pruning

A truly healthy tree requires proper maintenance, including appropriate pruning to encourage an attractive appearance and structural soundness. This is especially true of fruit-bearing trees, where a heavy crop load can break weak branches. Jerry Turney, senior biologist with the Los Angeles County Department of Agriculture, will discuss the basics—the why, when and how—of home tree pruning, with special attention to fruit trees. Saturday, Jan. 8. The class is free but registration is required. To register, e-mail botanicgarden@csun.edu to request a space in the class.

Music

Admission to all music events (unless otherwise specified): \$10 general, \$7 faculty, staff and seniors, \$5 students.

Guest Artist Series

Michael Partington, classical guitar. Fri., Feb. 4, 7:30 p.m. Cypress Recital Hall

Faculty Artist Series

Julia Heinen, clarinet and Dmitry Rachmanov, piano. Sat., Feb. 5, 7:30 p.m. Cypress Recital Hall

Aurelio de la Vega, 85th Birthday Celebration

Sun., Feb. 6, 3 p.m. Cypress Recital Hall
Free admission

Faculty Artist Series

Carolyn Beck, bassoonist. Tue., Feb. 8, 7:30 p.m. Cypress Recital Hall

Faculty Artist Series

Charles Fierro, pianist. Sat., Feb. 12, 7:30 p.m. Cypress Recital Hall

Theater/Performance

Interpreted performances subject to change.



An Evening with Dr. Cornel West

Cornel West is one of America's most provocative public intellectuals and is a world renowned scholar and academician for his contribution to pressing social justice issues such as race, demographic shifts, diversity, progressive politics and philosophy. February's "An Evening with Dr. Cornel West" will double as a campus-wide celebration of Black History Month as well as a unique opportunity for students, faculty, staff and the community to continue the dialogue of civil discourse and social change. Thu., Feb. 3, 7 p.m. Valley Performing Arts Center
Free for all CSUN students, faculty/staff
\$20 general admission



Shawn Colvin & Loudon Wainwright III

Sat., Feb. 5, 8 p.m. Valley Performing Arts Center
\$15–\$55

Russian National Ballet's Swan Lake

Tue., Feb. 8, 8 p.m. Valley Performing Arts Center
\$25–\$70

Big Love

A reinvention of the Ancient Greek play *The Suppliants* by Aeschylus. Directed by Christine Menzies. Fri., Feb. 11, 7:30 p.m. Sat., Feb. 12, 7:30 p.m. Sun., Feb. 13, 2 p.m. Wed., Feb. 16, 7:30 p.m. Thu., Feb. 17, 7:30 p.m. Fri., Feb. 18, 7:30 p.m. Sat., Feb. 19, 7:30 p.m. Sat., Feb. 20, 2 p.m. Flexible Theatre, Valley Performing Arts Center
\$8–\$16



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