

Inside:

- 2** Fulbright Specialist's China Sojourn
- 3** FYI
- 4** Matadors on Fox Sports Prime Ticket
- 4** Calendar

Nanoscience Experimental Lab is 'the Wave of the Future'

The Postma Lab: From the Very Tiny, Very Great Expectations in the New Frontiers of Science

The College of Science and Mathematics' gleaming new nanoscience experimental laboratory is a dream come true for assistant physics professor Hendrik "Henk" Postma, whose job it was to build from the ground up a state-of-the-art lab to prepare CSUN students for physics' new frontiers.

Postma came to Cal State Northridge from the California Institute of Technology expressly for that purpose, and to help CSUN's Physics Department extend its reach into the cutting-edge worlds of experimental nanoscience and nanotechnology.

"CSUN's Physics Department has always been very strong in the theoretical area as well as the experimental, but never in experimental nanoscience, which is what I'm doing," said Postma. "The lab will strengthen that type of research."

Certified in December by Controlled Environmental Regulatory Testing Services (CERTS), the approximately \$300,000 Postma Lab "is the wave of the future," said College of Science



Assistant physics professor Hendrik "Henk" Postma stands next to the Scanning Electron Microscope in the microscopy room of CSUN's new Postma Lab.



Nanoscience students Hankyu Lee (left) and Mike Dickson (at microscope) work together in the Postma Lab's "cleanroom."

and Mathematics Dean Jerry Stinner. "It will add new depth to an already strong department and another dimension to the Cal State Northridge degree in physics."

The lab's interdisciplinary research is dedicated to the investigation of the properties of materials with "intrinsic nanoscale dimensions, such as carbon nanotubes, nanowires, graphene and DNA." The interesting effects of such tiny dimensions, Postma said, are used to derive "novel applications in computation, sensing, and information storage."

One of the problems which the new lab may help solve—in concert with five of Postma's former Cal Tech colleagues—is how to make a hybrid DNA carbon structure, coaxing DNA to wrap around nanotubes—infinitesimal, robust, chemically-resistant tube-like structures—in order to make nanometer-sized circuits using economical self-assembly, rather than arduous and expensive lithographic techniques.

Another dream is to create Nanoscience Lab *continued on page 2.*

BudgetWatch

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's proposed budget for 2008–09 is generating concern in every tier of the state's higher education system, from the office of California State University Chancellor Charles B. Reed to leadership on individual campuses.

"We are anticipating that this will be a very difficult budget year," said Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Harry Hellenbrand.

Cal State Northridge and its 22 sister campuses will not have hard figures with which to plan for the 2008–09 academic year until Gov. Schwarzenegger releases a revised budget—his "May Revise"—followed by state legislators' action on that document, Hellenbrand said.

But Chancellor Reed already has expressed alarm that, faced with a \$14.5 billion state budget deficit, the governor is proposing a \$312.9 million cut to the CSU Board of Trustees-approved budget for 2008–09.

"The proposed budget fails to fund access for 10,000 students and puts at risk our ability to provide quality education for the nearly 450,000 students already enrolled," said Reed.

Among other requests, the CSU's proposed budget had asked for:

- 1) \$73.2 million in General Fund revenue to avert a 10 percent hike in student fees. That funding was not included in the governor's proposed budget, so the magnitude of the proposed cuts is actually closer to \$386 million.
- 2) Funding to support not only the Higher Education Compact but the recently approved contracts for CSU faculty and staff, as well as related agreements triggered by that contract. The governor's budget provides only a minimum of funding to support the Compact—and fails to fund compensation agreements for CSU faculty and staff.
- 3) A six percent increase in funding. Instead, a six percent cut has been posited. Moreover, the governor's proposed budget makes no provision for an anticipated increase of about 10,000 additional students.

"What will this mean for CSUN, dollar for dollar? It is too early to tell," said Hellenbrand. "We could be asked to cut anywhere from \$7 million to \$21 million." Accordingly, he said, CSUN's deans are studying budget scenarios to the best of their abilities, given the uncertainty of data at this point.

Chancellor Reed is urging that the CSU community not wait for the budget bell to toll. In the period leading up to the May Revise, a relatively fluid

budget process unfolds, during which a series of legislative budget hearings takes place. The Chancellor views the coming weeks as a prime time for advocacy from all members of the CSU community, stressing to legislators that:

- The proposed budget will reduce access to college for many qualified students.
- It will undermine our progress toward boosting the college-going rates in underserved communities.
- Given the CSU's critical role in preparing California's workforce, the proposed budget will deliver possibly a lasting blow to the state's economy.

How to reach CSUN's local legislators:

State Senator George Runner
(R-17th District)
(661) 286-1471
(916) 651-4017

State Senator Alex Padilla
(D-20th District)
(818) 901-5588
(916) 651-4020

Assemblymember Lloyd Levine
(D-40th District)
(818) 904-3840
(916) 319-2040

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China Still Calls to Professor After Fulbright Sojourn

Robert Chianese's Term at Shanghai University Deepens Knowledge of Learning Process

At the end of the current semester, English professor Robert Chianese's 39 years at Cal State Northridge will draw to a close. But like the peripatetic Bilbo Baggins, his road is always open to fresh discovery.

That road most recently led Chianese to China, where his experience as a Fulbright senior specialist whetted his appetite to learn even more about the people and culture of that country. "My plan is to return to China in October," he said.

Chianese recalled with pleasure the park-like landscape of ponds and sculpture at Shanghai Normal University, where he taught critical theory and literature courses as well as a course focusing on American literature and the environment—his specialty—in the university's Foreign Language College.

But the students are the magnet that will pull him back to China, he said. Eager and inquisitive, they provided the experienced professor with new insights into the process of learning in different cultures. His term in China, at the end of fall 2007, was his second as a Fulbright specialist, following a 2004 sojourn in Bulgaria.

Contrary to what Chianese has seen in much Western media reporting, he found his students environmentally aware and not bashful about discussing issues as controversial as the Three



English professor Robert Chianese (center, background) is surrounded by his students at the Shanghai Normal University, where he taught graduates and undergraduates as a Fulbright senior specialist.

Gorges Dam, known as China's most ambitious construction project since the Great Wall.

Far from reticent about using their acquired skills in English, Chianese's undergraduate students clamored for a challenging course in critical thinking, taught entirely in English. His own fluency in Chinese—"I can say ten words in Chinese and understand about 20"—never would have served

to communicate the complexities of such a course.

Faced with a shortage of instructional materials, Chianese had to improvise. "I found that two daily newspapers had translated opinions from Chinese to English," he said. "I would cut out and copy them, and they would learn from these newspaper opinion pieces about argument and rebuttal."

The book shortage was true for

his graduate environmental literature course as well. "I had to bring everything photocopied," he said, hauling in selections from Hemingway, Adrienne Rich and nature poet Gary Snyder.

Marveling over differences in learning, Chianese recalled one scrupulously monitored final exam in which his undergrads had to write an essay in rebuttal to an all-English essay. "The amazing thing was that they all said almost exactly the same thing!"

During his two-month stay, Chianese traveled to the rural areas he saw as critical to his study of the environmental picture in China. "One of China's major problems is the collapse of the rural economy and major health problems outside the big cities," he said. The subsequent movement of some 330 million rural residents to urban areas represents an ongoing environmental migraine, he added.

Migraine notwithstanding, Chianese is eager to return to Shanghai.

"Everyone who can teach should try a stint there," he said. "It is a way to make the collaboration between our two countries work."

The Fulbright Senior Specialists Program provides short-term academic opportunities for U.S. faculty and promotes increased connections between U.S. and non-U.S. post-secondary academic institutions. ■

Nanoscience Lab...

continued from page 1.

molecular pores out of a solid state material like silicon, so that information in DNA strands passing through the pores can be read and analyzed without the time-consuming task of chopping up strands. If successful, this technique would revolutionize the sequencing of DNA, which is now common practice in research and clinical labs worldwide.

In essence, Postma said, "we're trying to do engineering using biological systems, rather than the other way around."

Located in the basement of Eucalyptus Hall, the lab includes a main laboratory and a microscopy lab, where a highly sensitive Atomic Force Microscope and a Scanning Electron Microscope are housed. A Scanning Tunneling Microscope, the prototype for a required undergraduate physics course, is being built from scratch by graduate student Hankyu Lee.

The main lab features an immaculate "cleanroom" where Postma and students conduct operations requiring the ultimate in pure environments. In its antechamber is an icy cold shower—for use in the event of spilled chemicals on clothes or skin—and a gowning area in which students don the loose white body suits familiar to science fiction fans.

"The suiting-up process is there to prevent hair and dust from coming off them and contaminating the room or the samples they're

working with," said the professor.

Cleanliness, obviously, is the operative word in the Postma Lab. "The kinds of things we do here are very, very small," Postma said, "so even a single dust particle covering any of the devices we make would basically render it useless." An advanced three-stage filtration system helped earn the lab its top "class 1000" rating.

The de-ionized water that comes into the lab "is normally not clean enough for us," said Postma. It must run the gauntlet of three filters before it streams out, purer than pure. "If you have a very clean lab but the water you rinse your surfaces with is not clean, then it's all pointless. You have to be extremely vigilant."

"This is one of the things we offer our students," he said. "They learn how to work in an environment that has to be super clean, which is something that is very counterintuitive. They have to follow procedures with every move they make."

Other imperatives for nanoscience are temperature and humidity control. To maintain humidity at a constant 60 percent—necessary to prevent damage from electrostatic discharge to the lab's ultra-sensitive devices—a self-contained humidity system was installed just for the lab.

Postma's nanoscience students—six graduate students and one undergraduate, mostly physics majors—are urged to be self-motivating. "I tell them, 'This is the dream. How do we get there?'" One student wants

Commerce Department Honors for CSUN



The U.S. Department of Commerce has honored CSUN's College of Business and Economics with a certificate of achievement for its vital role in promoting international trade in the Los Angeles area. Presenting the certificate to accounting and information systems professor Rafi Efrat (center) is Israel Hernandez, assistant to the U.S. Secretary of Commerce. Joining them at a U.S. Chamber of Commerce meeting is Daniel Blake (left), director of the San Fernando Valley Economic Research Center.

to devise new ways to do solar technology using nanoscience. "I said, 'Go for it.'"

The seven come from diverse backgrounds, some older than the 34-year-old Postma, some new to intensive research. "I think it works well," Postma said. "The students

who come to CSUN from varying backgrounds are very motivated."

A Netherlands native, Postma earned his doctorate at the Delft University of Technology, the country's largest technical university. At Cal Tech, he studied experimental nanoscience as a senior postdoctoral scholar. ■

FYI

Events

February 18–28

Black History Month Events

Among this year's Black History Month events:

- "Neither White Nor Black: Black Slave Owners," lecture by Joseph Holloway (*Pan African Studies*), Mon., Feb. 18, noon, Sierra Hall 181
- "Race and the Persian Gulf War," Karin Stanford (*Pan African Studies*), Wed., Feb. 20, noon, Sierra Hall 181
- "Roots in Hip Hop," discussion of African and Caribbean roots of hip hop, Mon., Feb. 25, 1 p.m., USU Reseda Room
- Screening of "Post-Traumatic Slave Syndrome," Tue., Feb. 26, 7 p.m., Black House
- NAACP Media Forum, Wed., Feb. 27, 6:30 p.m., USU Grand Salon
fmi-Pan African Studies, x3311.

Wednesday, February 20

Matador Dollar Day

The Financial Aid and Scholarship Department presents an information fair for CSUN students to learn about financial aid, money management and student loans, Bayramian Hall courtyard, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Featuring food, music. *fmi*-x4085.

Wednesday, February 20

Nanotechnology Symposium

The Environmental and Occupational Health Department presents an educational and networking symposium on "Nanotechnology: Science and Safety," USU Grand Salon, 5–9:45 p.m. Speakers: John Howard, renowned speaker on nanotechnology and director of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health; Nicholas Kiousis (*Physics*); and Patricia Holden of UC Santa Barbara. Event is free and open to the public. To RSVP and *fmi*-www.csunalumni.com/eob.

Thursday, February 21

Lecture on Memory

The Richard W. Smith Lecture in Cultural Studies and the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences present UC Irvine professor Elizabeth Loftus, a fellow of the Center for the Neurobiology of Learning and Memory, discussing "What's the Matter with Memory?" at 5:30 p.m., Whitsett Room, Sierra Hall 451. Reservations and *fmi*-x3317.

Wednesday, February 27

Geological Sciences Colloquium

The Geological Sciences Department and the Geology Club sponsor Greg Hirth of Brown University's Department of Geological Sciences, speaking on "Understanding Earthquake Processes at the Microscopic Scale," at 5 p.m. in Manzanita Hall 130. *fmi*-x3541.

For Your Information publishes announcements of events, public meetings, notices, classes and deadlines. Submission deadline is noon on Monday, one week before the next issue.

The deadline for the March 3 issue is Monday, February 25. We strive to include all items submitted by deadline occurring until the next issue. Submit future items by e-mailing them to

pubinfo@csun.edu, sending them to mail drop 8242 or faxing them to (818) 677-4909. E-mail is the preferred method of submitting.

Note: *fmi*-means for more information. ■

Thursday, February 28

Journalist/Columnist Erin Aubry Kaplan

The Center for Southern California Studies in the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences presents an evening with journalist Erin Aubry Kaplan, contributing editor to the Los Angeles Times' Op-Ed section, 7 p.m. in the Whitsett Room, Sierra Hall 451. Reception to follow.

fmi-jsides@csun.edu or www.csun.edu/cscs/.

Tuesday, March 4

Huell Howser at Oviatt Library

Huell Howser, host of KCET public television programs "California's Gold" and "Visiting... With Huell Howser," will speak at an event celebrating the Oviatt Library's "Wish You Were Here: Travelers from Antiquity to Modern Times" exhibit, 6 p.m., Oviatt Library's west wing, first floor. Sponsors: Friends of the Oviatt Library and Gus and Erika Manders. Limited seating. *fmi*-x2638.

Public Meetings

Senate Executive Committee

(elections meeting)

Meets 1–4:30 p.m.

Thu., Feb. 21

University Hall 277

Personnel Planning and Review Committee

Meets 1:15–5 p.m.

Wed., Feb. 27

University Hall 277

Educational Policies Committee

Meets 2–4 p.m.

Wed., Feb. 27

University Hall 211

Foundation Board

Meets 6 p.m.

Wed., Feb. 27

fmi-Judy Landy, x4197

Senate Executive Committee

Meets 1–4:30 p.m.

Thu., Feb. 28

University Hall 277

USU Board

Meets 1 p.m.

Mon., March 3

USU Grand Salon

Notices

Deepest Sympathy

The Theatre Department and the campus community extend condolences to the family of theatre professor *emeritus* Maryellen Clemons, who has passed away. Former acting chair of her department, professor Clemons served as executive/administrative director of the summer TeenAge Drama Workshop for 16 years. The professor's CSUN tenure spanned nearly 30 years.

Spring 2008 Faculty Senate Elections

To run for a Faculty Senate position, faculty members who have not yet been nominated may submit a petition with 15 faculty signatures to the Faculty Senate Office by 5 p.m. Fri., Feb. 29. Open for election are the posts of faculty president (one-year term), vice president (one-year term), secretary/treasurer (one-year term), CSU statewide academic senator (three-year term, one position), senators-at-large (two-year term, six positions). *fmi*-Heidi Wolfbauer, x3263.

CSU Media Internship Program

The CSU's Media Internship Program offers summer internships in the San Francisco Bay area and Los Angeles for students seeking careers in the media/entertainment industry. Application deadline: March 1. Apply at <http://csumediainterns.com>. *fmi*-Joanne Bartok Sharp, (562) 951-4065, or jbartok@calstate.edu.

Doctoral Incentive Program

The California State University is seeking applicants for the 2008–09 Chancellor's Doctoral Incentive Program, designed to increase the number of individuals who show potential as doctoral students and as future CSU faculty members. Participants may borrow up to \$10,000 annually to a limit of \$30,000 over a five-year period while enrolled in full-time doctoral study. For those who receive full-time CSU positions, loan principal and interest are "forgiven" at the rate of 20 percent for each year of service. Download applications at www.calstate.edu/HR/CDIP. Deadline: March 7. *fmi*-Hedy Carpenter, x2138 or bedy.carpenter@csun.edu.

Acting Department Chair

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Harry Hellenbrand has announced the appointment of Chicana/o Studies professor Juana Mora as acting chair of the Department of Asian American Studies, effective January 16, for a term to expire prior to the start of the 2008–09 academic year.

Afraid of the Water?

Belinda Stillwell, assistant professor, Kinesiology Department, seeks research participants for a study involving beginning swimmers who are afraid in water. Participants will receive several weeks of free swim lessons designed to increase confidence in the water. *fmi*-Belinda Stillwell, x3253 or belinda.stillwell@csun.edu.

Classes

Professional Development Staff Training

Professional Development Programs provides free training workshops for CSUN staff members in the Oviatt Library, room 16, garden level, 9 a.m. to noon, unless otherwise noted. Enroll by the day preceding the workshop at www-admn.csun.edu/obrs/development/index.htm. *fmi*-Sue Talavera, x3820.

Workshops:

- "The Keys to Outstanding Leadership of Work Groups: A Situational Approach," Tue., Feb. 19, Susan Leahy, presenter.
- "Understanding 401K, 457 and 403(b) Retirement Plans and Tax Laws," Thu., Feb. 21, 10–11:30 a.m. Derek Giacomazzi, presenter.

Deadlines

Faculty Awards Competition

The Research and Grants Committee announces the 2008–09 Competition for Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity Awards. Full- and part-time faculty may apply for three units of released time or up to \$5,000 of funding for project expenses. Application deadline: 5 p.m. Mon., Feb. 25. Download guidelines and application at www.csun.edu/research. *fmi*-x2901.

Call for Beck Grant Proposals

Judge Julian Beck Learning-Centered Instructional Projects ("Beck Grants") offer support for learning-centered instructional projects at CSUN each academic year through the Judge Julian Beck Endowment. Grant proposals are due March 7, 4 p.m. *fmi*-www.csun.edu/facdev/grants_home.htm.

2008 Faculty Awards

Nominations for the 2008 awards honoring outstanding faculty achievement are due in the Faculty Senate Office by Mon., Feb. 25. Supporting materials are due Mon., March 24. Faculty awards include the Outstanding Faculty Award; the Distinguished Teaching, Counseling or Librarianship Award; the Scholarly Publication(s) Award; Creative Accomplishment(s) Award; Extraordinary Service Award; and the Visionary Service-Learning Award. Criteria and nomination forms are at www.csun.edu/senate/awards/awards.html. *fmi*-x3263.

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Galaxy Adds New Star: CSUN's Franklin



Sean Franklin, Cal State Northridge's three-time All-Big West Conference soccer star, and Major League Soccer Commissioner Don Garber shake hands as the young defender becomes the Los Angeles Galaxy's first-round draft pick in January. Franklin is the fourth Matador selected in the Major League Soccer SuperDraft, and CSUN's first-ever first-rounder.

Matadors on Fox Sports Prime Ticket

The winning ways of the Cal State Northridge men's basketball team have drawn the attention of Fox Sports Prime Ticket, which has announced it will add the Matadors' March 1 game against UC Irvine as a "wild card" broadcast. Tip-off time at UCI's Bren Center, originally set for 7 p.m., will be 8:30 p.m. Prime Ticket also has added the CSUN vs. Cal Poly March 8 Big West game at the Matadome as a "wild card" broadcast, with tip-off at 5 p.m. instead of 7 p.m.

CSUN will play a nationally televised game during the O'Reilly ESPN BracketBuster Weekend, squaring off against Rider University at 6 p.m. February 23 at the Matadome.



Calendar

The A.S. Ticket Office in the University Student Union 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 \$5 parking permit.**

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.

Joanne Julian: Counterpoints

Through very large ink and acrylic Zen circles on paper, internationally known artist Joanne Julian exudes energy and beauty with her simplicity of execution. Exhibition runs through Feb. 23. Main Art Gallery



▲ Bianchi Planetarium

For ticket info, (818) 677-2488 or visit www.csun.edu/physics/planetarium. Telescope viewing follows second show.

"Winter Sky Show" and "Light Years from Andromeda"
Fri., Feb. 22, 7:30 p.m.

Athletics (home games):

Baseball

2/22	Northwestern	2 p.m.
2/23	Northwestern	1 p.m.
2/24	Northwestern	noon
2/29	La Salle	2 p.m.
3/1	La Salle	1 p.m.
3/2	La Salle	1 p.m.

Men's Basketball

2/23	Rider Univ. (ESPN BracketBusters)	6 p.m.
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Women's Basketball

2/23	Long Beach State	7 p.m.
2/28	Cal State Fullerton	7 p.m.
3/1	UC Irvine	7 p.m.



▲ Track and Field

2/23	All Comers	8:30 a.m.
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Women's Tennis

3/1	Furman	11 a.m.
3/3	Rice	2 p.m.



▲ Men's Volleyball

2/20	UC Irvine	7 p.m.
2/22	UCLA	7 p.m.



▲ Softball

2/29	Canadian Olympic Team	1:30 p.m.
3/1	St. John's	12:30 & 2:30 p.m.
3/2	St. Mary's	noon & 2 p.m.

Cinematheque

Screenings are free and take place in the Alan and Elaine Armer Theater on the first floor of Manzanita Hall at the southwest corner of campus. Seating not guaranteed. For more info, call (818) 677-3192 or see www.cinematheque.csun.edu/html/events.html.

'The Mack'

Directed by Michael Campus. Speaker: Julie Wright, graduate student, critical studies. Mon., Feb. 18, 7 p.m.

'L'Avventura'

Directed by Michelangelo Antonioni. Tue., Feb. 19, 7 p.m.

'Django'

Directed by Sergio Corbucci. Wed., Feb. 20, 7 p.m.

'Defining Moments in Movies-Part 1'

Seminal films, great scenes and lines analyzed in historical context. Thu., Feb. 21, 7 p.m.

'The Page Turner'

Written and directed by Denis Dercourt. Association of Retired Faculty hosts. Fri., Feb. 22, 2 p.m.

'Paragraph 175'

Directed by Rob Epstein and Jeffrey Friedman. Fri., Feb. 22, 7 p.m.

'Green for Danger' and 'The Third Secret'

Directed by Sidney Gilliat and Charles Crichton, respectively. Mon., Feb. 25, 6 p.m.

'Penelope'

Sneak preview features Reese Witherspoon. Directed by Mark Palansky. Tue., Feb. 26, 6:30 and 8:30 p.m.

'Madame de...'

Directed by Max Ophüls. Wed., Feb. 27, 7 p.m.

'La Ronde' and 'Le Plaisir'

Directed by Max Ophüls. Thu., Feb. 28, 6 p.m.

'Blood Simple' and 'Raising Arizona'

Launches Coen Brothers series. Directed by Joel Coen. Mon., March 3, 6 p.m.

Music

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

Keith Kirchoff, Pianist

Thu., Feb. 21, 8 p.m. Music Recital Hall

Classical Guitarist

Stephen Robinson performs. Fri., Feb. 22, 8 p.m. Music Recital Hall

American Guitar Society

George Sakellariou, guitarist. Sat., Feb. 23, 8 p.m. Music Recital Hall \$10–\$20

Faculty Artist Recital

Daniel Kessner, flute and shakuhachi; Dolly Kessner, piano; Julia Heinen, clarinet. Sun., Feb. 24, 3 p.m. Music Recital Hall

Rossetti String Quartet

Wed., Feb. 27, 8 p.m. Plaza del Sol Performance Hall \$5–\$35

CSUN Symphony

John Roscigno, conductor. Fri., Feb. 29, 8 p.m. Plaza del Sol Performance Hall

Homage to Beverly Sills

Soprano Diane Ketchie, pianist William Vendice, clarinetist Julia Heinen, flutist Rik Noyce. Sat., March 1, 8 p.m. Music Recital Hall

Theater/Performance



▲ Even Steven Goes to War

Award-winning Theatre for Young Audiences play. A young boy's magical journey to Vietnam in search of his grandfather. Directed by Dave Mason. Fri., Feb. 29, 8 p.m. Sat., March 1, 2 and 8 p.m. Sun., March 2, 3 p.m. Little Theatre \$8–\$16

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