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More than 10,000 Are Candidates to Receive Degrees

Number Eligible to Claim Their Diplomas Breaks Records in CSUN Commencement History

A record 10,051 students are candidates to receive their diplomas during commencement ceremonies this week at Cal State Northridge. Some 8,256 candidates for bachelor's degrees and 1,795 candidates for master's degrees are eligible to take part.

"Commencement is an opportunity to celebrate everything our graduates have accomplished and the wonderful possibilities that lie in their future," said President Jolene Koester. "It is a time to recognize those who have helped them along the way—from friends and family members to the university faculty and staff. We invite the community to join us as we honor their efforts and achievements."

Among the dignitaries slated to address graduating students are acclaimed conductor and alumnus Richard Kaufman, '77, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Hector Tobar and entrepreneurial businessman and alumnus Steven Ow, '79.

The graduation celebration begins at 6 p.m. today with the annual Honors Convocation on the Oviatt Library lawn. More than 1,600 students were invited to participate in the annual event.

This year's convocation speaker is Kaufman, Pops conductor with the

CSUN Commencement Schedule	
Honors Convocation	
Monday, May 19, 6 p.m., Oviatt Library Lawn Speaker: Richard Kaufman, '77, Pops conductor, Pacific Symphony Orchestra, Dallas Symphony Orchestra and Florida Orchestra	
College of Business and Economics	
Tuesday, May 20, 8 a.m., Oviatt Library Lawn	
College of Science and Mathematics	
Tuesday, May 20, 3:30 p.m., Manzanita Hall South Lawn	
College of Humanities	
Tuesday, May 20, 6:30 p.m., Oviatt Library Lawn Speaker: Los Angeles Times reporter Hector Tobar	
College of Social and Behavioral Sciences	
Wednesday, May 21, 8 a.m., Oviatt Library Lawn	
College of Engineering and Computer Science	
Wednesday, May 21, 3:30 p.m., Manzanita Hall South Lawn Speaker: Steven Ow, '79, president and CEO of Mica-Tech, Inc.	
Mike Curb College of Arts, Media, and Communication	
Wednesday, May 21, 6:30 p.m., Oviatt Library Lawn	
College of Health and Human Development	
Thursday, May 22, 8 a.m., Oviatt Library Lawn	
Michael D. Eisner College of Education	
Thursday, May 22, 6:30 p.m., Oviatt Library Lawn	

Pacific Symphony Orchestra, Dallas Symphony Orchestra and Florida Orchestra. A noted violinist, he has extensive experience in conducting and supervising music for film and television productions as well as in performing film and classical music in concert halls and on recordings.

Kaufman was a "founding" student of what was then San Fernando Valley State College—he wrote the music and lyrics for CSUN's "Hail to the Matadors" fight song in 1967—but left before finishing his degree to pursue his music career. He returned to complete his bachelor's degree in music at CSUN.

Tobar, Mexico City bureau chief for the Los Angeles Times and author of "Translation Nation: Defining a New American Identity in the Spanish-Speaking United States," has been recognized by Hispanic Business Magazine as one of the "100 Most Influential Hispanics" in the U.S.

Ow earned a degree in engineering from CSUN. He co-founded Micro Plus, Inc., an antenna/amplifier design and manufacturing company that became a technological leader in the field of global positioning systems. He also developed Mica-Tech, Inc., a satellite-based grid management system. ■

(More on commencement, pages 4-5)

'50 Years of Life-Changing Opportunity' at CSUN

Heralded by Colorful Banners, the Celebration of Northridge's 50th Anniversary Invites Participation By All

The year-long celebration of Cal State Northridge's 50th anniversary is off to a festive start, with more than 200 red, white and black banners unfurling across campus to greet students, parents, friends and neighbors as Commencement Week attracts thousands of visitors to the university.

"California State University, Northridge—50 Years of Life-Changing Opportunity" is the theme for the campus-wide observance. It underscores, said President Jolene Koester, "the profound impact Cal State Northridge has had on improving the quality of life in the community and, particularly, on enhancing the lives of the students who are the primary focus of our mission."

CSUN has produced more than 180,000 alumni, 70 percent of whom still reside in the greater Los Angeles region. The continuing investment in Northridge's students "has paid dividends many times over" as the university prepares an educated,

committed workforce that gives back to the community "economically and socially," added President Koester.


The anniversary year begins with this week's commencement and will conclude with the 2009 exercises. In

between these "bookends," a number of events and activities will help mark CSUN's first half-century of service.

Among the special events will be Founders Day, scheduled for September 22, which will include a

luncheon program for returning alumni, faculty and staff from the campus' earliest days. At the luncheon, the Alumni Association will launch the "50-Year Club," inducting the club's 50th Anniversary *continued on page 2.*

California State University
Northridge



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Northridge

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Cal State Fullerton's Sylvia Alva to Join HHD as New Dean

Alva to Leave Associate Vice President Post at Fullerton, Comes on Board at CSUN in Summer

Sylvia Alva, associate vice president for undergraduate programs at Cal State Fullerton, will join the Cal State Northridge campus community this summer as the new dean of its College of Health and Human Development.

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Harry Hellenbrand, who announced the appointment, said the incoming dean has extensive experience in academic administration and an impressive history of collaborations aimed at student success.

"We welcome to our campus this outstanding administrator, and we look forward to working with her," said Provost Hellenbrand.

"The College of Health and Human Development offers a rich array of quality academic programs that help people and communities thrive and play an important role in California's future," said Alva, honored in 2001 as an Outstanding Member of the Academic Community at Fullerton. "The opportunity to serve as its dean is truly an honor."



Sylvia Alva, incoming dean of the College of Health and Human Development, talks with a student on campus at CSU Fullerton.

Prior to her current post at Fullerton, Alva served for three years as assistant vice president for academic programs. Her activities included academic

program planning and development of undergraduate degree programs and courses, and oversight of the campus' general education program.

Alva was a steering committee member and task force liaison of Fullerton's Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) reaccreditation effort, and provided guidance and leadership to a number of academic departments.

A professor of child and adolescent development at Fullerton, the incoming dean also has served as director of its Academic Advisement Center, founding director of its Freshman Programs, and chair of its Child and Adolescent Studies Department.

Since 2004, she has been an at-large member of the Cal State Fullerton Academic Senate.

Alva earned her bachelor's degree at Cal State Los Angeles and both her master's degree and doctorate at UCLA, all in psychology. She has published widely, authoring or co-authoring articles in the *Journal of Adolescent Research*, the *Hispanic Journal of Behavioral Sciences* and the *Teacher Education Quarterly*, among others. ■

50th Anniversary...

continued from page 1.

first members from the classes of 1956 and 1957—when CSUN was still a branch of what is now Cal State Los Angeles—as well as Class of 1958 members, who will be celebrating their 50th reunion.

The luncheon event will serve to inaugurate both Founders Day and the "50-Year Club" as annual Cal State Northridge traditions.

Other September 22 events will include the opening of an important exhibition on CSUN's history in the Oviatt Library's Tseng Gallery, curated by head archivist Robert Marshall; and an evening dedication of James and Mary Cleary Walk, when the current Magnolia Walk will be rechristened in honor of CSUN's second president and his wife. The unveiling of contents from a time capsule, buried just west of the Oviatt Library portico during the campus' 25th anniversary celebration, also is planned.

September 22 stands out in CSUN history as the day in 1958 when classes first commenced at what was then San Fernando Valley State College. In its infancy a satellite of the former Los Angeles State College, the Valley campus officially separated from the older institution in 1958, took a new name and launched its own educational journey.

A total of 2,525 students were enrolled at the young institution in its first year, a far cry from the 35,200 in attendance 50 years later. Members of the initial student class voted to call themselves Matadors, choosing red and white as their colors. According to historian John Broesamle, the freshmen in those days proudly wore red and white beanies.

But beneath the excitement of



Graduates and visitors on campus for commencement will be greeted by more than 200 red, white and black banners emblazoned with the 50th anniversary theme—"California State University, Northridge—50 Years of Life-Changing Opportunity."

new beginnings was a seriousness of purpose expressed in the new college's first catalogue. "Whatever the objective of each student's specialized program of study," it stated, "...he is called upon to develop and test his abilities and values: personal, social, civic, and intellectual. The extent of such student endeavor will be the ultimate measure of our purpose and our program."

A second major event still in the planning stages for spring 2009 is a Grand Reunion at which CSUN will launch a new reunion program for alumni. Guests from on- and off-campus will be welcomed to the event.

During the course of the year, other anniversary events will be held,

including a mid-year benefit concert featuring a top talent on the contemporary music scene.

President Koester commended the work of the 50th Anniversary Planning Committee, led by Library Dean Susan Curzon, which developed a set of recommendations for events, activities and strategies for the year.

Central to the yearlong celebration, the 50th Anniversary Web site—www.csun.edu/50—debuted amid the swirl of commencement activities. The site, which will evolve as the year advances, features updates on anniversary events, a timeline of CSUN historical events, a special section highlighting many of Northridge's

notable alumni, and an opportunity for viewers to share their video CSUN stories.

Students, alumni or anyone who wants to share their memorable CSUN stories via video will be able to upload them to YouTube by following the link on the anniversary Web site's entertaining and easy "Tell Your CSUN Story in 50 Seconds or Less on YouTube" feature.

On a parallel track, the Alumni Association and the Oviatt Library will collaborate on collecting written stories and memorabilia from students, faculty, alumni and friends of the university in a special 50th anniversary project.

During the course of the year, all of CSUN's publications will participate in the celebration, with commemorative stories and images recalling the campus' rich history. A special 50th anniversary edition of *Northridge Magazine* in summer 2009 will capture the high points of the anniversary year and provide an overview of the eventful half-century that preceded it.

Campus users who wish to incorporate the 50th anniversary logo and slogan in their events and materials may visit www.csun.edu/graphic-standards/, a new Web page where one can access the university's Graphic Standards Manual, guidelines for print and Web use, and the university Word Mark, the university seal, the 50th anniversary logo and tagline, and other graphic artwork provided to unify the appearance of CSUN's communications.

A variety of divisional, college, departmental and unit salutes to the 50th also are on the drawing board. Information will be forthcoming as plans progress. ■

Mulholland Family Memorabilia Comes to Northridge

Gift from William Mulholland's Granddaughter Offers Look at Daily Life of Early San Fernando Valley

Noted historian and author Catherine Mulholland has donated a collection of family memorabilia—including rare books, archival papers, photographs and music recordings—to Cal State Northridge. Mulholland's grandfather, William Mulholland, was the engineer who brought Owens Valley water to Los Angeles.

The collection, to be housed in the Oviatt Library's Urban Archives Center, offers rare insight into the Mulholland family's day-to-day life on its San Fernando Valley ranch. It also presents a view of William Mulholland's tenure with the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (DWP).

Few families have had a larger impact on the development of Los Angeles and the San Fernando Valley than the Mulhollands. William Mulholland engineered what was once considered nearly impossible—bringing water from the Sierra Nevada Mountains and Owens Valley to the San Fernando Valley via an aqueduct.

"The Mulholland family papers are a superb addition to the library's continually growing collection on the history of the San Fernando Valley," said Library Dean Susan Curzon. "We have deeply valued Catherine's friendship over the years, and we are honored to preserve her family's history."

Mulholland is a longtime supporter of the university and its library as well as a former member of the President's Advisory Board. Northridge, she said, seemed a logical place for her family's collection.

"I hated to part with it but, on



Catherine Mulholland shows off a vintage dress worn by a Mulholland family member during the "Roaring Twenties," part of a trove of designer gowns in her donated collection of family memorabilia.

"The Mulholland family papers are a superb addition to the library's continually growing collection on the history of the San Fernando Valley."

—Susan Curzon,
Library Dean

the other hand, I wanted it to have a good home. I couldn't think of a better place than CSUN," she said.

A respected historian and author of several books of her own, Mulholland has presented CSUN with about

4,000 books from her collection as well as those of her parents and her grandfather. Among the gems of the collection are a copy of Paul Frisi's "Treatise on Rivers and Torrents," published in 1861 and often used by

William Mulholland, and a copy of Harold Bell Wright's "The Winning of Barbara Worth," presented by the author to William Mulholland.

The gift also includes the Mulholland family papers. Among them are drafts and revisions of Catherine Mulholland's books, selected copies of William Mulholland's correspondence, records from the Mulholland ranch, early newspapers from the towns of Owensmouth and Reseda, and family photographs.

A classic piano and more than 300 jazz and classical 78s and LPs—many of which are out of print or available in few library collections—also were part of the gift, along with a trove of designer dresses and gowns in pristine condition, worn by family members during the "Roaring Twenties."

Mulholland hopes her gift will provide researchers with some insight into what life was like for "regular" people living in the early days of the San Fernando Valley.

Robert Marshall, head archivist in the university's Urban Archives Center and University Archives, said the Mulholland gift represents a "wonderful opportunity" for researchers to truly delve into the San Fernando Valley history.

The library already houses a collection of historical papers from Andrae B. Nordskog, an early 20th century journalist who argued against William Mulholland's efforts to bring Owens Valley water to Los Angeles.

"It is really great to see both collections of both families' interpretations—Nordskog's and Mulholland's—residing side by side," Marshall said. ■

A Tribute to Achievement: CSUN's 2008 Honored Faculty

Outstanding Faculty Awards

Gagik Melikyan *Chemistry & Biochemistry*
Carrie Saetermoe *Psychology*

Distinguished Teaching, Counseling or Librarianship

Joyce Broussard *History*
Scott Plunkett *Family and Consumer Sciences*
Katherine Stevenson *Mathematics*

Extraordinary Service Award

Rafi Efrat *Accounting & Information Systems*

Preeminent Scholarly Publications Award

Steven Graves *Geography*

Exceptional Creative Accomplishments

Liviu Marinescu *Music*

Visionary Community Service-Learning

Luciana Lagana *Psychology*

2008 Emeritus Faculty

Gary Anderson *Economics*
Shahid Ansari *Accounting & Information Systems*
Janice Bell *Accounting & Information Systems*
Naomi Bishop *Anthropology*
Bonita Campbell *Manufacturing Systems Engineering & Mgt.*
Robert Chianese *English*
Catherine Dezseran *Theatre*
Snowdy Dodson *University Library*
June Downing *Special Education*
Arlinda Eaton *Elementary Education*

Kristin Ecklund *University Library*
I-nan Hsu *Chemistry & Biochemistry*

James Kellenberger *Philosophy*

Barbara Kroll *English*

Tom Mincer *Mechanical Engineering (posthumous)*

Susan Plutsky *Marketing*

Gregory Truex *Anthropology*

Stephen Walton *Physics & Astronomy (posthumous)*

Barbara Wilson *Accounting & Information Systems*

George Wolfe *Physical Therapy*

Faculty Completing 40 Years of Service

Jane Bayes *Political Science*

Ichiro Hashimoto *Electrical & Computer Engineering*

Paul Skolnick *Psychology*

Faculty Completing 35 Years of Service

Gordon Johnson *Systems and Operations Management*

Dianne Philipbosian *Recreation and Tourism Management*

William Roberts *Economics*

Joel Zeitlin *Mathematics*

Faculty Completing 30 Years of Service

Pamela Bourgeois *English*

Curt Dommeyer *Marketing*

Nagi El Naga *Electrical & Computer Engineering*

Stephen Gadomski *Civil Engineering & Applied Mechanics*

Adele Gottfried *Educational Psychology & Counseling*

Kim Greenhalgh *Business Law*

Rajabali Kiani-Aslani *Accounting & Information Systems*

David Miller *Chemistry*

Janet Reagan *Health Sciences*

David Rodriguez *Chicana/o Studies*

Robert Ryan* *Mechanical Engineering*

Diane Schwartz *Computer Science*

Owen Seiver* *Environmental & Occupational Health*

Gerald Simila *Geological Sciences*

Shirley Svorny *Economics*

George Uba *English*

Faculty Completing 25 Years of Service

Rodney Brecheen-Kirkton *Journalism*

Cynthia Desrochers *Elementary Education*

James Hasenauer* *Communication Studies*

Thomas Hatfield *Environmental & Occupational Health*

Julie Laity *Geography*

James Macklin *Accounting & Information Systems*

Oscar Marti *Chicana/o Studies*

Richard Moore *Management*

Bonnie Paller *Philosophy*

Jon Sloan *Geological Sciences*

Elzbieta Trybus* *Systems and Operations Management*

Ginter Trybus *Computer Science*

* Belated Recognition

(Honored Faculty Reception coverage coming in first @CSUN of fall 2008.)

Commencement 2008: 'Beating the Odds' to Graduate



Kerry Nicole Bobeczko



Jose Garcia



Stefon Jones



Grace Smith and Steven Smith

Graduation 2008 will break a Cal State Northridge record, with 10,051 students invited to participate in this year's commencement ceremonies.

"Our students have worked hard to get to this day," said President Jolene Koester. Many are first generation college students, others have juggled jobs, fought cultural barriers or overcome physical challenges. Whatever their obstacles have been, she said, "they are truly what Cal State Northridge is all about—providing opportunities for individuals to achieve their dreams."

Here are a few of this year's extraordinary graduates:

Kerry Nicole Bobeczko *B. A., Journalism*

When Kerry Bobeczko, 24, decided to attend college, her selection of CSUN—with its deaf and hard-of-hearing program—was "a no-brainer."

"I am hard of hearing, and have been raised orally," she explained. "I lived a different life of not having the typical 'deafness' that the majority of the deaf population has. My doctors have often called me a 'medical mystery'—they have yet to discover a solution. Most deaf adults lack their hearing and that is all. My deafness is accompanied by severe tinnitus (ringing of the ears), vertigo, and severe inner ear pain that can take months to dissipate."

Because there is no cure and her symptoms come and go without warning, the Orange County resident sometimes found it difficult to attend class and complete assignments. When she was relatively symptom-free, she had to work overtime to catch up.

Intent at first on becoming an audiologist, she switched to marketing and public relations. "I took a few classes with professor Lori Baker-Schena and fell in love with P.R."

An incident early in her academic career, in which an instructor criticized her public speaking ability, did not discourage her. It did, however, make her hesitant about speaking in front of a group.

She remained silent until her last semester at CSUN, when Baker-Schena finally persuaded her to talk in class.

"Now we have a joke about how when she first met me, I wouldn't talk and now she can't shut me up," Bobeczko said. "She gave me the confidence I needed."

Because of Baker-Schena, Bobeczko now travels across the country making presentations about the printing company where she is employed. "Lori changed my life and my future."

Bobeczko completed her courses in December, and will take part in the Mike Curb College of Arts, Media, and Communication's commencement ceremony at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 21.

Jose Garcia *B. A., Anthropology*

Jose Garcia, 25, will begin work on a master's degree in forensic anthropology this fall at Cal State Los Angeles, and plans to pursue a doctorate. He hopes to return to CSUN as a professor.

"Isn't that everybody's dream? This is why we made it, because of them [faculty], because of the department and because of the university," said Garcia. "If it wasn't for them, who knows what would have happened?"

Few, including his mother, expected him to succeed after he joined a gang at the age of 12 after moving to South Los Angeles from Mexico. He soon ended up in Juvenile Hall. When he was released, his mother put him out of the house. Only 16 and homeless, Garcia spent a week on the streets until his aunt took him into her home in North Hollywood.

"That side of the family really stressed education," he said. His cousins were in college; one was at Northridge. But before he could contemplate college, Garcia had to finish high school, having fallen behind by more than a year. To graduate on time, he took a heavy class load. For extra credit, he volunteered as an autopsy assistant in a local hospital morgue.

While working with the medical examiner, he "fell in love with forensic anthropology," the application of anthropology to the legal justice system.

"There are situations where you are working with homicide investigators and you find human remains. The forensic anthropologist has to figure out when that person died, how they died, age and ancestry," Garcia said.

Focused on a career goal, he graduated from Los Angeles Valley Community College and transferred to Northridge three years ago.

A year ago, he was asked to pay for a relative's funeral and back rent for family members who had lost their main provider. Financially burdened

but determined, he brought lunch from home and left the café lattes to others.

"I rarely complain about anything, because... at least I get to eat tomorrow," he said.

At Northridge, he earned strong grades, completed internships and field work, and served as co-president of the Anthropology Student Association.

Garcia will take part in the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences' commencement ceremony at 8 a.m. Wednesday, May 21.

*"I wanted to be
the role model
for my entire family."*

—Stefon Jones

B. S., Business Administration

Stefon Jones *B. S., Business Administration*

Stefon Jones, 22, bounced around Northern California while growing up. His mother and stepfather were hooked on drugs. "[My mother] was in and out of rehab. That separated us," he said. When she was away, he lived with his father until his dad moved to Sacramento. "He was always there for me, but he wasn't always in the same area."

As Jones moved from school to school, he stopped applying himself and his grades suffered. Needing a change of scenery, he moved to Reseda to live with an aunt and attend the ninth grade at Cleveland High School.

"I loved it so much," Jones said. His positive experience in Reseda persuaded him to find a way to come back to Southern California some day. Armed with a fresh attitude and focus, he returned to Oakland with a new goal: college.

"I didn't want what happened to my parents to happen to me," Jones said. "I wanted to be the role model for my entire family."

He will be the first in his family to graduate from college. His only choice was CSUN, where four years ago he enrolled, majored in business law and found time to serve as a University Ambassador while holding down a job at Home Depot.

In the fall, Jones will attend Southwestern Law School in Los Angeles. His new goal is to become an entertainment or corporate attorney.

Jones will participate in the Honors Convocation at 6 p.m. Monday, May 19 and in the College of Business and Economics commencement ceremony at 8 a.m. the next day.

Grace Smith *B. A., Spanish* **Steven Smith** *B. S., Business Administration*

Hours before Grace Smith dons cap and gown for the 6:30 p.m. College of Humanities graduation ceremony on May 20, she will watch her oldest son, Steven, receive his degree in business administration at the College of Business and Economics' 8 a.m. exercises.

"I was proud of her for going back to school," Steven said, "and doing so well...My dad went back to school also, several years ago, to get his bachelor's and then his master's."

Steven Smith, 23, entered CSUN in 2003 straight out of high school. His mother took a less direct route. After high school, she earned a degree from Pierce College, attended nursing school for a year, got married and had three children.

"That kind of stalled me," she said.

Smith, 45, eager to teach at the preschool her children attended, completed a two-year program in early childhood education at College of the Canyons. Bilingual in English and Spanish, she eventually was offered a position as head of the school's Spanish program, as it grows from preschool through high school.

"That pushed me into coming back to college and getting my B. A. in Spanish so I could progress with the school, and be ready to teach high school in a couple of years," said the Santa Clarita resident.

She enrolled at CSUN two years ago and earned nearly all A's in her major, making the Dean's List every semester.

Smith was pleased to discover that "all the students weren't 20-somethings." But one 20-something understood the demands of her new life as a college student.

"I think he's proud of me," said Smith about Steven, who plans to attend law school.

In the fall, she will pursue a master's degree in Spanish linguistics or in Spanish literature. Her aim is to earn a doctorate. ■

Right Side, Left Side: In Scholar's Brain, Both are Brilliant

Wolfson Scholar and Other High-Achieving Students to Receive Awards at CSUN's May 19 Honors Convocation



Ronik Khachatoorian is CSUN's 2008 Wolfson Scholar, the year's top graduating senior.

*"When I was a child,
I always thought
cancer was a death sentence,
but I always wanted
to do something
about it."*

—Ronik Khachatoorian

One of Ronik Khachatoorian's recent papers is called "A Nonalkaline Method for Isolating Sequencing-Ready Plasmids." Another is "Representations of Death in Emily Dickinson." One sprang from the right side of his remarkable brain, the other from the left.

An interest in cultivating both sides led Khachatoorian to complete a double major in biology and English literature with an overall 3.99 GPA, and ultimately to his selection as the 2008 Wolfson Scholar. Since 1963 this academic honor has been reserved for the top achiever in Cal State Northridge's graduating senior class.

"His willingness to cross the borders separating what C.P. Snow called the 'Two Cultures' (i.e., the literary and the scientific) in order to pursue advanced studies on both sides" demonstrates the Northridge resident's sheer "intellectual bravery," wrote John Peters (*English*).

Khachatoorian, 27, will accept his award at CSUN's May 19 Honors Convocation, with his mother, Aida, and brothers Reno and Rozheh looking on. "I am very happy excited, and humbly proud to receive the Wolfson Scholar Award," he said, thanking President Jolene Koester and mentors who included Anthony Dawahare, Susan Collier, John Peters and Rei Noguchi (*English*), and Stan Metzenberg, Steven Oppenheimer and Sean Murray (*Biology*).

Khachatoorian, said College of Science and Mathematics Dean Jerry

Stinner, is "one of the best students that I have seen in my 26 years as a professor and university administrator." His exceptional accomplishments, said College of Humanities Dean Elizabeth Say, "mark him as truly deserving of the Wolfson Scholar Award."

The American dream of a better education and career opportunities drew the Khachatoorian family to California from Tehran, where Khachatoorian had immersed himself in Shakespeare, the lyric poet Sadee and the great Persian poet Ferdowsi while studying at Azad University. But he had never been able to forget the death of his elementary school friend from cancer years before.

"When I was a child, I always thought cancer was a death sentence," Khachatoorian recalled. "But I always wanted to do something about it." An introduction to genetics in high school convinced him that genetics and molecular biology would give him the means.

Azad University did not offer the coursework he needed. "I knew I would end up coming to the U.S., so I decided to master English." When Khachatoorian enrolled at CSUN as a transfer student in 2004, he quickly became what one professor described as the most gifted student of English literature he has taught in his 24 years at CSUN.

His eye still fixed on cancer research, Khachatoorian applied for the biology major as well. "I didn't worry about the course load. I felt comfortable with that," he said with

typical understatement. "I knew enough English for my biology courses."

He evidently knew enough to conduct research in biologist Stan Metzenberg's lab on the C-reactive protein of humans, to co-author with Metzenberg the soon-to-be published piece on isolating plasmids, to complete the requirements for both the cell and molecular biology as well as the biotechnology options for the B.S. degree, and to participate in the National Scholars, Golden Key International and Phi Kappa Phi honor societies.

What little time Khachatoorian has left for music—he likes Yanni—and an occasional swim at the beach may dwindle soon; he begins summer lab rotations at UCLA toward the end of May, on his way to a doctorate in molecular biology or human genetics.



Chemistry major Louis Carlson of Tujunga, a graduate student whose work with chemistry professor Gagik Melikyan is aimed at developing "a new generation of therapeutics for a breast cancer cure." Carlson maintained a 3.77 GPA while holding down a full-time job, supporting a family and keeping up a CSUN lab schedule that usually stretched from 4 p.m. to midnight.



The 2008 Nathan O. Freedman Memorial Award for Outstanding Graduate Student will be presented to Rachel Levitt of Granada Hills, a communication studies major and champion debater with an overall 3.94 GPA. Organizations such as the Union of Academic Student Employees; the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Alliance and the CSUN Women's Resource and Research Center have benefited from Levitt's activism.

A panelist in women's studies and communications workshops from Chicago to Oakland, she has accumulated more than 35 honors and awards to date, a number of them for her successful performances in statewide policy debates.

Association of Retired Faculty Memorial Awards will be presented to:



Archaeology/anthropology major Erika Brant of Los Angeles, who compiled a 4.0 GPA while conducting a research project entitled "Following the Caravan: Toward an Understanding of Trade, Ideology, and Rock Art in the Tarapaca Valley, Northern Chile."

According to anthropology professor Cathy Costin, Brant's high-level research will contribute substantially to the understanding of Andean prehistory.



Mathematics major Cynthia Flores of Tujunga, who has earned a 3.9 GPA in pursuit of her graduate degree. Flores recently presented a non-trivial theory of mathematics at the Ninth Conference for Undergraduate Women in Mathematics at the University of Nebraska, and was selected for the Princeton University's Summer Program for Women in Mathematics, organized by the country's best female mathematicians.

Flores has worked on a fluid dynamic research problem at the University of Sao Paulo in Brazil and teaches public school students in a math program funded by the National Science Foundation.



Curriculum and instruction major Morris McCormick of Palmdale, a full-time teacher whose authorship of an innovative research project using grounded theory—generating theories from data—is aimed at helping young math students learn how to help themselves.

An accomplished academic writer with a 3.95 GPA, Morris is expected to present his original work on students' self-questioning techniques next year at the American Educational Research Association's annual meeting. ■

'Mallory Montague, Come on Down!' She Does, and Wins Big

Athletics Department Marketing Intern Scores on 'Price is Right,' Top-Rated TV Game Show

Mallory Montague ordered tickets online, but they came without a guarantee.

Only early birds would get seats in the audience, and contestants would be chosen by producers. At 4 a.m. on a cold day in March, she joined the line already snaking away from the CBS Studios in Hollywood. The show wouldn't start taping for eight hours.

"It's always been a dream to be on the show," said Montague, a deaf studies major and a student intern in the Athletics Department's marketing/promotions unit.

As the line lengthened, producers scoured the crowd for contestants.

"The friends that I was with were all deaf studies majors, and we were all communicating in sign language to a friend who was deaf. I think the producers paid a little more attention to our group because of that," Montague said.

After they got seats, a voice boomed: "Come on down, Mallory Montague."



A jubilant Mallory Montague celebrates her big win on "The Price is Right." The marketing intern will use her winnings to pay for school and visit her sister in Honduras.

She plunged into the game, but struck out on a home theater sound system, a rug, a washer/dryer and a VCR. Given another chance, she correctly bid on a DVD player. Winning

allowed her to compete for several prize packages. Although she missed the value of a Chrysler PT Cruiser and other items, her earlier win earned her another shot onstage.

Host Drew Carey asked if she wanted to say hello to anyone.

Montague responded without hesitation. "Hello to New Orleans, the Ninth Ward! We haven't forgotten you; we're coming back!"

Montague had spent her spring break earlier that month with other CSUN volunteers helping repair homes that had been damaged by Hurricane Katrina.

Perhaps the "shout-out" brought her luck. She won the game's "Spin the Wheel" segment and advanced to the "Showcase Showdown." Montague bid \$16,775 on a refrigerator, a jukebox and two jet skis, beating other contestants who had overbid.

"I just went crazy," Montague said. She hugged Carey as her friends stormed onto the stage to celebrate.

Her grand total: nearly \$31,000 in prizes. She plans to sell the whole lot of them to pay for school and a trip to see her sister, a nurse, in Honduras. ■

CSUN Students: Social Responsibility is Key to College Life

Association of American Colleges and Universities' 'Core Commitments' Survey Releases Findings

Cal State Northridge students, faculty and administrators agree that personal and social responsibility should be a major focus of college learning and life, according to a recent survey.

The survey, "Core Commitments: Educating Students for Personal and Social Responsibility," was conducted as part of a national effort by the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AACU), to embed personal and social accountability in student life in and out of the classroom.

Among the survey's findings: 75 percent of CSUN students strongly agree it is important to develop a solid work ethic in their academic activities; 68 percent strongly agree that helping students develop a deep sense of personal and academic integrity should be a major focus of this campus; 51 percent believe that stressing the importance of contribution

to a larger community should be a major focus of the campus; and 71 percent strongly believe that the university should help students recognize the importance of taking seriously the perspectives of others.

While students affirmed the importance of developing a strong moral compass and commitment to increased social responsibility, members of the faculty and administration did not perceive that students held such strong levels of interest in these areas.

"This 'disconnect' is consistent with national trends that found young adults far more engaged in the current national election primary than their elders may have expected," said Maureen Rubin, CSUN's director of undergraduate students and one of the coordinators of the university's participation in AACU's Core Commitments project. "Clearly, the university must provide opportunities

for students, faculty and administrators to become engaged in addressing critical contemporary issues and do more to promote positive personal attributes."

College of Humanities Dean Elizabeth Say, another CSUN coordinator of the Core Commitments project, said the university "is committed to increasing its curricular and co-curricular programs to provide additional opportunities to integrate social awareness, personal accountability and academic honesty."

Cal State Northridge is one of only 23 colleges and universities across the country chosen to be part of AACU's Core Commitments three-year initiative to revitalize the role of higher education in fostering the development of personal and social responsibility among college students. Participation in the AACU national survey is a key component of this initiative.

The Personal and Social Responsibility Institutional Inventory was administered in fall of 2007 by researchers from the University of Michigan. It examined perceptions of how well campus environments encouraged dimensions of personal and social responsibility; striving for excellence, cultivating personal and academic integrity; contributing to a larger community; taking seriously the perspectives of others, and developing competence in ethical and moral reasoning.

When CSUN joined the initiative last year, it pledged to match the \$25,000 AACU grant to ensure that the program effectively reaches its students. The program incorporates such subjects as the dangers of cheating and plagiarism, binge drinking and the use of drugs as well as broader issues that encompass being a responsible member of society. ■

BudgetWatch

Facing serious fiscal challenges due to the overwhelming state budget crisis, the California State University Board of Trustees increased undergraduate student fees by \$276 for the 2008-09 academic year during its May 14 meeting.

The student fee increase, which represents \$110 million in revenue, had been postponed until May as the CSU worked collaboratively with faculty, staff and students in an effort to highlight the impact of impending cuts to the CSU budget.

State university fees for undergraduate, graduate and teacher credential students increased by 10 percent.

Effective in fall 2008, fees will increase by \$276 for undergraduate students, \$324 for teacher credential students and \$342 for graduate students.

The CSU will set aside one-third of the revenue from the fee increase (\$36 million) to augment financial aid to cover the fee increase for financially needy students, reducing the impact on low income students. About 75 percent of financially needy students will receive financial aid to offset the increase.

Stahl's Baseball Screenplay is a Hit

Jon Stahl, associate professor of cinema and television arts and head of the CTVA screenwriting option, has won first place in the feature-length category of the Broadcast Education Association's (BEA) Festival of Media Arts Faculty Scriptwriting Competition.

Stahl, whose screenplay was selected for the Best of Fest Award, received the honors at BEA's annual convention in Las Vegas in April.

His screenplay, "Park Avenue Baseball," is a feature-length comedy for pre-adolescents and their families. Its protagonist is an impoverished

12-year-old boy who loves baseball and dreams of rising above his station in life.

Stahl's first family film, "Park Avenue Baseball" was inspired by a desire to write something his children could enjoy, combined with a love of baseball.

When the idea for the children-friendly film came to him, he put aside another project in development to focus on it.

"I'm delighted by the reception that this labor of love has received so far," Stahl said. ■

FYI

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.

Publication of @CSUN will resume with the start of the fall 2008 semester. 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. ■

Events

Monday, May 19

Honored Faculty Reception

The annual Honored Faculty Reception will begin at 10 a.m., Grand Salon, University Student Union. Faculty awards will be presented for Outstanding Faculty; Distinguished Teaching, Counseling, or Librarianship; Scholarly Publication; Creative Accomplishment; Extraordinary Service; and Visionary Community Service-Learning. New *emeritus* professors, faculty achieving milestone service, and new faculty officers also will receive honors. A continental breakfast will be served. *fmi*-x3263 or heidw@csun.edu.

Saturday, August 2

Dodger Night

The CSUN Alumni Association presents a night at Dodger Stadium. The evening will include a private dinner on the Loge Terrace and Loge section tickets for the Dodgers vs. Arizona Diamondbacks game. Dinner begins at 5 p.m.; game begins at 7:10 p.m. For tickets and *fmi*-Cheryl McMillan, x4938 or cheryl.mcmillan@csun.edu.

Public Meetings

Personnel Planning and Review Committee

Meets 1:15-5 p.m.
Wednesday, May 21
University Hall 277

North Campus-University Park Development Corporation

Meets 9 a.m.
Tue., May 27
University Hall 250

University Planning & Budget Group

Meets noon to 2 p.m.
Wed., May 28
University Hall 277

Foundation Board

Meets 6 p.m.
Wed., June 4
fmi-Judy Landy, x4197

USU Board of Directors

Meets 1 p.m.
Mon., June 9
USU Grand Salon

Notices

Deepest Sympathy

The College of Science and Mathematics and the campus community extend deepest condolences to Associate Dean Vicki Pedone (*College of Science and Mathematics*), whose father passed away Sunday, May 4.

New and Re-Appointed Department Chairs

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Harry Hellenbrand announces the appointments of Donald Bleich as Finance, Real Estate and Insurance Department chair, and Herman DeBose as Sociology Department chair. The provost also announces the reappointments of Thomas Hatfield as Environmental and Occupational Health Department chair and Brian Malec as Health Sciences Department chair. All appointments are effective August 20 and conclude at the end of the 2010-11 academic year.

Catastrophic Leave Donations

Lisa Anderson (*Developmental Math*) and Brooke Yeager (*Resident Life & Conference/Administration*), out on medical leaves of absence, have exhausted their leave credits and are requesting catastrophic leave donations on their behalf. To make voluntary donations of sick leave and/or vacation leave, forward completed catastrophic leave donation forms to Payroll Administration, mail drop 8228. Donation forms are available at www-admn.csun.edu/hrs/forms/benefitsforms.html.

Emergency Desk Reference

The Department of Public Safety has prepared an "Emergency Operations Desk Reference for Staff Members," available at www-admn.csun.edu/publicsafety/emergency/. The desk reference provides a quick guide for what to do during emergency situations that may occur on a university campus, including shooting situations. General information on emergency preparedness, staff responsibilities, emergency phone numbers, and where to get more information in the event of an emergency is also provided.

Nonprofit Sector Management Certificate Program

CSUN's Master of Public Administration (MPA) program offers an 18-unit graduate credit certificate in nonprofit sector management. The certificate is for practitioners who are employed or who have an interest in the nonprofit field and seek professional development to better carry out their managerial and administrative responsibilities. Classes are set to begin in August at the Japanese Community and Cultural Center in downtown Los Angeles. All 18 units can be applied to the CSUN MPA program. *fmi*-Patti Burleson at patti.burleson@csun.edu or x3217.

China Earthquake Relief

The China Institute at CSUN encourages the campus community to lend support to victims of the magnitude 7.9 earthquake in China. Donations can be sent to the Chinese Consulate General in Los Angeles, in care of Consul Chengyin Wang, 443 Shatto Place, Los Angeles, CA 90020. Make checks payable to "Chinese Consulate General in L.A.," with "Chinese Earthquake Donation" on the memo line. *fmi*-zhixin.su@csun.edu.

Classes

Biology of Cancer

The Department of Biology, the Center for Cancer and Developmental Biology and the College of Science and Mathematics will sponsor a free Biology of Cancer class (Biology 285) for students, faculty, staff and community members, as a public service. Biology 285 is a 2-unit general education class offered in fall 2008 on Mondays, 6-7:40 p.m. Seating priority is given to registered students. *fmi*-Steve Oppenheimer, x3336.

Deadlines

Human Subjects Research

Human Subjects Research Faculty and students performing research with human subjects must submit their projects to the Standing Advisory Committee for the Protection of Human Subjects, using Human Subjects approval forms. Download the form at www.csun.edu/research/03_Research/06_HumanSubjectsResearch.html. The original form and nine copies must be submitted. Next deadline date: June 10, for the June 24 meeting. ■ ■ ■

New Graphic Standards Web Page

CSUN is launching a new Web page at www.csun.edu/graphic-standards/ to share the Graphic Standards Manual, guidelines for print and Web use, and the university Word Mark, seal, 50th anniversary logo, tagline and other graphic artwork provided to unify the appearance of our communications.

Naming the Goodman Conference Room



Sierra Hall 181 has been named the Ronni and Shepard Goodman Conference Room in honor of the Goodmans (center), with College of Social and Behavioral Sciences Dean Stella Theodoulou (far left) and President Jolene Koester at the dedication ceremony. Ronni Goodman, '66, and Shepard Goodman, '64, are generous supporters of the college, where both are Dean's Council Ambassadors.

Careers in Entertainment



At the "Careers in Entertainment" scholarship presentations for CSUN cinema and television arts majors are, from left, Kiwanis Studio City founder Carson Schreiber; Curb College Dean Robert Buckner; comedian and NBC4 weatherman Fritz Coleman; Liz Huszarik, Warner Bros. senior vice president, media research; Bob Gustafson of CSUN's media management option and Bruce Rosenblum, Warner Bros. exec. vice president, media research. The event was held at the CBS Studio Center, Studio City.

After 36 Years, Art Gallery Director Packs Up Memories

Louise Lewis has been doing a lot of packing lately as she prepares to move out of the Cal State Northridge Art Galleries that have been her second home for 36 years.

But Lewis, who began as assistant director in 1972 and assumed the gallery directorship in 1980, has spent more time thinking outside the box than packing things into it.

"The Art of Fly-Tying" comes to mind, a show in spring 1989 centered on trout fly ties and staged in conjunction with an exhibition of Leonardo da Vinci's inventive machines, recreated by an Italian sculptor and brought to the gallery by the CSUN College of Engineering and Computer Science. To top it off, Lewis included an exhibition of art deco toasters organized by art professor Phil Morrison.

"People might think that's all over the map, fly-ties and machines and toasters," said Lewis, "but in fact Leonardo would have loved the trout fly-ties because of their sense of illusion and verisimilitude. Toasters, mass produced, were art and design

coming together in the 1920s.

"Function and art can be symbiotic, as they were in all three of these collections," she said.

In "Body Art Performance," presented in collaboration with the Kinesiology Department in fall 1982, body builders posed on pedestals in the gallery, while guests walked among the "live sculptures" in obvious fascination.

In staging more than 500 exhibitions in her years at CSUN, Lewis has tried not to let the gallery repeat itself, instead stretching its reach "to encompass a more international view of the arts." Haitian, Chinese, Mexican, Nigerian, Japanese, Thai, European, Polynesian, Native American, Brazilian, Central American and Australian Aboriginal arts have been featured at the CSUN galleries. "I believe our diverse student and greater San Fernando Valley constituencies appreciate knowing more about the range of visual expression all around us, everywhere."

For Lewis, that also has meant providing a platform for "underserved



Louise Lewis

areas in art, including women and minorities in art, as well as media that might not have been part of the traditional European canon, such as folk art, photography, video, installations, graphic arts, and quilt making."

Her outreach has extended to local

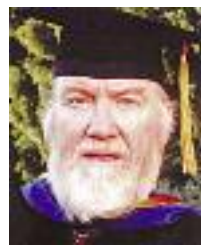
high schools as well, with the Annual High School Student Art exhibition that began as a mural competition just after the crushing Northridge earthquake in 1994. "We needed a mural for the front of our trailer on Nordhoff," said Lewis. "Joe Lewis, then chair, suggested we do it every year, but not just with murals. It took off and became a great tradition."

The gallery has managed to thrive in spite of limited funding, Lewis said. "Fortunately, we're in Los Angeles. So much of what we want to do—whether international or national—we can get here without spending a fortune."

Faculty president from 1992–94, Lewis taught courses on the history of graphic arts, modern and contemporary art, world art and art as political activism. After leaving CSUN at semester's end, she will continue her work as board member with the Center for the Study of Political Graphics (CSPG). Lewis' last exhibition, "Reclaiming the 'F' Word: Posters on International FeminismS," opens at the galleries on June 3. ■

In Brief

Journalism Professor Dies After Short Illness



Journalism professor *emeritus* Lawrence Schneider, whose expertise in reporting and interest in science and environmental journalism enriched the education of

CSUN students during a 32-year

teaching career, died May 1 after a short illness. He was 74.

Schneider came to Cal State Northridge in 1971, after earning his Ph.D. in mass communication from the University of Iowa. In addition to teaching journalism skills courses and environmental reporting, he created a course in computer-assisted reporting when the idea was in its infancy. He also served on the Faculty Senate.

Growing up in New York City, Schneider bicycled daily to Brooklyn College where he earned his bachelor's degree in English, later serving in the Army during the Korean War before relocating to the West. He taught at CSU Fresno and the University of Washington before joining the CSUN journalism faculty.

His many honors included service as professor-in-residence in the

science communication program at the Argonne National Laboratory in Illinois.

One of Schneider's most famous former students is Hawaii Governor Linda Lingle, who took his government reporting course in the early 1970s.

Schneider is survived by his wife, Elizabeth, and children David and Dianna. A memorial service was held May 4. ■

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.

'Wish You Were Here'

"Wish you Were Here: Travelers from Antiquity to Modern Times," explores rich diversity of a traveler's life.

Curator: Tony Gardner, CSUN special collections curator. Runs through August 1. C.K. and Teresa Tseng Gallery, Oviatt Library, west wing

Annual Juried Student Art Exhibition

An exhibition by CSUN students in all media: animation, ceramic, drawing, fiber/fabric, graphic design and more.

Runs through May 21.

Sponsored by the Arts Council of CSUN
Main Art Gallery

Hand Bookbinders of California

Show features the work of professional bookbinders, as well as amateurs and students of the art and craft of hand bookbinding.

Runs through May 22.

Oviatt Library Lobby

'Reclaiming the "F" Word'

Exhibition from the Center for the Study of Political Graphics. Examines national and international posters that portray the feminist movement.

Runs June 3 through July 3.

Reception: Sat., June 7, 2–5 p.m.

Main Art Gallery

Athletics (home games):

Baseball

5/23	UC Davis	3 p.m.
5/24	UC Davis	1 p.m.
5/25	UC Davis	1 p.m.

Track & Field

5/30	NCAA Western Regionals	All Day
5/31	NCAA Western Regionals	All Day

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.

'Alfred the Great,' 'Alfred the Auteur' and 'The 39 Steps'

Cinema of Alfred Hitchcock series examining the great director and his work.

Wed., May 28, 5 p.m.

Extracts from 'Strangers on a Train' and 'Breakdown'

Alfred Hitchcock series.

Mon., June 2, 5 p.m.

'Hitchcock, Selznick and the End of Hollywood' and 'Rebecca'

Written and directed by Michael Epstein. "Rebecca" directed by Alfred Hitchcock.

Alfred Hitchcock series.

Wed., June 4, 5 p.m.

'Suspicion' and 'Shadow of a Doubt'

Alfred Hitchcock series.

Mon., June 9, 5 p.m.

'Saboteur' and 'North by Northwest'

Alfred Hitchcock series.

Wed., June 11, 5 p.m.

'Notorious' and 'The Paradine Case'

Alfred Hitchcock series.

Mon., June 16, 5 p.m.

'Rope' and 'Under Capricorn'

Alfred Hitchcock series.

Wed., June 18, 5 p.m.

'Dial M for Murder' and 'To Catch a Thief'

Alfred Hitchcock series.

Mon., June 23, 5 p.m.

'Rear Window' and 'The Wrong Man'

Alfred Hitchcock series.

Wed., June 25, 5 p.m.

'The Man Who Knew Too Much' and 'Vertigo'

Alfred Hitchcock series.

Mon., June 30, 5 p.m.

'Psycho' and 'The Birds'

Alfred Hitchcock series.

Wed., July 2, 5 p.m.

'Marnie' and 'Frenzy'

Alfred Hitchcock series.

Mon., July 7, 5 p.m.

@CSUN

is published biweekly during the academic year for the university community of California State University, Northridge. Copies are available without charge and on request. Direct inquiries, comments, and suggestions to Managing Editor, Public Relations and Strategic Communications, 18111 Nordhoff St., Northridge, CA 91330-8242.

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