

Nanoscience Experimental Lab is 'the Wave of the Future'

CSUN's 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 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



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

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



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

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 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 Nanoscience Lab *continued on page 3.*

'Harness Volunteer Energy,' Says Governor



Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger greets President Jolene Koester at a February 26 event at Cal State Northridge, in which the governor named state volunteerism commission chief Karen Baker as the first cabinet secretary of service and volunteering. With the governor and President Koester at the announcement event is Henry Lozano of the Corporation for National & Community Service (center). Said Schwarzenegger, noting CSUN's prominence as a regional leader in volunteer service efforts: "We need to harness the great energy that we have out there, all those volunteers who give their time and resources." (See page 2 for more on CSUN volunteerism.)



Community Connection

By Judy Nutter, Director of Government & Community Relations

It's "tax time" again, so I want to alert you to a new tax dispute service offered at the university's Bookstein Institute for Higher Education in Taxation Clinic.

The U.S. Treasury Department has awarded the new Bookstein Clinic \$45,000 to open this free federal tax dispute resolution service, providing matching funds for the clinic to serve low-income taxpayers in this area.

Supervised by tax professionals and faculty, Cal State Northridge graduate and undergraduate students represent community members at no cost. After rigorous instruction in substantive tax law, preparation and procedure, the student clinicians educate taxpayers in a wide range of tax issues. In turn, the students

learn invaluable skills in interviewing clients, preparing cases for appeals conferences, and negotiating settlements with the IRS.

Student representatives also present free educational community workshops on the rights and responsibilities of taxpayers.

To obtain more information on the Bookstein Tax Clinic, call (818) 677-3600.

While we're on the subject of taxes, the Wayne and Roberta Colmer Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program is providing free assistance to low-income individuals and families.

Last year, VITA saved the community more than \$160,000 in tax preparation fees. This year, the Community Connection *continued on page 2.*

White House Honors CSUN for Community Service

From Classroom to Student Projects, Volunteerism and Community Service Present in 'Every Aspect of Campus Life'

The Corporation for National and Community Service has named Cal State Northridge to the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll with Distinction.

Northridge is one of 12 California State University campuses to receive national honors from the White House and the Corporation, an independent federal agency tasked with fostering an ethic of volunteerism and service in America for work done in 2007.

Merri Whitelock, managing director of Community Engagement, which evolved from Northridge's Center for Community Service-Learning and now is part of the

Center for Innovative and Engaged Learning Opportunities, said the award recognizes CSUN's commitment to incorporate community service in every aspect of campus life, from the classroom to student initiatives.

"This campus is truly committed to reaching out to the community," Whitelock said.

A few examples:

- Hundreds of students work each year with the Wayne and Robert Colmer Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, providing free tax return assistance primarily to low-income individuals, senior citizens, non-English-speaking

individuals and the disabled.

- University Ambassadors provide mentoring and guidance to at-risk youth who are made to realize that college education is within their reach, Whitelock said.
- Students, staff and faculty with CSUN's Gear-Up program work with low-income middle and high school students and their families, providing academic support and counseling, mentoring, parent workshops and other services designed to discourage students from dropping out.
- In CSUN's peer-educator programs, students increase campus awareness of date/acquaintance rape; promote

a more accepting attitude toward body image, shape, size and healthy lifestyles; combat depression and suicide; and provide free volunteer paraprofessional counseling, emotional support, information and referrals through a hotline.

- Dozens of faculty members work with students to apply classroom-learned concepts to real-world situations, in collaboration with local businesses or community-based organizations and their constituents.
- Hundreds of students volunteer with community-based organizations through the Matador Involvement Center. ■

Community Connection...

Continued from page 1.

goal is to surpass that figure.

After undergoing intensive training from certified public accountants at a variety of accounting firms, more than 100 Cal State Northridge students are thoroughly versed in this year's new tax laws and are prepared to complete basic tax forms. They will receive back-up support from Internal Revenue Service (IRS) agents, who serve as advisors at some of the VITA centers.

A vital part of the community since 1971, the service is provided on a first-come, first-served basis only and is available to low-income individuals and households, the disabled and senior citizens with a maximum gross annual income of \$50,000. Special assistance is available for senior citizens as well as non-English speakers.

For dates, times and locations,

please call (818) 677-4519 or visit www.csun.edu/vita/.

The timeline of "Wish You Were Here," on exhibit in the Oviatt Library's C.K. and Teresa Tseng Gallery, ranges from the ancient Greeks through the early 20th century and gathers together travel literature for sites around the world.

The exhibit includes maps, posters, literature and photos along with the adventures of some very famous travelers: "By Motor to the Golden Gate," 1916, by Emily Post; "A Motor Flight Through France," 1908, by Edith Wharton; "A Little Tour in France," 1901, by Henry James.

Finally, a reminder that the Library's next used book sale is Tuesday, April 22, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., with books from 25 cents to \$1.00. Proceeds buy new materials for the Library.

Until next time... ■

5K 'Sign n' Run' Festival is April 13

CSUN's National Center on Deafness hosts its first 5K "Sign n' Run" Festival fundraiser to support CSUN programs for students who are deaf and for students who hope to become teachers, interpreters and service providers.

Who? Everyone! Students (deaf, hard of hearing, and hearing), staff, faculty, alumni, families, friends, signers and non-signers, stroller and wheelchair users, walkers and runners; all ages welcome

What? 5K, American Sign Language Festival, entertainment, info booths, shows, face-painting, prizes for top fundraisers

When? Sunday, April 13, 8:30 a.m.–1 p.m.

Where? On the Cal State Northridge campus

Why? To celebrate American Sign Language, deaf culture, community and connections

How? Register as a walker with sponsors. Children under age 13 free.

More info at www.csun.edu/ncod or ncod@csun.edu

Camera and Community

"Camera and Community: Photographs from the Collection of the Institute for Arts and Media" features the work of 20 Southern California photographers whose subjects range from the San Fernando Valley to the jungles of Chiapas, Mexico, and from activists like the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. and César Chávez to jazz musicians and everyday people.

The exhibition is the first to explore the richness and diversity of the 1.5 million images housed in the Institute for Arts and Media at CSUN. Curator and institute director Kent Kirkton spent nearly 15 years developing the collections from which the photos are drawn. "As we look at these photographs," Kirkton said, "we are reminded of what we have accomplished and what we have endured."

CSUN Main Art Gallery, through April 12. Closed March 31. (See Calendar, page 4)



Children's Lit Conference—'Minds Alive on the Shelves'

Inaugural Event at CSUN Spotlights Books on History/Social Studies, Math, Science, the Arts

Children's literature has the power to engage and inspire young readers. In the K–12 classroom, informational literature can inspire a love of learning as well.

Fulfilling a long-held desire to create a children's literature conference that brings together local educators and draws on the rich resource of local authors, Cal State Northridge's Elementary Education Department will present the First Annual Children's Literature Conference from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Saturday, April 12, in the university's Michael D. Eisner College of Education building.

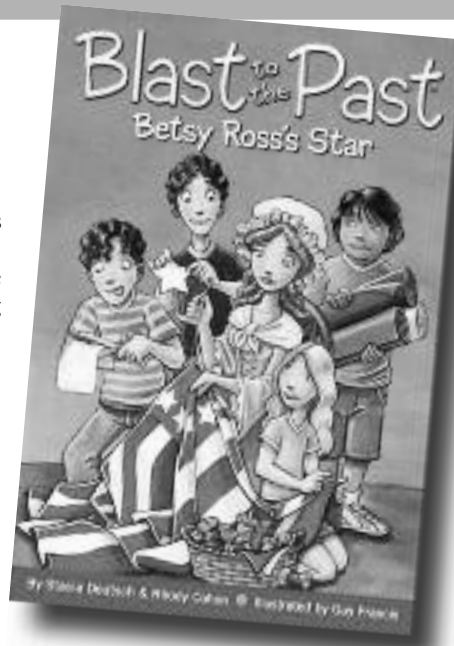
CSUN's conference will offer a full agenda, with featured author presentations, breakout sessions, and a showcase of new children's literature, including the books of authors spotlighted at the April 12 event.

The conference's "Minds Alive on the Shelves" theme highlights the interactive richness that informational literature offers. Highlights of the day

will include presentations by local authors of informational books, including keynote speaker Stacia Deutsch, author of the acclaimed "Blast to the Past" series that cleverly intertwines diverse historical figures with compelling plots to create stories that educate while they enthrall.

Other speakers will include Caroline Arnold, author of "The Terrible Hodag and the Animal Catchers," "Giant Sea Reptiles of the Dinosaur Age" and about 130 other books for children; and Ann Whitford Paul, author of "Mañana Iguana," "Fiesta Fiasco" and "All By Herself: 14 Girls Who Made a Difference."

"There is no other conference like this in the area," said Nancy Prosenjak, elementary education professor and co-chair of the Children's Literature Conference. The need for such a gathering spurred Prosenjak and co-chair Greg Knotts to spearhead the effort, with energy and support provided by the



Elementary Education Department.

The event's interactive workshops—

encompassing the subject areas of history/social studies, mathematics, science, and the arts—will focus on the use of content area reading and informational literature.

Knotts, a professor of elementary education, emphasized the attempt to draw from a broad array of expertise by soliciting a diverse group of presenters, from educators working in K–12 to university and parent educators. The goal is to provide "hands-on implementable strategies," said Knotts, that will enable educators to access content areas through literature.

The \$45 conference registration includes continental breakfast, lunch and a CSUN parking pass. For a registration form, campus map, directions, links to authors' titles and other information, visit <http://www.csun.edu/coe/eed/childlit>. ■

—Hillary Freeman

Nanoscience Lab...

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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.

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 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. ■

CSUN Holds All-Campus Budget Summit

Along with the Faculty Senate, Associated Students and the unions representing Cal State Northridge faculty and staff, President Jolene Koester invited all members of the campus community to an All-Campus Budget Summit over the lunch hour Thursday, March 13.

In the Grand Salon of the campus' University Student Union, students were to gather with faculty and staff to learn about 1) Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger's 2008–09 budget proposal, which fails to fund \$386 million requested by the California State University Board of Trustees, 2) the consequences of the budget proposal for CSUN, and 3) what the campus community can do to help preserve access to affordable, high quality education at Cal State Northridge and throughout the CSU system.



Sampling of photos by

- Harry Adams 5
- Roland Charles 9
- Guy Crowder 6
- Jack Davis 2
- John Kouns 3, 4, 8
- Unknown 1, 7

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 \$5 parking permit.**

Alumni Events

For info or to RSVP, www.csunumni.com unless otherwise noted.

Child Development Brunch

Child and Adolescent Development Alumni Chapter hosts networking brunch.

Sat., April 5, 9:30 a.m.–noon
Marie Callender's, 19310 Business Center Dr., Northridge.
Limited seating.
\$15

'Tommy' Dinner Theatre

Alumni Association hosts buffet prior to Campus Theatre production of rock opera "Tommy."

Sat., April 5, 6 p.m.; curtain: 8 p.m.
Sierra Hall, rooftop
Ticket info: www.csunumni.com, cheryl.mcmillan@csun.edu or (818) 677-2137
Alumni Assoc. members and guests \$30, non-members \$35

Getty Tour and Picnic

Environmental and Occupational Health Alumni Chapter hosts guided tour of Getty Center, plus picnic lunch. Speaker: Alum Scott Fife, '96, on his role as The Getty's safety officer. RSVP online by April 4.
Sat., April 12, 10:30 a.m.
\$16

Journalism Alumni Reunion

Journalism alumni celebrate 50th anniversary. Live music, silent auction, video and photo montage.
Sat., April 12, 7 p.m.–12 a.m.
Rusty's Restaurant, Santa Monica Pier
\$50–\$70

Etiquette and Other Uncommon Courtesies

Alumna Wendy Phelps, '97, owner of More is Available Coaching & Consulting, presents etiquette workshop. Includes multi-course meal. Online RSVP required.
Wed., April 16, 6:30–9 p.m.
Marie Callender's, 19310 Business Center Dr., Northridge
\$20

Distinguished Alumni Awards Gala

CSUN honors distinguished alumni at awards dinner and gala. Honorees: Award-winning actress Teri Garr, '64; top radio host Bill Handel, '73; NASA science mission program exec Adriana Ocampo Uria, '97.
Sat., April 26, 6:30 p.m.
CBS Studio Center back lot
\$100

Diana Ross at the Bowl

CSUN Alumni Association hosts fabulous evening at the Hollywood Bowl, featuring singer Diana Ross. Picnic area has been reserved. Tickets on sale now.
Sat., July 26, 8:30 p.m.
For info, Cheryl McMillan, (818) 677-2137 or cheryl.mcmillan@csun.edu
Alumni Association members and guests \$30, non-members \$40

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.

Camera and Community

Some of Southland's finest photography, including strong images of African American life, and significant documentation of Cesar Chavez and the United Farm Workers. Runs through April 12. (Closed March 31)
Main Art Gallery

'Wish You Were Here'

New exhibition, "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

Bianchi Planetarium

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

"Spring Sky Show" and "Finding Planets Around Other Stars"
Fri., March 28, 7:30 p.m.

"Spring Sky Show" and "Hubble Vision: A Fascinating Tour of the Cosmos—from Earth's Orbit"
Fri., April 11, 7:30 p.m.

Athletics (home games):

Baseball

3/22	Loyola Marymount	11 a.m.
4/4	Cal Poly	3 p.m.
4/5	Cal Poly	1 p.m.
4/6	Cal Poly	1 p.m.
4/8	UCSB	3 p.m.
4/18	Long Beach State	3 p.m.
4/19	Long Beach State	1 p.m.
4/20	Long Beach State	1 p.m.

Track and Field

3/20	CSUN Relays	9 a.m.
3/21	CSUN Relays	9 a.m.

Women's Tennis

3/17	Yale	2 p.m.
3/19	Minnesota	2 p.m.
3/23	Boise State	11 a.m.
3/28	Long Beach State	2 p.m.
4/5	UC Riverside	noon
4/12	New Mexico State	11 a.m.
4/15	Fresno Pacific	2 p.m.
4/19	CSU Bakersfield	1 p.m.

Men's Volleyball

3/25	Hawai'i	7 p.m.
3/26	Hawai'i	7 p.m.
3/28	Hope International	7 p.m.
4/11	UC San Diego	7 p.m.
4/12	Long Beach State	7 p.m.

Softball

3/22	CSU Bakersfield	noon
4/5	Long Beach State	noon
4/6	Long Beach State	noon
4/12	UCSB	noon
4/13	UCSB	noon

Water Polo

4/4	Stanford	3 p.m.
4/5	San Jose State	noon
4/13	San Diego State	3 p.m.
4/19	UCSB & Cal State San Bernardino	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.

'Out of Sight'

Launches series on works by writer Scott Frank. Directed by Steven Soderbergh.
Mon., March 24, 7 p.m.

'Get Shorty'

Scott Frank series. Directed by Barry Sonnenfeld.
Tue., March 25, 7 p.m.

'The Lookout'

Written and directed by Scott Frank. Q&A with Frank follows screening.
Wed., March 26, 7 p.m.

'The Seventh Seal' and 'Hangover Square'

Written and directed by Ingmar Bergman.
Thu., March 27, 6 p.m.

'Peter Ibbetson'

Directed by Henry Hathaway.
Fri., March 28, 2 p.m.

'Crimes and Misdemeanors'

Written and directed by Woody Allen.
Fri., March 28, 7 p.m.

'Hidden Blade'

Written and directed by Yôji Yamada.
Tue., April 1, 7 p.m.

'Becoming John Ford'

Written and directed by Nick Redman. Speakers: Redman and composer Christopher Caliendo.
Wed., April 2, 7 p.m.

'Mother and Son'

Directed by Alexander Sokurov.
Thu., April 3, 7 p.m.

'Welcome to Mooseport' and 'Grumpy Old Men'

Launches series on director Donald Petrie.
Mon., April 7, 6 p.m.

'Just My Luck' and 'Mystic Pizza'

Directed by Donald Petrie.
Tue., April 8, 6 p.m.

'Miss Congeniality'

Directed by Donald Petrie. Q & A with Petrie follows screening.
Wed., April 9, 7 p.m.

'How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days'

Directed by Donald Petrie. Q & A with Petrie follows screening.
Thu., April 10, 7 p.m.

'Forgetting Sarah Marshall'

Studio sneak preview. Directed by Nicholas Stoller.
Fri., April 11, 7:30 p.m.

'The Iron Horse'

Directed by John Ford. Speakers: Director Nick Redman, composer Christopher Caliendo.
Mon., April 14, 7 p.m.

'Ordet' and 'Gertrud'

Directed by Carl Theodor Dreyer.
Tue., April 15, 6 p.m.

'Four Sons'

Directed by John Ford. Speakers: Redman, Caliendo.
Wed., April 16, 7 p.m.

'New Rose Hotel'

Directed by Abel Ferrara.
Thu., April 17, 7 p.m.

'Defining Moments in Movies—Part III'

Seminal films, great scenes, memorable lines with major events reviewed in their historic contexts.
Fri., April 18, 2 p.m.

Film

'Praying with Lior'

Free sneak preview. CSUN Jewish Studies Public Film Series. Documentary about Lior, a boy with Down syndrome who is preparing for his Bar Mitzvah. Suitable for teens, adults. Co-sponsors: Adat Ari El, Temple Aliyah, Temple Kol Tikvah, Shomrei Torah Synagogue, Valley Beth Shalom. Reservations: (818) 677-4724 or jewish.studies@csun.edu
Sun., March 23, 10 a.m.
Fallbrook Laemmle Theatre, 6731 Fallbrook Ave., West Hills

Lectures

Stalin as Warlord

The History Department and the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences present author Geoffrey Roberts of University College Cork, Ireland. Topic: "Stalin as Warlord." Limited seating; reservations requested.
Thu., March 27, 7 p.m.
Whitsett Room, Sierra Hall 451
For info, (818) 677-3566

Music

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

CSUN Lab Big Band and Latin Jazz Ensemble

Gary Pratt and Jerry Steinholtz, directors.
Thu., March 27, 8 p.m.
Music Recital Hall

CSUN Wind Ensemble

Featured as part of Los Angeles Philharmonic's Sounds About Town Series.
Sun., March 30, 7:30 p.m.
Walt Disney Hall
111 South Grand Street, Los Angeles
For tickets, (323) 850-2000 or www.LAPhil.org.

Julia Heinen Clarinet Studio

Mon., April 7, 8 p.m.
Music Recital Hall

Richard Cionco, Pianist

Evening of Beethoven.
Fri., April 11, 8 p.m.
Music Recital Hall

America Guitar Society International

Duo Liveoak, Nancy Knowles and Frank Wallace.
Sat., April 12, 8 p.m.
Music Recital Hall
\$10–\$20

Chamber Music, Piano Ensembles

Julia Heinen, Dmitry Rachmanov and Rik Noyce, directors.
Wed., April 16 & 23, 8 p.m.
Music Recital Hall

New Directions Composers Group

Liviu Marinescu, director.
Thu., April 17, 8 p.m.
Music Recital Hall

Studio Jazz and NuVeau Art Ensembles

Gary Pratt, director.
Fri., April 18, 8 p.m.
Music Recital Hall

CSUN Wind Symphony

Lawrence Stoffel, conductor.
Sat., April 19, 3 p.m.
Campus Theatre

CSUN Vocal Jazz Ensemble

Matt Falker, director.
Sun., April 20, 8 p.m.
Campus Theatre

Theater/Performance

Tommy

The Who's classic '60s rock opera. Garry Lennon, director. David Aks, music director.
Fri., April 4, 8 p.m.
Sat., April 5, 8 p.m.
Sun., April 6, 3 p.m.
Wed., April 9, 7:30 p.m.
Thu., April 10, 7:30 p.m.
Fri., April 11, 8 p.m.
Sat., April 12, 8 p.m.
Sun., April 13, 3 p.m.
Campus Theatre
\$8–\$20

Asleep at the Wheel

Sound of Western swing.
Sat., April 12, 8 p.m.
Plaza del Sol Performance Hall
\$44



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