Center on Disabilities Confab Will Break Attendance Records
4,500 Conferees Will Converge on Los Angeles for Annual Assistive Technologies Event

Cal State Northridge’s 20th annual International “Technology and Persons with Disabilities” Conference appears headed for record-breaking attendance, with about 4,500 participants expected during the March 14–19 sessions at the Hilton Los Angeles Airport Hotel and the Los Angeles Airport Marriott Hotel. More than 4,100 attended last year’s event.

Sponsored by CSUN’s Center on Disabilities (COD), the comprehensive conference is the largest of its kind in the world, presenting information about technologies for all ages, disabilities, education and training levels. “We’re looking forward with a sense of keen excitement to this year’s conference,” said COD Director Mary Ann Cummins Prager, “as we celebrate an annual event that was begun 20 years ago with the vision of helping to eliminate barriers to personal, academic and career success for persons with disabilities.”

New System Gives Northridge Nanotechnology Research a Boost
Ralph M. Parsons Foundation Helps Purchase Sophisticated Laser System, Only One in Southland

T

There is only one spectroscopic Imaging Laser Ellipsometry system in all of Southern California, the pride and joy of engineering students in Cal State Northridge’s Advanced Materials Center laboratories.

CSUN’s recent acquisition of the sophisticated system was a joint funding project of the Ralph M. Parsons Foundation—whose $50,000 grant was pivotal to the purchase—the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), and the university.

Using the state-of-the-art ellipsometry equipment, Northridge engineering students will be able to work with NASA and Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) scientists and engineers in the burgeoning field of nanotechnology, said Behzad Bavarian, director of the Advanced Materials Center laboratories in the College of Engineering and Computer Science.

Both graduate and undergraduate students will gain invaluable experience working with NASA and JPL on the development of sensors to be used in space exploration, said Bavarian, a professor of manufacturing systems engineering at CSUN.

“NASA pioneered this technology because it is very interested in reducing weight in the equipment it uses for the space program,” he said. “One of the things we agreed to when we got this equipment was that we would be working with NASA as it continues its efforts in this area.”

Only two spectroscopic Imaging Laser Ellipsometry systems are to be found in California now, Bavarian noted; one at CSUN and the other at Stanford University.

An optical probing technique, ellipsometry analyzes polarized light to produce information about layers thinner than a single atom. It is referred to as nanoscience because it deals with extremely small substances, 100 times thinner than a strand of hair.

The Parsons Foundation, which supports and facilitates the work of many nonprofit organizations in the Southern California region, focuses on social impact, civic and cultural programs, health and higher education.
Friendly and Smart, Big Dog on Campus Has Job to Do
"Briska" is Public Safety Department's New Bomb-Detecting Super-Nose

S

e is a fully certified police professional, can and will do the work of five, understands two languages, has a sweet disposition, loves people and puts in a full day's work—literally—a mere pat on the back.

Briska, a handsome 60-pound German Shepherd born in the Netherlands and raised by a family in Germany, reported for duty at the beginning of February as the canine half of the Department of Public Safety's new K-9 team.

Officer Ray Gonzalez and Briska are being introduced to the Northridge campus and community this month. Together, they form the Department of Public Safety's full-time bomb detection unit, added as part of the department's program of overall professional re-building and as a response to its concerns about campus safety in the post 9/11 world. A Dodge Magnum K-9 vehicle, equipped with a stabilizing cage for Briska, will fill out the team when it arrives next month.

Cal State Northridge averages one or two bomb scares per year, about the norm for most colleges and universities in the U.S., said Chief of Police Anne Glavin. "In looking at ways to make ourselves more disaster-prepared, certainly a K-9 unit is critical."

Grants totaling $12,000 from the Police Dog Foundation, Inc., and other groups provided some of the K-9 program's start-up costs. Previously, the university had been obliged to borrow the K-9 officer and dog from CSU Channel Islands for sweeping large events such as commencement ceremonies.

Officer Gonzalez and the four-year-old Briska now will take charge of pre-event explosives detection at all such CSUN campus functions, in addition to their building sweep duties. "Briska can do a job from ten to 20 times quicker than humans can do it," said Gonzalez. "She can sweep an entire room in a fraction of the time it would take five officers to do it because she doesn't need to look in every nook and cranny and visually inspect a room. Her nose is her detector, it's a million times stronger than a human's nose."

Trained by the highly regarded Inglis Canine Academy in Ventura County, Briska maintains a daily work and training schedule and boards with Officer Gonzalez, who had to learn more than 20 German commands in order to work with his "bilingual" partner.

Gonzalez reserves English commands for around the house, but "at work, it's all German."

KCSN's Digital Booster Transmitter Expands Broadcast Area
Station Earns Fresh Honors for Reporting; Airs New "Arts and Roots" Format

C

al State Northridge's radio station, KCSN (FM 88.5), has installed an "HD Radio" digital booster transmitter, extending its broadcast area to include Santa Monica and much of Los Angeles south of the Santa Monica Mountains.

KCSN's expansion was funded by a $109,781 matching grant from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB), part of a pilot program awarding monies to public radio stations in the top 15 markets to equip them with HD Radio technology. KCSN's grant—the only one incorporating broadcast expansion with the new digital technology—is being used as a landmark test case.

The newly incorporated region always had been available to KCSN as a broadcast area, but the station had not been able to reach listeners south of the mountain range; thus missing about one third of its licensed area, or about 400,000 listeners.

The broadcast expansion coincides with two new Golden Mike Awards for the station's acclaimed news department. Presented in January by the Radio Television News Association of Southern California, the awards bring to 54 the number of Golden Mikes earned by KCSN's news unit.

Both awards were in Division B, stations with five or fewer full-time news department employees. The "Best News Cast Over 15 Minutes" recognition went to "The Evening Update" broadcast of Sept. 21, 2004, prepared by News Director Keith Goldstein and broadcast journalism students Kaitlyn Van Diepen, Malik Lee, Matt Szemore, Queenie Conner, Moe Joseph, Devin Saint-Albin and Ayan Murtaza. The "Best News Reporting" honor went to Van Diepen for "Operation Read: The Road to Literacy."

KCSN also has won three first place statewide awards from the Associated Press Television Radio Association (APTRA), to be presented at the association's April convention. Van Diepen's "Road to Literacy" won for "Best Radio Documentary or Special Programming," fellow broadcast journalism student Henry Lambert's "Emergency Room and Trauma Center Closings" took "Best Radio Serious Feature" honors, and colleague Britt McCormick's "Baby Product Recalls" won in the "Best Investigative Reporting" category.

With a new format titled "Arts and Roots Radio," KCSN adds to its 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. programming a unique mix of classical music "from the last thousand years." Country, bluegrass, movie soundtracks, R&B, folk and more can be heard during evening and weekend hours.

Information about the station and its program schedule is available at www.kcsn.org.

Northridge to Host Comparative Drama Conference in 2005
CSUN's First Outing as Host Will Bring SoCal Flavor to Gathering of Theater Scholars

S

ome of the best minds in theater will kick up a virtual storm of ideas, performances and discussion from March 31 to April 2, when Cal State Northridge hosts the Comparative Drama Conference (CDC) for the first time.

Named chair of the Comparative Drama Conference Board in May 2004, theatre professor and historian Kevin Wetmore also became director of the 29-year-old conference, which will convene at CSUN for five consecutive years.

A prestigious international gathering devoted to all aspects of theater and drama, the conference is expected to draw up to 200 scholars from all 50 states as well as the world theater community.

The keynote address will be given by the University of Pittsburgh's J. Thomas Rimer, author, editor or translator of more than 30 works on literature, art history, philosophy and theater. Rimer will speak on postwar productions of Greek tragedy in Athens and Tokyo.

"Our net is cast fairly wide," said Wetmore of the conference's interdisciplinary nature. "It won't be a bunch of people with beards, all wearing tweeds."

Hardly the exclusive domain of theater people, Wetmore said the conference is a magnet for people with interests in fields as various as language, literature, linguistics, even political science, who want to hear about Yiddish, Korean or Bulgarian theater and more.

It will feature papers and presentations in three-person panels, as often as not chaired by CSUN faculty from Pan African Studies or English, for example, or from Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures.

"This is a fantastic opportunity for Cal State Northridge to let the theater world know about the tremendous theatrical heritage here in our area, from 17th Century missionaries' mystery plays, to Culture Clash, to El Teatro Campesino, the East West Players and Arab-American theater," Wetmore said. For more information about the conference, which will be open to the public, contact Wetmore at kwetmore@csun.edu or comparativedrama@csun.edu.

For more information about the conference, which will be open to the public, contact Wetmore at kwetmore@csun.edu or comparativedrama@csun.edu.

Kevin Wetmore, drama conference director

Photo by Lee Choo

Officer Ray Gonzalez and partner Briska

Photo by Lee Choo
Tuesday, March 1
**Envision 2035 Forums**
University administrators, faculty, staff and students are invited to preview the Envision 2035 draft plan for the campus' future at two open forums, 9–11:30 a.m. and 6:30–9 p.m., in the Oviatt Library’s Presentation Room, lower level. To attend either forum, RSVP to CSUN Community Relations Director Judy Nutter at (818) 677-2123 or by e-mail to judy.nutter@csun.edu. For more information about the Envision 2035 planning process, visit www.csun.edu/publicrel/envision2035.

Friday, March 4
**Chino-Tea Mané**
The China Institute and the Phi Beta Delta Honor Society for International Scholars will host a lecture by graduate student Bercu Aydin of the Educational Leadership and Policy Studies Department on “A Long Year’s Journey in China: Learning, Working and Traveling,” at noon in the Lakewold Terrace Room of the University Student Union. fmi–Justine Su, x3959.

Saturday, March 5
**Chinese New Year’s Banquet**
The China Institute will celebrate the Chinese Spring Festival in the USU Grand Salon from 6–8:30 p.m. fmi–Justine Su, x3959.

Monday, March 7–Tuesday, March 29
**CELT “Brown Bag Sessions”**
Judge Julian Beck Grant recipients will share their project results in the CELT Conference Room, Sierra Hall 439.

Mon., March 7, 12–1:30 p.m.
Barbara Kroll (English), J’aime Morrison and Kevin Wetmore (Theatre), and Amalie Orme (Geography)

Mon., March 14, 12–1:30 p.m.
Richard Horowitz (History), Sheena Malhotra (Women’s Studies), Claudia Fajardo-Lira (Family & Consumer Sciences) and Jeff Wiegley (Computer Science)

Tue., March 15, 12–30–2 p.m.
Yreina Gervantez, Roberta Orona-Cordova and Theresa Montano (Chicana/o Studies), Lara Medina (Religious Studies), Shane Frehlich (Kinesiology), (Reference & Instructional Services) and Tamara Ashton (Special Education)

Tue., March 29, 12–30–2 p.m.
Terry Sweeting (Kinesiology), Peggy Roller (Physical Therapy), Irene Clark (English), Ronald Fischbach (Health Sciences) and Helen Cox (Geography). fmi–Kelly Kroeker, x6536.

Tuesday, March 8
**Faculty/Staff Alumni Reception**
Alumni faculty and staff are invited to join the Alumni Association for refreshments and conversation from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on the third floor breezeway of University Hall. fmi and RSVP—Enn Kiser, x9978 or enn.kiser@csun.edu.

Tuesday, March 8, and Wednesday, March 9
**Brown Bag Film Series**
The Marilyn Magaram Center kicks off its Brown Bag Film Series with “Supersize Me” at 1 p.m. in Sequoia Hall 112. Admission is free.

Wednesday, March 9
**Philosophy Lecture**
The Philosophy Department hosts a public lecture, “The Narrow Self,” at 5:30 p.m. in Room X117, Science Building. University of Virginia philosophy professor Brie Gertler will speak. fmi–x2757 or www.csun.edu/~philos33.

Tuesday, March 15
**Day of Diversity**
The Faculty Senate Educational Equity Committee will sponsor panels and music during its annual Day of Diversity, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Oviatt Library Presentation Room. Author Deborah Plummer will speak at 10:30 a.m. Co-sponsors are the Graduate Studies Distinguished Visitors Program, EOF, and GEAR-UP.

Tuesday, March 10, 10 a.m. to noon
**Faculty Senate Meeting**
Meet 2 p.m.

**Educational Policies Committee**
Meets 2–4 p.m.
Wed., March 2 and 16
University Hall 211

**Senate Executive Committee**
Meets 1–4 p.m.
Thu., March 3
University Hall 277

**Academic Technology Committee**
Meets 2 p.m.
Fri., March 4
University Hall 211

**North Campus-University Park Development Corporation**
Meets 9 a.m.
Tue., March 8
University Hall 250

**Public Meetings**

**Personnel Planning and Review Committee**
Meets 1:15–5 p.m.
Wed., March 2 and 16
University Hall 277

**Educational Policies Committee**
Meets 2–4 p.m.
Wed., March 2 and 16
University Hall 211

**Senate Executive Committee**
Meets 1–4 p.m.
Thu., March 3
University Hall 277

**Academic Technology Committee**
Meets 2 p.m.
Fri., March 4
University Hall 211

**North Campus-University Park Development Corporation**
Meets 9 a.m.
Tue., March 8
University Hall 250

**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 14 issue is Monday, March 7. 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 preferred method of submitting.

**Notable:** fmi—means for more information.

**Classes**

**Weekend Spanish Class**
The Roland Tseng College of Extended Learning will offer an accelerated basic Spanish class over two weekends.
Fri., March 4–Sun., March 6 and Fri., March 11–Sun., March 13. The class provides credits applicable toward the CLAD and BCLAD teaching credentials. It meets from 6–9 p.m. Fridays and from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Fee: $359, including all materials.

**Professional Development Staff Training**
Professional Development Staff Training provides free training workshops for CSUN staff members on the garden level of the Oviatt Library, room 16, unless otherwise noted. To enroll, e-mail melissa.biller@csun.edu. Include name, department, extension, e-mail address, class and time.

**Deadlines**

**Beck Grant Information**
Judge Julian Beck Grant applications are available at the Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching Web site: www.csun.edu/~celact/grant.html. Awards are for learning-centered Instructional Project proposals only. Deadline: Mon., March 14. fmi–Kelly Kroeker, x5556.

**Human Subjects Research Approval**
Faculty and students performing research with human subjects must complete a Human Subjects Protocol Approval Form. Original forms and nine copies must be submitted to the Research Office for review by the Standing Advisory Committee for the Protection of Human Subjects. Next meeting: Tue., March 8. Next deadline: Tue., March 29. Protocol submission forms are in the Office of Research and Sponsored Projects, University Hall 265, or download from www.csun.edu/research/fmi-x2901.
Dorena Knepper is Chambers' 'Board Member of Year'"