Focus on Undergrads in New Northridge Scholarship Program

Search is Underway for Promising Scholars to Fill Ranks of Program’s 2006–07 Contingent

The ambitious new Northridge Scholarship Program will not complete its first full year until semester’s end, but the search already is on for the next contingent of undergraduates to take advantage of the program’s opportunities.

Scholars are required to work with faculty mentors on academic projects and activities, said Financial Aid and Scholarship Associate Director Lili Vidal, who hopes faculty from all disciplines will urge promising undergraduates to apply. “Students are encouraged by a personal invitation from faculty to work with them on a project,” said Vidal.

President Jolene Koester said the merit-based program’s objective is to support and develop CSUN’s high-achieving undergrads. “We have a collective responsibility for student success,” she said, “and by supporting these bright scholars, we help strengthen the entire undergraduate academic culture.”

Applications for Presidential Scholarships, one wing of the new program, are due Monday, Feb. 13. The deadline for University Scholarships, the other wing, is April 17. “How-to-apply” workshops are planned for 6 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 1 and 1 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 9, in Bayramian Hall, Room 140.

Established in spring 2005, the Northridge Scholarship Program provides one-year funding—$5,000 and $3,000 for Presidential and University Scholars, respectively—at a level that allows undergraduates to devote more time to scholarship and fewer hours at jobs unrelated to their fields of study. The scholarships fully cover university tuition and fees. This year, there are seven Presidential Scholars and 14 University Scholars.

“We look for students with well-developed ideas who can effectively communicate their plans for their proposed projects,” said finance professor Patricia Born, committee chair for Presidential Scholar selection. For 2005–06, “we accepted a group of students with ambitious, yet realistic proposals for groundbreaking research,” she said. “These are students who are thinking beyond their required coursework, looking to enhance their college experience and…prepare themselves for graduate school or research careers.”

Aaron Christopher, a pre-dental student majoring in biology, was urged to apply for a Presidential Scholarship by mentor Thomas Minehan, assistant professor of chemistry/biochemistry. Intrigued by organic chemistry, Christopher had begun lab research with Minehan, but yearned to do more.

“I’m a husband and a father,” said Christopher, parent of an 11-month-old son. “In order to do long hours of research, I needed more financial support. The Presidential Scholarship allows me to spend six to ten hours a week in the lab, working on our project. It would have been difficult to keep up morale without the scholarship.”

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The 2005–06 University Scholars gather with President Koester and Vice President Piper: Top row, l. to r.: VP Piper, Tasha Collins, Irina Halfon, Rachel Levitt, Wilber Escorcia, Jeremy Pietsch. Middle row: Inna Halton, President Koester, Rachel Levitt, Zoltan Cozmadia. Front row: Ani Mgerdichians, Prana Hernandez, Dina Brevdo. (Not shown: Tyler Callaway and Naureen Faisal)

The 2005–06 Presidential Scholars gather with President Koester and Vice President Piper: Top row, l. to r.: Aaron Christopher, Nathan Sutter. Middle row: VP Piper, Marcia Ferreira, Heather May, Mary Kirby. Front row: Stacy Krueger, President Koester, Lionel Florendo.

“The Presidential Scholarship doesn’t need when you’re in school,” said Minehan. “In order to do long hours of research, I needed more financial support. The Presidential Scholarship allows me to spend six to ten hours a week in the lab, working on our project. It would have been difficult to keep up morale without the scholarship.”

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President Jolene Koester and Vice President for Student Affairs Terry Piper meet with the 2005–06 Presidential Scholars. Top row, l. to r.: Aaron Christopher, Nathan Sutter. Middle row: VP Piper, Marcia Ferreira, Heather May, Mary Kirby. Front row: Stacy Krueger, President Koester, Lionel Florendo.

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University Scholar Tasha Collins, a junior majoring in kinesiology/exercise science, used to put in 25 to 30 hours a week at work. “It was always a struggle with money, a stress you don’t need when you’re in school.”

Northridge Scholarship Program continued on page 2.

California State University Northridge
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Inside:
2 Fulbright Scholar Gerald Simila
3 FYI
4 Calendar

Vol. X - No. 9 January 30, 2006

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California State
University Northridge
Student Fee Increase Eliminated in Governor’s Budget Plan

Proposal Honors Higher Education Compact, Fully Funds CSU Budget Request

G ov. Arnold Schwarzenegger has proposed $215 million in new revenue for the California State University system, and the governor said the proposed fee increase, beginning with the 2006–07 fiscal year, will generate an additional $54.4 million for the university system’s General Fund commitment from the state’s General Fund revenue, a 7.3 percent increase over current year funding.

The proposed budget provides $1.1 million to increase the student fee on CSU courses. The fee will remain level from the current year at $1.1 million, which is $339 per unit for an average of $644 in campus fees. Full-time, non-resident students pay the above fees plus an additional $10,170 can apply for University Scholarships average $339 per unit, for an average total of $13,554.

“The 2006–07 budget augmentation for the CSU reinforces the governor’s commitment to offer more students an opportunity to achieve a college degree and to meet the demand for an educated workforce that can only strengthen California’s future economy,” said CSU Chancellor Charles B. Reed.

Provided in the budget is a 3 percent general fund increase ($75.8 million) for general operations, and $57.7 million for a 2.5 percent enrollment increase, opening university doors for an additional 8,490 full-time-equivalent (FTE) students (more than 11,000 headcount). The 2.5 percent increase in enrollment is projected to generate $26 million in revenue.

Gov. Schwarzenegger designated $2.3 million to expand master-level nursing programs, and an augmentation of $1.1 million to increase the number of K-12 math and science teachers.

The CSU will use $70.1 million to fund costs of direct instruction, academic support and student services associated with enrollment growth. In 2006–07 the CSU will have approximately 48,262 FTEs (approximately 43,400 headcount).

In addition, the CSU plans to use $77.4 million of the Higher Education Compact to fund a 3 percent compensation pool for all employees. In 2006–07, it will initiate a five-year strategic plan to reduce significant salary lags for CSU employees. The CSU’s 2006-07 budget plan includes $16.6 million for the first year of the strategic plan. Combined, they represent an overall compensation increase pool in 2006–07 of 3.64 percent.

Compensation for represented employees will be subject to collective bargaining. This applies both to the 3 percent compensation pool as well as increases to reduce salary lags.

The budget plan also allocates $33.6 million for mandatory costs, including health benefits, new space, energy, and services, based on inflation. It also allocates $10 million to fund long-term needs in technology, libraries, deferred maintenance and instructional equipment.

The Higher Education Compact, a six-year agreement from 2005–06 through 2010–11, promises to fund at least a 2.5 percent annual enrollment growth. The compact provides a 3 percent minimum General Fund increase in 2005-06 and 2006–07, and a 4 percent minimum increase in 2007–08 through 2010–11 for basic needs, including salary increases, health benefits, maintenance and inflation. For 2008-09 through 2010–11, it provides an additional 1 percent for core academic needs.

In May, the governor will announce his revise to the January budget projections. June 15 is the official deadline for legislative budget approval.

Northridge Scholarship Program ...

continued from page 1.

she said. “Now I have the freedom to do internships like the one I have now. What I’m learning there, I can take right into the classroom.”

Collins’ internship as a physical therapy aide serves as the activity she must complete as a University Scholar. At Progressive Physical Therapy in Granada Hills, she is learning first-hand about ultrasound, electrical stimulation, balance and fine motor skills exercises.

The Northridge Scholarship Program provides a number of “entry points”—applications to scholarships are open—for Cal State Northridge students.

The new program’s predecessor, called The Northridge Presidential Scholarship Program, made funds available to incoming freshmen only. “There was only one entry point for that program,” said Vidal. “If you didn’t get it then, you never had a shot at it.”

Presidential Scholarships are available to juniors and seniors who have attended CSUN on a continuous basis and to transfer students who have attended for one year. Students can apply for University Scholarships at the end of the freshman year and can re-apply for an additional year of funding. Transfer students—at the junior level with 60 academic units—also may apply.

Initial funding for the program has come from the James Russell Simpson endowment, and the Financial Aid and Scholarship Department makes funds available to students receiving other university support. CSUN recently received a bequest from the estate of Jack and Mary Bayramian that also will provide funds to the program.

For information on scholarship eligibility requirements, visit www.csun.edu/scholars.
**FYI**

### Events

**Thursday, February 2**

**Free Film Screening and Discussion**

CSUN history professor and modern German history expert Michael Meyer leads a Q & A session following the free screening of “Go for Zucker,” winner of multiple 2005 German Film Awards. The adult-appropriate comedy screens at 7:15 p.m. Fallbrook Laemmle Theatre at Fallbrook and Vanowen Avenues, West Hills. Sponsors: CSUN’s Jewish Studies Interdisciplinary Program, Temple Ahavat, Shomrei Torah Synagogue, Temple Beth Haverim. Limited seating. *fmi–*

**Thursday, February 2 and 9,**

Monday, February 13,

**Tuesday, February 28**

**CIO Forums**

The campus community is invited to meet with four candidates for the university’s chief information officer position, in open forums set for the Whitsett Room, Sierra Hall 451. *fmi–*

**Mon., Feb. 13, 2–3 p.m.**

Harvard University services, Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Santiago Community College District and chief information officer, Rancho

**Open forum: 4–4:50 p.m.**

**Business college faculty/staff: 3–3:50 p.m.**

**Mon., Feb. 13**

Business and Economics, CSUN

**Gregory Mosier,**

**Fred Evans,**

**Wendy Chang,**

**Franklin Steen,**

**John Lawson,**

**Whitsett Room, Sierra Hall 451.**

### Notices

**Open University**

Students not regularly enrolled at CSUN may register for spring 2006 university-credit classes starting Jan. 30 through Open University, administered by the Tseng College of Extended Learning. They must obtain permission of the instructor at the first class and pay course fees of $185 per credit unit.

**fmi–x2954 or http://tsengcollege.csun.edu/onlineunit.html.**

**Examinations and Religious Observances**

Protestant and Vice President for Academic Affairs Harry Hellenbrand reminds faculty members that university policy requires them to accommodate students when examinations conflict with religious observances. The provost urges faculty to refrain from scheduling exams on days likely to affect many students’ observances. For help in evaluating requests to re-schedule exams for such purposes, call the Office of Faculty Affairs, x2962.

**2006 Faculty Awards**

Nominations are being accepted for the 2006 faculty awards honoring outstanding faculty achievement. Outstanding Faculty Award, Distinguished Teaching, Counseling or Librarianship Award; Scholarly Publication(s) Award; Creative Accomplishment(s) Award; Extraordinary Service Award; and Visionary Service–Learning Award. Criteria and nomination forms are on the Faculty Senate Web site: [www.csun.edu/senate/awards/awards.html](http://www.csun.edu/senate/awards/awards.html). Nominations are due in the Faculty Senate Office by Thu., March 2. Supporting materials are due Thursday, March 30. *fmi–x3263.

**Faculty, Committee and Board Service**

To be considered for election or appointment to positions in faculty governance, to standing or advisory committees of the Faculty Senate, or to various all-university committees and boards, faculty are invited to complete the online University Service Form on the Faculty Senate Web site, [www.csun.edu/senate/volunteer.htm](http://www.csun.edu/senate/volunteer.htm). Return the form to the Faculty Senate Office by Feb. 15. *fmi–x3263.

**Forgivable/Low Doctoral Incentive Program**

Applications for the Chancellor's 2006-07 Doctoral Incentive/Forgivable Loan Program (FLP), designed to increase the pool of doctoral candidates qualified to teach the CSU’s diverse student body, are due March 5. Full-time doctoral students may receive FLP loans of up to $10,000 annually. If a participant is hired for a CSU faculty position after completion of the doctoral degree, 20 percent of the loan will be forgiven for each year of full-time employment. Obtain applications in the Office of Graduate Studies, University Hall, Room 265. *fmi–Hedy Carpenter, x2138.

**Catastrophic Leave Donations**

James Greene (Advising Resource Center), Peter Najdusch (Physical Plant Management) and Janson Stitz (Physical Plant Management), out on medical leave 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 Renee Venezia, payroll administrator, at mail drop 8228. Donation forms are available at [www-admn.csun.edu/hrs/forms/benefits.forms.html](http://www-admn.csun.edu/hrs/forms/benefits.forms.html).

**Work Study Awards Luncheon**

Nominations for the annual Work Study Awards are due in the Work Study Office on Fri., Feb. 10. Celebrating its tenth anniversary, the awards program recognizes outstanding past and present work-study-student employees. The awards luncheon is set for 11:30 a.m. Fri., April 7 in the LSU Grand Salon. One student per department may be selected and accompanied to the luncheon by his/her supervisor. Visit [www.csun.edu/finaid/pdf/xs_workNomination_form.pdf](http://www.csun.edu/finaid/pdf/xs_workNomination_form.pdf) for a nomination form and criteria. *fmi–x3875 or joeslina.caribouj@csun.edu.*

**Human Subjects Research Approval**

Faculty and students engaging in research with human subjects must complete Human Subjects Protocol Approval forms. Original forms and nine copies must be submitted to the Standing Advisory Committee for the Protection of Human Subjects. Next deadline date: Feb. 7, for the Feb. 21 meeting. Download protocol submission forms from [www.csun.edu/~gripact/03_Research/06_HumanSubjectsResearch.html](http://www.csun.edu/~gripact/03_Research/06_HumanSubjectsResearch.html).
President Dorena Knepper began her 44-year association with Cal State Northridge as a student, earning her English/health science degree in 1965, when the university was known as San Fernando Valley State College and its enrollment barely topped 12,000.

After graduation, Knepper joined the staff of the CSUN Foundation—now the University Corporation—launching a CSUN career that culminated in the directorship of Governmental Affairs, a post she held from 1982 until December 23, her last day at the university.

The university has existed for 47 years, and Knepper has helped nurture it during all but three of them, President Jolene Koester said at the campus retirement reception in honor of the departing director.

Knepper served on more than 100 university committees, worked as former President James Cleary’s executive assistant for 16 years, witnessed the destruction and assisted in the re-birth of the campus after the 1994 earthquake, mentored scores of CSUN staffers, met U.S. Presidents Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton, U.S. senators, governors, mayors, great artists and world figures.

“Great friendships, moving moments and a wealth of experiences” characterized her tenure at CSUN, said Knepper, who received special honors at the retirement reception in honor of the departing director.

Knepper’s work as CSUN’s government liaison affected nearly every aspect of the university’s relations with government at the local, state and federal levels.

Cook Named Dean of CSUDH Education College

Lynne Cook, who joined the faculty of Cal State Northridge’s Special Education Department in 1980, on January 3 became dean of the College of Education at California State University Dominguez Hills.

Former department chair and faculty president, Cook received CSUN’s 2005 Distinguished Teaching Award.

Cook directed a number of personnel preparation programs, served as a Congressional legislative analyst and from 1990-93 was director of the National Clearinghouse for Professions in Special Education.

She has taken leadership roles in organizations such as the Council for Exceptional Children’s Teacher Education Division and the statewide Academic Senate Committee on Teacher Education and K-12 Relations.

Cook also is a fellow in the Association for Educational Therapists.

A member of the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education’s Board of Examiners, Cook co-chairs California’s Committee on Accreditation.

Co-author of “Interactions: Collaboration Skills for School Professionals,” the new dean has published widely on ethical issues in special education as well as on personnel preparation issues.

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