Web Registration Feature Offers Customized Class Schedules

Students Select Desired Courses and Time Constraints, and Online Program Does the Rest

Registering for classes at Cal State Northridge has just gotten a whole lot easier, starting with the spring 2002 semester.

University officials have launched a new web registration system, billed as one of the first of its kind in the country, that can tailor students’ class schedules to their work and personal needs with the touch of a button.

“We have put together a program that allows students to give us a list of the courses they want to take, and whatever time restrictions they want, and the program will come up with as many alternative class schedules as it can find that meet students’ needs,” said Bob Stark, director of application development in the Information Technology Resources division.

The students can review all the alternatives, find the ones they like, hit a button, and they are registered for those classes with a guaranteed seat,” Stark said. The new system, available to students through the university’s web portal at my.csun.edu, is getting its first test this semester with registration for spring classes.

Northridge students have the option of registering for classes on the web or by using a touch-tone telephone. Those choosing to register on the web now have the additional option of using the new Class Schedule Planning System to meet their specific scheduling needs.

“They had a good idea, but what they proposed was too complicated and didn’t go far enough,” he said.

University web developers then created a program that tapped into the university’s schedule of classes and, at the same time, is able to monitor when a class is full and no longer available for enrollment.

“It was inevitable that somebody would eventually come up with something like this,” said the program’s designer, ITR staffer Michael Lazar. “Computer geeks at colleges across the country have been dreaming of creating something that would make getting your classes easier. I know I did. The problem was, in school, I didn’t have access to all the university information, and I didn’t have time to do it.”

Stark and Lazar said they ran the system by a couple of student focus groups before it was launched to get student feedback, and will continue to monitor how the system is used so they can continue to refine it as student use grows. They are also in the process of copyrighting the system.

CSUN’s new Class Schedule Planning System is making it easier for Northridge students to create personalized class schedules via the web. From left to right are Bob Stark, ITR director of application development; Phil Chan, project manager; and Michael Lazar, the web developer who created the program.

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“With almost no publicity, we had more than 1,200 individual students use the scheduling program during the month of December alone,” Stark said.

Student Tracy Talaid, a senior majoring in communications studies, said she was “wowed” as the new system was being demonstrated. “It’s an excellent program that caters to students’ needs, especially if they need to schedule classes around their work schedules,” Talaid said.

Stark said the idea grew out of suggestions made by students in a CSUN computer engineering class. “They had a good idea, but what they proposed was too complicated and didn’t go far enough,” he said.

CSUN’s new Class Schedule Planning System is making it easier for Northridge students to create personalized class schedules via the web. From left to right are Bob Stark, ITR director of application development; Phil Chan, project manager; and Michael Lazar, the web developer who created the program.

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The SAGE Society is a University organization, there is an annual fee to participate, $200 per individual or $300 per couple. For spring session listings, call the College of Extended Learning at (818) 831-5064.

By Judy Nutter, Director of Community Relations

California State University
Northridge
18111 Nordhoff Street, Northridge, California 91330

Inside:
2 International Students Ranking
3 Northridge Fundraising
3 Income Tax Assistance
4 New Infant/Toddler Program
4 Calendar

Vol. 1 No. 5
March 2002

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
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Northridge, CA

T his month, I would like to highlight some of the many services and learning opportunities that Cal State Northridge provides to the community—programs that you may not know about that could help solve a problem, perhaps broaden your horizons, or provide some added enjoyment to your life.

There are just too many opportunities for community members here at Cal State Northridge to describe all of them in just one column. So I will highlight four groups before it was launched to get student feedback, and will continue to monitor how the system is used so they can continue to refine it as student use grows. They are also in the process of copyrighting the system.

SAGE SOCIETY

The SAGE Society is a University Learning-in-Retirement Program for intellectually curious older adults. This program consists of three 10-week and one seven-week sessions each year, featuring a variety of study/discussion groups that meet two hours per week. The spring session begins Monday, April 1 with a very interesting and diverse selection of subjects, such as Famous & Infamous Explorers, How Societies Function; Great Books, Oscar Wilde, and Frauds in Science.

Other SAGE activities include an annual retreat, luncheon forums with recognized experts on subjects of interest, socials, and seminars offered by academic departments at Cal State Northridge. SAGE members also receive preferential placement in a beginning computer class titled “Senior Computers” and free access to the Cal State Northridge computer network.

While SAGE is a nonprofit organization, there is an annual fee to participate, $200 per individual or $300 per couple. For spring session listings, call the College of Extended Learning at (818) 831-5064.

Understanding Our Complex World

Understanding Our Complex World is the broad title of a series of free university seminars featuring distinguished Cal State Northridge faculty members and a former U.S. senator.

SAGE members also receive preferential placement in a beginning computer class titled “Senior Computers” and free access to the Cal State Northridge computer network.

While SAGE is a nonprofit organization, there is an annual fee to participate, $200 per individual or $300 per couple. For spring session listings, call the College of Extended Learning at (818) 831-5064.
Cal State Northridge once again has ranked among the top 20 master’s level universities in the United States in hosting students from other countries. And despite the aftermath of the terrorist attacks last September, CSUN’s international student population has continued to grow, even more this year to record levels. Northridge ranked 17th among hundreds of master’s level universities in the nation during the 2000–2001 school year with a population of 1,081 international students on visas related to the campus, according to “Open Doors 2001,” an annual national report on international education. Total Northridge enrollment then was 29,066.

Meanwhile, campus officials report that for the current 2001–2002 school year, Northridge’s international student population increased 17 percent to 1,264 students during the fall semester, the largest population in memory. Student interest in the Northridge campus also has continued at high levels this spring.

“International students make a majority contribution to this campus by the sharing of themselves and the sharing of their cultures,” said Shirley Bowens, a Northridge international student advisor. “Learning the differences among different cultures enhances our lives, and I think it also makes us appreciate our own lives more.”

The university’s international students staff already has interviewed about 250 students who planned to begin their studies at Northridge this spring, most transferring from community colleges. Staff members held a late January orientation session expecting about 80 new students, but found themselves instead greeting about 130 participants.

While there was concern after the September terrorist attacks that the federal government might severely restrict future student visas, Bowens said that prospect has eased some in recent months with the government allowing security checks are taking more time.

The extraordinarily diverse makeup of the international student population at Northridge is a good argument for continuing such interaction. This school year, international students at Northridge have come from nearly 100 different countries, including the largest concentrations from Asia, continuing the trend of past years.

For fall 2001, Japan was the leading contributor of international students to Northridge with 220 students, followed by Taiwan with 72, China with 61 and India with 56. Those nations held the same rankings in Northridge’s international student population during the prior school year.

“The location of the university has a lot to do with wide diversity of master’s level Japanese students come to Northridge. The city of Los Angeles is known to virtually everybody in Japan, and going to school near the city may even have some sort of “brand-ish” meaning to some people,” said Asayo Mise, a senior communication studies major from Japan.

“I heard about the university through a friend who graduated from Northridge,” added Veronika Wagner, a freshman biology major from Germany who also is playing tennis. Wagner cited the opportunity to play tennis, the university’s location and its reputation as “a very international school” as her reasons for choosing Northridge.

Indeed, the international student community at Northridge has a lot of company. According to the latest “Open Doors” report, Los Angeles County has the most international students, 24,811, of any county in the nation. In California alone, the leading states in hosting such students with 74,281 during 2000–2001.

As in past years, the academic interests of international students at Northridge focus heavily in the business and computer science/engineering fields. During fall 2001, 556 Northridge international students were studying business, followed by 141 in computer science and 101 in engineering.

The College of Arts, Media, and Communication also was well represented, with 65 international students studying radio-television-film/broadcasting, 49 students in music and another 49 in art, according to campus records. Nationally, business and engineering as major fields of study were also the top picks for international students.

Community Connection (continued from page 1)

The Tenant Legal Clinic, sponsored by Northridge’s Business Law Department, provides free legal advice and services to qualifying low-income tenants experiencing maintenance and habitability problems, illegal withholding of security deposits, retaliation, evictions and related issues. Professor Bruce Zucker serves as director and attorney.

Under the direct and immediate supervision of faculty members licensed to practice law in California, withholding of security deposits, retaliation, evictions and related issues. Professor Bruce Zucker serves as director and attorney. The purpose of VITA is to assist lower-income taxpayers in preparing their tax returns. Last year, Northridge students prepared 6,000 tax returns, saving the community nearly $500,000. (See the accompanying article on page 3).

For more information about the VITA program, call (818) 677-4519, e-mail Rita0078@csun.edu, or visit the program’s web site at www.csun.edu/vita/.

The university’s Snapshots program of campus tours has been enthusiastically received again this semester. Reservations are being received daily.

We do have a few spaces open for two tours later this spring. On Tuesday, March 5, we will visit Manzanita Hall, which is home to the College of Arts, Media, and Communication, followed by visits to the Daily Sundial student newspaper, the Student Health Center and the National Center on Deafness. Lunch will be at the NCOD.

Then on Tuesday, March 12, we will visit the Central Transportation for the Physically Disabled and see professor Steven Oppenheimer regarding careers and opportunities. Students may participate by demonstrations in the College of Engineering and Computer Science, and lunch in the Botanic Garden. For more information or questions, you are welcome to call me at (818) 677-2123, and I’ll make sure you get the information you need.

From left, student Veronika Wagner from Germany; Roopa Rawjee, international student activity coordinator; student Asayo Mise from Japan, and student Stephanie Chu from England.

2000-01 Top Master’s Level Universities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>City, State</th>
<th>Foreign Students</th>
<th>Total Enrollment</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>CUNY Bernard M. Baruch College</td>
<td>New York, NY</td>
<td>3,135</td>
<td>15,730</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>San Francisco State University</td>
<td>San Francisco, CA</td>
<td>2,274</td>
<td>26,491</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Hawaii Pacific University</td>
<td>Honolulu, HI</td>
<td>2,136</td>
<td>8,218</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>University of Texas at El Paso</td>
<td>El Paso, TX</td>
<td>1,838</td>
<td>15,224</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Cal State Long Beach</td>
<td>Long Beach, CA</td>
<td>1,751</td>
<td>30,918</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>University of Bridgeport</td>
<td>Bridgeport, CT</td>
<td>1,629</td>
<td>2,973</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>University of Central Oklahoma</td>
<td>Edmond, OK</td>
<td>1,610</td>
<td>14,195</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>San Jose State University</td>
<td>San Jose, CA</td>
<td>1,471</td>
<td>26,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>National University</td>
<td>La Jolla, CA</td>
<td>1,400</td>
<td>16,462</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>CUNY City College</td>
<td>New York, NY</td>
<td>1,376</td>
<td>12,181</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Cal State Fullerton</td>
<td>Fullerton, CA</td>
<td>1,269</td>
<td>27,167</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cal State Hayward</td>
<td>Hayward, CA</td>
<td>1,264</td>
<td>12,705</td>
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<td>Rochester Institute of Technology</td>
<td>Rochester, NY</td>
<td>1,247</td>
<td>14,642</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Eastern Michigan University</td>
<td>Ypsilanti, MI</td>
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<td>23,181</td>
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<td></td>
<td>University of Nevada, Las Vegas</td>
<td>Las Vegas, NV</td>
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<td>22,342</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cal Poly Pomona</td>
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<td>1,088</td>
<td>18,424</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cal State Northridge</td>
<td>Northridge, CA</td>
<td>1,081</td>
<td>29,066</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>N.Y. Institute of Technology</td>
<td>Old Westbury, NY</td>
<td>1,065</td>
<td>8,034</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Oklahoma City University</td>
<td>Oklahoma City, OK</td>
<td>1,032</td>
<td>4,041</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>D’Youville College</td>
<td>Buffalo, NY</td>
<td>1,025</td>
<td>2,397</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Open Doors 2001 report

CSUN International Student Population Ranks in Top 20

Growth Trend Continues Into This Year, Despite Aftermath of Terrorism

ambassador. This series is already one or more session, please call (818) 677-2123, and I’ll make sure you get the information you need.

For more information about either of these tours, please give me a call.

As always, if you have other interests or questions, you are welcome to call me at (818) 677-2123, and I’ll make sure you get the information you need.

2 California State University, Northridge • Community • CSUN • March 2002
Northridge Achieves One of Top CSU Fundraising Gains
$12.4 Million in Contributions During 2000-2001 Sets Campus Record

Cal State Northridge achieved one of the largest fundraising gains in the 23-campus Cal State system during the most recent year, posting a 58.8 percent increase to a campus-record $12.4 million in private contributions, according to a new report to the CSU Board of Trustees. The university’s 58.8 percent increase—from $7.6 million in contributions during 1999–2000 to $12.4 million during 2000–2001—was the second largest percentage gain among established CSU campuses after only Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. (That also excludes the recently established campuses at Channel Islands and the Maritime Academy.)

Under the leadership of President Jolene Koester and Vice President for University Advancement Judy Knudson, Northridge also exactly met its annual 10 percent fundraising goal for the first time. CSU campuses are expected by the Board of Trustees to generate private support equal to at least 10 percent of their net general fund budget each year.

Corporations accounted for the largest share of giving to Northridge at $7.6 million during 2000–2001. Individuals followed with nearly $2 million, while foundations contributed nearly $1.7 million. Alumna gave $425,465, while parents of students added $48,105. Other organizations gave $567,203.

In a separate category, Northridge also reported $18.7 million in special revenue for the year, including $10.6 million in grants, $5.5 million in contracts and $1.7 million in endowment distributions. Combining contributions with special revenue, the university generated more than $31 million in total external support for the year. In another indicator, the trustees’ report said the value of Northridge’s campus endowment has more than doubled during the prior five years, from $15.9 million in 1995–1996 to $38.8 million in 2000–2001. That ranked as the fourth largest campus endowment in the CSU system for the year.

More broadly, the CSU system’s external support rose to a record $916.4 million during 2000–2001. That amount included $248.2 million in donations, plus $668.2 million in special revenues.

“This support is critical to maintaining excellence in a higher education program that produces annually more than half of California’s baccalaureate graduates.” —Louis Caldera, CSU Vice Chancellor for University Advancement

Students Offer Free Tax Help to Low-Income Residents
University Launched First-of-Its-Kind Program, Now With Three Decades of Service

With federal tax day approaching, Cal State Northridge students are offering free tax preparation assistance to low-income families and individuals through the university’s Volunteer Income Tax Assistance/Low Income Tax Clinic (VITA/LITC) program.

Northridge maintains one of the largest, most successful such programs in the nation. Last year, for example, Northridge students prepared more than 6,000 state and federal tax returns, saving taxpayers nearly $500,000 in preparation fees.

The tax services are available to those who cannot afford professional tax help at 12 VITA/LITC centers in the San Fernando Valley and greater Los Angeles area. Due to the high demand for tax assistance, eligibility is limited to those with gross annual incomes not exceeding $45,000.

Each year, about 230 Northridge students go through an intensive training program that prepares them to deal with most of the basic problems taxpayers confront. The training sessions for students provide a thorough background in general tax law and in tax return preparation.

VITA/LITC student supervisors take a more advanced course that includes an update on new tax laws. Internal Revenue Service agents serve as advisors at some VITA/LITC centers, reviewing forms before they are returned to taxpayers.

Taxpayers are encouraged to arrive early at the center to have the best chance of receiving assistance that day, since no appointments are allowed. Specialized services are provided for senior citizens, non-English speaking individuals and those with disabilities.

Prior to visiting a VITA/LITC center, taxpayers should gather tax forms, W-2 forms, interest, dividend, education and mortgage statements (1099-INT, 1099-DIV, 1098-E, 1098), receipts and records for deductions, a copy of last year’s tax returns and any other related materials.

The VITA/LITC program began in 1966 with a congressional appropriation. In 1971, Northridge was the first university to launch the VITA/LITC program. Since then, Northridge has assisted colleges and universities across the country in establishing their own programs.

CSU Campus Top Fundraising Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Channel Islands</td>
<td>$726,857</td>
<td>$2,437,693</td>
<td>+235%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maritime Academy</td>
<td>$1,622,551</td>
<td>$5,368,406</td>
<td>+231%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Luis Obispo</td>
<td>$24,164,921</td>
<td>$43,162,232</td>
<td>+75.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northridge</td>
<td>$7,776,289</td>
<td>$12,350,518</td>
<td>+58.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long Beach</td>
<td>$22,152,957</td>
<td>$26,627,400</td>
<td>+20.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>San Diego</td>
<td>$39,634,776</td>
<td>$42,097,267</td>
<td>+6.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Los Angeles</td>
<td>$9,555,246</td>
<td>$9,952,705</td>
<td>+4.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monterey Bay</td>
<td>$3,786,796</td>
<td>$3,693,743</td>
<td>-2.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fresno</td>
<td>$23,654,200</td>
<td>$22,744,100</td>
<td>-3.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sacramento</td>
<td>$7,898,310</td>
<td>$7,418,816</td>
<td>-6.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

VITA/LITC Service Locations

The following are some of the local VITA/LITC sites and the dates that services will be available. To confirm the latest program details and service dates, please call (818) 677-4519, e-mail hfact007@csun.edu, or check the program web site at www.csun.edu/vita.

CSUN Business Building
- Wednesdays 5–7:30 p.m.
- Thursdays 5–7:30 p.m.

CSUN Business Building
- Thursdays 5–7:30 p.m.

Councilman Dennis Zine’s Office
- Tuesdays 4:45–7:15 p.m.
- Thursdays 4:45–7:15 p.m.

Van Nuys Federal Building
- Tuesdays 5–7:30 p.m.
- Thursdays 4:45–7:15 p.m.

United Methodist Church
- Saturdays 9–11:30 a.m.
- Sundays 9–11:30 a.m.

CSU Business Building
- Tuesdays 4:45–7:15 p.m.
- Thursdays 4:45–7:15 p.m.

Granada Hills Library
- Tuesdays 5–7:30 p.m.
- Thursdays 4:45–7:15 p.m.

Van Nuys Federal Building
- Fridays 1:30–4 p.m.
- Saturdays 10 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Van Nuys City Library
- Saturdays 10 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
- Sundays 9–11:30 a.m.
- Tuesdays 10 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
- Wednesdays 10 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Santa Rosa Center (ESL site)
- Saturdays 9–11:30 a.m.
- Sundays 9–11:30 a.m.
- Thursdays 9–11:30 a.m.
- Fridays 9–11:30 a.m.

March 2002 • Community • CSUN • California State University, Northridge
A new program for infants and toddlers began in early February, and interested parents of toddlers (18 to 30 months) can still apply for the current spring semester. In addition, the center is accepting related applications for fall 2002 (youngsters must be age 5 by December 2002 to be eligible).

The Lab School, part of the CSUN’s Family Environmental Sciences Department, is dedicated to fostering growth and development of the whole child, as well as forming a partnership with the child’s family. The center has run its preschool and kindergarten programs (for ages 3 to 6 years) since 1965. “This is really the way we’d like to see all infant and child care training be done,” Hill said. The new program will operate with one adult per three infants, and one adult per four toddlers. The university operates the Lab School and its various programs as a training ground for university students who are pursuing related degrees. Each semester, The Lab School has about 75 university students involved in providing care while an additional 400 students do required observation there as part of their studies.

The program hours for the infant/toddler program are 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday to Friday. The weekly rate is $200 for infants and $185 for toddlers. One advantage for toddlers participating in the new program is they will be offered subsequent admission to the center’s full-day preschool program as openings occur. Each child in the new program will be assigned a teacher/caregiver, and that individual will stay with the youngster for the entire program “so that the period of attachment and bonding will really be a solid one, rather than having different people handling a child throughout its stay,” Hill said. For more information, contact the Child and Family Studies Center at (818) 677-5133 and visit its web site at bbd.csun.edu/cfs. The infant and toddler program is located at 18344 A & B Placer St. The preschool and kindergarten program is located nearby at 18330 Halstead St.