University Honors Top Volunteers at Annual Awards Event

Attorney I. Allan Oberman, Journalist Robert Rawitch Receive Heitz Awards for Outstanding Leadership

Fifteen of Cal State Northridge’s most active alumni, faculty and community friends received Volunteer Service Awards, the university’s highest tribute to volunteers, at a campus luncheon and ceremony in November. Five major individual volunteer leadership awards also were presented at the event.

“Service and volunteerism are at the heart of our great university,” said President Jolene Koester, who delivered greetings at the Alumni Association’s second annual event honoring volunteers. “Our volunteers help shape the future of our institution, contribute to its vitality, and enhance the lives of thousands of students.”

“The Service Award event,” added Assistant Vice President for Alumni Relations D. G. “Gray” Mounger, “provides a way to recognize and thank those who selflessly give their time and resources to help fulfill Cal State Northridge’s mission.”

The Dorothea “Granny” Heitz Awards for Outstanding Volunteer Leadership, named for the alumna whose self-styled “spirit squad” members became unofficial campus ambassadors in the 1960s, were presented to two longtime friends of the university, attorney I. Allan Oberman and Robert Rawitch, a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist.

During his tenure as Alumni Association president, Oberman helped launch the Distinguished Alumni Awards and the Emeriti Merit Award. He was instrumental in negotiating partnership agreements guaranteeing funding of nearly $1.5 million in private support of university programs and scholarships.

Rawitch, who earned a Pulitzer Prize for his Los Angeles Times coverage of the 1994 Northridge earthquake, has served on the boards of the Journalism Alumni Association, the University Corporation and the Cal State Northridge Foundation.

Receiving Emeriti Merit Awards were Gwen Brewer, English professor emeritus, and medical historian Vern Bullough, history professor emeritus. Brewer, whose 28-year CSUN career included her work with the Department of Secondary Education and a term as director of composition in the English Department, recently completed her term as president of the Association of Retired Faculty.

Bullough, an international authority on the history of sexual practices and the history of nursing, founded and directed Northridge’s Center for Sex Research. He and Brewer, married five years ago, are active university supporters.

The Alumni Association Service to Society Recognition went to alumna and Teacher Curriculum Center librarian Karin Duran. For nearly 30 years, Duran has taught a Chicano/a Studies class training students in research methods and information processes. Nearly every student majoring in Chicano/a Studies has been taught and mentored by the librarian.

Milton Valera, veteran journalist and alumnus who is president of the National Notary Association, past president of the Journalism Alumni Association and member of the Alumni Association Board of Directors.

Deborah Feldman, attorney who serves as advisory board member of the Dean’s Council, the Family Business Center and the Center for Real Estate.

Brigid Baty of the Metropolitan Water District, the alumna who helped develop a civil engineering design course, now a program model.

Sam Sokolow, retired economist and active Gerontology Program volunteer, a founding member of Study, Activity, Growth and Enrichment (SAGE), the College of Extended Learning’s learning-in-retirement organization.

Susan Tartakoff, a client of the Center of Achievement for the Physically Disabled, who helped raise more than $100,000 for the Abbott and Linda Brown Western Center for Adaptive Aquatic Therapy.

Hermine Mabscrcedjian, faculty member and a key figure in establishing the Armenian Student Association and the Association of Armenian Alumni.
Northridge Grad Student Wins CSU's Top Media Arts Award

The glistening yellow flesh of jackfruit is chopped for a frothy Indonesian sweet drink. Tofu sizzles in a pan of crisp vegetables destined for a popular Indonesian dish.

Enticing images such as these helped an entry by Cal State Northridge graduate student Francisca Utami win the Rosebud Award, the top honor at California State University’s 13th annual Media Arts Festival in November. The festival trains the spotlight on the work of imaginative film, video and interactive media students from all over the 23-campus CSU system.

Utami’s entry was an interactive CD cookbook, “Indonesian Food for Two,” featuring step-by-step instructions on how to prepare the food as well as Internet links to the best places to shop for ingredients. “The whole thing was actually a project for my senior interactive media class,” said Utami, a native of Jakarta, Indonesia, who graduated from Northridge last spring. Her bachelor’s degree in cinema and television arts has an emphasis in multimedia production.

“I figured that with entries from all the campuses in the CSU, I didn’t have a chance,” she said. “When they told me I’d won, I couldn’t believe it.” Utami loves to cook, so the idea to create an electronic cookbook seemed logical. It meant enlisting friends to videotape her as she shopped for and prepared the food, taking still photographs of each dish and scouring the Internet for links to help readers locate and learn about ingredients.

Distinguished CSU professors and industry leaders chose festival finalists and winners, whose work was screened during the three-day long event. Cash prizes and the prestigious Rosebud Award were given to the top entries. “CSU’s multimedia students have entered this competition only in the last two years,” said Mary Schaffer, an assistant professor in Northridge’s Cinema and Television Arts Department. Schaffer noted that students in the department’s multimedia option focus on creating products for the entertainment industry. Their work includes designing and creating Web sites, CD ROMs and DVDs.

“We currently have graduates in multimedia at the major studios, advertising agencies and video game companies,” said Schaffer.

Volunteer Service Awards...

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Jeffrey Holt of the Mountain Geology, Inc., consulting firm of professional engineering geologists, who advises the Geological Sciences Department on “real world” geologic services issues.

Wendy Machtlova, a history alumna central to the creation and coordination of the Natchez Project—a research effort led by history professor Ronald Davis that is focused on antebellum courthouse records in Natchez, Miss.—as well as its related student internship program and the Biennial Historic Natchez Conference.

Tina Fitzpatrick, longtime member of the Matador Athletic Association Board of Directors and volunteer chairperson for “Matador Mania,” a major fundraiser for Intercollegiate Athletics.

David Honda, former race car driver, president of D.S. Honda Construction Inc. and an active alumus who has chaired the Foundation Board of Directors and served on the North Campus-University Park Development Corporation Committee and is a member of the President’s Associates.

Debra Goldman, founder of a Head Start toy loan library for disadvantaged children and chairperson of the Oviatt Library’s Friends of the Library organization.

Earl Weiss, attorney, certified public accountant, chair of the Accounting and Information Systems Department and committed supporter of the Accounting and Information Systems Alumni Chapter.

Carole Shepherd, entrepreneur and immediate past president of the new Health Administration Alumni Chapter, who increased the chapter’s membership and hosted events in support of the Health Administration Program.

Nolan Stewart, recreation therapy advocate, educator and alumus who helped create the Recreation Alumni Chapter, and whose psychosocial rehabilitation programs have contributed to the discipline at Northridge.

Community Connection...

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In addition to providing donations to the San Fernando Valley Rescue Mission, the French Club has sponsored a family through M.E.N.D. (Meeting Each Need with Dignity) for the holidays. The club will provide food, clothing, toys and special gifts requested by the family, and will personally deliver all the holiday goodies to the family. Lambda Sigma Gamma is hosting a toy drive and assisting with the holiday basket program through Devonshire PALS (Police Activity League Supporters). It is also donating food to M.E.N.D., a community assistance organization.

The Volunteer Council is holding a clothing, food and toy drive for M.E.N.D. and the San Fernando Valley Rescue Mission.

The Golden Key International Honour Society is holding its third annual Books, Bears, Socks & Underwear Drive to benefit needy families in the area. Last year, Golden Key donated 1,600 items, and the group anticipates a greater number this year.

The University Ambassadors are working hard on their Cuddle and Read Drive, collecting hundreds of stuffed bears and books for local preschool children in need. Each child receives a new story book and a bear.

To celebrate the spirit of the season, the Christian Students at CSUN Club participated in the “Bibles for America” program and gave away free bibles.

The American Indian Student Association is hosting its annual toy drive for Native American children in the region.

I don’t want to give you the impression that the CSUN student body contributes to the community only during the holiday season. The student clubs and organizations are busy all year with community service projects. A few that come to mind are tutoring and mentoring children, raising money to fight heart disease, autism, AIDS and Lou Gehrig’s Disease; serving as designated drivers through the Designated Drivers Association; hosting an annual Halloween trick-or-treat event for children in the community; and serving as volunteers at community functions such as street fairs and neighborhood block parties.

Winter break is rapidly approaching and the campus will be fairly quiet until the first week of February, when classes resume. We’ll be back with another edition of Community @CSUN shortly thereafter.

Tina Fitzpatrick
There are “huge gaps” in what is known about the health and school readiness of Los Angeles County children from birth to five years of age, and a Cal State Northridge Chicano Studies professor intends to help close them.

Professor Juana Mora, together with Maura Harrington of Los Angeles-based Lodestar Management/Research Inc., will use a $250,000 two-year grant from First 5 LA to train and assist community-based organizations in collecting data on children in the county.

The First 5 LA Commission was created after voters’ 1998 approval of Proposition 10, which mandated a 50 cent per-pack tax on cigarettes to fund community-based organizations in promoting early childhood development for expectant parents and children up to age five.

“It is an exciting opportunity,” Mora said. “There are huge gaps in the databases of the state and county regarding the health and school readiness of ethnic children in Los Angeles County.”

In five separate projects, Mora and Harrington will help local organizations collect the needed data and compare it to state and county information. Once the community groups have accurate data, Mora said, they can operate as informed advocates for whatever is needed in their areas.

Northridge students will be brought in to help collect data, Mora said. “Many of our students are bilingual and have skills that can help us connect with community members in each of these projects,” she said.

The Mora/Harrington project’s “participatory research” approach is unusual, said the professor, in that the pair will help community-based organizations and residents identify what questions should be asked in order to get to the root of the problems in their areas. Armed with the key questions, she said, residents will then go out and gather the crucial data.

“We believe that you get better data if the community is involved,” said Mora, author of “Latino Social Policy: A Participatory Research Model.”

Mora and Harrington will work with:

- Healthy Homes Collaborative in East Los Angeles, looking at the impact of poor housing conditions such as lead poisoning on the health of children in the area.
- United American Indian Involvement, assessing the mental health needs of American Indian children in Los Angeles County.
- Community Coalition in South Los Angeles, investigating the effect of imprisoned parents on young children’s school readiness and health.
- Communities for a Better Environment in Harrington Park, conducting a general survey on the health disparities of children in that area.
- Special Services for Groups in Long Beach, exploring how linguistic isolation affects the children of Cambodian and Laotian immigrants.

**Thumbs Up** on Manufacturing Systems Engineering Program

*Area Businesses Clamor for Program’s Grads, Who Design Ways to Manufacture Everything from Cars to Toys*

Recent notice of an all-important “thumbs up” from the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology brought cheers from Cal State Northridge’s new Manufacturing Systems Engineering and Management Department.

A multitude of regional manufacturers might well have joined in the celebration, according to department chair Bonita Campbell. It was in response to their need for systems and productions specialists that the department—the only one of its kind in the area—was formed last year.

The greater metropolitan Los Angeles area has the largest number of manufacturing production companies in the United States, noted Campbell. “The demand in this region is huge, and we now have a program to help meet it.”

Campbell said recognition by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology, an international accrediting agency, was an honor for the young department. She hailed the board’s coveted stamp of approval as an important step toward supplying companies in the San Fernando Valley and throughout the region with the full spectrum of skilled systems engineers for which they are clamoring.

Specialists are needed to design production processes for the most complex machinery to the simplest plaything in the nursery, Campbell said. “Manufacturing systems engineers play key roles in the creation of almost every single product people see or use.”

Department graduates are required to devise or improve the manufacturing processes for everything from space shuttles, automobiles, computers and semiconductors to toys, frozen foods, drugs, machine parts and silk screen labels on bottles.

Northridge’s systems engineering seniors use the “real world” as a laboratory for their ideas, teaming up on projects for local businesses. Seniors have tackled design projects such as improving the packaging process for industrial adhesives and polymers and figuring out the plant layout design for the production of a medical patient monitor.

They also serve as mentors to local high school students and, as part of their senior capstone project, design and build a robot.

Campbell said department majors receive a broad-based education with a basic curriculum that includes mathematics, physics, chemistry, engineering materials, electrical circuits, engineering mechanics and engineering economy.

Upper division students focus on the design of manufacturing systems, materials and processes, management of the production process and resources, and other advanced coursework.

The Manufacturing Systems Engineering and Management Department is part of Cal State Northridge’s College of Engineering and Computer Science, home to several nationaally recognized programs where students gain valuable hands-on experience working alongside faculty members and industry professionals on cutting-edge research.

Northridge Students Singled Out for City Council Praise

Northridge student Chad Charton of Sigma Chi fraternity is honored by City Councilman Greg Smith for assisting victims of the August 11 Lassen Village apartments fire. From left are Smith, Charton, Charton’s father Edward, and Sigma Chi president Doug Shapiro.

Council also commended Susan Widlitz (not shown) of CSUN Governmental Affairs for helping Lassen Village fire victims.

2003 Women’s National Golden Gloves boxing champion Jennifer Barber, a Northridge deaf studies major who competes in the featherweight division, receives a commendation on her achievement from City Councilman Greg Smith. From left: Jennifer’s mother Victoria Grafius, Councilman Smith, Barber and City Council President Alex Padilla.
Cultural dividends from Cal State Northridge's exhibition of "Rising Above Jim Crow: The Paintings of Johnnie Lee Gray" were paid to crowds of "deeply interested" schoolchildren treated to tours during the last four days of the show's five-week exclusive West Coast run in the university's Art Galleries.

Sponsored by New York Life Insurance Company, the exhibition—which concluded on November 15—offered self-taught South Carolina artist Johnnie Lee Gray's personal vision of African-American life in the segregated South.

"Schoolchildren always respond well to seeing actual art," said Art Gallery Director Louise Lewis. "It is as revealing to adults and teachers as it is to the students, to hear their comments and the way they see the images."

Bus transportation for the student tours was underwritten by New York Life, and Art Galleries exhibitions coordinator Michelle Giacopuzzi worked directly with area schools on tour arrangements, scheduling each on a first-come, first-served basis.

Participating elementary schools included Germain, Coldwater, Chatsworth Park, Calabash, Knollwood, Castlebay Lane and the Multicultural Learning Center. Contingents from James Monroe High School also attended.

Arts Council for CSUN docents and Northridge art history graduate students helped the nearly 440 Los Angeles Unified School District students gain insight into the 35 Gray paintings on view, and answered their many enthusiastic questions.

"Why did the artist use so much blue?" asked several students. Tour leaders explained that Gray, a textile mill worker and carpenter who died in 2000, bought what art supplies he could afford; blue simply was the cheapest color available.

Docents said the students were especially drawn to the humor and perspective of paintings such as "Colored Night at the Fair" and "Matinee at the Ritz," and to the drama of "Cloud of Witnesses," the exhibition's panoramic view of African American life. These and other paintings from the "Rising Above Jim Crow" exhibit can be viewed online at www.jimcrowhistory.org.

"A number of the teachers had pulled up the lesson plans from the Web site about Jim Crow," Giacopuzzi said. "As a result, many of the students came well prepared on the Jim Crow subject matter."

Some of the teachers attending the exhibition had lived in the South at the time the Jim Crow segregation laws were in effect. "The exhibit had a great deal of meaning for them," Giacopuzzi observed. "They wanted their students to learn about this period of American history."

For information about future gallery exhibitions or to book a docent-led tour, call Giacopuzzi at (818) 677-2156.

Young Minds, Hearts Experience ‘Rising Above Jim Crow’

New York Life Insurance Company Brings Hundreds of Schoolchildren to View Artist’s Vision of Jim Crow Era

During a tour of the university’s “Rising Above Jim Crow” exhibit, Arts Council for CSUN docent Carol Donckick of Northridge discusses with schoolchildren details of a Johnnie Lee Gray work. Gray’s paintings depict African-American life under the shadow of segregation.

Photo by Lee Choo

The A.S. Ticket Office in Nordhoff Hall sells tickets to many events on campus, except for some held by outside groups. The Ticket Office is open from 9:30 a.m.–5 p.m. Mon.–Fri. For prices not given, call (818) 677-2488.

January Calendar

Art and Exhibits

Admission is free unless specified. For more info, call (818) 677-2156.
Main gallery hours: Mon. through Sat. 12-4 p.m.

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>1/22</td>
<td>Portland State</td>
<td>7:05 p.m.</td>
<td>Men's Basketball</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/20</td>
<td>Lafayette</td>
<td>7:05 p.m.</td>
<td>Women's Basketball</td>
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<td>UC Irvine</td>
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<td>Long Beach State</td>
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<td>Cal Poly SLO</td>
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<td>UCSB</td>
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Men’s Basketball

12/22 Portland State 7:05 p.m.
12/20 Lafayette 7:05 p.m.
1/10 Long Beach State 7:05 p.m.
1/24 Cal Poly SLO 7:05 p.m.
1/31 UOP 7:30 p.m.
2/12 Utah State 7:05 p.m.
2/14 Idaho 7:05 p.m.
2/21 UCSB/Homecoming 7:00 p.m.

Women’s Basketball

12/22 New Orleans 4:30 p.m.
12/28 Denver 2 p.m.
1/3 Fullerton 7 p.m.
1/5 Riverside 7 p.m.
1/8 Irvine 4 p.m.
1/11 Idaho 7 p.m.
1/17 Utah State 7 p.m.
1/22 UCBS 7 p.m.
2/5 Long Beach 7 p.m.
2/19 Cal Poly SLO 7 p.m.

Women’s Swimming and Diving

11/6 Univ. of San Diego noon
11/17 Pepperdine and Loyola Marymount noon

Women’s Tennis

2/21 UOP 11 a.m.
2/22 Riverside noon

Men’s Volleyball

1/7 Quincy 7 p.m.
2/1 LaVerne 7 p.m.
2/4 UCLA 7 p.m.
2/6 Irvine 7 p.m.
2/11 USC 7 p.m.
2/13 Pepperdine 7 p.m.
2/20 Santa Cruz 7 p.m.

Music

Jacques Thibaud String Trio
Mon., Jan. 5, 8 p.m.
Performing Arts Center
$26 general, $23 seniors.
$9 students, $5 CSUN students.

Fantabulous San Fernando Valley Follies
Musical comedy revue.
Sat., Jan. 10, 7:30 p.m.
Sun., Jan. 11, 2 p.m. and 6 p.m.
Performing Arts Center
$40 general admission
For more ticket info, (818) 785-8885

L.A. Opera for Kids
Fri., Jan. 30, 10 a.m. and 11:45 a.m.
Performing Arts Center