Cal State Northridge’s 2005 Distinguished Alumni Awards will be presented May 14 to three luminaries in the fields of journalism, the law and aerospace.

The Renaissance Hollywood Hotel will set an elegant stage for the dinner and presentation of awards to Bon Appetit editor-in-chief Barbara Fairchild (Journalism, ’72), trial attorney Larry Feldman (Business, ’66) and former astronaut Scott Horowitz (Engineering, ’79), director of space transportation and exploration for weapon and space systems company ATK Thiokol.

President Jolene Koester will join more than 400 university alumni, faculty and friends in according Fairchild, Feldman and Horowitz the CSUN Alumni Association’s highest honor. The Distinguished Alumni Awards pay tribute to those whose achievements place them at the summit of their professions.

“The positive imprint of Cal State Northridge is visible in virtually every walk of life,” said President Koester. “This year’s honorees are a case in point; they have brought creativity and courage to widely varying fields, and honor to our university.”

As editor-in-chief of Bon Appetit, honoree Barbara Fairchild is considered one of the most influential figures in the world of cuisine. Respected by her peers in journalism and by the publication’s national readership, Fairchild was promoted to editor-in-chief of Bon Appetit in June 2000, a month after her induction into the James Beard Foundation’s “Who’s Who in American Food and Beverage.”

Last summer, she celebrated her 25th year anniversary at the magazine. Under Fairchild’s leadership, Bon Appetit and its editors have earned three James Beard Awards—named after the legendary epicure, cookbook author and teacher—as well as the Bedford Peace Memorial Travel Writing Award and the Society of American Travel Writers Lowell Thomas Award for Outstanding Travel Writing.

Fairchild’s many memberships include the American Society of Magazine Editors, the American Institute of Wine and Food and the International Association of Culinary Professionals. A member of the Beard Foundation’s National Advisory Board, Fairchild is a judge for the group’s annual awards event for chefs and restaurants, and its annual Journalism Awards.

“Barbara Fairchild...makes sure that the magazine helps people live more fulfilling lives,” said Arthur Schwartz, host of “The Food Maven,” a nationally syndicated talk radio program. Fairchild recently addressed CSUN students as part of the university’s Executive Speakers Series.

Larry Feldman’s courtroom skills have earned him Trial Lawyer of the Year laurels from both the Los Angeles Trial Lawyers Association and Loyola Law School. He is an elected member of the prestigious American College of Trial Lawyers as well as the International Academy of Trial Lawyers.

A forceful litigator, Feldman’s string of high-profile courtroom victories include a $150 million verdict on behalf of 700 physicians who alleged fraud against an insurance company and a $28 million wrongful termination verdict.

“The attorney has been in the media spotlight in numerous cases. He won a settlement representing a plaintiff in a molestation lawsuit against singer Michael Jackson, represented late attorney Johnnie Cochran, and litigated on behalf of the Oakland Raiders in a $1.2 billion suit in which the team charged that the National Football League forced the Raiders out of Los Angeles.”

Feldman, special counsel in the international firm of Kaye Scholer, LLP is listed in “The Best Lawyers in America.” He was named “Top Tort 2005 Distinguished Alumni” on page 2.

The 2005 Distinguished Alumni Award winners are (clockwise) Bon Appetit editor-in-chief Barbara Fairchild, trial attorney Larry Feldman and space pioneer Scott Horowitz. All will be saluted at the CSUN Alumni Association’s annual dinner set this year in the Renaissance Hollywood Hotel. The awards represent the alumni association’s highest tribute to alumni who have made significant contributions in their fields of endeavor.

In American Food and Beverage.”

The story is quite interesting, the Maidu language is complex and the lip, voice and hand are all used to convey the sound of the world being created. The world was broken into countries, large and small, and the people and creatures in them were not to be driven from their land by others.

The 500 physicians who alleged fraud against an insurance company...
Predatory payday lenders who swarm around U.S. military bases are the subject of a study by a determined academic sleuth from Cal State Northridge’s Geography Department.

Working with law professor Christopher Peterson of the University of Florida’s College of Law, assistant professor of geography Steven Graves is nailing down nationwide locational patterns that suggest military families are increasingly the quarry of unscrupulous lenders who provide short-term loans for a fee—usually steep—due on a soldier’s payday.

Graves has determined that the density of payday lenders within three miles of U.S. military bases is higher than it is around other communities, a finding that already is having policy implications at both the state and federal levels.

Keen media interest in Graves’s work has resulted in a blitz of high-profile coverage for the geographer and for the university. With stories and interviews continuing to appear in media outlets around the country, the Graves study has become one of the top national media magnets for the campus in recent years.

“Christopher and I have already submitted testimony to the legislature in Virginia, giving our expert opinion on their payday lending laws, and the state of Georgia has completely outlawed payday lending,” said Graves, who came to Northridge in 2003 as part of the campus’ Teachers for a New Era education reform initiative.

The state of Washington has invited him to offer testimony for a Senate bill under preparation, and Graves said the U.S. Department of Defense also is interested in the pair’s findings, to be published this year.

“We’ve stumbled onto something at just the right time,” said Graves, whose work in geographic information systems—computer mapping—attracted the attention of Peterson in fall 2003. The law professor had seen an earlier mapping study in which Graves had shown that payday lenders in Louisiana had a strong tendency to locate in poor and minority neighborhoods, and that banks were conspicuously absent from those communities. While teaching a Louisiana Tech University course called “American Landscapes,” Graves’ students had suggested that storefront windows plastered with “Payday Lending” signs were “tell tale” signs of tough neighborhoods.

“That night,” Graves recalled, “I was driving through one of those ‘tough’ neighborhoods. I noticed that on the south side of Line Avenue—the African-American side—there were eight payday lenders and no banks. On the north side—the white side—there were no payday lenders and eight banks. That’s a pretty stark contrast.”

Curious to learn if this was peculiar to around the country, i.e., Graves began mapping in different areas, getting control data from Louisiana regulatory agencies and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. The resulting study sparked the excited call from Peterson.

An expert on comparative lending laws who had researched predatory lending in the military dating back to ancient China, Peterson nevertheless knew nothing about computer mapping and thus had no mechanism for proving that patterns existed. “It made sense for us to work together,” said Graves, who earned a bachelor’s degree in political science from Ohio State University, a bachelor’s in education from Ohio University, a master’s in geography from Miami University, and a doctorate in geography from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.

In his Louisiana study, Graves said, it had turned out that payday lenders were especially prevalent around Louisiana military bases. “I was actually looking for casinos, thinking the lenders would be there, but they were packed in next to Barksdale Air Force Base.”

The discovery had whetted Graves’ appetite for further probing. For the new study, he began concentrating on California and 19 other states with large military installations. He determined that the area around Camp Pendleton, for example, has a density of lenders that far exceeds the statewide and national averages: some 24 were packed in within three miles of the base. Within the next three-mile band, only eight lenders were mapped. A look at one lender’s business plan revealed the thinking that “three miles is about as far as people will travel to get a loan.”

Among the top ten largest military bases in the United States, Pendleton might well be expected to attract a high number of lenders. “But when you predict how many payday lenders there should be, given the total population, Pendleton still exceeds expectation.”

Graves and Peterson’s work is helping to locate the problem and measure its scope. By providing valuable data, it ultimately will help the military figure ways to ease the web of debt that lenders spin around overextended troops trapped into “getting loans to pay off loans” at lending operations all over town.

“It’s good to know that we can make a difference,” said Graves, who would like to enlist bright young minds in the new field of geographic information systems, or computer mapping. “It’s a beautiful technology that allows you to see patterns that are otherwise invisible.”

Geographer Steven Graves tracks lenders preying on U.S. service personnel.

2005 Distinguished Alumni...

continued from page 1

Lawyer” by Los Angeles Magazine as well as one of California’s top ten “Super Lawyers,” and received the American Civil Liberties Union Public Service Award for his work on behalf of civil rights and civil liberties.

After earning a bachelor’s degree in business from CSU (then San Fernando Valley State College) in 1966, Feldman graduated first in his class from Loyola Law School, where he edited the Law Review.

As an American astronaut, Scott “Doc” Horowitz logged nearly 1,200 hours and 16 million space miles during four shuttle missions. As an executive with ATK Thiokol, the world’s leading provider of hypersonic scramjet engines and other advanced technologies, Horowitz has brought space transportation and its benefits closer to average, earthbound citizens.

Entertainment is the focus of the day on Saturday, April 30, when Cal State Northridge hosts a pair of CBS Studio Center events bringing CSUN students together with show business experts and honoring three top industry executives with a major new university award.

At an evening reception honoring the university’s friends in the industry, CSUN’s Entertainment Industry Institute joins with the CBS Studio Center, the Southern California Chapter of American Women in Radio & Television (AWRT) and the CSUN Alumni Association in hosting “CSUN Celebrates the Entertainment Industry” on the Studio Center’s New York Street back lot.

The first Entertainment Industry Institute Awards are being presented to alumnus Michael Klausman, president, CBS Studio Center; alumnus Bruce Rosenblum, executive vice president, Media Research, Warner Bros., and Joseph Soukup, vice president and general manager of CBS Studio Center. CSUN alumnus Michael Bessolo, senior vice president, marketing, promotion and publicity, 20th Century Fox Television, is among the special guests, and Fritz Coleman, four-time Emmy winner, comedian and NBC4 weathercaster, is serving as master of ceremonies for the event.

The American Women in Radio and Television and the David S. Somerville Editing course at CSUN.

The Courtroom is the Classroom for CSUN Judicial Interns

Interns Are All Eyes, Ears as They Shadow Judges and Get the Lowdown on the Law

For the past 15 years, the program has assigned about 15 students each semester to civil or criminal judges in the Van Nuys, Chatsworth and San Fernando courthouses. Interns have a clear sense of what the legal profession is about so they can decide whether it is the right career path for them,” said Lawrence Becker, assistant professor of political science and director of the CSUN program.

The Superior Court side of the program is coordinated by Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Bert Glennon, Jr., a Northridge alumnus. Other CSUN alums active in the program now or in the past include Sandy Kriegler, state Court of Appeal justice, Division Five; and Los Angeles County Superior Court Judges Meredith Taylor and Randy Rhodes.

For the past 35 years, the program has assigned about 15 students each semester to civil or criminal judges in the Van Nuys, Chatsworth and San Fernando courthouses. Interns have a wide variety of majors, including political science, psychology, sociology and business law.

In addition to shadowing the judges as they hear motions, confer with attorneys, weigh briefs and preside over trials, the students spend a fair amount of one-on-one time discussing cases during conferences not usually open to the public, and they are encouraged to observe other bench officers in action to get a sense of how procedural dynamics can vary from case to case, courtroom to courtroom.

Becker said one judge observed that the CSUN interns emerge with “a big head start relative to their peers in law school, many of whom go through three years of legal schooling without ever stepping foot in a courtroom.”

Corcoran concurred. “This internship showed me what practicing law is really like,” he said, “and gave me insight into whether I have the skills to do it or not.”

CSUN Alum Snares Top Prize in National Video Contest

Win Marks First Time CSUN is Number One in The Christophers Media Competition

A recent graduate of the Cal State Northridge Cinema and Television Arts Department’s television production program took home the top prize of $3,000 at the 17th annual Christopher Video Contest, for a documentary prepared in the fall 2003 “Single Camera and Editing” course at CSUN. Alex Cubalevic’s win marked the first time CSUN has placed first in the contest, sponsored by The Christophers, a nonprofit organization that “uses print and electronic media to encourage all individuals to raise the standards of public life.”

The contest challenged entrants to interpret the Christopher belief that “one person can make a difference.” As the winning entry, Cubalevic’s documentary aired nationwide this spring on “Christopher Close-up,” a weekly syndicated television series produced by The Christophers.

“There were about 160 entries from different schools nationwide and we took first place over schools like USC and the University of Las Vegas,” said Cubalevic.

“ARC,” his documentary, focuses on an organization called Activities for Retarded Children (ARC) and its positive impact on the welfare of disabled youth.

Cubalevic’s inspiration for the film came from home. “My brother is mentally disabled and has been a member of ARC for many years,” said Cubalevic. “They have given him so many opportunities to play sports and make many friends. These are things that might be easy for many people but are very difficult for a mentally disabled adult.”

Cubalevic thanked his CTVA professors, Karen Kearns in particular. “She always believed in our documentary and story,” said the young film maker. “We couldn’t have done it without her guidance and the amazing new digital equipment CSUN has to offer.”

Northridge Celebrates Entertainment Industry

Students Network with Industry Movers and Shakers, New CSUN Honor Sinds Three Industry Leaders

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April 2005 - Community @CSUN - California State University, Northridge
In Brief

Valley Economic Forecast Set for May 19
Cal State Northridge’s San Fernando Valley Economic Research Center will host the annual San Fernando Valley Economic Forecast at 7:30 a.m. Thursday, May 19, in the Sheraton Universal Hotel, 333 Universal Hollywood Drive, Universal City. "The Recovery:Is This as Good as It Gets?" will be the theme of the event, featuring economic research center director Dr. Don Boudreaux’s forecast of the Valley economy, its job growth, retail trade activity, population levels, housing and housing prices. Paul Kasriel, senior vice president and chief economic strategist for the Northern Trust financial services company, will focus on the national economy. Forecasting interest rates, national growth, unemployment levels and exchange rates, among other indicators. Panels will be led by Rick Caruso, president and CEO of Ambassadors, Inc., a retail development and entertainment center firm, Steve MacDonald, president of the Entertainment Industry Development Corporation (EIDC), and Rohit Shukla, founder and CEO of Larta Institute, a technology and capital management company.

Advance registration is $95, or $105 at the door. A discount advance registration of $75 is available to CSUN alumni. For information, call (818) 677-7021 or visit www.csun.edu/forec.

CSUN Hosts West Valley Independent Film Fest
The West Valley Indie Fest, a festival of independent films with discussion groups following each screening, is set for Thursday, May 12, through Sunday, May 15, in Cal State Northridge’s Alan and Elaine Armer Theater (see Calendar below, under “Cinematheque”). Indie Fest founder and director Vincent Tayborn said the event will allow members of the local community to experience a film festival ‘right in their own backyard,’ and to participate in discussions with filmmakers.

Cinematheque, part of the College of Arts, Media, and Communication, is co-sponsoring the event with festival organizers. Film categories for this year’s screenings include feature films, shorts, documentaries, short subject documentaries and student films. Academy Award-winning actress Shirley Jones is among the guests scheduled to attend the Indie Fest’s awards program at 7:30 p.m. in the University Student Union’s Grand Salon, on the final day of the festival. For information about the festival and awards program, call (818) 677-3192 or visit www.wvinfo.com.

Alumni Events

For information or to RSVP, www.csunalumni.com otherwise noted.

La Raza Alumni Awards Banquet
Honoring unorganized Joe Chacon, CSUN Chicano/a Studies professor Rosa Furumoto, San Fernando Sun editor Diana Martinez.
Sat., May 7, 6:30 p.m.
Casa Torres Banquet Hall, 455 San Fernando Mission Blvd., San Fernando.
$75, or $125 per couple

Distinguished Alumini Awards
Sat., May 14, 6:30 p.m.
Renaissance Hollywood Hotel, 1755 N. Highland Ave., Hollywood.
$90, individual tickets

Art and Exhibits

For gallery info, call (818) 677-2156. Main gallery hours: Mon. through Sat. 12–4 p.m. Admission is free unless specified. For library exhibits, call (818) 677-2286.

Annual Juried Art Student Exhibition
An exhibition of works in all media by CSUN students. Ceramics, printmaking, painting, sculpture, drawing, graphic design and more. Opening reception: Fri., April 29, 7–9 p.m.
Music by Masanga Merba Ensemble. Gallery talk: Mon., May 2, 10 a.m.
CSUN Art Galleries

“Fear No Art” Exhibit
Presenting works by Andre Milpolsky. Artist’s designs grace music album covers, posters, backdrops for productions such as NBC’s “The Tonight Show.” Exhibit open during Performing Arts Center performances through end of May.
Performing Arts Center lobby
For info, call (818) 677-5768

Bianchi Planetarium
“Spring Sky Show” and “Pluto, Sedna and the Edge of the Solar System”
Fri., April 29, 6:30 p.m.