The Los Angeles City Council endorsed a resolution introduced by Councilman Greig Smith supporting the development of a planned 1,600-seat Valley Performing Arts Center project on the Cal State Northridge campus. Smith had urged the council to support the project and its goals “to educate and enrich the community, to enhance the cultural and economic growth of the Valley, and to better define the area as an attractive cultural destination.”

More than $4 is generated for every dollar the state invests in California State University, Northridge, according to a community impact report released in November by the university’s Center for Southern California Studies. The report, available online at www.csun.edu/~cscs, takes a look at the university’s impact on the Los Angeles area in four categories: economy, work force preparation, cultural opportunities and community resources.

University officials honored the memory of late Los Angeles Times associate editor and journalism alumnus Frank del Olmo by hosting a signing for the new book, “Frank del Olmo: Commentaries of His Times.” The book’s co-editors are Magdalena Beltrán-del Olmo, Frank’s wife and a Northridge alum, and Frank Sotomayor, an editor at the Times.

The first grants of Cal State Northridge’s Chinese Antiquities Research program were awarded to three professors who will base their research projects on The Tseng Collection, a $38 million collection of Chinese antiquities donated to Cal State Northridge by entrepreneur Roland Tseng. An award totaling $50,000 will be shared by philosophy professor Weimin Sun, computer science professor Jeffrey Wiegley and manufacturing systems engineering and management professor Behzad Bavarian.