A WORD FROM THE PRESIDENT

Los Angeles is an international city, a global center of industry and trade. One of our primary exports, entertainment, introduces Los Angeles to households around the world, and products flow in and out of our port to far-flung destinations. Los Angeles also has been a beacon, attracting immigrants who built communities we now know by names reflecting their heritage—Chinatown, Little Armenia, Thai Town and Koreatown, to name a few.

Higher education embraces the international community and all its knowledge. University students travel the world in staggering numbers. Western Europe ranks highest in study-abroad destinations for U.S. students, with Britain leading the pack, followed closely by Italy, Spain and France. China is a growing destination, with more than 14,000 U.S. students learning in the country each year. India, Brazil and Costa Rica all saw double-digit growth in the number of students in 2010-11. American colleges and universities remain an attractive study option for foreign students as well. China also has been a beacon, attracting immigrants who built communities we now know by names reflecting their heritage—Chinatown, Little Armenia, Thai Town and Koreatown, to name a few.

With our students, faculty and alumni working around the globe, it is fair to say CSUN reflects and enhances the diversity and international scope of Los Angeles. Enjoy this issue of Northridge magazine, and thank you for continuing to make CSUN shine.

Dianne F. Harrison, Ph.D.
President
English Professor Martin Pousson Wins NEA Fellowship

Martin Pousson’s writings, including his first novel, No Place, Louisiana, and his poetry collection, Sper, have drawn comparisons to acclaimed writers Dorothy Allison, Frank McCourt and Canon McCullers. His work also caught the attention of the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA).

The national endowment awarded Pousson, associate professor of English, with its 2014 Creative Writing Fellowship in Prose. The honor, which includes a $25,000 grant through the federal government’s Art Works program, is for Pousson’s collection of interlocking short stories that chronicle the sexual coming of age of a young mixed-raced man in the bayous of Louisiana.

Governors Dukakis & Lingle Share Perspectives on Public Service

They hail from opposite sides of the political aisle and governed states more than 5,000 miles apart, but Michael Dukakis and Linda Lingle shared remarkably similar perspectives on public service, policy making and the importance of bipartisan governance during an event this spring at CSUN.

Students, faculty and community members heard how each took an unexpected path to state leadership and view the current political climate. Teaching a senior seminar course on public policy in CSUN’s Department of Political Science this semester, Lingle’s connection to the university goes back to her days as a student. She earned a bachelor’s degree in journalism in 1975, and then relocated to Hawaii and launched a community newspaper before entering public service.

CSUN Remembers 1994 Earthquake, Honors Former President

University officials teamed up with the Valley Economic Alliance and others in early January to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Northridge Earthquake. Later in the month, the university also honored the legacy of former CSUN President Blenda Wilson by dedicating a courtyard in her honor.

The new courtyard is adjacent to the Donald E. Bianchi Planetarium, in the center of the campus. The space surrounds the monument Wilson had erected to acknowledge the faculty and staff who helped rebuild the campus after the massive quake. She furthered the university’s reputation as an institution that supports academic freedom, and she backed student efforts to bring diverse and often controversial speakers to campus.

Above left: Blenda J. Wilson Courtyard.

Above, from left: President Dianne F. Harrison honors former President Blenda Wilson and her husband, Louis Fair Jr., at the dedication of the Blenda J. Wilson Courtyard.

Above: Matt Damon hugs CSUN speaker Diane Ravitch, a friend of his mother.

Actor and Academy Award-winning screenwriter Matt Damon introduced Diane Ravitch, former U.S. Assistant Secretary of Education, at an October 2013 lecture hosted by CSUN’s Center for Teaching and Learning that explored the pressures facing public education in the United States.

While teachers are often targets for criticism, she suggested that poverty is at the root of the problem. Damon, a public-education advocate known for such films as “Good Will Hunting” and the “Bourne” series, introduced Ravitch, a friend of his mother.

In Brief

No Writing Wins NEA Fellowship

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Life Stories Craft Behind-the-Scenes Scenes Bill Cosby Special

Laughter, life lessons and hard truths wrapped with care are the gifts that Bill Cosby has given fans for decades. He and director Robert Townsend extended those gifts to a new generation of film students by hand-selecting several to capture behind-the-scenes footage for the new Comedy Central special “Bill Cosby: Far From Finished.”

The program, which aired in November 2013, marked Cosby’s first TV concert special in 30 years. Townsend said a previous encounter with CSUN’s film students prompted him to reach out to the university after Cosby tapped him to direct.

Film Students Craft Behind-the-Scenes Scenes Bill Cosby Special

Southwestern Law School and CSUN have established an accelerated program through which students can earn their Bachelor of Arts and Juris Doctor degrees in six years, rather than the usual seven.

Students participating in the “3+3 B.A./J.D.” program will have their first year of law school count as the fourth year of their undergraduate education. Each student admitted to Southwestern through the program will receive a $10,000 scholarship. The first class is expected to enroll in the fall.

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CIRCUIT BREAKER

Valley Performing Arts Center Expands Its Children's Programming

The Valley Performing Arts Center (VPAC) this spring announced the expansion of its programming aimed at children and families.

The first show, in what will be a regularly scheduled set of weekend performances, was "Jim Henson's Sid the Science Kid: Live!" in March.

The show marked the first time the university’s performance center actively targeted families with children, not just school groups. The show’s theme was the five senses. After the performance, children visited exhibits at a science fair put on by CSUN students that explored the ability to see, hear, feel, taste and smell.

"On a university campus, we are fortunate to collaborate with our students to provide extra fun and education to the children who attend our shows," said Steven Thachuk, then-interim executive director of VPAC.

Edward "Ned" Brown, former chairman of the VPAC Board of Directors, believes the show’s message — that learning can be fun — will resonate with children.

"It’s clear in November 2013 when about 200 members of the community — including donors, clients, employees and supporters — attended a 10th anniversary celebration. Guests toured the facilities and heard from speakers, including director Taeyou Jung and client and benefactor Al Lapides, M.S. '68 (Business).

"I consider this to be the most significant investment of my career."

Alumnus Leads $25 Million Fundraising Drive with Transformational Gift to CSUN College of Business

In March, CSUN announced the naming of its college of business, the David Nazarian College of Business and Economics. In recognition of Nazarian’s commitment to lead a $25 million fundraising drive for his alma mater, Nazarian ‘82 personally has committed a $10 million cash gift to CSUN, one of the largest in the history of the California State University system.

Already among the top 10 largest undergraduate business programs in the nation, CSUN will focus the new funding on expanding its resources and providing its students, faculty and alumni with access to an array of innovative educational programs and experiences.

“David Nazarian is an industry-leading businessman and philanthropist whose integrity and vision are second to none,” said CSUN President Dianne F. Harrison. “We are so proud of his accomplishments and impact both on our city and our region. CSUN is a front-runner in our programs and services to transform the business environment on a local and global scale.”

Nazarian, known for his investing acumen, spoke about the impact of his gift and encouraged others to follow his lead.

“This is the most significant investment of my career,” Nazarian said. "CSUN gave me the chance to realize the American Dream, and I want to make sure that opportunity exists for as many people as possible.”

Beyond his more than 30 years in business, Nazarian has proven a tireless philanthropist, donating his time and funds to an array of causes and organizations.

“CSUN provided me with a foundation for my later success and, thus, opened the door for many opportunities in my life,” Nazarian said. “CSUN gave me the chance to realize the American Dream, and I want to make sure that opportunity exists for as many people as possible.”

CSUN ANNONCES THE DAVID NAZARIAN COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMICS

CSUN has committed a $10 million cash gift to CSUN, one of the largest in the history of the California State University system. Nazarian’s history as a visionary investor and business builder began with his active involvement in his family’s early identification of the potential for wireless communications technology, which ultimately became part of Qualcomm, Inc. As founder and CEO of Nimes Capital, Nazarian has established a consistent track record of identifying opportunities ahead of the pack, actively managing investments in the real estate, manufacturing, water and solar infrastructure, technology and hospitality industries. These investment activities include serving as shareholder and on the boards of, several international hospitality company whose holdings include SLS Hotels in Beverly Hills and South Beach, Miami, Solar Reserve, a developer of large-scale solar energy projects, Poseidon Water Resources, whose Carlsbad Desalination project will be the largest seawater desalination plant in the Western Hemisphere; and Pacific Island Restaurants, which operates more than 80 restaurants in Hawaii and Gaum.

For more information on contributing to CSUN and the David Nazarian College of Business and Economics, visit www.csun.edu/nazarian.

Focus On Philanthropy

In Brief

CSUN, UCLA Host Reception for Valley Elected Officials

Elected officials from across the San Fernando Valley joined CSUN President Dianne F. Harrison and other college leaders in February to discuss issues of importance to higher education and the community.

Among those who took part in the inaugural San Fernando Valley Joint Higher Education Legislative Reception were state Assembliesmen Adam Nazarian and Scott Wiik; Los Angeles City Councilmembers Bob Blumenfield, Mitch Englander, Felipe Fuentes, Paul Krekorian and Nury Martinez; state Senator Fran Pavley ’81 (M.S., Environmental Planning, Teaching Credential) and Los Angeles County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky.

The reception was co-hosted and sponsored by UCLA, and presented in partnership with Los Angeles Valley College, Pierce College, Los Angeles Mission College and College of the Canyons.

Los Lobos plays live at the KCSN studios, helping launch CSUN’s new Latin Alternative station.

KCSN Launches L.A.'s First 24-Hour Latin Alternative Radio Station

With a live performance by the Grammy Award-winning group Los Lobos, CSUN-based KCSN-FM in November launched Los Angeles’ first 24-hour radio station dedicated to playing Latin music. Listeners can find the station on digital channel KCSN-HD2 or stream it live at LatinAlt.org.

The Latin alternative HD2 station is the only channel in the Southland that broadcasts all forms of Latin alternative music — alternative rock, electronic dance music, indie pop, hip-hop, soulful and rock en Español — all day long. The Latin alternative channel and its accompanying website are designed to satiate the appetites of modern Latin music fans in Los Angeles and beyond.

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Touring the Brown Center. Brown Center Celebrates 10 Years of Enabling the Disabled

When the Abbott and Linda Brown Western Center for Adaptive Aquatic Therapy opened in 2003, CSUN officials knew that the center would positively impact people with disabilities, but they could only guess at the long-term effects.

The impact of the center’s first decade was clear in November 2013 when about 200 members of the community — including donors, clients, employees and supporters — attended a 10th anniversary celebration. Guests toured the facilities and heard from speakers, including director Taeyou Jung and client and benefactor Al Lapides, M.S. ‘68 (Business).

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Focus On CSU System

Meet the Matador Trustees

For only the second time in California State University history, both the faculty and student representatives on the CSU Board of Trustees are from the same campus — Northridge.

CSUN computer science professor Steven Stepanek, ’73 (Math), M.S. ’80 (Computer Science), was appointed by Gov. Jerry Brown to a two-year term to represent faculty interests on the 25-member board responsible for the oversight of the 23-campus CSU system. He joined CSUN senior Talar Alexanian, 21, vice president of Associated Students and the first Cal State Northridge student appointed to the board. Alexanian, a journalism major with an emphasis in public relations, was appointed by the governor a year ago to a two-year term. She spent her first year as a non-voting member and becomes a voting member this summer.

The two discussed plans, possible collaborations and views on the future of the system during a roundtable discussion with Northridge magazine. Video of the discussion can be found online at youtube.com/CalStateNorthridge.

Northridge: It’s rare to have student and faculty trustees from the same campus. What are some of the benefits?

Stepanek: Since Northridge is our home base, there will be incredible opportunities for us to collaborate outside the formal trustees meetings.

Alexanian: It’s helpful that both Steven and I come from a campus that really emphasizes shared governance and investing in all our constituencies.

Northridge: What will the CSU face in meeting the future needs of the state?

Stepanek: We run into this interesting issue because the baby boomers are currently in the process of retiring from whatever professions that they’re in. How do we train enough people in California to fill those positions? We’re not even talking about the growth aspects of California. We’re just talking about maintaining a properly trained population living in California for the positions that are already here. That’s the challenge that is ahead of us in our very immediate future.

Northridge: Why did you apply for the position on the board?

Alexanian: I immediately got involved when I came to CSUN. I was one of those people who got involved in different clubs, organizations and student government. I saw the power that you can have in terms of making change happen, and it made me feel that our voices were being heard among the administration. I wanted to take that to the next level and represent the entire student population.

Northridge: Steven, how did you find out about becoming the faculty trustee?

Stepanek: The governor basically called me directly, and we had a very delightful 10-minute conversation on the future of the CSU and education and the role of technology. … One of the interesting things in my conversations with the governor over the past couple of months is that my background in technology … is one of the contributing reasons why he selected me, because he realizes there needs to be a voice on the board of somebody with some of these actual experiences — whether it’s with online instruction or when is it appropriate or inappropriate to use technology to solve a problem.

Northridge: How do you see your role on the board?

Alexanian: There might be times that I might be that lone voice, but I always remember the reasons why I am in this position. The fact is, I represent the 437,000 students in our system.

Stepanek: The CSU is like a very large ship at sea. It becomes a question of what is the direction we want to steer this particular ship. That is the role of the board of trustees: looking out over that horizon and trying to set that destination.

Gov. Brown recently re-appointed CSUN alumna Debra Farar, an education consultant who was the national finance chairwoman for Hillary Clinton for President in 2008, to her third term as a full-voting member of the CSU Board of Trustees, bringing the total of Matadors on the board to three.

By Carmen Ramos Chandler

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Recently published works in print by CSUN faculty, staff and alumni

FACULTY & STAFF

Thomas W. Devine (History). Henry Wallace's 1948 Presidential Campaign and the Future of Postwar Liberalism takes a new look at the presidential campaign of the man who set out to dispute the conventional wisdom of the era by blaming the United States for the Cold War, seemingly siding with the Soviets. Wallace's welcoming of Communists to his platform led to his loss in the elections, but his gesture was strongly opposed by the American Communist Party. It is in this tension that Devine forms his perspective. The book offers a detailed look at the presidential campaign of 1948, providing insights into the context and implications of Wallace's actions. (University of North Carolina Press, 2013)

Eric Edison (Cinema and Television Arts). The Story Solution: 23 Actions All Great Heroes Must Take offers writers and filmmakers powerful storytelling tools to aid in bringing passion and depth to their screenplays. A professor of screenwriting, Edison uses examples, reasoning, speculation and a 23-step plan to explain how to develop the "hero" in blockbusters. (Michael Wiese Productions, 2012)

Joseph Galasso (Linguistics). Minimum of English Grammar, Volume I and Volume II give an all-inclusive breakdown of the feature theory of grammar, which dissects the typical parts of speech and provides an intensive analysis of English. These publications compare the feature theory to the periodic table, illustrating how sub-particles can be isolated and projected from one phrase to another. Volume II is considered a strong follow-up text to the first book, but also works effectively as a stand-alone text. (Cognella Publications, 2013 Revised)

Anna Joaquin (Linguistics). Enculturation Processes in Primary Language Acquisition combines research in anthropology, sociology, applied linguistics, developmental psychology and neurobiology to explain the acquisition of language through enculturation. The text provides an explanation of the different methods used to acquire language, the motivation to attain a new language and the biological systems that may have evolved. (Equinox Publishing, 2015)

Christopher G. Jones (Business and Economics). Acquiring the Golden Spire, Third Edition, which Jones co-authored with original writer D. Larry Crumley, includes recent updates in accounting theory and practice with a new focus on accounting ethics. Told through a fictional protagonist, the publication can be used in a variety of ways to augment an ethics course. (Indiana University Press, 2013)

Stella Z. Theodoulou (Dean, Social and Behavioral Sciences). Matthew A. Cahn (Political Science). Public Policy: The Essential Readings, 2nd Edition is a collection of 67 key classic and contemporary works on public policy that span a wide range of topics. The text introduces readers to the underpinnings and current practices of the policymaking arena. The authors note select readings as "essential" — some of the readings are generally argued to be among the most influential in the field or most frequently cited. (Pearson, 2013)

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Peri M. Klemm (Art). "We Grew Up Free But Here We Have to Cover Our Faces: Veiling Among Oromo Refugees in Eastleigh, Kenya" was published in the anthology Veiling in Africa, edited by Elisha P. Renne. Like the compilation, the article analyzes one aspect of the veil tradition in Africa. Exploration of varied experiences and the veil's diverse meanings reveal it in different lights, including religious symbolism and fashion statements across the region. (Indiana University Press, 2013)

Kimberly Castillo '08 (Cinema and Television Arts). The Convenience of Lies is a young adult novel that follows the lives of Prince Dignity and Princess Grace in their struggle to regain control of their kingdom from an evil cousin, Prince Denial. With clever use of linguistic elements and a bit of magic, Grody shapes a fantastic tale around the search for truth, love and justice in the Kingdom of Love. An independent author, Grody released the novel — her first — in August 2013 after 13 years of development and editing. (Tate Publishing & Enterprises LLC, 2013)

Laura Groody '90, '08 (B.A., Radio/TV Film; M.A., Linguistics). Grace and Dignity is a young adult novel that follows the lives of Prince Dignity and Princess Grace in their struggle to regain control of their kingdom from an evil cousin, Prince Denial. With clever use of linguistic elements and a bit of magic, Grody shapes a fantastic tale around the search for truth, love and justice in the Kingdom of Love. An independent author, Grody released the novel — her first — in August 2013 after 13 years of development and editing. (Tate Publishing & Enterprises LLC, 2013)

Regina F. Lark '90, '92 (B.A., History; M.A., History). Psyche Debris, Crowded Closets: The Relationship Between the Staff in Your Head and What's Under Your Bed uncovers the mystery behind clutter. A self-help book, it focuses on the outward expression of our cluttered minds in the form of cluttered closets and messy under-the-bed storage. Lark asks readers to change their self-perceptions and open their minds to resolving the issues pushed under the bed for so long. (Purple Books Publishing, 2013)

Sandra “Sandy” Chase '69 (History). The Revolutionary War, co-authored with Violet April Ebersole, follows a family and a tight-knit community after someone proposes they all write New Year’s resolutions. As the year goes on and the group follows up on their resolutions, revelations become abundant and the upheaval of relationships begins. (CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2013)

March Schnepf-Terry. The CSUN alumna from the class of ’84 (Liberal Studies) began her successful career as the first woman First Officers for major airlines. (Janeen Publishing Platform, 2013)

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In its second half-century, CSUN alumni, faculty and students are taking their expertise and passion abroad in greater numbers — and bringing their energy back to campus. By Olivia Herstein


Today’s undergrad and grad students sport the same supplies — backpack, skateboard, smartphone, earbuds — and don the same SoCal fashions — sneakers, skinny jeans, red-and-black CSUN hoodies. Despite these similarities, they hail from regions as diverse as the Korean Peninsula, the Middle East, Central America and the Indian subcontinent. In fact, this once-quiet Northridge campus has blossomed into one of the biggest magnets for international students in the nation, first among all master’s institutions.

Since its founding in 1958 as San Fernando Valley State College, the university has grown into a world-class and worldly institution of higher education. The campus attracts students from six continents, with more than 38,000 students served by 4,000 faculty and staff. One of the largest campuses in the California State University system, CSUN offers a diversity that reflects Los Angeles itself.

Far from Home, Forging a Path

Yayan “Zoe” Zhou looks wistful when she talks about her favorite comfort food: the sweet, sticky bao (buns or dumplings) sold in the shops and streets of her native Shanghai. The buns sold in the Chinese restaurants of the San Fernando and San Gabriel Valleys? Just not the same — not like mom makes.

But Zhou has to admit: She’s developed a serious taste for Persian food (and she’s still thinking about that leg of lamb dish she ate earlier this semester at a restaurant near campus). Where else but Los Angeles, the senior finance major said, would a Mandarin-speaking Chinese undergraduate find a wealth of Persian restaurants, and the classmates to help her order off the menu in Farsi?

When she’s not sharing her cross-cultural culinary adventures, Zhou’s eyes dance when she describes her academic and career plans. She walked the Oviatt Library lawn in cap and gown at commencement this May with her David Nazarian College of Business and Economics classmates. She plans to work for an additional year on her F-1 visa and apply for a graduate program at CSUN. “More CSUN! More studying at CSUN!” she said, laughing.

Zhou meets weekly with the Cross Cultural Friendship Club, a student-faculty group committed to mixing international students, American-born students of many ethnicities, faculty advisors and community volunteers for mutual understanding and schmoozing. On a recent spring afternoon, participants included international students from Nepal, Bangladesh, China, India and South Korea, and self-described “ABCs,” American-born Chinese.

The group’s favorite topics of the moment? Hip-hop, K-Pop and pizza fundraisers.

The club is just one example of a thriving campus community that’s attracting even greater numbers of students from abroad. CSUN’s students from throughout California benefit from the opportunities to learn from their foreign peers, in and out of the classroom. It is a true win-win because the international students learn at a world-class institution — and enhance the institution — without counting against CSUN’s student-enrollment target. Among the nationalities on the rise at CSUN are students from Saudi Arabia, Dubai, India and the United Arab Emirates. In the 21st century, the university’s most attractive programs to international students include engineering, business, accounting and intensive English. And there’s much more to come from North America itself.

Just this March, the university announced a major new partnership with the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM), one of the oldest and highest-ranked academic institutions in Latin America, to create a center for scholarship and research on Mexico and Latin America at CSUN.

With this region’s rich Mexican-American and Latino heritage, and CSUN’s reputation for ethnic diversity, officials at both universities said the plan for shared research projects and cultural events — as well as student and faculty exchanges — was “a natural.” “UNAM and CSUN have very similar
Around the World in 56 Years

missions: providing a quality education that is accessible by people from broadly diverse ethnic, social and economic backgrounds, with faculty who are respected scholars in their fields dedicated to teaching, service and research,” said CSUN President Dianne F. Harrison.

On March 3, President Harrison and UNAM Rector José Narro Robles were joined in Mexico City by numerous government leaders from the United States and Mexico at a ceremony to sign the partnership agreement.

It’s the fifth collaboration between UNAM and a foreign institution of higher education, but the only one with a U.S. university. CSUN will house the new center, expected to open this fall, in the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences. It will allow faculty and students from across the university to participate in cross-cultural research and scholarship.

In addition to CSUN’s new program with UNAM, it boasts partnerships with more than 100 universities in 22 countries, according to John Binkley, associate dean for graduate, international and mid-career education at The Tseng College. The college also coordinates logistics such as insurance for visiting scholars working on research projects at CSUN.

Taking Their Show on the Road

Engineering professor Nhut Ho is more than a distinguished faculty member teaching in Northridge and his native Vietnam: He’s a Matador at heart.

After settling in 1988 with his family as refugees in Southern California, the professor of mechanical engineering earned his bachelor’s degree at USC. He went on to earn his master’s and doctorate at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and arrived at CSUN to teach in 2005.

In 2008, the Fulbright Scholar traveled to Vietnam to help academics design and bolster engineering curricula to improve Vietnamese students’ skills in the global marketplace.

Ho’s work since has spread to major universities in Vietnam, including the country’s top institution, Vietnam National University-Ho Chi Minh City. During summer and winter break trips to the Southeast Asian nation, the professor has worked tirelessly to help scholars there implement a curriculum model called Conceive-Design-Implement-Operate (CDIO).

“CDIO is one of the game-changers for higher education in Vietnam,” said Ho, who grew up near Ho Chi Minh City. “Vietnam is moving to a new-age technology. Intel has built a billion-dollar chip manufacturing facility in Vietnam. Many multinational companies are coming to Vietnam. One of the demands for that is that you need a skilled workforce. Vietnam has a population of 86 million people, and half of this population was born after 1975. It’s a phenomenal challenge — how do you translate such a young population into a skilled workforce?”

“In Vietnam in particular, like other Asian cultures, they place a lot of emphasis on academic achievements,” he said. “The education system needs to continue to improve so these multinational companies can keep coming to Vietnam. You open any major newspaper in Vietnam, and there’s a column on education, talking about this problem.”

Back at CSUN during the academic year, Ho is working with his mechanical engineering students and colleagues to study those higher-education benchmarks for their engineering and computer science peers across the Pacific. Ho first brought the CDIO approach in 2007 and applied it to benefit CSUN undergrads, helping them prepare for engineering courses and retain them in the program. Growing up in the Valley, the professor said, he feels especially close to the needs of Matador students.

“At CSUN, we have a lot of students who are first-generation immigrants, who come from a disadvantaged background,” he said. “I understand the needs of developing countries, and I really want to help reform higher education — not just in Vietnam, but everywhere. This is a fantastic opportunity to try out new ideas. It means a lot to me, because it really makes a difference for the students.”

On the other side of the Asian continent, in the Middle East, professor Vahram Shemmassian is representing CSUN and the massive Armenian diaspora with prolific lectures on the history of the Armenian genocide. The force behind the Armenian Studies Program in the Department of Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures, Shemmassian grew up in Lebanon and heard the stories of his grandfather’s fight in the battle of Musa Dagh, Turkey (now Sarpem Dagh, Hatay province). He has returned to Lebanon several times to speak about the genocide — and organizations and universities from Montreal to Prague invite the professor to speak on his people’s history and diaspora.

CSUN, with about 10 percent of its student body of Armenian heritage, is a natural fit for Shemmassian’s program. Established in 1985, the Armenian Studies Program has grown from one course to 14, and it boasts a language minor and a languages and cultures major with Armenian as an option.

“Los Angeles is the only place where we see all sorts of Armenians mingle for the first time — from Eastern Armenia, near Russia, and others from Lebanon and the Middle East,” he said. “It’s a mixture, with all their regional influences — even the foods are somewhat different. UCLA, USC and Cal State L.A. also draw [Armenian students], but CSUN is one of the largest campuses. We also have about 170 Armenian staff...
Around the World in 56 Years

Shemmassian teaches a full load of courses, including Armenian 440, “Armenian-American Child and the schools,” which fulfills a requirement for a bilingual teaching credential.

Hands Across the Water

CSUN sends full-time undergraduates for study abroad in 18 countries, including Chile, China, Denmark, Ghana, Israel, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Spain and Sweden. Students pay as little as CSUN’s own tuition to earn full academic credit for their overseas studies. What sets CSUN apart from other universities, however, is the high number of master’s-level students it sends to the Peace Corps.

The Peace Corps Master’s International Program offers students Peace Corps service combined with a master’s degree program — in mathematics or secondary education, curriculum and instruction. Participants teach or work in other education projects while abroad. The Peace Corps, an independent government agency that traces its roots to 1960, when then-Sen. John F. Kennedy challenged university students to serve their country by living and working in developing countries, provides volunteers for countries around the world.

Matador alumni also may study abroad in the world’s most populous country, China. This academic year, seven CSUN students and alumni received the prestigious China Scholarship Council award. The scholarship, funded by the Chinese government, covers a year of tuition and living expenses for study at the country’s top universities.

Brandon Violette, who graduated in 2013 with a bachelor’s degree in cinema-screenwriting, is using the award to study at the Beijing Film Academy.

“I’ve packed my life into two suitcases and made that blind leap to a foreign country to start over, make a few friends and see walks of life I’d only read about,” he said. “Once you go through that, with all the excitement and anxieties that go with it, it humbles you. It reminds you that you’re not at the center of the world like you once thought you were.”

Carmen Ramos Chandler and Alaa Bitar contributed to this story.

Graphics reporting by Chelsea Turner.
Building Bridges Across the Pacific

By Shanté Morgan

California State University, Northridge
President Dianne F. Harrison’s recent visit to China strengthened the university’s international reach and expanded educational and research opportunities for students and faculty.

During the nine-day trip in September 2013, Harrison met with presidents and vice presidents from 10 Chinese universities, visited seven partner universities, renewed three agreements and met with educational and business leaders in five cities — Shanghai, Suzhou, Nanjing, Guangzhou and Wuhan.

Harrison capped her trip by speaking on behalf of President Dianne F. Harrison’s recent visit to China strengthened the university’s international reach and expanded educational and research opportunities for students and faculty.

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Harrison capped her trip by speaking on behalf of the president’s trip — making it one of only a handful of California State Universities with alumni networks in that country.

“California has some of the best universities in the world, and CSUN has strong fields of study in many areas,” said CSUN alumnus Wei Xiao, professor of math at Nanjing, one of dozens of alumni in China who greeted Harrison during her visit.

Xiao studied math at CSUN in 2012. He joined a delegation of about 20 alumni in presenting Harrison with a welcome plaque and photos of Nanjing scholars who studied at CSUN in the 1990s.

At Nanjing, Harrison also presented the student winners of the 2013 U.S.-China Space Science Education Project to the university’s president. The project is a collaborative effort between CSUN and NUST, in which Chinese officials may select the middle-school students’ experiments for a Chinese space mission.

Tea Time for Administrators

Shanghai Normal University Vice President Yuhao Cong, also a CSUN alumnus, hosted a tea reception for alumni to welcome Harrison to Shanghai.

His fellow Matadors at the Shanghai university include two vice presidents, 12 deans and directors, and associate deans and deputy directors.

When he studied at CSUN as a visiting scholar in 2004, Cong said, he learned much from the theories and operations of American higher education administration, which contributed to his growth as a university administrator in China. Shortly after his CSUN studies, Cong earned a promotion to vice president at Shanghai Normal.

“President Harrison’s short but extremely productive visit to China has greatly enhanced all the academic, teaching, research, creative projects, visiting professor opportunities and other projects. Hundreds of visiting scholars and thousands of students from China have studied at CSUN, and many CSUN faculty and students have participated in exchange programs. The Chronicle of Higher Education’s 2013-14 Almanac ranks CSUN as No. 1 in master’s-level institutions for international students, and it’s held a place in the top 10 for at least a decade. This is true, in part, thanks to the university’s relationship with Chinese universities, according to CSUN officials.

Living the Matador Life, in the People’s Republic

CSUN alumni in China have created a network — another ripple effect of the president’s trip — making it one of only a handful of California State Universities with alumni networks in that country.

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Attracting an Olympian and Diplomat

President Harrison’s visit set off a ripple effect in Los Angeles. This year, China’s Olympic two-time gold medalist in taekwondo, Jingyu Wu, enrolled in classes through CSUN’s Tseng College and Ambassador Liu Jian, the new consul general of China in Los Angeles, visited the CSUN campus. The Chinese Journal of World Education, a prestigious international journal published by the Chinese National Ministry of Education, also featured Harrison on its February cover (pictured at right).

These developments are the latest in a long history of collaboration with China. CSUN was one of the first American universities to pursue educational and cultural exchanges with Chinese universities when the late-President James Cleary signed the institution’s first foreign-student exchange agreement in 1981.

Today, CSUN has agreements and letters of intent with nearly 50 universities in China. These partnerships have helped promote the academic and cultural exchange of faculty and students through joint
Broadcast journalist Barbara Starr has logged millions of air miles and countless stamps in her passport since graduating from California State University, Northridge in 1975. One flight in particular, though, left a permanent mark on her heart.

In 2010, Starr rode along on a medical evacuation transport from the front lines of Afghanistan to Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Ramstein, Germany, and then on to Andrews Air Force Base outside Washington, D.C. As a CNN correspondent, she accompanied 20 seriously wounded young U.S. soldiers on the C-17 cargo “medevac” aircraft, a flying intensive care unit, and profiled three.

“A couple of months later, I went back to Fort Campbell [Kentucky] Army base where they were, and they had recovered almost completely,” Starr said of the soldiers she profiled, who were with Fort Campbell’s 101st Airborne Division Screaming Eagles. “When you cover the military, you cover a lot of sad stories. And this was a happy story. The best part was seeing these guys, up and around, smokin’ and jokin’.”

“At another army base, a young man in his 20s said, ‘Ms. Starr, Ms. Starr! You interviewed me! I was on that plane,’” she recalled, speaking by phone from CNN’s broadcast booth in the Pentagon. “He was one of the most seriously wounded. Not only was he now up and around, but he was getting prepared to go back on his second tour [to Afghanistan]. I couldn’t stop hugging him because he was doing so well.”

Close to Home

A Granada Hills native, Starr chose CSUN for its proximity to home. She called her Southern California upbringing “typical.” “We lived in the hills and coped with earthquakes, brush fires, mudslides,” she said. “Our house cracked in half. We lived in the hills and coped with earthquakes, brush fires, mudslides.”

As a freshman, she toyed with speech pathology and sociology as potential majors before finding her calling in the news. “I didn’t go into journalism right away,” she said. “I was one of those people: I changed my major three times in the first few weeks. Then I took Journalism 101, with professor Jack Hart — and that was it.

“I was attracted to journalism because I could have access to things I never could have access to. I never wanted to work in an office — I wanted to see things. This is the most laughing, smiling press corps — you can tell who still remembers how to determine percentages! And that’s the pair’s favorite Matador memory: “Devonshire Downs — it was this ranch, and you bought your schoolbooks there.”

The Pentagon’s Darkest Day

When she reflects on her broadcast career, Starr uses one infamous day as a benchmark: 9/11. Starr was working as a TV producer for ABC News in the Pentagon when Al Qaeda terrorists crashed American Airlines Flight 77 into the building on Sept. 11, 2001. “The past 13 years have been different from everything I’d done [before],” Starr said. “9/11 changed everything. When I went to school at Valley State, I never could have fathomed what I’d be doing [in these past years].”

The war on terror has taken Starr from battlefield to battlefield — covering the wounded, the fallen, the families.

“Afghanistan is an unbelievably beautiful country,” she said. “The people are lovely, and the poverty would break your heart. As a journalist, you see it so often: It’s the people who suffer so much.”

She has taken comfort and inspiration, after covering so much war, in sharing the troops’ stories. Starr is back at the Pentagon as the U.S. war in Afghanistan winds down. “But there’s always a hot spot,” she said. “Right now it’s Ukraine, sometimes it’s North Korea, and then there’s Syria — the crisis that won’t seem to end.”

She’s a member of the Pentagon’s formidable press corps. “This is the most laughing, smiling press corps — it’s unusual,” Starr said. “We’re all been to war zones, and many of us were here on 9/11. It gives you perspective in life. We’re competitive when we need to be, but we’re very, very collegial.”
Matadors Punch Big Dance Ticket

For the first time in program history, the Matador women’s basketball team is Big West Conference champion. The victory at Long Beach State on March 6 clinched the Big West regular-season title and the No. 1 seed in the Big West Tournament, both program firsts. The 12 conference wins were the most by the Matadors in their Big West Conference history.

Next, the CSUN women headed to the Big West Tournament at the Honda Center in Anaheim, where they defeated Cal Poly San Luis Obispo in the championship game on March 15. The win punched the team’s ticket to the NCAA Tournament, or “Big Dance,” for the first time since 1999.

The Matadors women, seeded No. 16 in the NCAA Tournament, traveled to Seattle and fell in the first round to top-seeded South Carolina on March 23.

Junior guard Ashley Guay became the first Matador player in program history to receive the league’s Player of the Year Award. She was also named Big West Conference Tournament MVP. Head coach Jason Flowers received his second Big West Coach of the Year award in three seasons.

Junior guard Janae Sharpe earned All-Big West Second Team honors. Co-captain Cinnamon Lister was an All-Big West Honorable Mention selection, and junior center Camille Mahlknecht was named Big West Defensive Player of the Year.

The Matador men’s basketball team also made it to the brink of a “Big Dance” invitation, but lost a heartbreaker to Cal Poly San Luis Obispo in the Big West Tournament finals March 14.

Matadors Outscore Other Schools in the Classroom

CSUN student-athletes graduate at higher rates than the general student population — bucking a national trend in racial inequalities and college graduation rates. According to a report released by University of Pennsylvania (UPenn) researchers in February, CSUN graduates black male athletes at much higher rates than other NCAA Division I universities, including neighboring schools UCLA and USC. In fall 2013, CSUN participated in a UPenn study on the experiences of student-athletes in minority groups, namely women and students of color. The scholars and officials behind the study sought ways to increase student-athlete academic success.

Four Named to CSUN’s Athletic Hall of Fame

More than 200 family members, friends, university President Danene F. Harrison and supporters of Matador Athletics honored the newest members of the CSUN Hall of Fame at an emotional luncheon on Feb. 9 at the Warner Center Marriott Hotel. Legendary men’s track and field head coach Cliff Abel and former star athletes Markus Carr ‘04 (Speech Communications, basketball), Lisa Erickson ‘91 (Liberal Studies, softball) and Tereza Simonyan ‘04 (Business Law, tennis) made up the 2014 Hall of Fame class. They joined an elite group of student-athletes, former administrators, coaches and teams representing the 19 sports in the university’s Hall of Fame, established in 1981.

— Bob Vazquez

Dig! CSUN Adds Women’s Sand Volleyball as Intercollegiate Sport

Not far from the beaches that gave birth to the sport, CSUN this spring launched its first women’s sand volleyball squad — the Matadors’ 19th intercollegiate sport.

Jeff Stork, head coach of the Matadors’ indoor volleyball team, also leads the sand team, which started competition March 6 at UCLA. The team features 14 returning players from CSUN’s 2013 indoor squad, which reached the second round of the NCAA Tournament.

CSUN is the fourth Big West Conference institution to add sand volleyball as a varsity sport, following Long Beach State, University of Hawaii and Cal Poly San Luis Obispo.

“This creates opportunities for player development, and there is a lot of interest in sand volleyball in the San Fernando Valley,” Stork said. “As an emerging sport, we can become very competitive very quickly.” The NCAA has identified sand volleyball as an emerging sport, intended to provide additional athletic opportunities to female student-athletes. Nationwide, nearly 500,000 young women, ages 13 to 25, have taken up the sport.
Coach Reggie Theus Meets Up with Mentor and Legend Jerry Tarkanian

As a Saturday morning CSUN men’s basketball practice drew to a close at the Walter Pyramid, Long Beach State’s home arena, an extremely frail elderly man emerged from behind the bleachers. The Matadors’ head coach, Reggie Theus, hugged Tarkanian and said, “I love you, coach. Thanks.”

Tarkanian, 83, has coped with several major health issues in recent years. The Matadors’ head coach, Reggie Theus, hugged Tarkanian and said, “I love you, coach. Thanks.”

Long Beach State honored Tarkanian during halftime of the CSUN-49ers game on Jan. 24. The 49ers twice made it to the Elite Eight of the NCAA Tournament during his five years there as head coach.

Theus played for Tarkanian in the mid-1970s at UNLV. “Coach Tarkanian shaped who I am as a person and as a coach,” Theus said. — R.V.

Faculty Basketball “Jersey” 58 Retired

In February, CSUN retired jersey number 58 to honor the university’s faculty for their nearly 60 years of academic service and support of Matador Athletics during times of challenge and prosperity. The No. 58 jersey is the first number retired in CSUN athletics — also represents the university’s founding year as San Fernando Valley State College.

University officials invited CSUN’s faculty to attend the Cal Poly San Luis Obispo basketball matchup Feb. 13, as a gesture of thanks.

No CSUN student-athlete will wear 58 in future athletic competitions, said Brandon Martin, director of intercollegiate athletics.

“The goal of Matador athletics extends far beyond the playing field and the win-loss record,” Martin said. “Building a solid academic foundation is paramount for success now and later in life. We are fortunate to have the support of the CSUN faculty.”

In the fall, the Big West Conference named 17 CSUN student-athletes to its Academic All-Conference team, from all five fall sports: women’s volleyball, women’s soccer, men’s soccer, men’s basketball, and men’s and women’s cross country.

The retired No. 58 jersey will hang on display in the Matadome arena.

President Harrison Opens Matador Achievement Center for Student-Athletes

CSUN reaffirmed its commitment to academic success for Matador student-athletes with a September ribbon-cutting ceremony at the new Matador Achievement Center in Bayramian Hall.

The center offers mentoring, tutoring and other forms of support for CSUN’s student-athletes.

The NCAA awarded grants to six institutions as part of a three-year pilot program, aimed at increasing student-athletes’ academic performance. The association granted CSUN $900,000 from a very competitive applicant pool.

The grant lays a foundation for the center’s operation for three years.

President Dianne H. Harrison and CSU Chancellor Timothy White cut the red ribbon to open the achievement center, which serves nearly 400 student-athletes.

“This grant supports scholarships for student-athletes in all 19 varsity programs. Memberships begin at $50, and benefits include priority seating, reserved parking, pre-game hospitality and travel opportunities to away games and matches. Alumni and former student-athletes can access additional perks. To learn more, call (818) 677-2932 or visit gotamadors.com.

CSUN Athletics Launches Matador Excellence Fund

In November 2013, CSUN’s athletics department unveiled its Matador Excellence Fund, which supports scholarships for student-athletes in all 19 varsity programs. Memberships begin at $50, and benefits include priority seating, reserved parking, pre-game hospitality and travel opportunities to away games and matches. Alumni and former student-athletes can access additional perks. To learn more, call (818) 677-4837 or visit gotamadors.com.

CSUN athletics programs at UNLV and Long Beach State. Tarkanian, 83, has coped with several major health issues in recent years. The Matadors’ head coach, Reggie Theus, hugged Tarkanian and said, “I love you, coach. Thanks.”

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Past Event Highlights

Mixing it Up, Matador Style
In the wood-paneled elegance of the Culver Hotel, Matador alumni gathered to dine, drink and reconnect at the Networking Mega Mixer, March 20. The Alumni Association hosted the event in the historic hotel’s Velvet Lounge, in up-and-coming downtown Culver City. A night filled with shared memories and new connections, the mixer united members of the association’s 25 alumni chapters. Alumni mingled with their fellow Matadors working in fields such as business, education, government, science, writing, and health and wellness.

Distinguished Alumni Awards
The CSUN Alumni Association honored four outstanding alumni April 26: Bill Imada ’84 (Human Resource Management), chairman and chief collaboration officer, FW Group, Inc.; Diane Manzella ‘71 (M.A., Speech Communication), pioneer audiologist and speech pathologist; and Philip Tauber ’68 (Music) and Gayle Tauber ’72 (Political Science), founders of Kashi Foods. The 16th-annual Distinguished Alumni Awards Gala included a dinner and awards presentations at the Four Seasons Hotel in Westlake Village.

Imada leads FW Group, one of the nation’s leading minority-owned and -operated advertising, marketing and communications agencies that focus on multicultural markets. Manzella is considered a pioneer in the fields of audiology and speech pathology. She initiated a pilot program in Maryland to mainstream hearing-impaired children into the classroom. Since 1972, Philip and Gayle Tauber have been co-founders of startup companies, concentrating predominantly in health and wellness and social responsibility. They may be best known as the founders of Kashi Company.

When Francine Oschin ’84 (Journalism), M.A. ’85 (Mass Communications) returned to California State University, Northridge in the early ‘80s after starting and stopping her education over two decades, she expected to complete her degree.

Oschin got much more.

The 9th president of CSUN’s Alumni Association said she made lifelong connections that created personal and career opportunities she never would have imagined.

“Through CSUN, I’ve had the ability to connect to individuals who had influence and connections,” Oschin said. “I would be nowhere if I didn’t have CSUN.”

The New York native moved to Los Angeles as a teenager. After high school, she spent one year at Los Angeles City College and got married. She earned an associate degree from Los Angeles Valley College and started taking classes at then-San Fernando Valley State College. Oschin put her bachelor’s degree on hold as her family grew, however, and she relocated to Hawaii.

“I would be nowhere if I didn’t have CSUN.”

Oschin later returned to California, earned her degrees and went to work as a reporter for the Glendale News-Press and Burbank Leader. While working on a CSUN Department of Journalism anniversary event, she met a fellow alum who recommended her for a job working for then-Los Angeles City Councilman Hal Berman, who represented much of the Valley. She rose through the ranks and served as his assistant chief deputy for nearly 15 years.

“That was the launching pad for so much more in my career,” Oschin said.

In 2004, she narrowly lost a bid for the Valley’s 3rd District council seat. Today, Oschin is president of Oschin Partners, an Encino-based government relations consulting firm that focuses on transportation issues. She has served in leadership positions within the Alumni Association since 2003, when the organization appointed her as the university’s volunteer representative on the CSU Alumni Council. She also co-chain (with Bob Rawich) the “Grass Tops” CSUN Advocacy Network, which advocates for funding and support from elected officials.

She serves in numerous civic roles, including the Valley Industry and Commerce Association board of directors.

—Shanté Morgan

Mentor a Matador in four easy steps:

Step One: Visit csunalumni.com and complete a short online profile with basic information about yourself, your academic career at CSUN and current (or most recent) work experience.

Step Two: Select the number of students or young alumni who may contact you at a time and your preferred method of contact.

Step Three: Wait for email approval (1-2 days), and follow the steps to complete your application and post your profile online.

Step Four: Your mentor profile will be available for mentees to search and connect. The Alumni Association will notify you via email when a mentee selects you as a match and requests you as a mentor.

One person can make a huge difference in establishing a career. Be the one. Become a Matador Network mentor!

Francine Oschin Takes the Reins

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Step Three: Wait for email approval (1-2 days), and follow the steps to complete your application and post your profile online.

Step Four: Your mentor profile will be available for mentees to search and connect. The Alumni Association will notify you via email when a mentee selects you as a match and requests you as a mentor.

One person can make a huge difference in establishing a career. Be the one. Become a Matador Network mentor!
Opening Night at the Hollywood Bowl
Sat., June 21, 8 p.m., featuring Hall of Fame recipients. $35 Alumni Association members, $40 non-members

Family Movie Night on the Oviatt Lawn: “Monsters University”
Thurs., Aug. 7, 6 p.m.

Washington, D.C. Area Alumni Mixer
Wed., Sept. 17

Football Team Reunion
Sat., Sept. 20, 5 p.m.
The 1961-68 football teams are reuniting and honoring team members at Founders’ Day.

Founders’ Day and Class of 1966 50-year Reunion
Remember the good old days? Join us in honoring the 50-year class of 1964 and reconnect with former classmates, faculty and colleagues. Sat., Sept. 20, 11 a.m., USU Northridge Center.

Matadors Forever
CSUN Shines in the San Fernando Valley Business Community
CSUN contributes to the Valley through its business affiliations, academic programs, ever-growing graduation rates and outstanding alumni. CSUN gained further notoriety in July 2013 when the Valley Industry and Commerce Association honored the university as a member of the San Fernando Valley Business Hall of Fame.

Fulbright Tradition Shines On
Fulbright scholars Naomi Carrington, who received her master’s in English from CSUN in 2013, and Alexander Olson and Lovinga Tata, who completed CSUN’s two-year Strategic Language Initiative Russian Immersion Program, are exploring Rwanda, Russia and Ukraine, during the 2013-14 academic year.

CSUN Launches Global Alumni Network
In 2013 the university’s Office of Alumni Relations established the CSUN Global Alumni Network, including fostering connections with Matador alumni in China.

Members in Action
“Supporting CSUN has been a source of much pride in my life and for my wife, Stefanie DuBois. We’re delighted to hear and read about the joys and successes of students and alumni through events we attend and publications we receive. There is great satisfaction in giving back to the academic community that helped us along. We would not have had nearly the college experience or successes in life if it were not for the alumni support and contributions. Alumni and friends of CSUN should consider passing on that experience to future generations of students.”

Bob Finkelstein ’78 (Environmental and Occupational Health) and Stefanie DuBois ’73 (English), Joint Lifetime Members
Bob and Stephanie are members of the Presidents Associates and have established a scholarship to support an EOH student. Join Bob and Stephanie in contributing to CSUN. There are many great reasons to maintain contact with the university—events we attend and publications we receive. There is great satisfaction in giving back to the academic community that helped us along. We would not have had nearly the college experience or successes in life if it were not for the alumni support and contributions. Alumni and friends of CSUN should consider passing on that experience to future generations of students.”

Volunteer Opportunities
Special-interest alumni chapters and clubs provide alumni with a chance to broaden their career networks, build lifelong friendships and give back to their alma mater through service and support. Many chapters have their own social activities, networking events, newsletters, scholarships and mentoring programs to benefit the constituency or department they represent. This year alumni and volunteers have reached out to the Alumni Association with plans to establish five new chapters and clubs, focused on the following common interests and regions. If you would like to join their efforts, reach out today!

Matador Attorney Networking Group:
Contact David Bobrosky ’95 (Finance) at dbobrosky@lwirinshackman.com or Michael Attai’95 (Marketing) at mdatarr@bhclawyers.net

Conejo Valley Alumni Network:
Contact Doron Schmuel ’94 (Radio/Television Production) at doronschmuel@csun.edu or Elad Goren ’99 (Finance) at goren@financialpointe.com

Educational Leadership and Policy Studies (ELPS) Graduates:
Contact Ricardo Sosapavon, professor of education, at ricardos@csun.edu

Nursing Alumni Chapter:
Contact Rosine Der-Tavitian, professor of nursing, at rosine.der-tavitian@csun.edu

CSUN Hillel Alumni:
Contact Judy Alban, CSUN Hillel director, at judy@hillel818.org
Alumni Notes

Please submit notes for future publication to alumni@csun.edu. Red denotes Alumni Association members.

1960s

‘62 Lionel B. Sanders (Accountancy) is one of the five business-trained Cal State Northridge alums leading the Southern California’s largest full-service accounting, tax and business advisory firms, Gurnett, Savick, Inc. 

‘65 Carrol B. Elbomeyer (Engineering) is the author of Flowtastics and the Floating World (New York: H. O. O. F.). Maintains consulting with Rosasco Snovate and Bobbuck Duchs Revolutionary Ocean Scientist. He kicked off his career as a pioneering oceanographer in 1969, when he became the first in the world to work for Mobil Standard Oil.

‘65 Lawrence Newman (Biochemistry) was recently promoted to president of Kirman Group, Inc., and he remains its chief operating officer in regulatory and legal affairs. He began working for the company in 1999.

‘66 Hasen Hering (Journalism) is spending his “golden years” with his wife, Kathy, in Alpine, Texas. He was the editor of the Alpine Altamont Democrat-Herald for 34 years, retiring in 2003. Hasen maintains a blog and occasionally participates in media events.

‘69 James Adams (History) recently stepped down from his presidency at Champlain College Preparatory School to serving as president emeritus. He served as president since 1976 and had a 39-year career in Catholic education.

‘73 Bill Handel (Political Science), the renowned radio host of “The Bill Handel Show,” celebrated 20 years on KFI 640 AM. He also hosted “Handed on the Law” on Saturday mornings, a topic he knows well, as he studied law.

1970s

1974 Janice Williams (English; M.A., Theatre) was appointed to the dean of the School of Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Engineering and a professor of physics at California State University, Bakersfield.

As he studied law.

During the 1970s, he would work mornings, a topic he knows well, as he studied law.

1980s

1984 Annette Nellen (Accounting) was named Jamison Memorial Award from the Tax Division of the American Institute of CPAs, considered the highest honor in the taxation industry.

1985 Eugene “Gene” Barr (Sociology) is the author of national bestseller Farms Are Forever: Saving Heart and Mind About Animals and Food, the president and founder of the Humane Farm Sanctuary. Recently featured on “The Jenny Vegetarian,” he has

1985 Placed Planning

What Will Your Legacy Be?

With a $10,000 gift annuity, you can gain lifetime payments for yourself through your gift to CSUN.

Age          Rate        Annual Income
70          5.1%          $510
75          5.8%          $580
80          6.0%          $680
85          7.8%          $780
90          9.0%          $900

Please contact our Planned Giving Office for your free, personalized illustration at no obligation. (818) 677-2136
32

Alumni Notes

32

(818) 677-2999
Mail the attached form/envelope

California State University Northridge

ANNUAL CAMPAIGN
2013-2014

A Great Success

So far this year, 5,681 people have given to the Annual Campaign 2013-2014 and many have attended President’s Associates events at the Valley Performing Arts Center, the Peterson Automotive Museum, and in CSUN’s Botanic Garden and Donald E. Blixt’s Planetarium.

Do your part before June 30!

Your gift, regardless of the size, has a major impact. Last year, gifts of $50 or less added up to more than $200,000 in support.

individuals and organizations that make large gifts often look at the overall number of donors as an indication that there is broad support for CSUN, making them more likely to give. Magazines and organizations that rank universities also look at the percentage of alumni who make a gift as a factor. The Board of Trustees has made it your gift making a part of your overall giving important. Whether $25 or $50, or whatever amount you are inspired to contribute, please join the thousands of others by making a gift today.

32

Deniel. Depicting the Forty Days of Jesus’ Death at the airport from the California School of Dentistry of America, a great success.

32

Jesse Xie (Home Economics- Business) is a part-time lecturer at CSUN and LBL Lighting as a Los Angeles regional sales manager and Internet sales manager.

1990s

32

1990, ’01 Gina Johnson (B.A., Child Development; MPA, Public Administration) is the chief deputy of institution services of the Ventura County Probation Agency. She worked her way up the ranks after joining the agency as a student aide in 1990.

32

Holly Keel (Home Economics-Business) rappelled down the side of a 50-story building as a part of the Globe event held on behalf of the Cancer League of Colorado to raise funds for cancer research and patient care. Keel had 25 years of experience in the mortgage industry as a branch manager and was a part-time student at CSU in 1990.

32

Richard Plump (Engineering) is the chief executive of Plump Engineering, which executed logistic plans for the space shuttle Endeavour’s move across L.A. from the airport to the California Science Center.

32

Nicole Duet (Theater) is an actress at Los Angeles City University. The Louisiana native was a part-time lecturer at CSUN for seven years.

32

Sharon Smart (M.A., Computers in Instruction; M.S., Mathematics) was selected Deaf Person of the Year for the 12th district of Los Angeles. He is the co-founder of Telecommunication for the Deaf Inc., and a long-time officer of Temple Beth Solomon.

32

Eric Nelson (Business, M.S., Mechanical Engineering) has joined the board of Ventura County’s Community Action Agency, which helps low-income families improve their lives.

32

Susie Minassian (Radio, Television and Film), a Los Angeles-based filmmaker, joined colleague Edin组长, Andrew, and other filmmakers for a discussion of their new film, “Epiphanies.”

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32

Wendy Goddard II (Civil Engineering) is the Business Manager at El Monte, Calif. Previously, he served as executive director of public works in Santa Ana and for Upland and public works under then-Mayor Jerry Brown. He also served on the San Fernando City Council from 1994 to 1998.

32

Joseph Stenick (M.A., Educational Administration) was selected Dean of the Year for the 12th district of Los Angeles. He is the co-founder of Telecommunication for the Deaf Inc., and a long-time officer of Temple Beth Solomon.

32

Rachel Nelson (B.S., Engineering; M.S., Mechanical Engineering) has joined the board of Ventura County’s Community Action Agency, which helps low-income families improve their lives. He also holds a dissertation and serves as president of the Ventura County Board of Education.

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40

Alumni Television and Film), a Los Angeles-based filmmaker, joined colleague Edin组长, Andrew, and other filmmakers for a discussion of their new film, “Epiphanies.”
In Memoriam

**ALUMNI**

‘62 Donald D. Black (Accountancy) passed away Feb. 1, 2015. At the age of 73. He devoted 40 years of his life to the San Fernando Valley region. He later became an attorney.


Emily Huban (Government and Legal Studies, TV), 28, succumbed to cancer in June 2013 after a fierce battle. She was diagnosed with Esquire's sarcoma and underwent various treatments to remove the tumor. In 2009, her illness forced her medical withdrawal from CSUN. After diagnosis, she was a vibrant group advocate for Sarcoma. She is remembered for her radiant smile, positive attitude and warm kindness.

‘68 Ralph R. Olin (Geology) passed away Mar. 16, 2012, at the age of 78. After earning her degree, she started her own home infant-care business, opening to several small children and preparing them for elementary school. In more recent times, she became a caregiver for family members affected with Alzheimer's disease. Always a caring woman, she valued her education from CSUN and remained a frequent visitor.

‘73 ’77 Bush Rothman (B.A., Speech Communication Disorders; M.A., Communication Disorders) passed away Mar. 18, 2013. She began her CSUN career at age 46.

‘72 ’12 Jesse Allen Williams (Kinesiology), 39, passed away April 27, 2013, at the age of 27. Williams was a student at CSUN who was on a study abroad program in Turkey. He graduated with a master's degree in health administration and had planned to return to Turkey for another year of study.

‘75 Matthew Michael Ursin (Chemistry) earned his master's degree at the University of California in Los Angeles. He was a graduate assistant in the Chemistry Department and completed his PhD in 2012. He later served as a professor at CSUN, where he continued to work as a photographer. Ursin was a teacher, musician, actor and producer who was well known for his work in film and television. He had more than 300 projects to his credit.

‘90 ‘99 Michael Modell (M.A., Communication Studies), 76, passed away Jan. 30, 2015. Modell served as a professor at CSUN and was active in the field of communication for more than 25 years. He was known for his work in full-body training for athletic performance.

‘93 ‘100 James Golden (Sociology), 76, passed away July 7, 2013. His work focused on community services and research, particularly with regard to youth programs, neighborhood coordination and code enforcement, the transit system and community projects.

‘97 Elizabeth Low (Carmy-Blackwell, Health), 69, passed away Jan. 30, 2015. Low was a youth advocate at the Long Beach Marathon Half-Marathon program, which provides scholarships for local students.

‘93 ’08 Jordan M. Rodriguez (B.A., Public Administration) passed away April 27, 2013, just before his 70th birthday. Rodriguez was a noted researcher and a former Redondo Beach basketball coach. His death was a loss for the community and for the sport he loved.

‘99 Claudia Keith (M.A., Mass Communication/Journalism) is the first-ever chief communications officer for the city of Los Angeles. Recently, she served the CSU as the assistant vice chancellor for public affairs.

‘56 ’97 Timothy L. Boyce (Spanish Language and Culture) founded Capital Good Fund, a fast-growing nonprofit organization that provides management advice to the city of Lemon Grove, in San Diego County.

‘12 ‘13 John Green (M.A., Electrical and Computer Engineering) was named planning commissioner for the city of Lemon Grove, in San Diego County.

‘99 ‘100 John Quiñones (Communication), 59, died Jan. 30, 2015. Quiñones was a former CSUN student who served two tours of duty in Afghanistan. Wilkes was an avid collector and a San Fernando Valley native. After his passing, an estimated $300,000 was raised to support the program's undergraduate and graduate programs.

‘68 ’100 Susan Lespinasse (Health Sciences), 76, passed away Jan. 30, 2015. Lespinasse was a noted researcher and a former Redondo Beach basketball coach. His death was a loss for the community and for the sport he loved.

‘07 Frances Yarwood (M.A., Educational Administration) is the principal of La Cañada and Aria Vista high schools in Santa Barbara.

‘08 Marley Camacho (Marketing) led the tour of a television show in the 1990s, including “The Ellen DeGeneres Show” feature on a woman who began her career as a nurse in Los Angeles. She is remembered for her warm kindness and her dedication to helping others.

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career in 1992 after earning his Ed D in curriculum and instruction from an admired colleague, teacher and leader. He will be remembered for being empathetic and respectful. Meeting his gratitude as a means to living a healthy life. Gordon R. Lewthwaite (Environmental Science) passed away Sept. 18, 2013, at the age of 88. He emigrated from the United Kingdom to the United States as a Fulbright Scholar to pursue his doctorate at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. In 1959, he received hisPhD in environmental science and was a professor at CSUN in urban and environmental geography. In addition to being a serious scholar who wished to advance research in historical and cultural geography.

Roberta Evans Madison (Health Sciences), a former chair of the health sciences department, passed away July 13, 2013, at the age of 81. She was a member of the CSUN community for 53 years, including 10 years as a professor in the College of Health and Human Development. She was a tireless advocate for health and education, and her contributions to the community were recognized with numerous awards and honors.

Morris Schonbach (History) passed away on April 18, 2013, at the age of 91. After earning all of his degrees in American history from UCLA and teaching for nearly 30 years, he joined the faculty of the CSUN Department of History in 1975. He remained an active member until his retirement in 2012. He was a prolific author and editor, producing more than 30 books and articles on American history and the West. His research focused on the American West, covering topics such as the history of the American West, the environmental history of the West, and the history of the American frontier.

Owen Smith (Theatre), 76, passed away Sept. 30, 2013. As a young man, he served in the United States Army for more than four years as an infantryman, which provided him with a unique perspective on the world. After his honorable discharge in 1973, he started his career in education, teaching at Northridge College and later at CSUN. He taught at CSUN for 33 years, providing instructional leadership throughout the department.

Christine H. Smith (Family and Consumer Sciences) passed away Dec. 20, 2013, at the age of 75. While studying for her undergraduate degree in family consumer sciences, she earned her associate's degree in home economics from CSUN in 1954, her bachelor's degree in family and consumer sciences from CSUN in 1956, and her master's degree in home economics from the University of California, Los Angeles in 1960.

Jason Endicott (Communication Studies) passed away on March 20, 2013, at the age of 39. He was a recent graduate of the Communications Studies program at CSUN and was a former intern at KROE Television in Hollywood. He was a dedicated student and an active member of the CSU community, and his contributions to the field of communication studies were recognized with numerous awards and honors.

Randy Wright Middle School of Calabasas. In his career, he also served as a head varsity coach and junior varsity basketball coach.

Gabrielle Moreira (Journalism) passed away in a car accident in May. She was 20. A New Jersey native, she was an aspiring journalist and a member of the CSU community. Her contributions to the field of journalism were recognized with numerous awards and honors.

Margaret A. Perez Young (Television, Film and Digital Arts) passed away on Nov. 6, 2013, at the age of 64. She was a member of the CSU community for 33 years, providing instructional leadership in English and storytelling. After her retirement, she served as a part-time professor at CSUN and worked on various projects, including a book on the history of Hollywood.

Mary S. Woolsey (Oceanography) passed away on Nov. 19, 2013, at the age of 62. She was a senior researcher at the CSU community and a member of the National Science Foundation. Her contributions to the field of oceanography were recognized with numerous awards and honors.

Paul Tomack (Science and Mathematics) passed away on Nov. 30, 2013. For 19 years, he devoted his time to teaching and serving as a university staff member. His contributions to the field of science and mathematics were recognized with numerous awards and honors.

James H. Smith (Family and Consumer Sciences) passed away on Nov. 30, 2013. He was a member of the CSU community and a member of the American Dietetic Association. His contributions to the field of family and consumer sciences were recognized with numerous awards and honors.
Polland Endowment for a Course is the First of its Kind

When Polland retired, the course—earlier known as “Empowerment Principles”—nearly left with her. Scott, a professor in the popular discipline course for decades, was inspired to continue teaching the course, awakened my understanding to the importance of modeling creative and conflict,” Scott said. “It was — and continues to be — riveting! Current and former discipline students are constantly stopping by my office or sharing in class how they have actually tried some of the discipline strategies with family and friends. They share that ‘it really does work.’ One of the smartest decisions I ever made was ‘electing’ Barbara to be my mentor, friend and parent education coach.”

The continued school shootings in the United States prompted Polland to establish her endowment, the first of its kind at CSUN, to support the course. The course receives $1,000 annually from the endowment to help with expenses in key areas such as stipends for speakers and funds for a faculty member to attend conferences. Like many CSUN faculty members, Polland has ensured her legacy will live on and impact future generations of students.

“If we can help parents and professionals work with their children in these ways,” Polland said, “we will find that we can help change the future just a little bit at a time.”

—— Chelsea Turner

Jane Small Scholarship Honors Advocate’s Memory

CSUN students have a new scholarship opportunity for their work in fighting for rights of the disabled, thanks to Jane Small.

When then-California Gov. Grey Davis declared Nov. 20, 1999, “Jane Small Memorial Day” for her legacy as a disability rights advocate, she was a nationally recognized activist who advanced educational opportunities for students with disabilities in the Los Angeles area.

“I couldn’t help but be inspired by her work,” said Kalfsbeek-Goetz. “Her mission to create access for disenfranchised groups is being recognized in this scholarship. In my mind, CSUN is the place for access. You could argue that CSUN is the place for people with disabilities to gain access to higher education.”

With that premise in mind, the scholarship will provide $10,000 ($1,000 per year, per scholar over two to five years), to students using their studies or volunteer work toward advocacy for people with disabilities.

“We should always be reminded of those groups of people, and we need to support them,” Kalfsbeek-Goetz said. “That’s what this scholarship will help future leaders do.” — C.T.

Peter M. Leonhardt Endowment Supports Future Engineers

Like magic, students from all ages and backgrounds move from their world as CSUN students to real-world employees by crossing the stage at commencement. For some, this journey comes with strong academic skills. “CSUN seems to have a core skill that is only teaching this course — it is professional. She loves doing what she does and is only teaching this course — it is her No. 1 favorite.”

Polland noted that Scott, a mother of two, applies what she teaches and learns from the various education conferences she attends (sometimes with Polland) and shares with the class to bring the material to life. “Working with Barbara over the past five years, learning how to teach this course, awakened my understanding to the importance of modeling creative and shared-power methods of handling conflict,” Scott said. “It was — and continues to be — riveting! Current and former discipline students are constantly stopping by my office or sharing in class how they have actually tried some of the discipline strategies with family and friends. They share that ‘it really does work.’ One of the smartest decisions I ever made was ‘electing’ Barbara to be my mentor, friend and parent education coach.”

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—— Chelsea Turner

In name evokes praise and accolades as CSUN: a scholarship to encourage, promote and fund students who strive to follow her line of work and volunteerism. Leadership is a trait clearly desired in college graduates, and finding students with the drive to change the world is often most prevalent in those who consider themselves advocates. The Jane Small Scholarship for Advocates for People with Disabilities — sponsored by her son Jack and daughter-in-law, Jennifer Kalfsbeek-Goetz, assistant dean of the Tri-C College of Extended Learning — honors the late advocate’s accomplishments, opening the door for a new generation of advocates.

Small died in October 1999, after building a résumé the size of a novel. Of Small’s honors, the most notable occurred when then-California Gov. Grey Davis declared Nov. 20, 1999, “Jane Small Memorial Day” for her legacy as a disability rights advocate. She was a nationally recognized activist who advanced educational opportunities for students with disabilities in the Los Angeles area.

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Peter M. Leonhardt Endowment Supports Future Engineers

The Peter M. Leonhardt Endowment supports junior and senior engineering students.

Leonhardt and Gjemso also share a passion for magic. Both hold memberships at the exclusive Magic Castle in Hollywood, which requires an audition for admission. With magic as a common interest, their mentorship relationship blossomed.

“When Mr. Leonhardt as my mentor, I can assess my career paths and whether I am on the right track,” Gjemso said. — C.T.

Giving

WAYS TO GIVE

The President’s 21st Century Fund: Created for alumni and friends, the fund accepts donations of any amount and contributes to helping more than 38,000 students annually. Be loud and proud by giving today! give.csum.edu

President’s Associates: Show your support through a $1,000 annual donation, volunteer service and ambassadors to advance the overall excellence of the university and help strengthen its impact on the future. presidentassociates.com

Heritage Society: Donate through a charitable gift in your will, a trust or an IRA. A gift made through a charitable gift in your will, a trust or an IRA. A gift made from your estate that benefits future students is an easy and impactful way to build your legacy. csum.edu/plannedgiving
Sign up for the CSUN Shine Weekly e-newsletter. Receive the latest university news.