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Provost Named as Interim President of Cal State Northridge

January 27th, 2012

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Heidi Wolfbauer: Growing Up Matador

January 27th, 2012

When Heidi Wolfbauer '85 (Business Management), administrative specialist for the Faculty Senate, first came to California State University, Northridge as a student in 1980, she saw the campus as a stepping stone to what she thought was a future career as a teacher. One change-of-major and 32 years later, she's happily still here.



Cotton and Sustainability

January 27th, 2012

Over the 2010-11 academic year, three professors in the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences and their students explored the use of sustainable cotton in textile, apparel and interior design. Their research project was funded through a grant from Cotton, Inc. and culminated in a fashion show and art exhibit at the Valley Performing Arts [...]



15th Annual High School Art Invitational

January 27th, 2012




Faculty Highlight the Importance of Mentoring Students

January 27th, 2012

It's the little things. A quick 'hello' while passing each other on campus; thanking a student for his or her insightful comment during a class discussion; or simply taking the time to ask, "How are you today?" and waiting to hear the answer. These simple gestures, said Glenn Omatsu, coordinator of the Faculty Mentor Program at California State University, Northridge, are what help turn educators into mentors.

Provost Named as Interim President of Cal State Northridge

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Interim president Harry Hellenbrand. Photo by Lee Choo.

Harold "Harry" Hellenbrand said he will lead California State University, Northridge as interim president with the "confidence and resourcefulness" that has come to define the university.

"Presidential transitions can be a source of anxiety," said Hellenbrand in a message emailed to the campus last week. "We can remedy this by remaining true to the cooperation and engagement that President Koester inspired. Our next president will find that Cal State Northridge is a strong and resilient academic community."

CSU Chancellor Charles B. Reed announced the appointment of Hellenbrand as interim president last month, beginning Jan. 1, 2012. He will serve in this capacity until a permanent president begins on campus.

"We are confident in Harry's ability to ensure a continuity of outstanding leadership during this

time of transition," Reed said about the appointment of the university's provost and vice president of academic affairs to the interim position.

The search process for the next president of CSUN was extended on Dec. 5 for 90 days to allow for additional candidates to be included in the pool for consideration. The chancellor's office would like to name a new president in March who could begin the job by July 1.

During the transition, William Watkins '74 (Urban Studies), has agreed to serve as both vice president for student affairs and acting administrator of academic affairs. Watkins will retain his responsibilities as vice president for the Division of Student Affairs and dean of students during the transition. He will chair the Provost's Council with the assistance of the college deans; chair the university's Planning and Budget Group; work with Associate Vice President for Faculty Affairs Penny Jennings on faculty personnel matters; and provide other administrative support as needed.

Vice Provost Cynthia Rawitch will continue to oversee most academic administrative transactions, curriculum and planning. She will replace Hellenbrand on enrollment committees and troubleshoot for the college deans. She also will supervise most academic affairs directors and associate vice presidents.

Hellenbrand will retain responsibility for the tenure-track faculty retention, tenure and promotion (RTP) process.

The search began in October for a new president to succeed Jolene Koester, who retired on Dec. 31 after serving as president of the university since 2000.

Hellenbrand was appointed as CSUN provost and vice president for the Division of Academic Affairs in

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2004. He has served as a dean and professor at the College of Liberal Arts at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo from 1998 to 2004 and professor at the College of Liberal Arts at the University of Minnesota, Duluth from 1994 to 1998. Hellenbrand began his tenure with the CSU as a professor of English at California State University, San Bernardino from 1982 to 1994.

After earning a bachelor's degree in English and American literature from Harvard College, he received his doctorate in modern thought and literature from Stanford University.

Hellenbrand said some of the key projects he plans to focus on during his presidential tenure are:

- **Ten-Year Resource Study:** He plans to complete consultation on the draft and establish working groups to address the funding gap. President Koester wished to have this ready as a resource for the next president.
- **Budget Planning for Fiscal Year 2012-13:** Develop a budget that reflects Northridge's share of the \$100 million known permanent cut to the CSU (\$7.8 million) and plan for additional reductions.
- **Development Goals and Strategies:** Together with University Advancement, the academic leadership will solidify fundraising priorities and set development goals and strategies for 2012-13.
- **Engagement, Branding and WebOne:** Building on the Special Task Force on Engagement, we will focus on creating a more robust network of alumni and volunteers. We will collaborate on graphic standards and key messages for the University's communications. And we will implement, step by step, the WebOne system, which is the tool for publishing and managing content for divisional, college and department web sites to facilitate more consistent standards and practices.
- **Summer Course Redesign Institute:** Currently under development by the Faculty Technology Center, this summer 2012 program will enable participating faculty members to learn and implement best practices for hybrid and online instruction.

—Shanté Morgan

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Campus Leadership Apologizes for Enrollment Caps

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Interim President Harry Hellenbrand answers questions from faculty and students in the breezeway of University Hall. Photos by Lee Choo.

Harry Hellenbrand, interim president of California State University, Northridge, and other campus leaders met with faculty and students on Thursday, Jan. 26 to explain enrollment caps that have left some students without a full load of classes this semester.

Hellenbrand, who was joined by William Watkins '74 (Urban Studies), vice president for student affairs and acting administrator of academic affairs, said CSUN had to lower the number of available seats in classes to align its enrollment with targets established by the CSU and to avoid a \$7 million penalty from the Chancellor's Office.

Cal State Northridge is only allowed to exceed full-time student enrollment by three percent. The campus is currently serving about seven percent more students than it has state funding to serve.

"I feel terrible about this," said Hellenbrand but the president explained that the cap is the result of ongoing state cuts to the CSU budget.

Overall, he encouraged faculty and students to contact their elected officials and the Chancellor's office to express concerns. For now, Hellenbrand said graduating seniors should work with their department chairs to obtain information about getting into needed courses. He encouraged faculty to keep the names of students interested in adding classes just in case openings become available.

The enrollment issue dominated the campus last week during the first week of the spring semester. This has become an issue due to a combination of factors, including an increase in the number of students eligible to enroll at CSUN and a larger

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Number of CSUN students

eligible for degrees in 2010

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Student protester holds up sign during march from Bayramian Hall to University Hall.

number of students interested in taking a larger number of units.

Maria Elena Fernandez, a part-time faculty member in the Department of Chicana/o Studies, said she helped organize a group of students to protest after having to turn away nearly a dozen students from one of her classes.

"It just didn't make any sense to me when we have seats in our classes," Fernandez said. "The students were frustrated and we as faculty are frustrated too."

Maria Cruz, 21, a senior majoring in criminal justice was one of dozens of students who pleaded with campus leadership to find a solution. The Los Angeles resident is the first in her family to graduate from high school and go to college. She has not been able to add any classes and is in jeopardy of losing her financial aid.

"What am I going to do? Drop out of school and get a minimum wage job?" asked Cruz. "I'm going to college to try to make life better. I don't want to leave school."

—Shanté Morgan

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CSUN Celebrates Black History Month with Host of Events

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The Black Student Union, Department of Pan African Studies and Black Alumni Association will collaborate on activities that highlight the accomplishments and achievements of the African diaspora during California State University, Northridge's annual Black History Month celebration.

This year's theme is "Breaking the Chains to Create Change." The monthlong celebration begins at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 1, with an opening ceremony at the University Student Union Grand Salon. Highlights during the month include an address at 12 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 20, by author and

political commentator Anthony Asadullah Samad, a political science and African-American Studies professor at East Los Angeles College. The event will include a voter registration drive. Members of black fraternities and sororities, also known as Black Greek-Letter Organizations (BGLOs), have been asked to attend.

Other notable events include a Rites of Passage Ceremony for men and women on Feb. 2, a poetry slam hosted by the BSU on Feb. 9, and the Harambee High School Conference on Feb. 24.



"We put on a month of events to spread information about our culture and race that we hold so dear to our hearts, to CSUN and the surrounding communities," said Shanique Crutcher, president of the Black Student Union.

"We welcome this occasion to honor and recognize the influential pioneers of the global Pan African struggle as we commemorate their leadership and lifelong commitment to freedom, justice and equality," said Marquita Pellerin, an assistant professor in the Department of Pan African Studies and liaison to the committee.

For more information, contact the Department of Pan African Studies at (818) 677-3111 or email the Black Student Union at bsu.csun@gmail.com.

—Julian Reyes

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Student Recreation Center Grand Opening

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Hundreds of students, faculty and staff attended the grand opening of the Student Recreation Center on Thursday, Jan. 26. Festivities included a celebratory ribbon cutting, facility tours and an array of fun games and events at Plaza del Sol. The state-of-the-art facility features basketball and volleyball courts, a multi-activity court for indoor hockey and soccer, a rock climbing wall, weight and fitness space, multi-purpose rooms for aerobics, martial arts, spinning, boxing and dance, an indoor jogging track, drop-in childcare services, an outdoor pool complex and more. From left: Lizzie Awad, chair of the University Student Union board of directors; William Watkins '74 (Urban Studies), vice president for student affairs and acting administrator of academic affairs; Harry Hellenbrand, interim CSUN president; Bryan Green '94 (Marketing), founder and CEO, Advantage Fitness Products; Debra Hammond, executive director of the University Student Union; Matty the Matador; and Aida Johnson, director of the Student Recreation Center. Photo by Lee Choo.

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#1 Rank among the all-time most-cited papers in the Journal of the Marine Biological Association of the United Kingdom, a co-authored paper by CSUN marine biologist Janet Kubler.

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Grand opening attendees were given red roses to ceremoniously place at the campus Matador Statue. It is tradition at CSUN that red roses be laid at the base of the Matador Statue by every Matador who wants to commemorate or celebrate a significant achievement. Photo by Jenny Donaire.



The \$62.3 million two-story facility broke ground in December 2009 and was paid for through self-imposed student fees. Currently enrolled students receive memberships at no additional cost. Faculty, staff and alumni can join for \$163 for the spring 2012 semester. Alumni Association members receive a discounted rate of \$130. Recent alumni (2007 to present) will receive a 50 percent discount for the first two years of operation, in recognition of previous student fees paid to support construction of the center. Photo by Lee Choo.



A signature feature of the Student Recreation Center is the 40-foot indoor rock climbing wall, the tallest in the 23-campus California State University system. Photo by Lee Choo.



Students get pumped in the Determination Studio, using TRX suspension equipment designed to help build muscle, increase flexibility and tighten the core. Photo by Jenny Donaire.





Men's volleyball team members Matt Stork and Jared Moore use state-of-the-art treadmills in the Bryan Green

Matador Training Zone. The machines log user-workout information and provide energy back into the grid. Photo by Lee Choo.



The Red Ring Courts provide the ideal surface for several types of activities from basketball to volleyball and badminton. Flooring is made of 100 percent recycled material and Solatube lighting diffuses light from the sun into the facility. The Student Recreation Center boasts many “green” features, including 20 ReRev elliptical machines, which convert kinetic energy from a workout into renewable energy. A typical 30-minute workout on one machine produces 50-watt hours of clean, carbon-free electricity—enough to power a light bulb, cell phone or laptop. Photo by Lee Choo.

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Alumnus Urges Faculty to be 'Heroes' and 'Empower' Students at Annual Retreat

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The 2012 Faculty Retreat was held at the University Student Union Jan. 17-18. California State University, Northridge alumnus Ravi Sawhney '78 (Art), founder and CEO of RKS Design, served as the keynote speaker at the annual event. Photo by Jenny Donaire.

California State University, Northridge alumnus Ravi Sawhney '78 (Art) credits a caring CSUN faculty member with identifying a quality in him that laid the foundation for Sawhney to become a global leader in the fields of strategy, innovation and design for products and services.

"The dean of engineering met with me and after a short while he pointed me to the industrial design program, explaining that what I described wasn't mechanical engineering but design," said Sawhney, the founder and CEO of RKS Design. He has spent more than 30 years at the forefront of product and technology innovation, generating more than 150 patents and over 100 design awards on behalf of his diverse list of international clients, and his work has been featured on the cover of Business Week's best product design issue.

Sawhney urged Cal State Northridge faculty and staff to "empower" students and help them "visualize" their future and success. He suggested that faculty approach educating students like he approaches designing unique products and design "CSUN graduates." He said the foundation

of his theory is based on scholar Joseph Campbell's hero's journey, in that faculty can be "heroes" to their students and attract and make students "feel good."

"It can be ridiculously simplistic if you can help them visualize who they will become," Sawhney said. "You don't realize how students look up to you as a hero."

Sawhney's remarks were made as part of the keynote address at the annual CSUN Faculty Retreat. He helped to set the tone for the two-day event, held on Jan. 17 and 18, that was themed "Painting CSUN's Canvas." More than 185 faculty, a record number, attended, including 45 new faculty.

The retreat included a presentation by newly appointed interim CSUN President Harry Hellenbrand, who talked about "How the WASC Was Won: Lessons Learned." He discussed some of the highlights of the Educational Effectiveness Review report, recently completed by a five-member team that visited CSUN as part of re-accreditation by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC), which is required once every 10 years.

The university was commended for "creating an

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\$8.4 million

Federal grant monies awarded to CSUN to improve the education of teachers who work with students with disabilities.

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Harry Hellenbrand, interim CSUN president, offered remarks on "How the WASC Was Won: Lessons Learned." Photo by Jenny Donaire.

enviable campus climate where collaborative problem-solving is the norm," "engaging in strategic fiscal management that has made it possible to weather uncertain financial times and even pursue innovative programs designed to enhance educational effectiveness," "empowering people to take risks to seek solutions to important problems," and overall, "being the visionary pragmatists the university claims to be."

"We've made the center of this university about learning," said Hellenbrand about why CSUN has

been successful in educating students.

There were seven poster sessions and 19 workshops that addressed issues from how to be a "good citizen of the university" and still manage a life, to how to manage new technology tools with "today's challenges" and how faculty work can be enhanced by University Advancement which helps build "reputation, relationships and resources."



CSUN students shared personal stories and recommended attributes of a good professor during the workshop, "What Makes a Good Professor: A Student Perspective." From left: English professor Cheryl Spector; sophomore Ram Wolman (Cellular Biology); senior Leah Oakes (Art); senior Jose Rios (Computer Engineering); and graduate student Yunior Hernandez '10 (Sociology). Photo by Lee Choo.

The "What Makes a Good Professor: A Student Perspective" workshop included a panel of students who said good professors are organized, accessible, professional and good communicators.

"Professors are not just here to teach us, but to motivate us," said panelist Yunior Hernandez '10 (Sociology), a graduate student in educational psychology.

Many faculty said they enjoyed the retreat and learned new information and techniques.

"This was very helpful," said Chris Sales, a first time attendee and lecturer in computer science.




Vice President for Student Affairs and Acting Administrator of Student Affairs William Watkins '74 (Urban Studies) made the closing remarks at the 2012 Faculty Retreat at the Orange Grove Bistro. Photo by Lee Choo.

William Watkins '74 (Urban Studies), vice president for student affairs and acting administrator of academic affairs gave the closing remarks. He said while the campus faces challenges, faculty and staff are "fully engaged" and ready to meet those challenges "head-on."

—Shanté Morgan

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Heidi Wolfbauer: Growing Up Matador

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Heidi Wolfbauer. Photo by Lee Choo

When Heidi Wolfbauer '85 (Business Management), administrative specialist for the Faculty Senate, first came to California State University, Northridge as a student in 1980, she saw the campus as a stepping stone to what she thought was a future career as a teacher. One change-of-major and 32 years later, she's happily still here.

"I was a student assistant in the graduate studies office," said Wolfbauer. "I came to CSUN right out of high school. I was in school for five years and worked in the same office all five years."

Her boss at the time, Charles Bearchell, professor emeritus of marketing and former dean of Graduate Studies and International Programs, urged her to consider majoring in management in order to expand future career opportunities.

Shortly after graduation, she was approached by one of her management professors who became

interim associate dean of the College of Business and needed an assistant. She suggested Wolfbauer apply for the position.

"I said, 'Are you sure?' I was 22-years-old. She said, 'I think you're very well qualified.' I applied and got the job in 1985."

Wolfbauer spent about 20 years in the College of Business. She started as the assistant to the associate dean and later became assistant to the dean of the college. "I grew up in the College of Business; they're like my extended family."

In 2005, she assumed her current position with the Faculty Senate, a group of approximately 75 faculty members who represent the faculty at large and are responsible for developing, reviewing and voting on policy. As the "go to" person for all administrative happenings related to faculty activity, Wolfbauer routinely has multiple irons in the fire. Planning for the annual spring Faculty Retreat begins in the fall. Spring brings Faculty Senate elections, honored faculty awards and the honored faculty reception. In between, she is responsible for monthly Faculty Senate and Senate Executive Committee meetings.

An admitted perfectionist, Wolfbauer spends summers looking for ways to streamline projects. "I have to try something every summer," she said. "I look around and say, 'I don't want to do this this way anymore. How can I do it better?'" Her most recent summer accomplishment involved learning the questionnaire function of Moodle in order to transition the senate from paper ballot to online elections.

In her down time, Wolfbauer, an avid reader, can be found poring over books or crocheting an array of scarves, gloves and hats. True to her perfectionist nature, when she gives away a pair of gloves, she solicits feedback for improving the next pair. A mother of two, her experience working on a university campus lends her a special expertise when it comes to offering suggestions to her own college-age children. Her son is a marketing major at CSUN and her daughter is a freshman at the University of California, Irvine.

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By the time she retires, she will have served under the administration of at least four different presidents, worked for four different deans in the College of Business, watched the campus rebuild following a major earthquake, and can even say she was one of the first people in her office to attempt to use a computer – long before the days of email and the Internet.

“My favorite part about this job is that I work with everyone,” Wolfbauer said. “I meet faculty across the whole university. I work with all the administration – the Office of the President, Office of the Provost, Faculty Affairs, University Advancement. It’s very central. The thing I like most is getting to know people across the whole campus. I’ve made some really good friends here.”

—Stephanie Colman

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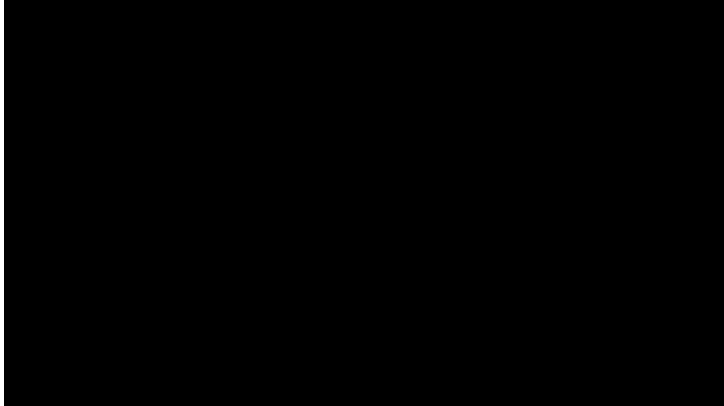
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Cotton and Sustainability


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Over the 2010-11 academic year, three professors in the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences and their students explored the use of sustainable cotton in textile, apparel and interior design. Their research project was funded through a grant from Cotton, Inc. and culminated in a fashion show and art exhibit at the Valley Performing Arts Center and a series of workshops around the world. (Video by Melissa Chapman, Will DaRosa and Krishna Narayanamurti)

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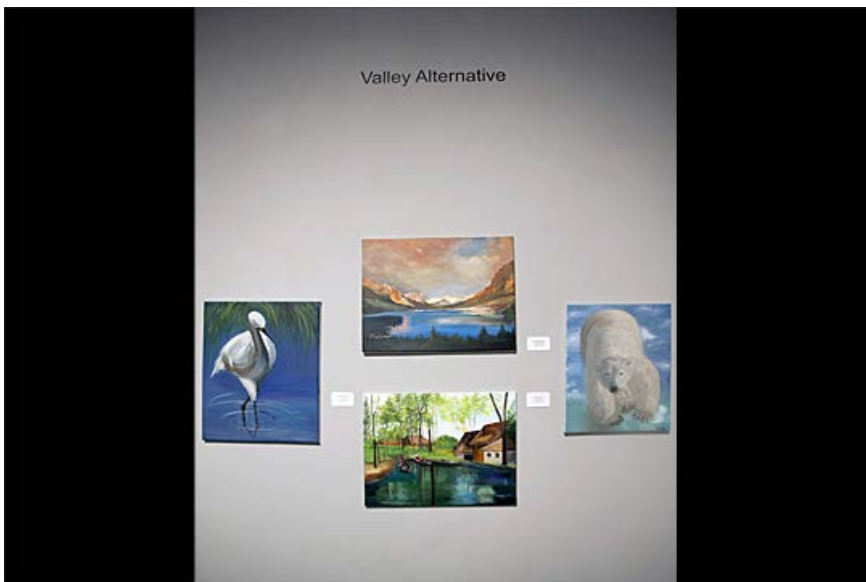
15th Annual High School Art Invitational

January 27th, 2012 | [Photo Essay](#)

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Thirty-six San Fernando Valley high schools are participating in the 15th Annual High School Art Invitational, Jan. 9-28. Each high school was invited to display up to six pieces of student artwork in California State University, Northridge's Main Art Gallery. This year up to two teachers per school can also display their work. Pictured: Visitors listen to a speaker during the "gallery talk." Photo by Jenny Donaire.



Displayed together are the creative works of four Valley Alternative Magnet School students' acrylic and oil paintings on canvas. From left to right: "Egert" by Lucine Agadzhanian, "Lakeside Paradise" by Tgran Agadzhanian (top center), "Serenity" by Kachik Rumelyan (bottom center), and "Winter Ice" by Thida Chunwatanapong. Photo by Jenny Donaire.

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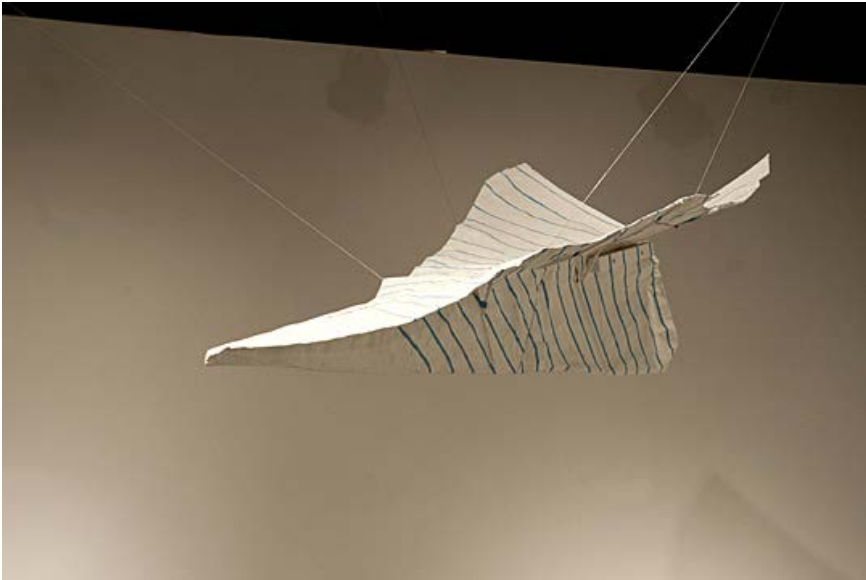
200 Deaf and hard of hearing students attending CSUN each semester.

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Sierra Canyon School student, Madeline Cordoba's archival inkjet print, "Schizophrenia." Photo by Jenny Donaire.





Ready for takeoff is Bishop Alemany High School student, Catalina Castro's "Paper Airplane." The mixed media piece hangs from the ceiling in the CSUN Galleries. Photo by Jenny Donaire.



"Dream Guy," a clay sculpture created by Northpoint Christian Academy's Rebecca Schweitzer. Photo by Jenny

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Faculty Highlight the Importance of Mentoring Students

January 27th, 2012 | [News](#)

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The 2011 Don Dorsey Excellence in Mentoring Award winners. From left: Lauren McDonald, King Carter and Jorge Garcia.. Photo by Leslie De Leon Tzic.

It's the little things. A quick 'hello' while passing each other on campus; thanking a student for his or her insightful comment during a class discussion; or simply taking the time to ask, "How are you today?" and waiting to hear the answer. These simple gestures, said Glenn Omatsu, coordinator of the Faculty Mentor Program at California State University, Northridge, are what help turn educators into mentors.

Omatsu said those are some of the attributes of the 2011 Don Dorsey Excellence in Mentoring Award Winners. The award recipients are Jorge Garcia, professor in the Department of Chicana/o Studies; King Carter, instructor in the Department of Pan African Studies; and Lauren McDonald, professor in the Department of Sociology.

The three were honored last year by the Educational Opportunity Program's Faculty Mentor Program. The annual award recognizes faculty and staff who have made exceptional contributions to mentoring of past and present students; who take a holistic approach to mentoring, including academic and personal support; and who support the university's commitment to the success of students of diverse backgrounds and communities.

"On our campus, faculty oftentimes believe they don't have time to mentor our students because they only think of mentoring in terms of big moments," Omatsu said. "However, our students really appreciate the small mentoring moments."

Mentoring, said Omatsu, "is embodied within the person himself. It's not something they do, it's who they are."

Garcia started teaching at Cal State Northridge in 1970 when the campus was known as San Fernando Valley State College. He is a well-known campus leader and student advocate. When the former dean of

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the College of Humanities stepped down, he sought out the opportunity to take a more hands-on role in students' lives as a professor of Chicana/o studies, working with first-semester EOP Summer Bridge freshmen, Omatsu said. The bridge programs provide high-potential students with a transitional experience that gives them the best possible opportunity to succeed at the university. Many of the bridge students are the first from their low-income families to attend college.

"A lot of senior faculty don't like teaching freshmen," Omatsu said. "They (freshmen) come to campus and need a lot of extra help. Professor Garcia specifically asked to do it."

For more than two decades, Carter has worked with EOP Bridge freshmen. He is also a PACE director for the Los Angeles Community College District. He believes mentoring provides important opportunities for professors to share stories of personal successes and failures, and that hearing such real-life stories can better prepare students for their own personal and professional challenges.

"Positive lessons can be learned from both failure and success. Knowledge of life's potential pitfalls can enable young people to either side-step them or handle them in the appropriate manner," said Carter about why he mentors.

McDonald has been teaching at CSUN for nearly four years. She also is the faculty adviser to the Alpha Kappa Delta Sociology Honor Society and chair of the Student Development Committee. McDonald said one of the most important facets of mentoring is the ability to provide students with consistent understanding of his or her background, challenges, hopes and aspirations, while also serving as a role model.

"If a student can relate to a mentor, it makes it easier for them to say, 'I can do that someday,'" she said.

The Don Dorsey Excellence in Mentoring Award was first presented in 1998. The award's namesake, professor emeritus Don Dorsey, cultivated the university's first mentor training program.

For more information, visit <http://www.csun.edu/eop/fmp/index.html> or contact Glenn Omatsu at (818) 677-4151 or glenn.omatsu@csun.edu.

—Stephanie Colman

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