

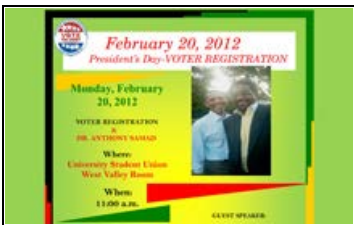
## ARCHIVE FOR FEBRUARY, 2012



### Symposium Highlights Student Research and Creative Works

February 17th, 2012

Students will present their research on a host of topics ranging from how to solve high-frequency Helmholtz problems to the relationship between stuttering and social/relational outcomes to an examination of Playboy magazine and the representation of women on Friday, Feb. 24, at the 16th annual Student Research and Creative Works Symposium.



### Author and Political Commentator to Discuss 'Evolution of Blacks in 21st Century Popular Culture'

February 17th, 2012

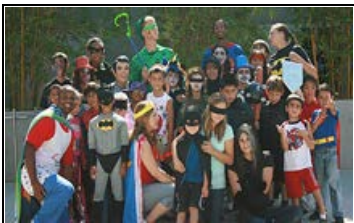
Political commentator Anthony Asadullah Samad, a political science and African-American studies professor at East Los Angeles College, will be the guest speaker at the Department of Pan African Studies President's Day-Voter Registration drive on Monday, Feb. 20, at 11 a.m. in the University Student Union's Grand Salon.



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February 17th, 2012

If you are looking for convenient and quality summer activities for your children, consider enrolling in California State University, Northridge's summer camps and educational enrichment programs.

### Jerry McMillan Art Gallery

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# 1,122 lbs.

Total weight of non-perishables and canned foods collected by fans and supporters for the fall 2009 Matador Athletics food drive, serving San Fernando Valley families in need.

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## **Exhibition**

February 17th, 2012



## **Alter Egos: The Iron Professor**

February 17th, 2012

Who are we away from work? Meet a cross-section of Cal State Northridge faculty and staff who are as interesting and involved off-campus as they are during working hours. At CSUN, their ideas and energy are in the mix! This third installment of "Alter Egos" profiles Jorge Balbás, assistant professor in the Department of Mathematics... [...]



## **George Johnson: Lights! Camera! Man of Action!**

February 17th, 2012

George Johnson '84 (RTVF) remembers what it was like to be a student at California State University, Northridge. Earning his degree with an emphasis in television production required long hours.



## **CSUN Police Services K-9 Unit: Community Policing with Paws and Claws**

February 17th, 2012

Weighing a mere 100 pounds, Officer Mitch is one of the smallest members of the California State University, Northridge Department of Police Services. He can outrun any of his fellow officers and holds one of the best search records in the department.



## **Lunch Break: The Sound of Music**



February 17th, 2012

Are you feeling a little blue? Would listening to Lady Gaga put you in the mood to "just dance?" How about listening to the Red Hot Chili Peppers? Would they put some pep in your step? A visit to the Delmar T. Oviatt Library's music and media department may be what you need to take the edge off or add a little energy to your day.

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## Symposium Highlights Student Research and Creative Works

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Students will present their research on a host of topics ranging from how to solve high-frequency Helmholtz problems to the relationship between stuttering and social/relational outcomes to an examination of Playboy magazine and the representation of women on Friday, Feb. 24, at the 16<sup>th</sup> annual Student Research and Creative Works Symposium.

The symposium highlights undergraduate and graduate student achievement and serves to inform the campus community of the quality, diverse research and creative works that students conduct in all academic fields. Students make either an oral or poster presentation.

"This annual event provides our students with the opportunity to present their research before their peers and faculty judges in a professional setting — honing their presentation skills before

they present at regional or national conferences," said Hedy Carpenter, associate director for graduate programs. "We encourage both our undergraduate and graduate students to get their feet wet, build their confidence and their resumes by showcasing their work."

This year, about 150 students are scheduled to participate. The event will be held from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the University Student Union's Grand Salon.

"At least in the sciences, research is the path to knowledge," said biology professor Robert Espinoza, a faculty adviser and judge. "Book learning isn't enough. Students who conduct research learn how to be scientists by doing the hands-on work."

Based on the recommendation of the judges, cash awards will be presented to the outstanding first- and second-place winner for both the presentation and poster sessions.

For more information, about the symposium, visit [http://www.csun.edu/grip/graduatestudies/PDFfiles/Symposium\\_Schedule\\_2012.pdf](http://www.csun.edu/grip/graduatestudies/PDFfiles/Symposium_Schedule_2012.pdf).

—Shanté Morgan

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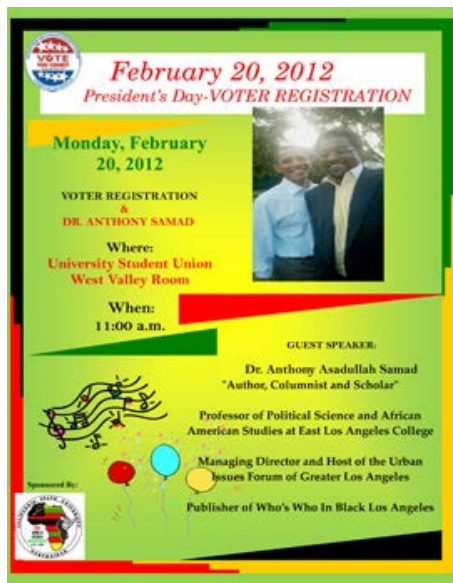
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## Author and Political Commentator to Discuss ‘Evolution of Blacks in 21st Century Popular Culture’

February 17th, 2012 | [News](#)

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Political commentator Anthony Asadullah Samad, a political science and African-American studies professor at East Los Angeles College, will be the guest speaker at the Department of Pan African Studies Presidents' Day-Voter Registration drive on Monday, Feb. 20, at 11 a.m. in the University Student Union's Grand Salon.

Samad, a columnist in the African-American media for more than 20 years and managing director and host of the Urban Issues Forum of Greater Los Angeles, a popular monthly public affairs forum, will discuss "History is Now: The Evolution of Blacks in 21<sup>st</sup> Century Popular Culture."

"I think it's important for the audience to understand that African-American history is not a subtext to American history," said Samad about his planned lecture. "We are in a

reconstruction period and if we are not careful, history will not reflect favorably on President Barack Obama."

In addition to Samad's presentation, 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 and support the "get-out-the-vote" initiative. The department is encouraging faculty and staff who are members of these groups to attend wearing paraphernalia.

The Department of Pan African Studies, the Black Student Union, the Black Alumni Association and other clubs and organizations have collaborated to organize the campus' celebration of Black History Month. This year's theme is "Breaking the Chains to Create Change." The month-long celebration began Feb. 1 with an opening ceremony.

"We are excited to welcome Dr. Anthony Samad, a political commentator and social critic on socio-political issues, to campus as part of our commitment to bringing awareness about issues impacting the African-American community," said Karin Stanford, chair of the Department of Pan African Studies.

Upcoming events include a career workshop on Thursday, Feb. 23 at 12 p.m. in the University Student Union's Ventura Room called, "What Can You Do with a Degree in Pan African Studies?" Cal State Northridge alumni Jacquil Constant '02 (RTVF), a filmmaker and graduate student; Shanté Morgan-Durisseau '90 (Journalism/Afro-American Studies), a journalist and editor; and James Henry '91 (Afro-American Studies), a university professor, will discuss their paths to success.

The Harambee High School Conference is scheduled on Friday, Feb. 24. African-American students, faculty, staff and alumni will welcome dozens of high school students to campus in an effort to help them

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

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transition from high school to college.

For more information about Black History Month activities, contact the Department of Pan African Studies at (818) 677-3111.

—Shanté Morgan

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## CSUN Faculty and Staff Making Tracks to the Valley Performing Arts Center

February 17th, 2012 | [News](#)

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The Valley Performing Arts Center

Since the Valley Performing Arts Center opened its doors in January 2011, it has presented numerous world-class performances that have drawn droves of theater and entertainment lovers from the San Fernando Valley. Now, the center's leadership has turned its focus internally and wants to encourage more faculty, staff and students to enjoy the venues offerings.

The newly launched "Make Tracks to the VPAC" campaign offers discounts to faculty, staff and students with the goal of letting the campus community know they are "an essential part of the Valley Performing Arts Center."

"The Make Tracks to the VPAC campaign is designed to heighten awareness on campus about the programming and the discounts that are available to the campus community and to try to make the acquisition of tickets as simple and easy as possible," said Robert Buckner, dean of the Mike Curb College of Arts, Media, and Communication and executive director of the Valley Performing Arts Center.

The university already offers a 20 percent discount to faculty and staff, making the cost of tickets between \$25 and \$100 each. Through the efforts of the "Make Tracks to the VPAC" campaign, faculty and staff tickets will only cost \$15. The tickets will be sold based on availability and can be purchased with a valid ID at the VPAC ticket office one day in advance of and up to one hour prior to the show. Students also can take advantage of the campaign's student discount, which drops the price of performance tickets to \$10.

The campaign was launched last month and runs through May 19 with the performance of Broadway legend Barbara Cook. Patrons can enjoy more than a dozen performances currently scheduled at the VPAC and two at the Plaza del Sol Performance Hall. Some of the upcoming performances at VPAC include Broadway notables Jason Daniele and Marin Mazzie, dancing sensation Savion Glover, Academy Award-winning actress Geena Davis and jazz greats John Pizzarelli Quartet and Jane

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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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For more information about the campaign, visit <http://www.valleyperformingartscenter.org/tickets/csun/>.

—Lauren Glazer

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## CSUN Offers Local Options for Youth Summer Camps and Enrichment Programs

February 17th, 2012 | [News](#)

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Sunny Days campers and counselors enjoy a superhero-themed camp day.

If you are looking for convenient and quality summer activities for your children, consider enrolling in California State University, Northridge's summer camps and educational enrichment programs.

Registration is currently open for the University Student Union's Sunny Days Camp which caters to students in grades K-7.

Sunny Days Camp offers nine-weekly sessions from June 18 through Aug. 17. Parents have the option of enrolling for half or full-day care from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Campers can participate in swimming, arts and crafts, sports, rock climbing and field trips to the zoo and local kid-friendly entertainment facilities. The camp also offers students ages 11-13 an opportunity to participate in a Skills of Leadership program, and students ages 15-18 can enroll in the Junior Counselor Program.

Brenda Cruz, associate director of the camp, recommends parents enroll early.

"Enrollment spots tend to sell out by April," she said.

CSUN faculty and staff receive a \$10 weekly discount toward the \$200 per week tuition. Parents interested in enrolling a child are advised to place a deposit by March 31 to reserve a spot. The price includes snacks and meals, as well as morning and afternoon care. For more information, visit <http://usu.csun.edu/sunnydays>, call (818) 677-3617 or email [sunnydayscamp@csun.edu](mailto:sunnydayscamp@csun.edu).

Registration also has opened for CSUN's award-winning Teenage Drama Workshop, a six-week, intensive summer workshop for students in grades 7-12 interested in theater.

Applications are available online and an early enrollment discount of \$100 is offered until March 1. Registration is handled on a first-come, first-served basis. Registration will be capped at 80 students in

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### CSUNumbers

# \$1.6 million

Size of grant from The California Institute of Regenerative Medicine (CIRM) preparing CSUN students to work with scientists conducting groundbreaking stem cell research.

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the production track and between 15 to 20 (grades 9-12) in the technical theater track this summer. For more information, visit <http://www.csun.edu/tadw/> or call (818) 677-5811.

The university also offers academic enrichment through the Summer Academic Program for Elementary School Students (SAPESS) and the Summer Academic Enrichment Program (SAEP) for middle and high school students. SAEP opens March 1. The registration information for SAPESS is not currently available. Both programs offer a mix of academic enrichment and fun, elective courses including music, dance and arts and crafts. Some of the course offerings for high school students can count toward graduation requirements.



SAEP also is offering a new third-period class for middle and high school students that provides access to additional study time and tutoring. Sunny Days Camp also provides afternoon care for the academic enrichment programs.

For more information regarding SAPESS, visit [www.sapess.com](http://www.sapess.com) and for SAEP, visit [www.saep.net](http://www.saep.net).

CSUN also offers several sports camps during the summer. For information on the athletic camps, visit <http://gomatadors.cstv.com/ot/csno-camps.html>.

—D. Aja Franks

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## Jerry McMillan Art Gallery Exhibition

February 17th, 2012 | [Photo Essay](#)

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The Art Galleries at California State University, Northridge is showcasing the work of groundbreaking artist Jerry McMillan in an exhibition which runs through March 31. The retrospective includes about 50 pieces of photography, paintings, sculptures and drawings. The gallery is open from 12–4 p.m. Monday to Saturday and 12–8 p.m. on Thursday. Photo by Lee Choo.



McMillan's "Untitled (Kiss Bag) 1971," looks back at Karine Kirakosyan, a CSUN graduate student admiring the work. The art piece uses a black and white sepiia photographic bag construction. Photo by Lee Choo.

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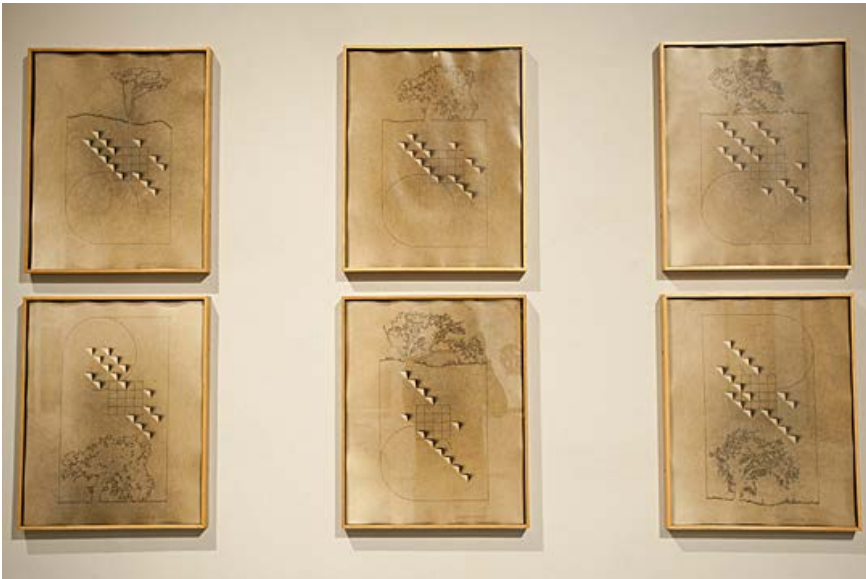
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Untitled (Leaves) 1972. McMillan describes this work as "photo-etched leaves from a copper sheet, with brass screws and nuts." His work has been called "state of the art" by Newsweek and acknowledged as "a visual primer of photography" by Artweek. The Los Angeles Times has called him "a rare master of the hybrid genre." Photo by Lee Choo.



McMillan's work spans more than five decades and continues to challenge viewers' imaginations. Seen here is the "Untitled (Tree with Grid)" series, a collection of works in sulfide duotone from a black and white photographic print. Photo by Lee Choo.







CSUN students Michael Gartsman (left) and Kittaya Treseangrat admire McMillan's "Flag Series," a collection of photographs and a gelatin silver print. Photo by Lee Choo.



"Untitled (Double Oak Coil) 1975" is a photo-etched brass work courtesy of the Museum of Contemporary Art, Los Angeles and a gift of Leopold S. Tuchman. Works in the show highlight three distinct periods of McMillan's opus: traditional photography from the early 1960s and his first attempts at blurring the lines of photography and painting; the mid 1960s to mid 1970s feature photographic paper bags, chrome-plated bags and steel, copper and brass three-dimensional photographic etched sculptures, as well as cut-out paintings and drawings; and non-objective pure camera abstractions from the late 1970s to the present. Photo by Lee Choo.

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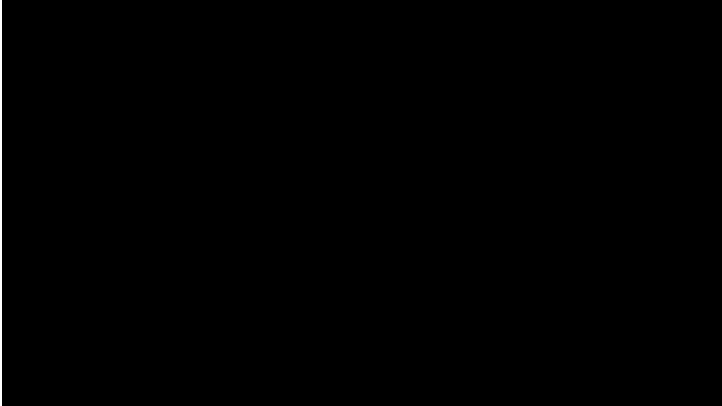


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## Alter Egos: The Iron Professor

February 17th, 2012 | [Featured Video](#)

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Who are we away from work? Meet a cross-section of Cal State Northridge faculty and staff who are as interesting and involved off-campus as they are during working hours. At CSUN, their ideas and energy are in the mix! This third installment of "Alter Egos" profiles Jorge Balbás, assistant professor in the Department of Mathematics... and competitive triathlete! Video by Krishna Narayanamurti and Jacquil Constant.

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## George Johnson: Lights! Camera! Man of Action!

February 17th, 2012 | [Profiles](#)

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George Johnson. Photo by Lee Choo.

George Johnson '84 (RTVF) remembers what it was like to be a student at California State University, Northridge. Earning his degree with an emphasis in television production required long hours.

"When I was a student here, the facility wasn't as nice as it is now," Johnson said. "Now, we have this beautiful facility with high-end equipment and it's easier for students to produce projects."

An 15-year veteran staff member with the department, now known as the Department of Cinema and Television Arts, Johnson is determined to help students take full advantage of their educational opportunities in order to achieve success. He is an equipment technician responsible for Manzanita Hall studios and stages, editing suites, computer labs, facility maintenance and the Alan Armer Screening Room.

"In our department, it's not like history where you can check out a book and go do your homework," he said. "It's very equipment-intensive. The students have to be able to film on campus." Filming often takes place on weekends when students not only need access to production facilities, but must be supervised by an appropriate staff member. Johnson is always the first to volunteer. His dedication has left an impression on colleagues and students

"There isn't anybody who does what George does in support of students and faculty," said cinema and television arts professor Nate Thomas. "He's never said 'no' to anything he's been asked to do."

Johnson has seen the campus at its best and worst. After graduating in 1984, he spent time in freelance television production and landed an opportunity as a videographer with the Federal Emergency Management Agency. His job with the federal government brought him back to CSUN following the Northridge earthquake in 1994.

"We videoed all of the earthquake damage in order to get money for rebuilding," he said. His job with FEMA led to his current position as a staff technician, a role that brings new challenges on a daily basis.

"I don't know what a 'typical day' is," Johnson laughed. "Every day is different; it's like police work."

When he's not directly interacting with faculty and students, he's busy managing a host of production equipment that, in total, equals a professional studio. From cameras and projectors to editing machines and a full green screen, Johnson oversees an estimated \$4 million worth of technical equipment. He's constantly on the lookout for things in need of attention.

If an in-studio air conditioning system isn't working properly, Johnson is the first to know. Multi-million dollar equipment requires full-time climate control. If he can't fix the problem himself, he'll quickly

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**5 to 110** Enrollment jump in the five short years since CSUN's construction management technology program was founded, in 2005.

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arrange to have it done.

Some issues that crop up are more unusual than others.

"We had an event where a drunken guy showed up. I had to call the police," he said. "We've had homeless people come in looking for a place to sleep. When there was a bomb threat in Manzanita Hall, the police evacuated everyone but asked that I help them search for suspicious materials because I know every nook and cranny of the building. There's always something quirky."

In the end, Johnson said it's all about helping students succeed.

"There's a real sense of pride when students graduate and you know you've been a small part of that process," he said. "Our students go on to do great things in the industry."

—Stephanie Colman

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## CSUN Police Services K-9 Unit: Community Policing with Paws and Claws

February 17th, 2012 | [News](#)

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Mitch and Officer Raymond Gonzalez. Photo by Lee Choo.

Weighing a mere 100 pounds, Officer Mitch is one of the smallest members of the California State University, Northridge Department of Police Services. He can outrun any of his fellow officers and holds one of the best search records in the department.

Officer Mitch is a dog.

The department currently has two K-9 teams: Mitch, a 4-year-old German shepherd, partnered with Officer Raymond Gonzalez, and Dozer, the 6-year-old German shepherd partner of Cpl. Tom Finnerty. As the newest dog on the team, some might consider Mitch a rookie. But this rookie, like all police dogs, comes with an impressive training resume.

"It's harder for a dog to become a police dog than for a human to become a police officer," said Gonzalez, referring to the detailed temperament and health screenings that take place in the initial

stages of a dog's training. Most working police dogs are imported from Germany and other European countries, where breeders select for specific temperament and physical characteristics that help police dogs meet the unique demands of the job. The dogs begin their training overseas with a sport called "Schutzhund," which combines obedience, tracking and protection – three skills that make up the core of police dog work.

Once the dog arrives in the United States and is paired with a handler, the team attends basic patrol school, where they refine their skills in human tracking, suspect apprehension and evidence tracking. Teams can then go on to "major" in narcotics or explosives detection, creating a cross-trained dog who can both work on patrol and respond to special-circumstance calls. Mitch is trained to sniff out five different illegal substances: marijuana, methamphetamine, heroin, cocaine and ecstasy. Dozer, who has been with the department for nearly four years, can detect 15 different types of explosives. The teams continue to train throughout their careers.

This specialty training comes at a cost, but not to the university. Each dog carries an \$8,500 price tag, not counting training.

"The department receives the dogs on a grant from the National Police Dog Foundation," said Capt. Alfredo Fernandez, administrator of the K-9 program. "They also pay for all the training."

To help raise money, the K-9 team holds an annual fundraiser at Maria's Italian Kitchen, which is scheduled this year on Feb. 22, and will host a "Meet the Dogs" event on campus on April 25.

The K-9 Unit started in 2005 and plays a valuable role in the department's mission of community-based policing.

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Size of grant from The California Institute of Regenerative Medicine (CIRM) preparing CSUN students to work with scientists conducting groundbreaking stem cell research.

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"Having a dog is a deterrent," said Gonzalez. "Word gets out that we have a narcotics dog and we do patrol and make traffic stops in a buffer area around campus."

The team also recently started doing random narcotics searches in both the campus housing and main campus mailrooms in a pro-active attempt to prevent the transport of narcotics through the mail.

A K-9 team not only serves as an effective crime deterrent, but the dog's specialized training, coupled with a superior sense of smell, helps officers work more efficiently.

"I can effectively search a building or a floor much quicker than six or seven officers," Gonzalez said. "All I need is one cover officer and my dog and we can do the work of six or seven guys trying to look for a burglary suspect."

The ability to send a dog to apprehend a suspect, who is usually armed, also helps keep officers safe.

Whereas human partners part ways at the end of their shifts, a K-9 officer is responsible for his partner 24-hours a day, seven days a week.

"You grow very attached to your dog," said Gonzalez. "It's your partner. You work together 12 hours a day and then on your time off, you're with your dog. You need that bond. When I need Mitch to focus on a narcotics search or we have a suspect situation, that bond needs to be there in order for us to work effectively as a team."

For more information on upcoming fundraisers to support the K-9 Unit, please visit <http://www-admn.csun.edu/police/>.

—Stephanie Colman

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## Lunch Break: The Sound of Music

February 17th, 2012 | [Lunch Break Stories](#)

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Photo by Lee Choo

Are you feeling a little blue? Would listening to Lady Gaga put you in the mood to “just dance?” How about listening to the Red Hot Chili Peppers? Would they put some pep in your step? A visit to the Delmar T. Oviatt Library’s music and media department may be what you need to take the edge off or add a little energy to your day.

According to CSUN music professor Ron Borczon, the director of the Music Therapy Wellness Clinic, listening to music can be beneficial to staff and faculty as it can help you lessen your stress or help boost your mood and give you energy. Listening to music can provide for a nice escape in the middle of your day.

The library’s music department has a browsable catalog that includes a range of genres and 11,000 CDs. Visitors have access to audio stations that play CDs, tapes and even vinyl records.

“We also have listening carrels where they can enjoy the CDs,” said Dean Arnold, the music and media supervisor. “We have everything from Beethoven to Lady Gaga.”

*Lunch Break is an occasional series offering tips to faculty and staff about activities on campus to do during a one-hour timeframe to improve health and wellness.*

—Julian Reyes

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