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FOR YOUR INFORMATION
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Barbie and NCOD staff members Merri Pearson, Jennifer Olson and Caroline Preston

NCOD Helps Mattel Bring Sign Language Barbie to Market

National Center on Deafness Staff Provide Consulting Expertise to Toymaker on Groundbreaking Product

The Barbie doll has played many roles during 41 years as one of America's most recognizable icons. But if not for educators at Cal State Northridge, the famous doll might not have emerged recently in one of her most unusual turns as an advocate for the nation's deaf and hard-of-hearing.

Staff members at the university's nationally renowned National Center on Deafness (NCOD) provided essential consulting expertise to help El Segundo-based Mattel Inc. bring the company's new Sign Language Barbie to market in April, creating a stir in the country's deaf community.

Although Mattel produces about 150 new Barbie models each year and estimates more than one billion Barbies and related dolls have been sold since 1959, the new Sign Language Barbie represents the first time Barbie herself has ventured into the world of people with disabilities.

NCOD Director Merri Pearson, who led the trio of university staff members who helped shape Sign Language Barbie with Mattel, said the new doll represents one of the most visible and recognizable retail products ever related to the nation's estimated 28 million deaf and hard-of-hearing population.
"The deaf community is as excited as can be about this product," said Pearson. "We've had many calls, many e-mails to our web site wanting to know where to get the doll and how the doll was developed. This has increased our exposure to the national marketplace tremendously."

Most of the time, Pearson and her colleagues at the National Center on Deafness focus on providing interpreting and other services to CSUN's nearly 300 deaf students, the largest such university population in the western U.S., and on NCOD's special role as a regional federal center on deaf education.

But more than a year ago, Pearson received a phone call from a Mattel official seeking the NCOD's help in developing a new Barbie doll related to sign language. After signing an agreement promising confidentiality until after the product launch, Pearson and two colleagues began their work.

Starting with virtually a blank slate, Pearson, NCOD Coordinator of Interpreting Services Caroline Preston and NCOD Administrator for Special Projects Jennifer Olson helped Mattel develop Sign Language Barbie into a full product concept-and the new doll was launched in mid-April.

Sign Language Barbie, in both Caucasian and African-American versions, is not deaf. Rather, she emerged as a sign language teacher, with a schoolroom setting, a chalkboard and two dozen stickers visually depicting various phrases in sign language. The doll's hand is molded to sign the phrase, "I love you."

"The issue was how would we bring sign language and Barbie together," said Pearson, "and we decided a sign language teacher would be the best way to go." Through the months, Preston ensured the product's various sign language content was accurate, while Olson helped shape the product's concept.

For NCOD's work on the project, Mattel provided a $2,000 scholarship for a deaf woman student at CSUN for the coming school year, and gave CSUN and NCOD credit in writing on the back of each Sign Language Barbie box, including a listing of the NCOD's web site: http://ncod.csun.edu.

The credit reads, "Sign Language Barbie doll was developed in consultation with the National Center on Deafness at California State University, Northridge." The back of each box also explains about sign language, shows the finger-spelling signs for each letter of the alphabet and how to finger spell "Barbie."

It's been a busy time for Barbie this spring, with Mattel launching the Sign Language Barbie and a new Barbie for President doll within weeks of each other. Those two new dolls join such prior models as Givenchy Barbie, Angel of Peace Barbie, Los Angeles Dodgers Barbie and NASCAR Barbie, among many others.

The new Sign Language Barbie is aimed at both hearing and non-hearing girls. And Pearson said one of the doll's most important and enduring contributions may be to help break down barriers of communication between the two types of youngsters, and promote better learning among the deaf.

"Young girls like secret codes. I knew that from having taught fourth and fifth grades. Sign language is in a sense a way the two groups can communicate with each other. So I thought little girls would love that," said Pearson, who came to CSUN from the U.S. Department of Education in early 1999.

"For over 41 years, Barbie has taken on several exciting aspirational roles ranging from astronaut to presidential candidate," added Adrienne Fontanella, Mattel's president for Girls/Barbie.

"But this is the first time Barbie has communicated an ASL [American Sign Language] signing position, and in the role of teacher, she can help to break down barriers and facilitate understanding between children with and without disabilities," Fontanella said.

At present, Sign Language Barbie, dressed in a blue sweater set and plaid mini-skirt, is available only through Toys "R" Us, at the company's nationwide network of stores and on the Internet at http://www.toysrus.com. The company's pricing for the dolls on its web site is $19.99 each.
Meanwhile, Pearson said she hopes the NCOD's partnership with Mattel will launch a new type of role for the specialized center. "We've always been known for our educational excellence. Now we're becoming known for our consultative potential," Pearson said.
University Fund-Raising Program Focuses on Planned Giving

New Director to Encourage Endowment Development and Charitable Annuities

Cal State Northridge is expanding its private fund-raising program with a stronger focus on endowment development and the launch of charitable annuities to reach a broader group of donors and raise more money for scholarships and the university's nine colleges.

The expansion of private fund raising is a major opportunity for CSUN. "While CSUN's private fund raising has trailed in comparison with other CSU campuses in the past, we are finding new ways to build endowments," said Greg Buesing (right), the new director of planned giving in the University Relations Division.

The university already receives income from 165 donors who have established endowments with CSUN. Of those 165 endowments valued at $24 million, about 100 are larger than $25,000.

Endowments can be accounts, trust funds, and property from which the university receives five percent of the fair market value annually. Establishing endowments presents donors with more opportunities to carry out their visions for the university compared to other gifts, because endowments allow donors to determine how their money is used.

"We are reaching out to San Fernando Valley residents to become donors and join us to create a CSUN heritage society. The heritage society will acknowledge members, who have supported the university with endowments, bequests or other planned gifts, for their generosity with recognition programs, receptions and other benefits," Buesing said.

Besides increasing CSUN's endowment, Buesing is committed to expanding the university's planned giving program, another component of fund raising.

Typically 30 to 40 percent of CSUN's total private fund-raising revenue comes from planned giving. Planned gifts include donations from wills and trusts such as real estate, bank accounts, life insurance, as well as so-called life income gifts in the form of charitable trusts and annuities.

Last fall, CSUN introduced a new planned giving program called charitable gift annuities. A charitable gift annuity is an irrevocable gift with a low initial amount ($5,000 minimum). It is set up with a simple contract between the prospective donor and the CSU Foundation.

The donor can support any one of the colleges or university programs. In return, the donor receives a guaranteed fixed income for life from the CSU Foundation as well as initial tax deductions, plus additional tax savings on the annual income.
income.

The program is very beneficial to retired faculty, senior management and alumni over the age of 55 in terms of tax benefits and retirement income.

But opportunities for younger donors also exist. Younger alumni can establish deferred charitable gift annuities. The annual income will be deferred until age 65, but the donor will receive an immediate income tax deduction for the initial gift.

There are not only monetary benefits to gift annuities but personal ones as well. "For professors, staff, alumni and other professionals from the community who want to make an impact at CSUN and leave a legacy, a planned gift is the most productive way to support future CSUN students," Buesing said. "The majority of funds from planned giving are used for scholarships and fellowships. A gift of $200,000 generates $10,000 a year in scholarships."

Buesing and the Association of Retired Faculty want to encourage people who have spent their lives in the San Fernando Valley and care deeply for the university to become donors. "Everybody can participate. Charitable gift annuities make it easier for people to support CSUN," he said.

Within several months, Buesing said he expects brochures, booklets and newsletters will be distributed to provide information about the options of donations and their benefits.

Buesing started his job as director of planned giving at CSUN in January—the first time the university has had a planned giving director.

Research & Sponsored Projects

Carol Shubin (Mathematics) and Edward Carroll, Jr. (Science and Mathematics) received $298,022 from NASA in support of a project titled "Analyzing Data Sets." Deborah Chen (Special Education) received $149,999 from the U.S. Department of Education in support of a project titled "Promoting Learning Through Active Interaction: A Distance Education Inservice Model for Early Intervention Providers." Ryoichi Seki (Physics & Astronomy) received $76,000 from the U.S. Department of Energy in continuing support of a project titled "Theoretical Research in Intermediate-Energy Nuclear Physics." Warren Furumoto (Academic Preparedness) received $75,000 from the Los Angeles Unified School District in support of a project titled "CSUN College Preparatory Program." Mark Raab and Matthew Boxt (Anthropology) received $50,000 from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation in continuing support of a project titled "Heritage Conservation in Baja California Sur." Valentin Shustov (Civil & Mechanical Engineering) received $48,865 from Karagozian & Case Structural Engineers in support of a project titled "Testing Services." Nicholas Kioussis (Physics & Astronomy) received $40,000 from the U.S. Army in support of a project titled "Electronic Structure and Mechanical Properties of Metals and Intermetallics." Carl Maida (Health Sciences) received $40,000 from the American Honda Motor Co. in continuing support of a project titled "Northeast San Fernando Valley Mixed-Use Regional Park Planning Project-Community Participation Plan." Jeffrey Charonnat (Chemistry) received $37,218 from the Research Corporation in support of a project titled "Total Synthesis of the GABA Antagonist, (-)-anisatin." Charles Hanson and Patti Dengler (Educational Psychology) received $33,000 from Keep Youth Doing Something, Inc. (KYDS) in support of a project titled "Erwin Street Elementary School Program." Donald Jacobs (Physics & Astronomy) received $31,218 from the Research Corporation in support of a project titled "Dihedral Angle Characterization of Conformational Flexibility in Hinge-bending Proteins Deduced from Hydrogen Bond Interactions." Gerry Simila (Geology) received $24,934 from the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies in support of a project titled "The Earth System Science Education Alliance (ESSEA) On-line Professional Development Program at CSUN." Jane Bayes (Political Science) received $12,500 from the University of Texas at Dallas in support of a project titled "North American Mobility Program." Barbara Polland (Child Development) received $12,000 from the Lily Academy in support of a project titled "Child Development Institute." Gary Chapman (Physics & Astronomy) received $11,840 from NASA in continuing support of a project titled "A Proposal to Compare Ground-Based Photometric Images with Irradiance Data from SOHO." Charles Hanson and Patti Dengler (Educational Psychology) received $10,000 from the city of Santa Clarita in support of a project titled "Bilingual Sexual Assault Counseling Services." Joe Lewis (Art) received $10,000 from the Community Redevelopment Agency of the city of Los Angeles (CRA/LA) North Hollywood area in support of a project titled "Chandler Outdoor Gallery Project." Larry Caretto (Engineering & Computer Science) received $8,000 from the state Air Resources Board in support of a project titled "Innovative Clean Air Technologies Program (ICAT)." Ludim Seja de Manzano (Student Outreach Services) received $2,756 from the Los Angeles Unified School District as supplemental support of a project titled "Project STEPS (Systemwide Training for Educational Postsecondary Success)." Charles Hanson (Educational Psychology) received $1,950 from the KYDS Foundation as supplemental support of a project titled "KYDS Collaborative Project with the Community Counseling and Resource Institute and the Valley Trauma Center." Mingfang Li (Management) received a $1,000 Faculty Development Grant.
from the CSUN China Institute to pursue collaboration with colleagues in the School of Management at Zhejiang University. The collaboration will focus on successful company strategies in China's business environment. **William Sheffield** *(Communication Studies-Forensics)* received a $1,000 Faculty Development Grant from the CSUN China Institute to examine other applications for academic debate in China in relation to its uses in the U.S. Debate exchanges in China are used as a method for teaching English.
Two Recipients Announced as Staff Employees of the Year

Gail Said Johnson from ITR and Fariba Farzan from Liberal Studies Share Honors

Two Cal State Northridge alumna-Gail Said Johnson from Information Technology Resources and Fariba Farzan from the Liberal Studies Program-have been selected as the university's staff Employees of the Year for 1999-2000.

The decision this year, made from among candidates submitted by nomination, marks the first time two employees have been selected as co-recipients. Each receives a $500 cash award from the Matador Federal Credit Union, the corporate sponsor for the program.

Johnson this year also received recognition for her 35 years of service to the university. In the Employee of the Year competition, Johnson was recognized for being a leading force behind the university's recent redesign of its web pages aimed at creating a more user-friendly Internet site.

She served as a member of the university's Web Page Advisory Committee, which began the process, and later was named to the university's new Web Page Editorial Board, which will help guide the content of main university web pages. Through the process, she modeled and developed about 20 different web pages.

In addition, Johnson, who graduated from the university's graphic design program, helped many on campus create and refine their own web pages. She also served as a member of the University Calendar Committee, the group responsible for creating a coordinated calendar of campuswide events.
Farzan, as a senior advisor of the Liberal Studies Program, has maintained continuity in the program and offered her expertise to new staff and faculty directors. In the past two years, Farzan assumed primary responsibility for three university programs of particular significance:

- The PACE program in Liberal Studies that provides a convenient schedule of classes for adults who cannot attend the university at traditional times so they are able to complete their degrees.
- The Career Ladder Program of the Los Angeles Unified School District that supports the district's teacher assistants who want to earn their degrees and credentials.
- And, Farzan designed and implemented the student services component of the university's Integrated Teacher Education Program, which enables freshmen to earn a Liberal Studies degree and a teaching credential within four years.
Award Winners, Emeriti Named at Honored Faculty Reception

Cal State Northridge Interim President Louanne Kennedy and Faculty President Al Kinderman hosted the university's annual Honored Faculty Reception on Thursday, May 18, announcing faculty award winners, emeriti and 25-year service recipients.

The annual breakfast and program capped the academic year, providing special recognition to the university's longest serving faculty and to those selected this year for special faculty awards. Those recognized at the annual reception included the following:

**Outstanding Professor Award**

June Downing, *Special Education*
Award sponsored by CSUN University Relations

**Distinguished Teaching Award**

Edith Dimo, *Modern & Classical Languages & Literatures*
Nancy Page Fernandez, *History*
Award sponsored by the President's Office

**Advancement of Teaching Effectiveness Award**

Louis Rubino, *Health Sciences*
Award sponsored by the President's Associates

**Creativity Award**

Stephanie Satie, *English*
Award sponsored by the President's Associates

**Scholarly Publication Award**

Anton Lowenberg, *Economics*
Award sponsored by the President's Associates

**Outstanding Achievement in Equity and Diversity**
Maria Elena Zavala, Biology
Award sponsored by the Presidential Advisory Board on Equity and Diversity

Emeriti Faculty

The following faculty have been granted emeritus status:
Rudolph Acuna, Chicano/a Studies
Alan Armer, Radio-TV-Film
Anthony Arthur, English
Peter Bellinger, Biology
James Bennett, Office Systems and Business Education
Jay Berger, Finance, Real Estate and Insurance
William Brown, Economics
Joseph Buchwald, Finance, Real Estate and Insurance
Donald Butler, Psychology
Richard Camp, History
Linda Caren, Biology
Mary Gay Doman, Modern and Classical Languages & Literatures
Willis Downing, Electrical and Computer Engineering
Charles Fierro, Music
Eugene Fritsche, Geological Sciences
Lillie Grossman, Family Environmental Sciences
Philip Handler, English
Jose Hernandez, Chicano/a Studies
Lesley Johnstone, English
Ronald Krane, Sociology
Paul Kravagna, Art
Kian Kwan, Sociology
Joseph Launie, Finance, Real Estate and Insurance
Larry Lichten, Computer Science
Lawrence Littwin, Political Science
Kit Machado, Political Science
John McGhee, Mathematics
Elliot Mininberg, Educational Leadership and Policy Studies
Alexander Muller, History
Jack O'Neill, Political Science
Ray Pettit, Electrical and Computer Engineering
William Rivers, Mechanical Engineering
Lester Saft, Economics
Mark Sanders, Psychology
Lawrence Schneider, Journalism
David Schwartz, Electrical and Computer Engineering
Ezel Shaw, History
Owen Smith, Theatre
Richard Strayer, Accounting and MIS
Yuh Sun, Electrical and Computer Engineering
Shirley Teeter, Management
William Vincent, Kinesiology
Warren Wedin, English
George Welton, Leisure Studies and Recreation
David Whitwell, Music

CSUN Faculty Completing 25 Years of Service in the CSU System
William Brown, Economics
Bonita Campbell, Civil and Manufacturing Engineering
Laurence Caretto, Mechanical Engineering
Maryellen Clemens, Theatre
Marshall Clevenson, Mathematics
Adam Gifford, Economics
Robert Hanna, Management
John Hartzog, Religious Studies
Christopher Holmes, University Counseling Services
Paul Krivonos, Communication Studies
Fred Kuretski, Radio-TV-Film
Paul Lee, Physics and Astronomy
R. Joyce Linden, Special Education
Roberta Madison, Health Sciences
Roscoe Needles, Management
William Toutant, Music
Eugene Turner, Geography

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Graduating Students Overcome the Odds in Many Ways
Graduates Triumph Over Illness, Family Struggles, Work Demands and Language Barriers

"Both by location and by intent, we have attracted students who are overcoming obstacles," said Fred Strache, interim vice president for student affairs at CSUN. "We've intentionally sought out these students. This truly is the epitome of the modern university in an urban setting. People with different backgrounds, different socioeconomic levels, religions, places of birth-different everything-come together and it all seems to culminate at graduation," Strache said.

"We have the National Center on Deafness and the largest number of disabled students in the Cal State system-probably one of the largest populations in America. We have so many students who come out of poverty and have to work not just to support themselves, but to support their families, siblings or parents while they go to college," Strache said.

"Many other CSUN students were born outside the country, and not only were they able to survive and make a living, but they've mastered a new culture, a new language, and the rigorous academic programs at CSUN."

Here are the stories of just a few of CSUN's many extraordinary graduates this year:

**Lawrence Johnson,**  
*Bachelor of Arts in Psychology*  
After a 1989 motorcycle accident left him paralyzed from the waist down, Johnson wallowed in frustration and anger, spewing invective at his wife and feeling sorry for himself. He quit his job as a missile technician at the Navy's Pacific Missile Test Center at Point Mugu.

Reeling from money problems, medical problems and verbal attacks from her husband, Johnson's wife finally left him.

"For three years, I basically watched TV, watched people go up and down the neighborhood and felt sorry for myself. And then one day, it just hit me," said the 44-year-old Ventura resident. "I said, 'I've had enough of this. What am I doing with my life?' "

Johnson had only a high school education, having graduated near the bottom of his class. Overcoming his embarrassment at people seeing him in a wheelchair, Johnson entered Ventura College, earning an associate degree in liberal arts. Johnson then enrolled at CSUN's Ventura campus, which moved to Camarillo last fall.

Johnson successfully ran for president of Associated Students of the CSUN at Channel Islands campus, a post to which he has been re-elected for the 2000-2001 school year. He also was selected as Channel Islands' Student of the Year.

Johnson is graduating summa cum laude with a 4.0 grade point average and plans to continue at CSUN while he earns a master's of science degree in college counseling and student services.

As for Johnson's ex-wife, Ellen, she will be at his graduation. The two have remained "really good friends"-such good friends that they are talking about remarrying, Johnson said.

**Johannie Garcia-Chavez,**  
*Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology*  
The older of Garcia-Chavez's two daughters is disabled. At age 7, the daughter isn't toilet trained, cannot feed herself, and will not eat unless coaxed. Mealtime is a time-consuming and messy ordeal.

But for the past three years, Garcia-Chavez has attended CSUN full time. This spring semester, the Puerto Rican native is taking 21 units of classes so she can graduate and get a job teaching physical education to disabled students.

She drops off her daughters at school and daycare, then attends classes until it is time to pick up the girls in the late afternoon. After dinner, baths and chores, Garcia-Chavez heads back to CSUN until 10 p.m. Her husband helps, though recent marital problems have added to the strain.
"It's a little hard doing the kids, the school and the house, but I wanted to graduate. Even if it took me a while, I knew I would," said Garcia-Chavez, 28, of Sunland, who has periodically taken college classes since graduating from Palmdale High School in 1990.

Felice Parish,
Bachelor of Arts in Theatre
Felice Parish's mother, abandoned by her crack addict husband, long ago moved her family from South Central Los Angeles to Pomona to escape gang violence. But a few years later, Parish and three others were in a car outside a Pomona movie theater when shots were fired. Parish's boyfriend was fatally wounded.

"It made me even more determined to go to college and get away from the violence," said Parish, 26, of Pomona.

Parish enrolled at CSUN, where she has studied to become an actress. On campus, Parish has appeared in many plays. Off campus, she worked with four professional actresses in the American premiere of Athol Fugard's "My Life" at the Lankershim Arts Center in North Hollywood. Peter Grego, a CSUN theatre professor, directed the play.

An unplanned pregnancy in 1998 complicated things for Parish, but she kept attending school and last year gave birth to a boy, Elyjah. "I never really contemplated abortion or adoptionŠMy mother didn't give me up when times were hard," said Parish.

Parish's current boyfriend proposed to her at Christmas time. And in February, Parish learned that she had been accepted at Harvard's prestigious American Repertory Theater for graduate school.

Kent Tablada,
Bachelor of Arts in Psychology
Tablada, 43, of North Hollywood, arrived with his wife from Belize in 1981 seeking a better life in America. He struggled in low-level jobs, then became a machinist, working in freelance sales on the side.

All the while, Tablada supported a succession of friends and family members who moved from Belize to California. His sisters, a brother, parents, and in-laws all lived with the Tabladas for a year or two until they were able to save enough money to become independent.

Finally in 1992, Tablada began attending CSUN at night, but the 1994 Northridge earthquake so traumatized him that he dropped out. Then in 1998, he suddenly realized, "I'm losing sight of my dreams." Tablada was working days. The classes he needed were in the morning. "My wife and I made a choice. I retired."

Tablada hopes to be a role model for "a host of young nieces and nephews" whom he wants to inspire to attend college. He has been accepted to the master's program in psychology at CSUN, and plans to continue his education until he earns a doctorate degree. He wants to become a therapist.

"I am changing," Tablada said. "Back in 1981, a bachelor's degree may have been something to aspire to. But I think I need to be more educated so I can play a greater role in society."

Alan Kramer,
Bachelor of Science in Honors Physics
During his 16 years as a Mercedes Benz repairman, Kramer's co-workers didn't understand his dream of attending college. Few of them even had a high school education, let alone any college.

The 38-year-old Agoura Hills resident married right out of high school and had two children to support. Finally, 11 years ago, Kramer began taking night classes at a community college near his New Jersey home while continuing to work days at the job he found "unfulfilling."

In 1992, the Kramers moved to California to be near his wife's family. Kramer attended Pierce College, then transferred to CSUN. Fall 1998, Kramer recalled, "was the decisive moment. I could no longer take any evening classes. All the classes I needed were during the day." Kramer transferred to a Mercedes dealership that would let him
work part time. "It was very, very difficult financially. It had an incredible impact on the way we lived. I took my children out of private school, let the nanny go. My wife was very angry. No vacations, much less dining out, no buying toys, we had to sell one of the cars," Kramer said.

Now, Kramer has a degree and his first professional job. He reports June 5 to work as a process engineer at Spectrolab, a division of Hughes Aerospace Inc., in Sylmar. Kramer's job will be to analyze the production of solar panels for communications satellites.

While working, Kramer plans to continue attending CSUN at night, pursuing a master's degree in physics. About 50 of Kramer's family and friends from across the United States were invited to a recent party to celebrate his graduation.

Carmen Patricia Tovar,
Bachelor of Arts in Spanish, Chicano Studies and Psychology
A native of Mexico City, Tovar immigrated to East Los Angeles with her family in 1990 at the age of 16. "I am the oldest of four children and the first one to go to college," Tovar said proudly.

"My first whole immersion to the English language and to the culture was when I got to CSUN in 1994," said Tovar, 25, of Reseda. "My family and all my friends were Spanish-speaking, so I never had to speak English other than in the classroom."

On Tovar's first day of college, she rode the bus from East L.A. to downtown, then realized she had no idea where she was going. She asked for directions, but no one knew where CSUN was located.

"So I got on the bus, and I went back home with a desolate heart because I felt I had failed," said Tovar. But Tovar's father mapped out a route for her. "For the following four years, I rode the bus for two hours to get to CSUN, getting on different routes until I found the one that took the shortest time," Tovar said. She left the house by 5:45 a.m. and didn't get home until 6 or 7 p.m. Tovar used the four hours she spent on the bus daily to study or read.

"Then I got involved in campus activities, so I would leave the school at 9 p.m. and get home by 11. Sometimes, I'd be, 'OK, do I want to eat or do I want to sleep? No, I want to sleep. I'll eat tomorrow,' " Tovar recalled. Tovar frequently found herself alone at a bus stop in downtown Los Angeles at 10:30 p.m. "I'd try to dress like a guy and be very tough. I'd wear big jackets and beanie hats and hide my hair so they wouldn't see my face, my hair or my body," she said.

"The last year I was on the bus, I would just get on the bus and go to sleep. I told my Dad, 'I have to move to the Valley. I'm so tired.' "

Tovar is excited because she received her green card in March. Although she was at the top of her classes, the prior lack of a green card kept her from applying for scholarships and special programs. Tovar wants to earn her doctorate and become a professor of American literature.

Scott Benedict,
Bachelor of Arts in German
In the second week of the 1999-2000 school year, Benedict discovered he had multiple sclerosis, a degenerative disease that doctors say will land him in a wheelchair in five to 10 years. Benedict, 28, of Los Angeles, took one day off from school to grapple with the implications of the disease, then went right back to classes.

"The week before school started, my entire right side went numb from my neck all the way down," Benedict recalled. "The test results came back on a Monday night. Tuesday, I just couldn't bear to go to school. I just had to sit and reflect on it, let it all sink in, but then I went right back to school Wednesday. I took my day, that was it. Time to get back to work.

"There were days when I'd wake up and try to stand up and I couldn't. I'd fall to the floor," Benedict said. Only then did Benedict miss classes.
The painkillers he took merely numbed the pain. "Going up and down the stairs was hard. All my classes are on the third floor. But I don't like to take the elevators, even though it's painful and I have to pull myself up the last flight of stairs, because I want to use my legs while I can, before I have to be in a wheelchair," Benedict said.

Despite his struggles, Benedict still was a standout student, always prepared for class, always contributing to class discussions. He plans to return to CSUN for postgraduate studies.

Mary Poulson,
*Bachelor of Arts in Liberal Studies*

The nuns at Mary Poulson's high school singled her out as having the intelligence to pursue higher education and placed in her college preparatory courses. But her mother's Filipino culture dictated that she become a wife.

So Poulson did what was expected of her and married young. But she was soon left a widow with two children. Untrained in any profession, Poulson became a secretary for Southern California Edison. For 17 years, she worked as a clerk, with little chance of advancement.

"According to my bosses, they couldn't offer me much because I did not have a higher education. I felt doomed," recalled Poulson, 49, of Ventura.

Then, 13 years ago, Poulson remarried. When her children "left the nest," she attended Moorpark College and Ventura College before transferring to CSUN's Ventura campus, which became the CSUN at Channel Islands campus last fall.

"I had no idea what field to pursue, but I knew that I enjoyed learning," Poulson said. She has been on the dean's list every semester and is graduating with a 3.94 grade point average. Poulson plans to become a teacher.

Brandy Isom,
*Bachelor of Arts in Journalism*

When Isom came to CSUN in 1996 from the small Antelope Valley town of Littlerock, she needed four remedial courses-the most available-to overcome deficiencies in her education. But the 21-year-old Canoga Park resident persevered, and by attending summer school every year, has managed to graduate in four years.

She won two scholarships from the university's Journalism Department and a prestigious Freedom Forum internship at Minnesota National Public radio. She also was active in the Black Student Union and worked with Associated Students. Along the way, she also inspired her younger sister, Stephanie, to attend CSUN.
Achievements

Publications


Roberta Madison (University Assessment), Norm Fullner (Art), and Paul Baum (Management Science) published an article titled "The Assessment Outcomes Program at California State University, Northridge: A Model for Program Improvement" in the Assessment Update, vol. 11, no. 5, September-October 1999.


Audrey Clark (Family Environmental Sciences) had an article titled "University Administration Careers in Family and Consumer Science" published in The Journal of Family and Consumer Sciences, vol. 92, no. 1, pages 89-94.


Rick Mitchell (English) published an article "Community-Based Theater: A Vibrant and Viable Alternative" in The Dramatist, March-April 2000.


Steven Oppenheimer (Biology) had his journal titled Journal of Student Research Abstracts, vol. 5, 2000, published by Burgess International, Edina, Minnesota. Oppenheimer is editor of the journal that showcases K-12 grade student research.

William Whiting (Kinesiology) co-authored a paper titled "Analysis of Pedestrian Gait and Perception/ Reaction at Signal-Controlled Crosswalk Intersections." The paper was honored by the Transportation Research Board with its...
2000 Outstanding Paper Award.

**Susan Curzon (Library)** had an article titled "When Disaster Strikes: The Fall and Rise of a Library" published in American Libraries, April 2000.


**Deborah Chen (Special Education) and Lavada Minor (Special Education alumna)** published an article titled "Lessons from Project PLAI in California and Utah: Implications for Early Intervention Services to Infants who are Deaf-Blind and Their Families" in Deafblind Perspectives.


**Presentations**

**Staci Bleeker, Anna Tripp and Marty Sayles (English)** conducted workshops at the Young Black Scholars Symposium at CSUN on March 4. The workshops, geared for high school freshman and seniors, focused on written presentation and preparation for the English Placement Test.

**Anthony Dawahare (English)** presented a paper titled "Post-War Ethnic Nationalism: the Discourse of Human Rights in the Writings of Jesse Fauset and the Harlem Renaissance" at the 14th annual MELUS Conference at Tulane on March 10. Dawahare also was installed as a member of the Omega Chapter of Phi Beta Delta, an honor society for international scholars at CSUN.

**Donald Hall (English)** presented a paper titled "Exhibitionism as Professional Practice" at the Cultural Studies Symposium at Kansas State University on March 10.

**Marty Sayles (English)** presented a paper titled "Parents Without Paddles: Loser Adults Up Dawson's Creek" in March at the SISSI Image of America Conference in Colorado Springs.


**Sharon Maselli (English)** presented her paper titled "Doing Time in Prison: Stories of Chester Himes" at the MELUS 2000 conference in New Orleans, March 9-12.

**Rick Mitchell (English)** presented a paper titled "Writing on/of the Margins: Community-Based Theater and the Playwriting Classroom" at the Mid-America Theater Conference in St. Louis in March.

**W. David Wakefield (Child Development)** presented his research investigating African-American adolescents' coping strategies to perceived racial discrimination at the biennial meeting of the Society for Research on Adolescence. He also presented his research investigating the influence culturally diverse communities may have on children's development of racial categories. During the annual meeting of the American Education Research Association in April, Wakefield discussed the education implications of his research.

**Jim Hasenauer (Communication Studies)** gave a speech titled "The Bicycle: A Small Green Machine" at an academic symposium at the International Cycling Union's centenary celebrations in Paris, France on April 14. The symposium was the first formal event of the centenary and included presentations on the history, cultural significance and environmental benefits of bicycling. The audience included delegates of Olympic-affiliated bicycle racing federations.
from around the world.

**Victor Shaw (Sociology)** presented his paper titled "Rural Crime in China" to the annual meeting of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences in March in New Orleans. **Jonathan Choi (Sociology, graduate student)** presented a paper titled "The Relevance of the Differential Association Theory: Drinking by College Students." And **Nancy Kantor (Social Psychology, graduate student)** presented a paper titled "Victimizing Versus Being Victimized in the New Culture of Victimization: An Analytic Review."

**Joyce Linden (Special Education)** presented a lecture on speech reading titled "Read My Lips" to the San Fernando Valley Chapter of Self-Help for Hard-of-Hearing (SHHH) and to the Conejo Valley SHHH in Thousand Oaks. Linden also presented a workshop on "The Art of Fingerspelling" to sign language interpreters at Columbus State College in Columbus, Ga., sponsored by the Georgia Registry of Interpreters for the Deaf. Linden presented a fingerspelling skill-building workshop to faculty and staff at the Atlanta Area School for the Deaf, and gave a presentation on "The Importance of Fingerspelling in Educational Settings" for faculty and staff at AASD and personnel from surrounding school districts in Atlanta, Ga.

**Deborah Chen (Special Education)** presented a workshop titled "Cortical Visual Impairment: Linking Information to Strategies" to the Indiana Deaf-Blind Services Project and the First Steps Early Intervention System in Indianapolis, Ind. She also presented a workshop titled "Assessing Infants and Toddlers Who are Deaf-Blind: Strategies for Gathering Essential Information" to the Philip Rock Center Interagency Agreement Committee's spring conference in Napierville, Ill.

**Lynn Cook (Special Education)** was a presenter in the Teacher Education Showcase session titled "Teaching and Learning in Teacher Preparation: What Do Standards Have To Do With It?" at the International Conference of the Council for Exceptional Children in Vancouver, British Columbia.

**Lynn Cook and Wendy Weichel (Special Education)** presented "Winning Strategies for Staff Development and Inservice Training" and "Paving the Way to Co-Teaching" at the annual conference of the California Association of Resource Specialists in Los Angeles. **Wendy Weichel (Special Education)** also presented "Block Scheduling" at the same conference.

**Tony Johnson (University Counseling Services)** presented "Vietnam: Causes, Consequences and Cries in the Dark" to peace and conflict studies students at UC Berkeley, May 2000.

**Sharon Maselli (English)** presented a paper titled "Kate Chopin's Awakening in Contemporary Context" at Marquette University's sixth annual Women's Studies Conference from March 23-25.

**Stephanie Satie (English)** presented her solo play "Refugees" at Claremont McKenna College and to the Women's Studies Seminar at the Huntington Library.

**Honors/Awards**

The National Center on Deafness was awarded a certificate of appreciation by the City of Los Angeles for 36 years of personal and academic service to the deaf and hard of hearing in the community.

**Johnie Scott (Pan-African Studies)** received a certificate in the pedagogy of creative writing from Antioch University of Southern California for completing post-MFA in Creative Writing work on December 18. He was one of three individuals to earn a certificate in charter class at Antioch University in a program developed and now chaired by Eloise Klein Healy, founding chair of CSUN's Women's Studies Program.

**Jean Morrison (Valley Trauma Center)** was one of ten women the Los Angeles County Commission on the Status of Women honored with the Women of the Year Award at a luncheon March 13. Morrison was recognized for her work in building cross-cultural understanding and preventing violence against women, youth and children through public interest work. Morrison was the student co-chair of the Commission on the Status of Women at CSUN from 1992-
From 1997-1999, she worked as the university's conference coordinator for the Ending Violence Against Women Conference. Morrison currently works as a consultant for the Valley Trauma Center, a university program.

Tobias Gregory (English) received a Mayers Fellowship to work at the Huntington Library in summer 2000. He will study 16th century Italian theory.

Harry Gamboa Jr. (Chicano Studies) received the Flintridge Foundation Award for Visual Arts at the California African-American Museum in Los Angeles on April 3. Gamboa is one of 12 artists to receive the award for his years of work in the visual arts.

Adele Eskeles Gottfried (Educational Psychology and Counseling) has been elected as a Fellow to the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues, a division of the American Psychological Association.

Harry Murphy (Disability Resources) received the first Harry J. Murphy Catalyst Award at the CSUN Conference on Technology and Persons with Disabilities. This new award, sponsored by the Trace R & D Center, University of Wisconsin-Madison, acknowledges Murphy's work in bringing people together and facilitating the efforts of others in the field of technology and disabilities.

Scott Giannini, James Bobo, Ray Carroll, Jerry Lebeck, Norm Raymundo and Vicky Stone (CSUN student chapter of the American Society of Civil Engineers) won second place in the steel bridge competition at the society's regional Pacific Southwest conference in April in Tucson, Ariz. The team qualified to attend the National Steel Bridge Competition in May in Houston, Tex. Civil and manufacturing engineering professor Ed Larson oversaw the bridge design and construction.

Rika Toyama-Gaines (College of Extended Learning) and graphics assistant Hildamerie Reyes received a silver award from the marketing division of the University Continuing Education Association for their design and presentation of a promotional postcard for CSUN's summer session 1999.

Peter Weigand (Geological Sciences) organized the spring field conference of the Far Western Section of the National Association of Geoscience Teachers in April 2000. The conference, hosted by the CSUN Department of Geological Sciences, attracted more than 260 students, middle- and high-school teachers and college instructors.

Stephen Gadomski (Civil and Manufacturing Engineering) was honored as "Faculty Advisor of the Year" for the Los Angeles section of the American Society of Civil Engineers at the annual Younger Member Forum Student Night on May 5.

Lynne Cook (Special Education) was re-elected to a three-year term on the California Teachers Association State Education Council. She was also appointed vice chair of the Faculty Council for CSU Channel Islands and was appointed to the editorial board of Journal of Disability Studies.

Saundra Sparling (Special Education) was elected to a three-year term on the California Teachers Association State Education Council.

Leonard Pitt (History) is the first to receive the Martin Ridge Retrospective Award for his monograph titled "The Decline of the Californios." Originally published in 1966, his monograph was recently reprinted with a new introduction by Richard Griswold del Castillo.

The university Public Relations Department won several honors for its work in this year's awards competition hosted by the Public Communicators of Los Angeles (PCLA). Northridge magazine, designed by Publications Director Randy Thomson, won a first-place award of excellence for an external publication with a budget of $15,000 or greater produced by a nonprofit organization. A video profile of the Geography Department, produced last fall jointly by Public Affairs Director John Chandler and Tom Poehlmann in Creative Media Services, received honorable mention recognition in the competition for audiovisual materials. And the CSUN Rising capital campaign logo designed by Publications Director Randy Thomson also won honorable mention recognition in the competition for photography/graphic illustration.
FYI

For Your Information publishes announcements of public meetings, notices, events, deadlines, classes and courses of interest to the university community. The deadline for submitting items generally is noon on Monday, one week before the issue appears.

We strive to include all items submitted by deadline occurring during the two-week period until the next issue. Items further in advance will be run on a space-available basis.

This issue is the final one of the 1999-2000 academic year. The 2000-2001 schedule for @csun, listing publication dates and the accompanying deadlines for submitting information, will be distributed on campus before the start of the fall 2000 semester. Submit future items by e-mailing them to pubinfo@exec.csun.edu, sending them to mail drop 8242 or faxing them to (818) 677-4909. E-mail is the preferred method of submitting.

Note: fmi--means for more information.

Public Meetings

Foundation Board

Meets 6 p.m. Wed., June 14, in the Intercollegiate Athletics Building. For reservations and additional information, call x4197.

North Campus/University Park Development Corp. Board

Meets 9 a.m. Mon., June 26, in President's Conference Room A.

Notices

Household Hazardous Waste Collection

The HazMobile will be in the San Fernando Valley on Thu.-Sat., June 22-24, in Van Nuys. The HazMobile will collect paint products and solvents, motor oil and antifreeze, aerosol products, household and garden chemicals, pesticides
and fertilizers, and car batteries and pool cleaners. fmi-Cyndi Signett, x2477, the hotline (800) 988-6942, or TDD (213) 473-5664.

Our Deepest Sympathy

The campus community extends its sympathy to Rosentene Bennet-Purnell (Pan African Studies) and her family on the loss of her mother.

MFA in Creative Writing

The College of Extended Learning offers classes this summer that lead to a Master of Fine Arts in Creative Writing. Classes include poetry and narrative writing, dramatic literature and studies in literacy periods. With faculty approval, students may take individual classes without seeking the MFA. fmi-Daniele Diebie, x4769.

Events

College of Extended Learning MPA Graduation Ceremony

The College of Extended Learning's Master of Public Administration program will hold its graduation ceremony at 11 a.m. Wed., May 31, in the USU Grand Salon. fmi-Veena Bassi, x5635.

French Theater Posters of the Early 20th Century

Features original lithographs by various artists celebrating stage performances in the first decades of the 20th century. Organized by the Jane Moufflet Galleries of Paris and Los Angeles, this exhibit underscores the continued popularity and esthetic accomplishments of entertainment posters in urban settings.
Dates: Through Sun., Aug. 27
Place: Performing Arts Center Lobby Gallery

Volunteer Opportunities

Students are invited to join the Volunteer Council. Meetings are held at 1 p.m. every Wednesday in the USU Ventura Room. There are many one-time and ongoing volunteer experiences available. fmi-Council hotline, x4106, or visit www.csun.edu/volunteer or VolunteerTrak in the Career Center. The following are upcoming volunteer opportunities:

- L.A. Works Day: 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sat., June 3. This is a help-a-thon. Get pledges for planting, painting, removing graffiti, etc. to beautify the city. fmi-Larry, (213) 630-2198.
- College Success Conference: 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sat., June 3, at Mission College in Sylmar. The conference is for parents and children (K-12) who are interested in making college a reality for their children. Volunteers will receive lunch.
- AIDS Ride 7: Sat., June 3, through Sat., June 10. One-week bike ride from San Francisco to Los Angeles. Volunteers are needed as support staff. fmi-Patrick (323) 874-7474, x25. To volunteer for opening or closing ceremonies, call Gilbert, same phone number, x13. Or visit www.AIDSRide.org.

Goodwill Donation Drive

The University Recycling Program and Goodwill Industries are collecting items at CSUN for the annual Check-Out Donation Drive from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. through Sun., June 4, in parking Lot N at the corner of Zelzah Avenue and Lassen Street. The donation drive is geared to students moving out of the dorms and offers everyone an opportunity to recycle no longer needed items. Funds raised will provide local vocational rehabilitation and job training programs. An
attendant will be on duty daily to issue receipts for tax purposes. fmi-Cyndi Signett, x2477.

Grad and Alumni Job Fair

The Career Center is sponsoring a job fair for recent grads and alumni from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wed., June 7 in the USU. Entry-level through experienced full-time career opportunities will be available. fmi-x2878.

Classes

Career Workshops

The Career Center is offering career workshops. Space is limited, so reservations are suggested via x2878. Those attending should check in at the reception desk in the Career Center on the day and at the time of the workshop. The schedule is as follows:

- Job Fair Success: 9-10 a.m., Tue., May 30 (Barbara Cobin); 10-11 a.m. Mon., June 5 (Jan Potzmann), and 1-2 p.m., Tue., June 6 (Jan Potzmann). Learn what to do before, during and after a job fair.
- Resume Results: 2-3 p.m., Wed., May 31. Ross Berg will teach techniques and strategies for writing a targeted resume. Sample resumes and tips on cover letters and thank-you letters will be provided.
- Intelligent Interviewing I (Preparation): 9-11 a.m. Thu., June 1. Ross Berg will discuss how to prepare for an interview, emphasizing the employer's perspective.
- Intelligent Interviewing II (Practice): 9-11 a.m., Fri., June 2. This workshop with Ross Berg will include mock interviews and critiques to strengthen your skills. (Interview I required.)
- Get Hired: 2-4 p.m. Fri., June 2. John Arany will provide an overview of the job search process with strategies to help you find the job you really want.

From Conflict to Collaboration Workshop

The Office of Human Resources is offering a workshop titled "Moving From Conflict to Collaboration" from 8 a.m. to noon, Thu., June 1, in Business Building 4117. This workshop gives participants the skills to turn conflicts into opportunities to achieve positive, productive results. fmi-x3820.

New Employee Orientation

Every employee new to the CSUN campus should attend an orientation workshop. Three will be offered during the summer from 8 a.m. to noon Tuesdays, June 13, July 11, and Aug. 8, in Student Services Building 535A. The workshop covers a campus overview, employment and benefit information, the compensation system and public safety and parking information. Reservations are required. fmi-x3820.

Overview of Optional Tax Sheltered Annuities

The Office of Human Resources' training and development program offers CSUN faculty and staff a personal financial management class titled "Overview of Optional Tax Sheltered Annuities" from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wed., June 14 in Student Services Building 535A. Participants will learn the rules, advantages and differences between 401k, 403b and deferred compensation 457. A representative of Lincoln Financial will present the material. fmi-x3820.

Deadlines
Summer Session Registration

Walk-in registrations will be taken through Thu., June 15, for Summer Session II, and through Thu., July 6, for Summer Session III. If registering for Summer Session I, a late fee of $25 will be charged (registration deadline was May 25). Students may register at the lobby of the Student Services Building. fmi-x2504 or x2644.

Few Waiver Programs

State employees interested in participating in the Employee Fee Waiver or Faculty Dependent/Spouse Fee Waiver Programs for fall 2000 should contact Cathy Salazar (x2173, feewaiver@csun.edu) for an application/enrollment packet. Packets will be sent automatically to continuing participants in both programs. The application deadline for new participants and continuing participants with changes in admission status is Wed., May 31. The deadline for continuing participants is Fri., June 30. Participants in the Faculty Dependent/Spouse Fee Waiver Program should follow the deadlines and procedures in the schedules of classes and their fee waiver packet. The Fee Waiver Program is located in the Office of Human Resource Services in Administration Park 702 and operates 8 a.m. to noon Monday through Friday.

Faculty Senate Election Results

Faculty Officers

President
Diane Schwartz, Computer Science
Vice President
Michael Neubauer, Mathematics
Secretary/Treasurer
Michael Barrett, Library
Statewide Academic Senator
Barbara Swerkes, Kinesiology

Senators-at-Large

Jay Christensen, Management
Cynthia Desrochers, Elementary Ed.
Richard Mesaros, Special Education
Elliot McIntire, Geography
Bruno Osorno, Electrical and Computer Engineering
Judy Schmidt-Levy, University Counseling Services

Standing Committees

Educational Equity Committee

Matt Harris, Music
Educational Policies Committee
Roberta Madison, Health Sciences
Michael Neubauer, Mathematics
Educational Resources Committee
Marcia Henry, Library
Mingfang Li, Management
Sandor Reichman, Chemistry
Extended Learning Committee
Sandra Donohue, Health Sciences
Bonnie Faherty, Health Sciences
Graduate Studies Committee
Beth Lasky, Special Education
Rick Moore, Management
Janet Reagan, Health Sciences
Sandra Stanley, English
Linda Stone, Music
Library Committee
Brenda Timmerman, Computer Science

Advisory Committees
Learning Resource Committee

Matt Harris, Music
Marci Henry, Library
Heidemarie Lundblad, Accounting and MIS

@csun.edu
May 30, 2000