CSU Trustee and Space Shuttle Engineer to Address Grads

More Than 10,000 Candidates to Receive Degrees from CSUN During Commencement

California State University Trustee Debra Farar, writer and education advocate Jonathan Mooney, space shuttle engineer Tony Magee and Pamela Villasenor, deputy council of the Fernandeno Tataviam Band of Mission Indians, are among the dignitaries who will address Cal State Northridge students when they graduate later this month.

An estimated 10,935 students—about 7,399 bachelor’s and 2,906 master’s degree candidates in a total of 64 fields—are eligible to take part in the ceremonies scheduled to begin the evening of Monday, May 17.

“Although this past year has been extremely challenging for our students and all state universities due to the budget environment, commencement is a moment to savor achievement and the transformative power of a college education,” said Cal State Northridge President Jolene Koester. “The happy faces of our newest graduates—and of their families, friends, and the university’s faculty and staff who helped them along the way—always energizes me and renews my firm belief in the important work we do at Cal State Northridge in providing opportunities and a bright future for our students.”

CSUN Mourns Passing of VP for Student Affairs Terry Piper

Vice President Terry Piper

Cal State Northridge Vice President for Student Affairs Terry Piper passed away Thursday evening at St. John’s Hospital in Santa Monica after a battle with melanoma surround ed by his wife, children and other family members. He was 57.

President Jolene Koester called Piper’s death a “grievous loss for the entire campus community.”

“No one exhibited greater devotion to the success and well-being of students,” she said in a statement to the campus community.

She said that during Piper’s tenure, he re-shaped Northridge’s Division of Student Affairs to align it with the most current thinking and practices of the student affairs and services disciplines. “This progressive approach placed the focus of the division’s mission and priorities on students and student learning, and aligned its focus on the students’ work in the classroom, the university’s instructional mission and the totality of the academic and college experience.”

“I have learned during my experiences in higher education leadership that a vice president may have responsibility for one area, but those vice presidents who truly excel are those who understand and assume the perspective of the whole university,” Koester said. “Dr. Piper became this kind of vice president, and his leadership, contributions, knowledge and friendship were respected and valued across the campus.”

Koester appointed Piper vice president for student affairs in January of 2001. Prior to joining the Cal State Northridge community, he had been assistant vice president for student life at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, for more than six years. Prior to that, he was director of residential life at the university. His other previous experience included appointments at the University of Iowa and Ohio State University. He began his professional career as a residence hall director and area coordinator at Ohio State University.

Piper earned his bachelor’s degree in secondary education from Pennsylvania State University, a master’s in college student development and higher education from the University of Iowa and a Ph.D. in educational policy and leadership from Ohio State University.

Keeping true to his commitment to education and scholarship, Piper held a faculty appointment in the CSUN’s Department of Educational Psychology and Counseling and regularly taught classes during the academic year. He was widely respected in his field, and his innovations and ideas—such as a residence hall community standards model—have been widely adopted across the nation. He published and presented his work extensively, and was a national leader in his field.

Piper is survived by his wife, Carolyn, daughter, Dana, and son, Matthew.

A university memorial service will be held on Monday, May 17, at 2 p.m. on the Manzanita Hall Lawn. In lieu of flowers, the family asked that donations be made to the Terry D. Piper Endowment at California State University, Northridge.

California State University Northridge

3811 N. Oviatt Ave.

Northridge, California 91330-8202

Photo by Lee Choo

Memorial Service Scheduled for Monday, May 17, on the Manzanita Hall Lawn

This year’s Honors Convocation speaker is Northridge alumna Debra Farar ’75 (English) and ’87 (Education), a nationally recognized leader in higher education. Farar served as an educational policy advisor for the Clinton administration and former California Gov. Gray Davis. For the last decade, she has been a member of the California State University Board of Trustees, serving as its chair from 2002–2004.

The formal commencement ceremonies are as follows:

Students in the Mike Curb College of Arts, Media, and Communication will celebrate their graduations beginning at 8 a.m. on Tuesday, May 18, on the lawn in front of the Oviatt Library.

Grammy Award-winning international opera star Michelle DeYoung ’09 (Music) will receive an honorary doctorate of fine arts.

Graduation continued on page 3.
From the Desk of Dr. Jolene Koester
End of Academic Year Message and President’s Annual Convocation Announcement

Last summer, the university began facing some very significant challenges, among them drastic campus budget reductions, reduced student enrollment, student registration fee increases, increased competition for a reduced number of classes offered, and of course layoffs, which was uncharted territory for all of us.

As we look back a year later, I am grateful and deeply moved by how all of us at Cal State Northridge drew closer together to face and overcome these difficulties. Rather than simply resigning ourselves to a problem creatively and efficiently.

As the very complimentary results of the site visit conducted last February by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, as part of the university’s reaccreditation process. The site team found a strong culture of collaboration on campus despite these challenges, specifically because we have a strong sense of ourselves and our mission and goals.

This week we will see our hard work come to fruition when we graduate the class of 2010 from California State University, Northridge.

Given the challenges of the past year and the outstanding work faculty and staff members continue to do in difficult circumstances, I want to again express to you my depth of appreciation and admiration for your hard work and commitment on behalf of the university and its students.

I recognize we do not have answers yet for what will occur in the coming year, but I promise the campus community that we will apprise you as soon as we have definitive information. In the meantime, I hope all of you will have an opportunity to take advantage of the summer months to enjoy and replenish yourselves, and to spend meaningful time with family and friends. Each of us surely deserves it.

Also, please place on your calendar, Thursday, Aug. 19 as the date of the President’s Annual Convocation, which marks the start of the 2010–11 academic year.

Best wishes for a joyful, productive, and satisfying summer.

This message is an excerpt from President Koester’s blog at http://blogs.csun.edu/president/.

CSU System, Northridge Help Drive Local Economy
Northridge Improves Economy with Research, Innovation and Entrepreneurship

Recently released report by the CSU Chancellor’s office confirms that the CSU system and its campuses, including Cal State Northridge and its alumni, are major contributors to the state’s economy.

According to the report, “The Impact of the California University,” the CSU provides significant benefits to the California economy by supporting more than 150,000 jobs statewide and generating nearly $1 billion in state and local taxes annually. Cal State Northridge generates more than $954 million in the regional economy and more than $892 million in the statewide economy.

This impact sustains more than 8,400 jobs in the region and statewide.

CSUN’s 2010 Honored Faculty

Outstanding Faculty Awards
Kathleen Marsiglia, Geological Sciences
George Uba, English

Distinguished Teaching, Counseling, or Librarianship Awards
Katherine Haake, English
James Macklin, Accounting and Information Systems
Mary Rosen, Mathematics

Extraordinary Service Award
Nancy Burstein, Special Education

Preeminent Scholarly Publications Award
Josh Sidles, History

Exceptional Creative Accomplishments Award
Rebecca Ripp, Psychology

Visionary Community Service Learning Award
Raj Efrat, Accounting and Information Systems

2010 Emeritus Faculty
Kim Abbes, Art
Alyce Akers, History
Joy Athey, English
Chao Chen, Finance, Real Estate & Insurance
Raymond Chen, Accounting & Information Systems

Enrique de la Cruz, Political Science
Cerar Dosik, Religious Studies
Sydney Farnam, Education
Victoria Feinberg, Family & Consumer Sciences
Lawrence Feischer, Dead Studies (posthumous)
Jerrold Gold, Mathematics
Donna Hardy, Psychology
Vincent Jefferis, Sociology
Brennis Lucero-Wagner, Psychology
Heidemarins Lumdab, Accounting and Information Systems

Miguel Macias, Civil Engineering and Applied Mechanics
Ronald McIntyre, Philosophy
Patrick Morrison, Religious Studies
Francoise Regnat, Music
Karen Robinette, Family & Consumer Sciences
Brenda Timmerman, Computer Science
David Toppen, Chemistry & Biochemistry
Frank Wren, Mathematics (posthumous)
Jennifer Zvi, Center on Disabilities

Faculty Completing 45 Years of Service
James Selton, History
Malcolm Soule, Mathematics

Faculty Completing 40 Years of Service
Victoria Feinberg, Family & Consumer Sciences
John Henderson, Mathematics
Jock Krazan, Library Reference & Instruction
David Protas, Chicana/o Studies
Raul Ruiz, Psychology
Dee Shepherd-Look, Recreation & Tourism Mgt.
John Van Andrade, Social Work

Faculty Completing 35 Years of Service
Adam Gildford, Economics
Phyllis Herman, Religious Studies
Christopher Holmes, Counseling Services
Elena Marchisotto, Mathematics

Faculty Completing 30 Years of Service
Jack Alleen, Computer Science
Larry Allen, Biology
Connie Barker, Counseling Services
Nagavi Bakr, Electrical & Computer Engineering
Avi Dechter, Systems & Operations Management
Jan Dobias, Physics and Astronomy
Donna Dricoll, Accounting and Information Systems
Barbara Eisenstock, Educational Psychology & Counseling
Charles Hanson, Journalism

Beth Laskey, Special Education
Kenneth Portnoy, Electrical & Computer Engineering
Semtian Renganarajan, Educational Psychology & Counseling
Ramin Roosta, Mathematics
Luis Rubalcava, Communications Disorders & Sciences
John Sinclair, Recreation & Tourism Mgt.
Janice Tolain, Cinema & Television Arts

Faculty Completing 25 Years of Service
John Adams, English
Rita Basta, Mathematics
Behzad Bavian, Psychology
Ali Amiri, Modern & Classical Languages and Literatures
S. Nonah, Electrical & Computer Engineering
Littie, Manufacturing Systems
Dennis Sant, Psychology
Michael Gardner, Library Reference & Instruction
Marilyn Anderson, Pan African Studies
Patrick Hunter, English
Ronald Klemm, Secondary Education
Haig Kooshapian, Biology
Lillian Lehman, Theatre
Gretta Madlons, Health Sciences
Gloria Melara, Computer Science
Maura Minujin, Computing Science
Son Pham, Computer Science
Michael Phillips, Finance, Real Estate & Insurance
Elias Ragon, Modern & Classical Languages and Literatures
William Parkes Riley, Political Science
Mark Schilling, Mathematics
Ellen Schneidman, Special Education
Gary Stou, Accounting and Information Systems
Deborah Van Alphen, Electrical & Computer Engineering
RamN Vrith, Economics
Joy Von Wolterstorff, Art
Ronald Wallington, Physics and Astronomy

www.csun.edu/ua/publicrelations/atcsun/
Mathematics Major Selected as 2010 Wolfson Scholar

David Roberts Among Outstanding Graduating Students to Receive Awards at CSUN Honors Convocation

Early in his academic life, David Roberts determined that the only “logical” reason for going to school was to learn math. He was less motivated to achieve in his other subjects.

Today, the 25-year-old credits his love for math as the factor that kept him in school and ultimately distin-
guished him as Cal State Northridge’s mathematics major. “Math has always been the one subject that was never hard for me,” Roberts said. “I have always found math to be a natural part of me.”

The mathematics major will be among several students recognized during the College of Science and Mathematics’ Convocation ceremony at 6 p.m. on Monday, May 17. He is one of CSUN’s outstanding graduating seniors. The award is given to students each year in memory of Cal State Northridge’s first vice president, Leo Wolfson. Not only must the student have an exceptional academic record, but he or she must have made significant contributions to CSUN or to the community through co-curricular and extra-curricular activities.

Roberts, who has been called one of the “most exceptionally gifted undergraduate students” to have attended CSUN, has a 4.0 GPA and has not received any grade lower than an A in his three years at the university. He grew up in the Valley and graduated from Reseda High School.

Upon graduation from high school and following his older brother’s lead, Roberts decided to pursue military service and enlisted in the Marine Corps to pay for college. He served five years in the Marine Corps, including two tours of duty in Iraq.

Roberts said his service in the military “heightened his sense of discipline,” exposed him to the world and helped convince him to return to school and pursue a degree in mathematics.

“When I was removed from the school environment, I realized how much I missed and loved school,” Roberts said. “I was intrigued by math and wanted to learn as much as I could.”

Since enrolling in his first class at CSUN in 2007, Roberts has been on a mission to satisfy his “intellectual curiosity” with math. Last semester, he completed nearly every undergraduate math course CSUN had to offer and began taking graduate courses in Real Analysis and Abstract Algebra. He has done mathematical research with math department faculty that resulted in several conference presentations and the recent submission of a co-authored paper to a leading mathematics journal. He participated in the summer program Preparing Undergraduate Students Through Mentoring Toward Ph.Ds (P.U.M.P.) and will begin a doctoral program in mathematics at UCLA in the fall.

Roberts has also been involved in community service and campus activities. He volunteered as a research intern for the League of Women Voters and has represented the Department of Mathematics at outreach and recruitment programs.

“CSUN has done all the things that were necessary to make it possible for me to get accepted into a Ph.D program,” said Roberts about his time at the university. “I feel that Northridge is a really great school.”

Other students recognized during Honors Convocation include:

The 2010 Nathan O. Freedman Memorial Award for Outstanding Graduate Student Ryan Spencer of Van Nuys, a bio-
chemistry major who has achieved a 3.79 GPA. He has been part of chemistry professor Gagik Melikyan’s research group in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry for several years and has developed three independent means of manipulating stereochemistry and generating isomERICs and linear organic moieties. Spencer’s work has been published in four journals including the Journal of Organic Chemistry and Tetrahedron and presented at several symposiums and national conferences.

Spencer received bachelor’s degrees in both biochemistry and political science at UC San Diego in September 2005. In addition to obtaining his master’s degree at CSUN, he has worked as a teaching associate in “General Chemistry,” “Organic Chemistry I” and “Organic Chemistry II.” In 2008, he received the Sandra L. Jewett Scholarship in Biochemistry and in 2009 was a recipient of the Outstanding Graduate Fellowship Award as well as the Outstanding Graduate Student Teaching Assistance Award.

His field of research has been focused on pharmaceutical chemistry, synthetic enzymes, synthesis of new aromatase inhibitors and organometallic-organic synthesis. He will pursue a doctorate in chemistry at UC Irvine in the fall.

The 2010 Outstanding Graduating Senior Award Winners:

Maureen Fernando of Canyon Country, a health administration major who has achieved a 3.99 GPA. She is considered one of the top health administration students in the depart-
mement. She entered Cal State Northridge in 2008 after earning an associate’s degree in biological and physical sciences at College of the Canyons. A native of Sri Lanka whose first language as not English, Fernando has overcome “severe financial constraints” to become the first person in her family to receive a bachelor’s degree. Earlier this year, she was invited to join CSUN’s chapter of the academic honor society Phi Kappa Phi and is a member of the Golden Key Honor Society and Tau Sigma National Honor Society. Fernando has been involved in community service and campus activities, volunteering with the Health Administration Student Association, the Hunger Defense Fund Food Drive and the Heifer International Foundation. She drafted a hospital wide policy campaign entitled “Guaranteed Benefit Costs” for Henry Mayo Newhall Memorial Hospital. Her career goal is to become a professional in healthcare.

June Kwon of Northridge, a double major in political science and gender and women’s studies who has achieved a 3.75 GPA. She has not always been an “A” student. Her passion for edu-
cation and dedication to research were sparked in her sophomore year after being “inspired” by the history of the women’s movement in her gender and women’s studies classes. She has explored many topics in the field of feminist research, however, she is most passionate about the study of violence against women. In 2008, Kwon was accepted as a University Scholar and conducted research on Outright."

Graduation...

continued from page 1

during the ceremony. DeYoung was studying opera at the university in the 1990s when she won the local, regional, and national first place prizes of the Metropolitan Opera National Council Award and was invited to join the Met’s prestigious Lindeman Young Artist Development Program. From there, her career took off. She has performed some of opera’s premier roles in many of the world’s finest opera houses, and has worked with some of the world’s leading composers.

The College of Social and Behavioral Sciences does not have a speaker planned for its ceremony, scheduled to begin at 8 a.m. on Thursday, May 20, on the Oviatt Library Lawn.

Tony Magee ’93 (Industrial Engi-
neering), materials engineer for the U.S. Space Shuttle Main Engine Program at Pratt & Whitney Rocketdyne, will give the commence-
ment address at the College of Engineering and Computer Science graduation ceremony at 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 19, on the Oviatt Lawn.

 Magee is president of PlatinumStar" Success Strategies, a professional and personal development firm. In addition to his work with that company, Magee is a part-time professor with CSUN’s Department of Manufacturing Systems Engineering and a 14-year materials engineer for the U.S. Space Shuttle program.

The College of Business and Economics does not have a speaker planned for its ceremony, scheduled to begin at 8 a.m. on Thursday, May 20, on the Oviatt Library Lawn.

Jonathan Mooney, a dyslexic writer and activist who did not learn to read until he was 12 years old, will address the graduates at the Michael D. Eisner College of Education commencement ceremony at 8 a.m. on Thursday, May 20, on the Oviatt Library Lawn.

Mooney is a graduate of Brown University and has an honors degree in English literature. He is founder and president of Eye-to-Eye, a mentoring, 501(c)(3) non-profit organization for students with learning differences. He is also the author of “Learning Outside the Lines” and “The Short Bus: A Journey Beyond Normal.”
Three Honored at 2010 Distinguished Alumni Awards Event

Entertainment lawyer Robert Myman ’67 (Political Science), investment management executive Lauren Leichtman ’72 (Psychology) and songwriter Diane Warren ’78 (Music) in April became Cal State Northridge’s newest Distinguished Alumni Award recipients, during the 12th annual ceremony, held at the Four Seasons Hotel in Westlake Village.

Before an audience of 440 guests, CNBC commentator and master of ceremonies Bill Griffeth ’80 (Journalism), a previous alumni award recipient, took note of the display of ties guests had been encouraged to wear: in shades of white, black and red. “This is the first red tie event I’ve ever been to,” he quipped.

But not the first alumni award event. In fact, Griffeth and President Jolene Koester were celebrating their 10th year of honoring CSUN’s outstanding alumni at the event.

President Koester said in her 10 years, the Cal State Northridge community has come together to say “to the people of Los Angeles that California State University, Northridge is an excellent university.”

Alumni Association Vice President Kurt Rayners ’95 (Organizational Systems Management), ’00 MBA assisted President Koester in congratulating each awardee. He noted that the event for the first time would be featured live on Facebook to the largest number of members in the CSU system. It also was “tweeted,” including in the university’s social media network those alumni unable to honor their peers in person.

1. The 2010 Distinguished Alumni Award recipients. From left: Robert Myman ’67 (Political Science), President Koester, Lauren Leichtman ’72 (Psychology) and Diane Warren ’78 (Music).

2. Myman and College of Social and Behavioral Sciences Dean Stella Theodoulou

3. From left: Kurt Rayners ’95 (Organizational Systems Management), MBA ’00 and his wife, Katie ’97 (Liberal Studies) with President Jolene Koester.

4. From left: Michael Curb College of Arts, Media, & Communication Director of Development Andrea Reinken, Galen Etemad and his wife, Jaleh ’86 (Art).

5. From left: Past Distinguished Alumni Award recipient Bill Griffeth ’80 (Journalism) and his wife, Cindy ’78 (Accounting), Linda and Grant Ashley ’78 (Accounting), previous Distinguished Alumn Award honoree.
Acknowledging that there are programs already in place at Cal State Northridge, U.S. Under Secretary of Education Martha Kanter outlined President Obama’s “cradle to career” plan to have the best educated, most competitive workforce in the world by 2020, during remarks at the inaugural Eisner Education Lecture on Tuesday, May 4.

“The truest measure of society’s worth is whether it offers the top 100 percent of Americans the opportunity to go wherever they want to go, do what they want to do, fulfill their dreams, and we hope their dreams will include a college education,” said Kanter to more than 100 education leaders who attended the event at Cal State Northridge.

“If we do this, we can really set the stage for the kind of generation that will be highly educated,” Kanter concluded.

To commemorate Kanter’s visit, President Jolene Koester announced the establishment of the Martha J. Kanter Scholar.

Kanter delivered her message at inaugural Eisner Education Lecture and Eisner Education Colloquium. The daylong event brought together education leaders in elementary, secondary and higher education to discuss education reform and best practices. The event included a colloquium that featured four sessions exploring partnerships.

Michael Spagna, dean of the Michael D. Eisner College of Education also led a policy roundtable discussion that examined the issues surrounding college readiness preparation, the education of English-language learners and vocational and adult education.

California State University, Northridge is very clear about its mission. Our mission is to serve the needs of the people of this region, and we do that in partnerships between each and every one of our colleges and the relevant entities who work in this particular region,” said President Koester in her address to the gathering.

Eisner, Hon.D ’05 for whom the college was named for in 2003 to honor a $7 million gift from his family’s foundation, said he has been impressed by the college’s faculty, students and “unique way of teaching.”

The lecture and colloquium was funded by a grant from The Eisner Foundation.
CSUN Honors Veterans with First Outstanding Graduate Award

Leah McGowan enlisted in the Army when she was 19, temporarily leaving behind her young son so she could complete basic training. In the 10 years since, the 29-year-old Northridge resident has worked as a mental health specialist with the Army, earned a bachelor’s degree in psychology from UCLA, was commissioned in the officer corps, joined the National Guard and quickly rose to the rank of first lieutenant, works with homeless veterans for the Veterans Administration, and is now about to receive her master’s degree in social work from Cal State Northridge.

McGowan’s dedication and hard work earned her California State University, Northridge’s first Outstanding Graduating Veteran Award, which is given to a student demonstrating meritorious achievement, strength of character and commitment to service.

“While the award recognizes the unique challenges veteran students have to overcome to reach this academic milestone, it also provides an opportunity for the campus community to remember and honor those individuals who could not complete degrees because their health or lives were sacrificed in national service,” said biology professor Stan Metzenberg, a member of the award selection committee.

The campus has more than 400 student veterans, according to CSUN Veteran Coordinator Phyllis Gibson, and many have returned from tours of duty in Iraq and Afghanistan. Student veterans are a special group because they often postpone their educations for national service, or have had to fit their academic schedules around overseas deployments.

“Our veteran students are a source of pride at the university, and we take great pleasure in their academic accomplishments and continuing services to the community,” said Harry Hellenbrand, provost and vice president for academic affairs.

Metzenberg said choosing a finalist for the Outstanding Graduating Veteran Award was hard, given the caliber of the students nominated.

The finalists included former Marine David Roberts, a mathematics major who has conducted research alongside a CSUN math professor and intends to pursue a doctoral degree in mathematics; former Marine Sgt. Elmer Solis, who is earning an interdisciplinary master’s degree in gerontology and kinesiology and founded CSUN’s Student Veteran Organization; airman Brian Meadows, who is getting bachelor’s degrees in computer engineering and applied mathematics; airman David Otis, who is receiving his bachelor’s degree in biology and leaving this fall for Western University of Health Sciences to study to become an osteopathic physician; and former Army Reserves Sgt. Jayme Alliaw, who has been studying opera and will be getting her master of music degree in voice performance.

Leah McGowan credits her parents, Virginia and Arvin McGowan, Jr., with helping her achieve all that she has so far. She said they often stepped in to look after her son when military demands took too much of her time. She said her father, an Air Force veteran, is the driving force behind her military career.

“When I was 18, he would talk to me about the military and really encouraged me to join up. He had this idea, even before I joined, that I needed to be an officer. He said that even when I was a teenager, I needed to be a leader,” she said.

Her next step, McGowan said, is to get a doctorate and rise to a position in the military where she can influence policies that deal with the mental health and wellbeing of soldiers in military service and veterans returning home from combat. These are goals she has no doubt she will be able to accomplish.

“In the military, when you are told to make something happen, you pretty much make it happen,” she said.

“The military gives me a mission, I do it. It’s the same with whatever else I set out to do with my life.”

Moodle Replaces Outdated Online Learning Software

New Learning Management System Slated to Take During Summer 2010

For nearly a decade, Cal State Northridge has been using online learning management system tools. But this summer, the campus’ online environment will be taken to new levels when CSUN switches from WebCT to Moodle as the school’s virtual-learning-system.

Moodle is open-source software that creates a venue for online learning, educational discussion, document storage and more. Because it is an open source application, it can be freely downloaded and used by anyone without paying licensing fees.

“It (Moodle) is more intuitive, more modern,” said David Levin, CSUN’s senior director of academic technology. “It will allow us to have a more holistic learning environment.”

Levin said the WebCT software was the campus’ first provider of learning management system tools. It has allowed faculty to exchange and share information like syllabi and announcements with students via the Internet.

The move to Moodle was prompted by the elimination of support for WebCT software, Levin said. He said the Learning Management Systems (LMS) Adhoc Evaluation Committee, which included representatives from all the colleges, began reviewing the campus’ options two years ago. He said the committee chose Moodle because of its “cost” and intuitiveness and piloted the software in spring 2009.

CSUN is now one of thousands of college campuses around the world that use the software, including San Francisco State, CSU Monterey Bay, Humboldt State University and UCLA.

“WebCT is like MySpace and Moodle is like Facebook,” said Deone Zell, a professor in the Department of Management who uses Moodle in her class. “It just streamlines the administrative dimension and frees you up to focus more on content.”

Levin said Moodle is more interactive and allows faculty to integrate other educational tools. For example, he said, faculty can set up live video conferences and use software like Turnitin to check student work for plagiarism.

For more information about Moodle or to schedule training, contact the Faculty Technology Center at (818) 677-5443 or visit www.csun.edu/it/training/trainclass.html.

Cal State Northridge President Honors Scholar-Athletes

Top Scholar-Athletes Lauren Michaels and Justin Burridge Receive Special Recognition

Sixty-nine outstanding Cal State Northridge scholar-athletes were honored for their success in the classroom last month at the University Club.

More than 100 family and friends, faculty, coaches and university and athletic department personnel were on hand to extend their congratulations to the 69 scholar-athletes who have completed a minimum of one season of varsity competition and have a minimum 3.2 grade point average for the previous two semesters.

This group makes up the 2010 Varsity ‘N Academic Athletics Honor Roll.

The 69 student-athletes represent more than 36 academic disciplines.

In addition, two honors are traditionally recognized at the event as the female and male scholar-athlete of the year based on academic performance. This year’s top scholar-athletes were Lauren Michaels, a junior on the women’s track & field team majoring in marine biology being inducted in the honor roll a second time, and Justin Burridge, a senior from men’s volleyball studying finance.

“Congratulations to Ms. Michaels and Mr. Burridge—and all the honorees—for this well deserved recognition,” said president Jilene Koester in her blog. “Your ability to do well academically while also committing yourself full time to collegiate athletics competition makes you outstanding role models and wonderful ambassadors for Cal State Northridge.”

The Cal State Northridge Athletic Department has held this annual event since 1981 to honor the academic excellence of their scholar-athletes. Since its origin, 398 student-athletes have been honored for their outstanding achievements in the classroom.

Award was hard, given the caliber of the students nominated.

The finalists included former Marine David Roberts, a mathematics major who has conducted research alongside a CSUN math professor and intends to pursue a doctoral degree in mathematics; former Marine Sgt. Elmer Solis, who is earning an interdisciplinary master’s degree in gerontology and kinesiology and founded CSUN’s Student Veteran Organization; airman Brian Meadows, who is getting bachelor’s degrees in computer engineering and applied mathematics; airman David Otis, who is receiving her master’s degree in social work from Cal State Northridge.

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First Lt. in National Guard and Single Mom, Leah McGowan is Inaugural Award Recipient

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—Harry Hellenbrand, provost and vice president for academic affairs

Award was hard, given the caliber of the students nominated.

The finalists included former Marine David Roberts, a mathematics major who has conducted research alongside a CSUN math professor and intends to pursue a doctoral degree in mathematics; former Marine Sgt. Elmer Solis, who is earning an interdisciplinary master’s degree in gerontology and kinesiology and founded CSUN’s Student Veteran Organization; airman Brian Meadows, who is getting bachelor’s degrees in computer engineering and applied mathematics; airman David Otis, who is receiving her master’s degree in social work from Cal State Northridge.
For Your Information publishes announcements of events, public meetings, notices, classes and deadlines. Submission deadline is noon on Monday, one week before the next issue.

New online publication of @CSUN will resume online with the start of the fall 2010. We strive to include all items submitted by deadline occurring until the next issue. Submit future items by e-mailing them to pubinfo@csun.edu, sending them to mail drop 8242 or faxing them to (818) 677-2901. E-mail is the preferred method of submitting. Note: fmi—means for more information.

Catastrophic Leave Donations
Nadine Dema (Student Housing) is on medical leave of absence and has exhausted her leave credits. To make a voluntary donation, please forward your completed Catastrophic Leave Donation form to Payroll Administration, mail code 8228. The form can be accessed at www.adm.csun.edu/ohb/benefits/forms/pledge.dot.

Memorial Service for Beso Lomax Hawes
A celebration of the life of emeritus anthropologist professor and folk musician Beso Lomax Hawes. Sunday, May 23, 4–6 p.m. University Club. fmi—Department of Anthology, x3351.

Appointment as Department Chair
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Harry Hellenbrand announced the reappointment of Melanie Williams as chair of the Department of Business Law, the appointment of Allen Martin as chair of the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences, and the appointment of Sandra Stanley as chair of the Department of Asian American Studies. The appointments will be effective Aug. 19, 2010 and will expire at the conclusion of the 2012–2013 academic year.

Library Archives Closed During Summer
The Oviatt Library’s Urban Archives Center and University Archives facilities at Cal State Northridge will undergo a renovation project in the summer of 2010, beginning May 25 and ending at the end of August. The purpose of the renovation is to increase library space and to provide shelving for these important and growing collections. fmi—x2852.

Outstanding Graduates...

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Tae Kwon Do, which she teaches to children at a local elementary school. She has been accepted to three medical schools thus far and plans to become a physician.

Yolanda Elizabeth Vasquez of Oxnard, a psychology major who has achieved a 3.89 GPA. She has not always been a stellar student. She began Cal State Northridge taking remedial math and English classes. But her passion and dedication have bolstered her skills and she is considered one of the top students in psychology. Since 2008, she has served as a scholar of the National Institutes in Mental Health’s Casanova Pre-doctoral Scholarship (NIMH-COR) program at CSUN. She has also worked as a research assistant for her mentor, Gabriela Chavira, assistant professor in the Department of Psychology, conducting research on several projects including the “Latino Adolescent Research Study,” which is a project that focuses on examining contextual factors that contribute to the overall success of Latino youth. She and her mentor have recently submitted a manuscript for publication to the Journal of Latinos and Education and she was awarded the Western Psychological Association (WPA) Robert L. Solso Research Award for Outstanding Research. She was awarded the 2009–10 CSUN Presidential Scholarship and the CSUN’s Sally Casanova Pre-doctoral Scholarship for 2009–10. She has been an active member of the campus community as a resident advisor, director of personnel for Associated Students, Inc., student teacher assistant for the A.S. Children’s Center and a member of the University Corporation Board of Directors. Her work as a research intern at the Family Stress Center (FSC) in North Hills has ignited a passion to study child abuse and neglect, and she aims to impact that exposure to intimate partner violence has on children. Her career goal is to work as a university professor and mentor disadvantaged students.
Cal State Northridge officials have announced the fall schedule of the Plaza Del Sol Performance Hall, which includes an inaugural concert by the Moscow State Symphony Orchestra in the university’s highly anticipated new Valley Performing Arts Center Great Hall.

The sneak preview of the new state-of-the-arts center, scheduled to open in January 2011, will be available only to patrons who buy a 2010 Fall Season subscription, which costs about $20 per show. “In appreciation of the loyalty and support of our season subscribers, we are offering them an exclusive sneak preview of this highly anticipated new performance space,” said Robert Bucker, dean of the Mike Curb College of Arts, Media, and Communications and executive director of the Valley Performing Arts Center.

The 2010 fall season of performances offers an eclectic mix of shows—from acclaimed Emmy Award-winning actor Ed Asner starring in ‘FDR’ and the Bayanihan Philippine Dance Company to concerts by the Assad Brothers and John Doe and The Sadies.

The 2010 fall season will introduce an exciting agenda of music, dance and theater performances,” Bucker said. Among the highlights is Asner’s one-man performance on Oct. 9 of “FDR,” based on Done Schum’s Broadway hit “Sunrise at Campobello,” which ran for 70 weeks.

The Acting Company will perform its critically acclaimed “Romeo and Juliet” on Oct. 27. Since its founding in 1972 by John Houseman and Margot Harley, The Acting Company has performed 153 productions, touring 48 state and 10 foreign countries. Its alumni include Kevin Kline, Patti LuPone, David Ogden Stiers, Keith David, Jeffrey Wright and Raun Wilson.

The Moscow State Symphony Orchestra, which will perform in the new Valley Performing Arts Center on Nov. 1, is one of the world’s most acclaimed ensembles. Founded in 1943 by Lev Steinberg, the orchestra quickly established a reputation as one of the premier interpreters of the Russian “classic” composers. In addition to regular appearances at the Great Hall of the Moscow Conservatory and throughout Russia, the orchestra has been enthusiastically received at major music centers throughout the world. Founded member of the seminal L.A. punk rock band X, John Doe is scheduled to perform with The Sadies on Nov. 20. The Sadies is known in the recording industry as much for its collaborations as for its own releases. It’s the live band on Neko Case, and has recorded albums with The Mekons, John Langford, cult soul legend Andre Williams and others.

John Doe and The Sadies joined forces for “Country Club,” an album of classic country covers and originals, which was released in April 2009 on Yep Roc Records.

Tickets for the 2010 fall season are scheduled to go on sale July 19 for subscribers, and Aug. 23 for single ticket buyers. Tickets are available through Ticketmaster or by calling the Associated Students Inc. ticket office at (818) 677-2488.

For more information about the 2010 Fall Season of the Valley Performing Arts Center, visit the website http://www.valleypersonartscenter.org.