CSUN Welcomes Freshmen to Campus with Fanfare

Keynote Speaker and Author Steve Lopez Urged Students to ‘Engage in the World’

"This is the beginning of a journey," said Los Angeles Times columnist Steve Lopez to thousands of freshmen who attended Cal State Northridge’s annual Freshman Convocation on Thursday, Sept. 3. "Try on everything for size. Try it all. Engage in the world."

Lopez, who authored the best-selling book "The Soloist," served as the keynote speaker for convocation, which is designed to formally celebrate the students’ transition to university life. "The Soloist," was this year’s selection for the ‘One Campus, One Book’ reading program that invites members of the Cal State Northridge community to join the incoming freshman class in an exploration of a common subject.

He urged the students to “make your connection” to the world by finding their passion and linking it to their profession as he did through meeting Nathaniel Ayers, whose story he tells in “The Soloist.” Lopez met Ayers, a former classical bass student at Juilliard, playing his heart out on a two-string violin on Los Angeles’ Skid Row. Deeply affected by the beauty of Ayer’s music, Lopez took it upon himself to change the musician’s life—only to find that their relationship had a profound change on his own life. The book was adapted into a movie with the same name that was released earlier this year.

“He’s taught me faith. He’s taught me hope,” Lopez said of Ayers. He encouraged the students to find not only their passion but their “inspiration.”

Lopez was among several dignitaries to address the students, faculty and staff at the convocation. Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Harry Hellenbrand introduced Lopez and Associated Students President Abel Pacheco led the CSUN’s alma mater.

After remarks by Vice President for Student Affairs Terry Piper, President Koester welcomed on behalf of the campus community the approximately 2,000 freshman students who assembled on the Oviatt Lawn.

“We hope this convocation will inspire you,” Koester said. The president said she expects the students to return to the Oviatt Lawn in four years, perhaps five, to accept their diplomas during graduation ceremonies. She also acknowledged the presence of a mostly silent protest by the group Students for a Quality Education, who stood at the rear of the event with signs and banners.

One sign said “Stop the Fee Hike. Stop the Cuts.”

Speaker Antonio Mendez, one of four students named an Outstanding Graduating Senior last spring at the University Honors Convocation, said his father’s tragic car accident and ultimate death served as a catalyst to help him find his purpose and goals in life. He said before then, he had little drive or academic motivation. He found support and encouragement at Cal State Northridge.

“This may not be Harvard or Yale, but here at CSUN you will find world class people,” Mendez said. “The professors and others here have been supportive and willing to share their knowledge.”

President Developing Action Plans for 2010–11 Budget

She Promises to Govern with ‘Transparency and Civil Discourse’ Despite the Angst

In a continuing effort to share updates on the status of the campus budget, President Jolene Koester recently initiated a series of budget forums that outline “fiscal vulnerabilities” and action plans for Cal State Northridge.

“It is important to clearly differentiate between those facts which are known at the present time and those which remain unknown,” said President Koester during a forum on Wednesday, Sept. 2. She said it’s important “to explain CSUN’s current plan to address this dire situation.”

Wednesday’s forum was one in a series of budget information sessions for faculty and staff to share information and answer questions about the impact of the $41 million cut to CSUN’s operating budget. The next forum is scheduled for Sept. 8, from 1–2 p.m., in the Library Presentation Room.

By the end of the 2010–11 academic year, said the president, there will be a total enrollment reduction of 6,000 students, bringing CSUN back to enrollment levels it achieved in 2001–02. She stressed that these facts are known at the current moment and may be subject to change.

The campus will make up the current $41 million deficit through a $15 million revenue gain from student fee increases, $19 million generated from one-time savings from employee furloughs, $2 million from campus reserves and $7 million from additional reductions across university divisions.

Koester said there are potential stumbling blocks in trying to plan for 2010–11. Among them are the one-time-only furlough savings and the uncertainty of the state of California budget.

She said her office is developing an action plan so that when more concrete facts are known about next year’s budget, the university will be in a position to move quickly.

• The strategic enrollment group has been tasked with creating an enrollment plan which will examine the impact of the reduction of student enrollment on fees collected for the 2010–11 budget.

• Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Harry Hellenbrand, Tom McCarron, vice president for administration and finance and Vance T. Peterson, vice president 2010–11 Budget Plan continued on page 2.

California State University Northridge
3111 Northroll Street, Northridge, California 91330-8202
Hand Washing Helps Prevent the Spread of the H1N1 Flu

**CDC. Finds Younger Americans, Ages Six Months to 24 Years Most At-Risk**

September, may keep people healthy and thus better able to resist H1N1 infection.

The CSUN Pandemic Committee is reviewing the CDC's latest guidelines for universities and has issued several recommendations:

1. **Wash/clean hands frequently with soap and water or alcohol-based cleaners.**
2. **Cover the mouth and nose with tissue when coughing or sneezing, and throw used tissues away.**
3. **If no tissue is available, cough or sneeze into the crook of one’s elbow, not into the hand.**
4. **Avoid touching eyes, nose, mouth as much as possible.**
5. **Maintain a healthy balance of sleep and exercise.**
6. **Eat nutritious foods, drink plenty of fluids.**
7. ** Manage stress levels.**
8. **In case of illness, stay home from work or school until symptoms resolve.**
9. **An infected individual should stay at least six feet away from others until symptom-free and without a fever for 24 hours or more without using fever-reducing medications.**

Frequently updated information on H1N1 is available at the Klott Student Health Center Web site at www.csun.edu/studenthealthcenter and at www.flu.gov.

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NCAA Certification: Sign of Improvement in Athletics

Department Supporting Student-Athlete Academic Success with Special Advisement, Other Services

Confirming that Cal State Northridge has made significant improvements in its athletics program, the NCAA recently recertified the campus as a Division I school.

“I am delighted with the outcome of this year-long process,” said Cal State Northridge Director of Athletics Rick Mazuza. Members of the university community worked diligently with NCAA staff members to prepare an outstanding assessment of our athletics program.”

The recertification process, which began over a year ago, involved a self-study led by President Jolene Koester. Robert Barker, associate vice president for financial and accounting services and university controller, chaired the committee. The self-study included a review of the campus’ governance and commitment to rules compliance, academic integrity, equity, and student-athlete well-being.

The NCAA sent a peer committee of representatives from other Division I schools to interview faculty, staff and students about the Department of Intercollegiate Athletics. The peer group then presented its findings to the Division I Committee on Athletics Certification. The NCAA announced that Cal State Northridge had been recertified earlier this month.

“It was a very structured review,” said Barker. He said the NCAA wants to make sure universities allow student-athletes to be students first, then athletes.

This was welcomed news in the wake of concerns earlier this year that Cal State Northridge, 12th in the nation in graduation rate, might lose its Division I status.

Thom mas Devine, assistant professor in the History Department, asked how the university will make up the one-time savings of $19 million, which it received from furloughs this year, if it is not in next year’s budget.

“I have a firm belief in our creativity,” responded President Koester. “We’re going to protect as many jobs as we can.”

2010–11 Budget Plan...

continued from page 1.

for university advancement, have been asked to not to a three-year budget plan linked to the decrease in enrollment numbers.

• Vice Presidents Hellenbrand and McCarron will take on an in-depth study of campus business processes to consider retooling those that would bring cost-saving to the campus.

• Vice President for Information Technology and Chief Information Officer Hilary Baker plans to perform a study of technological issues, exploring creative collaboration with other CSU campuses that may lead to significant economies of scale.

In the near future, Koester said the university community will be asked for their input on the Campus Budget Page, www.csun.edu/proofa/campusbudgetmeas.html, where employees can offer money-saving suggestions. Ideas will be collected and discussed at public forums. She said the vice presidents also will hold divisional meetings to encourage and generate cost-saving measures.

Despite the general “angst” which the budget cuts are causing on campus, Koester took questions from the audience, promising to continue to govern with "transparency and civil discourse.”

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“I have a firm belief in our creativity,” responded President Koester. “We’re going to protect as many jobs as we can.”

Hand Washing Helps Prevent the Spread of the H1N1 Flu

**Hopeing to stop the H1N1 flu in its tracks this fall, Cal State Northridge health officials are advising students, faculty and staff to use common sense practices like washing hands frequently and covering coughs and sneezes. People experiencing flu-like symptoms should call their doctor, and stay home and at least 6 feet away from others.**

There have been no confirmed cases of the H1N1 virus at CSUN, as of Sept. 4. However, in compliance with the recommendations of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), President Jolene Koester activated the campus’ pandemic planning committee to review and continue to update campus guidelines and preparations.

Government officials are especially concerned about the impact of H1N1 on schools because the virus appears to disproportionately affect young people. The CDC’s Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recently identified young Americans, specifically those from ages six months to 24 years, as one of the top priority groups for immunization with a new H1N1 vaccine currently under development.

Dr. Yolanda Reid-Chassiakos, director of the Klott Student Health Center and co-chair of the committee, said the message to the Cal State Northridge community is “be prepared, not scared.” She said anyone who suspects they may be infected should call their doctor for advice. Additionally, people who have chronic medical conditions should check with their doctors in advance about how best to reduce risk of infection.

Reid-Chassiakos said the CDC currently estimates that H1N1 vaccine may be available by mid-October. It will be a separate vaccine from the seasonal influenza vaccine and will require two doses, three to four weeks apart. CSUN has partnered with the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health which will provide us with H1N1 vaccine as soon as it becomes available along with guidelines for its administration on campus, she added. In the meantime, the CDC recommends that immunization with the seasonal influenza vaccine, available by appointment at the SHC in late September, may keep people healthy and thus better able to resist H1N1 infection.

The CSUN Pandemic Committee is reviewing the CDC’s latest guidelines for universities and has issued several recommendations:

1. **Wash/clean hands frequently with soap and water or alcohol-based cleaners.**
2. **Cover the mouth and nose with tissue when coughing or sneezing, and throw used tissues away.**
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November 8, 2009

California State University, Northridge • @CSUN • www.csun.edu/pubsrel/prcsun
Benefits Fair
Benefits Fair from 12 p.m.–2 p.m., University Hall 277

Research & Grants Committee
Friday, Sept. 11
Meets 10 a.m.–12 p.m., University Hall 277

Educational Equity Committee
Meets 11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m., Monday, Sept. 14, University Hall 277

Graduate Studies Committee
Meets 2–4 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 15, University Hall 277

Extended Learning Committee
Meets 12–2 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 16, Bookstore Complex, Executive Conference Room

Faculty Senate
Meets 2–4:30 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 17, Oviatt Library Presentation Room

New Employee Welcome and Orientation
New and current employees can get up-to-date information on various aspects of employment at CSUN at an orientation on Wednesday, Sept. 9, 8:30 a.m.–12 p.m. fmi-Lauren Niles, x5836.

Building a Game Plan for Today’s Economy
The Office of Human Resources presents a workshop series for faculty and staff to help manage the financial, emotional and physical impact of budget reductions. The kick-off event, “Personal Finance,” led by Vice President Tom McClaran and William Jennings, dean of the College of Business and Economics, will present the keynotes address. This event will take place at the University Club, 11 a.m., $25 per person. RSVP by Sept. 18. fmi-www.csunalomni.com, x2137 or alumni@csun.edu

Public Meetings

Events
Saturday, September 12
Constitution Day Event
The Tseng College will host a free seminar on how the U.S. Constitution addresses foreign and domestic national emergencies. James Sefton (History) and John Evans (Political Science) will lead the discussion, 8:30–10:30 a.m. in the second floor of the Sierra Center. Continental breakfast included. RSVP required. fmi-Teri Crum, teri.crum@csun.edu or x7131.

Monday, September 14
Faculty and Staff Benefits Fair
Faculty and staff planning to make benefits changes during open enrollment event who want to talk about their benefits, are invited to a Benefits Fair from 12 p.m.–2 p.m., USU Grand Salon. Benefit provider representatives will be available. fmi- www.admn.csun.edu/ohrs/benefits/

Monday, September 18
The Center for Sex and Gender Research
The fall 2009 Colloquium Series opens with A Psychosocial Approach to the Life and Times of XVierica Hollander. The event takes place from 1 p.m.–5 p.m., Sierra Hall 451, Whittsett Room. fmi-Jacob Hale, jacob.bale@csun.edu.

Monday, September 21
Sigma XI Seasonal Lecture
The Scientific Research Society—CSUN Chapter will host its seasonal lecture, “Model II (and Model I) Science” with Paul Wilson (Biology), 5 p.m. EH 2227. fmi-Alik Zakeri, ali.zakeri@csun.edu.

Friday, September 25
Founders Day

Founders Day 2009 honors and reunites former students, faculty and staff of CSUN’s formative years with a special tribute to the Valley State Class of 1960. The day’s activities include a 50-Year Club induction, luncheon and campus tour. Marty Cooper, a long time supporter of the university who serves on the San Fernando Valley Economic Research Center Advisory Council through the College of Business and Economics, will present the keynote address. The event will take place at the University Club, 11 a.m., $25 per person. RSVP by Sept. 18. fmi-www.csunalomni.com, x2137 or alumni@csun.edu

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.

The deadline for the September 21 issue is Monday, September 14. We reserve the right 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) 677-6900. E-mail is the preferred method of submitting.

Note: fmi- means for more information.

Security Officer, Jason Strymgeour, director of User Support Services, and Anthony Sevilla, systems administrator.

Faculty Promotion
President Jolene Koester is pleased to announce the promotion of David Lopez (Sociology) to professor. The promotion was effective August 19.

Parking Fee Increase
Effective Sept. 30, a new rate will be reflected in the pay warrant for non-represented employees, represented members of APC Unit 4, SUPA Unit 8 and members of CSU staff.

Federal Veteran Status Report
New federal regulations require that the CSU resurvey all members of the campus community regarding their veteran status. Fill out the form at www.admn.csun.edu/ohrs/vet.doc or return to the Office of Human Resources, mail drop 8229, by Tuesday, Sept. 15, Faculty, Vice President for Diversity and Equity, x2077.

Fee Waiver Deadline
The CSU Fee Waiver and Reduction Program deadline for spring 2010 is Wednesday, Sept. 23. To submit application, go to www.surveysmonkey. com/s.aspx?c=SD92Z1caf0BkxkZfGqHh3L3d 3f. If you, your spouse, registered domestic partner, or dependant plan to attend a campus that is on the quarter system, please submit application for the winter session online at www.admn.csun.edu/ ohrs/develop/fee waiver enrollment.htm fmi-Sue Talavera, x2173, or e-mail feeswaiver@csun.edu.

Celebrate Matadate Tuesdays
Associated Students has created Matadate Tuesdays to encourage CSUN pride. President Jolene Koester is encouraging faculty and staff to “embrace” this effort and every Tuesday show school spirit by wearing the university’s colors—Matador red and black.

www.csun.edu/jablotnik/ksccn
September 8, 2009 • IRISN • California State University, Northridge
Vent at the Tent

Laleh Haverim, a senior at CSUN majoring in photography, vents her frustration on video, over the impact of state budget cuts during “Vent at the Tent.” The four-day event, Aug. 24–27, was sponsored by the California Faculty Association as an opportunity for faculty, staff and students to tell stories about the effect of the $42 million cut to CSUN’s budget.

In Brief

For Anyone Affected by the California Wildfires

The recent devastation caused by California wildfires has impacted the CSUN community. The Office of Human Resources and the Employee Assistance Program is available to support faculty and staff during this difficult time.

A guide prepared by EAP said disasters can make individuals feel vulnerable, whether impacted directly or indirectly. “Events such as wildfires seem to have no rhyme or reason as to how they start and the damage they can inflict upon people’s property and lives.”

A complete list of tips and answers to the question “Why is this Event So Stressful?” and “Things You Can do to Help Yourself and Others during this Crisis” can be found at http://www.adams.csun.edu/ohrs/wildfires.html.

In Brief

For help in dealing with the emotional impact of the wildfires, contact Debra Rozanski at (818) 677-2681 or debra.rozanski@csun.edu.

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Campus Mourns Death of Professor Emeritus Charles Kaplan

Cal State Northridge and the campus community extend deep condolences to the family of Charles Kaplan, who was a founding member of the English Department. He passed away from congestive heart failure on Aug. 22 in Chapel Hill, N.C. Kaplan served as a professor in the English Department from 1956 until his retirement in July 1988.

Kaplan is survived by his wife, Mary Anne Peterson, and three children from his first marriage: Jean Kaplan Teichroew, Robert Barry Kaplan and Claire Brees.

The family has asked that donations in honor of Kaplan be made to the CSUN English Department’s Faculty Scholarship fund.