Recognizing the challenges ahead for Cal State Northridge in these budget-cutting times, President Jolene Koester called on the campus community to work together with “respect, admiration, and appreciation” in an effort to protect the future of the university and public higher education, at her annual convocation address on Thursday, Aug. 20.

“...a ‘canopy’ of leafy trees.

“I enjoy the symbolism because this is what we will strive to do all year—identify opportunities that can both reduce costs and enhance quality,” Koester told the audience. “Difficult? Yes. Impossible? Never”

CSUN has had to grapple with “unprecedented” budget problems, she said. The campus’ operating budget has been cut $41 million as part of a $584 million budget reduction to the CSU system in the new state budget. The budget cuts have impacted the entire campus community, resulting in employee furloughs, student fee increases and student enrollment reductions. (For more information about campus budget news, visit www.csun.edu/ presofc/campusbudgetnews.html.)

“Prospective students were turned away this year and more will be turned away next year. Our enrollment reductions will bring us back to the enrollment level of 2001–02,” Koester said.

She said the budget situation the state is facing was caused by a deep economic recession, structural problems within the state, and a long history of saying “yes” to ballot initiatives that both reduced state revenue and increased state spending.

Convocation continued on page 2.

Formerly Imprisoned Student Plans Return to CSUN This Fall

President Jolene Koester delivers her 2009–10 Convocation address.

President Koester expressed gratitude and relief at the return to the United States of graduate student Esha Momeni, who was imprisoned and then detained by the Iranian government for nearly a year.

It is wonderful news to learn that Cal State Northridge graduate student Esha Momeni has returned safely to Los Angeles,” said Koester, who met with Momeni at CSUN the day after her Aug. 11 return to the United States. “All of us in the CSU Northridge community have been looking forward to this day.”

Momeni, a mass communications student, was arrested Oct. 15, 2008 in Tehran for videotaping interviews with participants in the Campaign for Equality, a gender rights group in Iran, as part of her master’s thesis. She was held in solitary confinement for 25 days in Evin prison and charged with acting against national security.

Upon her release from the prison last November, Iranian officials confiscated her passport and forbade her to leave the country.

“I didn’t believe I was leaving until I got into the plane, they closed the plane’s door and started going,” Momeni told the Daily Sundial, the campus’ student newspaper, in an exclusive first interview upon her return. The 29-year-old graduate student said she had been burned from leaving the country up to one week before her departure.

Momeni said she was comforted during her time in prison by the support she received from the Cal State Northridge community. The campus rallied in support of the detained student: President Koester wrote a letter to Mohammad Khazee, Iran’s ambassador to the United Nations, asking for Momeni’s release; students organized a candlelight vigil at CSUN in her honor.

In April, President Koester presented the university’s first Academic Freedom Award to Momeni, whose fiancé Hassan Husseini accepted the award on her behalf.

“...and has overcome, difficulty. And, we can, will, and must stand together to protect the future,” said President Koester, who used the location of the event as a symbol of what the campus will strive to do all year. The president noted that convocation was moved from its traditional site at the Oviatt Library steps as a cost-cutting effort, saving the expense of renting tents. This year, the setting was even “nicer,” said Koester, under a “canopy” of leafy trees.

“I enjoy the symbolism because this is what we will strive to do all year—identify opportunities that can both reduce costs and enhance quality,” Koester told the audience. “Difficult? Yes. Impossible? Never”

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Convocation continued on page 2.
HR Offers Ways to Cope With Budget Stress

**The Employee Assistance Program Has Developed “Creative” and “Innovative” Solutions**

From a lunch time workshop on personal finance to stress reducing yoga sessions to issuing letters to creditors, Cal State Northridge’s Office of Human Resources has launched a series of programs to help employees cope with the impact of its budget cuts.

“We are attempting to assist employees as much as we can,” said Boldo, vice president, Office of Human Resources. He said his office has found some “creative” and “innovative” solutions.

The programs are part of CSUN’s efforts to deal with “unprecedented” budget problems: the campus’ operating budget was cut by about 85 percent of the CSU’s expenditures, the Board of Trustees approved changes to state regulations that mandate state budget closure dates for management and non-represented employees two days per month as of Aug. 1, 2009. Several employee labor groups including the California State University Employees Union (CSUEU), California Faculty Association (CFA), Academic Professionals of California (APC) and United Physicians and Dentists (PUD) also have agreed to the budget closure days. Except for public safety personnel, nearly all employee salaries will be reduced by 18 to 24 days.

Human Resources’ Employee Assistance Program (EAP) serves as an integral partner in developing resources for a population of more than 4,000 employees at CSUN. EAP services are confidential and provided at no cost to CSUN faculty and staff.

Debra Rozanski, coordinator of CSUN’s EAP program, said the purpose of the program is to provide services that inspire ongoing personal growth and enrich the lives of employees at work and at home.

“Rather than feeling helpless, our goal was to create some very useful tools,” said Rozanski about Human Resources’ response to the budget cuts.

One of the first tools created is a yearlong series of eight workshops titled “Building a Game Plan for Today’s Economy.” The first presentation, “Personal Finance,” is scheduled on Sept. 16 with a joint presentation by Tom McCarron, vice president for administration and finance and William Jennings, dean of the College of Business and Economics. Other topics include paying for college, when money is tight and home ownership and refinancing. EAP offers a host of other supportive tools including a 13-page resource guide called “Surviving Tough Economic Times” that offers tips on managing stress, cutting home, transportation and food costs as well as financial assistance. The guide is available online at [www.admn.csun.edu/obrs/eap/financial_resource_guide.pdf](http://www.admn.csun.edu/obrs/eap/financial_resource_guide.pdf).

The program has expanded its online Community-Based Resources guide to include additional financial resources like consumer credit counseling services and public social services. The directory is available online at [www.admn.csun.edu/obrs/eap/eap_resource.htm](http://www.admn.csun.edu/obrs/eap/eap_resource.htm).

To find additional resources, visit the Employee Assistance Program website at [www.admn.csun.edu/obrs/eap](http://www.admn.csun.edu/obrs/eap). Human Resources will even provide documentation of the state budget closure days to assist employees dealing with creditors over financial issues.

Because the details involving the State Budget Closure Program are fluid and evolving, Boldo recommends that faculty and staff regularly check Human Resources’ Web site at [www.admn.csun.edu/obrs/campusBudgetNews.html](http://www.admn.csun.edu/obrs/campusBudgetNews.html) and President Koester’s blog at [http://blogs.csun.edu/president/](http://blogs.csun.edu/president/).

**The State Budget Closure Program**

The State Budget Closure Program is in effect from July 1, 2009–June 30, 2010.

MFP employees, confidential employees, non-represented, CSUEU, UAPD and APC-represented employees, with the exception of sworn officers, public safety dispatchers and employees on a leave of absence without pay or military leave are covered by this program.

President Koester has authorized the following dates as university-designated furlough days. The Payroll Calendar and Payday Calendars have been updated to include these dates.

- **Friday August 7, 2009**
- **Monday August 10, 2009**
- **Thursday December 24, 2009**
- **Thursday December 31, 2009**
- **Monday January 4, 2010**
- **Monday January 11, 2010**
- **Tuesday April 6, 2010**
- **Wednesday April 7, 2010**
- **Thursday April 8, 2010**
- **Friday April 9, 2010**
- **Friday May 21, 2010**
- **Friday May 28, 2010**
- **Tuesday June 1, 2010**
- **Friday June 18, 2010**

Convocation…

continued from page 1.

But she cautioned the campus to resist “recrimination and blame.”

Instead, the president urged the campus to remain optimistic and not focus on the “here and now; it is to evidence to improve learning.”

Koester reprised an analogy she used in 2003, offering an image of Cal State Northridge being asked to fulfill its mission first in a vehicle the size of a luxury SUV, then in smaller, more utilitarian vehicles. Next, CSUN was being asked to pack all of its programs, faculty, staff, and students into a Volkswagen.

“Today we have something the size of a ‘Smart Car,’ and we are asking you to ride in the car some days and park the car on others,” Koester said.

Koester said state and national issues have a direct impact on campus priorities:

**Access and the Erosion of State Support for Public Higher Education.** CSUN must ensure that lower income individuals are not disenfranchised from higher education because of prohibitive fees. Leadership must also ensure that the fee structure provides for quality access.

**Student Learning Process.** CSUN must continue to be a “learning-centered university.” The campus has the capability to continue to develop curriculum and pedagogy to reflect the way scientists have determined people best learn, and to continue to generate and use research evidence to improve learning.

**Achievement Gap/Student Preparedness.** There are concerns about student preparedness for college-level work.

Koester said that to prepare students for the future that we may not attend,

“I enjoy the symbolism because this is what we will strive to do all year—identify opportunities that can both reduce costs and enhance quality. Difficult? Yes. Impossible? Never!”

--President Jolene Koester

CSUN prepares large numbers of K-12 teachers and decision makers. “The standards we expect for freshmen students are not clear to our colleagues in K-12,” Koester said. Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Harry Hellenbrand, the college deans and faculty leadership have already committed to this effort.

**Accountability.** The public—prospective students, parents, employers, taxpayers, alumni, and donors—must be able to understand how CSUN’s mission differs from other types of higher education institutions and how this mission is accomplished. While Cal State Northridge is a visible participant in the nationwide Voluntary System of Accountability, it must continue its work toward documenting the worth of the education it offers students, and use outcome assessments to demonstrate what its students achieve.

**Transparency and Efficiency.** Technology is a key tool in helping to make transparent how the university delivers academic programs and support services. If the campus does not make fundamental changes, technology will simply be an expensive add-on to an otherwise unchanged process.

The president has asked the vice presidents to lead the campus community in developing these areas during the 2009–10 academic year:

- The vice presidents, with help from the campus community, will begin shortly to develop a three-year budget plan that recognizes the need for fundamental changes. It is important to understand that, even when the state’s economic recession is over, CSUN cannot expect state dollars to flow again in equal measure.
- The vice presidents will lead the campus community in developing an approach to evaluate, reprioritize, change, and/or eliminate aspects of administrative functioning to create baseline or structural savings.
- Leadership has also been asked to develop a plan that addresses the enrollment reductions CSUN has been directed to make for next year, while simultaneously protecting the longer-term desirability of Cal State Northridge as a university of choice and the university places the highest value on access for eligible students.

Cal State Northridge biology professor Steven Oppenheimer will be recognized this fall by President Obama for his outstanding work as a mentor to young people.

Oppenheimer will receive a "Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring" during a yet-to-be-scheduled ceremony at the White House. The award includes a $10,000 grant to further advance his mentoring efforts.

"This is a tremendous honor, but the honor really belongs to my students and my colleagues," Oppenheimer said. "They are the ones who do the work and have supported me all these years."

The Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring is given to individuals or organizations in recognition of the crucial role that mentoring plays in the academic and personal development of students studying science or engineering, particularly those students in under-represented communities. This year, a total of 22 people were honored from institutions around the country.

"By offering their time, encouragement and expertise to young people, mentors help ensure that the next generation of scientists and engineers will better reflect the diversity of the United States," said Oppenheimer.

Candidates for the Presidential Mentoring Award are nominated by colleagues, administrators and students from their home institutions. The mentoring can involve students at any grade level from elementary through graduate school.

CSUN biology professor Maria Elena Zavala, who received the Presidential Mentoring Award in 2000 from then President Bill Clinton, nominated Oppenheimer.

"He has mentored so many students and has a method for getting students involved in research in his lab," she said. "A lot of his students happen to be minorities who have gone on to get advanced degrees."

Oppenheimer has been garnering recognition as a teacher and mentor since he first became a professor at Cal State Northridge in 1971. Fourteen years ago, he created "The Journal of Student Research Abstracts." The annual journal features the research of hundreds of science students from kindergarten through 12th grade and has inspired thousands of youth to pursue science. The journal is now listed in the Library of Congress and is distributed internationally.

He also organizes CSUN's annual Student Research Symposium that features the work of about 100 local students in grades kindergarten to 12 who take part in a regional effort led by Cal State Northridge faculty and students to get young people to consider math and science as possible future careers.

Oppenheimer said his mentoring and teaching efforts are all serving a need in the community. He says what keeps him going after nearly 40 years in academia are his students.

"When I grew up as a kid in Brooklyn, I had everything. I enjoyed my education and I enjoyed my life," he said. "But then I think about these kids, the kids I work with now. Some of these kids come from families that are really economically deprived, who've never had much education or access to education. These kids have brought themselves up and excelled. You want to know what impresses me? It's these kids."

Chaparral Hall Opens: State-of-the-Art Labs, Classrooms
Biology and Math Majors to Benefit from Enhanced Research Labs, Classrooms and Technology

Chaparral Hall, the College of Science and Mathematics’ newest state-of-the-art building, opens this week. It will increase lecture and teaching lab space and provide modern facilities designed to support research in biotechnology, terrestrial ecology and molecular biology.

The four-story, 90,000 square-foot-building will serve students from throughout the college who will have greater access to new and improved lecture halls on the first floor and computer labs throughout the building.

"This is a huge development for the college," said Jerry Sinner, dean of the College of Science and Mathematics. "It’s really going to open up a great deal of research opportunities for students."

Chaparral Hall (previously called Science 5) is on the south side of campus across from the bookstore. The $51 million building is south of the Botanic Garden, which has four greenhouses for teaching, faculty use and student research. It is one of five buildings that serve the college.

Sinner said the new building will help the college keep up with student enrollment that has increased by 50 percent over the last 10 years in biology and math. He said the Department of Biology has especially suffered because of antiquated teaching facilities and research laboratories in Eucalyptus and Live Oak, two of the oldest buildings on campus.

The 161-room Chaparral Hall includes 18 research labs, six introductory teaching labs and 12 lecture halls. The building has two computer labs equipped with high speed "hard wired" and wireless connections. The building also supports fiber optic data transmission required by high bandwidth instruments like the new confocal and electron microscopes.

"Students will graduate with state-of-the-art training," said Steven Oppenheimer, an award winning biology professor who is one of several professors to get a new research lab in the building. He said his Eucalyptus Hall lab was too small and congested and "interfered with student research."

The new building also has added safety features like emergency showers and eyewash stations. Oppenheimer said Eucalyptus Hall did not have any showers for emergencies.

"It’s not only a better facility, but much safer," he added.

Construction began on the project in July 2007, three years after passage of a state capital construction measure. In keeping with Cal State Northridge’s commitment to sustainability, the designers included many “eco-friendly” features such as water-efficient restroom fixtures and waterless urinals, energy efficient lighting and mechanical systems, and drought tolerant landscaping.

The building’s mechanical systems were included in a complete systems commissioning process to assure that they function as intended and meet energy efficiency targets. The building also incorporates as much natural daylight in the spaces as is practical in a laboratory building. Outdoor spaces provide areas where students and faculty can meet. These include balcony space and meeting space adjacent to the faculty offices, as well as seating in and around the southwest face of the building.
Dozens of Cal State Northridge’s faculty were recognized for their years of service and exemplary work at the 2009 Honored Faculty Reception on May 18. The event, which was hosted by President Jolene Koester and the Northridge chapter of the California Faculty Association, recognized faculty lecturers with 25, 30, 35 and 40 years of service; faculty awarded emeritus status and those with extraordinary achievements.

Nominated by their peers for their achievements were:

**Outstanding Faculty Awards**

Adèle Gottfried (Educational Psychology and Counseling)

Gottfried has dedicated her long career at CSUN to providing a positive impact on her students’ lives and earning a place among the top tier scholars in human development, in areas of general achievement, mentorship and family employment.

During the past 25 years, Kioussis has been recognized for her work in building up the Center, his research and educational career at CSUN to providing a positive impact on access to library resources. She has served as chair of the Technical Services Department at the Oviatt Library, classroom visits, workshops or other events necessary to provide access to library resources. She has published more than 20 articles on a broad range of subjects, including libraries, technical services, e-learning and digital dissertations.

In addition, she was honored in 2004 by the Special Library Association (SLA) with the Rose L. Vormelker Award for her service.

Dina O’Sullivan (History)

With a strong commitment to his students, O’Sullivan is recognized as an exceptional mentor and advisor by both his colleagues and his students.

He has helped many of them present their research at symposia, including the 2009 Western Psychological Association Convention.

Nicholas Kioussis (Physics and Astronomy)

During the past 25 years, Kioussis has established one of the most vigorous research programs at CSUN. As founder and director of the W.M. Keck Computational Material Science Center, his research and educational activities have been supported by more than $10 million in external grants.

These grants have supported students and post-doctoral fellows from the Department of Physics and Astronomy and also established the computer infrastructure of the Keck Computational Material Theory Center.

He is well recognized by the scientific community, publishing more than 100 papers in top refereed journals.

**Distinguished Teaching, Counseling, or Librarianship Awards**

Dore Helfer (Oviatt Library)

Praised for her work in building up the print, media, e-book and e-journal library collections to support research, Helfer is said to “demonstrate a unique ability for accessing resources.” She has served as chair of the Technical Services Department at the Oviatt Library since 1999 and as a science librarian since 1996.

Helfer also provides vital services to students, scheduling tours of the library, classroom visits, workshops or other events necessary to provide access to library resources. She has published more than 20 articles on a broad range of subjects, including

**Extraordinary Service Award**

Steven Stepance (Computer Science)

During Stepance’s 35 year tenure at CSUN, he has served the university in many ways: repairing, innovating, researching and strategizing technology on the CSUN campus. He has served on critical committees including the original Cyber 7 and recently created Provost’s Advisory Committee on Academic Technology. As co-chair of the Technology Subcommittee and a core member of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges steering committee, he led the campus through a successful review in 1998–2000. As a member of the GE Task Force, he was instrumental in the creation and adoption of a new GE program.

For the past 15 years, he has served on the Faculty Senate and Senate Executive Committee. At the CSU system-wide level, he has served on and chaired committees focused on CSU admissions policy and academic technology. Students recognized his commitment to teaching in 2006 by electing him to the Eyler-Stepanek was elected to his fourth consecutive three-year term as the Computer Science Department chair.

**Preeminent Scholarly Publications Award**

Jill Quilici (Psychology)

Quilici’s colleagues not only describe her as a “selfless” and “humble” individual but also as an effective classroom teacher whose courses challenge students to believe in themselves and their abilities. Dedicated to her graduate students, she has served on a number of thesis committees. In fact, she has served on more master’s thesis committees per year than any other faculty member in the Psychology Department, and generously offering her time and research design expertise to students.

Quilici serves as a mentor for the popular National Institute of Mental Health Career Opportunities in Research (COR) program and has taken over the leadership of the COR program while the original director serves as department chair.

**Exceptional Creative Accomplishments Award**

Karen Kearns (Mike Curb College of AMC)

Magdy Rizk (Art)

Elizabeth Sellers (Music)

The interdisciplinary team was honored for collaborative work on the documentary “That All May Be One.” Recent enthusiastically by viewers, the film tells the story of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet and their place in the South St. Louis neighborhood where they have worked for more than 150 years. The documentary explores the legacy of this group of women and chronicles their disappearing way of life.

The documentary was a culmination of six years of research, production and distribution, during which Associate Dean Kearns produced, wrote and directed, and recorded the music; and Rizk created and animated the graphics. Robert Buckner, dean of the Mike Curb College of Arts, Media, and Communication, recognized their achievement, saying that the project was “exemplary of the rich creative work that comes from a unified cross-disciplinary effort of faculty and students in the Mike Curb College.”

**Visionary Community Service-Learning Award**

Doug Kaback (Theatre)

Since Kaback began at CSUN in 1994, he has brought important social issues to the limelight, utilizing theatre as his gateway.

This year, Kaback created a multi-disciplinary service-learning project through the play, “VESTA,” which examines end-of-life issues with warmth and humor. His leadership in “VESTA” has brought together faculty and students from various disciplines to perform in the touring production.

Along with “VESTA,” Kaback worked with local artists and art educators in 2001 to organize the Center for Theatre of the Oppressed Los Angeles, where he uses theatre to inform audiences of social injustice and invite community action. He has also administered the Teenage Drama Workshop, introducing more than 1,000 local, middle and high school students to drama since 1998.

Daniel Blake (Economics), Donna Dorsey (Elementary Education), Jean Elbert (Psychology), Susan Henry (Journalism), Roger Moss (Economics), Mark Neidels (Economics), Michael Reagan (Oviatt Library) and Sandor Reichman (Chemistry) were awarded emeritus status.

The Samuel Goldberg and Sons Honor String Quartet provided music for the reception at which the 2009–10 faculty officers were installed.

Jennifer Matos (Biology), faculty president; Cheryl Spector (English), faculty vice president; and Sandra Chong (Elementary Education), faculty secretary.
Recognizing a lifetime of exceptional dedication, diligence, skills and contributions to Cal State Northridge, Admissions and Records’ Estelle Hekkers was awarded the Presidential Award at the 43rd Annual Staff Service Awards and Recognition of Excellence event. Honoring the largest number of recipients ever, the 43rd Staff Service Awards on June 3 honored nearly 300 staff members for their service. Along with Hekkers’ prestigious Presidential Award, recognition was given to those with five to 40 years of service to the university and/or its auxiliaries.

Jeff Craig, also known as “Captain Hazmat,” a systems analyst in Physical Plant Management and Martha Moreno, a copy cataloger at the Oviatt Library, were acknowledged for 40 years of service. The CSUN Presidential Award is reserved for an individual whose “collective contribution to the university makes an indelible mark.” Hekkers, assistant to the director of Admissions and Records, embodies this and more, said Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Harry Hellenbrand, who presented the award to her.

Hekkers, who was nominated by Dr. Linda Chassialkos, director and medical chief of staff at Klotz Student Health Center, was described as “an institution at our institution” and “the de facto institutional memory for everything.” As a strong communicator, she has effectively built bridges and alliances among departments and between the university and the community.

Throughout her 35-year career at CSUN, Hekkers has become the “go-to” person on university and system policies and practices. Her historical perspective has been invaluable as she also has served on the Western Association of Schools and Colleges steering committee.

Merit Awards were presented to individuals whose work reflects excellence over a sustained period of time, and who help improve or develop processes that result in increased productivity and/or cost savings. Winners and highlights:

- Sylvia Freiberg (Klotz Student Health Center), through her work as a coordinator of medical withdrawals, has helped refine procedures and made students feel “welcome, included, respected and supported.” She has helped the center conserve resources and improve efficiency and, as a result of her efforts, the center’s policies and procedures are paperless.
- Danielle St. Just (Oviatt Library) has executed a major project every year of her five years at CSUN. Demonstrating both a commitment to customer service and a contribution to process improvements, she has developed and conducts student employee training that has enhanced library patron customer service and increased productivity.
- Cheryl McMillan (University Advancement) has contributed to expanding regional alumni efforts, in addition to having major responsibilities for some of the most significant Office of Alumni Relations events, including the 50th Grand Reunion and the Volunteer Service Awards. With a collegial attitude and great work ethic, she has helped build support for the university and increased loyalty to CSUN.
- Ashlie Kite (Athletics) has been the primary architect for the review and improvement of the university’s compliance program for NCAA Rules and Regulation. She helped develop an outstanding self-assessment document and, in preparation, signed on to be a peer reviewer at other NCAA Division 1 schools so she could learn more about the process.
- Yin May Tieu (Klotz Student Health Center) has the official title of “medical transcriptionist,” but she has taken her work beyond the scope of transcribing medical records. She has worked closely with her colleagues to teach them the computer skills necessary to maintain legible medical charts. She has demonstrated patience and dedication in teaching those skills.

The Team Award, which is presented to a team or teams that collaborate on a project or initiative that brings about positive change and increased productivity or reduced costs, went to the Subtropical Rainforest and Oviatt Library Innovative Millennium Team. The winning teams each receive $1,000 for professional development, travel or equipment to further the teams’ goals.

The Subtropical Rainforest project—which involved more than 100 Physical Plant Management employees, student designers, volunteer students, volunteer faculty advisors and staff from the Colleges of Engineering and Science and Mathematics—helped establish CSUN as the clear leader in sustainable systems. Covering roughly 1,400-square feet and housing more than 4,300 plants, it uses the waste byproducts of the fuel cell plant to create a perfect environment to support a subtropical rainforest, while minimizing the industrial impact on the environment.

The second Team Award winner, the Oviatt Library’s Innovative Millennium Team, involved nine staff members who redesigned a process that resulted in the saving of $200,000 annually and a reduction of 22 weeks of staff time. The team evaluated all processes and procedures in Library Technical Services, and now the waiting period for selected material to appear on shelves has been reduced by 75 percent.

Members of the Oviatt Library’s Innovative Millennium team included Helen Heinrich, Meredith Lyon, Delphia Williams, Paula Miller, Marivic Ghorbani, Gina Hsiung, Diane Moore, Eric Willis and Donna La Follette. Faculty and staff are encouraged to nominate a person or team with a distinguished record of exemplary performance in support of the university mission and our students for the Merit, Team or Presidential awards. For more information, visit www.csun.edu/ohrs. To serve on the 2010 Staff Service Awards Event committee, contact Marianne Hudzi in Human Resources at (818) 677-5246. ■
LA Times’ Steve Lopez to Address Incoming CSUN Freshmen
Lopez’s Book, “The Soloist,” Selected for the “One Campus, One Book” Reading Program

With pomp and circumstance usually associated with commencement, Cal State Northridge will welcome its first-year students at the university’s annual Freshman Convocation on Thursday, Sept. 3.

The convocation, which is designed to formally celebrate the students’ transition to university life, is scheduled to take place at 6 p.m. on the Oviatt Lawn.

“With the convocation, we hope to convey to our new freshmen that they are important to us and that we are glad that they are joining the Northridge community,” said Tom Piernik, director of Student Development and chair of CSUN’s Freshman Convocation Committee.

The keynote address will be presented by Los Angeles Times columnist Steve Lopez, who authored the bestselling book, “The Soloist,” which 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.

“The Soloist” is the true story of Lopez’s discovery of Nathaniel 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 made a profound change in his own life. The book, adapted into a movie with the same name, was released earlier this year.

First-year students have been invited to assemble at 5 p.m. in Matador Square on the east side of the campus. From the square, they will march in a procession down Matador Walk to the Oviatt Lawn. President Jolene Koester, accompanied by University Library Dean Susan Carzon bearing the symbolic mace, will lead the procession in full academic regalia, along with formally robed university vice presidents, deans and associate deans of each college, and all department chairs.

“With the convocation, we hope to convey to our new freshmen that they are important to us and that we are glad that they are joining the Northridge community.”

—Tom Piernik
director of Student Development and International Programs

CSUN Hosts White House Conversation, Hispanic Education
Top LAUSD and Higher Education Leaders Attend Packed Event

Dozens of Latino leaders attended a dialogue at Cal State Northridge last week on the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans. Juan Sepulveda, director of the White House initiative, visited Northridge as part of a series of “community conversations” in California and throughout the United States on the education of Latinos. He outlined President Obama’s four priorities for education—a uniform set of U.S. education standards, attracting and retaining quality teachers, turning around the 5,000 worst U.S. schools and using data to track academic progress. He then solicited comments from attendees.

Some of those in attendance included Los Angeles Community College District Vice Chancellor Gary Colombo, LAUSD Superintendent Ramon Cortines, Cal Poly Pomona President J. Michael Ortiz and CSUN’s Associated Students President Abel Pacheco.

“Instead of locking myself up in a room in D.C. and kind of writing down similar language to what we’ve had in the past, we thought it was important for our office not to come and to tell you what we’re going to be doing, but to ask you what we should be doing,” Sepulveda said. “We need you to partner with us. We cannot do it by ourselves.”

The initiative was first created in 1990, to improve federal efforts to promote quality education for Hispanic American. Sepulveda is visiting Hispanic communities and key locations like CSUN to gain input prior to updating the executive order later this year. He said the tour will include stops in 18 states and Puerto Rico.

President Jolene Koester, who welcomed Sepulveda and the other attendees to campus, said it was an “honor to be selected” for the tour. She noted that CSUN has a long history of working to improve education and graduation rates for Latino students.

Cal State Northridge ranked fifth in the nation, and first among California institutions, for awarding bachelor’s degrees to Hispanic students, according to Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education. CSUN has the largest Chicano/o Studies Department in the country, has created the first baccalaureate in Central American Studies and has one of the most successful Educational Opportunity Programs (EOP) in the nation.

“I am here representing both the CSU and California State University, Northridge. Both entities are committed to the success, the enrollment, and of course the graduation of our Latino students,” Koester said.

During a panel session, Colombo said all levels of education need to learn to work together to improve education. Pacheco, who said he was admitted to the university because of the EOP program, said he would like federal money spent on supporting “intervention” programs and mentoring.

For more information on the initiative, visit www.ed.gov or www.whitehouse.gov.
Events

Thursday, September 3
Freshman Convocation
The third annual Freshman Convocation, Cal State Northridge’s official welcome to its freshman, is set for 6 p.m., Oviatt Library Lawn. President Jolene Koester, along with campus dignitaries in full academic regalia, will greet the students, who will hear a keynote address by Steve Lopez, author of “The Soloist.” The entire campus community is invited to attend. fmi-Tom Piernik, tom.piernik@csun.edu or x2393.

Friday, September 11
Blood Drive
The American Red Cross is holding the third in a series of blood drives at Cal State Northridge. Make an appointment at the Matador Bookstore, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. fmi-Sherry Nikirk, (818) 502-0542.

Saturday, September 12
Constitution Day Event
The Los Angeles County Bar Association invites all community members to participate in the annual Constitution Day celebration and rally at the Federal Building and Courthouse in downtown Los Angeles. Activities include free legal advice, public forums on constitutional issues, entertainment, and opportunities to become involved in the Los Angeles County Bar Association. fmi-Mark Stevens, x2366 or x7834.

Monday, September 14
Faculty and Staff Benefits Fair
Faculty and staff planning to make benefits changes during open enrollment, or who want information about their benefits, are invited to a Benefits Fair from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m., USU (Physical Plant & Support Services). Representatives will be available.

Classes

New Employee Welcome and Orientation
The orientation is held on the second Wednesday of every month from 8:30 a.m.–12 p.m. in Oviatt Library 16. The orientation is valuable to new and current employees who would like to get up-to-date information on various aspects of employment at CSUN.

Biology of Cancer
The Department of Biology, Center for Cancer and Developmental Biology and the College of Science and Mathematics, offers a class open to faculty, staff and the community the “Biology of Cancer.” The class is free of charge, seating priority for registered students, Mondays 5–6:40 p.m., SC 2132. fmi–Steven Oppenheimer, x3556.

Employee Assistance Program
The Office of Human Resources presents Employee Assistance Programs in fall 2009 for interested faculty and staff. fmi–Debra Rozanski, x2681 or debra.rozanski@csun.edu.

Public Meetings

Senate Executive Committee
Meets 1 p.m.–3 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 3
University Hall 277

Academic Technology Committee
Meets 1 p.m.–3 p.m. Friday, Sept. 4
University Hall 211

Educational Policies Committee
Meets 2 p.m.–4 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 9
University Hall 211

Personnel Planning and Benefits Committee
Meets 2 p.m.–5 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 9
University Hall 277

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Biweekly Relaxation Group
Mondays 11 a.m.–12 p.m.

Intuitive Eating
Mondays at 12 p.m.–1 p.m.

Caregiver Support Group
Tuesday, Sept. 1
2:30 p.m.–3:30 p.m.

LA Department on Aging: Individual Sessions for Caregivers

Visit west.la.gov/ for more information.

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 8 issue is Monday, August 31. We encourage 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) 677-6905. E-mail is the preferred method of submitting.

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In Brief

CSUN Web Home Page Gets Makeover
Cal State Northridge’s Web home page has a new look. It has been designed to be more intuitive, more interactive, more navigable for users, and more pleasing visually, said Michael McManus, assistant vice president for marketing and communications. He said the goal was for the page to have a “cleaner look and a more user-friendly layout.”

Some of the new features include a bar across the top of the page that arranges content, instead of the formal university organizational chart. Passing a cursor over topics of interest will reveal drop down menus providing more options. The installation of powerful new servers have made Web browsing faster.

Favorite features, such as the password-protected myNorthridge Portal login, will remain. It is now located in a new slide out area on the left of the gray bar directly under the new rotating banner.

New features have also been added, such as a comprehensive public events calendar detailing campus events from each department.

Any comments or questions about the look and feel of the new Web home page may be submitted by filling out the feedback form at http://www.csun.edu/contact/webmaster.html.

F.Y.I.

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Bronie Reynolds (Educational Leadership & Policy Studies)
Kenneth Sakatani (Art)
Jonathan Stahl (Cinema & Television Arts)
Nancy Virts (Economics)
Mary Woodley (Technical Services)
Alan Wright (Recreation & Tourism Management)
Zhong-Guo Zhou (Finance, Real Estate & Insurance)

To Associate Professor
Alexander Alekseenko (Mathematics)
Susan Auerbach (Educational Leadership & Policy Studies)

Kent Baxter (English)
Joyce Boussard (History)
Michael Bryson (English)
Lawrence Chu (Health Sciences)
Jordan Eckman (Deaf Studies)
Kimberly Embleton (Technical Services)
Sean Flanagan (Kinesiology)
Rachel Friedman-Narr (Special Education)
Julie Gainsburg (Secondary Education)
Xiaojun Geng (Electrical & Computer Engineering)
Eugene Gertz (Deaf Studies)
Shut Ho (Mechanical Engineering)
Michael Horgan (Cinema & Television Arts)

Rachel Howes (History)
Taryou Jung (Kinesiology)
Aimee Kachingwe (Physical Therapy)
Sun-Mee Kang (Psychology)
Peri Klemm (Art)
Florence Ksyumushia (Gender & Women’s Studies)
Amy Levin (Social Work)
Whitney Scott Lewis (Child and Adolescent Development)
Terri Lisagor (Family & Consumer Sciences)
Bradley McDonald (Psychology)
David Miller (Accounting & Information Systems)
Thomas Minchew (Chemistry & Biochemistry)

Mutombo Nicola Sengha (Religious Studies)
Michael Rivas (Secondary Education)
Robert Ryan (Mechanical Engineering)
Shane Stecky (Kinesiology)
Weimin Sun (Philosophy)
April Taylor (Child and Adolescent Development)
Ward Thomas (Urban Studies)
Tachyung Wang (Computer Science)
Beth Wightman (English)
Dianah Wynne (Cinema & Television Arts)
Kathleen Young (Health Sciences)

Calendar

The A.S. Ticket Office in the University Student Union sells tickets to many events on campus, except for some held by outside groups. The Ticket Office is open from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Mon.-Fri. For prices not given, call (818) 677-2488. To park on campus for performances, athletic events, lectures and other activities, guests must purchase a $5 parking permit.

Art and Exhibits

For gallery info, call (818) 677-2156. Main gallery hours: Mon. through Sat., 12-4 p.m. and Thursdays noon-8 p.m. Admission is free unless specified. For library exhibits, call (818) 677-2285.

Arid Eden
Lauren Richardson and Michael C. McMillen.
Two artists who project personal narratives onto the vast spaces of the desert landscape, combining installation and film.

Artists Talk: Mon., Aug. 24, 10 a.m.
Runs through Sat., Oct. 10.
Main Gallery

Faculty Focus: Rebecca Ripple Sculpture Exhibition
Reception: Fri., Aug. 28, 7-9 p.m.
Runs Mon., Aug. 24 through Thu., Sept. 3.
West Gallery, Art and Design Center

Bianchi Planetarium
For ticket info, (818) 677-2488 or visit www.csun.edu/physics/planetarium.

‘Summer Sky Show’ and ‘The Voyager Encounters.’
Fri., Aug. 28, 7:30 p.m.

Men’s Soccer
8/28 UNLV
9/16 Loyola Marymount
4:30 p.m.

Women’s Soccer
8/27 Loyola Marymount
8/30 Oregon State
9/6 Vermont

Athletics (home games):

Alumni Association members receive discounted admission to selected home events throughout the year. For more info, call (818) 677-2488 or visit www.GoMatadors.com.

‘À Bout De Souffle (Breathless)’
Directed by Jean-Luc Godard.
Thursday Nights at the Cinematheque: Jean-Luc Godard and the French New Wave.
Thu., Aug. 27, 7 p.m.

‘Kiss of the Spider Woman’
Directed by Hector Babenco.
Wed., Sept. 9, 7 p.m.

Cinematheque

Screenings are free and take place in the Alan and Elaine Armey Theater on the first floor of Manzanita Hall at the southwest corner of campus. Seating not guaranteed. For more info, call (818) 677-3192 or see www.cinematheque.csun.edu.

‘Une Femme Est Une Femme (A Woman is a Woman)’
Directed by Jean-Luc Godard.
Thursday Nights at the Cinematheque: Jean-Luc Godard and the French New Wave.
Thu., Aug. 27, 7 p.m.

‘Appaloosa’
Directed by Ed Harris.
Wed., Sept. 9, 7 p.m.