To gain academic experience, the presented his research on “New in the Superhero Comic Book” on Feb. 20 at the 13th annual Student Research and Creative Works Symposium.

“I thought this would be an opportunity to do research and make an academic presentation,” said Munoz, who hopes to use the presentation as part of his portfolio when he applies to a doctoral program. “This has been a really interesting experience.”

Edgar Munoz, a graduate student in the English department explains his poster presentation to James Hogue (left), a part-time lecturer in the biology department, during the 13th annual Student Research and Creative Works Symposium.

“This is an important training tool for students, and faculty are crucial in that training and mentoring,” said Mack Johnson, associate vice president, Graduate Studies, Research and International Programs. “This is a good example of active learning.”

Hedy Carpenter, associate director for Graduate Programmes and Services for our students, and faculty are crucial in that training and mentoring,” said the president. “It’s important to start to train students interested in pursing a doctorate to deal with the academic environment,” Carpenter said, adding that presenting at the symposium also looks good on students’ resumes or curriculum vitae.

Edgar Munoz, knows a lot about comic books, particularly those produced after 9/11. To gain academic experience, the Cal State Northridge graduate student presented his research on “New in the Superhero Comic Book” on Feb. 20 at the 13th annual Student Research and Creative Works Symposium.

“I thought this would be an opportunity to do research and make an academic presentation,” said Munoz, who hopes to use the presentation as part of his portfolio when he applies to a doctoral program. “This has been a really interesting experience.”

Munoz was one of 140 undergraduate and graduate students who made either oral or poster presentations during the symposium. The purpose of the symposium was to highlight student achievement and to inform the campus community of the excellent creative activity undergraduate and graduate students are conducting across all academic disciplines.

Specifically for Cal State Northridge, our budget for 2008–09 already incorporated our share of the $97 million cut (approximately $6.6 million). Thus, no additional budget adjustments for Cal State Northridge are necessary for the remainder of this fiscal year. We will start building our 2009–10 budget based on the approved California budget which will incorporate our share of the $66.3 million cut ($4.6 million for Cal State Northridge) and the contingent $50 million cut (a possible $3.5 million for Cal State Northridge).

It is also important to note that the 2009–10 budget, for the second year in a row, does not include the $217 million compact funding which would have provided funding for enrollment growth of 2.5 percent, increases in employee compensation, and coverage of other inflationary increases to the CSU’s operating costs.

Q: Do we have any further news on when construction can resume on the Valley Performing Arts Center?

What has the suspension done to the Valley Perform ing Arts Center?

There are contingencies in this plan. First, if the federal economic stimulus package does not provide a certain threshold of funding to California, the CSU System faces an additional $30 million budget cut in 2009-10. We expect to have a better understanding of how this will be determined in the next six weeks. Second, major pieces of the overall budget will depend on actions by the voters in a special election scheduled for May 19.
K-9 Officers Briska and Frieda to Retire from Department

Crime-Fighting Dogs Saluted at Ceremony for Hard Work

Bomb detection, attending the Golden Globe Awards and even protecting the president of the United States are all in a day’s work for two retiring members of the Cal State Northridge Police Department. K-9 officers Briska and Frieda were honored Feb. 19 at a ceremony hosted by the Department of Public Safety. The reception paid tribute to the crime-fighting dogs and their handlers with heartfelt speeches, recognition certificates, Petco gift cards and a short film presentation recounting their time at CSUN.

The 8-year-old dogs are being retired due to their age. "These dogs have been amongst the hardest working members of the department, and we are all grateful for what they have done in ensuring a safer campus and for the pleasure they bring to the community as valued, friendly K-9 cops," said CSUN Police Chief Anne Glavin.

The K-9 unit was originally formed in 2005 by Chief Glavin. Briska, born in the Netherlands, was donated and the first dog to join the police department. The German-born Frieda was purchased from CSU Channel Islands’ Police Department and joined Briska in 2008, but trained German shepherds like Briska and Frieda typically cost between $8,000 and $10,000. The dogs are bilingual and take commands in both German and English.

When the unit was formed, it focused specifically on explosives detection until the program was expanded in 2007 to include tracking and suspect apprehension. The pair has provided security to political figures and high profile events and won 11 awards at the Ventura County Police K-9 trials.

"She is probably the best partner I’ve ever had," said Briska’s partner Cpl. Leon Ortiz-Gil, who has adopted the canine and will take care of her privately.

Frieda’s partner Cpl. Tom Finnerty has also adopted her and has donated a replacement dog, Dozer, to the department. CSUN has submitted a request for a grant with the nonprofit National Police Dog Foundation to purchase another dog. The department is also raising money from the sale of special "K-9 Tickets" for the program. For more information, contact Capt. Alfredo Fernandez, at alfredo.fernandez@csun.edu.

Reuben Cannon

Celebrated TV and Film Producer Speaks About His Journey

Reuben Cannon: Black History Month Lecturer

If you don’t like how you are being portrayed on television and film, then do something about it, celebrated television and film casting urged producer Reuben Cannon.

Cannon spoke about his journey in “Producing Positive Results in the Television and Film Industry” on Distinguished Visiting Speakers Program, the Pan African Studies Department and the Department of Cinema and Television Arts.

Cannon said. "You can change and alter your destiny with a strong work ethic,” Cannon said.


The Cannon lecture was one of several events sponsored in February by the Black Student Union, the Pan African Studies Department and other organizations for Black History Month. Black Student Union president Elsoni Blanché said she was happy the Pan African Studies Department and the other clubs could work together to support events celebrating African and African-American history.

“I hope people will take the time to learn more about our past and embrace who we are today,” Blanché said.

—Paola Cervantes

Darwin is Focus of CSUN Evolution Research Symposium

Event Marks the 200th Birthday of Influential Scientist

Enthusiasts of flowers, beetles, crickets, salamanders and even white-bearded Darwin impersonators gathered to celebrate the 200th birthday of scientist Charles Darwin at an Evolution Research Symposium at Cal State Northridge on Feb. 12.

Darwin Week, a celebration honoring the father of evolution’s many contributions to science and other disciplines, occurred during the week of Feb. 9-13.

“The events of Darwin Week at CSUN, including the Evolution Research Symposium, show how the ideas of a 19th century Englishman have reached across time and space to stimulate new thinking and debate in every successive generation,” said Vicki Pedone, chair of the Department of Geology, who spoke at the symposium.

More than 100 CSUN students, faculty and community members attended a lecture organized by the Department of Biology on Darwin’s contributions to different research. The speakers focused on geology, selection in relation to sex and flowers, beetles, sexual selection and on species formation.

In addition to a discussion on how Darwin’s research influenced the field of science, the symposium also revealed how the scientist influenced other disciplines.

“He has impacted many disciplines around which education at CSUN is structured,” said CSUN biology lecturer James Hogue, who spoke about “Darwin’s Beloved Beetles.”

More than 200 years after his birth and 150 years since his most influential research, Darwin continues to inspire scientists, students, and salamander-enthusiasts alike. The weekend celebration also kicked off the national Year of Science.

—Eve Green

BudgetWatch

continued from page 1

As Yes, California State University, Northridge will restart construction of the Valley Performing Arts Center on March 2, 2009. This was one of the State bond-funded projects suspended in December 2008 as a result of the State’s budget/cash crisis. The California budget amendment was approved on February 20, clearing the way for construction to resume. University staff are working with the contractor to assess how the 62-day construction suspension will impact project cost and completion, originally scheduled for late spring 2010.

For more information, visit www.csun.edu/presoffc/presletters/presletter-10-2008-budget.html.
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 March 16 issue is Monday, March 9. 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) 677-4909. E-mail is our preferred method of submitting.

Note: fmi—means for more information.

Events

Tuesday, March 3
Annual Provost’s Colloquium
Dmitry Rachmanov (Music, CSUN), Jerome Richfield Memorial Scholar for 2008–2009; will speak on “Researching the Music of Beethoven on the Pianos of His Era,” at the 17th Annual Provost’s Colloquium. The event takes place at 4 p.m. in the Oviatt Library Presentation Room. To attend, please RSVP to the Office of Graduate Studies, x2138 or e-mail Karen Storey, karen.storey@csun.edu.

Public Meetings

Library Committee
Meets 2 p.m.–4 p.m. Wednesday, March 4
Oviatt Library Administration Conference Room 372

Personnel Planning and Review Committee
Meets 11:15 a.m.–5:00 p.m. Wednesday, March 4
University Hall 277

Senate Executive Committee
Meets 1 p.m.–3:45 p.m. Thursday, March 5
University Hall 277

Academic Technology Committee
Meets 3 p.m. Friday, March 6
University Hall 211

Educational Equity Committee
Meets 11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m. Monday, March 9
University Hall 277

Educational Resources Committee
Meets 2 p.m.–4 p.m. Tuesday, March 10
University Hall 211

Educational Policies Committee
Meets 2 p.m.–4 p.m. Wednesday, March 11
University Hall 211

Foundation Board
Meets 5 p.m.–8 p.m. Wednesday, March 11
fmi—Judith Landy, x 4497

University Planning and Budget Group
Meets 12 p.m.–2 p.m. Wednesday, March 11
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Meets 2 p.m.–4:30 p.m. Thursday, March 12
Oviatt Library Presentation Room 81

Research and Grants Committee
Meets 10 a.m.–12 p.m. Friday, March 13
University Hall 277

Notices

Catastrophic Leave Donation
Pamela Perez (Modern and Classical Languages), currently out on a medical leave of absence, has exhausted her leave credits and is requesting a catastrophic leave donation on her behalf. To make a voluntary leave donation of sick leave and/or vacation leave, forward a completed catastrophic leave donation form to Payroll Administration, mail code 8228. Leave donation pledge forms are available at http://www.admn.csun.edu/obers/ato/ forms.htm.

Correction
A correction that appeared in the Feb. 16 issue of @CSUN said faculty and staff are not allowed to park in the U Hall Parking Structure, off of Zelzah Avenue, between Prairie and Dearborn streets. That information was incorrect. Faculty (Unit 5) are not allowed to park in the structure at this time.

Deepest Condolences
Physical Plant Management and the campus community extend deepest condolences to the family of Jerry White (PPM) whose father passed away Feb. 17. White is a facilities worker II in the PPM Department.

EndNote Web
The Oviatt Library is now offering EndNote Web, an online program service that enables researchers to better manage the collection, organization and incorporation of citations, footnotes and bibliographies within a paper. It also allows users to choose from a variety of citation styles, including APA and MLA. For information on how to create an account and use EndNote Web, visit http://library.csun.edu/Finlas_Resourc es Databases/Endnotew eb.html.

Black Graduation Committee
The Black Graduation Committee at CSUN is currently planning the annual Black Graduation Celebration, to be held Sunday, May 17. There are still spots for those interested in serving on the committee. The committee meets every Tuesday at 11 a.m. in Bayramian Hall 210. fmi—Conchita Battle, x2108 or e-mail concbatt@csun.edu.

Emergency Desk Reference for Staff
The Department of Public Safety has developed the Emergency Operations Desk Reference for Staff Members, available at http://www.admn.csun.edu/publicsafety/emergency/. It may be accessed by clicking a link located on the information bar near the top of the page. The desk reference provides a quick guide for what to do during some of the most common emergency situations that might occur on the University campus. Also, general information on emergency preparedness, staff responsibilities and emergency phone numbers is provided.

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Classes

Office of Human Resources
The Office of Human Resources will extend Benefits Administration Information Workshops for the spring 2009 semester for all interested CSUN staff and faculty.

fmi—Marianne Hude, x5246.

MeLife One-on-One Retirement Consultations
Ben and Chris Maltese, presenters.
Monday, March 9
Hall 16, Conference Room To make an appointment, contact Ben Maltese, (800) 492-5553, x28216 or Chris Maltese, (818) 648-0907.

fidelity One-on-One Retirement Consultations
Boris Sokolovsky, presenter.
Thursday, March 12
University Hall 16, Human Resource Conference Room To make an appointment, visit http://www.fidelity.com/atwork/ consultations or call 6-7313.

ALG Retirement and INS One-on-One Retirement Consultation
Peter Schwartz and Kam Nassiri, presenters.
Monday, March 16
Oviatt Library 16, HR Training Room To make an appointment, contact Pete Schwartz, (818) 517-6884 or peter.schwartz@kaliretirement.com, or Kam Nassiri, k.nassiri@infoga.com.

Professional Development
The Professional Development Program provides free training workshops for CSUN staff in the Oviatt Library, Presentation Room, unless noted otherwise. fmi—Lauren Nile, lauren.nile@csun.edu.

Workshops

"Overcoming Disfunction at Work: A How-To Workshop Designed to Increase Interpersonal Safety, Morale and Productivity"
For all interested managers
Jill Kohn, presenter.
Tuesday, March 3, 10 a.m.–12 p.m.
Oviatt Library 16, HR Training Room To register, visit http://www.surreyconsult.com's.aspx?sm=E7o9a5MN&ty=B2&th=E2Ac_54_3d

"A Conversation with Mildred Garcia"
For all interested managers
Mildred Garcia, presenter.
Wednesday, March 11, 2 p.m.–3:40 p.m.

Spring Safety Workshops
The Department of Public Safety will present Spring Safety Workshops open to students, staff, faculty and the community. They will take place at the CSUN Police Department, corner of Darby Ave. and Prairie St. in the Training Room (second floor), unless noted otherwise. fmi—Daniel Foster, crime prevention coordinator, x5820 or daniel.foster@csun.edu.

Basic Residential Security: “How to Make Your Home a Safe Place”
Wednesday, March 11, 12 p.m.–1 p.m.

Aerosol Defense for Citizens: The Basics for Pepper Spray
Wednesday, April 1, 5:30 p.m.–8:30 p.m.

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Public Speaking
The Department of Communication Studies will offer a Saturday morning course in public speaking for students in grades 5–12 during the 2009 spring semester. The Communication for Youth Institute is a six-week program that helps to develop confidence in oral communication skills. The students will participate in speaking activities and will deliver introduction, anecdote, cultural artifact, process and informative speeches. Classes will take place Saturdays mornings from 9 a.m.–11:30 a.m., beginning March 17–April 18. Applications are now being accepted and enrollment will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis until the class is full.

fmi—Lisa Thranow, lthranow@csun.edu.

Deadlines

2009/10 Chancellor’s Doctoral Incubate Program/Forgivable Loan Doctoral Incentive Program
The California State University is seeking applicants for the 2009–10 Chancellor’s Doctoral Incubate Program. The goal of the program is to increase the number of individuals who show potential as doctoral students and who may be interested in applying and competing for future CSU institutional faculty positions. Individuals who are selected to participate may borrow up to $20,000 annually to a limit of $30,000 over a five-year period while enrolled in full-time doctoral study. Download an application for the program at http://www.csun.edu/HECDIP. The campus deadline is March 4. fmi—Hedy Carpenter, associate director of Graduate Programs, x2138, or hedy.carpenter@csun.edu.

March 2, 2009 • RSIN • California State University, Northridge

3
CSUN Receives Presidential Recognition
Cal State Northridge has been named by the Corporation for National and Community Service to the President’s Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll with Distinction.
Northridge is one of 16 CSU campuses to receive national honors, for work done in 2008, from the White House and the corporation, an independent federal agency tasked with fostering an ethic of volunteerism and service in America.
Among the community service efforts CSUN students work on are the Wayne and Robert Colmer Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, the San Fernando Valley Tobacco Control Project and this year’s AIDS Walk.

The Honor Roll’s Presidential Award, given each year to only a handful of institutions, is the highest federal recognition a college or university can receive for its commitment to volunteering, service-learning, and civic engagement.

Journalism Department members Win Golden Mike Award
Three members of Cal State Northridge’s Department of Journalism have been awarded a Golden Mike by the Radio and Television News Association of Southern California (RTNA). Media production specialist Lincoln Harrison, assistant professor James Hill and graduating senior Natalia Zelaya won for their television news series, “AIDS in Tijuana,” which originally aired on KCET’s Life & Times Nov. 27–29, 2007.
The long-form news stories, each six to seven minutes, examined the increasing rates of HIV and AIDS in Tijuana, Mexico. The trio received their honor at the RTNA’s annual awards banquet on Jan. 26, in which their series won “Best Hard News Series Reporting” in Division B. Harrison served as the series’ photographer and editor, Hill was the producer and Reporter and Zelaya was the associate producer.

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CSUN Hosts Lt. Governor Listening Tour
California Lt. Gov. John Garamendi listened and took notes during a presentation on workforce preparation hosted by Cal State Northridge on Feb. 13. CSUN was the 10th stop along Garamendi’s listening tour at CSU campuses throughout the state. From left: President Jolene Koester, Garamendi and Dan Blake, economics professor and former director of the San Fernando Valley Economic Research Center. The panel also included Associated Student President Miguel Segura; Michael Spagana, dean of the Michael D. Eisner College of Education; Taeyou Jung, assistant professor of kineiology and director of the Land-Based Programs at the Center of Achievement for the Physically Disabled; S.K. Ramesh, dean of the College of Engineering and Computer Science; Nate Thomas, professor of cinema and television arts.

Brown’s new novel, “Brown Girl in the Ring,” has been praised for its vivid, honest portrayal of young people. The author read from the book and related personal stories about her role as a literary agent. The author also spoke about her own experiences in the publishing world and about the challenges faced by young writers today.

In Brief
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) 677-2265.

Passion for the Possible: The Work of Sister Corita
Works by celebrated serigraph artist Corita Kent.
Workshopped based on Kent’s teachings on selected Saturdays.
Curator: Aaron Rose.
Runs through Sat., April 4.
Main Gallery

Charles Darwin and the Study of Evolution
An exhibit exploring Darwin’s work and the study of evolution through biological specimens, artifacts and books.
Exhibit participants: Jim Hogue, Biology Department; Christina Campbell, Helene Rougiers and Matthew Des Lauriers, Anthropology Department; Janet Fish, Educational Psychology Department; Christina Mayberry and Dean Arnold, Oviatt Library.
Runs through Fri., March 13.
Oviatt Library Lobby

Fifty and Fabulous
California State University, Northridge/ San Fernando Valley State College at the half-century mark.
An exhibition on the history of CSUN from 1958 to 2008.
Runs through Aug. 2.
C. K. and Teresa Tseng Gallery, Oviatt Library

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