Soon, choosing the right college will become a little easier. Cal State Northridge hosted the launch of the new, user-friendly College Portrait last week. The College Portrait is part of a national public university initiative—the Voluntary System of Accountability—sponsored by the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges (NASULGC) and the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU). The goal of the initiative, which is funded in part by the Lumina Foundation, is to develop easy-to-use, Web-based College Portraits in an effort to provide trustworthy, reliable data about the university to prospective students and their families.

“Students and their families need a way to make an informed decision for choosing a university,” said Northridge President Jolene Koester, chairman of AASCU’s board. “Today’s connected environment, providing a Web-based solution both maximizes educational resources and provides access to the broadest possible user base.” The genesis for the project began several years ago when leaders from more than 70 public four-year universities got together to develop a common way to supply basic, comparable information on the college experience. The Voluntary System of Accountability, or VSA for short, was born. The result was the VSA College Portrait, a source of basic, comparable information about public colleges and institutions presented in a common, user-friendly format on a central Web site—www.collegeportraits.org. It is designed to be a trustworthy source of reliable data for prospective students and their families on such topics as graduation rates, financial aid, housing, public safety, student characteristics, class sizes, degrees offered, student experiences on campus, learning outcomes and much more.

More than 318 of the 520 AASCU- and NASULGC-member universities nationwide are VSA participants. During 2008, CSUN and other VSA institutions created and displayed the first incarnation of the College Portrait—a colorful, five-page PDF VSA continued on page 2.

Calling All Alumni: First-Ever Grand Reunion
Expected to be the Largest Gathering of CSUN Alumni

It’s time for alumni to put on their CSUN and Valley State red, black and white jerseys, shake out pom-poms and dust off Sunburst yearbooks. Cal State Northridge will host its first-ever all class Grand Reunion Saturday, April 25 from 4 p.m.–8 p.m. on the Oviatt Lawn and Sierra Quad.

“This event will perhaps be the single largest gathering of Northridge alumni,” said Alumni Association President Larry Tversky ’85. CSUN and the Alumni Association invite all alumni and current and former faculty and staff to come together to reunite with CSUN friends. Many campus clubs and organizations will be welcoming alumni back to campus including the Associated Students presidents, vice presidents, cabinets and senators, Homecoming Courts, cheerleaders, Granny Girls, Matador Marching Band, athletic teams, several social fraternities and sororities and various academic departments. Every day, more groups are signing up to host booths where their alumni can congregate.

Plans for the reunion include entertainment by campus groups, plenty of food and drink, door prizes, family activities and more.

“It’s going to be an exciting event that will give alumni an opportunity to reconnect with friends and former faculty. There are many who have not been back to the campus since graduation and who will be surprised how it has changed,” said D.G. “Gray” Mounger, assistant vice president for Alumni Relations. “We hope this reunion helps to launch a new tradition at Cal State Northridge.”

The reunion continues the year-long observance of the university’s 50th anniversary. Founded in 1958, California State University, Northridge is a vibrant, diverse university community, located on 356 acres in the heart of Los Angeles’ San Fernando Valley. CSUN, which is among the nation’s largest single-campus universities, encourages students to combine academic pursuits with hands-on experience.

It also serves as the intellectual, economic and cultural heart of the Valley and beyond. Cal State Northridge has provided credit classes to more than 500,000 students and awarded degrees to about 190,000 graduates since the university’s founding in 1958. Alumni include past state Teachers of the Year, Grammy Award winners, public officials including a current state governor, nationally-known newscasters and a space shuttle astronaut. Their success reflects the hard work of Cal State Northridge’s students and the commitment of faculty and staff to helping students fulfill their goals.

To organize a reunion group or to volunteer, contact Alumni Relations at alumni@csun.edu. For more information or to register, visit www.csun.edu/50 or call Alumni Relations at (818) 677-2157.
Lt. Governor ‘Listening Tour’ Arrives at CSUN

CSUN Experts and Others to Discuss Workforce Preparation

Lt. Governor John Garamendi will visit Cal State Northridge Tuesday, Feb. 17, as part of his “Listening Tour” of California.

The public is invited to join Garamendi as he hears from CSUN faculty, staff and students and other regional leaders on workforce development in California. The panel discussion will focus on CSUN’s support programs for students with disabilities and the university’s computer graphic arts and animation program. It will take place from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the University Student Union, Grand Salon.

“California’s education system in workforce development has never been more important as we try to work our way through very tough economic times,” said Garamendi about the upcoming visit. “CSUN will help move California’s future workforce forward by educating students in computer animation graphic arts and special needs education.”

Some of those scheduled to participate include Miguel Segura, president of CSUN’s Associated Students; Deborah diCesare, dean of Academic Affairs & Economic Development at Los Angeles Valley College; Michael Spagna, dean of CSUN’s Michael D. Eisner College of Education; Taeyou Jung, CSUN kinesiology professor and director of Land-Based Programs at the Center of Achievement for the Physically Disabled; S.K. Rezai, dean of CSUN’s College of Engineering and Computer Science; Nate Thomas, CSUN professor of cinema and television arts; Mark Farquhar, CSUN art professor and member of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees Local 899 Animation Guild; Cathee Cohen, counselor and coordinator at Cleveland High School; and Dan Blake, CSUN economics professor emeritus.

The CSUN visit is the 15th stop along Garamendi’s tour. He has conducted similar events at CSU campuses in Bakersfield, Fresno, Hayward, Humboldt and Long Beach State. For more information, or to register to attend, call (516) 445-8994.

Faculty, Staff Invited to Join ‘Just One Thing’ Challenge

The Goal Is to Provide Access to Students with Disabilities

Do you want to make sure all students can navigate your Web site? Do you want to make sure all students can access your syllabus and faculty bio page? Do you want to eliminate communication barriers?

If your answers to those questions are “yes,” then join the “Just One Thing” challenge.

The Provost’s Office, the Accessible Technology Initiative and the Faculty Technology Center will host an afternoon of workshops and an information fair Thursday, Feb. 19 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at the USU Flimbridge Room to launch the “Just One Thing” challenge. The daylong workshop will include discussion about the importance of access to students, particularly those with disabilities. Faculty and staff will be provided with information on “universal design” and creating accessible documents.

“Increasingly, we are moving online. In today’s connected environment, providing a Web-based solution both maximizes educational resources and provides access to the broadest possible user base.”

—Jolene Koester, president of CSUN

Voluntary System of Accountability...

continued from page 1.

Keller worked with CSUN senior Web producer Kimon Rethis and members of the CSUN Student Affairs Information Technology staff as well as the VSA support teams from the University of Wisconsin, La Crosse and the University of Minnesota.

“We had to come up with a new, accessible design, a new Web application with logic to process and display the data,” said Rethis, adding that the team tried to be sensitive to the needs of the Web-savvy YouTube generation. Their work took about eight months.

All of the member institutions, including CSUN, are expected to have revamped Web sites by April.

“Web search engines rely on having auditable data that is correct and complete,” said Rethis, adding that the matter includes not only accessibility to content, but also the real world measures of success of the institution.

“Without CSUN students being able to search for information about their university or courses, the institution is at a disadvantage,” he said.

“By making it easier for people with disabilities to access information, we are also providing information to the larger Web user base.”

—Jolene Koester, president of CSUN

“In today’s connected environment, providing a Web-based solution both maximizes educational resources and provides access to the broadest possible user base.”

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“California’s education system in workforce development has never been more important as we try to work our way through very tough economic times.”

—Lt. Governor John Garamendi

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www.csun.edu/pubsrels/02csun
Sirena Pellarolo (Spanish and Latin Studies) will host the lecture. It takes place 1 p.m.–5 p.m., Jerome Richfield 319. fmi-Jacob Hale, jacob.bale@csun.edu.

Tuesday, March 3
Annual Provost’s Colloquium
Dmitry Rachmanov (Department of Music). CSUN’s Jerome Richfield Memorial Scholar for 2008–2009, will speak on “Recording 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. Please RSVP to the Office of Graduate Studies, x2138 or e-mail Karen Storey, karen.storey@csun.edu.

Sunday, March 15
Chinese New Year’s Banquet
Institute and Chinese Student Association will host the annual “Chinese New Year’s Banquet,” to celebrate the Chinese Spring Festival. Registration and membership for the banquet is required by March 3. The banquet takes place 5:30 p.m.–8:30 p.m., at the Grand Salon, University Student Union. fmi-Beibei Wu, adeccc@bostmail.com or call (618) 426-9254.

Public Meetings
Personnel Planning and Review Committee
Meets 1-15 p.m.–5 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 18 University Hall 277

Extended Learning Committee
Meets 3-15 p.m.–5 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 18 Bookstore Complex Executive Meeting Room

USU Board of Directors
Meets 1 p.m. Monday, Feb. 23 USU Grand Salon

Educational Policies Committee
Meets 2–4 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 25 University Hall 211

Senate Executive Committee
Meets 1 p.m.–4:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 26 University Hall 277

Public Speaking
The Department of Communication Studies will present the Communication for Youth Institute, a six-week program of Saturday morning public speaking courses for students grades 5–12 during the 2009 spring semester. The program will help students develop confidence in oral communication skills. Classes begin Saturday, March 17, 9 a.m.–11:30 a.m. Applications are not being accepted. fmi-Lisa Thranow, tbrano@csun.edu.

Notices
Catastrophic Leave Donation
Paul Whitsack (Admissions and Records), currently out on a medical leave of absence, has exhausted her leave credits and is requesting catastrophic leave donations 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.adms.csun.edu/obrs/site/forms.htm.

The deadline for the March 2 issue is Monday, February 23. 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 8224 or faxing them to (818) 677-6000. Email is the preferred method of submitting. Note: fmi-means for more information.

Correction
A caption that appeared in the Feb. 2 issue of BCSUN said the G9 Parking Structure, off Zelzah Avenue between Prairie and Dearborn streets, was open to faculty and staff use. That information was incorrect. Faculty and staff are not allowed to park in the structure at this time.

Classes
Office of Human Resources
The Office of Human Resources will conduct workshops on Kaiser Permanente health benefits, presented by David Mancilla to all interested CSUN faculty and staff. To register, visit http://www-adms.csun.edu/obrs/benefits. The workshops take place Tuesday, Feb. 17, 10:30 a.m.–11:30 a.m., 1 p.m.–3 p.m. and 5 p.m.–7 p.m., in the Oviatt Library 16, HR Training Room, Garden Level. fmi-Marianne Hadz, x5246.

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

Workshops:
• "The Sustainable University—What it Means for All Leaders" For all interested USU faculty. Thursday, Feb. 19, 2 p.m.–4 p.m. Office of the Chancellor, Long Beach http://www.Thesource.calstat.edu fmi-Lorna Mels, lmels@calstat.edu or call (805) 678-4499.
• "The Importance of Attending to Our Own Well Being" For all interested managers Penny Jennings and Linda Chassiakos, presenters. Wednesday, Feb. 25 and Thursday, Feb. 26

Spring 2009 Faculty Senate Elections
Any faculty member who wishes to run for a Faculty Senate Office, but has not yet been nominated, may submit a petition to the Faculty Senate Office with 15 faculty signatures by 5 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 26. Open for election are the posts of vice president (one-year term), secretary (one-year term), CSU statewide academic senator (one-year term and three-year term) and senators-at-large (two-year term, six positions) fmi-Heidi Wolfsbauer, x5263.

Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity Awards
The Research and Grants Committee is accepting applications for the 2009–10 CSUN competition for Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity Awards. Full-time faculty may apply to receive three units of released time or up to $5,000 of funding for project expenses, enabling them to pursue their scholarly and creative interests. The guidelines and application may be downloaded at http://www.csun.edu/ger/research/funding/unscomp.html. The deadline for submission of applications is 5 p.m., Monday, March 2. fmi-Office of Research and Sponsored Projects, x2001.

2009/2010 Chancellor’s Doctoral Incentive Program
The California State University is seeking applicants for the 2009–2010 Chancellor’s Doctoral Incentive Program. The purpose 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 instructional faculty positions. Individuals who are selected to participate may borrow up to $10,000 annually to a limit of $30,000 over a five-year period while enrolled in full-time doctoral study. Download an application at http://www.adms.csun.edu/HEC/DP. The campus deadline is March 1. fmi-Hedy Carpenter, associate director of Graduate Programs, x2138, or body.carpenter@csun.edu.
In Brief

Deepest Condolences
The College of Health and Human Development and the campus community extend deepest condolences to the family of Robert Winslow (Recreation and Tourism), who passed away recently.

The former chair of Recreation and Tourism Management (formerly Leisure Studies and Recreation) served in that position from fall 1993 to spring 1998. He was nationally recognized for his work in the area of Therapeutic Recreation and held several national leadership positions in that field.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to the CSUN Winslow Memorial Fund. For more information about the fund and making a donation, contact John Pepitone, director of development, at (818) 677-5863.

K9 Retirement Ceremony
The Cal State Northridge Police Department is retiring K9 Officers Briska and Frieda at a ceremony Feb. 19, 3:30 p.m. in the Department of Public Safety Training Room.

The patrol certified dogs have been serving the university since 2005 and 2008, respectively, with their primary function being explosives detection.

The dogs’ extensive training involved weekly attendance at a canine academy and daily training during regular patrol duty. Once retired, the dogs will be sold to their handlers.

The ceremony will pay tribute to the dogs and their handlers for providing public safety to the campus.

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 K9 cops,” said CSUN Police Chief Anne Glavin.

Calendar

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

Passion for the Possible: The Work of Sister Corita
Works by celebrated serigraph artist Corita Kent. Workshops based on Kent’s teachings on selected Saturdays.

Workshop participants: Jim Hogue, Rancho Penasquitos and Janet Fish, Educational Development; Campbell, Helene Rougiers and Campbell, Helene Rougiers and

‘Lightness of Being’
Directed by Ernst Lubitsch.

‘To Be or Not to Be’
Directed by Ernst Lubitsch, Monday, Feb. 16, 7 p.m.

‘A Generation [Pokolenie]’
Directed by Andrzej Wajda. Thu., Feb. 19, 7 p.m.

‘Ashes and Diamonds [Pogoń i diament]’
Directed by Andrzej Wajda. Association of Retired Faculty series. Fri., Feb. 20, 2 p.m.

‘A Generation [Pokolenie]’
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List of events continues...