Cal State Northridge faculty will more closely match the ethnic and cultural diversity of the students, academic departments will become more interdisciplinary and faculty and student interactions will change due to technology predicted faculty retreat last week.

"The world is interconnected yet the boundaries that we use in the academy are very artificial," said Koester about the organization of CSUN's colleges and academic departments. "The department labels that we currently use don't really work that well."

Koester's address was inspired by the retreat's theme: "Fifty and Fabulous Foundations for the Future." In light of the state's fiscal crisis and its impact on CSUN, Koester said she considered changing her speech but instead decided to focus on the future. She urged faculty to "focus on those things that we can shape and control" rather than "on the fears, the unknown."

"I believe that the important work at Cal State Northridge must be to define the future that we want and then help it make happen," said Koester to about 140 faculty attending the retreat's keynote address. "This university currently makes a difference in the individual lives of our students, the collective consequence of what they give back to the region, and therefore the future as a whole."

In reviewing the university's history and successes, Koester reminded faculty that CSUN has a history of stewardship of place, distinguished faculty, a commitment to academic quality, partnerships with the region and a beautiful and carefully planned physical campus.

"These are the trademark attributes of California State University, Northridge," Koester said.

The annual retreat was held Jan. 12-13 at the Ventura Beach Marriott. All faculty are invited but their newer members. The retreat is planned by a committee of faculty led this year by co-chairs Mike Rivas, assistant professor of secondary education, and Terri Lisagor, assistant professor of family and consumer sciences, and Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs Harry Hellenbrand gave closing remarks.

"We like to offer a variety of topics that can help new faculty find their way and inspire those who have been teaching many years," said Lisagor, who was happy to see a number of new faculty in attendance.

Cheryl Spector, professor of English and secretary of the Faculty Senate, who opened the retreat with a welcome to the faculty, said the retreat "exceeded" her expectations.

"I feel energized by the conversations and presentations I was part of," Spector said.

**BudgetWatch**

California State University announced earlier this month additional cost saving measures that are aimed at maintaining jobs and student access to quality programs in the midst of state budget cuts. These actions follow the system's decision in November to limit the number of new students entering in fall 2009, due to the state's inability to fully fund enrollment growth and operational needs.

The new actions implemented at the system office and at all 23 campuses include a salary freeze for all vice president/vice chancellor level positions and above including campus presidents and the chancellor through the 2009-10 budget year. The CSU has also announced a hiring freeze on all but essential positions, cancellation of all non-critical equipment and supplies purchases and travel restrictions for employees.

In addition, the university system has been forced to suspend and shut down state funded design and construction projects on all 23 campuses due to the state's freeze of $600 million in general obligation and lease revenue bonds used to finance such projects.

"The magnitude of the state's budget crisis continues to grow, along with the uncertainty of the future fiscal picture," said Chancellor Reed at Cal State Northridge, this emergency action directly affects the Valley Performing Arts Center Project, Chaparral Hall (previously called Science 5) and several minor capital improvement projects. Because Chaparral Hall is close to completion, CSUN is working with the Chancellor's Office to identify alternative sources of funding for continued construction. Non-state-funded construction projects, including the G3 parking structure and new student housing, are not affected.

President Jolene Koester said in a recent statement that CSUN had anticipated for some time the state's financial situation, so "processes and procedures" had already been put in place to ensure prudent budgetary decisions. She said divisional leaders will continue, as they have for the past 24 months, to carefully review and evaluate equipment and supply purchases. Similarly, over the past year, positions have been held vacant in all divisions. The vice presidents will continue to approve hiring deemed essential for the effective functioning of the university. Travel requests will continue to be evaluated by divisional leaders based on the mission-driven needs of the university.

"I am very grateful for everyone's commitment and hard work during these uncertain times, and ask for your continued forbearance during this time of extreme financial ambiguity," Koester said.
CSUN Controller Robert Barker Retiring From Campus Post
He Will Assume New Job with the CSU Chancellor’s Office

It’s no surprise that it was numbers—the salary offered to Robert Barker—that attracted the Ph.D in accounting to Cal State Northridge in 1981. But Barker, who retires this month as the university’s chief accountant after 27 years of service to the campus, said it’s not the numbers but the wonderful relationships he has formed with students, faculty and staff that have kept him at CSUN.

“I made the right decision even though I made it for the wrong reasons,” recalled Barker, who picked CSUN over two other CSU campuses because Northridge offered him the best salary. “I’ve been very happy at Northridge.” The 65-year-old native of Arkansas started working at CSUN as a lecturer in the accounting department. He left teaching and worked in private practice as a tax manager for two years, but returned in 1986. From 1989 to 1998 he served as chair of the Department of Accounting and Management Information Systems. He remained in the department until he was asked to serve as interim university controller. From 2000-2003 he worked as university controller and director of financial and accounting services. In 2003, Barker was promoted to associate vice president for financial and accounting services as well as university controller, in charge of accounting for how the campus spends millions of dollars. He is responsible for managing nine departments and dozens of employees.

Barker said he was reluctant to move into administration because he thought it would be “not very exciting.” But, to his surprise, his nearly nine years overseeing the university’s financial system have been “interesting” and full of change.

“The things that make teaching enjoyable are the students. The things that make being an administrator enjoyable are having good people working for you,” Barker said.

During his tenure, Barker said he is proud to have helped CSUN transition from an antiquated fund based accounting system to a more effective PeopleSoft Finance system used by many commercial corporations. He said this transition has been possible in part because his office has upgraded the skill level of his staff.

“We had to change the way we worked and the people who did the work, but we were able to do that without laying anybody off,” added Barker. He said he also enjoyed his work as faculty serving as adviser to the accounting honors organization and serving as a representative on many campus boards and committees.

Barker said that although he is retiring from his position at CSUN, he will continue working for the CSU Chancellor’s Office developing an online policy and procedures manual for financial services management. Instead of commuting to the CSU system headquarters in Long Beach, he will maintain an office at CSUN. His replacement has not been named.

“Bob is widely regarded as an effective campus leader,” said Tom McCarron, vice president for administration and finance and chief financial officer for CSUN. He said Barker’s “unique ability to keep the mood light and find humor even when dealing with a difficult situation” will be missed.

A retirement party is scheduled for Wednesday, Jan. 28 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Orange Grove Bistro. For more information, contact Christine Dorman, x7125 or christine.dorman@csun.edu.

Sustainability Expert Urges CSUN to Consider Biodiesel

Decreasing the use of energy in campus buildings and using biodiesel in campus transportation were among the recommendations made by environmental guru L. Hunter Lovins during a recent lecture at Cal State Northridge.

“If we want out of this collapse we are in, we will invest in energy efficiency, in our buildings, in our schools, in high speed trains, in infrastructures that will give us the technology of the future,” said Lovins, founder and president of Natural Capitalism Inc. and Natural Capitalism Solutions.

A professor of sustainable management at the Presidio School of Management, she spoke about protecting the environment and ways in which universities can help. The Dec. 9 event was part of a series of events related to CSUN’s Campus Greening Project.

CSUN is already considered a leader in energy conservation and sustainability and has its own fuel cell power plant, solar power and micro-turbines, which together provide 23 percent of CSUN’s electric power. Last year, the university launched the Campus Greening Project in an effort to bring environmental and sustainability experts together on campus. Subsequently, the Institute for Sustainability was created as an “umbrella” organization to coordinate research, teaching and project implementation campus-wide.

Lovins encouraged CSUN and other universities to “green” their buildings and decrease the amount of energy being used. She said utilizing “day lighting” to light classrooms would greatly conserve energy along with increasing test scores and productivity.

University Hall South Wing Invaded by Flood Waters

To passersby, the large yellow tubes extending from University Hall may have resembled a scene from an alien invasion movie. That was not the case. The tubes and activities were measures taken to repair the hole left upon the flooding of a flood that left one to three inches of water on the first floor of the south wing of University Hall.

Around midnight on Jan. 7, a pipe carrying hot water, used to heat the building, ruptured and began flooding a mechanical room on the first floor. The heat from this hot water activated two fire sprinklers in the same mechanical room.

Norton said thanks to the quick response from Physical Plant Management, most of the water was immediately extracted but some damage had already been done. He said damage to the building exceeds $100,000. The Career Center lost 20 computers and $300 to $400 in copier paper and other supplies. In University Advancement, some of the items destroyed include four computers, a telephone and reams of copier paper. The Career Center was associated with a property restoration company to reduce the amount of water damage by installing “dehydration” machines to remove the moisture from the air and “air scrubbers” to eliminate any flood-related odors.

Tom Brown, executive director of Physical Plant Management, said his office will take measures to improve the “odds of this not happening again.” However, he said things like this can and do occur. In the meantime, despite the inconveniences created by the flooding, operations in University Advancement and the Career Center should return to normal by Jan. 20.
Events
Tuesday, Jan. 20
Presidential Inauguration at the Oviatt Library
The Oviatt Library invites students, faculty and staff to view the Presidential Inauguration in the Oviatt Library Presentation Room, Room 81 and in the lobby of the library. The Presidential Inauguration and events following will be broadcast throughout the day, 8 a.m.–6 p.m. fmi-Peter Prager, x2271

Saturday, Jan. 24
Alumni Fan Night
The Office of Alumni Relations will present Alumni Fan Night, pre-game dinner for CSUN’s men’s basketball vs. UC Irvine at the Matadome. The event will take place at 5:30 p.m., followed by dinner and general game seating. The pre-game activities will take place at 4:30 p.m. at the USU Pub. Tip-off is at 7:05 p.m. Order tickets online at http://www.csuadmitmiti.com or by phone at x2178. The event is co-sponsored by the University Student Union and Matador Athletics.
fmi-Cheryl McMillan, x9398 or cheryl.mcmillan@csun.edu

Sunday, Jan. 25
Jewish Studies Film Screening
CSUN’s Jewish Studies program will present the film “Blessed is the Match,” a documentary about Hannah Senesh, a modern poet and parachutist in the only military rescue mission of Jews during the Holocaust. The film will be presented at 10:30 a.m. at the Fallbrook Laemmle Theater, 6731 Fallbrook Ave., West Hills. The film will be followed by a Q&A and discussion led by Jewish Studies faculty. To reserve a seat, call x4727 or e-mail judith.studies@csun.edu.
fmi-Jewish Studies, x3007.

Public Meetings
North Campus-University Park Development Corp.
Meets 9 a.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 20
University Hall 250

Associated Students Senate
Meets 2 p.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 20 and 27
USU Grand Salon

Personnel Planning and Recognition
Meets 11:15 a.m.–5 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 21
University Hall 277

USU Board of Directors
Meets 1 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 26
USU Grand Salon

Associated Students Finance Committee
Meets 2 p.m.
Monday, Jan. 26
Associated Students Office

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 February 2 issue is Monday, January 26. 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) 677-6900. E-mail is the preferred method of submitting.

Note: fmi—means for more information.

2009 Faculty Awards
Nominations are being accepted for the 2009 faculty awards honoring outstanding faculty achievement. Nominations must be received in the Faculty Senate Office by Monday, Feb. 23. Supporting materials must be received by Monday, March 25. Faculty Awards include the Outstanding Faculty Award, the Distinguished Teaching, Counseling or Librarianship Award, the Scholarly Publication(s) Award, the Creative Accomplishment(s) Award, the Extraordinary Service Award and the Visionary Service-Learning Award. Faculty Award forms are on the Faculty Service Web site, http://www.csun.edu/senate.awards.html. fmi-Heidi Wollbauer, x2265.

Faculty Development Grants
CSUN’s China Institute is accepting applications for a faculty development grant. The grant must be used to start a project in the applicant’s discipline that advances the field of China Studies or promotes long-term exchange and collaboration for faculty and students. There will be two grants of $1,000 each, which can be used to support travel expenses for the faculty to visit China to develop their project. A Word file containing the proposal and the applicant’s resume must be submitted by Monday, Feb. 23 to the chair of the China Institute Review Committee, Harold Giedt, at barold.giedt@csun.edu.

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 and part-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/grp/research/funding/oncampus.html. The deadline for submission of applications is 5 p.m., Monday, March 2. fmi-Office of Research and Sponsored Projects, x2901.

2009–2010 Chancellor’s Doctoral Incentive Program
The CSU is seeking applicants for the 2009–2010 Chancellor’s Doctoral Incentive Program, which seeks 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. To download an application, go to http://www.csun.edu/faculty/fairs/forms/general/FERP Application.doc. The campus deadline is March 4, 2009, fmi-Hedy Carpenter, associate director of Graduate Programs at x2138, or hedy.carpenter@csun.edu.

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In Brief

Campus Mourns Death of Former Engineering Dean
The College of Engineering and Computer Science and the campus join in extending sympathy to the family of Charles Sanders (CSCCS) who passed away Nov. 29. He was the second dean of the School of Engineering, now known as the College of Engineering and Computer Science. Named acting dean in 1972, he was officially appointed to the position in 1974, and served until retiring in 1984. During his tenure as dean, Sanders created the Center for Research and Services to stimulate research activity in the school.

Minority Engineering Program, which became a model for recruitment and retention of nontraditional engineering students, was also created while he was dean. He pioneered development efforts in the school at a time when the campus was not actively seeking development funds. He was active in the CSUN community as chair of the University Committee on Research Administration and served as the statewide chair of the California Engineering Deans. He remained associated with the university as an emeritus professor.

Employee Commute Survey Winners Announced
The Cal State Northridge Commuter Transportation Program has announced the winners of the Employee Commute Survey prize drawings. More than 2,100 employees who completed the surveys were eligible for the drawings. Lorna Hughes (Chemistry) won $300, Shane Frechlich (Kinesiology) won $250, and Marianne Link (Student Health Center) won $75.

The Commuter Transportation Program assists the campus community in meeting transportation and commuter needs. It also distributes the annual survey, required by the South Coast Air Quality District (AQMD), an air pollution control agency. The survey measures the success of how CSUN’s commuters use alternative methods of transportation.

For more information about commuter transportation programs, contact Astdin Logan, x3966.

Sabbatical Leaves for 2009–2010
President Jolene Koester is pleased to announce the awarding of the following 46 regular sabbatical leaves and six difference-in-pay leaves to be taken during the 2009–2010 academic year.

College | Years of Service | Credits
--- | --- | ---
M. H. L. (Arts) | 6 | 6
Alexia Koester (Computer Science) | 6 | 6
Ronald Borczon (Music) | 6 | 6
Livia Muscanes (Music) | 7 | 7
Steven Thachuk (Music) | 7 | 7
Martin Cleveland (Theater) | 7 | 7

College of Business and Economics:

Robert Krol (Economics) | 6 | 6
Shirley Swamy (Economics) | 7 | 7
Vincent Covrig (Finance, Real Estate and Ins.) | 3 | 3
Curt Demmyer (Marketing) | 3 | 3
Deborah Heisley (Marketing) | 3 | 3
Frank Iagnonir (Marketing) | 3 | 3
Siva Sankaran (Systems and Operations Mgmt) | 8 | 8

Michael D. Esner College of Education:

Joyce Burleson (Elementary Education) | 7 | 7
Nancy Burleson (Special Education) | 12 | 12
Rachel Friedman Naur (Special Education) | 6 | 6

College of Engineering and Computer Science:

Steven Fitzgerald (Computer Science) | 15 | 15
Jeffrey Wiegley (Computer Science) | 9 | 9
Nagil El Naga (Electrical and Computer Eng.) | 10 | 10
Tareq Sarrabial (Manufacturing Sys Eng and Mgmt) | 9 | 9

College of Health and Human Development:

Rabia Djouloubi (Child and Adolescent Development) | 7 | 7
Visa Elsin (Health Sciences) | 7 | 7

College of Humanities:

Yvonne Gomes (Chicana Studies) | 10 | 10
Oscar Marti (Chicana Studies) | 7 | 7
Theresa Montano (Chicana Studies) | 14 | 14
Denise Sandoval (Chicana Studies) | 7 | 7
Ian Barnard (English) | 6 | 6
Dorothy Clark (English) | 8 | 8
Leilani Hall (English) | 11 | 11
Breny Mendoza (Gender and Women’s Studies) | 7 | 7

College of Science and Mathematics:

Ramek Maimo (Chemistry) | 15 | 15
Dina Mezrany (Chemistry) | 14 | 14
Eric Kelson (Chemistry and Biochemistry) | 6 | 6
Jheen Medh (Chemistry and Biochemistry) | 8 | 8
Gagik Melkian (Chemistry and Biochemistry) | 6 | 6

Music

Admission to all music events (unless otherwise specified): $10 general, $7 faculty, staff and seniors, $5 students.

Dmitry Rachmanov Piano Recital
Old First Church, Jan. 30, 12 p.m.
Old First Church, 1751 Sacramento St., San Francisco $12–$15

Dmitry Rachmanov Piano Recital
Concerts Grand series.
Sun., Feb. 1, 3 p.m.
Newman Auditorium, 1501 Mendocino Ave., Santa Rosa $15–$17

Jazz Faculty Recital
Thu., Feb. 5, 8 p.m.
Music Recital Hall

Theater/Performance

Movin’ Out
This award-winning musical brings 24 Billy Joel classics to life under the direction of choreographer Twyla Tharp, as it tells the story of five life-long friends over two turbulent decades. A Broadway national tour.

Tue., Jan. 20, 8 p.m.
Wed., Jan. 21, 8 p.m.
Plaza at the Del Sol Performance Hall $20–$60