CSUN

Cal State Northridge—The Intellectual, Economic and Cultural Heart of the San Fernando Valley and Beyond

CSUN Grad: Rank High in Admittance to State Bar

Northridge Ninth Among Top 20 Undergraduate Schools Whose Alumni Pass Difficult California Bar Exam

The road to law school begins in the first year of college, according to the American Bar Association. For thousands of law school graduates who have passed the state bar exam, that academic journey began at California State University, Northridge. Northridge leads the CSU system in the number of graduates admitted after law school to the California State Bar, according to the bar's demographic analysis of its members.

CSU ranks 9th among the 20 undergraduate schools with the largest number of graduates who have passed the general bar examination, a prerequisite to practicing law in this state.

Other Cal State campuses ranked in the top 20 include San Diego State, Cal State Long Beach, CSU Fullerton, San Francisco State, San Jose State, and Sacramento State.

The California bar exam, considered among the most difficult in the nation, posted a pass rate of 56.1 percent for the test held in July, the most recent data available. However, only 36.8 percent passed the spring 2007 exam.

A strong academic foundation appears to be key among the factors leading to success in passing the bar. While the American Bar Association does not recommend specific undergraduate majors for students who want to become lawyers, it has identified core skills that they need, including analytic and problem-solving skills, critical reading abilities, writing skills, oral communication and listening abilities, general research skills and task organization and management skills, as well as the ability “to produce lengthy and well-researched papers.”

Northridge graduates who have become lawyers earned undergraduate degrees in a number of fields such as business and economics, political science, psychology and English. At CSUN, undergraduates can choose from more than 60 areas of concentration, ranging from accountancy, art, biology and business law to political science, psychology, sociology and ethnic, racial, gender or religious studies.

They also can access a new pre-law advisement program Web site (see story, page 4) to help answer common questions about law school quickly and conveniently.

Model U.N. Team Goes for Glory and Wins...Again

At United Nations in New York, CSUN Team Lives Up to National Reputation for Intellectual Toughness

For the second year in a row, the Cal State Northridge Model United Nations team has taken top honors—the equivalent of first place—at the national conference in New York, where more than 3,000 students were in competition.

Representing Afghanistan and competing against nearly 300 universities from the United States, the CSUN team won the 2008 Outstanding Delegation honor for overall performance, encompassing exercise of leadership, active participation, collaboration and other qualities.

Northridge also took Outstanding Position Papers honors for its superior pre-conference preparation.

“The last two years, we have won the Outstanding Delegation award and the Outstanding Position Papers award,” said political science lecturer Peter Kappas, advisor to CSU’s team. “That’s never been done before at CSU.”

The university has participated in the Model U.N. competition for 30 years, winning top awards at five of the past six national conferences and establishing a nationwide reputation for prodigious preparation, negotiating prowess and resolution writing skills.

CSUN’s Justin Seuthe (head delegate) and Jorge Guerrero earned individual recognition as the “best single delegation” in their committee, the 300-delegate General Assembly Plenary.

Preparing rigorously for the competition, in which students take on the roles of diplomats representing their countries’ positions, the team spent January writing position papers, immersing themselves in issues ranging from the battle against illicit drugs to nuclear materials management.

CSUN Model United Nations team after win in New York from left: Mujahidul Haque, Marguerite Sanvictores, Elena Ponyaeva, political science lecturer Peter Kappas, Jennifer Jangur, Richard Wilk, Danae Busby, Jorge Guerrero, Karen Roseberry, Sabine Freij, Giovanni Balz, Justin Robertson, and Justin Seuthe.

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Vol. XII - No. 15 April 7, 2008
Is Biodiesel the Fuel for the Future? Josh Tickell Says ‘Yes’
Lecture by Documentarian, Author; Biodiesel Proponent Caps Speak Your Mind Series for 2007-08

Josh Tickell’s search for alternatives to petroleum began on a farm in what then was East Germany, where he learned about biodiesel. Diseases linked to oilrefinery pollution had struck members of the young college-student’s family in Louisiana, so Tickell’s interest was personal. Since then, the expert on alternative fuel has founded the Biodiesel America Organization, penned two books on biodiesel, undertook a two-year “adventure” across America in a van fueled by used French fry oil, released a short film about that voyage, and begun work on a documentary about America’s dependence on foreign oil and a possible solution to “the coming energy crisis.”

Tickell will bring his perspectives on biodiesel to Cal State Northridge for its final Speak Your Mind series lecture of the academic year, set for 2:15 p.m. Wednesday, April 16, in the Northridge Center. The 2007-08 series has focused on the environment.

Faculty members are encouraged to bring their classes to the talk, which will require no tickets. Admission will be free to the event, planned by campuswide representatives.

The first 30 students admitted will receive free copies of Tickell’s new book, “Biodiesel America: How to Achieve Energy Security, Free America from Middle-East Oil Dependence and Make Money Growing Fuel.” Tickell also is the author of “From the Fryer to the Fuel Tank—The Complete Guide to Using Vegetable Oil as an Alternative Fuel,” which describes how to run a diesel engine on new or used vegetable oil, and includes a “step-by-step guide to making your own batch of biodiesel.”

Prior to the lecture, Tickell will lunch with a gathering of CSUN students. He will sign copies of “Biodiesel America” following the talk.

The speaker’s newest project, “Fields of Fuel,” is a 90-minute documentary shot in the U.S., Australia, Germany, Sweden and Brazil. The upcoming film explores biodiesel as “one possible solution to the coming energy crisis” and raises questions as to why knowledge of the fuel’s virtues is not better known. “Fields of Fuel” follows Tickell’s first independent film, “The Veggie Van Voyage,” which chronicles his cross-country voyage in an eye-catching French fry oil-powered vehicle dubbed the Veggie Van.

The Speak Your Mind series was launched in 2006 to stimulate critical thinking among CSUN students, to challenge student assumptions, and to present knowledgeable perspectives on issues both topical and important.

For more information, visit http://www.csun.edu/speakyourmind/.

Increase in Student Activity Fee Under Study for Fall 2008
Last Raised in 1979, Proposal Fee Supports Range of Enhancements: Student Publications and More

For the first time in nearly three decades, campus leadership is studying a proposal to increase a fee used to support a range of student activities that enhance the quality of the educational experience at Cal State Northridge.

Among other activities, the proposed fee will support music and dance performances, theater productions, art exhibits, forensics, the award-winning Modo United Nations program, and campus publications such as the Daily Sundial.

Part of an “omnibus” campus quality fee proposed by Northridge’s vice presidents, the fee also would eliminate course charges for labs and for supplies and materials paid at some point by most students; fund technological advances; increase the availability of student support services; bolster Matador athletics with more money for scholarships, facilities and equipment; and boost spending on “instructionally-related” student activities in which the majority of CSUN students participate.

The fee supporting those activities was last raised in 1979.

If approved, it would start at $50 for the 2008 fall semester, rise to $100 by the 2010 spring semester, and grow slightly in future years to offset inflation and promote operational stability. Even with the additional cost, CSUN’s total fees of about $5,200 would remain much lower than the national average of $4,900 at similar academic institutions.

To take effect, a new fee charged to all students must either be approved by a campus referendum, in which all students are eligible to vote, or via an “alternative consultation process” that seeks broad, deep and diverse feedback.

Because only about 1,500 of the university’s more than 35,000 students typically participate in a referendum, the consultation method is being used to ensure wider involvement, greater understanding and significantly more feedback on the potential advantages or disadvantages of this fee.

“While I believe this is a critical and important opportunity for the university, I can’t recommend a fee that doesn’t have the relative support of students, faculty and staff—primarily students,” said President Jolene Koester.

To determine the level of support, multiple forums will be held in April for the student body; student leaders who head CSUN’s 250 chartered clubs and organizations, students engaged in “instructionally-related” activities and Educational Opportunity Program participants.

A session has been scheduled for faculty and staff from noon to 1 p.m. Tuesday, April 22, in Live Oak Hall, room 1117. Sessions also will be set for the Provost’s Council and the Council of Chairs.

Campus stakeholders will be able to read the proposal in full and offer feedback at www.csun.edu/studentsaffairs/feeproposal. All feedback will be synthesized and presented to a student fee advisory committee, whose recommendation will influence President Koester’s decision on whether to seek approval for the new fee from CSU Chancellor Charles B. Reed.

An undergraduate survey on fees, completed in March, generated about 1,500 results.

CSUN Faculty’s Influence Felt in LACMA’s ‘Phantom Sightings’
Gamboa, de la Loza are Featured in Museum’s Major Exhibit on Legacy of Chicano Art

In many ways, wrote Harry Gamboa nearly 25 years ago, Chicano culture exists as a phantom in terms of its impact. It is the responsibility of artists, he said then, to make sure the culture remains visible.

Gamboa and Sandra de la Loza, Chicana/o Studies Department faculty members, have taken that responsibility to heart, and their influence is felt in what is being billed as “the first major consideration of the legacy of Chicano art in almost two decades.”

Amid the fanfare of spinoff receptions, a news conference and symposia, the “Phantom Sightings: Art after the Chicano Movement” exhibition opened April 6 and will run through September 1 at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA).

A three-year tour of major museums in the U.S. and Mexico follows.

Their works are featured with that of other prominent Chicana/o artists, but de la Loza and Gamboa are the sole attractions of a “Conversation with Artists” session set for 2 p.m. May 4 at the museum.

Gamboa, whose writings inspired the exhibition’s title, will exhibit photographs that emerged from his association with Asco—the Spanish word for “anonymous” conceptual-performance art group that from 1972-87 engaged in street performances, photography and writing derived from its common cultural experience.

De la Loza’s “Fort Moore: Living Monument,” a creative installation to which an entire room at LACMA is dedicated, is among the “Phantom Sightings” continuing on page 3.
FYI

Events

Monday, April 14
Cross-Examine the Judges
Los Angeles Superior Court judges from the Chatsworth, San Fernando and Van Nuys Courts join with the San Fernando Valley Bar Association and CSUN’s Political Science Department at an open forum in which they will field questions about the court system, 7-8:45 p.m., CSU Grand Salon. Fee: fmi—Christopher Shortell, x3488.

Thursday, April 17
Examination of Media’s Impact
Consortium journalist and writer Callie Crossley speaks on the “Media’s Impact from the Civil Rights Movement to the 2008 Presidential Campaign” as part of the Office of Graduate Studies’ Distinguished Visiting Speakers Program, 9:30 a.m., Armer Theater, Maguire Hall. Crossley is a contributor on National Public Radio, CNN and PBS. Sponsors: Graduate Studies, Journalism Department, Carib College of Arts, Media, and Communication. fmi—x7240.

Saturday, April 19
Nutrition College Bowl
The annual Nutrition College Bowl, a game-show style event hosted by the Marilyn Magaram Center, features student teams of nutrition experts from western universities competing for scholarship funds to support their academic programs. Registration 8:30 a.m.; program: 9 a.m., Sequoia Hall, Nobbs Auditorium, room 104. fmi—x3125 or magaram.center@csun.edu.

Tuesday, April 22
Fashionology
CSUN apparel design majors in the Family and Consumer Sciences Department will display their designs in the Trends Fashion Show, Northridge Center, 6 p.m. Open to the public, admission is $5 pre-sale and $7 at the door. fmi—Shannon Dunlap, dreamiebelle@yahoo.com.

Friday, April 25
Captives, Hostages, and Culture Contact
David Igler of UC Irvine’s History Department discussed his research on cultural contact around the Pacific Basin—with a focus on the taking and exchange of captives—in the annual W.P. Whitsett lecture. “Captives, Hostages, and the Nature of Culture Contact on the Northwest Coast,” Hosted by the W.P. Whitsett Committee, 7:30 p.m., Whitsett Room, Sierra Hall 451. Limited seating. Reservations and fmi—x5560.

Saturday, April 26
Run, Walk and Roll
The CSUN Center of Achievement’s annual Run, Walk and Roll 5K/10K starts at 8 a.m., Lindley Avenue and Plummer Street, with a one-mile Wheelchair Roll, followed by a 5K and 10K Run and Walk. A Kiddie-K Fun Run for children under 12 starts at 10 a.m. Pre-registration fee: $25 by April 21, $31 after. Kidi-Kee-K $10 anytime. Packet pick-up April 25, 7-8 p.m., Northridge Toyota, 1950 Nordhoff St, or 6:30-8:40 a.m. at the event. Co-organizers: Kinesiology Dept. and FOCAS. fmi or to register, x2182 or http://www.twopromotions.com/public/eventdetail.php?ActiveID=1532227.

Public Meetings

Educational Resources Committee
Meets 2–4 p.m., Tuesday, April 8 University Hall 211

Personnel Planning and Review Committee
Meets 1:15–5 p.m. Wed., April 9 and 16 University Hall 277

Educational Policies Committee
Meets 2–4 p.m. Wed., April 9 University Hall 211

Faculty Senate
Meets 2–4:30 p.m. Thu., April 10 Oviatt Library Presentation Room

Educational Equity Committee
Meets 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Mon., April 14 University Hall 277

Notices

Deepest Sympathy
The College of Engineering and Computer Science and the campus community offer deepest sympathy to the family of Herbie Petzold, a 23-year College employee and later a longtime volunteer, who died in February. In 2006, CSUN honored Petzold as one of its most devoted volunteers. The Petzold family will host a life celebration at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 12, at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 18400 Kinsey Street, Northridge. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be sent to Kaiser Hospice Continuing Care Department, 13562 Cantara St., Panorama City, CA 91402, or to Parkinson’s Disease Foundation, 1359 Broadway, Suite 1509, New York, NY 10018.

The College of Engineering and Computer Science and the university extend condolences to the family of Tom Mincer (Mechanical Engineering), who passed away Easter Sunday. A member of CSUN’s first engineering graduating class, the associate professor spent more than 40 years at CSUN, first as a student and then as faculty. Known for “giving his all to teaching,” he focused on systems engineering, the team design process and software applications. Mincer lectured widely to both government and industry worldwide on spreadsheets as an integral tool in systems engineering analysis and design.

Home and Child Care Survey
CSUN developmental psychologist Holli Toneyan is conducting an Internet survey of parents’ experiences with daily home and child care transitions such as pick-up and drop-off at child care sites. Parents who have at least one pre-elementary school child and who regularly use non-parental child care are invited to participate. For a survey link or fmi—Holli Toneyan, x4970, bolli.toneyan@csun.edu, or http://www.csun.edu/~btonyan.

Faculty Senate Election Results
Faculty President Jennifer Matlos has announced the spring 2008 Faculty Senate election results. Faculty officers include faculty president, Jennifer Matlos (Biology), two-year term; faculty vice president, Edward Alfano (Art), one-year term; faculty secretary, Cheryl Spector (English), one-year term; and CSU academic senator, Steven Stepanean (Computer Science), three-year term. Senators-at-large include James Ballard (Sociology), Rita Basta (Mathematics), Paula DiMarco (Art), Martha Lopez-Garza (Chicana/o Studies), Michael Neubauer (Mathematics) and Veda Ward (Recreation and Tourism Management), two-year terms.

Phantom Sightings...

continued from page 2
dedicated, is an exploration of downtown Los Angeles’ Fort Moore Pioneer Memorial dedicated to the Mormon Battalion and other troops who built the fort during the Mexican-American War. Raised during the turmoil of the 1960s, Gamboa turned to art as his means of demanding human rights. Working with the likes of artists Patssi Valdez and Gronk, Gamboa produced images of conceptual works well known to today’s students of Chicana/o art. Six of these are shown in the LACMA exhibit, among them First Supper after a Major Riot,” in which artists have a picnic at a traffic island to “remove the negativity” from the site, earlier the scene of a police shooting.

De la Loza’s installation incorporates a video component and wall text with archival materials like maps and old photos related to the history of Fort Moore Hill. “Within the video,” she said, “I conceptually destabilize the monument and thereby question the official narrative that’s been monumentalized.”

A whole generation of academics and academy-trained artists has grown up to write about and practice art that grew out of the Chicana/o movement of the 1970s. In “Phantom Sightings,” the old and new converge.

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 April 21 issue is Monday, April 14. 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 (805) 677-6909. E-mail is the preferred method of submitting.

Note: fmi—means for more information.

Classes

Professional Development Staff Training
Professional Development Programs provides free training workshops for CSUN staff members in the Oviatt Library, room 16, garden level. Enroll by the day preceding the workshop at www.adms.csun.edu/ohrs/development/index.htm.

fmi—Sue Talavera, x8280.

Workshops:

· Becoming a Successful CSUN Leader: The Big Picture
  Tue., April 8, 9 a.m. to noon

· Learning to be Resilient in the Midst of Disappointment
  Tue., April 15, noon to 1 p.m.

· Long Term Care Plans
  Thu., April 17, 10–11:30 a.m.

· How Can Your CalPERS Benefits Help You Get a Home Loan?
  Tue., April 22, 10–11 a.m.

Self Defense for Women
The Department of Public Safety offers R.A.D. (Rape Aggression Defense) training, April 15, 16, 22 and 23, 5:30–8:30 p.m., Department of Public Safety, 2nd floor. Topics include risk reduction strategies, “date rape” and basic principles of defense. Fee: $10, CSUN faculty, staff and students; $20, non-CSUN participants. After first class and payment, participants can return to R.A.D. classes free of charge as often as desired. fmi—Daniel Foster, crime prevention coordinator, x8280, or daniel.foster@csun.edu

Deadlines

Human Subjects Research
Human Subjects Research Faculty and students performing research with human subjects must submit their projects to the Standing Advisory Committee for the Protection of Human Subjects, using Human Subjects approval forms. Download the form at www.csun.edu/research/03_Research/06_HumanSubjectsResearch.html. The original form and nine copies must be submitted. Next deadline date: April 8, for the April 22 meeting.

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**In Brief**

**New Pre-Law Web Site Launched**
A new pre-law advisement program Web site, introduced by the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, is aimed at helping Cal State Northridge students tackle the common questions about law school.

Chris Shortell, assistant professor of political science and a pre-law advisor, believes the Web site will help CSUN students make decisions on whether to go to law school, how to prepare, what kind of classes to take and whether a certain major matters. "I want faculty to know so they can pass the word on to their students," said Shortell. "If they have students come to them, they now have a resource."

Located at www.csun.edu/lawprogram/, the Web site answers students' most common questions so that later meetings with an advisor can focus on the student's specific needs. A sampling of queries: "Is law school the right choice for me? What should I do to get ready for law school? How do I prepare for the LSAT? How do I decide which law school is right for me? What is the ISDSAS? How do I actually apply for law school?"

Also available on the Web site are links to a list of Los Angeles area American Bar Association-approved schools, to other related sites and to ISAT prep courses. The site's news section has information on law-related events and programs.

**For more information, visit the Web site or contact Shortell at csshortell@csun.edu or (818) 677-7292.**

—Ashley Hunter

**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. For library exhibits, call (818) 677-2285.

**Camera and Community**

Some of Southland’s finest photography. Strong images of African-American life, significant documentation of César Chávez and the United Farm Workers. Runs through April 12.

Main Art Gallery

‘Wish You Were Here’

"Wish you were here. Travelers from Antiquity to Modern Times" Curator: Tony Gardner, CSUN special collectors curator. Runs through August 1. C.K. and Teresa Tseng Gallery, Oviatt Library, west wing

**Cinematheque**

Screenings are free and take place in the Alain and Elaine Armer 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/html/events.html.

‘Welcome to Mooseport’ and ‘Grumpy Old Men’ Launches series on director Donald Petrie.

Mon., April 7, 6 p.m.

‘Just My Luck’ and ‘Mystic Pizza’ Directed by Donald Petrie.

Tue., April 8, 6 p.m.

**America Guitar Society International**

Duo Livock, Nancy Knowles and Frank Wallace.

Sat., April 12, 8 p.m.

Music Recital Hall

$10–$20

**Chamber Music, Piano Ensembles**

Julia Heinen, Dmitry Rachmanov and Rik Noyce, directors.

Wed., April 16 & 23, 8 p.m.

Music Recital Hall

**New Directions Composers Group**

Liviu Marinescu, director.

Thu., April 17, 8 p.m.

Music Recital Hall

**Studio Jazz Ensemble, NuVeau Art Ensemble**

Gary Pratt, director.

Fri., April 18, 8 p.m.

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**CSUN Wind Symphony**

Lawrence Stoffel, conductor.

Sat., April 19, 3 p.m.

Campus Theatre

**CSUN Vocal Jazz Ensemble**

Matt Falkner, director.

Sun., April 20, 8 p.m.

Campus Theatre

**Wind Ensemble at Walt Disney Concert Hall**

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.

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