CSUN Enters One of Its Busiest Construction Phases Ever

Crews Get to Work on Student Housing, Science and Parking Structures—Other Projects Are Not Far Off

T he workhorses of major construction—cranes, bulldozers and trucks—are beginning to appear on campus as Cal State Northridge enters one of its busiest building phases since the massive reconstruction projects of the 1990s.

Student Housing Complex

Work began December 17 on the $30 million student housing complex slated for the northeast side of campus, south of Lassen Street between Lindley and Zelzah Avenues.

Ken Rosenthal, manager of construction services for Facilities Planning, said workers have completed pad preparation for the new complex: a 58,000-square foot, four-story dormitory; a four-story, 29,000-square foot dorm; and a single-story, 6,000-square foot “common program building with a recreation room, a classroom and other features.

Heavy January rains set in as work was poised to begin on the digging of footings and placement of rebar at the 2.8-acre site, Rosenthal said, but the delay is not expected to affect the projected spring 2009 completion of the complex.

The student rent-funded complex will provide living space for 396 students, two to a bedroom with shared living/meeting quarters. Tim Trevan, director of Student Housing and Conference Services, said the small-scale design by A.C. Martin Partners, Inc., will give students a greater sense of community.

Science 5 Building

The much-anticipated four-story Science 5 building (temporarily named Chaparral Hall) is “right on schedule,” said Colin Donahue, associate vice president for facilities development and operations. Construction on the nearly 90,000-square foot structure, expected to “come on board” in spring 2009, began in July 2007 with the relocation of some seven miles of utilities. The erection of its steel infrastructure—delayed by the recent rainstorms—should commence within days.

Last week, 16 trucks stored on North Campus began hauling in the 700 tons of steel needed for the Cannon Design architects project, whose $51 million total cost was funded by a 2004 state capital construction measure. “We have a 250-ton crane on Lindley Avenue, ready for action,” said construction services manager Rosenthal. The crane will offload the heavy steel and—weather permitting—campus onlookers should see a frame rise within six weeks on the site south of the Botanic Garden.

G3 Parking Structure

The site has been prepared for the planned 406,000-square foot, Harley Ellis Devereaux-designed G3 Parking Structure off Zelzah Avenue between Prairie and Dearborn Streets, which began construction in December.

“Within a month, the footings will be completed and you’ll start to see the structure rise. Construction will continue on page 2.”

Public Safety on the Case with ‘Active Shooter’ Drills

CSUN Partners with CHP, LAPD, LAUSD in Back-to-Back ‘Real Time’ Exercises

In January, two back-to-back “real time” emergency drills simulating active shooter scenarios left campus law enforcement officials more than satisfied that CSUN has effective procedures in place to deal with crises of that nature.

Partnering with the California Highway Patrol, the Los Angeles Police Department and the Los Angeles Unified School District police, CSUN’s Public Safety Department launched separate operations on January 3 and 10 to test Northridge operations in the event of a Virginia Tech-style emergency.

Law enforcement and outside expert evaluators gave high marks to both drills, said Chief of Police Anne Glavin. LAPD, CHP and CSUN law enforcement officers evaluated the January 3 multi-agency operation, and the January 10 drill was examined by Public Safety continued on page 3.
‘Nickel and Dimed’ Next Up for Common Reading Program

After a 10-month search for a book that would engage Cal State Northridge freshman as successfully as did “The Things They Carried,” the Freshman Common Reading Program’s inaugural selection, program director Cheryl Spector has announced a winner for the 2008-09 academic year. Barbara Ehrenreich’s bestselling “Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America” emerged as the winning choice after the program’s campus-wide selection Committee considered some 30 titles submitted by students, faculty and staff.


When the “One Campus, One Book” common reading program debuted on campus in fall 2007, freshmen were joined by many across campus and across the disciplines in reading and discussing Tim O’Brien’s “The Things They Carried,” a collection of compelling stories about the narrator’s Vietnam war experiences.

O’Brien’s book was great intellectual fun for everybody,” said Spector, also a professor of English and director of CSUN’s Office of Academic First Year Experiences. “We put up an exhibit of freshman art inspired by the book last fall, and faculty developed many other amazingly creative assignments to engage their students. I’m hoping we’ll be even more successful with our second book.”

Described as “unforgettable” and “full of riveting grit” by Newsweek, Ehrenreich’s narrative follows her from state to state and job to job as waitress, hotel maid, Wal-Mart salesperson, and nursing home aide. Along the way, she discovers “a thousand desperate strategies for survival” in a world where one job often is not enough.

Selection criteria took the form of four basic questions: Does the book 1) engage freshmen and draw them into reading and reflection, 2) encourage freshmen to grow intellectually, 3) encourage thought in a variety of courses and contexts, and 4) value diverse cultural perspectives and address contemporary social issues?

“Now that we’ve decided on the 2008-09 selection, it’s time to start thinking about 2009-10,” said Spector. “Consider the criteria and send us your ideas!” Next year’s selection committee will convene in summer 2008, she added. Members of the CSUN community, including freshmen, are welcome to join.

A complete list of the 2008-09 suggested titles is available on the program Web site: www.csun.edu/ afye/CommonRead.html

Campus Construction...

Southwest phase, said Jason Wang, associate director of USU operations and services. “We have decided on a ‘green ethic’ as one of our major design criteria,” said Wang.

Working with the “green”-oriented LPA architects group, Wang said, has produced ideas for the “thoughtful, energy-efficient use of natural light” using east-facing windows and innovations such as the sloping of the high basketball court ceilings, to allow heat to circulate naturally and rainwater to roll off effectively.

Knight believes a planned entry level rock wall will prove irresistible to student users, and the liberal use of glass will allow to look in on all kinds of activities, “promoting the idea of health and wellness for our students, both mentally and physically.”

About 50 percent of the third-floor outdoor jogging track—at an elevation of 15 feet above the three-court basketball gym—will be windowed, providing joggers with a splendid view of the outdoors and adjacent mountains.

Other student-requested features include an outdoor lap and leisure pool, a racquetball court, a multi-activity gym, rooms for group fitness classes, a sport club meeting space, a drop-in child care facility, a boxing studio, cardiovascular exercise and weight spaces and more.

Work crews will break ground on the Devonshire Downs faculty/staff residential community, shown in the preliminary sketch above, in fall 2008. The first occupants will be welcomed in fall 2009.

The campus’ new residence halls will open their doors to CSUN students in 2009, providing living space for 396 students who will enjoy the sense of community fostered by the halls’ small-scale design.

Byranne Knight, followed by the start of construction in summer 2009, barring weather delays. With a total project cost of $70 million authorized by a spring 2007 student referendum, the facility is slated to open in 2011.

An abundance of ideas are pouring into the schematic design phase, said Jason Wang, director of USU operations and services. “We have decided on a ‘green ethic’ as one of our major design criteria,” said Wang.

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Work has begun on Chaparral Hall, CSUN’s new state-of-the-art science building planned for the campus’ southeast sector. It is expected to “come on board” in 2009.
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 18 issue is Monday, February 11. We reserve to include all items and deadlines. Submission deadline is noon on Monday, one week before the next issue. Submit future items by e-mailing them to pubsinfo@csun.edu, sending them to mail drop 8242 or faxing them to (818) 677-4909. E-mail is the preferred method of submitting. Note: ‘‘fees’’ means for more information.

Events

Tuesday–Thursday, February 12–14
Finkelnberg on Israeli–Palestinian Conflict

The Office of the Provost sponsors public talks by Norman Finkelnberg, a specialist in Jewish-related issues and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. He will speak on ‘‘Jewish Academic Freedom,’’ Feb. 12, 9:30 a.m., Oviatt Library Presentation Room; on ‘‘The Coming Break-up of American Zionism,’’ Feb. 13, 10 a.m., Cypress Hall, Northridge Campus; and on ‘‘A Critique of the Walt-Mearsheimer Thesis,’’ Feb. 14, 12:30 p.m., also in the Music Recital Hall. RSVP at x2957 or academic_affairs@csun.edu.

Thursday, February 21
Wholly Scandalous with Memory?

The Richard W. Smith Lecture in Cultural Studies and the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences sponsors a talk by Chief Glenavon Thomas, a specialist in Jewish-related issues and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. He will speak on ‘‘What’s the Matter with Memory?’’ at 5:30 p.m., Whitsett Room, Sierra Hall 451. Reservations and info at x3317.

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, February 25, 26, 28
Eating Disorders Awareness Week

Joint Advocates on Disordered Eating (JADE) sponsors Eating Disorders Awareness Week. All events are free. Info-JADE, x3517.

Events

d Mon., Feb. 25, 11 a.m., Thousand Oaks Room, UUS; Melanie Klein (Sociology) speaks on ‘‘Mirror, Mirror: Body Image and Media.’’

t Tue., Feb. 26, 1:45 p.m., Northridge Center, UUS; Alcohol and tobacco advertising pioneer Jean Kilbourne speaks on ‘‘Slim Hopes/Still Killing Us Softly: Advertising, Gender and Obsession with Thinness,’’ co-presented by USU.

□ Thu., Feb. 28, 10 a.m., Matador Walkway: ‘‘Every BODY is Beautiful,’’ tips about weight and body image.

Thursday, February 28
Evening with Journalist

Erin Aubry Kaplan

The Center for Southern California Studies in the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences presents an evening with journalist Erin Aubry Kaplan, contributing editor to the Los Angeles Times’ Op-Ed section, 7 p.m. in the Whitsett Room, Sierra Hall 451. Reception to follow. Info-fmje-ds@csun.edu or www.csun.edu/cscc.

Public Meetings

Educational Equity Committee

Meets 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Mon., Feb. 11 University Hall 277

Educational Resources Committee

Meets 2–4 p.m. Tue., Feb. 12 University Hall 211

Personnel Planning and Review Committee

Meets 1:15–5 p.m. Wed., Feb. 13 University Hall 277

Educational Policies Committee

Meets 2–4 p.m. Wed., Feb. 13 University Hall 211

Faculty Senate

Meets 10–11 a.m. Thu., Feb. 14 Oviatt Library Presentation Room

Public Safety...

continued from page 1.

Chief G avlin, associate vice chancellor and chief of police at the University of Wisconsin at Madison, and Cal Poly Pomona emergency services coordinator Debbie McFall. Overall, Riseling said, the CSUN police department clearly was techni-
cally prepared when it came to the law enforcement response to an active shooter incident.

‘‘I think the CSUN community should feel good about the fact that there is professional expertise on this campus to deal with this kind of emergency,’’ said Chief G avlin.

The Garay 3 operation was staged in and around the LAUSD’s Northridge Academy, located on the campus’ east side. ‘‘The CSUN police department does active shooter training on an annual basis at least two or three times a year at the firing range,’’ said Chief G avlin. ‘‘But in this type of drill we’ve operated a drill of this nature in partnership with other agencies,’’ said Chief G avlin.

The CSUN police department does active shooter training on an annual basis at least two or three times a year at the firing range,” said Chief Glenavon Thomas. ‘‘There would be no repeat training until the next time we’ve operated a drill of this nature in partnership with other agencies.”

CHP and LAPD officials were so pleased with the success of the multi-agency exercise that they were eager to join forces again for the January 10 training, a campuswide operation involving CSUN’s Emergency Operations Center (EOC).

President Joseph Kreitler in mid-2007 had requested that the 2008 EOC training focus on a simulated shooting incident. The president recently had convened a working group on post-Virginia Tech safety issues to examine campus procedures in light of the April 2007 tragedy.

The EOC event involved nearly 90 individuals and 18 campus units, including the EOC—the President, Chief G avlin and other top campus leaders—Student Health Services, Public Safety’s Matador Patrol and others.

‘‘From what we’re hearing, it was the most realistic training we’ve ever had,’’ said the chief. Instead of a tabletop drill, in which participants sit around a table working from a printed scenario, Public Safety launched a field exercise in which participants had to respond to EOC directives as if the situation were playing out in real time.

In the simulated exercise, CSUN officers received a call about a disturbance in the USU’s Pub. Out on the Plaza del Sol, Chief G avlin and investigat-
ing officers heard shots fired and called for help. The chief immediately set up an incident command post, obtained the official go-ahead from Toney Carson, vice president for administration and finance and CFO, and instructed EOC coordinator Kit Espinosa to activate the EOC.

In the ‘‘real time’’ enactment, two shooters were fatally shot by law enforcement officials, an explosive device was deliberately detonated by bomb technicians, and a gas leak was shut off by Physical Plant Management experts.

‘‘A triage area also was set up on the Plaza del Sol, with Student Health Services rendering help to those in need,’’ said Espinosa. ‘‘Victims were supplied by Madoff Movers, and realistic television news footage and bulletins ‘kept the adrenaline pumping’ throughout the drill.’’

A thorough debriefing followed the exercise, in which EOC members sifted through the day’s events and analyzed the results. Aside from minor adjustments such as the need for certain maps and reference documents, the chief said, the exercise as a whole showed the campus responding professionally and efficiently to a ‘‘shooter’’ crisis.

‘‘We should not rest on our laurels, because there’s always something we can look at and do better,’’ said Chief G avlin, ‘‘but people certainly should not have high anxiety about the university’s capability in this area.’’

www.csun.edu/pubsrels/ecsun

For more information on CSUN’s first active shooter exercise, call (818) 677-3173.

www.csun.edu/pubsrels/ecsun

Deadlines

Work-Study Awards Deadline

The Financial Aid and Scholarship Department will host the 12th Work-Study Awards Luncheon at 11:30 a.m., Fri., April 11, USU Grand Salon, where the Student Employee of the Year will be announced. Departments/agencies may nominate students to be consid-

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 application form. Visit the form at www.csun.edu/research/03_Research/06_HumanSubjectsResearch.html. The original form and copies must be submitted. Next deadline date: Feb. 12, for the Feb. 26 meeting.

Fee Waiver and Reduction

The CSU Fee Waiver and Reduction Program deadline is Feb. 13 for summer 2008. Visit the orgs/development/fee waiver.htm for application information. Fmje-Sue Talavera, x2175.

Faculty Awards Competition

The Research and Grants Committee announces the 2008–09 Competition for Research, Scholarship and Creative Activities Awards. Faculty may apply for three units of this competition up to $5,000 of funding for project expenses. Application deadline: 5 p.m. Mon., Feb. 25. Download guidelines and application at www.csun.edu/research/fmje-x2901.

www.csun.edu/pubsrels/ecsun

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President Koester to be Honored at ‘Tree of Life’ Gala

Because she makes a difference in the San Fernando Valley, President Jolene Koester will be honored February 14 at the Encino-Tarzana Hospital Charitable Foundation’s annual “Tree of Life” gala.

“She’s always been a community person, and of course, she promotes education,” said Sandy Goldman, president of the foundation. The award will spotlight Koester’s high visibility in the Valley, her community outreach and her philosophy that college is possible even for those who may have considered a degree out of reach.

The 6 p.m. event will be held at Valley Beth Shalom in Encino. Last year’s inaugural gala, which attracted 400 guests, honored Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa for his initiatives to improve public education.

The “Tree of Life,” symbolic of the birth to death cycle of life at hospitals, is the foundation’s motif, according to Goldman. There are leafy artistic representations, she pointed out, at both campuses of the Encino-Tarzana Regional Medical Center.

“The primary goal of the foundation is raising money for nursing scholarships,” Goldman said. “We have given many scholarships to students at CSUN who want to go into nursing.”

The annual gala also raises funds for three nonprofits. Among them this year is the CSUN-affiliated Valley Trauma Center, which operates sexual assault hotlines 24 hours a day as well as a wide range of other services, such as individual and group counseling, parent education, child abuse prevention and many more.

A chartered agency of the Michael D. Eisner College of Education under the auspices of the Department of Educational Psychology and Counseling, the center also trains students and volunteers.

For more information, call gala chair Stephanie Carier at (818) 990-0105.

New Faculty/Staff Prices for Sports Events

Matador Athletics has announced new faculty/staff pricing for regular Cal State Northridge home games in all sports, with men’s basketball general admission seats going for only $6 (formerly $8), a bargain at a time when the team is scoring win after win in the Big West Conference.

General admission prices for all other ticketed athletic events—including women’s basketball, baseball, men’s and women’s volleyball, softball, men’s and women’s soccer—are being slashed from $5 to $3.

The Matadome has been alive with sold-out student sections and pep bands for basketball games such as the team’s 109-61 victory over defending Big West champion Cal State Long Beach on January 26.

With four more men’s basketball home games scheduled, assistant athletic director for marketing and promotions Erin Kiser described it as a “very exciting time” for the CSUN athletic program. The next men’s basketball home game is scheduled for 7:05 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 16, against UC Riverside.

Faculty and staff should show their CSUN identification at the ticket window of any sporting event to receive the discount. Up to four tickets may be purchased with faculty/staff ID. For more information, call the Associated Student Ticket office at (818) 677-2488.

—Ashley Hunter