Retreat Draws New and Veteran Faculty for Networking

Gathering’s Theme: ‘Regionally Focused, Nationally Recognized, Globally Engaged’

Enjoying unusually balmy winter weather, more than 160 new and veteran faculty members traveled to Ventura for Cal State Northridge’s 2008 Faculty Retreat, whose theme this year was “Regionally Focused, Nationally Recognized, Globally Engaged.”

In her keynote address at the retreat, held January 14-15 at the Ventura Beach Marriott, President Jolene Koester noted that the retreat theme was in harmony with the vision articulated in her fall 2007 Convocation address, “This vision,” said the president, “is not a new set of expectations for the role and work of the faculty—rather, it is grounded in the past and present. We are and should remain regionally focused but we must become nationally recognized for our regional focus—this is the fundamental and enduring vision of our future.”

Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Harry Hellenbrand brought the sessions to a close with a talk entitled “Riders on the Storm: Reclaiming our House, Reforming Our World.”

Retreat organizers made a special effort to reach out to new faculty for the annual event, where 15 workshops and eight poster presentations were available to faculty interested in sharing and gathering information from colleagues across the disciplines.

The retreat provided an ideal way to help integrate new faculty into the university, said Faculty President Jennifer Matos. It helped “encourage new faculty to make CSUN their university, to help them get involved early on—not to the detriment of their scholarship—but to learn about the potentials in their future.”

Retreat co-chairs Mike Rivas, assistant professor of secondary education, and Terri Lisagor, assistant professor of family and consumer sciences, drew inspiration from President Koester’s “regionally focused, nationally recognized” motif. “The idea was to recognize faculty and departments for what they are doing,” said Rivas, “and to share a vision on how to do more.”

To that end, he said, experienced faculty whose work already has garnered national attention were assembled on an opening panel “to discuss where they are in their careers, how they did it and how they maintain balance. We wanted young faculty to hear them and say, ‘I can do this.’”

Biology chair Larry Allen, author of “The Ecology of Marine Fishes,” economics professor Daniel Blake, director of the San Fernando Valley Economic Research Center, Chicana/o studies assistant professor Theresa Montano, an “activist scholar” who works with teacher unions and labor movement educational institutions, and music professor/concert artist Steven Thachuk were members of the panel.

Working with program subcommittee co-chairs Allen Martin (Family and Consumer Sciences) and Kiren Dosanjh Zucker (Business Law/Management), together with Faculty Retreat continued on page 2

New Year Brings New Leader for Business College

Dean Jennings Looks to Develop Partnerships with Asian and South American Universities

William Jennings, an expert in the fields of economics and finance and a veteran of campuswide collaborative leadership efforts, was named dean of the College of Business and Economics in December.

In announcing the Jennings appointment, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Harry Hellenbrand praised the new dean’s talent as a consensus builder and his thorough knowledge of the San Fernando Valley.

“Dr. Jennings brings with him a combination of academic and professional qualifications and experience, including leadership experience both in the academy and the private sector,” said the provost.

Hellenbrand also cited Dean Jennings’ record of scholarship, service to the university, successful teaching, record of success in fundraising and advancement activities, and experience with Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) accreditation efforts.

“I am honored and excited to be the dean of the College of Business and Economics at Cal State Northridge,” said Jennings. “This college plays such a vital role in the community, locally and nationally, and to be part of that is extremely rewarding.

“I look forward to engaging our students, faculty, alumni and the business community to build new programs of excellence for our students and faculty, to develop strategic partnerships with universities in Asia and Latin America, and to improve our ties and connections with the business community and our alumni.”

Dean Jennings served as interim dean of the business college from summer 2006 until his permanent appointment to its top leadership.

William Jennings continued on page 3.
Tom McCarron Named Interim Administration/Finance VP  
Executive’s Appointment as VP and CFO Follows Formal Search for Division Leader

Citing his “significant contributions to the preservation of our city’s heritage,” The Los Angeles City Historical Society has honored the University Library’s Robert Marshall with its David G. Cameron Preservation Award.

Marshall, head archivist of Cal State Northridge’s Urban Archives Center and University Archives, said the highly prized award reflects CSUN’s increasing prominence in preserving Southern California history. “We’re not talking about preserving the history of just the famous figures of Los Angeles’ past, but the history of the people who make up our communities,” he said. “That’s been our goal, and we are succeeding.”

The creation of CSUN’s San Fernando Valley History Digital Library as well as the recent completion of a five-year federal grant to collect and archive memorabilia chronicling Southern California’s Latino and Chicano history are only two examples of the University Library’s efforts to preserve Los Angeles history, said the honoree.

Marshall, who has worked at the university for nearly 23 years, received the honor at the historical society’s annual gala in December.

Major Preservation Award Comes to CSUN’s Head Archivist  
Award Reflects CSUN’s Growing Stature in Preserving Southern California History, Says Honoree Robert Marshall

“it is recognition of his lifetime commitment to the importance of preserving the history of cities, organizations and associations,” said Susan Curzon, dean of the University Library. “Without archivists like Robert Marshall, so many compelling stories of growth, development, achievement, struggles and change would be lost.”

The Urban Archives Center that drew the attention of the historical society is rich in materials chronicling Los Angeles’ development, including efforts in the 1970s to stop the busing of African American students to mostly white neighborhoods, as well as cultural and demographic changes that are part of Latino and Chicano history in the area. The archives also are home to the largest labor movement collection on the West Coast.

Up to last year, Marshall chaired the LA as Subject Archives Forum, which brings together repositories of Los Angeles history—museums, libraries, archives and private collections—to preserve the documentary heritage of Los Angeles.

He has been invited to serve on the citywide Historical Records Preservation Committee that ensures historical records created by city government are kept safe for future scholars and other researchers.

The Cameron award, named for the preservationist and attorney who helped found the Los Angeles Conservancy and preserve the Los Angeles Central Library, annually salutes an individual or organization that has made a lasting contribution to the preservation of Los Angeles’ physical heritage.

Past recipients include John Wellborne, a Los Angeles Conservancy founder and restorer of Angel’s Flight, KCET host Huell Howser, and the AC Martin Partners architectural firm.

Faculty Retreat…

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Senate administrative analyst Heidi Wollhauer, Rivas and Lisagor purposefully sprinkled networking periods between sessions to give faculty time to mingle. Ample recreation time and lighthearted diversions such as stress management exercises and a magic stage show by Joseph Tran (Theatre) also were included.

Lisagor said she saw many fresh faces at the retreat. It was a good sign, she said, because “as faculty, we become so enmeshed in our own areas and departments that we forget there is another life outside.”

Requests for proposals sent to campuswide faculty for retreat workshops and presentations encouraged themes geared toward helping new faculty grasp the meaning of concepts such as “the learning-centered university” and the Convocation Address vision, she said.

“We’ve all been through the period of discovery they’re going through. It’s important to let new faculty know they’re not alone.”

With a nod to the bright, clear weather, Lisagor acknowledged that “metaphorically, the sun shone on us.”
Events

Thursday, January 31
Global Warming Teach-In
Faculty, staff and students are invited to “Global Warming Solutions for America,” a teach-in planned in conjunction with the Focus the Nation educational initiative’s model on solutions to the global warming crisis, noon to 4 p.m., USU Grand Salon. Sponsored by the Urban Studies and Planning Department, the teach-in will feature speakers Helen Cox and Doug Estes (political science), Kristy Michaud (Political Science), Deb Prasad Choudhary (Physics and Astronomy), Paula Schirman (biology), Colm Donahue and Nathaniel Wilson (Facilities Planning). Other features: a Webcast entitled “The 2% Solution” with climate change expert Stephen H. Schneider, actor Edward Norton and others, and a documentary, “Gaia: Goddess of the Earth.”

Wednesday, February 13
Jewish Studies Film Preview
The Jewish Studies Film Program presents a free sneak preview of “The Year My Parents Went on Vacation,” an award-winning film about a boy in 1970s Brazil whose parents, enemies of the state, leave him with his Orthodox Jewish grandfather. Appropriate for teens and adults; it screens at 7:50 p.m., Fallbrook Laemmle Theater, 6751 Fallbrook Avenue, West Hills. Co-sponsors: Adat Ari El Temple Alyah, Temple Kol Tikvah, Shomrei Torah Synagogue and Valley Beth Shalom. Reservations and fmi-x7472 or jewishtudies@csun.edu.

Thursday, February 21
What’s the Matter with Memory?
The Richard W. Smith Lecture in Cultural Studies and the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences present UC Irvine professor Elizabeth Loftus, a Fellow of the Center for the Neurobiology of Learning and Memory, discussing “What’s the Matter with Memory?” (at 5:30 p.m., Whitsett Room, Sierra Hall 451. Loftus is the author of “Eyewitness Testimony” and “The Myth of Repressed Memory.” Reservations and fmi-x3131.

Public Meetings

USU Board
Meets 1 p.m.
Mon., Jan. 28
USU Grand Salon

Personnel Planning and Review Committee
Meets 1:15–5 p.m.
Wed., Jan. 30
University Hall 277

Educational Policies Committee
Meets 2–4 p.m.
Wed., Jan. 30
University Hall 211

Senate Executive Committee
Meets 1–4:30 p.m.
Thu., Jan. 31
University Hall 277

Academic Technology Committee
Meets 1–3 p.m.
Fri., Feb. 1
University Hall 211

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.

Saturday, March 8
Chinese New Year’s Banquet
The Chinese Institute invites faculty and staff to its annual Chinese New Year’s Banquet celebrating the Chinese Spring Festival, Sat., March 8, 6–8:30 p.m., USU Grand Salon. Make reservations by Feb. 23. fmi-Justine Su, x2138

Catastrophic Leave Donations
Patrice Renneau (Facilities Planning) is out on a leave of absence caring for a family member, has exhausted her leave credits and is requesting catastrophic leave donations on her behalf. To make voluntary donations of vacation leave, forward completed catastrophic leave donation forms to Payroll Administration, mail drop 8228. Donation forms are available at www.admin.csun.edu/bfs/forms/benefitsforms.html.

Service on Committees and Awards
To be considered for election or appointment to positions in faculty governance, to Faculty Senate standing or advisory committees, or to various all-university committees and boards, faculty members are invited to complete the online University Service Form at www.csun.edu/senate/volunteer.doc. For the spring 2008 faculty elections, forms are due in the Faculty Senate Office by Fri., Feb. 15, fmi-x3263.

China Scholarship Council Awards
The China Institute invites under-graduates and graduates in all fields of study to apply for a China Scholar- ship Council award supporting study in China for the 2008–09 academic year. Scholarships cover tuition and living expenses, and supplemental grants assist in travel expenses. Word files containing application proposals and résumés, and two recommenda- tion letters must be submitted to Justine Su, China Institute director, at zsu@csun.edu by Feb. 15. fmi-x3216 or zsu@csun.edu.

China Institute Faculty Grants
Faculty interested in China may apply to the China Institute for seed money to start projects in their disciplines that advance the field of China studies. Two Institute grants of $1000 each will be awarded. Applicants must submit Word files containing their written proposals and résumés to the China Institute director, Justine Su, by March 3. fmi-Justine Su, x2138 or zsu@csun.edu.

2008 Faculty Awards
Nominations for the 2008 awards honoring outstanding faculty achievement are due in the Faculty Senate Office by Mon., Feb. 25. Supporting materials are due Mon., March 24. Faculty awards include the Outstanding Faculty Award, the Distinguished Teaching, Counseling or Librarianship Award, the Scholarly Publication(s) Award, Creative Accomplishment(s) Award, Extraordinary Service Award, and the Visionary Service-Learning Award. Criteria and nomination forms are at www.csun.edu/senate/awards/awards.html. fmi-x3203.

Faculty Awards Competition
The Research and Grants Committee announces the 2008–09 Competition for Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity Awards. Full- and part-time faculty may apply for three units of released time and a $1000 award of funding for project expenses. Application deadline: 5 p.m. Mon., Feb. 25. Download guidelines and application at www.csun.edu/research. fmi-x2901.

Diana Ross at Hollywood Bowl
The CSUN Alumni Association has reserved a block of tickets for the Diana Ross concert at the Hollywood Bowl on Sat., July 26. On sale in March, ticket prices will be $35 for members and $40 for non-members.

Classes

Faculty Writing Workshop
“Integrating Writing Into Content- Area Courses,” a workshop series for faculty across the disciplines, focuses on helping faculty incorporate writing into their courses. A $200 stipend is offered. All workshops are 2–4 p.m. Dates: Feb. 7, March 6, April 10, April 24. Location: Jerome Richfield Hall 319. For application information or fmi-kevin.caiser@csun.edu or irene.clark@csun.edu.

Sports Nutrition Playbook
The Marilyn Magaram Center for Food Science, Nutrition & Dietetics and the Gatorade Sports Science Institute present the “Sports Nutrition Playbook” course, providing a comprehensive overview of optimal nutrition for athletes and active individuals. Feb. 25, 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Nobb’s Auditorium, Sequoia Hall 319. $104.50. 75 professionals, 15 interns and students. Limited space. Pre-registration required at www.11785nutrition.net. fmi-michele@11785nutrition.net or (352) 359-1536.

William Jennings.
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post. Prior to the interim deanship, he chaired the Department of Finance, Real Estate, and Insurance for 17 years. The new dean also was professor of finance during that period.

During the two years preceding his finance department chairmanship, Jennings served his college as its acting associate dean and until last year was co-director both of CSUN’s Center for Insurance Education and Research and its Center for Financial Services.

Published in more than two dozen academic publications in finance, economics, insurance law and related fields, Dean Jennings is active on the board of The University Corporation, the University Foundation Investment Committee, and the Advisory Committee on University Real Estate.

He chaired the University Physical Master Plan Committee and twice led the Council of Chairs’ Executive Committee as its chair.

After earning his bachelor’s degree in economics at CSU Hayward (now CSU East Bay), the dean earned both his M.A. and Ph.D. in economics at UCLA.
Future Science Building Gets Temporary Name

A temporary name has been selected for the nearly 90,000 square foot science building set to open at Cal State Northridge in spring 2009. Instead of the utilitarian “Science 5,” the state-of-the-art building will bear the name “Chaparral Hall.”

The building’s new name was recommended by the campus’ Naming Committee based on suggestions from the faculty in the College of Science and Mathematics, who will comprise the majority of the building’s occupants. The abbreviation “CR” will be used to indicate “Chaparral Hall” on campus maps and communications. “CR” was chosen to avoid conflict with the Chicano House’s current “CH” map designation.

President Jolene Koester approved the temporary naming at the beginning of January, effective upon the completion and dedication of the new building. The CSU Chancellor’s Office gives campus presidents the authority to approve temporary namings for facilities or properties, reflecting natural or geographic features or a university’s traditional theme.

Like its sister science buildings—once called Science 1, 2, 3 and 4, renamed Magnolia, Citrus, Eucalyptus and Live Oak Hills in 2005—the “Chaparral” title is considered descriptive of the San Fernando Valley’s natural ecosystem.

Biology Department faculty whose areas of expertise focus on the plants, animals, ecosystems and environmental processes of Southern California offered a range of suggestions from which the committee made its final choice. Chaparral, the biologists said, is the dominant natural ecosystem-type found on the hillsides surrounding the valley.

In June 2005, nine of CSU’s buildings also underwent name changes—all following the same “green” motif as Chaparral Hall—as a result of the campus’ ambitious construction program, which had made it necessary for some departments to move a number of times. Because of the moves, the names of certain buildings had become inconsistent with the buildings’ occupants and functions.

The campus Naming Committee was chaired by Vice President for University Advancement Vance T. Peterson, and included Interim Vice President for Administration and Finance Tom McCarron, Vice President for Student Affairs Terry Piper, Assistant Provost Jerry Luckeckers and Faculty President Jennifer Matos, professor of biology. Participating Biology Department faculty were Matos, Robert Espinoza, David Gray, Fritz Hertel, Cheryl Hogue, James Hogue, Timothy Karols, Brenda Kanno, Paula Schuflman and Paul Wilson.

Hillary Clinton Speaks at CSUN

President candidate Hillary Clinton, President Jolene Koester and 27th District Congressman Brad Sherman join students and community members at Senator Clinton’s town hall-style meeting January 17 in CSUN’s USG Grand Salon.

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