Northridge Alumni Fill Key Posts in Villaraigosa Administration

Four Cal State Northridge alumni are among the policy makers in the new administration of Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, all four in areas considered key to Los Angeles’ future: water and power, airports, transportation, and community services.

Engineering alumnus Nicolas (“Nick”) Patsaouras, urban studies and political science alumna Sylvia Patsaouras, urban planning alumnus Jaime de la Vega and Chicano/a studies and social studies alumnus Rafael González were on board within the first 100 days of the new administration.

Nick Patsaouras, president of the Patsaouras and Associates Inc. electrical engineering company, was named to the Board of Water and Power Commissioners in September. The engineering alumnus will help oversee the largest municipal utility in the nation, with a budget of $4.3 billion.

Patsaouras brings to his new post a sense of urgency about “accountability and transparency in the decision-making process” at the giant utility, he said. A review of the DWP’s “infrastructure investment,” maintenance of its systems and planning for the area’s water needs and sources—including reclaimed water—all are in the commission’s sights as the administration moves forward, he added.

“A kilowatt conserved is a kilowatt unattended by the burden of costs and damage to the environment,” Patsaouras said, stressing the need to move more aggressively to renewable energy, with an emphasis on conservation.

At CSUN—where professors emeritus Arnold Roe (Civil Engineering and Applied Mechanics) and John Motil (Computer Science) were “exceptional mentors”—the groundwork was laid for Patsaouras’ public service and personal career paths. “Engineers are trained to think analytically and at the same time to be focused and result-oriented,” he said.

President of Polis Builders, which develops mixed-use projects, Patsaouras also is a past member both of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority and the city’s zoning appeals board. Founder and chairman emeritus of the Los Angeles-Athens Sister City affiliation, he also chairs the Project Advisory Committee for the Los Angeles County-USC Medical Center.

Sylvia Patsaouras, an urban and environmental regional planner at the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), in July was appointed by Mayor Villaraigosa to the influential Los Angeles World Airport Commission board.

Biomedical Research Program Receives $2.7 Million

National Institutes of Health Grant Helps University Guide Underrepresented Students into Research Careers

Cal State Northridge’s MARC program has received more than $2.7 million to continue its efforts encouraging historically underrepresented students to consider careers in biomedical research. The five-year grant for $2,729,454 was awarded to MARC (Minority Access to Research Careers) by the National Institute of General Medical Sciences division of the National Institutes of Health (NIH). “This award provides opportunities not just for the students who are directly involved in the program, but it is actually going to change the way we teach biology for all of our students by giving us the resources to make our courses even more competitive,” said MARC Program continued on page 2.

Biography professor Mari Elena Zavala, director of the MARC biomedical research training program, works with students in the campus greenhouse.
The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors recently extended through 2009-2010 the county’s contract with CSUN for its operation of the award-winning Los Angeles County Learning Academy (LCLA). A $2.2 million allocation for 2009-2010 will be available annually during the life of the five-year contract.

Created in 1999 to meet county workforce training and development needs, the academy now is regarded as a national model for public education partnerships. More than 4,000 county employees already have been trained at the academy, for which CSUN’s Roland Tseng College of Extended Learning acts as prime contractor and program administrator. The university’s Center for Management and Organizational Development (MOD) has a major role in curriculum development for the academy, and was instrumental in the preliminary task analysis and content planning on which the academy’s initial offerings were based.

The academy unites the training capabilities of the county’s human resources department with those of a consortium consisting of Northridge, sister CSU campuses at Bakersfield, Dominguez Hills, Long Beach, Los Angeles and Pomona, the Los Angeles community colleges, and the Los Angeles Unified School District.

Formerly called the Los Angeles County Training Academy, the learning academy’s expanded mission will include the training of another 10,000 county employees during the five years of the renewed CSUN contract. LCLA offerings, team-taught by university faculty and county staff, include workshops and skills-building courses in critical thinking, business writing and other areas. County personnel chief Michael Henry said the academy’s strategic approach not only delivers customized curricula cited as positive benefits are the networking opportunities generated by the certificate programs’ “cohort-based” structure. Employees from the county’s 37 departments who graduate from the programs “have formed ongoing networks and continue to share information and advice,” according to the status report submitted in support of the county Department of Human Resources (DHR) proposal for contract renewal.

Alan Glassman, CSUN professor of management and a founding member of the Center for Management and Organization Development, said the Board of Supervisors recognized the challenges of an increasingly complex service environment when it committed to the program six years ago. “Today, the academy has received local and national recognition for both the robust nature of its offerings, its ability to support the county’s strategic plan, and, perhaps most important, its role in making government more customer-centered,” he said. “We are extremely proud that MOD was selected to oversee the academy’s program development and that CSUN was chosen as the administrative hub.”

Among other awards, LCLA has earned the 2002-03 Outstanding Noncredit Program Award from the University Continuing Education Association.

Alumni...

continued from page 1.

Patsaouras, married to Nick Patsoaga, said her job will be to help ensure that all airports under the board’s control—Los Angeles International Airport (LAX), Ontario, Palmdale and Van Nuys—are safer and more efficient, and that they carry out a regional approach to air travel issues while using existing airport capacity by decentralizing passenger and air cargo services from LAX to outlying suburban airports.

The early counsel of CSUN professors Warren Campbell (Political Science) and Jose Hernandez (Urban Studies) led Patsaouras to a student internship in city government, a move that proved “critical” in her choice of careers. “My urban studies and political science degrees from CSUN were the founding blocks for my subsequent master’s in urban planning from UCLA and my career in urban planning and regional policy,” said Patsaouras. “My education also helped me be an involved citizen, and I have been an active participant in city, county and state commissions after graduation from CSUN.”

Sylvia Patsaouras has served on many other commissions, among them the state Commission on Regions, the State of California World Trade Commission and the city Quality and Productivity Commission.

Jaime de la Vega, formerly budget director for Los Angeles City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo, in July joined Villaraigosa as deputy mayor for transportation.

High on his priorities list are the reduction of traffic congestion, improvement of public transportation and development of a regional approach to aviation. “One of the top highway projects is completion of the northbound I-405 San Diego Freeway carpool lane between the I-10 Santa Monica Freeway and the U.S. 101 Ventura Freeway,” de la Vega said.

The new deputy mayor joined the Villaraigosa team because of the chance to effect real change in one of the region’s “hot button” areas. “Transportation, perhaps more than any other public policy issue, affects everyone,” he said.

There were other reasons as well among them the diversity of Villaraigosa’s staff, its collective “work ethic and commitment to public service; and the sense that under the new mayor, ‘public policy changes are really possible, and that is exciting’ Citing the influence of Tim Duges, current chair of CSUN’s Urban Studies and Planning Department, de la Vega said CSUN gave him “a solid, practical foundation in urban planning, especially in the areas of land use and environmental planning.”

de la Vega said that CSUN’s public service career began with a CSUN internship. Dedicated professionals at the city Planning Department encouraged his pursuit of a graduate degree at UCLA and a career in city service that has spanned the administration of former Mayor Richard Riordan and the city attorney’s office.

Rafael González, a Chicano/a studies and social studies alumni, is the new associate director of the mayor’s Office of Neighborhood and Community Services.

Former senior field deputy for Los Angeles City Councilmember Mike Hernandez, González coordinated the affirmative action education campaign of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MADEF) during the Proposition 209 campaign.

He was founder and executive director of Collective SPACE (Social Power through Action & Community Education), a MacArthur Park/Westlake community-based organization.

González’s values and commitment to public service were shaped at CSUN, he said, by “the collective spirit among (his) activist sphere of students, faculty, support staff and counselors during the 1980s.”

MARC Program...

continued from page 1.

CSUN biology professor Maria Elena Zavala, director of the MARC program, said the CSUN program, which has evolved into MARC UP STAR (Undergraduate * Student Training in Academic Research), now has 14 students. Its goal is to increase the number of competitively prepared, traditionally underrepresented minority students for research careers in the biomedical sciences.

The MARC program offers students the opportunity to participate in on-campus, long-term research projects. They also receive mentoring, research support, graduate school preparation support and a travel stipend for scientific conferences where they present their research results.

Since MARC’s inception, Zavala said, all of the CSUN students participating in the project have presented the results of their research at regional, national and international scientific conferences. All MARC students who entered Ph.D. programs also have been awarded five-year fellowships to complete doctoral programs in their chosen fields.

Zavala said CSUN’s program has developed a reputation for success. Ten former Northridge MARC students already have earned their doctorates, and another 16 are currently in Ph.D. programs.

“CSUN has a strong reputation for producing students who go on to get their Ph.Ds in science, math, engineering and technology,” Zavala said. “We really have a pipeline going here.”

Mayor Makes Opening Night

President Jolene Koester points out features of “Cruising con Los Artistas,” a mixed media sculpture by artist Magu (Gilbert Lujan), to Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa during the mayor’s October 15 opening night visit to the Miranda al Sur/Mirando al Norte art exhibition in the CSUN Art Galleries.

President Jolene Koester points out features of “Cruising con Los Artistas,” a mixed media sculpture by artist Magu (Gilbert Lujan), to Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa during the mayor’s October 15 opening night visit to the Miranda al Sur/Mirando al Norte art exhibition in the CSUN Art Galleries.
For Your Information publishes announcements of events, public messages, notices, classes, and deadlines. Submission deadline is noon on Monday, one week before the next issue.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>The Map that Named America</strong></td>
<td>The History Club, Friends of the Oviatt Library, Phi Beta Delta and the German American Cultural Society will sponsor a presentation on “The Map that Named America: The 1507 Waldseemüller Map” at 12:30 p.m. in the Oviatt Library’s Presentation Room. The acceptance of women’s autonomy, marriage rights, and Torah study. The event is set for the University Student Union’s Grand Salon from 12:30–1:45 p.m., followed by a reception.</td>
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<td><strong>Public Meetings</strong></td>
<td>Faculty Senate Meeting Meets 2-4:30 p.m. Thu., Oct. 27 Oviatt Library, Presentation Room 81 Educational Policies Committee Meets 2-4 p.m. Wed., Nov. 2 University Hall 211 Personnel Planning and Review Committee Meets 2-5 p.m. Wed., Nov. 2 University Hall 277</td>
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<td><strong>Professional Development Programs</strong></td>
<td>Professional Development Programs provides free training workshops for CSUN staff members in the Oviatt Library, Room 16, garden level, unless otherwise noted. Enroll by the day before the workshop by visiting <a href="http://www.cson.edu/hr/profdev/">www.cson.edu/hr/profdev/</a></td>
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| **Classifieds** | Professional Development Programs provides free training workshops for CSUN staff members in the Oviatt Library, Room 16, garden level, unless otherwise noted. Enroll by the day before the workshop by visiting www.cson.edu/hr/profdev/ | Tuesday, Oct. 25 |

| **Student Symposium** | The annual Student Research and Creative Works Symposium will highlight student achievement with oral or poster presentations across a range of academic disciplines. It is set for a 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday, Nov. 11, in the University Student Union’s Grand Salon. Both abstracts and applications must be mailed as attachments to graduate.studies@csun.edu by 5 p.m. Friday, Oct. 28. Applications can be downloaded at www.csun.edu/research/03_Research/ | Monday, Nov. 27 |

| **Deadlines** | **Ethics and Business** | Susan Leahy, presenter. Thu., Oct. 27, 9 a.m. to noon Register by October 26. | Monday, Nov. 27 |
| **Human Subjects Research Approval** | Faculty and students performing research with human subjects must complete Human Subjects Protocol Approval forms. Original forms and nine copies must be submitted to the Standing Advisory Committee for the Protection of Human Subjects. Next meeting date: November 15. Next deadline date: November 29, for the December 15 meeting. Download protocol submission forms from www.csun.edu/~gripact/03_Research/06_HumanSubjectsResearch.html. | Monday, Nov. 27 |
Ravitch to Explore Future of Teacher Education

Education historian Diane Ravitch will share her views on “The Future of Teacher Education in a Hostile Environment” from 3–5 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 9, in the Grand Salon of the University Student Union.

Sponsored by the office of Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Harry Hellenbrand, Ravitch’s talk will explore the “unique” role of schools of education in the 21st Century.

“Today, as more and more states and school districts are creating alternative routes into teaching, the nation’s schools of education are challenged to justify their existence,” said Ravitch about her lecture topic. “Under what circumstances will districts prefer graduates of these programs rather than those who arrive without immersion in teacher education?”

Author of “The Language Police: How Pressure Groups Restrict What Students Learn,” Ravitch is a visiting fellow at the Hoover Institution and a member of the Koret Task Force on K–12 Education, a team of education experts assembled by the Hoover Institution to work on education reform. Ravitch is a research professor of education at New York University and a non-resident senior fellow at the Brookings Institution in Washington, D.C. She is a former U.S. assistant secretary for educational research and improvement, and served as a counselor to the U.S. Department of Education.

Editor of the annual Brookings Papers on Educational Policy, Ravitch also edited “The Schools We Deserve,” “Delivering the Future of American Education” and “The American Reader.” She has lectured widely on democracy and civic education.

Forum Slated to Air Views on Athletic Facilities

Representatives of campus constituencies this month will air their views on needs for CSUN’s athletic facilities— including practice, competition and support facilities, and fields—at an open forum set for 9 a.m. to noon Friday, Oct. 28, in the Athletics Conference Room.

The forum will be hosted by the facilities subcommittee of the Blue Ribbon Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics. Vice President for Administration and Finance and CFO Mo Qayoumi chairs the commission, and the facilities subcommittee is chaired by William Watkins, associate vice president for student affairs and dean of students.

In August 2005, President Jolene Koester charged the commission with making recommendations for a competitive and well-supported Division I athletics program at CSUN, starting with a comprehensive strategic plan she described as “a road map for excellence for the next five years.” The commission’s work will build on the successes of earlier efforts to enhance intercollegiate athletics at CSUN.

The facilities subcommittee will seek the insights of campus constituencies on 1) plans needed to improve campus athletic facilities, 2) the benefits and trade-offs of pursuing various actions or projects, and 3) assigning priority levels for individual projects.

Serving on the committee with Dean Watkins are Ron Closing, director of budget planning, Dan Guerrero, UCLA athletics director, and Michael Neubauer, mathematics professor and chair of CSUN’s Intercollegiate Athletics Advisory Council.

To address the subcommittee, contact Michelle Henley, administrative assistant to Vice President Qayoumi, at michelle.henley@csun.edu or at (818) 677-2335 to confirm a time. Written comments also are welcomed.

Business in Show Biz’ Seminar Is Set

Warner Bros. television executives will be sharing what they know about getting into show business with Cal State Northridge students and alumni on Wednesday, Nov. 2, at The Warner Bros. Ranch in Burbank.

“The Business in Show Biz,” co-hosted by the university’s Entertainment Industry Institute, is designed to give CSUN students majoring in management, marketing, advertising and public relations a chance to talk directly with executives from The WB Television Network about careers in the industry.

“This is a rare opportunity for our students to go to the television network and talk to executives about what they are looking for, rather than applying online or mailing in a resume—all the sorts of impersonal things that people do when trying to break into show business,” said Robert Gustafson, director of CSUN’s Entertainment Industry Institute. Gustafson said the seminar, scheduled from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., is structured to give the students plenty of time to have formal and informal conversations with the television executives.

“Not only are the television executives taking time out of their busy schedules to talk with the students, but they will be joining them for lunch, which will afford all sorts of opportunities to share information and to learn,” he said.

Among the Warner Bros. executives taking part are host Brian Wright, director of staffing and recruitment for the network.

Participation is limited to CSUN students and alumni. To reserve a spot, students and alumni should e-mail Gustafson at robert.gustafson@csun.edu.