Alum Scott Horowitz to Lead NASA Space Exploration Effort

2005 CSUN Distinguished Alumnus from Engineering College Takes Charge of NASA Mission Directorate

Honored in May as one of Cal State Northridge’s Distinguished Alumni, space pioneer Scott “Doc” Horowitz on September 28 was entrusted with one of the nation’s most challenging jobs. The veteran space shuttle commander will lead NASA’s efforts to develop the spacecraft that will carry astronauts to the moon, to Mars and beyond.

A 1978 undergraduate engineering alumnus, Horowitz’s appointment followed by about a week National Aeronautics and Space Administration chief Michael Griffin’s announcement that the agency plans to return astronauts to the moon in 2018, aboard a spacecraft resembling the Apollo capsule.

In 2004, President George Bush announced “America’s Vision for Space Exploration,” which would include the retirement of the space shuttle by 2010. As associate administrator for the Exploration Systems Mission Directorate, Horowitz will be NASA’s point man in implementing the presidential directive to “establish a human presence on the moon and to prepare for later missions to Mars.”

Most recently director of space transportation and exploration for a weapon and space systems company, he decided “to do everything on the list.” When he felt ready, he said, he bombarded NASA with applications to “we got tired” of his campaign and hired him.

“I’m one of those people who decided exactly what I was going to do, then I just marched down the road,” he said before taking off with the space shuttle Atlantis crew on an International Space Station repair mission in 2000. In his 1997 commencement address for CSUN’s College of Engineering and Computer Science, the astronaut/scientist challenged the scholars to dream big. “You have the right stuff,” he told the graduates, assuring them that they had earned degrees from “one of the best engineering and science schools in the country, and in the world.”

The astronaut received his master’s degree in aerospace engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology, as well as the doctorate in aerospace engineering that earned him his nickname, “Doc.”

Selected as a NASA pilot in 1992, four years later piloted a shuttle mission performing microgravity and tethered satellite science. Later, he flew as pilot of a maintenance mission to the Hubble Space Telescope, followed by the 2000 International Space Station assembly mission and the 2001 space station crew exchange and assembly mission, which he commanded.

As of last year, Horowitz had logged more than 5,000 hours in more than 50 different aircraft.

Campus is One-Stop Shop for Region’s Busy Moviemakers

Ready for its Close-up: CSUN is Rich in Locations for TV, Theatrical and Commercial Shoots

Like most people, Karla La Rosa encounters a dummy or two now and then. On a recent work day, however, she spotted dozens of them, real sluggards whose colleagues had to keep them from falling down on the job.

The quick of eye will be able to pick out these dummies in the crowd when “Rumble,” an MTV made-for-television movie, hits the small screen this year. La Rosa, CSUN’s facilities and trademark licensing manager, ran into dozens of them during filming in CSUN’s Matadome in June.

To fill out a crowd scene, dummies had been inserted between real live extras for the movie about a girls’ volleyball team. “The dummies were rented for $60 per day,” said La Rosa, “a bit cheaper than the extras, who were paid $100 per day.”

Cal State Northridge is a major draw for moviemakers in the region’s busy film and television industry. For the campus, their presence brings added revenues and higher visibility.
Hatfield is 2005–06 Jerome Richfield Memorial Scholar
Specialist in Comic Art is Gratified to See University-Level Research Supported in His Field

Charles Hatfield, assistant professor of English, has been named the Jerome Richfield Memorial Scholar for 2005–06, an honor reserved each academic year for an outstanding faculty member conducting research in the arts, sciences or humanities.

Cal State Northridge in 1992 established a memorial research endowment in honor of Jerome Richfield, dean emeritus and professor of philosophy. The fellowship provides three units of release time for fall 2005 or spring 2006.

Each year, the Richfield scholar presents a university lecture as part of the Provost’s Colloquium Series. Hatfield’s lecture, “Thirteen Ways of Reading Comics,” is scheduled for 4 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 17, in the Presentation Room of the Oviatt Library.

A specialist in comic art, children’s literature, word/image studies, film, animation and media, Hatfield is “honored and deeply thankful” to have been named the Richfield scholar. “It’s encouraging to see research in my specialty, comics studies, recognized and supported at the university level,” he said. “I feel lucky to be working in an area where interest is high and recognition is growing.”

The Richfield award places comic art “squarely in the tradition of humanities teaching and research,” Hatfield said.

Currently co-editing a collection of essays on underground “comix” for the University of Massachusetts Press, Hatfield also is writing a monograph for the University Press of Mississippi. Entitled “Jack Kirby: The Burning Hand,” the monograph discusses the work of the influential comic book creator/illustrator whose characters include Captain America, The Fantastic Four, The X-Men and The Hulk, among others. It will help inaugurate the publisher’s new series, “Great Comics Artists.”


In addition to serving on the editorial board of “Living the Code” and the International Journal of Comic Art, Hatfield is chair of the International Comic Arts Festival in Washington, D.C., whose tenth anniversary will be observed at the Library of Congress in October.

The honorore earned his doctoral and master’s degrees in English from the University of Connecticut, and a bachelor’s degree in English from UC Santa Barbara.

Northridge Strives for ‘Financially Literate’ Campus
New Debt Management Counselor Available to Help CSUN Students Crunch the Numbers

Financial literacy,” a hot topic at higher education conferences during the past two years, is more than wishful thinking at Cal State Northridge. The university now has a debt management counselor to help its students get their financial houses in order.

Gregorio Alcantar of Financial Aid and Scholarships in spring 2005 began setting up a debt management program to help students better manage their student loans and create realistic budgets. With the start of a new term, he is appealing to CSUN’s faculty and staff to steer his way those students who may need his assistance.

Alcantar can invite Alcantar to their classes to address students on personal finance and student loans, he said, or they can confer with him on behalf of students who may not wish to confide in a debt management counselor.

The majority of students who get into trouble financially are really good people, but are just not aware of how to help themselves,” said Alcantar. “What they need to know is that they can play a neutral role in helping them get squared away with their lenders and in their financial lives.”

Alcantar has found that students often are unaware of the advantages of a student loan as opposed to using credit cards to pay for books and other college expenses. In a recent survey, Smith College reported that 52 percent of students nationwide are using credit cards for textbooks and supplies, and 25 percent use the cards to handle tuition and fees, paying interest rates much higher than what is charged for student loans.

“Students tend to lose control when they are unable to effectively manage their credit card use,” said Alcantar, whose work is funded by a grant from EdFund. The organization provides student loan services under the Federal Family Education Loan Program.

Among other services, Alcantar helps students create college expenses profiles, factoring in their housing and educational costs and arriving at the “sometimes shocking” reality of their expenditures when calculated over a nine-month span.

In spring 2006, he will introduce money management workshops on topics such as student loan consolidation and repayment options.

To contact Alcantar for presentations or to refer a student, call (818) 677-4148.

Filming on Campus…

continued from page 2 in the nation’s entertainment capital.

The location scouts who frequent La Rosa’s office cite as attractions the campus’ diverse features - classrooms, gardens, fish ponds, a greenhouse, back lots, a three-bedroom house, an orange grove, and auditoriums. Even the campus’ dirt fields can lure film crews, whose needs usually are as specific as they are unpredictable.

CSUN’s accessibility is another draw, she said. “CSUN is in the 20-mile zone,” she said, “within easy reach of all the studios.”

Importantly, La Rosa is able to offer production crews a one-stop shop. “I drive them around to campus locations, work with key campus units such as Physical Plant Management, campus parking and police as well as the city fire marshal.”

Production staffers do not even need to file city permits, she noted, since CSUN is state property. La Rosa also handles contracts, invoicing and lunch facilities, among other duties.

Location scouts appreciate their kid glove treatment at CSUN. “CSUN has been a great place for location people to go because it has a lot of wonderful locations,” said freelance location scout/manager Matt Worthington, a member of Teamsters Local 399 representing location managers. “Its faculty and staff are accepting of what we’re doing and our process. It makes for a good experience all around.”

The amount of filming at CSUN bears that out.

□ Scenes from “Criminal Minds,” a new television action drama starring Mandy Patinkin, were shot on campus during July.

□ Nearly 600 crew members and actors for the Walt Disney Co. superhero film “Sky High” spent about four weeks at CSUN during the summer of 2004.

□ Poster shots for a Scarlett Johanssen film called “The Island” were completed in front of Manzanita Hall in November 2004.

□ An upcoming Forrest Whittaker/Tim Roth basketball movie called “Jump Shot” filmed scenes in the Matadome in February.

A December “Joan of Arcadia” shoot had a script that dealt with inexplicable mishaps during a Halloween high school play called “March of the Zombies.” La Rosa said the set’s fake moon was to drop slowly, star Amber Tamblyn perched on top. Drop it did, so hard that Tamblyn wound up with an injured foot. “It wasn’t part of the script,” said La Rosa, “but it worked so well with the premise that they kept it in.”

Commercials are shot at CSUN with relative ease, working with a fraction of the 500 crew members needed for a feature film shoot and the 100 needed for television.

H & R Block in September 2005 shot a commercial in the Orange Grove, and Exxon used a chemistry lab for which a campus technical wizard even set up bubbling blue tubes for “atmosphere.” A Nintendo commercial in January used the Chicano House for a scene with pizza-gobbling college students, and both Nike and Reebok filmed commercials in May.

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FYI

Events

Monday, Oct. 10
Social Work Program Open House
The Master of Social Work Program invites faculty and staff to attend the opening of its new office in Sierra Hall 396. Faculty will be available to answer questions about the program. fmi–Jean Daniels, x6992.

Friday, Oct. 14
Philosophy Lecture
The Philosophy Department is hosting a lecture entitled “Transparency and Twist in Narrative Fiction Film” by George Wilson, professor of philosophy at USC, at 3:45 p.m. in Sierra Hall 198. fmi–x2757, or visit www.csun.edu/~philos33.

Tuesday, Oct. 18
Lecture on ‘The Power of Sport’
The Kinesiology Department will host a free lecture on ‘The Power of Sport and Physical Education in Creating a Civil Society.’ Gudrun Doll-Tepper, president of the International Council of Sport Science and Physical Education, will speak at 7 p.m., Nobbs Auditorium, Sequoia Hall 104. fmi–x3205.

Sundays, Oct. 23 and Nov. 27
‘Ask a Dietitian’ Booth
The Marilyn Magaram Center, along with Los Angeles County and One Generation, sponsors an ‘Ask a Dietitian’ booth from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Encino Farmers Market, 17400 Victory Blvd., Encino. CSUN interns will prepare healthy recipes for sampling and will answer health-related questions. fmi–x3102.

Saturday, Oct. 29
SoCal Philosophy Conference
The Philosophy Department hosts the annual Southern California Philosophy Conference in Sierra Hall, first floor, from 10:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Registration opens at 9:45 a.m. Sign up by October 15 with Tim Black: tim.blake@csun.edu.

Public Meetings

University Student Union
Meets 1 p.m.
Fri., Oct. 17
Flinttridge Room, USU

Educational Resources Committee
Meets 2–4 p.m.
Tue., Oct. 18
University Hall 320

Educational Policies Committee
Meets 2–4 p.m.
Wed., Oct. 19
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.

The deadline for the October 24 issue is Monday, October 17. 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) 677–9099. E-mail is the preferred method of submitting.

Note: fmi—means for more information.

Personnel Planning and Review Committee
Meets 2–5 p.m.
Wed., Oct. 19
University Hall 277

Probationary Faculty Support
The Office of Undergraduate Studies invites applications for the Probationary Faculty Support Program, which provides funding for three units of reassigned time for spring 2006. The program assists probationary faculty in meeting the qualifications for retention, tenure or promotion. fmi– or applications, Cynthia Desrochers, x6536.

Blood Drives
The Associated Students will sponsor campus blood drives from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Blood Mobile, located at the Matador bookstore complex, on the following dates: October 19, November 5, December 1, February 9, March 7, April 4 and May 2. fmi–Leanne Vincent, x2477.

Student Research Abstracts
Steven Oppenheimer (Biology) invites submission of student abstracts to the annual Journal of Student Research Abstracts (JSRA), whose long-term publication costs will be covered by Van Nuys Airport under a new partnership with CSUN. Hard copies must be submitted by February 1 to JSRA Editor Steven Oppenheimer, Director, CSUN Center for Cancer and Developmental Biology, 18111 Nordhoff Street, Northridge, CA 91330. Free copies of past journal issues are available fmi–steven.oppenheimer@csun.edu.

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Classes

Professional Development
Professional Development Programs provides free training workshops for CSUN staff members in the Oviatt Library, Room 16, garden level, unless otherwise noted. To register, visit www.admn.csun.edu/hrs/training/courses/index.htm, find the desired course and complete the corresponding online form. fmi–Melissa Billiot, x3820.

Workshops:
• “CalPERS Pension Overview” Tue., Oct. 18, 9–11 a.m. or 1:30–3:30 p.m. Register by Oct. 17.
• “Smoking Cessations—Making the Choice to be Healthier” Susan Cohen, presenter. Thu., Oct. 20, 12–1 p.m. Register by Oct. 19.
• “Care Giving at the End of Life” Diane Liberman, City of Los Angeles’ Department of Aging presenter. Tue., Oct. 25, 12–1 p.m. Register by Oct. 24.

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: October 18. Next deadline date: November 1, for the November 15 meeting. Down load protocol submission forms from www.csun.edu/~gripact/03_Research/06_HumanSubjectsResearch.html.

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In Brief

Rights Advocate to Address Muslim Women’s Struggle
Health and women's rights advocate Dr. Laila Al-Marayati will give a presentation on Muslim women’s struggle for identity and civil rights at 7 p.m. Monday, Oct. 24, in the Grand Salon of the University Student Union. The presentation is part of the Phenomenal Woman Distinguished Lecture series sponsored by the Women's Studies Department. Dr. Al-Marayati is director of obstetrics and gynecology for California Family Care at the California Hospital Medical Center, and is a staff physician at Northeast Valley Health Center. A founder of the Muslim Women’s League, Al-Marayati frequently speaks and writes on issues faced by Muslim women.

In 2004, she received Women’s Studies’ Phenomenal Woman Award, presented every two years to five women for their impact on the world. In the interim years, the department invites some of the award winners to speak as part of its lecture series. A 6 p.m. reception will precede the presentation, which is free and open to the public. For more information, call the Women’s Studies Department at (818) 677-5310.

Valley Economic Report
Set for October 28
President Jolene Koester, Los Angeles Daily News publisher Tracy Rafter and Los Angeles Business Journal reporter Howard Fine will serve as moderators at the Valley Industry and Commerce Association (VICA) Business Forecast Conference Power Breakfast Program on Friday, Oct. 28.

Daniel Blake, director of Cal State Northridge’s San Fernando Valley Economic Research Center, will unveil the center’s 2005 San Fernando Valley Economic Report at the event, which will be held in the Sheraton Universal Hotel, 333 Universal Hollywood Drive, Universal City. Registration and networking start at 7:30 a.m.

Blake will be joined on the morning program panel by Rohit Shukla, founder and CEO of the Larta Institute, a think tank for technology businesses; and Larry Konsmont, president and CEO of Kosmont Companies, which assist clients in the formation and management of public/private partnerships in community development and redevelopment.

“Cirque D’Economie” is the theme of this year’s event, designed to forecast the region’s 2006 “high wire economic challenges” in demographics, traffic, housing and staffing.

From 10 a.m. to noon, President Koester will moderate a track of panels on workforce issues and needs. Rather will moderate a track on initiative “fever,” government mandates and the new financial audit regulations, and Fine will moderate a track on financial and technology trends.

Admission for VICA members is $175 for the full day. Lunch only is $85. Wells Fargo Bank is grand sponsor of the 2005 VICA Business Forecast Conference. CSUN is sponsor of the Economic Forecast Power Breakfast, and sponsors of the three-track program include The Boeing Company, the Economic Alliance of the San Fernando Valley, and the Walt Disney Company.

Food Fortnight Northridge, students and faculty raised $84,484 to help the American Red Cross with relief services for victims of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. At a campus ceremony in which the “check” was presented to the Red Cross’ Roger Dickson (far right), assistant director of student development and international programs, discuss the campaign.

In Brief

American Guitar Society
International Concert Series
Paul O'Dette & Ellen Hang, guitarists, Sat., Oct. 22, 8 p.m.
Music Recital Hall
$8–$15

Aurielo de la Vega
90th birthday celebration for composer and CSUN emeritus professor emeritus. Sun., Oct. 23, 7 p.m.
Music Recital Hall
Admission free

Calendar

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) 677-2486. To park on campus for performances, athletic events, lectures and other activities, guests must purchase a $4 parking permit.

Art and Exhibits

For gallery info, call (818) 677-2356.
Main gallery hours: Mon. through Sat., 12–4 p.m. Admission is free unless specified. For library exhibits, call (818) 677-2285.

‘Historical Vibrations’

Historical guitars, music scores and more from Oviatt Library’s International Guitar Research Archives. Runs through Nov. 11.
C.K. and Teresa Tseng Gallery, Oviatt Library

‘Mirando al Norte’

60 artists featured from Mexico and the United States. Explores cultural relations on both sides of border. Kent Kinston of CSUN and Sybil Venegas of East L.A. College curate.
Opening reception: Sat., Oct. 15, 4–7 p.m.
Gallery talk: Mon., Oct. 17, 10 a.m.
Runs Oct. 15 through Nov. 19.
CSUN Art Galleries

Bianchi Planetarium

For ticket info, call (818) 677-2288 or visit www.csun.edu/physics/planetarium. Telescope viewing after the second show.

‘Autumn Sky Show’ and “SIM: The Next Great Observatory” Second show features talk by Space Telescope System scientist Steven Edberg.
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