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## New Programs Train Faculty and Staff to Assist Distressed Students

on February 1, 2013 | in [Faculty and Staff News](#)



CSUN is using two new mental health assistance programs to help distressed students on campus.

While college presents a host of opportunities for students to enrich their lives, students can sometimes get overwhelmed while pursuing their degrees. According to a survey published in “Australian Psychologist,” more than 83 percent of college students feel some psychological distress, and more than 20 percent suffer from “serious” mental distress.

CSUN is addressing this with new training programs dubbed “Kognito” and “QPR,” which are being rolled out this academic year. Harold Hellenbrand, provost and vice president of Academic Affairs, sent out a letter regarding the issue in September.

“As members of this campus community, we are all committed to not only the academic success of our students, but also their well-being,” Hellenbrand said in the letter. “Nationally, students are reporting increased levels of distress, putting them at risk for depression, substance abuse and a host of other mental health challenges.”

These challenges are the reason Kognito and QPR are being instituted. While QPR is about to hit the campus in February, Kognito’s already helping students, faculty and staff recognize those in distress. William Watkins, vice president of Student Affairs and dean of students, told the *Daily Sundial’s* Melissa Simon that these issues don’t just affect one CSUN student, but in essence, everyone on this campus. That’s the reason that these programs were put into place.

“We are also aware of how tragedies like Sandy Hook and Aurora destabilize us all, causing a range of reactions from stigmatization to fear,” Watkins said. “Despite these very human responses, as a caring university community, we must continue to educate ourselves about the kinds of disabling conditions that can be experienced by those around us, provide support where needed or possible, and encourage individuals who see something of concern to say something to those who can intervene.”

**Read more:** [Faculty and Staff Train to Help Distressed Students](#) [Daily Sundial]



[Kognito](#), [Mental Health](#), [QPR](#)

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## Annual Symposium to Highlight Student Research and Creative Work

by Chelsea Turner | on February 13, 2013 | in [Education, Faculty and Staff News](#)



Students presented research in 10-minute oral presentations to a panel of judges or displayed it in poster format at last year's Student Research and Creative Works Symposium. This year's event will take place on Feb. 15. Photo by Lee Choo.

An array of topics ranging from the advantages of retrofitting water fountains on campus to an analysis of post-Station Fire debris flow in the San Gabriel Mountains to the regulatory focus on fast-food eating habits will be examined on Friday, Feb. 15, at California State University, Northridge's 17th Annual Student Research and Creative Works Symposium.

The symposium highlights undergraduate and graduate student achievement in various subjects at all levels in their academic careers. It also serves to inform the campus community of the quality, diverse research and creative work that is being done by

CSUN students. This year, 42 disciplines will be presenting. Faculty, staff and students are welcome to attend. Refreshments will be served.

“This annual event provides our students with the opportunity to present their research before their peers and faculty judges in a professional setting — honing their presentation skills before they present at regional or national conferences,” said Hedy Carpenter, associate director for graduate programs. “We encourage both our undergraduate and graduate students to get their feet wet and build their confidence and their resumes by showcasing their work.”

About 160 students are expected to participate this year. The event will be held from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the University Student Union’s Northridge Center. It is jointly organized by the offices of Graduate Studies and Undergraduate Studies. In addition, the symposium has received funding this year from the Associated Students and University Student Union.

The presentations will be judged by about 68 faculty members representing 42 disciplines. Cash awards will be given to the outstanding first- and second-place winners of \$200 and \$100 respectively for the oral presentations in each session. First and second place awards will also be given to poster presentation participants.

“Those who study how knowledge is acquired have known for decades that students learn best by doing,” said biology professor Robert Espinoza, a faculty adviser and judge. “The best training we can give our students for jobs, graduate and professional programs and the real world is research with faculty mentors who are themselves active researchers in their respective fields. This promotes student-centered research to students who may not be aware of such opportunities.”

“The academic institution is all about the sharing of knowledge,” said science and engineering librarian Christina Mayberry, another judge. “This symposium offers a great opportunity for the campus community to learn about research being done by students across the campus.”

For more information about the symposium, visit the [graduate students events website](#).



Students

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# CSUN Today



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## For Your Information: 2-18-13

on February 18, 2013 | in [Faculty and Staff News](#), [FYI](#)

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For Your Information shares announcements of events, public meetings, notices, classes and deadlines. The submission deadline is noon on Monday, one week before the next post.

The deadline for the March 4 posting is Monday, Feb. 25.

We strive to include all items submitted by deadline occurring until the next post. You can submit future items by emailing [pubinfo@csun.edu](mailto:pubinfo@csun.edu), sending them to mail drop 8242 or faxing them to (818) 677-4909. Email is the preferred method of submission.

### Events

#### **Feb. 19**

##### **A Conversation with Governor Michael Dukakis**

The Department of Political Science and College of Social and Behavioral Sciences will sponsor a lecture by former Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis on “The 2012 Election Results: What it Means for Governing in 2013 and Beyond,” in the Grand Salon of the University Student Union at 7 p.m. Reservations are requested.

**For more information and to RSVP**—call (818) 677-3488.

#### **Feb. 20**

##### **Nonprofit Sector Management**

Nonprofit and public-sector managers are invited to a free information session in downtown Los Angeles to learn about the Tseng College’s certificate in Nonprofit Sector Management, offered as part of the Master of Public Administration program. The session meets from 6 to 7 p.m. at the Japanese American Cultural and Community Center, 244 S. San Pedro Street, Los Angeles.

**For more information**—visit the [Tseng College website](#) or email [patricia.lyon@csun.edu](mailto:patricia.lyon@csun.edu).

#### **Feb. 22**

## **CSUN Black Alumni Association: Linkages Beyond the Classroom**

Join the CSUN Black Alumni Association in reconnecting and relaxing with wine tasting and hors d'oeuvres in the Lamb's Lounge of the Orange Grove Bistro at the University Club from 6:30 to 10 p.m. The event costs \$40 per person, and all proceeds go towards the BAA scholarship fund. Reservations are required.

**For more information**—visit the [Alumni Association event page](#) or the [Black Alumni Association website](#) or email [csunbaa@gmail.com](mailto:csunbaa@gmail.com).

### **Feb. 25**

#### **Second Annual Terry Piper Lecture**

The Divisions of Academic Affairs and Student Affairs invite you to attend the Second Annual Lecture on Feb. 25, in the University Student Union's Northridge Center. The featured guest speaker is Vincent Tinto, a professor at Syracuse University. The event is open to faculty, staff and graduate students. Please **RSVP online by Feb. 20**.

### **Feb. 27**

#### **Maurice Amado Foundation Lecture on Jewish Ethics: "The Ethics of Wealth and Work"**

Jennifer Thompson, the Maurice Amado assistant professor of applied Jewish ethics and civic engagement at CSUN, will explore the issues associated with wealth and work when put into the conflicting context of American culture versus Jewish tradition. The event will take place at Valley Beth Shalom at 15739 Ventura Blvd., Encino 91436 at 7:30 p.m.

**For more information**—admission is free, but reservations are preferred and can be made by calling the Jewish studies department at (818) 677-4724 or email [jewish.studies@csun.edu](mailto:jewish.studies@csun.edu).

### **March 7**

#### **Environmental and Occupational Exposure to Metal Nanoparticles**

The Department of Environmental and Occupational Health, in conjunction with the EOH Alumni Association and Student Association, hosts its annual technical symposium. This year will focus on the impact of metallic nanoparticles used in manufacturing processes and consumer products. Experts will speak at various presentations from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Northridge Center Complex of the University Student Union. Pre-registration is \$85 and \$75 for EOH Alumni Chapter Members. Registration at the door is \$100 and does not include parking (\$6) or lunch. **Register online** or by phone at (818) 677-2137.

**For more information**—[download a program of the 8th Annual EOH Technical Symposium \(PDF\)](#).

### **March 14**

#### **STEM: Education Challenges and Career Opportunities**

The Delmar T. Oviatt Library and the Bonita J. Campbell Endowment for Women in Science and Engineering (WISE) will host this event in the Ferman Presentation Room of the Oviatt Library from 4 to 6 p.m. Classes are welcome to attend.

**For more information**—call (818) 677-2638 or [visit the Oviatt Library's Women in Science and Engineering page online](#).

### **March 22**

#### **What Really Works in Education Conference**

The Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL) in the Michael D. Eisner College of Education at California State University,

Northridge will host a full day education conference at the University Student Union's Northridge Center on March 22, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Participants will leave with practical tips, tricks and strategies among local teachers, parents, and administrators. Rebecca Mieliwocki, 2012 National Teacher of the Year, will be the keynote speaker. The conference fee is \$90, with discounted rates available for CSUN students, CTL Partnership Schools, and groups of 5 or more. [Register online](#).

**For more information**—call (818) 677-7494 or email [ctl@csun.edu](mailto:ctl@csun.edu).

### **March 30**

#### **Chinese New Year Banquet**

The China Institute and the Chinese Student Association at CSUN will host their annual banquet to celebrate the Year of the Snake in the University Student Union's Grand Salon from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. Recent China Council full-scholarship recipients will make presentations on their life-changing experiences and wonders in China, and the CSUN Chinese Student Association, in collaboration with UCLA Chinese Student Association, will showcase special talents in singing, dancing and playing traditional Chinese musical instruments. Contributions to the banquet start at \$60 for two guests.

**For more information**—contact Justine Su, director of the China Institute, at (818) 677-3801 or email [ctl@csun.edu](mailto:ctl@csun.edu).

#### **Public Meetings**

##### **Foundation Board**

Meets 6 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 20

Orange Grove Bistro

**For more information**—call (818) 677-4400.

##### **General Education Council**

Meets 2–4 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 20

University Hall 211

##### **Faculty Senate Standing Committee on Extended Learning**

Meets 3:15–5 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 20

Executive Conference Room, Bookstore Complex

##### **Senate Executive Committee**

Meets 1–4:30 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 21

University Hall 277

##### **Educational Policies Committee**

Meets 2–4 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 27



University Hall 211

### **Academic Technology Committee**

Meets 1–3 p.m.

Friday, March 1

University Hall 211

### **Classes**

#### ***Feb. 19***

#### **Brown Bag Spring 2013 – Research Seminar Series**

The College of Engineering and Computer Science is hosting a research seminar series every Tuesday in Jacaranda Hall, conference room JD1568 from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. Each series will feature different faculty members who share their work. Bring your lunch and listen to colleagues speak about their research interests and projects that they're currently working on.

**For more information**—[download the Brown Bag Spring 2013 Research Seminar Series program \(PDF\)](#).

#### ***Feb. 26***

#### **Human Resources Workshop**

The Tseng College offers a Human Resources Management Overview and PHR/SPHR Exam Preparation Workshop at CSUN on Tuesdays. Classes will run Feb. 26 through April 30 from 6 to 9:55 p.m. Topics include business management and strategy, workforce planning and employment, HR development, compensation and benefits, employee and labor relations, and risk management. Detailed information is posted on the Tseng College [website](#).

**For more information**—email [angela.carpenter@csun.edu](mailto:angela.carpenter@csun.edu) or call (818) 677-3332.

#### **Department of Police Services Spring Safety Workshops:**

For more information on workshops offered by the Department of Police Services, call (818) 677-2111.

#### ***March 12 and 16***

#### **Building and Floor Marshal Training**

The Building and Floor Marshal training is designed to provide CSUN employees who work in major buildings on campus training and assistance in the coordination of volunteers. The training will provide emergency response procedures for some of the most common or likely critical incident emergency situations that may occur on campus. [Sign up for the training online](#).

#### ***Personal and Professional Development Programs:***

#### ***Feb. 19***

#### **Preparing Your Savings for Retirement (Faculty and Staff)**

Employees nearing retirement are encouraged to attend this workshop with Adrienne Hubbel of Fidelity Investments to better understand the importance of building an income plan, know the steps that can be taken to prepare for the transition of retirement saving to retirement spending and learn ways to help protect their retirement assets. The workshop will be held in the



Delmar T. Oviatt Library 16 from 2 to 3 p.m. [Register online](#).

**For more information**—[download Human Resource's Personal and Professional Development Program \(PDF\)](#).

### **Exploring Your Financial Options (Faculty and Staff)**

Join Kam Nassiri, a registered representative of ING Financial Partners, in the Delmar T. Oviatt Library 16 from 9 to 10 a.m. to review the advantages of tax-deferral, the importance of starting early and building adequate retirement savings. [Register online](#).

**For more information**—[download Human Resource's Personal and Professional Development Program \(PDF\)](#).

**Feb. 21**

### **Seven Steps to Fool Proof Documentation (Supervisory and Managerial Staff)**

Learn documentation from the gurus of campus: Human Resources from 9 to 11 a.m. in the Delmar T. Oviatt Library 16 with associate director of employee relations Kristina de la Vega. [Register online](#).

**For more information**—[download Human Resource's Personal and Professional Development Program \(PDF\)](#).

**Feb. 26**

### **Coordination of Leave Programs (Supervisory and Managerial Staff)**

Laurie Gold-Brubaker, manager of benefits administration, and Kari Dom, workers' compensation specialist and leave of absence coordinator, explain leave programs from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. in the Delmar T. Oviatt Library 16. The session will cover when the leave process is triggered, the types of programs available, your role in the coordination process and the accommodation process of the employee's return. [Register online](#).

**For more information**—[download Human Resource's Personal and Professional Development Program \(PDF\)](#).

**Feb. 27**

### **Financial Planning and Investments (Faculty and Staff)**

Join William Jennings, interim vice president of University Advancement, and Michael Phillips, faculty of finance, real estate and insurance, in the Delmar T. Oviatt Library 16 from 2 to 4 p.m. to discuss and explore annuities, mutual funds, stocks and other investment opportunities. Register [here](#).

**For more information**—visit HR's [website](#).

**Feb. 27 and 28**

### **A Conversation About Career Paths (Faculty and Staff)**

Please join Vice President, Information Technology Hilary Baker; Dean of the College of Health and Human Development Sylvia Alva, Ph.D.; and Vice Provost Cynthia Rawitch, Ph.D., in the Delmar T. Oviatt Library 16 from noon to 1:30 to discuss taking ownership of and managing a career. Topics to be covered include considering a next position or career move and deliberating a strategy to get to the next level. The session is intended to be an informative, lively and enjoyable conversation. [Register for the seminar online](#).

**March 5**

### **Essentials of Public Speaking: Part I**

*Bridget Sampson, communication studies faculty, will host two workshops to help faculty and staff enhance their presentation skills. Part I of the workshop, taking place in the Delmar T. Oviatt Library 16 from 9 to 11 a.m., will emphasize basic strategies to improve skills and conquer anxiety associated with public speaking. Register [here](#).*

### **March 6**

#### **Understanding How the University Operates—Essentials for all Managers**

CSUN supervisory and managerial staff are invited to attend this workshop presented by Diane Stephens, associate vice president of Academic Resources, and Debra Hammond, executive director of the University Student Union. The information-rich session, which takes place in the Delmar T. Oviatt Library 16 from 9 to 11 a.m., will provide information about more effective management in the CSU/CSUN environment. Sign up [here](#).

#### **HealthWorks by Kaiser Permanente:**

Cal State Northridge and HealthWorks by Kaiser Permanente have teamed up for a third year to bring you a suite of health tools and wellness programming developed to meet your individual needs. The wellness offerings, which are open to all interested CSUN employees – whether you are a Kaiser Permanente member or not – consist of a variety of activities and resources and include onsite classes, health screenings, and an online health competition designed to help you stay on track with making healthy choices.

### **Mondays**

#### **Weight Management**

Continuing its program in Oviatt 16 from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m., every Monday for eight weeks, HealthWorks will provide a weight management program that provides the tools necessary to achieve and maintain a healthy weight. Participants will learn how healthy lifestyle choices, like good eating and physical activity, and a positive attitude can help them lose weight and keep it off. The program will run through April 22 and is free to faculty and staff. Register [here](#).

### **Feb. 21**

#### **Biometric Screenings**

Kaiser Permanente will host two screening sessions from 1 to 4 p.m. in Oviatt 16. The screening is free and checks blood pressure, pulse rate and body mass index. Register [here](#).

#### **Book Club Meetings and Groups:**

**Grow Your Mind Book Club**, sponsored by the Office of Human Resources and Faculty Development, presents a series of book club meetings facilitated by Elizabeth T. Adams, senior director of undergraduate studies. All faculty and staff are welcome to join at any time. Meetings take place on the following Wednesdays from noon to 1 p.m. in the Delmar T. Oviatt Library 16. Register [here](#).

### **March 6**

#### **“White Bread: A Social History of the Store-Bought Loaf” by Andrew Bobrow-Strain**

### **April 3**

## **“A History of the World in 100 Objects” by Neil MacGregor**

The **Jewish Studies Book Group** will host two spring meetings in the Delmar T. Oviatt Library’s Jack and Florence Ferman Presentation Room. For more information, contact Jewish studies at (818) 677-3007 or [email](#).

### **March 17**

#### **“Murder on a Kibbutz: A Communal Case” by Batya Gur**

The event will be led by Rabbi Michele Paskow of the Jewish studies program starting at 2 p.m.

### **May 5**

#### **“What We Talk About When We Talk About Anne Frank: Stories” by Nathan Englander**

The event will be led by Audrey Thacker of the English department.

## **Notices**

### **Master of Public Administration**

Applications are now accepted for the Fall 2013 Master of Public Administration program offered at CSUN and online. The Tseng College administers this graduate degree program designed for those in the public or nonprofit sector. Detailed information is posted at [here](#).

**For more information**—email [alice.lu@csun.edu](mailto:alice.lu@csun.edu) or call (818) 677-5635.

### **Emergency Desk Reference for Staff Members**

Be prepared and informed before an emergency or disaster occurs by referencing sources provided by the [Emergency Desk](#). The Desk Reference is a quick guide for what to do in emergency situations that might occur on campus including medical emergencies, fires/explosions, involvement of hazardous materials, bomb threats, encounters with suspicious behaviors and objects and earthquakes. Access to the guide can be done from the [home page](#) by clicking the link “[Emergency Information](#)” at the bottom of the page. Updating personal contact information can also be done to enhance emergency contact on the myNorthridge portal in the “Emergency Information” section. Text messaging can also be managed through the system—check the box next to “Emergency Text Message” on the portal page.

### **Master of Public Administration Information Sessions: Feb. 26–March 19**

The Tseng College hosts free information sessions for CSUN’s Master of Public Administration program held at off-campus sites. Information sessions take place at Beverly Hills City Hall, third floor HR training room, 455 N. Rexford Drive, Beverly Hills, Feb. 26 and March 19, 12 noon-1 p.m.; at Pasadena City Hall, training room S018, 100 N. Garfield Avenue, Pasadena, March 6 and 13, 2-3 p.m.; and at the Los Angeles Unified School District headquarters, 333 S. Beaudry Drive, Los Angeles, March 5, 5:30-6:30 p.m. For more information, email [patti.burleson@csun.edu](mailto:patti.burleson@csun.edu) or visit the Tseng College [website](#).

### **Summer Session**

Currently enrolled CSUN students can make an appointment to register for Summer Session through the myNorthridge portal, from March 19 to 25. The student can self-appoint a time and date to register online. The registration period runs from March 26 to April 2 for those with appointments. Registration is open to those without appointments starting April 3. Summer Session

information is posted [here](#).

### **Training for Dealing with Distressed Students**

The Faculty Senate invites faculty and staff participation in two interactive online training programs, meant to enhance faculty/staff confidence and provide resources when dealing with students who are showing signs of emotional distress and/or adjustment issues. One training program is designed for the general student population and the other for student veterans. Each training takes between 45 and 75 minutes and can be done in the privacy of an office. The general student training can be accessed [here](#) and the veteran student training [here](#). To log-on, use enrollment key “csun42,” create a password, answer the series of questions and complete the training. Other online resources for addressing student behavior that may be of concern can be found at the University Counseling Services [website](#). For more information, contact Mark Stevens, director of our University Counseling Services at (818) 677-4069 or email [mark.stevens@csun.edu](mailto:mark.stevens@csun.edu). Counselors at UCS are also available to come to a department or staff meeting to facilitate a discussion about the Kognito trainings.

### **Kinesiology Department Chair Reassigned to Academic-Year Faculty Position**

Konstantinos Vrongistinos concluded his duty as chair of the Department of Kinesiology on Jan. 15 and was reassigned to an academic year faculty position in the Department of Kinesiology. The university thanks him for his service in this important leadership role.

### **CSU Academic Senate Newsletter**

The “Faculty to Faculty” newsletter produced by ASCSU, the official voice of faculty in the system and system-wide concerns, is a monthly publication that was recently released February 2013. To read stories and view the newsletter, visit <http://www.calstate.edu/acadsen/Newsletter/feb2013/index.html>.

### **Deadlines**

#### ***Feb. 20***

#### **Spring 2013 Faculty Senate Elections**

Any faculty member who wishes to run for a Faculty Senate position, but has not yet been nominated, may submit to the Faculty Senate Office a petition with 15 faculty signatures by 5 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 20. Open for election are the posts for vice president (one-year term), secretary (one-year term), CSU statewide academic senator (three-year term), senators-at-large (two-year term, six positions).

***For more information***—call Heidi Wolfbauer at (818) 677-3263.

#### ***Feb. 21***

#### **Faculty Early Retirement Program (FERP) Applications**

Completed applications for faculty to participate in FERP during the 2013-2014 academic year must be submitted to the Office of Faculty Affairs with signatures from the faculty member, chair and dean. Applications are available on the Faculty Affairs website at <http://www.csun.edu/facultyaffairs/forms/index.htm>.

***For more information***—call the Office of Faculty Affairs at (818) 677-2962.

#### ***Feb. 22***

## 2013 Faculty Awards

Nominations are being accepted for the 2013 faculty awards honoring outstanding faculty achievement. Nominations must be received in the Faculty Senate Office by Friday, Feb. 22. Supporting materials must be received by Friday, March 22. 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. The criteria and nomination form are on the [Faculty Senate website](#).

**For more information**—call the Faculty Senate office at (818) 677-3263.

## March 4

### CSUN China Institute Student Award

Faculty are encouraged to inform their students: undergraduate and graduate levels, of an opportunity to live in China for the entire 2013–2014 academic year to study. Students can apply for up to four awards from the China Scholarship Council in any selected subject. Awardees are granted tuition and living expenses, and they will be expected to make a formal presentation to the campus on their experiences as part of the Chia Institute Lecture Series.

**For more information**—contact either Harold Giedt, chair of the Review Committee, at [harold.giedt@csun.edu](mailto:harold.giedt@csun.edu) or Justine Su, director of the China Institute, at [zsu@csun.edu](mailto:zsu@csun.edu).

### CSUN China Institute Faculty Grant Programs

Faculty interested in China are invited to apply for initial seed money from the China Institute to start a project in their discipline that advances the field of China Studies or promotes long-term exchange and collaboration for faculty and students. Applicants should submit a written proposal of no more than three double-spaced pages that covers the nature and purpose of their project, how they intend to carry it out, how it can help CSUN students or the collaborative relationship with Chinese institutions and how the funds will be spent related to their travel to China. Additionally, a one-page résumé highlighting relevant experiences must be included in the submission to the China Institute Review Committee via email at [harold.giedt@csun.edu](mailto:harold.giedt@csun.edu) and [zsu@csun.edu](mailto:zsu@csun.edu). Two grants of \$1,000 each will be awarded to the grant recipients.

**For more information**—contact Harold Giedt at [harold.giedt@csun.edu](mailto:harold.giedt@csun.edu) or Justine Su at [zsu@csun.edu](mailto:zsu@csun.edu).



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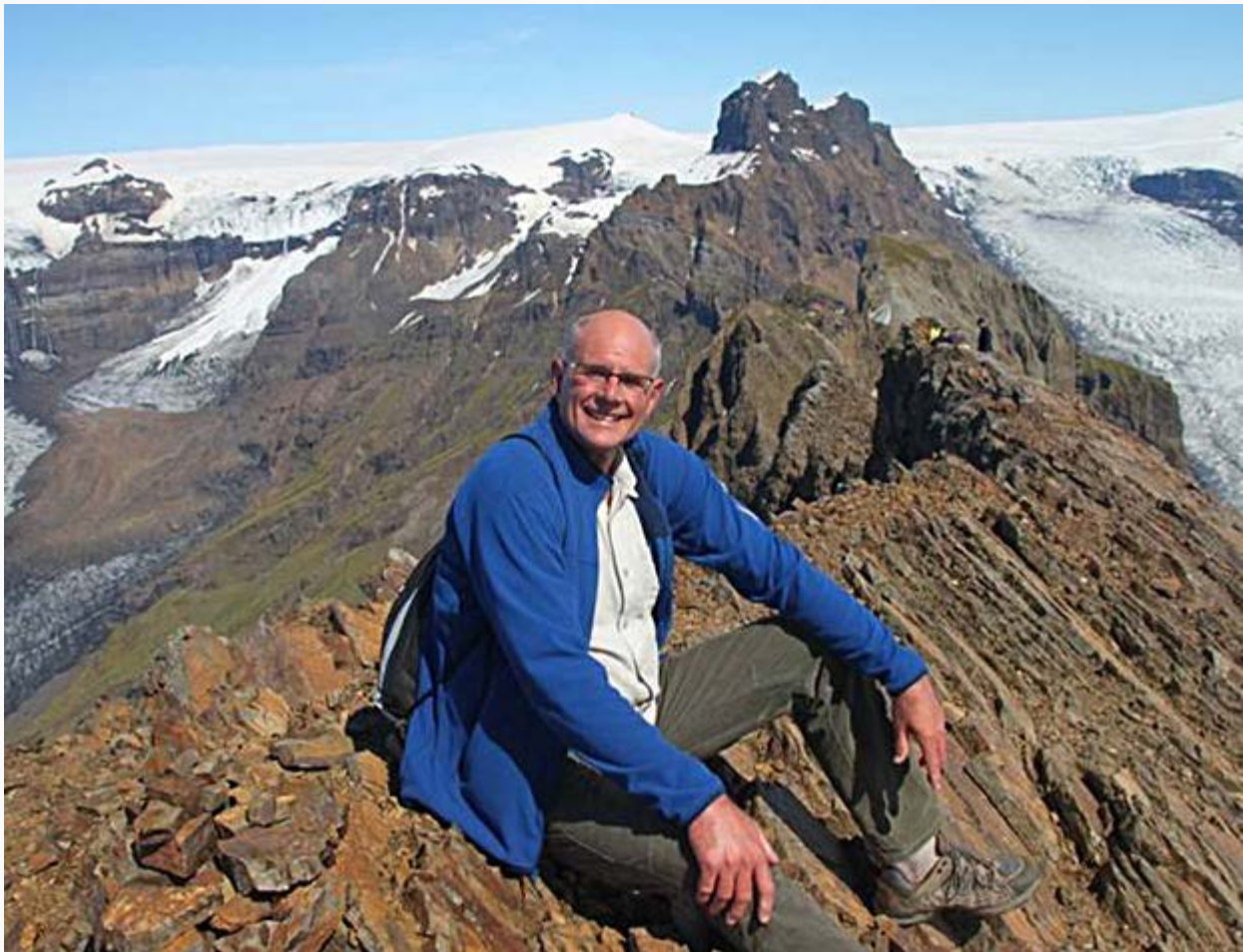


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## CSUN Mourns the Loss of Geography's Associate Dean

by Shanté Morgan | on February 21, 2013 | in [Faculty and Staff News](#)



Darrick Danta sitting atop Kristinartindar Peak in Iceland in June 2012. Danta, associate dean of California State University, Northridge's College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, passed away on Feb. 15. Photo by Matt Ebner.

Darrick Danta '77 (Geography), M.A. '80 (Geography), associate dean of California State University, Northridge's College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, and longtime faculty member of the Department of Geography, passed away on Friday, Feb. 15,



after an apparent climbing accident near Needles, Calif. He was 58 years old.

Danta was a longtime resident of the San Fernando Valley and an inveterate champion of the Department of Geography. He spent a good deal of his life in the classrooms of Sierra Hall first as a student and then returning as faculty in 1985. He earned both his bachelor's and master's degrees in geography, going on to earn a doctorate in geography at Ohio State University.

Danta served as president of the Association of Pacific Coast Geographers, as well as editor for their journal. He was a fixture at meetings of the California Geographical Society and the Association of American Geographers. He was an active member of the Sierra Club and led many outings as an instructor in outdoor skills.

Students and peers benefitted from Danta's expansive knowledge of Eastern Europe, as well as his exceptional breadth of training in all aspects of geographic methods, tools and techniques.

"The loss to our department is beyond comprehension," said Shawna Dark, chair of the Department of Geography. "Darrick was a wonderful mentor, teacher, colleague and friend. It was a true honor to work with him."

He is survived by his wife, Sara. No information is available yet on his memorial service.

For more information, contact the Department of Geography at (818) 677-3532 or visit [the geography department website](#).



[Alumni, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences](#)

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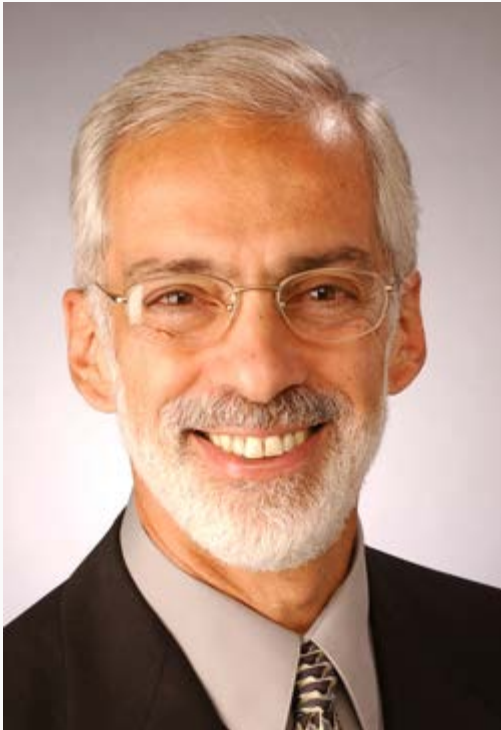


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## Second Annual Terry Piper Lecture Features Expert on Student Success

by Marc Evangelista | on February 21, 2013 | in [Education, Faculty and Staff News](#)



Vincent Tinto, a distinguished professor of education at Syracuse University, will serve as the keynote speaker at California State University, Northridge's second annual Terry Piper Lecture on Feb. 25 in the University Student Union's Northridge Center.

Piper, who served as vice president of student affairs for nearly 10 years, strove to actively partner with campus colleagues in support of student success as a member of CSUN's executive leadership team. He is credited with reshaping CSUN's Division of Student Affairs to align with the most current thinking and practices that support student learning and success. Piper passed away on May 13, 2010 after a battle with melanoma.

"The event continues the legacy of Dr. Piper's work as an innovator and promoter of applied theory to practice, particularly as it related to accountability of learning and development," said Shelley Ruelas-Bischoff, associate vice president for student life and co-chair of the event.

Vincent Tinto, keynote speaker at 2013 Terry Piper Lecture.

The event will open with a reception at 8:30 a.m., followed by the lecture at 9 a.m. It is open to faculty, staff and administrators at CSUN. Tinto's presentation is titled, "Student Success Does Not Arise by Chance: A Presentation on Promoting Student Success and Graduation." It is expected to focus on how all members of the campus community play a vital role in facilitating student success.

Deadlines are closed for the two breakout sessions following the lecture.

Like Piper, Tinto was part of a group of highly esteemed leaders in higher education who came together to create a new

publication for the members of the American College Personnel Association known as the bimonthly magazine “About Campus.”

He has carried out research and written extensively on higher education, particularly on student success and the impact of learning communities on student growth and attainment. Tinto’s current research focuses on the impact of learning communities on the academic achievements of under-prepared college students in urban two- and four-year colleges.

“Dr. Tinto’s selection as this year’s speaker is especially exciting given his emphasis on translating academic research into practical steps that administrators, faculty and staff can take to enhance student success,” Ruelas-Bischoff said.

Please RSVP for the campus-wide session as soon as possible, space is limited, by visiting the [Division of Student Affairs website](#).



Lectures

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