

CSUM

MAGAZINE

SPRING 2017

THE K-12 ISSUE

Former National Teacher of the Year Rebecca Mieliwocki and her fellow alumni teach our future leaders.



Present the Colors

American Indian tribes from around the United States gathered at California State University, Northridge's Sierra Quad for a day of celebration at the 33rd annual Powwow on Nov. 26, 2016. Guests were treated to several different American Indian dances and music performances, as well as arts and crafts, food and vendors. The event was put on by the university's Department of American Indian Studies. —Paul Amico

Photo by David J. Hawkins.

Training California's Teachers

CSUN prepares more teachers than all 10 University of California campuses combined.



her students to reach new heights and now motivates new teachers to follow her example. Another alumna of CSUN's Michael D. Eisner College of Education, Erica Rood, combines her passion for the creative arts with her love of teaching to inspire her students at the CHIME Institute in Woodland Hills. A 2016 Presidential Award-winner for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching, Rood was also recognized by the White House as one of the best teachers in the country.

In addition to preparing nationally recognized educators, CSUN's Eisner College of Education is working to ease the looming teacher shortage crisis in California. Along with graduates of CSUN's Liberal Studies Program, which is another pathway to the teaching profession, Eisner College alumni dominate the ranks of the honored Los Angeles Unified School District Rookies of the Year and Teachers of the Year. More teachers get their start at CSUN than the entire UC system combined, and CSUN's K-12 educational influence extends far beyond the teaching ranks. Matadors fill the roles of superintendents, principals, psychologists and every other critical job in education today. We also prepare the vitally important educators who make a difference for students who have special needs, as well as provide support for their families.

I hope you enjoy this issue of *CSUN Magazine* that highlights the university's significant impact on K-12 education, and the corresponding impact on current and future generations.

Dianne F. Harrison

DIANNE F. HARRISON, PH.D.
PRESIDENT

Heads of state. High-profile journalists. Fortune 500 CEOs. World Series and Super Bowl champions. The short list of VIPs who are invited to the White House does not regularly include teachers.

Every year though, one teacher is selected as the National Teacher of the Year — an exemplar of the power of education. This impactful teacher has the privilege and opportunity to meet the President of the United States. CSUN alumna Rebecca Mieliwoki is such a teacher, receiving this honor in 2012 from then-President Barack Obama. A master educator, Rebecca has inspired

INSIDE



Alumnae Rebecca Mieliwocki and Erica Rood earn national teacher accolades.

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CSUN opens its campus to thousands of local students in grades K-12.

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On the cover: In 2012, Rebecca Mieliwocki '95 (Single Subject Teaching Credential), M.A. '15 (Education) a longtime English teacher at Luther Burbank Middle School in Burbank, traveled to the White House to accept the National Teacher of the Year award from then-President Obama. Now she has a new mission: guiding new teachers through the treacherous waters of middle and high school education.

COVER ILLUSTRATION BY HARRY CAMPBELL
PHOTO BY LEE CHOO

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11/10 & 11/12

Serj Tankian

Rock Star



"This has been an amazing night," said System of a Down lead singer Serj Tankian '89 (Marketing), before introducing the song *Empty Walls*, to conclude the second of two sold-out performances at the Valley Performing Arts Center (VPAC) on Nov. 10 and 12. Tankian has fronted one of the most successful alternative metal bands in recent memory since its inception in 1994. At VPAC, he was accompanied by the CSUN Symphony in the North American premiere of his *Elect the Dead* and *Orca* symphonies. Tankian told the *Los Angeles Times* beforehand that he felt confident about the performance because he had plenty of rehearsal time with the orchestra before the shows. He also had honed the material by performing more than two dozen times in Europe, including concerts with the Czech National Symphony Orchestra and the Bruckner Orchestra Linz of Austria.

Alumnus Serj Tankian '89, lead singer of System of a Down, performs at the VPAC.

11/15

George Takei

Actor / Activist

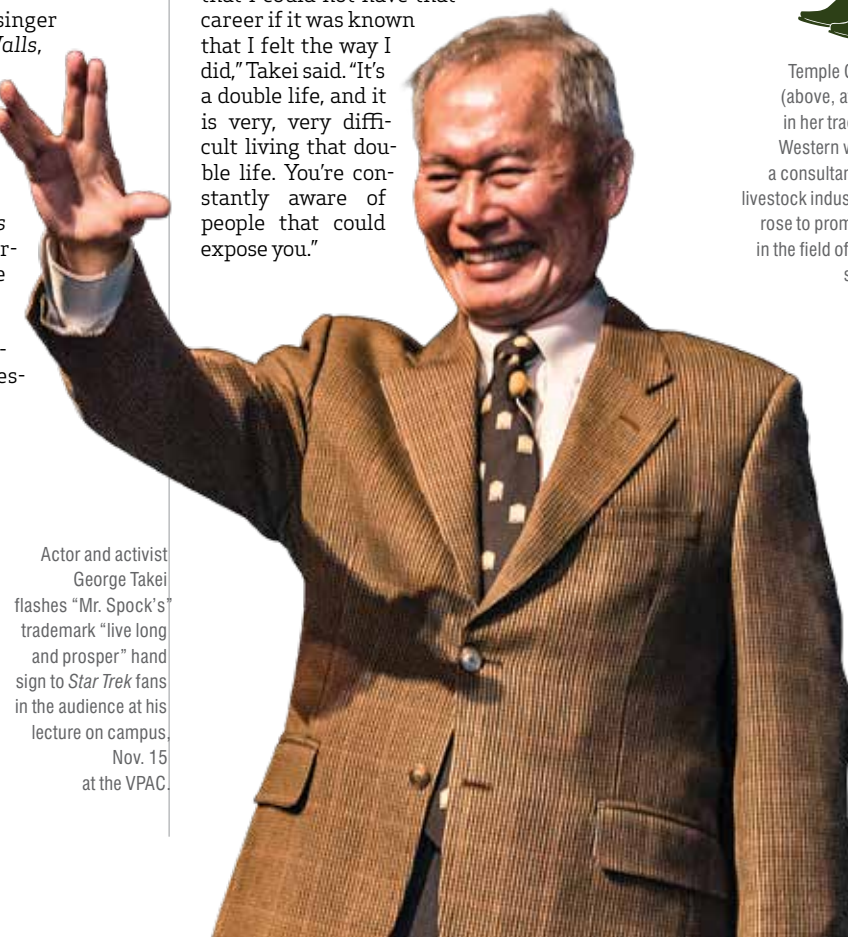
Much has changed for actor, activist and social media icon George Takei in the 50 years since *Star Trek* first hit the air. Takei painted a picture of his life for students, faculty, staff and community members at CSUN's VPAC in a special evening lecture Nov. 15.

Throughout his life, Takei has been an outspoken advocate for various political issues and human rights. However, as a young TV actor playing Mr. Sulu in the 1960s, Takei was not free to speak out about the issue closest to him – gay rights.

"Through all those years of activism, I was silent on the one issue that was very personal to me, that was organic to me," Takei said.

Takei knew he was "different" at a young age, he said, but was unable to come out publicly as it would have endangered his career.

"I was pursuing an acting career, a very visible public career, and I knew that I could not have that career if it was known that I felt the way I did," Takei said. "It's a double life, and it is very, very difficult living that double life. You're constantly aware of people that could expose you."



Actor and activist George Takei flashes "Mr. Spock's" trademark "live long and prosper" hand sign to *Star Trek* fans in the audience at his lecture on campus, Nov. 15 at the VPAC.

02/06

Temple Grandin

Professor / Autism Spokesperson



Temple Grandin (above, at CSUN) in her trademark Western wear is a consultant to the livestock industry and rose to prominence in the field of animal science.

CSUN welcomed world-renowned autism expert and professor Temple Grandin on Feb. 6, as part of *Education on the Edge*, a series of lectures and workshops on modern-day education and accommodating all types of thinkers, presented by the Michael D. Eisner College of Education Center for Teaching and Learning. The lecture was open to the community and quickly sold out.

A well-known figure within the autistic community, Grandin was diagnosed with autism when she was 4, and doctors recommended she be institutionalized. Her parents refused to follow the advice and helped Grandin develop her speaking ability. As one of the first people to talk about their own experiences with autism, Grandin developed a number of innovations to help others with autism – such as the "hug box," a deep-pressure device designed to calm hypersensitive people. She was also the subject of the Emmy Award-winning HBO biopic *Temple Grandin*, which detailed how she used her perspective with autism to rise to prominence in the field of animal science.

The lecture focused primarily on the different types of thinkers that the world produces today, and society's tendency to practice "label-locked learning" – where students are sorted by what they cannot do, instead of building on their strengths.

"Different kinds of minds can complement each other," Grandin said. "For example, Steve Jobs, the artist, made the interface on the iPhone. The mathematical engineers had to make the inside of that phone work. It's different kinds of minds working together."

02/08

Viola Davis

Actor

Just days before she won the Oscar for Best Supporting Actress for her work in *Fences*, Viola Davis headlined CSUN's Black History Month 2017 with a sold-out *Big Lecture* presented by Associated Students on Feb. 8 at the VPAC. Approximately 1,600 students, faculty and staff filled the Great Hall, where Davis delivered a powerful and moving speech.

"My name is Viola Davis, and I am a hero," Davis began, drawing applause and whistles from the audience. "I'm not a hero with a cape, or a golden lasso or a boomerang. I'm just your ordinary girl, living an extraordinary life with an extraordinary calling."

Davis made history as the first African-American woman to win the prime-time Emmy for Outstanding Lead Actress in a Drama Series for her performance on *How to Get Away with Murder*. During the evening, Davis spoke candidly about her career, overcoming adversities in her life and the "call to adventure."

Davis recalled that most of her earliest memories of Central Falls, R.I., were of being very poor. Her mother and father grew up under the heavy boot of Jim Crow, never completing their high school diplomas.

"When you're poor, there are trickle-down effects," said Davis. "So, I grew up with the violence, the alcoholism. That was my existence."

The narratives of African-American women in Hollywood have been so limited, she said. She described her feeling of confidence when she learned that her TV character, Analise Keating on *How to Get Away with Murder*, was described as a sexy, dark-skinned woman, who was hard, strong and intelligent.

"The privilege of a lifetime is being who you really, truly are," Davis said. "It is the power of owning your story – the failures, the successes, but also the joy and the beauty."



Viola Davis headlined CSUN's Black History Month 2017 in February, just days before she won the Oscar for Best Supporting Actress for her work as "Rose" in the film adaptation of August Wilson's *Fences*.

ON CAMPUS

02/16

Justice Mariano-Florentino Cuéllar

California Supreme Court Justice



California Supreme Court Justice Mariano-Florentino Cuéllar answers students' questions at a forum on campus at the University Student Union.

CSUN students had the rare chance to meet and hear from California Supreme Court Justice Mariano-Florentino Cuéllar on Feb. 16 at the University Student Union. Instead of giving a traditional lecture, Cuéllar opted for a question-and-answer forum, giving approximately 70 students a unique opportunity to ask him a question. Professor Melisa Galvan of the Department of Chicana and Chicano Studies, which was integral in bringing Cuéllar to CSUN, opened up the discussion by asking about Cuéllar's childhood.

"I grew up in Matamoros, [a town in Mexico that shares a border with Texas]," Cuéllar said. "There is a special knowledge that I acquired because I lived on the U.S.-Mexico border. I realized that the United States and Mexico have always been, and will always be, interdependent."

Cuéllar spoke about his early goal of earning a college education, which he did — graduating magna cum laude from Harvard University in 1993.

"I was very lucky to have parents who placed a strong emphasis on education," he said. "My father was a teacher, and my mother worked at a library. My dad would ask us to send him letters when he was working in the U.S. When he wrote back, he sent back my letter with corrections in red ink."

After law school at Yale, he worked for the U.S. Treasury Department and clerked for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Cuéllar also has served as a law professor at Stanford and director of Stanford's Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies.

04/12

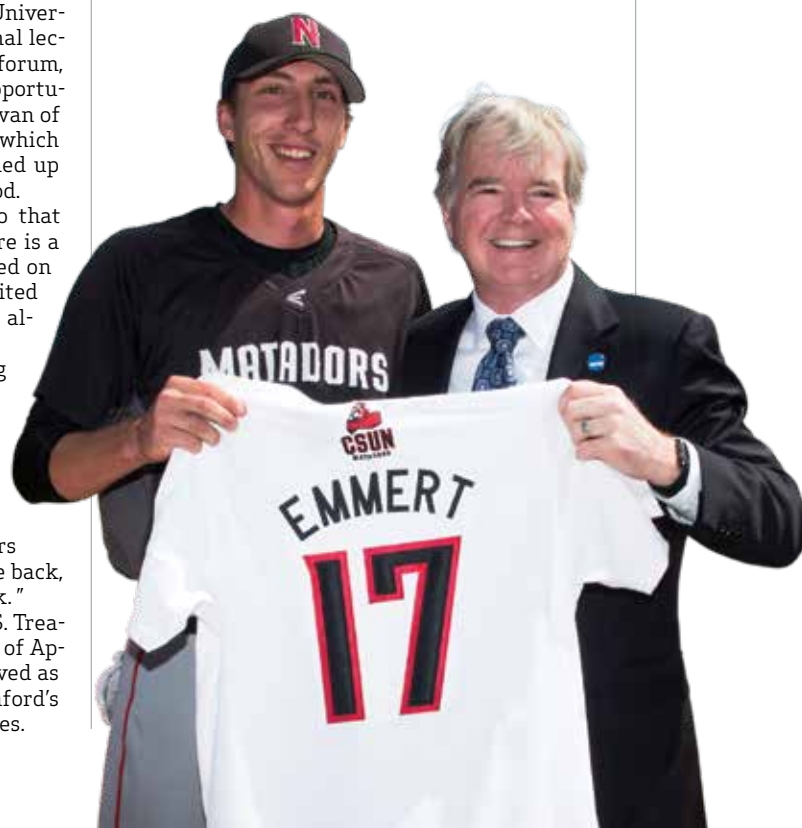
Mark Emmert

NCAA President

National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) President Mark Emmert (pictured below with senior infielder William Colantono) visited CSUN on April 12, experiencing the university's commitment to student success, its rising Matador Athletics programs and how CSUN is using athletics as a tool for engagement. As part of the visit, Emmert highlighted how college sports serve as a pathway to opportunity through a focus on academics, student-athlete well-being and fairness. Emmert organized the trip to CSUN in part due to CSUN President Dianne F. Harrison's service to the NCAA.

"We are extremely privileged to have President Emmert at CSUN and to have him experience our student-athlete success firsthand," said Harrison, who serves on the NCAA's Board of Governors and the NCAA Division I Board of Directors. "Not long after he became president of the NCAA, I became president of CSUN and identified using athletics as a tool for engagement as one of the university's eight key priorities. Athletics not only teaches values and life skills to our student-athletes, but it also builds community for all students and connects our alumni and supporters to CSUN."

During his visit, Emmert met with Matador student-athletes and coaches, as well as the Matador Achievement Center staff who support student-athlete academic success.



2016-17 Year In Review

CSUN Athletics Together We Rise



Men's Soccer

Women's Soccer

81

CSUN Student-Athletes on the **Dean's List** with a 3.5 and up term GPA for Fall 2016.

7

Student-Athletes with a perfect 4.0 term GPA for Fall 2016.

Champions

5 Players of the Year

2 Coaches of the Year



Did You Know?



Channon Fluker was the first Big West player in more than two decades to lead the conference in scoring, rebounding and blocked shots.

She has been invited to attend and participate in the 2017 U23 USA National Team Training Camp.





Biology professor Jonathan Kelber works with a research lab team on campus that includes CSUN graduate student Malachai Hoover '14 (Cell and Molecular Biology), who will start a Ph.D. program at Stanford this fall.

NIH Awards CSUN Professor \$1.46 Million to Support Cancer Research

The National Institutes of Health has awarded CSUN biology professor Jonathan Kelber \$1.46 million over the next four years to support his research group in their ongoing studies of the cancer “support wall” gene called PEA1. His research has implications for future treatment diagnosis and treatment practices for breast and pancreatic cancer patients.

The grant, a Research Project Grant designated SC1 (a Research Advancement Award) by the NIH, is one of the largest research grants ever awarded to a CSUN faculty member. Kelber said the grant, which could be renewed for an additional four years, will play a crucial role in expanding his research program toward combating early- and late-stage breast and pancreatic cancers — improving diagnostic and treatment practices for patients.

“It took a lot of work to get this grant, and it’s quite an honor to receive it,” Kelber said. “It significantly expands our capabilities to tackle the most important problems in these fields, while continuing to train our diverse student population.”

Kelber has spent years studying cancer metastasis and the role that PEA1 plays in this process. Metastasis is when cancer cells move from their original source to other parts of the body

through the blood stream, and form malignant tumors elsewhere.

Kelber’s group at CSUN was the first to show that the PEA1 gene is essential at the earliest stages of aggressive breast cancer metastasis. That study was published in 2015 in the *Public Library of Science (PLOS) One Journal*. He has done similar research in the past on the role PEA1 plays in pancreatic cancer.

“We can now go back and incorporate the previous work I’ve done on PEA1 and pancreatic cancer with our more recent work on breast cancer,” he said. “Ultimately, what we are trying to understand is how the mechanism of PEA1 promotes metastasis in cancer.”

The grant has enabled Kelber to hire a postdoctoral scholar to assist with the project, as well as a technician to help oversee his laboratory’s operations. They will join the four CSUN undergraduate and six CSUN graduate students who are already working with Kelber on related projects.



CSUN students designed and built CSUNSat1, a miniature satellite about the size of a shoebox, with solar panels to recharge its experimental battery.

CSUNSat1 Launches to International Space Station

On April 18, CSUN faculty and students and Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) engineers cheered with relief as NASA launched the university’s first stellar explorer, CSUNSat1, a cube-shaped satellite about the size of a shoebox, to the International Space Station from Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Fla. An Atlas V rocket propelled the OA-7 Cygnus spacecraft, named the SS John Glenn after the astronaut who was the first American to orbit the Earth.

CSUN electrical and computer engineering professor Sharlene Katz said the satellite project is the first of its kind for the university.

“We’ve never done anything like this before,” said Katz, who traveled to Cape Canaveral with electrical and computer engineering professor James Flynn to witness the launch. “The satellite hardware and software were designed and built from scratch. The ground

station was done from scratch. We want to run the mission. It’s time. We feel confident in it.”

CSUNSat1 will be deployed into space from the station in April next year. CSUN’s ground station command and mission control, located in Jacaranda Hall, will communicate with it via radio.

One of the most challenging aspects of the mission will be switching the power source from a general standard battery to JPL’s prototype, Flynn said.

“One of the key tests is that the experimental battery has to power the satellite itself,” he said. “It’s like changing your brain without losing your mind. You are doing a transplant. The batteries are not equal; the characteristics are not the same. So, not only do we change the battery, but also how the battery is taken care of, all in 50 milliseconds.”

Katz lauded the students for their more than three years of



Electrical and computer engineering professor James Flynn shows off the shoebox-sized CSUNSat1, before it made the trip from campus to Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

hard work on CSUNSat1.

“This is a university — it’s about the experience,” she said. “We’ve invested so much in learning about small satellites. We’d like to try it again.”

TAX ASSISTANCE CLINIC WORKS WITH SENATOR IN SAN FERNANDO

Joined by community members on Feb. 21, state Sen. Bob Hertzberg (D-Van Nuys) announced a new partnership with CSUN’s income tax preparation assistance program at Morningside Elementary School, one of three new clinic locations in the city of San Fernando.

The partnership between Hertzberg and CSUN’s Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Clinic, in collaboration with Citi Community Development, aims to improve the financial situation of thousands of struggling low-income families in San Fernando by encouraging residents to take advantage of free state and federal tax preparation services offered by accounting students from CSUN.

The senator’s goal, he said, is to increase the number of eligible families receiving the Earned Income Tax Credit as part of his initiative to spark economic and community development throughout San Fernando.

With assistance from Hertzberg and Citi, which is helping fund the program expansion, the VITA Clinic expanded its services this year by opening three new clinic locations in San Fernando: the San Fernando Library, Las Palmas Park and Morningside Elementary School.

The VITA Clinic is powered by more than 300 student volunteers who are IRS-certified tax preparers and operates at 12 sites, six days a week, throughout the San Fernando Valley — offering 120 hours of service every week during tax season. For more information, visit vita.csun.edu or call (818) 677-3600.

State Sen. Bob Hertzberg (center) announces a new community partnership with CSUN’s low-income tax preparation assistance program.



Alumni to Be Awarded Doctorates



Bill Griffith



Michael Watanabe

This May, CSUN will award honorary doctorates to financial journalist Bill Griffith '80 (Journalism) and substance abuse educator Michael Watanabe '73 (Sociology), president and CEO of Asian American Drug Abuse Program.

Griffith, anchor of the financial news show *Closing Bell* on CNBC, will receive an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters during the Mike Curb College of Arts, Media, and Communication commencement ceremony May 19. Watanabe, a recognized leader in the field of substance abuse education, prevention, intervention and treatment, will receive an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters during the commencement ceremony for the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences on May 21.

CSUN BREAKS GROUND ON 10,000-SQUARE-FOOT RESEARCH BUILDING



When CSUN formalized research as one of the university's seven priorities in 2012, even the most optimistic member of the campus community could hardly have imagined the impact. In 2016, the journal *Nature* named CSUN a Top 25 Rising Star for scientific research, alongside Stanford, Carnegie Mellon and NASA. CSUN was the only public university in California on the list. On Feb. 7, CSUN took

the first step toward even greater research success with the groundbreaking of a 10,000-square-foot facility dubbed Research Building 1.

Under construction next to the Chicano House and across from the Art and Design Center and CSUN Art Galleries, the building will provide flexible and reconfigurable research space. It will enable and encourage multidisciplinary research teams of faculty and students to collaborate on a wide variety of projects — including the BUILD PODER team that will call the building home. BUILD PODER is the result of a nearly \$22 million National Institutes of Health grant to encourage diversity in biomedical research fields. The building also will be the home of faculty from research clusters focused on materials science and health disparities.

"The new facility builds upon our research momentum," CSUN President Dianne F. Harrison said. "I am confident that the new building environment will support and encourage even more research productivity at CSUN."

The building is expected to open in the fall.



CSUN CONFERENCE DRAWS RECORD CROWDS IN SAN DIEGO

More than 5,000 people gathered in San Diego for the International Technology and Persons with Disabilities Conference, also known as the CSUN Conference, the largest assistive technology conference in the world, Feb. 27-March 4. The 32nd annual event hosted people from around the globe and explored new technology designed to assist people with disabilities.

"This is a great conference," said Karen Royston, an executive director of a nonprofit that works with students with disabilities in the state of Georgia. "I really like how it has so many concurrent sessions and so many topics you can choose

from. There is something for anyone about any disability."

This year's event boasted more than 400 sessions and demonstrations from more than 120 exhibitors in the free Exhibition Hall.

"The CSUN Conference is the conduit for the agents for change," said Sandy Plotin, managing director of CSUN's Center on Disabilities. "We are happy to provide them a place to gather together." The center organizes the conference each year and is already at work preparing for next year's conference, which will take place March 19-23, 2018, in San Diego.

"The CSUN Conference is the conduit for the agents for change."

**SANDY PLOTIN,
MANAGING
DIRECTOR OF
CSUN'S CENTER
ON DISABILITIES**

Trading Up

Students in CSUN's David Nazarian College of Business and Economics are flexing their finance muscles in a newly remodeled lab that boasts more tech tools and the opportunity to earn a certificate in financial analysis.



1



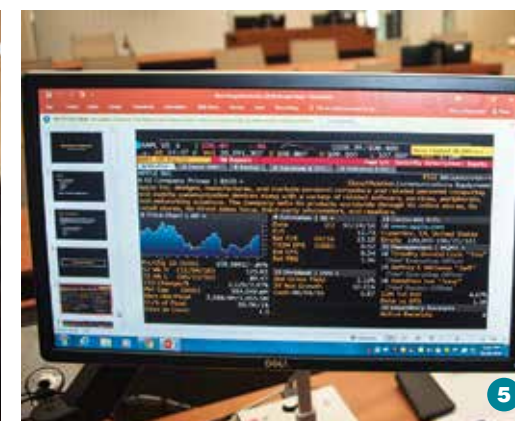
2



3



4



5

1 The Nazarian College built the Financial Lab in Juniper Hall in fall 2014 and used state funds to remodel the lab in summer 2016 — changing its layout, adding more seating and installing Bloomberg Terminals. Equipped with a financial-analysis platform, the terminals enable finance professionals to monitor and analyze real-time data from the financial market.

2 Professors have incorporated the Bloomberg Terminals into assignments and projects for classes such as Advanced Topics in Finance and Business Valuation.

3, 4 In 2016, the college started to train student lab assistants to help their peers in becoming Bloomberg Market Concept certified.

5 CSUN established a two-year contract with Bloomberg L.P. in 2015 and installed the analytics platform. The nonprofit Richard Siegel Foundation has donated a total of \$52,000 toward the cost of the Bloomberg Terminals.

—Cati Mayer

Nazarian Family Presents Students with New Laptops



ness titans Younes and Soraya Nazarian. Younes is co-founder of Qualcomm and a pioneer of the global wireless revolution.

Many CSUN students cannot afford to purchase laptops and must rely on computer labs and other public computer resources to complete their school work. The new laptops will make college life a little easier for the students, who were selected based on need. Before the laptops were distributed, Younes Nazarian shared a bit about his own youth in Iran.

"It's so nice to be here with family," he said. "My name is Younes — David's father. I'm so happy to see all of your faces, especially with all the smiles I see here."

"My father passed away when I was 2 years old," he said. "We are two brothers. We came to this country in '79 (after the Islamic Revolution), with zero — scratch. [Soraya and I] wanted to build the best future for our four children, and now the nine grandchildren I have. You, also, are going to build your future. That's why you have to rely on yourself. You have to work very hard. You have to build it yourself."

The Nazarians' son, entrepreneur, philanthropist and CSUN alumnus David Nazarian, founder and CEO of Nimes Capital, joined his parents at the event, in the college that was renamed the David Nazarian College of Business and Economics in his honor in 2014.

The Nazarian family recently helped the college conclude a \$25 million campaign after just two years.

A CSUN business student thanks Soraya (right) and Younes Nazarian, who donated laptops to 50 students in December. The laptops were intended as tangible, instant assistance for current students as they pursue their degrees.

Fifty business students received laptops from the Y&S Nazarian Family Foundation at a Dec. 5, 2016, luncheon. The CSUN celebration included remarks from — and selfies with — the local foundation's founders, philanthropists and busi-

Professors, Alumna Help Fight Human Trafficking in Valley

Van Nuys had been a hotspot for human trafficking and prostitution for more than three decades. In 2016, after increased security efforts within the surrounding area, the Valley Bureau Human Trafficking Task Force made more than 500 arrests, issued more than 3,000 citations and rescued 10 human trafficking victims — eight were minors.

CSUN alumna and Los Angeles City Councilmember (Sixth District) Nury Martinez '96 (Political Science, pictured at right) established the task force in 2015 and collaborated with Henrik Minassians, CSUN professor of urban studies and planning, and David Lopez, professor of sociology. The group researched the connections between crime patterns and environmental conditions in the district, to curb human trafficking.

Martinez held a press conference Jan. 26 at the corner of Sepulveda Boulevard and Valerio Street to highlight the recent successes of the trafficking task force, and to share future plans to fight human trafficking in the area.

"The reason we've developed this team is primarily because of the lives we are saving, but also because of the community we are restoring," Martinez said. "My job as a council member is to protect all children in all of our neighborhoods."



Students Intern on the Red Carpet

When more than 20 million people tuned in around the world to watch the 74th annual Golden Globes Awards on the first weekend of January, few of them knew the role two CSUN students played in making sure the broadcast was a success.

Two weeks before celebrities hit the red carpet, the Hollywood Foreign Press Association (HFPA), a group of international journalists who produce the Golden Globes, called CSUN Department of Cinema and Television Arts (CTVA) professor Nate Thomas for help.

Thomas, head of the CSUN film production program, said the organization asked for two students who paid great attention to detail, had exceptional organizational skills and were "very mature." He selected seniors Amanda Derzy and Amanda Nieto for the task.

Five days before the Golden Globes, Derzy and Nieto began scripting, shooting and editing



promotional videos that were sent out on multiple social media outlets — a process Derzy said was made easier because of what she learned at CSUN.

"The HFPA told us, 'You guys are the social media people, so we need a video in an hour,'" she said. "A lot of things — like pacing and

framing — are things we learned in the film program at CSUN." The pair also crafted pre-made "congratulations" messages for more than 120 different nominees in 24 different categories to post on the Golden Globes' official Twitter account, which has nearly 1 million followers.



CSUN seniors Amanda Derzy and Amanda Nieto intern at the Golden Globes, at the storied Beverly Hilton Hotel. "It was mind-blowing," Derzy said. "I didn't believe it was happening until I arrived at the location, and they handed me my badge with my name and picture on it. I arrived just when the red carpet was being rolled out."

Alumni Rally Behind "Dreamers"

CSUN alumni have recognized the need to help Dreamers — students living in the United States with undocumented status — achieve the American dream of graduating from college, working professionally and finding success. Omar Velasco '00 (Journalism, pictured at lower right) and his wife, Argelia, form the morning-radio tandem on K-LOVE 107.5 FM, *Omar y Argelia*. Velasco's father came to the U.S. as a part of the Bracero Program in the 1950s, which gave rights to farm workers in the country illegally.

Velasco was born in Jalisco, Mexico, before coming to his new homeland as a teenager. He enrolled in San Fernando High School and came to CSUN after graduation. He's a U.S. citizen now and can empathize with the plight of the Dreamers.

"Who really needs help?" Velasco asked. "I thought about Dreamers. I thought about their struggles. These are innocent victims of the situation. They were brought here very young. Some of them don't even speak Spanish. America is everything they know. English is their primary language." Velasco set up a scholarship for Dreamers coming to CSUN from his high school to help them get out of limbo.

"It's very important to give back to those who need it," Velasco said. "I want



Music Program Ranked Among Top 25 by The Hollywood Reporter

CSUN was ranked among the top 25 music schools in *The Hollywood Reporter*. Published in the Dec. 2, 2016, issue, it was the third year in a row that CSUN has made the list in the nation's leading entertainment industry trade magazine.

The publication pointed to alumni such as Andy Summers and Diane Warren — as well as CSUN renowned programs in media and film composition, jazz and classical performance, and music industry studies — in ranking what it called “elite institutions ... [that] will help you hit the high notes in everything from film composition to live performance.”

“We are indeed proud to make this high-profile list again,” said Ric Alviso, chair of CSUN's Department of Music. “This is a testament to the hard work and dedication of our committed faculty and talented students, all of whom invest hours and hours of practice in their craft to make outstanding music and produce work that makes our lives richer.”

Other schools listed include the Juilliard School, University of Southern California, San Francisco Conservatory of Music, Berklee College of Music, New England Conservatory, Yale School of Music and the Royal College of Music in London.



Jazz students in CSUN's acclaimed Department of Music rehearse in Cypress Hall.

Matsumoto Shares Gifts With CSUN

Distinguished alumna Shigemi Matsumoto '68 (Music) conducted a master class on March 3 for vocal arts students. For two hours, she taught music in CSUN's Nordhoff Hall. But she did it in a way that incorporated physiology, philosophy, history and, in a sense, biology and botany.

“The first note of any piece is your nucleus,” she explained. “It's your seed.” Six students sang, uninterrupted, as the opera legend sat and observed. Then, she approached each budding classical music vocalist, asked them to sing parts of the pieces they had performed and gave each personal vocal coaching.

Matsumoto was honored in 2016 with a CSUN Distinguished Alumni Award. She was the first star of the university's opera program and went on to achieve international fame in a performing career that spanned more than two decades. Since the late 1980s, she has devoted her work to music education, having taught at Cal State Long Beach and the University of Southern California.

This was Matsumoto's second trip to teach at CSUN in the past



Shigemi Matsumoto directs students during a master class at CSUN.

year, and it was her first master class on campus.

To establish a lasting legacy for CSUN's Mike Curb College of Arts, Media, and Communication, Matsumoto and her husband, Marty Stark, whom she met while both were students at Valley State, have created the Matsumoto Scholarship for undergraduate vocal arts students. In March, they bequeathed an estimated \$1 million to CSUN through their

charitable remainder trust.

“I am so blessed and happy that Marty and I could leave something for the students, so that maybe somebody could [have the same] opportunity I had,” Matsumoto said. “I know that a university's strength is from their alumni base. Those are the people who felt good about being there, so when they left and succeeded in some way, they came back to want to share that [success].”

Feet of Awesome

CSUN students took on alumni at the first-ever “Matador Motorway” pinewood derby races at Homecoming in February. At 42 feet long, the track — set up inside the Student Recreation Center — was the largest ever constructed by manufacturer Derby Magic. Competitors purchased the derby cars, and all proceeds benefited CSUN's MataCare Fund, which helps students who need short-term financial support. Participants cheered on their cars as they raced through championship heats, and “racers” and spectators voted for the best-decorated vehicles from student clubs and organizations.



Going Climate Neutral – in High Gear

BY MORGAN BALL

CSUN students, faculty and visitors may have noticed certain renovations to campus this spring — an effort to make continuous strides in sustainability. One change that might have slipped under the radar? The CSUN Grounds Shop has started switching to all-electric equipment, including blowers and hedge trimmers, in an effort to reduce carbon emissions on campus.

Austin Eriksson, CSUN's sustainability program manager, said the issue attracted attention when President Dianne F. Harrison in 2016 signed the Second Nature Climate Commitment, a pledge to make the campus climate neutral by the year 2040.

CSUN is a national leader in implementing and promoting sustainable practices, and the Arbor Day Foundation named it an official Tree Campus USA for two consecutive years, 2015-16. Harrison chairs the Second Nature Climate Leadership Steering Committee and championed sustainability as a top priority when she arrived at the university in 2012.

The university also has been awarded a gold rating by the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education in its Sustainability Tracking, Assessment and Rating System (STARS), the highest rating in the CSU. The Student Recreation Center and Valley Performing Arts Center were awarded LEED Gold awards from the U.S. Green Building Council.



22%
reduction in water use.

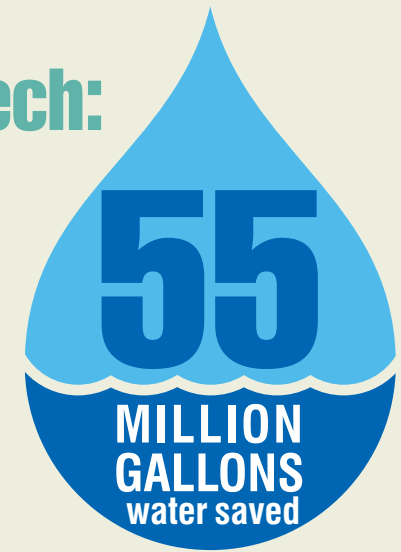
CSUN Grounds Shop Goes Electric

Grounds Shop staff knew carbon emissions were a problem — and that they could do something about it, said Jim Logsdon, assistant director of grounds and events, who has worked at CSUN for 26 years. Grounds staff met with different vendors and tested various brands to begin the transition to more energy-efficient equipment. Making the transition to electric equipment will reduce fuel consumption and gas emissions, increase air quality, benefit employees' health, and reduce noise on campus, said Austin Eriksson, CSUN's sustainability program manager.



New Hydrology Tech: Soak It Up

On large spaces such as the Delmar T. Oviatt Library lawn, CSUN's sustainability program has taken experimental measures, such as injecting a hydrogel under the surface of the grass, creating a deep, spongelike layer and ultimately helping conserve water. Lawns that have been treated with the hydrogel have achieved a 50 to 70 percent decrease in water consumption. CSUN has saved 55 million gallons of water since 2015 — in part due to those experiments.



"We're not just [turning off irrigation] and walking away from it — we're tracking it. Human power is just as much a resource as mechanical power is. That's how you make a change."
—Jim Logsdon, assistant director of grounds and events

Sustainability Center Rises on Campus

Creating a More Drought-Tolerant Landscape

CSUN's irrigation system has seen significant decreases in use — from Nov. 19, 2016, through March, it had been active just five days, according to Jim Logsdon, assistant director of grounds and events. Physical Plant Management also researched types of plants that would survive in the San Fernando Valley's warm and dry climate, with little water. The staff removed sod and selected 32 plants for new areas on campus, such as the grounds surrounding the Extended University Commons, which opened in 2016.



100
SOLAR PANELS
will be installed.

CSUN broke ground on a new Associated Students (AS) Sustainability Center on Sept. 19, 2016, and the building is taking shape next to the University Student Union (USU) along Lindley Avenue (East Campus Drive). Campus leaders, the Institute for Sustainability and AS leaders are working with campus partners in architecture, construction and consulting on the massive project.

Located on the former site of the AS Recycling Yard, the center will be a multifunctional space. The yard's roof will include about 100 solar panels that will provide enough energy to keep the administrative space completely off the grid, supporting CSUN's initiative to become a carbon-neutral campus.



Ms. Rood and Mrs. Mieliwocki

GO TO WASHINGTON

☆☆☆☆

CSUN alumnae Erica Rood and Rebecca Mieliwocki have nurtured and won the hearts and minds of California public-school students, day in and day out. The White House took note. In this issue, meet some of CSUN's best – and prepare to learn.

by Olivia Herstein | illustrations by Harry Campbell | photos by Lee Choo



Rebecca Mieliwocki

National Teacher of the Year for 2012, alumna Rebecca Mieliwocki, has a new mission: guiding new teachers through the treacherous waters of middle and high school education.

IT IS A TRUTH universally acknowledged that a teen or pre-teen in possession of a good mind, must be in want of a master teacher. (With apologies to Jane Austen and her legendary opening line of *Pride and Prejudice*.)

According to Rebecca Mieliwocki, two universal truths of teaching are these: First, understand the enormous responsibility that I, as the teacher, have to make sure that students learn – to “push their greatness out of them.” And second, know that the students are human beings – they’re children. The teacher “must come at that with as much love and humanity as possible,” she says.

Jane Austen was part of the literary vanguard for intelligent, creative young women of Britain’s Regency period (and well ahead of her time – unfortunately, she died young before she could enjoy her ultimate fame). Centuries later, Mieliwocki ’95 (Single Subject Teaching Credential), M.A. ’15 (Education) also emits an aura of wisdom and eloquence. When she speaks, middle school students listen. Parents listen. Her fellow teachers listen. Even President Barack Obama listened (and applauded).

In 2012, Mieliwocki, a longtime English teacher at Luther Burbank Middle School in Burbank, traveled to the White House to accept the National Teacher of the Year award from then-President Obama. She spoke passionately about her profession and gave shouts out to all finalists for the annual award – all classroom teachers. Not long after, Mieliwocki gave a Commencement address (her first) at her alma

mater, California State University, Northridge, to the newly minted graduates of the Michael D. Eisner College of Education.

“Fifteen years ago, when I walked off this campus with my credential and into my classroom, that felt like home,” Mieliwocki told her fellow educators and Matadors. “Being in my classroom is home for me. The central truth of my life – and probably yours – is that I am a teacher. It’s my passion, it’s my calling – it’s what I am supposed to be doing. It is a deeply challenging and ultimately so satisfying swirl.”

“Speaking of swirls, teaching is in many ways the educational and emotional equivalent of whitewater rafting,” she said. “Periods of calm are occasionally interrupted with frantic bursts of turbulence. Boredom mixes with excitement. Beauty and reflection mix with doubt, disappointment and hesitation. Some days you’re going to confidently navigate the treacherous rapids, but others – the entire boat capsizes. You are going to get tossed and tumbled about by the experience.”

“That river, well, it spits you out at the end – exhausted, crawling on your hands and knees up that shore, kissing every blessed rock and realizing that you’re so grateful to be alive,” Mieliwocki continued. “You swear to yourself, ‘I’m never going to do that again!’ But you know what? The next day dawns, and you say, anything that’s really that good or any good at all deserves another go. So you go back to the river. This is teaching. To be more specific, that’s the first DAY of teaching.”



See video of Rebecca Mieliwocki at the White House and addressing the CSUN Class of 2012 at www.youtube.com/CalStateNorthridge

After earning the National Teacher of the Year award in 2012 for her exemplary work teaching English at Luther Burbank Middle School, Mieliwocki went on to complete a master's in education at CSUN. In 2015, the Burbank School District tapped her to teach teachers — in education parlance, she's called a "teacher on special assignment," supervising teacher induction at the middle and high school level.

When teachers earn their credential from the state of California — including the hundreds each year who earn their credential through CSUN — they receive a "preliminary" teacher credential. They can take a job with a public or private school district, with the stipulation that they "clear" their credential within five years, by completing a school-district induction program. In this way, new teachers work with experienced mentor teachers to guide them through the rocky and treacherous waters of those first few years in the classroom.

"Hiring and growing mentor teachers is my job," she said. "We have 98 people in the [Burbank] program — about one-third are the mentors, the rest are the new teachers."

Mieliwocki earned her bachelor's degree in communications. Before she could jump into teaching, she earned her credential at CSUN. Looking back, she praised Bonnie Ericson, her methods professor in the credential program.

"She really asked us to think deeply about what you're doing, and why you're doing it," Mieliwocki said. "If those are two questions you can hang on to for your whole career — if the answers do not pass muster, you need to rethink what you're doing. I will never forget that."

CSUN's Eisner College also stood out for its ability to pair student-teachers with incredible master teachers, she said.

"Linda at Poly High (John H. Francis Polytechnic High School) in Sun Valley showed me how to be incredibly tough, but fun-loving," Mieliwocki said. "My middle-school [mentor] teacher, Daniela Dormizzi, was at Byrd Middle School. Her particular Yoda wisdom for me was, 'You walk through the door with a particular authority that is yours to give away. You can be a person of mercy, but you have real work to do.' I followed the tips and the tricks that she taught me. The professors [CSUN] put in front of us and the teachers they sent me to [as a student-teacher] did a masterful job of teaching and preparing us."

In her CSUN Commencement address, Mieliwocki emphasized the importance of collaboration, support and mentors for the newly minted teachers assembled on the Delmar T. Oviatt Library Lawn:

"Whatever you do, once you shove off, you all have to row together — or you're not going to get anywhere very fast," Mieliwocki advised the Class of 2012. "Talk to one another. Help your colleagues. Listen to each other. Make each other look good. It helps on this journey if you bring an experienced guide — someone who's been down this road before. Find them, they're waiting for you."

"See the hope, the pride, the expectation in the faces of the children that you teach," she said. "Take it in. Marvel at the power and the responsibility that you have as an educator. Each child, each lesson, each day that you spend in the service of educating another human being is your opportunity to change the world — to create the better world we all want to live in, and to form the futures we leave our children, and theirs. This is your life's work — this is the river you return to."



Erica Rood

CSUN alumna Erica Rood nurtures and wins the hearts and minds of CHIME Institute third-graders every day.

This school year, the White House recognized her as one of the nation's best teachers in math and science.

MS. ROOD HAS THE full attention of the third-grade class. It's 9:30 on a sunny, winter Wednesday morning, and the 8- and 9-year-olds are singing at the top of their lungs — singing along to the bouncy, silly soundtrack of a musical. About grammar.

"We're practicing for our big musical performance, to learn about the parts of speech," says Erica Rood '15 (M.A., Elementary Curriculum and Instruction). "We're pirates!"

Sitting at short desks, grouped in "pods" of four around the bright classroom, the kids bust into the next song: The Grammar Curse (subject-verb disagreement, shudder!) and fits of giggles ensue around the room.

Is grammar ... fun?

It is in room 16, the domain of Erica Rood and her co-teacher, Ms. LaFirenza. This is the CHIME Institute's Schwarzenegger Community School, a K-8 charter school that serves as a demonstration and teacher-training site for California State University, Northridge. It's also a Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD)-affiliated charter school that grew out of CSUN's Michael D. Eisner College of Education in 1990.

The school is tucked into a quiet, residential neighborhood above Ventura Boulevard in Woodland Hills. It occupies a former LAUSD school property across from a historic orange grove.

It would be a peaceful, quiet site if it weren't for the hundreds of young bundles of energy, bounding around the playground, spilling out of the new library space and science lab, and working on projects in the school garden and outdoor classroom — basically, the mini dynamos that are today's American elementary- and middle-school-aged children.

CHIME is tremendously popular and thus, a very tough place to win a space. For 100 spots (called "seats," in current K-12 parlance) for the 2016-17 school year, 1,500 people entered the lottery last year — from all over Los Angeles County and beyond. More on that later.

For all of the local, state and national accolades this school has earned — and there have been many — Rood is the young teacher who has danced and hopped her way to national recognition. On Aug. 22, 2016, then-President Barack Obama named one elementary teacher from the state of California as the science recipient for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching: Erica Rood. Also a part-time faculty member in CSUN's Department of Elementary Education, she has taught third grade at CHIME for nine years. At just 33, Rood is already a star in the classroom.

"I'm a girl with some ambition," she says. "[And] teaching kids is my hobby. It excites me. It relaxes me. It's my life. And I am a born teacher."

White House-Worthy

On Sept. 8, 2016, she visited the White House to accept the award from the outgoing president.

"I was just overwhelmed," Rood says. "Just overwhelmed. I was so excited to be receiving an award for something I'm very passionate about. It's such an important thing to teach kids, and I was really ecstatic to be making news about science."

What sets her apart from other teachers, says CHIME Executive Director Erin Studer, are the methods Rood uses to reach her students. Though she is a general education teacher, she has a strong



SELF-CARE FOR TEACHERS

"Eat well. Exercise. Read. Travel. Do all of the things that make you an amazing person and an incredible teacher to have. Whatever you do, do not become the job. Let the job become a beautiful reflection of the unique person that you are."

—Rebecca Mieliwocki '95 (Single Subject Teaching Credential), M.A. '15 (Education),



passion for science and has combined her other passions — theater and dance — to help students get a better understanding and joy from the complicated subject.

“She’s a renaissance teacher in so many ways,” Studer says. “She uses all her talents in her lessons. I think that’s what makes her such a gifted teacher. She sees all the connections.”

The process for the presidential award began in 2013 when Wendy Murawski, executive director and Eisner Endowed Chair of CSUN’s Center for Teaching and Learning, nominated Rood for the honor. (Rood had taught Murawski’s son.) Rood had to submit a 30-page paper explaining her background and a video of one of her lessons, with a written reflection of that lesson. In the video, Rood explained the difference between soil and dirt, and how plants use dirt and soil to survive. She dressed up in a lab coat with goggles and had her students incorporate poetry and art.

Rood, who has a bachelor’s degree in musical theater, says it was a typical way that she reaches her students. Studer vouches for that.

“Erica has such a knowledge of how a well-run classroom should work, how to capture students’ attention with routines and songs,” he says. “It’s kind of a theatrical masterpiece how she orchestrates the running of a classroom, because it’s such a well-designed learning environment. Kids are ready and present to engage.”

These methods set her apart. But like most teachers in the U.S. — and in many nations around the world — Rood rises at 5:30 a.m., dresses, commutes to her school and stands, ready to greet her students with a smile by 8:30 a.m. (Without coffee!)

Nope; there’s no coffee mug on this teacher’s desk. She’s devoted to her water bottle and is very health conscious. Rood dances ballet in her free time as a release from the busy, physically taxing job of classroom teaching.

During a brief visit to her classroom, the objects and details that stand out are the colorful, attractive bulletin boards — a real tangible skill, as any veteran primary school teacher will attest — and the artwork by her students. This winter, in science, the third-graders were learning about climates around the world, temperature and weather. In math, they were tackling fractions, numerators and denominators.

Matador Pride

Rood elicits pride and admiration among the faculty and staff at CSUN’s Eisner College of Education, and the feeling is mutual.

CSUN helped her make and sustain an immediate impact in the classroom, Rood says. She was part of the CSUN Elementary STEM Master’s Degree Program — a partnership with NASA and Teachers College at Columbia University focused on science, technology, engineering and math education.

“CSUN is unique, in the sense that no one else was offering the program,” Rood says. “Just by offering the option, it found a pulse in my heart I felt strongly about.

“The faculty at CSUN have been so wonderful, to help me grow, to mentor me through the application and have been so supportive of increasing the professional development with graduates and faculty members,” she adds. “All my teaching philosophies have come from [CSUN’s education] program. They’re good about sharing best practices in the classroom.”

At CHIME, Rood also has served as a coordinator for Odyssey of the Mind, a critical-thinking and problem-solving competition that involves students from across the country and around the world. She is a teacher-consultant for the Writing Project, a statewide effort to improve student writing and learning by improving the teaching of writing, and a participant in the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation’s Elevation and Celebrating Effective Teachers and Teaching initiative.

“We here in the Eisner College are dedicated to six core principles, one of which is that we prepare ethical and caring professionals,” says Michael Spagna, dean of the Eisner College. “Erica is an example of an ethical and caring professional who is obviously a very, very good teacher. We hold her up as an example for others.

“Erica really embodies both the CHIME philosophy and the connections we have here at the College of Education with CHIME,” he says. “She represents a caring adult who is knowledgeable about child development and takes on as a personal responsibility the welfare of all children.”



What Is CHIME?

For the second time, CHIME Institute’s Schwarzenegger Community School was named a Charter School of the Year in 2016 by the California Charter Schools Association. (CHIME also received the honor in 2005.) Established in 1990, the CHIME Institute is a national leader in developing and implementing model educational programs, and dynamic research and training environments to disseminate best practices in inclusive education.

The institute began with an early childhood education program housed on the CSUN campus. The success of that program, coupled with the needs of the community and research, prompted a group of parents and CSUN faculty to develop a public charter elementary school in 2001 and a public charter middle school in 2003. The two schools merged into a K-8 school in 2010. Inclusive

education at CHIME means that children who reflect the demographics of the surrounding regions learn side by side. CHIME’s model allows for the individual needs of each child to be addressed in a manner that enhances each child’s strength, while also providing educational progress.

It’s an all-lottery charter school, which means that any child whose parents want to enroll them at CHIME must enter a strictly random, computerized lottery to get in — there is no “home district” or automatic neighborhood placement for CHIME — and hope for a spot. This lottery breaks down by grade as well, and it’s open to the public (though it’s as dry as it sounds: watching a computer generate and spit out randomly assigned lottery numbers at CSUN’s Eisner College each March). —O.H.



(clockwise from top) A CHIME Institute Schwarzenegger Community School teacher works with students at a SmartBoard, on the K-8 campus in Woodland Hills. A CHIME student tries out an interactive group project. Middle school students at CHIME listen to their teacher. Student-teachers from CSUN’s Eisner College train in and support CHIME classrooms. Children aim high on the accessible playground.

STAND — AND — DELIVER

California State University, Northridge over the past decade has educated more of the state's teachers than all 10 University of California campuses combined. A longtime leader in preparing K-12 teachers and administrators, CSUN shapes policy, supports children and families, and advances K-12 education every day.



A



B

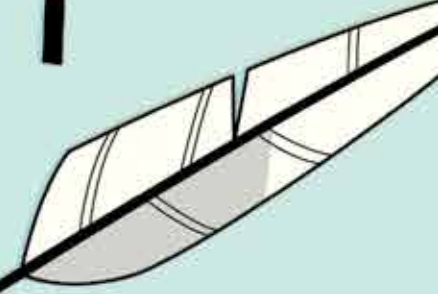
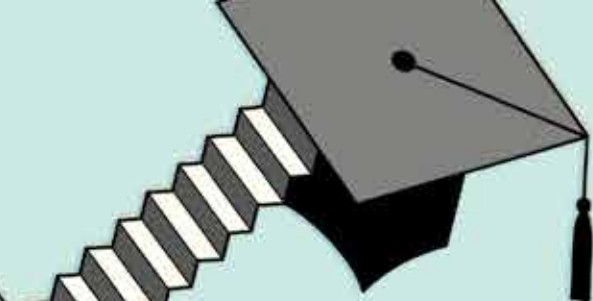
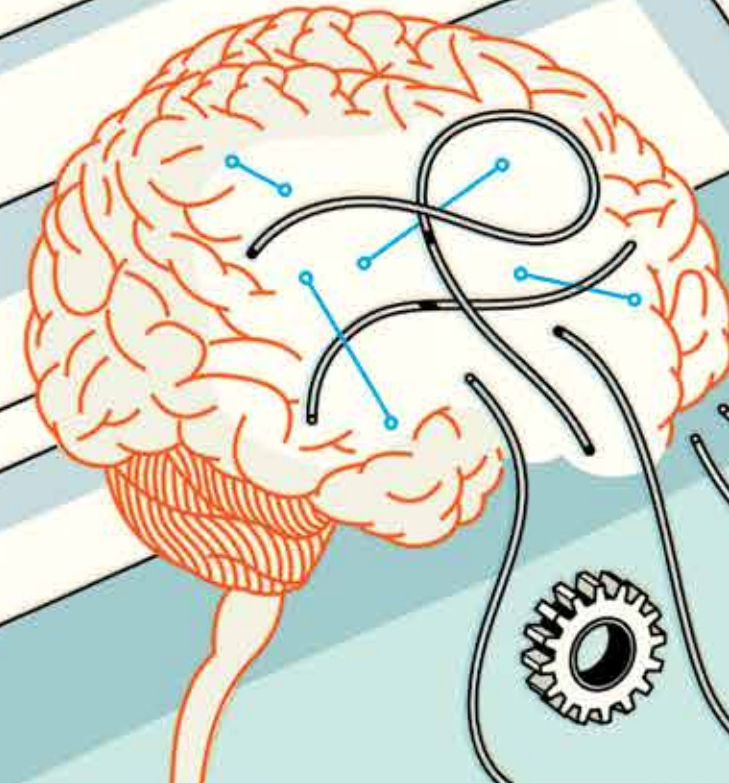


C



teacher

maestra



FORD ROOSEVELT

Project GRAD + CSUN + LAUSD = Math Success

ACCORDING TO RECENT studies on college dropouts, approximately 70 percent of Americans enroll at a four-year institution of higher education, but less than 50 percent will graduate. In fall 2016, the California State University (CSU) system launched Graduation Initiative 2025, a statewide and systemwide, ambitious benchmark that aims to increase graduation rates for CSU transfer students and first-time freshmen.

Targeting first-time freshmen, CSUN joined forces this year with Project GRAD Los Angeles, a locally based nonprofit that has worked to foster greater education equity since 1999. The CSUN-Project GRAD partnership aims to build a communication pipeline of sorts — a two-way conduit — between high school teachers and university professors. The organizers behind the new initiative unveiled in spring 2013 a one-of-a-kind in California, fourth-year math course — Transition to College Math and Statistics (TCMS) — to prepare LA high school seniors for college-level math.

Project GRAD Los Angeles President and CEO Ford Roosevelt explained that lack of academic readiness leads many first-time freshmen to be unprepared for college-level math and English classes — forcing many into developmental classes, after they score low on the CSU English Placement Test and the Entry Level Mathematics exam.

"If high school students take remediation courses and don't do well, their life in college is at risk," Roosevelt said.

According to Project GRAD, more than 60 percent of high school seniors in the northeast San Fernando Valley place into developmental classes in math, English or both after taking the placement exams going into the CSU system. If the students don't pass their developmental courses within the first year, they must attend community college to catch up. Only then may they return to a four-year university, which creates a major obstacle for many students, Roosevelt said.

"If we intervened earlier and trained [high school] teachers to have a course that would teach a little bit differently — the critical-thinking skills students need when they take the tests — they might do better," he said.

Laying the groundwork in 2013, in collaboration with the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD), CSUN and Project GRAD tested a 10-week pilot course. They found that seniors who took the course achieved a 37 percent passage rate on the placement tests, compared to a 22 percent passage rate for those who did not. From that point, the course was expanded into a full-year course, approved by the CSU and University of California, Roosevelt said.

The district loved what they saw. This year, LAUSD is working with CSUN and Roosevelt's organization to replicate it at all 160 district high schools in the next two years, he said. So far, the optional math courses are available at seven LA high schools.

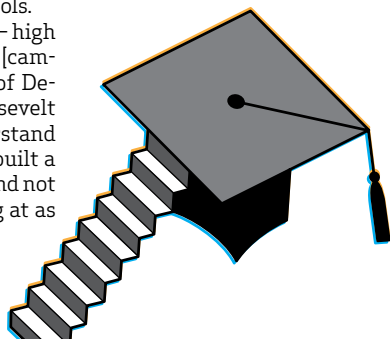
"CSUN is the lead agency training the teachers," Roosevelt said. "It's a pretty big deal and can really change the conversation of what kids need to do to get ready and go right into college-level math."

The 23-university CSU system spends about \$90 million a year on developmental courses — an amount CSUN and Project GRAD are now trying to re-allocate into college-level instruction courses at the high schools.

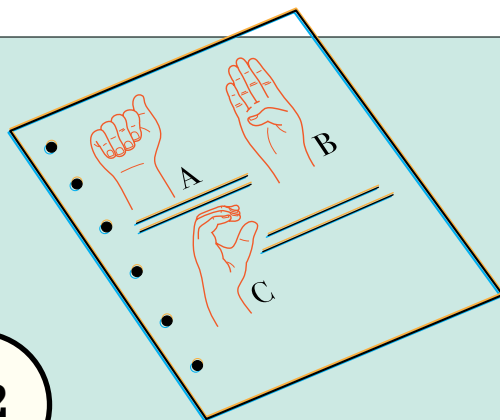
"There is a lack of communication between different segments — high schools, community colleges, CSUs and University of California [campuses]," said Katherine Stevenson, math professor and director of Developmental Mathematics at CSUN, who works closely with Roosevelt on the project. "If there is no communication and if we don't understand what the different expectations are, then it seems like we have built a gap in our system. We have an interest in having students arrive and not need developmental math. That is what we're going to be looking at as our gold standard." —Cati Mayer



"CSUN is the lead agency training the teachers. It's a pretty big deal and can really change the conversation of what kids need to do to get ready and go right into college-level math."



02



DEAF PROJECT

CSUN's Deaf Education And Families (DEAF) Project is dedicated to working with families who have Deaf or hard-of-hearing children. The free outreach program offers its resources to communities as far away as the Antelope Valley and as close as the neighborhoods around campus.

Parents of Deaf or hard-of-hearing children ("DHH" children, in the shorthand of education acronyms) are blitzed with endless information from medical institutions that tell parents that their children are disabled and need treatment. Parents are left to navigate the terrain of "what comes next" on their own. Some believe the medical advice they receive is their only course of action.

Support is critical for these families, particularly at times of diagnoses, referrals and initial follow-up steps, said Rachel Friedman Narr, faculty in CSUN's Departments of Special Education and Deaf Education, who directs the DEAF Project.

"[The project is] an outreach for families who are confused in raising DHH children," Friedman Narr said. "Approximately 40 percent of [DHH] babies identified in California annually are supported."

The DEAF Project has many success stories. Marissa Seeman, mother of a DHH child and client in the program, said she's thankful for the program's support and outstanding resources.

"Carter was tested in the hospital the day after birth, then two weeks

later at the hospital," Seeman said of her son. Six weeks later, he was given an Auditory Brainstem Response (ABR) test and was diagnosed with bilateral moderate hearing loss, she said. "At four months, we went back for a routine ABR test, and Carter's hearing regressed to profoundly deaf."

The DEAF Project provides families like Seeman's with a home and a support system from other families. "Carter is 3 now. We started the Parent Links program when he was 6 months old," said Seeman. "The DEAF Project gives us hope for our son."

The project began in May 2007 as a partnership with CSUN's Family Focus Resource Center in the Michael D. Eisner College of Education, training center staff to understand the needs of families with DHH children. The partnership quickly established a family American Sign Language (ASL) class and playgroup for DHH children.

In September 2008, the Family Focus Resource Center and DEAF Project won a Parent Links Grant through the California Department of Education for \$65,000 per year, to mentor families whose children were identified as DHH through the state Newborn Hearing Screening Program. The grant has been renewed annually since 2008. The project is also supported by private foundations and donors, Friedman Narr said.

The DEAF Project emphasizes educational programs that focus on children's abilities. Program offerings include family-oriented ASL classes, Family Fun Days for diverse families, Deaf peers, role models and trained professional support. In addition, the project partners with other community service organizations, such as CSUN's Department of Deaf Studies.

"I see a 100 percent difference in Carter, who learned how to sign from the DEAF Project," Seeman said. She and her family attend the family ASL classes every Tuesday.

The project provides families with free resources that also help build family unity, she said.

"We all work together. All there to sign on Tuesdays," Seeman said.

Since April 2015, the DEAF Project has seen an average increase of 25 percent more families referred to its programs per month, and the project continues to expand.

"Next for this program is more parent-to-parent support, more events and expanded support for families and their children," Friedman Narr said. —Jan Palma

For more information about the DEAF Project, visit csun.edu/deafproject, call 818-677-6854 or email deafproject@csun.edu.

03

Facing Autism, Fighting for Families Emily Iland

EMILY ILAND'S AUTISM quest started like many mothers' struggles: at home, with her oldest son, Tom.

A mother of three who had just moved to Santa Clarita — following her husband's job transfer — Iland found herself fighting for 9-year-old Tom, who had, when he was younger, stopped speaking for about three months. She fought to get him special education help as he entered a new school district, as she and her husband faced new and daunting parenting challenges.

"What I discovered is, you've got to advocate for your kid, or they're not going to get what they need," said Iland '07 (M.A., Special Education), '09 (Post-Master's Certificate, Education Therapy). "So, I educated myself to become my son's advocate — and then, I started helping other people. I started helping people I'd never met before, and I noticed that not everyone was getting the help they needed."

"You fight on the inside: You have to fight with yourself, within your family and on the outside too," she said of parenting a child with autism. "It's overcoming a struggle. It's a challenge that you have to step up to, or else. I was a shy person. But I realized that I needed to be educated about autism, about treatments and education so I could always base everything on facts — as a mother and as an advocate. You can't argue with facts. Facts help people get along."

Inspired and driven, Iland enrolled in the master's program in special education at CSUN's Michael D. Eisner College of Education. As president of the Autism Society of Los Angeles and a professional advocate helping families in Santa Clarita through the special education process in schools, she came to CSUN armed with questions and concerns.

"I felt like more education would help me address issues like the underrepresentation of Latino families in the disability services community," said Iland, who had double majored in Spanish and political science as an undergraduate. At CSUN, she wrote her thesis on Latina mothers with children with autism.

"I asked the moms in my study, 'What's getting in your way? Why can't you get what your kids need?' Here [at CSUN], I've had a wonderful environment and support to investigate those questions. You have to know what the problem is before you can solve it."

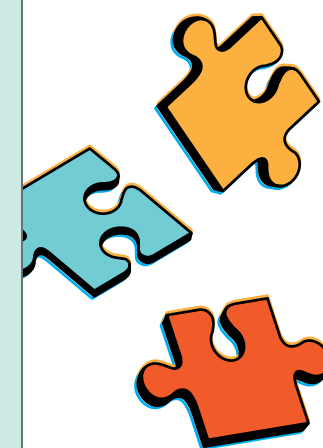
She found that language was not the primary obstacle — it was an information gap.

"It was some cultural things, as well — feeling ashamed of your child, not having family support. Not knowing where to go or how to navigate the system. And language came after that," she said.

In 2010, the college asked Iland to teach, after the state passed a law requiring special educators who had not had training on autism as part of their credential to take nine units of classes. Now, she is hard at work off campus and still focused on Latino families. She's part of a team implementing a two-city study to test the effectiveness of a new education program, in which *promotoras* (specially trained Latina mothers of children with autism) bring in-home parent education to those with newly diagnosed children.

Iland is also well known for her work around autism, safety and police, including *BE SAFE the Movie*. Her most exciting new project, though, is a book she's writing with son Tom, now 33. Tom earned a bachelor's degree in accounting from CSUN's David Nazarian College of Business and Economics, at the same time his mom was earning her master's.

"Tom and I were here at college together. I was able to see his struggles as a young adult, trying to become more independent," she said. "Our book is called *Come to Life: Navigating the Transition to Adulthood*. It's [about] taking control, taking responsibility, even if you have a disability. Even people who aren't able to be super independent should have choice in their life and should have a voice." —Olivia Herstein



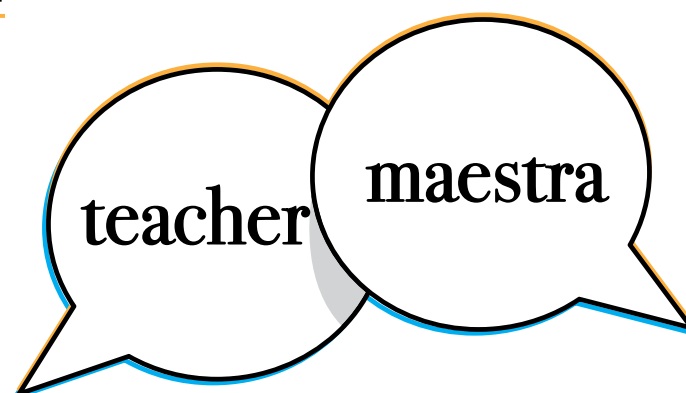
"I saw that I was able to get my kid what he needed, but there were these Latino families not getting what they needed. It was a question of equity."

ELLEN MOIR

The Teacher's Teacher



"I believe teachers are the single most important ingredient in improving a student's life. And every student, no matter their ZIP code, should get the best education."



ELLEN MOIR GRADUATED from CSUN in 1972 with a teaching credential and a B.A. in Spanish, armed for bilingual teaching in California's primary schools. After several years in the classroom in Santa Paula and the Pajaro Valley Unified School District in Watsonville, she joined the faculty at UC Santa Cruz as director of teacher education. Before long, she had an epiphany.

"I could see every year that we were bringing in a cohort of [new] teachers, and they were getting the toughest assignments and schools," said Moir, a California native who grew up in Monterey and lives in Santa Cruz. "Historically, we take new teachers and give them the toughest assignments and toughest schools. It's the same schools that get abandoned every year," when those overwhelmed, new teachers quit and move on, she said.

Moir felt a calling to change the system, to focus on new teachers exclusively and arm them with the best tools to help students — and schools — succeed. She started with teachers in Santa Cruz County, and then in 1998, she founded the New Teacher Center (NTC), to adapt and expand high-quality teacher induction services for districts and schools all over the nation. Nearly 20 years later, the nonprofit center's staff has grown to more than 175 people who work with educators and policymakers around the country. The Santa Cruz-based center focuses on high-poverty schools in underserved communities.

"I'm driven toward giving every teacher what they need," said Moir, who serves as the center's chief executive officer. "I believe teachers are the single most important ingredient in improving a student's life. And every student, no matter their ZIP code, should get the best education."

Now, the NTC has expanded its focus beyond mentoring new teachers — to add mentorship and leadership development for more experienced teachers

and principals — past those first two "rookie" induction years. A personalized approach to teacher and principal development with ongoing mentoring and feedback, Moir said, is the key.

"Through an Investing in Innovation Fund (i3) grant from the U.S. Department of Education, we found that after two years of NTC support, students of NTC-supported new teachers in grades four through eight demonstrated three to five months of additional learning in reading, compared to students of the control group of new teachers, who received traditional new teacher support," she said.

As someone whose grandparents emigrated from Eastern Europe and as a first-generation college student, Moir understands the struggles and trepidation of not just K-12 students, but today's undergraduates as well, she said. Her parents were afraid to let her leave home to go to college — but CSUN (then San Fernando Valley State College) beckoned because she had family living in Van Nuys, and for its strong College of Education.

"I was in a bilingual teacher credential program, with Dr. Dolores Escobar," Moir said of her mentor, who taught at CSUN for 22 years and then served as associate dean of the college. "I came out of CSUN really prepared to be a bilingual teacher. It was a great program."

Forty-five years into her education career, Moir shows no signs of slowing down. She's been recognized with a bevy of awards for her work on behalf of teachers and school reform, from the 2003 California Council on Teacher Education Distinguished Teacher Educator Award to the 2014 Brock International Prize in Education, to name just two. Her focus, as it was in her earliest days out of Northridge, is clear:

"Teachers are so important," Moir said. "They're dream makers. They're guardian angels. I want to help them be the best that they can be." —*Olivia Herstein*

LIBERAL STUDIES CSUN's Teacher Incubator

05



CSUN over the past decade has educated more of the state's teachers than all 10 University of California campuses combined, according to Michael Spagna, dean of CSUN's Michael D. Eisner College of Education. In addition, CSUN helps student-teachers prepare for their careers in K-6 and 7-12 classrooms, through the Integrated Teacher Education Program.

The keystone of that bridge to classroom teaching is CSUN's Liberal Studies Program in the College of Humanities. The interdisciplinary program graduates 500 to 700 students per year. This year, the department boasted 900 liberal studies majors.

In the state of California, the Ryan Act of 1970 established liberal studies as a teacher preparation program, said Ranita Chatterjee, director of CSUN's Liberal Studies Program.

"The program is fabulous because it's the closest you can get to being prepared to go get that job," Chatterjee said. "Students are really getting a focused degree from the very beginning. They know what they want, and we have the program for them. We are giving them all the knowledge, skills and tools needed."

The program includes a number of components designed to educate and prepare teacher candidates to improve literacy in elementary-aged children, and involve their families in the process, in response to California's impending teacher shortage.

The major teacher shortage on the horizon is the result of several factors, including a large number of teacher retirements, and incoming teachers not being trained and fully prepared due to the recent recession.

Liberal Studies has five programs aimed at helping prepare student teachers. The two key pieces are the

Integrated Teacher Education Program (ITEP) and the Literary Scholars for the Future of Los Angeles (LSLA).

Within ITEP, students may choose to focus on elementary education or special education. Freshmen participants join a CSUN cohort of approximately 25 to 30 undergraduates each year. Each cohort spends the next four years learning and working together, including two summers.

"The ITEP program prepares undergraduate students who have chosen the teaching profession at the beginning of their college years," said Joyce Burstein, professor and chair of the Department of Elementary Education. "These teacher candidates take subject matter courses that connect with education practices their first semester at CSUN."

"This marriage of subject matter and field work in classrooms makes teaching a reality to these students," Burstein said. "They get to observe and practice how teachers work with children in K-5 classrooms, while making sense of why they need to understand how math and other subjects are applied. It is exciting to see these teacher candidates' development of their skills and confidence over four years."

From day one, student-teachers are required to dedicate at least 15 hours per semester to participating and conducting in-classroom

observations at elementary schools. They also take units of specialization in areas of concentration such as art or sciences.

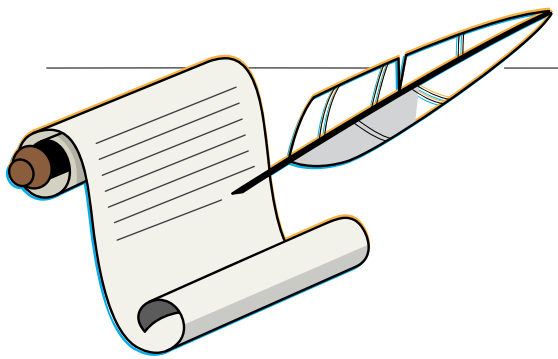
The Literary Scholars for the Future of Los Angeles scholarship program is a nine-unit certificate literacy concentration within both ITEP options. This program includes three required courses: linguistics, special education and Chicano and Chicana studies.

The linguistics class focuses on how young children acquire language, and the special education class covers how teachers must handle stratified learning in the classroom. The Chicana and Chicano studies course explores children's literature and discusses strategies for increasing the joy of learning and literacy among Latino children and English-language learners.

CSUN's Liberal Studies Program has partnered with schools in the Valley that have a large English-language learner population, giving the undergraduates the opportunity to create lesson plans for families and students, and implement those plans within the elementary classrooms.

CSUN, particularly the Eisner College, provides teacher training for the majority of the Valley and has the highest retention rate of teachers in local districts, Burstein noted.

"We are the largest producer of Los Angeles Unified School District teachers from the CSU system," she said. "Our departments work closely with local school districts to provide the initial credentialing, and many of our students come back for a master's degree." —*Vanessa Saenz and Olivia Herstein*



06

TONY PENNAY

We the People...

TONY PENNAY '09 (Teaching Credential) is surrounded by books — anthologies of great speeches, tales of war, portraits of women and men who shaped U.S. and world history. The volumes that occupy more of his thoughts these days, however, are housed 3,000 miles away — in the National Archives in Washington, D.C.: the Declaration of Independence. The Constitution. The Bill of Rights. The Emancipation Proclamation.

As the chief learning officer for the Ronald Reagan Foundation and Institute in Simi Valley, it's no surprise that Pennay — a California native, father of three, passionate reader and writer, and seasoned English teacher — is driven to help create informed young citizens. What might surprise visitors to the institute (at the Reagan Presidential Library and Museum) and fellow educators is the 38-year-old's depth of knowledge about civics education.

"Our mission is to cultivate citizen leaders — thoughtful, engaged citizens," he said. "Every program, regardless of when a student comes to us or what program they participate in, they get a piece of that larger puzzle."

Pennay has served on the advisory board for the California K-12 Civic Learning Task Force, convened in 2014 by state Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye and state Superintendent Tom Torlakson. This year, Pennay said, the task force is piloting civic learning partnerships in six counties, including Los Angeles.

"Especially after this election cycle, [civics] is becoming a hot issue," he said. "I got letters and emails from associations around the country saying, our work is more important than ever!"

"The approach we've taken to education in this country for a couple of decades is — math and literacy are important. And they are, but so is social studies education," he continued. "The historic purpose of education in this country is around helping to create those informed citizens. Jefferson founded the University of Virginia. Franklin founded Penn. The

framers of the country and [of the] founding documents knew that in order for this form of government to work, you have to have informed citizens."

Pennay joined the library and museum in 2010, before the 2011 centennial celebration of Reagan's birth. The reluctant extrovert grew up in San Jose, studied literature for his bachelor's degree and then served with Teach for America. After two years, he went back to school and earned his master's in creative writing. He returned to teach English, this time at the private, K-8 Jewish school, Sinai Akiba, on LA's Westside.

"The resources were so vast," he said. "It was great for me to grow as a teacher, and I went to a lot of conferences but eventually, I thought — I love these kids and these parents, but they're going to do OK. With or without me as a teacher, they're going to do OK. I wanted to get back into public education — my passion was for public education. To do that, I needed to get my credential."

Pennay chose CSUN for economic and logistical reasons: He taught on the Westside and lived in Valencia — CSUN was on his way home.

"Lucky for me that I did, because I had Kathy Rowlands as a teacher — and she quickly became a mentor," he said of the professor in the Department of Secondary Education. "I enjoyed her methods class. Even though I had been teaching already for seven years, I learned so much in her class about what it meant to be a teacher, what it meant to be a professional, and what it meant to continue to push yourself in terms of how you instruct students and engage them."

A few years later, Pennay followed his mentor's directive and spent the summer of 2008 in the first cohort of CSUN's Writing Project, which helped lead to a job opportunity at the Reagan Library.

"Following powerful, influential mentors has always been important to me," he said of Rowlands and his experience at CSUN. "Even though I had taught for seven years, I knew I could get better. I needed to be better." —*Olivia Herstein*



"You have to make a choice about what kind of teacher you want to be. You can challenge yourself, really push yourself to be a better instructor, to connect more with students — to push the bounds of what they're doing. That was the kind of teacher I wanted to be, and CSUN really gave me that opportunity."

LA, Unified

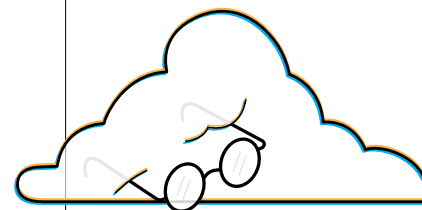
Patrizia Puccio & Gonsalo Garay

07



"The level of accountability for teachers has gone through the roof. Telling the true stories of teachers is key. Unfortunately, the public doesn't know: Teachers work countless hours, spend all their own money, go in on the weekends, do the clubs, give up their recess and their lunch."

GONSALO GARAY



IF CSUN OFFICIALS HAD to pick just two "poster children" for public education in the San Fernando Valley, who are paying it forward, right back to the public, that might be Patrizia Puccio and Gonsalo Garay.

Graduates of Reseda High School, the two friends (who act like family) went separate ways for their bachelor's degrees: Garay to UC San Diego and Puccio to Pierce College and then CSUN, where she earned a bachelor's in child development in 1997. Armed with emergency teaching credentials, each followed a lifelong dream and dove into classroom teaching. In no time, they were teaching together, in adjacent classrooms, at Bertrand Avenue Elementary School — just up the road from their high school alma mater. Garay '02 (Credential), '06 (M.A., Educational Administration) taught fourth grade and Puccio, fifth.

"LA Unified [School District] has unified us. We were raised in LA Unified, and we work together in LA Unified," said Puccio, whose parents emigrated from Cuba and Italy. "I will only work for LA Unified because it's the system that gave to me, and I'm giving back. I had an amazing education from kindergarten to 12th grade."

After earning her bachelor's at CSUN, Puccio returned to campus to earn two master's degrees (one in special education in 2008 and one in school administration in 2010), as well as a teaching credential and administrative credential. Since 2014, she has served as principal of Pinewood Elementary School in Tujunga.

"When Gonsalo and I started teaching, never in a million years did we think we'd go into administration," said Puccio, who, like Garay, spent a decade as a classroom teacher.

Garay chose CSUN's master's program and administrative credential, which he completed in 2006. In 2012, he became the principal at Roscoe Elementary in Sun Valley. Recently, he was promoted to administrator of parent and community engagement for LAUSD's entire Local District Northwest. The fourth of seven children, Garay was raised by immigrant parents who put education first, he said.

"My parents were immigrants who came from Mexico, and they — particularly my father — were huge on giving back to the community and close ties to your roots," Garay said. "You think about social upward mobility. Look at the United States and our public education system, wow. It's free! Just show up."

"My parents said, 'Listen, you're not out on the farm. You're getting an education for free,'" he said. "And so, it was: God, parents, teachers. Education was that important. You had to do well. My parents knew they didn't want us to be working the way they worked."

After earning his bachelor's and years of teaching in elementary school classrooms, Garay chose CSUN's Michael D. Eisner College of Education because he'd done his research.

"I knew CSUN had a top program. It was in the Valley, it was local, it was more affordable," he said. "So when you talk about bang for your buck, there was no question. The program [was taught by] practitioners, people who were in the field, with real-world experience. That's what I wanted. The other thing that drew me to CSUN was the diversity of the student body."

Puccio praised her CSUN administrative degree cohort, which met off campus at an LAUSD school site. "That was the best education I've ever gotten in my life, because it was mostly taught by LA Unified principals, so it was geared for exactly what we were going to become," she said. "It really prepared us to be principals."

But she won't sugarcoat her job as principal: "I'm not going to lie. It's the hardest job I've ever done."

Garay, who earned his master's at CSUN in the on-campus program, loved the college's emphasis on project-based learning. "We worked in collaborative groups," he said. "You weren't working in isolation, which is what education is about, and all our Common Core standards are based on that. We learned to collaborate, to think critically. CSUN was [way ahead] on those trends." —*Olivia Herstein*

08



DAPHNA OZERY

Against All Odds

When she enrolled at CSUN in 2003, Daphna Ozery '07 (Psychology), M.A. '10 (Educational Psychology, Development, Learning, Instruction & Evaluation) did not fit the profile of a typical American college kid.

She was neither American nor a kid. One of the pride points at CSUN, however, is that undergraduates come in many ages, all colors, from all walks of life and often, as was the case for Ozery, they come to cross the finish line after many years of deferring a dream.

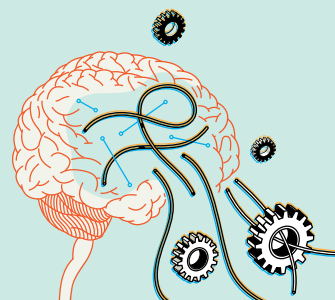
"I was studying at Hebrew University in Jerusalem," she said. "I had my first

child, and I couldn't attend classes. And soon I had my second child, so I switched to the Open University. Then I had two more kids.

"By then I had 91 units and was about to finish, but we were moving here," Ozery said of her immigration to the United States. "Later, I was sitting at our home and thinking, I really miss

school — and I was about to finish!"

The mother of four children age 12 and under and a recent immigrant from Israel, Ozery and her family had landed in LA just two months before 9/11 to pursue better job opportunities and a quieter life in the San Fernando Valley. Seeking camp options for her children



that first summer in their new city, Ozery remembered (from an earlier visit to the area) CSUN's summer programs for local children — and she enrolled her kids. Then, she set her sights on completing her own bachelor's degree.

"I contacted Pierce College first, and they said, 'No, you're too advanced.' Then, I contacted CSUN. They said, 'You have 91 units, but we can only recognize 45.' So I thought, 'Okay, I'll just do it!' So in the end, when I graduated with my [bachelor's in psychology], I had 145 units because I had all those extra [from universities in Israel]!"

Originally a child development major, Ozery decided to study psychol-

ogy at CSUN. "I was so discouraged" with the timeline for her new major, she recalled. "I thought, now I have this [psychology] program — who knows when I'll be done, and I work full time (as a technical writer). I had four kids, and three were really young. I thought, I just have to finish this!"

During Ozery's last semester, one of her professors, Howard Lee, encouraged her to apply to a graduate program in the Michael D. Eisner College of Education: the Development Learning Instruction and Evaluation program. Ozery met with Adele Gottfried, director of research enhancement for the Eisner College, and the rest, she said, was history.

"[Gottfried] is the one responsible for everything from the moment I met her," Ozery said, beaming. "She's my research mentor, my academic mentor, my everything mentor. I love her — she's my family."

Ozery was accepted into the program in 2008, and she was thrilled to have the opportunity to do research, she said. She chose to do a thesis and empirical study, studying altruism in adolescents.

After years chasing a bachelor's, it took Ozery just two to complete her master's. "Toward the end, I thought, that's not enough for me," she said. "Dr. Gottfried and Dr. Lee so inspired me, I

wanted to continue and do research."

In 2011, Ozery started a Ph.D. program in cognitive psychology at Claremont Graduate University. Her specialty is cognition and language and culture, apropos for someone who has lived on two continents.

With her doctorate, Ozery said, she hopes to teach even more courses at CSUN, the university that has become her home. She already teaches three classes as an adjunct faculty member in the Department of Educational Psychology and Counseling. That first finish line long since crossed, Ozery is still running full speed ahead. —*O.H.*



E L E V A T I N G
Y O U N G
M I N D S

CSUN opens its classrooms, dorms, theater, VPAC, fields and pools to thousands of local students in grades K-12 – in summer and throughout the school year.

PROFESSORS AND STAFF at California State University, Northridge often remark that the freshmen seem to “get younger every year.” But around campus, it’s not just their imagination – there are students walking through the halls and across the lawns who have yet to hit puberty or get their license to drive. Nearly every day of the year, CSUN opens its classrooms, theaters, fields, rock climbing wall – and in the summer, its dorms and swimming pools – to crowds of students in grades K-12 who want to grow their minds and have some fun in the process.

In addition to numerous activities and opportunities during the school year, the university offers academic programs such as the Summer Academic Enrichment Program (SAEP) and the Summer Academic Program for Elementary School Students (SAPESS). CSUN’s award-winning Teenage Drama Workshop (TADW), a six-week intensive workshop for youth entering grades 7-12, trains students in acting, dance, lighting, sound and much more. And, for children of all ages interested in sports, Matador Athletics offers camps in soccer, tennis, softball, baseball and volleyball.

During the school year, CSUN also pays it forward to the surrounding community by bringing thousands more K-12 students to campus for programs that range from theater, dance and engineering to college-prep mentoring for disadvantaged youth.

SUMMER FUN IN THE CSUN

The University Student Union’s 10-week Sunny Days Camp welcomed 250 full-day and 100 half-day campers in 2016. The half-day program allows campers to take part in fun on-campus activities such as swimming, rock climbing at the Student Recreation Center, and

playing billiards and table tennis in the Games Room. Full-day campers take weekly field trips to places such as the Los Angeles Zoo, the Wildlife Learning Center and the El Capitan Theatre.

Longtime Sunny Days Director Jeremy Hamlett said the program is a fun, secure environment for all campers.

“All of our counselors are CSUN students, and the majority of them are child development majors,” Hamlett said. “It’s very safe as well as convenient for parents who are in our neighboring community.”

The university’s summer academic programs are also incredibly popular and book up early, in March and April of each year. SAEP offers classes such as digital photography, choir, algebra and creative writing to middle school students. For high school students looking to earn credit during the summer, the program offers courses such as geometry, pre-calculus, and speech and debate.

“Part of the purpose of holding SAEP on a California State University campus is to instill and awaken a sense of hope and possibility in all of our students as they study and learn,” SAEP Director Mira Pak said.

The program offered three new classes in 2016: introduction to ukulele, girls-only computer animation and girls-only robotics, Pak said.

SAPESS, which is designed specifically for students entering grades K-5, focuses on developing and growing participants through hands-on academic and enrichment activities such as robotics, math, art and science.

THESPIANS AND ALL-STARS

Teenage Drama Workshop was born the year before CSUN itself (which started as a satellite campus of



Clockwise from top: Kids from all over the San Fernando Valley and LA arrive for the first day of CSUN's Summer Academic Program for Elementary School Students (SAPESS). Students in SAPESS put their creativity and early engineering skills to work in a robotics class. Instructor Mary LaFace (left) teaches summer students how to read music and play acoustic guitar at Sunny Days Camp.

what was then Los Angeles State College, now Cal State LA) in 1957, in the college's Department of Theatre. In summer 2016, the workshop put on performances of *Shrek the Musical Jr.* and *Around the World in 80 Days*.

"For nearly 60 years, Teenage Drama Workshop has been presenting highly entertaining, professional-quality shows that, in many cases, introduce the art of live theater to young audiences," said CSUN Theatre Professor Doug Kaback, TADW's executive director. "Our productions feature the creative work of professional directors and scenic, costume and lighting designers, but always keep the focus on our emerging teen artists as they shine on stage and behind the scenes."

"You never know what talent will emerge from our program," said Kaback, noting that TADW's alumni include Elizabeth McGovern of *Downton Abbey* and Mare Winningham of *American Horror Story*, as well as Daniel David Stewart, who appeared in the Broadway production of *Spring Awakening*.

TADW started out as an activity for teens, to call attention to the cultural resources available at "Valley State." Over the years, the workshop has grown into a nationally acclaimed drama program.

Matador Athletics summer camps include the always-popular youth soccer camps, which are run by CSUN coaches and players.

VPAC GETS IN ON THE ACT

The Valley Performing Arts Center (VPAC) at CSUN invites and hosts young music aficionados, school groups and young musicians themselves throughout the year for a wide variety of fine and performing arts programs. More than 12,000 K-12 students from around the San Fernando Valley have enjoyed the opportunity to be a part of the Student Matinee Series, an ongoing year-round program at CSUN that brings free, high-caliber artistic experiences to local students.

The program, which began in 2011, has been providing local schoolchildren firsthand experience with professional performers, which can be used in the classroom to enhance their understanding of the arts. Since art has become a Common Core standard for the Los Angeles Unified School District, teachers from these schools can use the performances as part of the curriculum to teach fine arts, said Anthony Cantrell, director of arts education at the VPAC. The series also ties into the VPAC's mission to serve the community, he said. Cantrell, who has 20 years of experience as a high school theater teacher, helps prep many of the students before they watch and listen to the performances.

The district's standard mandates that arts be integrated into different disciplines in the classroom, such as health sciences and mathematics, Cantrell said.

"Non-arts teachers can learn more about how to use arts effectively in their classrooms," he said. "There are strategies that we explore and share with teachers, to weave them in more seamlessly, rather than as a separate lesson."

Cantrell said he believes the series is valuable to students and teachers alike.

"I've designed a program that I would have loved to take part in when I was a teacher," he said.

MENTORING LOCAL YOUTH

CSUN's MOSAIC program – Mentoring to Overcome Struggles and Inspire Courage – co-sponsors an annual conference to invite more than 200 local high school students to campus to tackle issues surrounding diversity and race. This past fall at the University Student Union, MOSAIC presented a social justice art installation created by CSUN student mentors and their teen mentees.

The fall exhibit was the largest of its kind ever organized on the CSUN campus for the program. The exhibit focused on themes of critical race theory in societal power structures, perpetuating marginalization of people of color, and the high school students' challenges and frustrations.

MOSAIC is a long-running and acclaimed CSUN program that pairs CSUN student mentors with youth at risk for educational failure, gang and family violence, drug and alcohol abuse, and emotional trauma. Since 2004, more than 500 sociology major mentors have worked with nearly 1,500 high school youth enrolled in Los Angeles Unified School District continuation programs. —Paul Amico, Olivia Herstein, Carmen Ramos Chandler and Christine Michaels contributed to this report.

88.5

KCSN



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CSUN

New Coach Makes a Splash

Matt Warshaw '06 (Communication Studies) returned to California State University, Northridge in 2015 for the first time in almost a decade after accepting an assistant coaching position with the women's water polo team.

To Warshaw, the 356-acre campus looked vastly different than what he remembered.

"When I was here as a student, the Student Recreation Center (SRC) and the University Student Union (USU) weren't even built yet, and parts of the campus were still underdeveloped," Warshaw said. "It just looked so different to me when I first came back."

It may have taken some time to adjust to the new campus layout and scenery, but Warshaw — who spent 12 seasons as the assistant water polo coach at California Lutheran University from 2003-14 — said he soon felt that he was home again.

"One of the neatest things was seeing some of the same professors' names on the [players'] grade sheets and [thinking], 'Oh yeah, I had that guy, too.'"

After spending the 2015 season as an assistant coach for the CSUN women's team, Warshaw became the fourth head coach in the program's 15-year history in November 2016.

"The opportunity to become head coach presented itself, and, after my time as an assistant, I knew I'd be a good fit," Warshaw said.

Part of Warshaw's coaching strategy — which helped him win two NCAA Division III national championships (2007 and 2010) at Cal Lutheran — is to keep an eye on the calendar throughout the year and know when to go easy in practice, and when to up the intensity.

Warshaw said he believes the knowledge he gained in 2016 as an assistant should make the transition to head coach a seamless one.

"The level of talent, culture and commitment here is elevated on the Division I level," Warshaw said. "My goal is to get the team into the top 15 and be competitive in Big West Conference play, which I'm really looking forward to." —Paul Amico



Matador Matt Warshaw '06 (pictured at right) is back on campus — this time as head coach for women's water polo.

One Team, One Goal, One Matador

In early February, CSUN Athletics launched a new alumni engagement initiative, "One Team, One Goal, One Matador." The yearlong campaign focuses on alumni and supporters in Northridge and the greater San Fernando Valley.

"Our alumni are among our most loyal fans and supporters. We are fortunate to have 37,000 alums within 5 miles of our university and 98,000 in the San Fernando Valley," said Brandon E. Martin, director of intercollegiate athletics. "Establishing deeper relationships with CSUN alumni will allow them to be a part of our quest for comprehensive excellence."

Through the campaign, CSUN aims to provide 10,000 individuals in 2017 with meaningful engage-

ment opportunities on and off campus. The initiative encompasses all CSUN sports and invites Valley residents to support the Matadors through attendance, sponsorships, financial support and service. Gas station University 76, on the heavily traveled corner of Nor-

dhoff Street and Lindley Avenue, was the first business to join the campaign, dubbed "the official fuel and store of CSUN Athletics."

University 76 is offering customers a 3-cents-per-gallon discount with a valid CSUN staff, student or alumni identification card (and a station loyalty program card, available at the register). The station will donate that 3-cents-per-gallon to CSUN Athletics. CSUN Athletics branding is also prominently featured on the gas station's exterior walls.

"We are very excited to partner with CSUN Athletics," said station owner Ken Bagga. "CSUN is the lifeblood of our business, and we are thrilled to give back and support the university."



"One Matador" programs in 2017 include the Matador Kids Club and M-Club activities, and marketing will include a focus on the Valley's Spanish-speaking community. For more information, visit gomatadors.com.

TURNING IT AROUND: O'NEIL BROTHERS' ACADEMIC JOURNEY AT CSUN

Brothers Spencer and Conner O'Neil landed with the CSUN Baseball team via different paths in 2015. Spencer was one of the most sought-after high school baseball players in the country as early as his sophomore year at Southridge High School in Kennewick, Wash.

Conner, two years his junior and a right-handed pitcher, snuck into Central Arizona College as an unknown walk-on — then transferred to CSUN.

Conner became the Matadors' all-time single-season save leader in 2015 and the team's career save leader in 2016. Spencer, unfortunately, faced a different road. He endured a back injury that forced him to have invasive surgery and brought his baseball days to a premature end. Down but not out, he focused his full attention on his studies. In De-

cember 2016, Spencer graduated with his B.A. in liberal studies.

Both brothers made turn-arounds in the classroom while at CSUN, they said.

"My approach to school before was to 'just get by' or 'stay eligible,'" Conner said. "I used the sometimes taxing schedule of being a student-athlete as an ex-

cuse to not excel in school. I was doing the minimum of what was asked of me.

"The biggest change for me was maturation," he said. "Being able to look at a difficult class, a confusing assignment or a busy day and not only do it, but get it done to the best of my ability, rather than using all of those things as an excuse."

"I learned that if I invested more time in school, I would never have to worry about my performance in the classroom," Spencer said.

Conner, a graduating senior majoring in liberal studies, reflected:

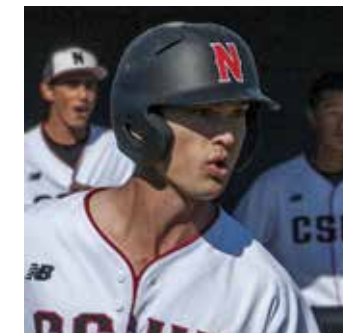
"My advice to a younger student-athlete would be to welcome difficulties," he said. "Don't shy away from anything because it's too hard or you're too tired. It's not too hard, you're not too tired, and you can make time. We all have the same 24 hours. If you're not exhausted at the end of your 24 hours, then you need to work harder tomorrow."

Finishing his degree, Spencer said, was the ultimate victory.

"A lot of people never thought I would go to college, let alone graduate," he said. "My college degree is a big fist pump to all of them." —Nick Bocanegra



Conner O'Neil



Spencer O'Neil

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Help us celebrate your accomplishments and news while bringing the CSUN community closer together. Show your pride and get social with us.



CSUN Opens New "Face" on Reseda Boulevard

BY NATALIE L. CAMACHO

In May 2016, California State University, Northridge's University Corporation purchased a building on the 9300 block of Reseda Boulevard. What used to be Keller Williams Realty is now the CSUN Reseda Annex.

In her fifth-annual welcome address last fall, CSUN President Dianne F. Harrison noted that the University Corporation had "purchased and renovated [the] new annex building for CSUN on Reseda Boulevard, that serves as another face for the university to the external community. The building gives CSUN a prominent presence in the community. We now have a true face on Reseda Boulevard."

The CSUN Reseda Annex houses several departments on the first floor and two programs on the second floor. The first floor hosts

Alumni Relations, Development, Annual Giving and Planned Giving.

Shellie Hadvina '90 (Recreation), M.A. '98 (Public Administration), assistant vice president of Alumni Relations and Annual Giving, said she is excited about the CSUN Reseda Annex as a new home for Matador alumni.

"The university is growing, and this seemed like a perfect fit for expanding these facets of CSUN," said Hadvina. "It makes CSUN even more accessible to alumni and the community."

Development and Planned Giving Department staff described the new Reseda Annex as the "hub of development on campus."

The annex's second floor is the new home of the Center for Assessment, Research and Evaluation (CARE) and the LA Cleantech Incubator at CSUN (LACI@CSUN).

CARE conducts project evaluations for faculty, staff and administrators. LACI@CSUN is the university's entrepreneurial startup whose goal is to serve as "a catalyst for innovation and entrepreneurship [at] CSUN and [in] the San Fernando Valley."

Alumni and community members are welcome and encouraged to stop by and see the new building. The Reseda Annex doors are open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

L-R: Alumni Nickie '67, '68 (Credential) and Chuck Malouf '64, M.S. '67, who met at CSUN (then San Fernando Valley State College), celebrate with fellow 50-year Club member Nancy Blackmer '67, M.S. '76 at Homecoming.



Matadors Reunite at Homecoming

In February, CSUN celebrated Founders' Day and Homecoming, the first all-alumni gathering in nearly a decade.

Alumni from the classes of 1966 and 1967, as well the faculty and staff who began their employment at CSUN during those years, came together for an afternoon luncheon and induction into CSUN's 50-year Club. Afterward, they joined hundreds of other alumni, students, faculty and staff at other Homecoming activities, culminating in the Matador Men's Basketball team win over the UC Santa Barbara Gauchos in front of a packed Matadome crowd.

"Just like past times of political and social change, we have come together as a campus community – regardless of opinions and beliefs," said CSUN President Dianne F. Harrison, speaking at the Founders' Day luncheon.

Harrison spoke of the parallels between the challenges faced by today's CSUN students and those encountered and overcome by the university's 50-year inductees, affectionately known as "Valley Staters" (who graduated from San Fernando Valley State College, CSUN's name until the early 1970s).

After the luncheon, alumni and their families made their way to the award-winning Student Recreation Center (SRC). Activities included pinewood derby races at the Matador Motorway – a 42-foot long, vinyl red-and-black ramp – a barbecue and kids' buffet, kids' carnival games, crafts and tours.

In the SRC's Red Ring Courts area, alumni also enjoyed tasting "Matador Red" ale from alumni-owned and Valley-based 8one8 Brewery, and checked out demonstrations by popular CSUN programs.

The most memorable facets of Homecoming for most alumni, however, were the human connections – and reconnections. Many alumni noted that they had not returned



to campus for years, or even decades. As they sat together at themed tables or caught up with one another at mini reunion gatherings for programs and groups such as journalism, Associated Students, and a host of fraternities and sororities, alumni from six different decades embraced, took selfies and swapped old stories.

CSUN Director of Intercollegiate Athletics Brandon E. Martin may have said it best, as he fired up the alumni crowd at a pep rally preceding the basketball game:

"Who's excited about being a Matador tonight?" he shouted, eliciting a roar from the alumni and cheers from the Matador Band and cheerleaders. "I'm delighted to be here with our Matador family. It's been the alumni who have stepped up and provided the support for our facility enhancements and improvements."

—Olivia Herstein and Cary Osborne

From top, L-R: Bradley Koenig '84; Scott Winningham; Victor '69, M.A. '75 and Linda Masi (standing) and Dennis Clancy '07 meet up at the Founders' Day luncheon that kicked off Homecoming on Feb. 11. In the SRC's Red Ring Courts, alumnae Amy Jonas '88 and Keely King '82 take home souvenirs from the Homecoming photo booth.

Celebrating Volunteers



From left: Honorees Daniel Blake, Sally Magaram and Phil Mundy celebrate with CSUN President Dianne F. Harrison (second from left) at the 15th annual Volunteer Service Awards.

Every year, thousands of alumni and friends give back to CSUN and its nearly 40,000 students. The 15th annual CSUN Volunteer Service Awards luncheon honored 27 of these generous individuals during a fall celebration at the Hilton Woodland Hills. These devoted volunteers have shown their affinity for CSUN by advocating for and donating

funds to support the university.

"We are here to recognize the volunteer trailblazers who help elevate CSUN and our impact through advocacy, mentoring our students, attending athletic and cultural events on campus, and supporting CSUN in so many other vital ways," said CSUN President Dianne F. Harrison.

The university presented Volunteer Service Awards to volunteers from CSUN's alumni chapters, as well as supporters of its colleges and programs. The day's highest honors went to Phil Mundy '71 (Business Administration), Sally Magaram and Daniel Blake. Mundy received the Dorothea "Granny" Heitz Award for Outstanding Volunteer Leadership, Magaram received the CSUN For Life Award and Blake was given the Dean Ed Peckham Award.

Mundy, an entrepreneur who is in his third three-year term on the CSUN Foundation Board as chair of the Development Committee, was overwhelmed by the honor.

"Little did I know when I left San Fernando Valley State College in 1971 that I'd be back here doing something like this," Mundy said.

Magaram has made an impact at CSUN by supporting, along with her husband Phil, the Marilyn Magaram Center and the Valley Performing Arts Center. Blake is an influential former professor and leader in the David Nazarian College of Business and Economics.

"I was lucky to come here in the early days," Blake said. "There were so many opportunities on campus, so many things to be developed, so many ways to serve — not only the students, but the community." —Cary Osborne

Volunteers Emulate "Granny"

The Dorothea "Granny" Heitz Award is CSUN's pinnacle Volunteer Service Award and recognizes significant and sustained leadership by a CSUN alumnus. The award is named in honor of Heitz '69 (General Sociology, pictured at right, with CSUN students), who passed away in 2007 and whose enthusiasm and loyalty to the university spanned decades.

In 1966, Heitz, then 50 years old, set out to continue a college education cut short by the Great Depression, 31 years earlier. A sophomore, but senior in age to most of the campus professors — and nearly 30 years older than the average student — Heitz fully embraced the college experience, at what was then San



Fernando Valley State College.

One day, as students gathered at "The Tub" (the original Student Union), her younger classmates were searching for someone to take the lead in improving school spirit. A young man turned to

Heitz and said, "You should go for it, Granny!" Challenge accepted: Heitz embraced her new Matador nickname, Granny, and a tradition was born in 1967.

Within a few weeks, Granny had formed a spirit squad. The "Granny Girls," dressed in bright red outfits, became unofficial campus ambassadors. They were the highlight of area parades and became local celebrities, "trending" (long before social media) across Southern California

airwaves, with guest appearances on the radio and eight TV appearances. Throughout the years, Granny also embraced her role as an alumna spirit leader. At CSUN, her Matador spirit lives on.

GIVE BACK!

The Alumni Association has numerous ways that you can volunteer, such as mentoring, joining an alumni chapter and so much more. Learn more at csun.edu/alumni/volunteer.

Matadors Calling

BY ALEX CROOKS



Graduating senior Rachael Duriez, a finance major, calls (with a smile) Matador alumni from the CSUN Call Center on campus.

Rachael Duriez is a graduating senior at CSUN. She'll be walking across the stage at Commencement this spring to receive her bachelor's degree in finance from CSUN's David Nazarian College of Business and Economics. She runs Division I track and cross country for the Matadors. She commutes from Palmdale. She loves the outdoors and scrapbooking.

When she started working in the call center in 2016, Duriez felt slightly embarrassed. This was her first "real job," and she felt greedy asking for money, she said. But as time passed — and she secured more pledges and donations from alumni — she opened up to talking more with the alumni about their lives.

"My favorite experiences are

talking to the people," said Duriez, 22. "One of the first full, long conversations I had was with a lady who had a baby due that day, and she ended up giving. That made me realize that the job wasn't as hard as I thought it was."

The call center helped Duriez in the short run as a way to make some extra money, but it also shaped her career path. After witnessing, and contributing to, the philanthropic work of the call center, Duriez said, she wants to use her finance degree to work at a nonprofit that helps foster children. Her perspective on the job has changed immensely since those first call shifts, she added.

"I want to connect with you, [the alumni]," she said. "The conversation doesn't have to end with you giving money to the school, even though that would be nice. Everything comes back to the campus and helps people with their future careers — and if you're successful, it's because of CSUN. It was the starting point of your careers, and we should all feel grateful to the school in some way."

CSUN HONORS THREE DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

On April 29, CSUN honored three globally impactful alumni whose influential work has left an indelible footprint on their respective fields.

Financial industry giant Milton Berlinski '78 (Computer Science), reality TV trailblazer Mike Darnell '87 (Communication Studies) and science and technology leader Patricia Maloney '80 (Chemistry) are the recipients of CSUN's 2017 Distinguished Alumni Awards and were honored at the 19th annual gala event at the Four Seasons Hotel in Westlake Village.

Berlinski came to CSUN as an international student from Aruba and is now one of Wall Street's most accomplished figures. In 2013, he co-founded the private investment firm Reverence Capital Partners LLC. Today, he is the company's managing partner.

Berlinski was the architect behind Goldman Sachs' Private Equity advisory business and ran its corporate strategy group, becoming one of the most important dealmakers in the country.

Darnell took advantage of an internship he had while an undergraduate and made reality TV history. He is the president of alternative television

at Warner Bros. and is in charge of three of its companies — Warner Horizon Unscripted Television, Telepictures Productions and Shed Media. Darnell oversees 35 series, including *The Bachelor*, *The Voice* and *The Ellen DeGeneres Show*.

Prior to joining Warner Bros., he was the president of alternative television at FOX, where he oversaw and developed shows such as *Family Guy* and the mega-hit *American Idol*. While other networks passed on *Idol*, Darnell was the executive who said "yes." It became the top-rated show on TV for eight consecutive seasons.

Maloney is the principal director for joint operational programs in the NASA Programs Division at The Aerospace Corporation, and she was named the company's 2005 Woman of the Year. Maloney manages relationships and oversees a team working with some of the most prestigious partners in the corporation's portfolio, including NASA, the U.S. Air Force and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Previously, she worked in numerous leadership capacities for Mobil Oil Corporation. —Cary Osborne

Want to help today's Matadors? Give to the **MataCare Grant Fund**, which helps students with unexpected, urgent financial needs. Visit givenow.csun.edu and specify "Matador Care Fund."



Milton Berlinski



Mike Darnell



Patricia Maloney

From Valley Boy to Mountain Man

Alumnus Jim Snyder has 17 years of executive experience in the ski industry under his belt. He credits CSUN's Model United Nations for a strong professional foundation.

BY MORGAN BALL

Jim Snyder '84 earned a degree in political science, but it was the culinary world that soon captured his interest and his heart.

As a Northridge native, Snyder was born and raised in the San Fernando Valley and eventually went on to attend college at CSUN.

"When I went to CSUN, I went for five years — it took me longer to finish," said Snyder. "I was a political science major. I studied that specifically because it was interesting to me, but I knew I would end up in the food-and-beverage world," because he worked at a restaurant at the time.

Since the year 2000, Snyder has been an executive in the ski industry. With 17 years of experience under his belt, he recently joined Sun Valley Resort in Sun Valley, Idaho, as the director of food and beverage. Snyder was recruited to work for the privately owned resort, where more than 400 employees report to him — including about 50 managers and chefs.

"It's interesting for someone like me who grew up in Southern California and who barely saw any snow," to live in a place like Sun Valley, Snyder said. During his time at CSUN, Snyder played intramural basketball and participated in Model United Nations (MUN), and he attributes his public speaking skill to his time participating in MUN. Now, Snyder puts that skill to use in front of crowds that range from 30 to 100 people — at seminars, training sessions and general meetings.

Public speaking was the most important skill he learned at CSUN, Snyder said. "That has stayed with me," he said.

Snyder is still connected with the CSUN campus — he married a Matador as well, Nicole Snyder '93 (Human Resource Management). The couple and their children visit

the ever-changing campus on occasional trips to California, as both of their families still live in the Valley — and Jim and Nicole follow Matador sports online.

"I love to see the changes on campus," Jim Snyder said. "I have fond memories of CSUN altogether, and the community as a whole."

Snyder's mother, Patricia Anne Snyder, also attended CSUN, earning her bachelor's degree in liberal arts from the university in 1985. She worked at the CSUN Learning Resource Center for several years, while her son attended the university. Snyder said he believes that CSUN was the driving force in binding his family together.

Though Snyder grew up in relatively sleepy Northridge, he was not timid about traveling to other parts of the country.

"This Valley boy ended up loving the ski areas and the mountains," he said.

Snyder said he wants to remind all of CSUN's future and recent graduates that nothing is unattainable.

"You have to follow your dreams. If you're climbing the ladder of success, make sure your ladder is up against the right wall," said Snyder, who pursued his passions in the culinary and hospitality worlds. "People [need to] follow their actual dreams. Follow the dream right away. What's going to make you a passionate person?"



PROFILE

Alum Helped Develop Engines to Send Men to the Moon

BY CATI MAYER



Alumnus Don Bostrom visits CSUN to share stories about his work with engines for NASA's Saturn V rockets, which later were adopted by the Apollo program.

Don Bostrom, a recent graduate of CSUN, then known as San Fernando Valley State College, sat in a control center at Edwards Air Force Base northeast of Lancaster. The year was 1964, and Rocketdyne — a major supplier of U.S. rocket engines — was testing F-1 engines for NASA. The engineers launched the engines from test platforms on a ridge, about 800 feet from the control centers where Bostrom '64 (Electrical Engineering) and his team monitored the test runs.

Bostrom was used to pioneering programs. He was one of 89 students in Valley State's first engineering program, developed by dean George Harness in 1959. Shortly after Bostrom's graduation, he scored a job at Rocketdyne, based in Canoga Park.

"Only a few of us made it to [graduation], and jobs were scarce in 1964," Bostrom said. "But I went to work at Rocketdyne on the F-1 rocket engine testing. For a 22-year-old engineer, this turned out to be a very exciting first job."

Bostrom said he was always passionate about technology and engineering. He graduated from Birmingham High School in Lake Balboa (now Birmingham Community Charter High School) and decided to enter the new Valley State engineering program.

When he went to work for Rocketdyne — at the height of the space race between the U.S. and the Soviet Union, the company had committed to supply NASA with engines for its Saturn V rockets, which were later adopted by the Apollo program to send astronauts to the moon.

"After all that exciting testing and work, the idea of having helped put men on the moon (in 1969) is really what sticks with me," Bostrom said.

In retirement, Bostrom maintains close ties to the university. A passionate singer during his time at CSUN, he met his wife of 53 years while enrolled in music classes. His wife, Sandra J. Bostrom Aguado '65 (Music), retired from teaching at CSUN, now composes music.

"I enjoyed [CSUN] tremendously," he said. "If you're interested in science and technology, then be an engineer. There is nothing nicer than saying, 'I built something' or, 'I made it work' or, 'I found a problem and solved it.' These are all parts of being an engineer."

SHOW YOUR LIFELONG LOVE FOR CSUN: BECOME A LIFETIME MEMBER — AND SUIT UP!

Looking for a way to stay connected, give back, have access to a number of on- and off-campus perks — and get some Matador swag? Become a lifetime member of the Alumni Association, which includes our exclusive Lifetime Members jacket. Memberships are \$500 for individuals and \$600 for two Matadors living in the same household.

Members also get access to auto, home and health insurance discounts, rental car and hotel deals, and invitations to Matador networking, mentoring and social events.

Your membership benefits future alumni, too: 10 percent of your membership dues support CSUN student scholarships. The rest helps support alumni programs. Not ready to commit (yet) to the jacket? Annual memberships are also available. To learn more and join: csun.edu/alumni or 818-677-CSUN



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Play Ball!

Baseball Alumnus, Entrepreneur Makes \$1.5 Million Gift to Lead Matador Field Renovations

In 2016, Matadors Baseball received a donation of \$1.5 million from alumnus Irv Zakheim '71 (Physical Education) as a lead gift to fund renovations to Matador Field, on campus. The gift will help fund a renovated entryway to the stadium, adjacent to Etiwanda Avenue, just north of Superior Street. This is the first of multiple projects that will modernize a complex that is more than 50 years old.

"We're so proud to have alumni like Irv Zakheim to help the next generation of Matadors," said California State University, Northridge President Dianne F. Harrison. "What is especially gratifying is how Irv is continuing a tradition of success for our baseball team. He was a champion on the ball field and is one in his professional field as well. Now, he's helping us build toward future championships."

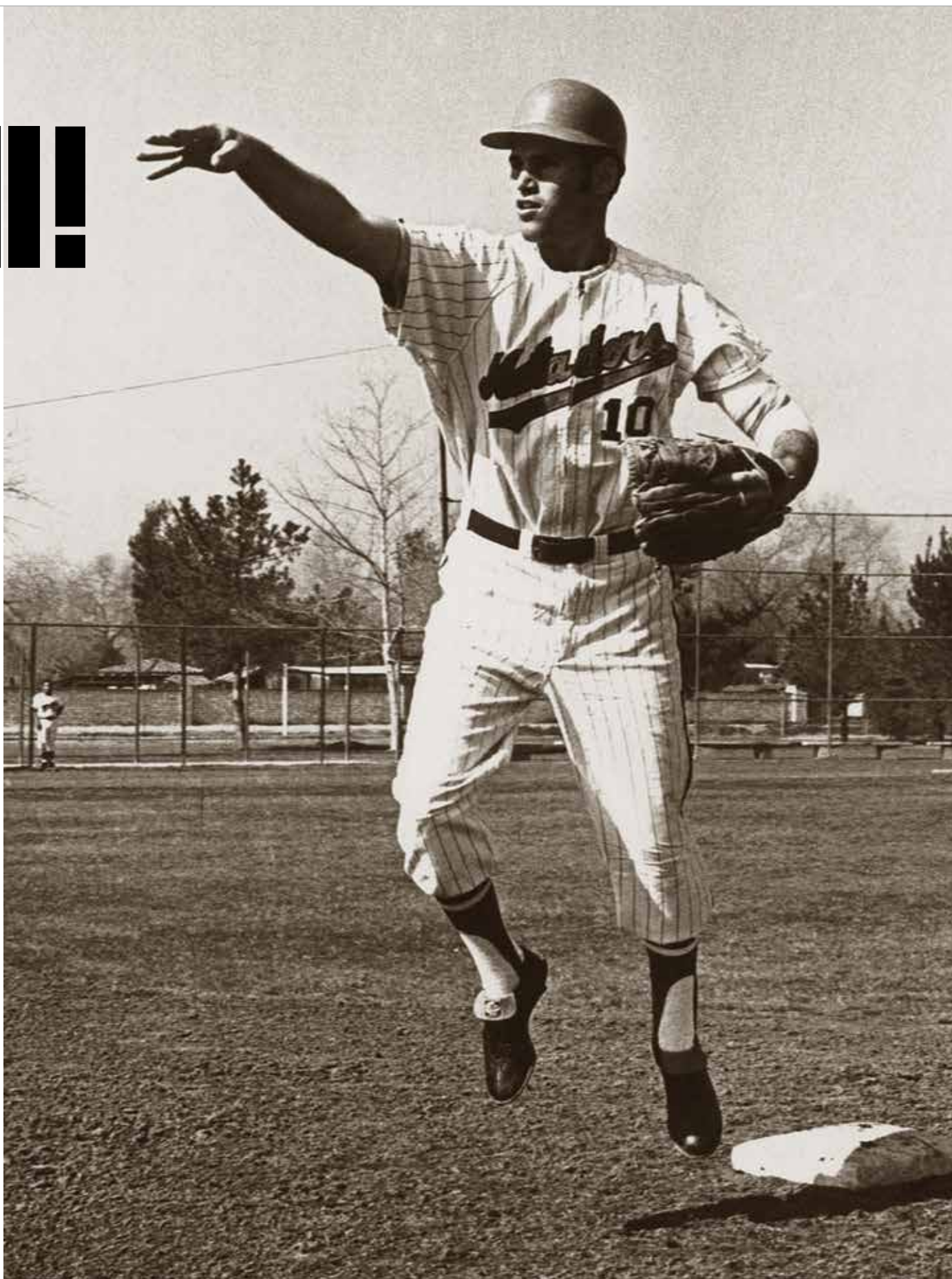
Zakheim, who was the starting second baseman for CSUN's 1970 Division II National Championship team (pictured at right) and still stands out on CSUN's all-time record lists, played professional baseball in the Chicago White Sox minor league system after graduation.

"I'm thrilled about Irv's generosity and support of CSUN Baseball," said CSUN Director of Intercollegiate Athletics Brandon Martin. "We have worked closely with Irv for the past couple of seasons, and we've spoken at length about what it will take to make Matador Field a state-of-the-art facility. Irv's vision and support has been — and will continue to be — essential to the growth of the CSUN Baseball program, and I'm proud to work alongside him as we build a successful team and an exceptional facility."

Zakheim is the chairman and CEO of Zak Designs, a company he founded in 1976 while importing puka shell necklaces from the Philippines. Zak Designs has grown significantly in the years since, and today the global company is one of the leading distributors of packaging and beverage containers. In 2011, Zakheim was honored with CSUN's Distinguished Alumni Award, one of the highest honors from the university, and he remains closely connected to CSUN Athletics and the CSUN Baseball team.

"So much of the success I've had, and the person I've become, is a direct result of playing baseball at CSUN," Zakheim said. "Coach Bob Hiegert didn't just give us the skills to become national champions, he gave us the skills to succeed in life. I'm so grateful for the opportunity to give back to the program and help other Matadors have the same kind of experience."

"Coach Moore is running an excellent program, and I'm excited to work with him and Dr. Martin to make sure my gift helps build upon the



team's recent success and creates a facility that will help take Matador Baseball to an entirely new level," Zakheim said.

Head baseball coach Greg Moore is in his fourth season at CSUN. Under his leadership, the Matadors have achieved success on the field, in the classroom and in the community. Moore's 2015 and 2016 teams turned in the highest combined Division I win total since 1997 and recorded back-to-back 30-win seasons for the first time since 2002. In April, the National Consortium of Academics and Sports honored Moore with its National Student-Athlete Giant Steps Award.

Moore's student-athletes have turned in numerous outstanding individual performances over the past three years, with six players selected in Major League Baseball's first-year player draft. The team has set new academic standards, with the highest semester GPA on record for CSUN Baseball, and they have won awards for their work in the community.

"I am so thankful for Irv's gift and leadership in assuring CSUN Baseball's facility is excellent, lasting and useful for many years to come," said Moore. "As we build our program brick-by-brick, our players, coaching staff and I appreciate his hard work and dedication to CSUN. This is a difference-making donation, and I know Irv understands the true impact it will have on the program. I'm grateful for his vision and support."

Following the addition of the new Matador Field entryway, which will be located at the end of the stadium's right-field foul line, projected future renovations will include stadium lights, an updated fan seating area with shaded areas and additional seats, new baseball training facilities that include new batting cages, locker rooms and showers, and team meeting space and offices.

Fans interested in contributing to the growth of the CSUN Baseball program can learn more at gomatadors.com or by contacting Tom Ford, senior associate athletic director for development, at (818) 677-4837 or thomas.ford@csun.edu.

CSUN Athletics

For Matadors ticket information, call (818) 677-2488 or visit www.gomatadors.com/tickets. Follow the Matadors on Twitter @GoMatadors, on Instagram @MattytheMatador and on Facebook at CSUNAthletics.



BASEBALL SCOREBOARD: ON THE D.L.

For many, baseball is simply a hobby. But for some, baseball is life. Their love of the sport compels them to show up to every practice and to see every game to the very end. This is why CSUN is still reeling from the news that its most valuable fan, its baseball scoreboard, must be replaced. Built in 1989, the scoreboard was born with a condition requiring a team of caregivers to ensure that its wattage never dropped below 27,000. It was a strenuous task, but its silent courage made a huge impression on the team. Said one of its caregivers, "It was a true fan. I don't think it ever left the stadium."

In lieu of get-well cards, donations are being accepted to help in the efforts to find a successor. Estimates place a new digital scoreboard at \$400,000 to \$500,000. Donations can be made by going to givenow.csun.edu and designating the gift for the CSUN Baseball scoreboard. —Alex Crooks

CSUN President’s Associates

President’s Associates are comprised of dedicated alumni, parents and friends who share a collective commitment to CSUN by investing in the university’s mission of teaching, scholarship and active learning. Their generous annual support enables transformative growth for faculty and students, and helps sustain the mission of CSUN for future generations of Matadors. Cumulative gifts of \$1,000 or more during a year to any CSUN college or program qualify a donor as a President’s Associate.

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Mr. Robert J. Barbera

Judge Peter A. Barbosa '68
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Mr. Carlos R. Barrios '02 and Ms. Alisha R. Barrios '07
Ms. Sara L. Bauer and Mr. Frank R. Bauer
Mr. Larry Baum and Ms. Elaine Baum
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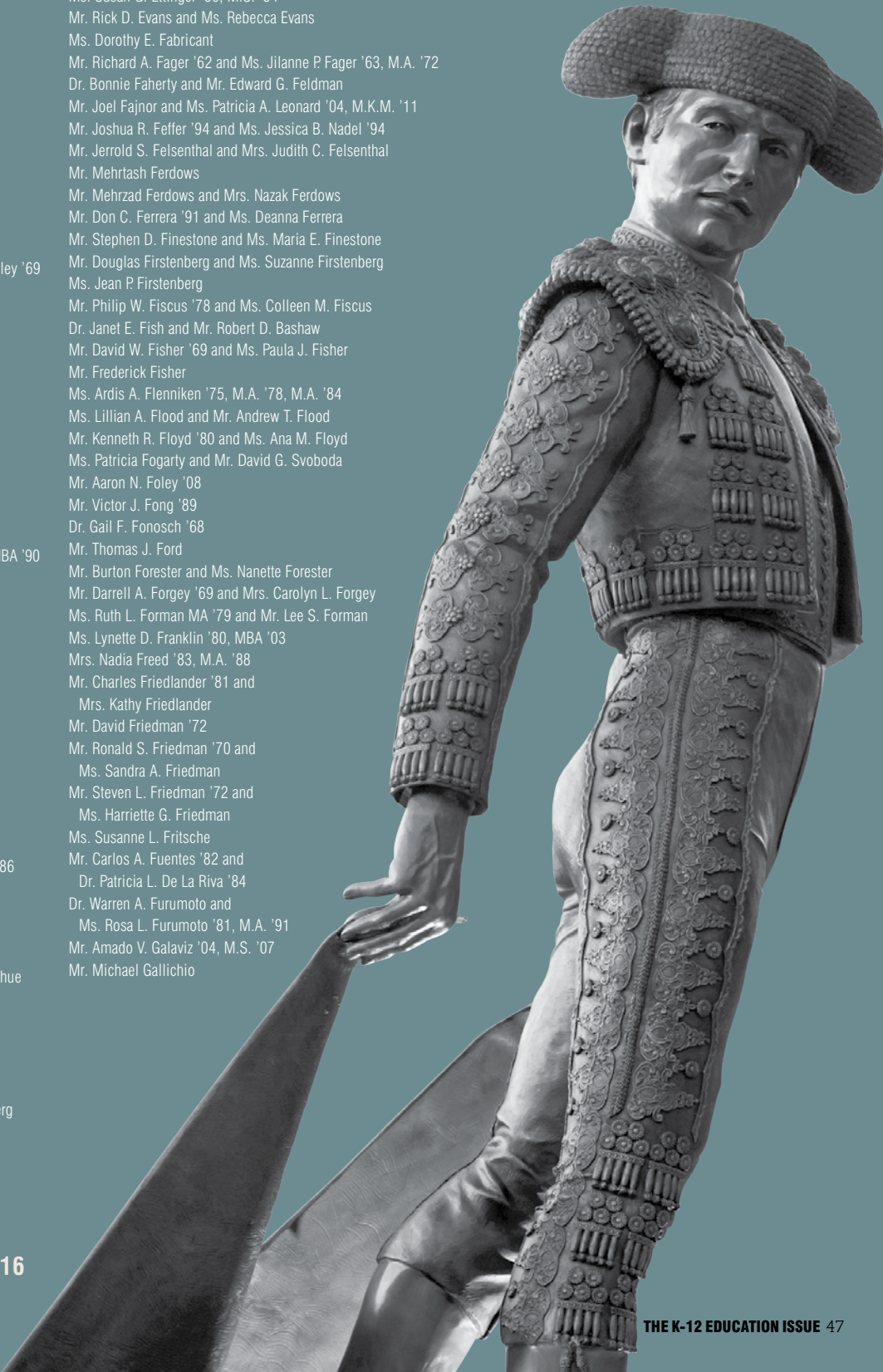
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Mr. Gary L. Schrodt '77 and Ms. Rebecca E. Schrodt
Mr. Zachary W. Schuler '97 and Mrs. Leslie Schuler
Mr. Emanuel Schweid
Mr. Allan Schweitzer and Ms. Lily Schweitzer
Mr. Richard H. Schweitzer '87 and Ms. Julie L. Schweitzer
Dr. John R. Scott '71, M.A. '73 and Ms. Danielle Scott
Mr. Michael C. Scroggie '69 and Ms. Kathleen J. Scroggie '66
Ms. Natasha Sedaghat and Mr. Shawn Sedaghat
Professor James E. Sefton
Ms. Catherine Segovia
Mr. Suren P. Seropian '88
Dr. Bharath A. Sethuraman and Ms. Prabhavati Rao
Dr. Paulette Shafranski
Ms. Rashmi S. Shah '94 and Mr. Satish N. Shah
Mr. Shaw Shahery and Mrs. Shirin Shahery
Mr. Farhad Shamloo and Ms. Soodabeh H. Houshmand
Dr. Mary E. Shamrock
Dr. Margaret M. Shiffar
Dr. Carol Ann S. Shubin
Ms. Lauren Shuler Donner
Mr. Mark Siegel and Ms. Maricela Siegel
Ms. Charlene M. Sievers '74 and Mr. Mike Sievers
Ms. Marjorie Sievers
Mr. David R. Simon and Ms. Christina Simon
Mr. Stephen Simon and Mrs. Rose Simon
Mr. Gary C. Simons '82 and Ms. Gilena Simons
Dr. Domenick J. Sisto and Ms. Laura Kondra-Sisto
Ms. Jill A. Smith and Mr. Kent J. Smith
Dr. Rebecca Smith and Mr. Jeffrey P. Smith
Dr. Richard Warren Smith
Mr. Richard W. Smith '66 and Mrs. Laurel Smith
Dr. Wayne W. Smith '84
Ms. Sarah P. Smizer '82
The Honorable Christina A. Snyder and Mr. Marc M. Seltzer
Mr. Kent J. Snyder '64, M.A. '69 and Mrs. Sandra J. Snyder
Mr. Ashkan Sobhe '10
Mr. Khashaiar Sobhe '14
Mr. Ronald D. Sorensen '88, M.S. '93
Ms. Amada Sosa
Mr. and Mrs. Sheldon M. Steier
Mr. Thor Steingraber
Prof. Steven G. Stepanek '73, M.S. '80
Ms. Diane S. Stephens '90, MBA '08 and
Mr. Michael R. Stephens '93
Mr. Bob Stiefel '67 and Mr. Ed T. Imparato
Mr. Guy N. Stocks '79, M.S. '81 and Ms. Lorraine Turcotte
Ms. Colette Storms and Mr. Michael Storms
Dr. Mark E. Stover and Ms. Elaine D. Stover
Mr. John F. Sturges '75 and Ms. Helen Sturges
Mr. Jonathan A. Sturm and Ms. Julie K. Sturm
Ms. Sheila R. Suarez and Dr. John M. Suarez
Ms. Elizabeth M. Sullivan '75 and Mr. Timothy V. Sullivan
Ms. Amy Sullivan Meyer and Mr. Paul K. Meyer
Mr. Andrew J. Summers
Dr. Michael L. Summers and Ms. Leah N. Summers
Mr. Jack R. Suzar '67 and Ms. Linda M. Suzar
Dr. Muriel H. Svec
Mr. Dennis K. Swanson and Mrs. Manja Swanson
Mr. Judd T. Swarzman and Ms. Linda Swarzman
Mr. Curtis Swindal
Ms. Tamara A. Tamburro '80
Dr. Shari A. Tarver-Behring and Mr. John D. Behring
Mr. Robert C. Taylor and Mrs. Leslie C. Taylor
Mr. Robert D. Taylor '82 and Ms. Joy L. Taylor
Mr. Steven Taylor and Ms. Natalie Taylor
Ms. Renee Tepper
Dr. Stella Z. Theodoulou
Mr. Gary M. Thomas '83
Mr. Scott G. Thomas '80 and Ms. Robyn Thomas
Ms. Avis Thomas-Lester '87 and Mr. James R. Lester '90
Mr. Neal S. Thornhill '92 and
Ms. Bridget S. Sampson '91, M.A. '93
Dr. Nayereh E. Tohidi and Mr. Kazem Alamdari
Dr. C. Richard Tracy '66, M.S. '68 and Dr. Judith Sugar
Mr. George E. Trask '69 and Ms. Sherri Trask
Mr. John P. Tronson '90 and Ms. Pamela J. Tronson
Mr. David A. Trutt and Ms. Sandra Trutt
Mr. Kevin Tsujihara and Mrs. Sandy Tsujihara
Ms. Marcella A. Tyler and Mr. Richard R. Tyler
Mr. Ira Utermann
Mr. Milton G. Valera '68 and Ms. Debbie M. Valera
Ms. Nancy L. Vallengs Schramling '80
Ms. Yvonne Vargas
Mr. Omar Velasco
Dr. Ralph D. Vicero
Mr. Gary S. Victor
Mr. Alan D. Vier '81

Mr. Salvador M. Villescas '93, M.A. '98
Mr. Roger Wacker and Ms. Angelle Wacker
Mr. Timothy S. Wahl and Ms. Julia Strickland
Mr. William C. Waldman '10 and Ms. Leslie D. Waldman
Mr. Jimmy J. Walker '68, M.A. '72
Mr. Gregory L. Wallace '71
Mr. Michael Wallace '02, M.S. '04 and Ms. Deborah Wallace
Mr. William L. Warburton '81
Dr. Veda E. Ward and Mr. David P. Henninger
Mr. Michael Waterstreet '76
Dr. William C. Watkins '74 and Ms. Paula G. Watkins
Ms. Janet Watt Van Huisen
Mr. Jeffrey S. Way '80 and Ms. Linda K. Way
Ms. Jessica Weber
Mr. Jonathan Webster
Ms. Caryn E. Weiss
Mr. Burton D. West '69 and Ms. Susan West
Mr. Frankert K. Wheaton '73
Mr. Jack L. White '72, M.A. '75 and Mrs. Rhoda L. White
Mr. John G. Whitman '71 and Ms. Carmel M. Whitman
Mr. Garfield O. Whittaker '95, M.A. '05, M.A. '07
Mr. Bruce F. Whizin '71, M.A. '73
Dr. Sam N. Winningham and Ms. Marilyn Winningham
Ms. Sharon S. Winston and Mr. Irwin M. Winston
Ms. Mary Anne Wolfson '10 and Mr. Kim Wolfson
Dr. Lan K. Wong '73 and Mrs. Deborah Chung
Mr. Jared Woods and Ms. Erin Woods
Ms. Janice D. Woolsey '89, M.S. '91 and
Mr. Robert O. Woolsey '80
Ms. Rosalind Wyman
Ms. Sandra M. Yamamoto '74 and Mr. Gary K. Yamamoto
Ms. Laura F. Yamanaka '78 and
Dr. Steven F. Loy '77, B.A. '78, M.A. '79
Ms. Janet Yang '93
Ms. Amy E. Yeager
Mr. Alejandro Yemenidjian '77 and Mrs. Arda Yemenidjian
Mr. Leadman Yep '89 and Ms. Jennifer S. Yep '94
Ms. Wendy L. Yost '94, M.A. '97
Mr. Roger Young
Mr. Irving L. Zakheim '72 and Mrs. Angela R. Zakheim
Mr. Robert G. Zangwill and Ms. Ruth Zangwill
Ms. Suzanne Zaret
Ms. Alma R. Zatarain '80 and Mr. Mark A. Bowland
Dr. Maria Elena Zavala and Dr. James Parker
Mr. David A. Zoraster and Ms. Cherie Zoraster
Dr. Bruce A. Zucker and Dr. Kiren K. Dosanjh Zucker

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NOTES

1960S

Gene Merlino '61 (Music) has worked for more than 60 years as a singer, instrumentalist, coach and conductor. He worked with scores of celebrities, won a Grammy Award in 1967 with the Anita Kerr Singers, provided the singing voice for Franco Nero in 1967’s *Camelot*, and was nominated for a Grammy in 1983 as a member of the L.A. Voices on a recording with Supersax, among other accomplishments. His son, John, also graduated from CSUN with a B.S. in computer science in 1989.

Jim Gault '62 (Business Administration) graduated from San Fernando Valley State College, where he played water polo, swam and served as president of Beta Sigma Pi (now Sigma Chi) fraternity. After graduation, he entered military flight training and for the next 23 years flew tactical fighters, armed reconnaissance and transport aircraft for the U.S. Air Force and U.S. Air Force Reserves, retiring as a full colonel. After completing active duty, he enjoyed a 31-year career in commercial aviation, retiring from American Airlines in 1999. Shortly thereafter, he was recruited by The Boeing Company as a contract flight simulator instructor and he became the company’s director of flight training. He and his wife, Betsey, live in Rockwall, Texas.

Gordon Gilbert '65 (Biology) served in the U.S. Army as an aviator from 1966-70, followed by a long career as a full-time aviation magazine writer from 1972-2009. Since 2010, he has continued to work part time as an aviation magazine writer. This year, Gilbert is celebrating 45 years of aviation writing. Also this year, he is on track to log more than 3,500 hours as a pilot — in the Army, commercial aviation and currently as a private pilot. He lives in Sharon, Mass.

Bob Rawitch '67 (Journalism) has retired after a 50-year career in the newspaper business and strategic communication. Rawitch spent 29 years at the *Los Angeles Times* — starting the METPRO minority program and the Valley and Ventura County editions — and 21 years at Winner & Associates, a public affairs consulting firm. He is president of the CSUN Journalism Alumni Association.

Eric Seltzer '68 (Engineering), M.S. '73 (Engineering) worked as a test engineer with Douglas Aircraft’s Missiles and Space Division in Santa Monica from 1968-70, and then joined his family’s business, Toppo Manufacturing, in Van Nuys. An avid sports car enthusiast, Seltzer raced in the Formula B and Formula A Ford classes SCCA Road Racing in the '70s. He started Seltzer Motor Industries in 1978 in Chatsworth, and he designed and built the Willow Sports Car kit until selling that business in 1984. He and his wife moved Toppo to Sparks, Nev., in 1981. They sold the company in 2001. The Seltzers have three children, including a son who has followed in Eric’s footsteps as a mechanical engineer and race car driver.



David Perrault '69 (M.A., Education Psychological Foundation Guidance, pictured above) was added by Judicate West, one of California’s leading providers of private dispute resolution services, to its roster of “neutrals” in its new Sacramento office. Perrault has nearly four decades of litigation experience in areas such as labor and employment law, as well as significant experience in medical negligence and construction defect cases. He is a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates and the labor and employment sections of the California and Federal Bar Associations. He also volunteers for settlement and dispute resolution programs for the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Sacramento, and the Sacramento County Superior Court. After earning his bachelor’s from Sac State, Perrault earned his master’s at what was then Valley State. Later, he earned a Juris Doctorate from the University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law, in 1975.

1970S



Ronald Friedman '70 (Business Administration, pictured above) was honored as Professional Service Provider of the Year at the *Los Angeles Business Journal* 2016 Fashion Awards. Friedman is a partner at Marcum LLP, and he is a co-leader of Marcum’s national retail and consumer products practice group.

Yolanda Aguilar Dave '72 (Spanish), M.A. '81 (Spanish) retired after teaching in Los Angeles Unified School District high schools for 34 years and local community colleges for 20 years. During her career, she was named teacher of the year at Taft High School and Reseda High School. She also was a founding member of the Make-a-Wish Foundation of Greater Los Angeles. Dave has been a longtime volunteer and continues to serve as a project leader at the Los Angeles Mission homeless shelter.

Carla Winter-Evans '73 (Art) lives in Walnut Creek, Calif., and for 30 years has run her own party entertainment company, Partiart, and provided work for many entertainers and artistic talents — including face painters, balloon artists, musicians and handwriting analysts. She has designated the CSUN Department of Art as a beneficiary in her will and cares “very much about my old alma mater, especially anything artistic.”

Craig A. Szabo '74 (Business Administration – Accounting), C.P.A., has been appointed to the board of directors of The Giving Back Fund, a national nonprofit organization that encourages and facilitates charitable giving by professional athletes, celebrities, high-net-worth individuals, nonprofit organizations and corporations.

Robert Bergeson '75 (History) is the executive director of the City of Los Angeles Employee Relations Board. He also is one of 700 members of the premier organization for labor and employment arbitration, the National Academy of Arbitrators. After CSUN, Bergeson earned his M.P.A. from San Diego State in 1981.

Cindy Benes '79 (Recreational Therapy) had a 34-year career with the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD), from 1980-2015. She rose through the ranks as a police officer, detective, sergeant and lieutenant — working assignments that included patrol, undercover vice and narcotics, juvenile, anti-terrorism, and supervising gang, narcotics and vice units. She continues to serve as an LAPD Reserve Officer.

1980S



Dr. Mark R. Henschke '80 (Biology, pictured above) is a board-certified physician in internal medicine and medical management, and he maintains a hospital-based practice in York, Maine. Henschke also is a clinical assistant professor of internal medicine in the osteopathic medicine program at the University of New England. In 2016, he was recognized as one of “America’s Most Honored Professionals” by *American Registry*. He holds a Doctor of Pharmacy degree from the University of Southern California and Master of Medical Management degree from Carnegie Mellon. He lives in New Hampshire and, when not working, can be found surfing off the New England coast and throughout the Western hemisphere.

Sonia Tower '81 (Theatre) was appointed in September 2016 by President Obama to the Advisory Committee on the Arts for the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. Tower is principal of cultural development resources and serves as senior advisor to Ovation TV and The Ovation Foundation, positions she has held since 2015. She was president of The Ovation Foundation and senior vice president of corporate relations at Ovation TV from 2011-15, and vice president of communications for both entities from 2007-11. She has served as a member of the Paley Center Media Council and as director of cultural affairs for the City of Ventura cultural affairs division.

Carole Jo Hughes '83 (Theatre) played Fraulein Schweiger and was in the ball scene of *The Sound of Music* at the Ojai Art Center Theater.





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Red denotes Alumni Association members.



Bonnie Kaplan '84 (Art, pictured above) was named Teacher of the Year for 2016 by the Correctional Education Association. Bonnie worked for more than 16 years in the Parolee Education Program in California under the auspices of the Contra Costa County Office of Education. She currently serves as an instructor in the E.P.I.C. Program on Skid Row in Los Angeles.

Robert Danté Denne '85 (Organizational Systems Management) was elected to a second term as business representative/secretary-treasurer of I.A.T.S.E Local 729, the motion picture set painters and sign writers union.



Lawrence Rush '85 (Music, pictured above) is a composer and lyricist who wrote his first song and sang his first solo at the age of 10. At age 16, he became the youngest member of the world-renowned show choir, The Young Americans. After graduating from CSUN, he became the youngest full-time member of the San Francisco Opera Chorus. He has written numerous musicals, and his shows *Winter of the Fall* and *Pride & Prejudice* — the Musical were finalists for the Richard Rogers Award (the latter had its world premier in November in England). He also is owner and chef at Cooking A Cappella, a cooking school that mixes cooking classes with music. He recently won a Drammy — Portland's version of the Tonys — for best original music for the show *Under the Influence*.

Matador Milestones

Joyce Glantz '80 (M.A., Geography) celebrated the CSUN graduation of her grandson, **Dustan Glantz '16** (Marketing), a third-generation Matador. Also attending the ceremony was Joyce's daughter and Dustan's aunt, **Rosalyn Glantz '10** (Interior Design).

Kari Souza Contreras '87 (Political Science) returned to campus 29 years after her first CSUN graduation — as a graduate student at the Tseng College of Extended Learning, pursuing a Master of Public Administration degree, with a focus on management and leadership. Contreras also noted that she's attending CSUN with her 18-year-old niece, Emily Ann Grigsby, who started her freshman year in August after graduating from Chaminade College Preparatory High School. Grigsby's mother (Contreras' sister), **Katie Grigsby '94** (Political Science), and father, **Scott Grigsby**, are also Matadors.



Erick A. Buitrago '02 (Kinesiology - Athletic Training, pictured above) and fiancée **Jennifer Mastopietro '07** (Psychology) celebrated the birth of their first child, Alaina Rose, in 2016. In the fall, Buitrago also marked his 10-year anniversary as a full-time employee of CSUN Sports Medicine, providing medical care for Matador student-athletes. He works with the CSUN men's soccer team, which won the 2016 Big West Tournament and qualified for the NCAA Tournament.

Andrew Weisser '85 (Journalism), along with Ruth House of ABC7 television, is co-president of the Nonprofit Communications and Media Network, an organization that educates nonprofit professionals, connects with media, and creates communications and cause awareness that make an impact.

John Sparano '87 (Theatre) is in his third season as set decorator for ABC's *Dancing With the Stars*.

Joye Burton Hunter '88 (Political Science), M.P.A. '99 (Public Administration) has worked at the RAND Corporation in Santa Monica for more than 25 years. She recently was promoted to director of research financial operations at RAND, overseeing a department of approximately 50 unit operations directors and staff.

Ellen Friedlieb Mayer '88 (M.S., Counseling) retired as faculty emerita from CSUN's University Counseling Services and is now president and Asian travel specialist for Asian Odysseys — an agency that provides individual and small-group travel throughout Asia. Mayer helps lead small groups to Myanmar and India and across Asia.

1990s



Elisa Kotin '90 (Psychology, pictured above) has travelled extensively since graduating from CSUN, exploring more than 80 countries, culminating in a trip to Antarctica — her seventh continent — on her 50th birthday.

Leonard Martinez '90 (Accounting Theory and Practice) opened a franchise in 2016, CertaPro Painters of Thousand Oaks.

Rosalynn Brown '91 (Psychology), M.S. '96 (Recreation) created 60 original Mardi Gras-themed dolls to serve as decor for the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks annual 90-plus luncheon, honoring 475 senior citizens citywide, age 90 and over, who participate in senior citizen clubs. The William Grant Still Arts Center in Los Angeles selected four of the dolls to exhibit in their 36th annual *Black Doll Show*, from December 2016 to February 2017.

Michael LaPlante '91 (Health Administration) was selected as chief operating officer of the Kimaw Medical Center in Hoopa, Calif., near Eureka. He is board certified in clinical electrophysiology. He has been serving in the Public Health Service for 22 years.

Gene Wilk '91 (Journalism) was included in a new documentary, *Unforgotten 24*, which chronicles a group of veterans — many of them Latino or Jewish — who received the Medal of Honor in a special White House ceremony, years after their service (and previous denials, due to discrimination). Wilk was featured in the film because of his work as a legislative staffer on Capitol Hill. He worked on legislation requiring the Pentagon to release the veterans' records — which led to the long-overdue medals. Wilk spent almost nine years as a Capitol Hill aide, first for Rep. Robert Wexler (D-Fla.) and then for Rep. Adam Schiff (D-Calif.). He lives in New Jersey and works in public policy advocacy and volunteers as chapter advisor to the Phi Kappa Psi fraternity at Rutgers University.

Christina Fenimore '92 (Psychology), M.P.A. '14 (Public Administration) was promoted to a new job in state service. She credited her CSUN M.P.A. for helping her obtain several high-level interviews within the state, including the California Department of Insurance, as well as a promotion to management at the Department of Industrial Relations.

Thomas Huber '92 (Finance) helped plan and celebrate the 50th anniversary weekend for his fraternity, CSUN's Phi Delta Theta, in April. More than 400 fraternity brothers from the chapter's five decades attended the celebration.

Francine Mazza '92 (Organizational Systems Management) is celebrating 25 years of working for Enterprise Rent-A-Car, where she started in 1992 after graduating from CSUN.

Cheri (Sasson) Weiss '93 (Music), M.M. '95 (Music) is completing her fourth year of cantorial studies at the Academy for Jewish Religion-California. Her new album, *Hineni: Music for the High Holy Days*, was distributed free to about 1,000 shut-ins, chaplains, rabbis and social workers.

Bruce Edmiston '95 (Music), M.M. '98 (Music) received recognition from the Grammy Foundation in 2004 when he was awarded the Enterprise Award for diversity in music programs.

Sharon Eisenberg '95 (Speech Communication) creates and designs apparel for Roll on by Rollershirts, a company inspired by roller derby and skating. She started the business while recuperating from a serious roller derby injury. She also serves as head of public relations and marketing for her derby league, Beach Cities Roller Derby.

Vivian J. Malauulu '96 (Journalism) was elected in 2016 to the board of trustees at Long Beach City College, where she has taught journalism. Malauulu noted that she was the first Latina elected to the board,

defeating an incumbent. Previously, she taught high school in the Los Angeles Unified School District for 20 years. In addition to her bachelor's from CSUN, Malauulu earned a Master of Arts from Cal State Dominguez Hills in 2000.

Anahid Yeghiazarian '98 (Child Development), M.S. '01 (Family and Consumer Sciences) works as a substitute teacher for the preschool division at Los Angeles Unified School District early education centers.

2000s

Kim Knight '01 (English), M.A. '04 (English Literature), an assistant professor of emerging media and communication at the University of Texas at Dallas, received the 2016 Regents' Outstanding Teaching Award for her work and innovation in the classroom. Knight credited her training at CSUN for her achievement.

Barbara Eisen-Herman '02 (M.A., Educational Administration) took an early disability retirement after 32 years of service with the Los Angeles Unified School District, teaching children with special needs.

Chas Jackson '04 (Cinema and Television Arts - Screenwriting) had his pilot TV script, *Gents*, chosen as an official selection for the 2016 New York Television Festival. In the script, "a misguided young idealist, whose activism won't pay his rent, fights the gentrification of his West Oakland neighborhood."



Paul Alvarez '05 (Urban Studies, pictured above) appeared on *Wheel of Fortune* as a contestant with his wife, Tracie Futterman-Alvarez.

Peter F. Genovese '05 (Information Systems) was hired early this year as a business analyst at The Doheny Eye Institute, where his work supports projects related to clinical trials of procedures and medicines aimed at curing eye diseases.

IN MEMORY OF DEAN PECKHAM

If you would like to make a gift to the Dean Ed Peckham Legacy Scholarships in Peckham's memory, contact us at (818) 677-7330 or annualgiving@csun.edu, or visit givenow.csun.edu and specify "Dean Ed Peckham Legacy Scholarships" in the Special Instructions field.

REMEMBRANCE

Hail to the Dean

Simply stated, **EDMUND PECKHAM** — or "Dean Ed" as he was affectionately known — was one of the most influential figures in the history of California State University, Northridge. On Oct. 31, 2016, the former dean of students and vice president for student affairs passed away in Arizona at age 92 after a brief illness.

"He is a person we will all choose to remember fondly. Those who had the opportunity to work with him while they were in student government all have classic experiences and discussions they can recall having with him," said William Watkins, CSUN's vice president for student affairs, who worked closely with Peckham as a student when Watkins was Associated Students president in 1973-74. "He clearly had a point of view, but didn't retreat from permitting students an opportunity to express their sense of what they needed for the generation at hand."

Peckham was born in Worcester, Mass., in 1924. The son of two educators, he served in the U.S. Army from 1942-46. He graduated from Brown University in 1948 with a degree in modern and medieval European history, and he later earned his master's (1949) and Ph.D. (1954) in American history and foreign relations from Harvard University.

His influence on CSUN student life spanned more than two decades. He initiated a comprehensive program to improve student life on campus and supervised areas such as student leadership/Associated Students, athletics and Greek life. He oversaw the openings of the University Student Union and the Klotz Student Health Center.

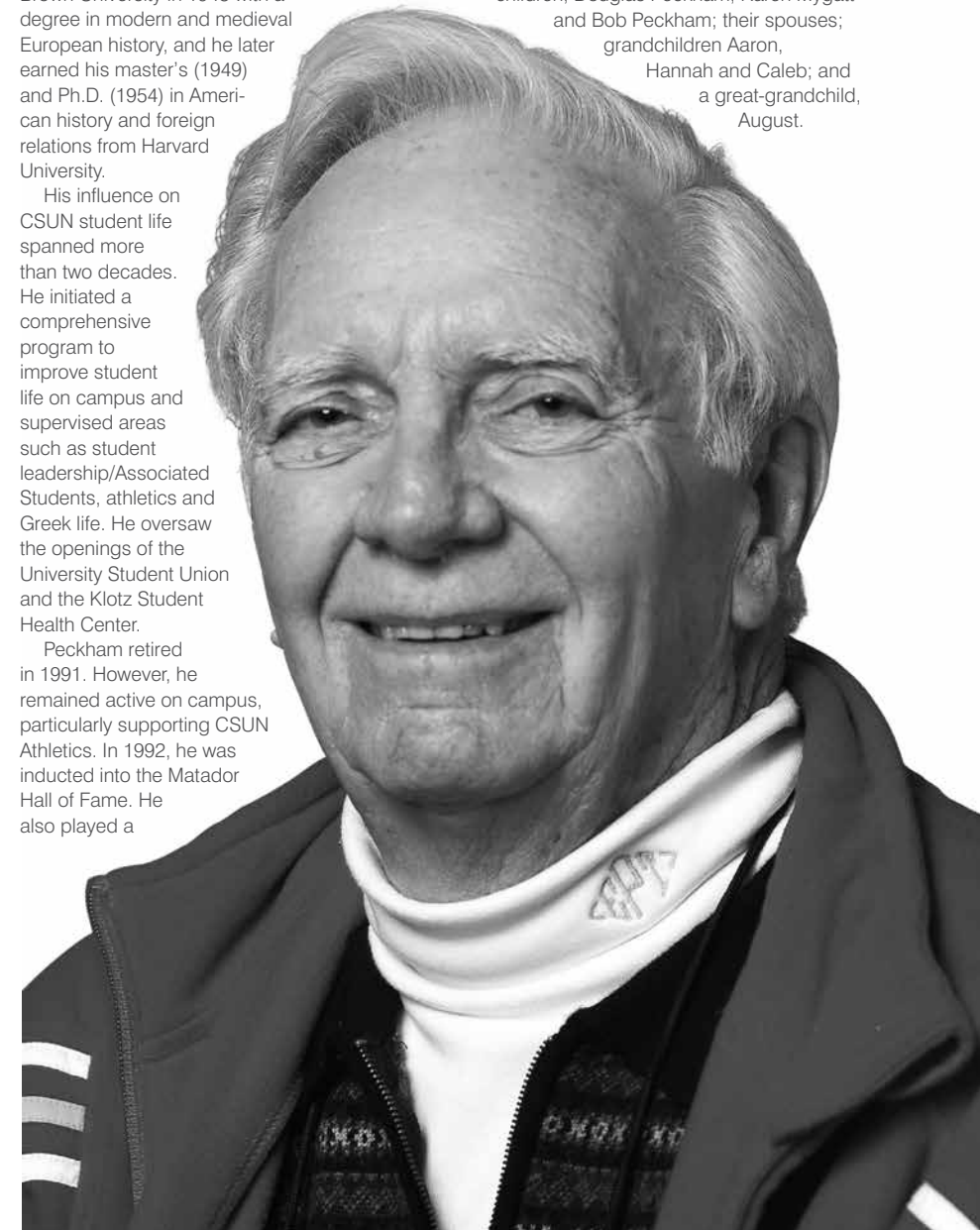
Peckham retired in 1991. However, he remained active on campus, particularly supporting CSUN Athletics. In 1992, he was inducted into the Matador Hall of Fame. He also played a

key role in helping the CSUN Alumni Association enhance its support of current students, creating the Legacy and First Generation Scholarship Programs. Dean Ed Peckham Legacy Scholarships are awarded annually to two members of the CSUN freshman class.

Peckham was named "Honorary Lifetime Director" of the Alumni Association Board of Directors, and in 2000, he received CSUN's first Emeritus Merit Award at the annual Volunteer Service Awards. In 2002, the award was re-named the Dean Ed Peckham Award.

"We named the award after him because of his dedication and loyalty to the university," said Shellie Hadvina '90 (Recreation), M.P.A. '98, assistant vice president for alumni relations and annual giving. "That's a true testament of how involved he was, even after he retired from the institution. CSUN was important to him, and he had such a wealth of information that he shared with us after he retired."

Peckham is survived by his wife, Dorcy; his children, Douglas Peckham, Karen Mygatt and Bob Peckham; their spouses; grandchildren Aaron, Hannah and Caleb; and a great-grandchild, August.



Jill Greenblatt '05 (Theatre) recently was hired as director of post-production and technical operations at National Geographic. She oversees operational and engineering aspects of production and post-production for TV, film and online media.

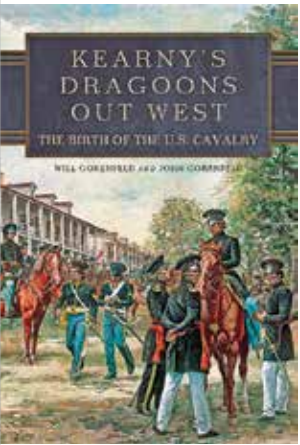


Cary Hanson '06 (Graphic Design, pictured above) launched — with his brother, Brendan — Cold Brew Avenue, a Moorpark-based company that has developed a reusable system for producing cold-brewed coffee. Their eco-friendly system and its patent-pending filter are made entirely of “brewer’s-grade stainless steel.” The proprietary system also eliminates the need for paper filters. It allows users to brew up to 50 gallons per batch. Once brewed and transferred to kegs, “cold brewers” can serve coffee and tea on draft, and infuse beverages with nitrogen for “nitro coffee” and tea. While at CSUN, Cary Hanson played on the Matador men’s volleyball team.



Pilar Diaz '07 (Public Administration, pictured above), M.A. '16 (Educational Administration K-12) was sworn in to the Los Angeles Board of Recreation and Parks Commission on Oct. 21, 2016. The department stewards more than 16,000 acres of parkland, offering recreational, social and cultural programs at 444 park sites. These include some of LA's landmarks such as the Griffith Observatory, the Greek Theatre and the Hollywood sign. She was appointed by Mayor Eric Garcetti.

Published



Will Gorenfeld '65 (Sociology) and his son, John, published *Kearny's Dragoons Out West: The Birth of the U.S. Cavalry*, from University of Oklahoma Press. Will Gorenfeld noted that 57 years ago, San Fernando Valley State College professors Bess Hawes and John Baur inspired him to write a thesis on the folk music of the Army in the American West. The professors provided useful guidance on the project, he said. Law school, marriage, children and a job “sidetracked me for the ensuing years, but the dream was never forgotten,” he said. After he retired in 2007, he rekindled the dream and published the book in fall 2016. “I only wish these two wonderful professors were still alive so that I might thank them for their inspiration and assistance,” Gorenfeld said.

Bettina A. Babbitt '73 (Psychology), M.A. '75 (Educational Psychology) published *Family Stories of Old and New Americans*. She retired from the Aerospace Corporation as a senior engineer. Previously, she worked for Northrop Grumman and Essex Corporation.

Nancy Shiffrin '73 (English) published a series of essays, entitled *My Jewish Name: Heritage and Creativity*; a novel, *Out of the Garden*; and a collection of poetry, *Game with Variations*, from Infinity Publishing.

Sesar Carreno '95 (History) published a history of the San Joaquin Valley city Tulare in the *Images of America* series. A teacher in the Earlimart School District, Carreno was honored with CSUN's Volunteer Service Award in 2002. His brothers, Alex Carreno '96 (Marketing) and Carlos Carreno '04 (History) are also Matador alumni.

Rajiv Uttamchandani '07 (Astrophysics), M.S. '10 (Physics) is an astrophysicist and founder and chairman of the International STEM Society for Human Rights, a nonprofit dedicated to applying science, technology, engineering and mathematics — as well as education — to safeguard the lives of individuals vulnerable to human rights abuses. He is also the director of science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics education initiatives at the New York Film Academy - Los Angeles. He has collaborated with NASA and Northrop Grumman Corporation, and he works with fellow scientists from the Jet Propulsion Laboratory to measure greenhouse gas emissions in metropolitan areas in developing countries. Uttamchandani is pursuing his doctorate in education from Johns Hopkins University, and he lives in LA.



Tom Vinh Bui '08 (Cinema and Television Arts - Screenwriting, pictured above), M.A. '10 (English Literature) climbed Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, the highest mountain on the African continent. This endeavor was a longtime aspiration, incited by copious reading of the works of Ernest Hemingway during his CSUN days while pursuing his master's degree, Bui said.

Carrie F. Murphy '08 (Public Health Education), a former Matador women's soccer player, is working as vice president of operations for the Women's Premier Soccer League (WPSL, headquartered in Sacramento), providing elite athletes the opportunity to play professionally after college. She has helped expand the league and previously served as a player and coach. Her mission, Murphy said, is to help teams all over the U.S. ensure that female athletes learn from strong mentors, and to help raise girls into great leaders.

Nicole (Wilson) Pollock '08 (Counseling) is an associate director of recruiting for Century Group's interim and project services practice. The company is a recruiting and interim-services firm focused on professional, mid-management and executive-level roles in accounting and finance. In 2016, Pollock earned the Certified Staffing Professional designation from the American Staffing Association.

Elizabeth Vargas '08 (Cell and Molecular Biology) has accepted a contract job offer with an employment agency in Texas.



Linda Coburn '09 (Journalism, pictured above) and her husband, John Tajiri, recently celebrated the second anniversary of their electric bike store, Pedego 101, in Westlake Village. They sell and service Pedego Electric Bikes, and offer hourly and daily rentals and local bike tours.

2010s

Rachel Kapp '16 (M.A., Special Education and Educational Therapy) launched Kapp Educational Therapy Services, a private practice that offers a combination of therapeutic and educational strategies. Working with children in a one-on-one setting, she creates remediation plans tailored to each child's needs and learning styles, working toward the goal of becoming successful, autonomous learners.



Andrew Mergenthaler '16 (Electronic Media Management, pictured above) is a production supervisor for Studio Spectrum, where he has worked for the past nine years — throughout his college years and since graduation. Studio Spectrum installs audio-visual systems at CSUN, which is what inspired Mergenthaler to apply to the university's Cinema and Television Arts (CTVA) program, he said. He started at Pasadena City College and was accepted to CSUN in 2014, to the CTVA electronic media management major. With Studio Spectrum, he specializes in AV installation and live video production.

IN MEMORIAM

ALUMNI

STEPHEN F. BOLLENBACH '69 (M.S., Business Administration), a financial whiz who helped engineer Hilton Hotels Corp.'s international expansion, died Oct. 8, 2016, after a long illness. He was 74.

Bollenbach, a Los Angeles native and graduate of CSUN and UCLA, held executive positions at Hilton, Disney, Caesars Entertainment and the Trump Organization, earning a reputation as a creative finance deal maker.

His widow, Kimberly Bollenbach, told the *Los Angeles Times* that her husband considered his work with Hilton as his biggest business achievement. “He was most proud about taking the brand globally,” she said.

He is also survived by two sons and two grandchildren.

RON GRANT, a composer who studied music at CSUN and later won an Oscar and an Emmy for developing the software used by many film and TV composers to create precise timings for their scores, died of septic shock from a liver abscess on Oct. 28, 2016. He was 72.

Grant was born Oct. 16, 1944, in New York City, the son of *Life* magazine photographer Allan Grant. The family moved to Southern California when he was two. He went to Santa Monica City College and then attended CSUN in fall 1977 and spring 1977 — studying the guitar, flute and piano — but jumped into composing and work in Hollywood before he could complete his degree.

He is survived by his wife Benida; daughters Lea and Alycia; brother Richard; and a nephew.

NAHOUM INLENDER '75 (Marketing), a self-made entrepreneur and native of Israel, died in November 2016. He was 68.

Inlender was born in a displaced person's camp in Austria and grew up in Herzliya, Israel. His friends from childhood remained close for life, meeting weekly for a group they called “The Parliament,” whenever he was in Israel.

“Inlender, an entrepreneur in spirit and in life, was beloved for his vivacity and ability to connect with everyone — whether it's a South LA bike group, a Syrian restaurateur or sharing Turkish coffee with neighbors,” the *Los Angeles Jewish Journal* noted in his obituary.

He is survived by children Daniel, Talia (Daniella) and Aaron (Rachel); and grandchildren Rimon, Aviel and Livia.



FACULTY & STAFF

CAROL KELLY (Child and Adolescent Development, pictured above) was a professor emerita who also dedicated her time in retirement to help expand and nurture the Child and Adolescent Development Alumni Association Chapter. Kelly passed away Feb. 10, 2017. The university recognized her commitment to teaching and mentoring CSUN students in 1995, when she received the CSUN Distinguished Teaching Award. After she retired from teaching (in 2007), the Alumni Association also honored Kelly with the Dean Ed Peckham Award in 2009. At CSUN, Kelly established the Carol S. Kelly Endowment Scholarship.

“My passion is to make our world a better place for children, youth and families,” Kelly said in a November 2016 article for the College of Health and Human Development. Whether educating to bring an end to child labor across the globe or reaching out locally to provide equal access to opportunity and education, Kelly focused on the well-being of children and families.

She served on the board of the Association of Child and Youth Care Practice, where she participated in several national committees, including the National Certification of Child and Youth Care Professionals. In August 2016, the association awarded her its Lifetime Professional Achievement Award. She was also inducted into the Ohio Women Hall of Fame.

Kelly came to CSUN (then San Fernando Valley State College) in 1969. She provided key leadership in developing and implementing the interdisciplinary program in child development, and she collaborated across and beyond campus to strengthen the program, which later became the Department of Child and Adolescent Development.

Kelly initiated programs such as the Peace Expo at CSUN, which drew more than 5,000 participants. In addition to serving as a U.S. representative for the International Federation of Educative Communities (FICE), she worked abroad on projects that assist at-risk children in

countries such as Romania and South Africa. Her exemplary work at CSUN also earned her an invitation to serve as a senior consultant for the United Nations' International Year of the Family.

She is survived by daughter Amber Taylor; granddaughters Eliza and Reyna Taylor; a great-grandson; and sisters Marilyn Rabbitt and Patricia Kelly.

JUD KINBERG (Cinema and Television Arts), producer of the films *Lust for Life* and British psychological thriller *The Collector*, died on Nov. 2, 2016, at his home in New York City. He was 91. Kinberg was a Brooklyn native who attended the University of North Carolina. He served with the U.S. Army in World War II and was awarded a Purple Heart and a Silver Star.

According to *Variety*, Kinberg began working in Hollywood under John Houseman, collaborating with him on many films for MGM, including *Julius Caesar* and *Executive Suite*. Kinberg also produced *The Magus*.

He is survived by his wife, Monica; sons Steven and Robert; and grandsons Toby and Oliver.



IRENE THORSELL (Delmar T. Oviatt Library, pictured above), dedicated librarian, mother and grandmother, died on Dec. 2, 2016. She was 88. Thorsell was an emerita faculty member who served on the library faculty at CSUN from 1961-93.

Initially a science reference librarian at what was then San Fernando Valley State College, she later transferred to the Library Cataloging Department, where she spent her remaining years cataloging and classifying books for retrieval.

After she retired from CSUN in 1993, she relocated to the Bay Area, where she enjoyed meeting new friends, spending time with family and traveling.

She is survived by her daughter, Carol May, '77 (Nutrition and Dietetics); her son, Mark; their spouses; and grandchildren.



SET

CSUN's Curly Corner

Are they snakes? Are they worms? What are they, exactly? The beloved CSUN landmark — an avant-garde, 3-D, lowercase “csun” sculpture at the corner of Nordhoff Steet and Zelzah Avenue — is nicknamed the “worm sculpture.” The sculpture was built in April 1973, the same year the Delmar T. Oviatt Library opened, and just a year after the university was renamed California State University, Northridge from its original 1950s and '60s identity, San Fernando Valley State College. The artwork is a perennial favorite spot for graduation photos and curious visitors. It's nestled in a rich, verdant rose garden near the Orange Grove and Monterey Hall and was designed (and later built) by student John T. Banks '72 (Art), M.A. '94 (Three-Dimensional Art).

“The CSUN sculpture was the winner of a contest in 1973 to design a sign for the university,” Banks wrote to university officials in 2011. “It is hard to believe it has been 40 years since its creation. It was the first of many of my public artworks, and I realize this sculpture commission opened many doors of opportunity to me.” Banks currently lives in Henderson, Nev. —*Olivia Herstein*



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