Growth in Health and Human Services

Cal State L.A. has announced that its departments of Social Work and Nursing, in the College of Health and Human Services, have been granted the status of School. The expansion and development of these departments characterizes the rapid growth and increased professional status of the College over the past five years.

Changes in Social Work

The Cal State L.A. School of Social Work includes 437 undergraduates, 153 graduate students and 12 full-time faculty. The baccalaureate program is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education. The Master of Social Work degree program, introduced in the 1996-97 academic year, has initial accreditation from the Council on Social Work Education. Thanh V. Tran, a leading national scholar in the area of research on health behaviors and well-being among various ethnic minority populations, has been named the director of the newly-designated School, as well as professor of social work. Prior to his appointment, Tran was director of the doctoral program at the School of Social Work at Boston College. Tran received his Ph.D. in social work from the University of Texas at Arlington.

Changes in Nursing

The nursing program existed as a department since the late 1960s. The School of Nursing comprises about 200 pre-nursing majors, slightly more than 200 undergraduate nursing students, more than 100 graduate students and 24 full-time faculty. The nursing programs are approved by the California Board of Registered Nursing and recently received continuing eight-year accreditation from the National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission.

Since 2000, when it began surveying nursing graduate programs, U.S. News and World Report “Best Colleges” issue has listed Cal State L.A.’s nursing graduate program among the top five programs in California and the highest ranked CSU system School of Nursing. Judith Papenhausen, the chair of the Department of Nursing for the past six years and a nursing faculty member since 1972, directs the School.

Who helped on this Rose Parade float? (see page 2)
While others were preparing for personal new year celebrations, a Cal State L.A. staff member was cutting bright blue statice flowers, pruning hundreds of blooming roses, and pasting grains of rice and black onion seeds for a more public new year festivity. For the second year in a row, **Evelyn Ortiz Winchester** volunteered to work on the South Pasadena Rose Parade Float. Since childhood, Evelyn has been fascinated by the South Pasadena’s Tournament of Roses Association float displays. Recently she decided to get more involved.

Even though she’s now a resident of La Crescenta, Evelyn treasures the 24 years she lived in South Pasadena, a “small town” that she still considers her city. “Every time I visit the display or work on the float, I meet people I went to school with or people I know—because that’s the kind of community it is,” she says.

Working on the float also allows Evelyn to express her artistic flair: she earned her bachelor’s degree in art from Cal State L.A. in 1982. Working in a surrealist style, Evelyn has exhibited and sold her work, and painted commissioned murals in Burbank and Monterey Park.

**Computer challenge**

A computer programming challenge directed at high school and community college students was held on **Feb. 16** in the University’s state-of-the-art Engineering and Technology building. The inaugural challenge—called **PROGFest I**—was sponsored by the College of Engineering, Computer Science, and Technology (ECST) and the student chapter of the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM).

PROGFest served as the kickoff for the annual **ECST Week** (Feb. 16-22), when local high school and community college students were invited to the campus for “information and exploration.” At the newly instituted PROGFest, visiting students demonstrated their skills in solving sophisticated programming problems using C++, Java and Visual Basic.

**Staff volunteers on Rose Parade float**

During her free time, she helps distribute food to people in Skid Row. She volunteers at the Los Angeles Missions, Salvation Army and Para Los Niños, and has participated in support meetings to provide hope for homeless women and children. Her passion for helping people is evident in her goal of earning a certificate in career counseling, and eventually, a master’s degree in counseling and rehabilitation services at Cal State L.A.

As the program assistant in the Office for the Advancement of Science Engineering and Mathematics—part of the Graduate Studies and Research Office—Evelyn helps and encourages students to pursue their studies in the fields of engineering, mathematics and science.

“Evelyn affects others with her positive attitude and spirit,” says **Ted Crovello**, dean of Graduate Studies and Research. **José Galván**, associate dean of Graduate Studies and Research, adds, “Evelyn has become a valuable resource for graduate students seeking information about graduate and post-graduate opportunities. She has accumulated a wealth of information about available fellowships and other assistance for students, and through her efforts, our office maintains up-to-date program information from many universities.”

**Changes in Other Departments**

The Programs in the former Department of Health and Nutritional Science—including the bachelor’s degree in Health Science and the bachelor’s degree in Nutritional Science—have been moved to the School of Nursing and the Department of Kinesiology, respectively. The move was based on the fit of the degree programs to their new locations, and their placement in well-established academic units is seen as a mutually enhancing opportunity. To reflect this change, the former Department of Kinesiology and Physical Education has been renamed the Department of Kinesiology and Nutritional Science. **Janet Harris** (Kinesiology and Nutritional Science) continues as the department’s chair. The coordinator of the Health Science program in the School of Nursing is **Eleanor Ferguson-Marshalleck**, (Nursing).

In the fall quarter 2001, the name of the Department of Criminal Justice was changed to the Department of Criminal Justice and Criminalistics. The name change brings attention to an important program in the department and reflects the increasing interest in criminalistics and continuing growth in the number of students seeking careers in that field. The department continues to be chaired by **Deborah Baskin**.
Twin choreographers teach to rave reviews

Delighted students weren’t seeing double in their beginning jazz dance class last quarter. Teaching the course were identical twin brothers Frit and Frat Fuller, adjunct faculty members whose music video performance and choreography credits include work with Janet Jackson, Ice-T, Guy, Black Uhuru, Salli B., and RuPaul. The brothers received their BFA and MFA degrees from Cal Arts, and have worked under such award-winning choreographers as Barry Lather, Patty Columbo, Keith Young and Russell Clark. Frit and Frat have toured throughout the United States, the Middle East, Singapore, Taiwan and Japan, and have choreographed for theme parks such as Six Flags Magic Mountain and Universal Studios. They are co-artistic directors of KIN, a multiethnic dance theater company that combines music, dance and theater with a wide range of techniques.

Charter schools study released

Charter schools study released
Study Analyzes Student Achievement in Public Schools Serving Low Socio-Economic Status Students

A Cal State L.A. study revealed that low-income, at-risk students are showing greater improvements in California’s charter schools than in their non-charter counterparts.

The study, by education faculty members—professor Simeon P. Slovacek, and associate professor Anthony J. Kunnan—and doctoral student Hae-Jin Kim, analyzes three years of California’s Academic Performance Index (API) data (1999, 2000, and 2001) for charter and non-charter schools, along with various charter school characteristics.

“Because socioeconomic status (SES) has a strong correlation with student performance on standardized tests,” says Slovacek, the faculty made comparisons “focusing on charter and non-charter schools serving free or reduced lunch-eligible students—that is, low-SES students.”

In general, the study shows that student achievement in California’s low-income charter schools is improving at a faster rate than in similar non-charter schools. This trend is even more pronounced for schools that serve higher percentages of low-SES students.

Along with the student achievement gains, the study shows that charter schools are serving a greater concentration of low-income students than non-charter schools.


Codner’s retailing legacy benefits students

A large crowd gathered at Monterey Hill restaurant in December 2001 to honor long-time faculty member Bernard Codner. Codner, now professor emeritus of marketing in the College of Business and Economics, is an expert in retailing and retail management information systems. He joined the faculty in 1955—eight years after the founding of “L.A. State.”

In 1980, he inaugurated the University’s Institute of Retail Management and served as its first director. Through the Institute, he was able to launch the West Coast’s first retailing major.

In 1991, under Codner’s leadership, the Institute created the College Incentive Program to motivate inner-city students to enroll in college and aim toward careers. The CIP has been recognized as one of the nation’s finest such programs.

For these accomplishments, his long and close association with the retail industry, and success in enlisting the strong support of that industry in University retailing education, Codner received the University’s prestigious Retailer of the Year award in 1998. He was in attendance on February 20, 2002 when—after a hiatus of one year—the College of Business and Economics re-established the Retailer of the Year luncheon, honoring Thomas M. Coughlin, president and CEO of Wal-Mart. On behalf of Wal-Mart, Coughlin presented $40,000 to the College of Business and Economics in support of the Institute. In addition, scholarships totaling $85,000 were awarded to high school and CSULA students to pursue careers in retail management through the University’s programs.
Grammy, Telly, Oscar nods...roll out the red carpet!

Grammy nomination

“America’s Millennium Tribute to Adolphe Sax, Volume 5”—featuring a live recording of David Amram’s Ode to Lord Buckley with Jeff Benedict (Music) on saxophone—received a first-round nomination for a Grammy award in the best classical album category. Produced for Arizona University Recordings, the composition was performed with piano accompaniment by music faculty member Twyla Meyer.

Benedict, founding member of the Orion Saxophone Quartet, has been the winner of four “deebee” awards from Downbeat magazine, one each for Classical Performance and Jazz Composition, and two for Jazz Performance. He is in demand as a classical soloist, and has premiered new works, including the world premiere of Peter Terry’s Into Light for saxophone, chamber orchestra and computer-generated tape, and the mid-west premiere of Ode to Lord Buckley for saxophone and orchestra.

He has been at Cal State L.A. since 1989, where he is the saxophone instructor and director of jazz studies. He has released two jazz albums on the Resurgent Music record label: “Castle Creek Shuffle” and “Standard Fare.”

Telly finalist

“The Cave of the Glowing Skulls,” a documentary featuring archaeological excavations directed by James Brady (Anthropology), was recognized as a finalist in the documentary division of the 23rd Telly Awards. Brady, the film’s chief archaeologist, received a bronze Telly statuette for the honor, along with the film’s producer and director. The film aired on the Discovery Channel.

Brady is a noted cave archaeologist with a specialty in Mayan caves. His scientific investigation of Cueva del Rio Talgua (Cave of the River Talgua) and other caves in the area, done between 1994 and 1996, has significantly changed archaeology’s understanding of this poorly known area of Honduras.

At Cueva del Rio Talgua, Brady’s team discovered a remote burial chamber with skeletal remains of perhaps 100 to 200 individuals. The skulls and bones sparkled with tiny calcium crystals from the limestone cave, thus inspiring the site’s nickname, “The Cave of the Glowing Skulls.”

Brady, who earned his M.A. from Cal State L.A., has taught at George Washington University. He is also directing cave archaeology research in Mexico and Guatemala.

And the Oscar winner is . . .

The Cal State L.A. community had special reason to watch the awarding of the Oscars on March 24. Blake Jackson (Broadcasting) was the cinematographer on The Accountant—a 38-minute film that won an Oscar in the category of “Live Action Short Film.” Jackson also assisted with the film’s production management and pre-production.

The Accountant, one of five films nominated in its category, has been picking up awards at festivals across the country and has been honored at the Slamdance, Fayetteville, Atlanta, Austin and Virginia festivals as well as the Los Angeles International Short Film Festival.

According to filmmaker Alan Bloom, associate chair of the Communication Studies department, “those who have seen this award-winning film are not surprised by this honor. Jackson’s work on The Accountant is beautiful and flawless.” Bloom calls the work “a terrific film,” and attributes its ability to compete in today’s very tough short film environment to the “gorgeous look of its cinematography.”

This is Jackson’s second association with the Academy Awards. He was art director on the 1986 Short Documentary nominee, The Courage To Care.

Olympics fest honor

Cross Roads—a new work by choreographer Donald McKayle and flutist-composer-conductor James Newton (Music)—was honored by inclusion in the 2002 Winter Olympics Arts Festival. Cross Roads was performed by the Limón Dance Company as part of the Limón and Jazz program during the festival at Weber State University in Ogden, Utah, Feb. 13-14. It was tri-commissioned by the University of Texas at Austin; Jacob’s Pillow, the prestigious dance venue where the work premiered June 20, 2001; and the Luckman Fine Arts Complex at Cal State L.A., which presented its West Coast premiere on Apr. 5-6, 2002. Following the Luckman dates, the program traveled to Chico State University.

A CSULA alumnus and director of the Luckman Jazz Orchestra, Newton was also named the University’s sixth Bautzer Professor at the 2001 CSU Advancement Academy Conference in San Diego.

Check out CSULA events: www.calstatela.edu/calendar