New dean takes the helm

Lawrence M. Fritz has been appointed as dean of Graduate Studies and Research, effective June 1. In this capacity, Fritz is responsible for oversight of policies and procedures related to all graduate programs as well as institutional policies and procedures governing research and sponsored programs. He also oversees the operation of special support programs for graduate students, and efforts to broaden the base of external funding at the University.

Previously, Fritz was assistant vice president of research and dean of Graduate Studies, and a tenured professor in biology at Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania. His professional affiliations have included the Council of Graduate Schools, the National Professional Science Master’s Association (founding membership), the Psychological Society of America, and the New York Academy of Sciences, to name a few.

10 women of distinction honored

Ten current and former faculty, staff and administrators were recently honored by the Cross Cultural Centers and the University-Student Union at Cal State L.A.’s 14th annual Distinguished Women Awards ceremony. They were (l-r, back row) Lety Garcia (Judicial Affairs), Joan Fingon (Curriculum and Instruction), Valentine Villa (Social Work/Applied Gerontology Institute), Carol Baszczynski (Information Systems), Kimberly King (Psychology), (front row) Rosann Giarrusso (Sociology), Claudia Kuyoumdjian (Child and Family Studies), Rose Ochi (California Forensic Science Institute), Cortis T. Ushijima (Educational Opportunity Program), and Ellen P. Stein (Research Development).

Student accolades

* Cal State L.A.’s 10-member delegation, which recently served as ambassadors for the Kingdom of Belgium, was awarded Honorable Mention at the annual National Model United Nations conference in New York. Additionally, five of the 11 committees CSULA represented were awarded “Outstanding Position Paper.” For more: www.calstatela.edu/univ/iepp/spotlight/archive/2012/modelun-2012.php.

* CSULA students placed second and third for their innovative projects—the Cal State L.A. Popper Mill and The Eagle-Stone—at the WESTEC (Western Tool Exposition and Conference) 2012 Manufacturing Challenge. This Feedback Challenge, co-sponsored by the Society of Manufacturing Engineers, is an annual competition in which college students design and build products for judging by manufacturing professionals. For more: www.calstatela.edu/univ/iepp/spotlight/archive/2012/westec-2012.php.

* Biology students Adrianna Hernandez and Jennifer Retana were two of 12 students selected from a statewide competition to participate in the CSU-LSAMP Costa Rica Research Summer 2012 Program, a four-week intensive, interdisciplinary tropical field experience for undergraduates. For more: https://lsamp.calstatela.edu/lsamp/main.jsp.

To engender a thriving scholarly community, the Center for Effective Teaching and Learning (CETL) offers a variety of services that support faculty development and create engaging learning environments.

“The CETL is much like a one-stop shop for faculty members to learn what teaching entails in the 21st century and how to become better practitioners in the classroom, thus helping to enhance student learning outcomes,” said Catherine Haras, acting CETL director. Quoting a recent Chronicle of Higher Education article, Haras believes, “Maintaining a strong sense of community is essential for recruiting and retaining excellent faculty members and for encouraging them to invest both professionally and personally in the college and their students.”

Since last fall, more than 100 workshops and webinars have been offered by CETL, on such topics as “Moodle in a Day,” “Social Networking,” “t-Tests Strategies,” “Avising Students,” “Grant Writing,” and more. Moodle is CSULAs open-source learning management system. Also, a new CETL resource, located in the JFK Memorial Library, Palmer Wing, room 3074, was opened specifically for faculty programming, training and roundtable discussions.

In February, the CETL funded 23 instructional effectiveness and undergraduate research mentoring grants for CSULA faculty. These grants support active mentoring of undergraduates and faculty members who want to explore and implement varied approaches of teaching in their disciplines and address challenges in the classroom that affect student success.

In addition, with the support of an Institute for Teaching and Learning (ITL) grant from the CSU Chancellor’s Office, the CETL recently developed “Faculty learning communities” (FLCs) that focus on innovative teaching methods and strategies as well as incorporating the latest educational technologies into their curriculum. Current FLCs focus on teaching large lecture General Education (GE) classes.

This month, the CETL team will also participate in the CSU Institute for Teaching and Learning’s Summer Institute: “GE Assessment Part II: Tests and Strategies.”

Under the direction of Haras, the CETL staff includes Angelique Hamane, acting CETL director; Flavio Argueta, lab manager; Jeffro Lipson, student assistant; Edward Diaz, student assistant; Bethany Shen, student assistant; Skakina Thomas, graduate intern; and Diodre Rosen, information technology consultant. For more about CETL services and resources, visit www.calstatela.edu/academic/cetl/index.php or call (323) 343-6594.

University Reports

To view a clean, high-resolution version of this document, visit www.calstatela.edu/UniversityReports.

Lending your voice

Do you want to be heard? Cal State L.A’s Legislative Action Center provides opportunities for the campus community that are comprehensive, direct and user-friendly. The e-advocacy portal features many tools that offer insight into what is happening in Sacramento, and enables users to add their own voices toward the future of California and higher education. Users may find information on current legislation, key votes, and how Capitol Hill operates. They may also search for political representatives and learn how to contact them directly. The website includes a guide and interactive map to follow the race for the White House. For a more localized voice, the e-advocacy portal also features new publications across the state, with email links to send letters to editors. To get involved, visit http://capsite2.com/calstate/home.
Volunteers offer ‘Peace’ of mind

The Peace Corps has recognized Cal State L.A. as among its top volunteer-producing Hispanic Serving Institutions. This year, CSULA ranked fifth with 11 undergraduate alumni serving as volunteers for the international volunteer program. The Peace Corps proudly congratulates these long-term Hispanic Serving Institutions that have encouraged countless students to serve others through Peace Corps service worldwide,” said Peace Corps Director Aaron S. Williams.

President is ACE leader

CSULA’s President James M. Rosser was honored with the 2012 Regional Wilson Diversity Leadership Award from the American Council on Education (ACE) at its 94th Annual Meeting in Los Angeles. The award is given every year to an individual who has made outstanding contributions and demonstrated sustained commitment to diversity in higher education. It is named in honor of W. Wilson Wilson, former senior vice president at ACE and former director of the organization’s Office of Minority Concerns. For more, visit calstate.edu/news/2012/Release/honor.stm

PBI improves public health

To help improve the health of those living in the Central Valley, the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM) recently awarded a $236,664 grant to the Pal Brown Institute (PBI) for its Public Policy Education Program and allow the institute to work closely with TCS’s Building Healthy Communities Group. For more, visit calstate.edu/nueva/news/news/2012/pbi-stem.

Army grant helps battle bacteria

In January 2012, the Army Research Office awarded a three-year grant to Cal State L.A. for research and student training in the discovery of antibacterial compounds from natural product sources. Howard Xu, associate professor of microbiology, and his students will collaborate with scientists at the University of Michigan in the proposed research and training activities. To learn more, visit www.calstatela.edu/univ/pa/news/releases/ArmyGrant.htm.

Grant ‘stems’ research

Cal State L.A. and Cal Poly Pomona have received a three-year, $1.5 million grant to develop a stem cell curriculum and promote cross-campus faculty and student interactions. For info: www.calstatela.edu/univ/pa/news/releases/BioDefensePrograms.htm.

Health, education execs to keynote Commencements

At this year’s Commencement exercises Friday and Saturday, June 15-16, Born and raised in Montebello, Richard D. Cordova, president and chief executive officer of Children’s Hospital Los Angeles (CHLA), will address the Friday evening ceremony. Cordova was named Los Angeles Business Journal’s 2011 CEO of the Year and Cal State L.A.’s 2012 Alumnus of the Year.

Cordova assumed his current role in 2006; after he became president and chief operating officer. In 2012, he also serves as a member of the hospital Board of Trustees. Prior to his arrival at Children’s Hospital Los Angeles, Cordova worked with Kaiser Foundation Health Plan and Hospitals.

Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education Eduardo M. Ochoa was named to his current post by President Barack Obama on Feb. 23, 2010, and confirmed by the U.S. Senate on June 22, 2010. In that capacity, he serves as the secretary’s chief adviser on higher education issues and administers more than 60 programs that are designed to provide financial assistance to eligible students enrolled in postsecondary institutions.

In the classroom, Ochoa served as professor of economics, chair of the Department of Economics, and acting dean of the former School of Business and Economics. He also led the College’s Bureau of Business and Economic Research for three years.

Ochoa was recently named interim president of CSU Monterey Bay and will begin his new position July 1.

Grad Fair attracts high attendance

This past April, the CSULA Alumni Association sold 1,000 Grad Packs at the University’s 17th annual Grad Fair, a one-stop shop and job recruitment event organized for the Class of 2012. The Grad Pack is a special package that includes the Alumni Association membership and discounts for many of the students’ graduation needs. This year’s Grad Fair was highly attended, drawing 5,200 students over a two-day period.

Beyond the classroom

Students today, more than ever, are not confined within classroom walls as learning environments extend into local communities, and across the state lines, to offer learners first-hand knowledge from real-life applications.

While serving as role models,” said Professor Rebecca Joseph, “our teaching credential students also benefitted by practicing how to counsel the children and how to teach them the basics of writing for college readiness.”

Most recently, CSULA engineering students demonstrated their technical skills by participating in the 62nd Los Angeles County Science Fair held at the Pasadena Convention Center. They were on hand to discuss their projects, such as the Solar Trike, Q Drum project, submarine robot, and the Hydrogen Super Eagle fuel-cell vehicle; to help cultivate the next generation of scientific and scientific innovators.

U.S. News and World Report’s 2013 “America’s Best Graduate Schools” edition has ranked Cal State L.A.’s nursing master’s degree program among the top in the nation. Cal State L.A. is one of only two public universities in the Los Angeles area, and the only CSU campus, listed in the top 100. CSULA will launch a joint Doctor of Nursing Practice pilot program this fall. Also, the nursing program celebrated its 60th anniversary on Saturday, June 2. For info: www.calstatela.edu/univ/pa/news/releases/uusnews12-nursing.htm.