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Volunteering with EPIC (Educational Participation in Communities) and with my sorority, Delta Phi Sigma, I’ve done arts and crafts with children from local schools and donated food and toys to children at an orphanage in Tijuana. It’s incredibly gratifying to do something for someone else. The children I’ve worked with have explained their difficulties to me, which is why I want to go into social work.

I’ve been a basketball coach at the Boys and Girls Club in San Gabriel, helped organize fundraisers to aid tsunami victims, and donated my hair to Locks of Love, which provides hairpieces to children with leukemia. There’s always a need for people to do this kind of work, and it’s a great way to meet people who share similar goals and interests. It’s motivating to see that people who are busy still find time to volunteer.

I’ve served residents at nursing homes—I wanted to help out and do something nice. Volunteering is something you can put your heart into, and it can help you make good connections and learn new things.

I’ve volunteered at a camp for underprivileged kids, training counselors. It’s helped me gain a better understanding of myself and to appreciate what I have. The kids at the camp seemed really grateful, and we encouraged them to work toward higher education to help them take control of their lives.

I’ve sorted food at an L.A. food bank to give to the hungry. Also, my SAE pledge brothers and I have put on toy and food drives. We throw fundraisers where people have to donate toys to get in. It feels good to have fun and help people at the same time.

I’ve helped out at a hospital in Alhambra, answering phones and giving water to patients. I’ve also done volunteer work in the Peruvian community—I’m Peruvian so I like to stay involved. Volunteering is important because you’re helping out for the good of everyone. You also learn things about yourself. I wanted to be a nurse, but now that I’ve worked in a hospital, I realize I’d like to change my career focus.

I haven’t done much volunteering yet, but I definitely plan to volunteer in the future. Since I want to earn my Ph.D. in biochemistry, I hope to steer kids toward science. By volunteering, you get to learn about other people’s situations and get to know about each other.

I’ve volunteered as an emergency medical technician on a first-aid squad, and participated in a show to raise money for kids with cancer. It’s really cool to see that what you’ve done has helped others who might not have the same advantages in life, as I do.
Childcare expertise as close as your TV

How does one deal with a child's embarrassing questions? What is the best way to help children prepare for school? How much television should children watch? What's the best way to treat a youngster's cold?

These are among the questions addressed by doctors, teachers and experienced caregivers on A Place of Our Own and its Spanish-language counterpart, Los Niños en Su Casa—innovative educational television programming that provides support, information and inspiration to those who care for young children. It airs six days a week on KCET in Los Angeles and other public stations throughout California, largely thanks to the efforts of Cal State L.A.’s president and faculty.

“Statistics show that many children aren’t sufficiently prepared when they enter kindergarten,” says Ann Barbour, KCET’s educational consultant on the program and professor in Cal State L.A.’s Charter College of Education. “Without foundational understandings, many children are not able to acquire skills quickly enough to keep up with formal instruction in the early grades. This unique program helps us reach people who might not have access to formal childcare education.”

Barbour, a specialist in early childhood education, became involved with the program upon the recommendation of President James M. Rosser, who sits on KCET’s board of directors and recognized the great need for this type of educational programming. As a result, Barbour went on to write a White Paper that helped launch the show, and she now serves as a content advisor and occasional guest “expert.”

Pamela Kisor, director of Cal State L.A.’s Anna Bing Arnold Children’s Center, also frequently appears as an expert on the show, offering advice on topics ranging from how children develop pro-social behavior to understanding positive discipline techniques. “I’ve been in the field for over 30 years, so I love being able to offer my expertise to other childcare providers,” says Kisor. “The program is very accessible and reaches a broad audience.”

The show has been filmed on location at Cal State L.A. in the Children’s Center, which is held up by the show as a model child care and educational facility. “Families from our Center have been on the show, so in many ways the whole Center participates,” Kisor points out.

No other television program has so directly sought to support caregivers in their efforts to help young children learn, says Barbour. The cultural backgrounds, needs, and interests of these caregivers have been carefully considered and led to the existing companion show format. The Spanish-language Los Niños en Su Casa is not a mere translation of the English-language program, but has its own production team and host. It presents a similar content adapted for the cultural and language differences of Latino audiences.

The programs are augmented by detailed Web sites, available at www.aplaceofourown.org and www.losninosensucasa.org.
"My research is driven by the experiences of my family and my community," says Rita Ledesma, associate professor of social work, who has spent years studying the grieving process of American Indians in the United States. Ledesma is an L.A. native of Oglala Lakota (also known as Sioux) and Mexican heritage. A generous grant from the Open Society Institute of the Soros Foundations Network funded this research through its project on Death in America.

"For American Indians, it's not only the bereavement one experiences when grandpa dies," explains Ledesma. "It has to do with being born into a culture where there are historical losses related to genocide and colonization, as well as exposure to many losses throughout a person's lifetime due to high suicide rates, illnesses and early death rates."

Because Ledesma's clinical social work practice is based in the American Indian and Latino urban communities, she approaches her research with an insider's insight. "Many urban Indians experience suffering from being disconnected from their community, from discriminatory practices and from poverty. There is a whole laundry list of painful experiences that comes into play when somebody dies."

But Ledesma is quick to point out that even though the American Indian community has experienced unique hardships, theirs is not only a story of suffering, but also of strength and courage, and people caring for one another. "They've managed to hang on to who they are and what they believe in," she says.

Ledesma says her research was fueled by the desire to understand how her Lakota family survived losses, as well as how people in general survive such experiences. Her findings, discussed at the Healing American Indian Nations Conference, will also be used to develop curricula for people who work in the American Indian community, including social workers, psychologists and medical professionals. Ledesma, passionate about sharing her research with her students, says, "I love helping students identify strengths in people. Many have had loss experiences, and I hope to encourage them to use their personal experiences to gain insight into how to best help their communities."
At high altitudes, it’s difficult for athletes to train because of the lack of oxygen. That is why Nazareth Khodiguian, associate professor of kinesiology, and a dedicated group of students, spent two years—including summer vacations—building an altitude chamber. They’re now putting the finishing touches on this rare and valuable piece of equipment that simulates the effects of high altitudes on the human body.

“The less air there is above you, the less air and oxygen pressure there is,” Khodiguian explains. This can have varying effects on the body. For example, simply spending time at high altitudes may improve athletes’ endurance performances at low altitudes by stimulating the production of red blood cells that carry oxygen through the body.

“Our is one of the very few Hypobaric Altitude Simulators available for research in southern California,” says Khodiguian. The chamber was the brainchild of Khodiguian and graduate student Jens Johansson, who specialized in exercise physiology and science and was interested in using the chamber to conduct high-altitude research.

“I knew it was a good area of research, and that many students could benefit from the chamber for years to come,” Khodiguian says.

The forward-thinking professor and exercise science student volunteers including Johansson, Amerigo Rossi, John McCaffery and Armando Ureno, created this 5’x5’x7’ rectangular iron-enforced aluminum chamber from the ground up, with Khodiguian doing the welding and aluminum cutting. “Our goal was to simulate half an atmosphere, which is equivalent to 15,000 feet. We have surpassed that and been able to achieve more than 26,000—nearly the height of Mount Everest.”

To simulate high altitudes, an eight-horsepower vacuum pump gradually sucks air out of the chamber, while the air intake is progressively restricted. The air pressure is measured by a monitor, and closely watched by a faculty member to ensure it does not rise or drop too quickly.

Now that the chamber is almost complete, “It’s all vaulted and sealed and vacuum-tight,” Khodiguian says, it will be used for research in several fields. “We’re trying to involve as many people as possible across disciplines—from biology, kinesiology, engineering and more. It may even benefit CSULA’s cross country team.”

Khodiguian plans to focus on athletic training. Training at high altitudes can help an athlete’s performance in endurance events at both low and high altitudes. “It is more difficult for athletes to train at high altitudes due to the lack of oxygen, but those who do often perform better,” says Khodiguian. He cites the high altitude of the Mexico City Olympics. “Some of the athletes who came from countries with lower altitudes were predicted to win, but wound up performing poorly. And athletes who came from high-altitude countries had a tremendous advantage.”

Khodiguian says that he hopes biologists will find other uses for the chamber as well, such as investigating whether high altitudes could stimulate the production of red blood cells to help sufferers of anemia or those who have low hemoglobin concentrations.
When Martin Feinstein (’70 BS) joined Farmers Insurance Group as a claims adjuster soon after graduating from Cal State L.A., he never imagined he would end up as chief executive officer of this third-largest U.S. home and auto insurer with more than 15 million customers. “I didn’t have any aspirations to become CEO until I had worked there for several years and was told I was on that track. It came as a complete surprise.”

But it doesn’t seem surprising to those who know him. Open and friendly, yet firm and with a good head for business, Feinstein knows how to motivate. “It’s important to get people in an organization to understand what its goals are, rather than telling them what to do,” he says. “So it’s vital to use communication, a very important tool. And to be adaptable and open-minded. The world moves on, and we have to embrace it, not fight it.”

This approach served him well in his previous position as chief marketing officer for several years, and also as Farmers’ chief information officer. “I didn’t have any technical expertise,” he says, “but I quickly learned the power of technology, and how our insurance agents could use it as a tool.” Over the past three-and-a-half decades, Feinstein has been involved in several facets of the company, ranging from heading Latin American operations on behalf of Zurich Financial Services Group division, to spearheading Farmers charitable giving campaigns. “All major corporations have a responsibility to serve the community,” he says. “We have a value system, and take pride in employees who go beyond making charitable contributions and are actively involved in their communities.”

Feinstein feels very strongly about the value of education, and encourages Farmers employees to volunteer in community education projects, as well as to further their own education. “Education is an investment you make in yourself,” he says. “It doesn’t happen by mistake. You have to take responsibility for it.”

Feinstein says that his experience at CSULA not only gave him a grounding in academics, but also taught him about meeting life’s commitments. “While I was at Cal State L.A., I was married and juggling a family with school and a job, like many of today’s students,” he says. “But I learned to meet my commitments and trust people.”

And now, even though Feinstein juggles an incredibly busy schedule, he still finds time to “hang ten” in his favorite pasttime—surfing. “I love surfing because it’s man against nature—you stop focusing on problems—and it gives you clarity,” he says. He recently received a gift from the Farmers Board of Governors—a surfboard with his cartoon caricature on it—prominently displayed in his Hancock Park office.

Now, at a youthful 56, Feinstein plans to retire after a spectacular final year at Farmers, in which earnings grew above a billion dollars for the first time in the company’s history, all life insurance sales records were broken, and the company had a 22-percent increase in hiring new agents. “It was a good year indeed,” Feinstein says. But now, he’s looking forward to having more time to surf and travel, while acknowledging mixed emotions about retirement. “I’ve been [at Farmers] for 34 years. This has been my life. But I’ve made a commitment not to worry about the next stage until I get there—it will be another new adventure.”
"Our primary goal is to keep our communities healthy," says Rhea Williams, acting director of Cal State L.A.’s School of Nursing. Unfortunately, this has become a challenge for California’s health care industry due to the state’s severe nursing shortage. A recent survey by the California Strategic Planning Committee for Nursing revealed that California has the lowest proportion of working nurses in the U.S. – 566 per 100,000 people – and will need at least 67,000 additional nurses by next year.

To help address this, the School of Nursing—which has one of the largest and most diverse undergraduate nursing programs in the country—has begun innovative programs to add more highly trained nurses to California’s workforce.

In a new Collaborative Track Nursing program, Cal State L.A. joined forces with community colleges and Cedars Sinai Medical Center, San Gabriel Valley Medical Center, and White Memorial Hospital to help nursing students make a smooth and timely transition from community college to Cal State L.A. to earn their Bachelor of Science degrees in Nursing (BSN). The California Community Foundation also provided a grant for this project, in which students take two years of prerequisites and community college courses before seamlessly transferring to Cal State L.A.

“This program provides a great benefit to the community because it prepares an increased number of nurses in a shorter period of time,” says Williams. “Nearly every report from health care organizations says the country needs more baccalaureate-prepared nurses. The basic foundation of the BSN is broad in scope and depth, and prepares nurses to become strong leaders,” Williams says. “If we can get students to enter the program before the realities of life and work hit, it’s much more likely they’ll successfully complete it.”

Another cutting-edge program, using the latest broadcast technology, allows students all over the state to earn their Master of Science in Nursing (MSN) without having to go far from home. The way it works is simple. Students in the Distance Learning MSN program take “virtual” Web-based and telecommunications classes in cities including Oakland, Hayward, Santa Barbara and Los Angeles. Lectures given by nursing professor Randy Caine at the Kaiser Permanente Broadcasting Center in Pasadena are transmitted to students at centers in these remote locations. Highly trained on-site faculty coordinators provide extra help. This program was made possible with the support of Kaiser Permanente Hospitals.

Through the wonders of technology, students can interact with the professor and fellow students in other cities, asking questions and delivering presentations. “It really is the most modern development in tele-education,” says says Patricia Chin, associate professor of nursing. “It makes advanced education courses more accessible to nurses who may not be close to institutions that offer them.” Another innovation is the Nursing Onsite program, which established “satellite campuses” in medical facilities to train more nursing students. Cal State L.A. partnered with Little Company of Mary, Cedars-Sinai, Glendale Adventist and Torrance Memorial Medical Centers, with each providing support for undergraduate and graduate nursing courses. Also, the Tenet Healthcare Foundation provided funding for an Entry Level Master’s program, allowing students who received a baccalaureate degree in a discipline other than nursing (and completed science and English requirements) to earn a master’s in nursing in five quarters.

The most important aspect of all of these new approaches, says Williams, is that they will help increase the number of highly skilled nurses serving our communities and keeping them healthy. “Every family needs a nurse,” says Williams. “Our graduates provide the highest quality care for patients across their lifespan.”
A step toward hope for spinal cord injuries

Before Andrea Jennings decided to participate in Cal State L.A.’s Spinal Cord Injury and Exercise Research (SCIER) project, she was told by doctors and therapists that she would never again walk on her own.

Within one month, however, Jennings was walking with minimal assistance using a novel rehabilitation system—“a really remarkable outcome,” according to Ray de Leon, the faculty member who, along with kinesiology professors Jesus Dominguez and Tamar Semerjian, oversees the SCIER project.

Following a car accident in October 2000, in which she suffered spinal cord and brain injuries, Jennings refused to accept doctors’ diagnoses that she would never walk again. After more than two years of seeing a battery of doctors, she was ready to try anything.

In 2003, Jennings heard about the SCIER project through a friend, Eve-Lynn Brown, one of several students working on the project. Jennings didn’t inquire about it, however, until her 14-year-old daughter enrolled at Cal State L.A. to take courses for college credit. What happened after that astonished both Jennings and CSULA researchers alike.

Three SCIER fellows—specially trained to conduct this therapy—began to work with Jennings using a state-of-the-art gait-training machine by Robomedica, Inc., designed for a variety of needs, including patients with neural impairments, orthopedic injuries and degenerative diseases. The machine supports Jenning’s body weight with a harness above a treadmill.

At the same time, student “step trainers”—Chung Lim, Suzanne Montague and Troy Young—assist Jenning’s legs with sensory cues that simulate walking motion and rhythm, helping her to relearn swing and stance (the two phases of walking). The computerized apparatus continually adjusts the amount of support she receives during stepping, and allows the SCIER team to modify the treadmill speed and body weight support as she progresses.

De Leon, the project’s principal investigator, notes, “It was amazing! We started to see major results with Andrea, who recovered significant walking ability after only a few weeks. Her recovery is a testament not only to her hard work and determination, but also to the project’s dedicated students who have worked with her so intensely.”

Jennings attributes much of her recovery to her religious faith, but also can’t stop praising the SCIER Fellows, professors, and the designers of the gait-training equipment. “A lot depends on your support system,” she points out. “If you have a good team like Ray and his students, you have a chance of healing. I want to get this message of hope out to as many people with spinal cord injury as possible, to let them know there is a place they can go to get help.”

With renewed aspirations, Jennings devotes herself to increasing public awareness about the needs of people with disabilities and to raising self-esteem for newly injured or diagnosed “differently-abled” individuals.

Aiming to specialize in disability and housing accessibility issues, Jennings plans to pursue a bachelor’s degree in political science with an option in public administration—but she is not content to stop there. She looks forward to the day when she’ll walk entirely on her own. In the meantime, she wants to get the word out about the SCIER project in hopes that it will provide similar benefits to others.
Helen LeDonne is constantly on the go. Working toward her bachelor's degree in vocational education, she juggles classes, two jobs and a family. You'd think she has more than enough to keep her busy, yet she still finds time to volunteer in her community.

“I love to put a smile on a face and see that I helped brighten somebody's day,” says LeDonne, who regularly volunteers at ONEgeneration, a Van Nuys day care center serving both ends of the aging spectrum: seniors and children.

LeDonne, a hairstylist who heads the cosmetology department at a community college, became interested in volunteering after studying how various cultures deal with the aging process in professor ChorSwang Ngin’s anthropology class. Now at ONEgeneration, LeDonne pitches in wherever she’s needed – reading, helping with art projects, and often just visiting and offering friendship and support.

“Helen has great ideas – she’s very hands-on,” says Patricia Nash, activity manager at ONEgeneration. “She shows a lot of concern for the people here, and she always asks what more she can do.”

LeDonne is just one of many students involved in community service work. Cal State L.A.’s Educational Participation in Communities (EPIC) program places hundreds of students each year in non-profit community service positions at schools, hospitals, community centers, and other service agencies. Through programs such as this, student volunteers gain invaluable experience, insights and the chance to apply classroom theories in real-life settings.

Gustavo Rojas ('04), who is pursuing his teaching credential, tutors a dyslexic high school student, a position made possible by EPIC. “Learning is progressive, and every day we meet she gets that much better,” he says. Rojas constantly tries to think of innovative approaches to make tutoring sessions interesting as well as educational. “I learned that to enhance learning, I needed to bond with her and make it fun. So I found out her interests and chose books she liked.”

Rojas says that volunteering has been extremely rewarding, and will help prepare him for a teaching career. “I know it’s only a matter of months until I start teaching professionally,” he says. “I’ve learned that it’s a huge responsibility, and that 60 percent of tutoring involves encouragement.”

Many CSULA professors encourage students to serve in their communities, recognizing that it not only benefits the community, but also provides students with valuable learning experiences.

Sheri Atwater, assistant professor of psychology, developed a program in which graduate students from her Individual Clinical...
Counseling class provide free counseling for middle and high school students in an urban setting. “It provides an ideal opportunity for our students to practice the theories they’ve learned in the real world,” says Atwater. “And it provides middle and high school ‘clients,’ many of whom have been identified as being at risk of failing, with valuable one-on-one counseling.”

Atwater’s students have found the experience to be invaluable. “It’s hands-on learning,” says Kenny Gamon, a graduate student in the counseling program. “We learn theories from our classes and put them into practice here.”

Says graduate student Carolyn Peraza: “It facilitates what we want to do in life. And it’s great to see the kids grow. I grew too!”

Kimberly King, assistant professor of psychology, also designed courses with community service components. “It’s important for students to see that they can make a difference in their communities,” King says. “It’s something they can put on their resumes, and I want them to see community work as a viable career choice. Most students love it. They feel like they’re learning a lot and really doing something, rather than just studying about it.”

“Volunteering has helped me gain self-confidence, patience, and has made me a more well-rounded person.”

Freshman biology major and EPIC volunteer Diyana Issi feels she has learned a great deal by tutoring third-graders in math at Hammel Street Elementary School in Los Angeles. “Working with little kids is so much fun, you forget your own troubles,” she says. “Volunteering has helped me gain self-confidence, patience, and has made me a more well-rounded person.”

Now that Issi has volunteering time under her belt, she enthusiastically recommends that her friends give it a try. “Volunteering is its own reward,” she says, smiling.

And Rojas believes that what he’s learned in school and through volunteering has opened his eyes to the world around him. “I’m much more concerned about society than I was before,” he says.

LeDonne, who now encourages her community college students to volunteer with seniors, has learned that just being there can make a great difference. “One day a lady said to me, ‘I’m so glad you’re here.’ It was so moving to see how grateful she was.”
Miles Peterson, professor of communication disorders and director of CSULA’s Hearing Clinic, never imagined he would end up helping establish Botswana’s first national hearing program. But sometimes life can take some unexpected turns…

Last December, Peterson found himself in the southern African country at the request of former student Saadia Rossenkhan (’03 MA), who was back in her native country working to establish its national hearing program. “Saadia told me there were no hearing services in the entire country of 1.5 million people,” says Peterson. “So there was obviously a great need.”

Rosenkhan had returned home after completing her M.A. in audiology – the study and treatment of hearing defects. When Rossenkhan called Peterson to ask if he would help get the project of the ground, he immediately knew the answer.

“I told her I was looking for a humanitarian service program, and that I would love to get involved,” says Peterson. Two months later, he took vacation days to visit Botswana, volunteering his time and services.

Peterson found that Botswana children often failed because their schools had no screening programs, meaning that hearing problems were often not diagnosed until age 8 or later. To address this, Peterson recommended national school and newborn hearing screening programs. He also suggested an audiology awareness campaign in schools, industry and hospitals to encourage cooperation between health care and educational professionals. Peterson also advocated the development of OSHA standards to protect those at most risk of hearing loss, such as diamond mine workers and soldiers.

“I initially was going to help set up a clinic and see patients, but I wound up doing a lot of training for other professionals, government, and staff,” he says. Evaluating the situation, he realized that building a system from the ground up would have the greatest lasting impact. Peterson points out that the training Rossenkhan received at Cal State L.A. prepared her for this challenge. “Her whole experience here has caused her to really stand out, and she will be a great influence in Botswana,” he says.

Rosenkhan was sent by Botswana’s Ministry of Education to Cal State L.A. to earn her M.A. in audiology. Through this program, the Ministry selects bright, motivated individuals to earn their degrees in fields that would best serve the country’s health needs.

The Botswana government offered Peterson a consulting post after his visit, but he says he prefers volunteering, adding that “this experience gave me a greater desire to do humanitarian work.”
The challenge to go beyond the box

As a young college graduate, Robert Voit (MA ’67) thought a good starting point would be to get a first-hand look at the world. He traveled through Eastern Europe, and spent six months in Africa. Upon his return to Southern California, reality hit when his father urged him to get a job. “I remember thinking that from school to life was quite a step,” he recalled recently from his Newport Beach offices.

So—like so many Cal State L.A. students of today, Voit did a bit of both—working during the day, and at night, striving toward a graduate degree at what was then L.A. State College. Voit, who earned his BA at UC Berkeley remembers he especially enjoyed his graduate level liberal arts and political science classes. “I met the professor who was to have the most profound influence on my thinking—not only about freedom, but a belief in taking responsibility.” At his day job, Voit was earning $400 per month in the company mailroom and handling its bank runs.

By 1967, with his master’s degree in American Studies in hand, he was heading toward what he envisioned to be a career as a commercial real estate broker. “Until I realized that selling real estate wasn’t what I wanted to do.” He says his liberal arts graduate education opened his eyes to the realization that “climbing a mountain is what appeals to me, because success depends upon a lot of things, luck being one of them.”

So, in 1971-72, observing that banks were looking to “move a good deal of money out of their doors” he jumped in, building two San Fernando Valley buildings totaling about 83,000 square feet. “My concept was to take this well-built low rise building and make it more appealing with landscaping, wide corridors, convenient parking and other quality details.” Instinctively, he believed that people were tired of commuting and wanted to work closer to home.

Encouraged by his initial success, he took on more debt. But by 1974, with the economy in a downturn, he was stretched almost to the point of having to close his business. He credits luck with bringing forth a financial partner, allowing him to finish his dream development project, Woodland Hills’ Warner Center, establishing The Voit Companies as a major player in commercial real estate.

In planning Warner Center, he thought about the ways to serve the people who would work there. For example, recognizing that childcare was a great need, he consulted with organizations such as the Boys and Girls Clubs. “We also added things like easier transportation, as well as fitness centers, waterfalls, settings that would help keep employees comfortable. I soon came to realize that what we were doing is now known as social engineering,” he says with a smile. “For me, it always was—and still is—about creating value.”

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14
Understanding estate planning

Life-altering events, such as a death in the family, a marriage or a move to a new location, often motivate us to evaluate other areas of our lives. These turning points are also a good time to consider estate and financial plans. First, you should ensure you own personal security. Next, you want to know that your financial needs will be met as long as you live. You want to minimize your tax burden, and in case of a prolonged illness, you want your bills to be paid and your finances to be prudently managed.

**Family responsibilities**

If you are married, you and your spouse should decide how your estate will be administered for the maximum advantage of the survivor. Your will and trusts can help you do that. Your will should also name a guardian for those under your care.

**Your possessions**

Perhaps you have jewelry, art objects, a collection or other prized personal possessions you would like to give to someone. If you own multiple pieces of real estate, you may want to name certain beneficiaries to receive particular parcels. Be clear about your intentions in your will.

Cautious planning of your estate can often minimize taxes, leaving a larger portion of your estate to persons and causes you choose. If you are married and your estate exceeds $1.5 million, plan to make full use of the exempt amount allowed for each of you. Remember you can also give any number of individuals a total of $11,000 each per year, tax free, to reduce your estate.

As you finalize your arrangements, you can also ensure that your generosity to Cal State L.A. continues beyond your lifetime.

**Sample Bequest Language**

**A specific bequest**

“I leave the sum of $___ to The CSLA Foundation to be used as its board of trustees directs.”

**A residuary bequest**

“I leave ___ percent of all the rest, residue and remainder of my estate to The CSLA Foundation to be used as its board of trustees directs.”

**A contingent bequest**

“I give $___ to my nephew, John, if he is living, otherwise to The CSLA Foundation, to be used as its board of trustees directs.”
Classes keep community active throughout a lifetime

Poetry, Tai Chi and modern jazz and tap are just a few of the classes offered to the community through Cal State L.A.’s Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI). Serving as a community resource to those 50 and over, OLLI provides an exciting array of classes and special events, as well as a chance to broaden horizons. “These classes spark my thinking and keep my mind stimulated,” says Lydia M. Garcia (’91 BA), a retired social worker. “They keep us interested and interesting.”

The OLLI program kicked off last fall in collaboration with Cal State L.A.’s Edward R. Roybal Institute of Applied Gerontology. University professors, emeritus professors and guest experts teach the classes, held on campus. “This opens a two-way path between the academic and local communities,” says Connie Corley, director of the program and professor of social work. “It gives people a chance to learn things they’ve always wanted to know in a low-stress, fun environment. There are no tests, no papers. It’s non-competitive and creates a spirit of community.”

Kim Miller, OLLI co-director and professor of nursing, points out a benefit for students as well. “By bringing vibrant older people to the university, we’re showing young students that aging isn’t all that bad. Not only can we offer exciting learning and volunteer opportunities, but they have a lot to teach us as well,” she says. “You can continue to stimulate your mind and body at age 80 and beyond.”

In addition, OLLI offers people who may never have attended college a taste of university life, and families of Cal State L.A. students and alumni the chance to become familiar with the campus.

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute was made possible through a generous grant from the Bernard Osher Foundation. For more information about OLLI, contact Connie Corley at (323) 343-4746 or visit www.calstatela.edu/exed/profdev/oshers/.

1980s
Betsy Chang Ha (’89 MS) has been appointed Director of Quality Improvement for the Center for Health Care Strategies, a Princeton, NJ-based policy resource center. Ha will lead national projects to improve the quality of care for Medicaid’s 50 million beneficiaries.

David Medrano (’81 BA) is Monterey County’s new equal opportunity officer. He will oversee County compliance with laws regarding discrimination and harassment in hiring, contracting and dealings with the public. Medrano was formerly personnel manager of the city of Oceanside, California.

Adriana Ocampo (’83 BS) has been selected by the California Community College League as one of five recipients of its 2004 Distinguished Alumni Award. Ocampo is a research scientist at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory where she works on the Mars Odyssey project.

1990s
Trent Bahadursingh (’99 MA) is technology director for the Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District. He is responsible for 2,300 computers and related training at 16 schools. Previously, he was coordinator of instructional technologies at the Little Lake City School District in CA.

Sean C. Bouvet (’96 BS) graduated from the Georgetown University School of Medicine with a Doctor of Medicine degree. He will be starting his residency in emergency medicine at the University of Buffalo this fall.

Patricia Cole (’95 MA) directs the new Speech Language Parent Information Hotline at Goddard Middle School in the Glendora Unified School District. The hotline will address respiratory support, speech issues, and other communication subjects.

Christopher Greco (’93 BA, ’95 MA) has been awarded a teaching assistantship for 2004-2005 by the Department of Music at UCLA, where he is completing his doctoral degree in saxophone.

Mitchell Ing (’96 MBA) was reelected treasurer of the City of Monterey Park, CA. Ing is a commercial loan officer with Wells Fargo Bank. He donates his salary as city treasurer to scholarship programs at three high schools.

Connie Watson (’73 BA) was named California’s 48th Assembly District’s “Woman of the Year” for 2005. Watson is the director of the Los Angeles People Who Care Youth Center, which provides counseling, tutoring, parenting education and more. She has spent more than 25 years working to improve social conditions and the mental health of Los Angeles families.
Kevin P. Johnson ('93 BA) directs the renowned Spelman College Glee Club in Atlanta, which recently completed a national tour.

Edward Low ('90 BA) has been appointed by the Irvine, Calif.-based Compensation Risk Managers of California, LLC as its new claims account coordinator for California. Low holds a Self Insurance Administrator Certificate and a Certificate in Workers’ Compensation Claims Administration, and has served with distinction in several previous California workers’ compensation insurance industry positions.

Jean Dalmore Overton ('91 BS) was named by Los Angeles Magazine a “Southern California Super Lawyers’ Rising Star.” She is a partner at Muchinsohn & Cunningham, LLP, where she co-chairs the firm’s Construction Law Practice Group.

Dwayne Winstead ('99 BS) worked with FLM Studios in Springfield, VA on a public service announcement about domestic violence. He appears in the PSA wearing a Cal State L.A. T-shirt.

Christine Yap ('96 BS) has created Kids Island Children Enrichment Center in Arcadia, which provides children with a place to play and participate in classes and activities. Previously, Yap was finance director at a car dealership. She got the idea for the center based on her experience with her two daughters.

Angel A. Carrillo ('03 BA) was appointed to the Azusa City Council in March. Carrillo is a special education teacher and was a member of the Azusa Human Relations Commission from 2002-2004.

Jennifer Haan ('03 MA) is principal at Del Valle Elementary School in La Puente.

Stefka Hristova ('04 MA) is a teaching assistant at UC Irvine's Visual Studies doctorate program.

IN MEMORIAM

Joseph Abraham ('77 BS) retired from West Los Angeles Community College in 1990 as stock control supervisor. He continued to pursue his interests in photography, art, and writing.

Richard M. Calderon ('57 BA), Latino activist known for the leading role he played in redrawing Los Angeles council districts. He was field deputy to Congressman George E. Brown Jr. and Edward R. Roybal, and was administrator of the Edward R. Roybal Comprehensive Health Care Center in East Los Angeles until he retired in 1991.

Robert W. “Bob” Capps ('60 MA), educator for 49 years and two-time president of the Whittier College Alumni Association. He also served as vice principal and principal at Colmar Elementary School and principal of

Beyond the box CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

Again, he credits his graduate education with developing the thinking process that helped make Warner Center a great success. “You know, a box is the cheapest to build,” he says. “But who wants to be in that kind of setting all day? A liberal arts education gave me not so much business training as life training—the ability to think about and address issues of society and people. While I am here to make money, at the same time, I can also make people’s lives better—they’re happier, and I feel good because I’ve had some impact on improving the quality of lives.”

This approach of addressing challenges creatively has served him well. Today The Voit Companies is involved in commercial real estate in California, Arizona and Nevada. Its sales and leasing revenues tally to more than $10 billion; with acquisitions and development deals of more than $1 billion, and completed construction projects valued at more than $800 million. And, The Voit Company managers maintain that CSU graduates are their best hires, he says, “because they expect nothing to be handed to them. It’s beautiful to see students who dream, but who also work hard to make it.”

Now that Voit himself has some perspective from the top of the mountain, he still finds no greater satisfaction than the creative aspects of thinking through and then addressing human needs. “It’s funny, but I still get a rush from the feeling that I’ve given people a nice place to work, a good place to shop…”

And today, finding each challenge is still what makes for a good time. Even sailing the ocean’s big waves against strong winds is fulfilling in that way, he says: “Talk about a test! Now that’s rejuvenating!”

Achieve their dreams! Behind successful alumni are great faculty. Wyatt D. Haupt Sr. credits his successful 35-year career as an educator to the talented faculty in the Theatre Arts and Dance department at Cal State L.A. who gave him their time, encouragement and expertise. By making a gift to the President’s Associates, he was able to personally thank those professors who made a tremendous difference in his life. Join Wyatt Haupt in thanking those who influenced your Cal State L.A. experience by becoming a member of the President’s Associates, or making a gift to the Annual Fund.
The following individuals provided annual undesignated gifts of at least $1,000, which provide flexible financial support that allows Cal State L.A. to enhance quality learning opportunities. We salute their investment and invite you to join in supporting educational quality by making a gift, using the envelope in this magazine.

Cynthia C. Armstrong ’00
Gale Arvanites ’83
George Bachmann ’65, ’71
Henry Balta
David ’61 & Pauline ’55 Barclay
Amir Barour & Faraneh Azizian
Carol A. Bartell
Gary ’61, ’65 & Shirley Best
Norris Bishon
Charles Bluth ’64
Kyle C. Button
Herbert L. Carter
Lane & Susan Cash
Geneva Aleece Clymer ’62
Steve Cooley ’70
Theodore J. Crovello
Jaffe Dickerson
Benjamin Figueroa ’85
Bob Dickert
Steven N. & Fidelis Garcia
Ramon Garcia ’71
Art M. ’80 & Lillian A. ’96 Gastelum
Mary Genis
Christine Gillett ’61
Harvey Goldstein ’62
Ernest Guerra ’80
Derrick Hamilton ’91
Clifford D. Harper
Wyatt D. Haupt ’64 ’67
Virginia Hunter ’71
Carol Jackson
Lillian Y. Kawasaki ’72
Steve Y. Kim ’79

David Kinoshita ’69
Dal H. Lee
Ethan B. Lipton ’76, ’83 & Janet Lent
Fred Lopez ’83
Tom Louie ’76
James Lumberg
Mitch Maki
Demetrius J. & Valerie Margaziotis
David ’67, ’76 & Rosemary ’70 McNutt
Nancy & Avi Miron
James & Randi Moore
George Nakano ’70, ’77
Louis R. Negrete ’57
Ronald A. Okum ’63
Ann Park ’78
Pamela Angerer Payne ’81, ’91, ’95
Peter Quan
Lynn P. Reitnouer ’59
Chase C. Rhee
Collette Rocha
Anthony R. Ross & Laverne White
Frank Satto ’79
John M. Smart
John Staff ’90
Jeffrey A. Tipton
Gary P. Townsend ’69
Kuei-wu & Leslie Tsai
Gilbert Vasquez
Abid ’00 & Sharon Wakeel
Elizabeth Wheeler ’81
Ester B. Wiley ’56
Wilbert Woo ’70, ’77

CSULA Days at Dodger Stadium!
Bring family and friends to cheer on your favorite team and meet hundreds of CSULA alumni.

Family Pack Day
Los Angeles Dodgers vs. Houston Astros
Sunday, August 28 at 1:00 pm • $17 per ticket
Includes reserved seat, hot dog and soda
Purchase tickets online at http://alumni.calstatela.edu

Ben Clark (’58 BS) was sheriff of Riverside County for 23 years and was instrumental in establishing formal, standardized training for all peace officers in California. He worked in the department for 36 years, and gained national recognition for his standardization training program, having convinced the California Legislature in the 1950s to provide state funding.

Eleanor Kay Diehl (’71 BA), well-known and respected artist in the South Bay. She was an art teacher in the Los Angeles school system and, after retiring in 1985, launched the most productive era of her professional life. She worked in many different media including oil, water color, and sculpture.

Luis J. Franco (’93 BA), accountant and community activist in the Norwalk and Santa Fe Springs areas. A World War II prisoner in Poland after his B-17 bomber crashed near Berlin, he later worked tirelessly to promote issues related to POWs and MIAs.

Raynolds Johnson (’48 BA) founded and published the Contra Costa Times. He was the first director of public relations and assistant to the founding president at California State University, Fullerton, where he taught for 25 years and retired as professor emeritus. He went on to teach at both Chapman and National Universities, retiring in 2003.

William A. Logan (’67 BA), lifelong teacher who taught at Pasadena City College, Cal State L.A. and Evans Community Adult School.

Edward A. Maljanian (BA ’63, MA ’66), professor of Health Science at CSULA for 31 years, oversaw the nursing credential program and the Driver’s Training program, and volunteered on several boards. He served in the U.S. Army from 1954-1956, and as a reserve officer for the Arcadia Police Department from 1975-1992.

John Edward Merkovsky (MA ’76), lifelong music teacher, taught and directed bands at several Southern California schools including Orange Coast College, Cal State L.A. and Evans Community Adult School.

Winston L. Sarafian (’63 BA, ’63 MA), noted scholar of Russian-American history who earned a Ph.D. in Russian history from UCLA. He taught at California State Polytechnic University, Pomona; University of California, Riverside; Riverside Community College; and at Oxnard College for 30 years.

Dick Stumpe (’61 BA), educator with the Los Angeles Unified School District for 29 years. He was a U.S. Air Force veteran of the Korean War.
Save the date

32nd Annual Alumni Awards Gala

On Thursday, October 20, the achievements of CSULA alumni, students, and friends will be celebrated at the 32nd Annual Alumni Awards Gala in the Harriet and Charles Luckman Fine Arts Complex. The Alumni Association will honor recipients with the following awards: Alumnus/a of the Year; University Service; Distinguished Faculty Alumnus/a; Distinguished Alumni (one graduate from each of the University’s six academic colleges); Outstanding Graduate Student; Outstanding Senior Student.

Join today!

Great New Benefits

Receive discounts of up to 60 percent at all 865 Office Depot locations nationwide. Visit http://alumni.calstatela.edu and click on the Office Depot logo. Download the application, fill it out, and mail it to us at the address provided.

Alumni Association membership also entitles you to:
- free university library card (valid at all CSU campuses)
- free parking twice a quarter
- discounted tickets at the Luckman Theatre
- discounted group health, auto and home insurance
- access to the CSULA Federal Credit Union.

For more information, visit: http://alumni.calstatela.edu or call (323) 343-4980.

Alumni Chapters Keep You Connected

Four college-specific chapters hold fun and educational events year-round. Consider joining:
- Business and Economics Alumni Chapter
- Education Alumni Association
- Engineering, Computer Science, and Technology Alumni Chapter
- Nursing Alumni Association

From a wine tasting venue in Pasadena to the Getty Center in Los Angeles, sample unique locales of greater Los Angeles. Enrich yourself professionally and socially with chapter membership. Programs and activities include career workshops, panel discussions with field professionals, social events, networking with fellow alumni and more.

For more information, visit http://alumni.calstatela.edu or call (323) 343-4980.

Alumni news

Alumni Meet Legislators in Sacramento

A Cal State L.A. delegation that included members of the Alumni Association Legislative Committee met with 14 members of the California State Assembly and Senate in Sacramento during the annual California State University Legislative Day. The group represented the legislative interests of Cal State L.A. and the CSU system. Cal State L.A. area legislators include Assembly Speaker Fabian Nuñez and Assembly Majority Leader Dario Frommer. In conjunction with Legislative Day, the Alumni Association sponsored a reception in Old Town Sacramento attended by Cal State L.A. alumni who live in the area.

Alumni Scholars Honored

Recipients of this year’s Alumni Association Scholarships were honored at a festive Sunday luncheon on campus, joined by family members, faculty mentors, and friends. Fifteen $750 undergraduate scholarships and two $750 graduate scholarships were awarded. Alumni scholars possess high grade point averages and impressive volunteer service.

Interested in joining the Scholarship Committee? Call (323) 343-4980 or visit http://alumni.calstatela.edu

GradFair – A Big Hit!

On April 13 and 14, more than 5,100 graduating students attended the Alumni Association’s annual GradFair, where they arranged for caps and gowns, had their yearbook portraits taken, collected commencement tickets, and spoke with potential employers. The event, held in the Eagle’s Nest Gymnasium, provides these and other valuable services to graduating students each year.

http://alumni.calstatela.edu
Chris Evert to be honored at Billie Jean King fundraiser

Tennis Hall of Famer and 21-time Grand Slam Champion Chris Evert will receive the prestigious “Shapiro Award” at Cal State L.A.’s eighth “Billie Jean King and Friends, Honoring Joe Shapiro” scholarship fundraiser on Saturday, September 24, 2005.

The event will also feature CSULA alumna King and fellow Tennis Hall of Famers Rosie Casals and Pam Shriver, who hold a combined 92 career Grand Slam titles. The morning kicks off with a tennis clinic, pro-am and exhibition match featuring King, Evert, Casals and Shriver. Attendees will have the rare opportunity to receive one-on-one tennis lessons from and play against some of the world’s top-ranked players. Dinner and an auction will be held at the Ritz-Carlton Huntington Hotel in Pasadena, where attendees can win prizes in live and silent auctions before Evert is presented with the “Shapiro Award.”

Tickets go on sale this summer. For more information, call the Athletics office at (323) 343-3080 or download the registration brochure at www.calstatela.edu/univ/athletic.

Men’s basketball coach retires; new interim coach named

After nine years at the helm of the Golden Eagles men’s basketball, Dave Yanai will retire at the end of the 2004-05 season.

“Dave has made significant contributions to basketball on a national level and has shaped the lives of thousands of young men he has coached,” says Athletic Director Carol M. Dunn. “We wish him a wonderful retirement.”

Yanai led Cal State L.A. to 1998 and 2000 NCAA Tournaments, finishing CCAA Conference runner-up both seasons. His 1997-2001 teams recorded 84 wins, the winningest five-year span in CSULA men’s basketball history. Yanai retires with a career record of 401-354.

Former Syracuse and NBA star Stephen Thompson, Yanai’s assistant coach for the past three seasons, will serve as interim head coach.

Thanks to Golden Eagle corporate partners

The Division of Intercollegiate Athletics would like to thank the following sponsors for their support during the 2004-05 season: Pepsi; Wyndham Hotel Commerce; Michelob Ultra; Associated Students, Inc.; Souplantation; Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Office; Tony Roma’s in Alhambra, Sierra Acura in Alhambra; East West Bank; The University Bookstore; and the CSULA Student Health Center.

An additional thank you to companies that have donated products for our special event auctions and game-day promotions throughout the year. To find out how your company can be part of the Golden Eagle excitement, contact the Division of Intercollegiate Athletics at (323) 343-3080.
Gifts can be made in many ways — ranging from scholarships to benches such as the one pictured here. Campus benches can be dedicated in honor of a favorite professor, a graduate, or in memory of or a loved one. They also provide a comfortable spot for students and faculty to rest and reflect. For more information about the range of giving opportunities, contact CSULA at (323) 343-3075.

Richard Yao-Tang Chen, right, is pursuing his life-long dream of obtaining a doctoral degree with the help of a scholarship endowed by Kylie Hsu, associate professor of Chinese.