In Focus: Student Research

The opportunities for student research are varied and extensive at this primarily undergraduate university. This issue explores some of the University’s current programs and projects that have enhanced student learning and received major recognition. (See cover article, page 3.)

Above: Student researchers in Cal State L.A.’s new CEA-CREST program survey the coast. For a closer look at the University’s new National Science Foundation-funded environmental center, see page 7.
Introducing Our First President’s Scholars

Myra LeBendig

1999-2000 Cal State L.A./CSU Teacher of the Year

The News of California State University, Los Angeles • 11/12, 1999

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Introduction: Our First President’s Scholars

To celebrate CSU alumni who have chosen education as a profession, the 25-campus CSU system has declared 1999-2000 the Year of the Teacher. CSU Celebrating Teachers aims to increase teacher recruitment statewide, elevate teacher status and elevate teacher recruitment statewide. Celebrating Teachers aims to increase teacher recruitment statewide, elevate teacher status and elevate teacher status.

Nathan Craig Charlton

The son of CSU graduates (his parents graduated from CSU Long Beach) and a distinguished graduate of Earl Warren High School in Downey, Nathan Charlton plans to pursue a degree in business administration (marketing) at Cal State L.A.

The 18-year-old played varsity volleyball and graduated with a Gold Seal for his participation in the California Scholastic Federation (CSF).

He was an eight-time All-CIF selection in basketball and carried the flag for other high school and college athletic teams—spending their spring break pouring cement and carrying lumber to erect walls that will be foundations for homes originated in previous years.

“When things get overwhelming, I tell myself that there’s a lot more to eternity than life,” says Charlton.

Monica Chew

Bright, creative and multitalented, Monica Chew is happy to attend Cal State L.A., where she’s thinking of majoring in art. An added plus is that she’s near to her family, whom she loves dearly. She says she has “family ties” to the University, as well as her mother received her bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Cal State L.A., and her father attended for two years.

The Franklin High graduate received a Character Citizen Award for donating more than 100 hours of community service. She also received the highest GPA and participated in the U.S. President’s Education Awards Program.

A budding artist, Chew is considering a career in graphic arts. She is also gifted in other art forms, but she has taken karate since the age of 12, and she enjoys cooking.

Paraphrasing Beatles Paul McCartney, Chew says, “In whatever you do, always keep a little fun in it for yourself.”

Hunly Chy

Hunly Chy is an aspiring electrical engineer and has received prize in the regional Science Olympiad and placed seven times during the state finals for his construction of a bamboo wind tower. In another science competition, he won first prize for his model of a bridge.

Chy enjoys surfing the Internet, but is not always glued to the computer. He competed for Mark Keppel’s JV tennis team and was once a runner-up in a citywide track meet for wrestling. For the past two years, he has been a library volunteer, repairing books and tutoring English.

Laurel E. Dishkin

Although she was offered a major award from another university, Laurel Dishkin chose to major in music and minor in Spanish at Cal State L.A., where she was attracted by the range of opportunities and impressed by the interest of faculty and administrators she met.

The talented 18-year-old, who graduated from Eagle Rock High School with honors, has accumulated a long list of outstanding scholastic, athletic and musical accomplishments. With six AP exams under her belt, she was named an AP Scholar with Distinction. In high school, she participated in student government, was a Model U.N. Distinguished Representative, and played softball.

Dishkin began studying the violin in 1990 and later added voice and piano. She was one of three violinists selected statewide to participate in a special Cal Arts program.

Nunan Benjamin Parada

Numan Parada plans to major in civil engineering. He won the American Chemistry Society award and earned first prize in the regional Science Olympiad.

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Scarleth Ramirez

“Determination” and “leadership” describe Scarleth Ramirez. Coming to L.A. from Nicaragua at 18 years of age, Ramirez was an ESL (English as a Second Language) student during her first two years at Inglewood High School. By her senior year, she was in Advanced Placement English classes, and earned college credit with excellent AP exam scores. Her senior year also saw Ramirez achieve the highest overall score on the Academic Decathlon team. In three years of high school ROTC, Ramirez attained the position of command sergeant-major—the second highest position at her school. Once afeared of heights, she has mastered the art of rappelling—lowering oneself down a rock face by means of a rope. Her other hobbies are reading, music (she plays the flute and piano) and swimming (she was on her school’s swim team). A civil engineering major, Ramirez’s interests also include architecture.

Ivan Albert Reyes

“Keep it on a positive,” says the confident Ivan Reyes, quoting his toys apart. “Sometimes I could put them back together,” he says.

His fascination for how things work led him to explore the games and computers and, ultimately, to pursue math as a major. During the regional Academic Decathlon, a 10-subject quiz show-like competition, Ramirez won Best of Team for Franklin High School.

Graduating with honors, Ramirez was a National Hispanic Scholar finalist, Bank of America science awardee and national Macy’s Scholar. With a high GPA, SAT scores that top 1,000 and other scholarly achievements, he was also accepted to three top UC schools. The oldest sibling of four, Ramirez will be the first in his family to attend college.

Ciro Alfonso Ramirez, Jr.

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It is Summer Quarter 1999. Inside a new building that houses an array of computers and an impressive, student-built scale model of a segmented space telescope, Cal State L.A. mechanical engineering graduate student Mauricio Morales supervises two high school students from Houston, Texas—Alissa Genthon and Celestina Vo—who are summer NASA SHARP Plus Program Fellows. Twelve other local high school students in a new SPACE Lab Summer Program arrive and leave according to their schedules.

Nearby, electrical engineering senior Daniel Rollins is teaching the high school students about the lab's computer system, which he helps run. Morales is checking the week of Genthon who has been asked to design a folding telescope with foldable mirrors, something that doesn't yet exist in space. Such a development could lead to larger, more powerful telescopes, he says.

Rollins and Morales are only two of a group of ten Cal State L.A. students who are conducting their research and mentoring in a summer program that is part of a special NASA-funded project focusing on new technologies for space observation. Based on a proposal by Helen Ryuicishiki-Bousalas, chair of the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, the project has recently had its five-year, $3.8 million NASA grant extended for an additional three years.

In this stimulating environment, students like Morales and Rollins develop and test advanced technologies that are of immediate interest to NASA, the aerospace industry and the commercial sector.

Student Research: Going Where No One Has Gone Before

Newly-funded grants offer promising opportunities for undergraduate research at Cal State L.A. This semester, Cal State L.A. received a $300,000 Department of Defense Legacy Grant. In the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, “our department has one of the best records for funding undergraduate research in the CSU system—and possibly in the state,” says Carlos Gutierrez, recognized by the White House for excellence in science mentoring.

A recent five-year, $4.9 million grant from the NSF Centers of Research Excellence in Science and Technology (CREST) program funds the University's CEA-CREST project. The grant, administered by biology professor Carlos Robles, establishes Cal State L.A. as an outstanding research center for environmental studies and offers students exciting opportunities for focused and interdisciplinary research in the environmental sciences (see article, p. 7).

In addition to the NASA, NSF and Department of Defense support mentioned above, the diverse research/training projects available at Cal State L.A. receive major funding from such prominent organizations as the National Institutes of Health, the National Endowment for the Humanities, Southern California Air Quality Management District, Rockwell International, Hughes Medical Foundation, state and federal Departments of Energy, Transportation, and Education, HUD, the Kellogg Foundation, the Ford Foundation, the Public Health Services and others.

New discoveries that benefit our society are often the end product of good research. The existence of research opportunities on a primarily undergraduate campus has other benefits as well. Research can serve to keep students and professors at the cutting edge in their fields. The act of conducting research invigorates teaching, and students who work closely with faculty on research projects benefit from a learning and mentoring environment that successfully prepares them for graduate school or for their chosen careers.

“Our faculty members are committed to including students in their work, wherever possible, and the possibilities keep increasing every year.” — Susan Steiner

Extramurally-funded awards also offer other benefits, including an enormous range and number of stipends and salaries for students, says Susan Steiner, director of the University's busy Office of Research and Sponsored Programs. “Our faculty members are committed to including students in their work, wherever possible, and the possibilities keep increasing every year,” she says.

For the 1998-1999 academic year, Steiner points out, the University received more than $16 million in research awards—a 21% increase over the previous academic year. Proposals that totaled more than $90 million were submitted last year, almost twice as many as the year before. “That increase means an almost guaranteed increase in awards,” Steiner says. “The impact on expansion of research labs, on research opportunities for students and on development of new curriculum will be tremendous.”
Cal State L.A. Proposed Site for Crime Lab

With a $220 million bill to upgrade and expand California’s crime labs still weighing to be signed by Governor Davis at time of publication, a California regional forensic science facility at Cal State L.A. edges a few steps closer toward realization. The brainchild of Cal State L.A. criminal justice professor Anthony Longhetti, criminal justice chair Deborah Baskin, and Barry Fisher, director of the L.A. County Sheriff’s Department Scientific Services Bureau, the proposed site would serve as the state-of-the-art center for criminal investigation and training of crime lab staff.

“The new facility will provide for an exchange of ideas among personnel from the Los Angeles Police Department, County Sheriff’s Department and California Department of Justice,” says Longhetti, who heads the University’s graduate program in criminalistics. He notes that permanent crime lab facilities on campus will also provide greater internship opportunities for students.

A joint project of Cal State L.A. and the above-mentioned agencies, the proposed multi-story facility would be located in Lot A at the southwest corner of campus. A multi-story parking structure would be built to make up for loss of student parking, says Fisher. According to the project’s planners, LAPD and County Sheriff’s Department crime labs will be relocated to the new facility. Additional rooms would be assigned to the University’s criminalistics program and training programs administered by the Department of Justice. If Governor Davis approves the bill, it will appear as a bond issue on the March state ballot.

“We’re really looking forward to this because [the Sheriff’s] faculty is already working with Cal State L.A.,” says Fisher. “There will be wonderful opportunities for everybody—students will have access to fully operational crime labs to do their research. Law enforcement officials can improve their quality of service to the community...It’s a classic win-win situation.”

University to Host Woodrow Wilson Fellow

Cal State L.A. has been selected as one of 15 institutions nationwide to host a humanities fellow through the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation’s new post-doctoral fellowship program. Other selected universities include NYU, Harvard, NYU, Yale, and Cornell.

Through this program, successful national applicants who received Ph.D. degrees in the humanities within the past two years will gain valuable teaching experience and will be mentored by current faculty. The program aims to improve the participants’ ability to assume tenure-track teaching positions at universities and colleges.

Awards totaling $10,000 per year for two years will support each fellow. Fellows will have the opportunity to develop their research into publishable books and articles, and a crucial support in their development as scholars is to mentor them with the master class. At Cal State L.A., participants will benefit from partnerships with the University of California, Irvine, Cal State LA Huntington Library and the Getty Research Institute.

“Our University has a tradition of strength in the humanities, says Carl Selkin, dean of Arts and Letters. “The Woodrow Wilson program selection process will give us an opportunity to showcase our humanities scholars in the country and, at the same time, introduce them to the range and depth of our University offerings, in the humanities disciplines.”

Candidates in the areas of interdisciplinary humanities—such as women’s, ethnic, social, and dramatic literature, and cultural studies currently are being sought.

CSU Research Resource Now Online at Cal State L.A.

CSU researchers in the social sciences now have access to more than 900 data sets in the Social Science Data Base Archive (SSDAA) located at Cal State L.A. and housed in the office of Analytical Studies. This center is a result of a $1.35 million project of the School of Arts and Letters, which has earned the status as one of the most ethnically and culturally diverse campuses in the country and its location in a city that could very well be the model for future American communities make Cal State L.A. an ideal setting for such a project.

“The Cal State L.A. campus is unique in providing ground for investigating the ways our distinctively American culture emerges from the various heritages that contribute to it,” says Carl Selkin, dean of the School of Arts and Letters, in which the program is housed. “We have always been a gateway university for new populations seeking to become part of mainstream American society—many of our students are first or second generation Americans.”

Contributions to the American Community Program have to match $3 for every $1 provided by the NEH. This project has found important matching support from major foundations like the Ralph M. Parsons Foundation, which awarded a $100,000 grant, and the Ahmanson Foundation, which has contributed $100,000 to date. Edison International became a corporate donor to the program with a gift of $15,000. Individual donors like Potter are equally important to this endowment drive, says Selkin.

“This is Vilma and Bertram Potter’s second major contribution to Cal State L.A. They used an inheritance from their parents to establish the English department’s Potter-Raskin Graduate Fellowship in their parents’ honor. “Cal State L.A. is a marvelous educational environment for growth,” says Potter. “It has been wonderful for me to see so many students grow and bloom, and to be able to teach and learn from them for so many years—and now to help them, both through the fellowship and the NEH matching endowment.”

“The American Community Program accomplishes two tasks. First, it offers scholars the opportunity to think seriously about the American experience, and second, it offers students the opportunity to get paid while they’re studying,” says Potter.

A search for an endowed chair to direct the American Community Program has begun this fall, and by the year 2000, student researchers will be sought. The program will then enable participants from the full range of humanities disciplines at Cal State L.A. to teach and share their research insights. This research has the potential to affect many areas of today’s society, says Selkin. Investigation of the diverse experiences of American communities may shed new light on subjects from social instability and media influence to issues about educating a diverse population.

“Our society, comprising so many diverse populations, is potentially enriched by diversity but also challenged by it,” Selkin says. “Coming to terms with difference is fundamental not only to healing the tensions it can cause but also to understanding the culture we call American.”

Emerita Helps Fund Program to Examine What It Means to be an American

Dedicated “Americanist,” emeritus professor Vilma Raskin Potter was delighted when the opportunity arose to help fund a new program that will explore the cultures and heritages that help define the ever-evolving American identity.

Cal State L.A.’s American Community Program, a $1.35 million project of the School of Arts and Letters, will pair student researchers with faculty to examine how diverse cultures have contributed to an American identity and how newly-immigrated immigrant populations continue to redefine that identity.

“The American Community Program has tremendous possibilities in uniting different studies in the humanities and bringing out ideas of how one gets to be an American,” says Potter, who taught at Cal State L.A. for 31 years. Although she retired in 1992, Potter keeps busy with a variety of interests that include lecturing in the community and writing and translating poetry. She credits much of her vigor to her continued involvement with the University in meaningful projects such as the American Community Program.

A long-time Pasadena resident, Vilma Potter started teaching freshman English at Cal State L.A. and later specialized in African American writers, the Harlem Renaissance—and English Victorian poets. As an English major at Brooklyn College in New York during the 40s, Potter was one of the first students in the country to enroll in the newly-created American Studies program. She did graduate work at Duke University with Jay Hubbell, a famous scholar of American literature.

“Amercia is a very complex place,” says Potter, referring to a more integrated American family as more people marry outside their ethnic and cultural groups. “It used to be if you came from a Polish family group, you had to marry Polish...Perhaps the American Community Program can engage a student to study this new shape in the American family.”

Potter and her husband Bertram have grandchildren of Japanese and South American descent and adopted granddaughters from India.

In 1996, the National Endowment for the Humanities awarded Cal State L.A. a $337,500 multi-year grant to establish an endowment for the American Community Program. The University’s status as one of the most ethnically and culturally diverse campuses in the country and its location in a city that could very well be the model for future American communities make Cal State L.A. an ideal setting for such a project.

“The Cal State L.A. campus is unique in providing ground for investigating the ways our distinctively American culture emerges from the various heritages that contribute to it,” says Carl Selkin, dean of the School of Arts and Letters, in which the program is housed. “We have always been a gateway university for new populations seeking to become part of mainstream American society—many of our students are first or second generation Americans.”

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Alumnus Steve Kim Contributes to Research by Engineering Students

Students working with associate professor Nancy Watert-Perez conduct cutting-edge research that can yield faster, more efficient computers. Taking advantage of today’s most powerful microprocessors, their research has the potential to greatly increase the rate of human-computer information exchange.

Watert-Perez, who also heads the graduate program in electrical engineering, works with a team of one undergraduate and three graduate students. “The researchers have developed the framework for a compiler that will be able to reorganize programming instructions so that applications run faster,” says Watert-Perez. A compiler is a program that translates instructions written by a human into a language that the computer can understand.

The research team has implemented a scheduling framework that will be tested in the University of Illinois IMPACT compiler. “The students are trying to minimize program execution time on new EPIC (Explicitly Parallel Instruction-set Computers) of Illinois IMPACT compiler. “The students are trying to minimize program execution time on new EPIC compiler that will be able to reorganize programming instructions so that applications run faster,” says Watert-Perez. A compiler is a program that translates instructions written by a human into a language that the computer can understand.

When he went to school in the late ’70s, Steve Kim did not have access to the type of high-tech equipment that now benefits Cal State L.A. students. With a bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering from Sogang University in Korea, Kim was integrated to the U.S. and worked full time during the day while attending school at night to obtain his master’s degree.

Kim attributes his success to hands-on job experience—and 70-hour work weeks! He was already a savvy businessman before he started Xylan, having successfully sold his first company, Fibermux, which he started out of his garage. “I grew up in a harsh environment and had to learn to take care of myself, so [I] had to succeed. I was determined to succeed,” said Kim. His advice to students is to work hard and take advantage of internships. He recommends that students keep up with the latest technology by reading the various trade magazines.

Generous contributions from individual donors like Steve Kim, along with support from established organizations, create significant research opportunities for Cal State L.A. students—experiences that will equip them with first-hand knowledge and a substantial industry edge when they graduate.

Research by Engineering Students

To Steve Kim, who received his master’s degree in electrical engineering in 1979, research experience gives students a chance to work on real-life problems. “Research more than curriculum stimulates the spirit we face in the workplace,” says Kim. Kim is the founder and CEO of Xylan Corporation, a multi-million dollar company that is industry leader in developing networking devices. His contribution, which qualifies for the NSF matching grant, has allowed Watert-Perez time to conduct her research and develop her research team.

In the mid ’80s, Gomez participated in the University of California Minority Access to Research Careers (MARCS)—an undergraduate research-training honors program in the biomedical sciences funded by the National Institutes of Health. He worked closely with chemistry professor Thomas Onak, who later received the prestigious CSU Trustees’ Outstanding Professor Award and was the 1995 California Professor of the Year. Their project dealt with the synthesis of carbon—research that now benefits Cal State L.A. students. With a bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering from Sogang University in Korea, Kim was integrated to the U.S. and worked full time during the day while attending school at night to obtain his master’s degree.

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Beckman Undergraduate Research

In July 1998, Cal State L.A. was among 20 universities chosen from 800 national applicants to participate in the Beckman Scholars Program. Established by the Beckman Foundation, an organization known for generous contributions to scientific and educational institutions, the Beckman Scholars Program helps stimulate, encourage and support research activities of talented undergraduate students.

“It is an honor that we were recognized and invited to participate in such a prestigious program,” says chemistry professor Carlos Gutierrez, coordinator of the program. “Being named a Beckman Scholar is a distinction that will benefit our students throughout their research careers.”

Universities involved in the program include Caltech, MIT, Northwestern, Carnegie Mellon, Stanford and UC Berkeley. A total of 73 Beckman Scholars were selected from the participating schools. Four outstanding students selected by Cal State L.A. are Ernest Cruz, Cristal Gama, Sang Woo Kang and Leana Wen. They are partnered with faculty in the Chemistry and Biochemistry department in active research groups, working full time in the summer and part time during the rest of the academic year.

Frances A. Reade, the Beckman Scholars Program

“In an attempt to attract biotechnology businesses—and high-paying jobs—to Los Angeles, Joseph Bragin, associate director of Natural and Social Sciences, is heading a CSU effort to convert the abandoned 1930s steam power plant in Pasadena into a first-rate biomedical research and job training hub. Bragin is chair of the governing board of CSUPERB Program for Education and Research in Biotechnology, a multi-campus association intended to promote interdisciplinary projects among faculty and students in science, engineering and business administration.

The space will provide a project that could be used as a multi-purpose education/training and a shared-use production facility for emerging biotech companies, according to a CSUPERB summary to the legislature that Bragin helped to author. Central to the plan is the downtown area of the L.A. basin, the Glendale plant is anchored at the southern end of Pasadena’s biotech corridor—an area along south Fair Oaks and Raymond Avenues designated by the city as a center for biomedical and high-tech start-up companies.

Assemblyman Jack D. Scott (D-Altadena), a supporter of the proposed center, has helped to secure $250,000 from the state budget to pay a contractor to examine the costs of renovating and asbestos abatement.

Biotec Center Planned

Faculty Focus: Former Student Researcher Returns Home to Teach Others

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Teaching and learning is energized when students are engaged in original research. At Cal State L.A., research and training opportunities encourage students to continue their development in major graduate programs and professional schools throughout the nation. Through this research, students seek solutions to “real world” problems that will ultimately benefit our communities and our society. And this creative activity prepares our students well for the evolving workplace of the 21st century.

Described on these pages are some of the many faculty/student research programs that excite learning at Cal State L.A.

### Environmental center opens new vistas for students

Marcos Luna arrived at Cal State L.A. in 1995 from the University of Redlands, a philosophy/writing undergraduate who had never done college research. Before long, Luna would discover geography at Cal State L.A., conduct research and co-author an article on remote sensing with two of his professors—all as an undergraduate.

Later, as a master’s degree candidate at Cal State L.A., Luna’s association with geography professor Ali Modarres led him to Eureka, California, where he trained Yurok Indians in the use of high-tech computer software. As a participant in Cal State L.A.’s CEA-CREST program, he hunkered down along Fremont Avenue in Alhambra to study pollution levels. He used expensive, hard-to-get equipment provided through a loan from the South Coast Air Quality Management District arranged by geography professor Steven LaDochy.

Along the way, Luna discovered that the training and research experience he received at Cal State L.A. had made him the kind of person who could contribute to society in a meaningful way.

“I didn’t come to Cal State L.A. expecting to do research, yet alone this much. It’s not what I expected from undergraduate study,” said Luna, 25, who will soon complete his thesis and his master’s degree in geography. Luna wants to work in the field of environmental justice, shaping policy to help poor and disadvantaged communities that often take the brunt of unpopular development.

“This is the kind of knowledge that can be used to make a positive impact on people’s quality of life,” said Luna.

The new Center for Environmental Analysis (CEA), supported by a $4.9 million grant from the National Science Foundation and the first of its kind funded by the NSF on the West Coast, offers intensive and interdisciplinary research opportunities for graduate and undergraduate students in the environmental sciences. (CREST stands for the NSF’s Centers of Research Excellence in Science and Technology, of which the University’s Center is a part.) Under Cal State L.A.’s CEA-CREST program, students participate in research teams, an interdisciplinary curriculum and internships with off-campus agencies.

### New SPACE lab

Under the NASA “space telescope” program, the School of Engineering and Technology recently established the University’s SPACE (Structures Pointing And Controls Engineering) lab at Cal State L.A. Here, work is done to design and fabricate a testbed, or model, that resembles the complex dynamic behavior of a specialized piece of equipment for space observation called a space segmented reflector telescope. “The next generation of space segmented telescopes has not been built yet,” comments project director Helen Boussalis, associate professor of electrical engineering, “and we’re honored and excited to participate in the development of this important space exploration component.” According to Boussalis, this testbed will be used to develop and validate advanced technologies for decentralization (the ability to move the various parts of the telescope separately), precision pointing, vibration attenuation, fault identification, controller reconfiguration, adaptive/robust control, neuro-fuzzy control, system identification and reflector shape control.

The Cal State L.A.-based program comprises an impressive coalition consisting of students and faculty from two major Ph.D-granting universities (University of Southern California and University of California, Berkeley), a “sister” undergraduate campus (California State University, Long Beach), the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, the Boeing Company, TRW, Rockwell International, Lockheed-Martin, Douglas Aircraft, and Schober’s Machine & Engineering.

### Exploring the world of video

The “real-world” experience of film and video professor Alan Bloom, a noted filmmaker who has won three CINE Golden Eagles and four Telly documentary awards, has clearly benefited his students, who have consistently distinguished themselves in their field, creating award-winning music videos and documentaries as students and securing influential entertainment industry positions after graduation. This year, Bloom’s students again won top awards at the 1999 systemwide.

### New three-year $163,880 grant from the National Science Foundation funded the University’s Center for Environmental Analysis (CEA-CREST)

**Student research: discover**

Research (ri-sūr’ch, re-sūr’ch) n. 1. Scholarly or scientific investigation or inquiry having for its aim the discovery of new facts or the revision of accepted theories in the light of newly discovered facts.
CSU Film and Video Festival. The Festival showcases the very best in student film and video from the 23 campuses in the CSU system. Junior Matt Gatlin won both First Place in Music Video and Best In Show, an award that recognizes the top film or video of the festival, for his music video “Rhapsody.” Senior Edgar Yanez took home two Honorable Mention awards for his narrative piece, “The Watcher.”, and his music video, “El Desierto.” (Last year, Yanez also received Honorable Mention for his news/public affairs video, “Under Fire.”)

This past year, a video by Bloom’s student, Jeff Curtis, was selected as part of KCET’s Fine Cut student film festival.

National kudos for technology research

Under the direction of Benjamin Lee, associate professor in the School of Engineering and Technology, technology major Gerardo Pinela presented his research on digital printing to an audience of industry leaders last spring, when he was a senior. In addition to receiving the Council of the Graphic Arts Industry’s $1,000 scholarship award, Pinela was the only student in the nation to be selected to make this research presentation at the Council’s 1999 Critical Trends in Printing and Publishing conference in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin.

So far, CEA-CREST has attracted students from as far away as Florida and from local universities like UC Irvine.

Viviana Velasquez, a native of Connecticut, came to Cal State L.A. from Eckerd College in Tallahassee, Florida, after she learned about CEA-CREST from the director of the Cal State L.A. program, biology professor Carlos Robles. The student and professor met at the 1999 American Society of Limnology and Oceanography meeting in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

“What sold me on the program? Location, Carlos Robles’ area of study, and the concept behind CREST. It takes an interdisciplinary approach to do research—that appeals to me,” said Velasquez. She also found appealing the fact that—if she maintained a high level of academic work—the program would ensure financial support throughout her master’s and Ph.D. degrees.

At the start of the summer, Velasquez traveled north to do research at the Hopkins Marine Station in Monterey, California, as part of a Stanford University fellowship, which CEA-CREST partially funded and for which Robles recommended her. Later in the summer, she worked even farther north as part of Robles’ research team on Vancouver Island in British Columbia, Canada.

Robles affirms that CEA-CREST students get to work with their faculty mentors on “hands on, high caliber” research in exciting locales. Another advantage of the CEA-CREST program is that recommended participants can move seamlessly on to doctoral work.

Through a related program called the CEA-CREST “Bridges to the Ph.D.,” qualified master’s students receive guidance from both their Cal State L.A. advisors and faculty from the University of California. After successfully completing the master’s thesis, these students continue in a Ph.D. program at a regional UC campus with full financial support.

Currently, undergraduates in the program receive $8,000 per year research assistantships, graduate students receive stipends of $15,000, in addition to funds for travel to national scientific meetings. Students also gain valuable internship opportunities—CEA-CREST students recently funded summer fellowships for Cal State L.A. students at such universities as Stanford and Cornell.

The strength and uniqueness of the new CEA-CREST program, says Robles, comes from its integrated research teams that tackle key environmental research questions, conducting, as Marcos Luna puts it, “hardcore research” on topics that can have a significant impact on the environment and on people’s lives.

Says Robles, “When scientists from different disciplines adopt a common viewpoint, they are free to communicate and rapidly develop innovative approaches. This is interdisciplinary science at its best—at its most exciting and productive. To my mind, this is the most effective way to learn.”

Medical Sciences of the NIH and has been the major source of research support on this campus,” says chemistry professor Carlos Gutierrez, who has directed the program since 1992.

This past academic year, a team of undergraduate engineering students and faculty members, under the auspices of the MESA (Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement) program on campus, joined forces with staff from the Sancho Los Amigos Medical Center Rehabilitation Engineering Program to produce some startling innovations in rehab engineering. One innovation, a “dune buggy” wheelchair—the product of two quarters of research and testing—was unveiled to the campus in June. “When you meet people with disabilities, you realize that, as an engineer, you can do so many things to change their lives,” said student team leader Ana Rosa Arreola, who has worked part time at JPL for two years. The collaborative program, called “HERE” (Hands-on Experiences in Rehabilitation), is funded by the Department of Education and the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research.

Mechanical engineering student Jorge Lopez (l.) demonstrates the dune buggy wheelchair.

Making Southern California outdoor life more accessible

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Alumni On the Move...

A Blanca Alcántara (*68 BA Physical Education) is a physical education teacher at Roosevelt High School in Los Angeles, CA. She was recently named California Athletic Director of the Year by the National Association for Sport and Physical Education.

Sharon Hudson Morris ‘76

Sharon Hudson Morris is a consultant to 13 bilingual teacher training programs at Cal State L.A. and a master’s degree in Urban Planning at UCLA. With a strong background in public policy and administration earned through her distinguished service in various government and governmental positions, Morris was recently appointed executive director of the Department of Disability for the City of Los Angeles, a department inaugurated by Mayor Richard Riordan in 1998. She is also a new member of the Alumni Association’s Board of Directors and a Cal State L.A. representative to the CSU Alumni Council.

“I’m excited about being able to promote programs for the Alumni Association and being involved in new ways to support the University,” says Morris, who has frequently returned to Cal State L.A. as a guest speaker for on-campus events. She won the 1997 Outstanding Alumni award for her efforts in support of students as well as for her far-reaching commitment to various University programs.

Morris stressed the importance of her continued involvement with Cal State L.A.: “I realize it’s important to be involved and to give back some of the benefits we have derived from Cal State L.A. and from the CSU system, which provides working class students, minority students, and older students the opportunity to take classes and pursue a degree.”

“A traditional university would not have worked for me in terms of finding affordable childcare for my kids and a wide variety of other benefits including low tuition and flexible night classes,” she adds.

While Morris and her husband John attended Cal State L.A., their children enjoyed the resources of the Anna Bing Arnold Children’s Center. “There were times when all of us were here on campus,” she says. Morris firmly believes in encouraging students to pursue their dreams and has actively participated in mentoring programs at Cal State L.A.

“it’s important for young people to see other people with their same backgrounds who are now successful. Also, by being accessible, we alumni can help introduce students to opportunities they never knew existed or thought were possible. We need to establish these kinds of connections,” says Morris.

This past year, Morris set up an internship program at the Department on Disability for four Cal State L.A. undergraduate students.

In Memoriam

Leslie N. Dener (*69 BA Journalism) of South Pasadena, CA, began his journalism career at the age of 12, writing for his Hummuck Park neighborhood newspaper. He was editor of the campus newspaper at Los Angeles City College and Cal State L.A. He worked at the Los Angeles Times for 32 years, specializing in real estate coverage. While working there, he was real estate section’s name was added to the national real estate section. After retiring in 1997, he volunteered with the Red Cross Disaster Assistance Team, the Los Angeles Zoo, and the Long Beach Community College Environmental Curriculum Institute.

Juliana Townsend-Gordon (*72 MA Education), 86, January 2, 1999, Calexico, CA.

Robert D. Aggas (*71 BA Geology), 72, June 14, 1999, Hacienda Heights, CA.

Patricia Faino Flowers (*72 BA Social Sciences), 52, March 23, 1999, Huntington Beach, CA.

In November 1998, the new Coral Casino Golf Course in Oahu, HI.

Merritt H. Youtz (*68 BA Science) is currently an employee of the School for Partnerships for Kaplan Learning services in Los Angeles.

Lucyme Sahinian (*69 MBA, Hawaii) was a partner at the Whirlpool bath. She develops and manages marketing programs and provides distributor support, pricing and merchandising for the company's plumbing wholesalers distribution channels.

Charles L. Serrverson-Jacobs (*68 BA Social Work) is currently employed in the advanced standing program in the school of social work at University of Miami, Miami Shores, FL.

Larry Wiss (*68 BA Child Development) was recently named CEO General Manager of a new dollar Fortune 500 international company.

Chetraye Rose (*73 BA Journalism) is the director of African American College Career in Los Angeles.

Lee N. Dener (*69 BA Journalism), 72, June 14, 1999, Hacienda Heights, CA.

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A Letter from the Alumni Executive Director:
“Membership Makes the Difference”

The CSULA Alumni Association is making membership our highest priority. We’ve grown significantly this past year, and we want to increase our membership base and keep renewing annual memberships. Alumni involvement is the key to the University, and the Alumni Association membership is the gateway for alumni involvement. Through your membership, the Association mobilizes volunteer support for CSULA, encourages communication among alumni, sponsors services and obtains benefits for members, and provides professional advancement for all alumni and the University.

If you are already a member, then I am sure you already know all of this. There are, however, a few new things you may not know. We are expanding the ways in which we serve our members. This fall, we are rolling out several new benefits of membership including a “Members Only” newsletter which will feature news, programs, events and benefits of being a member, and special family events such as a “Day at the Zoo.”

That’s just the beginning. Our new Website will be up and running this fall and we are looking at a variety of ways to create stronger online relationships between you and CSULA. We welcome your requests and suggestions as we research new technologically savvy services.

We are growing and we invite you to grow with us. When you talk with other CSULA alumni, ask them if they are members of the Alumni Association. Invite your friends and neighbors to belong, provide them with an important link to CSULA and increase the value of your Alumni Association.

Randi Moore
Executive Director
Rmoore@cslanet.calstatela.edu

P.S. For a membership application for you or a friend, call us at (323) 343-ALUM or write us at alum@cslanet.calstatela.edu

Alumni Calls to New Students Make History

In late August, more than 100 alumni, staff and administrators volunteered to telephone every new student who enter Cal State L.A. this fall. That’s 1,800 calls made over a three-day period with the simple but important purpose of saying “welcome” to all entering freshmen and transfer students. This marks the first time in the Alumni Association’s history that such a complete telephone outreach has been organized. Pictured (l.-r.) Karl Beeler, assistant vice president for Student Affairs-Enrollment Management, Neil Nilchian ’84, Alumni Association board member, Mina Navarete ’80 and Juan Pineda ’00, volunteers. If you would like to join the NSW Committee, please call (323) 343-ALUM.

Business and Nursing Alumni Chapters Have Active Summer

The School of Business and Economics Alumni Chapter elected and installed new officers on June 16. Taking on leadership positions are (l.-r.) William A. Cohen, faculty representative; Maria Ubago ’98, Alumni Association outreach coordinator; Juan Salgados ’94, chapter president; Wanda King ’91, secretary/treasurer; Clairk Martin ’69, immediate past president, and Grace White ’94, vice president membership.

Alumni Association chapters help promote interaction among University graduates from the similar professions. If you are interested in joining or starting a chapter, contact Maria Ubago at (323) 348-ALUM or via e-mail at mubago@cslanet.calstatela.edu.

“I want to do something for Cal State L.A., but I don’t know where to start.”

If you have ever said anything like this, then the Cal State L.A. Alumni Association wants you! We keep our alumni connected to the University through a variety of social, educational, and volunteer opportunities.

NOW IS THE TIME TO GET INVOLVED!
Edison International Sponsored “Billie Jean King Day” at Cal State L.A.

Event funded student-athlete scholarships

Edison International agreed to be the title sponsor for a fundraising event on October 3 that provides scholarships for student-athletes and honors Cal State L.A. alumna and legendary tennis star Billie Jean King.

“I’m very excited that Edison International committed to be the title sponsor of this event at Cal State L.A.,” said Billie Jean King. “Edison International’s involvement provides a significant step toward reaching the fundraising goals established to benefit the tennis and athletics scholarship programs at Cal State L.A.”

“Edison International’s commitment to higher education through its title sponsorship is an excellent example of the kind of corporate community support that benefits all of us, not only our worthy scholar-athletes,” said Cal State L.A. President James M. Rosser.

Swanson Named Associate Director of Athletics

Cal State L.A. Director of Athletics Carol M. Dunn is pleased to announce the addition of Brian Swanson to the Golden Eagles staff as the new associate athletics director.

“We are so pleased to have Brian join our team,” says Dunn. “He possesses the strengths and experiences needed to be an effective manager, as well as the ability to create, develop and implement new revenue strategies for athletic scholarships.”

“I’m extremely excited about the opportunities at Cal State L.A.,” says Swanson. “The Golden Eagles are members of the newly-expanded CCAA conference…the student-athletes continue to achieve academic and athletic success…and there exists stability of leadership within the University and the Division of Intercollegiate Athletics. We have the opportunity to cultivate even more positive relationships with the community.”

For the last five years, Swanson had been the Assistant Athletics Director at CSU Northridge. His position became effective on July 28, 1999.

Swanson earned his bachelor’s degree in business administration/finance at Northeast Missouri State and his master’s in sports administration and marketing at Western Illinois University.

Successful “Let’s Read” Program Expanded

Two years ago, the Division of Intercollegiate Athletics developed a community service project called “Let’s Read with the Golden Eagles,” in which Cal State L.A. student-athletes went to Fremont Elementary School in Alhambra and read to the children. The student-athletes also conducted an athletics clinic.

The program has been so successful that it has expanded to include Robert F. Kennedy Elementary School in Los Angeles this academic year.

The intent of the program is to continually enrich the lives of student-athletes by involving them in efforts to help others, and to support local teachers’ and administrators’ efforts to develop learning skills in children.

“The Fremont kindergarten students enjoyed having the student-athletes from Cal State L.A. read and activities with them,” says Fremont Principal Amy Tambara. “I think it’s wonderful that we are able to utilize the resources at the University, and I look forward to continuing this great relationship.”

Busy Off-Season for Several Golden Eagles Head Coaches

During the off-season, all head and assistant coaches are working tirelessly to recruit top student-athletes for participation in athletics at Cal State L.A. But, sometimes they commit to extracurricular, professional activities as a way to promote their programs.

For example:

- Golden Eagles head coach Bill Lawler spent nearly a month coaching the Women’s Junior Olympics Volleyball Team in Colorado. He was also with the team as they competed at the 1999 World Championships in Canada.
- Men’s basketball coach Dave Yanai conducted numerous youth clinics and professional camps in Japan, he also assisted long-time friend Pete Newell in Hawaii with the NBA “Big Man” Camp.
- Tina Karwasky worked 10s and 45s singles and doubles titles at the National Grass Court Championships in New York this past July, earning Inside Tennis Player of the Month honors for September 1999.

A Legend and Her Friends, Billie Jean King Day” featured a tennis pro-am tournament, a clinic, and celebrity tennis matches at Cal State L.A. A private luncheon at the University was followed by a gala dinner and auction at the Ritz-Carlton Huntington Hotel in Pasadena. Joining King for the occasion were many friends, including legendary tennis greats Rosie Casals, Tracy Austin and Pam Shriver.

KCBS-TV Channel 2 sports anchor Jim Hll emceed the evening’s festivities.

Winner of 20 Wimbledon titles, King holds an honorary doctorate from Cal State L.A. She is donating her time for three years to help raise scholarship funds for the University’s scholar-athletes. Last year’s inaugural event raised more than $54,000.

KRLA Talk Radio was chosen as the official radio station for the event. Gala dinner sponsorships were available at $1,500 for a table of 10 or $150 per person.
Engineering and Technology: Phasing In...

Students, faculty and staff are moving back in to the Engineering and Technology building C-wing in time for the start of the 1999-2000 academic year. The move represents the completion of Phase I of the University's three-phase $81 million E&T laboratory renovation project, which will give students access to some of the most technologically advanced engineering and technology labs in the nation. Construction began in fall of 1998.

According to Raymond B. Landis, dean of the School of Engineering and Technology, "almost all laboratories in the C-wing are operational, and the School is in the process of acquiring the $4.4 million in new lab equipment that has been budgeted for the entire project." Added Landis, "We're very excited to be able to provide our students with laboratories, computer facilities, and instructional classrooms on a par with the best engineering and technology programs in the nation."

To further this effort, the School has embarked on a major fundraising campaign. A lead gift in this campaign was Hewlett-Packard Company's generous donation of state-of-the-art testing and instrumentation equipment, valued at nearly $200,000, that has been used to complete two C-wing laboratories.

The second and third phases of the renovation project are underway, with completion projected for Spring 2000.

Laboratories in the C-wing include the following:

- Ground level: Aerodynamics Lab (CE/ME), two research labs (one of which currently houses the Fiber Optics and Non-Linear Optics programs), Soils, Pavement and Asphalt Design Lab (CE), and Advanced Strength of Materials Lab (CE/ME).
- First floor: Data Acquisition/Machine Analysis Lab (ME), Controls Lab (EE/ME), Thermal Systems Lab (ME/TECH), Metalurgy Lab (ME), Photovoltaic Systems Lab (ME), Strength of Materials Lab (CE/ME), Concrete Lab (CE), and Environmental Lab (CE).
- Second floor: Digital Design Lab (EE), Interface Design Lab (EE), Measurements and Circuits Lab (EE), Electronics Design Lab (EE), and the Computer Center, comprising the E&T Open Access Lab (43 workstations), three computer classrooms (25 workstations), Computer-Aided Design Lab (20 workstations), and Advanced Workstation Lab (12 workstations).

Become an Alumni Ambassador for Higher Education

Everyone who lives and works in California has a stake in maintaining a strong and accessible California State University System. That's because the CSU educates 10% of the state's workforce— including a majority of our teachers, computer scientists, engineers and business graduates. With three million new jobs expected to be created over the next five years, California's thriving economy is dependent on quality graduates from one of the world's largest systems of public higher education—the CSU.

Cal State L.A. alumni and friends can now help promote public support for the CSU by joining Alumni Ambassadors for Higher Education. Ambassadors are asked to contact their state legislators periodically, when the University's budget is under consideration, new construction is being proposed, or support for student and faculty interests is needed. Ambassadors may meet with elected officials when they visit a CSU campus. You’ll even be kept up to date on current happenings in the State Legislature through a special insider's report.

It's easy to join, and anyone who votes is eligible! The Alumni Association's Legislative Committee— Neil Nilchian '84 (Chair), Marilyn Plummer '71, Dave Holman '74, and Ron Beldner '64—is looking forward to hearing from you. Just fill out and return the form below or contact us through e-mail at alumni@calstatela.edu.

Noted Alums from the '70s Establish Internships

His past March, Sami Siddiqui '76, president and CRO, North American Cards, Citicorp Credit Services, Inc., was honored as the University’s 1998 Distinguished Alumnus for the School of Business and Economics. Recently, he established an internship for Cal State L.A. students at Citibank in New York City. He is pictured here with Cal State L.A. marketing major Angelina Lee ’99, the New York program’s first intern. As we went to press, we were notified that Lee was appointed assistant manager of production management, a full-time position, at Citicorp’s New York headquarters.

Other notable ’70s alumni have made it possible for Cal State L.A. students to receive real-world job experience that has helped them succeed in their fields. Business major Thadisary “Sandy” Xayparaseuth ’86 was hired by Mattel, Inc., after participating with two other students in an internship created by 1994 School of Business and Economics Distinguished Alumnus Fermín Caza ’71. Mattel’s senior vice president for international trade and worldwide government affairs, Sharon Harrison Morris ’76, the University’s 1997 Outstanding Alumnus Award recipient, began an internship program for several Cal State L.A. undergraduates at the City of Los Angeles Department on Disability, were she is executive director (see page 8).
Welcome, Scarleth, Ivan, Laurel, Numan, Nathan, Monica, Ciro and Hunly!

This fall quarter, eight exceptional students entered Cal State L.A. as the first beneficiaries of the new President’s Scholars program. Motivated high achievers, the students were selected from local high schools to receive the University’s most prestigious scholarship.

All of these outstanding students will receive $5,000 per year during their four years of full-time enrollment. The award covers tuition, books and other academic and living expenses. The new scholars will get priority registration and will be guests at a recognition ceremony with President James M. Rosser and University administrators.

The scholarships have been funded by alumni contributions to the University’s Annual Fund and augmented by an allotment for two scholarships from Associated Students, Inc.

[See page 2 for profiles of our new President’s Scholars.]