Looking Ahead . . .

By example: What does it take to become a leader?

“I believe in the three ‘Cs’ of effective leadership: communication, caring and compromise. A good leader must be able to communicate her/his ideas, intentions, expectations, and encourage the same in others. A good leader must also demonstrate through words and actions that he/she cares about the welfare of those being led. Finally, conflict is inevitable, so a good leader must be able to compromise on occasion so that everyone’s opinion has value.” — Robert Desharnais, 2010-11 President’s Distinguished Professor

“A will to serve, a heart to care and a spirit that can persevere. But to be a good leader, one must also have compassion, make the tough decisions, even if you must stand alone, and remain humble with every success.” — Jennifpa-Lauren Nielsen, president, Associated Students, Inc.

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Health and Human Services

Cal State L.A. was selected to begin planning for its new Bachelor of Science in Food Science and Technology program, which will be offered in conjunction with computer science, civil, mechanical and electrical engineering, education, empowering students to become leaders and giving students the tools to succeed in life. A leader appreciates and recognizes the contributions and support from his team.” — Gonzalo Centeno, 2010-11 Outstanding Staff awardee

First and foremost, a leader must have an understanding of what it takes to make the trains run on time, as well as an ability to ‘tolerate the train’ at times. But she must also be able to articulate why the ‘trains’ are going where they’re going and whether they’re ought to be going in a different direction. Finally, she must be able to determine whether the organization ought to remain in the ‘train’ business.

A leader possesses the courage to take risks and make smart choices, the ability to articulate and inspire a shared vision and a strategic perspective, and the desire to be of service.” — Ashish Vaidya, Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs

Xu garners CSU research accolades

For his outstanding contributions to biotechnology research and education, Howard Xu, professor of microbiology, recently received the CSU’s Anthony Andreoli Faculty Service Award at the CSU’s 23rd Annual Biotechnology Symposium. He was also honored for his integral role in developing the CSU’s Professional Science Master’s program in biotechnology. Gone are the days of traditional in vitro antibiotic drug discovery and research. In vitro drug screening techniques, computer simulations, and genomic analysis are now the norm.

Xu explained, “Since people who take antibiotics do so, on average, for only a week and then don’t need them anymore, there isn’t a lot of profit for pharmaceutical companies in the research and development of these drugs.”

In a collegiate setting, however, with professors who have experience and skills that match industry researchers, and microbiology students willing to work for knowledge alone, discovery comes at a much, much lower price. “With funding from the National Institutes of Health, we are in the process of discovering new drugs, and have identified some anti-bacterial inhibitors with interesting chemical structures,” said Xu. “We are also developing tools to rapidly link inhibitors with their cellular target for positive role modeling, hard work, moral, physical toughness, graceful diplomacy, genuine compassion, and dogged perseverance.” — Rika Houston, 2011 Commandant Grand Marshal

This fall, two new special options (environmental health and human services) were added to the Bachelor of Science in Engineering program. An integrated program for the bachelor’s and master’s degrees in civil, mechanical and electrical engineering, along with computer science, is also now being offered.

Quick Clicks

Public Safety locks up permanent home

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super Sunday outreach

briefly...

professor is world peace fellow

Manisha Javeri, an associate professor of instructional technology in the Division of Applied and Advanced Studies in Education, was one of only 38 selected globally to be named a World Peace Fellow by the Rotary Club for International Studies. She conducted field studies in Cambodia and attended resolution sessions led by esteemed professors from around the world. For more about Javeri and her journeys, read her blog: manishajaveri.blogspot.com

ITS trio donates to honors college

This past December, three ITS managers decided collectively that instead of spending on holiday parties and gifts that a gift to Cal State LA’s Annual Fund would be better. Jeff Cheam, Bob Hoffman and Chris Rapp together generously donated a total of $1,350 to help support the Honors College. Since its launch in May 1997, CSULA’s Office of Annual Giving has served as CSULA ambassadors, calling more than 40,000 alumni, parents, faculty, staff and friends of Cal State LA’s Student Support Services to solicit their support. Over the last 14 years, the Alumni has raised more than $3 million of unrestricted funding to support areas of the greatest need.

This is an unequal support helped to create and launch the President’s Scholars in Fall 1999. Since those first eight recipients entered Cal State LA, more than 120 students have been awarded the prestigious four-year scholarship. The Honors College has now become the focus of the Annual Fund efforts. With applications for the first cohort accepted through March 31, the Honors College is set to open this fall 2011. For details: www.calstate.edu/africa/

Mark your calendars

• VIP Welcome Day: Sat., April 9
• GradFair: Wed. and Thurs., April 13-14
• Honors Convocation: Fri., April 29
• Commencement ceremonies: Fri., Sat. and Sun., June 10-11

For more campus events, go to www.calstatela.edu/calendar

Take Five: Q & A

What is Take Five?

Launched by the Division of Academic Affairs, Take Five is a pilot mentoring program for first-time freshmen and new transfer students. As a participant in the program, each student is randomly assigned to a CSULA mentor. There is no fee for students to participate.

What is a mentor?

In this program, a mentor is defined as a wise and trusted staff, administrator or faculty member who voluntarily provides support, encouragement and direction for students regarding helpful University resources. A mentor should recommend the mentee to also begin meeting with his or her faculty adviser.

What are the goals of Take Five?

It is aimed at improving the overall experience of participating students, increasing the likelihood of student success and, ultimately, shortening students’ time to graduation.

What are the expectations?

The mentor and mentee will meet at least once a month from January to July and be in contact via e-mail or telephone on a regular basis.

How many students are involved?

Out of the more than 1,200 students that were sent invitations, more than 200 responded to participate in the pilot program. Of the mentees, the majority are female and two-thirds are Hispanic, while the largest number of majors are from business administration and psychology.

How many volunteered as mentors?

More than 100 staff, faculty and administrators volunteered to become mentors with the plan to mentor five students each. Since there are 200+ students who signed up, each mentor is currently assigned to two or three mentees to help the students navigate the demands of a higher education.

Via mini sensors, research team investigates climate change impacts on coastal marine life

Tinner than many of the sea creatures they were designed to help protect, several cutting-edge, on-shore sensors are monitoring how the salinity of water along the shore of Barney Sounds, British Columbia, changes with rainfall on the surrounding landscape.

The miniature sensors, funded for the University by Morton La Kreit, correlate periods of lowered salinity with dramatic changes in the activity and survival of starfish, mussels, sea slugs and other denizens of the shore community. The sensors remain in place for weeks at a time until they are periodically retrieved, in order to download stored information for research by CSULA professors Carlos Robles, Patrick Krug and Hanchun Ye, student fellows and partner institutions.

The research project, conducted in partnership with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration-funded Cooperative Institute for Marine Ecosystems and Climate (CIMEC), is focused on how changing rainfall and run-off might alter sea surface salinity affecting species distribution and the behavior of key grazers in coastal communities in the Pacific Northwest. Robles, who is also a member of the CIMEC Cooperative Institute Leadership Council, said the calibrated data from the minicircus sensors are one piece of a complex puzzle of how climate change will be affected by future global climate change.

CSULA student fellows are working on meaningful projects that address a great challenge that their generation must soon confront.

Learn more about Cal State L.A.’s CIMEC partnership by tuning into a recent Environmental Directions Radio news segment at www.youtube.com/watch?v=BGSpERbjL24 or refer to the CSULA press release at www.calstatela.edu/univ/npa/news/in/community/CIMEC.htm

double life for faculty, staff

For a number of faculty and staff members, Cal State L.A. is just one significant part of their lives. Although devoted to their roles on campus, many also are committed to their interests.

With their talents and passion, Psychology Professor Hank Schlinger is a songwriter and guitarist; Sheila M. Blaise, an equipment technician for the College of Engineering, Computer Science, and Technology, is a train aficionado who is building a g-gauged model of a steam locomotive; Robles, who is also a member of the CIMEC Cooperative Institute Leadership Council, said the calibrated data from the minicircus sensors are one piece of a complex puzzle of how climate change will be affected by future global climate change.

CSULA alumna Corey Gause (now an environmental science faculty member at CSU Monterey Bay) setting up survey equipment near the shoreline of Barney Sounds, British Columbia. (Photo Image: Close-up of the minicircus salinity sensor. Measuring two inches in length.)

looking ahead...

arts and letters

The Korea Education Center of Los Angeles—which is the L.A. office of the Korean Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology—recently awarded Cal State L.A.’s $677,000 grant to further establish and strengthen curriculum in the study of Korean language and culture, with efforts toward potentially establishing a degree program and a Korean Single-Subject Teacher Credential Program.

Languages and Literatures Professor Namhee Lee and Sociology Professor Hyungsook Kim are working to build the strengths of the existing CSU Strategic Language Initiative.

Super Sunday outreach

President James M. Rosser spoke to members of the Covenant Church at last year’s CSU Super Sunday.

Joining Rosser will be Engineering, Computer Science, and Technology Dean Keith Moo-Young and Arts and Letters Acting Dean Bryant Alexander. They will also deliver the message during the Davst of Prayer for college early at two additional local churches on Feb. 27. For more about the CSU’s annual Super Sunday: www.calstate.edu/supersunday/

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Looking Ahead...

Business and Economics

Now through April 2, free income tax preparation services will be offered to low- and moderate-income ($40,000 or less) individuals from the surrounding communities through the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program. Sponsored by David Hassell, associate professor of accounting, VITA service is offered Saturdays, 9 a.m.-noon. For details: www.csula.edu/pr/ events/volunteerincomeservices.html

Education

Twenty student-resident teachers in the first cohort of the Los Angeles Urban Teacher Residency are assigned to 20 different mentor-teachers in the Los Angeles Unified School District. For details: www.lautr.org.

The second cohort of the Principal Resi- dency Network Program (PRR) has been recruited and enrolled for this academic year. The PRR prepares aspiring principals to each work closely and continuously with a distin- guished principal, while completing course- work and demonstrating the knowledge, skills, and disposition to be a school administrator.

The College is recruiting a second cohort of the independent Ed.D. program in Edu- cational Leadership to begin fall 2011. The first cohort is in the middle of its second year of the program.

As part of an articulation partnership program, a cohort of Los Angeles Commu- nity College students will transfer to CSULA in fall 2011 as Urban Learning majors to complete their education to become teachers.

Engineering, Computer Science, and Technology

In its third year, the Valdry, Science and Technology Education and Development (VESTED) Academy was established through a gift to the College from CSULA alum Warren W. Valdry. VESTED Academy is an engineering and technology summer initiative for high school students from across Los Angeles.

Focusing on preparing incoming freshmen for the transition from high school to college, the VESTED Academy implemented a Summer Transi- tion to ECTC Program (STEP). To be offered July 5-August 24, STEP focuses on reinforcing the skills and knowledge better to prepare freshmen for lower-division major requirements, so that students may pursue an engineering degree in a successful and timely manner.

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