



University

The Campus Community Newsletter



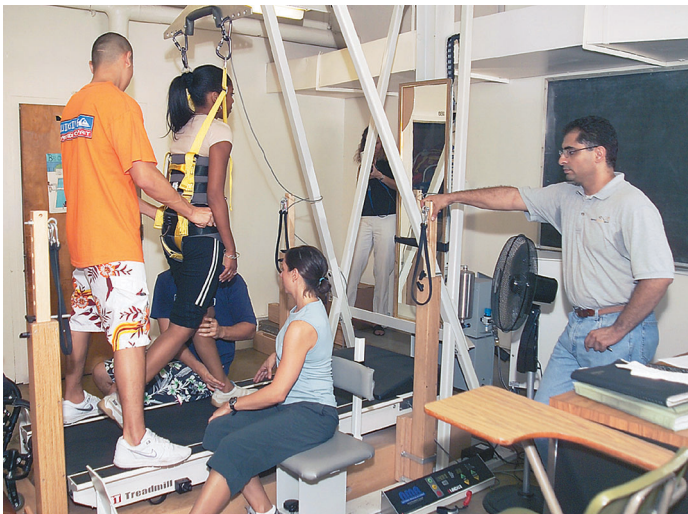
REPORTS

<http://www.calstatela.edu>

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Research project provides hope for spinal cord injuries



Before **Andrea Jennings**—a 35-year-old with spinal cord injury—decided to participate in the Spinal Cord Injury and Exercise Research (SCI-ER) project this summer, 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 CSULA faculty member who, along with kinesiology professors **Jesus Dominguez** and **Tamar Semerjian**, oversees the SCI-ER project.

Following a car accident in October 2000, in which she also suffered a brain injury, Jennings was unwilling to settle for dependency on a leg brace or power wheelchair. After more than two years of seeing a battery of doctors, Jennings says she was ready to try anything.

In 2003, Jennings heard about the SCI-ER 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.

On July 1, three SCI-ER Fellows—specially trained to conduct this therapy—began to work with Jennings using a state-of-the-art gait-training machine by Robomedica, Inc. “This is one of the machines that Christopher Reeves used!” enthuses Jennings.

Robomedica, Inc.'s (www.robomedica.com) body weight support system is among the company's first products based on research developed at UCLA and UC Irvine. It is designed for a variety of needs, including patients with neural impairments, orthopedic injuries and degenerative diseases.

The gait-training machine supports Jennings's body weight with a harness above a treadmill. At the same time, student “step trainers”—**Chung Lim**, **Suzanne Montague** and **Troy Young**—assist Jennings'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,

(continued on page 5)

President Rosser celebrates 25th year with University

This Fall marked a quarter-century of leadership by President **James M. Rosser**, who has taken the University into a new millennium and into its sixth decade. Today, Dr. Rosser has the distinction of being the nation's longest-serving African American president currently in office at a public university.

During Dr. Rosser's 25-year presidency, Cal State L.A. has become renowned for its diversity and inclusivity—attributes that add value to the University and our community. During this time, the University has continued to welcome a diverse and distinguished faculty and the campus has seen unprecedented growth. Much of what now characterizes Cal State L.A. was put in place under President Rosser's stewardship. Signature facilities such as housing, the remodeled Engineering & Technology and Music buildings, the Luckman Fine Arts Complex, the expanded Anna Bing Arnold Children's Center, and The



Golden Eagle are significant visible facets of Dr. Rosser's legacy. The Pat Brown Institute, Roybal Institute for Applied Gerontology, SPACE lab, Integrated Humanities Center, CEACREST, President's Scholars, and many other noteworthy centers, institutes and programs were also introduced during this period. And who can imagine the University without its Solar Eagle cars and other award-winning alternative energy vehicle programs?

Less visible but no less critical are the innovations to campus technology and infrastructure that have been instituted during Dr. Rosser's tenure. The new Luckman Intimate Theatre, a regional Crime Lab and an interdisciplinary science facility are on the horizon.

Happy 25th anniversary, President Rosser! Cal State L.A. is strengthened by your vision and support.



Fulbright scholar

Yehudi Webster (*Sociology*) has been awarded a prestigious Fulbright Scholar grant to lecture at Lodz University, Poland, during the 2003-2004 academic year.

According to the U.S. Department of State and the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board, Webster will



teach courses on race and ethnicity in American society, violence in American society, and multicultural education in the Department of American Studies and Mass Media.

The Fulbright Program—America's flagship international educational exchange activity—is sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

CCST member

Carlos G. Gutiérrez (*Chemistry and Biochemistry*) was appointed a member of the California Council of Science and Technology (CCST). The Council is an independent 30 member assembly of corporate CEOs, academicians, scientists and scholars of the highest distinction.



The Council provides independent and objective findings on public policy issues involving science and technology that affect the State of California.

Black Issues' top ten

Cal State L.A. was recently listed #9 among *Black Issues in Higher Education's* "Top 100," a national list of colleges and universities that conferred the most bachelor's degrees to minority students in 2001-2002, according to data from the U.S. Department of Education.

Listed by particular disciplines, Cal State L.A. ranked #1 in awarding bachelor's degrees in education to Hispanic students, #3 in awarding bachelor's degrees in area/ethnic studies to Hispanic students, and #4 in awarding bachelor's degree in education to Asian American students. Cal State L.A. is also the top ranking institution in California awarding bachelor's degrees in all disciplines combined to Hispanic students. LA

Coach leads U.S. team

On Aug. 17, CSULA head tennis coach **Tina Karwasky's** three-set singles victory and straight-set doubles victory versus Austria led the United States to the championship of the International Tennis Federation's (ITF) Maria Esther Bueno Cup in Eisenach, Germany. In the final tie against Austria, Karwasky defeated Maria Geyer in singles, 6-3, 4-6, 6-2, before pairing with U.S. team captain Margaret Russo for a 6-2, 6-0 win in doubles which clinched the Bueno Cup title for the American team. The ITF Bueno Cup is an international tennis team competition for women age 50 and older. LA



CSULA partners in first West Coast 'early college'

The Accelerated Charter High School, a new public charter high school in south Los Angeles, in partnership with Cal State L.A., was among the nation's first four Woodrow Wilson High School Early Colleges to open this September.

Funding for all four Woodrow Wilson High School Early Colleges is provided by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the Carnegie Corporation of New York.

Other Early College high schools are at Hunter College and Brooklyn College, in partnership with the New York City Department of Education, and through Dillard University in partnership with the New Orleans Public Schools. Ten schools will eventually be established in urban areas around the country.

All Woodrow Wilson schools emphasize liberal arts coursework typical of introductory college undergraduate classes. Graduates are expected to receive significant college credit—in some cases, enough to enter college as sophomores or juniors.

The Accelerated Charter High School, located on Martin Luther King Blvd., began this year with 30 ninth-graders, with priority given to Accelerated School 7th and 8th graders. The school's co-directors, **Kevin Sved** and **Johnathan Williams**, say enrollment is anticipated to grow to 360 in four years. The bulk of the early college courses will be taken in 11th and 12th grades, says **Juli Quinn** (*Curriculum and Instruction*).

Quinn is the faculty liaison between the University and The Accelerated School—a

Los Angeles charter school that, until now has served K-8.

"The high school teachers will work alongside our professors as they develop a syllabus for each course," she says. "There will also be opportunities for professors and ACHS teachers to team-teach some units and examine student work together to assure the rigor of the college curriculum is maintained. In all cases the ACHS teachers and professors will work as colleagues."

The program also seeks to bring high school and college programs closer and encourage collaboration among high school and college faculty. While individual schools may use various models, the effort is inspired by the nationally noted Bard High School Early College, established in fall 2001 by Bard and Simon's Rock Colleges.

"The University is very excited to be part of this unique collaborative," Quinn said. LA



University Reports

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For Web calendar, go to:
www.calstatela.edu/calendar

Cal State L.A. Outstanding Professors announced



Pictured: (back row, l-r) President James M. Rosser; Ted Anagnoson, Academic Senate chair; Provost Herman D. Lujan; Margaret Jefferson, OPA selection chair; (front row, l-r) Sunil Sapra, Daphne Liu, Judith Hamera, Penelope Semrau and Majdedin Mimirani.

The **Outstanding Professor Awards** are made primarily for excellence in teaching, but significant achievements are expected in scholarly inquiry or creativity, professional activities, and service to the campus and community.

The **President's Distinguished Professor Award** recognizes superlative teaching and exceptional commitment to students as well as professional accomplishments and services. Only those professors who have previously been selected as Outstanding Professors are eligible for this award.

Congratulations to our 2002-2003 Outstanding Professors and 2004 President's Distinguished Professor!

PRESIDENT'S DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR:

Judith Hamera, Professor of Speech Communication (*College of Arts and Letters*)

Currently serving as acting associate dean of the College of Arts and Letters, Professor Judith Hamera is the recipient of the President's Distinguished Professor Award for 2004.



Since 1987, when she arrived at Cal State L.A., Hamera has taught nine differ-

ent graduate seminars and 15 undergraduate courses across two departments—the Department of Communication Studies and the Department of Theatre Arts and Dance. Her significantly superior student evaluations have addressed her professionalism, the challenging nature of her course requirements, and her caring attitude. She has been commended for providing challenging, intellectually stimulating and highly motivating courses to every student who enters her classroom.

Hamera's major professional achievements include more than 30 book chapters and articles in prestigious national and international journals in her field, and more than 40 presentations at national and international meetings. Hamera's numerous professional awards and honors include her selection as co-editor of the most definitive reference work in her field and as recipient of the highest award for outstanding scholarship by the national organization in this discipline. Hamera has served as the editor of *Text and Performance Quarterly*, a major peer-reviewed national journal. She is the recipient of the 1996 Cal State L.A. Outstanding Professor Award.

Hamera received her B.A. from Wayne State University and her M.A. and Ph.D. from Northwestern University.

OUTSTANDING PROFESSORS:

Daphne Der-Fen Liu, Professor of Mathematics (*College of Natural and Social Sciences*)

Daphne Liu, a CSULA faculty member since 1991, has taught a wide range of courses—23 different subjects ranging from general education through graduate courses—and supervised more than a dozen graduate and undergraduate students in direct study courses. She has been instrumental in designing an upper division course on graph theory as well as an important core requirement course on discrete mathematics. She was also principal graduate advisor for mathematics, providing advisement and supervision to more than 60 M.S. students. Liu has been a visiting professor in Taiwan at the National Sun Yat-sen University, Academic Sinica, and the National Chiao Tung University. Liu received her B.S. from National Central University, Taiwan, and her Ph.D. from the University of South Carolina, Columbia.

Some of her more than 20 publications have appeared in the most prestigious jour-



(continued on page 4)

2002-2003 OPAs *(continued from page 3)*

nals in her research fields. She has given more than 40 presentations at professional conferences, workshops and institutions nationally and internationally, including invited talks presented at Oxford University, Simon Fraser University, Rutgers University, and Caltech. She has refereed numerous research papers for major research journals in her field, and serves as a reviewer for NSF grant proposals. Liu is the recipient of two National Science Foundation research grants.

Liu's research involves both theory and applications, with a main focus on graph coloring problems including their interplay with number theory and their applications to broadcast communications, such as TV or radio channel assignments. For three consecutive years, Liu has served as the final judge for an annual international contest for undergraduate students in her discipline.

Majdedin Mirmirani, Professor of Mechanical Engineering (*College of Engineering, Computer Science, and Technology*)

Majdedin Mirmirani is serving his third term as department chair while maintaining a very active, full-time research program. He has been a CSULA faculty member since 1981.



Mirmirani uses problem-based learning in his courses to promote critical thinking. He challenges students on the first day of class with an open-ended real world problem: by solving this type of problem, he says, his students learn all the required theories.

Mirmirani's professional achievements include 40 publications in top-ranked journals and proceedings of conferences in his field, book chapters, and technical reports and briefs. He is the PI or co-PI on external research grants that exceed \$13 million.

Over the past eight years, Mirmirani's research had focused on the design and construction of a testbed for large segmented telescopes. His current research, funded by NASA and the U.S. Air Force, focuses on the development of multidisciplinary tools for design, modeling and simulation of high-performance

aircraft such as NASA's air-breathing hypersonic air vehicle, design of intelligent flight control laws and aero-elasticity. All of his research projects directly involve the participation of undergraduate and graduate students.

Mirmirani received his B.S. in mechanical engineering from Tehran Polytechnic, Iran, and both his M.S. and Ph.D. in mechanical engineering specializing in dynamic systems and control from UC Berkeley.

Sunil K. Sapra, Professor of Economics and Statistics (*College of Business and Economics*)

Sunil K. Sapra earned his B.S. from the University of Delhi, India, M.A. from Delhi School of Economics, India, M.Phil. and Ph.D. from Columbia University, and held the prestigious ASA/NSF/Census Research Fellowship at the Bureau of Census in 1989.



Since joining CSULA in 1991, Sapra has been extremely active in teaching and research. He has taught a wide variety of courses in economics, econometrics, and statistics, including business statistics and international economics. A popular teacher on campus, Sapra has consistently received top teaching evaluations in all his courses.

Sapra's research has focused on missing data problems, nonlinear statistical and econometric models, robust statistical procedures, duration data analysis, and semi-parametric econometrics. His research on some econometric problems is considered pioneering by researchers in his field. He has published more than 50 articles in some of the most prestigious statistics and econometrics journals. His research has been cited in top journals in these fields as well as in a widely-used volume on statistical distributions. He serves on the editorial board of the journal *InterStat*, and is a reviewer for several econometrics and statistics journals. He has made presentations at national and international conferences and has been a chair and a discussant at these conferences.

Penelope Semrau, Professor of Education (*Charter College of Education—Division of Educational Foundations and Interdivisional Studies*)

In September, Penelope Semrau began her 16th teaching year at Cal State L.A. Semrau, professor of instructional technology, teaches both undergraduate and graduate classes in educational uses of computers. Her classes, which include Multimedia Design and Production, Authoring Tools in Education, and Information Technologies in the Classroom, use cutting-edge technology and constructivist approaches to learning.



Semrau pioneered the e-learning wave at Cal State L.A. She was one of the first professors in the CSU system to teach online in 1994. Because of such accomplishments, in 1998 she was invited to teach in Hamburg, Germany, on the topic of online learning.

Semrau has amassed an impressive record of publications, presentations, and 30 grants. She is currently the PI and director of a project funded by the National Security Agency. She has authored the books, *Using Interactive Video in Education* and *MacArt*, and her writings are included in educational anthologies. Her many articles and book reviews have been published in major journals in her field, including *Educational Technology* and *The Computing Teacher*.

Semrau received her B.S.E. from University of Wisconsin, Whitewater; M.S. from Illinois State University, Normal; and Ph.D. from Ohio State University. Before pursuing a university career, she taught art in Wisconsin public schools and, as a muralist, was featured in *Time* magazine.

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Hemingway? Not! Prize? Yes!

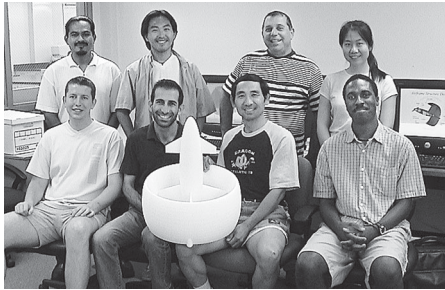
Elaine Howell, a graduate student of **Mary Bush** (*English*), was first runner-up in the 2003 23rd annual international Imitation Hemingway Contest, sponsored by *Hemispheres*, United Airlines in-flight magazine. The magazine announced the winners in the July issue.

Howell, a writer, editor and creative writing student in Cal State L.A.'s English M.A. Program, heard about the competition through her class with Bush. Her entry, "The Sun Also Rises in Hundred Acre Woods," follows Piglet as he attempts to

escape tormenting memories of the Christopher Robin War by downing shots of honey at Pooh's Place. "Milne's character, Piglet, seems like the perfect Hemingway hero (anti-hero?) to me—riddled with anxiety and fear, emasculated and unempowered, melancholic, quietly tortured," Howell says. "I'm sure if Milne had written a bar into Hundred Acre Woods, Piglet would be a regular."

Hemispheres is a critically acclaimed award-winning magazine. LA

Aircraft design places first in NASA contest



A team of students, faculty and staff placed first in a NASA competition to design an autonomous aircraft that would perform scientific explorations on Titan, Saturn's largest moon. Calling the team's design "the best" of the submissions, the NASA award letter noted that "the decisive factors in selecting Cal State

L.A. as a winner were the excellent scope of the engineering analysis and the rigor of [the] design."

After six months of intense research and analysis, the CSULA team proposed an innovative concept vehicle that takes off and lands vertically—either on land or on lakes of liquid methane, which is used to fuel the engine.

The team included the following mechanical engineering majors: team leader **Uche Ofoma**, **Shigeru Matsuyama**, **Annie He**, **Amir Massoudi**, and **Josue Cruz**. Interns from the French Institute for Advanced Mechanics **Julien Blanc** and **Jean-Yves Fargeat** also contributed to the vehicle design. The team's faculty advisor is **Chivey Wu** (*Mechanical Engineering*). LA

Rehab *(continued from page 1)*

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 intensely with her this summer."

Jennings attributes much of her recovery to a strong faith in God, but she also can't stop praising the SCIER Fellows, professors, and the designers of the gait-training equipment. "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," says Jennings. LA

In addition to participating in the SCIER project, Jennings is enrolled in Kinesiology 155, a course open to anyone who needs assistance in exercising. The class has access to adaptive exercise equipments in the Mobility Training Center.

With renewed aspirations, Jennings recently started a non-profit organization to increase public awareness about the needs of people with disabilities and to raise 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 at Cal State L.A. At the moment, however, her focus is on her therapy and getting the word out about the SCIER project. LA

In memoriam

John Swain, College of Arts and Letters associate dean, musician, composer and music educator, passed away on Aug. 3 after a courageous battle with co-



lision cancer. Swain served on the faculty for 19 years. As chair of the University Music Administrators of California and the California Council on Music Education, he was a leader in setting agendas to examine issues in music education in California. He is survived by his wife Gail, his daughter Abigail, his mother, and two sisters. To contribute to the John Swain scholarship fund, call ext. 3-4001.

Students win high honor

Cal State L.A.'s student chapter of Society for the Advancement of Material and Process Engineering won third prize for its glass bridge model (weighing 855.8 grams) at SAMPE's 2003 Super Light-Weight Composite Bridge Building Contest.

The team included civil engineering majors **Romel Bravo**, **Marco Ibarra**, **Patrick Doan**, **Christina Mannino**, **Estela Donoso**, **Andrei Tcharssov**, and **Francisco Garcia**.

The faculty advisor was **Narendra Taly** (*Civil Engineering*).

The objective of the bridge building contest is to design and build the most weight-efficient bridge constructed of composite materials. LA

Faculty listings

For listing of new faculty, faculty tenure and faculty promotions, go to:

www.calstatela.edu/UniversityReports/

New UAS board president appointed



Patrick Harris was appointed president of the Board of Directors of University Auxiliary Services, effective

July 1, 2003. Harris assumed the post previously held by Allen A. Mori.

Harris is chief operating officer of the Los Angeles Urban League, a nationally acclaimed non-profit corporation headquartered in Los Angeles. Prior to joining the L.A. Urban League, he was president and chief

executive officer of CGS Incorporated, a nationwide distributor of industrial safety products.

Harris' diverse background includes eight years with Security Pacific National Bank in Los Angeles. There, he held various management positions. He has also served as a part-time faculty member at Cal State L.A.'s College of Business and Economics, where he taught intermediate and managerial accounting.

Harris holds a master's degree in business administration from Indiana University and a bachelor's degree in accounting from the University of Connecticut.

Disney executive chef joins Golden Eagle team

Golden Eagle Hospitality, a new UAS division, announces **Steve M. Nelson** as executive chef for the University Club and campus catering operations.

Nelson comes to Cal State L.A. directly from the Walt Disney World Company, where he spent 13 years as restaurant chef with Olivia's Café, a 185-seat, South Florida-themed family-style restaurant; Flagler's Restaurant, known for its Italian/Mediterranean fine dining; Victoria & Albert's—an award-winning, five-star, six-course dining experience; and the Grand Floridian Café, where he oversaw a full-service a la carte menu and in-room dining for the 900-



room resort known as the "Crown Jewel" of Walt Disney World.

"Steve's talent takes our new hospitality program to a level never before experienced at Cal State L.A.," says Jeff Miller, director of Golden Eagle Hospitality. "The Golden Eagle Hospitality now provides a vast array of services to on-campus and local community patrons."

Web site makes Digital Dozen list

Geology Labs On-line (<http://www.sciencecourseware.com/>) was recently included in *Digital Dozen*, a list of exemplary Web sites for educators selected by the Eisenhower National Clearinghouse (ENC). This is the second time it has made the list, and more than a million secondary school educators have accessed the site.

Geology Labs On-line has recently expanded to include an environmental science component, earning it a new name—Virtual Courseware for Earth and Environmental Sciences. The popular site is the collaborative effort of natural science faculty members and support staff: **Robert Desharnais** (principal investigator), **Gary Novak** (principal investigator), **Dave Mayo**, **David Risner** and **Daniel Vasconcelos**.

The site's Web-based activities and lab exercises enhance the learning and teaching of geology and other Earth and environmental science topics to advanced high school and introductory college level students. Students can learn about earthquakes, geologic dating and rivers, and activities on global warming and biodiversity are under development. The exercises are interactive, requiring students to use their science process skills.

The biology portion is a separate subscription Web site (<http://www.BiologyLabsOnLine.com>), explains Desharnais. Owned jointly by Benjamin Cummings and the CSU, it has already sold more than 250,000 subscriptions and is one of the most successful subscription Web sites for college science students. LA

The CSU: Working for California

This year, it is essential that CSU campus communities spread the word about the value of a CSU education. The message being sent by the Chancellor's Office comprises three main points:

Higher education is vital to California's economic prosperity.

- A person with a bachelor's degree will earn nearly twice as much over a lifetime as a high school graduate (\$2.1 million vs. \$1.2 million). (U.S. Census Bureau)

- More educated workers mean higher tax revenues, greater productivity, a stronger high-tech workforce, and decreased reliance on government financial support.

The CSU is a leader in high-quality, accessible, student-focused higher education.

- The CSU is the country's largest university system (414,000 students); the most diverse (minority enrollment tops 53 percent); and the most affordable (student fees are the lowest of comparable public universities nationwide).

- The CSU graduates 77,000 students each year into California's workforce.

- The CSU prepares the most students in the fields that make California work: engineering, computer science, business, agriculture, and education.

The state budget crisis has created significant challenges for the CSU.

- For 2003/04, the CSU has taken a net budget reduction of 11 percent; for 2004/05 there is no enrollment growth.

- For the near term, the CSU must focus on providing "authentic access": ensuring that students enrolled get the courses they need to graduate.

- For the long term, the CSU must work toward securing a higher education funding plan that will allow us to serve students in good economic times and bad. LA