



University

The Campus Community Newsletter



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Impact of exercise on the brain studied

We all know that exercise makes us feel better—and not just physically. **Amelia Russo-Neustadt** (*Biological Sciences*) and her team of students are studying how exercise may enhance the response to antidepressant treatments, and even possibly repair brain damage and memory impairment brought about by stress.

Russo-Neustadt received a \$1.25 million, five-year renewal of an original \$500,000 grant from the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) to examine the effects of exercise and antidepressant medications on important growth factors in the brain. Working with animal models (rats and mice) and brain cells in culture, the research team is measuring how exercise affects mood and brain chemistry. The team is also working, in collaboration with UT Southwestern, on a clinical study with a group of patients being treated for depression.

What they find may contribute significantly to new and more effective treatments for stress and depression, and will provide important strategies for combating neurodegenerative disease.

This major individual medical research (R01) grant is presently the only one of its kind at Cal State L.A. Russo-Neustadt, an associate professor specializing in neuroscience, emphasizes the rarity of R01 awards at primarily undergraduate universities, and points to the extraordinary opportunity for students to hone their research skills.

Over the past five years, says Russo-Neustadt, “several students from my laboratory have already gone on to medical school, and one is finishing her first year of an M.D./Ph.D. program.”



L-r: Jaehoon Cho (*graduate student*), Amelia Russo-Neustadt, and Anita Mihecoby (*undergraduate*).

Program gears up middle school students for college

Cal State L.A. has been awarded a third six-year grant, totaling \$2.9 million, from the U.S. Department of Education to continue services offered through Project GEAR UP (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) to Belvedere and Griffith Middle Schools, as well as to two additional middle schools, Hollenbeck and Stevenson.

Project GEAR UP—sponsored by a collaborative partnership that includes East Los Angeles College, L.A. Trade Technical College, The East L.A. Community Union, Boyle Heights Center for Educational Achievement, and LAUSD District 5 schools—is to increase the number of low-income students who are prepared to enter and succeed in post-secondary education.

A total of 3,600 youths will be in the new cohort and will receive academic development support services, such as tutoring, mentoring, college field trips, academic advisement, Saturday academies, and intensive summer programs at CSULA. For more info, call ext. 3-6080.

Quality Improvement Corner

With an ongoing commitment to quality, the University recently expanded its participation in the systemwide Quality Improvement (QI) program.

The focus is to enhance the quality of campus services offered to students, staff and faculty as well as stakeholders, utilizing tools and programs initiated and implemented through the CSU Chancellor’s Office and within divisions, departments, units and auxiliaries.

Internal projects that employ QI initiatives include those managed by Facilities Planning & Construction, such as con-

struction of a Welcome Center and an ATM Kiosk on campus. Additionally, the Title V Project, a Department of Education-funded grant to streamline the processing of transfer credits received online, will enhance the evaluation of credits of community college transfer students. Another example is the way the Student Health Center initiated a task force to educate the campus community about the spread of West Nile virus.

For more about CSULA’s Quality Improvement initiatives, visit the QI website at www.calstatela.edu/univ/qi.

An EPIC ship tour



During the summer, 15 volunteers from the EPIC/IBM E-Mentor Project and 30 fourth- and fifth-graders from Ann Street Elementary School toured the USS Rushmore in San Diego. The group was invited by Lieutenant Matthew W. Chang after he received a Valentine’s Day “goodie bag” last February that the students and volunteers made and sent to U.S. Marines stationed in Iraq.

For the *University Reports* expanded online edition and the listings of new faculty, faculty tenure and faculty promotions, go to: www.calstatela.edu/UniversityReports

Women's tennis named All-Academic Team



Cal State L.A.'s women's tennis squad has been named as one of 26 NCAA Division II squads nationally, and the only NCAA Division II women's tennis program in the State of California, to earn All-Academic Team recognition from the Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA).

In addition, four CSULA student-athletes were named ITA Scholar-Athlete Award winners: **Kimmy Barnes**, **Olga Bezrukov**, **Dana Popescu** and **Carina Quan**. Only 108 Division II women's tennis players earned the awards this year, with CSULA as one of seven squads nationally to have at least four individual honorees. LA

CSULA business, engineering among nation's best

U.S. News & World Report 2006 "America's Best Colleges" issue has ranked Cal State L.A.'s business and engineering programs among the nation's best undergraduate programs for the seventh year in a row.

Cal State L.A. is the only public undergraduate (master's-awarding) university in the greater Los Angeles area making the top of the listings.

The College of Engineering, Computer Science, and Technology moved up to #32 among the Best Undergraduate Engineering Programs (non-Ph.D.).

The College of Business and Economics is #116 in this year's ranking, tied with San Jose State University, among other top undergraduate business programs.

In the *Los Angeles Business Journal* (LABJ), CSULA's MBA program was ranked as one of Los Angeles' best graduate business programs based on current full-time equivalent student enrollment. The rankings were published in the June 2005 issue of *LABJ*. LA

TV censorship analysis merits award

Steven D. Classen

(*Communication Studies*) was awarded the prestigious 2004 McGannon Book Award for *Watching Jim Crow: The Struggles over Mississippi TV, 1955-1969* (Duke University Press, 2004).



Each year, Fordham University's Donald McGannon Communication Research Center presents its *Award for Social and Ethical Relevance in Communications Policy Research* to the year's most notable book addressing issues of com-

munications policy.

Watching Jim Crow is a detailed social history and analysis of media activism and communications policy during the Civil Rights era. It focuses on the years 1955 to 1969, from the time the NAACP began urging Mississippi stations to stop censoring African Americans and discussions of integration, to a landmark decision issued by the U.S. Court of Appeals denying the license renewal of a prominent television station for its failure to serve the public interest. LA

Funding furthers humanities research

Faculty members and students are engaged in research projects that study gender and sexuality through a special program funded by the Center for the Study of Genders and Sexualities (CSGS), part of the University's Integrated Humanities Center.

Beth Baker-Cristales (*Anthropology*) is researching "Gender, Agency, and Equity in Central American Hometown Associations." **Melina Abdullah** (*Pan-African Studies*) and **Kimberly King** (*Psychology*) are working on a joint project, "Motivating Factors and Organizing Models for Anti-Poverty Activism among Poor Women and Men of Color: An Ethnographic Study." These faculty members were awarded

release time under the *Faculty Grant Writing* program and given stipends to support a student research assistant. Additionally, **Connie Corley** (*Social Work*) was awarded research assistance for her project, "Women and Aging."

Five stipends were also awarded for individual research through a competitive application process open to graduate students and upper-division undergraduates. They were: **Courtney E.J. Bates** (graduate, communications); **Paula Garcia** (graduate, Chicano Studies); **Christine Hickerson** (graduate, history); **Andrew Lau** (senior, psychology); and **Monica Rodriguez** (graduate, anthropology). LA

For the record: In the Winter 2005, vol. 35, no. 3, issue of *University Reports*, the correct dollar amount for Cal State L.A.'s annual impact on the regional economy is nearly \$600 million.

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



University Reports

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Grant pairs CCOE/LAUSD for teacher training



Ann L. Wood

The Charter College of Education (CCOE) and Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) have been awarded a \$104,000 Comprehensive Teacher Education Institute (CTEI) grant—one of only 10 grants awarded funding in California.

Begun in March, the CTEI grant sponsors the LAUSD/CSULA Mathematics and Science Intern/Induction Program.

This program employs pairs of CCOE faculty members and LAUSD curriculum advisers as site-based coaches and professional developers for math and science interns, teachers, paraprofessionals, and administrators.

Coauthors and principal investigators include **Ann L. Wood** (*Applied and Advanced Studies in Education*), and Mary Lewis, administrator of LAUSD Alternative Certification and Teacher Support. Schools participating in this pilot program are Esperanza Elementary School, Berendo Middle School, and Eagle Rock High School. Cal State L.A. CCOE professors who conduct the site-based professional activities include **Leah Melber, Rama Menon, Paul Narguizian, and Fred Uy**.

The program will operate through October 2006, with the goal of finding additional funding to become a permanent district/university partnership program between LAUSD and the Charter College of Education. LA

Excerpt from a letter...

To **Tom Laffey** (*Outreach and Recruitment*): "... I am excited to let you know that I was accepted as a (GE Certified) transfer student into CSULA. I am even more excited that I have been accepted into CSULA's nursing program starting in Fall 2005!!! ...

I wanted to thank you for talking with me about CSULA, because that is what really got me on track to applying there. Really, though, I don't know for sure if I would have had the courage to apply there without having spoken with you first. ...Your counseling session [at Pierce College] gave me so much good information that I felt comfortable applying for nursing school at CSULA. ..."

Industrial technology teacher of the year

Benjamin L. Lee

(*Technology*), coordinator of the graphic communications program, received the Los Angeles County Industrial Technology Education Association (LACITEA) College Teacher of the Year Award 2005.

This annual award is among the highest honors given to a technology education college teacher and is presented in recognition of outstanding contributions to the profession and students.



Lee was recently appointed acting associate dean of the College of Engineering, Computer Science, and Technology.

During his tenure at Cal State L.A., Lee developed the Bachelor of Science degree in the graphic communications program and designed/initiated the University's Graphic Communications/Digital Document Management/Media Lab.

He also played a key role in initiating the 2+4+Career model which allows high school students to take a full year of graphic communications courses at CSULA. LA

HENAAC confers award

Carlos G. Gutiérrez (*Chemistry and Biochemistry*) is the 2005 recipient of the HENAAC (Hispanic Engineering National Achievement Awards Corporation) Education Award.



The award, presented at the HENAAC Awards in Anaheim, recognized Gutiérrez for his commitment in preserving superior engineering science and technical education programs as well as his dedication in promoting college, graduate and postgraduate education. This award also recognized his success in preparing students for math-based careers.

Gutiérrez is director of CSULA's NIH (National Institutes of Health) Minority Access to Research Careers and Minority Biomedical Research Support programs, and faculty coordinator and mentor for its Beckman Scholars program.

Cal State L.A. was again the academic host for this year's HENAAC conference (Oct. 6-8), which included a career fair, a student leadership dinner, an interactive student competition, a technical forum, and a national awards show. LA

Advising the Mayor...

Gay Yuen (*Curriculum and Instruction*) was appointed to the Los Angeles Mayor's Council of Education Advisors.

She is one of only two CSU faculty appointed to the 30-member council, whose focus will be on ways the city can help the Los Angeles Unified School District.



A professor of language and literacy, Yuen teaches reading, writing and ESL methodology courses in the elementary teacher credentialing program, and graduate courses in second language development and multicultural education. She coordinates a state grant that supports more than 150 university interns in the completion of their California Multiple Subject Teaching Credentials. LA

Judge for L.A. theater

Stephen Rothman

(*Theatre Arts and Dance*), chair of the Department of Theatre Arts and Dance, was selected as a *LA Stage Alliance* Ovation Voter for the 2005-2006 voting season by the Ovations Review Committee.

Established in 1989, the *LA Stage Alliance* Ovation Awards are Southern California's premiere awards for excellence in theater. Held each November, the event draws national attention to professional theater in Los Angeles. The Ovation Awards are the only peer-judged theater awards in Los Angeles. *LA Stage Alliance* represents more than 230 performing arts organizations from the greater Los Angeles area. LA



CSULA Hurricane Relief:
www.calstatela.edu/univ/ppa/campusinfo.htm

New deans for Extended Education, Graduate Studies, Health and Human Services

Mustafah Dhada

was appointed dean of Extended Education, effective June 15, 2005.



Dhada has strategic and fiscal responsibility for carrying out continuing- and professional-education activities operated in a diverse array of self-supporting educational programs and services locally, nationally and internationally. These programs complement and augment the basic state-supported degree programs and curricula offered by CSULA.

Dhada provides leadership to the Division of Extended Education staff in setting goals and in developing new offerings. In doing so, he works closely with fellow Cal State L.A. deans, administrators, chairs of academic departments, and faculty members.

Dhada recently served as vice-provost of Undergraduate Studies, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and Dean of the Graduate School of Social and Policy Studies at Alliant International University, Scripps Ranch Campus, San Diego.

Dhada is a Fulbright Scholar and author of the critically acclaimed book, *Warriors At Work*. Dhada earned his B.A. from the School of African and Asian Studies at Sussex University, Falmer, Brighton, England, and his Ph.D. from the University of Oxford in England.

Jose L. Galvan was appointed dean of Graduate Studies and Research, effective July 1, 2005.

As primary advocate for the University's graduate programs, Galvan promotes research and sponsored programs, and facilitates the development of international academic programs. In addition, Galvan provides oversight of all presidentially chartered centers and institutes as well as campus clinics.



Since 1998, Galvan has served as associate dean of Graduate Studies. He has worked in all areas of responsibility assigned to the office, including the development of new master's and joint doctoral programs, administering the various graduate student programs, and chairing the Graduate Studies Policy Advisory Council. He has been active in assisting faculty to develop competitive grants and contracts, and has coordinated international academic program activities at the University.

Galvan earned his B.A., M.A. and Ph.D. at the University of Texas at Austin. He joined the faculty of the TESOL Program in the Charter College of Education in 1990, serving as its coordinator for six years before his appointment as associate dean.

Beatrice Yorker was appointed dean of Health and Human Services, effective September 14, 2005.



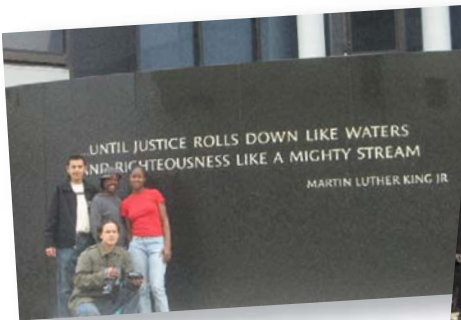
Yorker has strategic and fiscal responsibility for administering the affairs of the College of Health and Human Services, working closely with faculty in developing educational policies and curriculum.

As dean, she leads in the development of the College's academic programs and support resources, and promotes and supports faculty educational innovations and professional development.

Most recently, Yorker was director of the School of Nursing at San Francisco State University. She is an expert on violence prevention and child abuse, including Munchausen Syndrome by Proxy and forensic, gerontological, and psychiatric nursing. She consults internationally regarding her research on serial murder by healthcare providers.

Yorker received her bachelor's degree from Indiana University, her master's degree from UC San Francisco, and her Juris Doctor degree from Georgia State University. Yorker is also licensed as a registered nurse in the State of California, and a clinical nurse specialist in child and adolescent psychiatric nursing.

Around campus . . .



This past spring, four Cal State L.A. students flew to Selma, Alabama, to join the re-enactment of the first Selma-to-Montgomery civil rights march for voting rights, as part of EOP's 14th Annual Civil Rights Study Lecture Tour. Accompanied by David Sandoval (*EOP*) and Kimberly King (*Psychology*), the students were: (l-r, top) Sergio Alcaraz, Precious Holloway, Sharifa Norris, and (bottom) Gerardo Montano.



Construction near the Library adds an ATM kiosk on campus. The Cal State L.A. Federal Credit Union Board of Directors voted to contribute \$25,000 toward the construction costs.



Drag racing on sunshine! The EV Porsche 914, a student-built, solar-powered electric car, has been to Irwindale Speedway three times this summer, achieving 10.7 seconds at 63 mph on a 1/8 mile track. This fall, students will be working on speeding it up.