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Technology team takes first in manufacturing challenge

After weeks of hard work and dedication, Cal State L.A.'s technology student team garnered first place in the University Category at the highly regarded WESTEC 2004 Manufacturing Challenge, a creative annual manufacturing competition where college students engineer and manufacture products for judging by manufacturing professionals, held at the Los Angeles Convention Center.

The winning project, "Recumbent Tricycle Design and Manufacturing," beat out UC San Diego, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, Cal Poly Pomona, San Jose State, Western Washington University, Brigham Young University, and two projects from Arizona State University.

Members from the Cal State L.A. team include: **Jose Cardenas, Brendan Chua, Aaron Kausen, Jeff Kay, Shant Mardirosian, and Juan Pena.** The team advisors are technology faculty members **Paul Liu, Virgil Seaman, and Jai Hong.**

Professor Liu notes that significant underwriting from the University for its College of Engineering, Computer Science, and Technology helped to support the team's project.

For the competition, the students were to design and manufacture an electricity-powered recumbent tricycle that is suitable for both law enforcement and recreational uses. The tricycle's ergonomic design and power mechanism enable a comfortable ride, making long-distance riding free from neck strain, saddle sores, and wrist pain. There are four stages involved in this process. The first stage is to research recumbent vehicles and brainstorm ideas



Pictured (l-r): CSULA student team members Jeff Kay, Brendan Chua, Jose Cardenas, Aaron Kausen, and Shant Mardirosian at the WESTEC Challenge.

for the design. The second stage is to design using CAD (computer-aided design) software to generate the 3-D models. The third stage is to manufacture and assemble the vehicle utilizing both welding and CNC (computer numerical control). The final stage is to test the vehicle in the field and collect data.

WESTEC is cosponsored by the Society of Manufacturing Engineers (SME), the world's leading professional society serving the manufacturing industries.

Welcoming banners



Bright banners featuring alumni and students against backdrops highlighting campus and Los Angeles scenes now fly high, enhancing the university setting. Produced by Public Affairs, the approximately 60 flags were designed to reflect "the diversity of the campus and campus life as well as the world city CSULA serves," says **Kyle C. Button**, vice president of Institutional Advancement.

Alums teach at CSULA

Representing more than 10 percent of the teaching workforce on campus, the current University catalog lists about 56 full-time tenure-track faculty members who have earned degrees at Cal State L.A. Among these notable faculty members are **James Brady** (*Anthropology*), **Ethan Lipton** (*Technology*), **James Newton** (*Music*), **Judith Papenhausen** (*Nursing*), **Jaime Regalado** (*Pat Brown Institute/Political Science*), and more. These faculty, who obtained their undergraduate and/or graduate education here, have gone on to achieve their doctorates and then returned to teach CSULA students. A number of part-time alum instructors are now completing doctoral studies to become future professors.

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Social work graduate program gets high report

Having worked on a self-study reaccreditation for more than a year, the School of Social Work was recently awarded an extended eight full years of accreditation for the graduate program by the Council on Social Work Education, a national accreditation organization of the Social Work Programs in the United States. Both undergraduate and graduate programs are now fully accredited for the maximum period allowed.

The Council on Social Work Education sent three evaluators from the State University of New York, University of Houston, and University of New Mexico to evaluate the self-study and to meet with faculty, students, community advisors, and University administrators, in order to ascertain the quality of Cal State L.A.'s social work curriculum and to determine whether the School is in compliance with the National Accreditation Standards.

After spending three days on the Cal State L.A. campus, the site team gave the School's graduate program an outstanding report. The site team concluded that CSULA's School of Social Work has "a diverse and committed faculty," "a diverse

and bright group of students," "a rich and ambitious curriculum," and "a strong field instruction component."

Thanh V. Tran, director of the School, said, "We are very proud of this remarkable achievement, given our limited resources. This confirms my belief that commitment and devotion are the keys for success, not only resources. This outstanding faculty bring so much to the University in terms of their talents and commitments. I have no doubt that [Cal State L.A.'s] School of Social Work will become one of the strongest teaching schools of social work in California and in the nation."



LA

Center supports study on gender and sexuality topics

Four faculty members and six students are currently working on research projects studying gender and sexuality topics through a special program funded by the Center for the Study of Genders and Sexualities (CSGS), part of the University's new Integrated Humanities Center.

Each faculty member was awarded release time units for the academic year 2003-2004 under the Faculty Grant Writing program and given stipends to support a student research assistant.

Talia Bettcher (*Philosophy*) is preparing grant proposals on "Transgender Health-in-Education" and "Community Gender Anti-Violence" projects, with Angela Bowden (graduate student, economics). **Ester Hernandez** (*Chicano Studies*) is studying "Gender Politics Among Central Americans in Southern California," with Douglas Alejandro Diaz (senior, English).

Micol Seigel (*Liberal Studies*) is researching "Gender Identity and Mass Incarceration in Los Angeles," with Margaret Salazar (senior, liberal studies). **Tamar Semerjian** (*Kinesiology and Nutritional Science*) is focusing on "Trans-Experience and the Politics of Sport," with Portia Tsotetsi (senior, kinesiology).

Three stipends were also awarded for individual research through a competitive application process open to graduate students and upper-division undergraduates. The winners were: Lucila Chavez (graduate student, Chicano studies) for her thesis project, "Female Gender Subversion and Queerness in the Mexican Revolution"; Margaret Salazar (senior, liberal studies) for her research, "Ballet Folklorico: Staging Feminine Identities"; and James Singer (graduate student, philosophy) for work on his thesis, "Agency and Erasure in the Borderlands."

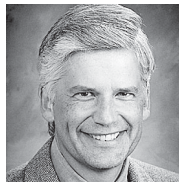


Environmental experts collaborate as one unit

Cal State L.A. has joined forces with UC counterparts and a host of federal agencies to share expertise in order to find answers to some of California's most pressing environmental questions.

The new partnership, dubbed the California Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit (CESU), is part of a national network providing research and educational assistance to federal land management, conservation, and environmental research agencies.

"The CESU is a unique endeavor that joins government agencies and environmental research groups in a common mission," says **Carlos Robles** (*Biological Sciences*), member of the CESU Executive Committee.



Cal State L.A. is one of only three California State Universities asked to participate in this prestigious cooperative, along with several UC campuses and federal agencies.

Robles points out that the collaboration enables government agencies to make use of a tremendous infrastructure of university researchers, allowing all parties to expand their work, and preventing researchers from duplicating their efforts when they could instead work together and save time, money and energy.

"These partnerships will also be incredibly beneficial for students," explains Robles. "As a result of the collaborative,

Cal State L.A. students will not only be involved in groundbreaking research, but they'll also have the opportunity to enter internships and take part in summer trainee programs that will increase their employment opportunities when they graduate."

Robles notes that CESU will not only look at environmental sciences in the future, but at social and cultural sciences as well. "This means that a broad range of disciplines will be involved. The potential exists for very diverse and unusual collaborations," says Robles.



University Reports

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Chemical research program partners with Caltech

One of only four institutions awarded nationwide, CalState L.A. recently received a prestigious grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to strengthen the University's chemical research program. The \$2.7 million, five-year NSF grant focuses on developing a Partnership for Research and Education in Materials (PREM) collaborative with the California Institute of Technology.



Directed by **Frank A. Gomez** (*Chemistry and Biochemistry*), the collaborative integrates student research experiences, scientific seminars, mentoring and advising.

"We are very happy and honored to have been awarded this grant. The funds will allow us to further strengthen the re-

search in the department as well as expand the research opportunities for our students. It is my hope that this program will serve as a model for similar initiatives throughout the United States," says Gomez, a CSULA alumnus.

The five-year grant focuses on strengthening the materials science research linkages between CSULA and Caltech. Along with Gomez, CSULA professors **Matthias Selke** and **Yong Ba** (*Chemistry and Biochemistry*) join Caltech professors Stephen Quake (applied physics) and Julie Kornfield and John Bercaw (chemistry and chemical engineering), in creating a collaborative research and educational effort between the two colleges. The grant will also support summer research experiences for students from Roosevelt, Garfield, and Wilson High Schools. LA

Grant helps children with autism

Autism specialist **William D. Frea** (*Special Education*) was awarded a \$1.2 million five-year federal grant to prepare educators and therapists to work with children with autism across the Los Angeles area. This personnel preparation grant from the U.S. Department of Education will train at least 100 professionals in methods for teaching and supporting individuals with autism.



"This grant will address the enormous need for professionals who understand how to work with children with autism and their families," says Frea. According to

Frea, the number of students identified as having autism has tripled in California over the last ten years. "This grant will provide coursework and fieldwork to special educators, counselors, behavior specialists, and school psychologists," he explains.

Frea directs CSULA's autism programs. These unique programs offer a master's degree option in autism in the Division of Special Education. The University also offers an autism certificate, which represents four courses that can be added to any credential or master's degree.

Jennifer Symon (*Special Education*), also a specialist in autism, will be coordinating the training responsibilities. LA

Student awarded for ultraviolet photos of rock art

Selected by a panel of board members, anthropology major **Clarus Backes, Jr.** received a Student Paper Award for his presentation at the 38th annual meeting of the Society for California Archaeology.

The award-winning paper was based on Backes' innovative research method of using ultraviolet fluorescence photography for the analysis of rock art, in order to detect and record traces of invisible pigment in deteriorating rock art sites.

Backes, who will receive his bachelor's degree this June, recently presented aspects of his research at the 12th Annual CSULA Student Symposium for Research, Scholarship & Creative Activity and was



selected as one of ten students who will represent the University at the upcoming Annual CSU State Student Research Competition. A Dean's List student, Backes has been accepted into the Golden Key Honor Society and was named to *Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges* in 2003-2004.

He volunteers at the Little Lake Research Group at UCLA's Rock Art Archive, and is also a full-time archaeological field crew chief for Ancient Enterprises, Inc. of Santa Monica. LA

Phenomenal woman

A professor of language and literacy, **Gay Yuen** (*Curriculum and Instruction*) was honored as one of the phenomenal women of the 32nd Congressional District, in celebration of Women's History Month 2004, at a reception on March 13 at the Irwindale Senior Center.



Pictured (l-r): Monterey Park mayor Sharon Martinez; Professor Gay Yuen; and Congresswoman Hilda Solis.

This annual event recognizes individuals who have made positive contributions to their communities through their dedication and hard work. An award letter from Congresswoman Hilda L. Solis (D-32) wrote: "Women, such as yourself, are an excellent example of what one individual is able to do to improve the lives of others around them."

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 also coordinates a state grant that supports more than 150 university interns in the completion of their California Multiple Subject Teaching Credentials.

She taught first grade at Castelar Elementary School as one of the first certified bilingual Chinese teachers in the state. She joined the faculty of CSULA in 1989, earning her Ph.D. from USC in 1995.

Yuen serves on local, state and national educational committees and task forces on minority education, and is often invited to consult in China, Korea, Singapore, and other Asian countries. She has spearheaded several education reform movements, including founding the Los Angeles Accelerated Schools Center. In 1997, Yuen headed a five-year Annenberg reform partnership with LAUSD and CSULA. She also serves on the boards of many community-based, non-profit organizations. LA

Blue hair sighting at the L.A. Marathon



On Sunday, March 7, **Raymond Lomax** (*Student Health Center*) completed his tenth race at the Los Angeles Marathon, finishing at 06:23:16. His goal is to run at least one marathon per year.


Wearing a big blue wig throughout every race, Lomax indicates, "I enjoy running and seeing the smiles on the spectators' faces when they see me run. It's a whole lot of fun! People always tell me that I am an inspiration for them to run the next year."

A proud Angelino, Lomax adds, "There is certainly a great sense of city pride

running the L.A. Marathon. I also run as a fitness challenge for my health. I usually work out at the gym doing weights five days a week and jogging two to three times a week."

Lomax is the facilities coordinator for the Student Health Center, managing building operations. About nine years ago, he started out as a student assistant in the Student Health Center while pursuing his bachelor's degree in social work and was eventually promoted to his current position.

With his enthusiasm and energy, Lomax also volunteers for different campus activities, such as Mardi Gras, the annual snow trip, Homecoming (float decorating), and more. He is also a staff development representative on the Student Affairs Committee.


"The Student Health Center would not be the Student Health Center without Lomax. His energy is contagious!" remarks **Jeffrey Tipton**, director of the Student Health Center. 

EPIC celebrates Dr. Seuss' 100th birthday



Wearing a red-and-white striped stove-pipe hat, **Mitchell Maki**, acting dean for the College of Health and Human Services, reads to children at Kennedy Elementary School, Los Angeles, as part of Dr. Seuss' birthday festivities.

In celebration of the 100th birthday of author (Theodor Geisel) Dr. Seuss, EPIC America Reads and America Counts program invited students, faculty, administrators, and staff members to take part in the Read Across America challenge.

Victoria Mosqueda (*EPIC*), America Reads and Counts program coordinator, shares, "The Cal State L.A. campus community fostered literacy in more than 250 K-5th grade children during the week of March 1-5. Visiting five partner school sites, the joy of reading was shared through read alouds, educational activities, and birthday cakes." 

CSU study reports Cal State L.A. teachers are well-prepared

"Despite beginning their careers in some challenging settings, in most instances, Cal State L.A. graduates and their employers rated their preparation better than graduates of the CSU system as a whole," notes **Carol Bartell**, dean of the Charter College of Education.

For the past three years, the CSU Chancellor's Office has conducted an extensive study of graduates of its teacher preparation programs.

A sample of graduates and their employers were surveyed about their per-

ceptions of their preparation for their work after they have been teaching for a year. Each campus was recently provided findings related to its own campus and the systemwide findings.

According to the report, Cal State L.A. prepared more teachers than any other campus in the system in 2001-2002. It indicated that CSULA graduates were much more likely than graduates of other campuses to enter teaching through alternative routes, most commonly beginning to teach on an emergency permit.

A few good men volunteers

Criminal justice major **Ignacio Pelayo** was recently presented a Tony Bourbon Award




by the East Los Angeles Women's Center (ELAWC). The recognition award was named after a long-time supporter of the ELAWC. **Frank Navarro** (*Public Safety*) received the first award last year.

Pelayo started volunteering at the ELAWC in Winter Quarter 2003. The service learning project was part of a Philosophy 230 class, "The Meaning of Human Life: A Multicultural Approach," taught by **Talia Bettcher** (*Philosophy*).

Jorge Uranga, director of EPIC, indicates, "Ignacio was one of those exceptional students who continued to volunteer after class assignments were completed."

As a volunteer, Pelayo helped with ELAWC special events, including the Edward James Olmos Latino Book Fair and the Volunteer Recognition Event. Pelayo also helped to update the Rape and Battering Referral Resource Guide.

At a previous ELAWC event, he was acknowledged by former Governor Gray Davis for his efforts toward ending violence against women. 

Also, CSULA graduates are more likely to be placed in schools in urban areas and working with English Language Learners than CSU graduates in general.

Bartell explains, "The extensive data provided by this study will assist the Charter College of Education in reviewing all aspects of teacher preparation and in making program improvements to continue to offer excellent teacher training."

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