

University Reports



California State University, Los Angeles
http://www.calstatela.edu

Vol. 32, No. 2, Winter 2002
Published by the Office of Public Affairs

Meet Our Outstanding Professors



Pictured: (back row, l-r) President James M. Rosser; Rosemary Hake, OPA Selection Committee chair; President's Distinguished Professor Carlos Gutiérrez; William A. Taylor, Academic Senate chair; and (front row, l-r) Outstanding Professors Ruben Quintero, Ira Sommers, Darlene Michener and Raymond Garcia.

Raymond Garcia, Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry; **Darlene Michener**, Professor of Curriculum and Instruction; **Ruben Quintero**, Professor of English; and **Ira Sommers**, Professor of Criminal Justice, are Cal State L.A.'s current **Outstanding Professors**. Selected at the start of each academic year by a committee of peers who have previously earned this academic distinction, the awardees embody excellence in teaching with significant achievements in scholarly inquiry or creativity, professional activities, and service to the campus and community. Since the fall of 1995, Outstanding Professors have been eligible to receive the **President's Distinguished Professor Award**, recognizing superlative teaching and exceptional commitment to students as well as professional accomplishments and services. This year, **Carlos Gutiérrez**, Professor of Chemistry, was selected as the President's Distinguished Professor awardee.

Raymond Garcia, Professor of Biochemistry—*College of Natural and Social Sciences*
On the faculty of the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry since 1982, Raymond Garcia received a B.S. degree

at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, and B.A. and Ph.D. degrees from UC Riverside. Widely known and esteemed by his undergraduate through graduate students, Garcia has served as department chair twice, and as faculty mentor and principal graduate advisor.

An expert on the dietary and hormonal regulation of plasma lipoproteins, Garcia has given many professional presentations of his research, published in numerous refereed scientific journals, and received more than \$2 million in grants to support his work. Significantly for his students, he has engaged more than six dozen undergraduates, 24 graduate students, and nearly 50 high school and community college students in this research. He has trained and mentored nearly 90 more students by sponsoring their presentations at local and national research conferences.

Garcia codirects the Science, Engineering and Math Summer Bridge program, as well as the campus' Howard Hughes Medical Institute and the Minority Science Program. He is member of the Honor Society of Phi Kappa Phi, and has served as the Cal State L.A. chapter president for

(continued on page 2)

President Scholars



When is a third class definitely first-class? When it's the third entering class of Cal State L.A. President's Scholars! The new group of 11 students brings to 27 the number of multi-talented high-achievers now studying across the disciplines from art to biochemistry and engineering to nursing. Selected from local high schools for the prestigious honor this academic year are: (top, l-r) Matthew Beard, business administration; Maritza Hernandez, biochemistry; Wenni Lam, mathematics; Elaine Liu, electrical engineering; Lawrence Lloyd, business administration; (bottom, l-r) Brian Merrill, undecided major; Zachariah Purnajo, electrical engineering; Sameera Sani, computer science; Michael Soto, civil engineering; Christopher Tan, nursing; and Brenda Valdivinos, electrical engineering.

These high achievers entered Cal State L.A. in the Fall under the President's Scholars program, a scholarship program funded by alumni contributions to the University's Annual Fund and augmented by an allotment from student government. Each student will receive **\$5,000 per year for four years of full-time enrollment**. The award covers tuition, books and other academic and living expenses.

The Annual Fund Drive, which is conducted by student-callers, helps to support the President's Scholars program and other University projects. Funding for two other scholars is provided by the Associated Students, Inc. ■

Professors (cont. from page 1)

three terms and on its executive committee for 11 years. In this leadership capacity he helped establish—and has continuously helped produce—the campus' Symposia of Student Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity, providing an opportunity for all students to present their research in a scholarly environment.

Darlene Michener, Professor of Curriculum and Instruction—*Charter College of Education*

Darlene Michener began teaching at Cal State L.A.'s Division of Curriculum and Instruction in 1985. She received her B.S.Ed. degree from Northern Illinois University, and M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of South Florida.

Michener has actively involved herself at all levels of instruction—from her 12 years of preschool and elementary school teaching experience to the development of reading programs on an administrative level. Commended by the Los Angeles County Office of Education for her work in children's literacy, she is the founder of the Charter College of Education's "Literacy Collaborative." The collaborative improves the reading and writing education of area K-12 students by developing the University's literacy teaching support programs for future and practicing K-12 teachers."

Michener is also noted for her success as the coordinator of the University's Graduate Reading Programs. In 1985, it took five to seven years for approximately 80 students to graduate. Since then, under Michener's leadership, the more than 300 students currently enrolled in the program graduate in two to three years. Under her coordination, the program has been streamlined so that graduates can receive both the M.A. degree in K-12 reading education and the California Reading and Language Arts Specialist Credential upon completion.

Michener's work is widely published, and she regularly presents and delivers keynote addresses at professional meetings. She has received 20 state, federal and University grants, has served on 45 University committees, and is active in more than a dozen community programs as well.

Ruben Quintero, Professor of English—*College of Arts and Letters*

A Cal State L.A. alumnus, Ruben Quintero is a professor of English and has been a faculty member since 1988. He received his B.A. degrees in English and in Philosophy, and Ph.D. and A.M. degrees in English and American Literature

and Language from Harvard University. He has taught 26 different classes in the English Department, from freshman composition to very specialized graduate seminars. Quintero has also revised the English Department's graduate program and served as its principal advisor.

Quintero's scholarship is internationally acclaimed. Experts declare that his award-winning book, *Literate Culture: Pope's Rhetorical Art* (University of Delaware Press, 1992), is the best work on 18th century English literature to have been published in the last 25 years. Reviewed internationally, the book is regularly cited in current research in this field, and won the University of Delaware Press Award in Eighteenth-Century Studies. As a result of this important text, he is invited to speak at national and international conferences, at which his work is often a topic of discussion. Quintero has published several essays on American playwrights, has completed a screenplay, is working on a novel, and has had a short story appear in *Viet Nam War Generation Journal*.

Among all his academic endeavors, Quintero is also serving in his fourth year as the head Athletics Academic Advisor. In the community, he has taken a lead role in revising the educational system in Pico Rivera.

Ira Sommers, Professor of Criminal Justice—*College of Health and Human Services*

Ira Sommers received his doctorate in social work from the University of Pennsylvania, and was a NIMH post-doctoral research fellow in the Department of Sociology at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst. Before joining the Cal State L.A. faculty in 1996, he was the director of research at the Criminal Justice Research Center at John Jay College of Criminal Justice. Over the course of his academic career, Sommers has conducted and published research on a wide range of topics, including substance abuse and violence, forensic mental health, and domestic violence. He has received approximately \$9 million in federal, state and foundation grants, and is currently the principal investigator on a \$260,000 National Science Foundation grant studying methamphetamine use and violence. Under a \$150,000 grant from Columbia University and the MacArthur Foundation, he is also conducting research on the incarceration and post-incarceration experiences of juvenile offenders.

Sommers has published two books on female offenders and 35 peer-reviewed journal articles and book chapters. He has been a consultant to numerous criminal

justice and mental health agencies, including the National Institute of Justice, the Office of Juvenile Justice Development and Prevention, and the New York State Office of Mental Health.

At Cal State L.A., Sommers has taught 15 different graduate and undergraduate courses, has had primary responsibility for developing comprehensive exams for the Department, and played a key role in developing the M.S. option in forensic mental health.

President's Distinguished Professor:
Carlos Gutiérrez, Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry—*College of Natural and Social Sciences*

Professor of Chemistry Carlos Gutiérrez is a highly-recognized figure on campus and a man of many talents



(many people aren't aware that an early interest in science filmmaking led him to receive a student Academy Award). Gutiérrez received his Ph.D. from UC Davis and joined the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry in 1976. He is currently serving as director of the University's NIH (National Institutes of Health) Minority Access to Research Careers and Minority Biomedical Research Support programs, and is the University's faculty coordinator and mentor for the prestigious Beckman Scholars program—a scholarship program that fosters and supports research by outstanding undergraduate students in chemistry and biological sciences research at select universities throughout the United States.



University Reports

University Reports is published by the Office of Public Affairs. All material must be sent by e-mail, <cselkin@cslanet.calstatela.edu>. For copy submission guidelines, see <<http://www.calstatela.edu/univ/ppa/ur/urform.htm>>. (Call ext. 3047 if you have no access to the Web.) Copy for the Winter 2002 issue (vol. 32, no. 3) must be received in the Public Affairs Office by Fri., Jan. 25, 2002.

Editor, Carol Selkin; Assistant editor, Margie Oi Yu; Copy editor, Nancy Miron; Photography, Stan Carstensen; Layout production, Yuri Watanabe, Margie Oi Yu; Printing, Reprographics.

In his 20+ years at Cal State L.A., Gutiérrez has mentored more than 180 students through National Institutes of Health-funded programs or as a faculty participant in other projects such as the National Science Foundation-sponsored Research Improvement in Minority Institutions and Research Experiences for Undergraduates programs.

Gutiérrez has served on and chaired various NIH committees, subcommittees and the NIGMS Council, and is an advisory committee member of the National Research Council Office of Scientific and Engineering Personnel. He has published numerous articles, all with student coauthors. In great part through his effort, the American Chemical Society (ACS) established the Committee on Minority Affairs in 1993, with Gutiérrez serving as its first chair. During his tenure as chair, the Society also established the ACS Minority Scholars Program, a \$5 million scholarship program for undergraduates, and the ACS Award for Encouraging Disadvantaged Students to Pursue Careers in Chemical Sciences. Gutiérrez helped to establish the ACS Scholars Program in 1995, and has been active on its behalf since its inception.

As vice-chair of the National Academy of Science Committee on a National Scholars Program, under contract to NASA, Gutiérrez has articulated persuasively the responsibility of all faculty—but especially science faculty—to seek out talented minority students and encourage their academic development very early in their undergraduate careers.

In 1996, Gutiérrez was among the first individuals named by the President of the United States to receive the then-newly-established annual Presidential Awards for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring. The honor was conferred at a White House ceremony. More recently, he has been named a fellow of the prestigious American Association for the Advancement of Science, received The Quality Education for Minorities in Mathematics, Science and Engineering (QEM/MSE) Network's Year 2000 MSE Giants in Science Award, and was one of four CSU faculty members selected for the \$20,000 systemwide CSU Wang Family Excellence Award. His campus honors include the University's Outstanding Professor Award; the Distinguished Scholar Award from the Cal State L.A. chapter of the national honor society Phi Kappa Phi; the Cal State L.A. Hispanic Support Network Outstanding Educator Award; and the Cal State L.A. Associated Students, Inc.'s Outstanding Faculty Award. ■

Alumna is U.S. 41st Treasurer

Cal State L.A. alumna **Rosario Marin** ('83, B.S., Business Administration-Marketing) was sworn as the **41st U.S. Treasurer** by Treasury Secretary Paul H. O'Neill on August 16, 2001. The U.S. Senate confirmed her appointment on August 3, 2001.

As Treasurer, the oldest office in the U.S. government, Marin oversees matters relating to coinage, currency and the production of other instruments issued by the United States. She reviews currency issues and redemptions, and signs U.S. currency. She also oversees the U.S. Mint and the Bureau of Engraving and Printing and serves as the National Honorary Director of the Savings Bonds Program.

"I am pleased to welcome Rosario Marin to this historic role at the Treasury Department," said Secretary O'Neill. "With her long and distinguished record of public service, she will be a valuable asset to the Department and the Bush Administration."

President James M. Rosser said: "The University community is extremely honored that Rosario Marin highlighted her studies at, and graduation from Cal State L.A. in her statement before the United States Senate Committee on Finance. We are proud that such an exemplary figure as Rosario Marin will occupy the United States government's oldest office—predating the Department of the Treasury. We look forward to her dis-



tinguished service to our country."

Prior to joining the Administration, Marin served as mayor and councilwoman of Huntington Park, CA. She concurrently worked for AT&T as public relations manager for the Hispanic Market in the Southern California Region.

Marin previously served as deputy director of the Governor's Office of Community Relations, in Los Angeles, in the administration of former California Governor Pete Wilson. She also previously served as assistant deputy director of the California State Department of Social Services; as chair of the California State Council on Developmental Disabilities; and as chief of legislative affairs for the California Department of Developmental Services.

Marin is also a graduate of Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government Programs for Senior Executives in State and Local Government.

Marin and her husband, Alex, have three children, Eric, Carmen and Alex. ■

UNIVERSITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cal State L.A. Ranks at the Top

U.S. News & World Report 2002 "Best Colleges" issue has ranked Cal State L.A.'s business and engineering programs among the nation's best undergraduate programs for the third year in a row. *U.S. News* ranked our business program among the top 150 U.S. undergraduate business programs. The program, which was listed as #130 out of 350 undergraduate college business programs rated throughout the United States, is the only such program at a public university making the list in Los Angeles.

Engineering at Cal State L.A. was placed among the top 50 Best Undergraduate (non-Ph.D.) Engineering Programs in the United States. The program was listed at #32 out of 139 such college programs ranked throughout the country.

Halloween Contest Winners

The Center for Student Development and Programs would like to thank all of those offices who participated in the Halloween Office Decorating Contest. The winners were: 1st Place—Child and Family Studies, E&T A535; 2nd Place—Political Science Department, E&T A524; and 3rd Place—English Department, E&T A604. These offices received a delicious Cafe L.A. continental breakfast. All offices that entered the contest received a prize for their efforts.

New Web Calendar

The brand new University Web calendar format will make it easier to access the events you're looking for! Check it out at <<http://www.calstatela.edu/calendar>>.

9-11: Answering the Call

Social workers, child development experts, and nurses came together on October 2 to staff a public hotline, a collaborative effort between public television station KCET and the College of Health and Human Services. KCET aired a live one-hour special about children and their reactions to the national crisis of September 11 and its aftermath as part of the nightly *Life & Times Tonight*.

The station's 36 telephones, usually reserved for pledge drives, were used by Cal State L.A. faculty members and affiliated professionals to provide off-air consultation, support, and referrals to viewers during the program and breaks. In a three-hour period, more than 240 calls were received, lasting from a few minutes to more than one-half hour. Parents and grandparents asked how to speak to their children, callers asked about the nature of Islamic beliefs, and children called who were confused by the crisis. Some who called needed to vent feelings of anxiety, fear, and anger.

A nine-year-old boy called who was "afraid but also mad." A listener spoke with him about the difference between feeling and "acting out" feelings inappropriately, helping him understand that his feelings were normal. A Muslim mother called to ask what could she say to her

children and spoke of her fears for herself and her family. "Brainstorming" with the caller, the listener helped her reflect on her situation and connected her to appropriate resources in her community. An elderly woman who had lived in Germany during World War II called to share the painful memories that the sights and sounds of the World Trade Center tragedy evoked for her.

"The project was designed to provide people with a chance to talk about their feelings, concerns, and their children," said Laurel Lambert, KCET's director of advertising and promotion. "The number of calls and the content of the calls all indicate how necessary this service was. It was obvious to me, in observing the listeners at work, that these callers were getting the professional guidance and understanding they needed." The listeners on the hotline came from the Cal State L.A.'s School of Social Work, Department of Child and Family Studies, and School of Nursing, or were affiliated professionals with the College.

"Our faculty members were very excited to participate in this project. It was an opportunity for us to contribute to a nationwide effort of recovery," said **Mitchell Maki**, associate dean of the College of Health and Human Services. ■

Six Students Named CSU Pre-Doctoral Scholars

The following Cal State L.A. graduate students were selected as Sally Casanova Pre-Doctoral Scholars for the 2001-2002 academic year (listed with their faculty mentors): **Demetrios Florakis**—Maj Mirmirani (*Electrical Engineering*); **Thananchai Jirasupakorn**—Nancy Warter-Perez (*Electrical Engineering*); **Andrew Long**—Christopher Endy (*History*); **Gregory Park**—Siyon Rhee (*Social Work*); **Gerald Pesta**—John Ramirez (*Communication Studies*); and **Vanessa Sheldon**—JoAn Kunselman (*Music*).

In addition, the California Pre-Doctoral Program Advisory Committee awarded Administration and Counseling graduate student **DeShawn Fuller** with an Honorable Mention status.

The Sally Casanova Pre-Doctoral Scholars Award is designated for participants of the CSU California Pre-Doctoral Program. The award honors the late Sally Casanova, who launched the program in 1989. A member of the CSU Chancellor's Office staff during the 1960s, Casanova spent a year at Cal Poly Pomona as an administrative fellow, and served as associate vice president for academic affairs and dean of graduate studies at CSU Dominguez Hills, a post she held from 1991 until her death in 1994. She was married to Cal State L.A. chemistry professor (now emeritus) Joseph Casanova. ■

PepsiCo/Frito-Lay Gift Will Start Student Leadership Center

On Dec. 6, "The Gateway to Los Angeles," an innovative partnership, was forged between Cal State L.A. and **PepsiCo/Frito-Lay**. A \$1.4 million donation from the PepsiCo Foundation will underwrite a campus institute—the Frito-Lay Leadership Center—that prepares students for leadership roles in the business world. The gift to the College of Business and Economics and the College of Engineering, Computer Science, and Technology—the largest cash donation ever contributed to either College—will be accompanied by significant in-kind contributions from Frito-Lay, Inc. The gift includes funding for scholarships, internships and recruitment efforts.

With the help of Frito-Lay, says **Timothy Haight**, dean of the College of Business and Economics, the center will enhance present and future dynamics in the Southern California business com-



(L-r): Dean Kwei-wu Tsai, College of Engineering, Computer Science, and Technology; Dean Timothy Haight, College of Business and Economics; Raul Yzaguirre, president, National Council of La Raza; President James M. Rosser, Cal State L.A.; Jessica Cortez, president, Hispanic Business Association, Cal State L.A.; Douglas Patino, board member, Frito-Lay Hispanic/Latino Advisory and vice-chancellor emeritus, CSU; and Al Bru, president and CEO, Frito-Lay.

munity and eventually, nationwide. This effort will help students harness the necessary strategies to compete successfully in today's local and global markets, says **Fermin Cuza**, executive-in-residence in the College of Business and Economics, who will be leading this project. ■

UNDER CONSTRUCTION...

The new format for *University Reports* is nearing completion and is scheduled to be printed during the Winter quarter. The corresponding online version of *University Reports* will follow, with the same feature stories and news items that appear in print, but with *Professional Activities, Publications, Honors and Appointments, In the News, New Emeriti*, and other regular University announcement categories in a completely searchable database format (watch for our "e-dition" e-mail). We look forward to bringing you the news and information about Cal State L.A.!