

University Reports



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

Vol. 24, No. 2, Spring 1999
Published by the Office of Publications/Public Affairs

New HRM Director

Deborah Roberson-Simms was appointed director for Human Resource Management at Cal State L.A., effective April 5, 1999.



Roberson-Simms holds a J.D. from Howard University School of Law and B.A. in political science from UCLA.

She was formerly human resource manager for the City of Pasadena, overseeing centralized city functions of labor/employee relations, safety management and education, training and employee development, and budget.

In her new capacity, she will be responsible for all aspects of human resources: employee relations, benefits, classifications, workers' compensation, risk management, environmental health and safety, employment services, and equity and diversity.

Roberson-Simms, who was a collegiate All-American in track and field, currently resides in Pasadena with her husband, Edward Simms, and two children, Derrick and Kimberly. ■

52nd Commencement Ceremony

Congresswoman Maxine Waters, a Cal State L.A. alumna, will be the keynote speaker for the 52nd Commencement exercises at Cal State L.A. on June 12.

More than 20,000 people are expected at this year's graduation to witness the conferral of more than 1,000 master's degrees and 3,100 bachelor's degrees.

Congresswoman Waters, who earned her B.A. in sociology from Cal State L.A. in 1971, is considered by many to be among the most prominent women in American politics today. She has gained a reputation as a fearless and outspoken advocate for women, children, people of color, and poor people.

On a whole range of issues, economic development and police brutality, veterans' concerns, and international affairs, Waters can be found on the cutting edge. She has used her skill to win approval and funding for a number of important initiatives.

In December of 1996, Waters was chosen by her colleagues to chair the Congressional Black Caucus for the 105th Congressional term. This honor has placed her in the forefront of the political leadership of this country.

Prior to her election to the U.S. House of Representatives in 1990, Congress-



woman Waters already had attracted national attention for her no-nonsense, no-holds-barred style of politics. During 14 years in the California State Assembly, she rose to the powerful position of Democratic Caucus chair.

She also created the nation's first state-wide Child Abuse Prevention Training Program, gained passage of a law to prohibit police strip searches for nonviolent misdemeanors, and promoted legislation to prevent toxic chemical catastrophes.

Waters is serving her fourth term in the House of Representatives serving the 35th District of California. ■

Gift from Parsons Foundation

Support brings campus closer to realizing project that explores American identity

The Board of Directors of the **Ralph M. Parsons Foundation** has awarded \$100,000 to Cal State L.A. for a new initiative in the School of Arts and Letters. The **American Community Program**, scheduled to begin fall 1999, will examine how diverse cultures have contributed in unique ways to an American identity and how that identity is being further defined by new immigrant populations.

The full range of humanities disciplines at Cal State L.A.— history, philosophy, literary studies, arts criticism, and cultural studies—will be used to explore how this American identity is embodied in

American cultural expressions.

"We have always been a gateway institution for new populations seeking to become part of mainstream American society," said Dean **Carl Selkin** (*Arts and Letters*). "The Parsons Foundation support is a key step in our development of this program, which will link the diverse experiences of our students with the intellectual dimensions of university study. The gift has been added to an endowment that will fund student and faculty research, public events, visiting professors, research materials and publications. Cal State L.A.

(continued on page 4)

Graffiti

Did you know the campus has a **graffiti hotline**? As soon as you see any "tagging" on campus, call ext. 3-3440. Facilities Operations will attend to specific graffiti removal as quickly as possible.

Thanks for keeping the campus beautiful!

Heritage Week



On April 13, the American Indian Student Council conducted a discussion on the American Indian mascot issue for the campus celebration of **Native American Heritage Week**. Panel members included (l-r) **Charlene Teters** (Spokane), who has been called the "Rosa Parks of American Indians," and **Attallah Shabazz** (Cherokee), eldest daughter of Malcolm X and Dr. Betty Shabazz. Co-sponsors: ASI, EOP and Student Affairs.

ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS

Vice President Steven Garcia, Administration and Finance, announced the following appointments:

Patty Higuchi, director, Administrative Technology Support, effective Mar. 1, 1999.

Sri Rengenathan, university controller, effective Feb. 15, 1999.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Bryant Alexander (*Communication Studies*) performed the selection entitled "Brother Scars" as an invited guest speaker at Bates College, Lewiston, ME, Mar. 22, 1999; with **Lena Chao** (*Communication Studies*), presented a public speaking workshop for students in the Gang Violence Bridging Project at Cal State L.A., Apr. 9, 1999; and presented "Gender Markings," a performative reading on race, gender and sexuality, as a part of the Cup of Culture series sponsored by the Cross Cultural Centers, U-SU, Cal State L.A., Apr. 20, 1999.

Theodore S. Bell (*Communication Disorders*) presented a talk, "Distance Learning: Applications in Communication Disorders," to the California Council of Graduate Programs at the California Speech and Hearing Association meeting, Pasadena, CA, Apr. 15, 1999.

Susan Coutin (*Criminal Justice*) organized and chaired a session entitled "Nature and Culture within Definitions of Belonging" at the annual meeting of the American Ethnological Society, Portland, OR, Mar. 25, 1999. She also presented a paper, "The 'Real' Americans: Birth, Choice, and Naturalization," at the meeting. This paper analyzed and contrasted the rhetoric of officiants at naturalization ceremonies in L.A., with interviews of Central American immigrants seeking to naturalize.

Eleanor Ferguson-Marshalleck (*Nursing*) was coordinator, presenter, and focus group leader at a Town Hall Meeting sponsored by the Southern California Public Health Association Grassroots



Policy Development Campaign, Roybal Gerontology Center, Cal State L.A., Nov. 24, 1998. The meeting sought to educate legislators in the 45th Assembly District on the importance of nutrition and fitness for children and adolescents. The grassroots policy effort attracted more than 100 community residents, Cal State L.A. nursing students, and local and state representatives and their staff. **Laura Calderon** (*Health and Nutritional Sciences*) was a guest speaker at the event.

Stuart Fischhoff (*Psychology*) represented the Department of Psychology at a statewide conference focusing on developing outcome assessment measures for CSU graduates in psychology, Bakersfield, CA, Feb. 25-26, 1999.

Ed Forde (*Art/Center for Effective Teaching and Learning*) presented a paper, "Faculty Mentor Programs: Who Determines the Agenda?" at the Seventh Biennial National Conference of the Foundation in Art Theory and Education, held in conjunction with Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO, Mar. 18, 1999. He also presented a systemwide workshop on discipline-based assessment, "Learning Outcomes in Art and Design," Cal State L.A., Apr. 9, 1999, under a grant from the Chancellor's Office for Professional Development and the Institute for Teaching and Learning. Ford was one of only 13 faculty members in the CSU system to receive this grant.

Siegrun F. Freyss (*Political Science*) was the convener of a roundtable, "A Century of Human Resource Management in Local Government: Perennial and Emerging Personnel Issues," at the 60th National Conference of the American Society for Public Administration, Orlando, FL, Apr. 11, 1999. She also presented a paper, "Community Power Constellations and Executive Management Styles: An Analysis of Compatibility as Predictor of City Managers' Turnover Rates," at the annual meeting of the Western Political Science Association, Seattle, WA, Mar. 26, 1999.

Ita Kreft (*Educational Foundations and Interdivisional Studies*) presented a workshop to approximately 100 statisticians and medical doctors on how to predict the health of patients from the characteristics of hospitals and medical doctors, using patients' characteristics as control data. The day was organized by Rand and the Veterans Administration. The goal of the analyses is to find the characteristics of successful hospitals. A panel discussion followed the presentation at Rand Corporation, Santa Monica, CA, Apr. 1998.

Ignacio Lopez-Calvo (*Modern Languages and Literatures*) read the paper, "La visión de sí mismo como mártir y el miedo al fracaso en Rubén Darío," and chaired a session at the First Conference on Central American Literature, Arizona State University, Apr. 8-10, 1999. He also read the paper, "La desaparición del prefijo 'bi-' en la lírica femenina chicana," at the confer-



University Reports

University Reports is published three times each quarter during the fall, winter and spring and once during the summer by the Office of Publications/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 **Spring 1999 issue** (vol. 24, no. 3) must be received in the Publications/Public Affairs Office by **Mon., May 17, 1999**.

Editor—Carol Selkin.

Assistant editor—Margie Oi Yu.

Copy editor—Ellen Stein.

Photography—Stan Carstensen.

Layout production—Yuri Watanabe,

Margie Oi Yu.

Printing—Reprographics.

ence, "Chicano Cultural Production: the Third Wave," UC Irvine, Apr. 15-17, 1999.

Ali Modarres (*Pat Brown Institute/Geography and Urban Analysis*) moderated a panel, "Environmental Issues in Restructuring the City," and presented a paper, "Defiance and Identity: Environmental Justice and Social Reconstruction of Neighborhoods," both at the Annual Conference of Urban Affairs Association, Louisville, KY, Apr. 15, 1999. He also presented a colloquium, "Geographic Information Systems in Public Health," at Charles Drew University of Medicine and Science, Apr. 1, 1999, and presented a faculty colloquium, "From the Eye in the Sky to Anchoring the Space-Ship Geographic Information Systems in Data Visualization," Cal State L.A., Mar. 2, 1999.

Jaime Regalado (*Pat Brown Institute*) served as a discussant on a panel, "The Long Life of Municipal Reform," at the 1999 Western Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Seattle, WA, Mar. 25-27, 1999.

Gilbert Sanchez (*Pat Brown Institute*) served as a panelist with State Senator Tom Hayden, for a symposium, "Gang Warfare: Bringing Peace to Our Streets," at Rhino Records corporate offices, Century City, CA, Apr. 7, 1999. Sanchez also participated in the National Funding Collaborative on Violence Prevention Conference, Fort Worth, TX, 1999.

Frieda Stahl (*emerita, Physics and Astronomy*) chaired a session sponsored by the American Association of Physics Teachers (AAPT) Committee on Professional Concerns, of which she is a member, during the joint meeting of the American Physical Society (APS) and the AAPT, held in Atlanta, GA, Mar. 19-26, 1999, in celebration of APS centennial.

PUBLICATIONS

Deborah Baskin and **Ira Sommers** (*Criminal Justice*) have published *Casualties of Community Disorder: Women's Careers in Violent Street Crime*, Westview Press, 1998.

The **Edmund G. "Pat" Brown Institute of Public Affairs** was listed in the publication, *Commitment and Success*, a compendium of best practices at American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU) institutions, 1999.

Stuart Fischhoff (*Psychology*) published "Gangsta' rap and a murder in Bakersfield," in the *Journal of Applied Social Psychology*, vol. 29, no. 4, Apr. 1999.

Siegrun F. Freyss (*Political Science*) edited a book, *Human Resource Management in Local Government: An Essential Guide*, for the

International City/County Management Association (ICMA), Washington, DC, Mar. 1999. Freyss also wrote the introduc-



tion, oversaw the work of eight teams of coauthors, and contributed a chapter, "Products and Services for Human Resource Management in Local Government."

Jose L. Galvan (*Graduate Studies and Research*) published a book, *Writing Literature Reviews: A Guide for Students of the Social and Behavioral Sciences*, Pyczak Publishing, Los Angeles, and co-authored with Y. Fukada, "Asian International Students' Preferences for Learning in American Universities," in *The CATESOL Journal*, vol. 10.1, 1998.

What Men Really Want, a book by **Herb Goldberg** (*Psychology*), was published in Italy, under the title, *Gli Vomini & L'amore*, by Penguin paperback, Milan, 1999.

Ita Kreft (*Educational Foundations and Interdivisional Studies*), with J. Leeuw, published the book, *Introducing Multilevel Modeling*, Sage, London, 1998. She also had the following articles published: "An Illustration of Item Homogeneity Scaling and Multilevel Analysis Techniques in the Evaluation of Drug Prevention Programs," and, with J.H. Brown, introduction to the special issue, "Zero Effects of Drug Prevention Programs: Issues and Solutions," both in *Evaluation Review*, vol. 22, no. 1, 1998.

Stephen K. Ma (*Political Science*) published the following: "The Newly Promulgated Ethical Codes of China's Civil Service," *International Journal of Public Administration*, vol. 21, no. 9, 1998, and "Administrative Reform and Economic Development: Experiences in Selected Transforming and Developing Countries," in *Handbook of Economic Development*, ed., K.T. Liou, New York: Marcel Dekker, 1998. He also published the following book reviews in *Choice*: *The Challenge of Hong Kong's Reintegration With China*, Nov. 1998; *Intellectuals and the State in Post-Mao China*, Sept. 1998; *Hong Kong's New Constitutional Order: The Resumption of Chinese Sovereignty and the Basic Law*, June 1998; *The Politics of Hong Kong's Reversion to China*, Apr. 1998; and *Political Participation in Beijing*, Feb. 1998.

Rochanna Miller (*English*) pub-

lished an article and edited a series of collective voices for "Chicano/Chicana Resources," in the book, *Teaching for a Tolerant World*, eds., C. Danka and L.B. Rabinsky, Feb. 1999. She also served on the National Council Teachers of English Committee in its five year work of organizing the text's high school and college writers and topics, and with the committee, presented strategies for teaching about issues of intolerance and ways to promote crosscultural understanding in classes at NCTE conferences.

Ali Modarres (*Pat Brown Institute/Geography and Urban Analysis*) published a book chapter, "Disparities between Community Development and Economic Development in the U.S.: From Empowerment Zones to Supplemental Empowerment Zones," in *Social Exclusion in Cities: The Urban Policy Challenge*, co-author, A. Norman, ed., R. Griffiths, University of the West of England, Bristol, 1998.

Thomas Onak (*Chemistry and Biochemistry*), with J. Jaballas and M. Barfield, published, "Density Functional Theory/Finite Perturbation Theory Calculations of Nuclear Spin-Spin Coupling Constants for Polyhedral Carboranes and Boron Hydrides," in *Journal of American Chem. Society*, vol. 121, 1999.

Frieda Stahl (*emerita, Physics and Astronomy*) had an article, "A Website for the 'Misforgotten'," about the website, "Contributions of 20th Century Women to Physics" <www.physics.ucla.edu/~cwp>, published in *The Physics Teacher*, Apr. 1999.

Michael Paul A. Wong (*Housing Services*) published a book chapter, "Respect and Dignity in the Free Marketplace of Ideas: Working Class Resistance Within the University," in *Giving Voice to Critical Campus Issues*, Lanha, MD, 1999.

IN MEMORIAM

Robert Shuffer passed away on April 5, 1999. Shuffer was a part-time instructional support technician in the Biology and Microbiology Department, where he maintained the department greenhouse and prepared teaching laboratories. He also maintained research culture facilities for the CEA-CREST program. He is survived by his wife, parents, two sons, and stepson.

Contributions may be made to the Robert Shuffer Memorial Fund, which supports student scholarships. For details, contact the Biology and Microbiology Department, ext. 3-2050, or Kristine Werlinich (*Natural and Social Sciences*), ext. 3-2012.

CALENDAR NOTICE

LECTURE—CSU Spring Faculty Workshop: Webfolio Project. Fri., May 14, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. King Hall C1066. Call ext. 3-4393.

LECTURE—Taking Charge of Economic Change: Exploring the Common Struggles of the Peoples of the Americas. Thu., May 20-Sat., May 22, University-Student Union. Free. Call ext. 3-2180 or 3-2045.

LECTURE—Jean Burden Poetry Reading. Tue., May 25, 7 p.m. Los Angeles Room, U-SU. Free. Featuring award-winning poet Linda Pastan. Call ext. 3-4001.

THEATER—RACE. Thu., June 3-Sun., June 6, 8:01 p.m. (sunset), Parking Structure rooftop, 333 S. Spring Street, downtown L.A. Free. A site-specific theatre piece by noted French director/playwright Pascal Rambert, Cal State L.A. artist in residence. Call ext. 3-4110.

HONORS AND APPOINTMENTS

Deborah Baskin and **Ira Sommers** (*Criminal Justice*) have been selected by the American Society of Criminology to co-chair the program committee for the Year 2000 conference in San Francisco, CA, Nov. 2000. More than 3,000 members are expected to attend. Both have also been awarded a research grant to study methamphetamine related violence by the Guggenheim Foundation, Jan.-Dec. 1999.

Carl Selkin (*Arts and Letters*), dean, was appointed to the Getty Education Institute for the Arts Blue Ribbon Committee on Arts Education, an arts advisory body for the Los Angeles Unified School District, Oct. 1998. He served on the host committee for the College Art Association conference in Los Angeles, Feb. 10-14, 1999.

William Wasson (*Sociology*) received the Distinguished Contribution to Sociological Practice Award for 1999 from the Pacific Sociological Association at its 70th annual meeting in Portland, OR, Apr. 16, 1999. The Pacific Sociological Association, covering 11 states, honors sociological work that has an impact on government, business, health or other settings not directly connected with academia.

IN THE NEWS

The **ACCESS Center's** Middle School Science Scholars (MS³) program was featured in a KNBC-4 news story by Beverly White, 5:35 p.m., Mar. 26, 1999.

Cal State L.A.'s **America Reads** project

was mentioned in the article, "Cal State L.A. Students Celebrate Dr. Seuss," in *News Herald and Journal*, Mar. 10, 1999.

Cal State L.A.'s **Athletics Hall of Fame** inductees were featured in an article in the *Tribune*, Mar. 24, 1999, and in an article, "Jennifer Uyeda Inducted Cal State L.A. Athletics Hall of Fame," in *Kamai Forum*, Mar. 11, 1999. A captioned photo of the honorees was featured in the *Progress Post-Advocate* and *Montebello News*, Mar. 11, 1999.

George Bachmann (*Admissions and University Outreach*) was a panelist on the talk show, *Connections*, on channel 58, Nov. 18, 1998. He was also a guest on the call-in show, *Knowledge is Power*, on KPWR (106 FM), Apr. 11, 1999; in both instances the topic was about college admissions.

A video by **Jeff Curtis**, a student of **Alan Bloom** (*Communication Studies*), was selected for inclusion in KCET's student film festival, *Fine Cut*, and aired on Apr. 8, 1999. Curtis' "88.1"—named for the Long Beach public jazz station whose music comprises the score of this 12 minute work—was filmed on a home video VHS camera and tells the story of a day in the life of a pizza delivery boy who is thrust into a tangled web of intrigue and wacky circumstance. *Fine Cut*, which airs Thursdays at 10 p.m., spotlights work by students at Cal State L.A., UCLA, USC, Cal Arts, Art Center, and AFI.

Cal State L.A.'s **Early Entrance Program** was featured in the news note, "First Calculus, Then Cookies," in *Newsweek*, Mar. 29, 1999.

Neda Fabris (*Mechanical Engineering*) provided on-air translation for CBS (channel 2) news, 11 a.m., Apr. 1, 1999. Fabris also was interviewed for an Osgood Files segment about her mother-daughter engineering institute which aired nationally in Mar. 1999.

Stuart Fischhoff (*Psychology*) discussed the portrayal of psychotherapists in the entertainment media, especially film and TV, in a column by Karen Peterson, *USA Today*, Mar. 16, 1999. His comments about the psychological impact on the public of the murder of three women in Yosemite National Park appeared in the *Los Angeles Times*, Mar. 24, 1999. He was quoted in the article, "Viewers enjoy living vicariously through *Frasier*," by Greg Farrell and Julie Klam in the magazine, *Media Week*, Apr. 5, 1999. (He commented on the enjoyment audiences have in witnessing the luxurious lifestyle of the *Frasier* brothers as well as witnessing their pomposities periodically punctured.) Fischhoff was the sole guest on the Chicago radio program, "The

Parsons (cont. from page 1)

has committed funding for an endowed chair to organize and direct the program."

An ambitious campaign to raise \$1.35 million for the American Community Program was given its initial encouragement from the **National Endowment for the Humanities** (NEH). In 1996, the NEH presented a multi-year \$337,500 challenge grant to Cal State L.A.—one of 10 institutions nationally, and among only four in California, to receive the award. The NEH grant requires the University to raise three dollars for every one dollar provided by the NEH. Prominent contributors to the campaign have included the Ahmanson Foundation (\$100,000) and Edison International (\$15,000).

"In order to meet this year's NEH challenge deadline, the School of Arts and Letters has a goal of \$235,000 by July 31," explains Selkin.

For more information, call **Larry Horne** (*Arts and Letters*), ext. 3-4001. ■

Garry Lee Wright Show," on station WGN, Apr. 13, 1999, where he discussed his article, "Confessions of an ex-talkshow psychologist."

Ed Forde (*Art/Center for Effective Teaching and Learning*) was quoted in the article, "Beyond Fame," by Gordon Johnson, regarding the audition/portfolio admission process for the Los Angeles County High School for the Arts, in *The Press-Enterprise*, Riverside, CA, Apr. 15, 1999.

Cal State L.A.'s **Jazz Ensemble**, directed by **Jeff Benedict** (*Music*), was reviewed in *Jazz News*, <www.allaboutjazz.com>, Dec. 1998.

Elliott Oring (*Anthropology*) was a guest on the program, "Laughter," part of the television series, *Ecce Homo*, produced by Productions Coscient, Montreal, Canada; he was interviewed for a piece on e-mail humor which aired on the morning edition of the National Public Radio program, Mar. 18, 1999.

The **Pat Brown Institute Awards** were the subject of the article, "Cal State L.A. to Honor Rose Ochi," in *Rafu Shimpo*, Mar. 29, 1999. The Institute's **Gang Violence Bridging Project** was featured on the five o' clock news segment, "Beating the Odds," NBC (channel 4), Mar. 18, 1999.

Frieda Stahl (*emerita, Physics and Astronomy*) had a guest editorial, "Sic Semper Professore...," about successful retirement life and benefits of belonging to the Emeriti Association at Cal State L.A., featured in *College Teaching*, Winter 1999.