



# University

The Campus Community Newsletter



REPORTS

<http://www.calstatela.edu>

Winter 2006, vol. 36, no. 4

Published by the Office of Public Affairs

## Honors for FlyLab, CEA-CREST leaders



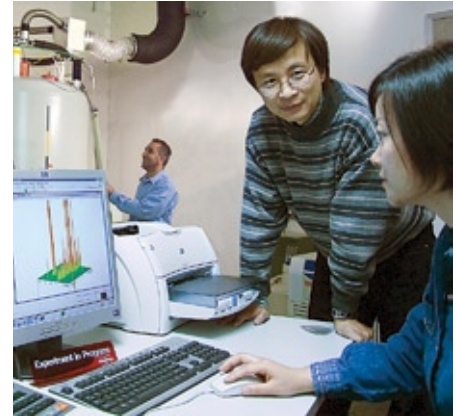
Biology professors **Robert Desharnais** (left) and **Carlos Robles** (right) were recently honored by The Quality Education for Minorities in Mathematics, Science and Engineering (QEM/MSE) Network at the Fifteenth QEM/MSE Network Conference in Washington, DC.

Desharnais was presented the 2006 *Richard Nicholson Award for Excellence in Science Teaching*, while Robles was presented the 2006 *MSE Giants in Science Award*.

Robert Desharnais, a recipient of CSULA's 1998-99 Outstanding Professor Award, has been awarded more than 15 grants totaling more than \$4 million. In 1992, he received a National Science Foundation (NSF) grant for a project to improve the way science is taught to introductory students. The result was groundbreaking "virtual courseware" that began with the highly praised *Virtual FlyLab*, a Cal State L.A. web site that was accessed more than 50 million times from high schools and colleges around the world.

Carlos Robles, a marine community ecologist, directs the Center for Environmental Analysis (CEA-CREST) at Cal State L.A. The Center is the first of its kind funded by the NSF on the West Coast. Robles also designed a "Bridges to the Ph.D. Program" to support CEA-CREST student fellows in doctoral programs in environmental science. He received Cal State L.A.'s 2004-2005 Outstanding Professor Award and the 2000 Bautzer Faculty Advancement Award, among other honors.

For details, go to [www.calstatela.edu/univ/ppa/newsrel/QEM-MSEawards.htm](http://www.calstatela.edu/univ/ppa/newsrel/QEM-MSEawards.htm) 




## NMR offers 3-D peeks into molecules, tissue

With the arrival of the CSU's most powerful nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectrometer, the sciences at Cal State L.A. have a new window into worlds previously unseen on campus.

The 600-megahertz NMR enables researchers to analyze the three-dimensional structure of molecules and observe small animals *in vivo*.

"As chemists, we must understand structures at the molecular level so we'll know how they're made up," says **Yong Ba** (*Chemistry and Biochemistry*), director of the NMR Lab. "The NMR allows us to see what's inside a molecule and living tissue without destroying anything, in a way that no other instrument can. It's the single most important instrument in chemistry and biological science."


Funded jointly by the W.M. Keck Foundation, National Institutes of Health and Cal State L.A., the NMR enhances the University's ability to secure grants enabling students to engage in research with faculty and gain hands-on experience with this leading-edge technology. 



## Smile! You're on splendid webcam!

Soon prospective students will be able to get an eagle-eye view of the campus. Going live online starting in the spring, visitors can log onto the web camera site and get a virtual campus overview. The camera captures live video at up to six frames a second.

The webcam offers a view of the Main Walk-

way, from the Music Patio to the Simpson Tower. The control button allows you to pan, tilt and zoom, and capture an image to your desktop. The webcam site, hosted by Public Affairs, is located at [webcam.calstatela.edu/home/homeJ.html](http://webcam.calstatela.edu/home/homeJ.html). 

**For the University Reports expanded online edition, go to: [www.calstatela.edu/UniversityReports](http://www.calstatela.edu/UniversityReports)**

## Chemists honor Gutiérrez as diversity catalyst

**Carlos G. Gutiérrez** (*Chemistry and Biochemistry*) was presented The Stanley C. Israel Award for Advancing Diversity in the Chemical Sciences at a symposium held in his honor during the American Chemical Society (ACS) Western Regional Meeting.

The prestigious award consists of a medal and a \$1,000 grant to support Gutiérrez's mentoring. The symposium featured current research conducted by Professor Gutiérrez's former students and a keynote address by Gutiérrez, "The Research Laboratory as Context for Student and Faculty Career Development."

The ACS selected Gutiérrez in recognition of his leadership in support of underrepresented students in the academic community. It also cited his "persuasive



Carlos Gutiérrez enjoys his moment in the limelight with his wife, Linda Tundstad (*Chemistry and Biochemistry*), at a campus reception organized in his honor at the Golden Eagle Ballroom.

work creating a support network for the underrepresented minorities in the scientific professions," leading to the establishment of the Committee on Minority Affairs. LA

## Endowed chair leads American Communities Program



**Ricardo Ortíz** (*English*) has been named the Joseph A. Bailey II, M.D. Endowed Chair and director of the University's American Communities Program (ACP). With expertise in U.S. Latino literature, critical and cultural theory, and American studies, Ortíz comes to Cal State L.A. from Georgetown University. His recent book-length project, *Cultural Erotics in Cuban America*, is soon to be published

by the University of Minnesota Press.

The ACP is funded through the Challenge Grant Program of National Endowment for the Humanities-matched contributions. This has created an endowment of nearly \$1 million for ongoing research and teaching that explores how diversity forms the living tapestry of American culture. Prominent physician and philanthropist Dr. Joseph A. Bailey II donated the culminating gift to establish the endowed chair to lead this program. LA

## Students offer new takes on 'Idol,' blackface, kitchens, more at communication conference

Posing provocative perspectives on kitchens, "American Idol" and other cultural realms, eight Cal State L.A. students had their papers accepted for presentation at the Western States Communication Association's annual meeting in Palm Springs:

**Courtney Bates**, "Polysemically Perverse: Queer Readings of American Idol" (faculty mentor: **Steve Classen**)

**Richie Neil Hao**, "English Proficiency Tests and International Teaching Assistants: A Mythical Combination" (faculty mentor: **Bryant Alexander**)

**Mike Kalustian**, "Out of Place: The Food Networks Constructs of Kitchens as Gendered Space" (faculty mentor: **Steve Classen**)

**Corey Leighton**, "The Playboy Club:

The Performance of a New American Community" (faculty mentor: **Steve Classen**)

**Lorena Meza**, "The Swan: A Modern Day Makeover Show" (faculty mentor: **Steve Classen**)

**Heidi Mueller**, "Moms Mabley: Making History through Comedic Oral Storytelling," a top four student paper in rhetoric and public address (faculty mentor: **Bryant Alexander**); "Negotiations of Past and Present: Ted Danson's Blackface Performance," a top four paper in performance studies (faculty mentor: **David Olsen**)

**Jennifer Soto**, "Compassionate Rancher or Crafty Politician: Evaluation of the Ethics of President George W. Bush's 'Great' Second Inaugural Address" (faculty mentor: **David Olsen**) LA



## On TV, Vasquez inspires

Having delivered it countless times on cable TV recently, **Melinda Vasquez** (*Social Work*) has a message for young Hispanic women: Follow me.

As part of a Los Angeles Community Colleges public-service campaign, Vasquez, an administrative support coordinator, encouraged young Hispanic women to go to college.

Overcoming tremendous obstacles as a single mother of five, Vasquez graduated with a bachelor's degree in criminal justice at Cal State L.A. this past June.

She says, "My children inspired me to go back to school. I wanted to be a good role model for them."

Currently pursuing a master's degree in criminal justice, Vasquez shares, "I want to help young women who are experiencing similar obstacles to go to college and be successful."

In addition to her job and studies, she finds time to interact with her children by being involved with the Montebello Extreme Youth Football and Cheers, Inc. LA



### University Reports

*University Reports* is published by the Office of Public Affairs. All material must be sent by e-mail, <margiey@cslanet.calstatela.edu>. For 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 2006 issue (vol. 36, no. 5) must be received in the Public Affairs Office by Fri., Apr. 21, 2006.

Executive editor—Nancy Miron; Editor—Margie Oi Yu; Copy editor—Sean Kearns; Contributing writer—Laura Ferreiro; Photographer—Stan Carstensen; Layout production—Yuri Watanabe; Printing—Printing Center

## 44 more: Nursing expands master's degree program

To help California meet the demand for more nurses, the School of Nursing has expanded its Entry-Level Master's Nursing Program (ELMN) for students who are not in the nursing field but are interested in changing careers to nursing.

The ELMN combines an accelerated BSN (Bachelor of Science in Nursing) curriculum with the traditional MSN (Master of Science in Nursing) curriculum. After completion of the BSN component, students are eligible to take the registered nursing (RN) licensing examination.

With classes to begin this summer, the accelerated nursing program has accepted applications to admit an additional cohort of 44 nursing students. Funding for the expansion comes from the CSU Chancellor's Office. It is part of a \$1.7 million legislation

sponsored by State Senator Sheila Kuehl (D-23), which provides for one-time expenditures for equipment, facility renovation, curriculum development and faculty recruitment for nursing program support.



"This innovative program builds on previous learning experiences of students who already have earned degrees," explains **Beatrice Yorker**, dean of the College of Health and Human Services. She adds, "Through an intensive accelerated clinical nursing curriculum, Cal State L.A. will produce well-educated nurses who are prepared and qualified to contribute in areas impacted by the nursing shortage." LA

## Spring to bring poets-in-residence: Huang in April, Kendrick in May

Two writers—one who explores trans-pacific literature and another who voices the experiences of slave women—will soon visit Cal State L.A. as part of the Department of English's poet-in-residence series.

**Yunte Huang** will be in residence during the month of April. An associate professor of English at UC Santa Barbara, he teaches 20th century American poetry and trans-pacific literature. He just completed a new book, *'The Deadly Space Between': Literature and History in the Age of Transpacific*

*Imagination*. He is working on a poetic memoir about his life in Alabama.

In mid-May, **Dolores Kendrick**, the poet laureate of Washington, DC, will be CSULA's writer-in-residence. Her book, *The Women of Plums: Poems in the Voices of Slave Women*, won the Annisfield-Wolfe Award and a New York Public Library award. A theatrical adaptation won the New York New Playwrights Award.

The poet visits are made possible by the Virginia E. Smith Endowment for Poetry and Poetics. LA

## China high school to join MY SPACE team

**Paula Arvedson** (*Curriculum and Instruction*) recently secured Xiamen Hubin High School's participation in the Satellites & Education Conference, hosted by the Division of Curriculum and Instruction each August.

Xiamen Hubin High School joins the Astor high school in Dover, England; the Carrollton School of the Sacred Heart in Miami, FL; the Burlington County Institute of Technology in Medford, NJ; W.F. West High School in Chehalis, WA; and La Puente High School in La Puente, CA, to form the M.Y. S.P.A.C.E. (Multinational Youth Studying Practical Applications for Climatic Events) team, an initiative of the conference.

Arvedson, president of the Satellite Educators Association, explains, "Throughout an intense three days, they build friendships

with high school students from around the world while gaining global perspectives. The schools incorporate satellites into their curriculum to excite their students about science, math and technology."

The conference, set for August 10–12, 2006, at Cal State L.A., is cosponsored by NOAA, NASA, Northrop Grumman, Lockheed Martin, Boeing, Aerospace, and others. It is a collaboration among educators, government representatives, and space industry leaders in support of K-12 teachers.

Arvedson adds, "This conference effectively connects teachers with their students' future employers—the space industry and government—to better prepare the students for today's most promising careers." LA

## President makes cover

Pictured on the cover, President **James M. Rosser** was the feature story for the February 9 issue of *Diverse: Issues of Higher Education* magazine.



The article, "The Rosser Revolution," indicated that "President James Rosser's leadership at California State University, Los Angeles is a testament that diversity and excellence are mutually reinforcing qualities in an academic setting." LA

## Forum focuses on food

The 2006 Southern California Food Industry Conference was hosted by the School of Kinesiology and Nutrition Science with a focus on "Food Ingredients for Health Promotion." Chaired by **Harmitt Singh** (*Kinesiology and Nutritional Science*), the organizers included **Laura Calderon**, **Janet Harris**, **Pera Jambazian**, and **Jane Uzategui** (*Kinesiology and Nutritional Science*). In addition to lectures from recognized speakers on health and food, students from Southern California colleges and universities took part in a new allergen-free product competition. LA



(Photo: Jaime Lopez, L.A. Sheriff's Dept.)

## CSI: Miami gives \$25K

The cast and crew of the CBS television drama *CSI: Miami* presented a \$25,000 check to the California Forensic Science Institute (CFSI) recently to support the establishment of a new regional crime laboratory, scheduled to open at Cal State L.A. next year.

The generosity of the staff of the TV series—*CSI*, stands for Crime Scene Investigation—will support the CFSI and the purchase of furniture and equipment in the new lab. LA

## CSULA, Juvenile Court partner to protect, teach

Cal State L.A. recently hosted its 2nd CSULA/Juvenile Court Partnership Summit Meeting, focusing on “Protecting the Children of Los Angeles County through Collaboration in Education, Research and Service.”

Of the growing success of the partnership over the past two years, **Mitchell Eisen** (*Psychology*) said, “There are now even more opportunities for faculty and students to become involved at the court, such as research collaborations, internships in various court agencies, and direct work with children.”



For example, **Denise Herz** (*Criminal Justice and Criminalistics*) recently collaborated on a “cross-over youth” study, which has been applied in a substance-abuse program that tracks the dependency-to-delinquency phenomenon.

Also, **Ira Sommers** and **Deborah Baskin** (*Criminal Justice and Criminalistics*) analyzed 7,000 court cases from the early 1990s to 2004 for a project; and some CSULA students are working as educational consultants or conducting research at the court.

Students majoring in psychology, political sciences, education, economics, sociology, anthropology, social work, nursing, criminal justice, communication disorders, or child and family studies are direct beneficiaries of this partnership. They can obtain hands-on training and gain service-learning experience through internship opportunities at the court, which is near campus.



**Colleen Friend** (*Social Work*), the partnership program director, remarked, “The University is uniquely positioned to recruit students who are interested in building a career in court-related systems. Of the 50 students who completed the Child Maltreatment and Family Violence Certificate Program last year, they all held internship positions at the Juvenile Court.”

### COMING SOON

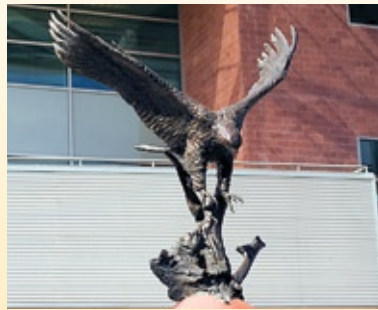
**Honors Convocation: April 21**  
**Reel Rasquache Film Festival: May 5-7**  
**Baseball home games**

For campus events, go to  
[www.calstatela.edu/calendar](http://www.calstatela.edu/calendar)

## Around campus . . .



On Feb. 9, the campus community assembled on the Main Walkway to admire the **Homecoming Parade floats from “Around the World”** and grab free goodies as CSULA student organizations and campus departments showed their spirit. The following floats won first place: Housing Services (department category) and Society of Hispanic Engineers and Science Students (student category).



On Feb. 8, a dedication ceremony celebrated the **unveiling of the sculpture of the Golden Eagle** mascot. Among those in attendance were President James M. Rosser; Ronald Okum '63, '70 (owner/president, Ron Okum Insurance Agency); Olympic gold medalist Mal Whitfield '57; and Ken Bjorge, sculptor.



On Feb. 18, thousands of prospective students **braved the storm to attend Campus Preview Day**, an event for high school and community college students to get a sneak preview of all that Cal State L.A. has to offer. The day's activities included campus tours, academic programs, a student-clubs fair, workshops, and more.



**Cal State L.A. broke ground on its \$30 million University-Student Union** building on Feb. 7, during Homecoming Week. The U-SU project team includes James R. Rosser, president; Steven N. Garcia, vice president for administration and finance; Ali Izadian, director of facilities planning and construction; Sarab Singh, project manager; and Joseph M. Aguirre, executive director, U-SU.



Scheduled for completion soon, the **University Welcome Center** will serve as a focal point for the entrance of the campus. At the intersection of Campus Road and Paseo Rancho Castilla, the center will provide Parking Services with a central location to assist students, faculty, staff, and visitors with parking questions, directions, and other needs.