

A CSULA 'Spotlight' on success

Featured recently in the "Spotlight" section of the CSULA home page, three alumni took the field by storm in proton physics, convention coverage, and California plant distribution—and they attribute their achievements to Cal State L.A. The "Spotlight" section—highlighting significant accomplishments and campus news—is updated regularly at www.calstatela.edu/univ/ppa/spotlight/.

Proton accelerator

Robert Stringer, who received his bachelor's degree in physics from Cal State L.A., recently participated in a groundbreaking physics experiment that seeks to explain the origin of masses of elementary particles and of processes that took place in the very early universe.

Stringer—along with a team of international scientists, postdoctoral researchers and graduate students—helped conduct the first successful test of the world's most powerful particle accelerator, the Large Hadron Collider (LHC), in early September at the CERN laboratory near Geneva, Switzerland.

As an undergraduate at Cal State L.A., Stringer conducted research with the CSULA nuclear physics group led by Professors **Konrad Aniol**, **Martin Epstein** and **Demetrius Margaziotis** (*Physics and Astronomy*).

"He was critical in helping establish the data analysis for an experiment we had performed at the Mainz Accelerator in Mainz, Germany. During a summer quarter's stay at Jefferson Lab, Robert also made important contributions by creating software to help visualize the paths of particles through spectrometers," said Aniol.



Robert Stringer



Anne Kelly



Wendy Carrillo

Climate change

Anne Kelly's study on the effects of climate change and a changing fire cycle on the Sierra Nevada forests was recently published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. She is the lead author on the research, "Rapid shifts in plant distribution with recent climate change."

According to Kelly, "The Sierra snowpack provides a significant amount of California's fresh water, and a declining snowpack and sick forests will have serious consequences for Californians."

Kelly, who received her M.S. in interdisciplinary environmental science as a fellow of the University's CEA-CREST (Center for Environmental Analysis-Centers of Research Excellence in Science and Technology) program. She is pursuing her Ph.D. in earth system science at UC Irvine.

According to CEA-CREST Program Director **Carlos Robles**, "One of the things we do well is give students the opportunity of life-changing career moves. Anne came to us with a background in the physical sciences and no experience in ecology and environmental research. We provided financial support, guidance, and the chance to immediately participate in significant global climate-change research. With huge talent and drive, Anne made the most of the opportunity."

Go in depth . . .

College Portrait: ir.calstatela.edu/ir/vsa.pdf

Quarter to Semester Conversion: nss-nemo.calstatela.edu/semester/

CSU Budget Central: www.calstate.edu/BudgetCentral

Campus Emergency Notification System: www.calstatela.edu/univ/police/ens.php/index.php

University Reports online edition: www.calstatela.edu/UniversityReports

Live from DNC

After receiving 7,277 online votes, **Wendy Carrillo** was selected by panel of judges out of more than 200 applicants nationwide to "crash" the Democratic National Convention as a national political correspondent for www.sivv.com and www.votolatino.org.

Carrillo, who received her bachelor's degree in communication studies at Cal State L.A., won an all-expense paid trip to the National Press Club on Capitol Hill for a winners' ceremony. She also received expenses and press pass to cover the Democratic National Convention in Denver. Additionally, she traveled to Atlanta, Ga., to train as a reporter with CNN anchor Rick Sanchez.

Currently, Carrillo hosts two public affairs programs for Los Angeles radio stations, Power 106 and Movin 93.9. She is also pursuing her master's degree in specialized journalism at USC.

Carrillo said, "As a Latina, first-generation college student and oldest of five girls, CSULA trained me to be a critical thinker and an advocate for my community."

"Professor **Dionne Espinoza** was instrumental in awakening my subconsciousness as a feminist, and as a woman of color. Dr. **David Olsen** pushed my intellect by always asking 'so what?' in every rhetorical discourse. **Joseph Aguirre**, who was the ASI director at that time, always had an open-door policy and was a big part of my training as a student leader."

To submit a story idea to be considered for a "Spotlight" feature, please e-mail paffairs@cslanet.calstatela.edu.



WASC Q&A

Q: Why is WASC accreditation important?

A: WASC (Western Association of Schools and Colleges) accreditation is like a seal of approval that upholds a national standard of service. It impacts students' access and learning. The WASC self-study review is a powerful tool in helping the University move forward with its strategic plans.

Q: What has changed since 1999?

A: Since Cal State L.A.'s last WASC accreditation (in 1999), the accreditation model has a greater focus on student learning outcome, assessment, and accountability. It used to be more of an audit, but now WASC partners with the University to achieve accreditation.

Q: What are the major themes?

A: As the University works toward "becoming a teaching and learning community," it will focus on the following themes:

- * Promoting student learning outcomes and success
- * Supporting students to reach their academic goals
- * Providing enrollment and resources management
- * Being a teaching and learning community

Q: How can faculty and staff help?

A: Read the WASC report. Be informed of the issues. Provide input on the online WASC forum (nss-nemo.calstatela.edu/wasc/index.php).

When the WASC team visits next April, some will be asked to participate in meetings and provide data.

Q: How can I find out more?

A: Attend one of the town hall meetings listed at www.calstatela.edu/calendar, or visit www.calstatela.edu/wasc. For details, contact Anne Hafner, at ext. 3-4361, or Alan Muchlinski, at ext. 3-3820.



New U-SU for you, too

Not just for students, it opens formally Jan. 9

Who's moving in?

The University-Student Union (U-SU), which opened its doors this fall, will celebrate its UDAY grand opening Friday, Jan. 9, from 3 to 10 p.m. with the theme, "U Live. U Learn. U Grow. The New U."

The U-SU, complementing other campus architecture, connects to The Golden Eagle by a third-floor bridge. It is home to the Alumni Association, Associated Students, Inc., Center for Student Involvement, Cross Cultural Centers, and the University-Student Union administration and staff.

The 93,000-square-foot building also features an outdoor plaza, expanded computer lab, a fitness center, 200-seat theater, alumni lounge, Wells Fargo bank, a coffee house, pizza restaurant, and added meeting and lounge space.

What's there for faculty and staff?

Primarily for student activities and programming, the U-SU provides a unique setting for social, cultural, recreational, and educational opportunities. The programs and services available also extend to the entire campus community, with a welcome to:

- Attend many free workshops, movies, entertainment and events.
- Enjoy coffee breaks at Starbucks or lunch at Sbarro (coming in January).
- Obtain student training resources and cultural enrichment materials.
- Rent a room at a reduced rate to hold a campus event or office meeting.
- Keep fit at the Xtreme Fitness Center for a reduced rate of \$60 per quarter or \$180 per year.
- Relax after work at "The Pit" game room or the lounging areas.



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For expanded stories, faculty achievement listings and more, go to www.calstatela.edu/UniversityReports.



Outstanding Professors: (front, l-r) Jennifer Faust, Kylie Hsu, Gerald Beer (President's Distinguished Professor), James Brady, and Susan Mason; (back, l-r) Daphne Liu, awards selection committee chair; Kevin Baaske, Academic Senate chair; President James M. Rosser; and Provost Desdemona Cardoza.

Congratulations!

\$5M NASA grant enhances SPACE

Going where it has never gone before, CSULA's SPACE Program was recently awarded a \$5 million, five-year grant by the Office of Education at NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) to support Cal State L.A.'s University Research Center (URC), officially named the "Structures, Propulsion, Aerospace and Control Engineering (SPACE) Center." Cal State L.A.—with the only NASA URC in California—is among only seven universities internationally selected to receive the NASA's Minority University Research and Education Program awards this year.

The SPACE Center comprises the Structures, Pointing and Control Engineering Lab (SPACE Lab) and the Multidisciplinary Flight Dynamics and Control Lab (MFDC Lab). Since 2003, it has provided more than 500 undergraduates and graduates—from Cal State L.A. and other colleges, including Ph.D.-granting institutions—the opportunity to conduct research. For more about the SPACE Center, go to www.calstatela.edu/orgs/space/.

PBI gets \$45K for 'healthy' push

The Edmund G. "Pat" Brown Institute of Public Affairs (PBI) was recently awarded a \$45,000 gift from Kaiser Permanente, Southern California Region. This funding will support the activities of the Institute's Health Policy Outreach Center (HPOC) in 2009. A component of PBI's Safe & Healthy Communities Initiative, HPOC focuses on issues that affect Los Angelenos, particularly Asians, Pacific Islanders and Latinos residing in East Los Angeles and the West San Gabriel Valley communities. For more information, go to www.patbrowninstitute.org/outreach/healthpolicy.html.

Pioneering Chicano Studies turns 40

The 40th anniversary of the University's Department of Chicano Studies was launched with a Chicana/o Film Series this past winter, themed "Understanding the Struggle for Equality." In October, the celebration continued with a symposium, "Chicano(a) Studies and the Chicano(a) Struggle: Where Have We Been, and Where Are We Going?" A panel discussion was also held last month featuring four Cal State L.A. alumni who helped to champion the establishment of the nation's first Chicano Studies department.

The Department of Chicano Studies was founded in fall 1968. It was originally "Mexican American Studies." Today, Chicano Studies offers a major with four options, three minors, and an M.A. program. For event details, call ext. 3-2190.

Diverse destinations for 5 Fulbrights

Distinguished as this year's Fulbright Scholars, these five professors will be or have already traveled abroad to teach or conduct research at universities in different countries: **Mohammad Auwal** (*Communication Studies*) to Qatar, **Susan Mason** (*Theatre Arts and Dance*) to Japan, **Elliot L. Oring** (*Emeritus, Anthropology*) to Iceland, **Hassan M. Rezaie Boroon** (*Geological Sciences*) to Togo and **Marguerite Ann Snow** (*Education-TESOL*) to Cyprus.

Cal State L.A.'s five-scholar Fulbright contingent is one of the largest in the country. Among roughly 425 institutions with Fulbright scholars this year, only six others have more than Cal State L.A.

Education's Morales feted at Alumni Gala

Rosario S. Morales (*Curriculum and Instruction*), director of the Urban Learning Program (ULP), was recently honored as the Distinguished Faculty Alumna at this year's Alumni Awards Gala. The ULP is the undergraduate blended teacher preparation program. Morales' research has focused on multicultural issues in early childhood education, support and assessment of beginning teachers, and preparing prospective teachers for urban schools. For other 2008 alumni honorees, go to alumni.calstatela.edu/recipients/award_recipients.htm.

Philanthropy pros toast Rosser's 'spirit'

CSULA President James M. Rosser was presented the 2008 Spirit of Philanthropy Award last month by the Association of Fundraising Professionals of Greater Los Angeles at its 23rd annual National Philanthropy Day celebration. The award cited Rosser's generous spirit, extraordinary leadership and vision.

Rosser was also presented a Lifetime Achievement Award by The 100 Black Men of Los Angeles, Inc. during its recent 27th anniversary gala in Los Angeles.

File under 'Inspirational'

Beer, 4 colleagues honored for wide-ranging excellence

As part of the annual Fall Faculty Day tradition, five professors were recognized for excellence in teaching, scholarly inquiry, creativity, professional activities, and service to the campus and community.

Named Outstanding Professors were **James Brady** (*Anthropology*), a Maya cave archaeologist who actively involves students in his research and fieldwork; **Jennifer Faust** (*Philosophy*), a published author and expert on the philosophy of science and religion; **Kylie Hsu** (*Modern Languages and Literatures*), a specialist in linguistics who

was key in developing two B.A. programs at Cal State L.A.; and **Susan Mason** (*Theatre Arts and Dance*), a professional dramaturg who has recently been named a Fulbright lecturer to teach in Japan next year.

Presented with the President's Distinguished Professor Award was **Gerald Beer** (*Mathematics*). An internationally renowned prolific scholar, Beer is an inspiring teacher and mentor, and a respected mathematician.

For more about each faculty honoree, go to www.calstatela.edu/univ/ppa/newsrel/opa07-08.htm.

Please welcome...



Lisa Chavez took the helm Aug. 25 as associate vice president for Administration and Finance. Her areas of responsibility include budget administration, business financial services, procurement and contracts, and student financial services. Chavez previously held positions at CSU Dominguez Hills, Office of the

Chancellor, and CSU San Marcos.

Tamie Nguyen began as director of the Center for Student Financial Aid Sept. 24. She is responsible for the financial aid system, handling 22,500 applicants with an average of 10,500 annual recipients. She will also manage grants, loans and federal work-study offerings. Previously at CSU Long Beach, she was associate director of student relations, enrollments services and financial aid.



Nancy Wada-McKee was appointed assistant vice president for Student Affairs-Student Services on Sept. 15. She oversees the Educational Opportunity Program, Educational Participation in Communities, Judicial Affairs Office, Office for Students with Disabilities, and other student-support programs.

She will also work with the Associated Students, Inc. and the University-Student Union.

Meet 'The Tattooed Soldier'

Across campus, people will come to know *The Tattooed Soldier*, a novel by Héctor Tobar, a Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter at the *Los Angeles Times*.

Tobar's first novel is the pick for Cal State L.A.'s 2008-2009 One Campus, One Book project, which encourages a common reading experience.

Members of the CSULA community are invited to read *The Tattooed Soldier*, a suspense-filled novel that weaves many themes from the immigrant experience into the urban experience of Los Angeles.

The book's themes are teachable from a variety of perspectives. Faculty and staff are encouraged to incorporate study of the book into classes and events throughout the year.

For themes, resources, and a developing list of events, go to www.calstatela.edu/library/ocob.

