

Fab four appointed to new posts



Catherine Haras was named director for the Center for Effective Teaching and Learning (CETL), effective July 1, 2012. She has been CETL's acting director since October 2011, and a member of the CSULA Library faculty since 2005. In her prior position as information literacy coordinator, she built an academic library instruction program for which the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) commended the campus during its 2009 visit. She recently served on the international panel for the Educational Testing Services' iSkills assessment. Haras has consulted widely on developing information literacy in various departments and college programs.



Edward Hsieh was named associate dean of the College of Business and Economics, effective July 1, 2012. With expertise in the areas of public finance and public choice, Hsieh has published research papers in many prestigious economics journals. Over the past several years, he was involved in the training of Taiwan's tax officials regarding tax reform. He was on the roster of the Fulbright Senior Specialist Program from 2007 through 2012. He is a long-time board member of the Chinese American Faculty Association of Southern California (CAFA), and served as CAFA president in 2009. Hsieh served as chair of the Department of Economics and Statistics from 2001 through 2007. During the past year, he served as interim associate dean for the College.



Philip LaPolt has been named assistant vice president (AVP) for Academic Affairs – Academic Personnel, effective July 1, 2012. LaPolt has been serving as acting AVP since August 1, 2011. Prior to that position, LaPolt served as acting associate dean in the Office of Graduate Studies and Research, director of research and development in the Office of Research and Development, and both chair and acting associate chair of the Department of Biological Sciences. A CSULA faculty member since 1996, he became a full professor of biology in 2004. He has been active in academic governance, including service on the Faculty Policy Committee, Academic Senate, and the Executive Committee of the Academic Senate.



Dmitry Suspitsyn has been named associate director of Institutional Research, effective July 23, 2012. Suspitsyn holds a Certificate in Institutional Research from Pennsylvania State University. Previously, he held research positions at Chancellor University, Penn State University and Ohio University, and has taught in the M.S. Program in Global and International Education at Drexel University. Suspitsyn has authored numerous grants, and received both national and international fellowships. His work has appeared in publications, such as the *Encyclopedia of Higher Education* and *International Higher Education*.

Anthropology major garners Hearst award

With numerous archeological projects, research and published works to her résumé, anthropology major **Toni Gonzalez** was recently presented the William Randolph Hearst/CSU Trustees' Award for Outstanding Achievement. The scholarship is awarded by the CSU Board of Trustees to one student honoree from each of the 23 CSU campuses for academic excellence and commitment to education. Her accolades include the 2012 Golden Eagle Award for Excellence, and a Graduate Equity Fellowship. For more about Gonzalez, visit www.calstatela.edu/univ/ppa/newsrel/hearst-toni.htm.



Other CSU honors garnered by CSULA students:

Casanova Scholars: www.calstatela.edu/univ/ppa/newsrel/csu-sallypredocs2012.htm

Chancellor's Doctoral Incentive Program: www.calstatela.edu/univ/ppa/newsrel/CSULA-CDIP2012.htm

COAST Work-Study Program: www.calstatela.edu/univ/ppa/spotlight/archive/2012/CSU-coast2012.php

Prop 30 passes

With the passage of Proposition 30 by a 54 percent majority, the CSU will avoid a \$250 million "trigger" mid-year budget cut, and will roll back the 9 percent tuition fee increase already in effect for fall 2012.

Annual tuition fees for Cal State L.A.'s full-time undergraduate students will revert back to \$5,472—the same rate as in the 2011-12 academic year. They will either be refunded or receive a reconfigured financial aid package to account for the revised tuition fee rates.

The CSU Chancellor's Office had asked all campuses to place a hold on fall 2013 applications, pending the measure's outcome. Reduced funding would have negatively impacted enrollment targets, but now Cal State L.A. has been notified to proceed with reviewing applications for fall 2013 new student admissions.

"We are hopeful that the passage of Proposition 30 will be the beginning of the state's reinvestment in higher education," said CSU Chancellor Charles B. Reed. "The state needs to start making up for the devastating budget cuts of the past several years, and focus on higher education as a driver of California's economic future."

QUICK CLICKS

President's News & Info:
www.calstatela.edu/univ/ppa/president/news-Info_9-2012.html

CSU Early Start:
www.calstatela.edu/univ/admiss/estart/

CSU Budget Central:
blogs.calstate.edu/budgetcentral

CSULA Strategic Plan:
www.calstatela.edu/univ/ppa/publicat/stratplan/

Cal State L.A. TODAY:
www.calstatela.edu/univ/ppa/publicat/today

University Reports is published three times a year by the Office of Public Affairs. Email material to margiey@cslanet.calstatela.edu. For guidelines, go to www.calstatela.edu/univ/ppa/ur/urform.htm. (Call ext. 3047 if you have no access to the web.) Copy for the Winter 2013 issue (vol. 43, no. 2) should be received in the Office of Public Affairs by Friday, Dec. 14, 2012.

Managing editor—Paul Browning
Editor—Margie Oi Low
Photographer—Bernard Kane
Layout—Gloria Twu
Printing—Printing Center

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



University Reports

www.calstatela.edu/UniversityReports

Learning services streamline student success



Pictured: Linda Zepeda (right) assists communication disorders major Jessica Ortiz with paperwork at the Writing Center.

To support student success, and help them graduate in a more efficient and timely manner, Cal State L.A. offers a variety of student learning services. Many of these comprehensive programs are found within the University Academic Advisement Center, the Writing Center, the Tutorial Center, the Testing Center, and the Students Learning in Communities Program (SLCP), which includes its Peer Mentoring Program.

According to **Steven Jones**, acting dean of Undergraduate Studies, who supervises student learning services on campus, Cal State L.A. has made a "substantial commitment" to helping students achieve academic success and fulfill their ambitions to obtain a baccalaureate degree by enhancing its learning services.

"We have expanded and upgraded the space for the

Writing Center, improved the Advisement Center, and increased the number of tutors and staff advisers available for students," said Jones. "We are also working to expand the availability of learning communities, peer mentoring, and other high-impact practices that have been shown to promote student success. This broad and full-scale effort has resulted in better retention and graduation rates."

Besides helping students with their composition, the **Writing Center** equips them with tips and techniques to pass the Writing Proficiency Exam needed to graduate.

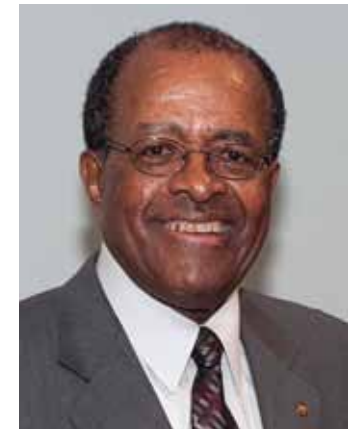
The **Tutorial Center** prepares students to develop the academic skills necessary to understand specific course subject matter and to become independent learners.

The **Testing Center** administers a variety of exams, including the English Placement Test and Entry Level Math exam required for entering lower-division students.

The **SLCP** coordinates multiple learning communities with related courses and builds cohorts of students who work together to meet the student learning outcomes for courses within their graduation requirements. Its mentoring program pairs first-time freshmen and entering transfer students with peer mentors who are continuing students.

For details, visit www.calstatela.edu/academic/aa/ugs/.

President Rosser to retire



After more than three decades as president of Cal State L.A., **James M. Rosser** announced his intention to retire at the end of this academic year on June 30, 2013.

"It has been a particular privilege and honor during these 33 years to work alongside some of the nation's most outstanding faculty, staff and administrators," said Rosser, in a letter to the campus community. "I thank each of you for the excellent work you do in service to the University, its students and our community."

In 1979, Rosser became the sixth president of CSULA, making him the current longest-serving four-year public university president in the nation.

Rosser is recognized for the remarkable breadth of his service, for his early and long-standing commitment to academic excellence, as a champion for the arts and sciences, for participating in landmark changes in state and national education policy, and his dedication to cultural diversity.

Most recently, he was presented with the 2012 Reginald Wilson Diversity Leadership Award by the American Council on Education.

"Jim has been the voice and advocate for all students for the past three decades. In particular, his unwavering commitment to access and achievement of students of color and focus on helping them to realize their dream of a college degree is a hallmark of his tenure," said CSU Chancellor Charles B. Reed.

For Rosser's legacy page, go to www.calstatela.edu/univ/president/.

Martel is 'bottomless well of care'



During the 38th Annual Staff Awards ceremony, the 2012 Outstanding Staff Award was presented to **Joanna Martel**, career counselor for the Career Development Center.

Throughout her more than 25-year career at CSULA, Martel's service has been distinguished by a "seemingly bottomless well of care for students," providing them career advisement and helping them find employment.

Her nominator wrote: "Joanna never hesitates to help; she never refuses to meet with a student; and never declines an invitation to speak to a class. She will help students virtually any time of day or night. She not only counsels students in the Career Center regarding

their academic and career success, she has gone beyond, participating in the Take 5 program to mentor students."

For more about Martel and a list of employees honored with more than a decade of service, go to www.calstatela.edu/UniversityReports.

For a list of faculty tenure, promotions and more, go to www.calstatela.edu/UniversityReports/.



University Reports

From the Provost



Strategic Plan Update:

Student Success

The campus continues to make gains in the persistence and

graduation rates of students. The four-year upper division transfer student graduation rate of students who started in fall 2008 was 58.6 percent, over 11 percent higher than the 47.3 percent rate for those who started in fall 2005. This achievement is especially impressive considering that CSULA has now surpassed the 57 percent target set by the CSU Office of the Chancellor for the University, and has done so three years early. In addition, our six-year graduation rate for the freshman cohort beginning in 2006 has increased to 38 percent, up from 34 percent for the 2003 cohort. Finally, based on the recent increases we see in freshman persistence, we are on track to exceed the 45 percent freshman graduation rate target set for CSULA by the Office of the Chancellor by 2015.

With additional support from the Student Success Fee, we hope to continue closing the achievement gap by using the funds for staff advisers in the Colleges and the Advisement Center and through student engagement activities, student research stipends, and with enhanced mentoring, tutoring, and writing support.

Community Engagement

In partnership with Student Affairs and EPIC, we are working to enhance curricular and co-curricular community engagement activities, while promoting greater communication across campus. This effort will position the campus to achieve the Carnegie Classification for Community Engagement. Funding to support faculty participation in these efforts is available through Engaged Department grants and the Center for Effective Teaching and Learning's Faculty Development Grants Program.

Collaborative Culture

During Fall Faculty Day, we participated in an engaging presentation led by faculty members from the Charter College of Education. The presentation focused on developing a campus climate that leads to a "psychology of success" through improved personal responsibility, growth, and collaboration. We hope to facilitate more of these discussions as we deepen our culture of working together for a common purpose.

Briefs

The CSU Office of the Chancellor recently introduced a new systemwide employee intranet, **CSYou**, designed to be the single source to access systemwide information, news, training, policies, web-based applications, reports and much more. Faculty and staff members can personalize the site with their own news, links, and documents. To get started, go to csyou.calstate.edu.

The CSU's **Affordable Learning Solutions Campaign** enables faculty to choose and provide quality educational content that is more affordable for their students. By reducing students' expenses, the campus provides better access to a quality learning experience. To find the latest information, visit <http://als.csuprojects.org/>.



Pictured: (front, l-r) CSULA faculty honorees Carlos Robles, Hengchun Ye, Ramani Durvasula, Steve McGuire, Stephen Rothman, and Susan Saul; (back, l-r) Provost Ashish Vaidya, Academic Senate Chair Kevin Baaske, Award Selection Committee Chair Robert Desharnais; and President James M. Rosser.

Distinguished for faculty excellence

Esteemed scholar and environmental biologist **Carlos Robles** is the recipient of this year's Cal State L.A. President's Distinguished Professor Award.

Robles has published numerous articles on the dynamics of predation in seashore communities of California and British Columbia. His innovative work has been featured in textbooks and at the California Science Center.

For 11 years, Robles served as director of the Center for Environmental Analysis at CSULA, funded by the National Science Foundation. Having received over \$17 million in research and research training grants, Robles' efforts support innovative training in environmental research, including classroom exercises, special field experiences at remote field stations, and internships with government agencies concerned with the environment. He is currently on the Executive Committee of the Cooperative Institute on Marine Ecosystems and Climate (CIMEC), a new research institute established by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to study the impacts of global climate change.

To view Robles' video interview: www.youtube.com/watch?v=XBdR1A9j-d8.

During Fall Faculty Day, Outstanding Professor Awards were also presented to **Ramani Durvasula**, a mental health psychologist whose work has been cited in professional journals and media outlets; **Steve McGuire**, a management and entrepreneurship expert who has garnered award-winning case studies with his students; **Stephen Rothman**, a professional stage director who has been instrumental in connecting the University to the entertainment industry; and **Hengchun Ye**, a well-regarded geoscientist who is recognized for her ability to prepare students for research and graduate studies. This year's Outstanding Lecturer Award was presented to **Susan Saul**, anthropology lecturer.

For a detailed profile of each honoree, go to www.calstatela.edu/univ/ppa/newsrel/opa2012.htm.



Timothy White is new CSU chancellor



After a comprehensive search, **Timothy P. White**, chancellor of UC Riverside (UCR), was selected as chancellor of the 23-campus California State University

system. As announced by the CSU Board of Trustees, he will be the seventh chancellor to lead the largest four-year public higher education system in the country, and will start at the end of December.

"Tim White's background and experience reflect the institutional values and mission of the CSU," said CSU Board Chair Bob Linscheid.

White has served as UCR chancellor since 2008. He will succeed **Chancellor Charles B. Reed**, who announced his retirement following a 14-year tenure with the system.

To learn about Reed's legacy: www.calstate.edu/legacy/?source=homepagefeatures.

For more about White: www.calstate.edu/chancellor-transition/.

Skyhorse weaves L.A. tale

Brando Skyhorse's national bestseller *The Madonnas of Echo Park* was selected for Cal State L.A.'s 2012-13 One Campus, One Book program, and the University Library and Honors College are encouraging the campus community to give it a read.

Drawing from his childhood memories, Skyhorse weaves together the stories of a house cleaner, a bus driver, former gang members, single mothers, and college graduates, whose lives intersect after a drive-by shooting set in the Echo Park community of Los Angeles.

Copies of the book are available for check-out at the University Library or for purchase at the University Bookstore at a 20 percent discount.

For teaching resources and more: <http://calstatela.libguides.com/ocob>.



Honors...

Nursing a timely progression

The School of Nursing was recently chosen to receive a two-year \$300,000 grant to help create a "smooth and timely" progression from the associate to baccalaureate degree in nursing. The grant is awarded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Academic Progression in Nursing program through the California Institute of Nursing and Health Care. The focus will be on the implementation of a California-based Collaborative Model of Nursing Education with a partnership between Cal State L.A. and several local community colleges. For more: www.calstatela.edu/univ/ppa/newsrel/nursing-rwjf.htm.

Scholarships for transfer students

Cal State L.A. recently received a \$500,000 endowment from the Osher Scholarship Program for California Community College Transfer Students. The scholarships will be awarded to transfer students admitted into the Honors College, as well as through the Pasadena City College and Rio Hondo College "feeder school" compacts. For info: www.osherfoundation.org/index.php?commcollege.

CCOE meets national standards

The Charter College of Education has achieved successful reaccreditation from the Unit Accreditation Board of the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE). The congratulatory NCATE reaccreditation letter states: "...you have met demanding national professional standards for educator preparation." For more: www.calstatela.edu/academic/ccoe/ncate.htm.

Grant boosts energy savings

To help provide American businesses more options to cut energy costs and reduce reliance on imported oil, Cal State L.A. was awarded \$400,000 from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to collect and analyze performance data from its new hydrogen fueling station. CSULA's station is one of five projects to receive funds from the DOE's two-year, \$2.4 million initiative. For more: www.calstatela.edu/univ/ppa/newsrel/DOEgrant-hydrogendata.htm.

Fellowships support TVFM majors

For the third consecutive year, the Hollywood Foreign Press Association has awarded a \$50,000 grant for the University's Department of Television, Film and Media Studies. The prestigious award will help undergraduate and graduate students offset the costs of pursuing higher education degrees in this creative-based discipline.

For more: www.calstatela.edu/univ/ppa/newsrel/hfpa-grant2012.htm.

Boyle Heights community in focus

The Pat Brown Institute recently awarded mini-grants for unique research in Boyle Heights to three CSULA faculty members—**Kathryn Hillstrom** (*Nutritional Science*), **Enrique Ochoa** (*History*), and **Ellen Shiao** (*Political Science*). The mini-grants come from PBI's Youth Enrichment Policy Project, which is funded by The California Endowment. The grants will support the faculty members' applied research on issues and topics related to food environment, crime and fear, and community health. For more: www.calstatela.edu/univ/ppa/newsrel/pbi-boyleheights.htm.

Faculty duo inspires alums

A fellowship was established in honor of **Ethan Lipton** (*Technology*) and **Ali Modarres** (*Geosciences and Environment*) through donations by two Cal State L.A. alumni. The Ethan Lipton/Ali Modarres Fellowship for Excellence in Teaching and Learning provides support for a promising CSULA faculty member to further develop his/her skills in helping students reach their potential. For details: http://www.calstatela.edu/academic/aa/cetl/cetl_2012liptonmodarresfellowship.php.