

Administrative team profiles



Joseph Curreri



Mark Pavelchak



Randy Sharp



Laura Shigemitsu

Joseph Curreri became chief of the University Police, effective July 29, 2011. He comes to CSULA with 35 years of service with the Los Angeles Police Department, having worked in patrol, investigative and administrative assignments. He retired from the LAPD on September 1, 2009, at the rank of Captain III. A retired major of the U.S. Army, he attended the Officers' Candidate School at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. He also received his Master of Public Administration from CSULA.

Mark Pavelchak has been director of the Office of Institutional Research since July 1, 2011. Pavelchak has served the past six years as academic information officer at the University of Southern California. Pavelchak has also been active in institutional research efforts at the state and national levels. He is a member of the California Association for Institutional Research, serving the past two years on the Board of Directors. At the national level, he actively participates in the Association of American Universities Data Exchange.

Randy Sharp has been director of Facilities Services since Feb. 1, 2011. With a diverse background in construction and maintenance, Sharp came to CSULA from CSU Dominguez Hills, where he served as senior director of Facilities Planning, Operations and Construction Management. Prior to his tenure at Dominguez Hills, he worked at The Ohio State University and USC. With an interest in solar technology and recycling systems, Sharp is also a licensed general contractor.

Laura Shigemitsu became coordinator of the Veterans Affairs office, effective July 5, 2011. Before the Veterans Affairs Office was created, Shigemitsu worked in the Office for Students with Disabilities in the TRIO program. Prior to CSULA, she volunteered for 10 years with the 100th/442 Veterans Association and the Go For Broke National Education Center. While there, she managed the Oral History Program, which conducted extensive interviews of WWII veterans, specifically Japanese Americans who served. She is also the current president of the WWII 100th/442 Veterans Association for Japanese American Veterans.

Double scholarships for anthropology major



Mario Giron-Abrego

"The writing on the wall" was not the typical sign of peril for **Mario Giron-Abrego** when he was a poor child in Guatemala, but instead an introduction to a dynamic future in anthropology.

More recently, to help him pursue his degree as an anthropology student at CSULA, Giron-Abrego was honored by the CSU Board of Trustees with a \$3,000 William Randolph Hearst/CSU Trustees' Award for Outstanding Achievement.

In addition, Giron-Abrego received \$3,000 as the CSU Foundation Board of Governors' Scholar, a distinction added to enhance the value of the Hearst scholarship. Sponsored by board Chair Ronald R. Barhorst, the award is given

to the scholar who exemplifies significant achievement both academically and in service to the community.

He was one of five students invited to work at the famed "Midnight Terror Cave" in Belize, funded by Cotsen Fellowships for Archaeological Research. For more about Giron-Abrego: www.calstatela.edu/univ/ppa/newsrel/hearst2011-mario.htm.

Uncorking wine's benefits



Chemistry team (l-r): Student Angela Guerrero, post-doctoral researcher Dong Zhang and Professor Matthias Selke.

A team of Cal State L.A. researchers revealed that the mysterious benefits of wine are more complicated than thought. The study indicates that trans-resveratrol, a molecule found in grapes and red wine, can and does react with singlet oxygen and make other interesting biomolecules.

In fact, one of the major products is a molecule that upon heating transforms into a completely different compound found in root bark of morus alba trees used in traditional Chinese medicine, called Moracin M.

The study, funded by the National Institutes of Health, was recently published by the American Chemical Society journal, *Organic Letters* (vol. 13, no. 18). For more: www.calstatela.edu/univ/ppa/spotlight/archive/2011/organicletters.php

QUICK CLICKS

Cal State L.A. online application:
www.csumentor.edu

CSU Budget Central:
blogs.calstate.edu/budgetcentral

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

TODAY:
www.calstatela.edu/today

Editorial Style Guide:
www.calstatela.edu/style

Emergency text messages:
www.calstatela.edu/univ/police/ens.php

University Reports is published three times a year by the Office of Public Affairs. E-mail 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 2012 issue (vol. 42, no. 2) should be received in the Office of Public Affairs by Friday, Dec. 30, 2011.

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

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



University Reports

www.calstatela.edu/UniversityReports

Innovative Honors College gains high-achieving followers



This fall, CSULA students in the newly-launched Honors College are discovering new ways to understand and analyze modern urban environments and the creative and critical expression that emerge from them. With a total of 89 students, including the first cohort of 39 freshmen, the Honors College is an academically enriched and socially supportive community for high-achieving scholars. Pictured above are some of the Honors College students enrolled in a core class, entitled "Social Innovation and Global Entrepreneurship." For info: www.calstatela.edu/univ/ppa/newsrel/honorscollege-2011.htm.

Galyean honored for unwavering dedication

Described as "a grand master black belt on the Golden Eagle Territory web portal," **Suzanne Galyean** was named as this year's Outstanding Staff. Galyean, administrative support coordinator for CSULA's Department of Communication Studies, was recognized for her unwavering dedication to helping students and faculty.

Galyean was also praised for possessing "exemplary skills and the capacity to upgrade, adapt, and increase skills in an effective and timely manner so as to keep pace with changing technologies, policies and procedures."

Galyean, who received her master's degree in art from CSULA, previously worked in the University's Department of Technology as an instructional support staff member in photography. While working toward her degree, she also served as a student assistant in the Department of Art and in the former Creative Media Services office on campus.

For her professionalism, thoroughness, efficiency, and caring persona, she was named as one of 10 "Distinguished Women" by the University's Cross Cultural Centers in 2003.

In receiving the honor, Galyean said, "I was really surprised with the award. ...I guess my particular contribution is the blend of information I acquired during my years as a student, combined with the training and contacts I've made as an employee."

For a list of employees recognized for 10 to 40 years of service during the 37th Annual Staff Awards Ceremony, go to www.calstatela.edu/UniversityReports.



President James M. Rosser and Suzanne Galyean

New Strategic Plan = student success

Increasing student success during and after college, better engaging community resources and partnerships, and developing a more collaborative culture across the University: these are the goals and expectations outlined in Cal State L.A.'s highly-inclusive new Strategic Plan.

To be implemented through 2016, the Strategic Plan will involve faculty, staff, students, alumni, community representatives and friends of the institution. The plan features highly-focused and structured initiatives, titled: Student Success, Community Engagement, and Collaborative Culture.

To improve Student Success, the Strategic Plan is designed to enable CSULA faculty and staff to provide access to, and delivery of, highly-valued academic and co-curricular experiences, including student engagement in research, scholarship, creative activities and other related practices.

Another critical goal of the plan is to improve the retention and graduation rates of students, with special emphasis on closing the achievement gap, then facilitating students' post-collegiate career aspirations.

As detailed in the Community Engagement initiative, the University will reach out to the groups outside the University that benefit CSULA in a variety of ways. It calls for measurable objectives that leverage the knowledge and resources of local, regional, national, and global communities.

The Strategic Plan's Collaborative Culture initiative was designed to promote the values of open communication, transparency, and synergy through cooperation, and the recognition of contributions and achievements as well as through collaboration across departments, programs, and colleges that encourage commitment to the mission of the institution.

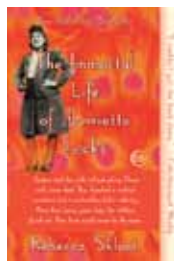
With collaboration, the plan aims to encourage and support an environment that promotes trust and respect for differences, and advances institutional excellence, innovation, and integration across campus.

For the University's Strategic Plan: <https://spcc.calstatela.edu>.



University Reports

'HeLa' cell is focus of campus read



The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks—a *New York Times* bestseller by science journalist Rebecca Skloot—is CSULA's 2011-12 One Campus, One Book selection.

This non-fiction book tells the story of Henrietta

Lacks, a poor tobacco farmer who died of aggressive cervical cancer in 1951 but not before cell samples were removed, without her knowledge or consent, by doctors treating her at Johns Hopkins Hospital.

Lacks' cells, commonly known as "HeLa," have been widely used for medical research for 60 years—contributing to breakthroughs in polio, cancer, gene mapping, and more.

Faculty and staff are also encouraged to incorporate study of the book into classes and campus events throughout the year. Copies of the book are available for check-out at the University Library and for purchase at the University Bookstore at a 20 percent discount.

The One Campus, One Book web page includes discussion prompts, teaching resources and event updates: <http://calstatela.libguides.com/ocob>.

Briefly...

College incentive for El Monte students

Cal State L.A. has recently signed the El Monte Union Pledge Compact to ensure qualified students from the El Monte Union High School District are given a direct path to college, starting with the Class of 2012. The compact pledges that all high school students who successfully complete college preparatory requirements, and are designated as CSU eligible, will be offered admission to CSULA. The compact also guarantees CSULA admission for Rio Hondo College students who successfully complete the transfer requirements.

Moodle replaces Blackboard system

After spring 2012, Cal State L.A. will switch to Moodle 2.1, an open source learning management system (LMS). The decision to replace the current Blackboard system was based on an assessment of different online LMS and after consultation with other CSU campuses. It is expected that Moodle will represent a marked improvement in course management. Faculty members are invited to pilot the use of Moodle for upcoming courses and to join the Moodle Learning Community course, which contains resources for Moodle use. For details: www.calstatela.edu/academic/aa/moodle.

Department updates

* The Department of Health Science has been officially renamed the Department of Public Health this fall. When registering for classes, students should look under Public Health (PH) and not Health Science (HS). For details: www.calstatela.edu/academic/hhs/hs/.

* This fall, the Department of Music and the Department of Theatre Arts and Dance merged to become the Department of Music, Theatre and Dance. The newly-combined department is located in the Music building, room 127. For details: www.calstatela.edu/academic/al/mtdreorganization.php.

* The Departments of Geological Sciences and Geography and Urban Analysis have recently merged to become the Department of Geosciences and Environment. For details: www.calstatela.edu/UniversityReports.

A diamond year for School of Nursing

Touted as one of the best in the nation, Cal State L.A.'s nursing program celebrates its 60th anniversary this academic year.

The nursing program was listed as a department in 1950-51 with Rebecca C. Bosworth as the first department chair. Although nursing courses were offered in 1948-49, the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program was not implemented until 1951-52.

The nursing program, now within the School of Nursing, comprises about 550 nursing majors, more than 400 undergraduate nursing students, more than 150 graduate students and 13 full-time faculty members.

Many nurses in Los Angeles hail from CSULA, with some holding top administrative posts at Cedars-Sinai, USC University Hospital, St. John's and Memorial Health Services.

U.S. News and World Report has consistently ranked CSULA's nursing master's degree program among the top nationally. The School's programs are approved by the California Board of Registered Nursing and accredited from the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education.

Applications are now being accepted for the Doctor of Nursing Practice pilot program, to be launched in fall 2012.

A reception to commemorate the School's diamond anniversary, along with the 20th anniversary of Sigma Theta Tau's Nu Mu chapter at CSULA, is being planned for June 2, 2012. Sigma Theta Tau is an international honor society of nursing. Details to come soon: www.calstatela.edu/academic/hhs/nursing/.



Pictured: (front row, l-r) CSULA faculty honorees Simeon Slovacek, Feimeng Zhou, Sharon H. Ulanoff, Kylie Hsu, Ali Modarres, and Atsuko Sato; (back row, standing l-r) Award Selection Committee Chair David Diaz; Academic Senate Chair Nancy Hunt; President James M. Rosser; and Provost Ashish Vaidya.

Six named outstanding

In addition to welcoming faculty members back to school during the annual Fall Faculty Day at the Luckman, four CSULA faculty were presented the annual Outstanding Professor Awards and one named the President's Distinguished Professor. For the second year, an Outstanding Lecturer Award was also presented.

President's Distinguished Professor

Kylie Hsu (*Modern Languages and Literatures*) is an internationally-recognized scholar who has authored books in the areas of Chinese morphology and discourse pragmatics. Hsu was key in establishing the Chinese major program and the Asian and Asian American Studies major program, and in developing a Chinese single-subject matter preparation program. She was a pioneer of the CSU Systemwide Strategic Language Initiative and its CSU Summer Language Institute.

View Hsu's video interview here: www.youtube.com/watch?v=ldG56N1XYGA.

Outstanding Professors

Presented with Outstanding Professor Awards were **Ali Modarres** (*Geosciences and Environment*), an urban geographer whose work has been published in major journals and publications; **Simeon Slovacek** (*Applied and Advanced Studies in Education*), a distinguished expert in school reform and program evaluation; **Sharon Ulanoff** (*Curriculum and Instruction*), a literacy specialist who has been instrumental in helping prepare future education leaders; and **Feimeng Zhuo** (*Chemistry and Biochemistry*), an esteemed chemist who is committed to involving students in research.

Outstanding Lecturer

The recipient of this year's Outstanding Lecturer award is **Atsuko Sato** (*Political Science*), who is acknowledged for her work on tri-level policy analysis of global environmental problems.

For detailed profiles of these professors, go to www.calstatela.edu/univ/ppa/newsrel/opa2011.htm.

CSULA widens the path toward timely graduation

Aligned with the CSU Graduation Initiative, Cal State L.A. is working to improve the six-year graduation rate for undergraduate freshmen from 34 percent to 45 percent, and increase the six-year graduation rate of underrepresented students who started as freshmen from 30 percent to 42 percent.

Also, CSULA is working toward increasing the four-year graduation rate for undergraduates who began at the University as transfer students from 49 percent to 57 percent, and from 47 percent to 56 percent for underrepresented transfer students.

In order to meet these goals, the CSULA team has focused on four areas:

1. Comprehensive, integrated and proactive academic advisement (www.calstatela.edu/univ/advise/)
2. Academic and social support for students
3. Student learning achievement and its assessment (www.calstatela.edu/academic/aa/assessment)
4. Enhancement of campus-student communication

For more details on achieving the goals: www.calstatela.edu/academic/aa/gradinitiatives/plan.php.

Honors...



DNA work recognized

For its remarkable efforts in advancing DNA understanding, the California Forensic Science Institute (CFSI) was recently presented the 2011 DNA Awareness Institutional Achievement Award during the 10th Annual DNA Awareness Educational Forum and Awards Luncheon, sponsored by the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office. Pictured above: President James M. Rosser (r) and Chief Deputy District Attorney Jacquelyn Lacey (l) presenting a plaque to Rose Ochi who accepted on behalf of CFSI. (Photo credit: John R. Stephens, LACDA)

Pre-docs predominate

Representing the largest group from any CSU campus, 11 CSULA students were selected as Sally Casanova Pre-Doctoral Scholars for the 2011-12 academic year. The following scholars will explore the prospect of doctoral studies: Joanna Barreras (social work major), Te-Kang Chao (computer engineering), Jeremy Colman (anthropology), Andres Garza (philosophy), Efen Lopez (English), Oscar Marquez (Latin American studies), Paulo Medina (anthropology), Susana Morales (Latin American studies), Cecilia Salvi (Spanish and anthropology), Thien-Tin (Tino) Truong (physics and anthropology), and Amy Wat (mechanical engineering). For more: www.calstatela.edu/univ/ppa/newsrel/sallycpredocs2011.htm.

Model U.N. earns major awards

CSULA's Model United Nations delegation, representing the Kingdom of Spain, received this year's "Outstanding Position Papers" and "Distinguished Delegation" awards. Out of more than 300 colleges and universities, only 27 schools were awarded Outstanding Position Papers and 27 schools were awarded the Distinguished Delegation prize. For more: www.calstatela.edu/univ/ppa/newsrel/modelun-csula2011.htm.

Engineering, business top the lists

For more than a decade, CSULA's undergraduate business and engineering programs have been listed among the nation's best in *U.S. News & World Reports* "America's Best Colleges" issue.

The *U.S. News* listed the College of Business and Economics at #97, ranking among the top five public institutions in California. Ranked at #40, the College of Engineering, Computer Science, and Technology is the only public undergraduate university in the greater Los Angeles area making the top of the list.

Mud flow project nabs prize

The Civil Engineering department was presented a \$7,500 Engineering Award for Connecting Professional Practice and Education by the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying. The honor was the result of a senior design study, entitled "Connecting Professional Practice and Education through a Civil Engineering Capstone Project: Mud Flow Barrier."

For a listing of campus events:
www.calstatela.edu/calendar