

## Mind Matters: promoting student health

President William A. Covino and first lady, Dr. Debbie Covino, are leading a new campaign called Mind Matters to help Cal State L.A. students deal with the pressures of succeeding in college.

The Mind Matters initiative was launched at the beginning of the new academic year, as college students start to experience high levels of stress, including problems caused by demanding workloads, school/work balance, sleep deprivation, and separation anxiety prevalent among incoming freshmen.

Covino has authorized additional healthcare professionals to help students deal with stress, anxiety and life choices that work against success. The University will also be increasing space in the student health center to accommodate additional psychological counseling, workshops and activities that promote physical and mental well-being.

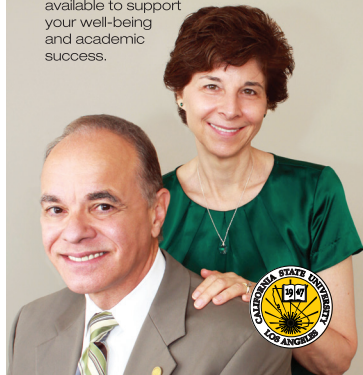
The president and first lady also plan to heighten campus awareness to help ensure that students are steered toward the resources they need to develop good study habits and make the right choices to keep them on a successful path to a Cal State L.A. degree.

Staff and faculty can help by directing struggling students to the appropriate campus resources.

For more information, visit <http://www.calstatela.edu/studenthealthcenter/caps>.

Cal State L.A.  
President Bill Covino and  
Dr. Debbie Covino

want to remind you that **Mind Matters**. We invite you to visit the Student Health Center to learn what services are available to support your well-being and academic success.



## Cal State L.A. gets 'Jumpstart'

The Center for Engagement, Service, and the Public Good has partnered with the Jumpstart Program to recruit 20 Cal State L.A. students to work with children in local classrooms.

Jumpstart is a national organization dedicated to early education. It recruits and trains college students to serve preschool children in low-income neighborhoods.

This collaboration will help build English literacy and develop social skills among preschoolers from the surrounding campus community, while providing Cal State L.A. students with hands-on teaching experience for one academic year. For more info, call (323) 343-3380.

## Distinguished women recognized

This year, Cal State L.A. honored the outstanding achievements of the following 11 female faculty, staff and administrators with the 16th annual Distinguished Women Awards. The awardees are: (back row, l-r) Lai Leung, Scheduling Office; Jonna Fries, Counseling and Psychological Services, Student Health Center; Gail Washington, School of Nursing; Molly Talcott,

Department of Sociology; María Dolores Costa, Department of Modern Languages and Literatures; Rosie Rodriguez, Department of Sociology; (front row, l-r) Lianne Salerno, Registrar's Office; Pat Tom, Department of Economics and Statistics; Juanita Lewis, Division of Information Technology Services; Ping Yao, Asian and Asian American Studies Program/Department of History; and Gloria Mendoza, Division of Academic Affairs.



## Campus voice in DC



**Janet Dial** (right), vice president for University Advancement, traveled to Capitol Hill to attend the California State Society's annual "Back to College Night" in September.

Also in Washington, D.C. was **Maria Ubago** (center), executive director of the Alumni Association. She had the opportunity to meet with elected officials to promote support for Cal State L.A. and higher education. Ubago met with Congresswoman and Cal State L.A. alumna Maxine Waters, Congresswoman Judy Chu, Congressman Xavier Becerra and more. For photos: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/cal-state-la/sets/72157648074402385/>.

Faculty and staff can also play an important role in advocating for legislative support for Cal State L.A. Learn more about how to become an advocacy program volunteer here: <http://alumni.calstatela.edu/advocacy/index.htm>.

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For expanded stories, achievement listings and more, go to [www.calstatela.edu/UniversityReports](http://www.calstatela.edu/UniversityReports).



# University Reports

## Six faculty members cited for excellence



President William A. Covino congratulated this year's award recipients (l-r) Jun Liu (Mrs. Liu accepted the award on Professor's Liu's behalf), D. Robert DeChaine, Barry Hibbs, James Brady, Connie Wong and Choi Chatterjee during the Fall Faculty Day.

As part of the annual Fall Faculty Day tradition, five Cal State L.A. professors and one lecturer were honored by President William A. Covino and the Academic Senate.

These professors, rated highly by Cal State L.A. students, have been described as "the best of the best," "very helpful," "a distinguished scholar," "hardworking and dedicated," and "an exceptional mentor."

An esteemed professor and a Maya cave archaeologist who actively involves students in his fieldwork, **James Brady** (*Anthropology*) is this year's President's Distinguished Professor. Brady is recognized internationally for his innovative field research and has been credited by preeminent scholars for creating a new sub-discipline of Maya cave archaeology.

Presented with Outstanding Professor Awards were **Choi Chatterjee** (*History*), a distinguished historian whose work has been widely published locally and nationally; **D. Robert DeChaine** (*Liberal Studies/Communication Studies*), a prominent scholar in communication studies whose journals have garnered rave reviews; **Barry Hibbs** (*Geosciences and Environment*), an expert in the field of hydrogeology who has conducted cutting-edge research on groundwater and environmental issues; and **Jun Liu** (*English*), a professional translator who has been recognized as an international scholar in Western literature and critical theory.

This year's Outstanding Lecturer is **Connie Wong** (*Kinesiology*), who has more than 25 years of professional experience as a physical therapist.

For detailed profiles of these professors, go to <http://www.calstatela.edu/univ/ppa/publicat/cal-state-la-announces-years-presidents-distinguished-professor-four-outstanding>.

## Reference assistant recognized for her work



**Yvonne Hasegawa**, chief reference assistant for the University Library, was honored as this year's Outstanding Staff member for her patience, tirelessness and a "quiet equanimity" even when facing mountains of work.

Nominators described her as "knowledgeable, thorough, and meticulous with her work" and going "beyond the call of duty." Whether it is supervising students, working at the Reference Desk, shepherding students through the thesis process, or creating theses manuals, she has been recognized as doing it all extremely well.

A staff member at Cal State L.A. for 40 years, Hasegawa served as a catalyst and played a pivotal role in the success of the e-theses, which went live in the fall of 2011.

"I was overwhelmed and really touched when I heard I won the award," Hasegawa said. "I really enjoy doing what I do, working with graduate students with their theses and seeing them eventually graduate."

For a list of staff members honored for their years of employment at Cal State L.A., visit [www.calstatela.edu/UniversityReports](http://www.calstatela.edu/UniversityReports).

## Q2S = Good Customer Service

Semester conversion provides a rare opportunity to launch Cal State L.A. as a national example of excellence. As we move forward with the Q2S Conversion Project, student success remains our central focus. Faculty have reimagined and altered their academic programs with new content, updated pedagogies and enhanced relevance, closely connecting civic learning and community service to many of the more than 4,500 programs and courses that have been reinvented.

Outside the classroom, the conversion is improving the University's ability to meet other student needs. We are streamlining and improving University processes to ensure that students receive excellent customer service. A great university pays attention to details, to every aspect of the student experience on campus.

A successful conversion will allow us to even better serve and meet the needs of our students.

## New communiqué

To consolidate the messages going out to faculty and staff and provide the campus community with more timely and relevant information, the Office of Communications and Public Affairs has introduced a new bi-weekly e-bulletin, *The Insider*. Please look for it in your email every other Wednesday.

With this new communication, *University Reports* will be moving to an online exclusive edition, which will include in-depth news and articles. We will also continue to highlight professional activities, publications and honors of faculty and staff members online. Please share your good news via [paffairs@calstatela.edu](mailto:paffairs@calstatela.edu).

Sign up for **Cal State L.A.'s mobile app**:  
<http://www.calstatela.edu/univ/ppa/mobile-app>

## Man in motion: President Covino's first year in office



L.A. Children's Court Judge Michael Nash, Cal State L.A.'s Child Maltreatment and Family Violence Institute Director Colleen Friend and Cal State L.A.'s President William Covino during the Children's Memorial Bench dedication.



L-r: President Covino met with Mayor Eric Garcetti during CSU Chancellor Timothy White's campus visit where Covino shared his goals and vision for the University.



Rep. Judy Chu presented President Covino with a Certificate of Congressional Recognition during last year's Fall Convocation.



President Covino toured the Veterans Resource Center after the grand opening festivities.



Bishop Charles Blake welcomed Cal State L.A. President Covino to the pulpit to address the West Angeles Church God in Christ congregation as part of the CSU Super Sunday.



President Covino (c) was on hand for the ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the opening of the new Television, Film & Media Center on campus.



President Covino gave introductory remarks during the grand opening of the University's Hydrogen Station as part of the Investiture Week festivities.



With formal pageantry, William Covino (c) was installed as the seventh president of Cal State L.A. by CSU Chancellor Timothy White during the investiture ceremony.



President Covino marched with the platform party during the processional for the University's Honors Convocation. More than 5,000 students were honored for their academic achievements and scholarships.



President Covino addressed the Class of 2014 and congratulated each of the graduates during his first commencement ceremony at Cal State L.A.



President Covino greeted the incoming officers during this year's Associated Students, Inc. inauguration ceremony.

## STEP program boosts freshmen success

A summer program for freshmen in the College of Engineering, Computer Science, and Technology is helping to increase the retention rate of first-year students and decrease their time-to-degree completion.

Students who participate in the Summer Transition to ECST Program (STEP) take summer math classes to reinforce skills needed for lower division major requirements. After participating in the program, many students do not require remedial math classes when their freshman year begins.

"As a result of STEP, 26 to 30 percent of the incoming freshmen from fall 2010 through fall 2014 are in a position to graduate from Cal State L.A. with an engineering or a computer science degree in four to six years because they are starting at a desired [math] level for their curriculum," said **Frances Hidalgo**, director of the ECST Student Success Center.

Altogether, more than 1,300 ECST incoming freshmen have successfully completed STEP. They have achieved an overall mean passing rate in the math exit exams of 90 percent.

Nicholas Martinez was one of more than 300 students who attended STEP this year. "I did not want to attend the Summer Transition to ECST Program (STEP) at first," said Martinez, a first-year student. "I later realized that they were giving us a chance... to excel academically and also experience what college is really like."

Students said the program motivated them to focus on excellence, engage in community, and embrace challenges. It also created a stronger sense of community within their incoming class.

"The goal is to graduate well-educated professionals who are prepared to meet the challenges of a rapidly changing world," Hidalgo said.



L-r: First-year students Jennifer Martinez, Nicholas Martinez, Jose Manalaysay, Ethan Christopher and Kristopher Camacho were presented Most Valuable Student Certificates during the STEP culminating reception.

## PaGE hosts its first convocation

The College of Professional and Global Education (PaGE) recently held its first convocation and presented the inaugural Dean's Award for Excellence in Leadership.

**Justin G. Cassity**, associate dean of PaGE, received the award for his contributions to the college and the University. Cassity served as interim dean of the college.

During the convocation, which was held in September, Dean **Eric Bullard** shared the college's new mission statement. The mission of the college is to "provide flexible, relevant, and practical educational pathways, preparing individuals and organizations to engage, serve, and succeed in the regional and global economies."

Bullard also discussed key strategic priorities and goals for the college, which was formerly known as the College of Extended Studies and International Programs.

For more info, visit <http://www.calstatela.edu/extension>.

## New for the new year

Aimed at equipping students with the best resources and programs to achieve their academic goals, Cal State L.A. offers the following new programs:

- ▶ A **Nongshim Innovation Lab** is under construction in Simpson Tower. Nongshim America, Inc., a global food company, has committed \$300,000 to the College of Business and Economics for the lab, which will support entrepreneurship. For info, call (323) 343-2800.
- ▶ A new **minor in Korean** was launched this fall, funded by a grant from the Korean Education Center in Los Angeles. This grant also supports expanding the minor into a major and single-subject teaching credential program. For info, call (323) 343-4230.
- ▶ Through a \$3.5 million L.A. County grant, a **new bioscience incubator** will soon be housed on the Cal State L.A. campus. Cal State L.A. will collaborate with government and business leaders to develop an Eastside nucleus of scientific research and development, which will support the growing number of life science start-ups in the Los Angeles area. For info: <http://labiosciencehub.wordpress.com/the-corridor/>.