



Yuen a 'local hero' for serving schools

Gay Yuen, professor of education, was recently honored as a Local Hero of the Year by KCET public television station and Union Bank in celebration of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month.

A pioneer in bilingual education for more than 30 years, Yuen was recognized for improving the educational experience of children who immigrate to California. Yuen also volunteers with community organizations.



At the May 21 awards ceremony, short film profiles of the winners were shown. They are also broadcast on KCET in conjunction with special heritage month programming.

Yuen also directs the Pacific Rim Institute of the Charter College of Education, which supports Asian and Asian American educational research. She frequently consults with educational agencies—in Asia, working in China, Hong Kong, Korea, Singapore, and the Pacific Islands—as an expert on multi-cultural education and teacher education.

Yuen has served on the Los Angeles Mayor's Council of Education Advisors to help lower dropout rates and truancy, and to make schools safer in the Los Angeles Unified School District. She is also involved with the Mandarin-English Dual Language Program at City Terrace Elementary School.

For more about the Professor Yuen and the honor, go to kcet.org/local/2009/05/dr-gay-q-yuen-education.html.



Honoring distinguished women

On May 19, the Cross Cultural Centers honored these nine female faculty, staff and administrators with its Distinguished Women Awards for their academic and other accomplishments: (l-r) Catherine Haras, John F. Kennedy Memorial Library; Lorie H. Judson, School of Nursing; Sandy Sugiura, Charter College of Education; Jeanne Gee, Department of English; Paula J. Arvedson, Charter College of Education; Susan Terebey, Department of Physics and Astronomy; Ester Hernandez, Department of Chicano Studies; Marina Jauregui, University Police; and Alison McCurdy, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry.

It's 5 a.m.! And we're live on KMEX...

So how "live" is live television at 5 a.m. on Fridays? Just ask Frank Cornelio, Mario Castaneda or Jose Galvan.

Combined, the trio in recent weeks has represented Cal State L.A. six times on *Primera Edición*, Univision's southern California 5-8 a.m. daily news program. Arriving at KMEX's Century City studios by 5 a.m., each has been a guest discussing education topics live with the show's anchors in the program's "¡Educaté! Deja Huella" segment.

Castaneda, a professor of education, discussed homework strategies and family support of students. Galvan, acting dean of extended education, spoke about distance-learning and programs open to the community. Cornelio, an outreach recruiter, has made four Friday pre-dawn



Frank Cornelio, left, appears with "Primera Edición" anchor Claudia Botero at 5:39 a.m.

appearances—addressing college-track preparation, financial aid, test-taking strategies, and physical education.

The program continues to seek Spanish-speaking guests from Cal State L.A. For details, contact Director of Media Relations Sean Kearns at skearns@calstatela.edu or ext. 3-3050.

Honors College seeks 25 outstanding freshmen

Cal State L.A. is planning to recruit its first cohort of 25 high-achieving first-time freshmen to enroll in its new Honors College, planned to begin in fall 2010.

Through its core curriculum and its opportunities for community service, the Honors College will provide students with an ideal setting for the discovery and creation of knowledge and the cultivation of skills and attitudes

essential for leadership in the 21st century.

Freshmen admitted into the Honors College will receive full fee waiver renewable for four years, a personal laptop, free admission to leading cultural performances and centers, and priority registration.

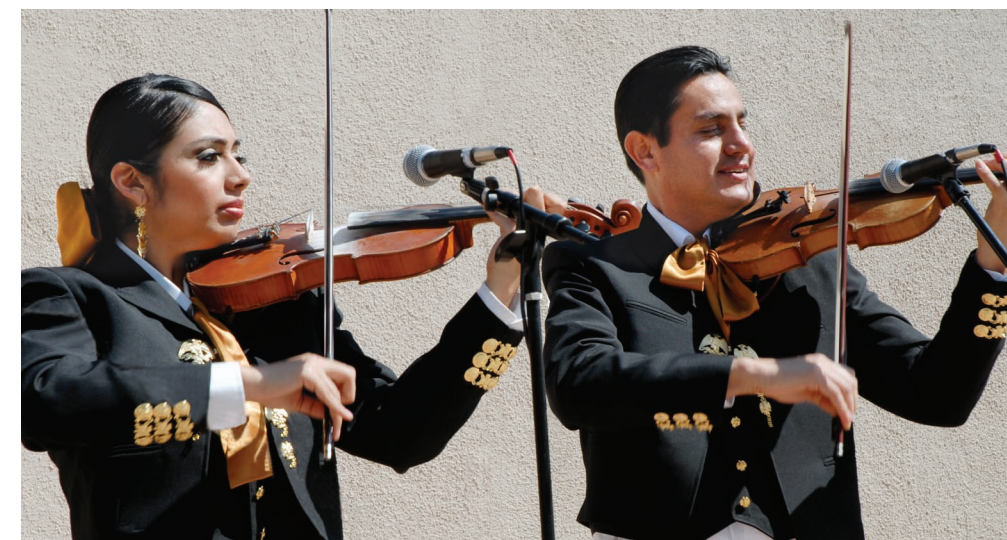
For details, contact Alfredo Gonzalez, dean of Undergraduate Studies, at alfredo@cslanet.calstatela.edu.



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



L-r: CSULA students Erica Rodriguez and Efrain Adrade perform at the Golden Eagle Mariachi inaugural event. Other ensemble members (not pictured) include Juan Cuevas, Angel Juarez, Roberto Mendez, Miguel Salgado and Manuel Sandoval.

Golden Eagle Mariachi premieres on the U-SU stage with 'Diva' director

Dressed smartly in matching black and gold outfits, Cal State L.A.'s new Golden Eagle Mariachi ensemble impressed the crowd at its inaugural performance in March on the University-Student Union Plaza stage.

The eight-member ensemble performed with three violins, two trumpets, a guitarrón (acoustic bass), a guitar, and a vihuela (small five-string guitar). It consisted of CSULA students who were the first to enroll in a three-unit beginning mariachi course launched last quarter.

Funded by an Instructionally-Related Activities grant, the MUS 427 course is open to students by audition and fulfills the performance class requirement for the Latin American studies and music degree programs.

The mariachi music program was developed through the combined efforts of Provost Desdemona Cardoza, George DeGraffenreid, music department chair, and Paul De Castro, professor of music. Cardoza said, "It makes sense for a mariachi music program to be offered on our campus, particularly with our demographic and the communities we serve."

Cindy Reifler-Flores, a member of the 2009 Grammy-winning "Mariachi Divas," directs the ensemble. She is also a graduate student in Cal State L.A.'s Latin American Studies program.

For a decade, Reifler-Flores was a member of the Mariachi Reyna de Los Angeles. She learned mariachi the traditional way, by apprenticeship, trained directly by professional musicians from Mexico. She has taught mariachi throughout the Southwest and at the San Jose State Mariachi program. She also has a background in classical music, studying with maestro Howard Weiss from the Eastman School of Music Conservatory in New York and performing as a classical violinist in orchestra and chamber music ensembles.

The Golden Eagle Mariachi has already been featured on a television show for Mun2, the "Las Chicas Project" show. Under the moniker Mariachi Aguila de Oro, the ensemble performed June 1 in an original play by Theatre Arts Professor José Cruz González, entitled *Mariachi Quixotes*. The stage reading was translated into Spanish by Spanish Professor Gastón Alzate.

As jobs dwindle, CDC offers help

With roughly 5,000 students graduating from Cal State L.A. this spring and California's unemployment rate at 11 percent, the Career Development Center (CDC) stands by to help students with their career goals.

According to Chris Lenz, director of the CDC, "Students should apply for internships to get work experience, be prepared early on, and network with companies. While the current economic decline has affected virtually every sector, there are still opportunities in education, government and health care."

The CDC's four career counselors—Judy Narcisse, Cesar Gonzalez, Lynne Osborne, and Joanna Martel—help students inventory and explore skills and career paths. They teach students interview techniques, resume writing, and job search strategies.

Zeidy Cabrera, employer relations coordinator, connects students with corporations, agencies, and other potential employers.

The CDC has more than 1,000 job and internship postings currently listed on the Eagle iJobs online database at www.calstatela.edu/univ/cdc/eagleijobs/. Many employers are specifically looking for CSULA students and graduates.

How you can help...

According to Lenz, here are five ways ways faculty and staff can help students gain employment:

1. Offer to serve as a reference.
2. Write a letter of support to potential employers.
3. Support efforts to establish internships.
4. Help students network by inviting professionals to guest lecture.
5. Alert them to publications, professional meetings, and sites relevant to their fields.

Also, a job search tipsheet for students accompanies this article online at www.calstatela.edu/UniversityReports.





Inside La Kretz Hall

More than a hundred students, faculty and staff gathered April 7 in the foyer of La Kretz Hall to applaud the generous donation of Morton La Kretz, and then embark on tours of the labs now housed in the hall (see box at right for labs featured during the dedication ceremony).

This three-story, 65,000-square-foot facility completes the first wing of the Wallis Annenberg Integrated Sciences Complex. It also reflects La Kretz's interest in furthering environmental science research. La Kretz, a real estate developer, grew up near the University in Boyle Heights.

As it accommodates instruction and research activities in fields ranging from biochemistry to zoology, La Kretz Hall also fosters groundbreaking work in food science and the biomedical sciences.



Pictured: Morton La Kretz, at the podium, addresses the audience at the La Kretz Hall dedication and ribbon-cutting ceremony April 7.

USDA boosts new food degree

This fall, the School of Kinesiology and Nutritional Science will launch a new Bachelor of Science program in food science and technology. It will focus on all technical aspects of food, such as harvesting, preservation, cooking, packaging, consumption and food safety. The U.S. Department of Agriculture is funding 15 \$3,000 scholarships for students in the program. For details, contact Harmit Singh at hsingh2@calstatela.edu or go to www.calstatela.edu/dept/pef.

Packing in stem cells in biology

Cal State L.A. will partner with Cal Poly Pomona to launch an instructional program in stem cell biology and cell culture techniques. Funded by The California Institute for Regenerative Medicine, the Bridges to Stem Cell Research Award will establish a new upper-division class in cell culture and also develop a stem-cell module to include in basic biology courses. The program also provides three undergraduate six-month internships with \$15,000 stipends and two graduate 12-month internships with \$30,000 stipends for CSULA students, allowing them to participate full-time in stem cell lab work at Ph.D.-granting institutions. For details, contact Sandra Sharp at ssharp@calstatela.edu or Robert Nissen at rnissen@calstatela.edu.

A first-rate lineup of laboratories

The following laboratories were open for tours during the La Kretz Hall dedication:

First Floor

Spinal Plasticity and Locomotor Training:
Ray De Leon, kinesiology

Biomechanics:
Andy Cornwell, kinesiology

Peanut Allergens and Food Product Development:
Harmit Singh, nutritional science

Exercise Physiology:
Nazareth Khodiguian, kinesiology

Igneous Rock Geochemistry:
Jennifer Garrison, geological sciences

Hydrogeology:
Barry Hibbs, geological sciences

Second Floor

Cancer Research and Redox Regulation:
Jamil Momand, biochemistry

Molecular Aspects of Enzyme Regulation:
Scott Grover, biochemistry

Lipoprotein and Atherosclerosis Biochemistry:
Raymond Garcia, biochemistry

Molecular Biochemistry of Lifespan Determination:
Robert Vellanoweth, biochemistry

Third Floor

Marine Molecular Ecology and Evolution:
Elizabeth Torres, biological sciences

Marine Evolutionary Ecology:
Patrick Krug, biological sciences

Viral Pathogenesis:
Nancy McQueen, biological sciences

Innate Immunity: Natural Defense Against Germs:
Edith Porter, biological sciences

Applied Microbiology/Biotechnology:
Howard Xu, biological sciences

Plant Evolutionary Genomics:
Stacey Thompson, biological sciences

Plant Molecular Phylogenetics:
Kirsten Fisher, biological sciences

Congratulations!

IRS lauds VITA service for 'lowest rejection rate'

In helping complete 447 tax returns this year for low-income individuals in the community, the students of Cal State L.A.'s Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program secured total refunds of \$374,049 and earned-income credits of \$132,529—and the Internal Revenue Service's "Lowest Rejection Rate" award.

According to VITA site coordinator and Professor of Accounting David Hossain, 69 student volunteers were certified this year to provide free tax preparation services. The IRS, he said, reviewed all returns prepared by the more than 150 VITA Centers in Los Angeles County. Along with surpassing its volume and refund goals, the Cal State L.A. program emphasized "zero-error" for its returns, Hossain said.

Rocking the Model U.N.



CSULA delegates at the National Model U.N. conference in New York.

With a 19-member delegation representing the Republic of Cuba, Cal State L.A. garnered top awards in all three categories at the recent annual National Model United Nations conference in New York.

For the first time, Cal State L.A. received both "Outstanding Delegation" and "Outstanding Position Papers"—the highest honors a delegation can receive. Two CSULA students—Carlos Holloper and Juan Huezó—were also recognized for their roles as delegates of Cuba in the Organization of American States (OAS) and received "Outstanding Delegation in Committee."

The Model United Nations (U.N.) team comprises of students enrolled in POLS 454 course this past winter. Emily Acevedo is the course professor and the team's faculty advisor.

The annual conference provides students with the opportunity to engage in a simulation with other colleges and universities as a delegate of a nation.

For more student accomplishments, visit www.calstatela.edu/UniversityReports.

Boeing's Bell, Cambridge's Guerrero to address Class of '09

To honor and encourage the Class of 2009, two high-flying leaders—a corporate executive and a university chief—will deliver this year's Commencement addresses Friday and Saturday, June 12-13.

James A. Bell (left), corporate president, chief financial officer (CFO) and an executive vice president of The Boeing Company, will return to his alma mater to address the Friday evening ceremony.

A native of Los Angeles, Bell earned his bachelor's degree in accounting from Cal State L.A. A recipient of Cal State L.A.'s 2005 Distinguished Alumni Award, Bell was selected among the Top 100 Most Important Blacks in Technology in the 2006 *U.S. Black Engineer & Information Technology* magazine.

A 36-year Boeing veteran, Bell has extensive experience overseeing business performance and strategic growth initiatives at the Chicago-



based Boeing, the world's largest aerospace company.

Two months after his formal installation as the president of Cambridge College in Massachusetts, Tito Guerrero, III (right), will address the Saturday morning's ceremony. He formerly served as president at Austin State University and at the University of Southern Colorado.

He was most recently vice president and associate provost for diversity at Texas A&M University.

Guerrero serves on the board of visitors for the U.S. Air Force's Air University. He also serves as an editorial board member for *The Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education* and *SAM Advanced Management Journal*.

Guerrero received the Harvard Alumni of Color Achievement Award in 2007 and was selected among the 100 Most Influential Hispanics in the United States by *Hispanic Business Magazine* in 2006.



UAAC offers good advice for advisors helping students

Because advisors sometimes need advice, Cal State L.A.'s University Academic Advisement Center (UAAC) last winter began training faculty and others on how to help students navigate general education (GE) requirements and use GET (Golden Eagle Territory), the University's personalized enrollment features page.

According to Alfredo Gonzalez, dean of Undergraduate Studies, effective advising is crucial, not only for providing a road map through the curriculum, but for encouraging and empowering students toward success.

"One-to-one contact between an advisor and a student is linked to positive student involvement and motivation," said Gonzalez.

Directed by Professor of Nursing Evelyn Calvillo, the UAAC is in the Palmer Wing of the John F. Kennedy Memorial Library, room 1040A. Calvillo has provided training for GE and graduation requirements, while Virgil Seaman, professor of technology, has conducted the GET training sessions. For details, call 3-3150 or email aac@calstatela.edu.

For more about advising, GET, academic roadmaps, and advisement training, visit the following:

- www.calstatela.edu/univ/advise/
- get.calstatela.edu/ and click "GET Help"
- cms.calstatela.edu/ and click on "Training"

Quick references

CSU Budget Central:
www.calstate.edu/BudgetCentral/

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

WASC Reaccreditation:
www.calstatela.edu/wasc/

University Strategic Plan:
spcc.calstatela.edu/

College Portrait:
www.calstatela.edu/univ/ppa/publicat/vsa/

President's Newsletter:
www.calstatela.edu/univ/ppa/president/newsInfo_5-2009.html

University Reports expanded online edition, with faculty activities:
www.calstatela.edu/UniversityReports