

New dean takes the helm



Lawrence M. Fritz has been appointed as dean of Graduate Studies and Research, effective June 1. In this capacity, Fritz is responsible for oversight of policies and procedures related to all graduate programs as well as institutional policies and procedures governing research and sponsored programs. He also oversees the operation of special support programs for graduate students, and efforts to broaden the base of external funding at the University. Previously, Fritz was assistant vice president of research and dean of Graduate Studies, and a tenured professor in biology at Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania. His professional affiliations have included the Council of Graduate Schools, the National Professional Science Master's Association (founding membership), the Psychological Society of America, and the New York Academy of Sciences, to name a few.

10 women of distinction honored



Ten current and former faculty, staff and administrators were recently honored by the Cross Cultural Centers and the University-Student Union at Cal State L.A.'s 14th annual Distinguished Women Awards ceremony. They were: (l-r, back row) Letycia Gomez (*Judicial Affairs*), Joan Fingon (*Curriculum and Instruction*), Valentine Villa (*Social Work/Applied Gerontology Institute*), Carol Blaszczyński (*Information Systems*), Kimberly King (*Psychology*), (front row) Roseann Giarrusso (*Sociology*), Claudia Kouyoumdjian (*Child and Family Studies*), Rose Ochi (*California Forensic Science Institute*), Corlis T. Ushijima (*Educational Opportunity Program*), and Ellen R. Stein (*Research Development*).

Super seniors focus on degree attainment

Further demonstrating its commitment to the progress of its students, while ensuring the use of limited resources, Cal State L.A. has focused efforts on streamlining students' academic advisement and paths to graduation.

"Super" seniors are undergraduate students who have completed 36 or more units beyond the total units required for their degree program. The University has identified nearly 1,100 students who fall into this category. They will be required to meet with their College academic advisers to discuss and agree to enroll in remaining courses they need to graduate. In addition to existing advisers, the University has hired staff advisers to assist these students in identifying and completing their remaining courses.

For more information, visit www.calstatela.edu/univ/advise/docs/faqsuperseniorspring2012.pdf.

Student accolades

* Cal State L.A.'s 10-member delegation, which recently served as ambassadors for the Kingdom of Belgium, was awarded Honorable Mention at the annual **National Model United Nations** conference in New York. Additionally, five of the 11 committees CSULA represented were awarded "Outstanding Position Paper." For more: www.calstatela.edu/univ/ppa/spotlight/archive/2012/modelun-2012.php.

* CSULA students placed second and third for their innovative projects—the Cal State L.A. Pepper Mill and The Eagle Stove—at the **WESTEC** (Western Tool Exposition and Conference) **2012 Manufacturing Challenge**. The WESTEC challenge, co-sponsored by the Society of Manufacturing Engineers, is an annual competition in which college students design and build products for judging by manufacturing professionals. For more: www.calstatela.edu/univ/ppa/spotlight/archive/2012/westec-2012.php.

* Biology students Adrianna Hernandez and Jennifer Retana were two of 12 students selected from a statewide competition to participate in the **CSU-LSAMP Costa Rica Research Summer 2012 Program**, a four-week intensive, interdisciplinary tropical field experience for undergraduates. For more: <https://lsamp.calstatela.edu/lsamp/main.jsp>.

QUICK CLICKS

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/

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University Reports

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CETL: Faculty resource enhances student learning



Pictured: (standing, l-r) Catherine Haras, acting CETL director; Diedre Rosen, information technology consultant; Flavio Argueta, lab manager; and (seated) Angelique Hamane, acting CETL associate director.

To engender a thriving scholarly community, the Center for Effective Teaching and Learning (CETL) offers a variety of services that support faculty development and create engaging learning environments.

"The CETL is much like a one-stop shop for faculty members to learn what teaching entails in the 21st century and how to become better practitioners in the classroom, thus helping to enhance student learning outcomes," said Catherine Haras, acting CETL director. Quoting a recent *Chronicle of Higher Education* article, Haras believes, "Maintaining a strong sense of community is essential for recruiting and retaining excellent faculty members and for encouraging them to invest both professionally and personally in the college and their students."

Since last fall, more than 100 workshops and webinars have been offered by CETL on such topics as "Moodle in a Day," "Social Networking," "e-text Strategies," "Advising Students," "Grant Writing," and more. Moodle is CSULA's open-source learning management system. Also, a new CETL Annex, located in the JFK Memorial Library, Palmer Wing, room 3074, was opened specifically for faculty programming, training and roundtable discussions.

In February, the CETL funded 23 instructional effectiveness and undergraduate research mentoring grants for CSULA faculty. These grants support active mentoring of undergraduates and faculty members who want to explore varied approaches of teaching in their disciplines and address challenges in the classroom that affect student success.

In addition, with the support of an Institute for Teaching and Learning (ITL) grant from the CSU Chancellor's Office, the CETL recently developed "faculty learning communities" (FLCs) that focus on innovative teaching methods and strategies as well as incorporating the latest educational technologies into their curriculum. Current FLCs focus on teaching large-lecture General Education (G.E.) classes.

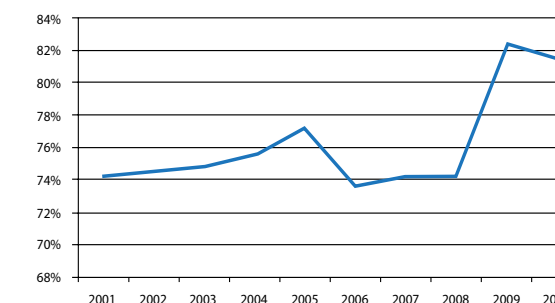
This month, the CETL team will also participate in the CSU Institute for Teaching and Learning's Summer Institute: "GE Assessment Part II: Tools and Strategies."

Under the direction of Haras, the CETL staff includes Angelique Hamane, acting CETL associate director; Flavio Argueta, lab manager; Jethro Lipsun, student assistant; Edward Diaz, student assistant; Bethany Shen, student assistant; Shakima Thomas, graduate intern; and Diedre Rosen, information technology consultant.

For more about CETL services and resources, visit www.calstatela.edu/academic/aa/cetl/index.php or call (323) 343-6594.

Retention on the rise

CSULA freshman retention rate: 2001 to 2010



At the recent CSU Chancellor's Office Graduation Initiative Summit, Cal State L.A. was cited for improvements to its full-time first-year freshman retention rate. The rate for the 2009 freshman cohort was 82.4 percent, which was 8.3 percent higher than the previous cohort. "Our success addressing remedial needs, adjusting academic and social support services to the rapidly changing circumstances of our students, and the dedication and focus of the entire campus on the Graduation Initiative, are all factors that have contributed to the rise in retention," said Ashish Vaidya, provost and vice president for Academic Affairs.

Lending your voice

Do you want to be heard? Cal State L.A.'s Legislative Action Center provides opportunities for the campus community that are comprehensive, direct and user-friendly. The e-advocacy portal features many tools that offer insight into what is happening in Sacramento, and enables users to add their own voices toward the future of California and higher education. Users may find information on current legislation, key votes, and how Capitol Hill operates. They may also search for political representatives and learn how to contact them directly. The website includes a guide and interactive map to follow the race for the White House. For a more localized voice, the e-advocacy portal also features news publications across the state, with email links to send letters to editors. To get involved, visit <http://capwiz.com/calstatela/home/>.



University Reports

Health, education execs to keynote Commencements

Two distinguished leaders will keynote this year's Commencement exercises Friday and Saturday, June 15-16.



Born and raised in Montebello, Richard D. Cordova, president and chief executive officer of Children's Hospital Los Angeles (CHLA), will address the Friday evening ceremony. Cordova

was named *Los Angeles Business Journal's* 2011 CEO of the Year and Cal State L.A.'s 2010 Alumnus of the Year.

Cordova assumed his current role in 2006, a year after he became president and chief operating officer. At CHLA, he also serves as a member of the hospital Board of Trustees. Prior to his arrival at Children's Hospital Los Angeles, Cordova worked with Kaiser Foundation Health Plan and Hospitals.



Assistant Secretary for Postsecondary Education Eduardo M. Ochoa will address the graduates on Saturday.

A former CSULA professor, Ochoa was named to his current post by President Barack Obama on Feb. 23, 2010, and confirmed by the U.S. Senate on June 22, 2010. In this capacity, he serves as the secretary's chief adviser on higher education issues and administers more than 60 programs that are designed to provide financial assistance to eligible students enrolled in postsecondary institutions.

In the classroom, Ochoa served as professor of economics, chair of the Department of Economics, and acting dean of the former School of Business and Economics. He also led the College's Bureau of Business and Economic Research for three years.

Ochoa was recently named interim president of CSU Monterey Bay and will begin his new position July 16.

During both Commencement days, the ceremonies will be streamed live in the University-Student Union Theatre and the Wallis Annenberg Integrated Sciences Complex, Wing B, room 132. For guests unable to attend, tune in to Channel LA36 for live coverage (see your local cable listing). To get more Commencement info: www.calstatela.edu/univ/commencement.



Grad Fair attracts high attendance

This past April, the CSULA Alumni Association sold 1,000 Grad Packs at the University's 17th annual Grad Fair, a one-stop shop and job recruitment event organized for the Class of 2012. The Grad Pack is a special package that includes the Alumni Association membership and discounts for many of the students' graduation needs. This year's Grad Fair was highly attended, drawing 5,200 students over a two-day period.

Beyond the classroom

Students today, more than ever, are not confined within classroom walls as learning environments extend into local communities, and across the state lines, to offer learners first-hand knowledge from real-life applications.

Whether it is meeting political figures, digging for artifacts in San Nicholas Island or helping children succeed in local schools, CSULA offers numerous courses and programs that transcend the notion of a typical classroom, providing students with hands-on learning, community-engagement opportunities, research experience, and field study.

During spring break, nine students in CSULA's Political Science Association went to Washington, D.C., along with Professor Taylor Dark (pictured), to get up close and personal lessons regarding the theory and practice of politics from Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard ('65), as well as meet-and-greets with Congresswoman Judy Chu and Senator Dianne Feinstein.

"It was a great learning experience for the students to watch the House and Senate chambers in action as they voted on various pieces of legislation," said Professor Dark. "We also toured the National Archives, the Library of Congress, and various national monuments."

A bit closer to home, Professor Walter Zelman took his Public Health students to Sacramento earlier this year, where they met with Assemblyman Gil Cedillo. Cedillo grew up in Boyle Heights and represents the 45th District, which includes CSULA.

Within the Los Angeles Unified School District, CSULA teaching credential students visited some high school classes during spring break to share their college experience and motivate young students to go to college.

"While serving as role models," said Professor Rebecca Joseph, "our teaching credential students also benefitted by practicing how to counsel the children and how to teach them the basics of writing for college readiness."

Most recently, CSULA engineering students demonstrated their technical skills by participating in the 62nd Los Angeles County Science Fair held at the Pasadena Convention Center. They were on hand to discuss their projects, such as the Solar Trike, Q Drum project, submarine robot, and the Hydrogen Super Eagle fuel-cell vehicle, to help cultivate the next generation of scientists and scientific innovators.



Honors...

Volunteers offer 'Peace' of mind

The Peace Corps has recognized Cal State L.A. as among its top volunteer-producing Hispanic Serving Institutions. This year, CSULA ranked fifth with 11 undergraduate alumni serving as volunteers for the international support program. "Peace Corps proudly congratulates these leading Hispanic Serving Institutions that have encouraged countless students to serve others through Peace Corps service worldwide," said Peace Corps Director Aaron S. Williams.

President is ACE leader

CSULA's President James M. Rosser was honored with the 2012 Reginald Wilson Diversity Leadership Award from the American Council on Education (ACE) at its 94th Annual Meeting in Los Angeles. The award is given every year to an individual who has made outstanding contributions and demonstrated sustained commitment to diversity in higher education. It is named in honor of Reginald Wilson, senior scholar emeritus at ACE and former director of the organization's Office of Minority Concerns. For more: www.calstatela.edu/univ/ppa/newsrel/ACEaward-rosser.htm

CSULA is on a 'Roll'

As one of 16 CSU campuses recognized by the Corporation for National and Community Service, Cal State L.A. was named a member of the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for its exemplary commitment and meaningful partnerships with California's communities. The CSU was the first higher education system in the country to establish a system office supporting service learning and community engagement. For more: www.calstate.edu/pa/News/2012/Release/honor.shtml.

PBI improves public health

To help improve the health of those living in the Central Valley, The California Endowment (TCE) recently awarded a \$290,864 grant to the Pat Brown Institute (PBI). The grant will support PBI's Public Policy Education Program and allow the institute to work closely with TCE's Building Healthy Community Groups. For more: www.calstatela.edu/univ/ppa/newsrel/pbi-tcegrant.htm.

Army grant helps battle bacteria

In January 2012, the Army Research Office awarded a three-year grant to Cal State L.A. for research and student training in the discovery of antibacterial compounds from natural product sources. Howard Xu, an associate professor of microbiology, and his students will collaborate with scientists at the University of Michigan in the proposed research and training activities. To learn more, visit: www.calstatela.edu/faculty/hxu3/BioDefensePrograms.htm.

Grant 'stems' research

Cal State L.A. and Cal Poly Pomona have received a three-year, \$1.5 million grant renewal for stem cell education and research from the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM). Five students from each campus are selected for CIRM internships. The grant also helps develop stem cell curriculum and promote cross-campus faculty and student interactions. For info: www.csupomona.edu/~stemcellbridges/BioDefensePrograms.htm.

Briefly

CSULA's College of Business and Economics was recently reaccruited by the **Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB)**. Founded in 1916, AACSB International is the longest-serving global accrediting body for schools that offer bachelor's, master's, and doctorate degrees in business and accounting. An AACSB accreditation is recognized as the hallmark of excellence in business education. For more: www.calstatela.edu/univ/ppa/newsrel/cbe-accred2012.htm.

Encouraging students to **"Get on Track"** this summer, Cal State L.A. is offering a large schedule of courses, designed mainly for continuing students. Financial aid is available for CSULA's state-supported summer term for students who qualify. "It is our hope that this summer quarter will help students move forward in taking the classes they need for their degrees, while also allowing them to take advantage of the lower tuition," said Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Ashish Vaidya. For summer session info: www.calstatela.edu/univ/ppa/summersession/.

U.S. News and World Report 2013 "America's Best Graduate Schools" edition has ranked Cal State L.A.'s nursing master's degree program among the top in the nation. Cal State L.A. is one of only two public universities in the Los Angeles area, and the only CSU campus, listed in the top 100. CSULA will launch a joint Doctor of Nursing Practice pilot program this fall. Also, the nursing program celebrated its 60th anniversary on Saturday, June 2. For info: www.calstatela.edu/univ/ppa/newsrel/usnews12-nursing.htm.