

## A rare sport viewed: Mesoamerican ballgame

Heard of *quidditch*, the fantastical ball game made popular by the fictional Harry Potter? Cal State L.A. art historian **Manuel Aguilar** (*Art*), who was quoted in *The Science of Harry Potter: How Magic Really Works*, (Viking Press, Oct. 2002), theorizes that the sport “created” by author J.K. Rowling was probably inspired by *ulama*—a 3,500-year-old Meso-american ballgame with magic-religious connotations.

In March, Aguilar, with archaeologist **James Brady** (*Anthropology*), CSULA students **Mario Davila**, **Luis Ramirez** and **Maria Ramos** (art history), and **Sergio Garza** and **Cesar Espinosa** (anthropology), were invited to the first international conference on *ulama* in Mazatlan. There, Aguilar gave a talk on “The Mesoamerican Ballgame as a Portal to the Underworld,” and the students and professor Brady manufactured latex balls



Photo by Luis Ramirez.

following ancient techniques. The student team members also presented preliminary reports on their fieldwork focusing on aspects of *ulama* and the communities where the game is played. They observed demonstrations of the rarely-seen sport in Los Llanitos, a tiny Western Mexican pueblo of 151 people.

*Ulama*, played with a 9-pound hard rubber ball, was popular throughout ancient Mexico and Guatemala, says Aguilar, but is now on the verge of extinction. “It only exists in the general area of Mazatlan,” notes archaeologist Brady, “and the number of people today who have actually seen this game played is very small.” Brady points out the danger of a game in which participants have little protection except for leather padding around the knees. “It’s very difficult to play—the players can only hit the ball with their hips, and the rules are incredibly complicated.”

“Our research project, and the forthcoming publication of its results, is an attempt to document the importance of this tradition and the need for its survival. In the [western Mexican] communities, parents are teaching the game to their children,”

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## ‘Unsung hero’ named as outstanding staff

At the festive 29th Annual Staff Awards Ceremony, the 2003 Outstanding Staff Award recipient was described as “organized,” “self-motivated,” “professional,” and “committed to the efficient running of the office.” He was praised as a “calm, behind-the-scenes presence who always can be relied upon to solve problems and make sure everything works smoothly.”

**Edward Fisher**, office manager for the Academic Advisement Center and General Education Honors Program, was selected from among 12 nominees by a committee of peers for the honor. Nominations were submitted by colleagues, faculty and students.

One nominator stated, “Edward is the most knowledgeable person in our office and, as a result, handles all [customer service] questions with ease, providing not only information to questions, but reassurance as well...”

Another said, “He motivates by example and his alacrity in dealing with



students’ inquiries models customer service behavior for the students who work in the program.... He is an unsung hero to the University.”

Fisher began as a student assistant in the Office of the Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs-Planning and Resources in 1986. He then worked as a clerical assistant in the same office, and later as office manager for the Academic Affairs Administration-Central Office. Prior

to his current position, he served as the assistant to the assistant vice president for Academic Affairs.

In his leisure time, Fisher breeds and raises koi and goldfish, and collects Hawaiian vinyl records and music in general, and is a “big fan of the Three Stooges and of really bad B-movies.” He currently sponsors two children overseas through Childreach (childreach.org), which was featured in the film *About Schmidt*, starring Jack Nicholson.

In addition to recognizing the outstanding staff at the annual event, the University community honored employees with 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35 and 40 years of service. Fisher was also recognized for having worked on campus for 15 years.

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## Dean of ESS named

The Office of the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs announced the appointment of **Ethan Lipton** as dean of Educational Support Services within the Division of Academic Affairs, effective June 1, 2003.

Lipton now heads the Office of Educational Support Services, which supports academic activities



across University units. In this post, he leads faculty development, assessment, and instructional assistance through the Center for Effective Teaching and Learning (CETL), and works with the College deans to coordinate faculty development and training support for technologically-assisted learning through the Faculty Instructional Technology Support Center (FITSC). In addition, Lipton manages all instructional technology consultants within Academic Affairs, oversees the Open Access Labs, and provides leadership for technology-assisted learning initiatives and technologically-mediated course development. Lipton also serves as liaison to the Baseline Committee and the Technology Infrastructure Initiative project, and as Executive Secretary of Academic Information Resources Committee.

Lipton, a professor in the Department of Technology, has served for the last seven years as the associate dean of the College of Engineering, Computer Science, and Technology. In that role, he was responsible for long- and short-range planning, the implementation of the College's goals, objectives, and policies as related to curriculum and academic technology, and leadership in college assessment and accreditation initiatives. Lipton's primary focus relates to instructional technology, instructional design, and the efficient delivery of instruction to facilitate student learning.



## Top paper promotes fuel efficiency

Cal State L.A.'s industrial technology major **Charles Johnson** and mechanical engineering major **De San** took first place at the Mac Short Engineering Paper Competition of the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE). The students were mentored in their research, paper and presentation by associate professor of technology **James E. Ettaro**. This is the third time that Cal State L.A. students have won this award. Previous winners were Sheldon Ossoff in 1963 and Michael Izumi in 1978.

The team members were recognized for their award-winning research, paper and presentation, "Vehicle Fuel Efficiency Improvements," at the Peterson Automotive Museum in Los Angeles. The award included a grand prize of \$950 for the students and a Mac Short Memorial Plaque to be displayed at the winning institution for the following academic year.

The annual Mac Short Engineering Paper Competition, for SAE student members currently enrolled in local colleges and universities, showcases the students' research abilities in mobility engineering and technology. The competition consists of an oral presentation and a written engineering paper on the same topic, with local engineering companies serving as judges.



## Body image survey results released

Recently posted on the ELLE.com and MSNBC.com sites were findings from the new Sex and Body Image Survey, analyzed by **Janet Lever** (*Sociology*). For two consecutive weeks in February 2003, *ELLE* teamed up with MSNBC.com to find out how men and women feel about their bodies and how the perception affects sexual confidence and behavior. The 26-item questionnaire posted on both sites—ELLE.com and MSNBC.com—attracted 59,632 replies from an almost equal number of men and women. To read about Lever's perspective on self-esteem and sexual confidence, go to the "Body of Evidence" segment by doing a search on <http://www.elle.com>. Expanded coverage of the survey results were carried in the June issue of *ELLE* magazine.



## Video wins first prize

The National Association of Television Program Executives' (NATPE) Educational Foundation recently announced broadcasting major **Katy Boggio** as the first-place winner of its 2003 Student Video & Film Production Awards.



Photo by Jeff Hong.

Boggio's winning entry, "CSULA Promo," was selected from 151 entries—the largest pool in the history of the contest. Submissions came from 88 schools in 34 U.S. states as well as from Canada and Australia.

For a quarter century, the NATPE Educational Foundation's Student Video & Film Awards have recognized excellence in the production of video and film projects by college or university undergraduates worldwide. Entries were judged based on concept, execution and creativity.

NATPE gave Boggio a \$3,000 cash prize, along with a matching cash award to Cal State L.A.'s Department of Communication Studies. Her video is a two-minute mock infomercial "marketing" CSULA. Boggio produced her winning entry as part of an independent study project in the spring of 2003.

Boggio, a teaching assistant in Communication Studies, received the 2003 Women in Film Crystal Scholarship Award.



### University Reports

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## Staff *(continued from page 1)*

### 40 Year Awardee



Linda Trevillian  
*Business & Economics Advisement Center*

### 35 Year Awardees

Cathy Hlebasko, *Admissions*  
Nancy Miranda, *Natural & Social Sciences*  
Robert Nishida, *Engineering, Computer Science, & Technology*  
Helen Saucillo, *Admin. & Counseling*

### 30 Year Awardees

Arlene Caudillo, *Scheduling*  
Lucy Escalante, *EPIC*  
Delia Gamboa, *Records*  
Ramon Irigoyen, *Facilities Services*  
Linda Koike, *Library*  
Dennis Kotada, *Information Technology Services*  
Robert Limon, *Facilities Services*  
Catherine Pardee, *Psychology*  
Billy Rodgers, *Facilities Services*  
George Taylor, *Facilities Services*  
Sandra Totsis, *Health Center*  
Yuri Watanabe, *Public Affairs*

### 25 Year Awardees

Esperanza Carrete, *Natural & Social Sciences*  
Betsy Davenport, *Arts & Letters*  
Guadalupe Escareno, *Student Financial Services*  
John Flores, *Art*  
Linda Gray, *Health & Human Services*  
Ellie Green, *Financial Services*  
Lionell Hardy, *Facilities Services*  
Michael Hart, *Facilities Services*  
Liv Johansen, *Biological Sciences*  
David Landerth, *Facilities Services*  
Turia Mah, *Music*  
Christina Mimiaga, *Student Financial Services*  
Lorraine Molena, *Financial Aid*  
Sandra Morant, *Health & Human Services*  
Francisco Navarro, *University Police*  
Delfina Quiroz, *Financial Aid*  
Dominador Raboy, *Facilities Services*  
Ruth Ramirez, *Financial Aid*  
Joan Saldin, *Admissions*  
Margaret Smith, *Chemistry & Biochemistry*  
Angela Stirgus, *International Programs & Services*  
Carol Tanaka, *Arts & Letters*  
Sandra Villarreal, *Graduation*  
Sandra Wong, *Disbursement*  
Linda Zepeda, *University Writing Center*

### 20 Year Awardees

Sonja Acuff, *Records*  
Joann Caudillo-Garcia, *Records*  
Luz Celaya, *Admissions*  
Patricia Frith-Smith, *Financial Aid*

Julie Hopkins, *Enrollment Services*  
Carol Huang, *Info. Technology Services*  
John Lopez, *Facilities Services*  
James McFail, *Music*  
Cynthia Mendoza, *Records*  
Gay Nolte, *Physics & Astronomy*  
Connie Porras, *Music*  
Eileen Portillo, *Modern Languages & Literature*  
Rosibel Rodriguez, *Infant Child & Family Project*  
Donita Towler, *Facilities Services*  
Luanne Van Hunnik, *Kinesiology*

### 15 Year Awardees

Ida Aguilar, *University Times*  
Ruth Bailey, *Human Resource Mgmt.*  
Alma Bustos, *Library*  
Fausto Caceres, *Payroll Services*  
Rosa Chavez, *Student Affairs*  
Adriana Cheng, *Library*  
Stacey Cumberland, *Facilities Services*  
Annie Ekshian, *Material Management*  
Lawrence Finnin, *Educational Support Services*  
Edward Fisher, *Academic Advisement*  
Carmen Gachupin, *University Police*  
Michelle Gavin, *University Police*  
Harutjun Gligoriu, *Information Technology Services*  
John Hodgkinson, *Info. Technology Services*  
Michelle Hooper, *University-Student Union*  
James Howard, *Financial Aid*  
Arthur Lopez, *Facilities Services*  
Anna Lovoy, *Student Financial Services*  
Roger Nunez, *Facilities Services*  
Sheryl Okuno, *Info. Technology Services*  
Simon Pacheco, *Facilities Services*  
Doug Reyes, *Facilities Services*  
Dan Roberto, *Engineering, Computer Science, & Technology*  
Nellie Salcido, *Admissions*  
Lianne Salerno, *Registrar's Office*  
Robert Schoppman, *University Police*  
Robert Sherwood, *Housing Services*  
Susan Thorn, *Enrollment Services*  
Mai Tran, *Academic Senate*  
Jorge Uranga, *EPIC*  
Angela Warren, *Procurement*

### 10 Year Awardees

Raul Amador, *Facilities Services*  
Tricia Amaro, *University Police*  
Flavio Argueta, *Enrollment Services*  
Gloria Bonilla, *Financial Aid*  
Lisa Bush, *Health Center*  
Rhonda Campbell, *Health Center*  
William Carey, *Facilities Services*  
Hildebrando Dominguez, *Facilities Services*  
Betty Lee, *Education*  
Robert Lopuck, *Facilities Services*  
Phuong Ly, *Info. Technology Services*  
Blanca Lynch, *Reprographics*  
Twyla Meyer, *Music*  
Marcie Mora, *Natural & Social Sciences*  
Lynn Roybal, *Student Health Center*  
Julie Schoen, *CEA-CREST*  
David Sigler, *Library*  
Michelle Tchong, *Golden Eagle One Card*  
Frank Tovar, *Cashier's Office*  
Julie Vu, *Property Management*  
Wing C. Wong, *Info. Technology Services*  
Dorothy Wu, *UAS Payroll Services* LA

## Faculty work garners Telly awards

**Art Simon** (*Communication Studies/Broadcasting*), CEO of Art Simon Productions, has received four Telly Awards for two recent videos. The Tellys—among the most sought-after awards in the TV, commercial and video industry—were awarded in spring 2003. Simon is a 1996 alumnus of Cal State L.A. who majored in film and telecommunications.



Simon's moving *Living the Legacy* video, written, produced, and directed for the Edmund G. "Pat" Brown Institute of Public Affairs, won a Silver Telly—the top award—for Non-Broadcast Film/Video and TV Programs in the Public Relations category, and the Bronze award in the Fund Raising category. **Jaime Regalado**, executive director of the Pat Brown Institute, was executive producer of the video.

*Chemistry: A Legacy of Excellence*, a video written, produced, and directed for the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry by Art Simon and **Alan Bloom** (*Communication Studies/Broadcasting*), received two Bronze Tellys in the categories of Public Relations and



Fund Raising. Executive producers of the video were **Desdemona Cardoza**, dean of the College of Natural and Social Sciences, and **Wayne Tikkanen**, chair of the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry. This film had also won a CASE (Council for Advancement and Support of Education) Award of Distinction in Visual Communications in the Off-Campus Video Productions category.

*The Telly Awards*, founded in 1980, recognizes outstanding non-network and cable commercials. The competition was expanded several years ago to include film and video productions. Over the past 24 years, the Telly Awards has become a highly respected national competition. LA

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[www.calstatela.edu/calendar](http://www.calstatela.edu/calendar)

## CSULA is a leader in credentialing teachers

A leader in educating teachers, Cal State L.A. ranks as California's top public university in the number of students awarded a teacher credential, according to a recent California Commission on Teacher Credentialing report.

More Cal State L.A. students were issued California teaching credentials during the 2001–2002 fiscal year than from any other CSU campus, and more than from all eight UC campuses with teacher training programs combined.

From July 1, 2001 to June 30, 2002, a total of 1,080 California teaching credentials were granted to students who had completed the program through the Charter College of Education. Among these, 765 were multiple subject credentials for elementary school teachers,

239 were single subject credentials for high school teachers, and 76 were for special education.

Among all California public universities during 2001–2002, the most recent year for statewide statistics, Cal State L.A. was closely followed by Cal State Northridge with 1,038 teaching credentials awarded.

In California, only two private universities had a larger number of teacher credentials granted: National University (3,698) and Chapman University (1,701).

The report indicates that in fiscal year 2001–2002, California saw a 23 percent increase in newly available teachers, a 14 percent decrease in emergency teaching permits, and a 22 percent decrease in credential waivers. LA

## French government honors faculty member

**Christophe Lagier** (*Modern Languages and Literatures*) has been knighted as a *Chevalier dans l'Ordre des Palmes Académiques* by the French government. This is among the highest academic honors bestowed by France.



A letter (in French) to Lagier, signed by the cultural counselor of the French Embassy in Washington, notes: "This distinction confirms the recognition of the French authorities for your leadership in promoting our language and our culture in the United States."

Lagier, who joined the faculty in 1998, teaches subjects ranging from language and culture to literature and business French. Author of *Le théâtre de la parole-spectacle: Jacques Audiberti, René de Obaldia et Jean Tardieu*, 2000, his area of specialization is post-World War II French theater.

Lagier has recently completed full-time residency as director in France for CSU International Programs. In that capacity, he was front-line representative for the CSU program in France, with responsibility for the academic success and administrative efficiency of its educational operations. LA

## A rare sport *(continued from page 1)*

says Aguilar. (Brady notes that their project is the first to study the role of women in the ballgame.)

Aguilar adds that "the Historical Society of Mazatlan is encouraging the manufacturing of the rubber balls in order to provide them to the communities." The historical society has even sent a proposal to UNESCO, asking it to include the game on its world heritage list of unique cultural expression. "All these efforts are aimed to raise awareness of the importance of

*ulama*—to let people know the game still exists and to preserve and protect its practice," Aguilar says. "In Mexico, there is a federal institution dedicated to preserving the practice of traditional and native sports," he notes, "and the president of that institution attended the conference." LA

*A six-page article on Aguilar and Brady's research is the cover article of the Sept.-Oct. issue of Archaeology magazine.*

## Around campus...



**The Golden Eagle**—located at the heart of campus—rolled out the golden carpet on June 3 for its grand opening! The celebration included opening of the University Bookstore, food-samplings, a gala ribbon-cutting, facility tours, and performances by the L.A. County High School for the Arts Gospel Choir and CSULA Brazilian Jazz Ensemble. A slide show of the building construction by Tony Longson (*Art*) was also presented. The Golden Eagle food court officially opened on Aug. 27.



This year's **Distinguished Woman Award** recipients: Diana Balli, department secretary, History; Cheryl Ann Cruz, professor and chair, Accounting; Ramani Durvasula, assistant professor, Psychology; Loretta Encinas, administrative assistant to VP, Student Affairs; Stephanie Evans, professor, Educational Foundations and Interdivisional Studies; Jennifer Faust, associate professor, Philosophy; Suzanne Galyean, student services, Communication Studies; Kylie Hsu, associate professor, Modern Languages and Literatures; ChorSwang Ngjin, professor, Anthropology; and Elizabeth Torres, assistant professor, Biological Sciences.



On April 18, the Center for Career Planning and Placement honored annual fund supervisor **Andre Khachatourians**, a business administration major, as the 2003 Student Employee of the Year. He helped raise in excess of \$210,000 in alumni gifts last year for CSULA's Annual Giving. He also currently serves as president of the Student Alumni Association. Pictured: Juanita Arreola, student employment coordinator, presenting Andre his award.