



Web Accessibility 101

The CSU Accessible Technology Initiative is a commitment to provide individuals with disabilities equal access to information resources and technology. A website to further the effort toward accessibility is at www.calstatela.edu/accessibility and includes guidelines, techniques and evaluation tools to implement universal design principles.

A quick checklist for web compliance

- Image Tags:** Do you have a text equivalent for every non-text element (e.g., via "alt", "long-desc", or in element content)? Is it readable by the current version of screen reader supported by the campus?
- Color:** Is your webpage designed so that all information conveyed with color is also available without color?
- Readability:** Are your documents organized so they are readable without requiring an associated style sheet?
- Screen Flickering:** Are pages designed to avoid causing the screen to flicker with a frequency greater than 2 Hz and lower than 55 Hz? (Remember to avoid using flashing, flickering, blinking or staggered movement from a control like a marquee or animated gif)
- Forms:** Is your electronic form designed to allow people using assistive technology to access the information, field elements, and functionality required for completion and submission of an online form?

Useful references

www.calstatela.edu/ati
www.calstatela.edu/accessibility/ati/ATI - Senate present 5-22-07.ppt
www.calstatela.edu/academic/senate/issues/AA206-41Access.pdf
www.calstatela.edu/univ/osd/
www.calstate.edu/accessibility/resources/



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Facilities Services has launched a new recycling program this past winter. Thirty brand new recycling bins have been strategically distributed throughout campus. The CSULA recycling team includes: (l-r) Ruben Angelo, lead grounds worker; Tim Frazee, director of custodial services; Richie Valenzuela, lead grounds worker; Kirby Williams, waste and recycling manager; Matthew Tiffany and Jamie Ramirez, Association Students, Inc. representatives who are also members of the Earth L.A. student organization; and (not pictured) Jennifer Celaya-Davis, director of the Center for Student Involvement.

Your role in making CSULA look good

With more than 26 buildings on our 175-acre campus, it takes 76 custodians (many of them working nights) and 20 grounds workers to keep the campus clean and maintain an environment conducive for learning. It is not a simple feat since there are more than 20,000 students and others on campus on any given day. The facilities team encourages you to take pride in your campus, pitch in to make it beautiful, and asks everyone to follow these five simple rules:

1. Do not eat or drink in the classroom.
2. Deposit all trash in wastebaskets including newspapers.
3. Do not prop feet against walls, either when sitting or standing.
4. Notices should be posted only on unpainted surfaces, such as bulletin boards and kiosks, but not on walls.
5. Keep chairs and desks away from walls so as not to scratch or mar walls.

CONGRATS!

- The Corporation for National and Community Service recently named Cal State L.A. to the President's Higher Education Community Service **Honor Roll with Distinction** for exemplary service efforts and service to disadvantaged youth. The Community Service Honor Roll is the highest federal recognition a school can achieve for its commitment to service-learning and civic engagement.
- Cal State L.A. President **James M. Rosser's** decades-long championing of diversity with excellence in higher education recently was cited in honors from the National Association of Diversity Officers in Higher Education and at the Black Engineer of the Year Awards.
- The **University Police** had its accreditation renewed by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA), which recognized its professionalism and pride in delivering quality law enforcement service to the community.
- The **School of Nursing** earned its national reaccreditation from the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE), which ensures the quality and integrity of baccalaureate and graduate education programs preparing effective nurses.
- Cal State L.A. was the site of Region VIII Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival 40. More than 80 CSULA students, along with faculty and staff, volunteered to make the event a success. The festival, held Feb. 11-16, showcased the region's finest entered productions and offered a variety of activities, including workshops, symposia, and regional-level award programs. Recognizing the University's theatre program, *The Cloud Gatherer*—written by **José Cruz González** (*Theatre Arts and Dance*)—was selected as one of the top five finalists at the Region VIII Festival.



The Student Health Center displays its "green" float during the 2008 Homecoming Parade.

Health Center turning 'green' Engineering class offers ideas to conserve more, consume less

How about a few more solar water heaters? And maybe a rooftop garden?

Those are two of the ideas from a partnership between the Student Health Center and Mechanical Engineering in a concerted push to "green" the campus.

The project trains students for future careers in the environmental and sustainable industries, and also assembles conservation ideas for the Student Health Center. Formally, it is "Energy Efficient Design: Beyond the Imaginary, with Applications (ME454)," an all-majors course developed by **Jeff Tipton** (*Student Health Center*) and **Samuel Landsberger** (*Mechanical Engineering*).

Last fall, the class of 13 analyzed the Student Health Center's energy usage and water consumption. They also studied the electrical operation of the building and the campus in general. Some of their recommendations were recently implemented with the support of **John Ferris** (*Facilities Services*).

This past winter, the class increased to 24 students—including two political science majors—and focused on energy-efficient design and implementation for the Student Health Center. And, this spring the class enrollment is up to 42 students.

Tipton says, "Students have come up with great ideas of switching to ultra-low-flush toilets, designing a rooftop garden, installing solar tubes for natural room lighting, converting to solar-powered water heating, and more."

According to Landsberger, "The class is a unique opportunity for our students. It also underscores the CSU's objective of advancing the education of renewable technology and alternative energy."

Big Read = Big Success

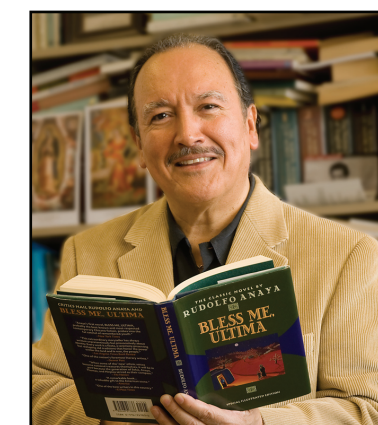
"Bless Me, Última," Rudolfo Anaya's classic coming-of-age novel of a boy in post World War II New Mexico, jumped from the page to the stage for two capacity crowds at Cal State L.A.'s Music Hall recently in conjunction with the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) campaign to boost literary awareness.

The NEA program and numerous participatory activities were spearheaded by **Alice Kawakami** (*University Library*) along with the County of Los Angeles Public Library.

Adapted and directed by **Theresa Larkin** (*Theatre Arts and Dance*), the production starred actress Alejandra Flores ("A Walk in the Clouds," "Friends with Money") as Última, the healer who serves as the boy's sage and protector. Renowned muralist and painter George Yepes, a Cal State L.A. alumnus, created a portrait of a gazing Última for the campus.

Roberto Cantú (*Chicano Studies and English*) obtained the author's permission and coordinated the production. He first reviewed "Bless Me, Última" in 1972 and subsequently became close friends with Anaya, who has visited Cal State L.A. three times.

"The novel," according to Cantú, "is a political fable that uses the language of myth to represent a world of conflict and continuous wars. Such myths teach us, from the weight of them, to face violence and fear with moral courage."



Roberto Cantú has published and lectured extensively on the significance of "Bless Me, Última."



Professor Nancy McQueen (front left) displays the CSUPERB award with some of her current graduate students (back row, l-r) Saray Felix, Candi Trac, Monica Delgado, (front row, l-r) Maria Mejia and Atsuko Hilliard.

Tracking viral intrigue nets CSUPERB honor

For her exemplary research and mentoring, **Nancy McQueen** (*Biological Sciences*) was recently awarded the 2008 Biotechnology Faculty Research Award from CSUPERB, the California State University Program for Education and Research in Biotechnology.

Collaborating over nearly two decades with a string of roughly 60 (mostly graduate) students, McQueen has been precisely tracking the mutations in genes that alter the pathogenicity of Sendai virus, a rodent-infecting organism similar to the human influenza virus. Their work has led to numerous advances in understanding how mutated genes alter the molecular machinery behind the infection process.

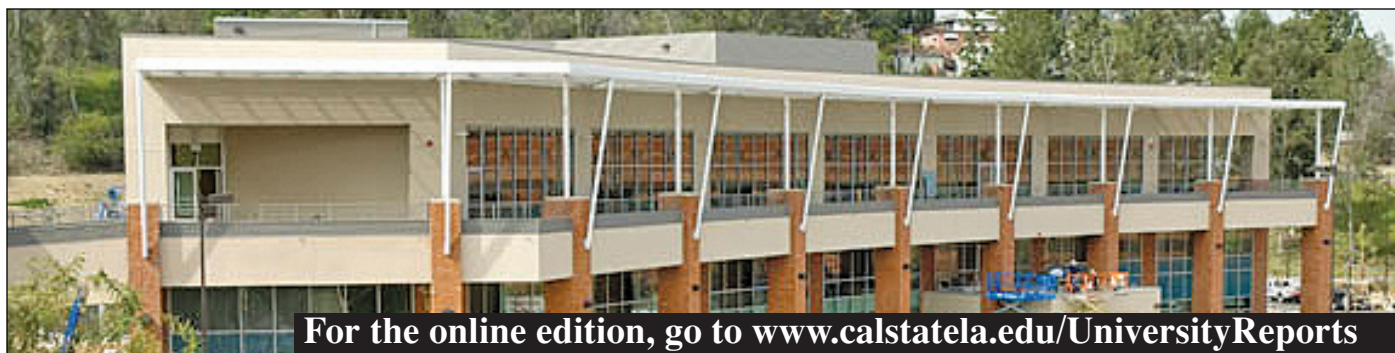
Hoisting the award's trophy—a rotor from an ultracentrifuge—she credited the students for their contributions. Among her former graduate students, 20 continued on to Ph.D. programs, seven to medical school, and one earned a dental degree.

According to **Sandra Sharp** (*Biological Sciences*), McQueen's research has “the potential to increase our understanding of the pathogenic mechanisms of influenza virus and to find new applications for current antiviral treatments.”

The CSUPERB award each year honors one professor from throughout the 23-campus CSU for outstanding scientific achievement in molecular life science and biotechnology research. Last year it went to Cal State L.A.'s **Frank Gomez** (*Chemistry and Biochemistry*). The honoring of McQueen marked the first time in the award's 18-year history that it went to the same campus in consecutive years.

Campus call for Strategic Plan input

Cal State L.A. has launched a major strategic planning process that will chart the University's future. During the past year, the Strategic Planning Committee has been working on a document that proposes six strategic directions. Faculty, staff, administrators and students are invited to review the proposed strategic directions and goals and provide your feedback at www.spcc.calstatela.edu. The deadline for your input is Thursday, May 15. The Provost's Office is asking for the support of the entire campus community to accomplish this next stage in the University's planning process, in order to create a future for Cal State L.A. that ensures success for all of our students.



For the online edition, go to www.calstatela.edu/UniversityReports

Briefly

This year's **Cal State L.A. Commencement ceremonies** will be spread over two days, **June 6 and 7**, to accommodate the large graduating class. The Friday 5 p.m. ceremony will honor undergraduates and graduates receiving degrees from the Charter College of Education; College of Engineering, Computer Science, and Technology; and College of Health and Human Services. The Saturday 8 a.m. ceremony will honor undergraduates and graduates receiving degrees from the College of Arts and Letters; College of Business and Economics; and College of Natural and Social Sciences.

This year marks the **40th anniversary** of the nation's first **Chicano Studies department**. Established at Cal State L.A. in 1968, the department celebrated the occasion with a Chicana/o Education Film Series, entitled “Understanding The Struggle for Equality,” in February. For more about the Chicano Studies department, go to: www.calstatela.edu/academic/chs/DeptBrochure.pdf.

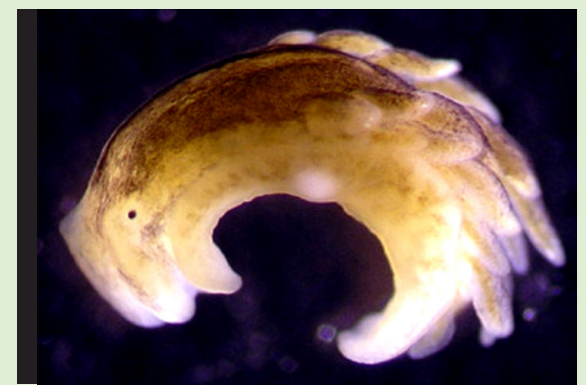
Faculty members can now communicate directly with students in their classes through added features on the **Peoplesoft HRSA** class roster page. It will also serve as a useful tool for student advisement. Starting last quarter all students are required to obtain a network/email account, in order to access campus computing facilities, log onto the academic information network, and receive official campus communications. Instructions on how to send email to your students from Peoplesoft HRSA and campus guidelines for email communications are available on the Information Technology Services website at www.calstatela.edu/its/.

Welcome to the known world, you 'willowi' slug

Patrick Krug (*Biological Sciences*) and biology graduate student Ryan Ellingson, along with a team of researchers, discovered a new species of sea slug. Called *Alderia willowi*, it is, even for a slug, pretty slick.

“It is the only animal on the planet that can switch between laying a lot of tiny eggs or a few big eggs,” said Krug. “Most species do one or the other, but this slug toggles back and forth to adjust to our rainy winters and dry summers, respectively. It is only known to exist in southern and central California.”

Krug first found it in San Diego in 1994; it has since turned up in various areas of California's south and central coasts. To determine it to be a unique species, the researchers compared 243 specimens in the genus *Alderia*, from 17 estuaries in the Pacific and Atlantic. They also conducted mating trials and compared *willowi* to similar species based on a variety of characteristics, including DNA sequences and the shape of its leading tooth (yes, slugs have teeth).



As reported in a recent issue of *The Journal of Molluscan Studies*, the species' name derives from three influences: the willow shape of the structures that hang over the edge of its body; an homage to Krug's grandmother, who used to sing “...so I ask each weeping willow”; and the character of Willow from the TV show “Buffy the Vampire Slayer” who “embodied the idea of sexual ambiguity, in recognition of the variable reproductive modes” of the organism.

Lacking a shell and a heart, it is a brownish yellow-green, allowing it to blend in amidst the algae-covered mud upon which it lives. *Willowi* is also wispy, with adults measuring about a third of an inch long; it would take about 5000 of the heftiest ones to weigh an ounce.

The research supported by funding from the National Science Foundation. The article may be found here: <http://mollus.oxfordjournals.org/cgi/content/short/73/1/29?rss=1>.

People

George A. Pardon is interim vice president for Administration and Finance and chief financial officer (CFO). Pardon, who brings extensive CSU campus-based and system-wide leadership experience, officially assumed the post in January. He is responsible for facilities, budget and finance, human resources, public safety, housing and other key areas. As CFO, he will oversee all state appropriations, grants and contracts, and construction. He succeeds Steven N. Garcia, who left Cal State L.A. after 10 years to become senior vice president at Claremont Graduate University.



Daniel Keenan (*University Auxiliary Services*)—who helped start Golden Eagle Hospitality's culinary operation, served as its sous chef, and after a time away from Cal State L.A. returned as chef de cuisine—is the new executive chef for the entire GEH operation. A graduate of the French Culinary Institute in New York and Cal State Northridge, Keenan brings more than 20 years of experience in a variety of food-service operations. (Article excerpted from UR Fall 2007 with correct photo of Daniel Keenan)

For a listing of new faculty, faculty tenures and promotions, go to: www.calstatela.edu/UniversityReports.