University Achievement Awards
Schedule of Events

Welcoming Remarks
Donald J. Para, Interim Provost & Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

F. King Alexander, President

Awards Presentation:
Outstanding Undergraduate Research Student
Alexander Lancaster

Outstanding Graduate Research Students
Maria Christina Tamayo, Mathew Stramer & David Sung

Remarks by Praveen Soni, Academic Senate Chair

Distinguished Faculty Teaching Awards
Dr. Tim Caron    Dr. William Murray

Distinguished Faculty Advising Awards
Dr. Gwen Goodmanlowe    Dawn Kelsey    Dr. Kent Merryfield

Early Academic Career Excellence Awards
Andrew Byrom    Dr. Thomas Alex Washington

Community Service Awards
Faculty: Dr. Betty McMicken    Staff: Colleen Ryan    Student: Brandon Fryman

Provost’s Awards for Impact Accomplishment of the Year in Research, Scholarly & Creative Activity
Dr. Stephen Mezyk    Dr. Thomas Strybel

Provost’s Award for Outstanding Faculty Mentor for Student Engagement in Research, Scholarly & Creative Activity
Dr. Kevin Sinchak

Distinguished Faculty Scholarly & Creative Achievement Awards
Dr. Lijuan Li    Dr. Carl Lipo    Dr. Marshall Medoff    Mark Ruwedel

Outstanding Staff Member
Laura Stone

Outstanding Professor
Dr. Mary Caputi
About the Awards

**Community Service Awards** recognize and encourage service by members of the CSULB family to the community within which they live.

**Distinguished Faculty Advising Awards**, established in 2008, reward sustained excellence in advising by members of the university’s faculty.

**Distinguished Faculty Scholarly and Creative Achievement Awards** reward sustained excellence in scholarly and creative achievement.

**Distinguished Faculty Teaching Awards** reward sustained excellence in teaching by members of the university’s faculty including tenured and probationary faculty, lecturers, and librarians.

**Early Academic Career Excellence Awards**, established in 2008, recognize the outstanding and extraordinary academic and professional achievements of faculty members, at the early career stage, who have made major contributions to their profession and university.

**Provost’s Awards for Impact Accomplishment of the Year in Research, Scholarly & Creative Activity**, created in 2008, honor research, scholarly or creative work conducted over the previous 18 months.

**Provost’s Awards for Outstanding Faculty Mentor for Student Engagement in Research, Scholarly & Creative Activity**, established in 2008, honor student mentoring within the previous 18 months.

**Outstanding Professor Award** encourages, rewards, and publicly acknowledges outstanding professorial performance.

**Outstanding Staff Award** recognizes staff who have made significant contributions to the campus community.

**Outstanding Student Research Awards**, created in 2008, recognize excellent student research.
Outstanding Undergraduate Research Student

Alexander Lancaster
Communication Studies

Alexander Lancaster’s research may help improve student success in higher education. “Predicted Outcome Value of Email Communication: Fostering Student-Teacher Relational Development,” looks at the impact of email as a communication channel for students and faculty. His research shows that email may be the catalyst for a positive student-professor relationship – a key factor in student retention and academic success.

To conduct the research, Lancaster looked at previous studies and surveyed 366 sophomores, juniors, seniors and graduate students online. What he found was that the frequency and immediacy of professors’ emails are directly linked to students’ perceptions of their instructors. Teachers have a positive impact on their students’ predicted outcome value of fostering student-teacher relationships when they engage in frequent and immediate email communication.

“Alexander’s research highlights the significant role that email plays in creating first impressions and encouraging the important student-teacher connection (which can help both student and teacher success),” said Dr. Stacy Young, who was Lancaster’s advisor on his project along with Dawn Kelsey. “I was particularly surprised by the finding that even mass emails to the whole-class carry similar weight as those directed at individual students.”

The research served as Lancaster’s senior thesis, fulfilling one of the requirements for the University Honors Program. He won first place in the CSULB Student Research Competition in February and went on to compete in the CSU Student Research Competition at San Jose State University on April 30 and May 1. He has also been named Communication Studies’ Outstanding Undergraduate Student. This fall, Lancaster will serve as a teaching associate while earning his master’s degree in Communication Studies at CSULB.
The research that Maria Christina Tamayo, Mathew Stramer and David Sung conducted for their Economics 555 class could attract the attention of the air cargo industry.

The three students, enrolled in the Global Logistics master’s program, looked at how the price of fuel, consumer demand, the value of the dollar and flight frequency affect the amount of cargo loaded onto inbound international flights to US airports.

Their research found that a strong dollar and an increase in consumer demand is associated with an increase in the amount of cargo on a plane. An increase in the price of fuel is associated with a decrease in the amount of cargo loaded on a plane. An increase in flight frequency is also linked to a decrease in load factor.

“Because of their work experience and studies in logistics the students were able to identify a gap in the research on air cargo,” said their advisor, Dr. Kristen Monaco. “A lot of high-value goods come into the country via air cargo and there is little research on the efficient utilization of this mode of transportation. I think this research is publishable and should spur future academic studies in this area that should also be of interest to the air cargo industry.”

Tamayo, Stramer and Sung’s research won second place at the CSULB Student Research Competition in February. They also competed in the CSU Student Research Competition at San Jose State University April 30 and May 1.
Distinguished Faculty Teaching Award

Dr. Tim Caron
English

Whether he is inside the classroom or swinging a hammer in a righteous cause in Louisiana, Dr. Tim Caron inspires his students to be excellent writers, thinkers and humanitarians.

During his 12-year tenure at CSULB, Dr. Caron has taught 25 courses, including two innovative classes he developed, the Alternative Spring Break class and a year-long, team-taught, research collaborative course on comics and graphic novels.

Developed after Hurricane Katrina devastated the Gulf Coast region in 2005, the Alternative Spring Break course (UNIV 300) examines the history and culture of New Orleans, Hurricane Katrina’s impact upon the Gulf Coast and the nation, and political and policy decisions that contributed to the city’s destruction. A service learning course, students travel to New Orleans during spring break to rebuild homes. In doing so, they learn the value of humanitarian action, inspiring many to go on to work for organizations like the Peace Corps, AmeriCorps and Teach for America.

Collaborating with Dr. Nhorra Serrano, Dr. Caron also developed the first course at CSULB, and one of the few in the country, devoted to graphic novels (CLA 496/596). His dedication to his students’ success extends outside of the classroom as Dr. Caron provides guidance to students writing abstracts and papers for submission to national and regional conferences.

The students who have taken his classes laud him as one of the most informed, engaging and devoted professors they have ever had.

Dr. Caron serves as director of the University Honors Program. He has also served as interim chair of the Comparative World Literature and Classics and Linguistics departments.
Distinguished Faculty Teaching Award

Dr. William Murray
Mathematics & Statistics

Dr. William Murray’s standards and his expectations of students are among the most rigorous in the Mathematics and Statistics Department. He teaches some of the least popular classes offered and his grade distributions are always below departmental norms. But students love him.

Dr. Murray’s teaching evaluations are outstanding. His passion for math, mixed with occasional jokes and random knowledge, keeps students engaged. He is highly accessible, offering more office hours than most professors and even helping former students who are no longer enrolled in his classes.

Dr. Murray connects well with students inside the classroom and out. It is because of his ability to relate to students that he was asked to serve as the undergraduate advisor in 2006. He is also the advisor of the Beach Balls juggling club, which was started in 2003 after Dr. Murray covered juggling patterns in his Number Theory Class. The club, which practices at lunch on the quad, has traveled to juggling conventions as far as away as Ireland and in 2010 helped organize a convention on mathematical juggling patterns attended by jugglers and scientists from six states and seven foreign countries.

Dr. Murray has enhanced the curriculum at CSULB, developing and teaching a new graduate course in Elliptic Curves, a major area of current research.

His desire to help students stretches beyond CSULB. In 2009, Dr. Murray organized a math textbook drive for Cambodian universities and helped establish the only math master’s program of its kind in Cambodia as a visiting professor at Royal University in Phnom Penh.
Distinguished Faculty Advising Award

Dr. Gwen Goodmanlowe
Biological Sciences

As the undergraduate advisor for Marine Biology, Dr. Gwen Goodmanlowe has one goal in mind — facilitating the passage of students through the academically rigorous program in a timely fashion.

To that end, when Dr. Goodmanlowe became advisor in 2004, she created much-needed detailed records of the academic history and current situation of each of the more than 200 students in her major. She maintains student records of courses taken and grades received for each of the majors, updating them with the most recent grades after each semester. She evaluates these records regularly, generates suggestions for each student on what they should enroll in to facilitate their progress and emails those suggestions to students. Dr. Goodmanlowe personally speaks with every active student, meeting with each incoming freshman and transfer student each year, and encourages all majors to see her whenever they need assistance.

Between 1997 and 2004, the average number of Marine Biology students who graduated yearly was 12.38. Now the average number of Marine Biology students who graduate each year has risen to an average of 26.8 students — a 117 percent increase. The number of years it took transfer Marine Biology majors to graduate has decreased from an average of 4.7 years to an average of 3.65 years since she became the advisor in 2004. Similarly, the number of years it took native Marine Biology majors to graduate decreased from an average of 6.4 years to an average of 5.1 years since Dr. Goodmanlowe became the advisor in 2004. That’s accomplishing quite a lot in a very short time.
Distinguished Faculty Advising Award

Dawn Kelsey
Communication Studies

Dawn Kelsey seemed to be the natural choice to become Communication Studies’ undergraduate advisor in 2002 for a lot of good reasons, not the least of which was her familiarity with K-16 education and the inadequacy of advising throughout the educational system. Additionally, Kelsey is a product of CSULB where she earned both her Bachelor of Arts degree in 1997 and her Master of Arts in 2000.

Kelsey is one of the few advising planners advising on a daily basis, supporting students in their individual endeavors. Whether students need internships (she will call friends in order to place them in professional work settings), academic advice (she listens to their needs and interests first, then guides them toward smart curricular choices), career information (she provides students with a variety of good ideas), or social support (she will sit, give her undivided attention, connect and provide a friendly space long after her colleagues have gone home), she is accessible and approachable.

Kelsey is an active member of the department’s busy Curriculum Committee and is the go-to person for any questions about the effects of proposed curriculum revisions on the department’s majors and students’ progress toward graduation.

Kelsey’s experience is unique and clearly invaluable. She served for two years as a graduate teaching associate at CSULB before teaching part time in 2001 and full time in 2007. Kelsey not only fulfills service responsibilities in the department, she also owns a publishing company and writes children’s books (Flippy & Friends) with her husband.
Distinguished Faculty Advising Award

Dr. Kent Merryfield
Mathematics & Statistics

Dr. Kent Merryfield’s service as an undergraduate advisor for Mathematics and Statistics has profoundly shaped his understanding of what it means to be a faculty member.

As an advisor, Dr. Merryfield is driven by data. Very early in his career as an advisor, he recognized the power of an electronic registration system, both for tracking enrollment and for advising individual students. Transcripts tell stories. He was a “power user” of the OASIS system when he was still connecting to the database through a dial-up modem. But it taught him that when a student asks for some simple thing – a signature perhaps – he ought to look up that student’s transcript to find the whole story and perhaps offer some advice that he or she didn’t know to ask for.

Dr. Merryfield joined the department as a lecturer in 1985. At the department level, he has been an essentially permanent member of the Undergraduate Committee and of the Scholarship Committee. He was named Most Valuable Professor twice by graduating seniors who were named the College of Natural Science and Mathematics’ Outstanding Graduates. He has been recognized with the Samuel L. Greitzer award for outstanding coaching by the American Regions Math League (ARML). For the past eight years, Dr. Merryfield has served as coach and organizer of the Southern California ARML team composed of outstanding high school mathematical problem solvers who meet in a national competition at the end of the academic year.
Early Academic Career Excellence Award

Andrew Byrom

If anyone ever asks you what type of person is Andrew Byrom, tell them he is not a type of person, he is an expert in type. Period.

As a formally trained graphic designer, he specializes in the areas of typographic layout and typeface design. He has more than 13 years of experience working for such high-end clients in the US and Europe as Penguin Books, The Industrial Design Centre, the Guardian newspaper, McGraw Hill, Routledge Publishing, the Goethe-Institut, the British Academy of Composers and Songwriters, The New York Times Magazine and Kimberly-Clark.

His work has been honored with certificates of excellence from the two leading graphic design organizations in the US, the American Institute of Graphic Arts and the Type Directors Club.

“It is a major milestone in my career to have been honored by both these institutions in consecutive years,” he said.

His work has been exhibited in 15 shows in such major design venues as Paris, Beijing, New York, Chicago and Los Angeles. He has been seen in 14 graphic design books and 12 national and international design-related magazines. He has delivered papers at five international design venues on his experimental approach to typography and the related teaching methods he developed at CSULB.

This level of activity hasn’t kept him from staying connected with his campus — he serves as Area Head of Graphic Design. His excellence as a teacher was confirmed recently when one of his students won first prize in the Type Directors Student Competition 2010 with a design created in Byrom’s Advanced Typography Class.
Dr. Thomas Alex Washington is many things, including a doctor of Social Work, a past faculty member of Maryland’s Morgan State University and a member of CSULB’s Department of Social Work. But what he is not is someone who lets the professional grass grow under his feet.

Since joining CSULB two years ago, Dr. Washington has submitted five research grant proposals, two of which have been selected for funding. He had six peer-reviewed manuscripts accepted for publication. He has co-edited special issues of two peer-reviewed professional journals (Health and Social Work as well as the Journal of Gay and Lesbian Social Services). He has presented at four professional conferences, including one International Social Work Conference held in Cairo, Egypt, and served on the editorial board of two peer-reviewed social work journals.

Dr. Washington’s interests involve implementing and examining the effectiveness of HIV prevention/intervention programs developed for special populations. He is a Senior Research Fellow with the National Center for Health Behavioral Change and a Faculty Affiliate at the Morgan-Johns Hopkins Center for Health Disparities Solutions in Baltimore, Md. Dr. Washington serves on the Community Planning Group (CPG) for the State of California Office of AIDS. He received an Underrepresented Minority Research Award from the National Institute of Mental Health Research on AIDS Office.

Moreover, Dr. Washington has extensive experience teaching research methods, statistics and human development at both the graduate and undergraduate levels. His teaching is guided by the ancient Chinese proverb, “Tell me, I will forget; show me, I may remember; but involve me and I will understand!”
Dr. Betty McMicken retired from her position as a full professor at CSULA and subsequently assumed a position as assistant professor at CSULB. She is a recognized authority on disorders of the voice, dysphagia (swallowing), motorspeech disorders and aphasia. Dr. McMicken has worked continuously over the past 44 years as a speech pathologist. She has served thousands of patients, but some of the most rewarding work she has done has taken place in the poorest area of Los Angeles, Skid Row.

Dr. McMicken is a volunteer speech pathologist for the Los Angeles Mission, specifically for the Anne Douglas Center, a women’s residential facility created by Anne Douglas and her husband, actor Kirk Douglas. She averages 20 hours a week at the mission working with individuals in rehab and with the homeless population. Dr. McMicken is also involved with the L.A. Christian Healthcare Center, a free clinic which is located across the street from the mission. Dr. McMicken began working at the center after she became a speech therapist for Kirk Douglas, who suffered a stroke in 1996.

“It is quite apparent to me that at least 50 percent of the individuals who are homeless have a communication disorder that has either put them on the street or kept them on the street,” said Dr. McMicken. “This is the most rewarding work I have ever been involved in.”

Dr. McMicken has also teamed up with a faculty member at Cal State L.A. to have the Speech and Hearing Clinic at CSULA provide services on campus for the L.A. Mission/Anne Douglas Center clients.

For her dedication, the Celebrity Action Council of the Anne Douglas Center honored Dr. McMicken with the Friendship Award in 2009. In 2008 she was inducted as a Fellow of the California Speech-Language-Hearing Association (CSHA), for her efforts to advance services to adults with communication disorders.

Dr. McMicken is also a volunteer for the Center Theatre Group of Los Angeles in which she serves as an Ambassador to the Inner Circle. Additionally, she is a trustee affiliate of Berkeley Hall School in Bel Air.
For the past five years Colleen Ryan, the facilities coordinator for the College of the Arts, has been a champion in the fight to raise money, increase research and enhance medical care for the 300,000 children in the United States who suffer from arthritis.

After her daughter, Caitlin, was diagnosed with juvenile arthritis at the age of 3, Ryan became involved with the Arthritis Foundation’s Orange County Arthritis Walk. She has served on the event’s planning committee since 2005 as the Logistics Chair, and, as Team Captain for the “Princess Parade” Walk Team, she has been directly involved in raising more than $150,000 for the foundation. In 2005 she also took on the role of Arthritis Walk Co-Chair, responsible for media appearances, interviews, kick off and event day Master of Ceremonies.

In 2007, Ryan took a national volunteer position with the Arthritis Walk, allowing her to share her fundraising experience across the country. Since 2007, she has lobbied in Washington, DC, organized letter writing campaigns, and arranged for local visits in support of the Arthritis Prevention Control and Cure Act. She also served for two years as a volunteer instructor at the National Arthritis University, helping to pass on the best practices she’d gleaned in her successful years with the Orange County Arthritis Walk.

Ryan has been awarded the Arthritis Foundation National Community Outreach Award, the National Kathy Angel Parent Leadership Award and been recognized as the Outstanding Board Member for the Southern California Arthritis Foundation Chapter. She was CSULB’s Employee of the Month in 2006.

Ryan is a regular volunteer with her children’s PTA and athletic teams, and, for nine years, has worked on CSULB Staff Council special events.
Community Service Award: Student

Brandon Fryman
Anthropology

Brandon Fryman’s passion for service began as an undergraduate at CSU San Bernardino when he and members of the Sociology Club cooked, cleaned and visited with families staying at the Ronald McDonald Charity House in Loma Linda.

Since then, Fryman has walked many miles to support the fight against breast cancer, help victims of family violence, and rehabilitate child soldiers in Uganda. He has volunteered for the Downtown Women’s Center in Los Angeles, which is dedicated to providing permanent housing and ending homelessness for women. As part of his volunteer work with the center, Fryman has interacted directly with individuals living on Skid Row. He volunteers with Amnesty International and the United Nations Association, serving as a liaison for high school and college groups within five counties in Southern California. He also helped plan a benefit dinner that brought in $10,000 to raise awareness about landmines.

But Fryman’s favorite service experience took place in Uganda, Africa with Mosaic Vision, an organization dedicated to restoring the childhoods of children who have been adversely affected by circumstances such as natural disaster, disease, famine and war.

“While in Uganda, as a group, we went to 20 different orphan family homes and helped with small household chores, such as getting water, cooking, and sewing, and larger projects like building a kitchen and digging a hole for an outhouse,” Fryman said. “The smiles that I received were the most wonderful reward that anyone could give me. I learned so much about being humble and content with what I have.”
A physical chemist with interests in energy and the environment, Dr. Stephen Mezyk has published, or had accepted for publication, 22 peer-reviewed journal articles with 14 student co-authors over the past 18 months. Among them is an article that appeared in the prestigious American Chemical Society journal *Chemical Reviews*, summarizing his research on the study of free-radical reactions with drinking water contaminants.

Dr. Mezyk’s other journal papers span his wide range of research interests – removal of biotoxins from the ocean, treatment of endocrine disrupting chemicals in wastewaters before their release into the environment, atmospheric smog chemistry and nitration chemistry of organics under various conditions relevant to the nuclear industry – all of which have significant health and environmental relevance.

Dr. Mezyk has given six invited talks nationally and internationally since 2009. He was the first technical expert outside of Europe invited to a meeting of ACSEPT, a European Union nuclear waste remediation-working group. He has also given 35 additional presentations at national and international conferences with student co-authors.

Dr. Mezyk has developed an impressive group of graduate and undergraduate research students from multiple disciplines within the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics. He has assisted them in obtaining more than $38,000 in scholarship funding for their research-related activities, as well as $338,000 of his own external funding, over this 18-month period.

Dr. Mezyk was also recognized by CSULB for his significant research contributions in 2008, when he received the Distinguished Faculty Scholarly and Creative Achievement Award.
Dr. Thomas Strybel
Psychology

Dr. Thomas Strybel’s research contributions over the past 18 months are shaping the future of the National Airspace System and creating human factors’ research and career opportunities for CSULB students.

Dr. Strybel has secured $8 million in funding from NASA in recent years, including a five-year, $5 million grant awarded in October 2009 to create a NASA University Research Center, the “Center for Human Factors in Advanced Aeronautics Technologies,” at CSULB. The center conducts “human-in-the-loop” simulations that evaluate new air-traffic-management automation tools for their impact on pilots and air traffic controllers. These automation tools are a critical component of the Next Generation Airspace Transportation System (“NextGen,”) a federal program for increasing the capacity of our National Airspace System. CHAAT is also a training venue for students, particularly those from underrepresented groups in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics disciplines. These students are being trained in human factors, airspace simulation techniques and research methods, and they participate fully in simulation work in CHAAT and at NASA. The immediate impact of NASA CHAAT on student development can be seen by the fact that 18 students will participate in CHAAT research and training activities in Summer 2010, compared with only five students in Summer 2009.

Dr. Strybel is also Principal Investigator of a $3 million, four-year NASA award for the establishment and management of a consortium of universities and private industry focused on the development of methods that can be used to evaluate NextGen automation tools and air traffic management concepts.

Dr. Strybel developed the curriculum for, and was instrumental in creating the master’s in human factors’ program in 2004. He has developed and taught curriculum for human factors and has directed many student research projects and theses. Previously he co-founded another center for human factors work, “Center for Usability in Design and Accessibility,” and currently serves as student advisor to this center.

Provost’s Award for Impact Accomplishment of the Year in Research, Scholarly & Creative Activity

Dr. Thomas Strybel

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In Dr. Kevin Sinchak’s lab, undergraduate and graduate students have the opportunity to get involved in every aspect of the research process – from the experimental design stage to data collection and analysis and presentation of findings.

About 30 undergraduate students have worked in Dr. Sinchak’s lab since he arrived at CSULB in 2006. This semester he is mentoring 11 undergraduates in Biology 496 and two master’s students, giving them research experience that would normally be reserved for postdoctoral fellows, Ph.D. students and technicians. Together, they are working on two major lines of research with highly competitive funding sources. One area of research looks at the mechanisms through which estradiol and progesterone turn on and off reproductive behavior circuits in the brain. Dr. Sinchak and his students are also studying how the brain makes its own progesterone and what role this neuroprogesterone plays in female reproduction. Dr. Sinchak’s research findings may aid in discovering new drug treatments to regulate fertility and treat infertility.

Dr. Sinchak is dedicated to providing students the opportunity to present their results in posters, in talks at scientific meetings and ultimately in peer reviewed journals. At least 11 students have presented posters at Society for Neuroscience National Meetings, among the most cutting-edge science meetings in the country. Both of Dr. Sinchak’s graduate students have successfully obtained competitive awards in support of their research and education, including a Loomis Research Award and a Sally Casanova Pre-doctoral Scholarship.

In addition to mentoring students in his lab, Dr. Sinchak has created the Biological Sciences research forum, From the Bench..., offering students and faculty an opportunity to gather, express ideas and present research for feedback.

Provost’s Award for Outstanding Faculty Mentor for Student Engagement in Research, Scholarly & Creative Activity

Dr. Kevin Sinchak

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Dr. Lijuan Li’s research has a magnetic effect on external grants, drawing six to campus, totaling more than $1.4 million. These funds are all individual research grants, not funding obtained as a co-principal investigator or part of an institutional grant. As a co-principal investigator, she obtained $249,000 from the National Science Foundation for the purchase of an instrument and funding for more than 20 undergraduate students.

Dr. Li’s research will help the neuroscience, physiology and medicinal research communities to understand the diverse biological functions of nitric oxide and its metal complexes, some of which include controlling blood pressure, preventing platelet aggregation, acting as biological messengers and immune system cytotoxic agents, and assisting with long-term memory. The kinetic data will be used to identify the nitric oxide releasing metal complexes, which could be used in cardiovascular muscle relaxation, cancer therapy, pharmacokinetic studies, and other medicinal applications.

Since 1998, Dr. Li has produced 25 peer-reviewed publications in such prestigious journals as the Journal of American Chemistry Society, Chemical Communications and Inorganic Chemistry.

She has an ability to attract many undergraduate and graduate students to her research. Within the last 10 years, Dr. Li has directed 14 graduate students and 37 undergraduate students’ research activities. Many of these students have co-authored publications or presented their work at scientific conferences. Dr. Li and her students have presented a total of 66 papers at regional/national/international conferences since 1998. Since that same year, Dr. Li has presented 29 invited talks and seminars at other institutions and conferences, which is unprecedented in the department.

In addition, Dr. Li was named the winner of the Award for Research Excellence from the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics.
Distinguished Faculty Scholarly & Creative Achievement Award

Dr. Carl Lipo
Anthropology

Dr. Carl Lipo’s upcoming book, *The Statues That Walked: What the West Has To Learn From Easter Island* from the Free Press Imprint of Simon and Schuster, reflects an interest that has drawn him again and again to the lonely and mysterious rock in the Pacific Ocean.

Dr. Lipo has traveled to Easter Island five times, most recently in 2009 when he worked with CSULB, high school, and community college faculty members there as part of the Geoscience Diversity Enhancement Project funded by the National Science Foundation. The goal was to introduce to the faculty members and, through them, to their students, how to use non-destructive techniques to study and generate data to build a scientific understanding of the island’s monumental statues and prehistory. Dr. Lipo used remote sensing technology used to collect information on environmental variability, which he also used to study prehistoric deposits in Guatemala, California, and the Mississippi River valley.

Dr. Lipo is a co-founder of the Institute of Integrated Research on Environments Materials and Societies (IIRMES), one of the most advanced research laboratories in the California State University system. It is a collaborative research center developed by faculty from the colleges of Natural Sciences and Mathematics and Liberal Arts that provides access to state-of-the-art analytical equipment for CSULB faculty and students, as well as scientists from other institutions, for research in the natural, physical and social sciences. Dr. Lipo established the CSULB Luminescence Dating Laboratory within IIRMES to conduct routine luminescence dating of ceramics and fine-grained sediments. He also worked on a huge archaeological dig in Pakistan from 1987 to 1990 where he studied a 5,000-year-old city in research funded by the National Geographic, the University of Wisconsin and UC Berkeley.
Dr. Marshall Medoff is one of the most prolific researchers in the College of Liberal Arts. In the 30 years that he has been a faculty member, he has published more than 75 articles. During the last five years, when many faculty members who have been teaching as long as he has are planning their retirements, he has published 21 articles. He is widely recognized outside CSULB and cited frequently for his research on women’s reproductive health issues.

After completing his doctorate at UC Berkeley, Dr. Medoff began a career of scientific investigation that touched on such topics as racial and sexual discrimination, the incidence of suicide and gun laws, who are the most productive economists and, beginning in the late 1990s, abortion. He has published 21 articles on various aspects of the subject and is now widely recognized in the fields of demography, sociology, psychology, public policy and political science for his scholarship.

Dr. Medoff is currently at work on a book Abortion, Sexual Activity and Social Policy, which will trace the evolution of the theoretical and empirical research on the demand for the procedure. The focus of the book is to review all the existing literature on the topic including demographic and economic factors, public policy, provider availability, political and public attitudes, anti-abortion activities, restrictive state abortion laws, pregnancy rates, sexual activity and adoptions as well as their implications for public policy.

Dr. Medoff looks back on a research career at CSULB he finds rewarding, prolific and satisfying. The university agrees.
Mark Ruwedel

Landscape artist Mark Ruwedel continues his exploration through photography of the 19th, 20th and 21st century, mapping occupation and expropriation of western North America’s landscape.

His series, “Westward the Course of Empire,” photographed between 1994 and 2007, retraces the railroad lines that once crisscrossed the West. Published by Yale Art Gallery in 2008, “Westward” has been singled out for critical acclaim by Artforum, one of the foremost international contemporary art journals. Ruwedel pursued the project for nearly 14 years, photographing the remains of more than 130 railroad lines in the western US and Canada. His work represents his sustained investigations into the relationships between the natural world and the actions of human cultures and technologies upon it. It has been exhibited at such spaces as the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the Yossi Milo Gallery in New York, Gallery Luisotti in Santa Monica and Galerie Francoise Paviot in Paris.

Ruwedel is the author of three more photographic collections, “The Hanford Stretch” published in 1993, “The Italian Navigator,” which came out in 2001 and “Written on the Land,” a survey published in 2002. His work has been reviewed and reproduced in The New York Times, the Guardian, Atlantic Monthly, the Los Angeles Times, Artweek Magazine, Art in America, Afterimage, the Toronto Star, American Art and The Photo Review. His work has been acquired by such museums as the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Smithsonian American Art Museum, the Yale Art Gallery, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, the J. Paul Getty Museum and the Copenhagen National Museum of Photography.
Laura Stone is a fine example of an employee who works for the benefit of all students, faculty and staff. In her 30 years of service at CSULB, Stone, a staff member in the University Library, has dedicated hundreds of hours to numerous committees and more than 50 events.

As an active member of Staff Council, Stone has served on the Special Events Committee where she has helped organize many events, including Spooktacular. Her efforts have helped improve planning and registration and increased participation. Stone often creates the gift baskets, certificates and trophies given as contest prizes for the Staff Spooktacular event.

During the holiday season, Stone generously donates her time to the successful planning and execution of the Cherishing Children Toy Drive and Party. She is always one of the first to begin wrapping gifts and one of the last ones in the room, ensuring that every child has an age-appropriate present. On the day of the party, Stone helps organize volunteers, helps decorate the room and the tables with items she has often donated, helps Santa with the goodie bags and oversees games for the children.

Perhaps Stone’s widest reach can be attributed to her work on the annual CSULB Pow Wow, an event which is attended by thousands of people each year. Stone has not only been on the planning committee since 1980 (working with the American Indian Student Council, AIS faculty and Student Life and Development), she has also volunteered as the dancer/singer registration coordinator and contest tabulator for the last 15 years.

Stone has also served as Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary of the University Library Staff Association and has chaired the Social/Fundraising Committee and the Elections Committee for the University Library Staff Association. She has been named Employee of the Month for the University Library twice and received Staff Applause commendations.
The academic world is a natural for Dr. Mary Caputi. In 1995, she joined CSULB as an assistant professor in political theory, rising to full professor in 2005. She is also working to establish a cooperative agreement with Ca’ Foscari University of Venice where she served as a visiting professor in 2009. Dr. Caputi designed and teaches “Introduction to Critical Thinking,” a CSULB General Education Foundation course that provides for fundamental learning skills.

With a spotlight on political thought, diversity and feminist theory, Dr. Caputi has published two books and is working on two more. She has earned many honors and awards for her work as an undergraduate advisor, service on numerous committees dealing with a variety of issues from curriculum to scholarly and creative activities, and as chair of the College of Liberal Arts (CLA) Faculty Council.

Dr. Caputi has received the CLA Recognition Award (2002), nine Scholarly and Creative Activities Awards (1999-07), and has presented papers at several international political science conferences. Nationally, the New York native was a 2007-08 member of the Western Political Science Association’s Betty Nesvold Award Committee; a 2006 co-organizer of the Feminist Theory Panels, pre-American Political Science Association; and a 2001-03 executive officer for the Western Political Science Association, Region A.

In the community, Dr. Caputi serves as a volunteer for the Long Beach Rescue Mission and Heifer International. Together with her husband Richard Rawson, a Thai yoga therapist, and her 13-year-old stepdaughter Rahael, Dr. Caputi lives in Seal Beach.
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