Professional Dreams Keep Rolling Along

By Shayne Schroeder

The noise of bowling pins continuously crashing together upon being struck would keep most people wide awake. Melissa Bellinder can fall asleep to the sound. “I don’t hear bowling pins in my sleep, but I have actually fallen asleep to the sound in bowling alleys,” said Bellinder, who teaches bowling in CSULB’s Department of Kinesiology. “To me it’s kind of soothing.”

That may sound strange until you know that Bellinder has always been around the bowling world. Her father Frank competed on the Professional Bowlers’ Association (PBA) tour from 1969-2006 and continues to own and operate the pro shop at Saddleback Lanes in Mission Viejo. Her mother was a competitive bowler and her two older sisters roll a pretty good ball, too.

“I just love it. I love the sport. I love the competition,” said Bellinder, a Bronze Certified Coach. “I started bowling when I was 2, sitting on the lane and just pushing the ball down there. I grew up at my father’s pro shop. Every day after school I’d go there, do my homework and then go practice. Nobody was telling me ‘you have to go bowl.’ My father was never strict at all with me; nobody ever pushed me. I just loved it. I enjoy it so much.”

In addition to her teaching duties, Bellinder has a second job – that of an aspiring professional bowler. However, what she once thought was surely going to be a life on the weekly professional tour has, for the time being, been replaced by teaching the sport and competing in stressful qualifying rounds.

Her childhood dream hit a status. Other bowlers such as her - that only one has earned exempt right now,” said Bellinder, noting that making the tour is not easy for men or women. There are a number of ways to earn tour exemptions, one by earning points based on your tournament finish, but as Bellinder points out, “if you’re not actually on the tour it’s hard to earn points.” Bowlers also can qualify for the tour by competing in regional tournaments. Another is through tour trials which are one week of intense competition where tour hopefuls bowl nine games a day for five days. At the end of the week, the 10 highest pin totals earn exemptions.

“Only a handful of women are trying to compete on the men’s tour right now,” said Bellinder, noting that only one has earned exempt status. Other bowlers such as herself can attempt to qualify weekly through what are called PTQs (pre-tournament qualifiers), which is what she spent the most recent winter break doing, just missing the cut each week.

“If any woman is going to qualify, however, Bellinder seems to have as good a chance as any, although you may not think so by just looking at her.”

“A lot of people think when they see me, because I am really small, that I don’t look like a bowler, but I use the heaviest ball you can, 16 pounds,” said Bellinder, who brings at least eight bowling balls when competing in tournaments and sometimes as many as a dozen. “Bowling’s really not about strength. It’s about right technique, having the ball fit you properly, having it drilled correctly. It’s really not about upper body strength at all; it’s really about lower body strength and using your legs.”

Based on her success, it’s hard to argue. Bellinder was the junior national champion at the age of 16 while competing against the best bowlers up to 21, has won international gold medals, averages in the 230s and has rolled a remarkable 18 perfect games. Her best three-game series is 869, the third highest ever...
Lecture Series Presents Designer Syd Mead

The Duncan Anderson Lecture Series returns to campus on Thursday, April 16, at 6 p.m. in the University Theater, featuring futurist and conceptual designer Syd Mead. The series was established by the Anderson-Malcolm family to honor the memory of Anderson, a former CSULB industrial design student, who died while attending the university. Admission is free.

The series is offered in conjunction with the pair of $3,000 Duncan Anderson scholarships that support two outstanding industrial design majors every year.

“The series has heard professionals as different as journalists and architects,” said series organizer and Assistant Professor Jose Rivera-Chang. “This series is a way to reach out beyond CSULB’s Design Department to students from other schools and the community at large.”

Over the last 50 years, Mead has designed and illustrated for corporations, motion pictures, themed entertainment, and a wide range of transportation projects. His film work includes “Star Trek: The Motion Picture,” “Blade Runner,” “Tron,” “Aliens,” “Short Circuit,” “Johnny Mnemonic” and “Mission Impossible III.” Off screen, Mead has designed a 747 interior, a yacht and the Spaceship 2056 pavilion in Japan. Numerous magazines have featured his art and he has published several books.

Rivera-Chang wants his students to hear Mead explain his work.

“It is a chance for my students and the community at large to gain inspiration from somebody that has been in the business for so long,” he said. “When you’re talking about motivation, which is a better example than Syd Mead?”

Mead’s appearance underlines the importance of industrial design to society, Rivera-Chang believes.

“People aren’t aware of how much of their everyday world depends on design,” he said. “For instance, when you write on a table, a designer created that table. By projecting from that, Mead can forecast the look of future products.”

To Rivera-Chang, Mead’s work is the perfect example of how to take an idea about the future and make it real.

“By designing real products for corporations like Matsushita and Sony, he can make something look real that doesn’t even exist yet,” he said. “His design legacy is that nothing is impossible. What can’t be made in the real world, he makes in the future.”

The Duncan Anderson Lecture Series offers a peek into the future. “If you want to see your dreams about the future come true, please come see our special guest Syd Mead,” he said. “Many of his dreams have been realized in products and movies. Come see how an artist made our dreams come true.”

Relay For Life

The Fifth Annual Relay For Life Long Beach is calling on the CSULB community to come out on Saturday and Sunday, April 21-22, to help increase awareness and raise money for cancer research, education and programs. Last year, more than 50 teams, comprised of people who work or study on the CSULB campus and live in surrounding communities, raised thousands of dollars walking or running around the Jack Rose Track for 24 hours (that’s 24 consecutive hours beginning 9 a.m. Saturday).

Every year, millions of people around the world come together for Relay For Life, an inspirational overnight event designed to honor cancer survivors and raise money to help the American Cancer Society save lives, help those who have been touched by cancer and empower individuals to fight back against this disease.

Relay For Life Long Beach is a 24-hour event with something for everyone – survivor celebrations, a luminaria ceremony, live music, movies, games, food, friendship and lots of walking. All the festivities, including opening and closing ceremonies, are guaranteed to excite and inspire and show what the relay is really all about.

Relay team registration is currently in progress. Team registration is $150. To learn more about Relay For Life Long Beach and how you can get involved, call Jennifer Leonard at 562/437-0791, option 3, ext. 226 or register online at www.acsevents.org/relay/ca/longbeach.

Kaleidoscope Set for April 28

One of Southern California’s most popular family-oriented festivals since 1985, Kaleidoscope, will take place Saturday, April 28, from 11 a.m.-5 p.m. at CSULB. As always, admission and parking are free for this campus-wide event. This annual event attracts some 30,000 individuals throughout the day with activities from one end of the campus to the other and more than 100 clubs and vendor booths. For information about Kaleidoscope, call Luke Davidson, Kaleidoscope coordinator, at 562/985-2288, or visit its Web site at www.csulb.edu/kaleidoscope.

Alumni Awards Banquet

The CSULB Alumni Association and the campus community will recognize the university’s top alumni, students, faculty and staff at the annual Alumni Awards Banquet on Tuesday, April 24, at the Hyatt Regency Long Beach. A no-host cocktail reception begins at 5:30 p.m., followed by dinner and the awards ceremony at 6:30 p.m.

This year’s distinguished alumni recommended by each college are Robin Richesson, College of the Arts; Robert Pitta, Business Administration; Dennis H. Mangers, Education; Craig M. Smith, Engineering; Joanne L. Alpert and Jack R. Brick, Health and Human Services; Jan Burke and Paul Turner, Liberal Arts; and James E. DeOlden, Natural Sciences and Mathematics.

Vickie Messina, assistant to the dean in the College of Engineering, will be recognized as this year’s outstanding staff member and the President’s Distinguished Service Award will go to Long Beach City Manager Gerald R. Miller.

Outstanding graduates from each college are Nicholas Solyom, Arts; Mark M. Rosenbaum, Business Administration; Rojelio Olmedo, Education; Salmeh Dehghan, Engineering; Melissa Joy Attia and Victoria Storberg, Health and Human Services; Lady Ivory K. Chu and Anahil Sambarjan, Liberal Arts; and Chris Barrett, Natural Sciences and Mathematics.

Banquet tickets are $100 per person. The reservation deadline is Monday, April 16. For reservations or information, contact Sally
41st International Dinner and Show

Food and entertainment from countries around the world will highlight the 41st Annual International Dinner and Culture Show on Saturday, April 28, at The Pointe in The Walter Pyramid. The theme of this year’s celebration is “Cherish the International Moment.” Sponsored by the International Student Association (ISA), with co-sponsorship from Associated Students Inc. and support from the Center for International Education (CIE) and the Offices of the President and Provost, the event begins at 6 p.m.

Following a dinner of international cuisines prepared by The Grand, the program will feature musical entertainment and dancing by international students and local performers, among them Grupo Folklorico Mexico, the Salsa Club, Vietnamese Student Association and Danza Azteca Chichimeca. Along with the performances, students will display memorabilia and photos from their diverse cultures and countries. Attendees of this year’s show are automatically entered to win raffle prizes donated by area businesses.

Kee Chang, international student advisor in the CIE, encourages faculty and staff to attend and suggests that they might also consider sponsoring student assistants from their departments who might not otherwise be able to attend.

“This year, we will delight the audience with culinary delicacies from all corners of the world, and singers and dancers will whisk you away to that distant place we always dreamt about,” Chang added. “So come and join us in this world tour right here at The Beach.”

“I’m really excited about our 41st Annual International Dinner celebration,” added Ryoko Kawabe, president of ISA. “I’m looking forward to celebrating this very special occasion where people from all around the world gather in this one room for this one moment. Many of our guests will be dressed in cultural attire. That’s the best way to cherish the international moment.”

The cost for students is $20. Single tickets for faculty, staff and the general public are $30 each, and couples are $50. Be sure to get your tickets early, as seating is limited for this special event. For information or to purchase tickets, contact the CIE by visiting Brotman Hall 201, calling 562/985-4106 or e-mailing csulbisa@gmail.com.

“South Asia Day” Set for April 26

The South Asia sub-committee, a part of the International Education Committee at CSULB, will host its sixth annual “South Asia Day” event on Thursday, April 26. This year’s event titled “Maximum City: Bombay Lost and Found: A Book Reading by Suketu Mehta” will take place at the Soroptimist House from 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Mehta is a fiction writer and journalist based in New York. His first book, Maximum City: Bombay Lost and Found, won the Kiriyama Prize, and was a finalist for the 2005 Pulitzer Prize. He has won the Whiting Writers Award, the O. Henry Prize, and a New York Foundation for the Arts Fellowship for his fiction. Mehta’s work has been published in the New York Times Magazine, National Geographic, Granta, Harper’s, Time, Condé Nast Traveler, and The Village Voice, and has been featured on National Public Radio’s “All Things Considered.”

Born in Calcutta, Mehta was raised in Bombay and New York and is a graduate of New York University and the Iowa Writers’ Workshop. He is writing an original screenplay for “The Goddess,” a Merchant-Ivory film starring Tina Turner and also co-wrote “Mission Kashmir,” a Bollywood film.

The event is open to campus and local communities. South Asian food will be served.

For information, contact co-chairs of the South Asia sub-committee Jyotsna Pattnaik at 562/985-9370 or Bipasha Baruah at 562/985-8864 or bhanson@csulb.edu.

Staff Day on April 4

The annual Staff Day, sponsored by CSULB Staff Council, takes place Wednesday, April 4.

Events include a craft and vendor fair from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. in front of the University Bookstore, featuring creations by staff members and outside vendors. Carol Riley of the College of Education will host a rummage sale, with proceeds supporting Staff Council activities.

Lunch will be served from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Nugget. Staff emeritus Jim Long of the College of the Arts and CSULB’s 2006 outstanding staff member will serve as musical emcee.

Participants are eligible for drawings for free door prizes, and Staff Day T-shirts are available for sale in the University Bookstore.

For additional information, contact Berta Hanson at 562/985-8798 or bhanson@csulb.edu.

Child and Family Center To Host Open House

The Child and Family Center, located in the Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) Building, will hold its annual open house from 1-3:30 p.m. on Friday, April 20, in FCS Room 108.

The center operates a toddler classroom for children ages 2-3 years and two preschool classrooms for children ages 3-5 years.

Information about Fall 2007 through Summer 2008 programs will be available with staff on hand to answer questions and to provide center tours of the facility.

The center is a nationally recognized student teacher training facility which also provides child care for employees on campus.

For more information, call the Child and Family Center at 562/985-8500.

Big West Champions!

Tournament most valuable player Aaron Nixon and Kejuan Johnson, a pair of seniors, scored 29 and 24, respectively, to lead Long Beach State to the 2007 Big West Championship with a 94-83 win over Cal Poly San Luis Obispo at the Anaheim Convention Center on March 10. The victory advanced the 49ers to their first NCAA tournament since 1995 where they faced the University of Tennessee in a first-round game of the South Regional in Columbus, Ohio.
CSULB's 37-member Chamber Choir performs in Carnegie Hall on Tuesday, April 24, under the baton of Music’s director of chorale, vocal and opera studies, Jonathan Talberg.

Also on stage will be Long Beach’s Camerata Singers, the Nordhoff High School Chamber Choir and four community choruses from the New York-New Jersey area.

“Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, the cost per student will be only $400 for five nights in New York City,” said Talberg.

“Not only will the Chamber Choir perform at Carnegie Hall, but they will participate in New York’s Riverside Church,” he added. “This is a fitting successor to previous venues in which the choir has performed, including the Gehry-designed Disney Concert Hall, the Orange County Performing Arts Center and Descanso Gardens. We get out as much as any other CSULB group, including sports. I think we work very hard to maintain our image as the top music school in the California State University system. CSULB is the institution to send top students.”

The road to Carnegie Hall, a first for any CSULB musical group, comes as part of a regular series.

“Every April, Carnegie Hall sends out invitations to choirs from across the country to take part in performances,” he said. “Many groups are invited to perform each night of April under one conductor, and, this year, I have been invited to be one of those conductors.”

The Carnegie visit is a tribute to the commitment of CSULB music majors, Talberg believes.

“The average music major spends an average of 22 hours a week in classes. Choir is five hours a week for one unit. Opera is seven hours a week for one unit. The average CSULB singer performs between 12 and 15 hours a week,” he said. “What we’re trying to do with performances like this one at the Carnegie is to replicate the life of a professional musician as much as possible. There is constant preparation of new works as well as performances, tours and recording sessions.”

**Women and Philanthropy Give Scholarships**

For the eighth consecutive year, the Women and Philanthropy program at CSULB has awarded scholarships to re-entry students. The recipients (and majors) are Khanh Le (computer science), who received the Long Beach Soroptimist Scholarship; Kathleen Alcione (English), who received the Dr. Katherine White Memorial Scholarship; Courtney Colborn (geography); Sarah Davison (consumer affairs); Ellisa Hall (criminal justice); Russell Hanson (mechanical engineering); Stacey Ramsay (double major in business management and operations); Kathrine Son (business); and Vicki Storberg (recreation and leisure studies).

To qualify for a scholarship, individuals must be an undergraduate, 25 years of age or older, presently enrolled in six or more units, have an overall grade point average of 3.0, and demonstrate financial need.

“We are very happy to support these nine individuals in their efforts to continue their education,” said Barbara Holden, program director. “It’s a very diverse group not only because of the individuals, but also through the areas of the university academic community they represent.”

Women and Philanthropy was formed in 1998 to give public recognition for the generous gifts of women throughout the history of CSULB and the first awards were given in 1999. Made up of alumnae, faculty, and friends of the university, members make financial contributions to the university to support scholarships and volunteer their time on campus in areas corresponding to their individual interests.

Maureen Price, who received her bachelor's degree from CSULB, is the current chair. To date, 56 scholarships totaling $76,000 have been awarded, providing assistance to returning students who would otherwise find it difficult to complete their education.

For additional information regarding the scholarships or membership in Women and Philanthropy, call Holden at 562/985-4126.

**Service Awards Given on May 16**

The annual Service Awards reception for long-term employees will be held on Wednesday, May 16, from 2-4 p.m. at The Pointe.

Staff employees who were hired (and meet the eligibility requirements) in 1966, 1971, 1976, 1981, 1986, 1991, and 1996 will be honored.

“Service” to the university is calculated as of Dec. 31, 2006, and is defined as full-time, part-time, temporary or permanent, continuous appointments. Hourly/intermittent appointments are not included in the calculations.

Employment at CSULB prior to a break in service is not included in the calculations without an employee's request. Service from other CSU campuses is not included.

Service Award program calculations are separate and distinct from those of the Office of Payroll and Benefits Services and CalPERS.

Invitations will be sent to the awardees via campus mail in early April. For information, call Berta Hanson in Benefits and Staff Human Resources at 562/985-8798.

**CSULB Receives $875K NIH Grant**

Three researchers from CSULB have been awarded a four-year, $875,000 grant from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to conduct research and testing on motor capabilities.

Titled “Age-dependent Changes in Motor Learning Capabilities,” the study will focus on theory based methods for teaching motor learning and motor control, which predict that learning and retention will be more robust when practice requires higher levels of cognitive processing.

The project will be overseen by principal investigator Michael J. Cohen, a volunteer faculty member in CSULB’s Department of Kinesiology, along with co-investigators Michael G. Lacourse, associate dean of the College of Health and Human Services, and Douglas E. Young, a professor of kinesiology.

The proposed research will compare learning of a new motor skill (lever aiming task) across four age groups under conditions of blocked (static) or random (dynamic practice) along with conditions of constant or limited knowledge of results. Additionally, these paradigms will be run with an MRI-compatible force transducer during functional magnetic resonance imaging of the brain.

Techniques known as high contextual interference and partial knowledge of results will be used on some study participants and compared to others receiving low contextual interference and knowledge of results on every trial. High contextual interference and partial knowledge of results have been shown to initially produce slower learning, but better retention of what is learned with an enhanced ability to use that new learning in other situations.

With the increase in the elderly population, the study will look at using these methods in a controlled laboratory situation across the adult life span. Participants will be screened for cognitive status, anxiety, depression, vision, hearing, upper-limb range-of-motion and general health.

The study is recruiting healthy individuals that span the age groups of 21-30, 41-50, 61-70 and 75+ from the Long Beach VA Healthcare System; students and staff of CSULB, including the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute; and residents of Leisure World Seal Beach and Leisure World Laguna Woods.
HPAO Receives $150K Wellness Grant

The California Wellness Foundation has awarded a $150,000 grant to the Health Professions Advising Office (HPAO) in the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics at CSULB to support its core operating effort of providing academic support to students, particularly minority students, interested in pursuing careers in the health professions.

“The California Wellness Foundation is interested in getting more students into health careers, especially students from underrepresented populations,” said Carol Itatani, a professor of biological sciences at CSULB and director of HPAO. “Cal State Long Beach not only has a large number of students, it has a great diversity of students. Because of that diversity, I believe the California Wellness Foundation finds (the campus) to be a good (investment for its money).”

“Studies have found that students who come from medically underserved backgrounds are more likely to practice in underserved areas,” pointed out Eileen Tom, HPAO coordinator. “If you want to serve the underserved, often the best people to do that are those who know what it is all about, who went through it as a child. So, there is this big untapped market of students from underrepresented and disadvantaged backgrounds who have an interest in health professions, but may not know how to prepare and need support to help them reach their goals. That is where our office fits in.”

Housed in the Jensen Student Access to Science and Mathematics (SAS) Center, the HPAO was created in 1999 with a goal of assisting all CSULB students (not just those in the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics) who have an interest in going on to graduate-level health professions such as medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, optometry, veterinary, etc.

Tom and Francisco Castillo help students plan for that next step. Working with 200-250 students annually, the HPAO staff assists students looking to move on to graduate school. The staff helps all the way through the application process, including writing personal statements, reviewing them, interview preparation, selecting which schools to apply to, and if they are fortunate enough to get more than one offer, how to choose the best school to go to.

“In between, we help them with their academic planning, meeting the prerequisites, but more important, their non-academic planning, what experiences they should be seeking such as research, community service and clinical experience,” Tom said “We emphasize how important these involvements are to confirming and demonstrating their commitment. We want to show them how to make their mark and stand out and be unique from other students who are applying.”

Among the other careers within the health professions are physician’s assistant, nurse practitioner, public health specialist, pharmacist, veterinarian, dentist, optometrist and physical therapist. Itatani also pointed out that now is an ideal time to be looking toward a career in the health care field.

“You have this huge Baby Boomer population coming along and readying for retirement,” she said. “You can’t go wrong with seeking a career in the health professions because there is going to be a huge need in almost every area of the health care industry.”

Since 1999, the acceptance rate for CSULB students to medical school is about 40 percent. That number goes up to 65 percent when the CSULB students have utilized the HPAO services, and it jumps again to 85 percent when the CSULB students have a GPA that reflects the national mean for accepted students.

Accessible Technology Initiative Under Way

The California State University system, including CSULB, is undertaking the Accessible Technology Initiative (ATI) to comply with federal and state laws ensuring that individuals with disabilities can obtain classroom and administrative information provided via information technology as well as conventional printed materials.

The CSU Chancellor’s Office ATI Web site, www.calstate.edu/accessibility, includes information about the initiative’s requirements, timelines and resources. CSULB’s ATI Steering Committee, chaired by Student Services Vice President Doug Robinson, is leading the campus effort and is developing informational materials as well as presentations about the process for campus constituencies.

CSU Executive Vice Chancellor Gary Reichard noted in coded memo AA-2007-04 that, “The federal Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 require that qualified individuals with disabilities be provided equal access to programs, services or activities.” California Government Code also applies Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act, which addresses information technology access, to state entities and to the CSU system. CSU Executive Order 926 further outlines ATI policies.

“Achieving accessibility will require collaboration among faculty, disability resource centers, bookstores, academic and student services departments, academic technology and other institutional staff, and students with disabilities,” Reichard said.

ATI has three major priorities:

» Priority One: Web Accessibility (Administrative)
Access to the Internet and its resources, including Web sites, Web applications and digital content, are considered areas where the ADA applies, making Internet accessibility a priority for the CSU. Substantial progress has been made in ensuring that CSULB’s administrative Web pages are fully ADA-compliant. Guidance for faculty in building their pages will be made available.

Initial goals include developing processes for auditing, monitoring and remediating Web sites; establishing accountability and documentation procedures; determining exceptions and developing, documenting and communicating the equally effective alternate form of access that will be provided; and developing a strategy to ensure that new Web sites and Web content incorporate accessibility in the design and authoring process.

» Priority Two: Instructional Materials Accessibility
Instructional materials and online course materials also must be accessible to persons with disabilities, and to the extent possible, available at the same time for all students in a program. CSU policy states that, following consultation with local faculty senates as appropriate, each campus should create a plan to support faculty and staff practices that will ensure timely access to instructional materials.

The initiative calls for developing processes for timely adoption of textbooks by faculty, identifying textbooks for late-hire faculty, early identification of students with disabilities who require instructional materials to be provided in an alternate format and assisting faculty in developing their own accessible materials.

» Priority Three: Accessible Electronic and Information Technology (E&IT) Procurement
Section 508 includes a set of accessibility standards for six categories of electronic and information technology (E&IT) including Web applications, software, telecommunications, multimedia, and self-contained products like copiers, fax machines, kiosks, etc. The CSU must incorporate Section 508 standards as it develops or acquires new E&IT resources if such are commercially available, and their purchase does not result in an undue burden or fundamental alteration.

Plans will include research, evaluation, documentation, verification where appropriate and determination of exceptions related to E&IT procurement; a process for determining undue burden or fundamental alteration; and procedures for providing equally effective alternate access for E&IT acquisitions that are approved for exception or that are not yet subject to the E&IT accessible procurement process.

The CSU System Accessible Technology Initiative’s general timeline is:

June 15, 2007:
» Web Accessibility Implementation Plan and First Year Web Report
» Instructional Materials Accessibility Plan
» Electronic and Information Technology Procurement Plan

Yearly Reports: Web and Instructional Materials Progress Reports – June 15 each year
» Procurement Progress Reports – August 15 each year
» June 15, 2012: Web and Instructional Materials Final Reports
» August 15, 2012: Procurement Final Report
Webb Gives Back to Poet World
By Richard Manly

Charles Webb recently experienced a homecoming when he was asked to select the 2007 winner of the prestigious Samuel French Morse Poetry Prize — a prize Webb won himself in 1997 for his book Reading the Water. In the same three-month period, Webb also judged two other competitions: the California Poetry Exchange and the two Tufts prizes administered by Claremont Graduate University.

For the Morse Prize — $1,000, plus publication by Northeastern University Press — Webb read 15 pre-screened poetry manuscripts, then wrote an introduction to the winning volume. “It’s not an easy job,” said Webb, who has taught in the English Department at CSULB since 1984. “Contests like this often involve comparing apples and oranges. And I take the responsibility of judging very seriously. The choice I make reflects on the reputation of the press and the series, and I know first-hand how much such an award means to the poet who wins. It’s not only a book. It’s instantaneous literary respectability.”

The California Poets Exchange contest required Webb to review a series of manuscripts submitted by California poets with at most one published book of poetry. “The winner will be flown to New York to meet agents and various literary notables, while, at the same time, New York sends one of its poets to California,” he said. “Being chosen for this program gives a big boost to the selected poet’s career, and also shows New York — which can be kind of insular — the first-rate poetry that’s happening out here on the West Coast.”

Webb shared the judging duties for the Tufts Prizes with four other distinguished poets and scholars: former Poet Laureate Robert Pinksky, New Yorker poetry editor Alice Quinn, and poet/professors Robert Wrigley and Allison Joseph. The Kingsley Tufts Prize of $100,000 is the largest prize for a single volume of poetry currently awarded in the United States. The Kate Tufts Discovery prize, which Webb won in 1998, also offers a substantial prize of $10,000 and has been a springboard to national prominence for many of its winners.

“Choosing the Tufts winners is a huge amount of work,” Webb said. “It’s also a strong statement of my — and by extension my department’s — standing in the national poetry community. Winning the Tufts Discovery Prize was enormously important for my career as a poet. So, despite the work load, when I was asked, I couldn’t say no.” Webb feels honored to be asked to judge the three prestigious competitions. “My own manuscripts have languished in a lot of contest piles. I know what that feels like,” he said. “Now that I’ve been lucky enough to win some of these contests, and to be asked to judge, I want to make the best and fairest decisions that I possibly can and in the process alert the public to some fine poetry.”

Serving as a contest judge also raises Webb’s classroom credibility. “My students — some of them, anyway — know that the person who is commenting on their work is also handing out checks for $100,000,” he laughed. “Judging contests also helps me to spot negative trends in poetry that my students should avoid. Poets today may not call sheep ‘fleecy flocks,’ but contemporary poetry has evolved its own set of poetics and clichés. I see the latest ones spread out before me, and warn my students away.”


Overall, Webb is encouraged by the state of modern poetry “One of the difficulties in drawing modern readers to poetry is that there is so much being published right now, that it’s hard to find the really good stuff. Most contemporary poetry is mediocre, but that’s no surprise. Most art has always been mediocre — by definition,” he said. “But even if 90 percent of modern poetry is mediocre or worse, that still leaves 10 percent that is good. I’m trying to help identify that upper 10 percent.”

Jewish Studies Symposium

Jewish Studies will co-host a symposium, “Young Jewish Adults and Contemporary American Judaism,” to be held in The Pointe’s Ukjea Center on Sunday, April 29 from 1-5 p.m. Admission is free.

“Recent surveys have found that while young Jews are proud of their Jewish heritage, they are not interested in denominational institutions. Instead, they are interested in Jewish cultural, spiritual, or social justice issues,” explained symposium co-organizer and Jewish Studies Director Arlene Lazarowitz. “Jewish institutions, therefore, need to be flexible to attract young American Jews, for whom being Jewish is just one aspect of their identity.”

Co-sponsored by the campus chapter of Hillel and its executive director Rachel Bookstein, the conference is supported by a $1,000 grant from the Jewish Federation of Long Beach and Greater Orange County.

A series of panels, including one made up of students, several from campuses other than CSULB, will feature such speakers as Nancy Schwartzman, program director of the National Foundation for Jewish Culture, Hillel’s Los Angeles-based Director for Student Leadership Dan Smokler, UCLA Professor Linda Sax, and Shawn Landes of Synagogue 3000.

“This conference will bring together speakers from the East and West coasts to discuss what is really a national issue,” said Lazarowitz. “One goal for the conference is to place CSULB in the center of this important discussion, both academically and in the wider community.”

The symposium will explore such issues as how religious organizations respond to a generation that doesn’t affiliate and how to reach out to young adults. The focus will be on creating ways of building community, enhancing learning about Judaism, and creating a more open, vibrant, and welcoming environment.

“What is true for Judaism is true for many mainline American religions,” she said. “Many young Jews are involved in community service or ecological issues, but they don’t appear interested in replacing the current generation of leaders in synagogues and volunteer organizations.”

Lazarowitz hopes the symposium will be the beginning of a dialogue between town and gown that will involve students, faculty and community lay and religious leaders.

“I want to see CSULB at the center of a dialogue that will help to create a means of addressing the generation of American Jews who are now in their 20s and 30s,” she said. “It’s our responsibility to reach out to them. One of the goals of this symposium is to ask how American Jewish organizations can change and evolve alongside of today’s generations. This is the start of what I hope will be a continuing program.”

Lazarowitz is proud that Jewish Studies is reaching out. “Jewish Studies is an academic discipline that is unique in that it has a role to play in the community, as well as teaching and conducting research in history, literature, Jewish religion, and Hebrew language,” she said. “It is neutral, in that it studies Jewish religion and culture, but does not advocate or advance Judaism. That makes the university the perfect place to gather.”

Lazarowitz encourages the campus and the community to attend the symposium. “In terms of the lay and religious leadership, this is the place for them to exchange ideas and to learn what is being talked about in this field among academics and those who work with this generation,” she said. “The discussion will be interactive, not a series of lectures. This conference will offer a means of bringing these issues to the university and the larger community.”
Laurels

Courtney Ahrens, Psychology, published an article titled “Deciding whom to tell: Expectations and outcomes of rape survivors’ first disclosures” in the March issue of Psychology of Women Quarterly.

John Bellah, University Police, recently saw the publication of several articles in Police Fleet Manager. In the November-December issue, Bellah authored articles on front-end alignment basics and front end alignment versus tank alignment. In the January-February issue, Bellah wrote “Upfit Tips from the Automakers.”


Robert H. Friis, Health Science, authored a paper titled “Sociocultural determinants of tobacco use among Cambodian Americans” published in the Journal of Health Education Research in June. Co-authors were Dr. Mohammed Forouruzesh, Him Chhim, Sheetal Monga and Donna Sze.

Walter Gajewski, Instructional Technology Support Services and Library and Academic Technology Services, is exhibiting his photographs at the Orange County Fine Arts Center’s “Under the Sun: Kings’ Coast Plaza Village through April 22.

Camille A. Holmgren, Geography, is the lead author (with J. Norris and J.L. Betancourt) of a refereed article titled “Inferences about winter temperatures and summer rains from the late Quaternary record of C4 perennial grasses and C3 desert shrubs in the northern Chihuahuan Desert” which appeared in the Journal of Quaternary Science. Additionally, she gave a presentation at the American Geophysical Union in December titled “Plant functional variability in response to late-Quaternary climate change recorded in ancient packrat middens” with second author D. Potts.


Unna Lassiter, Geography, is the lead author with J. Lowry of an invited article titled “Unpacking Difference: The Changing Identities of Greyhounds” published in the Sport and Geography special issue in the Paladyn series of the National Council on Geographic Education. She was also lead author with J. Wolch of “Changing Attitudes toward Animals among Latinos in Los Angeles,” an invited chapter in Land of Sunshine: An Environmental History of Metropolitan Los Angeles (ed. W. Deverell and G. Hise) which came out last summer.


Tuilin Mangir, Electrical Engineering, published and presented a paper titled “Integrity and Integration Issues for Nano-Tube Based Systems” to the 2006 World Congress in Computer Science, Computer Engineering and Applied Computing Engineering, and a paper titled “Use of Project Portfolio In Outcomes Assessment For Engineering and Technology Students” to the ASEE Conference for Industry and Education Collaboration 2007 held in February, and “Nano-Technology As a Catalyst for Interdisciplinary Engineering and Science” to the International Conference on Engineering Education 2006 held in May. She was invited to and attended the 2007 Research Review for Functionally Engineered Nano-Architectonics (FENA) Center as an outside reviewer in January. She was invited to and attended the CIO Impacts Conference for Wireless Internet at the UCLA Anderson Business School where wireless Internet access in city metro areas and other wireless technologies were discussed by industry, government and academic participants in February. Also, she was invited to serve as a co-chair for the 2007 International Conference on Communications, Circuits and Systems in Wireless Communications to be held in Japan.

Don E. Peavy, Religious Studies, traveled to London March 11-16 to present a paper at the Oxford Roundtable. The paper proposed a methodology for teaching religious studies as science.

Leslie Reece and Paul Boyd-Batstone, Teacher Education, each gave plenary session keynote addresses at the Sixth International Literacy Conference in Guatemala City, Guatemala, Feb. 21-23. This conference was presented by the Guatemalan Reading Council, an affiliate organization of the International Reading Association. More than 1,200 teachers from Central America, the Caribbean and South America attended. Reece’s keynote was “El maestro Como investigador en su propio salón de clase: Construyendo sentimientos entre los conocimientos comunitarios y la enseñanza en el salón de clase.” Boyd-Batstone’s keynote was “Estrategias para la enseñanza del idioma.”

Ves experiences pedagógicas.”

Dmitrii Sidorov, Geography, presented a paper titled “Corporatization of Urban Space and the Emergence of Civil Society in Post-Soviet Moscow” to the first AESOP Young Academic Meeting, in Bratislava, Slovakia, in February. Also, he presented a paper at the British University of Alaska’s Sharon Nichols. Titled “Using Historical Non-Fiction and Literature Circles to Develop Elementary Teachers’ Nature of Science Understandings,” the article combines nuts-and-bolts instruction for elementary teachers with more in-depth questions about science, such as “What is science? How is it done? What is its purpose?” with the integration of relevant theory from science and reading education.

Shira Tarrant, Women’s Studies, recently saw the publication of her article titled “Modern Fables” on race, class and gender in “Wife Swap, What Not to Wear, and Extreme Makeover” in Gristlistic Magazine’s spring issue. It is available at www.gristlistic.com/magazine.htm. She presented “Stepping Out of Bounds: Feminist Men and Political Organizing” at the Western Political Science Association annual conference in Las Vegas, in March. Her article “Modern Fables: What Does Pop Culture Really Say About Women, Race, and Class?”was published in Gristlistic.com, in spring.

Virginia Tanzmann, Physical Planning, recently joined the Los Angeles Unified School District’s Bond Oversight Committee representing of the American Institute of Architects. As the only architect on the committee, she is the voice of the profession in the committee’s scrutiny role over the expenditure of more than $13 billion, the bond portion of the LAUSD’s $32 billion public construction program that serves the district’s 700,000 students.
Friday, April 6  
Women’s Water Polo vs. San Jose State, noon, campus pool.
Baseball vs. Oral Roberts University, 6:30 p.m., Blair Field.

April 6-7  
Men’s Volleyball vs. Hawaii, 7 p.m., Walter Pyramid.

Saturday, April 7  
Women’s Water Polo vs. Stanford, noon, campus pool.
Baseball vs. Oral Roberts University, 1 p.m., Blair Field.

Monday, April 9  
New Music Ensemble, directed by Justus Matthews, 8 p.m., Daniel Recital Hall.

Tuesday, April 10  
Baseball vs. Pepperdine, 6:30 p.m., Blair Field.
University Brass Quintet, directed by Robert Frear, 8 p.m., Daniel Recital Hall.

Wednesday, April 11  
University Wind Quintet, directed by John Barcellona, 8 p.m., Daniel Recital Hall.

Thursday, April 12  
Flute Big Band, directed by John Barcellona, 8 p.m., Daniel Recital Hall.

April 13-15  
The Opera Institute presents “Candide,” conducted by David Anglin, Apr. 13 at 8 p.m., Apr. 14 at 4 p.m. and 8 p.m., Apr. 15 at 1 p.m., University Theatre.

Friday, April 13  
Baseball vs. CSU Northridge, 6:30 p.m., Blair Field.

Saturday, April 14  
Track and Field at Long Beach Invitational, Jack Rose Track.
2007 California State Science Olympiad South Finals, hosted by the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics.
Baseball vs. CSU Northridge, 2 p.m., Blair Field.
Women’s Softball vs. CSU Fullerton, 1 p.m., softball complex.

Sunday, April 15  
Baseball vs. CSU Northridge, 1 p.m., Blair Field.

Monday, April 16  
Gender/Gender Identity Panel, guest speakers Jake Finney, Jennifer Reed, and Karina Samala, 3 p.m., USU Room 224. For information, contact Kirstyn Chyn at 562/985-4001.

April 17-18  
Spring Job Fair, noon-4 p.m., University Student Union. For information, call 562/985-5205.

Tuesday, April 17  
Baseball vs. Loyola Marymount, 6:30 p.m., Blair Field.
The Music Guild, St. Petersburg String Quartet. For information/tickets, call 562/954-0404.

LGBT Relationships Panel, guest speakers Christine Chavez (Cesar Chavez Foundation), Eileen Ma (Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Center), and Rodney McKenzie (National Gay and Lesbian Task Force), noon-1:30 p.m., USU Beach Auditorium. For information, contact Kirstyn Chyn at 562/985-4001.

Wednesday, April 18  
Women’s Tennis vs. UC Santa Barbara, 2 p.m., campus courts.
Guest Masterclass presents pianist Pedro Carbone, 3 p.m., Daniel Recital Hall.
Student Composers Studio Concert, coordinated by Justus Matthews, 8 p.m., Daniel Recital Hall.

National Day of Silence, 10:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., University quad. For information, contact Kirstyn Chyn at 562/985-4001.

Film Screening: “Trembling Before G-d: Orthodox and Hassidic Jews,” 1:30 p.m., Multicultural Center. For information, contact Kirstyn Chyn at 562/985-4001.

Thursday, April 19  
Brass Ensembles, directed by Robert Frear, 8 p.m., Daniel Recital Hall.
Book Reading and Signing: “Talking to the Moon” by Noel Alumit, 3 p.m., USU Ballroom C. For information, contact Kirstyn Chyn at 562/985-4001.

LGBT Immigration Panel, Xiomara Corpeno (Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles), Sophie Panelli (American Civil Liberties Union), and Dan Huang (Asian Pacific American Legal Center), 1-2:30 p.m., USU Ballroom B. For information, contact Eric McKenzie (National Gay and Lesbian Task Force).

Friday, April 20  
Baseball vs. UC Davis, 6:30 p.m., Blair Field.
Track and Field at West Coast Field Festival, Jack Rose Track.
University Symphony Orchestra, conducted by John Carnahan, 8 p.m., Daniel Recital Hall.

Education Job Fair, noon-4 p.m., University Student Union. For information call Judi Walker at 562/985-5772.

Saturday, April 21  
Baseball vs. UC Davis, 2 p.m., Blair Field.

Guest Artist Series presents pianist Pedro Carbone, 4 p.m., Daniel Recital Hall.
Faculty Artist Series presents Darrin Tunes, Flute, 8 p.m., Daniel Recital Hall.

Sunday, April 22  
Baseball vs. UC Davis, 1 p.m., Blair Field.

April 21-May 6  

Monday, April 23  
Faculty Composers Concert, Martin Herman, advisor, 8 p.m., Daniel Recital Hall.

Tuesday, April 24  
Baseball vs. San Diego State, 6:30 p.m., Blair Field.
Woodwind Chamber Orchestra, directed by John Barcellona, 8 p.m., Daniel Recital Hall.

Wednesday, April 25  
College Museum, presents “I Exist: Voices from the Lesbian and Gay Middle Eastern Community in the U.S.,” 4 p.m., Multicultural Center. For information, contact Kirstyn Chyn at 562/985-4001.

Thursday, April 26  
Student Jazz Band, directed by Gerhard Guter, 8 p.m., Daniel Recital Hall.

April 27-May 19  
California Repertory Company presents: “Dream of a Common Language,” time TBA.

Saturday, April 28  
Sax Ensemble, directed by Jay Mason, 8 p.m., Daniel Recital Hall.

April 28-May 3  
Portrait Exhibition, April 28 from 11 a.m.-4 p.m., April 30-May 3 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Design Gallery, free admission.

Sunday, April 29  
Faculty Artist Series presents pianist Althea Waite, 4 p.m., Daniel Recital Hall.

String Chamber, conducted by Richard Rintoul, 8 p.m., Daniel Recital Hall.

Monday, April 30  

Tuesday, May 1  
Percussion Ensemble, directed by David Gerhart, 8 p.m., Daniel Recital Hall.

Wednesday, May 2  
Piano Showcase with Yoon Shun-Lin Chou, 8 p.m., Daniel Recital Hall.

May 2-5  
Faculty-Guest Artist Concert, choreography ranging from ballet to contemporary works will be presented. May 2-5 at 5 p.m., May 6 at 2 p.m., Knoebel Theatre.

Thursday, May 3  
Wind Symphony, conducted by Joan de Albuquerque, 8 p.m., Daniel Recital Hall.

May 3-June 3  
University Art Museum and The Art Department present: “Insights 2007: Annual Student Exhibition,” admission is $4, free for CSULB students and GUAM members. For information, call 562/985-5761.

Friday, May 4  
Baseball vs. Cal Poly SLO, 6:30 p.m., Blair Field.

Concert Jazz Orchestra, directed by Jeff Jarvis, 8 p.m., University Theatre.

The most up-to-date schedule of CSULB events can be found at www.csulb.edu/insidecsulb

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