Alexander Takes the Helm

On Jan. 9, F. King Alexander officially began his duties as president of CSULB. He is the sixth president in the history of the institution, succeeding Robert C. Maxson, who retired at the end of the fall 2005 semester after 11 ½ years of leading “The Beach.”

“It is nice to finally get both feet planted on campus and to get to work,” said Alexander, whose selection for the CSULB presidency was announced by the CSU Board of Trustees in October. “During these initial weeks, I hope to learn as much as possible about the institution, students, faculty, staff and the Long Beach community.

“Every university has its own distinctive academic culture, history and operational ethos,” he added. “Understanding these institutional dynamics is very important as we look to build upon the solid foundation created under President Maxson.”

Alexander comes to CSULB from Murray State University in Kentucky, where he has served as president since 2001. He is a Foundation Fellow at Harris Manchester College, University of Oxford; and a faculty affiliate at both the Cornell University Higher Education Research Institute and the University of Illinois (UI) Institute of Government and Public Affairs.

Prior to his presidency at Murray State, Alexander was a professor and director of the Higher Education Program at UI in Urbana-Champaign (1997-2001) where his duties included directing and managing the graduate education program in the study of higher education leadership and public policy development.

While there were a few students taking classes during the winter session, the majority of CSULB’s 34,500 students didn’t return to the campus until the spring 2006 semester, which began on Jan. 25.

“Another of my objectives during these initial weeks will be to ensure that our campus is ready to address the educational needs of our students for the spring semester,” Alexander noted. “This includes not only preparing for the multitude of curricular opportunities that will need to be available but also to make sure that we have the full array of co-curricular activities scheduled to continue or be initiated.

“As we look to the future, it is imperative that we continue to build upon many of the effective policies enunciated throughout the campus and by the previous administration,” Alexander explained. “These initiatives include ensuring that we continue to attract top quality students, faculty and staff while also working collaboratively to enhance the state and national reputation of this great university.”

Alexander earned his Ph.D. in higher education administration from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he was recently honored with the School of Education’s Distinguished Alumni Award. He received his master of sciences in educational leadership program in the study of higher education finance and public policy, Alexander’s 2001 article titled “Vouchers in American Education: Hard Legal Policy Lessons from Higher Education,” was selected as one of the premier articles in higher education finance during the last two decades.

Hispanic Growth Recognized

Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education recently named CSULB among its “Publisher’s Picks,” an annual national list of colleges and universities that the publication sees as having solid records in recruiting, enabling, and graduating Hispanic students.

In fall 2005, there were more than 5,500 Hispanic students enrolled at CSULB, making up about 25 percent of the university’s overall headcount enrollment of 34,547. It is the highest enrollment of Hispanic students the campus has had over the last five years.

In all, 19 California State University (CSU) campuses were named to this year’s list, reflecting the CSU’s continuing commitment to educate the best of California’s students. The standings are based upon formal and informal inquiries as well as data from the National Center for Education Statistics.

“The California State University is proud to be highlighted in Hispanic Outlook,” said CSU Chancellor Charles E. Reed. “Our responsibility is to provide access to California’s best and brightest students, and to provide them with the opportunity of a quality education and an excellent start in a fulfilling career. The California State University is the gateway to success for many of these first-generation college-goers.”

Aside from CSULB, the CSU campuses included were Bakersfield, Chico, Dominguez Hills, East Bay, Fresno, Fullerton, Los Angeles, Monterey Bay, Northridge, Pomona, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Francisco, San Jose, San Luis Obispo, San Marcos, and Stanislaus. The four CSU campuses not listed include smaller, specialized, and rural campuses that lack substantial local Hispanic populations, so they do not hit the “radar” of the magazine.
**Wright Way to Bargain**

**By Richard Manly**

“It’s a bargain!” may be the war cry of the shopper but there’s more to striking a deal than a taste for shopping mall food courts.

Wayne Wright, who joined CSULB’s Philosophy Department in 2005, is interested in how we make — and how we ought to make — decisions when circumstances are less than perfect.

“Look at bargaining,” said Wright, who joined the university after two years as a visiting lecturer at St. Louis’ Washington University. “We negotiate every day. We negotiate with our families, friends and employers about much more than money. We negotiate about work, fun, and time. There are any number of topics of negotiation that have little to do with dollars and cents.”

Wright focuses on a body of empirical research that reveals that real negotiations often deviate from the stereotyped model of a hustling seller saying anything to move the product. There are bargainers who are aggressive, difficult, and perhaps unprincipled, he said. “But there also are other parties who are, to varying degrees, open and truthful in their dealings.”

It turns out that, in a number of interesting settings, being open and truthful yields better results than adversarial behavior, even when matched against parties who are not fully cooperative. Of course, it’s foolish to be open and honest when the other party seeks to profit at your expense.

“Trust is essential to reaping the full benefits of negotiation. It’s widely recognized that people sometimes outperform the dictates of normative models of decision-making. It’s also pretty easy to see that we sometimes fare rather poorly in our decisions; bad decisions produce a lot of the misery and frustration that are so evident in the world,” he said. “When it comes to negotiation, trust is what allows bargainers to increase the potential benefits for both sides. A major issue is determining when it’s appropriate to trust, as well as how to maintain trust once it’s been established,” he said. “The other party is often free to go back on the deal or to take advantage of a cooperator. Many people who are inclined to trust frequently find themselves surrounded by parties who will not reciprocate in kind. Those cooperators would presumably prefer to find like-minded people and interact with them, but that’s not an easy thing to do when you’re always on your guard against possible exploitation. Of considerable interest for me right now is exploring ways that a network of cooperators can develop amidst a sea of non-cooperators, taking into account the real-world limitations on human reasoning and the incomplete or cloudy information we often have about each other’s past behavior and current interests.”

The most important first step to negotiation is defining issues. What is essential? What kind of trade-offs can be made? Is there balance between salary and benefits? What alternatives do you have if negotiations fail? What do you value and why do you value it? One key is the reservation point.

“The negotiation analysis literature leaves no doubt that negotiating well demands establishing a reservation point ahead of time. A clear reservation point says that there is a certain point beyond which you will not go,” he said. “What is the minimum package the negotiator will accept? Once the template is fixed in the negotiator’s mind about what are the issues, the successful negotiator should sit down with the other party and make sure they agree about the issues that are to be bargained over. Then it becomes a matter of how forthcoming one wishes to be. If you commit yourself too early, you run the risk of being exploited. If you hold back too much, you discourage the other party from being as forthcoming as they might be. Most real-world situations are messy and not easily resolved or described in terms of precise rules, but it’s important to work to figure out how mutual cooperation can be effectively encouraged and how to help a would-be cooperator better recognize when their risk for being taken advantage of is high. Hopefully, some of my research can contribute to that.”

Wright earned his B.A. from Hofstra University in 1989, his M.A. from the University of Florida in 1996 and his Ph.D. from Temple University in 1999. He spent four years in the computer software industry after earning his doctorate.

In addition to his research on decision-making, Wright works on topics related to the scientific studies of consciousness, vision, and color. His goal in that work is to clear away some of the basic confusions that have plagued philosophical research so that philosophers and scientists may more fruitfully discuss issues of common interest.

**Taylor Returns as V.P. of UR&D**

Andrea Taylor, a former student and development director at CSULB, has returned to her alma mater and assumed her duties as the campus’ new vice president of University Relations and Development (UR&D).


Taylor is responsible for the overall management of the university’s fund-raising efforts, providing direction for a diverse and multifaceted development program that raises some $25 million annually. One of her initial focuses of the job will be to create and launch plans for CSULB’s first major capital campaign.

Additionally, Taylor also oversees the alumni relations and public affairs/publications operations on the campus. CSULB has more than 200,000 alumni, the majority of whom live in the greater Los Angeles County and Orange County regions. Taylor said she would like the campus to re-connect with the former students to build more philanthropic support. She will deliver campus messages to select audiences, support the university’s communication objectives and play a role in enhancing the university’s image.

In all, Taylor will supervise and direct the work of a professional and clerical staff of approximately 65.

“Fund raising is a priority throughout the CSU system and, at Cal State Long Beach, we have a new president who has a clear vision of where the campus’ development efforts should and need to go,” Taylor explained. “I look forward to working with the president, other vice presidents, deans, faculty members and the UR&D staff in moving our advancement program to that next level.”

Prior to her work at UCI, she was a development director for the College of Health and Human Services at CSULB from 1991-95. "I can't tell you how happy I am to be back at Cal State Long Beach. This university has meant a great deal to me, both personally and professionally," Taylor pointed out. "I strongly believe in the mission of this institution and its focus on teaching students and preparing them for success as career professionals and good citizens. It is my goal to support that overall mission and contribute to that final outcome in any way that I can."

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Employee of the Month Honor Goes to Neale

Shari Neale, a member of CSULB’s class of 1995 with a bachelor’s degree in anthropology, was selected recently by her peers in Purchasing, the Print Shop, the Departmental Copier Program, Shipping and Receiving, Financial Management and Property, as employee of the month.

The office coordinator for Financial Management and part of the university since 1998, she was recognized in a special ceremony held on Friendship Walk near the University Student Union. The walk was renamed Shari Neale Lane.

“I feel good about being named employee of the month,” said Neale, “I’ve worked in a wonderful office with a great group of people since I got here. We’ve seen a lot of changes over the years but it remains a spirited office that has a real team effort.”

Neale’s responsibilities include working with Joe Latter, associate vice president, and the division fiscal officer Christa Johnson. There are calendars to manage and office budgets to oversee.

National who works at CSULB must visit us here in Financial Management for a document review and tax determination” she said.

Neale is glad she made the decision to join CSULB. “I remember coming to the Career Development Center and paying my $25 to participate, then stopping at Staff Personnel as an after thought. While I was there I filled out an application for this position and before I knew what was happening they were calling me for an interview, and four weeks later I was working here. I know it was meant to be and I am extremely happy I joined the university.”

When she isn’t hard at work, Neale enjoys the great outdoors through bird-watching, monthly nature walks, hiking, tide pool visits and whale-watching, with the occasional visit to the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium. She also finds time to spend with her grandchildren, Brandy, 25, another CSULB graduate in business management, Stephanie, 17, and Jesse, 9.

Neale received several gifts with her recognition including a CSULB sweatshirt, a $20 gift certificate to Jimmy’s Fish Market and Grill, a gift certificate for two admissions to Medieval Times Dinner and Tournament, a gift certificate for lunch for two at Quiznos Sub, a $10 gift certificate for the Katella Deli and a $10 gift certificate for Hof’s Hut.

Earning Staff Applause honors this month are (l-r) Kimberly Daro, Office of University Ombuds; and Linda Tiggs-Taylor, College of Engineering. Not pictured are Sandra Shirley, Student-Athlete Services; and Leah Williams-Daniels, Timothy McDonnell, and Jeffrey Effron, Athletics.

The Final Call for Cookbook Recipes

Are you a CSULB staff or faculty member who loves to cook? The CSULB Staff Council is publishing Cookin’ at The Beach, a cookbook of favorite recipes submitted by CSULB employees. The book will be available at Staff Day on Wednesday, April 12, and through Staff Council.

Proceeds from the cookbook sale will support Staff Council activities that benefit all staff members.

The deadline to submit recipes is Tuesday, Feb. 28. Recipes may be submitted in any format – hard copy or electronically – to Bob Rodgers, Audio Visual Services, LAI-108, 562/985-7853, rrodgers@csulb.edu.

CalPERS Retirement Seminar March 16

The Office of Benefits and Staff Human Resources will sponsor a Retirement Planning Seminar on Thursday, March 16, from 9 a.m. to noon in the University Student Union, Beach Auditorium.

A representative from the California Public Employees’ Retirement System (CalPERS) will be present to discuss retirement and the Service Credit Purchase Option (Assembly Bill 719). In addition, representatives from the Social Security Administration will discuss existing rules and new changes at this seminar.

Due to limited seating, employees must have five years of earned service credit in the CalPERS system in order to attend.

For more information, contact Mary White at 562/985-8266.
Mangir, Kwon
Receive Grant

Tulin Mangir, professor of electrical engineering at CSULB, and Chuhhee Kwon, associate professor of physics and astronomy, have received an award of $294,000 from the Army Research Office (ARO) for a project titled “Assessing the Integrity and Interconnect Issues for Nano-scale Structures and Devices.”

The purpose of the award is to study the integration and interconnect issues for nano-scale structures and devices. Their work will focus on further miniaturization of computer, communications and sensor circuits and has broad implications including sensors, security and next-generation IC technology. Nano-scale science is a bridge between life sciences, physical sciences and engineering.

“We are now able to observe and control properties of atoms and molecules at the nano scale. One nanometer, about three atoms, is one billionth of a meter – human hair is about 100,000 nanometers,” Mangir explained. “This requires the scientific community to understand and develop new theories, models and approaches to education and research.

“This work is important as it builds up on work funded by the National Science Foundation in building up curriculum and infrastructure for nano-science, engineering and technology education,” she added. “This project helps us expand the research and teaching infrastructure and helps us build cooperative relationships with the local companies and research centers, such as Northrup Grumman, Raytheon, Aerospace Corporation, UCLA, UCI, Intel and others.”

Nano-science, engineering and nano-scale devices have broad applications in a wide range of electronic circuits which will be much smaller, lighter, and integrate a lot more functions on the electronic chips. In addition to very light and high-capacity components for consumer devices, they have very broad targeted drug delivery for medical applications.

Nanotechnology also has many applications in terms of security, as an extremely small amount of particles can be detected using applications of this technology. It is also important for both detection of toxic materials and neutralizing some of these toxic substances. It has benefits for environmental clean-up, providing clean water for many poor countries around the world; and developing many precise diagnostic devices for numerous diseases, more accurate, less toxic medications, among others. Other applications include clean fuel cells, clean water, much lighter and stronger materials, efficient uses of resources such as oil, gas and water, light and water proof sealants, coatings, energy conversion and storage, thermal energy, avionics, better protective gear.

“Nano-science and engineering is the next big revolution in the technology and engineering area,” Mangir pointed out. “It is also the most INTER-disciplinary area and requires students to be educated to work across the disciplines in teams consisting of engineers, physicists, biologists, mathematicians, computational scientists, business people, ethicists, legal experts, and so on.

“Getting students educated and informed will prepare them better for their careers, as well as help them be better informed citizens and be involved in policy, advocacy for the sciences, and beneficial uses of this technology.”

As part of this research grant, Mangir and Kwon expect to enhance the teaching and research infrastructure to tackle the interdisciplinary nature of the field scientifically speaking, their research will explore, study and characterization of thin films (Kwon) and uses of nano-tubes both as passive and active components in the future circuits (Mangir).

“This work will help decide reliability, resilience and safety for applications of these structures in many sectors ranging from consumer products to medicine, to energy, to environment to defense, as we reach the limits of our current miniaturization technologies and need new ways of developing products and materials,” Mangir said.

“In the next ten years or so it is expected that there will be a short fall of 7-10 million of trained workers of all levels,” she continued. “Some universities have begun to grant degrees in nanotechnology. Others view it as a portion of existing academic areas. One thing is for certain – Nano-scale science and technology are fueling a revolution in manufacturing and production, creating new materials and novel processes.

“As the lists of nano-science-based applications indicate, our world is increasingly dependent on science for food, shelter, energy, etc. For our democratic society to function effectively, citizens must become familiar with at least some basic science and, perhaps even more importantly, with thinking scientifically. As a public institution, it is our responsibility to bring this to our students, feeder schools, and public,” Mangir concluded. “We are grateful to both National Science Foundation for providing our initial support and continuous encouragement, and to ARO for supporting our research and research infrastructure in this very important area.”

Conference Returns to Anatol Center

CSULB’s Psychology and Philosophy departments, in cooperation with the university’s Center for Cognitive Science, host the return to the Karl Anatol Center of its annual cognitive science conference from Thursday, Feb. 23, to Saturday, Feb. 25. The conference’s topic will be “The Epistemology of Natural and Artificial Systems.”

The interdisciplinary conference was organized to take advantage of the research strengths of several new faculty members as well as to be of general interest to the cognitive science community, said Philosophy’s Charles Wallis, organizer of the event.

Wallis will address the conference on Feb. 23, at 1 p.m. on “Gavaghi Redoux” and will discuss the relationship between science and epistemology (the theory of knowledge) from both a programmatic and historical perspective.

Psychology’s Kevin MacDonald will speak at 1 p.m. on Feb. 24 on “Evolutionary Psychology and Rationality.” He will discuss conflicts between older evolutionary mechanisms and conscious, rational processing, as well as the issue of the adaptiveness of rationality.

Psychology’s Kim Vu will share her expertise in the area of human performance inside and outside of the laboratory. She will speak in the center at 10:30 a.m. on Feb. 25 on “The Role of Action in Human Information Processing,” in which she will discuss how action goals need to be taken into consideration when designing interfaces and systems for which people must interact.

Philosophy’s Wayne Wright will speak at 1 p.m. the same day on the topic “Active - not enactive vision” and will discuss current controversies regarding the nature and extent of representation in vision as well as the role of action in visual processing. Wright also has begun a project that explores the interaction of private information and reputation with non-ideal rationality in negotiation.

A series of dinner talks will take place each evening of the conference at 6:30 p.m. in the Long Beach Guest House featuring speakers Keith Holyoak, Robert Richardson and Elizabeth Loftus. Other speakers include JD Trout, Franz-Peter Friesmaier, Michael Bishop, Michael Stevens, Jonathan Weinberg, John Pollock, George Pappas and Matthias Scheutz. CSULB students are encouraged to attend to hear at least one graduate paper presentation.

“Presentations at the conference will help participants in developing their ideas for publication,” said Wallis. “For instance, work presented by Dr. Trout and Dr. Bishop at the first conference we organized eventually lead to their publishing the book, Epistemology and the Psychology of Human Judgement. They are returning this year to discuss further developments in their thoughts on that subject.”

Conferences organized by the center provide students and faculty with exposure to cutting-edge thinking by researchers at all stages of their careers. “Conferences like these enhance the profile of CSULB in the national and local cognitive science community, said Wallis. “Moreover, it allows us to showcase some of the excellent research being done by our own faculty.”

Wallis hopes conference participants come away with new insights into their own work and an awareness of the issues that engage other researchers in the field. “I also hope that participants will leave with a positive opinion of CSULB and the researchers and students here,” he said.
Homecoming 2006 Going “Back to 49er Days”

The CSULB Alumni Association, 49er Athletic Association, and Associated Students Inc. invite alumni and friends to celebrate Homecoming 2006 with a nostalgic “Going Back to 49er Days” theme. Homecoming will be held on Saturday, Feb. 11, from 11 a.m.–3 p.m. in parking lot 15 which is adjacent to The Walter Pyramid. To fit the event’s theme, CSULB logo or Western attire is appreciated.

The CSULB Alumni Association and 49er Athletic Association will co-host a group tent for members, the campus community, and friends. It’s a great opportunity to reunite with old friends and associates and to welcome our new president, Dr. F. King Alexander.

A barbeque buffet will be served from noon-2 p.m., with meal tickets costing $10 for children (under 12), $20 for adult members and their guests, $25 for non-members. Tickets for the basketball games are $7 and children (under 12) are admitted into the game free with purchase of a meal ticket. Included in your meal ticket package is the opportunity to win entrance to Disneyland’s exclusive Club 33, two tickets and dinner to Pageant of the Masters, an Epson Photo Printer, and two tickets to Jewels of the Night. Also, a special commemorative giveaway will be provided.

Homecoming features many free activities for the whole family including campus tours (noon–2 p.m.), private tours of the Japanese Garden (11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.), the weiner dog stampede/race (11:30 a.m.), interactive games, alumni historical and athletic photo gallery, face painting, caricature artist, entertainment featuring The Jeff Severson Band, and other surprises.

The homecoming festivities will be followed by a pair of Big West Conference basketball games when the women’s team takes on Pacific at 3 p.m. and the men face conference rival UC Santa Barbara at 5 p.m. To participate in the pre-game party or purchase meal and basketball tickets or make shuttle bus reservations, contact Nancy Becker at 562/985-7022 or via e-mail at nbecker@csulb.edu. For game ticket information only, call The Walter Pyramid box office at 562/985-4949.

PCSZW Seeks Nominations

The President’s Commission on the Status of Women (PCSZW) at CSULB is seeking nominations for its Fourth Annual Advancement of Women Awards.

The commission will honor a student, a staff member, a faculty member, and an administrator who actively contribute to the advancement of women on campus through their scholarship, teaching, organizational work, campus community service and/or any other form of support for women at CSULB. All women and men who are current members of the campus community are eligible for the award (with the exception of current PCSZW commissioners).

“This will be the fourth consecutive year that the commission has given this type of award,” said Elizabeth Novack, university ombuds and PCSZW awards committee chair. “The commission has focused its work on improving circumstances and opportunities for the women who study and work here. PCSZW also recognizes other campus community members who have joined in this effort, and are deserving of acknowledgment for their help toward the progress of women at the university.”

Each of the winners receive a plaque and will be recognized at the Spring Women’s Research Colloquium on Tuesday, March 28. In addition, the winners’ names will be included on a perpetual plaque displayed in the Women’s Resource Center. Nominations must include an extensive letter detailing the work that the candidate has done for women at CSULB and why that work is significant. Pink nomination forms were distributed campus-wide in January. However, a form may be obtained by contacting the Office of University Ombuds at 562/985-5893.

The deadline for receiving nomination forms is Friday, Feb. 17, and all nominations should be mailed to the Women’s Resource Center, LA-3, Room 105, or e-mailed to mghavey@csulb.edu.

For more information about the awards or the nominating process, please contact Novack, the awards committee chair, at 562/985-2577.
‘Prospector 7’ Takes Flight

By Teresa Hagen

Students from the Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering (MAE) Department at CSULB were among the members of a joint academic/industry/government team that conducted the successful launch, recovery, refurbishment and re-launch of a prototype reusable launch vehicle, Prospector 7, within a period of just 3.5 hours. It was a major improvement over the 26 hours needed to conduct two flights with a McDonnell Douglas DC-XA research vehicle nearly a decade ago.

The launch represented an important achievement in aerospace research at a time when more responsive launch capabilities have become a priority.

The launch was made possible by a Phase I Small Business Innovation Research contract to CSULB research partner Garvey Spacecraft Corporation (GSC) of Long Beach, from the Air Force Research Laboratory’s (AFRL) Propulsion Directorate branch at Edwards Air Force Base. It builds upon an on-going Nanosat Launch Vehicle development program that GSC and CSULB are conducting as part of the California Launch Vehicle Education Initiative (CALVEIN). The Nanosat Launch Vehicle is intended to provide dedicated, primary launch services to small satellite developers and operators whose spacecraft have a mass of 10 kilograms (22 pounds) or less, a growing area of industry that cannot afford the expense or the lag time to launch their payloads on more traditional vehicles such as the space shuttle.

The purpose of CALVEIN, a partnership program directed by Eric Besnard, CSULB associate professor of mechanical and aerospace engineering, is to help prepare the next generation of California-based engineers for the aerospace industry and provide MAE students with hands-on experience, while also supporting technology development to contribute to the next generation of low-cost launch vehicles.

In addition to evaluating reusable launch vehicle operations, the Prospector 7 project also provided flight opportunities for a number of university payloads, including a data logger from Montana State University and a prototype of the Poly-Picosat Orbital Deployer (P-POD) developed by Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. These two experiments flew on both flights with the P-POD actually deploying a number of simulated ‘CubeSats.’

The CALVEIN team and AFRL are now updating their plans to reuse this hardware in future Nanosat Launch Vehicle-related flight testing. The next phase of testing presently envisions expanding the altitude and velocity objectives while still retaining response times and reusable technology.

“Over the years, CALVEIN has focused on pursuing an incremental development approach where each frequent test provides students and others an opportunity to learn and expand the envelope,” Besnard explained. “Here, launch vehicle developers, operators and payload developers from several universities came together and, with these two flights conducted with the same vehicle in a matter of hours, demonstrated that responsive operations are indeed possible. The next phase will focus on expanding the flight regime with the long-term objective of reaching orbit.”

Alumni Grant Deadline Nears

Applications for grants awarded by the Alumni Association, ranging from $1,500 to $5,000, are now available. A total of $385,000 will be allocated with the deadline for applications being Friday, March 3. Department and program chairs are encouraged to apply for their programs or projects. The criteria include benefitting students, most overall value for the funds, lasting impact, and enhancing the prestige of the university.

Since the Alumni Grants Program was established 14 years ago, nearly $260,000 has been awarded to departments and programs. Alumni board members serve on the selection committees.

For an application and information, contact Cheryl Edgerly at 562/985-7159 or by e-mail at cedgerly@csulb.edu.

Magyar Receives Young Scholar Award

T. Michelle Magyar, a new assistant professor of kinesiology at CSULB, has been selected to receive the Hally Beth Poindexter Young Scholar Award by the National Association for Kinesiology and Physical Education in Higher Education (NAKPEHE).

For the sixth year, the executive board of NAKPEHE held its open paper competition, which is designed to encourage the development of innovative ideas and discussions from the newest members of the profession. Magyar’s paper, titled “Teaching Athletes to Connect and Collaborate: The Power of Peer Leadership in Athletes,” earned her the award.

The paper examines how athletes construct leadership skills through sport participation and how the coach can foster this development.

“Typically, when we study leadership in sport, we tend to focus on the leadership role of the coach. Rarely, do we consider the learning opportunities athletes have to develop leadership skills through sport participation,” she explained.

In particular, Magyar’s submission highlighted the finding that athletes’ definition of success and personal ability in their sport performances can help explain the individual differences in the construction and use of leadership skills. In essence, athletes who focus on personal mastery as a criterion for success will use communication, respect, motivation, performance ability, effort and collaboration as a motivating force in leading their teammates. In contrast, athletes who are more concerned with demonstrating their superior ability are more likely to use only performance-based skills and negative tactics. She also found that coaches who foster perceptions of favoritism and emphasize normative comparison decrease the salience of leadership skills in their athletes. These findings are significant in identifying athletes who have a dispositional tendency to lead others.

As a result of the win, Magyar received a $250 cash prize and a one-year free membership to NAKPEHE. In addition, she was invited to present her paper during a special session of the organization’s 2006 annual conference, which took place in January in San Diego.

To be eligible for the honor, candidates must be full-time faculty members in the first five years of employment at a college or university setting. Magyar, who was a postdoctoral fellow at UCLA and lecturer at CSULB last year, is in the first semester of her first tenure-track position.

“I was very nervous about applying because it was an open competition,” Magyar said. “There is a sense of vulnerability when you submit your research for peer review so when I found out that I had won, I was absolutely thrilled and relieved to know that my work was judged worthy of this award and considered a valuable contribution to the field of sport psychology.”

Actually, the NAKPEHE award was the second “new faculty” honor for Magyar last fall. In November, she received the Emerging Professional Award from the Western Society for Physical Education of College Women (WSPECW). Given annually to acknowledge emerging professionals in higher education, the honor is awarded on the basis of excellence in teaching, creativity and professional contributions. The purpose of the award is to encourage professional involvement with the WSPECW and to stimulate growth and networking through the interaction inherent in this involvement.

“I was very honored to be presented with this award in front of my peers,” Magyar said of receiving the WSPECW honor. “The Western Society is unlike any organization I belong to. It is unique in the sense that the mission is to provide mentoring and leadership for women in higher education. All members are from the western region of the United States and are very supportive of scholarship and research and have a vested interest in building a network of colleagues in an effort to advance the professional development of female faculty in kinesiology.”

Magyar received her bachelor’s degree in psychology from UC Berkeley in 1994, her master’s degree in health and kinesiology from Purdue University in 1998 and her Ph.D. in kinesiology from Michigan State University in 2002.
Ingrid M. Martin, Marketing, presented her research on “What Motivates Homeowners to Protect Themselves from Risks?” co-authored with Holly Bender and Carol Raish, at the Annual Society of Risk Analysts Conference in Orlando, Florida in December. This research was funded by the USDA Forest Service.

Tracey Mayfield, University Library, was elected vice president of the South of the California Academic and Research Libraries (CARL) Organization. She will serve a three-year term, two years as vice president of the South and the third as president.


Victor Rodriguez, Chicano and Latino Studies, earned an honorable mention from the Gustavus Myers Center for the Study of Bigotry and Human Rights for his book Latino Politics in the U.S. Race, Ethnicity, Gender, and Class in the Mexican-American and Puerto Rican Experience which was held at CSU Monterey Bay, Oct. 4-5; at The Pointe at CSULB, Oct. 6; and at the Federal Building in Westwood, Oct. 7. This conference was sponsored by NOAA and the California Department of Fish and Game.

James A. Woods, Geography, was a participant in the “Map Off Contest,” a mapping under pressure competition, at the North American Cartographic Information Society meeting in Salt Lake City in October.


C. Ray Sumner, Geography, had an article published in the 2005 issue of The California Geographer titled “Tom Down Under: McKnight’s Relationship with the Fifth Continent.”

Judith A. Tyner, Geography, presented “Threads of Geography” to the annual conference of the North American Cartographic Information Society in Salt Lake City in October.


Suzanne P. Wechsler, Geography, was a co-organizer of the conference on “Shoreline and Marine Boundaries: Datums, Jurisdictions, and Policy” which was held at CSU Monterey Bay, Oct. 4-5; at The Pointe at CSULB, Oct. 6; and at the Federal Building in Westwood, Oct. 7. This conference was sponsored by NOAA and the California Department of Fish and Game.

A Kinder, Gentler America: Melancholia and the Mythical 1950s  
Mary Caputi, Professor, Political Science

Newly out in 2005 from the University of Minnesota Press, A Kinder, Gentler America: Melancholia and the Mythical 1950s explores how the longing for the era of “the greatest generation,” the 1950s, reveals disillusionment with present-day America. Caputi looks at how the decade of the 1950s has been ennobled by the American right and argues that neoconservative ideology is trying to convince Americans that the U.S. lost its way as a nation in the crazy, disruptive changes wrought by the 1960s and 1970s. “There is a lot of idealizing of the 1950s,” said Caputi. “It was a time seen by many Americans as the perfect blue print for America. It is presented as a foundational moment that defined modern America.”

The nostalgia that this presentation inspires serves the right’s efforts to discredit the left’s acceptance of such things as multiculturalism, feminism, gay rights, and other forms of identity politics. It serves the right’s efforts to denounce all that rewriting America’s traditional definitions by praising a time whose innocence and rectitude are more mythical creation than historical reality. “The cultural left argues that this position is a myth,” Caputi said. “While the 1950s may have been an easier time in some ways, the families were never as happy as they were on ‘The Donna Reed Show.’ The neoconservative recreation of the decade is an idealization of a time that supposedly brought the nation together in one unified moment, hence persons such as Newt Gingrich and Pat Buchanan extol of decades as being more genuinely American than the society we now live in. The left, conversely, argues we need to get away from the need for a mythical past.”

Caputi urges her readers to recognize diversity, conflict, and anti-foundationalism as the true American identity. “We’ve always been a mishmash of people as a nation. America has never been founded on one ethnicity or language, or on one cultural experience,” because to be American is to be part of a political and cultural experience that claims no true foundation. Indeed, America is pluralistic and committed to heterogeneity: one of its essential qualities is that it claims no essence.
Sunday, Feb. 5 - Thursday, Feb. 9
Visiting Artist: Anna Ursyn, Computer Graphics Program, Northern Colorado University. Solo Show in Merlino Art Gallery; Artist’s Gallery Talk on Feb. 3, 3 p.m.; Artist’s Reception, Feb. 5, 5-7 p.m. For information, call 562/985-4376.

Monday, Feb. 6
Campus-wide evacuation drill, 10:15 a.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 7
UAM@Noon: Gallery Talk by Chris Scoates, UAM Director, 12:15-1 p.m.; University Art Museum. For information, call 562/985-5761.

Wednesday, Feb. 8
Visiting Artist Series: raecule - New Music for Alto Flute, 8 p.m., Gerald Daniel Recital Hall. For information/tickets, call 562/985-7000.

Thursday, Feb. 9
Professor Reuven Kimelman, Brandeis University, will lecture on “Will Our Grandchildren Be Jewish?” 7 p.m., Karl Anatol Center. Admission is free. For information, contact Arlene Lazarowitz at 562/985-4423.

Thursday, Feb. 9 - Friday, Feb. 10
Les Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo, 8 p.m., Carpenter Performing Arts Center. For information/tickets, call 562/985-7000.

Friday, Feb. 10
Women’s Tennis vs. CSU Fullerton, 2 p.m., campus courts. For information/tickets, call 562/985-4949.
Men’s Volleyball vs. UC San Diego, 7:30 p.m., Walter Pyramid. For information/tickets, call 562/985-4949.

Saturday, Feb. 11
Women’s Tennis vs. Loyola Marymount, 11 a.m., campus courts. For information/tickets, call 562/985-4949.
Women’s Basketball vs. Pacific, 3 p.m., Walter Pyramid. For information/tickets, call 562/985-4949.
Garba With Attitude, 5:30 p.m., Walter Pyramid. For information/tickets, call 562/985-4949.

Saturday, Feb. 12
Women’s Tennis vs. Hawaii, 11 a.m., campus courts. For information/tickets, call 562/985-4949.

Saturday, Feb. 18 - Sunday, Mar. 5

Saturday, Feb. 25
Baseball vs. Illinois-Chicago, 2 p.m., Blair Field. For information/tickets, call 562/985-4949.

Thursday, Feb. 23
Contemporary Concert I, dance concert choreographed by CSULB undergraduates, 8 p.m., Martha B. Knoebel Theater. For information/tickets, call 562/985-7000.

Friday, Feb. 24
Baseball vs. Illinois-Chicago, 6:30 p.m., Blair Field. For information/tickets, call 562/985-4949.

Thursday, Feb. 16
Mary Elizabeth Perry, Center for Jewish and Renaissance Studies at UCLA, talk on history, memory, and gender in Islamic culture in Inquisitional Spain after the forced conversions and expulsions of Muslims and Jews, 5:30-3 p.m., Karl Anatol Center. For information, contact Martine van Elk at 562/985-4222 or mvanekel@csulb.edu.

Saturday, Feb. 18
Women’s Tennis vs. Hawaii, 11 a.m., campus courts. For information/tickets, call 562/985-4949.

Saturday, Feb. 21
CSULB’s Center for Language Minority Education and Research invites you to a symposium presented by CLMEK’s Scholar-in-Residence, Stefan Rosenzweig, J.D. He will discuss high-stakes testing, its history, the current controversy regarding receipt of high school diplomas, and difficulties in challenging such practices in federal courts, 4-6 p.m., Karl Anatol Center. For information, contact Leticia Collins at 562/985-5806.

Wednesday, Feb. 22
Softball vs. Southern Utah (2), 1 p.m., 49ers softball complex. For information/tickets, call 562/985-4949.
Self-Defense Workshop for Women, 6:30-9:30 p.m., PEI-107. For information, call 562/985-8576 or visit the Women’s Resource Center, LAS-105.

Thursday, Feb. 23
Women’s Basketball: CSULB vs. CSU Northridge, 7:30 p.m., Walter Pyramid. For further information/tickets, call 562/985-4949.

Thursday, Feb. 23 - Saturday, Feb. 25
Contemporary Concert I, dance concert choreographed by CSULB undergraduates, 8 p.m., Martha B. Knoebel Theater. For information/tickets, call 562/985-7000.

Friday, Feb. 24
Baseball vs. Illinois-Chicago, 6:30 p.m., Blair Field. For information/tickets, call 562/985-4949.

Saturday, Feb. 25
Baseball vs. Illinois-Chicago, 2 p.m., Blair Field. For information/tickets, call 562/985-4949.
Women’s Basketball: CSULB vs. UC Davis, 2 p.m., Walter Pyramid. For information/tickets, call 562/985-4949.
Men’s Volleyball: CSULB vs. UCLA, 7 p.m., Walter Pyramid. For information/tickets, call 562/985-4949.

Saturday, Feb. 25 - Sunday, Feb. 26
“My Heart Is in the East and I in the Utmost West”: A Colloquium on Sephardic Studies.

February 25: Gala Event - A Performance by Vanessa Paloma, 8 p.m., Gerald Daniel Recital Hall.

February 26: Closing event, “Sephardic Songlines,” 7-9 p.m., Karl Anatol Center. Donations for both performances of $10 ($5 for students) will be requested at the door. Donations of $50 guarantee preferred seating and private reception following the event.


Sunday, Feb. 26
Baseball vs. Illinois-Chicago, 1 p.m., Blair Field. For information/tickets, call 562/985-4949.

Monday, Feb. 27
Musical Theatre West: “A Man of No Importance,” 7:30-9 p.m., Carpenter Performing Arts Center. For information/tickets, call 562/985-1999.

Tuesday, Feb. 28
Baseball vs. UCLA, 6:30 p.m., Blair Field. For information/tickets, call 562/985-4949.
The Music Guild Presents RTE Banbrugh String Quartet, 8 p.m., Gerald Daniel Recital Hall. For information/tickets, call 323/954-0404.

Thursday, Mar. 2
Women’s Tennis vs. UC Irvine, 2 p.m., campus courts. For information/tickets, call 562/985-4949.

Friday, Mar. 3
Baseball vs. Baylor, 6:30 p.m., Blair Field. For information/tickets, call 562/985-4949.

Friday, Mar. 3 - Saturday, Mar. 4

Saturday, Mar. 4
Women’s Tennis vs. Pacific, 1 p.m., campus courts. For information/tickets, call 562/985-4949.

Baseball vs. Baylor, 2 p.m., Blair Field. For further information/tickets, call 562/985-4949.

Track & Field hosts 65th Annual Long Beach Relays, Jack Rose Track. For information/tickets, call 562/985-4949.

Sunday, Mar. 5
Baseball vs. Baylor, 1 p.m., Blair Field. For further information/tickets, call 562/985-4949.

University Jazz Orchestra, 5 p.m., University Theatre. For information/tickets, call 562/985-7000.

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

WHO’S INSIDE

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Editor
Shane Schrier

Art Director
Jorge L. Inarazu

Contributing Writers
Richard Money
Teresa Haynes
Rick Glady
Heidi Anderson

Design Assistant
Janet Ragan

Gootie Luco
Vicki Weller

Photography
David J. Nelson

Victoria Sanchez

Editorial Assistants
Claudia Albert

Georgia Roodbeck

Associate Vice President, University Relations
Tom Boreo

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