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MPA Graduate and Siblings Earn Degrees

on May 30, 2012 | in [CSUN Leaders](#)

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Tseng College MPA graduate Christina Henry with family.

If luck comes in threes, than this year's commencement bodes well for a family with a trio of graduating seniors — one of them CSUN student Christina Henry, who earned her Master of Public Administration degree this May at CSUN. (Her brother, Ryenn West, received a medical degree the same week from Duke University School of Medicine, and her sister, Kandace West, earned a pharmacy degree from USC School of Pharmacy.)

Henry's graduation celebration included a reception hosted by CSUN's Tseng College for its Master of Public Administration and Master of Public Policy graduates.

"I work in the public sector, and this degree will help me do my job better," says Christina, who serves the City of Los Angeles as a recreation director. "There are so many ways to use this information. I am a supervisor in recreation and parks, and I oversee about 50 to 60 part-time employees."

The program teaches strategies in areas such as budgeting, management and policy issues unique to the public sector. According to the National Association of Schools of Public Affairs and Administration, many prominent officials earn MPA degrees, including Ban Ki-moon, UN Secretary General (Harvard University); Ellen Sirleaf, president of Liberia (Harvard University); and Anna Escobedo Cabral, former U.S. treasurer (Harvard University).

The Tseng College's MPA program brings together students working in different areas, including government agencies, health, law enforcement and nonprofits. They not only learn theory but exchange ideas and take practical knowledge to their workplace.

With professionals and managers from a variety of public agencies in her classes, Christina found herself learning different tools and perspectives. “They all do public administration — just different aspects of it.”

Now that Christina earned her MPA, her education ambition continues. She is already thinking about pursuing a doctorate degree.

For more: [Master of Public Administration](#) [Tseng College]

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Graduation, Students, Tseng College

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KCSN Changes GMs

on May 30, 2012 | in [Arts and Culture](#), [University News](#)

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The new interim GM of KCSN, Sky Daniels.

KCSN/Los Angeles 88.5-FM, the Triple-A format radio station run from the CSUN campus, has replaced its departing General Manager, Karen Kearns. Radio vet Sky Daniels, who joined the station last summer as program director, will fill the slot vacated by Kerns, who decided to return to her faculty position in the university's Department of Cinema and Television Arts.

Daniels, who will do both jobs concurrently, was recently nominated for "Program Director of 2012" by the leading trade publication FMQB. He was the catalyst in putting KCSN on the national radar, and his promotion continues the momentum he began. Daniels has a career that spans programming stints at such legendary stations as KFOG/San Francisco, KISW/Seattle and WLUP/Chicago. He also was a senior executive at Universal Music and Sony Music.

"We are very pleased that Sky is able and willing to perform both roles for KCSN — interim general manager and program director — and carry on with the exciting changes put into place over the last several years," said CSUN Vice Provost Cynthia Rawitch. "Sky's enthusiasm for KCSN and the Triple-A format is infectious. I look forward to seeing what the next year brings."

For more: [Sky Daniels Named Interim General Manager of KCSN/Los Angeles](#) [CSUN Media Releases]

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CSUN, US Department of Defense Team Up To Make Safer Skies For Pilots

on May 29, 2012 | in [Science and Technology](#)

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Somnath Chattopadhyay

There's a reason why you're not supposed to use a phone during your flight – the radio frequency. Computer engineering professor Somnath Chattopadhyay puts it in a way we can all understand.

“The aircraft is a big antenna catching signals, and radio frequency (RF) signals can sometimes conflict... with potentially catastrophic implications,” he said.

However, thanks to a grant from the United States Department of the Army, the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) is supporting Chattopadhyay's cutting-edge microelectronics research that could save lives by eliminating potential interference from radio waves in

military aircraft. The nearly half-million-dollar grant follows another large DoD grant that supported Chattopadhyay's successful development of an improved semiconductor device. The new grant is focused on developing optoelectronic switch-actuator devices that can improve the function, efficiency and survivability of critical actuator systems.

“Securing grants is always a challenge but the great reputation of our College of Engineering and Computer Science gives us a helpful advantage,” said Chattopadhyay. He aims to make CSUN a center for advanced study in fabricating microelectronics and nanoelectronics devices. Already students are actively involved in the expanding research and development program.

For more: [U.S. Department of Defense Grant Supports CSUN's Cutting-Edge Microelectronics Research](#) [CSUN Media Releases]

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CSUN and Brown University Collaborate On Catalyst Efficiency Project

on May 25, 2012 | in [Science and Technology](#)

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CSUN physics professor Gang Lu.

Catalysts are one of the key ingredients for kicking off a chemical reaction. California State University, Northridge physics professor Gang Lu is trying to be such a catalyst. According to Lu, 90 percent of all commercially produced chemical products involve catalysis at some stage in the process of their manufacture. Finding ways to make the fundamental processes of catalysis more efficient therefore has the potential transform entire industries.

Lu is sharing a \$6.25 million Multi-University Research Initiative (MURI) grant from the Army Research Office with researchers from Brown University to do just that. And while the research is funded by the military, Lu said the

implications of the five-year study go beyond the defense industry.

“What we are doing could be the foundation for looking into new directions for using catalysis for energy conversion and storage,” Lu said.

CSUN’s College of Science and Mathematics is becoming an important center for nanoscientific research and development, and collaboration has been critical to its success. With his colleagues at Brown University, Lu hopes to demonstrate that macroscopic applied mechanical loading can be used to actively control and tune catalytic reactions through the use of innovative nanoscale material systems.

“What we want to do is control the catalysis by basically applying stress to materials to make reactions faster or slower,” he said.

For more: [CSUN Physics Prof Gang Lu is Part of Multi-Million Dollar Research Project to Make Catalysis More Efficient](#) [CSUN

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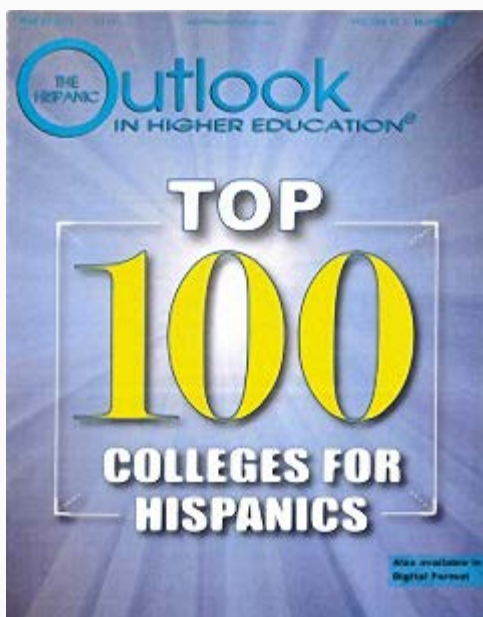
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CSUN Ranks High With Hispanic Students

on May 23, 2012 | in [Education](#), [University News](#)

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The Hispanic Outlook In Higher Education.

Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education released its list of the top schools for Hispanic students, and CSUN came in the top 10 out of 100. In its May 7 issue, “Top 100 Colleges for Hispanics,” the magazine ranked schools based on degrees awarded students. CSUN was award seventh in Hispanic students receiving undergraduate degrees and ninth in students receiving their master’s degrees.

“California State University, Northridge’s latest rankings in the top 10 universities in the nation for Hispanics shows that our long-term commitment to diversity and serving traditionally under-represented students has been successful,” said Interim President Harry Hellenbrand. “As a leading Hispanic-serving institution, these are goals we will continue to seek to improve.”

For more: [CSUN Among Top 10 Universities for Hispanic Students](#) [CSUN Media Releases]

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[Awards, Hispanic-Serving Institution, Outreach](#)

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Professor Makes Waves in Students' Outlook on Science

on May 21, 2012 | in [CSUN Leaders](#), [Faculty and Staff News](#), [Science and Technology](#)



CSUN geological science professor Dayanthie Weeraratne.

Tweet  For CSUN geological science professor Dayanthie Weeraratne, the most important job other than measuring the way the earth moves is making sure her students know their only limitation is in their imagination. That passion for her students and research recently led to a CAREER grant from the National Science Foundation that will ultimately total

more than \$500,000.

“When I tell students stories and explain geological concepts,” Weeraratne said, “they can relate to a real person — it’s not an arbitrary old guy in a lab coat — they can see somebody they know, and they can visualize themselves doing it. It hits home.”

Her five-year project is designed to address cutting-edge questions about plate tectonics and the formation of the Earth’s core while helping to increase the number of underrepresented students within the discipline through the development of the Geological Experience for Minority Students (GEMS) educational program.

Some of Weeraratne’s most powerful lessons have been delivered outside the classroom. In the past two years, she has set sail on four research cruises, taking CSUN students with her each time. While conducting fieldwork at sea she has also been able, via satellite, to communicate with students back in Northridge.

“When a student asks you a question, and through their own curiosity and exploration, discovers the answer...there’s nothing like seeing that light bulb go off. That’s what you live for as a teacher. Some day that light bulb will be a real discovery.”

For more: [CSUN Professor Rides California’s Seismic Waves to More Than \\$500,000 in National Science Foundation Funding](#)
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Senior Film Shows at Cannes

on May 17, 2012 | in [CSUN Leaders](#)

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CSUN student Benny Wolde-Yohannes.

Most students entering their freshman year of college picture the end of their collegiate careers standing with diplomas in their hands and smiles on their faces. Sometimes, however, life gets in the way. For CSUN television and arts soon-to-be graduate Benny Wolde-Yohannes, what got in the way was the Cannes Film Festival, one of the most prominent in the world.

Wolde-Yohannes's senior film project, "Pareto Principal," was chosen to show at the festival's short film exhibition, but the festival and CSUN's graduation overlapped. What to do? Partake in the artistry and revelry along the French Riviera, of course — even if his mother wasn't exactly thrilled with his decision to skip his graduation ceremony.

"I am the first one of her children to get a college degree, and I end up not taking part in the graduation ceremony; she was kind of upset," said Wolde-Yohannes. "My dad understood, though, and convinced her that an invitation from Cannes was a rare opportunity that I could not pass up."

For more: [Northridge Film Student Invited to Show Senior Project at Cannes Film Festival; Is First Recipient of CSUN's Sawhney Creative Excellence Award for \\$10,000](#) [CSUN Media Releases]

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[Arts and Culture, Awards, Benny Wolde-Yohannes, Cannes Film Festival, Mike Curb College of Arts Media and Communication, Ravi K. and Amalia Sawhney Creative Excellence Award, Students](#)

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No Debate on the Winners at the Model United Nations

on May 17, 2012 | in [CSUN Leaders](#)

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The Model United Nations is a yearly gathering during which schools debate each other over the topics of the day. This year, however, there was very little argument about how the CSUN delegation did. The group, led by **political science** professor Peter Kappas, walked away with several top awards, just as they have since 2002.

The overall team was recognized as one of the top in the competition, which is held in New York City and hosted and organized by the United Nations. As for individual awards,

CSUN students Hillary Sandoval and Sevan Niazi each won an Outstanding Position Paper Award. Adam Salgado, Khaliah Burnley, Elina Tivmasyan and David Vassalli all won a Committee Award for being one of the three best delegations within their committees.

“This obviously reflects very positively on the students and the department,” said Kappas, the advisor to the Model United Nations team. “CSUN has won the Outstanding Delegation Award nine times at national and international conferences sponsored by the National Model UN organization. And over the past nine years, CSUN delegates have won over 207 individual and team awards at over 46 local, regional, national and international conferences.”

For more: [CSUN Model UN Students Take Top Honors](#) [CSUN Media Release]

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Psychology Professor Emeritus Captures Lifetime Achievement Award

on May 15, 2012 | in [CSUN Leaders, Faculty and Staff News](#)

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CSUN professor emeritus Barbara Tabachnick.

What do an accomplished belly dancer, writer, artist and CSUN professor emeritus of psychology have in common? Everything, since they're the same person —Barbara Tabachnick, who just picked up a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Western Psychological Association. She's the first CSUN professor to do so.

“It is her influence that explains why our department continues to be cited as the top comprehensive university that supports students to the doctorate who complete their degree,” said Carrie Satermoe, chair of CSUN's [Department of Psychology](#).

One of the main reasons Tabachnick was selected to receive the prestigious award is that, along with current psychology professor Lindal Fidell, she co-authored one of the most commonly used psychology books in school, “Using Multivariate Statistics.” The textbook is considered standard in graduate courses, and more than 200 universities in the United States use it as well as several overseas.

“(Tabachnick) is very good at communicating with the people who use the book by adding chapters and maintaining it so it stays up to date; she is very generous with her time and knowledge,” said co-author Fidell.

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Wolfson Scholar Among Outstanding Seniors Recognized at Honors Convocation

by Shanté Morgan | on May 14, 2012 | in [CSUN Leaders](#)

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Stacia Short-Baguio, recipient of the 2012 Wolfson Scholar award. Photo by Jenny Donaire.

Stacia Short-Baguio thought she was done with education when she dropped out of high school at 17. She had always been a bright student, but the chaos in her life was hectic. Her single, teenage mom had a hard time keeping a roof over their heads and provided little support. She needed stability and a job.

Short-Baguio left high school five units short of her diploma. She began working in the garment district in downtown Los Angeles. Her talent was recognized, and she was recruited to work in sales at a retail apparel boutique. She quickly moved up the ladder, overseeing a network of 23 stores across six districts. But she was keeping a secret and knew something was missing.

“The shame of not graduating high school continued to torment me,” Short-Baguio said. “I kept it a secret.”

At 39, Short-Baguio had a child and decided it was time to “reinvent” herself. She enrolled at Pierce College and finished her two remaining high school classes to earn her diploma. In the spring of 2009, she had hopes of transferring to UCLA, but tragedy struck. Her husband was hospitalized, and she had to reduce her class load. She didn’t have enough units to transfer.

“I was distraught,” Short-Baguio said. However, after some research, she found out she was eligible to transfer to California State University, Northridge.

Today, the 44-year-old communications studies major said coming to Cal State Northridge was the best decision. Inspired by her professors, Short-Baguio immersed herself in campus life, both academically and through activism, serving as vice president of the Gender and Women's Studies Student Association and volunteering at the Women's Resource and Research Center. She also served as a production intern for the "Dr. Phil" show. Her paper on Michelle Obama's "Let's Move" campaign was accepted for the 2011 Undergraduate Scholars Conference. She was one of only 30 undergraduates chosen to participate in that conference. These accomplishments are the reason Short-Baguio has been selected the 2012 Wolfson Scholar.

"I connected with the instructors and developed relationships," Short-Baguio said. "I feel that I got recognition that has propelled my success."

Short-Baguio will be among approximately 1600 students recognized during the university's Honors Convocation ceremony at 6 p.m. on Monday, May 21. She is one of CSUN's outstanding graduating seniors. The award is presented each year in memory of Cal State Northridge's first vice president, Leo Wolfson. Not only must the student have an exceptional academic record, but he or she must also have made significant contributions to CSUN or to the community through co-curricular and extra-curricular activities.

Short-Baguio has a 3.93 GPA.

She graduated Summa Cum Laude in December 2011 with a degree in communication studies and a minor in gender and women's studies. The resident of Woodland Hills credits CSUN professors for helping her "embrace" and appreciate the good qualities about being an older and returning student. She said they also helped her find her passion.

"My life experience allowed me to mentor younger people and advocate for social change," Short-Baguio said. She said as a peer educator at Joint Advocates for Disordered Eating (JADE), she was able to arm college students with valuable knowledge about eating disorders, media literacy and body image.

"She is at the top of the list of intelligent, engaged and well-rounded human beings with whom I have had the privilege to work, learn and teach," wrote communication studies professor Kathryn Sorrells, in her assessment of Short-Baguio.

In addition to being the mother of an 8-year-old, Short-Baguio said she is busy researching graduate school options.

"I am a first-generation college graduate, and I'm proud of that," Short-Baguio said. "It's never too late to pursue a dream."

Other 2012 Outstanding Graduating Senior Award Winners:

Alicia Ana Ayala, of Venice, is the recipient of the Karen, Leon, and Rita Goldstein-Saulter Memorial Award. She is a psychology and child and adolescent development double major who has maintained a 3.40 GPA. Ayala, a recipient of the Ronald E. McNair Post Baccalaureate Achievement Scholarship and the National Institute of Mental Health Undergraduate Honors Fellow, is a well-rounded student who maintained a rigorous and advanced course load. She was a research assistant under Gabriela Chavira, an associate professor in the Department of Psychology, and a member of the student organization "Hermanas Unidas." Ayala has been committed to volunteering with community organizations such as Relay for Life, AIDS Walk, Day of the

Child, Meeting Each Need with Dignity (MEND) and Adelante Hombres Youth Summit. After overcoming countless adversities and disparities, Ayala aspires to be a developmental psychologist who aims to enhance the health and well-being of individuals within the community. “(My) motivation stems from past experiences as well as future capabilities,” she said. In the fall, Ayala will pursue a master’s degree in human development and social intervention at New York University.

Marissa Colangelo, of Northridge, is the recipient of the CSUN Foundation Award. She is a child and adolescent development major who has attained a 3.56 GPA. Colangelo, who has been accepted to both Columbia University and the University of Southern California masters of social work programs, has a love for volunteer and social work. She has successfully managed to balance a 35-hour work schedule while maintaining involvement as a peer mentor in the Professional Pathways, Careers in Child and Adolescent Development class; Monday Night Missions; and the Middle School Diversity Project (MSDP). In addition, Colangelo presented research at the 11th Annual Psi Chi Whittier Undergraduate Research Conference and the 21st Annual UCLA Psychology Undergraduate Research Conference. Despite her achievements, Colangelo has overcome adversity by becoming the first person in her family to attend a four-year university. She has decided to attend Columbia. Her career goal is to become a licensed clinical social worker working with students with special needs.

Swapna Pawar, of Northridge, is the recipient of the CSUN Foundation Award. She is an electrical engineering major who has maintained a 3.92 GPA. A student of academic distinction, Pawar has consecutively been on the dean’s list since 2007. She is the recipient of several scholarships, including the Nirmal Mishra Engineering Annual Scholarship (2007–2012), the Solid State Microwave Engineering Annual Scholarship (2010–2011), the Pradip and Rekha Choksi Endowment in Engineering and Computer Science Scholarship (2011–2012), and the Northridge Scholars Program Recipient (2010–2012). Pawar has successively demonstrated academic excellence throughout her undergraduate career. In addition to maintaining high academic standards, she has maintained a successful career as a collegiate athlete. She was a member of CSUN’s women’s tennis team and a nationally ranked lawn tennis player in India. Pawar tutored students in the Department of Mathematics as well as participated in other extracurricular activities, including her participation with the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers HKN Eta Kappa Nu Chapter. During her senior year, Pawar obtained an internship at the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, along with other extracurricular activities. Upon graduation, Pawar plans to work as an engineer and eventually return to school to earn an MBA.

Zachary Roof, of Northridge, is the recipient of the Karen, Leon, and Rita Goldstein-Saulter Memorial Award. He is an economics major who has maintained a 3.75 GPA. He credits both the University Student Union and the Department of Economics for helping him achieve success. During most of his time at Cal State Northridge, Roof has been actively involved at the University Student Union. He started as a member of the Finance Committee, has served on the USU Board of Directors and was elected in 2011 as vice-chair of the USU Board of Directors. He was a member of the Business Honors Association in the College of Business and Economics. Through the association, he has tutored numerous students and developed himself professionally. Roof said he “credits” CSUN for giving him an opportunity to challenge himself. He has been accepted into Johns Hopkins University’s nursing program. He is considering a career either as a psychiatric or anesthesia nurse and plans to pursue a doctorate in nursing.

Outstanding Graduating Veteran Award Winner:

Marco Antonio Duarte, of Northridge, is a cinema and television arts major, with an emphasis in multimedia, who has achieved a 3.42 GPA. After high school, Duarte joined the U.S. Marines Corps. He was meritoriously promoted three times. Determined to get a college education, Duarte would take satellite college courses when he had a spare moment. Upon his honorable discharge from the Marines, Duarte continued to pursue his education, eventually earning an associate's degree from a community college before transferring to Northridge in 2009. While at CSUN, he often served as a mentor to fellow students. He completed his studies last fall and within a month landed a job in the film industry.

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Students Look to 2012 Graduation and Beyond

on May 14, 2012 | in [Education](#), [University News](#)



(Top row, from left) Jose Escobar, Bonnie Cheeseman, Pablo Corá, La Ronda Jones and César Soto. Photos by Lee Choo.

[Tweet](#) [Pin it](#) In May, more than 9,200 CSUN students will be imagining themselves getting a handshake and diploma as they complete one phase of their lives, ready to jump into another. Their graduation day has been a long time coming, and in 2012, they can finally celebrate.

Students like Jose Escobar Castro, who is getting degrees in Cinema and Television Arts and Central American Studies, are looking forward to utilizing what their professors equipped them with. For Castro, it was his professors in the Mike Curb College of Arts, Media, and Communication and College of Humanities.

“That’s what I’d like to do,” Escobar Castro said, “take what I’ve learned at CSUN and find a way to tell the stories of people most people don’t hear about, like those in the Central American community.”

While some students like Castro are just starting their post-education careers, Bonnie Cheeseman is the embodiment of the CSUN student who is changing their mid-stream. Cheeseman, now an English-as-a-second-language teacher at Pasadena City College and the UCLA American Language Center after leaving a prior career in the entertainment industry, will be receiving a master’s in education administration. Cheeseman feels she is in a different place now and that attending CSUN was the best direction she could go in.

“I really wanted to make a difference in people’s lives, to feel that I was making a contribution to the world,” she said.

For more: [Determination, Hard Work Pay Off as CSUN Students Look to Graduation and Beyond](#) [CSUN Media Releases]

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College of Health and Human Development, Graduation, Michael D. Eisner College of Education, Mike Curb College of Arts Media and Communication

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The Daily Sundial Cleans Up During Awards Season

on May 10, 2012 | in [CSUN Leaders](#)



The Daily Sundial staff cheerily shows off their awards.

[Tweet](#) [Pin it](#) Sometimes, you're really good at what you do. Case in point: CSUN's *Daily Sundial* staff, who, in the past month, have collected six first-place, five second-place, and 11 third-place awards from the California College Media Association and the Society of Professional Journalists.

The 2011-12 school year was very active for the *Sundial*, and it led to an amazing breadth of stories to show off its staff's journalistic skills. Between the state budget cuts, the suspected gunman scare at the Oviatt Library and a host of student protests, the stories flowed to its now award-winning website and print publications. These stories gave the writers, editors and photographers a chance to show off their amazing journalistic chops, and now they're reaping the rewards of a job well done.

"Receiving these awards is a high honor," said Melissa Lalum, journalism professor and publisher of the *Daily Sundial*. "We go up against really excellent schools throughout the country and state. So, to be honored confirms we're doing good work and training our students well."

For more: [Cal State Northridge Journalism Students Receive Top Awards](#) [CSUN Media Releases]

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Arts and Culture, Awards, Daily Sundial, Journalism, Mike Curb College of Arts Media and Communication

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CSUN and Shanghai Normal University Collaborate

on May 8, 2012 | in [University News](#)



From left (standing) : Elizabeth Sellers, Maureen Rubin, Robert Buckner, Mack Johnson, Katherine Baker; (seated) Harry Hellenbrand and Justin Su. Photo by Lee Choo.

[Tweet](#) [Pin it](#) It's been proven time and time again that music can make any situation better. For students studying the discipline at the Shanghai Normal University (SHNU), it can also lead to an amazing time in Southern California. That's because

SHNU teamed up with CSUN to offer its students a chance to study in the San Fernando Valley for an accelerated master's degree in music.

The “3+1+1” program will be for SHNU students who qualify for conditional enrollment in the CSUN Department of Music's graduate program. Cong Li, dean of the Music College at SHNU, called the CSUN music department one of the best in the world, and noted, “One of the most important goals of Chinese education is to be international. Music is without borders. We are really happy to develop this relationship.”

This isn't the first collaboration between SHNU and CSUN. The two universities have had a relationship for more than 20 years, hosting the Women's Chorale, jazz band and theater students. Visiting scholars from SHNU have come to Cal State Northridge, and CSUN administrators and faculty have gone to China. The College of Business and Economics and the Department of Art at CSUN also have undergraduate programs that allow SHNU students to earn bachelor's degrees through courses taken at both schools.

“This kind of a partnership is very enriching for our own students and faculty,” said Robert Buckner, dean of the [Mike Curb College of Arts, Media, and Communication](#). “The introduction into our community of more international students just gives our youngsters a better sense of what the competition is around the world.”

For more: [CSUN Cements Deal to Offer Accelerated Master's Degree With Chinese University](#) [CSUN Media Releases]

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Dean Feucht-Haviar Speaks About Need for Humanities

on May 4, 2012 | in [Education](#)

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Tseng College building.

That humanities and liberal arts play an important role in today's university landscape is something members of SAGE (an acronym for study, activity, growth and enrichment) agreed upon during a forum led by Tseng College dean Joyce Feucht-Haviar. SAGE, a learning-in-retirement organization affiliated with the Tseng College, sponsored the event.

"In today's economy, the jobs available for people without critical thinking skills are disappearing," dean Feucht-Haviar said. "The economy is looking for people with those skills." Liberal arts and humanities serve as a vital connection to career-oriented curricula, because practical, career-focused training received at colleges and universities requires the perspective and creative thinking ability that the humanities

provide.

A liberal education focuses less on a specific skill set and more on an overall intellectual capacity, critical thinking ability and seeing problems from a variety of perspectives. Dean Feucht-Haviar noted the importance of liberal arts and humanities to complement career and professional education.

"When I talk to midsize or larger business and industry representatives, they describe what they are looking for in graduates that matches the outcomes of a liberal education, said Feucht-Haviar. She said that if these employers hire graduate with a bachelor's or master's degree in engineering, they "want someone who can think, communicate, problem-solve and innovate... the outcomes of a liberal education."

The Tseng College has responded to this need with a master's degree in humanities, offered in collaboration with CSUN's College of Humanities. The program offers students an opportunity to reach beyond a focus on a specific career and broaden their thinking to deal with challenges in any profession.

For more: [Master of Arts in Humanities](#) [Tseng College]

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Excelling on the Fields and in the Classrooms

on May 2, 2012 | in [Athletics](#), [CSUN Leaders](#)

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Mikayla Thielges (left), Alyssa Ray (right) and head coach Tairia Flowers.

The rigors placed on the modern student athlete can be incredibly daunting, especially at a Division I school like California State University, Northridge. Between the hours working in both the gym and the library, it takes a very dedicated student to make it through to graduation day. That's why it's important to recognize those who make the list and get congratulated at the annual CSUN Varsity 'N Academic Athletics Honor Roll banquet.

"This is a special time to honor CSUN's student-athletes who have excelled on the playing field and in the classroom," said Rick Mazzuto, CSUN's athletic director. "They are all champions for being great representatives of Cal State Northridge."

The 61 scholar-athlete honorees took their places — along with their more than 300 friends, family members and supporters — in the university's Orange Grove Bistro to celebrate what has become a CSUN tradition. Since 1982, more than 500 Matadors have been honored at the banquet for their dedication to their grade point and batting averages. Students like women's soccer Matador Marisa Miller, who was named co-CSUN Student-Athletes of the Year, put the demands of juggling athletics and schoolwork in perspective.

"Participating in soccer and also carrying a full school load of classes has certainly been a challenge," said Miller, who is also pursuing a graduate degree in family studies. "If I can succeed in both endeavors in school, I can also succeed in helping families in life."

For more: [Cal State Northridge Honors Outstanding Student-Athletes at Varsity 'N Academic Athletics Honor Roll Banquet](#)

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Notable Alumni Address Class of 2012

on May 1, 2012 | in [CSUN Leaders](#), [Education](#), [Science and Technology](#)

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The CSUN Class of 2012 will have amazing speakers at their graduation. Photo by Lee Choo.

America's Teacher of the Year, Rebecca Mieliwocki; Amgen executive Nicholas Timinskas; telecommunications entrepreneur Paul Jennings; and business executive and former U.S. Census Bureau Director Vincent Barabba, all CSUN alumni, are among the dignitaries who addressed the California State University, Northridge 2012 graduating class.

More than 9,000 students were eligible to take part in the ceremonies beginning with the university's Honor Convocation on Monday, May

21, and continuing over the next three days.



Mieliwocki, who received her credential in secondary English education from Northridge in 1996, will address the graduates from the Michael D. Eisner College of Education on Thursday, May 24. The seventh-grade English teacher at Luther Burbank Middle School in the Burbank Unified School District was one of California's five 2012 Teachers of the Year. She was subsequently named 2012 National Teacher of the Year, the nation's oldest and most prestigious teaching honor.

Nicholas Timinskas earned a bachelor's degree from CSUN in 2009. He will address graduates of the College of Engineering and Computer Science. Timinskas is global commercial operations information systems portfolio manager and project manager for [breakawayfromcancer.com](#), founded by Amgen in 2005.

Telecommunications entrepreneur Paul Jennings, who graduated from Northridge with a degree in marketing in 1985, will speak during the ceremony for the College of Business and Economics. Business executive and former U.S. Census Bureau Director Vincent Barabba, who earned his bachelor's degree at what was then San Fernando Valley State College in 1962, will receive an

honorary doctor of laws degree during the same ceremony.

For more: [National Teacher of the Year, Business Leaders Among Those to Address Cal State Northridge's Class of 2012](#) [CSUN Media Releases]

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