

University Reports



California State University, Los Angeles
http://www.calstatela.edu

Vol. 31, No. 2, Spring 2001
Published by the Office of Public Affairs

Rehab Engineering Wins Award



The student-designed “Beach Cruiser” wheelchair—with huge rubber wheels as yellow as the Solar Eagle III—garnered third place in the WESTEC 2001 Student Manufacturing Challenge Competition for collegiate-level engineering and technology students. The students from the College of Engineering and Technology beat last year’s first and second place winners, San Jose State and Arizona State Universities. Team members are: Daniel Ochoa (industrial technol-

ogy junior); Steve Menchaca (mechanical engineering junior); Alicia Martinez (mechanical engineering sophomore); Paul Beas (Electrical Engineering freshman); Abraham Garcia (mechanical engineering freshman); Javier Garcia (industrial technology major); Francisco Garcia (civil engineering sophomore); Ignacio Sanchez (electrical engineering freshman); Sinar Cevallos (electrical engineering freshman); and Jose Louis Perez (mechanical engineering freshman).

The students are part of the H.E.R.E. (Hands-on Experiences in Rehabilitation Engineering) collaborative project between the University and Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center. Heading the project to develop life-enhancing technology for physically disabled people is **Samuel Landsberger**, Northrop Grumman Engineering Endowed Chair in Design and Manufacturing. ■

Student Recognized for Braille Service

Cal State L.A. senior **Jesus Perez** was one of 21 students throughout the state honored with the CSU STARS (Students



That Are Recognized for Service) award. The award acknowledges Perez’ outstanding efforts in service learning and his ongoing commitment to serve the community.

Perez, who was born in 1958 in Mexico, has been legally blind since his late teens. With his wife and children, he followed his father to the United States in the late ’70s, and made a living as a street vendor. His family was stricken with one seemingly insurmountable tragedy after another—a child born with spina bifida and the death of his middle child by accidental drowning.

Despite this, Perez persevered, discovering the Braille Institute. Because only one tutor spoke Spanish, Perez had to learn Braille in English—a language he did not speak. He enrolled in ESL classes at Los Angeles City College, eventually earned his A.A. degree there and transferred to Cal State L.A. A legal permanent resident, he became a United States citizen in 1996—only a year after his son’s death.

The Cal State L.A. Office of Students with Disabilities encouraged Perez to participate in the Service Learning program through EPIC, and Perez was able to earn course credit for the hours he was volunteering at the Braille Institute. Using his bilingual skill as a tutor, Perez taught reading and writing in Braille and facilitated an independent living skills class at the Institute. He will graduate in June with a B.S. in rehabilitation services. ■

New Service Learning Faculty Director

Dean of Undergraduate Studies **Alfredo Gonzalez** has announced that **Lena Chao** (*Communication Studies*) has been named Service Learning Faculty Director, effective April 9, 2001.

Chao was selected on the basis of her professional and scholarly activities in the areas of intercultural communication and organizational behavior, social and public policy issues, advocacy, activism, and conflict resolution, and her active collaboration and alliances with numerous community-based agencies.

Providing leadership to the campus community in the development and implementation of campus service learning activities, Chao will serve as a primary advocate for expanding service learning opportunities for students. With **Jorge Uranga**, director of the University’s EPIC program, she will coordinate services and programs offered through the campus Service-Learning Initiative, and will establish a Service



Lena Chao

Learning Office at the EPIC office.

In her new capacity, Chao will provide support to faculty who are developing and teaching service learning courses and assist in the planning and offering of service learning workshops, meetings and other events for the campus community. Among her responsibilities, she will serve as chair of the Service Learning Advisory Council composed of faculty, students, staff and community representatives, and will serve as the lead contact for the campus on service learning activities and issues. ■

ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS

Vice President Kyle Button, *Institutional Advancement*, has announced the following appointment:

Robin Moler, director of development, College of Arts and Letters, effective April 16, 2001. Moler was previously director of development for University Projects. She received her bachelor's degree in interdisciplinary studies—nonprofit management from CSU Long Beach.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Kazem Alamdari (*Sociology*) presented a paper, "The Integration of Religion and State and the Question of Development in Muslim Societies," at the Middle East Studies Conference, University of California, Santa Barbara, Mar. 24, 2001; addressed the Iranian community in Chicago on "The Rising Tension Between Traditionalism and Modernity in Muslim Societies: A New Dimension" at the Evanston Public Library, IL, Feb. 11, 2001.

Bryant Keith Alexander (*Communication Studies*) presented his performative essay, "Je Regret: Performance, Pedagogy and Pain," at the Seventy-first Annual Convention of the Southern States Communication Association in Lexington, KY, Apr. 6, 2001. He also presented the performative lecture, "Performing Culture and Cultural Performances in Japan: An (Auto)Ethnographic Travelogue" as the first lecture in the 2000-2001 Arts and Letters Lecture series, Cal State L.A., Mar. 29, 2001. The event was jointly sponsored by the College of Arts and Letters, Department of Communication Studies and the U-SU Center for Student Development. Alexander, along with **Patrick Bailey** (*University-Student Union*), **Chris Bass** (*University Housing*) and **Michelle Hooper** (*University-Student Union*), served as volunteers at the 2001 National Championship Tournament: The Honda Campus All-Star Challenge, a college quiz bowl for academically talented students attending Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Orlando, FL, Apr. 8-10, 2001.

James Brady (*Anthropology*) conducted archaeological investigations in a number of caves in Guatemala, Mar. and Apr. 2001. Among the project members was **Sergio Garza** (senior, Anthropology), new to Maya archaeology.

Michael Calabrese (*English*) presented a conference paper, "Images of Male Impotence in Medieval Narrative," at the Medieval Academy Meeting, Tempe, AZ, Mar. 15, 2001.

Madelyn Detloff (*English*) presented a paper, "What is Apprehended Intended: The Limits of Performativity in the Performance of Four Saints in Three Acts," at the Modernist Studies Association Seminar, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, Oct. 15, 2000. At the same conference, she also contributed a paper, "Inflection? Inoculation? Insemination? H.D., Pound, and Fascism's Germs," for the Fascism and the Avant-Garde Seminar, Oct. 13, 2000.

Marilyn Elkins (*English*) presented two papers: "King Hedley II: The August Wilson Reign Continues" at the African



American Culture and Literature Society conference in Salt Lake City, UT, Oct. 2000, and "Sex and the City in the 30's: Dawn Powell's *Turn Magic Wheel*," at the Society for the Study of American Women Writers convention, San Antonio, TX, Feb. 2001. In her role as chief faculty consultant, she supervised the assessment of 345,000 essays at the Advanced Placement English Language and Composition Examination 2000, Daytona Beach, FL, June 2000. In addition, she addressed regional College Board assemblies in Philadelphia, PA, Oct. 2000 and Atlanta, GA, Feb. 2001, and conducted a regional workshop for the College Board, Boulder, CO, Mar. 2001. She was part of the four-person committee appointed by the Council for the International Exchange of Scholars who met in Washington, DC, Nov. 2000, to select Fulbright Scholars for the European Alliance, France, and Brussels. She also was the outside evaluator for the U. S. Department of Education-funded project, "The Classroom Electric: Dickinson, Whitman, and American Culture," May 2000.

Frank A. Gomez (*Chemistry and Biochemistry*), with **V. Villareal** (undergraduate student, Biochemistry), **C. Zurita** (undergraduate, Biochemistry) and **Y. Zhang** (postdoctoral fellow, Chemistry), presented "Separation of DNA Fragments by Capillary Electrophoresis in Uncoated Silica Columns Using

Hydroxypropylmethyl Cellulose as the Sieving Matrix," at the Southern California American Chemical Society Undergraduate Research Conference, Santa Barbara, CA, Apr. 2001. He also presented the following at the 221st American Chemical Society National Meeting, San Diego, CA, Apr. 2001: with **C. Kodama** (undergraduate, Biochemistry), **Y. Zhang**, and **C. Zurita**, "On-Column Ligand Synthesis Coupled to Partial-Filling Affinity Capillary Electrophoresis," and with **J. Kaddis** (undergraduate, Biochemistry) and **Y. Zhang**, "Estimation of Receptor-Ligand Interactions by the Use of a Two-Marker System in Affinity Capillary Electrophoresis."

Julie Joyce (*Luckman Gallery*) served as a guest speaker and visiting artist for the lecturer series, "Los Angeles Now," Art Department, Loyola Marymount University, Apr. 3, 2001. She also served as adviser for the Adeline Kent Award Committee, San Francisco Art Institute, 2001.

Henry Mendell (*Philosophy*) gave a talk, "Phenomena and Models in Early Greek Astronomy," to the History and Philosophy of Logic, Mathematics, and Science Working Group at UC Berkeley, Apr. 11, 2001.

Ali Modarres (*Pat Brown Institute*) served as moderator at a UCLA conference on community and technology, Mar. 30, 2001.

Snezana Petrovic (*Theatre Arts and Dance*) directed *Search Engine*, written and performed by Denise Duffield, at the Side Street Live Performance and Media Space, Los Angeles, Apr. 22, 2001. The performance—an exploration of death, the after-life, and communication technologies—



University Reports

University Reports is published three times each quarter during the fall, winter and spring, and once during the summer, by the Office of Public Affairs. **All material must be sent by e-mail, <cselkin@cslanet.calstatela.edu>**. For copy submission guidelines, see <<http://www.calstatela.edu/univ/ppa/ur/urform.htm>>. (Call ext. 3047 if you have no access to the Web.) Copy for the **Spring 2001 issue** (vol. 31, no. 3) must be received in the Public Affairs Office by **Wed., May 23, 2001**.

Editor—Carol Selkin
Assistant editor—Margie Oi Yu
Copy editor—Nancy Miron
Photography—Stan Carstensen
Layout production—Yuri Watanabe,
Margie Oi Yu
Printing—Reprographics.

used text, video, and sound, and combined fact and fantasy, to navigate the course of questions we ask ourselves when faced with mortality.

Joseph Prabhu (*Philosophy*) gave a talk on the topic "Human Rights at 53: a Cross-Cultural Perspective," at the Cal State L.A. Faculty Colloquium organized by Phi Kappa Phi and the Office of the Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs, Apr. 10, 2001. He also gave a lecture, "Dharma, Human Rights and the Prospect of a Global Ethics," for an invited panel on "Virtue Ethics from A Global Perspective" at the Pacific Division Meeting of the American Philosophical Association, San Francisco, Mar. 31, 2001.

Gilbert Sanchez (*Pat Brown Institute*) participated on a panel, "Addressing Critical Junctures in Education," together with LAUSD President Genethia Hudley-Hayes and The Advancement Project co-director Connie Rice, at the Healthy Children-Healthy City Conference, sponsored by Children's Hospital, Beverly Hilton Hotel, Apr. 22, 2001.

Beverly Stein (*Music*) presented her paper, "Carissimi's Oratorio and Jephthe's Daughter: A Female Jesuit Daughter?,"



at the South Central Renaissance Conference's 2001 Jubilee Meeting, College Station, TX, Apr. 2-5, 2001; she organized and coordinated the American Musicological Society's annual meeting of the Northern California and Southern Pacific Chapters at Cal State L.A., which included the Annual Ingolf Dahl Competition for the best California student paper in musicology, Apr. 28-29, 2001.

PUBLICATIONS

Bryant Keith Alexander (*Communication Studies*) published the essay, "Reflections, Riffs and Remembrances: The Black Queer Studies in the Millennium Conference (2000)," in *Callaloo: A Journal of African-American and African Arts and Letters*, vol. 23, no. 4, Fall 2001.

Ramani Durvasula (*Psychology*), was the lead author, with co-authors E. Miller, H. Myers, and G. Wyatt, of the paper "Pre-

dictors of Neuropsychological Performance in HIV Positive Women," which was pub-



lished in the *Journal of Clinical and Experimental Neuropsychology*, vol. 23, no. 2, 2001.

Marilyn Elkins (*English*) published a book review, Joan Herrington's "I Ain't Sorry for Nothin' I Done": August Wilson's Process of Playwriting" in the *African American Review*, Oct. 2000, and an article, "Another Part of Myself: The Complicated Case of Kay Boyle and Evelyn Scott," in *Rediscovering Evelyn Scott*, ed. Dorothy Scura, Knoxville, TN: University of Tennessee Press, 2001.

Ramin Farahmandpur (*Educational Foundation and Interdivisional Studies*) co-authored "Teaching Against Globalization and the New Imperialism: Towards a Revolutionary Pedagogy," in the *Journal of Teacher Education*, vol. 52, no. 2, 2001; "Class, Cultism, and Multiculturalism: A Notebook on Forging a Revolutionary Multiculturalism," in *Multicultural Education*, vol. 8, no. 3, Spring 2001; "Marx After Post-Marxism: Reclaiming Critical Pedagogy for the Left" in *Working Papers Series in Cultural Studies, Ethnicity, and Race Relations*, ed., E. San Juan, Jr., Department of Comparative American Studies, Washington State University: Pullman, Washington, 2001; and "Reconsidering Marx in Post-Marxist Times: A Requiem for Postmodernism?," *Anuário de Educação Ano 1999-2000: Reflexões Para O Terceiro Milênio*, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 2000.

Mahmoud Omidasalar (*Library*), with Iraj Afshar (emeritus, Tehran University), published a facsimile edition of the classical Persian history *Mujmal al-tawârikh wa al-qisas* [*A Compendium of Histories and Legends*], Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin—Preussischer Kulturbesitz, Orientalabteilung (HS or 2371), Tehran, Talâyeh, 2001. The Berlin manuscript of *A Compendium of Histories and Legends*, composed ca. 1126 AD and copied in 1350 AD, is the oldest known manuscript of the text. Omidasalar and Afshar's edition is the first in a series they will edit called *Persian Manuscripts in Facsimile*, funded by the Society for Promotion of Persian Culture (S.P.P.C.), Indiana, USA. The project is designed to make photographic reproductions of medieval Per-

sian manuscripts available to students of Persian paleography. Omidasalar's English introduction focuses on paleographic and codicological features of the codex.

HONORS AND APPOINTMENTS

Kazem Alamdari's (*Sociology*) book, *Why Iran Lagged Behind and the West Moved Forward*, now in its 4th edition in less than 8 months, received the highest ranking among the top ten best selling books in Iran by *Douran-e Emrooz* (daily newspaper), Feb. 23, 2001.

Madelyn Detloff (*English*) has been appointed the co-chair of the International H.D. (Hilda Doolittle) Society, Mar. 5, 2001.

Christophe Lagier (*Modern Languages and Literatures*) has been appointed by the CSU International Programs to a full-



time resident director position in France, effective 2000-2003. As an international program resident director, Lagier is the front-line representative of the CSU overseas program in France and bears responsibility for the academic success and administrative efficiency of its educational operations.

Ali Modarres (*Pat Brown Institute*) has been elected to the executive board of the Urban Affairs Association, becoming the first board member in the Association's history from the West Coast, Apr. 27, 2001. He has been appointed to the Immigration Integration Advisory Committee of the California Little Hoover Commission, Apr. 10, 2001.

Marilyn Elkins (*English*) has been re-appointed as the chief faculty consultant for the Advanced Placement Examination in English Language and Composition, 2001, as a member of the Fulbright Selection Committee for the European Alliance, France, and Brussels, 2001, and as an evaluator for the U.S. Department of Education, 2001.



IN THE NEWS

• **Mohammad Ala** (*Management*) was featured on the Service Learning Internet Community, an “online community for



CSU service-learning practitioners.” He was honored as SLIC Featured Member of the Month for Apr. 2001.

• *Why Iran Lagged Behind and the West Moved Forward* by **Kazem Alamdari** (*Sociology*), a best-selling book in Iran, has been the focus of news stories in Iran and abroad. Alamdari has been interviewed, or the book has been covered by media including SBS Radio, (Australia, Apr. 25, 2001), *Douran-Emrooz* (Iran, Feb. 23, 2001), <www.Iran-Emrooz> (Europe, Feb. 21, 2001), *Ketab Hafteh* (Iran, no. 113, Feb. 7, 01), Radio Liberty (Europe, Feb. 7, 2001), INTV (Iranian National TV, Jan. 18, 2001), Voice of America (Jan. 14, 2001), *Persian Cultural Review* (Sacramento, no. 97, Jan. 2001), <www.Iranians.com> (USA, Dec. 2000), *Iran Times* (Washington, DC, Dec. 2000), IRTV (Iranian TV in Los Angeles, Nov. 3, 2000), NIRS Radio (Los Angeles, Nov. 2000), and *Rehavard* (USA, no. 55, Winter 2000).

• **James Brady** (*Anthropology*) was featured in a segment of the Ultimate Guide Series, entitled “Understanding Pyramids,” on the Discovery Channel, 9 p.m., May 7, 2001.

• The College of **Engineering and Technology** was mentioned for providing technical support to Los Altos High School’s solar car project in the article, “Students Get a Charge Out of Car Project,” by Talia Starkey, *San Gabriel Valley Times*, Apr. 20, 2001. Los Altos High School is considered one of the top high schools for designing and building solar and electric experimental cars.

• **Stuart Fischhoff**’s (*Psychology*) comments about celebrities who are famous for merely being famous and their “shelf life,” appeared in a *USA Today* article, “Pseudo-celebs stretch 15 minutes in careers.” His comments on the new wave of reality TV shows appeared in the *Newsday* article, “Real Tough: TV’s new

army of reality shows isn’t for wimps,” Mar. 28, 2001, and his comments about the new reality TV show, *The Weakest Link*, appeared in an article, “She Plays Rough,” by Eric Deggans in the *St. Petersburg Times*, Apr. 15, 2001. His comments on the appeal, or lack of appeal, of the new NBC game show, *Weakest Link*, appeared in a *USA Today* article, “Nastiness of Weakest Link may not play in Peoria,” Apr. 18, 2001.

• **Don Hewitt** (*Theatre Arts and Dance*) was mentioned as “a much-admired longtime ballet instructor at Cal State L.A.” in an article, “L.A. Treated to Rare Ballet Showcase,” *Dance Magazine*, Aug. 2000. He also was listed as a Horton Lifetime Achievement Award honoree in an article, “Diavolo Dance Theatre Wins Four Lester Horton Awards,” by Lewis Segal, *Los Angeles Times*, Calendar section, Apr. 3, 2001.

• Cal State L.A. business alumna **Rosario Marin** was featured in the article, “Huntington Park Official Nominated as U.S. Treasurer,” by Richard Marosi, *Los Angeles Times*, Apr. 18, 2001.

• The Teddy Edwards celebration at the **Luckman Fine Arts Complex** was reviewed as “an invaluable Los Angeles musical measure,” in an article, “Edwards Tribute Soars Over Hurdles,” by Don Heckman, *Los Angeles Times*, Apr. 9, 2001.

• **Ali Modarres** (*Pat Brown Institute*) was interviewed live, in-studio, by KPPC National Public Radio, for an hour-long program focusing on “re-districting and reapportionment in and beyond California,” Apr. 2001.

• **Marshall Reddick** (*Emeritus, Marketing*) was interviewed for an article, “Looking for the Hot Spots—Where are home prices going to skyrocket? The savvy observer might try looking at cafes, not schools, for the clues,” *Los Angeles Times*, Apr. 29, 2001.

• **Jaime Regalado** (*Pat Brown Institute*) was quoted in a *Los Angeles Times* article, “Defining Issues Elude Mayoral Candidates,” by Matea Gold, Mar. 22, and was interviewed on Mar. 26 by *U.S. News & World Report* on the Los Angeles mayoral primary race. During April, he was interviewed as follows: by Annette Konda of the *Los Angeles Times* for an Apr. 1 article, “West Valley is Home to a More Diverse Population”; by Karen Robinson-Jacobs of the *Los Angeles Times* for an Apr. 2 article, “I’m L.A., It’s Hail to the Figurehead”; by Victoria Infante of *La Opinion* for an Apr. 9 article, “Golpize a indocumentados reabrio heridas del

incidente Rodney King”; again by Matea Gold of the *Los Angeles Times* for a front-page article on Apr. 11, “New Coalitions Forged in an Upbeat L.A.”; by Karen Brandon of the *Chicago Tribune* for an article on Apr. 11, “L.A. Story: A Runoff: Mayor’s Race Shows City in Flux.” In addition, he was interviewed by Erica Werner of the Associated Press, for a story which ran nation-wide on Apr. 11-12, and by Todd Purdum of the *New York Times* for a front-page article on Apr. 12, “Los Angeles Vote Puts Latino First.” Purdum also quoted him in a separate *New York Times* Apr. 12 article, “Runoff Set for Los Angeles Mayor.” Regalado was interviewed by Gordon Smith of the Copley News Service and quoted in the Apr. 12 *San Diego Union-Tribune* article, “Villaraigosa, Hahn Rev Up for L.A. Runoff,” and by Laura Mecoy of the *Sacramento Bee* for an Apr. 15 article, “Latinos Flex Muscles in L.A. Race.”

• **Dave Yanai** (*Athletics*), men’s basketball coach, was interviewed for an article, “A Community of Basketball Going Strong—Youth Sports: Teams give Asian American players an opportunity to learn the game and provide valuable feeder to high school programs,” by Paul McCleod, *Los Angeles Times*, May 3, 2001.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The **54th Commencement** exercises at Cal State L.A. will take place on Saturday, **June 9**, in the Jesse Owens Stadium. The colorful academic procession will start at **8:15 a.m.** and the formal exercises are scheduled to end at approximately 10 a.m.

This year’s speaker will be CSU Trustee **William Hauck**. Hauck is president of the Sacramento-based California Business Roundtable; director of Information for Public Affairs, Inc.; and a member of the Board of the Bob Moretti Memorial Scholarship Foundation.

Department and program receptions in various campus locations will follow the ceremony. More than 20,000 people are expected at this year’s Commencement.