January 30 1998

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Accounting Professor Earns Top Teaching Award

The highest honor given by CSUSB to its faculty, the Outstanding Professor Award, was announced Jan. 21 as President Al Karpin, several former outstanding professor award-winners and Vice President Lou Fernandez made a surprise visit to Cynthia Bird during an afternoon class she was teaching.

A Redlands resident, Bird has been teaching for the accounting and finance department since 1989. The award, which recognizes foremost her teaching skills, also lauds her scholarly activities and public service.

A licensed CPA, Bird brings her professional experience as a tax consultant to the classroom and in the development of coursework. Not only do her courses in taxation deal with annual updates for changes in the tax law, but they also provide students with hands-on learning in the preparation of typical business and individual tax returns. Her courses often cover a large amount of technical material in the 10-week academic quarter at Cal State. For graduate classes she also has developed a hands-on tutorial using CD-ROM technology and assigned several research projects to the students. She also serves as the accounting and finance department's student internship coordinator and has worked with students individually on honors and independent study projects.

Currently, Bird is creating Internet-based training for professionals working in the financial services industry through Digital Finance University. She has developed courses on individual retirement accounts and an introduction to S corporations and she is updating a course on individual retirement accounts to reflect the extensive changes brought about by the Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997.

Her work as a teacher has earned consistent praise—students have recognized her with six teaching awards and her colleagues in the School of Business and Public Administration have honored her five times since 1990.

With 13 journal articles to her credit since 1993, Bird publishes widely. Her most recent contribution to the literature is "Filing for Home Office Deductions," which was printed in the Journal of Accounting, Taxation and Finance for Business last summer. In addition she has several books to her credit primarily dealing with federal tax laws. She updates each annually for changes in the tax laws and to include tax forms.

Bird says working as a tax consultant for a CPA firm in Palm Springs for four years proved helpful to her technical expertise and prompted many of her ideas for publications.

Her service to the university has included chairing the student awards and scholarships committees of both the business school and her academic department. She has served on her department's strategic planning, curriculum, student advising and graduate committees. She currently serves as secretary-treasurer for the business honorary, Beta Gamma Sigma.

Bird holds a B.A. in mathematics from the College of William and Mary and earned her Ph.D.
in accounting and taxation from the University of Georgia. She taught in the public school system as well as at the college and university level prior to joining Cal State. She also has worked for several accounting firms, including Arthur Young and Company.

The Outstanding Professor honor includes a $1,000 cash award and recognition at various functions throughout 1998, including Commencement. Bird's husband, Curt Westbrook, also is on the accounting and finance faculty at Cal State.

911 Has Your Number...and More

Callers dialing 911 from any phone on campus will be better served with a new system near completion.

Dispatchers now, says Dennis Kraus, director of public safety, immediately will know not only the number of the phone but also of the location from which a caller is dialing. Anyone with a medical emergency, for example, he says, and who is unable to tell a dispatcher where they are will not have to worry that police will need more time to find them.

"It's a true 911 system," Kraus says. The university received a $200,000 grant from California to purchase the state-of-the-art technology. Extension 5165 is still the number to call for all non-emergencies.

The new 911 also keeps a call history. "So we might know in advance," says Kraus, "what the problem might be." While all calls go first to campus police, pushing one button sends the information dispatchers see on their computers straight to the city's police department.

A second state grant also gives campus police the ability to push a button and send all emergency calls to city police in case the university has to evacuate the campus.

‘Variety’ the Word in Coming Museum Shows

Photographs by the internationally known artist, Kate Steinitz, will be on display at Cal State, San Bernardino Jan. 29-March 12. Other artists exhibiting are Laurel Rhoads, Kristina Faragher and Lance Boen.

Steinitz, a German-born artist living from 1889-1975, came to the U.S. during the rise of Hitler. Steinitz has also had exhibits in the New York Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Museum of Modern Art in New York. Her photographs have been loaned to the museum by her daughter, Ilse Berg.

Art converges with music in Laurel Rhoads single-piece installation of a large motion-sensitive music box. Rhoads graduated from CSUSB in 1994 and earned her M.F.A. degree in 1996 from the Claremont Graduate School. She's currently teaching beginning sculpture at Cal State.

Faragher is a senior at Cal State and is featuring her paintings. As an art major, her works focus on single objects within interiors. Boen, whose work is a collection of surreal sculptures
concerned with psychological trauma, is putting on his first exhibit since graduating with his M.F.A. degree last year from the Claremont Graduate School.

An opening reception for the exhibitions will be held in the Seymour and Mignon Schweitzer Auditorium in the Visual Arts Center on Thursday, Jan. 29. It will begin at 5 p.m., with a talk by Rhoads at 7 p.m. The museum hours are 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday-Friday; Saturday and Sunday, noon-4 p.m., with free admission.

**Milestones**

High fives to all those university employees celebrating employment anniversaries this academic year -- particularly those with 20 years and more. Those who have been here 20 years are Julius Kaplan, Joe Payan, Francisco Perez, Richard Santa Cruz, Cheryl Beesley and Janet Gregoire. Tom Rivera, Beverly Smith, Kristen Sanders, Eileen Kachevas and Ted Krug have been at CSUSB 25 years. John Hatton has hit the Big Three-O. A luncheon for all honorees is being held Feb. 12. For a complete list of those celebrating anniversaries see The Friday Bulletin Online at http://enrollment.csusb.edu/~pubaff/Friday/cover.html.

**Crime Statistics**

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December

Murder          0
Sex Offense Force 0
Sex Non-Force   0
Robbery         0
Assault Agg.     0
Assault Simple   0
Burglary        2
Theft           9
Theft from M.V.  3
Stolen Vehicles  3
Arson           0
Sex Crime Misd.  0
Vandalism       4
Narcotics Fel.   0
Narcotics Misd.  0
Disturbance     0
Obscene Calls   2
Bomb Threats    0
Threats         0
```
Hate Crimes 0
Weapons 0
Decal Theft 1

TOTALS 24

Arrests
Felony 0
Misdemeanor 2

Traffic
Injury 0
Non-Injury 2

State of Calif. $12,802
Personal $8,633
Total $ Loss $21,435

Calendar
Jan. 29-March 12.
Art Show Openings.

Friday, Jan. 30
Symposium.
“Research in Ethics.” Presentations by CSUSB faculty include: “Universal Human Rights or Ethnocentrism” by Christopher Naticchia, philosophy; “Sexual Feeling in Psychotherapy,” by Cynthia Paxton and Joseph Lovett, health science and human ecology; and “Ethics in the Science Curriculum” by Klaus Brasch, biology. 9-11:30 a.m. Visual Arts Building, Room 101. Sponsored by Faculty Professional Development Coordinating Committee. Free. Ext. 3055.

February
Black History Month Events.
Friday, Feb. 6

Spanish Play: Opening Night.
"Yerma," by Frederico Garcia Lorca. A woman’s intense desire for a child is greeted with cold resistance by her husband. Feb. 6, 7, 13 and 14. 8 p.m. in Recital Hall. General admission $4, students $3 and children under 10 free. Ext. 5814.

Music.
CSUSB Symphonic Band performs "Trittico" by Nellybel and "Chorale and Alleluia" by Hanson. 8:15 p.m., Recital Hall. General admission $5, students and senior citizens $3. Ext. 5859.

The Friday Bulletin is a biweekly newsletter published for administrators, faculty and staff of California State University, San Bernardino. The online edition of The Friday Bulletin can be found at http://enrollment.csusb.edu/~pubaff/Friday/cover.html. Next issue: Feb. 6. Items should be submitted in writing, on disk or through e-mail to:
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Vol. 33, No. 2