Dear Readers,

The year 2015 was a milestone year for California Northstate University and its three colleges. In the history of CNU, it will always be remembered as the year of brand new beginnings: new colleges, new faculty, and its inaugural class of students at different degree programs. This newsletter is an attempt to capture the important highlights from fall of 2015. We hope you enjoy the very first issue of **CNU Scope: What we C N U!** There were many more events and stories that played out at our university that did not make it to this issue of the newsletter, but we hope to continue this journey of informing you about CNU and its colleges. I welcome you to share your success stories at CNU. Please, write to me if you would like to contribute to the next issue of the newsletter and inform us about what you have been doing at CNU. I would also like to take the opportunity to thank my hardworking newsletter team for collecting the CNU news for you.

Happy New Year!

Sincerely,

Aparna Sinha, PhD
Assistant Professor
English Language Education
College of Health Science
CNU SCOPE | Issue 1

COMMUNITY OUTREACH SERVICES

CNU WORKING FOR ITS COMMUNITY

CNU volunteered in several community service programs and was very happy to be there for its community.

CELEBRANDO NUESTRA SALUD

On October 11, 2015, CNU Students and Faculty volunteered at Celebrando Nuestra Salud, a Latino community celebration at Southside Park, Sacramento. Our faculty and students provided free health screenings and educational healthcare related materials for the Latino Community celebrating binational week.

“Thank you all so much for making this event (Healthy Family & Turkey Drive) such a success. Assembly member Cooper was thrilled with the turnout. Having CNU students there conducting medical checks and providing flu shots definitely made the event what it was. We really appreciate all of your support and look forward to partnering again in the future!”

-Mikey Hothi, District Director
Assemblymember Jim Cooper, 9th District

Healthy Family & Turkey Drive

California Northstate University proudly participated in the 1st Annual Thanksgiving Healthy Family Turkey Drive on November 24th, 2015 held at Luther Burbank High School, Sacramento. In partnership with Assemblymember Jim Cooper and several other local organizations, CNU students and faculty members volunteered to provide flu vaccinations and physical examinations, working together to provide a healthy, positive atmosphere at the event. CNU’s participation at this Turkey Drive was an attempt to connect and invest in the health of its local community—serving the less fortunate and marking the beginning of a wonderful holiday season.

--Jeffrey Chen

Dr. Bin Deng, Dr. Grant Lackey, Angel Lor, Melissa Kimura, Jaime Ubhoff, Rebecca Lemus, Gevorg Martirosyan (COP students), Assemblymember Jim Cooper, Steven Nemeck, Amram Averick, Dean Cyndi Porter-Fraser, and Dr. Xiaodong Feng (left to right) Photo Credit: Anji Khan
CNU EVENTS

Inaugural Gala

“An Evening Under the Stars” | On September 19th, 2015, California Northstate University celebrated the grand opening of its newly accredited College of Medicine at its Elk Grove, California campus. Several physicians and leaders in the community, including U.S. Congresswoman Doris Matsui, Senator Richard Pan, and members of the Elk Grove City Council, joined the university’s faculty and administration in welcoming the inaugural class of medical students. The Gala marked as the institution’s official introduction to the Elk Grove community, following the successful development and preliminary accreditation of the College of Medicine. The medical school has been established with a hope to address the increasing demand for physicians in the Sacramento region, and more broadly, in California, especially with the increasing demand of professionals in healthcare in the US today. CNUCOM faculty is working hard to train its medical students to become high-quality, patient-centered physicians through its comprehensive curriculum and innovative vision for medical science.

—Jessica Tran

University Open House

California Northstate University hosted a University-Wide Open House on Saturday, November 21st, 2015. Two-hundred and fifty people (prospective students and their family) attended this event. The event allowed the community to gain knowledge about the current programs offered at the University. CNU also introduced its new BS-Pharm D and BS-MD Programs. Sergeants from the United States Air Force and the United States Army presented information about the scholarship programs available to prospective students.

—Anji Khan

“I just wanted to thank you for inspiring me on Saturday. I attended the Open House at CNSU with my family and we were all very moved by your words. I felt your energy.” – Attendee
CNU EVENTS

Ugly Sweater Day

CNU celebrated its very first “Ugly Sweater Day” on Dec 19th. Christopher Phillips, a College of Medicine student, was one of the many who participated in this event.

CNU’s Spooky Halloween

California Northstate University’s 7th Annual Halloween Bash was a huge success, as members from College of Medicine, College of Pharmacy, and College of Health Science joined together to celebrate Halloween. Students and faculty alike tapped into their goofy and spooky sides and adorned themselves in frightful, colorful, and creative costumes, while engaging in festivities of Halloween and taking silly pictures at the photo booth. Surrounded by spooky decorated walls and amidst cheers and laughter, the audience cheered through the costume award presentations covering different categories, including Most Creative, Scariest, and Best Team Costume. As the evening drew to a close, costumed partygoers bewitched the audience with an impromptu dance, ending the spooktacularly wicked party! Best Costume award winner among CNU faculty was: Dr. Nick Valley dressed as a robot.

-- Kirsten Lung

Holiday Party

CNU’s Fun and Spirit Committee organized an Employee’s Holiday Party on Dec 17th, 2015. Several CNU employees (staff and faculty) were celebrated and awarded for successfully completing five years. Jim Bunse (Facility Manager), David Fong (IT Support Specialist), Kiki Forsyth (Payroll & Bookkeeper), Imani Grant (Student Affairs Coordinator), Tiffanie Ho (Institutional Research Coordinator), Welly Mente, PhD (Assistant Professor, Clinical Sciences), and Karen McClendon (Vice President of Institutional Research) were appreciated for giving five years to CNU.

-- Anji Khan
Making us Proud: CNU Administrators, Staff, & Faculty

Success of a university lays in the hands of its strong, academic, and successful staff, and faculty...

Dr. Hieu T. Tran, Dean of the College of Pharmacy is an example of one of these great leaders. He has received research funding, engaged in scholarly activities with more than 100 articles and abstracts, co-authored and edited books, and has presented expert information at nearly 100 professional and scientific conferences throughout the United States and abroad. He has served on the boards of the American Heart Association, Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, and the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky. He was the President of the Board of Directors of Asia Institute Crane House. He also founded the Vietnamese-American Professional Pharmacy Association (VAPPA) at the College of Pharmacy. This group was founded to promote health awareness through health education and workshops and to the Vietnamese-American community and other underserved populations.

-Ivy Alegre

Dean Rose Leigh Vines is an exceptional leader and a very motivating human being. Dr. Vines was a recipient of Medical Technology award by the California Association for Medical Laboratory Technology, for her contributions to the clinical laboratory sciences professions. A leader in her field, Dr. Vines has published over forty multimedia anatomy teaching tools for Pearson Publishing, A.D.A.M., and Micron Biosystems. She has had a very busy past year in building College of Health Science. CHS received its WASC accreditation on May 8th, 2015, and admitted its first cohort of students in Bachelor of Health Science and Pre-Med Post Baccalaureate Program. In partnership with COM and COP, CHS has also created accelerated programs—2+4 and 3+4 BS-MD and BS-Pharm D. A new cohort of undergraduates will start these new, accelerated programs in fall 2016.

"I am very proud of our team at College of Health Sciences." – Dean Vines

Dean Joseph Silva states---

"I am very grateful for the President and Board of Trustees to entrust me to be the Dean of our College of Medicine and help launch our inaugural class of medical students. We have an innovative curriculum and facilities to develop first-rate physicians. The incoming students are our colleagues, and together with our faculty will develop further innovators in education.

- Anji Khan

How exceptional it is to find someone as extraordinary as Dean Joseph Silva to BBQ for the Medical Students during orientation. Dr. Silva has over fifty years of experience training Medical and residents. Dean Silva states---

"I am very grateful for the President and Board of Trustees to entrust me to be the Dean of our College of Medicine and help launch our inaugural class of medical students. We have an innovative curriculum and facilities to develop first-rate physicians. The incoming students are our colleagues, and together with our faculty will develop further innovators in education.

- Anji Khan
**CNU Staff spotlight**

**Silvea Rodriguez**, Director of Admissions for the College of Medicine, is another remarkable mentor. She is always looking out for the best interest of CNU students. Her diligence and commitment for excellence in education reflects in her daily roles. Rodriguez is pursuing her Doctor of Strategic Leadership from Regent University and hopes to inspire people to integrate leadership onto every area of their lives, not just career.

**Sandra Ramirez**, Outreach and Recruitment coordinator at College of Health Science has in past presented research at conferences on various topics, including: The history of workforce diversity initiatives in the federal sector, using work-based learning to improve retention rates for first-generation college students, improving foster youth services in California’s K-12 public education system, and the impact of early education experiences on high school completion rates. Ramirez really hopes to get her PhD one day, as she is interested in doing research in work force development, issues in higher education for first-generation college students, and best-practices in improving employment outcomes for college students. Ramirez is a recruitment expert and works hard in informing prospective undergraduate students about health science degree programs available at CNU.

**Jason McDowell**, is an outstanding member of the COP Admissions staff. Jason is the Outreach and Admissions Advisor and is wonderful at calming nervous interview candidates with his comedic relief. Not only is he talented as an Advisor, but he performs in the Sacramento region and is also a set designer. He also serves as the President of the Toastmasters Club. The question is, what doesn't Jason do? Jason says, “I hope to be a good bridge for students that are transitioning from undergrad to graduate school.”
An inspirational Student

Dan Thu Nguyen is an inspirational student. Before enrolling in the PMPB program at CNU, Nguyen earned her Doctor of Dental surgery (DDS) degree from University of the Pacific Arthur A. Dugoni School of Dentistry and has had her own successful private dentistry practice for more than a decade. In addition to having a professional degree and her own private practice, Nguyen also earned an MBA and is currently in the process of pursuing a Master’s in Marriage and Family Therapy. To better serve her dental patients, she received further training in the field of cosmetic surgery, surgical extractions, and pediatric care. Her final goal is to become a physician to serve her patients in a greater capacity. We can see Nguyen has a deep rooted desire to learn.

–Aileen Yum-Chan

Matthew Zabel, PhD, a member of the inaugural class of California Northstate University School of Medicine, started his journey to medicine after a life changing event during his junior year playing baseball at South Dakota State University. A close teammate suffered a traumatic brain injury from an accident. “I spent a week at the neurosurgical ICU waiting for him to wake up,” Zabel says, “but he never did.” This event was the precipitant that sparked his interest in neuroscience. “It changed my perspective on what I wanted to do, so I switched into biology to pursue medicine.” Zabel hopes to set the foundation for future students and help shape the medical school curriculum. “I want to use my background to build a strong research program.” Zabel is excited to contribute to the great potential of the School of Medicine, “I want to help California Northstate produce great MDs and make a name for ourselves.”

–Rainy Zhang

Mario Listiawan, Pharm. D., BCOP obtained his Bachelors of Science degree from the University of California, San Diego with magna cum laude honors in 2006 and obtained his Doctor of Pharmacy from the University of California, San Francisco. He then completed training at California Northstate University, College of Pharmacy.

Dr. Listiawan completed a PGY-1 (Post-Graduate Year-1) general practice residency from California Northstate University, COP/Sutter Medical Center Sacramento and a PGY-2 oncology specialty residency at Kaiser Permanente Medical Care Program - Inland Empire. Dr. Listiawan recently joined the IT department at UCLA.
Congratulations to CNU College of Pharmacy on defeating the other 11 pharmacy schools and winning the 2015 California Society of Health-System Pharmacists (CSHP) Quiz Bowl by a landslide!

Happy Retirement
Norman Fong!
The CNU community would like to wish Mr. Norman Fong, Senior Vice President of Operations, a Happy Retirement. Thank you for all your contributions, dedication, and outstanding service to California Northstate University. Best of luck for all of your future endeavors! You will be missed!

Congratulations to Leticia Lewis, Administrative Assistant of COM Admissions, for becoming a recently published author.

Welcome New Faculty of fall 2015

1. Dr. Michael Bradbury, Professor of Biochemistry, Molecular Biology, and Genetics
2. Dr. Scott Braley, MD, Associate Professor of Surgery, Oncology, Anatomy and Clinical Skills
3. Dr. Diane Cao, Assistant Professor Clinical Sciences
4. Dr. Floyd Culler, MD, Professor of Pediatrics, Endocrinology and Clinical Skills
5. Dr. John Cusick, Associate Professor of Immunology
6. Dr. Guy diSibio, MD, PhD, Associate Professor of Pathology and Medical Genetics
7. Mr. William Davis, Lecturer in English & Technology Studies
8. Dr. Joseph Dhahbi, MD, PhD, Associate Professor of Cell Biology, Physiology, Genetics, Genomics
9. Dr. Nehad El-Sawi, Assistant Dean of Faculty Affairs and Development Professor of Molecular Biology, Immunology and Microbiology.
10. Dr. Sambandam Elango, MD, Professor of Medical Education
11. Dr. Rania Elkeeb, Assistant Professor of Pharmacology
12. Dr. Susan Ely, Assistant Dean of Student Affairs, Admissions and Outreach, Professor of Molecular Biology, Immunology and Microbiology
13. Dr. Hanns Haesslein, MD, Professor of OB/GYN
14. Dr. Nazilia Hejazi, MD, Assistant Professor of Pathology
15. Dr. Michael Ibrahim, MD, PhD, Assistant Professor of Biochemistry, Pharmacology, Physiology, Radiology/Imaging
16. Dr. James Jin, Associate Professor of Pharmacology
17. Dr. Ravinder Khaira, MD, Associate Professor of Public Health, Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine, and Clerkship Director – Pediatrics
18. Dr. Nena Mason, PhD, Assistant Professor of Physiology and Anatomy
19. Dr. Mark Owens, MD, Professor of Surgery and Clerkship Director – Surgery
20. Dr. Damon Meyer, Assistant Professor of Molecular Genetics
21. Dr. Olivia Phung, Assistant Professor of Pharmacy Practice and Administration
22. Dr. Jose Puglisi, PhD, Assistant Professor of Physiology, Biostatistics
23. Dr. Rajendra Ramsamooj, MD, Professor of Pathology, Surgical Pathology and Clinical Skills
24. Dr. Leonard Ranasinghe, MD, PhD, Professor of Medical Education and Emergency Medicine, and Clerkship Director – Emergency Medicine
25. Dr. Aparna Sinha, Assistant Professor of English Language Education
26. Dr. Mukarram Uddin, PhD
  Professor of Anatomy and Embryology
27. Dr. Nick Valley, Assistant Professor of Chemistry
28. Dr. Katherine Whitcome, Assistant Professor of Biological Anthropology
29. Dr. Chris Wosterberg, Assistant Professor of Chemistry
College of Health Science moved to a new location in December, 2015. This new building is located on US 50 off of exit 17 Zinfandel Drive. The space is a two-story, 47500-square foot building on 2910 Prospect Park Drive, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

Congratulations to COM faculty: Dr. Hugo Arias, Dr. JM Lunetta, Dr. Grant Lackey, Dr. Ann Poznanski for getting published in 2015.

Congratulations to COP faculty: Dr. Tibebe Woldemariam, Dr. Rania Elkeeb, Dr. Andy Nauli, Dr. Eman Atef, Dr. Ruth Vinall, Dr. John Cusick, Dr. Leo Fitzpatrick, Dr. Karen Hassell for getting published in 2015.

Congratulations to CHS faculty: Dr. Damon Meyer and Dr. Chris Wostenberg for getting published in 2015.

Congratulations to Dr. Hugo Arias, Dr. Eman Atef, DR. Ruth Vinall, Dr. Suzanne Clark, Dr. Tibebe Woldemariam, Dr. Andy Nauli, Dr. Leo Fitzpatrick, Dr. Parto Khansari, Dr. Martha Pauli, Dr. Karen Hassell, Dr. Lingyun Lu for presenting poster presentations and speaking at conferences.

Congratulations to Dr. Ralitsa Akins for being appointed as member of the NBME National Clinical Research Test Material Development Committee.

Congratulations to Dr. Lackey for being elected as the Chair and Dr. Jennifer West as the elected board member of California Pharmacist Association for Sacramento Valley.
Hot Topic: Why MMI?

What is the new interview format that everyone has been buzzing about lately? Universities across the nation have now adopted the multiple mini interviews method. The MMI consists of multiple interview stations, each consisting of a scenario based question. Interview candidates are given a few minutes to read the scenarios and then present their answers. The catch is, there is no right or wrong answer, nor is the scenario used as a test of knowledge. This may lead some to wonder, what is the purpose? An MMI format is used to assess problem solving abilities, analytical skills, communication skills, cultural sensitivity, maturity, empathy, and other non-cognitive skills.

According to an article in the New York Times, Dr. Harold Reiter, a professor at McMaster University said that “In fact, candidate scores on multiple mini interviews have proved highly predictive of scores on medical licensing exams three to five years later that test doctors’ decision-making, patient interaction and cultural competency.”

The MMI is used in an effort to find future physicians who are able to establish strong interprofessional relationships and can communicate well with their patients and colleagues.

-Anji Khan


Guess Who?

Guess the two people in the pictures, and send your responses to anji.khan@cnsu.edu

The correct answers will be eligible for a visa gift card.
The name of the winner will be announced in the next issue.