

THE HILLS ARE ALIVE in Gorman, Calif., for a few weeks in early spring, when the normally drab hillsides explode in poppies and lupines. Now some of it may end up a preserve, courtesy, at least in part, of Los Angeles city planner Michael O'Brien's UCLA Extension landscape architecture class. The intrepid students dug in for 10 weeks of intensive analysis and wrote a 92-page report that presents the best case for setting aside 2,800 acres of open space along a five-mile stretch of Gorman Post Road as a wildlife preserve.



UCLA VERSUS AIDS

WORLD AIDS DAY brings out the best in the Bruin community. Last Dec. 1, the now-annual AIDS Day noontime rally, built around speeches, live music and a \$50,000 check presentation to the UCLA AIDS Institute,

was only one among a half-dozen campus events planned by students and faculty from the institute, the World Arts and Cultures Department, and other campus organizations. Masses of students

marched into Bruin Plaza to the cadence of a single drumbeat or a chant, acknowledging their individual responsibility by taking an HIV test. In Kerckhoff Art Gallery, hand-sewn testimonials were on display as part of an AIDS Memorial Quilt exhibit. Over at the Instructional Media Library, people sat at viewing stations to watch the Tom Hanks hit *Philadelphia*. At the John Wooden Recreation Center, students heard experts from AIDS Project Los Angeles talk about obstacles to treatment in L.A. and the world.

— Cynthia Lee



PHOTOS: (AIDS) BOZA IVANOVIC; (FLOWERS) RICHARD DICKEY; "WHAT DREAMS MAY COME"

HEALTHY SIGN FOR CALIFORNIA HEALTH CARE

TOO MANY PATIENTS, not nearly enough nurses, especially in California. The "help wanted" sign is up for more than 100,000 nursing positions across the country, and the demand is particularly dire in the Golden State, which ranks 49th in nurse-to-general-population ratio. A UC San Francisco study shows that, given California's rapid growth and aging population, an additional 43,000 nurses will be needed by 2010 just to maintain the current distressing ratio.

With that in mind, the UC Board of Regents has allocated \$5.2 million for new bachelor's and entry-level master's degree programs at the UCLA School of Nursing. Beginning in fall 2006, the university will offer the UC system's only undergraduate nursing degree program, along with a graduate program that will prepare individuals with no previous nursing experience for nursing leadership positions in hospitals. The new programs will more than double the number of nursing students enrolled at UCLA from the current 300 to 624 by 2010.

The reinforcements can't come too soon. In 2003, according to a study by the UC San Francisco Center for California Health Workforce Studies and the Public Policy Institute of California, there were 544 registered nurses per 100,000 Californians, compared with 782 RNs per 100,000 people nationally.

Finding students shouldn't be a stretch. "The work environment and salary levels have improved to the point that this is now seen as a tremendously attractive field," says Heidi Crooks, UCLA Medical Center's senior associate director of operations and patient-care services. "As a result, in California we have thousands of superbly qualified individuals who are interested but can't get in."

The nursing students in UCLA's new program will get hands-on experience as well as textbook training. Each will spend 40 hours a week in clinical rotations at UCLA Medical Center, Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center and St. John's Health Center. Once graduated, they'll have their work cut out for them.

— Dan Gordon '85