

THIS WEEK

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ON TRACK--The University announced a major milestone last week in the Recreation, Wellness, Events Center and Stadium Complex project-- private funding had reached \$25 million. Construction on the first phase of the Complex, pictured here in an artist's concept, is expected to begin as early as fall 2006.

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[Full Story](#)

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Alumna Month Profile: Vivian Kao

When Vivian Kao ('94, Marketing) was in charge of one of the largest artificial Christmas tree sellers in the world, she wasn't afraid to add a little color.

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Vanpooling is available as an alternative commute mode for Sacramento State employees. Information on vanpooling can be found by calling VPSI (a private leasing company) at 1 (800) - VAN RIDE. Additional information about CNG vans is available by calling the Department of General Services at 327-1078. For vanpool lists, visit www.sacramento-tma.org or call 441-7074. Or contact Alfredo Orozco, Sacramento State's employee transportation coordinator at orozcoa@csus.edu or 278-7527.

Bulletin Staff



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Vice President,
University Advancement
Carole Hayashino

Associate Vice President,
Public Affairs
Frank Whitlatch

Writers
Ted DeAdwyler
Laurie Hall
Megan Lloyd-Jones

Electronic Communications
Mark Konrad

California State University, Sacramento • Public Affairs
6000 J Street • Sacramento, CA 95819-6026 • (916) 278-6156 • infodesk@csus.edu



All-female cast to star in opera theater production

Witches, comedy and some of opera's best kept secrets come to light in Sacramento State's production *The Other Women...*
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Events Calendar

ATHLETICS

Hornets clinch Causeway Cup

Sacramento State clinched the Causeway Cup after the No. 52 Hornet women's tennis team defeated UC Davis 7-0 at Spare Time tennis courts Wednesday.
[Full Story](#)

Hornet Sports

With \$25 million in private support, Recreation and Wellness Center moves ahead

Sacramento State has raised more than \$25 million in private support for a Recreation, Wellness, Events Center and Stadium Complex, a project on the south side of campus that has been a high priority for the University.

Campus officials are planning a groundbreaking on the first phase of the project – a new fieldhouse – by fall 2006. Groundbreaking for the second phase – a Recreation and Wellness Center – will be as soon as late 2007.

Fundraising efforts continue for both facilities, as well as for a stadium renovation and a 6,000- to 8,000-seat arena that are also part of the Complex. A range of naming opportunities are available.

The announcement on the fundraising milestone was made by Associated Students President Angel Barajas during a noon-time event in the University Union that featured a “State of the Students” address and the unveiling of a new Associated Students logo. It came just two years after students voted to help pay for the project if University President Alexander Gonzalez could find \$25 million in private support.

Barajas called the Recreation and Wellness Center portion of the Complex “a project that will bring new vitality to campus life, and expand the student experience well beyond the classroom.” He thanked those who have worked to make the facility a reality, including students, staff and community members – many of whom were in the audience.

“One of the first things the students told me when I arrived here three years ago was that they wanted to build a facility like this,” President Gonzalez said. “I told them we would support their efforts, and I was confident that the community would respond, which it has. The Recreation and Wellness Center has the potential to change Sacramento State for the better, giving students another reason to stay on campus and experience college life beyond the classroom. It will be a recreational and social center, and a place where students learn healthy lifestyle habits that last a lifetime.”

The more than \$25 million in private funding for the Recreation, Wellness, Events Center and Stadium Complex includes a recently signed \$12 million memorandum of understanding with Pepsi Bottling Group, \$10 million from Alex G. Spanos, \$2 million from the Eli and Edythe L. Broad Foundation, about \$1 million from an anonymous alumnus and other gifts.

The Complex is a key component of the facilities portion of the University’s Destination 2010 initiative, which seeks to make Sacramento State a destination campus for the West and a premier metropolitan university.

The first phase of the overall Recreation, Wellness, Events Center and Stadium Complex project is a new fieldhouse on the south side of the stadium. It will contain training facilities, coaches’ offices and locker rooms for intercollegiate athletics. Work on the facility, to be named the Broad Athletic Facility, is expected to begin in fall 2006 and be completed by late 2007.

The Recreation and Wellness Center portion of the project will be on the north side of the stadium. It is estimated to cost \$50 million and be completed in June 2009. It is envisioned as including such things as a fitness center, athletic courts, rock-climbing walls and a health center, though programming and design have not been completed and the architectural team will be working with the campus community to determine exactly what the facility will contain.

Groundbreaking for the Recreation and Wellness Center will follow completion of the Broad Athletic Facility.

The planned arena, initially envisioned as a part of an even larger Recreation and Wellness Center, is now slated to be built as a separate facility on the east side of the stadium near a new parking structure that is still under construction. The timeline for building the arena and renovating the stadium will depend on additional funding.

New social work program to help Southeast Asian community

Responding to a strong community need, Sacramento State has launched a program to train social workers to work specifically with ethnic groups in the Southeast Asian population.

The program, believed to be one of the first of its type, will help social services agencies better provide needed services to Hmong, Vietnamese, Cambodian, Mien and Laotian families in the Sacramento region.

"We are trying to break down the barriers to social services," said Serge Lee, the professor of social work who created the program. "Many in the community are not accustomed to seeking help for private, family matters. They have needs in the areas of health, mental health and education, and many times don't know where to turn."

Lee said that few social workers have knowledge about the culture of Southeast Asians, many of whom are immigrants or refugees. Better-trained social workers who have a thorough understanding of the Southeast Asian community would provide a vital link, said Lee, a noted social work researcher who is believed to be the only person of Hmong descent to have earned a doctorate in social welfare.

To reach more Southeast Asian families in need, Lee has put together Sacramento State's new Southeast Asian Focus Cohort Master's Degree Program in Social Work, which he hopes can be a model for other communities with large Southeast Asian populations. Nineteen students, most of who are already employed with social services agencies but are seeking a master's degree and want to work with Southeast Asian individuals and families, are currently taking the classes as a group, also called a cohort. The classes, which began last fall, cover subjects such as human behavior and the social environment, social welfare policy, and social work practice with diverse populations with emphasis on Southeast Asian content

Lee said the program grew out of the concerns from three area agencies: the Hmong Women's Heritage Association, the Asian Pacific Community Counseling program and Asian Resources, Inc. The agencies, along with Sacramento County mental health officials, felt that something needed to be done to provide better training to social workers to address the needs of individuals and families in the Southeast Asian community.

About 70,000 people in Sacramento County make up the Hmong, Vietnamese, Cambodian, Mien and Laotian communities, according to the 2000 Census.

Over the course of the three-year program, the students also must take 18 specialty seminar sessions that allow them to more fully explore the historical and cultural background of Southeast Asians. The students learn about the life-changing experiences of groups escaping from their native country, becoming refugees in other countries and ultimately settling in America and the Sacramento region.

"In order for social workers to gain a better understanding of the experiences of Southeast Asians as they are assimilating into the mainstream of American society, the students need to understand how individuals and families got where they are and how they are adjusting to life in the United States," Lee said.

One part of the program, Lee said, will help the social work students better understand Southeast Asian youths, who often balance the cultural expectations of their parents and those of American society.

"Southeast Asian youths and adults look at themselves and the environment around them, and wonder who they are among these differing cultural values."

Lee said one negative outgrowth is that gang membership is perceived as a new and enjoyable culture for some Hmong youths.

The social work students will also learn things they won't find in a social work textbook, Lee said. Slapping someone on the back may be considered taboo, especially in a Buddhist family. And "yes" doesn't always mean yes. "Southeast Asians place high value on harmony and may tell the American what they think the American wants to hear rather than their true feelings," Lee said.

This fall the social work students will begin working in the field in agencies serving the Southeast Asian community. They are expected to receive their master's of social work degrees in spring 2008.

— *Ted DeAdwyler*

Faculty honored for teaching, service

Sacramento State has announced its 2005-06 Outstanding Teaching, Outstanding Community Service and Outstanding University Service Award recipients. They will be honored at a reception from 3 to 5 p.m. on April 18 in the University Union Ballroom.

The Outstanding Teaching Awards program is designed to recognize excellence in teaching. This year's recipients are:

- College of Arts and Letters: Stephanie Tucker, English
- College of Business Administration: Stanley Han, Business Administration
- College of Education: Kimberly Gordon, Child Development
- College of Engineering and Computer Science: Tien-I Liu, Mechanical Engineering
- College of Health and Human Services: Debra Harms, Speech Pathology and Audiology
- College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics: Judi Kusnick, Geology
- College of Social Sciences and Interdisciplinary Studies: Samantha Hens, Anthropology
- Library: Linda Goff

The Outstanding Community Service Awards program recognizes faculty members who apply their knowledge and skills in the community to enhance the public good rather than for personal income or corporate profit. The recipients are:

- College of Arts and Letters: Kathleen Moore, Foreign Languages
- College of Education: Marcy Merrill and Mark Rodriguez, Teacher Education
- College of Health and Human Services: Kathleen Osborn, Nursing
- College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics: Brian Hausback, Geology

The Lifetime Achievement Award for Community Service recognizes extraordinary commitment over the long term, and a legacy of significant, enduring contributions to the community at-large for a decade or more. This year's recipient is Jeri Langham, Biological Sciences, from the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics.

The Outstanding University Service Awards Program is designed to recognize the importance of faculty service through leadership and involvement at the University. This year's recipients are:

- College of Arts and Letters: David Martin, Communication Studies
- College of Education: Pia Wong, Bilingual/Multicultural Education
- College of Engineering and Computer Science: Susan Holl, Mechanical Engineering
- College of Health and Human Services: Robyn Nelson, Nursing
- College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics: Tom Krabacher, Geography

At the April 18 event, the recipients will each be presented a personal plaque and will be acknowledged on plaques displayed in the office of the dean of each College.

Watch for Sac State on public television

Through a new partnership with KVIE, Sacramento State people and programs are being featured in 90-second news spots at least three times a week on the public television station.

The segments, which are called "Focus," appear during the short time between regular programs, usually just before the top of the hour. They began airing two weeks ago.

Initial segments feature the University's Underground Railroad Digital Archive, professor Richard Bay's puppetry, professor Rob Wassmer's research on urban sprawl, the Japanese American Archival Collection, and the recent Business Summit with campus and business leaders.

KVIE is donating the airtime, and the University has contracted with the station to produce the segments.

"Focus" segments will be available for download and viewing after they appear on KVIE at www.csus.edu/news.

For more information, contact Sacramento State Public Affairs at 278-6156.

Students awarded Gates scholarships

An eclectic group of Sacramento State students were recently awarded the nationally recognized Gates Millennium Scholarship sponsored by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

The program's goal is to recognize the diversity in American society and the need to increase access to higher education to reflect the nation's multicultural society. Students are given a scholarship for the undergraduate degree of their choice and have the opportunity to receive funding for graduate programs in academic disciplines where their racial and ethnic groups are under-represented.

The award winners for 2005-06 are Pamela Ames, Hector Fernandez, Felicitas Marquez, Yen Nguyen, Lorena Oliva, Jose Paniagua, Miguel Ramirez and Kay Saechao. The eight students from diverse backgrounds were honored for excellence in both academics and community participation.

For example, Pamela Ames, an 18-year-old Native American from the Yurok tribe, received the Gates scholarship for maintaining a GPA of 4.14 in high school while being student body treasurer, playing three sports, taking honors classes and working part-time. Ames is majoring in civil engineering and said she wants to use her degree to give back to her community, the Hoopa reservation in Humboldt County.

"I live in a rural area where there's a lot of old buildings. I want to go back and help rebuild the area," Ames said.

Saechao, another Gates winner, is a 21-year-old economics student raised in Redding and is Mien. Her parents fled Laos, moved to Thailand as refugees in the 1980s and finally found a place to call home here in the United States. Saechao said she was nominated by one of her teachers in high school for her participation in the Asian American club, Key Club and in the Mien community.

"Since (the Mien population) just came to the U.S. in the 1980s, we are still trying to get an education and adjust to the American culture," she said. Saechao is also interested in education and said she would like to take the opportunity to earn a graduate degree in education through the Gates program.

The Gates program also offers graduate scholarships in engineering, library science, mathematics, public health and science. Since 1999, more than 9,000 students have been awarded the scholarships.

For more information on the Gates Millennium Scholars Program visit www.gmsp.org.

— Megan Lloyd-Jones

Web CT migration underway

The campus is in the process of upgrading from WebCT version 4 to WebCT version 6. There are steps that faculty and staff need to take in order to migrate to the new system and deadlines that need to be observed. Courses will not be automatically migrated

Through December 2006, faculty can migrate courses to WebCT 6 by submitting a course request form to http://www.csus.edu/webct/webct_account.stm. On Jan. 1, 2007, WebCT 6 will be live for all courses and WebCT 4 will no longer be available.

To migrate courses, submit a course request form at http://www.csus.edu/webct/webct_account.stm. Brand-new courses can also be created using this form.

Training and consulting are available throughout the spring, summer and fall. Training workshops are available to provide step-by-step instructions on how to use WebCT 6. To sign-up for training visit: <http://www.csus.edu/uccs/training/>. To view or download handouts visit: <http://www.csus.edu/webct/faculty/docs.stm>.

Drop-in assistance is also available at the Faculty/Staff Resource Center in the Academic Information Resource Center Room 3012. Consulting appointments with Academic Technology and Creative Services professionals are available by calling 278-3370, in ARC 3005 or by e-mailing web-courses@csus.edu.

Details: Academic Technology and Creative Services at 278-7994.

Faculty Senate schedule

Tuesday, April 11

1:30 p.m., Curriculum Subcommittee
3 p.m., Executive Committee

Wednesday, April 12

9 a.m., Writing and Reading Subcommittee
3 p.m., GE Course Review Subcommittee, Sacramento Hall 150

Friday, April 14

1 p.m., AITC, Sacramento Hall 150

All meetings are in Sacramento Hall 275 unless otherwise noted.

Professional Activities

Recognition

Paula McNeil-Shelby, Kinesiology and Health Science, received the "Woman of the Year Community Service Award" given by the National Council of Negro Women, Sacramento Chapter.

Grants

S. K. Ramesh, Electrical and Electronic Engineering, has received a 2006 INTEL equipment grant to establish a new EEE graduate computing laboratory in Santa Clara Hall 1235. The equipment consists of a dozen high-end workstations and will be installed by the end of April. In addition, the grant supports the development costs, and provides seed funding, for a microprocessor-based learning platform that is expected to be used laterally across the curriculum. The value of the INTEL grant is approximately \$43,000.

Scholarship

Ron Coleman, Biological Sciences, was invited to participate in the "Dinner with a Scientist" event held in Modesto on March 21. This event allows local middle school students to meet and have dinner with scientists to encourage the students to pursue careers in science and engineering.

Sue Foster, Art, is chair for a sculpture exhibition at the Sacramento Fine Art Center April 23-May 27.

Stanislaus J. Dundon, Philosophy, gave a presentation to the Science Club at Rio Americano High School on the benefits of new genetically modified foods, and the risks of their inadequate regulation on March 29. Dundon is also quoted several times concerning the future of the Great Central Valley by noted essayist Gerald Haslam in his most recent book of essays *Haslam's Valley* (2005, Heyday Books).

Richard Adams, English, and **Tom Knutson**, Communication Studies, organized and conducted a pre-departure seminar for Sacramento State students going to Thailand to teach at the Chitralada Royal Palace School in Bangkok. Adams and Knutson helped develop the student program in cooperation with officials at the Chitralada Royal Palace School.

In the News

Mark Emerson and **David Wetzl**, Art, had the exhibition of their paintings at JayJay Gallery in Sacramento reviewed in the April 2006 issue of the West Coast edition of *Gallery Guide*. Emerson's painting serves as the color illustration for the magazine while a painting by Wetzl is illustrated on the page with the review.

News Digest

Aquatic Center celebration

The Sacramento State Aquatic Center will hold a Founders Grove Dedication and Picnic at 4 p.m. on May 6. The Center was founded in 1981.

The event will pay tribute to: Ray Clemons, Intercollegiate Athletics; Don Hinde, University Union; Bruce Drummond, Physical Education; Garth Tanner, California State Parks and Recreation; Cary Goulard, Recreation and Leisure Studies; Mike Ammon, California Department of Boating and Waterways; and Craig Perez, University Advancement.

Free boating activities will be available. RSVP to 278-2842 or cindi@csus.edu.

Book buyback set

Hornet Bookstore will offer spring semester textbook buyback in several locations.

Buyback hours at the Hornet Bookstore are:

- Pre-finals: 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. on May 8 to 11; 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on May 12; and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on May 13
- Finals Week: 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. on May 15 to 18 and 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on May 19
- Post-finals: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on May 22 to 26.

Hours at the Dining Commons for residence hall students are:

- Finals Week: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Tuesday and Wednesday, May 16 and 17

Hours at the University Union are:

- Finals Week: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Monday, May 15 in the Lobby Suite; and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Tuesday to Friday, May 16 to 19 in the Redwood Room.

Details: 278-6495 or www.sacstate.bkstr.com

May is 'bike month'

May is Bike Commute Month and cycling advocates in the Sacramento Region are again attempting to collectively log one million cycling miles during the month.

To register for 2006 Bike Commute Month visit www.bikecommutemonth.com. The site offers a message board (Cycle Talk) for posting general comments and a "fix it" section for documenting cycling concerns that need attention.

Participants can share how they became a bicycle commuter, the best or worst parts of their bike commute, and what keeps them riding by clicking on "Bike Commute Stories." There is also an opportunity to nominate someone for a Bike-Friendly Award. More interactive features will be added in coming weeks, including a bicycle classifieds section.

Details: Alfredo Orozco, employee transportation coordinator, at orozcoa@csus.edu or 278-7527

Writing retreat

Writing Across the Curriculum invites full and part-time faculty to attend a free full-day retreat focused on improving student writing and learning from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday, Aug. 28 at the Alumni Center. Colleagues from across disciplines will participate in a day of sharing ideas and assignments in an interactive workshop based on Barbara Walvoord's *Effective Grading: A Tool for Learning and Assessment*.

To register, contact Dan Melzer at melzer@csus.edu or 278-6925 by June 1. Space is limited.

Campus Announcements

Interviews set for Engineering and Computer Science dean

Members of the College of Engineering and Computer Science and the campus community are invited to

meet the candidates for the position of Dean of College of Engineering and Computer Science on the dates below:

- 2 to 2:50 p.m., Tuesday, April 11, University Union California Suite: Ramzi J. Mahmood, Chair, Department of Civil Engineering, Sacramento State
- 2 to 2:50 p.m., Thursday, April 13, University Union Forest Suite: S. K. Ramesh, Professor and Chair, Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, Sacramento State
- 3:25 to 4:15 p.m., Monday, April 17, 2006 (new date and time), University Union Delta Suite: Helen Boussalis, Professor, Department of Electrical and Computer

Engineering and Director, SPACE (NASA) and MATIES (NSF) Laboratories, CSU Los Angeles
Vitae may be reviewed in the Office of Academic Affairs in Sacramento 230 or in the Dean's Office for the College of Engineering and Computer Science in Riverside 2014. Written comments should be sent to Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Ric Brown at ricb@csus.edu no later than Wednesday, April 19.

New date for Study Abroad Fair

The Study Abroad Fair has been postponed. The new date is 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Wednesday, April 26 in Library Quad. The event will give students considering studying abroad the opportunity to talk to other students who have participated and get information about course credit, registration fees, financial aid, scholarships and application deadlines.

For more information, call the Office of Global Education at 278-6686 or stop by Lassen Hall 2304.

Deadline nears for Staff Awards Luncheon tickets

The 2006 Staff Awards Luncheon will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Friday, April 21 in the University Union Ballroom. Tickets for the event are \$10 per person and must be purchased by Wednesday, April 12. They will not be sold at the door.

Tickets are available from:

- Denise Anderson, Riverside 2014E or 278-6127
- Thamsyne Brown, Facilities 100 or 278-4217
- Amanda Cruz-Golberg, Sacramento 173 or 278-6627
- Lillie Jones, Library 5007E or 278-3635
- Barbara Oseto, Lassen 3008 or 278-5694
- Arianne Pancallo, Mariposa 5000B or 278-6502
- Rolly Robinson, Sequoia 312 or 278-6607
- Leah Spratt, University Union 3004 or 278-5484

Group tables are being coordinated by Linda Robles. To purchase a table for 10, buy your tickets from any ticket seller listed above, then bring the 10 tickets to Robles in Sacramento 173, 278-6967, who will assign the tickets to a group table.

Alumni Month Profile: Vivian Kao

When Vivian Kao ('94, Marketing) was in charge of one of the largest artificial Christmas tree sellers in the world, she wasn't afraid to add a little color.

In fact thanks to Kao, Hong Kong-based Boto International Holdings Limited sold psychedelic pink varieties last holiday season.

Yes, pink.

"It is definitely important for Boto to offer a full range of trees to the market, whether they include basic designs or unique designs using new technology," says Kao, the company's recent chief executive officer who remains on its board of directors.

Boto's pre-lit trees have specially-made fiber-optic needles that also glow in lime green, purple and even tangerine. Such glitzy innovation paid off for Kao and Boto shareholders in the past. Under Kao's leadership, the company earned more than \$150 million in 2004, up from nearly \$135 million the year before.

She now hopes to have similar success with VK Consultancy Service, which she started last May. The company helps manufacturers in Hong Kong, Macau and China establish marketing plans.

As Boto's CEO for nearly five years, Kao was credited with embracing creativity and enlarging Boto's research and development staff. The company has major markets in countries such as the United States, Hong Kong, China and the United Kingdom, and sells six million artificial Christmas trees and hundreds of thousands of holiday accessories each year, as well as patio furniture to key retailers like Wal-Mart and Target.

"It is not necessary to change your value system and behavior to fit in other people's worlds," says Kao, who while at Boto was responsible for 8,000 employees in five countries. "You need to try to respect the differences between people and work together to achieve the end result without paying too much attention to the little steps of getting things done."

Kao's parents were Chinese immigrants who emigrated to Hong Kong during the Cultural Revolution. Her father, Michael Kao, founded Boto in 1983. He is credited with reigniting the artificial tree market by making a more realistic tree using newer, more pliable plastic. The Washington-based Carlyle Group has since acquired the company, but Kao's family still owns about 10 percent of its controlling interest.

Kao is also an heiress to a fake fur dynasty. She is thankful for the opportunity to move up in her family's company where she started in 1994 as a merchandiser in the marketing department. She feels especially responsible for supporting other women in the corporate world.

Kao says having the chance to learn in an American educational system gave her the confidence to make tough business decisions.

"It encourages students to be open-minded to different cultures and it motivates students to be creative and outgoing," she says. "I was very shy before I moved to the United States (to go to school)."

All-female cast to star in opera theater production

Witches, comedy and some of opera's best kept secrets come to light in Sacramento State's production *The Other Women...* at 8 p.m., Thursday, April 13 and Friday, April 14 in the Music Recital Hall in Capistrano Hall.

The production is directed by Robert Vann, a graduate student in the Music Department and is comprised of eight female students who will perform five scenes from five different operas which have one thing in common—an all female cast.

One highlight of the production is a scene from *La Clemenza di Tito*, one of W.A. Mozart's last serious operas. "This is a real opera gem," said Vann. "It is seldom heard and was written shortly before his death."

The performance will also feature scenes from Mozart's *Le nozze di Figaro*, *Faust* by Charles Gounod, *The Merry Wives of Windsor* by Otto Nicolai and *Dido and Aeneas* by Henry Purcell.

A combination of light comedy and sinister drama, and scenes in French, English and Italian, will give the audience a smorgasbord of different opera styles. To add to the creative flair of the performance, each scene is set in a different time period from the medieval, Roman and renaissance eras to early 20th century and modern times.

Vann's sister and Sacramento State Theatre Department graduate Theresa Vann designed the costumes.

Ticket prices are \$8 for general admission and \$5 for students and seniors. For tickets, call the Sacramento State Ticket Office at (916) 278-4323 or visit Tickets.com. For more information contact Robert Vann at (916) 477-9064.