UNDERGROUND ASSET

Wells Bolster Geology’s National Reputation

Every time you turn on a faucet, you’re dealing with ground water issues. Sacramento gets its water not only from wells deep within the ground, but also from abundant rivers and streams. Around the world, explains CSUS geology professor Tim Horner, a specialist in ground water, there is 70 times more water underground than on the surface. It is an indispensable resource, and how humans manage and use that resource is essential.

At CSUS Horner and his colleagues teach students, geologists and other water specialists about water quality and supply using a specialized well field on campus. The carefully secured field, located near the Arboretum, is one of the largest and most sophisticated on-campus well fields in the country. They’re used solely for scientific observation and study.

Each year at the well field Horner and other members of the geology department teach more than 500 community members, professionals and students about water. From all across the country, and particularly from the West, water experts come to the fields for a variety of educational and research purposes. Most recently, members of the Army Corps of Engineers and Air Force purposes. Most recently, members of the Army Corps of Engineers and Air Force were contacted for their comments. In addition, a random sampling of working professionals. More information is available by contacting Carole McNamee at 278-7652 or John Miles at 278-7628.

Degree Focuses on Complex Software

With an eye toward meeting the intense demand for talented computer professionals, CSUS has become the state’s first public university to offer a master’s degree in software engineering.

The new program is intended to help fill the trainings void created by rapid development in computer technology.

Students will learn the latest practices in software development, and how to handle today’s complex software systems within time and budget constraints. Courses in the new program are being offered this fall and applications are currently being accepted.

“It used to be that you learned a programming language and you just started to code, without any real structure. Well, that is no longer acceptable,” says John Miles, chair of the computer science department.

“Today, software has millions of lines of code that interacts with many other applications, so it is important that computer professionals have more specialized training,” Miles says. “Software obviously isn’t like a bridge, you can’t point to it and touch it, but failures of software systems can be quite costly.”

The addition of the new degree continues a tradition of leadership in the CSUS College of Engineering and Computer Science, which was among the first in the CSU system to offer a degree in computer engineering. In addition to a degree in computer science.

U.S. News and World Report recently ranked the University’s engineering program 26th in the nation among those focused on undergraduate education.

Enrollment growth in the University’s computer programs in recent years has been strong.

President’s Review

The CSU Board of Trustees has a policy of reviewing campus presidents every three years, and it is now time for a review of CSUS President Donald R. Gerth.

The review is intended to provide feedback to the Board and the CSU Chancellor about President Gerth’s leadership and the current state of affairs at CSUS. It also provides information to assist President Gerth and the University.

A number of officers at CSUS and chairs of major constituencies are being contacted for their comments. In addition, a random sampling of faculty, administrators, staff and community members are being invited to comment.

Other members of the CSUS community are invited to submit comments as well. Signed comments should be submitted no later than Oct. 8 and should address the criteria listed on the CSU website at http://www.csu.edu/prof/Pres/PertInts.html.

Signed, confidential letters of comment may be sent to: Dr. Charles B. Reed, Chancellor, California State University, 401 Golden Shore, Suite 641, Long Beach, CA 90802-4210.

DIGGING DEEP — Geology professor Tim Horner uses the University’s well field to teach a recent workshop on ground water. Those attending included specialists from the Army Corps of Engineers and the Air Force. The well field is one of the largest on a United States campus.

— Photo by Ann Reed
Most faculty members agree that “breadth and variety” is a strength of the University’s general education program, while they are split on whether the program contains too many units, according to the most recent survey conducted by the Faculty Senate’s General Education Policy and Graduation Requirements Committee. Nearly 60 percent of the respondents agreed that “breadth and variety” is a strength of the program, while just 20 percent disagreed.

On whether the program has too many units, 43 percent felt that it did not and 40 percent felt it did. In a follow-up question, 55 percent of the faculty agreed that the learning provided by general education courses is as important as that provided by the major.

In addition, 37 percent said that the current program needs evaluation, updating and minor modification while 19 percent said that program needs major revision and 10 percent said the program should be replaced by a substantially different one. Just 6 percent said the program should not be changed.

The survey, which to 327 faculty responded, was conducted last spring as part of the ongoing assessment of the general education program by the Faculty Senate’s General Education Policy/Graduation Requirements Committee. The survey questions were developed to clarify the results of an informal faculty poll conducted the year before. The results of both the survey and the poll will be made available to enhance existing programs and support new ones.

As with all years, factors could affect this budget either adversely or positively. Potential excesses or deficits in revenue, increased use of staff benefits or utilities are among those factors. In order to respond to these unknown conditions, the University has again allocated $400,000 to its central reserve. Based on last year’s experience, we feel confident this reserve will allow us to avoid any mid-year reductions to the program centers.

— Ed Del Biaggio

ASSOCIATIONS FOR PROGRAM CENTERS AT CSUS SACRAMENTO, 1998/99 COMPARED TO 1999/2000
1999/2000 Allocations as Approved by the President

August 16, 1999

Program Center

College Educational Equity $150,000
Center for Teaching and Learning $150,000
Office of Community Collaboration $107,500
Computer Lab Student Assistants $100,000
Student Academic Development $25,000
Multi-Cultural Center Festival for New American Music $15,000
President/Provost Reserve $117,500

This year’s budget concerns to represent growth for the University. We have eliminated our reliance on non-recurring sources of funds, covered our institutional commitments and still had sufficient resources to enhance existing programs and support new ones.

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For Ahmadi, Market Can’t Match Student Success

When Hamid Ahmadi says he’s a “happy camper,” it’s hard to doubt him. “Some people are fortunate to find jobs doing things they love to do and I’m one of them,” says Ahmadi, a management professor. Ahmadi is also this year’s Outstanding Teacher in the College of Business Administration. Ahmadi teaches courses in investment portfolio theory, showing students how to allocate funds to earn the highest possible return with the lowest possible risk. The immediacy of the Internet lets the aspiring tycoons test their theories and watch in a flash by checking the stock market. The instant feedback appeals to both student and teacher. “In other disciplines, it takes a long time to discover if a theory doesn’t work,” Ahmadi says. “This is not true with investing in the stock market. It keeps me on my toes. I never get bored.”

Ahmadi’s students don’t get bored either. “Sometimes they stay long after the class is over. They get hyped and don’t want to go home,” he says. “They’re challenged. They like it when they’re learning,” Ahmadi says. “They come into the class with very little knowledge of building analytical models. For the first time they develop a buy/sell program that uses live data. They are excited.” Though he spends his days training his students to successfully play the stock market, Ahmadi isn’t tempted to leave teaching behind and jump on the bull market bandwagon. “I genuinely like to teach,” he says. “I get excited when students call back two or three years later and they have a successful job with a corporation. The pride I take in their success and what they say they’ve ‘learned from me’ keeps me in the classroom.”

Those relationships come in handy when Ahmadi’s current students enter the job market. “It’s all about connections,” he says. Ahmadi admits he has a reputation among students as a “very tough” teacher. But, he notes, “They also know that I generally care for them and that I want them to learn. I’m very excited about what I do.”

“Being a professor is one of the best jobs ever created,” Ahmadi adds. “I’m a happy camper.”

—Laurie Hall

CD Offers Sobering Lesson on Alcohol

A new interactive computer program at the CSUS Health Center allows college students to make responsible decisions about alcohol. It’s called Alcohol 101. In the program, students are at a virtual party, and put into different situations that involve alcohol. The three scenarios include drunk-driving, unsafe sex and alcohol overdose. The program allows students to select a scenario and experience the consequences of the situation.

“The program’s goal is to get students to think about alcohol, how it’s used, how they use it, and to have accurate information,” said Laurie Bisset Grady, director of educational programs for the Student Health Center at CSUS. “We want to educate students on the uses, abuses and misuses of alcohol.”

Hosted by a lava lamp named “Norm,” the program gives students the opportunity to see how alcohol potentially can affect them. “There was this party and you had way too much to drink and messed up. Big time. You’d give anything to start over. Okay. Hit ‘start over.’”

“Students may make negative choices and see what happens, or they can make positive, responsible decisions,” Bisset Grady said.

The program also includes the Reality Wall, which presents testimonies based on actual alcohol-related tragedies, the Rave Room, which offers textual information on alcohol and DUI Information, which describes what it’s like to be convicted of driving under the influence.

Students seem to think one of the best features of the program is the Virtual Bar, according to Bisset Grady. The Virtual Bar asks the student to enter their weight, height, food intake, mood and gender and then allows them to pick the drink of his or her choice. The student can have as much or as little as they want to gauge how the alcohol has affected his or her system.

“I think it gets students’ attention when they realize how little it takes for them to become in jeopardy of serious alcohol-related problems,” Bisset Grady said.

Alcohol 101 is a nationwide program used at CSUS as part of its extensive alcohol education program. The University is one of 113 campuses participating in a national campaign aimed at raising public awareness of the dangers of high-risk and binge drinking by young people.

Alcohol 101 is funded by the Student Health Center, the CSUS Foundation and the Associated Students. CDs are available to students in the Health Center or by calling 278-5422.

Low-cost Counseling Available

Career, personal, family and vocational counseling, as well as school diagnostic testing, are available through the CSUS Center for Counseling and Diagnostic Services. Up to 14 weeks of counseling are offered for a small once-per-semester fee.

The center, formerly known as the Community Counseling Center, is staffed by advanced graduate students who work under the immediate supervision of experienced faculty members. Longtime counseling professor Guy Deaner supervises the center.

The students provide assistance with interpersonal and career problems, with a professor observing each session. They also administer testing for learning disabilities and for the Gifted and Talented program, for which full reports are provided.

Fees are $50 per semester for counseling, $75 for learning disabilities testing and $50 for Gifted and Talented testing.

Appointments are now being accepted for the fall semester by calling 278-6252.

Free RT Tickets at UTAPS

Sacramento Regional Transit is offering complimentary RT and Light Rail tickets, nominations, along with biographical information to: CSUS Alumni Relations, 7750 College Town Dr., Suite 203, Sacramento, CA 95826.

The deadline for nominations is Nov. 1. More information is available by contacting Steve Black at 278-6295.

Computers Science Colloquium

The computer science department will host a talk Wednesday, Oct. 6 from noon to 1 p.m. in Riverside Hall 2014. Chuck Schnelleck of Sonoma State University will speak on the California State University and蛮ment center for Distributed Learning. Schnelleck will discuss barriers to distributed learning and the creation of online learning and teaching communities. Faculty, students and visitors are welcome.

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**Monday, Sept. 20**

Monotypes, sculpture and mixed media print works by Eileen Hill and David Ogale. 10:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., Monday, Friday, and from 5 - 8 p.m., Wednesday and Thursday, Union Exhibit Lounge. Continues to Oct. 8. Reception 8 p.m., Sept. 23.

**Tuesday, Sept. 21**

Center for Teaching and Learning Open House, 5 - 5:30 p.m., Lassen Hall 3304.

“The Fight in the Fields,” a film about Cesar Chavez and the United Farm Workers movement, 7 - 9 p.m., Union Auditorium. Free.

Geology Fall Colloquium Series, “Water Resources and Climate: Variability from the Sierra to the Sea,” David Peterson, 4 p.m., Mendicino Hall 1015, followed by a reception in the placer Hall Commons Room.

Public Policy Fall Colloquium Series, “The Role of the Legislative Analyst’s Office in California Public Policy,” Elizabeth Hill, Chief Legislative Analyst, 4 - 5:30 p.m., University Union Coastal Room.

**Wednesday, Sept. 22**

Munkatari, drum rock band, noon, University Union South Lawn. Free. Volleyball vs. San Francisco State, 7 p.m., Hornet Gym. $5 general/$2 children 6 - 12/CSUS students free. Tickets at the door.

Mood and Critical Thinking, Richard Guatino, noon, College of Business Administration conference room in Tahoe Hall.

**Thursday, Sept. 23**

Monotypes, sculpture and mixed media print works by Eileen Hill and David Ogale, reception, 8 p.m., Union Exhibit Lounge. Continues to Oct. 8.

Ozomatli band salsa, samba, cumbia, merengue, ska, funk, hip-hop, alternative and jazz, plus the comedy of Jose Simon, 7:30 p.m., University Union Ballroom. $5 general/$2 CSUS students/$8 general. Tickets at Central Ticket Office, 278-4323, or at BASS.

**Friday, Sept. 24**

“Fall Faculty and Staff Reception,” 8 p.m., University Union South Lawn. Free.

“Gaiatribe,” participatory dancing and drumming workshop, 1:30 p.m., Hart Memorial Auditorium. Presented by Women’s Resource Center and the Feminist Majority Leadership Alliance.

**Saturday, Sept. 25**

Football vs. Montana State, 6:05 p.m., Hornet Stadium. $10 reserved/$8 general/CSUS students free/$6 seniors and other students. Tickets at Central Ticket Office, 278-4323, or at BASS.

Poets will respond in English and Spanish to the works of artist Claudia Bernardi - an Argentine activist and Bay Area artist whose work honors and recalls the lives of those killed in massacres at 7:30 p.m., Robert Else Gallery. Retired CSUS professor Jose Montoya will read with members of the group Los Escritores Del Nuevo Sol (Writers of the New Sun), including Francisco S. Alarcón, Phil Goldsberry, Jose Montoya and Gisela. B. Ramirez. Bernardi’s exhibit “Making the Dead Die: Puente-Torneo del Palma,” runs Wednesday, Sept. 8 through Oct. 8. Robert Else Gallery.

**Sunday, Sept. 26**

Chamber Music Society performance, 7:30 p.m., Music Recital Hall. $15 general/$12 seniors/$5 students. Tickets at Central Ticket Office, 278-4323, or at BASS.

**Monday, Oct. 1**


CSUS Conference on Teaching and Learning, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Continues from 8:30 a.m. - noon, Saturday, Oct. 2. To RSVP for Friday lunch e-mail cseugi@csus.edu or call 278-9945.

Women’s soccer vs. Hawaii, 4 p.m., Hornet Soccer Field. $5/$3 CSUS students free. Tickets at the field.

**Tuesday, Oct. 2**

“San Francisco International Comedy Competition Semi-Finals,” 10 comedians, 7:30 p.m., University Union Ballroom. $5/$3 CSUS students/$8 general (advance). Tickets at Central Ticket Office, 278-4323, or at BASS.

**Sunday, Oct. 3**

New Millennium Concert. “Flute Music from Around the World,” 7:30 p.m., Music Recital Hall. $10 general/$6 students. Tickets at Central Ticket Office, 278-4323, or at BASS.

Women’s soccer vs. Denver, 2 p.m., Hornet Soccer Field. $5/$3 CSUS students free. Tickets at the field.

**Sunday, Oct. 5**

“Independence Through Mobility,” lecture and slide show featuring WheelChair Wheelchair International co-founder, Ralf Bentliche, in recognition of Disability Awareness Month, noon, University Union Auditorium.

**Wednesday, Oct. 6**

Symphonic Wind Ensemble, 7:30 p.m., Music Recital Hall. $6 general/$4 students. Tickets at Central Ticket Office, 278-4323, or at BASS.