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Full Story

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Hornet Sports
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The University this fall started its new doctoral program in educational leadership with Sonoma State University and UC Davis. The program, geared toward working professionals, leads to a Doctor of Education, or Ed.D, degree awarded jointly by the CSU and UC systems. The program is designed to help meet the need for leadership in California’s public schools and community colleges, said Rosemary Papa, who is coordinating the new program. “There is and will continue to be a great need for strong leadership for our schools,” she said.

Twenty-two students, all working professionals, are enrolled in classes this semester. The program’s curriculum focuses on developing strategic leadership skills, bridging public policy and practice, building community in an increasingly diverse society and using data for more effective decision-making. Students will be able to earn their doctoral degrees within three years.

The Chemistry Department this semester offers a new master’s degree in chemistry with a concentration in biochemistry. Linda Roberts, associate professor of chemistry who helped create the degree’s curriculum, said the new degree was established as a result of several factors.

“We have had a lot of students in biochemistry who wanted to continue their studies at the graduate level,” said Roberts, adding that the department in recent years has added new faculty with backgrounds in biochemistry. “With the biotech industry growing in the Sacramento-Vacaville area, there is a demand for graduates with advanced degrees in biochemistry.”

The College of Business Administration this fall kicked off its new Master’s of Business Administration for Executives (EMBA) degree program. Thirty-five working professionals are currently taking classes on Friday evenings and during the day on Saturdays, and will complete the degree program in 15 months, said Chiang Wang, professor of operations and strategic management and coordinator of the EMBA program. Next semester the College of Business Administration will start a second EMBA class at Intel in Folsom.

Student interest served as a spark for creating the new minor in history in Middle East and Islamic Studies. “In a sense, Sept. 11 may have been behind the initiative for proposing the minor, but I think it grew naturally out of the increased interest among students on campus,” said Afshin Marashi, assistant professor of history who coordinates the program with Erin Stiles, assistant professor of humanities and religious studies.

The minor will help students learn about the history, politics, culture and religion of the Middle East and the Islamic world. Classes in the minor come from across the curriculum, ranging from government and sociology to women’s studies and foreign languages, and cover topics such as Islamic civilization, Middle Eastern societies and culture, and women in the Middle East.

Criminal justice offers a new minor this fall in forensics investigations that is open only to declared biology and chemistry majors. The minor allows the science students to gain an understanding of the criminal justice system if they are contemplating careers in the field. The classes cover topics such as general investigation techniques, physical evidence and the court system.

“We established the minor because we had students in these majors who were already interested in forensics who were taking the minor in criminal justice,” said William Vizzard, chair of criminal justice. “We wanted to better fit their needs.”

And last spring saw the start of a new minor in Chicano Latino Studies which focuses on the experiences of Chicanos and Latinos not only in the United States but also in Mexico, Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic
and countries in Central and South America. The minor is designed to help students who are majoring in fields such as government, education or social work understand the diversity of today's Hispanic American community.

Sam Rios, interim director of the Chicano Studies program, said that the growth of the Hispanic American population in the Sacramento area signaled a strong need for the University to provide a program for students to learn more about the varied cultures of the Hispanic American community. “Our students will be taking jobs in human services fields, for example, that demand that they understand the diverse Hispanic American community. It is a community made up of Spanish-speaking people coming from different cultural backgrounds and who have different orientations, said Rios, who credited David J. Leon, director of the Chicano Studies program who is on sabbatical, for creating the program and developing courses specifically for the minor.

— Ted DeAdwyler

Prof explores ways to speed up bridge construction

Faster bridge construction projects may be in store for California through the efforts of a Sacramento State civil engineering professor. Eric Matsumoto, in conjunction with researchers from UC San Diego and state departments of transportation including CalTrans, is exploring the feasibility of constructing bridges in the seismic regions using precast concrete. The research focuses on a precast bridge element call the bent cap which connects the bridge girders to columns.

It’s an approach to rapid bridge construction already used in some parts of the country but which especially challenges earthquake-prone areas like California.

The research is being funded by a $550,000 contract from the National Cooperative Highway research program, which develops practical solutions to problems facing transportation agencies.

Using precast concrete eliminates much of the bulky falsework and wood forms that currently are used in California bridge construction. Precasting is less labor-intensive at the construction site, Matsumoto says, because it removes the concrete forming, pouring and curing from the work zone, increasing safety for both construction crews and motorists, and decreasing traffic tie-ups and traffic control. “Essentially what it does is speed up construction so there is a reduced impact on the traveling public,” Matsumoto says.

Precasting also improves quality and durability, he says, because the work is performed in a controlled environment. “Precast concrete is typically more durable than cast-in-place concrete. It’s built under controlled plant conditions so higher quality materials, construction techniques and inspections can be employed and there is less impact due to adverse weather conditions,” Matsumoto says.

Among the most appealing features of precast is speed of construction. It allows crews to get in, get out and stay out, making it safer for workers and the traveling public. On the Lake Ray Hubbard Bridge in Texas, for example, the use of precast bent caps reduced construction time by one week per bent cap on a 43-span structure, shortening the total construction time by 43 weeks.

The California research is an extension of Matsumoto’s doctoral work at the University of Texas at Austin which has been implemented in several bridges including the Lake Belton Bridge. That bridge recently won national recognition for its innovative use of precast concrete.

The concern over using pre-cast concrete in California stems from the state’s high level of seismic activity. California is the one of the few states that still relies primarily on site-cast concrete for the entire bridge including the bent cap. Although this approach ensures the bridge is well connected, Caltrans and other states are beginning to consider alternative construction approaches such as bent caps because of the need to accelerate bridge construction.

Matsumoto’s goal is to develop new design and construction guidelines for precast bent cap systems that provide cost-effective seismic resistance while accelerating construction. “What we don’t know is how bridge systems using precast bent caps will behave in a major seismic event,” he says.
“But I think the research will successfully develop new systems that will work,” Matsumoto says. And if it does, he adds, it will affect the way business is done today because California and other states need to replace bridges in congested urban environments by the thousands.

Matsumoto and his students previously conducted preliminary on-campus tests for one type of bent cap connection. The new research at Sacramento State will involve more complex beam-column connection tests based on developments of the research team and information obtained from a nationwide survey currently under way. Matsumoto’s crew will conduct four of the six beam-column tests. The other tests will take place at UC San Diego, where a large-scale bridge system test will also be performed.

— Laurie Hall

New honors program ready for students

The curriculum is ready. The faculty is in place. Now the University’s new honors program is ready for the next phase—signing up students.

The honors program will feature undergraduate general education courses for entering freshmen in their first four semesters at Sacramento State. There will also be an upper-division component of nine to 12 units that students will take in their junior and senior years. The courses will fulfill the University’s general education requirement.

The goal is to attract highly motivated first-time freshmen and provide a challenging liberal arts education in a small class setting.

“The honors program enables us to offer an academically challenging, ambitious program for entering students that features smaller classes, dedicated professors and extracurricular activities,” says George Craft, interim director of the program. “It fills a gap—numerous programs have been created for student athletes and disadvantaged students, but not for students looking for something like an honors program.”

Craft adds that the program falls in line with the Destination 2010 initiative’s goal of fostering excellent academic and student programs and it sends a message about the University’s commitment to academics. Craft says it will also help the campus attract more freshmen, a charge that has become more important in recent years.

The Sacramento State program will follow the lead of other CSU campuses and use a cohort model. The initial cohort of 60 students is scheduled to begin next fall. In addition to academic enrichment, the cohort experience is designed to add a cultural and social aspect to the program.

Plans call for students to take three sections of honors courses for the first four semesters, which will feature a combination of brand-new honors courses and existing courses modified to meet an honors designation.

The first semester will feature an honors math course, a world civilization course and the first of a four-semester seminar on “great books.” Semester two will feature a second world civilization course and a course in speech/rhetoric, as well as continue the great books seminar.

The second year is expected to include honors courses in biology, government and social studies along with the rest of the honors seminar. The honors classes will be structured to have global emphasis and a significant amount of material will be non-Western focused, Craft says.

Classes will be held Monday through Thursday with a Friday cultural activity such as going to a theater performance. There will also be discussions, a newsletter and possibly an honors conference where students can socialize with students from other universities and present papers.

The qualification criteria for students to enter the program is a 3.5 GPA or a 1,200 on the SAT. But exceptions can be made for students who don’t meet those criteria. The application process includes
writing an essay. Any student accepted by the University who meets the criteria will be invited to apply for program.

Craft says he hopes to be able to give $500 incentive scholarships to at least the first group of honors students.

For more information on the program visit www.csus.edu/honorsprogram.

Student taps Bay Area artists for gerontology class project

The community service assignment that Sacramento State student Maria Cristina Falasci received in her gerontology class wasn’t supposed to be a big deal. Falasci’s own work in assisting the curator for the Arts Commission of Brentwood simply sparked an idea to put on an art show that older adults could enjoy.

But the ball started rolling on a project that would bring pieces by big-time Bay Area artists to Sacramento in a Second Saturday Art Walk venue, giving adults age 50 and over the chance to view art meet some of the artists who made it, and display some of their own. The “Day of Art and Socializing” will be held from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 12, at the Ethel MacLeod Hart Senior Center at 915 27th St. An artist reception will be held from 2 to 4 p.m. Art lovers of all ages are invited to attend.

“The center has never had an event like this before, and I’m trying to bring together older adults who have artistic abilities to share with others,” says Falasci, who is planning this event for credit for a gerontology course. Older adults can sign up to display their work alongside featured artists.

For the event, Falasci tapped acquaintance Stanley Mouse, album cover artist for bands such as the Grateful Dead and Journey, and friends such as wearable art and jewelry designers Lee Brooks and Gregory Franke of Alex & Lee Jewelry, whose collectors include Cher and Salvador Dali, to voluntarily display their art for her cause.

Other works on display will be those by sculptor and painter Joe Cleary, whose art has been in the Ladies Home Journal and The Saturday Evening Post, and muralist Bill Weber, creator of the larger-than-life murals on buildings throughout San Francisco’s North Beach.

Weber and other artists will be on hand to discuss their art with the Senior Center regulars and the public.

Falasci says she hopes this event will help older adults stimulate their minds while encouraging socialization, a key component of health during the aging process. “This event is about making friends, and getting older adults out of isolation,” Falasci says. It gives them opportunities to enjoy one another and the artists in a venue that they might feel comfortable with.”

People who wish to display their art at this event can register with Linda Hoschler of the Ethel MacLeod Hart Senior Center at 264-5462.

NEW FACES

Sharyn D. Gardner
Assistant Professor, College of Business Administration

Background and expertise:
Gardner holds a bachelor’s degree in psychology from UC Davis and a doctorate in business administration from the University of Maryland, College Park. Her expertise is in organizational behavior, management and strategic management.

Kevan R. Shafizadeh
Assistant Professor, Civil Engineering
**Background and expertise:**
Shafizadeh holds a bachelor’s and master’s degree in civil and environmental engineering from UC Davis and a doctorate from the University of Washington. His expertise is in transportation engineering and planning.

**Abbi Stone**  
Director of Administrative Services, Facilities Management  

**Background and expertise:**  
Stone holds a bachelor’s degree in art from California State University, Chico. She previously served as director of resources and special projects for the Finance and Administrative Services Division of California State University, San Marcos.

*New Faces features new faculty who have joined the University in the current academic year and staff members who have joined the University in the current fiscal year. If you are a new faculty or staff member who would like to be featured, call the public affairs office at 278-6156 or e-mail bulletin@csus.edu.*

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**Faculty Senate schedule**

**Monday, Nov. 7**  
2 p.m., Committee on Diversity and Equity (CODE), University Union Capital Suite

3 p.m., General Education/Graduation Requirements Policies Committee, Sacramento Hall 150

**Tuesday, Nov. 8**  
1:30 p.m., Curriculum Subcommittee

3 p.m., Executive Committee

**Wednesday, Nov. 9**  
9 a.m., Writing and Reading Subcommittee

1 p.m., ATIC Subcommittee, Sacramento Hall 150

3 p.m., General Education Course Review Subcommittee, Sacramento Hall 150

**Thursday, Nov. 10**  
3 p.m., Faculty Senate, Forest Suite, University Union

**Friday, Nov. 11**  
1 p.m., ATIC, Sacramento Hall 150

All meetings are in Sacramento Hall 275 unless otherwise noted.

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**Professional Activities**

**Scholarship**

**Kathleen Raske**, Intercollegiate Athletics, served as the women’s assistant coach for the USA Track and Field National Team, representing the United States at the 2005 Pan American Junior Athletics Championships in July.

**Cynthia Linville**, English, and co-authors received the 2004 Outstanding Scholarship Award for Best Book for *ESL Writers: A Guide for Writing Center Tutors*. The award was given by the International Writing Centers Association.
William A. Dorman, Government emeritus, met with BBC representatives in London over the summer about a project to better prepare American journalists for foreign affairs coverage. He also has the lead essay in *Leading to the 2003 Iraq War: The Global Media Debate*, a forthcoming book on how the world’s press covered the run-up to the 2003 war with Iraq to be published in February by Palgrave Macmillan.

Mark Siegler and Kristin Van Gaasbeck, Economics, had their paper, "From the Great Depression to the Great Inflation: Path Dependence and Monetary Policy," published in the September/October issue of the *Journal of Economics and Business*.


Chris Taylor, Physics and Astronomy, had his co-authored paper titled "A High Resolution Mosaic of Molecular Gas in Stephan's Quintet" published in the Nov. 1 issue of the *Astrophysical Journal*.

In the News

Kyle Lemoi, Theatre and Dance, was interviewed on Capital Public Radio’s “Insight” program, along with two students, regarding the Department of Theatre and Dance’s production of *Anton in Show Business*.

News Digest

Proposals wanted
Writing Across the Curriculum invites all full-time and part-time faculty, administrators and staff to propose an individual presentation or panel for a half-day conference on successful approaches to reading and writing across disciplines. The conference will take place from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Friday, Feb. 17 in the University Union Hinde Auditorium and Orchard and Forest Suites.

Proposal topics could include effective writing assignments or approaches to student reading and writing, departmental initiatives and projects that have been successful at improving student reading and writing, using technology to improve reading and writing, etc. To submit a proposal, send a 150-200 word abstract and title with name and department and, for panel proposals, the names of other presenters to: wac@csus.edu. The deadline to submit a proposal is Dec. 1.

Details: Dan Melzer at 278-6925. A conference program will be available in January at www.csus.edu/wac/conference.

Learn about law school
A free Sacramento State Law School Forum will be held from 3 to 6 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 15 in the Alumni Center. The event will give students the opportunity to talk one-on-one with law school representatives from more than 20 schools from California and across the country, such as Boalt Hall, Hastings, King Hall, McGeorge, Seton Hall and Gonzaga. They can also participate in an admissions workshop, an LSAT prep workshop, and a question and answer session. A Kaplan LSAT prep course will be given away and pre-law advisors and attorneys will be on hand.

Details: 278-5066
**Forum focuses on intelligent design**
The International Students Christian Fellowship will present an open forum on "Cosmic Fingerprints: Is There Design in the Universe?" from 1:30 to 3 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 10 in the University Union Redwood Room. The speaker will be Jeffery Kirkbride, professor and designer of the Montgomery Hill Observatory in San Jose. The astronomer will talk about Intelligent Design Theory, followed by a question and answer session. The event is open to the campus community and the public.

Details: 612-0508

**Serna Center hosts annual forum**
The Serna Center will present its Fall 2005 Forum from 1 to 3 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 8 in the University Union Orchard Suite. It will feature the research of scholar-in-residence and counselor education professor Susan Wycoff speaking on "An Examination of Leading Health-Related Issues and Disparities Among Latinos in the Sacramento Region: A Quality-of-Life Analysis." It will also offer "The Experiences of our Student Interns: Catalina Alvarez, Parent-Led Assistance Network; Sara Granda, UC Davis Medical Center; and Cristina Tucker, Latino Coalition for a Healthy California."

Details: 278-4512 or sernacenter@csus.edu

**Find out about self-defense**
The Women's Resource Center will host a free self-defense class from 5 to 8 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 8 in the University Union Redwood Room.

Details: Jessica Heskin at 278-7388

**Wang nominations sought**
Nominations are now being accepted for the Wang Family Excellence Awards. The awards recognize four faculty members from the CSU system "who, through extraordinary commitment and dedication have distinguished themselves by exemplary contributions and achievements in their academic disciplines." There is also an award for an administrator for extraordinary accomplishments in appropriate areas of his or her university assignment.

Each honoree receives $20,000. The award was established in 1988 by CSU Trustee Stanley T. Wang. Candidates must be probationary or tenured faculty members or administrators. Any member of a CSU campus community may make nominations and self-nominations are permitted. The awards are presented at the May meeting of the CSU Board of Trustees. Nomination forms and selection criteria are available in the Faculty Senate office in Sacramento 254. The deadline for nominations is 4 p.m., Friday, Nov. 19.

Details: 278-6593

**More on mentoring**
The Center for Teaching and Learning is hosting a brown bag discussion on "Finding a Mentoring Relationship" from noon to 1:15 p.m., Friday, Nov. 11 in the Center for Teaching and Learning, Library 4026.

To confirm attendance, call 278-5945 or e-mail ctl@csus.edu

**Prep workshops for pre-law students**
Aspiring lawyers can beat the law school admissions game by attending the 2005 Sacramento State Law School Forum, held from 3 to 6 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 15, in the Alumni Center.

Sessions include an admissions workshop, an LSAT workshop and a question-and-answer session. Students can talk one-on-one with representatives from more than 20 law schools from California and across the country, and can consult with pre-law advisors and attorneys. A free Kaplan LSAT prep course will be given away.

This event is free and open to all students and the public.
Web templates available

Website templates are now available for use by all departments and Colleges. The campus community can now download templates that incorporate the University’s new logo and web design. These easy to use web templates were created in an effort to establish a consistent web presence and connect each website to the University. To download templates, visit www.csus.edu/web/templates.html. For more information contact Public Affairs at 278-4377.

ON THE JOB with Dining Services

The Bulletin sat down with Stephanie Ewing, Dining Services Nutritionist.

What do people think you do?

When people hear the word dietician they generally tend to think that I’m responsible for creating and maintaining the menus for all the dining facilities on campus.

What do you really do?

There are three main facets of my responsibilities here at Sacramento State. One of my main concerns is that all the food on campus is safe. This includes conducting health inspections for all of the dining outlets on campus and also working with the Sacramento County health inspector. I also actively advise and offer nutritional information for the residence halls on campus. If a resident has a question or concern about his or her nutritional habits I’m the person they can talk to. That leads into the third aspect of my duties, which is counseling. If a student wants to increase their health awareness, that student can come in and we can set up a meal plan to fit their needs. Eating the right things in moderation is usually what’s best.

Describe your office.

There are two other people who work in the office. One is the business analyst who primarily handles payroll and the budget for the dining services on campus. The other works with the invoicing and general paperwork that comes through the office. It’s pretty laid-back.

What surprises people?

Most students on campus don’t even know that I exist. I’m here for the benefit of the students on campus and it surprises them to know that they have access to this kind of service.

What is your biggest challenge?

Meeting the needs of all the students on campus is definitely the most challenging part of what I do. But my job is made easier because Sacramento State has such a great variety of dining choices. From fine dining to buffets, from Chinese to Italian, the campus offers a surprising range of food, which only benefits the students.

What do you get asked the most?

Just general questions about what and where healthy food is on campus. And again, with the amount of dining services on campus, it’s pretty much everywhere.

Choirs to sing in the holidays
Sacramento State’s choirs are poised to fill Sacramento’s Sacred Heart Church with inspirational harmonies during a set of holiday concerts featuring works from the ancient to the contemporary.

The University’s Concert Choir, Chamber Choir and University Chorus, all under the direction of Sacramento State professor Donald Kendrick, open the season with “Heaven on Earth” at 8 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 12 at Sacred Heart Church at 39th and J Streets.

The concert will include American works addressing dreams and prayer performed by the Concert Choir, with pieces by composers Gwyneth Walker, Eric Whitacre and Shawn Kirchner. The Chamber Choir will perform early and modern compositions – including chants – on the themes of peace and hope, and the University Chorus will present works that focus on the crucifixion and enlightenment.

Proceeds from the performance will be used to help fund the choirs’ upcoming tour of China in July.

The overwhelmingly successful “Procession of Carols” follows on the first weekend of December. The 21st annual presentation of holiday choral music opens at 8 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 3 at Sacred Heart Church and continues at 2 and 7 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 4. The holiday event features innovative and traditional carols, candlelit processions and an audience sing-along. It sells out year after year.

Advance purchase of tickets for the performances is recommended. Tickets are $10 general and $5 for students and seniors, and are available from the Sacramento State Ticket office at 278-4323 or Tickets.com. More information is available from the Sacramento State music department at 278-5155 or online at www.csus.edu/music/choral.

Bus trip available for men’s basketball’s game at Nevada on Nov. 19

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — The Sacramento State Alumni Association is offering a special package for the Hornet men’s basketball game at Nevada on Saturday, Nov. 19. For $45 per person, fans will receive a round-trip ride on the Hornet Fan Bus and a ticket to the game which begins at 7:05 p.m.

The fan bus will leave from the Alumni Center on campus at 11:30 a.m. on game day, stocked with beverages for the ride. At 2 p.m., the bus will arrive in downtown Reno where fans can enjoy the city for a few hours. At 6 p.m., the bus will leave downtown for the Lawlor Center in time for the tip-off.

To reserve your spot, click the link at the top of the page where an RSVP form can be obtained. Call the Alumni Center at (916) 278-4899 with any questions. The deadline to RSVP is November 11.

ITENERARY

11:30 a.m. – Bus departs for the Alumni Center
2:00-6:00 p.m. – Dining/gambling in Reno
7:05 p.m. – Game begins
12:00-12:30 a.m. – Return to the Alumni Center