A growing CSUS program is helping students successfully complete the strict systemwide requirements in remedial education. The Faculty Student Mentoring Program matches students who score in the lowest quartile of the English placement exam with faculty mentors.

The program is designed to help students who aren’t affiliated with the University’s other student support programs. Students are assigned to a faculty member as well as a peer mentor. Participation in the faculty mentoring program is recommended but not mandated.

This year 253 students are paired with faculty mentors, a 23 percent increase over last year. Organizers expect another 40 in the spring. The effort seems to be paying off. About 80 percent of students who took part in the faculty mentoring program completed their remediation coursework within the one-year deadline. “It’s a really exciting program,” says Harriet Taniguchi, program director. “You get to see students come in a bit reluctantly, then really do well, and then go out on their own. It’s very rewarding.”

Five faculty mentors from different Colleges work with students: Marjorie Lee, Education; John Maxwell, Health and Human Services; Chevelle Newsome, Arts and Letters; Chris Tomine, Engineering and Computer Science; and Ernest Uwazie, Health and Human Services. There are also five peer mentors who work with the faculty mentors.

Guzman says many of the students did well in high school but nonetheless scored poorly on the English Placement Exam. She says the first hurdle is to get the students to accept that they need to improve. As much as possible, students are assigned to a professor in their major area of interest. The faculty and peer mentors provide advising as well as a support network and each faculty–peer mentor pair has about 50 students. The mentors schedule one-on-one meetings and students are required to meet with their mentors at least three times per semester.

Many of the students also enroll in a companion college success class. The faculty mentors teach the course which covers essential skills needed to succeed at the University.

One the peer mentors, Susana Guzman, participated in the faculty mentor program herself when she came to the university. She decided to be a peer mentor because she wanted to give back. “I know exactly what they’re going through,” she says. “I explain the system to them and show them the ropes of the University such as financial aid and other things available on campus. I also get on top of them to remind them to complete their courses.”

“We try to keep them on track.”

**World Class Strings Coming to CSUS**

The University will host the world-famous Julliard String Quartet this spring in celebration of the growth of the University’s string program and new School of the Arts.

The performance, at 8 p.m., Friday, April 7, is one in a series of four spring concerts hosted by the department of music to commemorate the new millennium. Also performing in the New Millennium series will be Ron Leonard, principal cellist for the Los Angeles Symphony Orchestra for 24 years, the Gold Country Chamber Orchestra, and Robin Sharp, former violinist with the San Francisco Symphony and a member of the CSUS faculty.

For more than a half a century, the Julliard String Quartet – known as the “first family” of chamber music in the United States – has been renowned internationally for its musicianship and emotional intensity.

The Quartet has more than 100 recordings, including the recent release of Mendelssohn’s string quartets Nos. 1 and 2 (Sony Classical). Its May 1994 recording of quartets by Ravel, Debussy and Dutilleux was selected by The Times Magazine of London and one of the 100 Best Classical CDs ever recorded.

“The Julliard String Quartet is one of the best string quartets in the world,” says series organizer and cello professor Andrew Luchansky.

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**Facility Help Remedial Students**

**World Class Strings Coming to CSUS**

**Public Policy Study**

Recession Was Harder On Certain Counties

While all of California’s counties struggled during the severe recession of the early 1990s, some fared worse than others, according to a recently released study by CSUS professor Robert Wassmer. The study shows some counties were forced to rely on higher fees, spend less on services or carry more debt than comparable counties. The disparities, Wassmer says, are due both to outdated state policy and decisions made by local boards of supervisors.

“It is widely accepted that the loss of local property tax revenue due to Proposition 13, the state-imposed shift of local property tax revenue from counties to school districts in the early 1990s, generated fiscal stress in all of the state’s counties,” Wassmer says. “What I wanted to determine was if the degree of stress induced by these shocks differed by county. It clearly does.”

County governments in California are responsible for providing local government services to unincorporated areas and providing health, welfare and recreation services for most county residents. Wassmer’s study, “County Fiscal Stress: Cause and Consequence in California with similar characteristics.”

Sacramento County had no relative fiscal stress in the early 1990s – its expenditures per resident were exactly the comparable average, its fees were 2 percent lower and it had an average budget surplus of $29.20 per resident. The “extreme” case of relative fiscal stress was Lake County. Its total average expenditure per resident was more than $3,500 pints – it did not net more than 2,000 pints and broke a Sacramento County donation record.

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Scholarship

BILLY OWEN, communication studies, had three haiku/senryu accepted by the "Cyber Haiku Society's Haiku/Senryu Contest for 1999". His poems are included in "Modern Haiku" 29:3, 1999.

JULIA COUZENS, art, had a showing "Julia Couzens: Drawings, Paintings and Objects, 1990-1999" at the Richard L. Nelson Gallery and The Fine Arts Collection at UC Davis Nov. 7 through Dec. 10.

JOAN NEIDE, Division of Chronic Disease and Injury Prevention and Control in November 2000, had three haiku/senryu accepted by the "Cyber Haiku Society's Haiku/Senryu Contest for 1999". His poems are included in "Modern Haiku" 29:3, 1999.

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Recognition

During the fall semester, the three-year evaluation of CSUS President Donald R. Gerth was conducted, and our Board of Trustees is appreciative to all those who worked with us. This is to inform you that the review process concluded with the acceptance by the Board of Trustees of the review report at its November 16-17, 1999 meeting. Criteria established by the Board of Trustees in 1984 and revised in 1994 were used to assess the overall effectiveness of Dr. Gerth. These measures included overall management of the university, relations on campus and within the CSU system, educational leadership, community relations, major achievements, and personal characteristics.

Faculty, staff, students at CSUS and community representatives were invited to submit written material in response to the Trustees' criteria.

A one-word characterization of campus achievements under President Gerth would be "partnership." Examples of this would be partnership with donors and the federal government to construct campus facilities; partnering with the University of California to create a joint doctorate in public history; partnerships with the community to successfully complete the institution's multi-year capital campaign; and partnerships with local and state agencies of government for policy analysis and development in areas for which the university has expertise and competence.

The university continues to evolve as a significant force in shaping the culture and economic life of the Capital Region community; responding to student and faculty desires for a more dynamic university to be at.

TO SUBMIT MATERIAL FOR PUBLICATION:

The CSUS Bulletin is published on Mondays of the academic year. Campus news may be submitted by e-mail to whitlatchf@csus.edu, faxed to 278-5290 or may be delivered on disk to Public Affairs, Sacramento Hall Room 203, campus mail code 6026. Deadline for all materials is 10 a.m. on the Wednesday before publication. Items will be placed on a space available basis and are subject to editing. Writing should be in news style, short and direct. For inquiries call 278-6156.

I t's practically a hydrogeologist's dream come true. When professor David Evans graduated from the East Coast, he found one of the largest on-campus well fields in the country right here at CSUS.

"Access to an on-campus well field is one of the great things about being here," says Evans.

Evans says gees in groundwater – how to find it and how it travels.

This semester Evans is teaching hydrogeology and physical geology courses. He likes the idea that he can talk to students in the classroom about predicting the movement of water, then go out to well field and see that movement firsthand.

In addition to his teaching responsibilities, Evans is working on a computer program to help hydrogeologists make more accurate predictions about groundwater. For several years, he's used computer models to predict groundwater movement. The software he's creating will allow users to easily incorporate field data with the computer modeling to make better interpretations.
To see what drives David Madden’s teaching today you have to look at his past. The English professor and 1998-99 Outstanding Professor in the College of Arts and Letters says much of what he does with his students is based on his own classroom experiences.

“As a sophomore I didn’t know what major to pursue,” Madden says. “In an introduction to British writers course, the professor encouraged me to go for a Ph.D. He then told me, ‘You’re going to teach,’ and directed me toward the English major. I found all of that there, and it was one of the best things I ever did.”

Madden says that professor’s style, as well as those of others he studied under, were big influences on his own teaching.

“I modeled my pedagogy after teaching I had in high school and college,” he says. “I have always been conscious of what I came across as a student. A lot of it is that there is an assimilation of those influences and also a reaction to pedagogy that I swore I would never imitate.”

Madden describes his particular method as a seminar style with mini-lectures. He prepares and distributes a series of questions that stimulate discussion. He also tries to infuse his courses with humor.

“I don’t think there’s a correct way to teach,” he says. “I know many different things that work and many that do not. “Good teaching has a lot to do with the relationship between the professor and student. If the professor cares about the subject, it shows. And if the students feel the professor is just walking through it, they will quickly lose interest as well.”

Madden says he always enjoys teaching, especially when he can take different approaches to literature. For part of his under-graduate career his advisor attended a small liberal arts college where he was able to teach unusual courses, and as a result he wants to teach things students aren’t exposed to ordinarily.

He gravitates toward special topics courses such as California literature, detective literature and Irish literature. The topics tend to come from areas that he enjoys or that intrigue him. For example, his Irish literature class came out of his belief that people tend to take Irish literature and lump it under English.

“I tell students this is not a subset of English literature,” Madden says. “The Irish and British just happen to share a language and, in some cases, not even that. The English and the Irish have entirely different literary and cultural traditions.”

He’s also working on reinventing an old course on the modern American comic novel. Madden thrives on teaching new courses. “It’s really energizing. It gives me a sense of vitality,” he says.

Madden wants students to try new things as well. He says, “I tell them to take classes from other people, not just the same teachers. Take a class in something you know nothing about, outside your immediate area of interest.”

Despite his suggestion, some students can’t get enough of Madden’s teaching. He says he can recognize the repeat students.

“They’re the ones who know when to laugh.”

— Laurie Hall

Campus Serna Tribute
The campus community is invited to attend a memorial service to honor Sacramento mayor and longtime CSUS faculty member Joe Serna Jr., who died last month. The program will be held from 2 to 3 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 9 in the University Union Ballroom. It will feature tributes from selected faculty, students, alumni and friends, including colleagues Bill Dorman, David Covin and Jean Torcom.

A native of Lodi, Serna’s parents were Mexican immigrants. In their search for a better life the family worked the fields of the Central Valley. After graduation from high school Serna became an apprentice sheet metal worker, but decided instead to go on to college. He graduated from Sacramento City College and CSUS, and attended graduate school at UC Davis before taking a teaching appointment at CSUS.

Serna’s widow, Isabel Hernandez-Serna, is the assistant vice president for Educational Equity and Student Retention at CSUS. He also is survived by two children, Phillip and Lisa, a grandson, two brothers, his sister and his mother.

Madden Pushes Students to Try New Things

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In the season of giving, the campus community is working together to help those in need.

For the 25th year, the CSUS Holiday Food Drive will collect donations of food and cash for local food pantries. Food donations of baby food, powdered milk, peanut butter, tuna, pork and beans, canned meats, beans, and macaroni and cheese are especially needed.

Collection boxes are available at the following campus locations through Dec. 17:

- Facilities Management Office: Academic Services, Lassen 3004; Recreation and Leisure Studies, Solano 4000; History, Brigham 137; CSUS Foundation, Third Floor, Engineering and Computer Science, Riverside 2014, 3018 and 4024; Ethnic Studies, Amador 503A; Social Work, Tahoe 3107; Library, Library 5007; Child Development Center, University Office; Police, officer, University Police Services, Sacramento 155; Business Administration, Tahoe 1023; University Media Services, Library 14; Student Activities, University Union; Nursing, Eldorado 1025; Regional and Continuing Education, 7750 College Town #100; and Support Services, Sacramento 155.

Checks payable to State Employees’ Food Drive may be sent to Jeff Bingel at campus zip 6076. For details call Bingel at 278-5342.

Intercollegiate Athletics also is collecting food and toys. Bring a new, unwrapped toy to either the women’s basketball game Tuesday, Dec. 7 or the men’s basketball game Wednesday, Dec. 8 both at Memorial Auditorium, and receive free admission to the game. Toys will be donated to the CHP toy drive.

And Monday, Dec. 27 will be Cans for Fans night. Each fan who brings a can of food for the Salvation Army to the men’s basketball game at Arco Arena will get in free.

The University Staff Assembly also sponsored a CHP toy drive dry-run during its Winter Social Branch.

World Class Strings
All New Millennium performances will be in the Music Recital Hall on Sundays at 7:30 p.m., with the exception of the Juilliard Quartet, which performs at 8 p.m., Friday, April 7.

Subscriptions for the four-concert New Millennium Series are available for $45 and may be purchased through the Central Ticket Office at 278-4323.

Single tickets for the Juilliard Quartet will not go on sale until Feb. 21.

— Robyn S. Eifertsen

Final Fall Bulletin
Monday, Dec. 13 will be the final edition of the CSUS Bulletin for the fall semester. The final edition in the spring will be published on Monday, Jan. 24. Items for the Bulletin should be submitted by 10 a.m. the Wednesday before publication, and may be e-mailed to Frank Whital at whital@csus.edu or faxed to 278-5290.
Winter Commencement Schedule

FRIDAY, DEC. 17
College of Education Commencement begins at 1 p.m. Doors open and graduates assemble at 12:30 p.m.
College of Social Sciences and Interdisciplinary Studies Commencement begins at 4 p.m. Doors open and graduates assemble at 3:30 p.m.
College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics Commencement begins at 7 p.m. Doors open and graduates assemble at 6:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, DEC. 18
College of Health and Human Services Commencement begins at 8:30 a.m. Doors open and graduates assemble at 7:45 a.m.
College of Business Administration Commencement begins at 11:30 a.m. Doors open and graduates assemble at 11 a.m.
College of Arts and Letters Commencement begins at 3 p.m. Doors open and graduates assemble at 2:15 p.m.
College of Engineering and Computer Science Commencement begins at 6 p.m. Doors open and graduates assemble at 5:15 p.m.

IMPORTANT COMMENCEMENT INFORMATION
Caps and gowns are now available at the Associated Students Business Office on the third floor of the University Union. The business office is open from 8:15 a.m. to 7 p.m., Monday through Thursday. It is open from 8:15 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Fridays. It is recommended that caps and gowns be purchased as soon as possible to ensure proper size.
• Bachelor’s caps, gowns and tassels are $30 for the set.
• Master’s caps, gowns and tassels are $30 for the set.
• Master’s hoods are $17.
• Tassels are $5.
• Honor cords are $10.
More information is available at 278-4724 or online at http://www.csus.edu/commence.

County Study

just 88 percent of the comparable average and it asked its citizens to pay 5 percent more in fees. At the same time, it just 88 percent of the comparable average and it raised only 60 percent of the fees. The county had an average budget surplus of $31.39 per person. There were 12 California counties in this enviable position of having no relative fiscal stress during the last recession. Though Wassmer believes California should change the way local property taxes are distributed, his study also suggests the state demand a better effort from some counties before making such changes.

With California’s recession well over, Wassmer says, California counties as a whole are now in much better shape. But he warns, “Without significant changes in the way that local property tax revenue is distributed throughout the state, and help in financing the state-mandated programs in human services that counties must provide, the next recession will lead to another round of county fiscal stress.” Wassmer, who has recently testified before the California Legislature on this topic, hopes his work will have some influence on the various proposals on local fiscal reform now being discussed in Sacramento.

Wassmer is a professor of public policy and economics. The study was completed with graduate student Charles Anders, and was partially funded through an Extramural Research Project contract from the Public Policy Institute of California, which is based in San Francisco.

The study is available online at http://www.csus.edu/inds/w/wassmer/countystress.htm.

-- Frank Whittall

Faculty Senate

FRIDAY, DEC. 3
1 p.m., Wang Award Subcommittee, SAC 150
2 p.m. - 4:30 p.m., Academic Policies Committee

Monday, Dec. 6
3 p.m., General Education Policies/Graduation Requirements Committee

Tuesday, Dec. 7
1:30 p.m., Curriculum Policies Committee
3 p.m., Executive Committee

Wednesday, Dec. 8
3 p.m., General Education Course Review Subcommittee

Thursday, Dec. 9
3 p.m., Faculty Senate, University Union Foothill Suite
4:15 p.m., Faculty Merit Scholarship Awards, University Union Foothill Suite

Friday, Dec. 10
1 p.m., Wang Awards Subcommittee, Sacramento Hall 150,
tentative

Thursday, Dec. 16
3 p.m., Faculty Senate, University Union Foothill Suite

All meetings will be held in Sacramento Hall 275 unless otherwise noted.