

## THIS WEEK

December 11, 2006

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### Professor weaves a web of knowledge on upcoming DVD

[Full Story](#)

**"SOME" PROFESSOR**--Professor Lucien Agosta gets the star treatment at the taping of the *Charlotte's Web* DVD commentary.

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[Full Story](#)

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[Full Story](#)

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## PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES >>

### PROFILE



### Student Profile: Warwick Foy

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## EVENTS



### Jazzing up the evening

The final campus jazz performance of the fall will feature the Sacramento State Jazz Singers, along with special guest American River College Jazz Group, on Saturday, Dec. 16, at 7:00 p.m. in the Music Recital Hall. Concert admission is \$8 general, \$5 students/seniors.

[Campus Calendar of Events](#)

## ATHLETICS



The Hornet Express shuttle is free to Sacramento State students and employees. The Hornet Express provides a convenient mode of transportation around the campus loop and to and from locations near campus. Hours of operation are 6:50 a.m. to 6:20 p.m. during the fall and spring academic semesters. Riders should show their OneCard to the shuttle driver upon boarding.

The Campus/La Riviera shuttle serves College Greens, Watt Avenue, Folsom Blvd. and the Sacramento State perimeter loop. The Morse/Fulton shuttle provides service to the Morse Avenue, Fulton Avenue and Fair Oaks Blvd. areas. The Arden/Cal Expo shuttle provides service to the Howe Avenue, Exposition Blvd., Heritage Lane, Arden Way, Bell Street, Northrop Avenue and Cadillac Drive Areas.

For more information visit the University Transportation and Parking Service web page at [www.csus.edu/utaps](http://www.csus.edu/utaps) or call 278-5483.

## Lutes caps impressive career with All-Pacific Region Honors

After recently completing a career in which she was a three-time Big Sky Conference Libero of the Year, and two-time all-conference selection, senior Kristin Lutes added to her list of accomplishments by being named honorable mention all-Pacific Region by the American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA).

[Full Story](#)

## This Week in Hornet Action

## Hornet Sports Home

## Bulletin Staff



The *Bulletin* is distributed on Mondays of the academic year. Campus news may be submitted by e-mail to [bulletin@csus.edu](mailto:bulletin@csus.edu). Deadline for all materials is 10 a.m. on the Wednesday before publication. For more information call 278-6156.

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## Professor weaves a web of knowledge on upcoming DVD

Though it wasn't spelled out by a spider, Professor Lu Agosta knows a thing or two about E.B. White's *Charlotte's Web*. The news apparently reached the producers of an upcoming DVD version of the new movie release of *Charlotte's Web*—they've interviewed him about his expertise on the book for the "special features" portion of the DVD.

Agosta, an English professor who has written extensively on and taught about children's literature, was approached to comment about the story in early October, well in advance of *Charlotte's Web's* nationwide theatrical release Dec. 15. His contributions will be spliced in with other speakers, including the director, the producer and some of the actors.

While the DVD technology may be relatively new, the themes in the story are timeless. "The story in *Charlotte's Web* is really about maturation, which is very relevant for children ages 9 to 12, who are the target audience for the book," says Agosta. "We see the main characters in the book—Fern, the little girl who loves and cares for Wilbur the pig, as well as Wilbur himself—make a journey and become transformed into self-sufficient individuals by the end of the story.

"In the beginning of the book, Fern is very much a little girl, and Wilbur is very infantile. Wilbur was the runt of the litter and considered worthless. He eventually grew to become a pig that was valued and respected by the animals and people around him."

Agosta also points to the reality/fantasy juxtaposition in the book. "The reality is present in Fern's maturity, in Wilbur's growth to self-sufficiency, and even in Charlotte's death, which is very unsettling and presented in an unsentimental, sobering way," he says. "Her death is solitary, in the dark on a fairground away from her home. E.B. White makes no accommodations and is unsparing in her death.

"The fantasy theme is prevalent also. In the beginning of the book, Wilbur's life is spared, and by the end of the book, he continues to live in the barnyard indefinitely, implying immortality. In those instances, the wish fulfillment prevails. So White has it both ways."

The importance of language is another recurring theme in the book, says Agosta, and the story shows how language makes us who we are. "Charlotte's first message in her web says that Wilbur is 'some pig,' although he claims he's not. Charlotte tells him that to her he is some pig, and he believes it. The language creates reality because he believes it.

"It's vital to recognize how powerful language is, because the language we use with children defines them if they buy into that," he says. "I really highlight that fact when I'm instructing future teachers. *Charlotte's Web* reminds us that language is a powerful tool in determining who we are as people and our place in the world."

The title of the book also focuses on the web and how it becomes an emblem of successful living. "Charlotte constructs her web competently and capably, and it provides her with a home, food, stability and a place in the world," says Agosta. "She also uses it to help others. It's not all about her. It's a reminder how gratifying it can be to lift our lives and become selfless. We want sufficiency, maturity, and altruism.

"In effect, Charlotte's web becomes an emblem for a successful life."

## Joseph Sheley named provost and vice president for academic affairs

Sacramento State President Alexander Gonzalez announced Friday the appointment of Joseph F. Sheley as provost and vice president for academic affairs. The appointment is effective immediately.

"Joe is completely committed to Sacramento State," said President Gonzalez. "He knows the institution intimately, having served in both academic and administrative posts. That experience and familiarity with the campus is invaluable, and it made Joe the standout candidate."

As provost, Sheley will lead Academic Affairs and oversee the University's seven academic colleges, Library and College of Continuing Education. Sacramento State currently has nearly 800 full-time faculty and more than 28,000 students.

Marilyn Hopkins, chair of the search committee and dean of the College of Health & Human Services, said "Joe is a strong and positive voice for the University, which serves us well on campus and in the community. He is an experienced educator, a fine scholar and has broad-based experience in higher education."

"Sacramento State already has a fine reputation for teaching and academic excellence," said Sheley. "I look forward to helping establish the University as one of California's premier universities. And I am particularly interested in finding new ways to support the development of our faculty as both scholars and educators."

Sheley has served as interim provost and vice president for academic affairs since July 17, 2006. A national search was conducted for a successor to Ric Brown, who announced his intention to retire in July. Qualified candidates came from major universities in California and across the country.

A Sacramento native, Sheley earned his bachelor's degree in social science (1969) and master's in sociology (1971) from Sacramento State. He completed a doctorate in sociology (1975) at the University of Massachusetts.

Sheley joined the faculty at Tulane University in 1975 and served as chair of the Department of Sociology from 1985 to 1991. He held a number of posts at Tulane including vice chair of the University Senate and academic program administrator for the HUD Campus Affiliates Program. In 1982, he was an Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Fellow and visiting lecturer in Cali, Colombia.

In 1996, he returned to his alma mater as founding dean of the College of Social Sciences and Interdisciplinary Studies. He subsequently served as interim director of the Office of Alumni Relations (2004-05) and executive vice president (2005-06).

A widely published scholar and criminologist, Sheley's academic and research interests include issues of social control and the phenomenon of minors and guns.

The search was conducted by a faculty committee:

Marilyn Hopkins, Dean, College of Health and Human Services (chair)

Bruce Bikle, Associate Professor, Criminal Justice

Sue Holl, Professor, Mechanical Engineering

Sonya Lovine, Office Manager, Sponsored Research, Grant and Contract Admin. (staff representative)

Mark Siegler, Associate Professor, Economics

Pia Wong, Associate Professor, Bilingual Multicultural Education

## **Eclectic styles celebrated at faculty dance concert**

The legacy of dance and the Department of Theatre and Dance's 50th anniversary are celebrated at Sacramento State with works from University faculty, artists-in-residence and guest artists. The production "Dance Sites 2006: New Works in Choreography/Performance" runs through Sunday, Dec. 17 in the University Theatre, Shasta Hall.

"Dance Sites" is choreographed by Sacramento State professor emeritus Dale Scholl and directed by dance professor Lorelei Bayne. The performance features many styles of dance including tap, jazz, contemporary and ballet. Music pieces accompanying the works vary from the Talking Heads to John Cage, and the

Sacramento State Percussion Group will play live for selected parts of the performance. Guest choreographers include Paul Besaw, Lisa Russo, Dale Scholl and Keith Williams.

Show times are Thursday, Dec. 14 at 6:30 p.m., Friday and Saturday, Dec. 15 and 16 at 8 p.m., and Sunday, Dec. 17 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$12 General, \$10 Seniors, \$8 ages 10 and under. Discounted tickets are available for Thursday showings at \$8 General, \$5 Seniors/Students/ages 10 and under. Tickets are available at 278-4323 or [Tickets.com](http://Tickets.com).

For more information, call 278-7033 or visit [www.csus.edu/dram](http://www.csus.edu/dram). For media assistance, contact the Public Affairs office at 278-6156.

## **Spring semester will bring parking relief**

There's good news for those who drive to campus.

The new parking structure is scheduled for completion in time for the start of the spring semester.

Drivers with all types of permits will find more parking spaces. There should also be a corresponding drop in traffic congestion and the number of drivers lining up to wait for a space.

Parking officials are warning, however, that the first couple weeks of classes will still probably bring the semester's most challenging parking. They are also asking those who started using alternate commute options in the last few years to consider continuing the habit.

For student permit holders, there will be an additional 2,490 spaces for a total of 8,898. For faculty/staff permit holders, there will be an additional 310 spaces for a total of 2,004.

"I'm happy to say, things are going to be much better for everyone," says Ronald Grant, associate vice president for business operations. "The campus has been really patient during the construction of the parking garage, and we are really thankful to them. We're also really appreciative of the people who started leaving their vehicles at home and making other commute choices."

Along with the additional parking spaces, University Transportation and Parking Services (UTAPS) has made changes to how spaces are designated. This "reallocation" – a standard practice when there is construction or other major shift in parking availability – is designed to reduce confusion and address faculty/staff parking shortages on the east side of campus.

Parking lots 4 and 6, which are near the University Union and new Bookstore, will be designated entirely for faculty/staff permits. These lots were formerly mixed, with spaces designated for different types of permits.

The new Parking Structure III, like Parking Structure II, will be primarily for student permit holders.

The new structure will also contain experimental convenience parking for those willing to pay an additional \$3 for the day.

For more details, and for general information on parking and alternate commute choices, visit the UTAPS website at [www.csus.edu/utaps](http://www.csus.edu/utaps).

## **Winter commencement ceremonies are set**

Winter 2006 commencement ceremonies are scheduled for Thursday, Dec. 21, Friday, Dec. 22 and Saturday, Dec. 23 at Sacramento State and Arco Arena, depending on the college holding the ceremony. Doors open and candidates assemble one half-hour prior to the commencement.

**Thursday, Dec. 21 – University Union Ballroom, Sacramento State**

**5:30 p.m.**

College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics  
Doors open and candidates assemble at 5 p.m.

**Friday, Dec. 22 – Arco Arena**

**Noon**

College of Education  
Doors open and candidates assemble at 11:30 a.m.

**2:30 p.m.**

College of Social Sciences and Interdisciplinary Studies  
Doors open and candidates assemble at 2 p.m.

**5:00 p.m.**

College of Engineering and Computer Science  
Doors open and candidates assemble at 4:30 p.m.

**7:30 p.m.**

College of Arts and Letters  
Doors open and candidates assemble at 7 p.m.

**Saturday, Dec. 23 – Arco Arena**

**8 a.m.**

College of Health and Human Services  
Doors open and candidates assemble at 7:30 a.m.

**11 a.m.**

College of Business Administration  
Doors open and candidates assemble at 10:30 a.m.

For more information, call 278-4723 or visit [www.csus.edu/commence](http://www.csus.edu/commence)

**New Faces**

**Name:** Katherine (Kace) Chalmers

**Title:** Professor of Economics

**Background and expertise:**

Katherine (Kace) Chalmers strongly believes that students should have a concern for and an awareness of how others' actions can affect their lives. "I want my students to be conscientious consumers within the market economy," Chalmers says. "To do that, they need to consider not just how their actions affect them, but also how those actions affect other people."

The new Sacramento State professor of economics says this requires a classroom atmosphere that promotes the sharing of personal experience while simultaneously challenging students to connect those experiences with the topic at hand.

"For example, when we discuss obesity in class, we consider how a person chooses to eat can have additional effects for society, in the form of higher health insurance premiums, in addition to how those consumption choices affect the individual," she says.

Chalmers earned her bachelor's degree in English literature and economics at Texas Christian University. From Texas she traveled to Washington, D.C. where she worked as a legislative correspondent in the Congress before deciding to attend graduate school. From Capitol Hill Chalmers headed back west to Colorado where she earned her master's and doctoral degrees in economics at Colorado State University. She was an assistant professor of economics at Bowling Green State University before joining Sacramento State.

Her areas of expertise are public finance, welfare economics and economic development. She has studied how communities evaluate local economic development and model how they might be affected by various development programs or fiscal policy changes.

She says she is excited about her work at Sacramento State. "This spring, I am having my Principles of Microeconomics class read a book that traces the travels of a t-shirt through the global economy so that my students will have a better understanding of how the consumption of a seemingly simple good can have incredibly diverse effects on everyone from American cotton farmers to Chinese garment workers."

Chalmers' students have learned she is tolerant of alternative perspectives but impatient when students are not prepared. The new professor admits she is somewhat demanding in that students are required to complete numerous essays, exams, problem sets and texts. However, she believes students have a reciprocal right to be demanding of her time, especially outside of the classroom. She wants students to leave her classroom with a broader understanding not only of economics but also of themselves and others.

## Faculty Senate

### **Tuesday, Dec. 12**

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

### **Wednesday, Dec. 13**

9 a.m., Writing and Reading Subcommittee, Camellia Room, University Union  
3 p.m., General Education Course Review Subcommittee

### **Thursday, Dec. 14**

3 p.m., Faculty Senate, Foothill Suite, University Union – Tentative

### **Friday, Dec. 15**

2 p.m., Academic Policies Committee

All meetings are in Sacramento Hall 275 unless otherwise noted.

## Professional Activities

### Scholarship

Ann Weldy, English, was the invited keynote speaker for the Golden Crown Literary Society annual convention in Atlanta, GA, June 8 - 11. Her topic was "An Unfinished Journey: My Life in Letters." She was a

panelist in a discussion of "Lesbian Literature: Past, Present, Future," on June 22 - 25; was the opening night speaker at the Golden Threads 20th Annual Conference in Provincetown, MA, where she spoke on "Pioneers: Getting Started as a Creative Writer;" and was an invited guest at the annual Paperback Book Collectors Show in October in New York, NY; was interviewed on the subject of her novels of the 1950s and 60s, written as Ann Bannon, on WNYC, the New York Public Radio station. A play, *The Beebo Brinker Chronicles*, based on three of her Ann Bannon novels, is planned for an off-Broadway presentation in June 2007.

Doug Rice, English, read from his memoir-in-progress at Kent State University on November 18 and delivered a talk on memory and language at Kent State University on Nov. 20. He also gave a reading of his new fiction and memoir at Youngstown State University on November 21.

Stephen Perez and Mark Siegler, Economics, had their paper, "Agricultural and Monetary Shocks Before the Great Depression: A Graph-Theoretic Causal Investigation," published in the December 2006 issue of the *Journal of Macroeconomics*.

## **In the News**

Nancy Fox, Director of Transportation and Parking, was elected to a fourth term on the Board of Directors for the California Public Parking Association. She will be serving as 2007 Director of Training for Northern California. Nancy previously served as Treasurer and Secretary for the Board. She also made a presentation to the California State University System-wide Meeting of Parking Administrators in Irvine, California on November 28. The presentation was regarding the Sacramento State Visitor Parking Permit Electronic Request System.

## **Campus Announcements**

### **Construction update**

The Infrastructure II utilities upgrade project continues in various locations. Work on the steam and chilled water pipe installation may at times disrupt pedestrian traffic on walkways between Tahoe Hall and AIRC building and between the Parking Structure II and the University Union. Detours will be available.

Traffic may be disrupted along State University Drive West this week to install overflow sewer lines. Traffic in both directions on State University West will be maintained, however lanes will shift due to construction.

Fire alarm system installation will occur in Amador, Capistrano, Lassen, Sacramento, and Yosemite halls this week. Work will mainly be conducted after hours. Work notices will be posted in the building.

*Submitted by Facilities Services*

## **Food/Merchandise**

### **Bookstore scholarship date extended to December 15**

Faculty: Please announce to your students that the submission deadline for \$250 "Books Without Bills" scholarship awards for spring 2007 has been extended to 3:00 p.m. on Friday, December 15th. This first annual Hornet Bookstore scholarship awards \$250 for a 250-word (maximum) essay on the theme: "If I were a book, my title would be..." There are multiple scholarships available. Submission rules are available at the Hornet Bookstore or online at [www.sacstate.bkstr.com](http://www.sacstate.bkstr.com). These scholarships are sponsored by the Hornet Bookstore and University Enterprises, Inc.

*Submitted by University Enterprises, Inc.*

### **Special holiday menu**

Celebrate the joys of the holiday season with friends and colleagues at the University Center Restaurant's Holiday Buffet, Wednesday through Friday, December 13 - 15. Enjoy lunch on campus with this special menu that includes roast baron of beef, roast turkey, vegetarian Napoleons, mashed potatoes and gravy,

cornbread stuffing, sautéed vegetables, pasta salad, potato salad and mixed green salad. Top all this off with an assortment of pies, cakes, cookies, and ice cream. The Holiday Buffet is \$11.95 per person plus tax (beverages additional) and is available from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. The University Center Restaurant is located at the west entrance to the University Union across from the Student Health Connection. More information online at [www.enterprises.csus.edu/dining/area/ucr.html](http://www.enterprises.csus.edu/dining/area/ucr.html). Reservations suggested for groups of 5 or more at 916-278-6100.

*Submitted by University Enterprises, Inc.*

## **Human Resources**

### **New vision plan insurance carrier**

The Chancellor's Office recently completed a competitive bid process to select the insurance carrier for the employer-paid California State University (CSU) vision plan. As a result, the CSU has awarded a three-year contract to Vision Service Plan (VSP), replacing Medical Eye Services (MES/Blue Shield), effective Jan. 1, 2007. The CSU continues to pay the full monthly premium cost for the vision benefit for eligible employees and their dependents. For details regarding VSP and new benefit enhancements and/or co-payments under the plan, go to the Office of Human Resources Benefits website and click on "What's New." A benefit program announcement and a vision plan benefit summary are available for viewing. For more information regarding the VSP Select Network of providers, visit the VSP website at [www.vsp.com](http://www.vsp.com). VSP's Customer Service Center is available Monday – Friday, 5 a.m. to 7 p.m. and on Saturday, 6 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. via their toll-free number: (800) 877-7195.

*Submitted by Human Resources*

### **Catastrophic Leave Donation Program**

Sacramento State employees may voluntarily donate to other employees up to a maximum of 16 hours of sick or vacation leave credits each fiscal year in one-hour increments. CSUEU, MPP, Unit 4, Unit 6 and Confidential employees may donate up to a maximum of 40 hours per fiscal year.

If employees are interested in donating time, a donation form can be obtained by going to [www.csus.edu/hr/forms.stm#Disability](http://www.csus.edu/hr/forms.stm#Disability), or by visiting the Human Resources, Disability Leaves Office in Sacramento Hall 162, or by calling extension 278-3522.

The following employee have been approved for the Catastrophic Leave Donation Program:  
Nabor Lopez, Facilities Management

\* only vacation leave credits may be donated to this employee

*Submitted by Human Resources*