

# CALIFORNIANA

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SACRAMENTO  
STATE

*Leadership begins here.*

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## Envisioning California: Are We Preparing Young People for Life Beyond High School?

### 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Envisioning California Conference

Critical education issues that affect the state's economy and its future will be the focus of the Center's annual Envisioning California Conference from September 21–22, 2006 at the Sacramento Convention Center. Low high school retention rates among Hispanics and African American students, small learning communities vs. the large school model, the debate over technical education classes, educating for democracy and the state's high school exit exam are critical issues ultimately facing all Californians—from educators and students to policymakers and parents, from retirees and the workforce to business and higher education communities.

The Center's 18<sup>th</sup> annual

conference will examine California's education system by offering varying and divergent opinions, bringing together students, teachers, administrators, policymakers and others interested in high school education to better understand the problems, identify solutions and

define the outcomes we need to achieve to move California's public schools and the state forward. With timely and topical panel discussions to engaging keynote addresses, this year's Envisioning California Conference will be a "must attend" event for those in the education

community. The conference will also feature a Friday evening reception hosted by the Capital Fellows Alumni Association and a Saturday "day of service" at local public schools.

Many will remember the comments of the 2003 Envisioning California Conference keynote speaker, Henry Cisneros, when he encouraged participants to, "envision the new California not just as a demographic phenomenon, not just as an inevitability, but rather a dynamic oppor-

*continued on page 2*



PHOTO BY DONNAH HAS

### 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Journalism Awards reunites with 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Envisioning California Conference

The Center's California Journalism Awards will once again be combined with the Envisioning California Conference in 2006. The Journalism Awards will be presented during lunch at the Envisioning California Conference on September 22, 2006 at the Sacramento Convention Center. The Awards lunch is an excellent opportunity to showcase the talents of California journalists, both print and electronic media.

The California Journalism Awards competition is open to any full or part-time journalist, based in California, whose work has been published or broadcast and covers California state government and politics. The Journalism Awards also provides recognition to a student journalist through the Katharine M. Macdonald Award. The Macdonald Award is open to any full or part-time California college student whose work has been published or

broadcast in a college or university news media outlet, or in a non-academic news outlet, so long as the work was done as part of an academic class or internship. There is no entry fee, and the contest covers all works published or broadcast in 2005.

For more information about the Center's Journalism Awards, contact the Center for California Studies at (916) 278-6906. The deadline for entries is July 21, 2006. ■

**18<sup>th</sup> Annual Envisioning California Conference** *continued from page 1*

tunity to enrich and expand the California dream.” This year’s conference is an extension of Mr. Cisneros’ encouraging words and will provide a forum in which participants from all backgrounds and perspectives are encouraged to challenge the status quo in education. The confer-

ence will be an opportunity for participants to share best practices and offer tangible ideas on how to make our education system work for everyone.

Conference registration materials will be available in June. In the meantime, if you have any ideas,

speaker or panel suggestions, contact Claire Bunch at the Center at (916) 278-6906. Or, for ongoing conference updates, please visit the Center for California Studies’ website at [www.csus.edu/calst](http://www.csus.edu/calst). ■

S M T W T F S

## Mark your calendars:

**WHAT: 18th Annual Envisioning California Conference**

“Envisioning California: Are We Preparing Young People for Life Beyond High School?”

**WHEN:** September 21-22, 2006

**WHERE:** Sacramento Convention Center

**WHAT: Great Valley Center 8th Annual Conference**

“At the Tipping Point”  
Keynote Speaker: Henry Cisneros. Join more than 100 other speakers, panelists and presenters discussing health, agriculture, environment, technology, growth, water, arts and culture, community building and more.

**WHEN:** May 10 & 11, 2006

**WHERE:** Radisson Hotel Sacramento, California

## Tracking elections at the Center

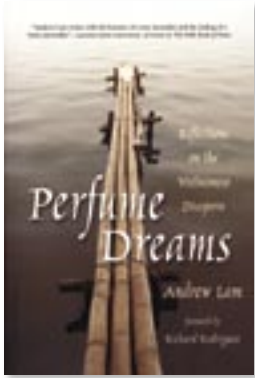
California has 58 counties, 478 incorporated cities and more than 1,100 school and community college districts. These jurisdictions hold elections to elect everything from county supervisors to community service directors, to decided ballot measures, ranging from growth limits to the Iraq War. Tracking incumbent reelection rates or the outcome of local bond measures could take weeks of contacting hundreds of elections officials—or a single visit to CEDA.

CEDA is the Center’s California Election Data Archive, California’s only single repository of county, city and school district election results. CEDA covers candidates and ballot measures from 1996 through 2005. CEDA’s value is evident in the list of people who have used it in recent months, including scholars from Oxford, Stanford, University of Pennsylvania and UC Irvine. CEDA data has also been used by Rand, the League of California Cities and the California Research Bureau. CEDA can be accessed at [www.csus.edu/isr/isr3.html](http://www.csus.edu/isr/isr3.html). ■

## Changes in Sacramento Semester Program

For more than 30 years, under the auspices of the Sacramento State Government Department, the Sacramento Semester Program has providing hundreds of government internship opportunities for undergraduate students from all 23 CSU campuses. The director of the program, Professor Jean Torcom, is retiring in the near future and Professor Michael Wadlé, a government department faculty member and the academic advisor for the Center’s Assembly Fellowship Program, is slated to assume the directorship upon Torcom’s retirement.

The Center for California Studies has always supported Sacramento Semester and will continue to do so by sharing our Capital Fellows Program distribution channels for Sac Semester materials and providing Torcom and Wadlé with the assistance necessary to ensure a smooth transition. The Center offers its congratulations to Professor Torcom for years dedicated to making Sac Semester such a great success and welcomes Professor Wadlé to his newest undertaking. ■



**Perfume Dreams:  
Reflections on the  
Vietnamese Diaspora**

BY ANDREW LAM

FOREWORD BY  
RICHARD RODRIGUEZ

192 PP (5.5 X 8.5), WITH EIGHT  
PAGES OF B&W PHOTOGRAPHS

TRADE PAPER, ISBN:  
1-57914-020-1, \$14.95

## Perfume Dreams: Reflections on the Vietnamese Diaspora

By Andrew Lam; Review by Thao Mai, Lecturer, Sacramento State Department of Ethnic Studies

In this collection of personal essays, Andrew Lam begins by questioning whether any memory is really lost if it can be reproduced in words and retold in stories. These reassuring words are meant to console Vietnamese refugees, like him, who have lost so much in leaving their home country.

In the “tradition” of postmodernism, Lam’s book contains fragments of his lived experiences as a journalist and as a Viet Kieu, a name that connotes Vietnamese nationals living outside of Vietnam. (Lam suggests that Viet Kieu are losers of an infamous war who ironically got the better end of the deal). Through short narratives, Lam reflects and analyzes the situation of Viet Kieus. His essays tackle complex issues including the experience of refugees who made it out of Vietnam (as opposed to those who didn’t); how US capitalism shapes Viet Kieus’ materialistic realities and ultimately their identity as hyphenated Americans; the question of locating one’s

“home” in the context of increasing globalization; and Viet Kieu’s relationship to people in Vietnam.

Lam recounts his personal and family experiences as among the collective refugee experience. Coming from an elitist background in pre-1975 era in Vietnam, Lam reminisces and dissects his previous privileged position, war tragedies that affected his family, the changing relationship among his family members as a result of “Americanization,” and his responsibility as an American journalist to current refugees.

Lam’s personal essays are honest and critical. His writing is creative in its mixture of journalistic and literary flavors. He takes his role as a journalist seriously, however, by giving the readers a detailed, fact-based and comprehensive view of the Vietnamese diaspora. Especially insightful are his examination of Viet Kieu materialism and consumerism, the politics of race and class in the US as it affects Vietnamese

Americans, and the Western world’s “compassion fatigue” for refugees in post-Cold War era.

As a Vietnamese American journalist, Lam is both an insider and outsider of the phenomena he writes about in *Perfume Dreams*. In each essay, the reader can see him working through his personal angst and his identity. For instance, he acknowledges his privileges as an educated American journalist and as a refugee who made it. Yet he found himself guilty with the West in their “compassion fatigue.”

Throughout the book, Lam questions his identity as a hyphenated person, someone who has to navigate multiple cultural realms. Sometimes he jumps too far into a realm, feeling as if American culture has taken a hold of him, but in the end, he masters the art of being a “hyphen” American and takes comfort in his position. Lam’s personal essays, like mosaic pieces, form a detailed and thoughtful picture of the Vietnamese diaspora. ■

## Connecting CSU faculty to the needs of state government

For more information, see  
[www.csus.edu/calst](http://www.csus.edu/calst) and click on  
Government Affairs

The Faculty Research Fellows Program (FRFP) links the research capacities of the California State University with the policy research needs of state government. Since 1994, under the administration of the Center for California Studies, the FRFP has distributed more than \$700,000 of funding for 60 research projects conducted by 71 faculty members at 13 different CSU campuses. All projects are a result of direct requests from the state Assembly, Senate and the Governor’s Office. Recent FRFP reports that have impacted Capital policy makers and reflect the breadth of topics addressed by CSU faculty include:

- *Poverty Measures and Their Impact on Federal Formula Grants to California* by Michael J. Potepan, San Francisco State;
- *History & Impact of California Bond Measures*, by Michael Semler, Sacramento State;
- *Photo-Catalytic Construction Materials and Reduction in Air Pollutants* by Mirat D. Gurol, San Diego State; and
- *When COGs Collide: Developing a Model for Regional Cooperation* by Victor Kamhi & Michelle Saint-Germain, CSU Long Beach. ■

## San Bernardino, Fresno, Chico... these universities save the state

By Kevin Starr



Kevin Starr

The following article, which was originally published in the *Los Angeles Times* on October 23, 2005, demonstrates the California State University's significant role in the California landscape.

**The CSU system transforms the poor and middle class into California's farmers, cops, teachers and business leaders.**

People used to come to California to find a better life. State government, by and large, was there to help. Today, it's of little solace. That's one reason November's special election is, in effect, a referendum on state government itself.

California has become expensive, competitive, demanding. The California dream was historically anchored in people's hope for a better life. Today, these people—mainly the middle class—work the hardest and the longest to make ends meet. And there's only one part of state government that is clearly there still to help ordinary people reach their dreams: the California State University system, an institution that has survived from what sometimes seems the long-gone golden age of California promise.

The CSU system is not just a government agency, however. It is, rather, a primary expression of the collective sovereignty of the people of California. It is the primary means and cutting edge in the struggle for California to sustain itself as a viable, competitive and humane society for ordinary citizens. One could write a history of contemporary California's creation almost exclusively by examining the rise and development of this institution.

Today, this great university grants nearly half of the state's baccalaureate degrees and a third of the master's degrees.

It bestows 65% of the business baccalaureate degrees and more than half of the agricultural business and agricultural engineering baccalaureate degrees. And it trains 89% of the state's professionals in criminal justice, 87% of the teachers and related staff, 87% of the social workers and 82% of the public administrators.

The CSU system, in short, is keeping California afloat while offering poor and middle-class people a continuing opportunity to move into the sort of well-paying jobs a college degree affords. Few state agencies possess such a clear-cut and necessary role.

The University of California, according to the Master Plan for Higher Education adopted in 1960, has as its primary mission research and teaching. The California State University, by contrast, has as its primary mission the education and training of Californians through a fusion program of instruction, applied research and preparation for employment.

These distinct missions cannot over time remain so clear-cut. A number of departments in the CSU system—such as Cal State Fresno's viticulture and enology program—are at least as distinguished, in research terms, as comparable departments at UC, despite the heavier teaching load borne by the CSU faculty.

This distinction between what should be learned (research) and how that

knowledge should be passed on (teaching) cannot in the long run be sustained. From this perspective, the University of California has to reconsider its policy of turning so much undergraduate instruction over to graduate students. And California State University cannot continue to be so limited in its research agenda, especially in areas such as education, its primary expertise—hence the recent announcement that the CSU system will now be authorized to grant a doctorate in that field.

Still, while the University of California will continue to enjoy the affection and loyalty of its graduates and the respect of the larger population, it cannot by definition become a populist institution. It is a research institution in the public service, with \$1 billion of its \$15-billion budget coming these days from private sources.

Although it also is increasingly ambitious in seeking private support, the CSU system, by contrast, is first and foremost a public enterprise: a direct creation of state government and, these days, perhaps the best connection state government enjoys with the people. Even our embattled legislators seem to understand this. Many of them, after all, are graduates of one or another CSU campus. ■

Kevin Starr, state librarian emeritus, is a university professor and professor of history at USC. His latest book, "California: A History," was published in October by Random House.

## Institute for Higher Education Leadership & Policy

The Institute has recently published three major policy reports.

Since 2001, the Institute for Higher Education Leadership & Policy has worked to strengthen California's higher education public policies. Its work has focused on community college leadership, higher education accountability, higher education finance and governance, and increasing student success in the California Community Colleges.

Under the leadership of its Director, Nancy Shulock, the Institute has recently published three major policy reports:

- *Facing Reality*, a comparison of California to other high-growth states in higher education performance and policymaking capacity;
- *Shared Solutions*, a framework for understanding future enrollment trends and associated costs, and for meeting those costs through state appropriations, student fees, and increased efficiencies; and
- *Variations on a Theme*, a comprehensive analysis of California's higher education performance broken down by region and race.

The Institute, which operates under the Center's administrative umbrella, recently created a comprehensive database of CSU centers, institutes, and individual faculty researchers active in state public policy research. The database will help create and reinforce connections between the CSU and state policymakers

Current projects include assessing the physical capacity and needs of the UC, CSU and Community Colleges through 2020 and identifying state and community college policy changes that could improve student progress. ■

## News from the Capital Fellows Alumni Affiliate

For membership information and details of the upcoming meetings and events, please contact Donna Hoenig-Couch at the Center for California Studies, [hoenigco@csus.edu](mailto:hoenigco@csus.edu), or visit the website at [www.csus.edu/calst/programs/alumni.html](http://www.csus.edu/calst/programs/alumni.html).

For many of the 1300 alumni of the Capital Fellowship Programs, the fellow experience formed enduring friendships, opened doors, shaped careers, and deeply etched values of public service.

Generations of fellows have found their lives changed by the experience and, as a result, the Capital Fellows Alumni Affiliate (CFAA) quickly recognized its mission—to create opportunities, encourage alumni involvement and to help alumni build relationships with one another.

Jorja Jackson, the incoming president of the Capital Fellows Alumni Affiliate, looks forward to the coming year of service and the opportunity to connect and strengthen our growing numbers of alumni. Jorja and fellow new board

officers, President-elect Karen Yelverton-Zamarippa, Secretary Dave Althausen, Treasurer Erin Peth and Center Statewide Advisory Board representative Bob Schelen are committed to furthering the work of the board to reach out to our alumni nationwide, and to the current and incoming fellows.

During its first two years, the CFAA has concentrated efforts on establishing itself as an organization, growing the membership base and hosting events. The group has established a peer mentoring program that connects current Capital Fellows with fellow alumni who are working professionally in similar areas of interest. Projects the board will launch include monthly brown-bag speaker series featuring examples of excellence in public service and the pri-

vate sector, alumni panels that will make themselves available to meet with current fellows to discuss topics of interest, and a scholarship fund to help recent Capital Fellows further their graduate education.

All of the above exciting projects would not be possible without the participation of our members and generous donations from friends of the CFAA, like the law firm Littler Mendelson, P.C., whose generous gift will assist us in our efforts to create a bright future for the fellows and our communities.

Former and current fellows are encouraged to attend a board meeting this year and help create a strong, stable force, generate new ideas, and support incoming and recent fellows. ■



**The LegiSchool Project**

# The LegiSchool Corner

Spring time for LegiSchool is synonymous with the annual *Student Legislative Summit* and *California Through My Eyes* photo contest. On April 6, ten students representing seven high schools converged on the State Capitol for LegiSchool's annual *Student Legislative Summit*, a day-long meeting

designed to introduce young people to state government. These talented students were selected to participate based on LegiSchool's essay contest, *Teens and Driving: Changing the Rules of the*

*Road*. With 294 entries representing 35 high schools, competition was tough. The highpoint of the summit was a student-run press conference with members of the legislature where students shared their opinions on teen driving regulations.

LegiSchool is currently soliciting entries from high school students for the annual *California Through My Eyes* photo contest. The photo can be a person, place or anything—big or small—that represents California to the photographer. Entries must be accompanied by a short essay. Winning entries will be displayed at the Center's annual Envisioning California Conference. The entry deadline is June 2 and complete contest details are available at:

[www.csus.edu/legischool/photo-contest](http://www.csus.edu/legischool/photo-contest).

Adapting to the newest mode of communication, LegiSchool created two on-line dialogues via the internet. Working with WestEd, a nonprofit research, development, and service agency, LegiSchool produced opportunities to continue the dialogue stimulated at the October and December Town Hall Meetings. The online project provided hundreds of students, educators and policy makers with the opportunity to communicate in an online environment on critical public policy

issues. We look forward to continuing this exciting partnership while expanding LegiSchool's ability to reach out to students and educators throughout California.

A second partnership that LegiSchool has forged this year is with Next Ten, a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that is working to engage the public, rebuild trust in government and rebuild the California dream. Combining resources, LegiSchool and Next Ten are coordinating efforts to reach out to California's educators to provide them with high-quality materials on California's budget. From LegiSchool's new *Understanding the Budget Process* video to Next Ten's *California Budget Challenge* internet tool and written materials, educators can order these free innovative and engaging tools to enhance their curriculum. To place an order, please contact LegiSchool staff.

Finally, LegiSchool would like to thank the Wells Fargo Foundation and the California Teachers Association for their generous and ongoing support. ■

PHOTO BY DON MAHHAAS



A student poses a question to the panel at the LegiSchool Town Hall meeting on "Student's Rights vs. Parent's rights".

## Congratulations to LegiSchool Essay Contest Winners: »

The following 10 students were selected from 294 entries representing 35 high schools throughout California to participate in the day-long meeting designed to introduce young people to state government: Sana Ahmed, Jasdeep Brar, Samuel A. Chiu, Christina Hinojosa, Ellen Hou, Vanessa Johnson, Allison Jones, Grace McCullough, Jennifer Pham, and Rachel Warner.

LegiSchool participants visit the State Capitol for LegiSchool's annual Student Legislative Summit.

PHOTO BY DON MAHHAAS



CENTER FOR CALIFORNIA STUDIES

The Center for California Studies is a public policy, public service, and curricular support unit of California State University, Sacramento, dedicated to promoting a greater understanding of California's history, cultures, governments and public policies.

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MAILING ADDRESS

California State University, Sacramento  
Center for California Studies  
6000 J Street  
Sacramento, CA 95819-6081  
Telephone: (916) 278-6906  
FAX: (916) 278-5199  
E-mail: calstudies@csus.edu  
  
www.csus.edu/calst



Profile: Capital Fellow  
Alumnus James C. Ho  
1995–1996 Senate Fellow

James Ho lists as one of the inspirational points in his career the year he spent as a Senate Fellow. Now ten years out of the program, he has launched a seemingly indomitable career in public service. In accepting an appointment to the inaugural Capital Fellows Alumni Board in 2003, Ho wrote, "I have long felt a great debt to the California State Senate Fellows Program (known my year as the California Senate Associates Program), for inspiring me and for starting a fulfilling lifelong career in public service that I continue to enjoy on a daily basis today."

Following his fellowship year with then Senator Quentin Kopp, James attended law school at the University of Chicago, where he graduated with honors. From there, he continued to pursue his love and commitment to public and community service, holding legal positions in all three branches of the federal government. His experience now spans both the California State and United States Senate.

Most recently, Ho worked on the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee as chief counsel

to Senator John Cornyn of Texas. In that capacity, he served as chief counsel of the Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Property Rights during the 108th Congress, and as chief counsel of the Subcommittee on Immigration, Border Security and Citizenship during the beginning of the 109th Congress. He worked on various legal issues in addition to constitutional and immigration law, including the Freedom of Information Act, national security, international law, civil rights, intellectual property, bankruptcy, House and Senate rules, nominations, and the U.S. Supreme Court. In 2005, *The Hill* named him one of the best 35 Congressional staffers under 35.

From 2001 to 2003, Ho served at the U.S. Department of Justice, first as Special Assistant to the Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights, and then as an attorney-adviser at the Office of Legal Counsel, where he specialized in constitutional and international law. While at the U.S. Department of Justice, Ho was appointed to the U.S. delegation to the United Nations Committee

on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, and to the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders coordinating committee. In 2002, Ho was recognized with an Exceptional Civilian Service Award.

Ho clerked on the U.S. Supreme Court for Justice Clarence Thomas during the October 2005 term, and for Judge Jerry E. Smith of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, in Houston, Texas, from 1999-2000. Ho also served as an associate in the Washington, D.C. office and Appellate and Constitutional Law practice group of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP, from 2000-2001.

Born in Taipei, Taiwan on February 27, 1973, Ho is also active in the Asian community. He is married to the former Allyson P. Newton of Houston, Texas.

This June Ho will rejoin Gibson, Dunn and Crutcher in the firm's Dallas office.

We at the Center look forward to following Ho's accomplishments along with generations of Fellows who, in their illuminating careers, spend some time with us. ■

# CAPITAL FELLOWS

2005 · 2006



PHOTO BY DON NAHHAS

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