

CALIFORNIANA

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SACRAMENTO
STATE

Leadership begins here.

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Alumni Profile:
Jorja Jackson, pg. 7

18th Annual Envisioning California Conference: Successful and Informative

“We must open doors of opportunity. But we must also equip our people to walk through those doors.” This quote by Lyndon B. Johnson epitomizes the 18th Annual Envisioning California Conference, “How Well are We Preparing our Young People for Life After High School?”

The 2006 Envisioning California Conference was held on September 21-22 at the Sacramento Convention Center. Panelists and participants discussed and illuminated the many critical issues facing California’s secondary education and proposed solutions to problems to help move high schools

and the state itself forward. With the participation of diverse panelists and more than 360 attendees, feedback from the conference was consistently positive. Many, eager to pursue ideas and debates that ensued during the panel discussions, took the opportunity to do so during a post-conference online dialogue.

Panelists and attendees included

teachers, administrators and school district representatives; higher education professionals; leaders from educational organizations; school board and PTA members; legislative staff; policy-makers; high school and college students and others generally interested in California studies.

The conference began with a reception on Thursday evening

featuring a spoken word presentation by the California Legacy Project, highlighting California through literature readings. Conference attendees then enjoyed dinner and a keynote address by California State Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O’Connell.

Friday’s spirited panels included “Retention Rates: Why are so Many Young Men Disappearing from our

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Left to right: Peter Schrag, *Sacramento Bee*; Nancy Cleveland, *Los Angeles Times*; Jill Tucker, *San Francisco Chronicle*; Kevin Weston, *Pacific News Service*

Twelfth Annual California Journalism Awards

This year marked the twelfth year that the Center for California Studies and the Sacramento Press Club recognized excellence in reporting of California state government and politics.

Coinciding with the 18th annual Envisioning California Conference, the Awards Luncheon was opened by Tim Hodson, Executive Director of the Center for California Studies, and followed with presentation of the awards by John Myer, President

of the Sacramento Press Club. The luncheon plenary session, with moderator and editorialist Peter Schrag, featured California education reporters Nancy Cleeland of the *Los Angeles Times*, Jill Tucker (2001 Award recipient) of the *San Francisco Chronicle*, and Kevin Weston, editor-in-chief of the *Yo! Youth Outlook Magazine*, Pacific News-Service.

Winners of the 2005 California Journalism Awards are:

Douglas Fischer of *The Oakland Tribune* received the John Jacobs Award for print/special feature enterprise reporting for his article “A Body’s Burden: Our Chemical Legacy.”

John Gittelsohn of *The Orange County Register* received the John Jacobs Award for print daily coverage for a provocative story on Senate Bill 1, the “Million Solar Roofs Initiative.”

Scott Shafer of *KQED Public*
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18th Annual Envisioning California Conference *continued from page 1*

Schools?;" "Schools as Political Terrain;" "The High School Exit Exam:

Is it a Valuable Measure of our Students' Abilities?;" "Restructuring High Schools: Opportunities & Challenges;" "A-G: Is College Prep for Everyone?" and "Innovative Ideas in Career

Preparation".

Following the conference, the Center sponsored a week-long online dialogue further exploring issues such as retention rates, career technical education, the exit exam and high school redesign. More than 100 individuals representing the education community participated in this conference innovation.

The concluding plenary summed up the hard questions and unresolved debate surrounding the policy intents and human consequences of the state's system

of educating its youth. Associate Superintendent Odie Douglas from Lodi Unified School District imparted an inspired and optimistic message echoing one vision of California in the collective power of education and believing in the capacity of youth to change the world. ■

Join us next year in Southern California for the 19th annual conference on the topic of California immigration, hosted by our partners, CSU Northridge Center for Southern California Studies, www.csun.edu/cscs.

PHOTO BY DON NAHHAS



Left to right: 2006–2007 Capital Fellows Carmen Franklin, Sulma Guzman, Diana Quach, Nina Kapoor, Martin Rodosevich

California Journalism Awards *continued from page 1*

Radio in San Francisco, for excellence in reporting. His story about the Governor's consideration of clemency for death row inmate Tookie Williams examined the case of clemency, the political considerations for Schwarzenegger and the role of clemency in history.

For excellence in television reporting, **Hank Plante** of *KPIX-TV*

in San Francisco, for his two-part series entitled "Arnold Incorporated" which looked at the enormous fundraising machine established by Governor Schwarzenegger.

The Katherine M. Macdonald Award for excellence in student journalism went to University of Southern California student **Kristin Mayer** (2004 Award recipient). Her

story featured in the *Daily Trojan—News* was on the death of a USC grad student who was struck and killed by a hit-and-run driver while crossing a street near campus. ■

Read and hear these winning California stories and broadcasts in full at www.csus.edu/calst/events/journalism

Save the Date!
June 8,
2007

Center Milestones & Fellowship Celebration

What do 1957, 1972, 1982, 1985 and 1996 have in common? Each witnessed the creation of a part of what is now the Center for California Studies and the Capital Fellows Programs. Accordingly, on June 8, 2007 the Center and the Capital Fellows Alumni Association will host a grand celebration to observe, honor and enjoy the **50th anniversary** of the creation of the Jesse M. Unruh Assembly Fellowship Program; the **35th anniversary** of the Senate Fellows Program; the **25th anniversary** of the Center itself; the **22nd anniversary** of the Executive Fellowship Program and the **10th anniversary** of the Judicial Administration Fellowship Program.

Collectively, the Capital Fellows Programs have selected, placed and mentored 117 years of fellows involving 1473 individual fellows. The Programs have produced ranks of leaders and public servants whose accomplishments are matched only by their disparate fields of success. Fellows have become judges and journalists, entrepreneurs and entertainers, professors and politicians. They have become college presidents and award winning film makers; corporate leaders and Hollywood comedians; members and staff of the national and state legislatures and teachers. They have also successfully sought opportunities for service in education, business, non-profits and

religion. The Center has also grown from a file cabinet to a nationally respected organization noted for its innovative and successful work in civic education, research, California Studies as well as experiential learning programs like the Fellows.

The **grand celebration** will be held at the Library Galleria in Sacramento and will feature extensive displays from past Fellow classes as well as the release of a history of the Capital Fellows Programs published by the Public Policy Press of UC Berkeley.

Be sure to save the date—June 8, 2007—for an evening of fun and remembrances as we honor the Capital Fellows Programs and the Center. ■

Perez Advocates; Ostgaard Directs

Sandra Perez, former director of the Executive Fellows Program, has been named by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger as the Director of the Office of the Patient Advocate. Kolleen Ostgaard, director of the Center's LegiSchool Project and the Center's deputy director, now leads the Executive Fellows Program.

Ostgaard joined the Center in January 1997 as the LegiSchool Project Coordinator. Under her leadership, LegiSchool expanded into a multifaceted and nationally praised civic education program. She created a summer internship through which high school students are paired with Capital Fellows and pioneered on-line dialogues to continue discussions started at LegiSchool Town Hall Meetings. In 2005, Ostgaard was promoted

to the position of deputy director at the Center, a position she will retain as she assumes the responsibility for the Executive Fellows Program.

When Perez came to the Center in 2001, she was responsible for both the Judicial Administration (JAF) and Executive Fellowship Programs. A year and a budget increase later, the Center was able to hire a director for the JAF program and Perez focused on the Executive Program. She expanded the range of placement options in the executive branch and successfully guided the program through the unprecedented mid-term transition accessioned by the 2003 recall. Her background in health policy and the Governor's appointment allows her to return to her interest in public health policies and programs. ■

Faculty Research Fellows

The report, *Improving Facility Planning for California Higher Education*, is available at www.csus.edu/calst/government_affairs/government_affairs.html

Research commissioned through the Center's Faculty Research Fellows Program (FRFP) has made statewide news. The report, *Improving Facility Planning for California Higher Education*, was requested by the state Senate Office of Research and was featured prominently in recent joint Legislative hearings. The report, with Sacramento State's Nancy Shulock as principal author, concludes that state bond funds will not be able to finance all the capital projects needed by the UC, CSU and community colleges and outlines various options, like joint use agreements, that could mitigate this problem.

FRFP also commissioned its first "peer review" project. The Senate requested a quick turn-around evaluation of a transportation study. Three CSU faculty members with expertise in the area assessed the study as if it were a proposed journal article. The resulting reviews greatly assisted the Senate's evaluation of the study and its proposals. ■

Welcome! to the Class of 2006-2007

The staff at the Center warmly welcome the 2006-2007 Capital Fellows. The sixty-four Assembly, Executive, Judicial Administration and Senate Fellows came together October 24 to launch their orientations and spend a day of introductions to each other, campus and Center staff, and representatives of state government. Sacramento State Provost Joseph Sheley, Judge Kathleen White, and

Health and Human Services Agency Secretary Kim Belshé were among those welcoming the fellows to a year of public service and mentorship in California's vital and always interesting state government.

Executive Director Tim Hodson congratulated the group and invited them to experience fully the multitude of opportunities the year promises while learning the lessons of ground-

ed and ethical leadership. That commitment to service is both ennobling and humbling, Hodson said. Center staff wishes a year of unforgettable learning, unanticipated surprises, and lasting friendships to the 2006-2007 Fellows. ■

The deadline for the 2007-2008 Fellowship Programs is Feb. 28, 2007

LSMI: Year Two

The Legislative Staff Management Institute (LSMI) is the major training and leadership program for senior legislative staff of the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL). The Center with its partner, the University of Southern California's Sacramento Center, organized the second LSMI under our five year contract with NCSL. Held last July at the USC Sacramento Center, the 2006 LSMI enjoyed higher numbers of both applications and participants as well as a curriculum tweaked to reflect participant feedback and our own evaluations. The 2006 LSMI was attended by a total of 34 legislative staffers from 19 different states, ranging from Hawaii to Connecticut and Wisconsin to Florida. At the NCSL's national annual meeting, the Center and USC were praised for having turned around a several year decline in LSMI interest and greatly improving the curriculum and the methods of delivery. ■

State of Decline?

Gaps in college access and achievement call for renewed commitment to educating Californians.

A report from the Institute of Higher Education Leadership & Policy, California State University, Sacramento

Many Californians believe that their system of public higher education is the best in the nation. After all, the University of California has an international reputation as a research institution, the California State University awards more baccalaureate degrees than any other public university, and the California Community Colleges form the single largest higher education system in the country. An analysis of comparative data, however, reveals serious performance problems. The “student pipeline” in California is leaky at every point: high school students are not adequately prepared for college; too few high school graduates go directly to college; and, once enrolled, too few college students graduate with certificates and degrees.

The Leaky Pipeline

While modest progress has been made in high school preparation, the state’s schoolchildren do poorly on standardized tests of educational achievement. California’s 8th graders rank 48th in science achievement among states, and too few high school students enroll in the rigorous upper-level math and science courses important to college success. In a positive development, the share of 8th graders taking algebra has increased substantially, which may result in high school students taking more high level math courses in the near future.

High college participation rates have always been celebrated in California as a positive result of the state’s commitment to access under the 1960 Master Plan. However, high participation is due primarily to the large number of working-age adults enrolled part-time in low-cost community colleges – most of whom are not

seeking or do not complete a college degree. California ranks 40th among states in the rate of high school graduates going *directly* to college. Students who delay college enrollment are much less likely to complete a degree or certificate. Over the last decade, the rate of enrolling in college directly after high school has declined, a discouraging trend given the educational demands of the global economy.

California’s focus on access among older, part-time students has not translated into degree completion. California ranks 47th on the number of certificates and degrees awarded per 100 undergraduates enrolled. While retention and graduation rates among *full-time* freshmen at public universities compare well with the rest of the country, the state performs poorly on completion measures that include all students, because California has a greater percentage of part-time students who complete college at far lower rates.

Gaps in Educational Attainment by Race/Ethnicity and Region

The “leaky pipeline” is even leakier for black and Latino students. These students are far less likely to complete high school and attend college than are white and Asian students, and are less likely to be well-prepared for college when they do enroll, leading to lower completion rates. There are also significant variations in college preparation, attendance, and success across regions of the state, with large urban areas providing greater educational opportunities than rural areas.

Some key indicators of the gaps that need to be closed include:

- Only about 25% of Blacks and Latinos complete the college pre-

paratory A-G curriculum, while over 40% and 50% of whites and Asians, respectively, do so.

- Blacks and Latinos together make up 48% of the 18-year old population in California but only 25% of the undergraduate degrees/certificates awarded.
- The percentage of high school graduates in the San Francisco Bay area completing the college preparatory A-G curriculum is nearly twice that of graduates in the South San Joaquin Valley.
- The college participation rate of 18 to 24 year-olds varies from a low of 13 percent in the Inyo-Mono region to a high of 49 percent in the Central Coast.

Affordability and Finance

College affordability is declining. Students who take out student loans incur larger debt loads than borrowers in other states, and California’s families must devote a higher share of their income to college costs. Keeping college affordable has been particularly difficult in California, where the high cost of living offsets advantages of comparatively low fees.

Funding per full-time student for California higher education is well below the national average because our colleges and universities collect far less in student fee revenue than do institutions in other states. State support per student is right at the national average. If California is to continue its long-standing commitment to low fees, state appropriations will have to increase. Whether through new fee policies or increased appropriations, new finance approaches are needed to ensure that a commitment to affordable college opportunities does not result in under-funded colleges and universities.

continued

Keeping California Competitive

Educational attainment fosters personal prosperity and state economic competitiveness. Californians should be concerned about the implications of the disparities in educational attainment across racial/ethnic groups and regions. The Latino population is the least educated and the fastest growing in California. Latinos will represent nearly 50 percent of the state's working-age population by 2020, making it imperative that the state reduce gaps in educational attainment to maintain economic and social health. The state's per capita income as a share of the U.S. average has been declining, and will fall below the na-

tional average in about six years unless gaps in educational attainment are narrowed.

In the interest of avoiding a decline in California's economic and social health, policy attention should be given to the following:

- K-12 reform efforts should be continued and expanded, with specific attention to improving proficiency in science and math, improving the linkages between high school proficiency and college readiness, and promoting a college-going culture.
- Policies that promote direct, full-time enrollment after high school, if paired with policies to improve college readiness, will reap huge benefits for degree and certificate completion.

- Policies that encourage regional collaboration across educational sectors can help address unique regional challenges.
- New finance approaches are needed that balance affordability with providing colleges and universities the financial capacity to help students succeed. Increased student success will raise education levels and earnings, and bring higher tax revenues for the state, providing a positive return on the state's investment in public higher education. ■

This article is an excerpt from "State of Decline?" which is available for download at www.csus.edu/ihe/.

News from the Institute for Higher Education Leadership & Policy

A newly released report documents serious shortcomings in California's higher education.

The Institute for Higher Education Leadership and Policy recently released two new reports. "State of Decline?" was released formally to media outlets across the state and garnered much attention. It documents serious shortcomings in California's higher education performance at all stages of the "pipeline"—preparation for college among K-12 students, college going rates, and college completion rates. The report was intended to sound a warning to policymakers and educators that

performance gaps across regions of the state and racial/ethnic groups must begin to close soon if the state is to avoid a decline in its social, civic, and economic health. The second report was commissioned by Senator Jack Scott to advise him and his colleagues on improving the state's capital planning processes for higher education. Read both reports at www.csus.edu/ihe.

The Institute is pursuing a comprehensive research agenda aimed at improving student success in California's Community

Colleges. With support from the Hewlett and Irvine foundations, the Institute has documented low completion rates and analyzed how current finance policies contribute to low success rates by encouraging enrollment but not completion of degrees and certificates. The Institute is also studying the effects of enrollment-related policies practiced at the campus level (such as assessment and placement into remedial courses, course dropping and late registration) on student success. ■

Capital Fellows Alumni News

The Capital Fellows Alumni Affiliate (CFAA) met for a board retreat at Lake Natomas on September 30. Board members worked with consultant Steve Halley to develop a strategic plan process to ensure a future thriving and vital alumni association.

During the retreat, the board developed a new mission statement: "The Capital Fellows Alumni Affiliate is an alumni association for former fellows fostering development through a devoted and connected community, helping create good public policy and ethical leadership."

A new vision statement predicts, "The

Capital Fellows Alumni Affiliate is recognized for creating and supporting successful and effective leaders through unique events, quality services, and exceptional opportunities."

In 2007, the board will survey members on matters such as communications, an alumni directory, and the development of new programs. Part of the survey will identify the activities members would like to participate in, such as volunteering, serving on committees, mentoring, or conducting outreach to prospective fellows. The board also discussed creating programs that offer greater opportunities for members to stay

connected and involved with the CFAA.

Karen Yelverton-Zamarripa, President-Elect of the CFAA, explains that "the board will focus on why people joined the CFAA so that programs and services can be developed that make their membership a rewarding and enriching experience."

The CFAA board voted to adopt the mission and vision statement and finalize the components of the survey at its fall meeting on November 16. ■

To join the Capital Fellows Alumni Association, see <http://www.csus.edu/calst/alumni>

The LegiSchool Corner



LegiSchool: Engaging Young People In Matters of Public Policy and State Government

LegiSchool's 2006–2007 Town Hall Meeting Schedule

The Race for California's Governor: What Students Have to Say!

October 19

The California High School Exit Exam: Preparation, Promotion or Politics?

December 7

California and Immigration: An Examination of Public Policy and Student Perspectives

February 8

Teen Health Issues: Critical Concerns

April 19

The LegiSchool Project is an award-winning civic education collaboration between Sacramento State and the State Legislature. LegiSchool's mission is to engage young people in matters of state government by creating experiential learning opportunities for students and state leaders to meet and share ideas on issues affecting California and by developing free, state government-oriented curriculum for California educators. This year's line up of meetings and contests provides opportunities for students to learn more about critical public policies including immigration reform, teen health issues and the high school exit exam.

Following the February and April meetings, the discussions will be open to the public in the form of one-week online dialogues with students, educators and policymakers.

For more information about LegiSchool visit www.csus.edu/legischool or call 916.278.6906.

And the Winner is »

In September, LegiSchool announced the winning photograph for its *California through My Eyes* photo contest. The contest is an opportunity for high school students to share images and short essays of what California represents to them. Seventy-one students representing ten California high schools submitted entries. The top prize went to Fritzi Kreitzer of Morro Bay High for her image entitled, *Mountain of Gold*.

"Mountain of Gold," Fritzi Kreitzer, Morro Bay High School—11th grade



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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Fellow Profile
Jorja Jackson

1998-99 Judicial
Administration Fellow

Jorja Jackson is an associate at the Sacramento law firm of Littler Mendelson and the current president of the Capital Fellows Alumni Affiliate (CFAA). Jackson attended UCLA where she obtained her bachelor of arts degree in political science with a concentration in political theory. In what turned out to be a life changing experience, Jackson was accepted into the Judicial Administration Fellowship Program.

During her fellowship, Jackson staffed the Community Focused Court Planning Committee at the Superior Court of Alameda County. The committee was responsible for bridging the gap between the public and the court through the development and implementation of community outreach programs. Jackson credits the Hon. Gordon S. Baranco, Superior Court Judge and Chair of the Community Focused Court Planning Committee with helping set her career path. "Judge Baranco provided and continues to provide me with guidance and advice regarding my career. If it wasn't for the fellowship program, I never would have had the opportunity to meet such a great legal mentor."

She continued working at the Alameda Court after her fellowship until the fall of 2000, when she began her legal studies at the University of California, Hastings College of the Law. While at Hastings, Jackson served as a judicial extern with Hon. Maria-Elena James, U.S. Magistrate Judge for the Northern District of California, U.S. District Court in San Francisco and with Hon.

Arthur G. Scotland, Presiding Justice of the California Court of Appeal, Third Appellate District. Jackson also served as a law clerk with the Judicial Council of California, Administrative Office of the Courts.

Jackson joined Farmer, Murphy, Smith & Alliston in Sacramento as an associate concentrating on insurance coverage and defense matters. Her interest in employment law led her to Littler Mendelson, where she advises and represents employers in a broad range of employment law matters, including civil litigation before state and federal courts. Jackson is a member of the Anthony M. Kennedy Inn of Court—a group of judges and attorneys who meet periodically to discuss issues of interest to the legal community, emphasizing professionalism, ethics and civility in the practice of law.

Jackson is the current President of the CFAA. She finds her involvement is a way to give back to the fellowship and as a way to continue building upon the extensive network of fellow alumni who are now leaders in California and beyond. "I loved my fellowship experience. It was a great launching pad for my career. Being a fellow was one of the best choices I ever made in terms of my career."

As the President of the Capital Fellows Alumni Affiliate Board, Jackson's priorities are to lay a foundation of goals and objectives upon which the CFAA can continue to build and thrive. She encourages all alumni to get involved with the CFAA to expand upon what they gained, and above all else, to stay connected. ■

Your California Legacy

The Center has enjoyed a fruitful association with the California Legacy Series, a partnership between Santa Clara University and Heyday Press of Berkeley. For six years the original California Legacy Series has reprinted lost California classics and published new anthologies and collections. Now it has gone multi-media with the "Your California Legacy" radio series.

Professor Terry Beers of Santa Clara teamed with KAZU public radio to develop "Your California Legacy," a series of 90 second dramatic readings of California writing. The segments are self-contained and designed to be used between radio shows or incorporated into existing programs.

"Your California Legacy" segments have included readings from classic California works such as John Muir on observing winds in the Sierra from his 1894 work *The Mountains of California*, Mark Twain's hilarious description of a summer trip to San Francisco's

famed Cliff House and its freezing result; and Raymond Chandler's edgy description of the Santa Ana winds from his short story *Red Wind*.

Segments are not, however, limited to famous California writers. Beers and his team have also included the writings of pioneer feminist reformer Eliza Farnham on bloomers and building her own house from her 1856 memoir, *California In-Doors and Out*, and Evelyn Waugh's perspectives of California funerals from *The Loved One*. Another segment features the court testimony of Charlotte L. Brown who, nine decades before Rosa Parks' heroic actions, successfully sued a San Francisco street car company for barring "colored persons."

For more information, visit: <http://californialelegacy.org/>. And if you like what you read about, ask your local public radio station about broadcasting "Your California Legacy." ■

The California Legacy Project's logo is an artist's rendition of purple needlegrass—*nassella pulchra*—a perennial bunchgrass that grows in the oak chaparral and grasslands of the Coast Ranges and Sierra foothills of California

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