There are now more than 170,000 graduates of Sac State, with almost 6,000 joining their ranks each year. And the 23-campus California State University system, of which Sac State is a part, now has more than 1.7 million graduates living and working in California.

One way to judge a university is by its alumni. And by that measure, I am convinced Sacramento State has been doing really fine work. The people who have studied and graduated from here are making great contributions to our region, our state and our world.

To celebrate your success, the month of April will be designated as Alumni Month at Sacramento State. The month will include a series of events on campus, including the annual Distinguished Service Awards banquet on April 6. We’ll honor eight individuals who have excelled in their fields. Among them will be René Syler, one of the anchors on The Early Show on CBS News and the subject of this issue’s cover story, and Bill Campbell, our women’s tennis coach as well as an alum and a leading benefactor of the University. Other recipients include retired banker Jack Bertolucci, recreation district administrator Patrick P. Fenwick, moving company founder Jack Higdon, government official Theresa “Terri” A. Parker, and bank president Randall E. Reynoso. The Distinguished Faculty Award will be given to the dean of Sac State’s College of Health and Human Services, Marilyn Hopkins.

I invite you to join us as we recognize our outstanding Sac State alums. Please visit the Alumni Association’s website at www.csus.edu/alum, or call (916) 278-6295 for a complete listing of the activities during Alumni Month and to reconnect with the University.

Please stay involved with Sac State as we strive to serve our students even better and as we work to become an even more important resource for our region and state. As always, if you have questions or suggestions feel free to contact my office at (916) 278-7737.

From the President

Alexander Gonzalez
President
Across CAMPUS

Gifts add sparkle TO GALA

A great party was made even better when Sacramento State’s inaugural Green and Gold Gala brought with it the announcement of several major gifts totaling more than $3.1 million dollars. Many of the donors followed the lead of the night’s honorees, Alex and Faye Spanos, who contributed $10 million to the University’s Recreation, Wellness, Events Center and Stadium project. The gifts included:

- $1.3 million from alumnus Bill Campbell and his wife Margie toward construction of a new field house on the south end of the stadium and renovation of the tennis courts.
- A commitment from McCarthy Building Company to help construct the field house, which will include workout facilities, locker rooms, conference areas and coaches’ office.
- Additional gifts touched on other campus priorities related to the University’s ambitious Destination 2010 initiative to transform the campus into a premier metropolitan university and a destination campus for the West. The gifts included:
  - $1.2 million from Follett Higher Education Group toward construction of a new Hornet Bookstore.
  - $650,000 from Java City for construction of a coffee house in the University Library and renovation of a campus eaterie.
  - $300,000 from local restaurateurs the Fat Family for capital improvements to a campus food court.

HONORABLE mention

A challenging liberal arts education, in a small-class setting. On a large, metropolitan campus.

That’s the idea behind the University’s new honors program.

The program features courses for entering freshmen in their first four semesters at Sac State. There will also be an upper-division component of nine to 12 units that students will take in their junior and senior years.

The program is part of ongoing efforts to foster excellent academic and student programs. It will also help the campus attract more freshmen, a charge that has become more important in recent years.

An initial group of 60 students is scheduled to begin in the fall. The program is part of ongoing efforts to foster excellence and student programs. It will also help the campus attract more freshmen, a charge that has become more important in recent years.

All ABOARD

Getting to and from campus could become less like a trip to the parking lot and more like a trip to the theme park. Campus reps are exploring the idea of a trackless trolley that will connect the campus with the 65th Street light rail station and make a loop through the middle of campus with stops along the way. A survey found more faculty, staff and students would use the light rail if there was a convenient way to get from the station to campus.

For the plan for the plan is a BRT—bus rapid transit—similar to the system operating at the University of Oregon. BRTs look much like a light rail car but they don’t require the rail system, making them about half as expensive. The BRT has rubberized wheels and usually runs on a designated concrete or asphalt track, but can also run on a regular roadway.

Each BRT can hold about 40 passengers. Plans call for enough service to run every five or seven minutes. The campus is pursuing state, county and federal funds for the project, which could be up to and running in two to three years.

President named top HISPANIC LEADER

Sacramento State President Alexander Gonzalez was named one of the 100 most influential Hispanic leaders in America by Hispanic Business magazine in its October issue. Gonzalez joins a select group of top executives and professionals from academia, government, entertainment, sports and business. The list includes notables such as Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, Amador Bustos, Chair and COO of Sacramento-based Bustos Meda, and actor Andy Garcia.

The magazine cited Gonzalez’ “Destination 2010” initiative to transform Sacramento State into a premier metropolitan university by increasing student housing, building the new Recreation, Wellness and Events Center and adding new academic buildings. And it also noted that the president was chair of the board of the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities.

MORE majors

Students seeking more choices in their academic program got their wish last fall. Several new academic programs made their debut, including a joint doctorate in education leadership. New degrees, majors and minors include a master’s degree in chemistry with a concentration in biochemistry, a master’s degree in business administration for executives, a history minor in Middle East and Islamic Studies, and a criminal justice minor in forensics investigations. And a minor in Chicano Latino Studies got its start last spring.

The new majors and minors address student interests, emerging national issues and potential job opportunities. For example, the new biochemistry master’s degree helps prepare future employees for the area’s growing biotech industry. The courses in Middle Eastern and Islamic culture are an offshoot from interest after Sept. 11. And the criminal justice minor in forensics arose from the strong interest in criminology among biology majors.

Two other programs address the needs of working professionals. The new doctoral program in educational leadership, offered with Sonoma State University and UC Davis, is designed to meet the need for leadership in California’s public schools and community colleges. The first group of Executive MBA students started in September in Roseville, and a second recently began in Folsom.

More: Academic Affairs at 278-6331
Caring for Katrina’s Casualties

Like the rest of the country, the campus community at Sac State reached out—financially and literally—to the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

Sac State was one of 20 universities in the CSU system to welcome students who had been displaced by the storms. Twenty-three students who had previously been enrolled at Gulf Coast universities such as Xavier, Tulane and University of New Orleans were able to enroll at Sac State without having to pay out-of-state fees. And a scholarship fund was established to help them with tuition, books, housing and other expenses. The students’ enrollment paperwork was also expedited.

“This students have been driven from their universities, their dormitories and apartments,” said President Alexander Gonzalez. “College life as they have

Sacramento is the nation’s largest metropolitan area without a state-of-the-art planetarium. These types of facilities are considered crucial to California continuing as a science and technology leader because they build students’ interests.

The proposed center—which will also contain an observatory, hands-on science exploration areas and laboratories—got a big boost in November with a $950,000 federal appropriation. Congresswoman Doris Matsui was instrumental in obtaining the funding, which combined with funds previously obtained by her husband, the late Congressman Robert Matsui, and the late Chien Yuan Hu, and the late Kirsten Vanderberg.

The $10 million facility has also received support from the late Robert Nagle, the late Ron Balakrishna, the late Royal and Kirsten Vanderberg.

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Construction could be under way within a year.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

What do you think of the cover of Sac State Magazine? Please send your opinions about the magazine to infodesk@csus.edu, or Sac State Magazine, 6000 J Street, Sacramento, CA 95819-6026. You can also call us at (916) 278-6736.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

Trumpet professor Gary Dilworth left on his second Fulbright scholarship, to teach brass at the National Conservatory of Music in Romania’s capital.

Sac State is boldly going where no Sacramento entity has gone before—with plans for a state-of-the-art planetarium as part of a Science and Space Center.

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GLOBETROTTER with a trumpet

Most travelers would fire their travel agent if they were booked from Taipei to Sacramento to Bucharest. But Sac State professor Gary Dilworth isn’t about to bag his. The trumpet professor recently left on his second Fulbright scholarship, to teach brass at the National Conservatory of Music in Romania’s capital. Along the way, he visited Taiwan, the site of his previous Fulbright, where he performed at the 50th anniversary celebration of Tankang University.

While on his visiting Artist Fulbright in Taipei, Dilworth led the brass section of the Taipei Symphony Orchestra. In Bucharest, he will attempt to promote the trumpet in a country where it doesn’t have the popularity or rich history that woodwind instruments have.

Three other Sac State professors also have taken their educational shows on the road this academic year with a Fulbright. Foreign Languages Professor Marjorie Gelus traveled to Berlin to study contemporary German. Criminal Justice Professor Robert Hurley is at one of Russia’s oldest universities, Kazan State University, after a previous Fulbright stay in the Republic of Georgia. And English Professor Emeritus Hortense Simmons recently returned from her second Fulbright in two years, after spending the fall teaching African American literature at Petro Mohyla Mykolaiv State University in Ukraine.
It's a home away from home for the campus community, a place to grab something to eat, cram for an exam, see a show or even take a nap. The University Union is celebrating its 30th year as the hub of campus life at Sac State this spring, and its history mirrors the University's growth.

“I was hired before it opened,” says Richard Schiffers, retired former assistant director of the Union. “I’m familiar with the openings of a lot of facilities, and what was most unusual about our opening in September of 1973 was that there were no problems, everything worked.” Schiffers credits Donald Hinde, founding director of the Union who died last October, for the success. Hinde came to Sac State in 1973 charged with creating a University Union for a burgeoning campus then serving around 15,000 students. Known for his fastidiousness, Hinde oversaw nearly every aspect of Union operations Donald Tucker. With the addition of the Ballroom and other improvements. “The addition of the Ballroom made it really the cornerstone of the whole expansion,” says Schiffers. “The ‘rap’ room became a comedy club in Sacramento, according to Schiffers.

Through the ’80s the Union hosted prominent personalities such as Alex Haley, G. Gordon Liddy, Maya Angelou, Jesse Jackson and Geraldo Rivera. Hypnotist Tom Deluca made the first of his now-annual appearances in 1983. Funding for many lectures came from the campus’ cultural affairs budget, so speakers came from diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds.

As the campus grew, the need for a larger Union was felt. The facility’s South Lawn was often pressed into service to host large events, but with no electrical power or permanent stage, it was a makeshift solution. A push was started to fund expansion, leading to the passage of a student referendum to pay for upgrades in 1991. Construction began the next year on a minor expansion, but real changes happened in 1998.

The facility more than doubled in size to its current 183,000 square feet in 1998, adding a new lobby, an auditorium named for Hinde, the Ballroom and other improvements. “The addition of the Ballroom was huge. It was really the cornerstone of the whole expansion,” says Union Assistant Director of Operations Donald Tucker. With the capacity for 1,700, it became the premier venue of the facility. The Hornet’s Nest was updated and the “rap” room became a computer lab.

Food, long a fixture of the Union, was improved as well. “When I first got here, we had a cafeteria serving mashed potatoes and meatloaf,” Tucker says. Change for the better came when relationships were established with outside vendors—restaurants like Gordito Burrito and Burger King—that brought variety. Java City took over coffee operations in the former ice cream parlor, and in 2000 Round Table began serving pizza in the Hive. There’s also one of two campus Asian food outlets operated by Sacramento’s own Fat family.

Now a modern, large facility, the Union has been able to host bands from Greg Kihn to They Might Be Giants, speakers like Molly Ivins, and the highest-profile events to date—the California gubernatorial recall debate in 2003 and the inaugural Green and Gold Gala last fall. UNIQUE grew to a volunteer corps of about 60 students under the direction of Dean Sorensen, University associate director of programs, and puts on 70 to 100 events annually.

Today the Union is run by a staff of 25 as well as 80 students. Forty to 50 meetings a day happen in its 21 rooms, about 8,000 annually. The Union was also the first campus facility to provide wireless access to the campus computer network, and staff can screen DVDs and provide LCD projectors and wireless microphones for clients. Expansion continues, with a new outdoor seating area off the east walkway near Serna Plaza slated to open this spring.

“The University Union is a community center for the University, for all members of the University family—students, faculty, administration, staff, alumni and guests,” says Leslie Davis, current director of the University Union. “When I arrived in fall 1999 I was fascinated with the operational prowess of the Union and how focused it was on serving the community,” Davis says. “The Ballroom, the games area, all the lounges and restaurants were so focused on services and interactive experiences. A building is just bricks, mortar and glass until the people arrive. It is the people who make this place special. Visit other places and you will find out how special our Union really is.”

30 years at the University Union

By Steve McKay
The result would be envy of any student in the country. After interviews with eight different accounting firms over the past fall semester, Bates came away with five job offers. This summer she will start to work for one of the country’s “Big Four” accounting firms, Ernst & Young, in its Roseville office. Joining Bates at the same accounting firm will be Lillian Li, who also had her pick of job offers after working with the Career Center. The staff helped her write a personal statement that won her a scholarship, and showed her the proper etiquette for job interviews.

Not just for students
Sac State students aren’t the only ones who use the Career Center. Alumni also can take advantage of the Career Center’s services, and many do, says Marilyn Albert, director of the center. “The job market affects not just our students who are graduating but also affects our alumni who are in their first jobs but are looking for new opportunities or who want to make a career change,” says Albert, who added that many alumni seek counseling from the Career Center because of its cost compared to the private sector.

The Career Center offers services at three levels to Sacramento State alumni and alumni of any CSU campus:

- For $45 a year, alumni can access walk in career counseling, the Career Information Library, job listings, events and workshops sponsored by the Career Center, and a career assessment.
- For $55 a year, alumni get the basic package plus up to six individual career counseling appointments and on-campus recruitment interviews.
- And for $75 a year, alumni get the basic services and up to 10 career counseling appointments and access to on-campus employment services.

More: (916) 278-6231 or www.csus.edu/careercenter
EMOIONS and promotions

Though employers may not admit it, the office is not an emotion-free zone.

“We like to think of the work environment as a place without emotion,” says organizational behavior and environment professor Hakim Ozcelik. “But there is a climate of emotion in each office and that has an effect on every one who works there.”

Ozcelik’s research on emotional fit at work was named best paper at the 2005 Academy of Management Conference. He collected data from 237 employees at 11 organizations in British Columbia about the emotional atmosphere in the work unit, such as how co-workers express their emotions, the work pace, the job requirements and the physical setting. Ozcelik says he found that in an intense, overactive workplace—a “high activation” emotional climate—people with personalities that are active and energetic tended to have a stronger commitment to their organizations. They were less concerned about expressing their true emotions to others as compared to those who were quieter.

Ozcelik says that his findings reveal a potential tension between organizations and employees. “You could suggest that organizations are more inclined to promote a higher activation of emotional climates to increase the energy level among employees and the pace of work,” he says. “Yet, some employees tend to seek lower activation emotional climates to maintain their emotional resources and focus on their work responsibilities.”

Ozcelik says that emotional misfit can make employees emotionally exhausted. “They come home and wonder why they are tired. I think it has to do with using up all their emotional reserves at work and not having enough time to replenish them.”

Ozcelik says that emotional exhaustion can lead to decreased engagement at work. And companies can face higher employee turnover as a result.

Faster bridge building may be on the way for California. Civil engineering professor Eric Matsumoto, along with researchers from UC San Diego and Caltrans, is exploring the feasibility of constructing bridges that are prefabricated off site. The research focuses on a precast bridge element called the bent cap, which connects the bridge girders to columns. It’s an approach to rapid bridge construction already used in some parts of the country. The research is being funded by a $500,000 contract from the National Cooperative Highway Research Program.

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

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

“What we don’t know is how bridge systems using precast bent caps will behave in a major seismic event,” he says. “But I think the research will successfully develop new systems that will work.” That’s important because California and other states need to replace bridges in congested urban environments by the thousands.

Matsumoto and his students have conducted preliminary on-campus tests for one type of bent cap connection. The new research at Sac State involves more complex beam-column connection tests. Matsumoto’s crew will conduct four of the six beam-column tests. The other tests will take place at UC San Diego, where a large-scale bridge system test will also be performed.

SPEEDING UP the fast lane

Eric Matsumoto (right) and student in the lab.

Eric Matsumoto

Thinking past PICASSO

Art history professor Elaine O’Brien seldom sees limits. She, along with a dedicated group of art students, is responsible for bringing renowned artists and art history to campus each semester for lectures and symposiums. O’Brien also helped to successfully revitalize the Art-History major at Sac State last fall, a program that was lost more than a decade ago before budget cuts.

So when she decided to write a book, her goal was characterized lofty. “I’ve been working on a history of modern art for some time,” says O’Brien, now in her eighth year at Sac State. “Spanning loosely the mid-19th to the 1970s, the modern period is a lot to cover even in the three-volume set O’Brien visuals, so she’s taking it one step at a time, focusing on seldom-covered ground.

“There’s a gap I’m trying to fill. Modern art visualization, so she’s taking it one step at a time, focusing on seldom-covered ground.

There’s a gap I’m trying to fill. Modern art historians, one from China, another from Tanzania and a third from Mexico,” O’Brien says. She recently traveled on a Fulbright to Brussels to work with her co-editor, an expatriate Tanzanian living in Belgium.

With limited funds for additional globe-traveling, O’Brien has turned to the virtual world for the majority of her research. She’s sought out experts worldwide to hear about what went on in Tokyo during a recent trip to Japan, or memories attached to the area,” O’Brien says.

“We use those memories to celebrate the past, understand the dynamics of neighborhood change, and build a better Oak Park with today’s residents.”

The project has students digging through old city directories and property records at the local archives to study business trends, residential patterns and the ethnic makeup of the region from the 1920s onward. They found evidence of the historical significance of the area—and the diversity of the groups who have lived there—studying sites such as the first gay church in Sacramento, the 1930s meeting place for the Ku Klux Klan, and the local office of the Black Panther Party.

Students also conducted in-depth interviews to record the memories of residents, former and current business owners and volunteers from the neighborhood association.

“One of our goals is for students to record the history of those who are still alive, what they can remember,” says Dale, who hopes to compile these bits of history for a walking tour pamphlet.

“They connect the present to the past and connect the older Oak Park residents with those who have no experience of local history.”

The story of Sacramento’s first suburb, Oak Park, is a checkered one. It features both prosperity and crime waves, the Civil Rights movement and economic decline, and, in recent years, a local cultural and business revival.

To put the area’s storied past in context, urban geography professor Robbin Dale and his students are conducting a field work project with its long-time residents.

“The purpose of the project is to record place-based memories of Oak Parkers, or memories attached to the area,” Dale says.

Robbin Dale

MEMOIRS of a neighborhood

“Perhaps the best place to begin is to introduce yourself to me and the other Oak Parkers,” says Dale.

“Perhaps the best place to begin is to introduce yourself to me and the other Oak Parkers,” says Dale.

PHOTO BY SAM PARSONS

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Ambition, Determination, Fate. And help from a stranger. It took a little of each for René Syler (’87, Psychology) to make the leap from psychology grad student to the “city that never sleeps” and a co-hosting role on CBS News’ “The Early Show.”

Along the way Syler earned a Gracie Award for excellence in broadcasting for her work in breast cancer awareness and prevention. And this spring she will be honored by Sac State with a Distinguished Service Award at the annual ceremony during April’s Alumni Month.

Syler didn’t grow up dreaming about becoming an award-winning broadcaster—that didn’t happen until grad school. The Sacramento native had earned her bachelor’s degree in psychology at Sac State and was pursuing a master’s degree. “My goal was to work in psychology and I was moving in that direction,” Syler says. “That all changed one night when, while working the overnight shift at a suicide prevention hotline as part of her psychology studies, she came across a newspaper article on Liz Walker, who at the time was the highest-paid black newswoman in the country.”

“The light bulb went off. I said, ‘This is what I want to do,’” Syler says. “The very next morning I was on a new path, a new career.”

Syler picked up the phone, and called the weekend weather reporter—an African American woman—at Sacramento’s Channel 13. “I told her ‘I’m interested in going into television.’ She spent so much time with me, telling me what classes to take, how to get a resume tape together.”

Syler immediately landed an internship with Sacramento’s Channel 40 and eight months later she had a weekend reporter job in Reno, at a decidedly entry-level salary. “I was happy to take it, even though I made more waiting tables in Sacramento,” she says. “They absolutely did.”

Syler then moved to Dallas where she pulled her first morning anchor duty—which didn’t come naturally in those days. “Morning anchor is a different animal. It was hard to get going and I still needed nine hours of sleep,” she says. In Dallas, Syler faced her first major career challenge. “I had been on a pretty rapid ascent,” she says. The network didn’t come naturally in those days. “I was still needing nine hours of sleep,” she says. The studio and my hair and makeup are taken care of. That way I can concentrate on my work.”

Syler remained involved with the Susan G. Komen Foundation and the Breast Cancer Research Foundation. “My goal is that by the time I’m done with television—and I plan to be in television for a long time—that people will no longer be dying of breast cancer.”

René Syler: Making her mark on morning news

by Laurie Hall
That's crucial because making the conversational style of morning show television look so easy takes preparation. “So much of the interview is self-turf,” Syler says. “It's much more conversational than the other interviews. You need to be able to call up a lot of information.” In April, Syler will receive a Distinguished Service Award from the University. Getting the award from Sac State means a great deal, she says. “I'm here because of what I learned at Sacramento State even though I didn’t go through the normal journalism ranks. It speaks volumes about the quality of education that I got at Sacramento State.

“Whenever I get an award I'm humbled because I'm just like everyone else. Sometimes I forget people are watching—I don't mean watching TV—but that people are following your progress and are proud is very, very grateful, very humbled and very honored. As my career continues, I hope to continue to make Sacramento State proud.”
Giving a gift to Sacramento State

There are several ways to support the students and programs at Sacramento State.

CASH—Your check to the CSUS Trust Foundation may be unrestricted or designated to a program or purpose in which you have a special interest. Use the enclosed envelope or mail your gift to: Sacramento State Development Office, 7750 College Town Avenue—Suite 200, Sacramento, CA 95826.

ONLINE—You may make a secure credit card donation at any time via our website. Visit www.csus.edu/giving and click on “Make a gift.”

SECURITIES—Gifting stocks, mutual funds or bonds to Sacramento State might save you from paying substantial capital gains taxes. Call the Development Office at (916) 278-6899 for information on how to transfer securities to the CSUS Trust Foundation.

PLANNED GIFTS—For information on bequests, property gifts, or life income arrangements, call the Development Office at (916) 278-6899.

The California State University, Sacramento Trust Foundation was established in 1966 as the philanthropic arm of the University to promote, assist and enhance the educational mission of Sacramento State. It is exempt under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3). Donors may give gifts to the CSUS Trust Foundation for specific Sacramento State purposes, and obtain tax benefits in accordance with State of California and United States Federal laws.

The California State University, Sacramento Trust Foundation Board of Directors is made up of University representatives and volunteers from among the University’s alumni, friends, students, and faculty.

Contact information
Sacramento State Development Office
7750 College Town Avenue—Suite 200
Sacramento, CA 95826.
(916) 278-6899
www.csus.edu/giving

Ann Albright Defeating diabetes

Ann Albright (M.S. Physical Education ‘87)—a dentist, exercise physiologist, researcher, professor and a state health administrator—has dedicated her life to battling diabetes. And she recently took that fight to the nation’s capital.

For nearly two years, Albright was the senior health policy fellow for U.S. Surgeon General Rich Carmona and Secretary of Health and Human Services Tommy Thompson in the Office of Public Health and Science.

Together, we were able to get more information out on early detection, raising awareness and helping people not develop the disease,” says Albright.

Albright is the chief of California’s diabetes program in the Department of Health Services. She took a leave of absence to complete her fellowship, sponsored by the American Diabetes Association.

In Washington, Albright advised Carmona on diabetes-related topics and consulted with him on his speeches and correspondence. Albright was also a key player in both of-them—Secretary Thompson and worked on the office’s Diabetes Detection Initiative, developed to help identify those with undiagnosed Type 2 diabetes.

“As senior health policy fellow in the office of the Surgeon General, Dr. Ann Albright became a trusted advisor and friend to me over the course of her tenure,” says Dr. Carmona. After her one-year fellowship, Albright was asked to stay and worked an additional eight months in Washington before returning to California last January.

“I think where you are most effective at the national level is to maintain experience at the local level,” Albright says. “People who work in these larger arenas need to never forget that action happens at the local level.”

More than 18 million people have diabetes in the United States. Of those, more than 5 million do not know they are afflicted. Diabetes in delay can lead to serious complications such as blindness, amputations, kidney failure, heart attacks and strokes. Such statistics are personal for Albright, who was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes when she was nine.

In her 10 years as chief of the California Diabetes Program, Albright has grown the program from a few employees with a $250,000 budget to a program with a staff of 11 and a $1 million budget. Her position includes an appointment with the Institute for Health and Aging at UC San Francisco. Over the years, Albright has also worked as a part-time researcher for the Hacer County Health Department and a diabetes specialist for UCSF and the Department of Health Services. She has conducted a range of diabetes research projects. In one time, she taught courses in exercise physiology and kinesiology at Sac State.

Last June, she became one of three national presidents of the American Diabetes Association. She continues to speak across the country about the disease.

The California State University, Sacramento Trust Foundation

ALICE PIMPEL, ’65 B.S., Social Science, a Eugene, Ore. attorney, was selected for the 2005 Montana Service Award, given each year to University of Oregon graduates who have made extraordinary contributions to legal education and the legal profession.

She graduated from the University of Oregon law school in 1963 and was one of the first women ever to practice in Eugene. She currently practices public law and probate law, and performs extensive pro bono work for the Senior Law and Advocacy Center for Lane County Legal Aid.

RICHARD ANDREWS, ’64 B.S., Public Policy and Administration, is the board president of the Pebble Beach Community Services District in Monterey Peninsula, after a long career in county management in Northern California. Recently he qualified for the National Ski Patrol at age 60. Afterwards, California included skiing in the western United States and spending summers on the Aches with wife, Susan.

RICHARD E. RUSSELL, ’76 B.A., Criminal Justice, did graduate work at San Jose State, Sacramento State and USC. He rejoined the California Highway Patrol and was named Chief of ATF’s Explosives Technology Branch in Washington, D.C. Eastman retired in 2001 to Petaluma, Calif., and has since been doing contract work as an explosives consultant and private investigator. He says that the highlight of his civil active at Sac State was listening to one concert in the Quad by Jimi Hendrix—and he still thinks that’s pretty cool.

DONALD HALLBERG, ’71 B.S., 75 M.S., Biological Sciences, after a career with the State of California, is in the business of Fitness. His communications consulting company shows business executives and staff how to write shorter sentences to improve the bottom line.

BARBARA S. BRYANT, ’75 M.S., Social Work, has returned from a one-year assignment that culminated in a two-week speaking tour in India on nuclear disarmament law, sponsored by the India Centre for Human Rights and Law. Bryant is again conducting the class notes

Keith Odister

If it’s possible to fly under the radar and still attract national attention, West Sacramento construction company founder Keith Odister would be the model. His K.O.O. Construction prides itself on quietly completing building projects and restoring properties throughout the region and the West—many of them for the Department of Defense.

“You don’t see our stuff,” he says. “In fact, if no one sees it, I’m happy.”

But despite that modest approach Odister’s company is attracting notice. K.O.O. Construction was named to City 100, considered the fastest-growing companies in inner-city neighborhoods. K.O.O.’s ranking of 10th on the list reflects 81 percent growth from 1999 to 2001. And it doesn’t take into account recent large contracts the company has pulled in, including a $56 million renovation of a former Sacramento Municipal Utilities District warehouse and projects for Lawrence Berkeley Labs and Beale Air Force Base. In 2002, his company was named Minority Construction Firm of the Year by the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Odister is also a member of the President’s Circle at Sacramento State and has equally bottom-line motivations for contributing to the University. “I believe in being a part of the community,” he says. “And the President’s Circle is an opportunity to connect with business leaders.”

Though his degree is not from Sacramento State, Odister says he sees the value in adopting the local college. “We have students...
Ken Barnett
Alum on Patrol

It could be considered the police equiva-

lent of working your way up from the mail

to CEO, but there’s more to Ken Bar-
nett’s rise from student police dispatcher to 
sacramento state’s chief of police than just

climbing the ladder.

While the campus police are re-

sponsible for looking after the welfare of what amounts to a small city, what Barnett

(Economics ’78, MBA ’89) sees as his big-
gest accomplishment is building his team into

an integral player in law enforcement in the

region.

With the Olympic Track and Field Trials in

2000 and 2004 and as a springboard, campus

police have developed strong relationships

with the Sacramento Sheriff’s Department, the

Sacramento Police Department and other

area agencies. Previously the agencies would

work individually and infrequently and, that

combined, with turnover, resulted in officers

that rarely knew each other. “Now when we

run into them on patrol, we’re familiar with

each other,” Barnett says. “It makes it easier

to help each other,” Barnett says. “I’m proud of that.”

Barnett learned the inner workings of the 
sacramento state department after starring

as a 17-year-old youth. When an opening

came up, he tested for the position and

became an officer in 1979. He went on to

become a sergeant in 1987, lieutenant in

1992 and then chief in 2000. Along the

way, he earned his bachelor’s degree in econ-
mics and his MBA from Sacramento State, and

graduated from the Commission on Police

Officer Stan-

ders and Training Command College.

Like many law enforcement offi-
cers in those days, Barnett did not have a

background in criminal justice when he

joined the police force. And while that trend

has reversed itself in recent years, Barnett

believes that it takes more than an under-

standing of criminology to be a police offi-
cer on a college campus because so much of

the job is oriented to customer service.

The University’s population—more than

30,000 students, faculty and staff—is equiva-
lent to a town and it faces similar challenges,
such as homelessness issues, traffic congestion

and burglaries. There are “industries” as well

banks, food stores, athletic events, etc.

And the campus puts on as many as 34,000

events a year ranging from 18 visitors to a

small event to 22,500 for the Olympic Trials.

But even though they face many of the

same issues that city and county law enforce-
ment officers do, a campus police officer needs

to have a certain type of personality, Barnett

says. “There’s a fine line between customer

service work and law enforcement. If you don’t

have good communication skills then you can’t
do the job.”

NEW JOB! NEW SPOUSE?! We want to publish news about your important

life changes and professional achievements in an upcoming Sac State Magazine. You can

e-mail them to students@csu.edu or mail them to: Class Memo, 1000 I Street, Sacramento, CA

95819-6024. For more information, call (916) 278-6295.

Hornet Families

Are you part of a Sac State dynasty? Send your Hornet family tree and information

about what everyone is doing to alumni@csus.edu.

1980s

STEPHEN G. LINDSEY, ’80, B.A. Accounting, is a CPA and is currently the CFO for

Micron International Ltd. in Charlotte, N.C. This company, a global leader in

semiconductor technology, is designing its landscape. At the time, just

nine campus buildings rested on a sand

tile—four of which are used by space

scientists. Later at the Aerospace Corpora-

tion he helped develop a computer system

used by space scientists.

After returning to Lockheed he super-

vised the Space Shuttle Enterprise’s ste

manufacturing team, which cut materials

imported from South Africa into geometric

shapes requested by NASA engineers. “The
tiles give the shuttle its aerodynamic shape,”

he says. “Without them, it would be like a

giant banana without its peel.”

In addition to the Space Shuttle team, Shuttle systems

engineers who fabricated more than 1,000

structural parts used on the Hubble Tele-
cscope—which only four need to be

reconstructed.

Shuster retired from the Air Force in 1975,

and in 1991 from Lockheed. Between those
times, he also worked for Saudi Arabia’s royal

Wells Fargo & Co. in 1988 and for the

University’s Public Affairs Office since 1998.

He and his wife Patty live in Magalia. They

raised six children, and have 14 grandchil-
dren and five great-grandchildren.

Helen (Ken Rysnyk) Mannwright, ’86, B.A. Business Administration, has

been named senior vice president of human

resources and labor relations at The

Tower Company in Minneapolis/St. Paul. He

is a member of the Financial Clarity

Committee. Before going to The Tower he was

vice president for human resources, at The

First Bank and The Herald in Rock Hill, S.C.

Elizabeth (Lowe) Altena, ’91, M.S. Communication Studies, has been named

an account executive with Morgan Marketing

and Public Relations LLC in Irvine, Calif. She

provides media relations and event management

support to numerous agency accounts, includ-
ing Panda Restaurant Group and Peter Piper

Pizza. Prior to training Mason, she served

in various positions in then-California Gov.

Gray Davis’ administration. Additionally, she

was a special assistant to the Chief of Staff for

the California Consumer Protection and Com-

munications Authority. She lives in Ashland with

her husband, Alain Voyer, Calif., and frequently

volunteers at her time for Orange County animal shelters.

Cheng Mai, ’93, M.S., Mechanical Engineering, came to Sacramento in 1999 and

earned his M.S. at Sac State in the engineering program. He named his master’s degree in
technology in mechanical engineering in 1999, and later became a Senior Engineer at Ice

Systems, The Aerospace Corporation. He also worked part-
time for Sac State’s dining services.

Jim Hoon, ’92, B.A. Business Administration, has retired from the Silgan

Can Company and lives in Sacramento.

Stacy Lycett, ’92, B.A. Government/in-
novation, was promoted to deputy state

dear. For the U.S. Small Business Administration

Director of Small Business Counselor and his Field

Director for the Sacramento Valley and North-

ern Sierra. In previous, he supervised special events, and as Field

director for the Sacramento Valley and Feather

River. In previous, he supervised special events and as Field

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director for the Sacramento Valley and Feather

River.

Michael Glover, ’94, B.A. Communication Studies, has been named an

executive director for the Bob Hope-

Burke Foundation. He also serves on the

Supporting Board of Directors for the

Sacramento Community College Foundation.

Las Vegas. He also serves on the

Supporting Board of Directors for the

Sacramento Community College Foundation.

Michael Chan, ’94, B.A. Mathematics,

returned home from Los Angeles in 1996 to

teach calculus at California State Polytechnic

University. He also taught calculus and

mathematics for Father Duenas Memorial High School before returning to Cal Poly.

During this time he also taught in

teaching. Chan earned his master’s degree in

education from the University of Portland.

Stacy Lycett, ’92, B.A. Government/Innovation, was promoted to deputy state
dear. For the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), he is a financial advisor in

Sacramento. He also served as the Assistant Secretary of

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Dr. Chan earned his master’s degree in
degree in education from the University of Portland. He is a Hornet alum. He changed his plans to

plan to pay Sac State a visit some day.

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David Hodo

Sac State’s “Macho Man”

Before he was the quintessential “construction worker” in The Village People, David Hodo (Speech, ’69) was a Sac State drama student.

As part of the iconic disco group, Hodo made music history during the 1970s with the performers’ campy but respected take on diverse stereotypes. With hits like “YMCA,” “Macho Man” and “In the Navy,” the group has sold millions of recordings and still performs all over the world today.

In fact, Hodo will make a trip home to Sacramento with The Village People to perform on Thursday, April 6 in the University Union Ballroom.

Prior to becoming a pop-idol, Hodo acted in many Sac State productions including Oh What a Lovely War! Carnival!

The Village People, L to R, from top, Eric Anzalone, Felipe Rose, Alexander Riley, Jeff Olson, Ray Simpson and David Hodo

David Hodo actually auditioned to be the “cowboy” in The Village People when the group was being formed in 1977. Instead he was cast as the “construction worker.”

Hodo says Sac State was a great place to be an actor during the 1960s, noting how playwrights of the time thrived on controversial events like the Vietnam War and the Kent State shootings. “We had the Guerrilla Theatre,” he says. “I would have picked that time if I had any to choose from. Things were new at Sac State. New plays were breaking old standards. It was exciting!”

Hodo moved to New York in 1972, receiving his Actors’ Equity card on his second day in New York—relatively unheard of in a city inundated with new talent. His first gig on Broadway was as a member of the ‘Funny Girl’ touring company chorus. He continued to sing and dance on Broadway and performed in countless summer stock tours. Hodo actually auditioned to be the “cowboy” in The Village People when the group was being formed in 1977. Instead he was cast as the “construction worker,” which he has developed into one of the most recognized characters in pop culture. “I wanted him to be fun,” he says. “Someone that was a good time.”

Of the group’s formation, he says, “The producers wanted it to be very serious. I knew right away that I couldn’t take it seriously. It needed to be tongue-in-cheek.”

Now in their third decade, The Village People recently toured in Australia, Canada, the Canary Islands, Germany, Italy, Mexico and Portugal! They were Cher’s opening act during her 2004 farewell tour. “For us it’s always been about the performing,” he says. “We always make the audience have a good time. It’s a two-way show going on. We always wish people could see the audi- ence the way we see it.”

“We just finished a European jaunt and the last show was in a track stadium,” he says. “And you just have to see 35,000 Belgians doing the ‘YMCA.’”

Along with performing, Hodo composes many of the group’s newer material. He says he knew ‘YMCA’ would be a hit the first time he heard it. “I didn’t think ‘Macho Man’ or ‘In the Navy’ would be hits, though,” he says.

In fact, Hodo predicts that, if aliens arrive someday, instead of the musical riff used in the end of the movie Close Encounters of the Third Kind, they’ll turn to the hook of the group’s ubiquitous anthem—“YMCA.”

CYNTHIA (CINDY) WEST, ’00
B.A., Biology, is a freelance writer available through Elance.com. She also does layout work for several newspapers and newsletters. When she is not training and running marathons, she works part-time as a legal secretary at the Law Offices of Daniel Gallery, where she also produces and edits reports on water rights issues.

KARL FOWLER, ’01, B.S., Fire Service Management, is the fire chief of the Loomis Fire Protection District with 20 years of service. He also serves as an apparatus engineer for the South Placer District. Fowler says he took on 46 years to complete his degree, and adds “It was one of the proudest moments of my life.”

During college he was, and still is employed, as a firefighter at the Loomis Fire District and the South Placer Fire District.

KRYSTAL M. CLARK, ’02, B.A., Communication Studies, is the senior executive assistant for Johnson & Johnson state government affairs office after two years in Gov. Gray Davis’ office.

GINA SWANKIE, ’02, B.A., Communication Studies, is a communications and media officer in the marketing and public relations division of the Sacramento County Airport System.

GAIL S. ALLEN, ’03, B.A., Business Administration (Human Resources Management), is re-own of Sacramento’s newest Curves Fitness Center for Women, a weight management facility for women.

ANDREA E. GARCIA, ’04, B.S., Communication Studies, is a features writer at the Daily Republic newspaper in Fairfield. She recently won first place for feature writing in the Associated Press writing contest of journalism from California and Nevada newspapers with circulation under 25,000. The story, “On His 20-year odyssey of exile, both physical and emotional,” was cast as the “construction worker,” which he has developed into one of the most recognized characters in pop culture. “I wanted him to be fun,” he says. “Someone that was a good time.”

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This year’s events will be Oct. 2–8. And be sure to join us for Alumni Month in April. For more information contact the Alumni Association at (916) 278-6295, (800) SAC-GRAD or alumni.csus.edu.

JOIN TODAY
Reconnect with your alma mater. Reacquaint yourself with old friends while making new ones. Network with others who work in your field. Take advantage of special events and services. It’s all possible by joining your Sac State Alumni Association. For more information, call (916) 278-6295 or (800) SAC-GRAD.

ZOE CALDWELL PERRY, ’01, B.S., Molecular Biology and V.G., M.S., Chemistry, was an assis- tant professor of chemistry at Sac City College for four years after graduating from Sac State. She and her husband, Dr. Ed Perry, are the parents of baby Caroliné and have moved to Chicago. She plans to resume teaching soon.

LISA PERRY, ’01

B.A., Communication

The 2005 edition of Homecoming Week was a rousing success, thanks in part to our major sponsors:

• Teichert Construction
• Liberty Mutual
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• Tate, Propp, Beggs & Sugimoto
• City Council Member Steve Cohn

Homecoming 2005

Kevin Sugimoto, David Hodo (Speech, ’69) was a Sac State drama student. New plays were breaking old standards. It was exciting!”

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House:

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When Prophecy Never Fails: Myth and Reality in a Flying-Saucer Group

(University Press of Kentucky, 2003, 133) Diana G. Tumminia, professor of sociology

Contrary to what many may think, UFO-based religions do not consist entirely of kooks, cultists and science fiction fanatics. In fact, these creeds deserve as much respect as any other belief system on Earth, says Diana Tumminia. Tumminia, an ethnographer and expert in social psychology, contends religious groups such as the Unarius Academy of Science, are similar to other religions because their beliefs cannot be proven or seen. And they continue to have faith despite unfounded prophecies.

“On the surface my book is about a UFO-based religion, but the real deep analysis is about how people construct realities and select evidence,” Tumminia says, who studied Unarians for more than 10 years. “I think they have a normal religion. You have to understand that they believe in things that are taken on faith.”

Founded in 1994 by “Cosmic Visionaries” Ruth and Ernest Norman, Unarians believe their “space brothers,” will one day arrive on Earth with advanced intergalactic technology benefiting all humankind. The group even has a landing strip ready near El Cajon. Since its inception two dates in the religion’s prophecy have passed, once in 1975 and again in 2001. Unarians explain the visitors were scared away by humankind’s warlike nature.

Tumminia says there are about 20 UFO-based religions, primarily in the United States, as well as countless alien contact groups that have not developed into full-scale religions. Only a small fraction of those who join UFO religions do so because of an interest in UFOs or extraterrestrials. Rather, they say, are attracted to charismatic leaders and support systems.

Social Work Practice with Children and Families: A Family Health Approach

(Allyn & Bacon, 2004, 898) Edited by Francis K. O. Yuen, professor of social work

With so many socio-economic pressures on families today, social workers need to be attentive to the holistic health of family members, says Francis Yuen.

Families with individuals with disabilities, grandparents raising grandchildren and homeless families are among those facing unique challenges. Yuen hopes his book will further raise awareness of the unique needs of these families.

“We want to go beyond dealing with the crisis at hand,” Yuen says. “Each family has unique stories that are worth telling and demand specific interventions.”

Yuen says his wife continued to enjoy life despite her cancer. Vande Berg dictated more than 20 hours of audio recordings for her portion of the book.

Social work as a profession believes in, among other things, love and how to die,” says Trujillo, who is completing their PhD. “On the surface my book is about a UFO-based religion, but the real deep analysis is about how people construct realities and select evidence,” Tumminia says, who studied Unarians for more than 10 years. “I think they have a normal religion. You have to understand that they believe in things that are taken on faith.”

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MARCH
EXHIBIT. “The Triumph of Helios: Photographic Treasures of the California State Library,” 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Tue-Sat, University Library Gallery. (916) 278-4189. March 3 to June 24

EVENT. Festival of the Arts. March 2-12. Various campus venues. Concerts, exhibits, bookings, speakers and more. (916) 278-ARTS or www.csus.edu/events.

APRIL
EVENT. Alumni Month. Month-long celebration of Sac State alumni. (916) 278-6295, 1-800-SAC-GRAD or www.csus.edu/events.

EVENT. Distinguished Service Awards, April 6, Alumni Center. (916) 278-4323 or 1-800-SAC-GRAD.

THEATER. Under the Western Sky, play by Amparo Garcia Crow, directed by professor Manuel Pickett, April 28-30 and May 4-6, Playwrights’ Theatre, Shasta Hall. Tickets at Sacramento State Ticket Office at (916) 278-4323 or Tickets.com.

MAY
DANCE. Senior Dance Concert, presented by graduating dance students, May 3-7, Dancespace, Solano Hall 1010. Tickets at Sacramento State Ticket Office at (916) 278-4323 or Tickets.com.

JUNE
EVENT. Spring Commencement, Friday and Saturday, May 19 and 20. Hornet Stadium and Outdoor Theatre. (916) 278-4724.

EVENT. Green and Gold Gala, Oct. 6. (916) 278-1122.

EVENT. Homecoming Week, Oct. 2-8. (916) 278-6295 or 1-800-SAC-GRAD.

PHOTOS BY STEVE MCKAY
PHOTOS BY BOB SOLARIO
MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Miguel Ramirez

HOMETOWN: Fairfield, Calif.

MAJOR: Civil Engineering. Plans to graduate in December 2006.

BACKGROUND: Recruited to Sac State for the men’s soccer team. Recipient of a Gates Millennium Scholarship. President of the student Chicano Latino Association of Computer Scientists and Engineers. Mentors immigrant Spanish-speaking students at Highlands High School in North Highlands, Calif. Spoke no English when he immigrated to California from Mexico at age 14.

INFLUENCES: “Being at Sac State has definitely opened all the doors for me. I came here as a recruit for men’s soccer. I had two good seasons but it came time for me to move on and focus on academics. The MEP (MESA Engineering and Computer Science Program) Honors Program was another really important reason I picked Sac State—I came out of high school as a candidate for the program.”

HIGHLIGHT: “The best thing about Sac State definitely has to be the resources we have here. The accessibility of professors is just unbelievable. They’re really helpful.”

PROUDEST ACCOMPLISHMENT: “I’m proud of being able to obtain a Gates Millennium Scholarship. It made my life a lot easier—it made it possible for me to obtain an education.”

DESTINATION: “I have an academic scholarship for graduate school in civil engineering. Eventually I’d like to start my own business. I consider myself an entrepreneur.”

PHOTOS BY STEVE MCKAY
PHOTOS BY BOB SOLARIO
MARK YOUR CALENDAR

On the Quad
The inaugural Green and Gold Gala was the talk of the campus and the town. In addition to honoring campus benefactors Alex and Faye Spanos, the event featured the announcement of more than $3 million in leadership gifts.

Mark your calendar—the next Gala is scheduled for Oct. 6.