Forecast says region will avoid recession

The Capital Region should dodge the big employment declines now plaguing much of the country, say researchers with CSUS and the California Institute for County Government.

Instead, they predict, the region will enjoy slight employment growth of about 1 percent during 2002. While that’s far shy of the strong 4 to 6 percent growth seen at the beginning of the last two years, it’s an enviable position when compared to most other areas.

The job outlook is contained in the first “CSUS Forecast” for the region. The forecast was released at a campus news conference last Wednesday.

“The national recession won’t be felt here nearly as strongly as it will be felt in other parts of the country or the state,” says Matt Newman, director of the California Institute for County Government. “Essentially, it looks like we’re going to avoid the worst of the recession in this region.”

Construction employment growth is still positive in the region, the forecast says, and there is continued growth in new building permit applications for residential and non-residential development.

The forecast also calls government employment a “stabilizing influence” on the region’s economy. It says government employment in the region grew at a consistent 5 percent pace in recent years, though state budget troubles may threaten that trend.

Regional manufacturing employment, which has been declining since early last year, remains a weak point. It has been on the negative side since August.

The forecast says the Capital Region is well-positioned to benefit from an expected recovery sometime this year. It predicts low interest rates and low inflation—coupled with anticipated recoveries in the Bay Area, the state and the country—will lead to even stronger job growth here.

The new CSUS Forecast of the region’s job outlook uses an econometric model of the six-county Capital Region with more than two dozen variables.

It was developed by the California Institute for County Government with support from the CSUS Regional Development Initiative.

CSUS economics professor Suzanne O’Keefe and Robert Fountain, special assistant for regional development at CSUS, served as project advisors. Shawn Blosser of DatabaseX provided assistance with model development and programming.

Researchers plan to continue providing the forecast every quarter, and to make more extensive updates to the model each year.

Copies of the forecast, or additional information, are available by sending an e-mail to info@cicg.org. The institute’s website at www.cicg.org or viewing the news release at www.csus.edu/news.

— Frank Whittach

Campus United Way campaign a success

This year’s CSUS United Way campaign met its goal to break the $100,000 mark for the first time ever, showing once again the strong community support of University employees.

In total, CSUS employees gave $107,975, up from $93,427 last year.

The average gift was $130, and 7712 employees from the University, CSUS Foundation and the Associated Students participated. There were also 25 employees who participated in the September 11th Fund.

Eight employees contributed more than $1,000 each, and 23 employees contributed between $500 and $1,000.

This year’s campaign was chaired by Eloy Littlefield, executive director of the CSUS Foundation, where employee giving grew 230 percent, from $3,972 to $12,006.

For their “above and beyond” help with the campaign, Littlefield especially thanked Peggy Ashley, Hornet Bookstore secretary; Kathy Harris, administrative coordinator; Gabriela Pomepeo, student assistant; and Nancy Pennebaker, special assistant. He also thanked the campus area coordinators and key campaigners.

Next year’s campaign will be chaired by Marilyn Hopkins, dean of the College of Health and Human Services.

Most of the time, a school crisis doesn’t become a Columbine High School national disaster. But a CSUS school psychology professor and national expert on school crisis response says regardless of the cause or severity of a crisis, efforts to limit the impact should start before an event occurs.

Stephen Brock, author of Preparing for Crises in the Schools: A Manual for Building School Crisis Response Teams, says, “I view crisis response not just as responding to the aftermath of crisis prevention – doing what you can to prevent the crisis in the first place,” he says. “Planning helps reduce the anxiety created by a crisis situation. If you’re anxious, you don’t have as much attention to devote to others who need it.”

Brock’s push for preparation is backed by over a decade of experience in assisting with school crisis response, including representing the U.S. Department of Education in the aftermath of last March’s pair of school shootings near San Diego. He also wrote several chapters in the Handbook of Crisis Counseling, Intervention and Prevention on the Schools and edited the just-published Best Practice in School Crisis Prevention and Intervention.

“The essence of crisis preparation is the key players have to acknowledge that school crisis is not just a possibility – it’s a reality. That’s not a fun thing,” Brock says. “Those involved in the discussion must decide what procedures you will follow in a crisis so that when it does happen you’re not caught with your ‘plans’ down.”

Prevention efforts can include training in social skills, anger reduction, conflict management and identifying youth at risk of violence. Part of prevention is preparedness – determining where crisis events are likely to occur and having a general safety plan in place to deal with potential situations.

Brock first became involved in crisis response more than a decade ago as a school psychologist.

See CRISIS, Page 3
new faces

SUZANNE O'KEEFE tries hard not to scare her students. The new economics professor enjoys teaching microeconomics, but she's afraid her students think economics won't be much fun.

"Students have some fear of economics—you put a graph on the board and they cry," O'Keefe said. So she does her best to make it interesting. But she also has to relate it to the real world, not just the abstract," O'Keefe said. She does that by bringing in issues that are making headlines—like the heat stroke risk for children and high state unemployment rates. On Aug. 3, she gave a lecture on the state's unemployment rate. She also spoke about the increase in lemonade output did not keep up with the increase in labor. O'Keefe, a Modesto native, earned bachelor's degree in economics and human development from UC Davis, and her doctorate in economics from UC Berkeley.

Drawing a connection between her dual majors as an undergraduate, O'Keefe said, "economics and human development both try to understand human behavior. They just approach it differently." She finds both approaches useful in her fields of interest—public finance and labor economics.

"I'm always interested in how government policy affects human behavior," O'Keefe said. Her dissertation gives a good example of the relationship.

In it she examined the migration of low-wage workers to California the state. At the time, welfare recipients received the same benefits regardless of the costs of living in their areas. O'Keefe looked to see if the recipients tended to move from areas with higher costs of living—like the Bay Area—to areas with lower costs of living—like the Central Valley. She found that they did. In addition to teaching, O'Keefe also will be working as the economics department regional economist, tracking trends in the Sacramento Valley.
Special events scheduled for Black History Month

Americans have recognized black history annually since 1926, first as “Negro History Week,” and February is now celebrated as “Black History Month.” Once again, CSUS has planned a series of events during the month.

Highlights include a lecture by distinguished journalist Charlayne Hunter-Gault at 7:30 p.m., Feb. 7 in the University Union Ballroom. Hunter-Gault is CNN’s African bureau chief and the winner of many news awards including the Peabody Award, the highest honor given in broadcast journalism.

Based in Johannesburg, South Africa, Hunter-Gault is responsible for covering news events for CNN throughout the African continent.

Prior to her current assignment, she was the first female anchor for the “MacNeil/Lehrer Report” and she has worked for National Public Radio, PBS and the New York Times. Hunter-Gault is also the author of a best-selling memoir, *In My Place*, which includes her historic role as one of the first black students to desegregate the University of Georgia in 1961.

Tickets for this event are $10 for general admission and $5 for CSUS students. Other events during the month will include:
• The student organization AFRICA, Africans for Re-education, Innovation, Consciousness and Achievement, will host a series of work-shops and forums focusing on the local black community all day on Feb. 2. For information call Jerry Blake at (916) 278-6359.
• The CSUS Sacramento Black Art of Dance will present “Soul Reverb,” a dance pro-duction reflecting popular songs from the soul music repertoire. Performances are Feb. 14 - 23 in Soda Hall 1010. Tickets are $12 for general admission, $10 for students and seniors and $8 for children under 12 years of age.
• At noon on Feb. 6, in the Uni-versity Union Forum Hall, the managing consultant for the State of California Chil-dren Medical Services, Alice Barber-Banks, will give a lecture on “Balancing the Scales of Racism.”

At noon on Feb. 13, in the University Union Forest Suite, CSUS professor Sylvies-ter Brown will give a lecture, “Why African Americans, Like all Americans, Should Be Interested in Discussing Rep-aration.” His focus will be to outline the history of blacks in the diaspora.
• From 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., on Feb. 15 in the University Union Ballroom, the Cooper-Woodson College Enhancement Program professional associa-tion is sponsoring the sev-enth annual Black History Rally. The title is “The Color Line Revisited: Is Racism Dead?” The event includes speakers, perfor-mances, poetry readings, ven-dors and information booths.
• Wrapping up the month-long celebration is a lecture by CSUS professor Jessica Gaston at noon, Feb. 27 in the Uni-versity Union Forest Suite. The event is titled “Relec-tions of My Summer in Ghana: Issues of History and Internal Development.”

For more information about Black History Month call the office of the Cooper-Woodson College Enhancement Program at (916) 278-3863. For ticketed events call the CSUS Ticket Office at (916) 278-4322.

— Heather Robinson

Crises

Continued from page 1

with school crisis preparation and response as lead psychologist for the Lodi School District. While it is now common for counselors to be on hand to help students and faculty cope with a tragedy, that is not the case.

An off-campus accidental shooting at one of the schools in his district “hit the school like a ton of bricks,” he says. “It was my first real-life experience responding to such an event and as it occurred, I realized I could’ve been much better prepared.”

He began putting together district-wide policies, practices

and procedures. This planning proved crucial for a neighboring district when a gunman took aim on the schoolyard at Cleveland Elementary School in Stockton, killing five and wounding 25. Brock offered help and was soon working with local mental health professionals.

“It served as a powerful impe-tus for training and prepara-tion,” he says. “Within the year the district had a policy on how to respond and had procedures in place.”

The next step in Brock’s research will be to study the effectiveness of school crisis responses. “We need to ask what are the desired outcomes following a crisis?” he says.

“These desired outcomes should probably include mainte-nance of normal school atten-dance and achievement patterns, and also the prevention of school discipline problems, as well as the identification of those at risk for severe psychological trauma. We need to clearly specify the goals of school crisis response and begin to document how effective our interventions are at obtaining these goals.”

— Laurie Hall

news digest

GRANT FUNDS PROPOSALS BEING ACCEPTED

Proposals for Instructionally Related Activity Funds are now being accepted for the 2002-03 fiscal year. The deadline for submitting proposals is March 1. To submit a proposal for these funds visit www.csus.edu/admbus/index.htm or contact Annette Karle at 278-5733 or karle@csus.edu.

FORGIVABLE LOAN/DOCTORAL INCENTIVE

Applications are now being taken for the 2002-03 CSU Forgivable Loan/Doctoral Incentive Program.

The program provides finan-cial assistance to graduate students and is intended to increase the diversity of those qualified to join the faculty at universities within the CSU. It provides loans up $10,000 annually up to $30,000 total, and

20 percent of the loan is forgiven for each year of full-time post-doctoral teaching within the CSU system. It also provides support and sponsorship from a CSU tenure track faculty member or academic department.

The application deadline is Thursday, Feb. 14.

Details: 278-6859 or by visiting educational equity and student retention in Lassen 3014.

EVENING CHILD CARE AVAILABLE

The Children’s Center currently has openings in its evening child care program for the spring semester. The program serves children ages 2.6 years old through second grade. Children of faculty and staff are eligible to participate.

Program hours are 6 -10 p.m., Monday - Thursday.

Details: 278-6216.

AUDITIONS FOR WOMEN’S PERFORMANCE

Auditions for *The Vagina Monologues* will be held at 6:30 p.m., Jan. 30 and 31 in Shasta Hall 249.

Performances will be March 15-17 in Hinde Auditorium as part of a national V-Day celeb-ration. Proceeds will go to the CSUS Women’s Resource Center and the SHARE Institute.

Those planning to audition are asked to prepare a memorized monologue, poem or speech no longer than two minutes. They will also be asked to read from a script. In addition, there is a need for technical help including set design.

Details: Women’s Resource Center at 278-7388.

TALK OFFERS PROFESSIONAL INSIGHTS

The MBA Women’s Chapter of the CSUS Alumni Association’s “Professional Insights” speaker series will present Susan Kossack, advertising manager of the Cali-fornia State Lottery, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 12 at the Belle Cosodole Community Library, 5600 South Land Park Dr. There is no cost to attend, but seating is limited.

RSVP at mbawomen@hotmail.com.

TAX LEGISLATION FOCUS OF TALK

Sales tax revenue allocation and land use in the greater Sacra-mento area will be the topic of the latest in a series of breakfast seminars on campus.

Roseville City Manager Allen Johnson will discuss Assembly Bill 680, a regional tax-sharing plan intended to promote smart growth, from 7:30 to 9 a.m., Tuesday, Feb. 5 in the Steven Lee Yamshon Alumni Center. The free seminar is sponsored by the CSUS Alumni Association. The talk is open to the public, though seating is limited. Break-fast will be provided.

To reserve a spot, contact Linda Scott at the Alumni Asso-ciation at (916) 278-6295.

Business leader to talk on building value

The CSUS College of Business will host Vodafone Regional President Bill Keever speaking on “How to Generate Shareholder Value Internationally” at noon, Friday, Feb. 1, in the University Union Hinde Auditorium.

His talk is part of the College of Business Administra-tion’s Melvin and Audrey Shore Endowed Lectures on International Trade. The lec-ture series was established by CSUS to honor Melvin Shore’s 37 years of work in advancing international trade and his contributions in devel-oping the Port of Sacramento.

Keever is president of Vodafone’s Americas-Asia region, responsible for the operations in the United States and Asia, including regional development activities and Globalstar satellite services. Vodafone is the largest mobile telecommunications network company in the world. Keever has extensive experience in communications on a global basis. He worked with Pacific Bell for 25 years before moving to AirTouch and spending nine years work-ing as its German opera-tions. In October 1998 Keever became president of AirTouch International. After the Vodafone-AirTouch merger, Keever returned to the United States as executive vice president for AirTouch Cellular.

The lecture is free. For more information, call (916) 278-6778.

— Tim Wright


**2002 STRINGS**

Leading off the 2002 edition of the annual New Millennium Concert Series will be the Chamber Ensemble of the Pacific, pictured. Founded in 1998, the group specializes in 19th and 20th century piano quartet literature and romantic masterpieces. The ensemble features two CSUS professors, Andrew Luchansky and Ian Swenson. The concert is at 8 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 31 in the Music Recital Hall in Capistrano Hall.

The next concert in the series features the Kronos Quartet at 8 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 19 in the Music Recital Hall in Capistrano Hall. More than 450 pieces have been written or arranged for the group by some of the world’s most respected composers. The group has received numerous national and international awards, including several Grammy nominations.

Next up is an all-Beethoven concert performed by pianist Robert Taub. Taub has toured throughout Europe, the United States, the far East and Latin America. He has been a guest soloist with leading orchestras including the San Francisco Symphony. The concert is at 8 p.m., Sunday, March 17 in the Music Recital Hall in Capistrano Hall. The concert series finale is a performance by the all-female group Bimbetta at 8 p.m., Sunday, April 14 in the Music Recital Hall in Capistrano Hall. Bimbetta pushes the classical music boundaries. A favorite of National Public Radio audiences, the group’s imaginative use of staging, theatrical lighting and props has been described by critics as “a blend of cabaret and MTV Unplugged.”

Subscriptions for the four-concert New Millennium Series are $50. Single tickets for the Kronos Quartet are $25. Single tickets for the other three concerts are $15 each. Subscriptions and tickets are available at the CSUS Ticket Office at 278-4323 or at Tickets.com at (916) 766-2277.

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**ongoing**

Pop-Up Book Exhibit, CSUS professor Maria Winkler’s book collection, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., Monday - Friday, University Archives. (916) 278-6144. Continues to Jan. 31.

**friday, jan. 25**

Men's basketball vs. Montana State, 7 p.m., Hornet Gym. Tickets $10 reserved/$6 general/CSUS students free. Tickets at CSUS Ticket Office at (916) 278-4323 or at Tickets.com at (916) 766-2277.

**saturday, jan. 26**

Black History Month Community Empowerment Forum and Workshop, all day, University Union. (916) 278-6399.

**friday, feb. 1**

“How to Generate Shareholder Value Internationally,” William Kovner, president of Yodfat’s Americas- Asia Region, Melvin and Audrey Shore Endowed Lecture Series, noon, University Union Honors Auditorium. (916) 278-6997.

**thursday, jan. 31**

The Chamber Ensemble of the Pacific, New Millennium Concert Series, 8 p.m., Music Recital Hall in Capistrano Hall. Tickets $15. Tickets at CSUS Ticket Office at (916) 278-4323 or at Tickets.com at (916) 766-2277.

**tuesday, feb. 5**

“Assembly Bill 680,” lecture, Roseville City Manager Allen Johnson, Alumni Breakfast Club, 7:30 – 9 a.m., Yamshon Alumni Center. (916) 278-6293.

**wednesday, feb. 6**

Capital Fellows information session, noon, University Union Lobby Suite. (916) 278-6231.

CSUS Vocal Jazz Choir, noon, University Union Redwood Room. (916) 278-6997.

“Balancing the Scales of Racism,” Alice Baber-Banks, managing consultant for the State of California Children’s Medical Services, Black History Month, noon, University Union Foothill Suite. (916) 278-5363.

**weekend, feb. 10**

Men’s basketball vs. Idaho State, 7 p.m., Hornet Gym. Tickets $10 reserved/$6 general/CSUS students free. Tickets at CSUS Ticket Office at (916) 278-4323 or at Tickets.com at (916) 766-2277.

**sunday, feb. 10**

Memorial Service for CSUS professor emeritus Robert Marroone, 2 p.m., University Union Forest Suite. (916) 278-6254.

**sunday, feb. 10**

Lecture, Charley Hunter-Gault, award-winning journalist and CNN’s African bureau chief, Black History Month, 7:30 p.m., University Union Ballroom. Tickets $10 general/$6 CSUS students. Tickets at CSUS Ticket Office at (916) 278-4323 or at Tickets.com at (916) 766-2277.

**friday, feb. 8**

“City at State,” artists’ reception, 5:30 p.m., Feb. 4, Design Lobby Suite. (916) 278-6231.

**tuesday, feb. 12**

Exhibit, master of art student Janet Kahle, noon – 4:30 p.m., Monday - Friday, Witt Gallery. (916) 278-6166. Continues to Feb. 22.

**saturday, feb. 16**

“The Daring Game,” a modern version of the classic TV show with Shawn Cash and Jeff Jensen of The ZONE radio station, noon, University Union Redwood Room. (916) 278-6997.

**sunday, feb. 17**

Why African Americans, Like all Americans, Should Be Interested in Discussing Reparations,” CSUS professor Sylvia Brown, Black History Month, noon, University Union Ballroom. (916) 278-5363.

**thursday, feb. 14**

Kofy Brown, soul, jazz and hip-hop, 11-11:5 p.m., University Union Redwood Room. (916) 278-6166.

“Soul Reverb,” Sacramento Black Art of Dance, Black History Month, 8 p.m., Solano Hall 1010. Tickets $12 general/$10 students/$8 children under 12. Tickets at CSUS Ticket Office at (916) 278-4323 or at Tickets.com at (916) 766-2277.

Continues to Feb. 23.