Prof. looks at mysteries of children’s memory

It’s a controversial but crucial question: How accurate are memories of childhood sexual abuse and other potentially stressful experiences? And though the verdict is far from in,Child Development professor Kristen Alexander is beginning to zero in on some of the factors that may play a role in the accuracy of such memory reports. In a series of studies Alexander and colleagues confirmed that individual differences affect children’s ability to remember.

“Events are not experienced or appraised by all individuals in the same way,” Alexander says. Whole age plays a role, with older children having more accurate memories, how a child remembers an event is greatly influenced by other factors including their level of attachment to the parent, particularly when relationship issues are central to the event. Parents who are less secure about relationships tend to have children who remember particularly stressful experiences less accurately.

Where age plays a larger role is in suggestibility, or false memory. Memory improves with age and false memory decreases as children get older, Alexander says. By the time children are seven- or nine-year-olds, memory is generally equal to adults, although even adults are susceptible to suggestion and false memory.

Older children and adults make determinations based on saliency, plausibility and recency. “If it’s more salient, more plausible, more recent, they are more likely to remember,” Alexander says. “Maybe the reason younger children are more suggestible is that they don’t have strategies to use such information to determine if an event that is presented as a memory is true or false.”

“It is thought that people remember negative events more but events are usually entirely different in other ways. Memories are influenced by people’s appraisal of events,” Alexander says. “Everybody focuses on a different feature of an event during and after its occurrence. What is central, important and/or stressful is defined by individuals as they cope with their experiences.

With childhood sexual abuse victims, though you’d think the severity of abuse should be the determining factor of what they remember, it is also how they appraised it that is important. What came after may affect memory appraisal of the event. For example, what happened to family as a result or what happened in court may predict memory. The incident itself may not necessarily be the central thing they remember.”

Craig Gallet is the recipient of the 2004-05 President’s Award for Research and Creative Activity. Gallet, an assistant professor of economics, won the award for his research regarding the impact of public policy on the cigarette industry. He will receive the award and present a lecture on his research at 4 p.m., March 2 in the Hinde Auditorium. A reception will follow.

Gallet’s research addresses consumer reaction to public policies regarding smoking and cigarettes.

His findings show that people have become less responsive to price increases than before, in part, because the market has changed.

“If this would be consistent with a shift in the nature of smokers,” Gallet said, “there are fewer social smokers, and instead we see a move towards more addicted, hard-core smokers that are not as responsive to price changes.”

Gallet’s research also demonstrates that the cigarette industry has become less competitive coinciding with a decrease in supply. With less available supply, people are not able to consume as many cigarettes.

“Osher courses are fun, non-credit courses that give participants the opportunity to meet others with similar interests,” Hough says. The sessions are shorter than regular semester-length courses, taking into account the busy schedules of participants.

The inaugural courses touched on a variety of topics: theater, Cuba, financial planning, healthy habits, American history through literature, and facilitating adult learning. Sessions ranged from five to 13 weeks and were taught by faculty members from campus as well as experts from the surrounding community.

Theatre and dance professor Ed Brazo said the enthusiasm from the students he taught in the theatre sampler course was infectious.

“It was sheer enjoyment. We always went over the allotted class time,” he says.

Students attended performances at several local theatres and listened to guest speakers from various theater disciplines such as acting, directing, lighting and set design. And they attended a dress rehearsal.

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Christopher Taylor, Physis and Astronomy, was awarded a one-year, $38,446 grant from NASA, in conjunction with 12 orbits of observing time on the Hubble Space Telescope awarded to him and his collaborators.

Recognition

Lee Simpson, History, and her students received an award for "excellence in historical publications relating to Sacramento history" from the Sacramento County Historical Society.

Scholarship

Diane Carlson, Geology, and Charles Plummer, Geology Emeritus, had the sixth edition of their book Earth Revealed published. The popular introductory textbook on physical geology is the companion text for the PBS "Earth Revealed" series.

Candace Gregory, History, presented three conference papers in the fall including a paper on women and the Crusades for the third Biennial Film and History Conference in November and a paper on Odyssey in medieval literature at the ATINER conference in Athens in December. She also appeared on History vs. Hollywood: Alexander the Great on the History Channel in November.


Harlene Adams, Communication Studies, was awarded first place in non-fiction in the 18th annual Focus on Writers Contest sponsored by the Sacramento Library, in partnership with Sacramento State, for her essay "Language and the Tragedy of Indifference."

Diogo Bonilla, Communication Studies, and his online poetry are the subject of a conferer paper that will be presented by Inke Gunia at the 15th German Hispanists Congress. The congress takes place in March in Bremen, Germany.

Reprographics, as part of the Osher Lifelong Learning Program, Week 16-22, received six awards—one gold, two silver and three bronze—for print-quality and presentation. The department received the awards in an annual competition with area commercial and in-plant print shops as part of the Gallery of Super Printing. The gold award will advance to the western regional competition and then to the international competition. More information on the Reprographics department is available at www.csus.edu/repro.

Julie Kuehn Kitchen and Michael Wright, Kinesiology, along with colleagues from UCD, CSU Chico and CSU Stanislaus, presented Cross-Curricular Integration at the South Western District AAHPERD Conference in Phoenix on Feb. 5.

In the news

Jan Andersen, Family and Consumer Sciences, was interviewed for a Jan. 7 Chicago Tribune article about making housing choices in the wake of a divorce.

Gina Kaufmann, Theatre and Dance, had the production of "Tartuffe" that she directed receiving excellence from the Sacramento Printers Association. The department received the awards in an annual competition with the Sacramento Art Museum.

The Bulletin is published on Monday and Wednesday. Deadline for the upcoming issue is Feb. 21. Items must be submitted to bulletin@csus.edu or on disk or paper to Public Affairs, Sacramento Hall Room 215, (916) 278-5290 or may be delivered than 75 words and may be submitted to bulletin@csus.edu or faxed to 278-2349.

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rehearsal for one of Sacramento State’s productions as well as auditions for the spring production. Because the class was less structured than his regular classes, Brady was able to share more “tips of the trade” than theory. “Many had seen several theatre productions before, so they enjoyed the backstage part of it. Some are even taking it again.”

One of the repeat customers is Dick Dotters, who took the course with his wife Sally. “I took the class because I was interested in expanding my horizons,” he says. “Before, I could go to the theatre but not appreciate it as much because now I know what goes into a production—along with the opportunity to be a theater ‘insider,’” Dotters says he also enjoys the social nature of the class. “We meet people with a similar interest and established a lot of new friendships.”

Student Ron Clyma enjoyed the healthy habits class so much, he wrote about it in the institute’s first newsletter. He said he approached his first health and fitness class in many years with “tremendous trepidation.” But because it was designed for seniors with limitations and his first health and fitness class in many years, he was thrilled to learn about the class. “Before, I thought I prided the gentle but steady encouragement I received to set realistic goals for changes that really improved not only my health but my self-image.”

Students can register for individual courses or by the “semesters” which entitles them to take up to three courses. New courses for the spring will include one on Northern California cuisine featuring advice on cooking with local produce, field trips, demonstrations by area chefs and applications in the Family and Consumer Sciences kitchen lab. Others will include a holistic healing seminar, a digital photography course and a class on how American culture shapes religion.

Over the summer the institute will also support a writing conference, featuring workshops and evening readings led by published authors.

Most of the courses are held in Napa Hall. But Hough says plans in are works to the take the show “on the road,” offering shorter versions of the classes at local retirement communities.

Seed money for the program is provided by a $100,000 grant from the Harold Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, named for a Bay Area philanthropist who has helped fund adult learning on campuses throughout the country. The campus can apply for similar amounts in the next two years and will use the fund to compete for a $1 million endowment.

In addition to the Osher programs, the University offers a number of programs for the senior set:

• The Renaissance Society is a learning-in-retirement organization that along with its weekly forums offers dozens of more-detailed seminars for members. The forums, which are open to the public, are taught by professors, journalists, educators, governmental officials and more discussing hot issues of the day such as this semester’s offerings: “The Wacky World of State Government,” “The International Criminal Court and Human Rights Standards” and “Capital Public Radio in a Digital Age.” Seminar topics range from writing workshops to bridge and from conversational French to travel.

• The Life Centre is housed in the University’s Julia Morgan House, offers a range of health and fitness classes including fall-risk prevention, tai chi and strength training, as well as computer workshops. It also has a speaker series on health-related topics.

• Elderhostel at Sac State works with the national Elderhostel Snapshots program to offer short educational travel programs such as one this spring cruising the Napa River.

• The Sixty-Plus program allows seniors to take University courses at a reduced rate.

Details: Other Lifelong Learning Institute: (916) 278-5485 or osher@csus.edu. Renaissance Society: (916) 278-7834 or www.csus.edu/renal/tucson. Elderhostel: (916) 278-7847. Sixty-Plus: Re-entry Services at (916) 278-3901.

In memoriam

Eugene O. Sahs, professor emeritus of Social Work and Criminal Justice died December 21. In 1964 Sahs was hired to build the Social Justice department during the first year of the School of Social Work. Over the years he helped put on the University’s Asia/Amencan Conference on Criminal Justice and toured several institutions in Asia including Sacramento State’s sister university in Taichung, Taiwan. In addition to being a sociology here he worked in corrections in California, Ohio and Minnesota and helped establish the China Corrections Center in Southern California. He was also a photographer and his work is in the library collection. His art was recently shown on KVIE.
Psychotherapist-turned-filmmaker and professor emeritus Satoshi Ina takes a personal look at the internment of Japanese Americans in her new documentary From a Silk Cocoon.

The film, her second documentary about the incarceration of thousands of Japanese American citizens during and after World War II, traces how discrimination and the humane act of not being imprisoned left her parents torn between two countries.

The Hesono O Productions film premieres at 7 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 19 at the Crest Theatre, 1013 K St. in Sacramento. Ina is the film’s producer, screenplay writer and story editor.

Cocoon is one of only a few documentaries made that explores how some imprisoned Japanese Americans—having been stripped of their civil liberties—denounced their citizenship after feeling betrayed by their country.

More than 120,000 Japanese Americans were forced to leave their homes with little notice; in California, Hawaii, Oregon and Washington to live in 10 remote internment camps on the West Coast not long after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

“My parents had two children during their tour and a half years of incarceration,” Ina says. “In standing up for their civil rights, they were labeled as ‘disloyal’ by the American government and by fellow Japanese Americans. My parents held their silence in shame for the rest of their lives.”

Ina’s parents’ story of repatriation comes to life through letters the two wrote each other while held at separate prison camps, her father’s haiku poems and her mother’s diaries.

The story begins when Ina’s parents, Shizuko and Isao, meet at the World’s Fair in San Francisco. It then traces their love story from engagement to marriage, their incarceration and then how their painstaking decision of whether to remain in the United States or go to Japan after the end of World War II. In many heart-wrenching re-enacted scenes, Ina’s mother is portrayed as alone and sick, often pregnant or with small children, in horrendous prison camp conditions.

Through the making of the film, Ina says she came to understand the sacrifices her parents made while she and her brother were young.

“They never spoke to us about the shattered dreams, despair or tears that led them to become dissidents and eventually renege their American citizenship,” Ina says.

The film’s title comes from Shizuko’s family business of extracting silk from cocoons. Ina’s first film, Children of the Camps debuted on PBS in 2000. The film followed the lives of six men and women who grew up in the Japanese American prisons.

Some of Cocoon’s locations were filmed in Japan. Most of the movie was filmed in the Sacramento area, including at the Florin Buddhist Church, at Futami restaurant and at Beach Lake Stables.

The movie, made with a $70,000 budget, relied heavily on more than 150 Japanese American volunteers, many of them children.

Ina says she doesn’t plan to work on any more movies soon. Instead she will focus on a book version of Cocoon

Also involved in the production of the film are the film’s co-director and editor, Sacramento State graduate Stephen Holسان, and current students Christopher Sato-Wong, who portrays Isao Ina, and Sumitaka Sato, who portrays Yusuke Ishin and Kenji Kimoto.

Moviegoers are invited to attend a special reception before the Feb. 19 screening at the Crest Theatre at 6 p.m. for $50. Others can attend just the screening of the film at 7 p.m. Advanced tickets are $12 and $15 at the door. Tickets are $10 for students and seniors.

The film’s official world premiere will take place during the San Francisco International Asian American Film Festival on March 14.

Edited by Bill Schrader

Stepfamilies Conference

The College of Continuing Education is offering a workshop on “Strengthening Stepfamilies: A Developmental Approach” from 8:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Friday, March 4 at the Alumni Center.

This workshop will be led by author and marriage and family therapist Elizabeth Einstein and will focus on understanding how to work with stepfamilies from a family systems developmental framework. The cost is $109.

For more information or to register call 278-4433 or e-mail rshek@csus.edu or at 278-5331.

Sinology Conference

The Humanities and Religious Studies department is sponsoring an International Conference on Sinology from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 17 in the University Union Orchard Suite.

The conference is part of a series of cooperative efforts between Sacramento State and the Chinese University of Taipei, Taiwan. It will feature specialists from several universities in Taiwan as well as from Sacramento State who will address different aspects of Chinese culture from a variety of disciplines—history, Chinese language, literature and philosophy will be discussed as well as costumes, food, landscape gardens and women’s rights. Most presentations and discussions will be conducted in Chinese.

Details: Richard Shek at rshenk@csus.edu or at 278-5331.

Time Management/Study Skills Workshops

The Undeclared Student Advising Program and the Academic Advising Center are offering a series of weekly, one-hour time management and study skills workshops. The workshops are open to all students and registration is not required.

The dates, times and locations are:

Tuesday, Feb. 25: 3-4 p.m., Lassen 2020
Tuesday, March 2: 3-4 p.m., Lassen 2300
Tuesday, April 5: 3-4 p.m., Lassen 2300
Tuesday, May 3: 3-4 p.m., Lassen 206
Details: Tom Griffeth at 278-6351.

Aspiring Grad Student Workshops

The Graduate Diversity Office is offering a pair of workshops that are open to all students.

“What You Need to Know About Applying to Graduate School” is offered from 3-4 p.m. and 11 a.m.-noon, Tuesday, Feb. 15 in the University Union Football Suite and 9-10 a.m. and 2-3 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 16 in the University Union Forest Suite.

“Writing a Winning Statement of Purpose” from 10-11 a.m. and 2-3 p.m., Wednesday, March 2 in the University Union Orchard Suite.

Details: Graduate Diversity at 278-3834.

Applications Available

Applications for the CSUS Graduate Equity Fellowship, California Pre-Doctoral Program, Forgivable Loan Program, and Jack Kent Cooke Foundation Scholarships are now available in the Graduate Diversity Office.

For more information visit the Graduate Diversity Office in River Front Center 203 or call 278-3834.

Graduate Diversity

Graduate Diversity has moved forward with the times and has remained competitive technologically, including the bookstore.

After graduating with her psychology degree in 1973, Gorin started working full time at the bookstore as the returns clerk and shortly after was promoted to textbook manager. Her title changed to assistant director, which is her current position at the bookstore. Gorin supervises textbook and course materials, the general book department, and shipping and receiving.

Gorin likes the challenge of providing the textbook materials students need for their classes, and she also enjoys working in customer-service related business. While there are a number of reasons Gorin says she has stayed at the bookstore for so long, it’s mostly because she likes the pleasant environment and the people, “particularly the students.”
JAZZMAN COMETH

Jazz legend Freddie Hubbard—one of the most prolific trumpeters in the bebop, hard bop and modal styles from the 1960s to today—will perform and speak at Sacramento State this week.

Hubbard will perform with Sacramento State jazz faculty at 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 16 in the University Union Ballroom. Tickets are $15 general and $5 for students.

Hubbard will also give a tee talk at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 16 in the University Union's Redwood Room. KXTV Channel 10 reporter Karen Massie will lead a discussion with the musician that will include answering audience questions. Hubbard will also give a master class at 12:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 17 in the Music Recital Hall.

His appearances are part of the University's Black History Month celebration of African American accomplishments.

Prominent as a leader and sideman in bebop and hard bop, Hubbard was also comfortable with more avant-garde sounds and played on John Coltrane's master recording Ascension.

Hubbard's albums as a leader include Open Sesame, which he recorded on the premiere Blue Note record label when he was only 22. Other recordings include the albums Goin' Up, hubs Cap and arguably his best album, Ready for Freddie.

Hubbard was a sideman to some of jazz's most recognizable musicians including Bill Evans, Herbie Hancock, Hank Mobley, Dexter Gordon and Wayne Shorter. He also played with Art Blakey and the Jazz Messengers.

For more information contact professors Cecil Canton at 278-4344 or cantonce@ccolex.edu; or Steve Ross at 278-7097 or roachcsus@gmail.com. For tickets contact the CSUS Ticket Office at 278-4323.


Exhibit, stud...