Guiding freshmen into college life

Freshmen are an increasingly large part of the CSUS student body, and two programs are helping meet the challenge that presents.

The “freshmen experience” programs – Freshmen Seminar and Learning Communities – are keeping students in school and leading to improved grade point averages. At the same time, first-time freshmen in the programs report having an easier time adjusting to college life and making friends.

“Freshmen Seminar gives students an understanding of what higher education is and what it means to be an educated person,” says Greg Wheeler, director of general education at CSUS. “And in Learning Communities, students are offered a small group learning experience, with everyone taking the same two or three courses together.”

Both are growing along with the CSUS freshmen classes, which in the last five years have gone from 3,143 to 4,958 students, a 58 percent increase.

Freshmen Seminar is a one-semester course that looks at the “big picture” of higher education. Students also learn strategies for academic success and are introduced to various student services. They earn general education credit for the course.

“Once I get faculty interested, they really enjoy it and they stay. They never want to leave,” Wheeler says.

Learning Communities, meanwhile, began in 1994 with a limited offering and now enroll more than 300 students in 17 different communities.

As with Freshmen Seminar, classes in the Learning Community program fill during the summer orientation.

Each learning community includes two or three courses, and groups of students take all the courses together. Themes for the learning communities range from “scientific communication” to “getting started in business.” There is even one community made up of almost all students in their first year.

In the most recent survey, most students who took Freshmen Seminar say they’re more motivated in their studies (73 percent), have a better understanding of what it means to be educated (86 percent) and feel more connected to the University (77 percent).

And of students enrolled in the four Freshmen Seminar sections when the program began in 1999, 63 percent are still at CSUS. That’s compared to 60 percent for the entire class. They have an average grade point average of 3.05, compared to 2.87 for the entire class.

Faculty enjoy teaching the seminar, Wheeler says. He’s always looking for additional faculty to teach more sections, he says.

FRESHMEN, Page 4

Spring sports preview

Hornet sports fans have quite a bit to look forward to this spring. Here’s sampling of what’s to come:

Baseball

The CSUS baseball team has a fresh look in 2003 with 19 new players, a newly renovated Hornet Field to call home and its fastest start to a season since 1994.

The Hornet will have also made the move to independent status after competing in the Big West the past five seasons. Their schedule will feature a variety of opponents such as Hawaii, UC Santa Barbara, Minnesota, Cal, Stanford, Pacific, Arizona, Santa Clara and Washington State. Head coach John Smith, who has the most wins and longest tenure of any coach in program history, is in his 25th season.

Stefan Deatherage pitched her second winning the Campbell/Cartier Tournament.

STRONG ARM — Junior pitcher Nicole Deatherage and the rest of the CSUS softball team are off to the program’s best start since 1995, with a record of 9-3 after winning the Campbell/Cartier Tournament in Poway. Deatherage pitched her second career no-hitter during the second game of that tournament.

GO FOR THE (GREEN AND GOLD)

You can still get your Gold Card, the all-access pass to Hornet athletic events that entitles the user and a guest to general admission seats for any regular season home CSUS athletic event. It’s available to current CSUS faculty and staff for just $20.

To use the Gold Card for men’s basketball games, present the card and a current Faculty/Staff OneCard at the box office on game day or at CSUS Ticket Office in the Union on game day or at CSUS Ticket Office in the Union on the weekend leading up to the game and receive two general admission tickets. Or upgrade to reserved seats for only $5 per ticket.

At other Hornet athletic events, simply show the Gold Card to the ticket personnel. The Gold Card promotion does not include playoffs, championships, tournaments or off-campus events.

To get a Gold Card or to learn about other athletics ticket promotions, contact David Gull in the Athletics Ticket Office at 278-4590.

pitcher Steve Cuckovich, senior center fielder Tim Reimler and junior first baseman and pitcher Chris Kinsey serves as the core for the Hornets. See SPORTS, Page 2

Hate victim’s mother speaks on equality

Judy Shepard, the mother of hate crime victim Matthew Shepard, will speak about gay and lesbian equality and how to prevent hate crimes at 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 12 in the University Union Ballroom. Her talk, “The Legacy of Matthew Shepard,” is free and open to the public.

The event is part of the Women’s History Month at the University. For a complete Women’s History Month schedule, see page 3.

Her son, an openly gay 21-year-old student at the University of Wyoming in Laramie, died in October 1998 after being tied to a fence, robbed, beaten, burned and left for dead in a hate crime that inspired rallies and vigils across the nation. In response, Judy Shepard and her husband, Dennis, established the Matthew Shepard Foundation to support educational projects and activities that raise awareness of issues involving discrimination and diversity.

The foundation champions causes that Matthew Shepard embraced, including working for gay and lesbian equality and helping to prevent hate crimes. Judy Shepard is the executive director of the foundation and travels nationally explaining what people can do to make their communities and schools safe for everyone regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, religion or sexual orientation.

For more information, call 278-6997.

inside this week:
ALICE CHOI, criminal justice, has been the elected 2003 trea- surer of the Asian Bar Asso- ciation of Sacramento (ABAS). ABAS is an association of Asian American attorneys in the region that provides support for Asian American attorneys and law students, and provides legal assis- tance to the community through legal clinics.

JUDY ANTONYAPPAN, social work, has been elected to the board of directors of the Environmental Council of Sacramento.

ROBERT HURLEY, criminal justice, has been designated a senior Fulbright Specialist.

in the news

ROBERTO QUINTANA, a member of the advisory board to the Sacramento Families and CSUS Commission, a govern- ment body responsible for making decisions about the families and children of Sacramento County, Antonyappan has also had an arti- cle titled “Cultural Impediments to Prevention and Treatment of HIV/AIDS Among Women and Children in India” accepted for publication in the international journal Development.

BRAD STOCKERT, physical therapy, has had his paper on “Pulmonary Vein Ablation in Children and Young Adults” accepted for publica- tion in the International Journal of Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine. The paper will be held in Paris June 22-27.

WILL VIZZARD, criminal justice, has been appointed to the Regional Community Policing Institute and has been elected vice chair of that organization.

The CSUS Bulletin welcomes submissions to the Professional Activities Section from faculty, administrators, and staff. Items are run on a space available basis. They should be no longer than 75 words and may be sub- mitted to csusbulletin@csus.edu or faxed to 728-2590.

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In celebration of womanhood, CSUS is hosting events during the national Women's History Month. Activities range from the entertaining and the fun, such as Decorate Your Speculum Day, to the serious and the poignant, like “The Legacy of Matthew Shepard” by his mother Judy Shepard and the lecture “Women in Afghanistan after the Taliban.”

This year's activities are also taking a broader view.

“We're trying to bring aboard a little bit of the global perspective,” said Jessica Higgins of the Women's Resource Center. That is reflected in presentations on exploitation in the international flower industry and a panel discussion on transnational feminist activism.

Closer to home is Judy Shepard's March 12 lecture on the death of her son, Matthew Shepard. Her son, a gay student at the University of Wyoming, was brutalized and beaten to death in 1998 in a hate crime that garnered national attention.

"Her story is especially telling of how our culture take something devastating and fight back," Higgins said. "And the issues of homosexuality and hate crimes are pertinent to everyone." Judy Shepard is now the executive director of the Matthew Shepard Foundation, which raises awareness of issues surrounding diversity and discrimination.

This year's events also feature performance pieces developed by CSUS students. Themed around “Transforming the Feminine,” the performances are on March 5 and 27.

Also new this year is Decorate Your Speculum Day on March 11. The event is aimed at demystifying—and having a little fun with—a subject few women, especially young women, are comfortable with: the pelvic exam.

"The biggest fear they have is of the speculum," Higgins said. “It’s really not painful, even if it is uncomfortable, and laughing about it really alleviates the tension." The examination implement also looks vaguely like a duck—but it is very much duck—hence the need to decorate it. Those who want will be able to adopt a speculum and glue on glitter, beads, feathers and other decorations as well as get information about women's health issues.

For more information, call the Women's Resource Center at 279-7388. A detailed list of events is available at www.csus.edu/wrc. Schedule of events Monday, March 7

Gala Celebration and Reception Opening—Jennifer Smith, co-anchor “News 10 at 6:30,” will share her experience as a woman in the media. CSUS women's groups will also be recognized, noon, Union Redwood Room.

Tuesday, March 4

“Women and Tobacco: Seven Deadly Myths”—Video narrated by supermodel Christy Turlington addressing how the tobacco industry captures and keeps girls and women as smokers, followed by a discussion, noon, Union Hinde Auditorium.

Wednesday, March 5

Reception to Honor CSUS Student Mothers, 11 a.m., Women's Resource Center/Multi-Cultural Center, Library 1010.

“Transforming the Feminine I” Original performance pieces developed by CSUS students,7 p.m., Capistrano Hall 135.

Tuesday, March 11

“Decorate Your Speculum”—CSUS Student Health Fair, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Union Redwood Room.

Transnational Feminist Activism: Historical Legacies and Contemporary Challenges”—A panel with Michelle Mattheson, Ghaith Masri and Shireen Miles discussing feminists organizing to fight globalization, war and new immigration policies in the context of the war on terrorism and discussing some new challenges for activists today, noon, Union Hinde Auditorium.

“Ulä!” Women's cappella trio creates its own sound blending strong traditional roots and personal contemporary style, 7:30 p.m., Union Ballroom.

Thursday, March 12

International Women's Day—Performance by Taiko Dan drummers, Union Redwood Room.

“Legacy of Matthew Shepard”—Lecture by Judy Shepard, mother of hate crime victim Matthew. Further information provided, 7:30 p.m., Union Ballroom.

Tuesday, March 18

“Love, Women and Flowers”—A film exposing the exploitation of women in the carnation industry, 5:30 p.m., Women's Resource Center/Multi-Cultural Center, Library 1010.

Wednesday, March 19

“Women in Afghanistan after the Taliban”—Lecture by Soheir Stolba of the SHARE Institute, noon, Union Hinde Auditorium.

Thursday, March 27

“Globalization's Impact in Colombia”—Lecture by Stephanie Miles on Colombian women organizing in the flower industry and relating this labor struggle to political issues of ecology, globalization and oppression, noon, Union Hinde Auditorium.

Tuesday, March 25

“Chances”—an independent film, written, directed and starring Amber Benson, who plays Tara Maclay on television's “Buffy the Vampire Slayer.” Benson will attend and may host a question and answer period following the screening, 7 p.m., Union Redwood Room.

Thursday, March 27

“Transforming the Feminine II”—Original performance pieces developed by CSUS students for Women's History Month, 7 p.m., Union Redwood Room.

— Tim Wright

CATASTROPHIC LEAVE

Catastrophic leave has been approved for Anne Stewart, nursing; Bernardino Domingo, facilities management; and Diane Anderson, humanities and religious studies.

CSUS employees may donate to other employees up to 16 hours of vacation or sick leave credits each fiscal year in one-hour increments. CSEA, MPP and Confidential employees may donate up to 40 hours per fiscal year. Unit 4 employees may donate up to 32 hours per fiscal year. According to the CSEA M01, only donated vacation leave credits may be used family care catastrophic leave. Donation forms are available in the benefits office in Sacramento Hall 259.

Details: 278-6213.

CSM TRAINING

Signups are now being taken for the CSUS CSM training. For details, contact Kirtland Stout at 278-7233 or kstout@csus.edu.

WELLNESS PROGRAM

The University’s noontime wellness program for faculty and staff began Feb. 17 and will continue through May 15.

Activities include aqua aerobics, aerobics, tai chi, weightlifting, stretching and tone, basketball, racquetball, walking, yoga and tennis.

To participate, e-mail Kim Harrington at harringtonk@ csus.edu with your name, department, e-mail and activities you plan to participate in.

ONECARD SAVINGS

Faculty, staff and students, who use their campus OneCard at featured campus eateries during March will save 10 percent. At least three campus eateries are featured each week.

Participating eateries and their savings periods are:

• March 3-7, Riverfront Market, Outpost and Java City/The Coffee Shop
• March 10-14, La Creperie, Mother India, Burger King and Kung Fu Figs
• March 17-21, Togo's, Taco Bell, Goordo Burrito and Da Deli/TCBY
• March 24-28, Riverfront Market, Outpost and Round Table Pizza
• March 3-28, University Center Restaurant

Deposits for OneCards can be made at the four stations located in the University Library, Lassen Hall, University Union and the OneCard Center.

OneCard holders can also make deposits by writing a check payable to “CSUS OneCard” and sending it to campus ap 6127.

Details: 278-7878 or www.csus.edu/onecard.

FORGIVABLE LOANS

The CSUS Forgivable Loan Program is accepting applications through March 6.

The program provides financial assistance to graduate students. It offers loans totaling up to $30,000 to full-time students pursuing doctoral degrees who are interested in teaching at the CSU. For each year of full-time teaching, 20 percent of the loan is forgiven.

Details and applications: Suzanne Gerbasi in River Front Center 206 or 278-6302.

TRACK TICKETS AVAILABLE

Tickets for the 2003 NCAA Division I track and field championships are now on sale. The event will be held on campus at the Alex G. Spanos Sports Complex June 11-14.

Four-day ticket packages are $50 reserved, $40 general and $25 for seniors, students and children. Tickets are available at the CSUS Ticket Office in the University Union or by calling 278-4323. For additional information visit www.sacsports.com.

SAFETY AWARD NOMINEES SOUGHT

Nominations for the Governor's Employee Safety Awards will be accepted for the Governor's Employee Safety Awards. The program recognizes outstanding performance by individual state employees and groups in improving job health and safety, responding to life-threatening situations and protecting injured workers and other health and safety incidents.

For information on nomination and award application contact Kirtland Stout at 278-7233 or Michael Christiansen at 278- 2522. Completed nomination forms must be received by the environmental and safety office by March 31.

TOP JOURNALISTS TO BE HONORED

California’s outstanding political and public affairs journalists will be honored at the ninth annual California Journalism Awards, Thursday, Feb. 25, at the Radisson Hotel in Sacramento. The awards dinner is hosted by the Center for California Studies at CSUS and the Sacramento Press Club.

Also at the event, Bob Mulholland, California Democratic Party, and Debra J. Saunders, San Francisco Chronicle political columnist, will argue their political viewpoints.

Awards will be presented to: Kimberly Kindley, Jennifer B. McCann, Natalya Shulyakovskaya, and Tony Saavedra of The Orange County Register; Carla Marinucci and Lance Williams of the San Francisco Chronicle; Ina Jaffe, of National Public Radio’s Morning Edition; Randy Shandobil, KTVU Fox 2 in San Francisco/Oakland; Robb Peeler, Joe Riordan, Hank Plante, and Rick Villaroman, KPIX TV-CBS in San Francisco; and Jon Ortiz, CSUS student and former intern at the Los Angeles Times Sacramento bureau.

The cost to attend the dinner and debate is $50 single, $90 double. There are no student tickets. There is no cost for students to attend the debate only, at 8 p.m. Details: 278-6906.
“Israel-Palestinian Conflict: Is Peace Possible?” by lecture by Mark Friedman, president of Brit Tzedek v’Shalom, noon, University Union Orchard Suite. (916) 278-6744. Exhibit continues to March 7.

### Monday, Feb. 24

Art exhibit, Sol Ceramica Studio, 10:30 a.m. - 3:10 p.m., University Union Gallery. (916) 278-6744. Exhibit continues to March 14. Reception Feb. 27, 6 - 8 p.m.

### Tuesday, Feb. 25

### Thursday, Feb. 27

Chinese Golden Dragon Acrobats, 7:30 p.m., University Union Ballroom. $12 general/$8 students and children under 12. Tickets at CSUS Ticket Office at (916) 278-4232 or at Tickets.com. (916) 766-2277. Continues Feb. 28.

Men’s Basketball vs. Montana, 7:30 p.m., Hornet Gym. $10 reserved/$6 general/CSUS students and children under 5 free. Tickets at CSUS Ticket Office at (916) 278-4232 or at Tickets.com at (916) 766-2277.

**HARROWING TRIP**

**Playwright Meryl Friedman’s poignant Journey of the Sparrows, a tale of struggle, hope and love within an immigrant family comes to the stage at CSUS.** Performances are at 8 p.m., February 27-28. March 1-2, and March 6-9 in the Playwrights’ Theatre. Matinees are 2 p.m. on March 2 and 9.

The play tells the story of 16-year-old Maria, her sister Julia, her brother Oscar and their journey from El Salvador to Chicago in a nailed crate. They must struggle to remain “invisible” in order to avoid arrest and deportation and yet make a new life. "Journey of the Sparrows won the 1999 Distinguished Play Award from the American Alliance of Theatre and Education. Theatred professor Manuel Pickett directs the production.

Tickets are $8 for students, alumni and seniors, and $13 for general admission. They are available through the CSUS Ticket Office at (916) 278-4232 or Tickets.com at (916) 766-2277.

**Friday, Feb. 28**

Chinese Golden Dragon Acrobats, 7:30 p.m., University Union Ballroom. $12 general/$8 students and children under 12. Tickets at CSUS Ticket Office at (916) 278-4232 or at Tickets.com. (916) 766-2277.

**Journey of the Sparrows**, by Meryl Friedman, 8 p.m., 2 p.m. on Sundays, Playwrights’ Theatre. $13 general/$8 students and seniors. Tickets at CSUS Ticket Office at (916) 278-4232 or at Tickets.com at (916) 766-2277.

Performances Feb. 27-28, March 1-2, 6-9.

“Heritage,” S/RAD dance concert, directed by Linda Goodrich, Black History Month, 7 p.m., University Union Hinde Auditorium. (916) 766-2101.

**Saturday, March 1**

**Men’s Basketball vs. Montana State, 7:05 p.m., Hornet Gym.** $10 reserved/$6 general/CSUS students and children under 5 free. Tickets at CSUS Ticket Office at (916) 278-4232 or at Tickets.com at (916) 766-2277.

**Chinese Golden Dragon Acrobats, 7:30 p.m., University Union Ballroom.** $12 general/$8 students and children under 12. Tickets at CSUS Ticket Office at (916) 278-4232 or at Tickets.com. (916) 766-2277.

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**Monday, March 3**

**Academic Policies Committee, special meeting**

**Tuesday, March 4**

1:30 p.m., Curriculum Policies Committee (tentative) 3 p.m., Executive Committee (tentative) All meetings are in Sacramento Hall 275 unless otherwise noted.

**Wednesday, March 5**

**Thursday, March 6**

**Friday, March 7**

**Monday, March 10**

3 p.m., Executive Committee (tentative)

9 a.m., Writing and Reading Subcommittee 3 p.m., GE Course Review Subcommittee

3 p.m., Faculty Senate, University Union Foothill Suite 4 p.m., Merit Scholars Awards, University Union Foothill Suite

2 p.m., Academic Policies Committee, special meeting

2 p.m., Committee on Diversity and Equity (CODE) 3 p.m., General Education Policies/Graduation Requirements Committee

2 p.m., Committee on Diversity and Equity (CODE) 3 p.m., General Education Policies/Graduation Requirements Committee

2 p.m., Curriculum Policies Committee (tentative) 3 p.m., Executive Committee (tentative) 

living in residence halls called “adventures in higher education.” Assignments from one class often relate to learning in another class. “Students come away with the idea that they didn’t just get pigeonholes of knowledge, but that they’ve begun to weave differ- ent ideas together,” Wheeler says. Grade point averages of students who take part range from 0.5 to 16 higher than the rest of the student body. Retention rates are also a bit higher. Wheeler says many students report one of the best things about Learning Communities is getting to know classmates. Students in the communities form study groups and socialize outside class. Some groups of students even keep taking classes of clusters together after their freshmen year. Wheeler says one professor told him about a group of about a dozen of his students who sat together, studied together and ultimately did very well. He found out later that the students had been in a learning community together the year before.

For more information on either program, contact the general educa- tion office at 278-5344. — Frank Whittack