New lab brings scientists together

Criminology, food safety, plant physiology and breast cancer may seem worlds apart. But the members of the Molecular Biology Interdisciplinary Group have no ordinary collection of research interests. The group, known as MBIG, has recently spawned a new lab where students perform research in these diverse areas and are trained in using the latest molecular biology equipment and techniques.

The lab is a textbook example of teamwork. Faculty from the departments of biological sciences and chemistry pooled their resources to create a central shared facility – a facility that features a plethora of specialized equipment.

Research conducted in the lab spans the disciplines that currently use molecular techniques to solve experimental questions: biochemistry, plant biology, human genetics, ornithology and microbiology.

Among the ongoing projects is Susanne Lindgren’s work in tracking salmonella of vitamins in breast cancer. Thirteen species are being studied, and the researchers have several students working with them. Other faculty members connected with the group are biochemistry professor Doug Bell, who is looking at the genetic structure and variability of avian populations, especially those of endangered or threatened species, and Nicholas Ewing whose work in plant cell and molecular biology includes a focus on tomato plants as possible sources of edible vaccines.

They are joined by chemistry professors Mary McCarthy-Hintz, studying possible roles of vitamins in breast cancer identification markers. Ballard is developing databases detailing the frequencies of these markers in various unrelated world populations, including the Masai of Tanzania.

“We have a $72,000 generic analyzer that performs DNA sequencing as well as forensic DNA analysis. It’s necessary for my work, but it also allows student to get exposure to state-of-the-art equipment,” Ballard says. “Instead of merely talking about the theory of this instrument in class, they get the chance to use it. This gives them a leg up when they go out looking for a job.”

And the exposure extends to both undergraduate and graduate students. Most of the researchers have several students working with them.

The lab also features high-end forensic analysis equipment that will assist in professor Ruth Ballard’s study of human DNA.

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in the news

TOM KANDO, sociology, was quoted in an Oct. 11 Sacramento Bee article regarding the drop in the crime rate. The article was about the impact on crime by the down cycle in the economy, the Sept. 11 attacks and demographic trends.

BOB WASTE, public policy and administration, was quoted in a Nov. 15 Sacramento Bee article on Sacramento city politics.

NANCY KALISH, psychology, was interviewed on KOVR Ch. 13 on Nov. 16 about using moves to cope with emotional stress.

AYAD AL-GAZZAZ, sociology, was on KTXL Ch. 40 on Nov. 16 discussing fighting in Afghanistan during Ramadan.

He was also on KUVS Ch. 19 on Nov. 3 discussing a local economic summit.

GLORIA HERNANDEZ, bilingual/multicultural education, was featured in a Nov. 18 Sobredo, a new ethnic studies professor at CSUS, article on advocacy efforts by a local agency.

OTIS SCOTT, ethnic studies, was quoted in a Nov. 21 Sacramento Bee article on racist language.

DONALD GRUSHKIN, special education, rehabilitation and school psychology, was quoted in a Nov. 23 article in the Virginia-Pilot (Norfolk) on the impact of early screening for hearing loss on deaf children, their education and the deaf community.

SHIRLEY UPLINGER, student affairs, was quoted in a Nov. 25 Sacramento Bee article on student housing.

DONALD KENDRICK, music, was featured in an article on local craftspeople in the December issue of Comstock's Business magazine on regional cultural arts.

HOSSEIN PARTOVI, biotechnology and physics, participated in a Dec. 22 Stockton Record article on the state budget process.

JOHN SYER, government, was heard on KFBK on Dec. 3 commenting on Israeli attacks on Palestinians, on Dec. 4 commenting on the freezing of terrorism prevention dollars and on Dec. 4 commenting on the Bin Laden videotape.

RICHARD SHEK, humanities and religious studies, was quoted in a Dec. 5 Sacramento Bee article about his class on world religions.

MARIA JAOUDI, human rights and religious studies, was quoted in a Dec. 14 Los Angeles Times article about Osama bin Laden's and his followers' belief in the usefulness of dreams and visions.

BARBARA O'CONNOR, communication studies, was on KFBK on Dec. 14 commenting on the Bin Laden videotape. She was also quoted in a Dec. 10 Chicago Sun-Times article on Gary Condit's decision to seek re-election.

ROBYN NELSON, nursing, was on KOVR Ch. 13 on Dec. 15 commenting of the job potential for nursing graduates.

TONG ZHOU, mechanical engineering, was quoted in a Dec. 15 Sacramento Bee article on the practicability of scooters as transportation.

SUSAN ALGERT, family and consumer sciences, was quoted in a Dec. 20 East Sacramento News article on using diet to combat depression.

DONALD TAYLOR, communication studies, was quoted in a Dec. 26 Sacramento Bee article on African immigrants in the Sacramento area.

LAUREL ZUCKER, music, received positive reviews on her new "Complete J.S. Bach Flute Sonatas' CD in the January issues of Gramophone Magazine and Flute Talk Magazine. Flute Network Magazine also gave strong reviews of her "Inflorences" and "Images for Flute and Harp" CDs in its December issue.

JEFF LUSTIG, government, wrote an op-ed piece in the San Francisco Chronicle, "Free Speech–Cursality of War?" which ran on Jan. 9. He was also quoted on Governor Davis' "State of the State" speech in the San Jose Mercury News on Jan. 13.

ROBERT G. MOGULL, business statistics, had a letter to the editor published in The Sacramento Bee on Jan. 19, on the campus forums being held at CSUS regarding the conflicts in the Middle East.

GEORGE JOUGANATOS, economics, was interviewed by KFBK on Dec. 20 for a story on Enron, K-Mart and bankruptcies in general.

SUSAN WYCOFF, counselor education, was quoted in an ABCNews.com science article, "Only 0.012 Percent Different: We're All the Same," about new research on racial differences.

VERN HORNBACK, English, had a letter published in the Feb. 7 issue of the Sacramento Bee. He wrote that the Bee was conservative and supported gubernatorial candidate Richard Riordan.

CSUS has been selected as the venue for the summer 2004 meeting of the American Association of Physics Teachers and Physics Teachers Resource Agents.

CSUS bulletin

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The Office of University Affairs
California State University
Sacramento
6000 J Street
Sacramento, CA 95819-6026

Robert G. Jones
Assoc. Vice President
Public Affairs

Ann Reed
Writer

Laurie Hall
Huntington Registrar
Frank Whithurst

Contributing Writers

Gale Griffith
Patty Taylor
Tim Wright

Director of Publications
Gary Welch

Design

Anna Carney

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Items may be faxed to (916) 278-5290 or may be delivered on disk or paper to Public Affairs, Sacramento Hall Room 215, campus mail code 6026.

Deadline for all materials is 10 a.m. on the Wednesday before publication. Items will be published on a space available basis and are subject to editing. Writing should be in news style; short and direct. For inquiries call (916) 278-6156.

new faces

JAMES SOBREDO - You don't have to be a computer science major to program computers and use them in classes.

Sobredo is an ethnic studies professor at CSUS, is very interested in using computers in and out of the classroom. He became interested in multi-media applications for the classroom when he participated in a project by UC Berkeley's Aircraft Library to digitize pictures for research done all over the world. Since then he has learned six computer programming languages and received a certificate in Oracle database administration.

Sobredo says there are many opportunities for electronic enhancement of classes. "Students and teachers are limited to the time and space in classes but when materials are placed online students can access all the materials they are able wherever they want," he says.

Sobredo has taught classes ranging from those completely online to those with no online features at all. He likes the middle ground of web-enhanced classes because it offers teacher-student contact but still has the advantage of utilizing online resources.

He appreciates that the University supports faculty who want to use the available technology to enhance their classes. Sobredo plans to learn more about WebCT and utilize it to allow students online access to classroom resources, graphics and other reference materials.

Sobredo is a Filipino American and came to this country with his family and he says he has known enough to help students. "I felt I had finally reached a point where I might have something to say," he says.

He is teaching in not a one-way street for Russell. He says while he is teaching he is also learning from students and the situations they describe in class.

Russell has worked as a juvenile probation officer and is currently teaching global perspective in his interpretation of ethnic studies and race relations.

He has a bachelor's degree in philosophy from the University of Washington and a master's degree in the same subject from Bowling Green State University. He has a doctorate in ethnic studies from UC Berkeley. He recently published European Entries into the Pacific Spain and the Acapulco-Manila Galleons.

DALE RUSSELL worked in several areas of social work before joining the CSUS faculty last fall as a professor in the social work department.

Russell says he wanted to teach to help pass along knowledge he acquired in positions outside teaching. He had spent several years working in other areas of social work and felt he knew enough to help students. "I felt I had finally reached a point where I might have something to say," he says.

Teaching is not a one-way street for Russell. He says while he is teaching he is also learning from students and the situations they describe in class.

Russell has worked as a juvenile probation officer and in social work for 10 years before receiving his master's degree in social work from CSUS and eventually receiving his doctorate from the University of San Francisco. Between his schooling he worked as a crisis intervention counselor for high schools in the Walnut Creek area. Russell taught at universities in Montana and Virginia before coming to CSUS.

Russell is currently teaching classes in diversity and a social work practices class. "People come on campus and talk about issues they are actually facing in their field settings, and we're able to discuss them in class," he says. "I feel very comfortable discussing the concepts to help students grasp them better."
Santos & Santos: a comedic tragedy with Latino flair

Explore humanity’s dark side at the comedic tragedy Santos & Santos at the Playwrights’ Theatre at CSUS, March 7-17.

Santos & Santos, written by Octavio Solis and directed by CSUS professor Manuel Pickett, is told from a Latino viewpoint with universal appeal. The author, infusing plenty of humor, weaves a tale of a family seduced by American culture.

Based on a true story, the play tracks the rise and fall of an El Paso law firm run by three brothers. It deals with people who overcompensate in their efforts to become more successful, more powerful, more American.

The play follows the Santos family of lawyers as they pursue their out-of-reach goals at all costs – efforts that eventually lead to murder.

In Spanish and English, the author has written scenes inside of scenes, and scenes that go backward in time, bending realism as the play quickly moves from year to year.

Santos & Santos curtain times are at 8 p.m. on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays and 2 p.m. on Sundays. Tickets are $12 general and $7 for students, seniors and alumni. Tickets are available at the CSUS Ticket Office at (916) 278-4131.

– Heather Robinson

Beneficial efforts

The Bulletin talked to Mary Ford, benefits manager and Joanne Davis, disability leaves manager, about the benefits office.

What do people think you do? Mary Ford: “I think they realize that we administer the benefits for the entire campus. We’re responsible for all employee benefits including health care, retirement and life insurance.”

What do you really do? Joanne Davis: “We administer disabilities, too. Everything that’s related to maternity, disabilities and worker’s compensation is our responsibility. Our scope is much more complex than people realize.”

Describe your office. Ford: “We fall under the Office of Human Resources and student retention in Lassen 3014. Application forms, eligibility guidelines and other information for both programs are available by calling 278-6859 or by visiting educational equity and student retention in Lassen 3014.”

What is your biggest challenge? Ford: “Having people think they have the same benefits they don’t qualify for.”

What do you get asked most? Davis: “Will I get paid completely while I’m on leave?” Ford: “Am I eligible for benefits and what am I eligible for?”

In memoriam

A campus memorial for Don G. Fibiger, emeritus professor in the theatre and dance department, will be held at 1 p.m., Saturday, March 9 in the University Theatre.

Fibiger was a professor at CSUS for 30 years, and served as department chair from 1982 to 1986. He taught acting, puppetry, children’s theatre, voice, creative dramatics, acting for musical theatre and costuming. In the community he was a costume designer for several theatre and dance companies, and had a special interest in producing theatre for children. He retired from CSUS in 1999.
ongoing
Student Award Show, noon - 4:30 p.m., Monday - Friday, Else Gallery. (916) 278-6166. Continues to March 8.

“Zen Brush,” exhibit featuring Marie Taylor, University Union Gallery, 10:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., Monday - Friday at 4:30 p.m., Wednesdays and Thursdays. (916) 278-6997. Continues to March 21.

Exhibit, graphic design work by Rob Carter, various times, Monday - Friday, Design Gallery, Mariposa Hall 4000. (916) 278-3962. Continues to March 8. Artist reception, 5:30 p.m., March 7.

monday, march 4
Composition Lecture and Demonstration, Andrew Imbrie, composer and Janet Packer, violin, 1 p.m., Capistrano 151. (916) 278-6515.

Gala Reception, Women’s History Month, noon, University Union Hinde Auditorium. (916) 278-7388.

tuesday, march 5
“Overview of Women’s Health,” lecture, CSUS professor Robyn Nelson, Women’s History Month, 1:30 p.m., University Union Hinde Auditorium. (916) 278-7388.

CSUS Symphony Orchestra, guest artist Julina Tiso, 8 p.m., Music Recital Hall in Capistrano Hall. Tickets $8 general/$5 students and seniors. Tickets at CSUS Ticket Office at (916) 278-4323 or at Tickets.com at (916) 766-2277.

Baseball vs. Nevada, 2 p.m., Hornet Field. Tickets $5 general/CSUS students free. Tickets available at the event. (916) 278-6896.

“A World of Wellness,” student health fair, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., University Union Redwood Room. (916) 278-6997.

wednesday, march 6
Presentation at a public meeting of the Senate Committee on Banking, Commerce and International Trade by European Union Ambassador Guenter Burghardt, 1:30 p.m., State Capital Room 319L. (916) 278-7737.

CSUS Latino Jazz Ensemble, noon, University Union Redwood Room. (916) 278-6997.

“Women’s Health and Spirituality,” lecture, CSUS professor Lynn Reiner, Women’s History Month, 11 a.m., University Union Redwood Room. (916) 278-7388.

ROCK-INSPIRED DANCE
Recordings by rock icons provide the musical foundation for Dale Scholl Dance/Art’s winter concert. “Over The Top,” at 8 p.m., March 7 – 23 at the CSUS DanceSpace in Solano Hall.

“For the Top” features new choreography by Scholl. Leslie Stove, Joseph Cameron and Joseph Candelaria. Scholl’s piece, “And There You Have It,” is an interpretive celebration of the music of Queen, the seminal 70’s rock band inducted into the Rock-and-Roll Hall of Fame in 2001.

Stove, a member of Dance/Art from 1997 to 1999 and now a nationally recognized choreographer for the Universal Dance Association, has created a piece called “The Potbound Oak.” An energetic work is set to hard-driving songs from infamous punk rock bands such as the Sex Pistols and the Ramones.

Compositions from David Bowley’s legendary glam rock phase serve as inspiration for Candelaria’s piece “Room 174.” Rounding out the program is Cameron’s “World in Whose Eyes?” set to the music of Deep Purple, one of the most successful synthesizer-based bands of all time.

Tickets are $15 general, $12 for students and seniors and $8 for children under 12. Tickets are available at the CSUS Ticket Office at 278-4323 or at Tickets.com at 766-2277.

thursday, march 7
Santos & Santos, a dramatic comedy by Octavio Solis, 8 p.m., Playwrights’ Theatre in Shasta Hall. Tickets $12 general/$7 students, alumni and seniors. Tickets at CSUS Ticket Office at (916) 278-4323 or at Tickets.com at (916) 766-2277. Continues to March 23.

“Breast Cancer Awareness,” seminar, Women’s History Month, 1:30 p.m., University Union Hinde Auditorium. (916) 278-7388.

International Women’s Day celebration with Sacramento Taiko Dan Drummers, various events and discussions, Women’s History Month, 11 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., University Union. (916) 278-7388.

“Over the Top,” Dale Scholl Dance/Art, 8 p.m., Solano Hall 1010. Tickets $15 general/$12 students and seniors/$8 children under 12. Tickets at CSUS Ticket Office at (916) 278-4323 or at Tickets.com at (916) 766-2277. Continues to March 23.

Baseball vs. Virginia, 1 p.m., Shea Stadium. Tickets $5 general/$4 seniors/$2 children under 12/CSUS students free. Tickets available at event. (916) 278-6896.


Monday, March 11
Meet the Music Series with the CSUS Orchestra, 1 p.m., Music Recital Hall in Capistrano Hall. (916) 278-6615.

Tuesday, march 12
Softball vs. Virginia, 1 p.m., Shea Stadium. Tickets $5 general/$4 seniors/$2 children under 12/CSUS students free. Tickets available at event. (916) 278-6896.

CSUS Jazz Ensemble, 8 p.m., Music Recital Hall in Capistrano Hall. Tickets $5 general/free for CSUS students. Tickets available at event. (916) 278-6697.

CSUS Wind Ensemble, CSUS Concert Band, 7:30 p.m., Music Recital Hall in Capistrano Hall. Tickets $6 general/$4 students and seniors. Tickets at CSUS Ticket Office at (916) 278-4323 or at Tickets.com at (916) 766-2277.

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Events are free unless otherwise noted. For a complete events calendar click on www.csus.edu/events.