Bridging the ‘high school to college’ gap

Incoming freshmen looking for educational advantages are leapfrogging into University life by spending their summer on campus, smoothing the transition from high school to CSUS.

Kay Lee, coordinator of the “summer bridge” program at CSUS, says the free intensive academic preparation and orientation has an incredible success rate. Ninety percent of the students pass the six-week program and slide into the fall semester better prepared than their peers. She says the summer bridge students are also more likely to remain at the University.

Summer bridge operates out of the educational opportunity program, which provides advising, counseling and other services to low-income and first-generation college students. The participants are placed in classes based upon English placement tests and the entry-level math exams. Lee plans a variety of field trips including visits to the Sacramento Discovery Museum to build teamwork.

Lee says there are many benefits to summer bridge. “It’s a great transition. The students get an extra nudge.” She says that not only are the classes academically helpful but, “Once the fall semester begins, they know things like where the computer labs are. They already feel like they’re home.” She says the students, faculty and staff become a cohesive group. “They build a community. It makes the community stronger.”

Lee says the most difficult part of her job as coordinator is fitting people into classes. There are 26 courses offered this summer. With nearly 180 students taking three classes per day, the arrangement can be challenging, she says. Many students have scheduling concerns including long commutes or lack of reliable transportation.

Lee says the application procedure for summer bridge is simple. The student must have completed the prerequisites, accomplished a minimum high school GPA and met the CSUS entry requirements.

Students prepare robot for battle

“Keep it simple” is the guiding strategy behind the BattleBot taking shape under the guidance of 23 CSUS students, faculty and staff. The team has built a $6,000 remote-controlled demolition hammer on wheels named “Seismic.”

Of course, getting such a thing to move and respond quickly by remote control wasn’t easy, but the students say it was worth the work. They’re confident that when they put their creations into competition with other BattleBots, they can win the battle. All they have to do is get within striking distance. With the end of the hammer striking away at 100 beats a minute, the theory goes, the other robot won’t have a chance.

“We’re going to put the end of that hammer on opponents and get them vibrating out of control,” says project lead Graham Ryland, a mechanical engineering student. “Then we’ll beat them up while we push them around like well-weathered trash.”

Exploring nuclear force and structure earned physics professor Edward Gibson this year’s Outstanding Scholarly Achievement Award.

Gibson will receive the award and present the 2002-03 Scholarly Achievement Award Lecture, “The Small, the Mighty, the Exotic: A View into Nuclear Physics” at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, April 30, in the University Union Hind Auditorium. A reception will follow.

In his lecture, Gibson will discuss his cutting-edge research on experimental intermediates in particle physics. His research involves scattering sub-nuclear particles – pions, mesons – from protons and nucleons of atoms. “This is significant in the testing of nuclear and particle physics theories and providing parameters for those theories,” says Gibson.

Gibson is the 42nd recipient of the award, which is given annually to a CSUS faculty member who has made significant contributions to a discipline through scholarly activity, creative artistic endeavors, research and publication.

Gibson has been conducting pi meson research for 23 years and has been teaching at CSUS for 34 years. He served as chair of the physics and astronomy department from 1979-1988 and as acting chair in 1999. He has co-authored approximately 40 journal articles, the majority about pi mesons.

Gibson to give Scholarly Achievement lecture

Reception for support staff

State officials and Sacramento area leaders will join the campus community at CSUS on Monday, April 21 for the grand opening of the Serna Center.

The event will be held from 10 a.m. to noon at the center, which is located near the CSUS Multi-Cultural Center on the ground floor of the University Library.

Among those making presentations will be State Senator Deborah Ortiz; State Assemblyman Darrell Steinberg; California Health and Human Services Agency Secretary Grant-Byrd; State Assemblywoman Deborah Ortiz; Sacramen- to mayor who passed away the following year.

Serna Center set to open April 21

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JEFF LUSTIO, government, published a column, “Homeland Insecurity,” in the March 26 Anderson Valley Advertiser and a review of the recently published Food’s Paradise: A Carey McW illiams Reader in the current Cali fornia History. He will chair and participate in the panel, “Anti-War Movements: The ‘60s and Now” at the 13th annual California Studies Conference at UC Davis Apr. 25.

MARK LUDWIG, communication, published a book titled “Copy Editors: Unsung Heroes of the Newsroom” at the Journalism Association of Community Colleges annual conference April 3-5 in Sacramento. He also served as a judge in several of the association’s competitions.


PATRICIA CLARK-KELLIS, associate dean, College of Health and Human Services, has been accepted into Harvard Univer sity’s Management Development Program. The 18th annual program is sponsored by the Harvard Institutes for Higher Education, June 15-27.


KATHLEEN CARRINS, humani ties and religious studies, has published a new book titled A Child who is Hard of Hearing — Terry Filipowicz

PATTARATORN CHIRAPRAVATI, Assistant professor, art Background and expertise Chiraprawati earned her bachelor’s degree from Sulpakor University and master’s of art degrees from Ohio State University and Cornell University. She holds a doctorate in Southeast Asian art history from Cornell University. Chiraprawati was previously a museum curator at the Asian Art Museum of San Francisco. Her expertise is in Southeast Asian art and general Asian art, with a particular emphasis on Buddhist art.

TED KROVETZ, Assistant professor, computer science Background and expertise Krovetz earned his bachelor’s degree in engineering from Stanford University and his master’s degree in computation from Oxford University. He holds a doctorate in computer science from UC Davis. Krovetz has worked as a software and security engineer at Mainstay, Intel and Digital Fountain. His expertise is in cryptography and network security, and theoretical computer science.

EDWARD BARANOSKI, Assistant professor, foreign languages Background and expertise Baranoski earned his bachelor’s degree in Spanish literature at UC Santa Cruz and his master’s degree in Spanish from Middlebury College. He has a doctorate in Hispanic literature from the University of Wisconsin. His expertise is in Spanish language linguistics and the history of Spanish.

BRADLEY W. BUCHANAN, Assistant professor, English Background and expertise Buchanan holds a doctorate in English literature from Stanford University. He earned a bachelor’s degree in English literature from McGovern University. Buchanan has completed his master's degree in English literature from the University of Toronto. He recently completed a post-doctoral fellowship at Stanford. Buchanan’s expertise is in 20th Century British literature and post-Colonial literature.

AWARDS LUNCHEON

The annual Staff Awards Luncheon will be 11:30 a.m., Friday, April 25 in the Uni versity Union Ballroom. The event will honor CSUS staff and administrators, as well as employees of the CSUS Founda tion and Associated Students for 10, 15, 20, 25, 30 and 35 years of service.

This year’s luncheon will feature a pasta buffet.

Tickets are $7 and are available in advance from: Arlette Barnard at 278-4339, Amanda Cruz-Golberg at 278-6326, Jody Gayvert at 278-6297, Kathy Harris at 278-7001, Lillie Jones at 278-3635, Denise Nicholls at 278-6127, Barbara Orteo at 278-5694 and Shirley Vicari at 278-6923. Tickets will be available at the door unless the event is sold out.

BRIDGING

Continued from page 1

applied to the University and checked the appropriate box on the application that asks if they “wish to apply through the edu cational opportunity program.” If the potential student checks “yes,” the application is then routed to the EOP office and the student receives a summer bridge application. “There is still time to apply for those that have not applied to the University and have not applied to summer bridge,” Lee says. However, Lee says she would like to see more high school teachers, counselors and administration talk about summer bridge and EOP. She says many people have the impression that EOP involves only financial aid. Lee says she could change anything about the program besides the promotion of it, she would require the summer bridge application. “Usually, about 60 students live on campus during the summer. This makes the bonding even stronger,” Lee says. She wouldn’t mind if it were manda tory for all students to live on campus for the program. “That way,” she says, “everybody gets the same experience.” — Terry Filipowicz

New Faces

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ROBOT

Continued from page 1

A new tournament is in the works for this summer, and BattleBots competitors and fans are hoping Comedy Central will come out with another series. In fact, some teams build their BattleBots more to try to get on television than to win — aiming for the funniest, strangest or most human-like design. The CSUS team – Sac State Competitive Robotics – is out to win. They’re planning to enter the heavyweight class, which includes robots from 121 to 219 pounds.

Members, who come from a variety of majors, have spent hundreds of hours designing and building the project. In addi tion to being a fun challenge, it has proven a great way to link classroom learning with real world engineering. They’ve been advised by mechanical engineer ing professors Akiko Komagai, Susan Holl, Patrick Homen and Joseph Harrallson. The team has shown off their BattleBots-in-the-making at schools, community colleges and a variety of University events. Two weeks ago, they demonstrated it for a story on KCRCA Channel 3. The hammer that makes up the body of the robot was donated by Atlas Copco. Two heavy-duty wheel motors were donated by The Wheel Chair Center. They received a SolidWorks Program from SolidWorks and some funding has also come from the CSUS College of Engineering and Computer Sci ence.

Additional supplies, as well as store credit or cash dona tions are still needed to complete construction. All donations will go directly to the robot’s construction and are tax deductible. For more, e-mail echalans@csus.edu or call (916) 278-6629.

For more on BattleBots, visit www.battlebots.com. For more on the CSUS students’ BattleBots, visit www.sacsbot.com.

— Frank Whitlatch
Annual Africa conference, peace awards planned

Experts from around the globe will discuss a variety of issues facing the people of Africa, including religion, human rights, AIDS and diamonds at the 12th annual Africa Diaspora Conference, "Ethnicity, Religion, and Conflict Diamonds in Africa," May 1-3 in the University Union at California State University, Sacramento.

The conference will conclude with 2003 Africa Peace Awards dinner and dance at 6 p.m., Saturday, May 3 at the Country Club Events Center, 2600 Watt Ave., in Sacramento. Local publisher William H. Lee and attorney the Rev. Howard W. Clark will be honored with the award.

Among the many featured speakers at the conference are Ylsombiya Henry Hudson of the AIDS Support Organization in Kampala, Uganda who will discuss "AIDS Education: A Strategy to Combat AIDS/ HIV," at 5:30 p.m., Thursday, May 1; Oluchi Florence Eme-Uwazie of the University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria, at 11 a.m., Friday, May 2; and Phillip Van Nierk from the International Consortium of Forensic Journalists in Washington, D.C., at 2 p.m., Friday, May 2.

At Saturday's dinner and dance popular local band Mumbo Gumbo will provide entertainment and KXTV-Channel 10 reporter Karen Massie will emcee the event. At the event Lee, a leader in the Sacramento business community and a member of the CSUS Advisory Board, will receive the 2003 Peace and Justice Award recognizing his distinguished service and championship of civil rights, especially for people of African descent. Burris is a prominent civil rights attorney specializing in police misconduct cases and is frequently tapped as an expert legal analyst on national television programs.

The conference and the awards event are sponsored by the CSUS Center for African Peace and Conflict Resolution and the CSUS Pan African Studies program.

For more information, contact CSUS professor Ernest Urzwiau at 278-6382. Tickets for the dinner-dance are available at the CSUS Box Office at (916) 278-4523 or at www.tickets.com.

Speaker explores ‘sacred violence’

Gil Bailie, author of Violence Untamed: Humanity at the Crossroads and founder of the Cornerstone Forum, will speak at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, April 24 at the UC Davis University Union

His talk will be on "Warring Ideologies and the Elusive Quest for Peace." The talk is one of three Bailie will give as part of this year’s St. Augustine Chair Lectureship, presented by the Lutheran Episcopal Campus Ministry at The Belfry. He will also speak, on different topics, at 7 p.m., Wednesday, April 23 at St. John’s Lutheran Church, 1701 L St. in Sacramento, and at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, April 24 at the UC Davis University Union.

Bailie is a Roman Catholic layperson whose work includes retreats, lectures and workshops throughout the country and abroad. His Cornerstone Forum, which he founded and serves as president, encourages "an intellectually compelling and theologically orthodox Christian response to the contemporary cultural and spiritual crisis."

For more information, contact the CSUS humanities and religious studies office at 278-6444 or visit www.thebelfry.org.

Earth Day has interests for all ages

Earth Day is free and open to the general public. CSUS parking is free for the event except in parking structures.

For more information call 484-4644 or visit www.earthdaysac.org.

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POLITICAL PARTY

The tools used in this jab at Washington include song, dance and satire as the "Capitol Steps" bring their latest comedy-musical revue to the University Union Ballroom at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, May 1. The five-member troupe, made up of former and current Congressional staffers, takes a humorous look at serious issues. Founded in 1981 at a Senate Christmas party, the Capitol Steps have appeared on numerous television and radio programs, including "Good Morning America," "20/20," "Entertainment Tonight," and National Public Radio's "All Things Considered."

Their parodies target the hypocrisy, pompousness, and incompetence of politicians and current affairs. There is no lack of material, as evidenced by the troupe's more than 20 albums.

The objects of their stinging song and dance assaults come from both the left and the right of the political spectrum, and everywhere in between. There are numbers on Bill Clinton ("Unzippin' My Dou-Dah, sung to Disney's "Zip-A-Dee-Doo-Dah"), George Bush ("Don't Go Fakin' You're Smart"), sung to Elton John's "Don't Go Breakin' My Heart," Osama bin Laden ("Osama Come Out Tomorrow," sung to "Tomorrow" from the Broadway musical Annie), and many others.

Tickets are $15 for general admission and $10 for students. Tickets are available at the CSUS Ticket Office at (916) 278-4323 and at www.csus.edu. For more information, call (916) 278-6997.

sunday, april 27

Baseball vs. Hawai'i-Hilo,
noon, Hornet Field. $5 adult/$4 seniors and non-CSUS students/$2 children ages 6-12/CSUS students with ID and children under 5 free. Tickets at the event.

Softball vs. Santa Clara, doubleheader, noon, Shea Stadium. $5 adult/$4 seniors and non-CSUS students/$2 children ages 6-12/CSUS students with ID and children under 5 free. Tickets at the event.

Chamber Music Society, 7:30 p.m., Music Recital Hall in Capistrano Hall. $20 general/$15 seniors/$10 students. Tickets at CSUS Ticket Office (916) 278-4323 or at Tickets.com at (916) 766-2277.

monday, april 28

Baseball vs. Arizona, 2:30 p.m., Hornet Field. $5 adult/$4 seniors and non-CSUS students/$2 children ages 6-12/CSUS students with ID and children under 5 free. Tickets at the event.

Exhibit, works by graduating art majors and master's students, noon - 4:30 p.m., Monday - Friday, Else and Witt Galleries. (916) 278-6164. Exhibit runs through May 23. Exhibit 6 - 9 p.m., May 16.

Self Defense Class, 5:30 p.m., University Union. Sign up at (916) 278-7388.

tuesday, april 29

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

"The Ways of Knowing," annual Nausmouth Philosophy Symposium, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., University Union Foret Suite. (916) 278-6424. Continues through April 30.

TRIBUTE PLANNED FOR PRESIDENT GERTH

The University is hosting a tribute for Donald R. Gerth, to celebrate his 45 years of service to the California State University, including the past 19 years as president of CSUS. The event will be held at 6 p.m. on Friday, May 2, in the University Union Ballroom. The cost of tickets is $40 per guest or $400 per table. Reservations are requested prior to April 25.

The evening includes dinner, dancing and a surprise musical tribute. Cocktail attire is requested. Stan Atkinson, former University Union manager, and a member of the University Advisory Board, will serve as the master of ceremonies.

To make reservations, or for additional information call 278-4413 or visit www.csus.edu/pres/tribute.