Barrio Art Class Connects Students, Schoolchildren

It’s Tuesday evening at Sacramento’s Washington Neighborhood Center, and the 20 or so schoolchildren are suddenly quiet. This week, it’s butterfly-making that has their attention.

Forming the wings from felt is “really fun,” they agree, although gluing them to the wooden bodies is proving a bit challenging. CSUS student Blia Vang, it seems, has come up with a good project. Even art professor Ricardo Favela says so as he wanders the room complimenting the children’s work.

Similar scenes are repeated week after week, and year after year, as students in the University’s barrio art class take art education downtown to Sacramento youngsters and senior citizens.

Those attending the free evenings get exposed to all sorts of arts and crafts. They also get plenty of attention from CSUS students, which is especially important for the children. Projects have included picture frames made of painted popsicle sticks and Hawaiian leis made of candy (the student who led the candy lei project also taught attendees to hula dance).

“We want them to understand other cultures as much as possible, and we’re using art to make that happen,” says Favela. He has taken over the barrio art course this year following the retirement of José Montoya, who started the program nearly 30 years ago.

“When they get a teaching job or go home, they think about the children, the 37-year-old needed to find a way to finance his education while supporting a family. Now he’s close to his goal of teaching Spanish in a secondary school.

During his AmeriCorps service, Mayorga traveled throughout San Joaquin and Sacramento counties training farm workers and their children to handle pesticides safely.

“When I saw the opportunity to serve the community — with my own people in the United States — I was very excited,” he says.

As often happens with AmeriCorps members, Mayorga was hired by the agency he served after leaving the program in 1996. He helped displaced families get job training for the Center of Employment Training in Joaquin and Sacramento counties.

Mayorga traveled throughout San Joaquin and Sacramento counties training farm workers and their children to handle pesticides safely. Meanwhile, the college students learn to relate to people from a variety of ethnic and social backgrounds. Many of them plan to be teachers, but a number plan to do other community work.

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“When they get a teaching job someplace and see all these brown or black or white faces, they won’t be surprised,” he says. “They’ll know how to relate.”

In addition to the Neighborhood Center workshops, CSUS students enrolled in the barrio art class coordinate workshops for senior citizens on Thursdays at Washington Plaza and teach art lessons throughout the week at Washington Elementary School. There are also classes on traditional Aztec dance taught through the program.

Barrio (neighborhood) art was started in the early 1970s, as the University was working to become more involved in improving community life. Montoya, at the time one of three new Chicano art instructors at CSUS, set out to develop a program that has their attention.

CSUS has 4,408 class sections this semester. Students are enrolled in an average of 11.73 units, the highest spring average since 1985.


CRAFTING TRUST

Service Work Helps Pay College Bills

University to Host Human Rights Activist Harry Wu

Photo by Frank Whitlatch

Wu will make a special appearance at CSUS on May 13 to talk on “China: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow.” The event will be at 11:45 a.m. in the University Ballroom, and is free and open to the public.

Wu, who now lives in the United States, is one of the leading campaigners against human rights abuses in China.

He ended 19 years as a political prisoner in the Chinese forced labor camps known as The Laogai. He has returned to that country three times since 1991 to secretly visit the camps and film abuses. His 1995 arrest and conviction in China for “stealing state secrets” was highly publicized, and he was eventually expelled from the country rather than being forced to serve the 15-year sentence.

Wu is the founder and executive director of the Laogai Research Foundation and has testified about China before the U.S. Congress. He has received the prestigious Martin Ennals Human Rights Award and an AFL-CIO award for public service. Wu’s experiences in the prison camps are recounted in the international bestseller Bitter Winds and the more recent book titled Troublemaker: One Man’s Crusade Against China’s Cruelty.

The lecture is presented by University Union UNIQUE Programs and the Associated Students. More information is available at 278-6595.

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Recognition

PATRICIA ACKERMAN, nursing, received a Making a Difference Award on March 9 on behalf of the division of nursing. The award was in recognition for seven years of support to the San Juan Unified School District’s Alliance for Excellence in Schools reorganizing the division’s contribution to the health and achievement of district children, youth and families.

MARK HENNELLY, English, was recently elected President of the CSU English Council, which includes English departments from 21 state campuses. It meets semiannually in northern and southern California.

Scholarship

PEGGY HODGE, nursing, presented “Anxiety, Gender and Math Self-Efficacy — Do They Effect Nursing Student Math Competence” at the Nursing Education ‘99 conference in Orlando in January.

CANDACE GOLDSWORTHY, speech pathology and audiology, presented “Speech Pathology Reading” at the Region C Speech Language Learning Disabilities gathering in January, and to the Courage to Risk conference in Colorado Springs in February.


RON WAESSNER, public policy and administration, acted as organizer and moderator of a session on “Linking Academics to State Policy Formation: Two Models Used in California” at the seventh annual LINKS Conference in Sacramento on April 28. The conference was presented by the Center for California Studies and is held annually at a different state capital each year. Waessner, who is the director of the system-wide CSU Faculty Research Fellows Program, offered his observations on the success that the program has had.

ANDREW ANKER, program of design, recently presented two papers at the annual meeting of the Western Social Science Association in Fort Worth, Texas. The papers were “Empty Spaces: Elevator and the City in Film Noir” and “Union Pacific Railway: Looking at Urban Development Through Alexander Gardner’s Railroad Stereographs.”

METHWALL B. ASER, accounting, had his article “The Preventive System of Islamic Ethics,” published in the March issue of The Minaret, a monthly periodical in Religion and Ethics.

ROBERT WHITE, public policy & administration, chaired a panel on “Customer Satisfaction: Is the Public Customer Getting What They Want?” at the 1999 annual LINKS Conference in Sacramento on April 30.

WILLIAM VIZZARD, criminal justice, has signed a contract for a forthcoming book, Shots in the Dark: Policy and Symbols of Gun Control.

In the News

SUSAN MEYER, criminal justice, was interviewed for a Feb. 24 KCRA Channel 3 story on “Crime in the Criminal Justice System.”

MARIA JACOB, humanities and religious studies, was profiled April 4 In The Record, a newspaper in New Jersey. The profile centered on her new book about Christian mysticism.

Academic Policy Update

President Gerth has taken the following actions regarding recommendations of the Faculty Senate:

The drop policy proposal is approved. The Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs is responsible for implementation. (FS 99-07)

Annual Competition for Fulbright Grants

The opening of the 2000-2001 competition for Fulbright and related grants for graduate study or research abroad was May 1.

To be eligible for available grants, applicants must be a U.S. citizen at the time of application and hold a bachelor’s degree or its equivalent by the grant start date. All applicants must be proficient in the language of the host country in which they plan to carry out their proposed study or research.

Full grants provide round-trip international travel, maintenance for the tenure of the award, a research allowance, and if applicable, tuition waiver. All grants include supplemental health and accident insurance.

Complete program and application information is contained in the brochure, Fulbright and Related Grants for Graduate Study and Research Abroad, 2000-2001, which can be viewed in the Office of International Programs in Lassen 2304.

Students currently enrolled in CSUS should contact Monica Freeman at 278-6686. Completed applications are due Oct. 1. A workshop on the student Fulbright grant application process is from 7-9 p.m. May 11 in Mendocino Hall 1005. Call Office of International Programs at 278-6686 to reserve a space.

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1998-99 Outstanding Teaching Awards

The seven recipients of the Outstanding Teaching Awards for 1998-99 have recently been named.

The recipients will be recognized at a reception and during Spring 1999 Commencements. Their names will be engraved on a college perpetual plaque displayed in the office of the dean of each College, and they will each receive a personal plaque.

The recipients are as follows:

- From the College of Arts and Letters, Harriet Elfenbaum of health and physical education;
- From the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, Louis Wassmer, who is the director of the system-wide CSU Faculty Research Fellows Program, offered his observations on the success that the program has had.
- From the College of Social Sciences and Interdisciplinary Studies, Jeff Lustig of management;
- From the College of Engineering and Computer Science, Fred Reardon of mechanical engineering; from the College of Health and Human Services, Louis Ellenbaum of health and physical education; from the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, Melanie W. Loo of biological sciences; and from the College of Social Sciences and Interdisciplinary Studies, Jeff Lustig of government.

Academic Policy Update

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A nearly complete collection of the Sacramento Union newspaper is now housed in the CSUS Archives, thanks to a recent gift from the Danel family. It is one of only two such collections.

The collection provides what may be the most complete reporting on the growth of the Capital Region, as well as a record of American life from before the Civil War through the end of the Cold War.

It includes bound paper copies of the newspaper dating from 1854, three years after its first edition, to 1980, as well as microfilm copies of the remaining editions through the paper’s final printing in 1994. There are also mid-19th century editions of the Sacramento Weekly Union, the Sacramento Steamers Union and the Sacramento Record (which merged with the Union in 1875).

Associate Dean of the Library Fred Batt, who accepted the gift on behalf of the University, said flipping through the paper volumes gives a special insight into history that microfilm or electronic copies simply can’t match. He compares it to reading a good book in bed, rather than scrolling through text on a computer. While microfilm is fine for reading specific articles and other basic needs, detailed research is enhanced by not having to use microfilm readers, he says.

“You can see old ads, the price of food, local events. Every time I open these up, I find something interesting,” Batt says. “Just coming in here and physically digging into the old papers has a special feel to it. We’ve already had some researchers extremely excited about this collection and its potential.”

The papers, of course, provide on-the-spot history of some of the most significant events in United States history. There are the stories of the assassinations of presidents Lincoln and Kennedy. There are reports on the sinking of the Titanic and major natural disasters such as the 1906 San Francisco earthquake.

Perhaps more importantly, there are details of Sacramento and California life that are not so easily found in history books. There is the history of California newspapers, a special section published in 1858 that is a book in itself. There are ads in 1933 for new cars selling for $25. There are stories on President Hoover’s Depression-era visit to Sacramento in 1932. And from the 1940s and 1950s, there are pictures of newborn babies and even some pictures of babies’ first birthdays.

The gift couldn’t have come at a better time for history graduate student Andy Raposa. He has been working on a research paper about why James Anthony sold the Union after owning it from 1852 to 1875. There are theories that the Central Pacific railroad, which the Union had turned against, was involved in getting the paper into friendlier hands.

“You really do get a better understanding of the whole picture of the paper — editorials, event reporting and even the type of advertisements — when you are looking at the real thing,” says Raposa, who has started regularly visiting Archives to use the collection.

Raposa plans to complete further research papers on the Union, and possibly focus his final thesis on the relationship between Central Pacific and the newspaper. He says that unlike other major California newspapers, little academic study has been done on the Union, which was once the largest circulation newspaper in the state.

The papers were given to the University by six members of the Danel family: Kathy Atkins, Jim Danel, Steve Danel, Ralph Danel senior and junior, and Robert Reboin. They are the owners of Herald Printing in Sacramento who purchased the Sacramento Union in 1992 and spent nearly two years trying to save the failing publication.

Since 1994, they have had two collections of the Sacramento Union in storage. Last fall, they decided to give one set to the University, which already had much of the paper on microfilm but did not own 1906 to 1968.

“We thought we might as well put one collection where people could use it,” Ralph Danel, Jr. said. “Reading through these papers, you can really get a feel for what was going on in the country, and for what people thought was important.”

The newspapers are currently in temporary storage on campus and are not available for general access. However, specific editions are available from University Archives.

— Frank Whitlatch

First Annual Class Schedule Available

The University’s first annual class schedule is now available both online and in printed form. It lists courses available in both the fall 1999 and spring 2000 semesters. Previously, new course schedules were printed each semester.

Switching to an annual schedule is intended to help both students and the University plan better.

Changes to course offerings in both semesters will be made to the online course schedule. The link to the new schedule is http://www.csus.edu/course.htm.

Health Center Will Screen For Anxiety Disorders

Free and confidential screenings for anxiety disorders will be available from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., May 18 at the Student Health Center.

The event is sponsored by CSUS Psychological Counseling Services. It is part of the National Anxiety Disorder Screening program, designed to increase awareness and help individuals identify treatment options.
FAMILIAR FLOWERS — Local artist Lillian Seto’s Chinese brush paintings “Blooms in the Works” will be on exhibit in the Multi-Cultural Center until June 18. The paintings feature flora of the Sacramento Valley, rendered on traditional xuan paper in ink, and mineral and vegetable colors. Seto received the 1998 Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission New Work Award.

The Center is open Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. An artist’s reception will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on June 12. The campus community is invited to attend.

Barrio Art
Continued from page one

that made art more accessible while using it to promote cultural understanding.

Its first year, barrio art received a Trichter Foundation grant of $800 for materials. Today, it receives about $14,000 in Instructionally Related Activity funds. Nearly 50 CSUS students enroll each year, and they reach hundreds of children and senior citizens.

He was one of the first students in the barrio art program and was among the first members of an influential group of Sacramento artists known as the Royal Chicano Air Force. He first enrolled at CSUS in 1965, and has earned his bachelor’s and master’s degree in art here. For many years he taught at CSUS part-time.

“I know we’re doing a good job reaching college students,” Favela says. “And the community just loves the program.”

— Frank Whittatch

CSUS has California’s largest Cooperative Education program, which places students from all seven its colleges. This website has extensive information on the program, including information for employers, current and upcoming job openings and an orientation schedule. It even has resume and interview tips.

http://www.csus.edu/coop/

CSUS BULLETIN MAY 10, 1999

Ongoing
Master of Arts Graduation Exhibition, noon-5 p.m., Robert Elise Gallery, the exhibit continues to May 27.

“Senior Show,” works by graduating seniors, noon-5 p.m., Witt Gallery; the exhibit continues to May 27.

Monday, May 10
“Blooms in the Works,” Chinese brush paintings of Sacramento Valley flora by Lillian Seto, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m., Mon. - Fri., Multi-Cultural Center. An artist’s reception will be from 10 a.m.-2 p.m., June 12; the exhibit continues to June 18.

Tuesday, May 11
CSUS Hon Ensembles, 8 p.m., Music Recital Hall; $6 general, $4 students and seniors, available at the Central Ticket Office, all BASS Ticket Centers or at the door.

Wednesday, May 12
“Vortigo Rocks,” classic rock, noon, University Union Lawn.

Gold Rush Lecture, “From Gold Pans to California Dredges: The Search for Mass Production in Placer Mining,” by Clark Spence of the University of Illinois, 7 p.m., CSUS University Ballroom.

CSUS Composition Students Recital, 8 p.m., MUS 151.

Thursday, May 13
“China: Yesterday, Today & Tomorrow,” presented by Harry Wu, human rights activist, 11:45 a.m., University Union Ballroom.


Friday, May 14
Renaissance Society forum, “How We Sink the Titanic: The Making of This Successful Motion Picture,” by Kit Bouter, naval consultant to James Cameron, 3 p.m., Mendocino Hall 1005.

Astronomical lecture, “Concealing Its Age: Just How Old Is the Universe?” by CSUS professor Randy Phelps, 7 p.m., Mendocino Hall 1015.

Astronomical observatory viewing, 8-9:30 p.m., 4th-floor Amador Hall (weather permitting).

Saturday, May 15
Pacific Coast Rowing Championship, 8 a.m., CSUS Aquatic Center, $6 admission.

Free Family Concert, “Meet the Music,” performed by the CSUS Symphony Orchestra, 11 a.m., Music Recital Hall.

Baseball vs. New Mexico State, 1 p.m., IM Rec Field.

Sunday, May 16
Pacific Coast Rowing Championship, 8 a.m., CSUS Aquatic Center, $6 admission.

Baseball vs. New Mexico State, 1 p.m., IM Rec Field.

Chamber Music Society concert, 7:30 p.m., Music Recital Hall, $14 general, $12 seniors, $5 students and available at the door or in advance by calling 443-2908.

Monday, May 17
Baseball vs. New Mexico State, 11 a.m., IM Rec Field.

Tuesday, May 18
CSUS Symphony Orchestra concert, 8 p.m., Music Recital Hall, $6 general, $4 students and seniors, available at the Central Ticket Office, all BASS Ticket Centers or at the door.

Wednesday, May 19
“California’s System of Local Governments: Can the Cracks in the System Be Fixed?” Lecture by Marianne O’Malley, Legislative Analyst’s Office, 4-5:30 p.m., University Union Orchard Room.

Reception for 30-year anniversary of the Educational Opportunity Program at CSUS; 5:30-8:30 p.m., University Ballroom.

CSUS Wind Chamber Ensembles, 8 p.m., Music Recital Hall; $6 general, $4 students and seniors, available at the Central Ticket Office, all BASS Ticket Centers or at the door.

Barbie Unbcd: A Dance Fantasy for the Millennium, performed by the Jazzeer Dance Company, 8 p.m., Solano Hall 1010. Tickets are $10 general, $8 students and seniors, and are available by calling 278-5036. Performances continue 8 p.m. May 26-22.

Thursday, May 20
Friends of the Library used book and poster sale, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., Library lower level.

Saturday, May 22
CSUS Chors in concert, The English Tradition, directed by Donald Kendrick, 8 p.m., St. Ignatius Church, 3235 Arden Way; $6 general, $4 students and seniors, available at the Central Ticket Office, all BASS Ticket Centers or at the door.

Faculty Senate

Tuesday, 5/11
1:30 p.m., Curriculum Subcommittee, SAC 275
3 p.m., Executive Committee, SAC 275

Wednesday, 5/12
3 p.m., General Education Course Review Subcommittee, SAC 275

Thursday, 5/13
3 p.m., Faculty Senate, University Union Foothill Suite

Monday, 5/17
3 p.m., General Education Policies/Graduation Requirements Committee, SAC 275

Tuesday, 5/18
3 p.m., Executive Committee, SAC 275

Wednesday, 5/19
1 p.m., Faculty Policies Committee, SAC 275 - tentative

Thursday, 5/20
3 p.m., Faculty Senate, University Union Foothill Suite - tentative

Friday, 5/21
2 p.m., Academic Policies Committee, SAC 275 - tentative
2 p.m., Elections Committee, SAC 254