**Budget, traffic top region’s concerns**

Capital Region residents cite local government budget deficits and traffic congestion as the most challenging issues facing the region, according to a survey by researchers from CSUS.

The survey shows 68 percent of residents think local government deficits are a “big problem” while another 21 percent call them “somewhat of a problem.”

Traffic congestion on major roads was called a “big problem” by 58 percent of those surveyed. While still significant, that’s 15 percent lower than the survey found last year, mirroring a state-wide trend of lower concern about the issue. It is similar to responses about traffic congestion in surveys conducted in the Bay Area (59 percent call it a big problem) and Los Angeles (61 percent call it a big problem).

The findings are from the “Annual Survey of Public Opinion and Life Quality in the Sacramento Region.” Previously released results focused on such issues as the war in Iraq and affirmative action.

Among other issues respondents called a “big problem” in the Capital Region: affordable housing (51 percent), quality of education (50 percent), affordable health care (49 percent), air pollution (43 percent), urban sprawl or growth (43 percent), the economy (40 percent), crime (27 percent) and well-paying jobs (27 percent).

The second “Annual Survey of Public Opinion and Life Quality in the Sacramento Region” was carried out by CSUS sociology professor Amy Lu and more than 30 students at the Institute for Social Research. They surveyed 996 randomly selected adults in Sacramento, Yolo, Placer and El Dorado Counties from Feb. 15 to March 13. The margin of error is 3 percent.

A copy of the findings is available as a link from the press release at www.csus.edu/news.

**Road Closures during NCAA Event**

During the NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships June 11-14, State University Drive West will be closed to traffic. The road will be blocked off beyond the entrance to the A.G. Spanos Sports Complex on the south end of the campus. It will also be closed south of the staff/faculty entrance to Parking Structure I. The parking structure will remain open to staff/ faculty during the championships. However, Lots 8 and 10 will be designated for event patrons only.

**Track and field elite to compete at CSUS**

The best of the best in college track and field will gather at the A.G. Spanos Sports Complex at CSUS.

This year’s meet will be the largest NCAA Championship in history, featuring 1,100 athletes from around the country participating in the four-day competition. It also marks the first time the event has been held on the West Coast in 35 years.

Many of the college athletes competing will also compete next year in the 2004 U.S. Track and Field Olympic Trials, which will also be held at CSUS. Since the NCAA event began in 1921, the list of champions reads like a who’s who of Olympians and track legends: Jesse Owens, Carl Lewis, Jackie Joyner, Gail Devers and Michael Johnson.

The event begins with preliminary rounds on June 11 and 12 and finals on June 13 and 14. The majority of the finals will be held in the late afternoon and evening. Tickets are on sale in four-day packages: $50 for reserved and finish line seats, $40 for general admission and $25 for general admission for seniors, students and children.

Tickets are available at the CSUS Ticket Office (916) 278-4323.

**Book: Identity at risk in academia**

As much as academia is a symbol of open minds and diverse outlooks, some faculty members feel pressured to conform to a university culture, says Cecil Canton. The criminal justice professor, along with education professors Lila Jacobs and Jose Cantron, found the struggle to maintain identity is a common experience among young faculty of color – because they had been there themselves.

The topic led to a book: The Politics of Survival in Academia: Narratives of Inequality, Resilience and Success. The book tells the experiences of 10 ethnically diverse scholars and features such chapters as “Redefining the Self: from AFDC to PhD” by Jacobs and “From Slavery to Scholarship: A Narrative of the Political and Social Transformation of an African American Educator” by Canton.

“It’s about survival, the very real struggle for those coming into the academy in a system where there’s pressure to conform to culture,” Canton says. “The common thread is the struggle in maintaining identity.

“People in higher education seem to change. I didn’t want to be seen as different from my family because of the subject of professor. I didn’t want to lose the enduring identity I have of who I am. You need to remember where you came from.”

As they watch the campus continue to grow and become increasingly more diverse, Canton, Cantron and Jacobs feel the message is particularly fitting.

“With so many new folks coming into the system, we wanted to give them a way to achieve success without giving up self,” Canton says. “I hope they will take strength from these stories and hope it will help them in the transformative process to stay authentic to who they are.”

The writers also knew they couldn’t just talk about the experiences of others. “As researchers that often tell other people’s stories, we felt it was important to also tell our own,” Jacobs says. “It was a risk to be vulnerable and to tell the painful parts of our journeys in academia, but the contribution to others made it worthwhile.”

See **IDENTITY**, Page 4

**Campus commencement**

Spring commencement will again be held on campus this year. Seven ceremonies are set for Friday, May 23 and Saturday, May 24.

The ceremonies will be held at Hornet Stadium and at the Outdoor Theatre near the library. Candidates will assemble at the practice field one-half hour prior to each event.

The first ceremony on Friday will be the College of Arts and Letters at 12:30 p.m. at Hornet Stadium. The College of Engineering and Computer Science ceremony will be at 5:30 p.m. at the Outdoor Theatre and the College of Social Sciences and Interdisciplinary Studies ceremony will be at 7 p.m. at Hornet Stadium.

On Saturday, the College of Health and Human Services ceremony will be at 8 a.m. at Hornet Stadium and the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics ceremony will be at 10 a.m. at the Outdoor Theatre. The College of Business Administration ceremony will be at noon at Hornet Stadium followed by the College of Education ceremony at 6 p.m. at Hornet Stadium.

Details: 278-4724 or visit www.csus.edu/commence.

**President to arrive in July**

Alexander Gonzalez, incoming CSUS President, will officially arrive on campus on July 7. During the preceding month, he will make several trips to the campus for the purposes of planning and orientation.

He has announced that his longtime executive assistant, Carol Elmley, will also be joining CSUS.

The Chancellor’s Office has designated Ed Del Biaggio, vice president for administration, as the coordinator for the presidential transition and related activities. Inquires for the new President should be directed through Del Biaggio’s office at 278-6312.
CAROLE BARNES, Institute for Social Research, was quoted in a Dec. 9 Sacramento Bee article on the institute’s findings on illegal substance abuse and violent crime.

ROBERT WASTE, public policy and administration, was quoted in a Dec. 10 Sacramento Bee article on campaign donations by developers. He was also quoted in a Dec. 8 Sacramento Bee article on campaign donations by “homeowners” with direct ties to local developers.

TED LASCHER, public policy and administration, was quoted in a Dec. 9 Contra Costa Times article on the state budget process.

ROBERT FOUNTAIN, president’s office, was quoted in a Dec. 1 Sacramento Bee article on development plans for Roseville. He was also quoted in a Dec. 19 Sacramento Bee article on the economic impact of state housing growth.

RICHARD BAY, theatre and dance, was quoted in a Dec. 3 Tri-Valley Herald article on a holiday puppet performance.

LYNN WILCOX, counselor education, was quoted in Dec. 14 Sacramento Bee article on U.S. policy.

ROBERT METCALF, biological sciences, was quoted in a Dec. 19 East Sacramento News article on solar cooking.

TIMOTHY FONG, rhetoric studies, was quoted in a Dec. 22 San Jose Mercury News article on social segregation in San Jose.

GARY HART, Institute for Educational Reform, was quoted in a Nov. 25 Advance Register article on Jack O’Connell, state superintendent of public instruction.

GERALD ROTHMAN, social work, was quoted in a Nov. 30 Stockton Record on Jewish religious observances.

TIM HODSON, Center for California Studies, was quoted in a Nov. 25 Stockton Record article on the political impact of the state budget deficit. He was quoted in a Dec. 10 Sacramento Bee article campaign donations by developers. He was also quoted in Dec. 8 Sacramento Valley Times and Contra Costa Times article on the gubernatorial appointment process when a county supervisor resigns. Hudson was also quoted in Dec. 11 Hayward Today newspaper on the gubernatorial appointment process when a county supervisor resigns. Hudson was also quoted in Dec. 1 Oakland Tribune and Hayward Sunday Review articles on the political career of Sen. Don Perata as well as articles on Bay Area leaders in key legislative posts. The articles also appeared in the Nov. 30 San Mateo Times. He was quoted in a Nov. 4 Eureka Times-Standard article on campaign funding. He was also quoted in a Nov. 2 Hoboken Mammal article on the San Francisco supervisory campaign. Hudson was also quoted in a Nov. 7 Stockton Record article on the assembly election results. He was also quoted in a Jan. 19 Sacramento Stockton Record article on the legislative process.

MATTHEW NEWMAN, California Institute for County Government, was quoted in a Jan. 23 Sacramento Bee article and heard on KFBK and on KJZZ on Jan. 13 discussing the regional job market.

DAVID COVIN, ethnic studies, was quoted in on KFBK Jan. 20 discussing the significance of Martin Luther King Jr.

LARRY GLASMIRE, academic affairs, was quoted on KFBK Jan. 24 talking about the economic impact of state housing growth.

ROBERT CHING, learning skills, was on KTXL Channel 40 talking about the readiness of incoming freshmen.

ROBERT SMART, theatre and dance, was on KOVR Channel 13 on Jan. 29, on KMAX Channel 31 and in the Sacramento Bee Jan. 31 talking about the Lenaea Festival.

EMILIANO DIAZ, outreach, was on KMAX Channel 31 on Jan. 31 talking about college preparation.

TERRI SEXTON, economics, was quoted in a Jan. 21 Sacramento Bee article about the impact of state budget cuts and federal stimulus packages.

CARMEN GONZALEZ, public affairs, was quoted in a Jan. 30 Sacramento Bee article about visitor services.

KEN FUTENCICK, teacher education, was interviewed on KXTV Channel 10 and KF Nak on Feb. 4 about his web-based Teacher Quality Index. He was also quoted in a Feb. 3 Sacramento Bee article on campaign donations by developers. Hodson was also quoted in a Feb. 1 Hayward Sunday Review and Aikmeda Times Star articles on Assemblywoman Wilma Chin’s election as Assembly majority leader. He was again quoted in Dec. 1 Oakland Tribune and Hayward Sunday Review articles on the political career of Sen. Don Perata as well as articles on Bay Area leaders in key legislative

KEN CHINEN, management, was quoted in Feb. 7 and Feb. 13 Sacramento Bee and Feb. 16 Modesto Bee as well as articles on the study on the difference between Japanese and California rice.

JAMES REID, history, was on KCRA Channel 3 on Feb. 5 discussing Colin Powell’s Iraq address to the United Nations.

AYAD AL-QAZAZZ, sociol

VETERANS’ AFFAIRS, was quoted in a Feb. 7 Sacramento Bee article on the University’s impact of state budget cuts and the regional job market.

JOHN SYER, government, was on KCRA Channel 3 on Feb. 5 discussing Colin Powell’s Iraq address to the United Nations. He was also on KFBK on Feb. 12 talking about anti-Arab backlash to the war and on KXTV Channel 10 on March 6 discussing the impact of the invasion of the people of Iraq. He was also quoted in a March 19 Sacramento Bee article about American war aims in the Middle East.

LARRY O’CONNOR, communication studies, was quoted in on KFBK Jan. 20 discussing the significance of Martin Luther King Jr.

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The surveys have been tallied and, especially for those of us who work on the CSUS Bulletin, the results are encouraging. Those who responded cite the Bulletin as one of their top three sources of campus news.

Nearly everyone who responded to our recent survey about the Bulletin thanks the newsletter is “very” or “somewhat” informative and most said it should continue to be printed weekly. Those results came from both those who chose to fill out the survey we printed in the Bulletin and online, and those in a randomly selected group of campus employees.

In all, 76 people filled out the survey. Among them were almost half of the 100 people randomly selected to receive it. We received surveys from 41 staff, 28 faculty, two administrators, one student and four people who checked “other.”

The responses to the question about their “three favorite” parts of the Bulletin were all over the map, which didn’t surprise us given the diverse group of people who make up our readership. Faculty and staff, as we’ve found in prior surveys, simply have different interests and want different things from their employee newsletter. As we have before, we’ll try to do some adjusting to make everyone a bit happier.

In the “least favorite” section, “campus and work policies” was a popular (unpopular?) choice. But the truth is that – least favorite or not – such things have to be shared somehow and the newsletter is an obvious choice. The space we provide for general comments generated a number of interesting responses. Two respondents suggested the Bulletin could be sent via e-mail. One person suggested the same thing for campus memos. Another suggested a classified ads section. Finally, one professor asked us to publicize all job fairs on campus.

We received many positive comments. They included: “It’s great!” “As a staff member I read the Bulletin every week.” “I read it in full!” “It was difficult to choose my favorite topics or my least favorite topic. I enjoy the Bulletin and find the content interesting.”

Of course – you knew this was coming – every one thinks the Bulletin is wonderful. One respondent checked the box for “essentially useless” when asked about the Bulletin overall, and two respondents should it be eliminated.

The most negative responses didn’t come from our randomly selected respondents. When we chose to do a random survey, we assumed we would find people who didn’t read the Bulletin and that that would let us know it. But the toughest comments came from the survey printed in the Bulletin. One person said the Bulletin was “Lots of wasted print.” “No imagination!” wrote another respondent. Another wrote that it was “silly” to do summaries of faculty who were recently quoted by the media.

Finally, one professor asked us to report less days of the week in the calendar. “It’s hard to teach students to do that when campus publications violate it.” For the record, the lower-case days of the week in the calendar is part of the current design rather than an ongoing error.

Public affairs would like to thank everyone who responded. As usual, we’ll use the results of the survey to make improvements to the Bulletin next year. We’ll make sure the results with respect to the survey about the public affairs office as we consider changes to our efforts.

If you have any questions about the survey or public affairs in general, contact us at (916) 278-6156 or visit www.csus.edu/pa.

Survey says … you (pretty much) like us

When Irene Shea came to CSUS from upstate New York in 1976, she planned to stay only a few years. Instead, the senior women’s administrator took on a number of interesting responsibilities. Her career at CSUS included being involved in the construction of the softball stadium, helping transform the men’s and women’s sports programs in the wake of Title IX, the Cal/Now court decree, putting in a five-try stint as coach of the softball team — even having an athletics faculty name for her.

Of her CSUS career — which will end when she retires this summer — Shea says she’s most proud of the University’s ability to comply with the Cal/Now court decree’s gender equity requirements, while retaining the football program. “We had just been admitted to the Big Sky Conference and had to get our football scholarships from 12 scholarships to 16. In the same period of time we had to bring women’s programs into compliance with the court decree,” she says.

“My plan worked but it took everyone’s support,” she adds. “I give a lot of credit to the campus administration to get the program where it is. I’ve watched it transform from a $6,000 for a $90,000 facility.”

We ended up spending about $6,000 for a $90,000 facility.”

The facility got its name when Shea’s team competed in a tournament in New York City where they attended a Mets game. Upon returning to campus the players dubbed their stadium “Shea Stadium.”

An unexpected task for Shea came in 1987 when she stepped in as a volunteer coach for the softball team. “I volunteered for one year to give them time to find a replacement coach,” she says. She ended up coaching the team for five years — while continuing to do her administrative duties. “Don’t ever volunteer,” she adds with a smile.

It was during that time that the campus softball stadium came into being. “We knew we needed to improve the playing facilities. So we put student athletes to work, as well as the coaches and parents,” the she said. “We did it all ourselves. We even found in a guy to do the brickwork for the backdrop for a case of beer.”

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The CSUS Alumni Theatre Project will present The Illusion, a comedy adventure adapted by Pulitzer Prize winner Tony Kushner from Pierre Corneille’s original play, June 13-28 in the Shaesta Hall Playwrights’ Theatre. Performances will be held at 8 p.m. on June 13-14, 21-22 and 27-28 and at 2 p.m. on June 22 and 29. The production tells the story of a crooked father, estranged from his son for 15 years, who enlists the aid of a sorcerer to seek news of his son. The adventure begins as the sorcerer captures images from the son’s life and forces the father to watch the struggles his son must endure. Along the way, the audience treated to the suspense of sword fights, betrayal and murder, and the comedy of raving lunatics and jealous lovers. As the strange tale reaches its conclusion, the father confronts the ultimate and unexpected truth about his son and experiences the greatest illusion of all – love.

The Illusion is produced by Scott Adams and directed by Ed Trafton, pictured above, both alumni of the theatre and dance department. Tickets are $12 general, $10 for CSUS Alumni Association members, SARTA members and groups/$5 students. Tickets at CSUS Ticket Office (916) 278-4323 or at Tickets.com. Tickets available May 1. Performances June 13 – 14, 20 – 22, 27 – 29. (916) 278-3330.

The CSUS Alumni Theatre Project will present HOCUS POCUS. It is produced by Scott Adams and directed by Ed Trafton, from Fieldwork in the United States and Europe by Valerie Wheeler, Tuesday - Friday, 11 a.m. – 3 p.m., Anthropology Museum, Mendocino Hall 1000. (916) 278-6067. Reception noon - 2 p.m. May 2. Continues to May 23.

“Dija Vu (Or Not?),” works by graduating art majors and master’s students, noon – 4:30 p.m., Monday – Friday, Else and Witt Galleries. (916) 278-6166. Continues to May 23. Reception 6 - 9 p.m. May 16.


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