President’s year-end message

Nineteen good years have come to a conclusion. Bev and I would like to say “thank you” to each member of this University community. You have made our years here good and productive ones.

California State University, Sacramento is different now than it was in 1984. It is different because so many people have committed themselves professionally to the development and strengthening of the institution, because so many people have given their very best.

This University is an important place. The future well-being of our society is more dependent on California State University, Sacramento and institutions like it than on most of the colleges and universities in this nation. Our important missions will continue, and I am confident that with your devoted efforts Sac State will continue to fulfill that mission.

I have said on several occasions recently that a presidential transition is a time for a university community to stand back and make a searching appraisal of the institution’s direction: of the areas that need strengthening, of the new purposes that need definition. It is a task that must be accomplished periodically.

Transitions of leadership are necessary and such appraisals are necessary, too. You will be doing this under the leadership of the 17th president of California State University, Sacramento, Dr. Alex Gonzalez. It will be an exciting and important time.

It has been a privilege to have served as the president of California State University, Sacramento. I thank you most sincerely.

Donald R. Gerth

Democratic presidential candidate Dennis Kucinich will speak at CSUS at 6:30 p.m., Monday, May 26 in the University Ballroom.

The Memorial Day address is the first of what University organizers hope will be a series of campus visits by presidential candidates from a number of political parties.

Kucinich is a member of the U.S. Congress representing Ohio’s 10th District and chair of the Congressional Progressive Caucus. In 1977, at the age of 31, he was elected mayor of Cleveland, the youngest person elected to lead a major U.S. city. He lost his reelection bid in 1979, and began a political comeback 15 years later when he was elected to the Ohio Senate.

Free parking will be available after 5 p.m. in the lots near the University Union (lots 4, 6, 7 and 8). More information on the event is available by contacting event organizer Rhonda Rios Kravitz in the University Library at (916) 278-5477.
Contests at University of the Pacific recently placed second in the Region event, and they will now compete in the Mid-Pacific region. A team has won the concrete canoe competition at the American Society of Civil Engineers’ Concrete Canoe Competition, and a student has recently taken first place in the professional division of the same competition.

Marilyn Hopkins, College of Health and Human Services, received the Bauter Family University Advancement Award from the California State University at the CSU Advancement Academy in Long Beach on April 28. The award, presented by Chancellor Charles Reed and chair of the CSU Board of Trustees Debra Farar, was in recognition of professional achievement, community service and support of advancement efforts at CSUS.

Thomas F. Strasser, humanities and religious studies, was awarded 1,000 British pounds in a grant from the Mediterranean Archaeological Trust to subvent the publication of his research on Neolithic stone axes from Knossos (Crete, Greece).

Paula McNeil-Sheley, kinesiology and health science, conducted 13 educational seminars throughout the semester in the Natomas area on the subject of “How to Get into College.”

Juan J. Flores, educational opportunity program, served as a reviewer for the book Foundations: A Reader for New College Students. The text is used in the University’s Freshman Seminar program.

Bill Kristle, library, made a presentation to the editorial and research staff of the Sacramento Business Journal on April 23 on how CSUS students use the newspaper in conducting research.

Mary Brentwood, environmental studies, had a case study titled “Salmon and People: Can They Be Neighbors?” published in Managing Environmental Policy: A Casebook.

Felicienne Ramey, College of Business Administration, wrote an article titled “Black Women College Presidents” that will appear in the 2004 edition of Black Women in America Encyclopedia, Oxford University Press.

Nicole Nicoteria, social work, presented her research on “Children and Their Neighborhoods: A Mixed Methods Approach to Understanding the Construct Neighborhood” at the 5th National Symposium on Doctoral Research in Social Work at the Ohio State University in Columbus, April 26.

Lynda Leitner, history and communication studies, wrote the entry for “John Adams” (1737-1803), Publisher and Printer in the New Dictionary for National Biography for Oxford Press. The online version was available in April and the printed volumes will be available early in 2004.

Troy Platt, social work, and a colleague from CSU Monterey Bay gave a talk on “‘Continental Divide’: The Politics and Legacies of the 60’s” on May 3 as part of a series of public lectures sponsored by the Oregon Shakespeare Festival in Ashland, Oregon.

Tom Giffith, academic advising, made a presentation on “Reinstatements and Realism” describing disqualification and reinstatement practices in the CSU and recent changes in CSUS reinstatement procedures at the April 30 - May 2 regional meeting of the National Academic Advising Association in Vancouver, B.C.

Gale Justin, philosophy, conducted a workshop on the Greek text of Aristotle’s Meta- physics Lambda 9 pertaining to the unmoved mover at the May meeting of the West Coast Aristotelian Society at UC Berkeley. She also attended the Society’s annual Aristotle conference at Stanford University’s Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences April 11-12.

Joshua Mckinney, English, has published a poem titled “In Earnest” in the current issue of The Kenyon Review: An International Journal of Literature, Culture, and the Arts. The poem also appeared on Verse Daily, an international poetry website, on May 7.

Fausto Avendano, foreign languages, chaired a panel and organized a poetry reading in Spanish for the Conference on Hispanic Literature held at CSUS, March 21-22, and also participated in the La Raza Galeria Posada poetry reading for “El dia de los muertos” in November.

Dwight Freund, computer science, had a letter published in the May issue of Commentary.

George Jouganatos, management, will be a participant at an economic development symposium at Oxford University in early June. In February, he and Noam Chomsky from MIT were reviewers of a manuscript on U.S. and British interference in Greek politics and economic development since 1950.

Mike Menchaca, teacher education, presented a paper titled “Scaffolding WebQuest Creation for Experienced Teachers” at the Society for Information Technology and Teacher Education’s International Conference on March 21 in Albuquerque.


Patricia Clark-Kells, College of Health and Human Services, spoke at the Annual Cheryl Ann Fisher Scholarship Banquet, presented by the Sacramento Area Black Caucus April 26 on “The Recruitment and Retention of African American Students into the Profession of Nursing.” The banquet features the presentation of a scholarship to a student attending the CSUS nursing program in honor of the late Cheryl Fisher, a leader in the program and a community activist.

William DeGrassenne, assistant professor, Physics and Astronomy

Background and expertise DeGrassenne has a bachelor’s degree in physics from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona and a doctorate in chemical physics from the University of Maryland. His expertise is in high-resolution laser spectroscopy, laser cooling and trapping, and light matter interactions.

Mark Ludwig

Assistant Professor, Communication Studies

Background and expertise Ludwig holds a bachelor’s degree from the University of Illinois and a master’s degree from California State University, Fullerton. He comes to CSUS after spending the past 20 years as a reporter and editor for various publications in California and Illinois.

Paula McNeil-Sheley

Assistant Professor, Kinesiology and Health Science

Background and expertise McNeil-Sheley holds a bachelor’s degree in health and physical education and a master’s degree in adapted physical education from North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University and a doctorate in sport administration from Florida State University. She has expertise in sport management, adapted physical education, health and physical education, recruiting minority students, and leadership and communication.

Student researchers rise to the top

Two CSUS students won awards at this month’s prestigious 17th annual California State University Student Research Competition. Chemistry major Jacqueline Houston received first place in the physical and mathematical sciences division with a project titled “Transition Metal Carion Migration Through Zeolite Materials.” Her research examined how metal moves through porous materials. Houston is graduating this semester with her master’s degree and is entering a doctoral program this fall.

Sherry Reafusnyder, who also was named Outstanding Senior in the College of Arts and Letters, earned second place for her project, “Open

Clusters: An Important Means of Probing Galactic Disk Evolution,” also in the physical and mathematical sciences division. Open clusters are related groups of stars held together by grav- ity. Reafusnyder is pursuing her bachelor’s degree with a double major in English and astronomy.

The annual CSUS Student Research Competition features research of undergradu- ate and graduate students and recent alumni from all academic disciplines. Approximately 200 students from all 23 CSU campuses submit written papers and present their findings. Seven students from CSUS competed in the event at CSU Stanislaus.
SBC donates business collection to library

SBC Communications, a national provider of data, voice and Internet services, has donated more than 3,600 reference materials from its corporate library to the University Library.

Given the volatility of the telecommunications industry in the past few years, the materials will serve as a valuable resource to faculty and students at CSUS. The collection includes business, financial, management and technology resource materials that are still relevant in today’s marketplace.

“We hope that this gift will serve as an excellent tool for the next generation of business leaders in the Sacramento region,” said Adam Grzybicki, SBC director of external affairs. “SBC is proud to support education and give back to the communities we serve.”

The donation was made after SBC closed its corporate library at its San Ramon campus to allow for some building consolidation. The collection includes 1,858 hardback books, 1,674 paperback books and 105 videocassettes.

“Gifts like this help the CSUS Library to continue to build the collections needed by our students and faculty to enhance their education,” says Thelma Johnson and alternative dispute and conflict resolution coordinator for collection development. “We are fortunate to receive such a valuable donation to our Library.”

For information on making a donation of reference materials, contact Trujillo at 278-5679.

SPORT CLUBS MAKE STRONG SHOWING

While fans of Hornet athletics are familiar with this year’s successes by the volleyball, tennis, and men’s basketball teams, there are some lesser-known student athletes who are making their mark— through the University’s sport clubs.

There were a number of outstanding performances among this year’s sport clubs. The men’s junior varsity volleyball team placed second in the nation for the second year in a row. The coed racquetball club finished seventh in the nation with the mixed-doubles team of Melissa Borgwat and Mark Salinas placing first in the nation.

The traditionally strong CSUS water ski club finished eighth in the nation with Celeste Eckerman, Jamie Hansen and Jason Wollman all making the regional all-star team.

The CSUS Olympic weightlifting club also continued its recent string of successes, sending four members to the upcoming national finals. Team member Paul Bowling placed first in his weight class at the prestigious Arnold Olympic Weightlifting Championships, held in Columbus, Ohio in April.

About 300 students competed on CSUS sport club teams this year, which included coed ice hockey, water ski and Olympic weightlifting, along with men’s and women’s rugby and volleyball.

Unlike intercollegiate sports, sport club athletes receive no scholarship funds. About 15 percent of this year’s nearly $300,000 budget came from Associated Students, and although sponsor donations have increased in recent years, most of the remaining 85 percent came from student participants, said Ken Morton, recreational sports coordinator.

Because each club is dependent upon student interest and participation, student leaders value valuable leadership and organizational skills, Morton said.

With collegiate sport clubs increasing in popularity throughout the nation, Morton said, the CSUS program serves as an ambassador for the university. It also helps a recruiting tool for prospective students and promotes higher retention and graduation rates, he added.

—Matt Nichols

HORNET BOOKSTORE STUDENT-ATHLETES OF THE YEAR

This year’s Hornet Bookstore Student-Athletes of the Year are Petra Abraham and Hjalte Kristjansson. The two were chosen from among those who earned student-athlete of the week honors during the year.

Petra Abraham

Junior Petra Abraham of the women’s tennis team helped lead the Hornet women’s tennis team to its second-consecutive Big Sky Conference title and NCAA Tournament appearance.

A native of Budapest, Hungary, Abraham led the team with a 17-6 singles mark, including a 14-10 doubles record at No. 3. Spot. For her efforts, Abraham was named to the Big Sky all-conference team for the second-straight season. She has missed just one match during her two-year career with the program. An economics major, Abraham also posted a 14-10 doubles record with teammate Cristina Rivieccio.

Hjalte Kristjansson

Senior defender Hjalte Kristjansson of the men’s soccer team had success on the field and in the classroom.

Kristjansson, one of the top defenders in the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation, helped lead the Hornets to their second-consecutive MPSF post-season appearance in 2003. The Kópavogur, Iceland, native has appeared and started in every contest during his three-year career.

His 52 career starts places him tied for fourth in the program record book. Kristjansson has received all-MPSF honors each season and became the first Hornet to earn first team honors since 1997. A kinesiology major, Kristjansson is a two-time MPSF all-academic selection. A listing of all the student-athletes of the week since 1999-2000 is at www.foundation.csus.edu/bookstore/sow.

SCHOOL'S OUT FOR THE SUMMER

abo.

We're going to make a concerted effort to help anyone, she will. She's my best friend.”

Smith said that since many of the sport clubs are highly subsidized, Seals counting herself as one of many friendly and helpful people at the University.

“Avi is so much fun. The only features that keep her coming back. This whole picture.”

Smith said her office functions very smoothly because of her job, she and her husband Val see CSUS students all over Northern California. Val is the communication studies department chair. “We’re running into students at the airport. Because Val teaches so many large classes, they all know him,” she says.

The English department’s Zahara Seals has known Smith for 20 years and says she’s not surprised Smith runs into so many students and is so enthusiastic about helping people.

“Val is the most delightful person I know. She’s always smiling and saying ‘If there’s anything Bonnie can do to help anyone, she will. She’s my best friend.”

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ongoing

“Toward the Iraq war. He was also noted. For a complete events calendar click on www.csus.edu/events. professional continued from page 2 THOMAS KNUTSON, communication studies, has been invited to conduct a seminar on intercultural communication at Bangkok University this summer. While in Thailand, Knutson will also lecture at Thammasat University and Kaesart University. He will also visit the First Global Community College in Nongkhai, Thailand, at the College of Health and Human Services, Spring Commencement, 8 a.m., Hornet Stadium. (916) 278-4724.

HOMEGROWN TALENT
A rare look at more than 40 works representing virtually the entire career of internationally acclaimed artist and CSUS alum Thomas Knutson is on display at the University Library Gallery through July 25.

The exhibition, Wayne Thiebaud: Works from 1955 to 2003, is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesdays through Saturdays. Thiebaud is the only individual to have received three successive degrees from CSUS – a bachelor’s degree in art in 1951, a master’s degree in art in 1953 and an honorary Ph.D. in fine arts in 1988. The recipient of numerous awards and other honors, Thiebaud received the Governor’s Award for Lifetime Achievements in the Arts in 1991, and the National Medal of Arts Presidential Award in 1994.

His signature style – brightly colored still-life paintings of food and other objects, shown against neutral backgrounds – was established around 1960. In 1962 he received national recognition with his first one-person exhibition in New York at the Allan Stone Gallery. In 1963 he began a series of paintings of people, shown in stiff formal poses with little facial expression. In 1966 he embarked on a series of landscapes depicting sites in Northern California, and later, cityscapes emphasizing the steep hills of San Francisco. During the mid-1990s he focused on brightly colored renderings of the Sacramento River Delta.

The 44 works included in the exhibition are all drawn from private collections. A catalog of the exhibition has been published by CSUS and Pepperdine University and is available for purchase from the Hornet Bookstore. CSUS art historian Elaine O’Brien’s essay “Locating Thiebaud,” included in the catalog, focuses on the special place Sacramento holds in his career.

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