Conference looks at ‘Year of Disconnect’

Political insiders, energy sector strategists, academics and others will meet for a two-day retrospective on California’s energy crisis at the 13th annual Envisioning California Conference, Thursday and Friday, Oct. 4 - 5 at Sacramento’s Sheraton Grand Hotel.

The conference is sponsored by the Center for California Studies at CSUS and the Sacramento Center of the University of Southern California’s School of Policy, Planning and Development.

This year’s theme is “Our Year of Disconnect – The Politics of Power in California.”

The featured speaker will be Joseph P. Kennedy II, chairman and president of Citizens Energy Corporation in Boston, who will speak at the Oct. 5 luncheon at the Sterling Hotel. The conference kicks off with a keynote presentation by Jim Glassman, Arianna Huffington, Matthew Miller and Robert Scheer, hosts of public radio’s “Left, Right and Center.”

Friday, Oct. 5
9 - 10:30 a.m. Panel: “The Rise, Fall and Future of Alternative Energy in California.”
10:45 - 12:35 p.m. Panel: “Dock Cheney Versus Hiram Johnson: Utility Regulation in Texas and California”
Panel: “Stop the Presses: A Roundtable on the Media’s Role in the Energy Crisis”
12:30 - 1:45 p.m. Lunch and Keynote Address: Joseph P. Kennedy II, chairman and president of Citizens Energy Corporation in Boston Held at Sterling Hotel, 1300 H Street, Sacramento
2 - 3:30 p.m. Panel: “Public vs. Private: Who Should Own Utilities?”
Panel: “The Octopus Revisited: Themes of Power in California Art and Literature”
3:45 - 5:30 p.m. Plenary Session: “Lessons From Our Year of Disconnect: A Roundtable on California’s Utility Deregulation Crisis”
5:30 - 7 p.m. Reception and entertainment by the Default Trio

Employee reception Sept. 22

President and Mrs. Donald R. Gerth and the senior administrative staff invite campus employees and their families to join them at this year’s faculty and staff reception, which will be capped off by the CSUS football game vs. Idaho State.

The event is at 4 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 22 at the Business Field adjacent to Tahoe Hall. CSUS employees and their immediate families are invited to a picnic dinner and can reserve up to four complimentary general admission tickets to the football game.

Reservations are requested by Wednesday, Sept. 19. Call 278-4040.

Primates to pixels – Digital tools in orangutan study

Computer technology has been used to unlock all sorts of human mysteries. Now a CSUS professor is applying that technology to one of humankind’s close relatives.

Over the summer, anthropology professor Samantha Hens spent five weeks in European museums, studying orangutan growth and development. Using state-of-the-art digitizing equipment, Hens and a student assistant took measurements of more than 600 orangutan skulls.

They hope that what they learn about the stages of orangutan development and how it differs between males and females. “It is a new way of doing analysis. You get the subtleties you can’t get from a flat measurement,” she says. “It’s pretty exciting. It maintains the geometry of the organism.”

Hens started her digitizing work during a post-doctoral fellowship at Johns Hopkins University. A trial run using the collection in the Smithsonian showed the method had promise, but she was only able to look at 100 skulls, not enough to provide statistical significance.

The European collections Hens studied this summer are significant because they come from animals that were killed by hunters.

From Sept. 15 to Oct. 13 CSUS will join the nationwide celebration of Hispanic achievements. This will be the first year the University has celebrated National Hispanic Heritage Month, which organizers hope to turn into an annual event.

A series of free and ticketed events including art exhibits, lectures, slide presentations, panel discussions, music concerts and dance concerts will take place on campus throughout National Hispanic Heritage Month. There will also be a dedication of Serna Plaza.

People of Hispanic heritage are a fast-growing segment of the nation’s population, and they play an integral role in the country’s success in science, business, government and the arts as well as myriad other disciplines.

National Hispanic Heritage Month evolved from a Congressional declaration of Hispanic Heritage Week in 1968. Originally, it was celebrated during the week of Sept. 15 and 16 to cover a wide number of Independence Days for Latin American countries including Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Mexico.

In 1988, Congress officially extended the Hispanic Heritage celebration to 31 days. Now it includes the independence of Chile on Sept. 18 and Dia de la Raza – a holiday that recognizes the first immigration of Hispanics from Spain to the United States.

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The CSUS Bulletin welcomes submissions to the Professional Activities Section from faculty, administrators and staff. Items are run on a space available basis. They should be no longer than 75 words and may be submitted via e-mail to bulletin@csus.edu or faxed to 728-5290.

**Professional Activities**

**Student Spotlight**

College of Business student ZEYAD ELAYED was one of only five students in the country to receive a Swearer Award for outstanding community service from Campus Compact, a national coalition of college and university presidents. He was honored for his work with the University’s Mall Hall program.

Several students in the McNair Scholars program presented their research findings at the McNair Scholars Summer Research Conference, Aug. 3 at Penn State. These included ANA OROCZO, “Parent and Peer Attachment During Adolescence and Sexual Activity” and CYNTHIA JO VOGEL, “Analysis of Environmental Education in Schools and California Public Schools.” Two other McNair Scholars students were accepted into doctoral programs: Communication studies student MICHELLE DOWLING to Stanford University and chemistry student ARMANDO RAMIREZ to UC Irvine.

**New Faces**

**Rebeca Garcia-González** — When she was younger and a bit rebellious, Rebeca Garcia-González decided she would buck the trend in her family and not be a teacher. Instead, she became a graphic designer, working on advertising and other projects in San Francisco. She still does a bit of painting on the side. But Garcia-González indeed became an elementary teacher, joining her mother and two sisters in the family trade. She spent nearly a decade teaching second- through fifth-graders at San Francisco’s Cesar Chavez Elementary School.

“I just didn’t like sitting and staring at a computer screen too much,” she says of her work as a graphic designer. “Once I started working as a teacher’s aide I found that I just loved it. Everyone had been telling me I should be a teacher, but it was the kids who really showed me.”

This year, she at CSUS pass- ing on her knowledge to future teachers as a new professor in the department of bilingual/multicultural education. She was previously an assis- tant professor at the University of San Francisco, where she com- pleted her master’s degree and doctorate in international and multicultural education. She also holds a bachelor’s degree in fine arts from the University of Puerto Rico in Rio Piedras.

Garcia-González’s back- ground as a native of Puerto Rico and her time as a teacher strongly influenced her profes- sional direction. San Francisco, at the time she was deciding to be a teacher, was experiencing a large influx of refugees from Central America. The children she met in the schools had been through an ordeal as immigrants and refugees, and English was a second language for them. They needed teachers with a background in bilingual and multicultural education,” she says. “I kept thinking ‘Somebody needs to do this type of work well.’ And I realized that I could do this type of work well.”

She proceeded to earn her teaching credential while con- tinuing to work full-time. Once fully in charge of her own classroom, she drew on inspiration from Paulo Freire’s work on critical pedagogy. She had met the influential educator in Sao Paulo, Brazil. The teach- ing approach calls for creating a democratic classroom atmosphere where open discus- sion, problem-solving and stu- dent activism are part of the cur- riculum. One year, for instance, her school boycotted a neigh- borhood store where an African American student had been hit by the owner. The successful boycott led to a public apology a week later.

At the University of San Fran- cisco, her dissertation was on how teachers adapt critical pedagogy approaches in their classrooms. She hopes to follow that up with related research on how teachers’ expe- riences inspire their political thinking and involvement in school district governance.

**Dan Davis** — Dan Davis needs your help. The lieutenant, who recently joined the CSUS public safety department, says there’s a lot that faculty, staff and students can do to make the campus a safer place.

“We need people to keep their eyes and ears open and call us if they see something that doesn’t look right,” he says. “We can’t do the job by ourselves without help from the commu- nity. We want to develop a true partnership.”

Davis hopes to encourage the campus community to become more involved in security issues by increasing public safety’s vis- ibility. “I would like to increase the community’s awareness of the department, so they see us more as a part of the community and the community as a part of us,” he says.

“We don’t want people to think of the cops as someone who just drives by. We’re not just a uniform.”

Steps he plans to take include increasing bicycle patrols and training more student commu- nity service officers. The depart- ment also set up an information booth on the quad during the first week of school.

Davis came to CSUS from a similar position at San Francisco State University. He says the campuses have about the same student population and physical size, but the beginning of the semester taught him one major difference. “I thought there’d be less traffic,” he says.

Since Davis’ position includes overseeing dispatch, crime reports, patrols and traffic flow, busy roadways and parking lots makes this job more of a chal- lenge in some ways. “There is more traffic on campus so there are more issues to deal with,” he says.

He studied criminal justice administration at Ohlone Col- lege in Fremont and at San Jose State University. Previous to his nearly 16 years at SFSU, he held law enforcement positions with the Bay Area Rapid Transit Dis- trict and the city of Fremont.
NEA grant has sweet ring for area kids

So you’re about to 9 to 11 years old and you seriously want to learn how to play the violin, viola or cello but can’t find an affordable program. What do you do?

Or perhaps you’re a music education major and need practical experience but can’t locate adequate rehearsal space, yet alone afford to rent a symphony of wind instruments. What then?

Thanks to CSUS Cello professor Andrew Luchansky, the University’s music department was recently awarded a substantial National Endowment for the Arts grant to offer low cost string instruction to Sacramento-area children. The grant will also cover costs to provide teaching experience to string music education majors.

The prestigious grant has been awarded to only 23 universities nationwide, with CSUS being the only school in California to receive the award this year. It will provide $10,000 a year for the next five years.

The University hired Thomas Tatton, a nationally recognized string music educator from the Stockton area, to teach and coordinate the program called the CSUS String Project. The CSUS String Project is now seeking 60 interested 9- to 11-year-olds to participate in the program that begins this fall. Students will be accepted on a first come, first serve basis.

Prospective students and their parents must attend one of two informational meetings to participate in the program. The meetings are at 7 p.m., Monday, Sept. 10 and Wednesday, Sept. 12 in Capistrano Hall Room 209.

For more information call 278-5155.

— Heather Robinson

Not all about money

This is part of a continuing series about the work of various campus units.

The Bulletin asked Teresa Mills, manager of payroll services and Stacey Van Lente, payroll technician, about their office.

What do people think you do?

Stacey Van Lente: “Most people think that we basically generate their pay checks in our office.”

What do you really do?

Teresa Mills: “Our office is responsible for processing the payroll for the University. That includes all of the faculty, staff and students. We use the state controller’s paychecks in West Sacramento and Auburn on channels 19 and 21 respectively. Announcements will appear between the University’s regular programming of distance and distributed education classes.

To announce an academic event within 5 miles, click on “TV Announcement for Academic Events” and fill out the form. Announcements should be submitted to the Chancellor’s Office five days before the event.

Describe your office.

Van Lente: “We have two student assistants who work the front counter most days. Also we have one manager, one supervisor, six pay techs and one vacant position. Each pay tech has a specific roster of faculty and staff they work with. We all work together to resolve a lot of issues since our areas cross over many different areas.”

What might surprise people?

Mills: “I think maybe the number of faculty and staff each technician handles might surprise people. Each person probably handles 600 faculty and staff and the total is even higher when you consider the students.”

Van Lente: “I think this year I’m going to handle well over 1,000 students just by myself.”

What’s the biggest challenge for your office?

Van Lente: “We do not initiate the paperwork process in this office. When people get hired, the process starts in the department where they are working and can sometimes involve up to five departments. They come here with questions we are not able to answer. We have to send them back to their department.

What question do you get asked the most?

Mills and Van Lente: “Where is my pay check? Or, I just got this check and I don’t know what it’s for.”

—Diane Nguyen

Chase makes lifetime impact on students

Some know him as “Professor Chase.” Others refer to him as “Coach.” But no matter how he’s addressed, it’s clear Lawrence Chase has influenced the lives of many undergraduate and former college students.

From coaching and tutoring CSUS students and young people in Southern California to teaching inmates at Folsom Prison, Chase has helped students achieve their potential through his communication studies courses and other programs.

Chase is the most recent recipient of the Outstanding Teaching Award in the College of Arts and Letters. His impact on many students’ lives is clear from the many letters of support for the teaching award.

“It is these types of achievements that are worthy of recognition from the start of his career here at CSUS,” wrote communication studies professor Raymond Koegel, who has known Chase since he began teaching at the University.

From coaching and tutoring CSUS students and young people in Southern California to teaching inmates at Folsom Prison, Chase has helped students achieve their potential through his communication studies courses and other programs. Chase has influenced the lives of many current and former college students and young people.

“Larry’s classroom achievement, it’s clear Lawrence Chase is now celebrating 25 years at CSUS. He continues to work with new and alternative teaching strategies to his courses, such as experiential learning and service-learning programs. He is also optimistic about the addition of Internet technology in classrooms. The Web, he says, can be an effective tool to encourage interaction.

Chase has received state recognition for developing experiential and service-learning programs in his courses. “Students are able to apply what they’ve learned to their own lives and the community. I want them to see, on their own terms, how the skills are useful to them,” he said.

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Huge Grooves

In support of their latest album “Mink Car,” alternative rock band They Might Be Giants will perform on campus at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 20 in the University Union Ballroom.

The band has a one-of-a-kind sound and is widely recognized for their eclectic, entertaining live performances. TMBG are John Linnell (accordion, keyboards, woodwinds, vocals) and John Flansburgh (guitar, vocals). The instrumentation of the band has been evolving since the release of the first album in 1986 and many different musicians have lent their expertise to the band’s live shows and recordings, but the creative core has remained Linnell and Flansburgh.

The band has released more than 10 albums, including a children’s CD. “We’re doing something that is personal. We don’t want it to sound generic and so our music is defined by what we like as opposed to what we think other people will like.” Linnell said in a recent interview with Music Journalism, an online magazine.

Tickets for the event are $15 general and $10 CSUS students. Tickets are available at the CSUS Ticket Office at (916) 278-4323 or at Tickets.com at (916) 766-2277.

Wednesday, Sept. 12


Thursday, Sept. 13

“Closing the Schools of the Americas,” Charlie Letky, Global Issues Speakers Series, 12:30 p.m., Multi-Cultural Center, library. (916) 278-6101.

Mexican Independence Celebration, marchachi music, folkloric dance, Aztec dance, speakers and art exhibits, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m., Serna Plaza next to the University Union.

Friday, Sept. 14

Women’s soccer vs. Oregon State, 4 p.m., soccer field. Ticket $5 general/$4 students and seniors/CUS students free. Tickets available at the event. (916) 278-6595.

“We the People of the World: The U.N. Challenge to the Millennium Summit,” Edward Rudin, Renaissance Society forum, 3 p.m., Mendocino 1005. (916) 278-7834.

“Travel and Adventure,” Renaissance Society seminar, 10 a.m., Library 1533. (916) 278-7834.

“Concert on the Green,” CSUS Marching Band, 4 p.m., Outdoor Theatre. (916) 278-6156.

Saturday, Sept. 15

National Hispanic Heritage Month, concerts, lectures, dance slide presentation, noon, University Union Hinde Auditorium.

Thursday, Sept. 27

“Mexico: A Social and Political Panel Discussion,” 12:30 p.m., University Union Hinde Auditorium.

Friday, Sept. 28

“Viva la Musical!” Claudia Kitka and Gilda Taffet, concert, 8 p.m., Capistrano Hall 151. Tickets $6 general/$4 CSUS students and seniors. Tickets available at CSUS Ticket Office at 278-4323 or at Tickets.com at 766-2277.

Tuesday, Oct. 2

“Euros and More,” CSUS student ensemble concert, 4 p.m., Capiotran Hall 151.

Wednesday, Oct. 3

Lecture and book signing, Victor VillaseNor, author of Rain of Gold and Thirteen Susen, noon, Serna Plaza next to the University Union.

—Heather Robinson