Co-op takes a virtual turn

Suzanne Huynh worked for Hewlett-Packard, but she did it from the cozy confines of Riverside Hall at CSUS. As project leader in a campus-based “virtual co-op” with the computer heavyweight, Huynh, along with three other computer science majors, spent last semester writing Web design software for use on the company’s website. A fifth team member, an English major, served as technical writer. Hewlett-Packard provided the equipment, feedback and weekly stipends, while the University provided the workspace. A professor was on hand to guide the students to their goal.

“H-P told us what they wanted and we wrote the software for it,” Huynh says. “I became more knowledgeable of different types of software the industry is using. I also know how to work with a team.”

Now just over a year old, virtual co-op is the newest addition to the University’s cooperative education program, which is already the largest of its kind in the state. Through co-op, students receive academic credit for paid, career-related work experience.

Until recently, that experience had always been off campus, usually at the offices of a business or government agency. But employees at Sun Microsystems and Larry Hill, director of the campus cooperative education program, decided it wasn’t always practical or necessary for students working in the technology sector to be on site.

They organized a pilot virtual co-op program in spring of 2000. By that fall, the program was firmly in place, with about 20 students enrolling each semester since.

Students come from a variety of majors. Computer science students, of course, are strongly represented, but there are also students majoring in English, graphic design and management information science. Students get a good idea of the variety of talents needed to complete a software development project.

“Students have really liked it, because they work in teams and they don’t have to leave campus,” Hill says. “It helps students realize that to get a workable product, a whole variety of pieces have to come together.”

Huynh’s team, for instance, developed website design software to use on the H-P homepage. They also wrote a product overview and a user’s manual, and then presented their work to management. Along the way they taught themselves a scripting language called Python.

Catherine Cuestas worked in virtual co-op for H-P in the spring and Sun last fall. She was most recently working on design software to be used to develop a new microprocessor for large computers such as servers.

“He’s a good transition,” Cuestas says. “You’re not just thrown into the corporate world. You work with a corporation, but you’re on campus working with students and a faculty member.”

This semester, two teams are working with H-P. One project involves exploring uses for print-on-demand functions when accessing a database from the Web. In the other, students are designing tests for a system that allows users to set a computer system’s configuration and prepare it for an operating system.

— Frank Whislatch

Will debts do us part? Researcher says no

When the vows break, don’t blame it on financial problems. Money is not the number one cause of divorce, says a CSUS researcher.

Contrary to popular belief, there’s no evidence that money issues are the major factor when a marriage breaks up, says Jan Andersen, a CSUS family and consumer sciences professor. He presented his findings last week at the Western Region Home Management Family Economic Educators conference.

It’s a misconception with staying power. “When I ask students why it’s important to study personal and family finance, invariably someone answers, ‘Because money is the number one cause of divorce,’” Andersen says. “I had heard that in seminars and read articles that quoted it. But I realized I had never seen any evidence to back it up, so I decided to look into it further,” he says.

What he found is that no research supports the assumption beyond a 1950s study where “nonsupport” was ranked as the number one cause. Otherwise it was never cited as higher than fourth or fifth.

For his own research, Andersen looked at a national database of more than 2,000 households and was households. The data was collected over a 12-year period from 1980-92 in interviews conducted in 1980, 1983, 1988 and 1992. Andersen zeroed in on financially related questions to see if financial problems in one time period predicted the likelihood of divorce in a future time period.

The result: As predictors of divorce, financial problems are useless, he says. “It was a nonfinding that was quite interesting. Financial problems never explained more than five percent of the variability in divorce.”

“If financial problems are so important, there would have been a stronger relationship. They appear to be merely a small part of the mix.”

Andersen admits that more research needs to be done to determine if other factors played a role in the results. But, he says, “Perhaps financial problems are

— Jan Andersen

Star project seeks clues to galaxy’s past

Our Milky Way Galaxy’s star clusters could shed light on how the galaxy was formed, its age, where it might be hiding young stars. And what scientists really need is detailed information on every cluster – a kind of membership list for the galaxy.

Many have hundreds or even thousands of members, which means that the total number of clusters is not known. Phelps hopes to have the project completed in the next four years.

“Astronomers are really pretty ignorant about these clusters,” Phelps says. “But with enough information about them, it should be possible to see how the galaxy has evolved. This catalog will be a great service to the astronomical community, because it will be a tool to help people approach many kinds of questions.”

The problem is there are 1,200 clusters. Many have hundreds or even thousands of stars. And what scientists really need is detailed information on every cluster – a kind of membership list for the galaxy.

The oldest clusters may have formed about the same time as the galaxy and are often at the galaxy’s outer edge, where they aren’t ripped apart by the gravitational pull of other stars and gas. The youngest clusters are still forming, while some clusters have disrupted and appear as single stars. Our sun shines all alone, although it probably was once part of a cluster.

Phelps came to CSUS three years ago from the Observatories of the Carnegie Institute of Washington in Pasadena, where he was with a team studying the expansion of the universe. The star cluster project had been on his mind for years, and he says CSUS has proven a great place to carry it out.

“This is the type of project you can really get undergraduate students involved in, which is one reason I like it,” Phelps says. “Providing opportunities for undergraduates to do meaningful research is an educational advantage of CSUS, and this project exploits that advantage.”

— Jan Andersen

The recent dedication of Serna Fountain was the final touch to Serna Plaza. The area, on the east side of the University Union, memorializes longtime CSUS professor and Sacramento mayor Joe Serna and his wife, Isabel Hernandez-Serna, a longtime CSUS professor and administrator.

Photo/Frank Whislatch

Inside this week:

Ska supergroup
Save Ferris
on campus
Oct. 17
4
The CSUS Bulletin welcomes submissions to the Professional Activities Section from faculty, administrators, and staff the results are run on a space available basis. They should be no longer than 75 words and may be submitted to Anthony.Carney@csu.eor faxed to 778-5290.

ROBERT Pritchard — Though he’s not a political type, the chance to be close to the center of California government helped lure Robert Pritchard to CSUS. The new chair of the teacher education department saw an opportunity to shape education policy. “So much of education policy is being shaped by the Legisla- ture,” he says. “I will be able to be connected at a policy level that exists only in Sacramento.” His new location will also help in his role as incoming presi- dent of the California Reading Association, an organization that represents the interests of about 12,000 mainly K-12 teachers. Though the group isn’t a political entity, “there’s a value in being in the Capitol,” he says. Pritchard came to CSUS from CSU Fresno, where he coordi- nated the reading and language arts program and their CLAD/ BCLAD credential. Becoming a department chair marks the first time since 1969 he has not been teaching in the classroom. He’s hoping for- ward to the challenge of leading the largest department in the College of Education. “If exciting to be involved with administration in ways I never have before,” he says. “Having a large group makes it exciting because of all the differ- ent perspectives. I like to try to get all the different pieces to mesh. I like to bring people with a variety of interests together to work toward common goals.” One of these goals is diver- sity. Pritchard says he wants to pursue relevant and practical ways to prepare students for the diverse settings they’ll find in teaching institutions. He also wants to attract a diverse group of people into the program. “If we’re preparing students to work in diverse settings, they must go through classes with people who are diverse,” he says. Pritchard speaks from expe- rience. All his teaching experi- ences had him working with stu- dents from diverse backgrounds beginning with nine years in the Western Pacific including three nations. “It wasn’t until we started having English departments and the need to break these into differ- ent sections for study that the differ- ent areas of literature have been defined in modern times. “It is exciting to be involved with administration in ways I never have before,” he says. “Having a large group makes it exciting because of all the different perspectives. I like to try to get all the different pieces to mesh. I like to bring people with a variety of interests together to work toward common goals.” One of these goals is divers- ity. Pritchard says he wants to pursue relevant and practical ways to prepare students for the diverse settings they’ll find in teaching institutions. He also wants to attract a diverse group of people into the program. “If we’re preparing students to work in diverse settings, they must go through classes with people who are diverse,” he says. Pritchard speaks from experience. All his teaching experiences had him working with students from diverse backgrounds beginning with nine years in the Western Pacific including three nations.

Priority Admission Days set

High school seniors can get a jump on their college plans at CSU’s Priority Admission Days, Nov. 9-10. Students find out instantly if they qualify for admission to the University next fall. Those interested must set up an appointment for the on-site admission Friday, Oct. 19 to Monday, Nov. 6, by calling (916) 278-7875 from 1-7 p.m. Mon- days through Thursdays or from 1-5 p.m. on Fridays. During the two days, admis- sion counselors will review the student transcripts and test scores, and admit those who qualify. Students should bring these items to the appointment:

• A completed California State University admission applica- tion (available in high school counseling offices)
• A copy of high school tran- scripts
• SAT or ACT test scores, if available
• A check or money order for $55, or a completed fee waiver form (also available in high school counseling offices)

CSUS Bulletin
Volume 8, Number 9
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To submit material for publication:
The CSUS Bulletin is published on Mondays of the academic year. Campus news may be sub- mitted to the bulletin. News electronic may be faxed to (916) 278-1290 or may be deliv- ered on disk or paper to Public Affairs Sacramento Hall Room 215, campus mail code 6026. Deadlines for materials are 10 a.m. on the Wednesday before publication. Items will be pub- lished on a space available basis and are subject to editing. Writ- ing should be in news style, short and direct. For inquiries call (916) 278-6156.

Divorce
Continued from page 1

no longer the ‘real’ cause of divorce.”

Andersen speculate that financial issues may not be as important as they once were when the husband was expected to be the sole breadwinner. The 1930s study used 1948 data from women only and focused on what was important in post-World War II America. At that time “nonsupport”, meaning the hus- band did not bring home enough money for basic expenses, was cited as the number one cause of divorce. Now, Andersen says, both spouses have expectations of bringing in money.

“If, perhaps, financial prob- lems were never a major factor in most divorces, but were cited by respondents in earlier studies because they were legally or socially acceptable reasons for divorce,” he says. He is working on a follow-up study that will include additional information on credit, debt and assets. He hopes to have results by summer.

— Laurie Hall

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Exhibit a tribute to Native American artists

A tribute to the proud heritage of the tribal nations of California, in conjunction with the 16th annual Indian Conference and Gathering, takes place from Oct. 8 through Oct. 26 at CSUS. Wood and metal sculptures, drawings, paintings, lithographs and various mixed media are all included in the free exhibit of contemporary Native American artwork in the University Union, 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday and 6 to 8 p.m., Wednesdays and Thursdays.

The exhibit highlights the work of nine artists. Included in the exhibit will be the work of CSUS professor emeritus Frank La Pena. An active poet, dancer and artist, La Pena was one of 32 people from throughout the Western Hemisphere selected by the Smithsonian Institution as advisors in the creation of its new national museum dedicated to Native American art and culture. One of La Pena's powerful paintings was selected as the poster image for the 16th annual Indian Conference and Gathering. Another artist included in the exhibit is Rick Bartow.

Bartow's art has been shown throughout the country and was recently included in part of an exhibition at the White House. Other exhibiting artists include Harry Fonseca, Jean LaMarr, Judith Lowry, Kateigh Smith, Brian Tripp, Frank Tuttle and Fritz Scholder. For more information call (916) 278-6744. — Heather Robinson

Budget highlights for 2001-02

The University's continued enrollment growth contributed to approximately an 8.1 percent increase in general funds available for campus use. This is an increase of $13.8 million.

Almost 30 percent of the increase will fund institutional categories such as compensation increases, State University Grants and designated line items. The remaining funds, almost $9.7 million, have been used to enhance program center baseline budgets. The President, based on the 2001-02 resource priorities, approved the following allocations:

Instructional . . . . $3,677,000 Academic Affairs . . . $134,000 Computing, Communications & Media Services . . $250,000 Student Affairs . . . $630,400 Business Affairs . . . $15,000 Facilities Management . . . $370,000 Faculty & Staff Affairs . . . $138,000 University Affairs . . . $14,940,600 Athletics . . . . . . $135,000 Faculty Senate . . . . $13,000 Unallocated . . . . $1,325,493

Additionally, the University allocated $1.2 million of carry-over funds from 2000-2001 and $365,000 of new 2001-2002 funds for one-time allocations. These were based on program center proposals and the 2001-02 resource priorities. Student Affairs . . . $159,000 Business Affairs . . . $150,000 Facilities Management . . . $200,000 Faculty Senate . . . . $5,000 University Affairs . . . $9,350

Computing, Communications & Media Services . . $151,000 Instructional . . . . $154,000 Athletics . . . . . $125,000 Library . . . . . $35,000

The campus received a little more than $2 million in lottery funds. As with the general fund the following allocations were based on the 2001-02 resource priorities subject to any special restrictions on these funds:

Instructional Equipment . . . . $150,000 Instructional Technology Funds . . . . $400,000 Community Collaboration . . . $111,000 Student Academic Development . . . $25,000 College Based Ed Equity . . . . $200,000 Computer Lab-Student Assistants . . . $100,000

Center for Teaching & Learning . . . $200,000 Festival for New American Music . . . $200,000 Multi-Cultural Center . . . . $25,000 Library Material . . . $129,000 Student Access & Acad. Dev. . . $194,923 CSU Scholarship Programs . . . . $30,000 Teacher Recruitment Project . . . . $75,000

The event is sponsored by educational equity and student retention. In case of rain, it will be moved to the University Union.

Details: 278-6839

TIME FOR THE VENDOR FAIR

Procurement and contracts will host Vendor Faire 2001 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., Friday, Oct. 26 in the Union Ballroom. Faculty and staff members will have the opportunity to meet with the various suppliers that the University does business with.

CAREERS IN MATH AND SCIENCE

The Natural Sciences and Mathematics Career Fair will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 16 in the Union Room 201.

It is sponsored by the Chemistry Club and the Student Association of Laboratory Sciences. For more information call 278-6231.

GRADUATE AND SCHOOL INFO

The annual Graduate and Professional School Information Day will be 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Friday, Oct. 26 in the Library Quad.

Representatives from more than 90 schools throughout California and the United States will provide information on master's and doctoral programs, as well as programs in law, education, social work, business and medicine.

The event is sponsored by educational equity and student retention. In case of rain, it will be moved to the University Union.

Details: 278-6839

2001/2002 ALLOCATIONS FOR PROGRAM CENTERS AT CSU SACRAMENTO

Allocations as approved by the President

August 2001

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PROGRAM CENTER TOTALS $139,655,094 $1,348,500 $45,279,406 $186,283,000
ART OF SKA

Southern California’s ska-pop band Save Ferris is serving up a fine dish of finger-snapping frenzies at CSUS. The concert is from 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. at Serna Plaza and includes local bands Limit Point, Bushel and Freestate as well as other entertainment.

Save Ferris was formed in 1995 and features guitarist Brian Rouseaux and Saxophonist Eric Zamora, bassist Bill Uchi, trumpeter Jose Castelanos, drummers Matthew Amoroses, trombonist T-Bone Willy and vocalist Monique Powell.

So what is it about Save Ferris that people just can’t resist? “It’s the energy, the power, the greatness, the fun. It’s everything,” explains volunteer fan club president, Hoku Beale. “Their music inspires me to be strong and they remind me to smile. Their message is so simple and real.”

Save Ferris recorded their first full-length album “It Means Everything” in 1996 for Epic Records. The album produced by Peter Collins (Suicidal Tendencies and Jewel), features a re-make of the Dexy’s Midnight Runners’ “Come On Eileen.”

This is a free event sponsored by CSUS UNIQUE Programs. For details call 278-6997.

thursday, oct. 18
CSUS Jazz Ensemble II, 8 p.m., Music Recital Hall in Capistrano Hall. (916) 278-5155.

“Dana Rivers: Her Transgender Journey,” lecture, 11:45 a.m., University Union Redwood Room. (916) 278-6697.

“Starbitch: Latest News from the Mid-Infared,” Mary Barsony, physics colloquium series, 4 p.m., Mendocino 1015. (916) 278-6518.

“Hay Fever,” a comedy by Noel Coward, 8 p.m., Playwrights’ Theatre in Shasta Hall. Tickets $12 general/$7 students, alumni and seniors. Tickets at CSUS Ticket Office at (916) 278-4323 or at Tickets.com at (916) 766-2277. Continues to Oct. 21.

Football vs. Eastern Washington State, Big Sky Conference, 6:35 p.m., Hornet Stadium. Tickets $20 reserved/$10 general/$7 students, alumni and seniors. Tickets at CSUS Ticket Office at (916) 278-4323 or at Tickets.com at (916) 766-2277. Season tickets $50 - 500. Season tickets at (916) 278-4590.

sunday, oct. 21
“Hay Fever,” a comedy by Noel Coward, 8 p.m., Playwrights’ Theatre in Shasta Hall. Tickets $12 general/$7 students, alumni and seniors. Tickets at CSUS Ticket Office at (916) 278-4323 or at Tickets.com at (916) 766-2277. Season tickets $50 - 500. Season tickets at (916) 278-4590.

Sunday Recital Hall in Capistrano Hall. Julian Dixon, 8 p.m., Music Recital Hall in Capistrano Hall. Tickets $6 general/$4 CSUS students and seniors. Tickets at CSUS Ticket Office at (916) 278-4323 or at Tickets.com at (916) 766-2277.

Tuesday, oct. 23
Sean O’Connor, classical guitar, 12:30 p.m., University Union Lobby. (916) 278-6697.

“Insurance Industry: Opportunity and Challenges in an Increasing Multicultural Environment,” keynote speaker Harry Low, California Insurance Commissioner, panel discussion and reception, 5 p.m., University Union Ballroom. (916) 278-6942.

Volleyball vs. Nevada, 7 p.m., Hornet Gym. Tickets $3 general/$4 students and seniors/CSUS students free. Tickets available at the event.

“Racism: Dead or Alive?” open forum, noon, Multi-Cultural Center, Library 1010. (916) 278-6101.

Faculty Music Recital, Joel Elias, Wednesday, oct. 24
United Nations 55th Birthday Party Celebration, dinner and entertainment, 6 p.m., Yamasool Alumni Center. Tickets $30 per person. Call (916) 344-3848 for reservations.

“Women’s Self-Defense,” demonstrations, noon, University Union Ballroom. (916) 278-6997.


ARD: workshop, noon, Center for Teaching and Learning. (916) 278-5945.

CSUS Concert Band, 7-30 p.m., Music Recital Hall in Capistrano Hall. Tickets $6 general/$4 CSUS students and seniors. Tickets at CSUS Ticket Office at (916) 278-4323 or at Tickets.com at (916) 766-2277.

“Mr. & Ms.” Artist Reception, Suzanne Adam and Michael Stevens, 5 p.m., Egle Gallery. (916) 278-6166.

Artist Lecture, Suzanne Adam and Michael Stevens, 7 p.m., Mariposa Hall 1001. (916) 278-8166.

Thursday, oct. 25
Volleyball vs. BYU, 7 p.m., Hornet Gym. Tickets $5 general/$4 students and seniors/CSUS students free. Tickets available at the event.

“Second City Comedy,” improv...