STUDENT WORK

New Service Projects Help Area Schools

(This is the first in an occasional series on service learning projects funded this year through new CSUS grants.)

Next to a busy West Sacramento street and a popular school playground, visitors come across Evergreen Elementary School’s half-acre garden.

Here, predominantly Southeast Asian immigrants manage more than 30 family vegetable plots. They work with exacting skill, growing diverse vegetables that most backyard gardeners never consider — CSUS environmental studies professor Doreen Stabinsky says she’s never seen so many types of eggplants.

The garden is an important food source for these families, as well as a link to an often unfamiliar world. It helps the parents feel comfortable visiting the school their children attend.

This semester, the garden also is an extended classroom for CSUS students. It’s the site of one of more than a dozen new projects that get students involved in community service.

Environmental science students are building vegetable beds and compost bins at Evergreen, identifying local pests, even creating a butterfly garden. Student teachers are using the gardens in science classes.

“This gives CSUS students a chance to study nature in an urban setting, right in their own backyard,” says Stabinsky, who organized the project with teacher education professor Lorie Hammond. “At the same time, they’re contributing to the community.”

Given the University’s historical emphasis on teacher education and elementary schools, it isn’t surprising that many of the new projects focus on these areas.

In another project, Hammond and bilingual/multicultural education professor Sue Heredia are emphasizing science and literacy as they show students in West Sacramento and their student teachers will work with being active in their community.

All these projects involve service learning, a growing emphasis in higher education. Students enrolled in CSUS funded this year through new CSUS grants.

Class Sorts Science From Silliness

(This is one of a continuing series on unique and unusual courses offered at CSUS.)

Experts say everyone should have a basic literacy in science in order to function well in today’s society. But what defines a science? There are historical scientific experiments, new revolutionary theories and numerous fad ideas that appear to be scientific. If you want to know the difference, Don Hall’s Physics 30 course “Science and Pseudo science,” will help.

Science is used daily, although many may not realize it. This newly offered class compares and contrasts the many sciences among us. Hall uses reasoning and logical argument to lead his students in group discussions.

To differentiate science and pseudo science, fully successful science is contrasted with three other disciplines: science that was reasonable at one time but has now been discarded for something better, science poorly done and nonsense posing as science. An easy example of nonsense science may be astrology.

Hall, a professor at CSUS for 24 years, had the idea for this class “buzzing around in his head” for some time before he submitted a class creation proposal. He received encouragement from CSU Fresno professors while they were in Sacramento completing a five-year review of the University’s physics department. A similar class was already being offered at CSU Fresno.

The Fringes of Science by Michael Friedlander, along with several texts on logical reasoning, guide the class through the elements of good science. “I enjoy the class a lot,” said physics major Don Derosier. With a lower teacher-student ratio, in-depth analyses of consistent and inconsistent theories are easily done. Hall asks his students to “wrestle” with an idea in their minds and then use argument and evaluation to find the validity of the statement.

Hall believes that our society is immersed in science. Even if a person seems to work in a field apparently having no connection with science, they are still using many products that are the end result of scientific work. Similarly, Hall feels “using a scientific thinking style is a valuable tool for working in many areas of life and study well outside explicitly scientific subjects.”

— Elizabeth DePalma

CSU Seeks Honorary Degree Nominations

The Chancellor’s Office has issued its annual call for campus recommendations for the awarding of honorary doctoral degrees by the CSU Board of Trustees.

Past CSUS honorary doctoral degree recipients have included: former senator Albert Rodda, civil rights activist and attorney Nathaniel S. Colley, Sr., composers Lou Harrison and George Perle, actors Tom Hanks and Anna Deavere Smith, UNESCO Director-General Federico Mayor, Republic of South Africa Minister of Education Sibusiso M.E. Bengu, Rector of the United Nations University Hector Gurgulino de Souza, artist Wayne Thiebaud, and developer and philanthropist Angelo Tsakopoulos.


The award recognizes: excellence and extraordinary achievement in significant areas of human endeavor; meritorious and outstanding service to the CSU or one of its campuses, the state, the United States, or to human- ity at large; and men and women whose lives and significant achieve- ments should serve as examples of the CSU’s aspirations for its diverse student body.

Nominations from faculty, staff, students and the community are welcome and must be accompanied by a current curriculum vita and a letter detailing her or his qualifications for the award. No other docu- mentation is required or will be accepted. Nominations for posthu- mous awards are not considered. Incumbent elected officials are excluded from consideration as well.

Members of the 1998-99 CSUS campus committee for the review and recommendation of candidates are: Tom Eres, chair, CSUS Advisory Board; Jean C. Hansen, chair.

In fall 1997 the median age of lower division students at CSUS was 19, and the median age of all undergraduates was 23.
Terry Underwood - Professional Activities

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In the News

Elizabeth Rodriguez, English, had an article printed in an Aug. 22 Reporter article about her family’s ventura to California during World War II.

Dale Scholl, health and physical education, was profiled in an Aug. 27 Outward Magazine article about her dance group and the local arts scene.

Suzuki Is, counselor education, was quoted in an Aug. 25 Fresno Bee article about monetary compensation for Japanese Americans interned during World War II.

John Styr, government, was interviewed by KXTV Channel 10 on Sept. 10 about the possible impeachment of President Clinton.

Robin René, health and physical education, was quoted in a Sept. 25 Sacramento Bee article about Sacramento County Teacher of the Year Debbie Vigil.

Heidi Kutchins, social work, was interviewed by the British Broadcast-

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Author Showcase Begins Nov. 19

The Friends of the CSUS Library is kicking off a yearlong author showcase with a talk by Jim Richardson.

Richardson was a reporter with the Sacramento Bee for 21 years. At 4 p.m. Nov. 19 in the Library’s South Reading Room, he will talk about researching and writing his recently published biographic essays on Calvin Brown, former speaker of the Assembly and current mayor of San Francisco. In addition to the biography, Richardson is the co-author of three editions of the Califor-

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Scholarship

Ron Wassmer, public policy and administration, has had his co-authored paper, “Public Sector Technical Inefficiency in Large U.S. Cities,” accepted for publication in the Journal of Urban Economics. The paper focuses on a statistical technique to measure technical efficiency and calculate it for large U.S. cities.

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Recognition

Marlene von Friedrichs-Fitzwater, communication studies, has been named the Thomas L. Veenedall Adviser of the Year for the 2018-19 academic year by the American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology’s human resources committee. She has been a member of the organization’s outreach task force for the last two years, and was the chief organizer of its K-12 science education workshop, which was last year in San Francisco.

Justine Crossno, accounting services, was grand prize winner of USA Today’s Summer Sweepstakes photo contest. Her entry, “Parasailing dad,” earned her two Hewlett Packard PhotoSmart printers, one of which has been donated to the University.

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In Memoriam

A memorial service for Stan Wright will be held from noon to 1 p.m. on Nov. 17 in the University Union Auditorium. Wright was the athletic director at CSUS from 1974-79 and track and field coach from 1969-79. The campus community is invited to attend.

White, head archivist at the Library, interviewed her for a book based on her dissertation about portfolio assessment in language arts. The door was opened for this contract after Underwood received a prestigious award, Promising Researcher Award, from the National Council of Teachers of English. Underwood is also writing a proposal for another book that she will co-author with a professor at the University of California, Davis.

In his first semester at CSUS, Underwood is teaching two sections of a reading methods course, but in the future he hopes to be teaching graduate courses in reading as well. Underwood has nine years of teaching at the community college and university level and ten years of teaching at the K-12 level.

Underwood says he is tired of moving around so much and he hopes that he will remain at CSUS. He doesn’t even want to move out of the office he shares with a colleague.

Terry Underwood - Very Young

Although Terry Underwood and Karen, his 6-year-old daughter, knew the snow to be a blast, his wife, a California native, could not seem to appreciate the snow when her car was buried underneath it.

After teaching at Illinois State University, Underwood and his family returned to Sacramento, where his wife, Joanne, had previously taken a leave of absence from her teaching job in the Center Unified School District in Elverta.

“I think I would be happy teaching anywhere as long as it’s at the university level,” says Underwood. “I liked both Illinois and Fresno, but I like Sacramento already.”

Underwood commuted when they returned to the Sacramento area to California State University, Fresno where he was teaching in the department of literacy and early education.

After one year he found his way to CSUS where he is currently a professor in the department of education.

Placing the guitar has been an on-again and off-again hobby, but reading and writing have been passions of Underwood since he was very young.

“I have been interested in writing since I was in the fourth grade,” says Underwood. “I took advantage of every chance I could find to write in school.”

In earlier times, Underwood wrote articles for popular media magazines to make a little money on the side. The pay was not always worth the work, he says, but after a while he was being asked to write articles that he had not initiated.

Professionally, he has written numerous articles for journals and chapters in books, and he is currently awaiting the finalization of a contract on a book based on his dissertation about portfolio assessment in language arts. The door was opened for this contract after Underwood received a prestigious award, Promising Researcher Award, from the National Council of Teachers of English. Underwood is also writing a proposal for another book that she will co-author with a professor at the University of California, Davis.

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Full text is available at www.csus.edu/mpa/content.html.
Tom’s Marketing Lessons Have Personal Touch

(Continued from page one)

Tom explains. “We don’t need it, and don’t usually know how it got there. And we can’t get rid of it. In the course, we study how the stuff gets there, as well as many other concepts.”

Tom says she hopes that personalizing the presentation of concepts helps her students remember the lessons when they study at home. Tom also likes to make use of visuals and group activities.

“Almost as importantly, she says that while teaching is “rewarding and a privilege” she doesn’t take herself too seriously. “I try to remember that any one thing I might say is not all that important,” Tom says. “If I miss something, I’m the one responsible for the lack of a lecture, that is not life-threatening.”

“Teaching is one of those fuzzy things where you can’t put your finger on it, and don’t usually know what you’re teaching.”

Tom’s research is as eclectic as her degrees, but generally involves consumer psychology and marketing.

Her studies have examined consumer demand for counterfeit goods, the effect waiting for service has on consumer satisfaction, and the content of infomercials.

Her latest study was on “Faculty and Student Perceptions of Classroom Etiquette,” and will appear in the next issue of Journal of College Student Development. It examined the unmet state of classroom standards, which Tom says is partially the result of diverse student populations and changing attitudes. Today’s professors and students, she says, may not be in complete agreement on acceptable standards of classroom etiquette. For example, it is appropriate to wear baseline clothing in the classroom.

In addition, Tom frequently consults on consumer issues. She recently completed a survey of patient satisfaction for the EPA Medical Group in Sacramento and helped Montoya Bilingual Communications with a series of focus groups involving student and faculty concerns.

— Frank Whittall

Play Dramatizes Life of Frida Kahlo

The last days of a renowned artist and feminist hero will be dramatized in an upcoming play, Frida Kahlo, by the theatre arts department and the CSUS College Assistance Migrant Program.

The play, entirely in Spanish, will be presented in the University Theatre Nov. 20-22 at 8 p.m., and at 2 p.m. matinees on both Saturday and Sunday. It is directed by Manuel Pickett, professor and director of El Teatro Espejo at CSUS.

Frida Kahlo, who lived from 1907 to 1954, is one of the most successful Latin American artists in history. She has had an enormous influence on Chicano-Latino art in the United States, and in Mexico is considered by some a national treasure.

At the same time, Kahlo’s vision of the place of women in the world and her openness about her sexuality have made her a hero among feminists. The play is the first in a series of events celebrating El Teatro Espejo’s 25th anniversary at CSUS. The group makes presentations and provides workshops on singing, acting, video production, multicultural puppetry and dance to schools at all levels. Teatro was recognized by a resolution of the State Senate in 1992.

Tickets to the event are $10 general and $7 for students. More information is available at 278-7241.

Recycling Center Extends Closure

The CSUS Community Recycling Center, originally scheduled to open Oct. 31 after a two-month remodeling, will remain closed until Feb. 1.

Mark Kennedy, university conserva-
tion coordinator, said the delay was to ensure that the newly installed sorter conveyor belt system and materials bailer is working properly. Only those materials that are irreversibly tied to a product — such as a slogan and then giving candy to the first student who figures out the slogan — are said to carry over within the collective bargaining units as follows:

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Excess Vacation Hours Must Be Used

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Nominations

University Staff Assembly; Robert G. Jones, vice president, University Affairs; Tom Krabacher, chair, Faculty Senate; Turan Gonen, Faculty Senate faculty-at-large; Cheryl Osborne, Faculty Senate faculty-at-large; Gary Davis, president, Associated Students, and Karen Bakula, president, CSUS Alumni Association

Nomination outline forms are available in SAC 220. Deadline for submission of a nomination to the Office of University Affairs, SAC 220, is noon, Dec. 4. Call 278-7051 for more information.

CSUS BULLETIN NOVEMBER 16, 1998 3

News Digest

Mary Ellen Pleasant

Discussed Nov. 19

A presentation titled “The Legacies of Mary Ellen Pleasant: Mother of Civil Rights in California” by Susheel Bibbs will be from 6:30 to 9 p.m., Nov. 19 in the University Union Auditorium. Bibbs is a leading authority on Pleasant. The presentation is cosponsored by the history department and the Visiting Scholars Program.

Biology Learning Discussed

A presentation titled “Workshop Biology: Learning Biology through Discovery, Investigations, and Issues,” by Peter Wetherwax of the University of Oregon, will be held from 2 to 4 p.m., Nov. 20 in Sequoia Hall 105. Wetherwax will discuss developing a biology course with experimentation and applications to real-life issues. His presentation is cosponsored by the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics Friday Forum and the Visiting Scholars Program.

Construction Begins
On New Parking Lot

A new parking lot south of the University Union is expected to be completed in mid-December, adding 240 parking spaces. Work on the lot began Nov. 2 and is being done by Granite Construction.

CSUS News

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Continued from page one

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HUMOR AND HEARTACHE — From left, Brian Briggs, Nicole Hayes and Stephanie Reed are among the cast members in theatre arts’ production of “Marvin’s Room.” The Scott McPherson play is being directed by theatre arts professor Don Fibiger.

Staged in the Playwright’s Theatre, curtain time is 8 p.m. for performances on Nov. 19-21 and Dec. 3-5 and 2 p.m. on Nov. 22 and Dec. 6. Tickets are $10 general, $7 students and seniors and are available at the Theatre Box Office, 278-6604 or at all BASS Ticket Centers, 766-2277.

Ongoing


“Ship Shape,” the boat form in art, noon-5 p.m. Robert Elzie Gallery, exhibit continues to Dec. 4.

Oil pastels by Irving Marcus, art emeritus, on display in Library first floor south to Dec. 11.

Tuesday, Nov. 17

Works by Jim Mankie, CSUS graduate student, Raymond Witt Gallery. Exhibit continues to Nov. 25.

Fall colloquium series lecture, “Geochronological Modeling in an Acid Mine Drainage Environment,” Pierre Glyson, UOGS distinguished lecturer, 4 p.m., MND 1015; free.

Mary Mackey, English, will read from her new novel, “The Fires of Spring,” 7:30 p.m., Lions Books, 2224 J Street.

Wednesday, Nov. 18

Film, “Elvis is Alive,” noon-2 p.m., Union Auditorium.

Graduate diversity workshop, “Strategies for Taking Graduate Entrance Exams,” 5 p.m., University Union Delta State. Call 278-6859 for more information.


Volleyball, vs. UC Davis, 7 p.m., South Gym.

Thursday, Nov. 19

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

Graduate diversity workshop, “Applying to Graduate School,” 3 p.m., University Union Lobby. Call 278-6859 for more information.

Physics Colloquium lecture, “Schroedinger’s Cat and Quantum Computation,” by David Deutsch of the National Institute of Science Technology. 4 p.m., MND 1015.

Women’s basketball vs. Navy, 5 p.m., Memorial Auditorium.

Men’s basketball vs. St. Mary’s, 7:30 p.m., University Union Ballroom.

Saturday, Nov. 20


Turkey Trot Fun Run, 3:30 p.m., Hornet Stadium. Call 278-6321 for information.

Saturday, Nov. 21

Men’s basketball vs. St. Mary’s, 2 p.m., Memorial Auditorium.

Volleyball, vs. Northern Arizona, 7 p.m., South Gym.

Monday, Nov. 23

Piano Series masterclass, 2 p.m., Music Recital Hall.

Guitar Studio recital, 8 p.m., MUS 151; $6 general, $4 students/seniors, tickets available at the door or through all BASS ticket outlets.

Tuesday, Nov. 24

Physics Colloquium lecture, “Laser Photoelectron Spectroscopy of Negative Ions,” by Dominic Calabrese, physics and astronomy, 4 p.m., MND 1015.

Wednesday, Nov. 25

Comedy show, 11:45 a.m., Union Auditorium.

Saturday, Nov. 28

Men’s basketball vs. University of the Pacific, 2 p.m., Memorial Auditorium.

Monday, Nov. 30

Panel discussion and dialogue, “Confronting the ‘Isms’,” with Victor Lewis and Hugh Vasquez, 1-5 p.m., University Union Ballroom.

CSUS Graphic Design Program exhibit, 10:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri., 5-8 p.m., Wed.-Thurs., University Union Exhibit Lounge. Reception 6-8 p.m., Dec. 2; exhibit continues to Dec. 17.

Free lecture, “Pressing Issues in Meeting the Health Needs of California,” by Sandra Smolka, Secretary of California Health and Welfare, 11 a.m., University Union Auditorium.

Tuesday, Dec. 1

Works by Elva Fries, CSUS graduate student, noon-5 p.m., Raymond Witt Gallery. Exhibit continues to Dec. 11.

Wrist Chamber Ensembles, 8 p.m., Music Recital Hall; 36 general, $4 students/seniors, tickets available at the door or through all BASS ticket outlets.

Wednesday, Dec. 2

Swing dance demonstration, noon, University Union Redwood Room.


CSUS Libraries Woodwind Quartet, CSUS Flute Ensemble and CSUS Saxophone Quartet, 8 p.m., MUS 151; $6 general, $4 students/seniors, tickets available at the door or through all BASS ticket outlets.

Thursday, Dec. 3

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

Physics Colloquium lecture, “Natural Ignition Facility: Status and Applications,” by Jeffrey Koch of the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, 4 p.m., MND 1015.

Women’s basketball vs. St. Mary’s, 7 p.m., South Gym.

Rock concert with Fastball, 7:30 p.m., University Ballroom; $15 general, $11 CSUS students, tickets available through all BASS ticket outlets.

Faculty Senate

Monday, 11/16

1:30 p.m., Cornerstones Implementation Plan — discussion, University Union Orchard Suites 1 & 2

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

Tuesday, 11/17

1:30 p.m., Curriculum Policies Committee, SAC 275

3 p.m., Executive Committee, SAC 275

3 p.m., University ARFP Committee, University Union Camellia Room

Wednesday, 11/18

1 p.m., Faculty Policies Committee, SAC 275

Thursday, 11/19

3 p.m., Faculty Senate, Mendocino Hall 1003

Friday, 11/20

2 p.m., Academic Policies Committee, SAC 275

Monday, 11/23

10 a.m., Pedagogy Enhancement Awards Subcommittee, SAC 275

3 p.m., Faculty Endowment Fund Committee, SAC 150

service learning courses work in the community, and then reflect upon and discuss the experience in class.

The concept has been embraced by various professors at CSUS over the years. It was given a boost at the University this year when $20,000 in lottery money was set aside to fund Office of Community Collaboration mini-grants for professors who wanted to include it.

The Office of Community Collaboration also provides ongoing support by helping find placement sites, orienting students and conducting evaluations.

“What has to be stressed is that it’s very important that students tie their community work experiences to readings and class discussions,” says Scott Modell, a health and physical education professor who received one of the grants.

“The service is important,” he says. “But without the reflection, students might have stereotypes reinforced or they might simply model wrong strategies without realizing it.”

Modell will include service learning in his adapted physical education course next semester. Many students taking the course are future physical education teachers who want to know how to include children with disabilities.

Several of Modell’s students already volunteer their time in Project PLAY (Play-oriented Lifetime Activities for Youth), the professor’s year-old program that offers weekly physical activities for more than 40 children with disabilities.

Another professor who works with future teachers, Melanie Loo of the biology department, is developing an interdisciplinary course for liberal studies majors in which undergraduates will work with elementary students on science and math projects.

The goals are twofold: help schoolchildren with two subjects Americans struggle with and get liberal studies majors into classrooms before they begin work on a teaching credential.

Providing would-be teachers such early experience in classrooms has become a high priority within the CSU system.

The course will be offered in spring 1999.

Meanwhile, teacher education professors Karen Benson and Lana Daly are working with student teachers to find ways to get them and their elementary students involved in service learning. They meet weekly to develop changes to their courses and program which reflect the core values of service learning.

“We see service learning already built into student teaching,” Daly says. “We are trying to make sure the students understand the service and the learning that is going on, and consider how they can use service learning someday in their own teaching.”

Finally, students in Susan Wycoff’s advanced multicultural counseling course have taken on an entire elementary school as a client.

The Sacramento school draws students from one relatively affluent neighborhood, and two relatively impoverished ones.

CSUS students almost immediately discovered strong ethnic as well as economic divisions at the school. They are surveying families to find shared attitudes, in the hope of building a stronger sense of community at the school.

— Frank Whittatch