Professor aims to boost organ donor pool

Kimo Ah Yun wants your body. Not necessarily all of it – just the parts that can make a huge difference in someone’s life.

He wants you to agree to be an organ donor.

“A lot of people probably think it’s a good idea to donate their organs, but they aren’t motivated to check the box on their driver’s license,” he says.

His research – for which he received a President’s Award for Research and Creative Activity last spring – is aimed at developing powerful messages that move potential donors to voluntarily sign up to donate.

One of his aims is to increase the number of people who are organ donors.

Ah Yun’s first study surprised him. He found significant differences in how people of different ages and ethnicities perceived the types of evidence.

He followed up with a more detailed study that showed clear relationships between the type of evidence used and its effectiveness with different ethnic groups. For Caucasians, statistical information and narratives had about equal impact. Asians were most often moved by narrative alone. And African Americans and Hispanics showed a strong preference for statistics.

That preference doesn’t reflect lack of concern for people who need organs, but trust issues between Hispanics and African Americans on one hand and authority on the other, Ah Yun says.

“It’s really the idea of distrust ing the evidence that other people may give them,” he says. “They want statistics so they can go and find out if those statistics are true.”

That tendency, however, makes Ah Yun’s task more difficult.

“Can we build a super-narrative that works for most people?” he asks, one that would make a case for many different people. Ah Yun thinks it’s possible and he has made it his next goal.

He already has evidence that a greater understanding of the need for organ donors increases sign-ups:

- Each survey he sent out included information on how to become a donor along with the necessary forms.
- “There are about 200 to 300 people from the study who ended up becoming organ donors,” he says. “It’s a good start.”

Campus huddles on future of athletics

Noting that the weather is the only topic more talked about than sports, David Raske, chair of the Athletics Task Force, led a group of nearly 100 students, faculty, staff and alumni through the first of two public forums on the future of campus athletic programs last week.

The second forum will be from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 18 in the Union Hinde Auditorium.

Results from the forums, as well as interviews with coaches and other individuals with a stake in the program including elected officials and community leaders, will be incorporated into a report to President Alexander Gonzales. The task force, comprised of faculty, staff, students, alumni and community representatives, expects to finish the report by the end of the semester.

The forums center around five questions: What is the role of intercollegiate athletics at the University? What are the benefits of a successful athletics program? Which facilities need improvement? What issues regarding conference affiliation and community interests need to be addressed? What should be the future direction of the athletics program?

At the first forum, most of the discussion focused on the first two questions, the role and the benefits of an athletics program. Several participants suggested that an athletics program gives a university an identity, something that was seen as lacking by some who took part in the President’s

Students invited to play Carnegie Hall

The CSUS Symphonic Wind Ensemble has received a coveted invitation to perform at the New York Wind Band Festival’s gala Carnegie Hall concert April 13, one of two collegiate ensembles chosen nationally.

The festival is an annual educational event for student musicians that includes workshops, clinics and competitions spread over two, weekend sessions. Each session culminates with a public concert at Carnegie Hall.

“It’s the premier concert hall in the United States,” says ensemble conductor Robert Halseth, also director of wind studies at CSUS. “Chihavsky opened it in 1891. Playing there would be a tremendous opportunity for our students.”

Budget constraints have made University funds scarce, and the cost of sending 30 students to New York is significant, no matter how rewarding the experience may be.

Members of the ensemble will embark on a fundraising effort focused on the $100,000 needed to attend the festival. “Each student needs $2,000 to go, or they’ll miss out on the experience of a lifetime,” says music department chair Erin Hills.

Ensemble members are planning fundraising events, contacting potential donors and seeking sponsors to get their group to New York this spring. Playing at Carnegie Hall is something they don’t want to miss.

Donations may be made to the CSUS Trust Foundation, Carnegie Hall Trip at CSUS College of Arts and Letters Development Office, Mariposa Hall 5000, 6000 J Street, Sacramento, CA 95819-6049 or (916) 278-7673.

Winter Commencement is fast approaching

Just as the shorts get packed away, it’s almost time to take out the cap and gown.

Winter commencement ceremonies are scheduled for Friday and Saturday, Dec. 19 and 20 at Arco Arena.

Friday’s schedule is:
- College of Education, 1 p.m.
- College of Social Sciences and Interdisciplinary Studies, 3:30 p.m.
- College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, 6:30 p.m.

Saturday’s schedule is:
- College of Health and Human Services, 8:30 a.m.
- College of Business Administration, 11:30 a.m.
- College of Arts and Letters, 3 p.m.
- College of Engineering and Computer Science, 6 p.m.

Details: (916) 278-4724 or www.csus.edu/commencement.
ROBIN DATEL, geography, was mentioned during the ROTC cadet, were interviewed for RQED's California Report on Nov. 11 about the CSUS Veteran's History Project initiative, which records for posterity the personal experiences of America's veterans.

STAN GOED, government, was quoted in an article about race in the Sacramento Observer on July 16, in a Proposition 34 story in the Aug. 8 Sacramento Bee, and during an Aug. 6 interview with the Minority Broadcasting Corporation.

RODNEY KINGNORTH, sociology, had a letter on the impact of incarceration rates on crime rates published in the Sept. 23 issue of the London Times.

INEZ TALBOTT, Science Educational Equity, was interviewed Oct. 26 on a KCRA 3 and KQCA 58 program titled “Latinas and Breast Cancer: Erasing the Fear.”

NIGEL POOR, design, was quoted in the San Francisco Chronicle on Oct. 19 in an article about photographer Diane Arbus.

ROBIN DATEL, geography, was mentioned during the ROTC cadet, were interviewed for RQED's California Report on Nov. 11 about the CSUS Veteran's History Project initiative, which records for posterity the personal experiences of America's veterans.

STAN GOED, government, was quoted in an article about race in the Sacramento Observer on July 16, in a Proposition 34 story in the Aug. 8 Sacramento Bee, and during an Aug. 6 interview with the Minority Broadcasting Corporation.

RODNEY KINGNORTH, sociology, had a letter on the impact of incarceration rates on crime rates published in the Sept. 23 issue of the London Times.

INEZ TALBOTT, Science Educational Equity, was interviewed Oct. 26 on a KCRA 3 and KQCA 58 program titled “Latinas and Breast Cancer: Erasing the Fear.”

NIGEL POOR, design, was quoted in the San Francisco Chronicle on Oct. 19 in an article about photographer Diane Arbus.

ROBIN DATEL, geography, was mentioned during the ROTC cadet, were interviewed for RQED's California Report on Nov. 11 about the CSUS Veteran's History Project initiative, which records for posterity the personal experiences of America's veterans.

STAN GOED, government, was quoted in an article about race in the Sacramento Observer on July 16, in a Proposition 34 story in the Aug. 8 Sacramento Bee, and during an Aug. 6 interview with the Minority Broadcasting Corporation.

RODNEY KINGNORTH, sociology, had a letter on the impact of incarceration rates on crime rates published in the Sept. 23 issue of the London Times.

INEZ TALBOTT, Science Educational Equity, was interviewed Oct. 26 on a KCRA 3 and KQCA 58 program titled “Latinas and Breast Cancer: Erasing the Fear.”

NIGEL POOR, design, was quoted in the San Francisco Chronicle on Oct. 19 in an article about photographer Diane Arbus.

ROBIN DATEL, geography, was mentioned during the ROTC cadet, were interviewed for RQED's California Report on Nov. 11 about the CSUS Veteran's History Project initiative, which records for posterity the personal experiences of America's veterans.

STAN GOED, government, was quoted in an article about race in the Sacramento Observer on July 16, in a Proposition 34 story in the Aug. 8 Sacramento Bee, and during an Aug. 6 interview with the Minority Broadcasting Corporation.
Ethnic studies effort expands

A pioneering CSUS program that introduced an ethnic studies curriculum at Sacramento’s Hiram Johnson High School is expanding exponentially, thanks in part to a three-year, $375,000 Federal Learn and Serve grant.

Last fall, CSUS students and faculty in the ethnic studies department launched an ethnic studies course for ninth-grade students at the high school. The curriculum, which is considered a model for other programs in the state, has been designed to increase and retain students. In the first year of the program, 10th through 12th grades as well, focusing on such issues as globalization, economics, history of the United States and community politics.

In the spring, a math and science tutoring and mentoring component was added at both Hiram Johnson and at nearby Wilson C. Wood Middle School. Preliminary results show improved test scores, increased classroom participation and decreased discipline referrals.

This fall the components will come together as a Community Studies Academy at Hiram Johnson with the ethnic studies course as the anchor.

Gregory Mark, chair of the ethnic studies department, credits the program’s quick take off to the leadership at Hiram Johnson. The expansion is already ahead of schedule, Mark says. “Because of the success, the door’s wide open.”

The program was developed in response to a needs assessment conducted by CSUS ethnic studies students. Concerns expressed by parents, students, faculty and neighbors included increased safety, youth violence and gangs, substance abuse, student-teacher relationships and after-school activities.

Sixty-five ethnic studies students from CSUS take part as facilitators and tutors, providing important role models for the high school students. The ethnic studies department has also been involved in the on-going refinement of the curriculum.

“The benefits they receive are incredible. Students are learning how to write proposals, but for a purpose,” Mark says. “We’re building strong community partnerships. This is potentially a national model.”

The Community Studies Academy is designed to fit the school-within-a school structure being implemented in Sacramento-area schools. The idea is to provide students with skills and knowledge for careers in community services such as health and human services, youth programs, education and government, and to offer service-learning opportunities.

In addition to the ethnic studies course and the availability of tutoring, mentoring, programs include a documentary arts sequence, a peer counseling course and a service learning internship.

• Service learning: The Academy will include an on-campus community-based organization to provide programs to strengthen the school and community. As part of the curricular, CSUS professors will develop internships programs where 11th- and 12th-grade students can gain skills necessary for entry-level jobs and explore careers.

• Documentary arts: To help students connect their classroom lessons to everyday experience in their community, 10th, 11th and 12th grade students will complete a documentary arts program where they’ll learn video production techniques and methods for conducting oral history projects.

The goal is for students to create community documentaries and preserve their identities for future generations.

CSUS ethnic studies professor James Sobredo helped develop the curriculum and is overseeing the documentary class.

• Peer counseling: To decrease conflict on campus, the Academy will develop a peer counseling program where 11th and 12th grade students, trained in listening skills and crisis intervention and mediation techniques, will be available to counsel other students.

The student counselors will be supervised by school social workers.

For more information, contact the ethnic studies department at 278-6645 or 278-6646.

Campus joins online-only trend

The new rules will apply to those applying for the fall 2003 academic year. Students who are unable to apply online can contact CSU or UC admissions offices.

Students can apply to the CSU system at www.csumentor.edu. The site has extensive information about the application process as well as campuses and majors. Students are encouraged to apply by Nov. 30 for fall.

Anita Hall

CMS software. If the budget allows, that will be done over the next two or three years. Most of the staff’s best estimate of the job is helping people navigate the often complex campus bureaucracy.

“I can name a difference here,” she says. “That’s one of the things I’ve always felt. I can guide people and help them with their problems.”
**DYNAMIC DRAG**

Combine a cappella singing, satirical comedy and over-the-top drag and you have The Kinsey Sicks, a gender-bending “beaushop quartet” bringing its one-of-a-kind Dragapella revue to CSUS at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Dec. 1 in the University Union Ballroom. Los Angeles Magazine said, “The Kinsey Sicks will put a jingle on your face and a song in your heart. These four music-makers-writers-composers-drag queens are wickedly gay, and man, can they sing! Complete a cappella, their material is intelligent and scathingly funny … With their impeccable timing, precise harmonies, and cultural savvy, the Kinseys represent fabulous, satirical queer humor at its finest.” Founded in 1980 by a group of friends who went in drag to a San Francisco Bette Midler concert, Ben Schatz, Irwin Keller, Chris Dilley and Kevin Smith Kirkwood have gone on to become one of the hottest touring groups in the nation. The Kinsey Sicks’ all-origi-
nal productions include Motel Sicks: A Dragapella Summer Vacation and Everything But the Kitch’n ‘N Synch. Their off-Broadway show, Dragapella, hit the standard 200 at the Delight of critics. The show was nominated for a Lucille Lortel award as best musical and for a Drama Desk Award for best lyrics. The Kinsey Sicks are presented by the CSUS Multi-Cultural Center, the Women’s Resource Center and the Queer Straight Alliance. Tickets are $7.50 general, $5 for CSUS students and available from the CSUS Ticket Office at (916) 278-4323 or at Tickets.com.