THIS WEEK

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Top artists to perform at 28th New Music Festival
Full Story

NEW MUSIC, LEGENDARY MUSICIAN—Jazz trombonist Wayne Wallace, who has played with greats like Sonny Rollins, and the Count Basie Orchestra, is among the headliners at the University’s 28th Festival of New American Music Nov. 3 to 13. Dozens of national, local and campus artists and composers will perform.

Study: Controlling growth doesn’t mean higher housing prices
A new study from Sacramento State questions the notion that policies designed to control sprawl also increase housing prices. Full Story

The (Green) and Golden Gate
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Top artists to perform at 28th New Music Festival

One of the nation’s longest-running annual events dedicated to contemporary music, the Festival of New American Music, returns to the Sacramento State campus for its 28th year Nov. 3 to 13.

National, local and Sacramento State new music artists and composers will perform at venues ranging from the University’s Music Recital Hall to Crocker Art Museum. Other offerings include forums with composers, classes taught by performers and presentations at area community colleges and schools. All events are open to the public and nearly all are free.

The festival’s gala opening concert, simulcast on Capital Public Radio’s KXPR 90.9 FM, starts the 11-day event at 8 p.m., Nov. 3 in the Sacramento Grand Ballroom at 629 J St.

Headlining visiting performers include jazz trombonist Wayne Wallace, who has played with greats like Sonny Rollins, McCoy Tyner and the Count Basie Orchestra; guitar virtuoso David Starobin, known for his innovative approach to contemporary music; and soprano Kathleen Roland, whose work spans the world of opera, orchestral and contemporary music.

Nearly 20 additional visiting composers are set to present major modern musical works as well as discuss their compositions in forums and pre-concert talks. The lineup includes festival keynote speaker Richard Felciano, an award-winning composer; Richard Festinger, a founding director of Earplay; cellist and performance artist Joan Jeanrenaud; and percussionist David Colson.

Ensembles performing include the New Century Saxophone Quartet and Kairos, a group known for its improvisational music. The New York New Music Ensemble, a voice in the field of new music for nearly 30 years, and the San Francisco Contemporary Music Players will also take the stage.

Artists from Sacramento State include the Festival Ensemble, a faculty group with local artists; the Sacramento State Symphonic Wind Ensemble and the Sacramento State Percussion Group. The Sacramento State Jazz Ensemble and the Latin Jazz Ensemble will perform with Wayne Wallace at the festival’s final performance at 8 p.m., Nov. 13 in the Music Recital Hall in Capistrano Hall.

Festival of New American Music Schedule

For more information, call the Music Department at 278-5155.

Study: Controlling growth doesn’t mean higher housing prices

A new study from Sacramento State questions the notion that policies designed to control sprawl also increase housing prices.

Instead, researchers examining data on hundreds of urbanized areas in the United States found that if an area’s population in its central locations increases by 10 percent—which reduces the amount of sprawl—then the median price of a home in that area falls by 2.7 percent.

In the Sacramento region the median resale price of a home rose to $394,450 in August. This finding means that if 10 percent more of the Sacramento region’s
population lived in Citrus Heights, Elk Grove, Folsom, Roseville or Sacramento—areas the Census defines as the Sacramento region’s “central locations”—home buyers in the county could be expected to pay about $10,000 less for a middle-priced home.

“An often-used argument against reducing sprawl is that it will drive up the cost of housing. Our findings show that smart growth policies designed to control sprawl in and of themselves do not raise housing prices in a region,” said Robert Wassmer, professor of public policy and administration, who conducted the research with then-student Michelle Baass as part of her master’s thesis.

Wassmer and Baass, who now works for the California Legislative Analyst’s Office, found that housing prices can be expected to fall in an urban area that is reducing sprawl because homeowners are more likely to choose smaller homes on smaller lots. They also found that growth controls constrain the ability of urban dwellers to build larger homes on large lots at the fringe of an urban area, keeping prices down.

Their research, which will appear in a forthcoming issue of the Journal of Policy Analysis and Management, is believed to be one of the first studies to document this relationship between smart growth policies and housing prices.

The issue of planning for future growth has sparked fierce debate across the country. “Sprawl affects the way we live,” said Wassmer, who has done extensive research on the causes and consequences of urban sprawl in the United States. “Sprawl has been blamed for traffic congestion, air pollution, loss of open space, and economic, racial and ethnic segregation. But sprawl also enables people to buy the bigger homes they often desire in the suburban places they view as far away from the problems of the central locations.”

Many communities are adopting smart growth policies designed to limit future sprawl. For example, the Sacramento Area Council of Governments last year adopted what is called the Preferred Blueprint Scenario, a land-use and transportation planning document to centralize growth over the next 50 years.

Wassmer and Baass examined 2000 U.S. Census data from 452 urbanized areas across the country to determine how the degree of population centralization influences housing prices. “Our evidence shows that greater centralization in an urban area results in a reduced proportion of upper-priced homes in that urban area and a lower median-priced house for the entire area,” Wassmer said.

But Wassmer also added that more research on the issue is needed before he can say with certainty that cutting sprawl is always the most appropriate policy course. “Nevertheless, our research casts doubt on one commonly cited cost of efforts to reduce sprawl in urban America—that such a public policy necessarily raises urban housing prices,” Wassmer said.

Wassmer can be reached at 278-6304 or rwassme@csus.edu. A copy of the complete study “Does a More Centralized Urban Form Raise Housing Prices?” is available at www.csus.edu/indiv/w/wassmerr.

—Ted DeAdwyler
**The (Green) and Golden Gate**

Two Sacramento State students walking across the Guy A. West Suspension Bridge on the way to class one morning pondered a question that had nothing to do with surprise quizzes or grade point averages.

“Who was Guy West anyway?” asked one.

Replied the second student, “Why, I guess he built this bridge.”

Not a bad guess, but technically, a little wide of the mark.

Guy West was the first president of Sacramento State when it opened in 1947 in temporary quarters at Sacramento City College. The pedestrian bridge that is far from pedestrian in design was named in his honor. It opened in 1967, 14 years after the University’s move to the present site, to connect the campus with the then wide-open spaces on the east bank of the American River. West had retired a year before the bridge was dedicated in 1967.

As it was intended, the bridge remains a landmark, a baby cousin of the famed Golden Gate Bridge.

The 600-foot Guy West span was hailed as the “longest foot suspension bridge in the United States” at the time of its opening. That title has been lost to other projects. For example, the recently opened Sundial Bridge suspended over the Sacramento River’s Turtle Bay at Redding is 700 feet long.

The years have not, however, diminished the impressive visuals of the Guy West, with its twin 1,144-foot towers, its gently arched walkway, and, from the east or west railing, the sun glinting off ripples on the river’s surface. The bridge won first prize in special-type bridges in an annual contest sponsored by the American Institute of Steel Construction a year after it opened.

All this and at a bargain 1966-67 price. The Guy West cost $636,000 to build. The new Sundial beauty at Redding topped out at $19.7 million by the time it opened on Fourth of July 2004.

The bargain of the Guy West was further enhanced by the fact that it didn’t cost taxpayers a dime. It was paid for by the developers of Campus Commons, the residential and commercial development on the east side of the bridge that was only in the design stage when the bridge was built.

The bridge was designed by Ted D’Amico, then executive vice president of The Spink Corp., a Sacramento-based engineering firm that planned and designed much of Sacramento’s city and county development. “Where Campus Commons is now was a hops field,” D’Amico says. “The people who bought the land and were the prime developers—Bob Hurst and Henry Moss—realized that they had to tie the development to the campus with convenient access. They came up with the idea of a suspension bridge. And the campus needed a visual identity like the Campanile at UC Berkeley and the Hoover Tower at Stanford.

“We could have designed a simple functional bridge which wouldn’t have been as high but the developers wanted a suspension bridge and it had the advantage of not having to build piers in the water.”

But being the understudy to a legend has its drawbacks as well. Unlike the much larger Golden Gate Bridge, where the salt air ravages keep a painting crew busy year around, the Guy West hasn’t had a cosmetic makeover in 20 years. Its once golden tone has mellowed to a salmon color.
The bridge was turned over to the city of Sacramento upon its completion and both the city and the campus are eager to get the bridge a much-needed paint job, this time with a Sacramento State-appropriate twist—a new green and gold color scheme for the towers with the University’s name on the span.

The paint job could be expensive—about $2 million—not so much for the fresh paint, but because crews must first buff off the existing lead-based paint. To prevent the lead from falling into the river below, the bridge would have to be wrapped with plastic in much the same way Sacramento’s Tower Bridge was wrapped during its facelift.

The bridge redo is high on the city’s maintenance list and could be even higher if funding became available. And both the city and the University also agree, contributions from donors would be more than welcome. After all, we’re talking a landmark here.

To contribute, contact the University’s Development Office at 278-6989.

**Fortieth ski and snowboard swap**

To celebrate the 40th anniversary of the largest one-day sale of new and used ski and snowboard equipment in the Sacramento area, lift tickets to Sugar Bowl Ski Resort will be given away to the first 800 paying attendees of the Sacramento State Ski and Snowboard Swap. The University’s Ski and Snowboard Club will hold the swap from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 23, in the University Union Ballroom.

People of all ages can sell their used ski and snowboard equipment, clothing and accessories and buy newer ones at the event. To sell gear, attendees must check in their equipment the day before from 12 to 4 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 22. Unsold items or cash for sold items can be picked up from 6 to 9 p.m. after the swap.

Lift tickets and season passes will be available for purchase from various Lake Tahoe resorts. Local law enforcement and health organizations will be on hand to teach health and safety techniques to prevent injuries while playing in the snow or driving on winter highways. There will be a live band and entertainment for children.

Admission is $7 general, $5 for seniors and students with an ID and free for children 12 years and under. Early-bird admission at 9:30 a.m. will be $20 general and free for ages 12 and under. Parking will be free for the event. For more information, contact Soroush Rahiman of the Ski and Snowboard Club at 718-8966 or visit www.skiclubatcsus.com/swap05.
Academic promotions announced

The following academic promotions were effective at the beginning of the 2005-06 academic year:

To associate professor:
Bruce Bikle, Criminal Justice
Diego Bonilla, Communication Studies
Marielle Brandt, Counselor Education
Alyson Buckman, Humanities and Religious Studies
Nicole Buffard O’Shea, Foreign Languages
Nancy Carlton, Counselor Education
Jacqueline Carrigan, Sociology
Aaron Cohen, History
Wilfrido Corral, Foreign Languages
Suzette Cote, Criminal Justice
James Cox, Government
Michael Delacorte, Anthropology
Maria Dinis, Social Work
Craig Gallet, Economics
Rebecca Garcia-Gonzalez, Bilingual Multicultural Education
Yiongliang Han, College of Business Administration
Amy Heckathorn Topping, English
Janet Hesch, Bilingual Multicultural Education
Rita Johnson, Teacher Education
Robin Kennedy, Social Work
Randolph Mayes, Philosophy
Susan O’Hara, Teacher Education
Daryl Parker, Kinesiology and Health Science
David Rolloff, Recreation and Leisure Studies
Dale Russell, Social Work
Deidre Sessoms, Teacher Education
Mark Siegler, Economics
Lee Simpson, History
James Sobredo, Ethnic Studies
Gloria Solomon, Kinesiology and Health Science
Ka Va, Bilingual Multicultural Education
David Zeanah, Anthropology

To professor:
Behnam Arad, Computer Science
Linda Buckley, English
Forrest Davis, Bilingual Multicultural Education
Susan Gomez, Child Development
Susan Heredia, Bilingual Multicultural Education
Scott Modell, Kinesiology and Health Science
Kathleen Moore, Foreign Languages
Chevelle Newsome, Communication Studies
Randy Phelps, Physics
Celeste Roseberry-McKibben, Speech Pathology and Audiology
Lynn Tashiro, Physics
Hugh Wilson, Criminal Justice

To associate librarian:
Maria Kochis

To librarian:
Mary Reddick
Faculty Senate schedule

Monday, Oct. 17
2 p.m., Committee on Diversity and Equity (CODE), University Union Capital Suite

3 p.m., General Education/Graduation Requirements Policies Committee, Sacramento Hall 150

Tuesday, Oct. 18
1:30 p.m., Curriculum Policies Committee

3 p.m., Executive Committee

3 p.m., University ARTP Committee, University Union Capital Suite

Wednesday, Oct. 19
1 p.m., Faculty Policies Committee

2:30 p.m., Visiting Scholars Subcommittee, Library 4026 — tentative

Friday, Oct. 21
2 p.m., Academic Policies Committee

All meetings are in Sacramento Hall 275 unless otherwise noted.

Professional Activities

Recognition

JoAnn Aguirre has been named assistant vice president for student academic success and educational equity. She was previously associate director for academic outreach in the Student Academic Support Division of the CSU Chancellor's Office. Before that she was the director of the CSU's California Predoctoral Program. She will begin on Nov. 1.

Rosemary Papa, Center for Teaching and Learning, has been named director for professional education doctorates. She will oversee planning for the University’s independent doctorate in education as well as continuing to direct the existing Joint Doctoral Program in education with Sonoma State and UC Davis.

Scholarship

Dave Zuckerman, Communication Studies, reviewed papers from the International and Intercultural Communication Division and from the Mass Communication Division for the 2006 Convention of the Western States Communication Association.

Leon Wiebers, Theatre and Dance, designed costumes for the productions of Grease and West Side Story for California Music Circus. The Sacramento Bee review of West Side described the production as "...a '50s technicolor dream enhanced by...Leon Wiebers' vibrant costumes."

Dan Melzer, University Reading and Writing Coordinator, gave the talk "Methods and Models for Building a Writing Across the Curriculum Program," and a workshop, "Creating Effective Writing Assignments in Any Discipline," at James Madison University on Oct. 6 and 7.
Ian Harvey, Art, will exhibit his work "Improvisations in Freefall: Works on Paper, 1997-2002" at Bibi Space in Daejeon, South Korea from Oct. 20 to Nov. 11.

Bill Owen, Communication Studies, was the moderator and a contributor at a poetry reading given at the Gekkeikan Sake Factory on Oct. 8 as part of the City of Folsom's Annual Arts and Humanities Month activities. This was the fifth year for the reading.

**News Digest**

**Physics talks set**
The Physics Department has announced its colloquium schedule for fall 2005. Talks will be from 4 to 5:30 p.m. on Thursdays in Mendocino Hall 1015.

- Oct. 20, Kurt Woschnagg, UC Berkeley Physics Department, "Extreme Neutrinos: Using a Cube of 50,000-year-old South Pole Ice to Peer into Space."
- Nov. 3, Daniel Palanker, Stanford University Hansen Experimental Physics Lab, "Artificial Sight: An Optoelectronic Retinal Prosthesis"
- Nov. 17, Hossein Partovi, Sacramento State Physics Department, "Albert Einstein: The Physicist and the Man"
- Dec. 1, Raymond Chiao, UC Berkeley Physics Department, "QM and GR"
- Date TBA, Tatiana Serga, Sacramento State Physics Department, "Recent Work in LCs"
- Date TBA, Brian Kolner, UC Davis Applied Science, "Ultra-fast Lasers and Clocks"
- Dec 6 and/or 8 Student Talks

Details: 278-6518

**USA social planned**
The annual University Staff Assembly Winter Social will be at 11:30 a.m., Tuesday, Dec. 6 in the University Union Ballroom III.

Details: 278-7207

**Photo exhibit**
"The Weavers of Chincheros and Wilok and Portraits from Peru," photographs by biological sciences staff member Jana Shober, will be on display in the Java City Coffee House in the University Union from Oct. 5 to Nov. 30.

Details: 278-7677

**New service for employees**
HR Self Service is now available to all Sacramento State including staff, faculty and student assistants. Employees can view benefits and payroll information as well as update personal information such as addresses, phone numbers and emergency contacts. The information is secure and can be accessed only by using a SacLink user id/password. Access to HR Self Service and to the HR Self Service Training guide is available at [http://www.csus.edu/cms/hr/hr_users_information.stm](http://www.csus.edu/cms/hr/hr_users_information.stm).

Assistance with HR Self Service is available by contacting the CMS Help Desk at 278-2670.

**Research proposals deadline**
Guidelines for the 2006-07 Research and Creative Activity Award Program are now available at [http://www.csus.edu/rsp/rcaa_guidelines.htm](http://www.csus.edu/rsp/rcaa_guidelines.htm). The program provides support for faculty research. The maximum award is a summer fellowship, three units of assigned time and a monetary grant or six units of assigned time and a
monetary grant.

To assist applicants in preparing a competitive proposal, the Research and Creative Activity Subcommittee will have two proposal workshops, both in the University Union Orchard Suite. The first will be 2 to 4 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 24. The second will be 10 a.m. to noon, Tuesday, October 25.

The deadline for receipt of proposals is 5 p.m., Friday, Nov. 11 to the Office of Research and Sponsored Projects, Modoc Hall 2007.

**Athletics ticket plans for faculty/staff**
The Sacramento State athletics department is offering two ticket plans for faculty and staff during 2005-06. Both plans are variations of the Hornet Gold Card which has been offered in the past.

The standard plan allows the cardholder and immediate family members admission to all Sacramento State home events with the exception of football and men's basketball. The plan, which is available for $50, includes men’s and women's soccer, volleyball, women's basketball, gymnastics, baseball, softball and track and field.

The platinum plan provides all the same amenities as the standard plan with the addition of two general admission tickets to football and men's basketball games (through Dec. 31). It is available for $100.

Details: 278-2222

**Green and Gold Gala to celebrate Sacramento State and its supporters**

Sacramento State will celebrate its successes and honor two of its most important benefactors at the inaugural Green and Gold Gala the evening of Thursday, Oct. 20 in the University Union Ballroom.

Alex and Faye Spanos will be the guests of honor at the black-tie event. They’ll be recognized for their commitment of $10 million for the Recreation Wellness and Events Center project, as well as previous gifts that allowed the University to host the 2000 and 2004 U.S. Olympic Track and Field Trials.

The Green and Gold Gala will include a reception, dinner and dancing. There will also be talks and displays to showcase the campus, a new Destination 2010 video and more than a few surprises.

In addition to recognizing Mr. and Mrs. Spanos, additional leadership gifts to the University will be announced at the gala, says Vice President for University Advancement Carole Hayashino.

"The early response and broad support from the community and the campus has been very encouraging," says Hayashino, who is responsible for the event. "There is great pride in Sacramento State. Everyone realizes how important it is to celebrate the University and recognize those individuals whose contributions are making a difference."

Hayashino says efforts are under way to ensure that costs of the event are covered through sponsorship contributions. A number of sponsorships have already been finalized, including Capital Public Radio, Comcast, Mumm Napa, Sacramento magazine and Steltzner Vineyards. Other major sponsors will be recognized at the event.
The honorary co-chairs for the Green and Gold Gala are Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and First Lady Maria Shriver. While it is unlikely either will be able to attend, both have endorsed the event and encouraged friends and supporters to participate.

The Honorary Gala Committee members are:

- U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein
- U.S. Representatives John Doolittle, Wally Herger, Dan Lungren, Doris Matsui and Mike Thompson
- State Senators Dave Cox and Deborah Ortiz
- Assembly Members Noreen Evans, Dave Jones, Tim Leslie, Lloyd Levine and Lois Wolk
- Sacramento City Council: Mayor Heather Fargo, Steve Cohn, Robert King Fong, Lauren Hammond, Kevin McCarty, Bonnie Pannell, Ray Tretheway and Robbie Waters
- Sacramento County Supervisors: Illa Colin, Roger Dickinson, Roberta MacGlashan, Don Nottoli and Susan Peters
- Placer County Supervisor Bruce Kranz
- Mayors: Christopher Cabaldon (West Sacramento), Darryl Clare (Galt), Ken Cooley (Rancho Cordova), Tom Cosgrove (Lincoln), Alice Dowdin (Auburn) and Gina Garbolino (Roseville)
- Sacramento County District Attorney Jan Scully
- Sacramento Police Chief Albert Najera
- Friends of the University John Gesek, David Gordon, David Hosley, William H. Lee, Randy E. Paragary, Raul Rodriguez, Sylvia Ruiz, Darrell Steinberg, Scott Syphax, Fred and Nancy Teichert, Robert Thomas, Angelo Tsakopoulos, Roger J. Valine and Carla Vasquez

Tickets are $200 per person. A special ticket price of $150 per person is available for campus hosts (Sacramento State faculty and staff).

More information and tickets are available at (916) 278-3349 or (916) 278-7043. Tickets may be purchased online at www.cce.csus.edu/conferences.

Teach-in analyzes social contract

A social contract is an agreement of rights and responsibilities between citizens and their government. This November, that contract will be the topic of a panel discussion at Sacramento State, “Reinvigorating the Social Contract in the 21st Century.” The free lecture will take place from 1-5 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 1 at the Hinde Auditorium in the University Union.

University of California, San Francisco sociology professor Carroll Estes will lead the conversation and accentuate the responsibilities of the government in times of widespread crisis. The discussion will highlight the emergency response to Hurricane Katrina and criticisms by the public and media.

The panel will also discuss how California’s upcoming special election, the nation’s social security program and effective disaster relief are all affected by the social contract. The event is sponsored by the Sacramento State Division of Social Work and the Government, Gerontology and Women's Studies departments.

For more information, contact Sacramento State professors Lynn Cooper at cooperlb@csus.edu or Sue Taylor at (916) 278-7176 or at
On the Job with the Equipment Support Center

The Bulletin spoke with Mike Farnham, optical equipment technician III, of the Equipment Support Center.

What do people think you do?

“People don’t know we’re even down here (under Sequoia Hall).”

What do you really do?

“We’re a fabrication shop, so we make things using everything from computer-operated machines to hand saws. If we can’t buy it, we make it. We have professors that come down here with a drawing of a device on their napkins, or they point to it in a catalog, and we’ll draw it on a Computer-Assisted Design system, with dimensions. We make it, they’ll test it and bring it back to modify it. We teach physics, chemistry, biology and engineering students, some of whom have never worked with machinery before, and get them up to speed so they’re not afraid to build things on their own. In my special role, I do lots of microscope work. If I can’t find a replacement part, I’ll make it and reproduce it about seven or eight times, knowing there’ll be future repairs. I’ve probably done 1,000 scopes during my time here—and that isn’t all the scopes on campus.”

Describe your office.

“I have an array of small-instrument equipment for the scopes. We have a complete machine shop, paint booth and a welding area. Three people work in this office. All of us have a wealth of skills. What I lack, they have, and what they lack, I have. We all do carpentry work, welding and painting, and machining. It’s a great team.”

What surprises people?

“They see that I have so many scopes. In order to keep these scopes alive, I need to reuse the parts of other scopes, and I have to keep them all down here. They get fascinated when they see the machines working by themselves, and the things we create, from a cabinet for the geology department to kiosks for Material Safety Data Sheet computers.”

What is your biggest challenge?

“Well, it’s not running out of creative things to do. You don’t do the same thing over and over. A new challenge is around the corner. I’d say building a radio telescope is new to me.”

What do you get asked the most?

“‘You must have a lot of fun down here?’ And I say, ‘Yes, I do.’”

Company explores aspects of love

The Broadway hit Company, a Stephen Sondheim-composed musical about the joys and trials of marriage, is set to light up the stage at Sacramento State. The show opens at 8 p.m., Oct. 28 in the University Theatre in Shasta Hall. Performances
continue at 8 p.m., Oct. 29, Nov. 3 to 5 and 11 and 12, and at 2 p.m., Oct. 30 and Nov. 6 and 13. A special-priced performance will be at 6:30 p.m., Nov. 2.

Directed by Sacramento State professor Ed Brazo with musical direction by Pete Nowlen, Company offers an insightful look at the love lives of five couples and their friend Bobby, a bachelor who is waiting for that “special someone” with whom he can finally tie the knot. With friends that are all romantically involved, Bobby becomes privy to the less-appealing side of love: fights, plans of affairs, talks of divorce, drinking and drugs, which cause him to consider if he should get married at all.

“The musicals composed by Stephen Sondheim have made a very strong influence in the musical theater world over the past 30 years,” says Brazo. “The music and singing style of his shows is difficult and challenging, so we wanted the students to have that challenge this year.”

Tickets are $18 general, $12 for students and Sacramento State staff, and $10 for seniors and high school students. Tickets for the special showing at 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, Nov. 2 are $8 general and $5 for students and seniors. They are available through the Sacramento State Ticket Office at 278-4323 or Tickets.com.

For more information, contact the Department of Theatre and Dance at 278-6368.

STREET & SMITH’S PICKS MEN’S HOOPS THIRD, HARRIS TABBED PRESEASON POY AGAIN

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Street and Smith’s College Basketball Magazine became the second preseason publication to select the Sacramento State men’s basketball squad to finish third in the Big Sky Conference for the upcoming season. Lindy’s Basketball Magazine, which hit newsstands earlier this month, also tabbed the Hornets to finish third.

The third-place selection marks the highest the Hornets have been predicted to finish by a publication since joining the Big Sky in 1996. In addition, Hornet senior swingman Jason Harris was tabbed preseason player of the year, and has now earned the distinction from four different publications (CBS SportsLine College Basketball, Athlon Sports College Basketball, Street and Smith’s College Basketball and Lindy’s Basketball).

Street and Smith’s selected Montana State to finish first in the conference, followed by Montana, Sacramento State, Northern Arizona, Weber State, Portland State, Eastern Washington and Idaho State, respectively.

The Hornets return nine players, including four starters, from last year’s roster which posted a 12-16 overall record and an 8-6 conference mark. After beginning last season with just three wins in its first 14 games, Sacramento State closed the year by winning nine of its final 14 games and hosted a Big Sky Tournament quarterfinal game for the second year in a row.

Harris, who was named first team all-conference and was the Big Sky’s Newcomer of the Year, averaged 17.5 points, 4.6 rebounds, 2.0 steals and 7.9 trips to the free throw line per game last season. In addition, the Henderson, Texas, native had 11 games with at least 20 points, the top mark in Sacramento State Div. I history (1991-pres.), and set the program record with 213 free-throw attempts.

Under the leadership of head coach Jerome Jenkins, Sacramento State has improved its conference record five-consecutive years, culminating in a program-best 8-6 record in the Big Sky last year (2-14 in 2000-01, 3-11 in 2001-02, 5-9 in 2002-03, 7-7 in 2003-04, 8-6 in 2004-05).