NEW CENTER

Nursing Students to Work in New Helvetia

Students at CSUS will open a nursing services center in New Helvetia this fall, the first time the University’s nursing students have run such a project. The students will provide nursing assessments on overall health, physical needs and housing conditions. They will offer health education, carry out health promotion programs, assess the development of infants and children, offer blood pressure screenings and help residents access community resources.

In the process, the students will complete the service work required in their community nursing class. Pat Ackerman, a CSUS nursing professor who teaches community nursing and is helping coordinate the center, says that running the center will provide students a valuable new experience. Typically, students complete service hours in programs such as Healthy Start or through county departments, which don’t ask them to take on management duties.

“This will help our students develop a strong understanding of the community and sense of responsibility for the community,” says Ackerman. “It will also give them a sense of autonomy, a chance to solve problems on their own while working with people where they live. And, of course, it will be great for residents.”

The center officially opens Tuesday, Sept. 14. It will be located in a small apartment in the New Helvetia subsidized housing community.

Initially, the center will be open Tuesdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., though plans call for expanding the number of days as the center develops.

Day-to-day operations will be supervised by nursing professor Mary Summers. The focus will be on providing services that residents of New Helvetia and River Oaks say they want. In fact, it was residents who asked the CSUS division of nursing to establish the center.

To lay the groundwork for the new center, four nursing graduate students carried out a community assessment last semester. What they found, says Ackerman, is a tight-knit community, one that has developed a popular child development center and worked with Sacramento police to dramatically lower the crime rate over the last decade. It is an ethnically diverse community, with many single mothers, welfare recipients and elderly.

New Helvetia and River Oaks initially opened in 1942 as housing for World War II veterans. It is now owned by the city, and rent is based upon the occupants’ ability to pay.

Conference to Focus on Civic Duty

The conference will begin with a 1:30 p.m. tour of art in public places, featuring Sacramento’s new U.S. Courthouse and the Sacramento Public Library. On Saturday, attendees may either volunteer with Habitat for Humanity or tour Napa’s di Rosa Preserve.

Run Will Raise Funds for New LIFE Center

The 2000 U.S. Olympic Track and Field Trials are coming to CSUS in July, but athletes of all ages will be able to run for their lives this October.

The inaugural RUN 4 LIFE event will take place Sunday, Oct. 10. The 5K run/walk/wheelchair race ends on the site of the 2000 U.S. Olympic Track and Field Trials.

They will be running in the future footsteps of Olympic athletes,” said Anmita Watson, RUN 4 LIFE race coordinator and nursing professor. More than 500 runners and walkers are expected to take part in RUN 4 LIFE.

Doug Hansen, development director for the College of Health and Human Services, said the race is an opportunity to bring people of all ages together to promote wellness.

“Cross-generational involvement has proven to be helpful in prolonging life and keeping people healthy,” Hansen said.

Event organizers hope to raise between $12,000 and $15,000. Funds will be used exclusively to support the University’s new LIFE Center, to be housed in the University’s historic Julia Morgan House. The LIFE (Lifetime, Innovations in Fitness for Everyone) Center, a project of the College of Health and Human Services, will promote health for older adults by delivering health services, education and research information.

Plans are to make the run an annual event. RUN 4 LIFE events start at 7 a.m. Those ages 12-59 will race in the “Kids” division, ages 60-69 in the “Young Seniors” division, and ages 70-plus in the “Super Seniors” division. A “Children’s Race,” for those ages two to 11 will start at 10 a.m.

Registration before Sept. 27 is $15 and race day registration is $20. Children and seniors pay $10. Seniors ages 80 and over race for free.

Register by mail by sending checks payable to CSUS/Run, c/o College of Health and Human Services, CSUS, 6000 J Street, Sacramento CA 95819-6104. More information is available at 278-7255.
Scholarship

GLENDA R. THOMAS, teacher education, had an article, “Parents in the GATE Classroom,” published in the fall 1999 edition of the Communicator, the newsletter of the California Association for the Gifted. The article pulls from Thomas’ 20 years of experience teaching elementary-level gifted and talented classes in the Sacramento City Unified School District.

JIN HERNANDEZ and DIANE CARRIL, criminal justice, recently completed a second training conference in northern Thailand. The conference dealt with American experience with youth gangs. The participants were primarily Thai police officers and government officials.

TERRI CASTANEDA, anthropology, was elected to the board of directors of the Discovery Museum. Castaneda will chair the Exhibits and Education Committee. The two-year appointment runs through April 2001.

SUSAN WYCOFF, counselor education, had a proposal accepted for presentation at the annual American Counseling Association 2000 conference to be held in Washington D.C. The presentation, “The Logic of Collective Action: Infusing Service-Learning into Counseling Cousework,” will address the conference theme “Formulating Our Future: Our Responsibility and Potential.”


BOB CURRY, emeritus economics, was invited to join the Asia-Pacific Strategy Forum, a policy analysis group. His analyses will focus on Southeast Asian economic growth, distributional inequalities and poverty.

Next summer, he will again teach Asian economic development at the University of Hawaii. He’ll also lecture at Vietnam National University in Hanoi in early next year and do research at Singapore’s Institute of Southeast Asian Studies with field work in Thailand and Vietnam. He’ll contribute an article, “Teaching About Southeast Asian Economics” for Teaching About Asia: An Asian Studies Association publication.

DIANE CAMPBELL, bilingual/multicultural education, published the second edition of her book Choosing Democracy: A Practical Guide to Multicultural Education. Campus co-authors include FORREST DAVIS and PAI WONG, bilingual/multicultural education, ERIC VEGA, ethnic studies, VELMA VILLEGAS, educational administration and policy studies, and DIANE CORRIDORO DE NORIEGA, dean of the College of Education.

New article

Joshua McKinney

Joshua McKinney describes himself as an “experimental” poet with traditional leanings: “I’m not interested in writing about things I already know,” McKinney says. “I want it to be a process of discovery.”

McKinney teaches poetry writing courses and introductory creative writing classes, through which he enjoys producing avant garde works, he teaches his students poetry of all types.

The Fair Oaks resident is originally from Northern California. He comes to CSUS from Valdosta State University in Georgia, where he was a tenured associate professor. McKinney says he’s encouraged by the increasing sales of poetry publications. He hopes it will encourage those afraid of tackling poetry to experiment with the genre.

A father of two children, McKinney says he understands how people can come to dislike poetry at a young age.

“Blackbird”

Joshua McKinney

“We read Dr. Seuss as children, and we enjoy the sheer sound of language. Then in high school we are asked to interpret Shakespeare’s sonnets,” McKinney says. “ ‘What does this poem mean?’ teachers ask us. It’s traumatic to go from ‘A to Z’ like that.”

As with any discipline, McKinney says, the joys of poetry writing can be found within the basics.

McKinney holds a doctorate degree in English from the University of Denver. He earned his master’s and bachelor’s degrees and a teaching credential from Humboldt State University.

Among his many activities at Valdosta State, McKinney received a $15,000 grant from the Georgia Humanities Council for the Valdosta State University Writers’ Conference.

McKinney is currently at work on a series of poems entitled Batten, some of which have appeared in recent issues of Quarterly West, the University of Utah’s literary journal. McKinney expects more of his Batten poems to be published this fall in American and Letters Commentary and First Intensity. Another will appear in Colorado Review this spring.

Health Center Lands Governor’s Award

A mock trauma at CSUS has earned some real accolades from Gov. Gray Davis. The staff of the University’s Suzanne Shively Health Center received the Governor’s Employee Safety Award Aug. 20 for a campus crisis drill staged last year.

The award, which recognizes outstanding contributions to promoting employee safety, is the result of a mass casualty test-run conducted on campus in May 1998.

The exercise challenged health center and psychological services staff to deal with a realistic emergency (the aftermath of a strong earthquake, complete with structural failures, power and water outages, and toxic fumes). The center’s entire staff of nurses, physicians, technicians, x-ray technicians, psychological services staff and clerical personnel were recognized for their efforts.

Correction

In last week’s story about the Center for Teaching and Learning workshops for new faculty members, the topics for the Oct. 21-22 sessions and the Nov. 4-5 sessions were reversed. “Rules Rewards and Responsibilities” will be on Oct. 21-22. “Freshmen and General Education” will be on Nov. 4-5. Also, for seminar sessions two through six, only the second topic listed will be addressed by the speakers. The first topic will be covered as part of an ongoing discussion of the book Effective Grading.
**Nearly 50,000 Campus Tickets Sold Through New System**

Almost 50,000 tickets for CSUS events have been sold since January through the University’s new ticketing system, which includes a Central Ticket Office in the University Union and a contract with BASS Ticket Outlets.

The Central Ticket Office alone sold 19,149 tickets for on-campus events and 683 tickets for off-campus events. BASS Ticket Outlets, meanwhile, have sold 29,528 tickets for campus events, making the total number of tickets sold for campus events through the new system to 48,677.

“You can buy everything at one stop or with one phone call,” says Mary Valentine, who runs the ticket office. “Before we opened I thought a lot of people would want to attend an event but they didn’t know where to buy tickets.”

The Central Ticket Office opened in January, at about the same time a contract was signed for BASS ticketing. The ticket office employs five staff members to sell on-campus events through BASS Ticket Outlets was signed.

The ticket office offers a campus location for the public and the University’s more than 24,000 students, 1,400 full and part-time faculty and more than 1,000 staff members to purchase tickets for on- and off-campus events. Purchasers do not have to pay a service charge to purchase tickets for on-campus events from the ticket office.

The ticket office employs five student assistants, who sell tickets at the ticket office window and at the door of on-campus events. The office is located in the University Union’s north entrance. It is open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, and three free 15-minute parking spaces in Lot 4 are available for those purchasing tickets.

Criminal justice student Laura Caldera is one happy customer.

“You don’t have to go off the grounds to buy tickets,” Caldera says. “It’s nice that it is accessible to students.”

Valentine says the Central Ticket Office, the University’s new ballroom venue and the upcoming 2000 U.S. Olympic Track and Field Trials in July are boosting the University’s reputation for hosting events.

Tickets from the Central Ticket Office may be purchased by phone at 278-4323.

**Grad Students Tackle Costly Computer Failures**

Five computer science graduate students at CSUS have completed new standards for managing large computer projects.

The effort could help reduce the incidence of computer failures, which have cost business and government millions of dollars and years of delay during the last decade. Among the most notable of these failures was in 1997, when California abandoned a $100 million system for collecting child support.

The new “Software Engineering Core of Knowledge” is backed by the Institute for Electrical and Electronic Engineering Computer Society (IEEE-CS), a professional organization of computer engineers and scientists. The group is recognized as one of the foremost computer professional societies in the world and a leader in setting standards for the computer industry.

The student project is developed around IEEE-CS software engineering standards. It spells out the knowledge and skills required of software engineering project managers.

Large computer projects have often proven unwieldy because of the large number of possible configurations. Their sheer size can require the effort of hundreds of contractors, technical personnel and managers. All of this makes them difficult to build and even more difficult to test.

“Unfortunately, there is a serious problem with finishing these projects, and with keeping them on time and within budget,” says Kathryn Wendt, the computer science graduate student who headed the project. “There is a tendency not to think through all the costs and ramifications of a software development program. These projects really have to be treated as an engineering project.”

**Use That Excess Vacation**

CSUS employees must use any vacation hours in excess of the carry-over maximum before Jan. 1 or forfeit them. The maximum allowable hours of vacation carry-over within the collective bargaining units are:

- **Groups R1, R2, R5, R6, R7, R8 and R9:** up to 10 years of employment - 272 hours; more than 10 years - 384 hours.
- **Groups R3 and R4:** up to 10 years of employment - 320 hours; more than 10 years - 440 hours.
- **Groups M00:** up to 10 years of employment - 384 hours; more than 10 years - 440 hours.
- **Confidential Group:** 384 maximum hours.
- **In addition, employees must take their personal holidays before Dec. 31st of each year.**

Exceptions to the CSUS vacation carry-over policy must be approved by the President. A memorandum of justification for presidential review must be submitted to Faculty and Staff Affairs no later than Wednesday, Dec. 1.

**Project/Activity Grant Funds**

The CSUS Foundation provides funding for campus projects that benefit students, faculty and staff. Faculty, staff or members of a recognized student organization who have a project or activity that is innovative, shows need and benefits the CSUS community are eligible. Project/Activity Grant funding guidelines and submittal forms are available in the CSUS Foundation Contract Service Office in Room 312 of the Bookstore, on the Web at www.foundation.csus.edu/contracts. Applications for fall 1999 must be received by 5 p.m., Friday, Sept. 24.

**Nursing Accreditation**

The Division of Nursing will have an accrediting evaluation of both its baccalaureate and master’s programs on Nov. 15-17. As part of the evaluation, written and signed comments from the community are being accepted by the Commission on Colleague Nursing Education through Oct. 15. Comments may be sent to: Mark Jenkins, CCNE Accreditation Coordinator, Commission on Colleague Nursing Education, One Dupont Circle NW, Suite 530, Washington D.C. 20036-1120.

**Grads in the News**

For the last two semesters, numerous graduates who worked at the State Hornet newspaper have been hired professionally. Several State Hornet editors, reporters, photographers and designers were hired by local media, including the Associated Press, California Journal, the Mountain Democrat, sacbee.com and the Napa Register.

Alumni of the Hornet are also returning to the newsroom as mentors for the newspaper staff. They include Chelsea Carter with Associated Press and James Truskett, an intern from and Jennifer Baldwin, both with the Alamed News Group.

John Miles, chair of the computer science department, expects the new standards to be used by state agencies to hire managers for large projects, as well as software developers building on government contracts.

In addition to Wendt, the students involved include Karma Guinn, Ed Perello, Tim Schoenhard and Jon Wilhelmsen. They all worked under Miles and computer science professor Richard Thayer and are using their work on the standards as a final project for their master’s degrees in computer science.

**Computer Science**

**Demystifying Library Databases**

**Mastering Databases and the Web**

The Library is offering free drop-in sessions on the basics of the World Wide Web and the CSUS System database. All workshops will be in Library 2024.

“Don’t Get Caught in the Web” sessions will be held: Monday, Sept. 20, 7 to 9 p.m.; Wednesday, Sept. 22, 10 a.m. to noon; Thursday, Sept. 23, 3 to 5 p.m.; Wednesday, Sept. 29, 7 to 9 p.m.; Thursday, Oct. 7, 10 a.m. to noon; Friday, Oct. 15, 1 to 3 p.m.; Tuesday, Oct. 19, 10 a.m. to noon; and Monday, Oct. 25, 7 to 9 p.m.

For further information call Payroll Services at 278-6211.

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Continued from page one

Residents told the four graduate students during the assessment that they needed information on accessing health care, child safety, parenting, nutrition and wellness. Students will provide the information at small classes in the center and by visiting families in their homes. They will continue asking residents about their health and lifestyle needs, and then develop clinics to address them.

More information is available by contacting Ackerman at (916) 278-7611.

Nursing Students