



CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY STANISLAUS

DIGEST - APRIL 2009

Area students enjoy “Dinner With A Scientist” program

A group of the area’s young students and teachers were treated to science demonstrations and presentations by scientists during the “Dinner With A Scientist” program on March 9.

Focused on science careers and scientific topics, the program started off with tours of the University science facilities and scientific demonstrations, including chemistry magic shows in the Naraghi Hall of Science. Scientists, students, and teachers then joined each other for dinner in the University Union Event Center and for keynote presentations by a pair of scientists.

Dr. Jim Youngblom, a Biological Sciences Professor who organizes the event, said the annual program has succeeded in generating enthusiasm among young students about science careers and raising their awareness of what is involved in preparing to become a scientist. A total of 96 sixth through 12th-grade students and 32 of their teachers from Stanislaus, Merced, and San Joaquin counties were joined by the 32 area scientists at the program. The science professionals included CSU Stanislaus faculty as well as people from the medical and veterinary, wildlife biology, forensic, microbiology, marine biology, environmental science, and communication technology fields.

The featured keynote speakers were:

- Dr. Chris De Vries, an Assistant Professor of Physics at CSU Stanislaus who talked about “Exploring the Universe,” using highly visual technology to highlight his presentation. His research specialty is the formation of stars.
- Dr. John Pollock, a Biology Professor at Duquesne University who focuses on science film animation. He made the closing presentation titled “Exploring Human Tissues.”

Building donor John Demergasso passes away in San Francisco

John Demergasso, a Stanislaus County native who distinguished himself in the law profession and was instrumental in the presentation of a major financial gift to CSU Stanislaus that led to the naming of Demergasso-Bava Hall, passed away in San Francisco on March 22.

The son of the late Constantino and Clementina Demergasso, members of a prominent farming family in Stanislaus County, John Demergasso is remembered as a loving husband and proud father, successful gentleman farmer, patron of the arts and education, an expert attorney, and a person with a generous spirit. He took pride in his participation in the gift from the Demergasso and Bava families to CSU Stanislaus and the Professional Schools Building, now called Demergasso-Bava Hall that stands as a legacy to members of those families.

The building opened as Demergasso-Bava Hall in 1998. CIA Director and former President Clinton Chief of Staff Leon Panetta was the guest speaker at the December 12, 1998 dedication ceremony.

A graduate of the University of Notre Dame, Demergasso earned his law degree from UC Berkeley. His professional career included the Department of Indian Affairs in Washington, D.C., the Stanislaus County District Attorney's Office, Public Defender's Office in Oakland, and a private law practice in San Francisco while overseeing the family's agricultural business.

Students, grads provide income tax assistance for needy

A collaborative project to assist low-income people with their income tax return preparation marked its seventh year as CSU Stanislaus students, faculty, staff, and alumni volunteered their services at locations in Turlock and Empire.

The Empire Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Project was created in 2003 by Accounting Professor Dr. Steven Filling in partnership with the Office of Service Learning and recently expanded to Turlock. Under Filling's direction, University students assist low income families and seniors in the completion of their federal and state income tax returns. The project focuses on the migrant and senior communities, and last year students prepared 167 returns and nearly \$142,000 in tax refunds to return to the local economy.

The Empire Project also serves as an important educational and professional experience for University students. Six clinics were held this year, with three conducted at Empire Elementary School and three at the Salvation Army in Turlock. Twenty-six business students and alumni participated in the 2009 clinics, volunteering alongside faculty, staff, and community partner agencies.

"VITA is more than just doing taxes," CSU Stanislaus student and current VITA volunteer Dale Krueger said. "VITA is an experience in giving and growing."

Interested students can get involved in Fall 2009 by enrolling in ACC 3170, a General Education class for non-accounting majors, or can contact the Office of Service Learning at 667-3311 to attend training held each January.

Student and VITA volunteer Bill Duncan said he found the experience quite rewarding.

"VITA is an exceptional program that gives accounting students practical experience while giving people a service that is needed. Everyone wins," Duncan said.

University science class teaches with frogs at local schools

Students in Dr. Mark Grobner's embryology class are using frogs to teach about life cycles as part of a service learning project at three elementary schools in Turlock.

Grobner's students in Vertebrate Embryology are required to prepare a care and feeding sheet for tadpoles, a PowerPoint presentation on life cycles, and an activity for second grade classes who are learning about the subject. Presentations are being made at Walnut, Crowell, and Earl Elementary schools in Turlock.

“It was a big hit, so much so that we were provided with more funding by the school to purchase more tanks and set them up in more classrooms,” Grobner said.

Campus Training & Professional Development provides valuable service

The Campus Training & Professional Development (CTPD) Web site has been a great success since its rollout last year, according to program Administrator and Trainer April Dunham-Filson.

The ease of registering for training sessions has given CSU Stanislaus employees more freedom to be able to see what is available and how far in advance they can register, Dunham-Filson noted. With the program’s Web site at www.csustan.edu/ctpd up and running, the new Training Summary page has been released to all campus employees in PeopleSoft.

Employees are able to review what courses they have taken and when they were completed. Currently, only trainings offered for PeopleSoft are readily available, but in the next few months, training sessions taken from Environmental Health & Safety (EHS) for classification requirements will also be in the file. EHS Coordinator Kellie Marshall said the records cover training sessions over the past five years.

Human Resources will be the next phase entered in the training records. Benefits Director and Training Coordinator Kelly Mode said those training records will cover the past year.

“This will be very beneficial for the campus because employees will be able to see whether or not they are up to date with their requirements as well as see if it is time for a refresher course,” Dunham-Filson said.

Additional functionality is being tested in PeopleSoft, such as the ability to register for a course directly in People Soft, e-mail confirmation letters to individuals who register for a course, and filling out a survey directly in PeopleSoft for a completed course.

Annual Technology Fair scheduled for April 29 in MSR lobby

Representatives from a number of companies and the University will be on hand at the Fifth Annual CSU Stanislaus Technology Fair on Wednesday, April 29 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Mary Stuart Rogers Educational Services Building.

Hosted by the Office of Information Technology and the University Library, the program is open to faculty, staff, and students. Representatives from Apple, AT&T Mobility, AVI-SPL, ClearWire, Computer Comforts, Dell, eInstruction, Epson, MediaSite, Tandberg, and WolfVision are scheduled to participate.

Lap swim, exercise sessions available on campus

Faculty, staff, students, alumni, and members of the community are eligible to participate in the Weekday Lap Swim and Spring Group Exercise sessions being held on the CSU Stanislaus campus this spring.

Weekday Lap Swim sessions are Monday through Friday from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the University pool next to Warrior Arena. Fees are \$20 per month for faculty, staff, and alumni and \$40 per month for community members. Students participate free.

The exercise sessions are conducted Monday (aerobics), Wednesday (Pilates), and Thursday (aerobics) from 5:45 to 6:45 p.m. in the University Union Warrior Activities Center where the bookstore was formerly located. Tuesday's yoga sessions are noon to 1 p.m. in the same location. The sessions are open to faculty, staff, alumni, and students.

The fee for the semester is \$20 and students participate for free. For more information, contact Scott Newland at 667-3150, snewland@csustan.edu.

Committee awards Employee Scholarships to Costa, Godinez

Christina Costa and Amy M. Godinez are the newest recipients for awards from the CSU Stanislaus Employee Scholarship fund. The \$250 awards were granted for the spring 2009 term, and help toward book and supply expenses while they work on completing their academic degrees.

The scholarships were announced by the Employee Scholarship Committee, which credits a generous donation from the University's Staff Council for making the awards possible. Full-time staff employees are eligible for consideration for an award from this special scholarship fund. Consideration is given on the basis of financial need, academic scholarship, individual career development program goals, and job-related objectives.

The Employee Scholarship fund has provided vital financial assistance to University employees since 1982 and is supported entirely through donations. For the past several years awards have been funded by grants from the campus Staff Council. Individuals can also support the program through an annual gift or through monthly payroll deductions designated to the Employee Scholarship.

Additional information is available by contacting Christine Hollister in the Career Services Center, MSR 245.

CSU Stanislaus featured on national college video site

CSU Stanislaus is now featured in a video presentation on a new national college video site called YoUniversityTV.

A film crew visited CSU Stanislaus in June 2008 to film interviews with University students, faculty, and administrators and did extensive filming on the campus. Information about CSU Stanislaus is also featured in the video tour of the campus.

Informational video tours of universities and colleges all over the United States are featured on the site at <http://www.youniversity.tv/>.

DIGEST - ARTS STORIES

Gordon Senior's "Butterfly World" featured at MJC Art Gallery

Gordon Senior, Chair of the CSU Stanislaus Art Department, showcased his art installation titled "Butterfly World" at the Modesto Junior College Art Gallery in February and March.

Senior has had the opportunity to not only exhibit his talent around the world, but has also played a significant role in art education. Prior to joining the University's Art Department, Senior taught in the undergraduate and post-graduate Fine Art program at Norwich School of Art and Design in the United Kingdom. He served as Head of Art at Northumbria University at Newcastle in the United Kingdom before that.

Senior has been featured in many solo exhibitions in venues ranging from Norwich Gallery in The United Kingdom to galleries all over California and has contributed to group exhibitions, including "Weather View" at the Koninkijke Gallery in Den Haag, Netherlands, and "Just Visiting" at Southern California's Huntington Beach Art Center. Senior has also been acknowledged for his numerous research awards and publications.

For a supplementary account of Gordon Senior and his work, visit his Web site at www.gordonsenior.com.

Arts Calendar

<http://www.csustan.edu/COA/Publications/CalendarOfEvents.pdf>

DIGEST - ATHLETICS STORIES

Milt Richards returns to Western Virginia University for speaking engagement

Dr. Milton E. Richards, in his ninth year as Director of athletics at CSU Stanislaus, took the opportunity to visit his alma mater, Western Virginia University, as a speaker on March 5 where he made a presentation titled "Current Issues Affecting NCAA Athletic Departments."

Sponsored by West Virginia University's College of Physical Activity and Sport Science, the program billed Richards as having taken CSU Stanislaus Warrior athletics to new heights among the nation's elite intercollegiate athletics programs. Richards has written articles on issues that intercollegiate sports encounter.

"Dr. Richards is guided by the belief that intercollegiate athletics is an integral part of the overall mission of the university," said Dallas Branch, a professor of sport management at WVU. He praised Richards for establishing a respected and successful program for men and women that contributes substantially to campus life and community interaction at CSU Stanislaus.

Richards earned all three of his degrees at West Virginia University, completing an Ed.D. in Higher Education Administration in 1983. His previous athletic director jobs were at Division I-A schools the State University of New York at Albany, Kansas State University, and Temple University in Philadelphia.

Warrior basketball player Katie Busi named to All-CCAA first team

http://warriorathletics.com/news/2009/3/4/WBB_0304094003.aspx?path=wball

WALNUT CREEK — California Collegiate Athletic Association (CCAA) regular-season champion UC San Diego, along with Cal State Dominguez Hills and Humboldt State, placed two players on the 2009 All-CCAA first team that includes CSU Stanislaus sophomore forward sensation Katie Busi.

Woods Furniture gives away Home Makeover shopping spree

http://warriorathletics.com/news/2009/3/2/GEN_0302093819.aspx?path=General

TURLOCK -- For many years, Woods Furniture Galleries has been a corporate supporter of Warrior Athletics. And for the second year, Woods Furniture was a slam dunk with fundraising and basketball promotions.

Warrior Athletics Web site

<http://www.warriorathletics.com/>

DIGEST – FACULTY & STAFF NOTES

3 faculty members make presentations in Thailand

CSU Stanislaus faculty Keith Nainby of Communication Studies, Marjorie Sanchez-Walker of History, and Harold Stanislaw of Psychology were accompanied by History graduate student Therese Lunt to make presentations at a university workshop during an 11-day venture to Thailand in January.

As part of an ongoing exchange program called the Teaching and Learning Institute that was established more than 10 years ago, the three faculty facilitated workshops at Phranakhon Rajabhat University in Bangkok on research publication topics, drawing on their extensive backgrounds in higher education. A group of faculty from Thailand participated in mathematics research and publication discussions and observed classes at CSU Stanislaus during the summer last year. CSU Stanislaus President Ham Shirvani and Phranakhon University President Preang Kitratporn signed an agreement earlier in the year that paved the way for long-term collaboration between the two universities.

Dr. Viji Sundar, a Professor of Mathematics at CSU Stanislaus who has implemented a number of mathematics programs for high school and college students as well as teachers over the years, coordinated creation of the partnership between the two universities. She has been to Thailand seven times along with other faculty to nurture that relationship, and faculty from the Thai university have visited the CSU Stanislaus campus a number of times.

In addition to the workshops, the CSU Stanislaus group had the opportunity to take excursions in Thailand to the Royal Palace, the Teakwood Mansion, the Ancient City, the floating market, the island of Koh Kred, and a number of other attractions.

Lunt accompanied the group to keep a journal as part of a student experience and also visited another CSU Stanislaus partner campus in Thailand, Rangsit University.

History Professor Sanchez-Walker lectures at Vietnam University

Dr. Marjorie Sanchez-Walker of the CSU Stanislaus History Department faculty, who visited Hanoi National University of Education in Vietnam in January to make a series of presentations, realized a bit of irony during her trip.

While on a ferry boat excursion near Hanoi, Sanchez-Walker encountered a group of former Vietcong soldiers who were participating in a reunion. The Vietcong, also known as the National Liberation Front, was a communist army based in South Vietnam that fought the U.S. and South Vietnamese governments during the Vietnam War which raged during the 1960s and 1970s. The war took a heavy toll on both sides before North Vietnam overwhelmed South Vietnam following the American withdrawal.

Acknowledging that she is a former Vietnam War protester and has been doing research on a former American soldier who fought in the war, the CSU Stanislaus professor said she came to a realization during that chance meeting.

“Here we all were on that ferry boat enjoying the spectacular scenery, and it occurred to me that the war was the one thing we all had in common,” Sanchez-Walker said.

After overcoming the language barrier, she was able to talk briefly with the former soldiers, and they posed for a group photo together.

Sanchez-Walker spent 10 days in the Hanoi area on her way to participate in an exchange visit with two other CSU Stanislaus faculty at Phranakhon Rajabhat University in Bangkok, Thailand. She was there at the invitation of Dr. Do Thi Minh Duc who she had met during a 2003 research trip to Cuba and who had made a speaking appearance at CSU Stanislaus later that year.

Sanchez-Walker made four three-hour presentations at the Hanoi university, one of a group of higher education institutions, with an enrollment of about 10,000 students. The CSU Stanislaus professor addressed topics of cultural awareness, geographical history of the United States, and Cuba. She also met with the university’s history department chair and director of the international education program.

In addition to touring the Hanoi region with the guidance of students and faculty at the university, Sanchez-Walker delved into her ongoing research on the impact of communism on women and motherhood in Vietnam. She is doing similar research on Cuba and the women of Bulgaria and is an expert on Latin America.

Vietnam has placed a heavy emphasis on education for both men and women since reunification of the country in 1976 and has experienced a post-war population boom, Sanchez-Walker noted.

Biology Professor Jim Youngblom makes Charles Darwin birthday lecture

Students in Matthew Cover’s Biology Colloquium class experienced an up-close and personal portrayal of legendary English naturalist and natural selection researcher and author Charles Darwin when Dr. Jim Youngblom showed up to present a lecture. With a little help from the costume experts in the Theatre Department, Youngblom was dressed for the part with a look from the 1860s, complete with a full white beard.

The lecture tapped into the theme of Darwin's 200th birthday on February 12. During his lifetime, Darwin presented compelling evidence that all species of life have evolved over time through the process he called natural selection. His theory of natural selection came to be widely viewed as the primary explanation of the process of evolution and the diversity of life.

Michael Drake co-authors articles in two chemistry publications

Dr. Michael D. Drake, Assistant Professor of Chemistry, co-authored articles that help in the understanding and prediction of the conformations of large, biologically important systems such as proteins and other macromolecules.

An article entitled "Determination of the Dihedral Angle of the Monoanion of Succinic Acid in Aprotic Media" was published in the December 4 issue of *The Journal of Physical Chemistry A*. Drake also co-authored the article "Conformational Preferences of 3 (Dimethylazino)propanoic Acid as a Function of pH and Solvent: Intermolecular versus Intramolecular Hydrogen Bonding" published online on February 26, and to be published in a future print issue of *The Journal of Organic Chemistry*.

These publications demonstrate the use of nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) spectroscopy for the determination of conformational preferences among small, substituted molecules. The influences which affect the conformations of small molecules are not all understood, or have not even been identified. Knowledge of the influences upon small molecules will help to understand and predict the conformations of larger, biologically important systems like proteins and other macromolecules.

These publications are a result of the partnership between Dr. Drake and his former post-doctoral research group, headed by Professor John D. Roberts, at California Institute of Technology (Caltech). Undergraduate research students comprise the majority of the remaining co-authors for each publication. The research provides an excellent opportunity for undergraduate students to become highly proficient with the operation, acquisition, and interpretation of NMR spectroscopy, an indispensable, state-of-the-art instrument for all areas of chemistry.

Mathematics faculty member John Rock publishes paper

John Rock, Assistant Professor in the Mathematics Department, had a paper titled "Fractal strings and multifractal zeta functions," co-authored by Michel L. Lapidus and Jaques Levy Vehel, published in the refereed journal *Letters in Mathematical Physics*. The paper investigates properties of multifractal zeta functions for certain fractal strings.

In February, Rock spent a week attending talks and beginning work with collaborators on upcoming research projects at the Institute for Pure and Applied Mathematics (IPAM) at UCLA. Rock took 17 students to the Pacific Coast Undergraduate Mathematics Conference (PCUMC) at UC Riverside on Pi Day (3-14) in March. It was the second year Rock organized the trip for students. Coming up April 4 is a trip to the Northern California Undergraduate Mathematics Conference at Sonoma State.

Steven Filling co-authors article in international journal

Dr. Steven Filling, Professor of Accounting & Finance, teamed with a pair of faculty from the United Kingdom to co-author an article that raises questions about audit practices titled “The Audit Crunch: Reforming Auditing” that was published in the international publication *Managerial Auditing Journal*.

Filling worked on the article with Prem Sikka and Pik Liew, both of the Centre for Global Accountability at the University of Essex in Colchester, United Kingdom.

In the article, the authors contend that it is feasible for regulators such as the U.S. Securities & Exchange Commission and the United Kingdom Financial Services Authority to directly appoint and remunerate auditors. The regulators could also have a dedicated workforce of auditors focusing on banks, financial institutions, and other organizations considered to be sensitive to the economy, they noted. Instead of annual ex-post audits, they point out that these auditors could conduct continuous audits and attend not only to traditional financial statements, but also to a variety of regulatory matters.

Sankey leads workshop, makes presentations during sabbatical at Baylor

Dr. Julia Sankey of the Department of Geology and Physics, on sabbatical leave at Baylor University in Texas this year, has been selected to serve as a workshop leader at a National Science Foundation (NSF)-supported workshop this summer in Virginia. She is also presenting talks on her dinosaur and vertebrate research this spring at Louisiana State University and at Baylor.

Sankey will help lead a workshop this summer at the College of William & Mary in Virginia for the NSF-supported program titled "Early Career Geoscience Faculty: Teaching, Research, and Managing your Career," a session for faculty who are starting positions at universities - she will help lead sessions for faculty starting at undergraduate universities.

Her spring presentation at LSU and Baylor University is titled "High abundance of sharks in uppermost Hell Creek Formation, North Dakota: Sea level rise due to the late Maastrichtian Greenhouse Event." Sankey's research on this topic focuses on the causes of the mass extinction 65 million years ago and is based on paleontological discoveries in the Hell Creek Formation of North Dakota. Her research also delves into the evidence of global climate change during this time.

Teacher Education’s Melissa Aronson serving on commission in Alaska

Dr. Melissa Aronson, Professor Emerita in Teacher Education who is still teaching online classes, is the Chair of the Haines Energy and Sustainability Commission in Haines, Alaska. The Commission is working to bring renewable energy projects to their town of 2,000 in rural Southeast Alaska.

Betts makes presentation on motivating children

Brenda Betts, Ph.D., Professor in the Department of Teacher Education, made a presentation at the California Council for the Social Studies (CCSS) Annual Conference 2009 in Ontario on March 6. The title of her presentation was: “Motivating Children to Make a Difference.”

Participants were provided with numerous examples of children throughout history, and in the present, who have made remarkable contributions to their communities, countries, and to other nations. She encouraged her audience to teach their students about these children for two reasons. First, to show students that history is meaningful and relevant to their lives and second, to motivate students to create their own projects to make a difference.

Betts is a member of the CCSS Board of Directors, Co-editor of the *Social Studies Review*, and a member of the Golden Valley Local Council Board of Directors.

Mario Hernandez honored for Facilities Services work

Mario Hernandez, who has played a key role in construction of campus landmarks, was selected as the University's Facilities Services 2008 Associate of the Year.

A member of the CSU Stanislaus staff for more than 14 years, he continues to pick up responsibility and is looked upon by his peers and manager as a leader. Hernandez has worked hard at developing good relationships with those he works with. He has been very open to share his knowledge and skills as a mason with fellow associates. In turn, he is also willing to learn from others and welcomes new knowledge.

The University's new corner signs on campus that serve as a continuing symbol of campus pride are strong examples of Mario's high level of skill and quality in workmanship, his supervisors noted.

National article highlights campus community involvement in reaccreditation process

An article that was co-authored by CSU Stanislaus Provost William Covino, Vice Provost Diana Demetrulias, and Professors Stephen Stryker and Scott Davis about the University's approach to involving the campus community in the reaccreditation process was featured as the cover story in the *Wiley InterScience Journal*.

Titled "Engage Campus in Accreditation Self-Study," the article highlights the University's use of inquiry circles as a way to involve the entire campus community in the reaccreditation process. The article was published in the Journal's February 2009 issue.

Christine Hollister completes recertification process

Christine Hollister, Director of the CSU Stanislaus Career Services Center, has been recertified for three years as a Certified Fund Raising Executive (CFR).

A member of the University staff since 1997 who earned bachelor's and master's degrees in Business Administration at CSU Stanislaus, Hollister served as Director of Scholarships and Planned Giving in University Advancement before making the move to her current position in Student Services.

Hollister has held continuous certification since 2003 and holds a related credential as a Certified Specialist in Planned Giving (CSPG). She served as President of the local chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals.

DIGEST – NOTES FROM HR

Employee Assistance Program (EAP) provides many services

The Employee Assistance Program (EAP), provided by MHN, offers a number of helpful programs. The services are available to eligible CSU Stanislaus employees and their dependents – 100 percent free and 100 percent confidential.

- Face-to-face clinical counseling
- Financial services
- Legal services
- Work & Life services

Members are entitled to as many telephonic sessions as needs warrant and five face-to-face clinical counseling sessions per incident, per calendar year. Members are also eligible for face-to-face consultations for legal issues.

Call MHN at (800) 227-1060, toll-free 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and indicate that you are a CSU Stanislaus member. Or, go to www.members.mhn.com and register using access code “csustanislus.” You will also find a legal and financial library, helpful forms and financial calculators on the MHN Web site.

For more information on the EAP and other CSU benefits, visit the HR Web site at www.csustan.edu/hr, or call or stop by Human Resources, MSR 320, (209) 667-3351.

Visit the HR Web site for quick access to information

The Human Resources Web site at www.csustan.edu/HR/ has a variety of resources available. Features include vacancies listed, the Campus Training and Professional Development Calendar, information regarding benefits, forms and applications, the Campus Directory, campus maps and the College Year Calendar. Also featured are links to all of the collective bargaining contracts, corresponding salary schedules, and much more.

Recruitment Welcomes

Name	Classification	Department
Elizabeth Bartenhagen	Administrative Support Assistant II	Admissions & Records
Margherita Aikman	Pharmacist I/Relief/On call	Student Health Center
Kathryn Bruley	Administrative Support Assistant I	Extended Education
Melissa Jameson	Administrative Support Assistant II	Financial Aid/Scholarships