



## CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY STANISLAUS

### **DIGEST - NOVEMBER 2009**

#### **Ground broken for campus California Pathway Project**

Supporters of an arboretum project featuring native trees and plants of the Central Valley, foothills, and High Sierra on the CSU Stanislaus campus turned out for a special groundbreaking ceremony on October 22.

Nearly 100 people gathered in the Naraghi Hall of Science lobby and then broke ground next to an oak grove that was the starting point of the project.

Envisioned more than 30 years ago by longtime CSU Stanislaus Biological Sciences faculty member Wayne Pierce and his colleagues as an instructional tool about the native trees, shrubs, and plants of Central California, the California Pathway Project is springing back to life with the next phase of its development. The project was initiated by Pierce in the mid-1980s when 300 Valley Oak tree seedlings were planted on the south side of the campus by students, faculty, staff, and volunteers. Since then, the trees have matured and stand as a testament to future plans for the project and as an outdoor laboratory for students and research projects.

Pierce died in August 2008, but his wife, Donna Pierce of Turlock, has sought to move the project into its next phase. Plans call for an extensively landscaped winding pathway along the southeast side of the campus from Geer Road to the oak tree grove near the Naraghi Hall of Science that will include native trees, plants, and shrubs along with a series of streams and water features.

“The Pathway, as envisioned by Wayne Pierce who dedicated himself to its development, will be an educational and natural attraction that can be enjoyed not only by our own students, but by the community as a whole,” President Hamid Shirvani said. “California State University, Stanislaus is grateful to Donna Pierce for her generosity and determination to make a unique addition to the campus.”

Donna Pierce said her husband put his heart and soul into teaching science and would love the idea of students benefitting from this project for generations to come. “I can’t think of a better way to honor him, and our shared values of preservation, conservation, and education,” she said.

A \$40,000 donation by Donna Pierce, combined with memorial gifts for her husband who served on the CSU Stanislaus faculty for 35 years are helping to launch the next phase of the project, which includes installation of underground water lines and electrical utilities. Future development of the project will include interpretive displays, geological and cultural exhibits, and art work.

#### **Doctoral Program prepares to admit third cohort in Stockton**

Since making its debut in Fall 2008, the new Doctoral Program in Educational Leadership at CSU Stanislaus has admitted two cohorts totaling 40 students and is preparing to admit a third in June 2010 at the Stockton Center.

The Ed.D. students come from every level of education, ranging from early childhood education programs and elementary and secondary schools to community colleges and universities. The students admitted to the Ed.D. program represent the highest quality educators and up-and-coming educational administrators in the region. As these individuals complete their doctoral degrees, they will be fully prepared to move into senior educational leadership roles and provide the kind of steadfast and visionary direction necessary during these times of rapid change and challenge in education.

Students like Kay Vang, an Assistant Principal at Apricot Valley Elementary School in Patterson, said she hopes to advance her administrative career and eventually teach in a foreign country. Born in a refugee camp in Thailand after her parents had fled their native Laos in the aftermath of the Vietnam War, Vang came to Stockton with her family as a youngster and credits a sixth grade teacher with helping her to overcome her struggles to learn the English language.

The second of 10 children, Vang went on to excel as a student and earned her bachelor's degree and then a master's degree at CSU Stanislaus. Now she has dedicated herself as an educational leader to helping students in multicultural programs experience success as she did.

"I still consider myself an English-learning student," said Vang, who plans to be one of the first CSU Stanislaus doctorate degree graduates.

The CSU Stanislaus Ed.D. program was developed in response to an overwhelming demand in the Central Valley and Sierra Foothills for an accessible, high quality educational leadership doctoral program. The program has enjoyed the strong support of educational leaders from throughout the region, primarily through the Ed.D. program's Community Advisory Board.

The Ed.D. program is designed to help address the shortage of qualified individuals prepared to move into advanced leadership roles in the Pre K-12 system and community colleges. The program is a three-year practitioner-based program that is intended for the working professional, and provides a combination of leadership development, research and evaluation skills, and practical fieldwork -- learning opportunities for students who aspire to the highest levels of educational leadership and scholarship. The program takes full advantage of technology and is offered using a combination of online and classroom instructional environments.

Under the leadership of new Interim Director, Professor of Advanced Studies Jim Riggs, the first cohort of students is completing the initial phase of its course work. Upon completing the written qualifying examinations this fall, the students will move into doctoral candidacy status where they will continue their courses in their specialization fields and complete their doctoral dissertations. It is anticipated that many of the students in the first cohort will complete their course work and dissertations by May 2011.

The third cohort scheduled to start in summer 2010 in Stockton is designed to meet the needs of current and future educational leaders in San Joaquin County. For more information about the

Ed.D. program and upcoming briefing sessions coming up in November and December, contact Jim Riggs at 209-664-6789 or e-mail [edd@csustan.edu](mailto:edd@csustan.edu).

### **Speakers, discussions, tours, exhibits highlight RSCA week**

CSU Stanislaus faculty, who are engaged in research and creative activities all over the world, put their work on display the week of October 5-9 during Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity (RSCA) week on the Turlock campus.

Anthropology and Geography Professor Ellen Bell spent the summer conducting archeological research in the Mayan city of Copan in Honduras where ancient royal tombs have been discovered. Biological Sciences Professor Marina Gerson focuses her work on horned lizards in the Central Valley and turtles in a CSU Stanislaus lake. Nursing Professors Mechelle Perea-Ryan, Luzmaria Alcala-Van Houten, and Judy Keswick have teamed with College of Human and Health Sciences Dean Gary Novak and visiting Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence Giovambattista Presti of Italy on a “Food Dudes” project at local elementary schools and pre-schools that fosters increased student consumption of healthy fruits and vegetables.

Their work was included in the 35 faculty displays included in the activities that featured a variety of daily presentations, panel discussions, tours, and special programs. Highlights included a poster display each day in the University Union Event Center featuring faculty research and creative activities, a keynote address by award-winning Psychology Professor Dr. Harold Stanislaw, noontime seminars with faculty experts, tours of CSU Stanislaus research laboratories and facilities, faculty panel discussions and seminars, an Astronomy Night, and a concluding recital featuring Music faculty clarinet player John Weddle.

### **Exercise, swimming programs available on campus**

Group exercise and lap swimming programs conducted by the Associated Students Recreation and Wellness program are being held on the Turlock campus of CSU Stanislaus and are available to faculty, staff, and alumni, in addition to students.

The exercise class schedule in the new Student Recreation Complex exercise studio includes yoga on Mondays and Wednesdays from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., pilates exercises on Mondays and Wednesdays from 7 to 8 p.m., and jumba fitness on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 7 to 8 p.m. Students are admitted free and faculty, staff, and alumni pay \$20 per month.

Lap swim hours in the University pool next to Warrior Arena are also open to community members. The schedule runs Monday through Friday from 6 to 8 a.m., 11:15 a.m. to 12:45 p.m., and 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Students participate free and faculty, staff, alumni, and community members using the pool pay \$20 per month for passes which can be purchased at the information desk in the University Student Union. For more information, contact Sean Newland in Recreation and Wellness at 667-3150, [snewland@csustan.edu](mailto:snewland@csustan.edu).

### **Technology Fair draws lots of interest**

Interested students, faculty, and staff streamed into the lobby of the Mary Stuart Rogers (MSR) Building for the October 7 Technology Fair sponsored by the Office of Information Technology. Equipment Tech Jerry Anderson (right, in photo) puts on a demonstration of University

technology at one of the many tables staffed by campus departments and private technology companies. Door prize winners were staff members Ashlea Eaton, Jason Geer, and Barney Gordon, and students Abbi Burns, Stephen De Carie, and Victoria Salisbury.

### **Adult CPR class offered on November 17**

Members of the University community are eligible to participate in an adult CPR (cardio pulmonary resuscitation) class on Tuesday, November 17 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the University Police Department.

Sponsored by the Office of Public Safety and the American Red Cross, the course, with a focus on cardiac emergencies, teaches skills that participants need to know to give immediate care to a suddenly ill or injured person until more advanced medical care arrives.

Registration is available on the University's Training and Professional Development Web site at: <http://www.csustan.edu/CTPD/JobClassificationTrainings/AdultCPR.html>.

### **Free flu vaccinations offered on campus by Kaiser Permanente**

Kaiser Permanente will be on the CSU Stanislaus campus to administer free seasonal flu vaccinations on Monday, November 30 and Wednesday, December 2.

Shots will be given from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. near the main entrance of the Mary Stuart Rogers (MSR) Building on those two days. All University employees are eligible to drop by for a free vaccination, with 175 available each of the two days.

All people are advised to get a flu shot, but the vaccination is especially important for:

- People 50 and older
- Children 6 months to 18 years old
- People with chronic health conditions
- Pregnant women
- Health care workers

### **Holiday Crafters Bazaar set for December 2 in Dining Hall**

A variety of arts and crafts items will be on sale from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Wednesday, December 2 in the Main Dining Hall during the Annual Holiday Bazaar. Proceeds from the items donated for sale by a group of local artists and other donations will go to the Hunger Network. Only cash will be accepted for purchases.

### **Fantasy characters come to life on Halloween**

Christina Costa and Alyssa Mazzina bring the Fairy Land atmosphere to life in the Graduate School office on October 31, the day before Halloween. A number of costumed characters ranging from celebrities to make believe and fantasy were seen roaming the campus that day as many University employees dressed up in the spirit of Halloween.

## DIGEST - ARTS STORIES

### **Art Gallery Current Exhibitions**

<http://www.csustan.edu/ArtGallery/>

### **Music Calendar**

<http://www.csustan.edu/music/Pages/Calendar.html>

### **Theatre Events Calendar**

<http://www.csustan.edu/theatre/Pages/EventsCalendar.html>

## DIGEST - ATHLETICS STORIES

### **Milt Richards inducted into West Virginia University Sports Hall of Fame**

[http://warriorathletics.com/news/2009/10/2/GEN\\_1002090847.aspx](http://warriorathletics.com/news/2009/10/2/GEN_1002090847.aspx)

The West Virginia University College of Physical Activity and Sport Sciences inducted alum and CSU Stanislaus Director of Athletics Dr. Milton Richards into its 2009 Hall of Fame on October 2.

### **Bailey a top 30 honoree for NCAA Woman of the Year**

[http://warriorathletics.com/news/2009/10/6/WTRACK\\_1006093016.aspx?path=wtrack](http://warriorathletics.com/news/2009/10/6/WTRACK_1006093016.aspx?path=wtrack)

Jasimen Bailey has received one of the highest honors as a female student-athlete in the National Collegiate Athletic Association. The former Cal State Stanislaus track and field standout was named among the top 30 honorees for the 2009 NCAA Woman of the Year award presented in October.

### **Warrior tennis duo came close to winning Wilson/ITA championship**

[http://warriorathletics.com/news/2009/10/3/WTN\\_1003090411.aspx](http://warriorathletics.com/news/2009/10/3/WTN_1003090411.aspx)

Vanesa Reibstein and Verena Preikschas came within one point of taking control of the title match for doubles regional tennis championship, but top-seeded Yuan Jia and Jenny Chin of BYU Hawaii held on to turn back the Warriors.

### **Foldager twins lead cross country teams to strong finishes**

[http://www.warriorathletics.com/news/2009/10/24/WXC\\_1024090133.aspx?path=wcross](http://www.warriorathletics.com/news/2009/10/24/WXC_1024090133.aspx?path=wcross)

The Alaskan Twins, Denali and Rubye Foldager were well decorated with awards, medals and ribbons growing up as distance running stars in Seward, Alaska. Now they each have another to add to their trophy cases after earning All-CCAA honors and top 15 finishes at the 2009 California Collegiate Athletic Association Cross Country Championships in Humboldt County.

### **Warrior Golf ranked No. 12 in first poll**

[http://warriorathletics.com/news/2009/9/23/MSOC\\_0923093643.aspx?path=mgolf](http://warriorathletics.com/news/2009/9/23/MSOC_0923093643.aspx?path=mgolf)

After a successful season under new coach John Cook in 2008-09, the Cal State Stanislaus men's golf team has started the 2009 Fall season carrying a top 12 ranking.

### **Men's soccer scoring ace Victor Regalado named conference MVP**

[http://www.warriorathletics.com/news/2009/11/5/MSOC\\_1105090214.aspx](http://www.warriorathletics.com/news/2009/11/5/MSOC_1105090214.aspx)

Cal State Stanislaus junior forward Victor Regalado, who set a new men's soccer team scoring record with 13 goals, has been named the California College Athletic Association's Most Valuable Offensive Player.

**Warrior Athletics Web site**

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

## **DIGEST – FACULTY & STAFF NOTES**

### **Promise Scholars leader Wanda Bonnell named Congressional “Angel in Adoption”**

Wanda Bonnell, Coordinator of the CSU Stanislaus Promise Scholars Program for former foster students, was recently honored as a 2009 “Angel in Adoption” for her exceptional advocacy and efforts on behalf of emancipated foster youth.

An Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) academic counselor at CSU Stanislaus since 1993 who is known for her passionate and outspoken advocacy on behalf of students, Bonnell was selected by Congressman Dennis Cardoza as one of more than 190 recipients, 11 of them from California, who will be honored at a September 30 awards ceremony and gala in Washington, D.C. The “Angels in Adoption” program is the California Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute's (CCAI) signature public awareness campaign to honor the work of people who have enriched the lives of foster children and orphans. Past recipients have included First Lady Laura Bush, actress Jane Seymour, actor Bruce Willis, and boxing great Muhammad Ali.

Bonnell spearheaded development of the Promise Scholars Program at CSU Stanislaus in 2004 to provide academic, financial, and outreach services to former foster youth from the region. Under her direction, the program has expanded and was bolstered by a \$285,000 federal grant earlier this year that was secured with assistance from Congressman Cardoza.

“California State University, Stanislaus takes great pride in congratulating Wanda Bonnell for receiving this distinguished award and for providing students in the Promise Scholars Program with hope and support,” President Hamid Shirvani said. “Her devotion to this program is making a difference in the lives of students who are building a better future for themselves through higher education.”

During her 25 years in education as both a student and counselor, Bonnell has developed close relationships with many students she fondly calls “her kids” while providing supportive, personal attention and encouragement. She has received a long list of awards in recognition of her dedicated efforts on behalf of students and women's issues, including Stanislaus County Outstanding Woman of the Year in 2005 and 2009 CSU Stanislaus Employee of the Year.

“It's an honor to be included in some great company for this award, and to be recognized for all of the work that we've done for students over the years,” Bonnell said. “It certainly says to me that what we are doing is very important.”

## **Veteran University employees head into retirement**

Their years of service at California State University, Stanislaus vary from eight to 40, but all of the 29 people who are taking their retirements as 2009 draws to a close have made significant contributions during their careers with the University.

The 21 staff members and administrators who are joining the retirement world over the last six months of the year include people who have played key roles at CSU Stanislaus over the years. They take with them more than 500 years of experience, topped by veteran accounting technician (cashier) Dosie Lewis who has been on the job for 40 years.

Roger Pugh, who retired as Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management in October after eight years, brought about a number of changes in the admissions process as the University's enrollment increased significantly. Freshmen student numbers went up more than 60 percent as the University focused on admitting more students coming out of high school under Pugh's direction which placed a strong focus on community partnerships. Coming to CSU Stanislaus with previous experience as a teacher, counselor, and enrollment dean in his native Montana, Eastern Washington University, and Northwest Missouri State University, Pugh stepped into a new position at Stanislaus and worked closely with college deans and other academic administrators.

Mary Kobayashi Lee, who retired as Director of Human Services, also finished up her 14-year stint at CSU Stanislaus in October. She shared that "working with and serving our campus employees has been truly an honor and a wonderful learning experience," citing her pride in the working relationships established at CSU Stanislaus that opened the way for construction accomplishments, and the fact that "we've always been able to talk to each other." Known for her outgoing and upbeat style, Kobayashi Lee worked in the human resources field for more than 30 years, including stints in San Leandro, Reno, and Tuscon, before joining CSU Stanislaus. "It is now time for me to enjoy an endless summer vacation," she said in her retirement letter.

Eight faculty have moved into retirement, including Armin Schulz of Teacher Education (18 years), Don Lawson of Student Counseling (29 years), and Mary Brace of Liberal Studies (8 years) who took full retirements. Participating in the Faculty Early Retirement Program (FERP) while continuing to teach part-time are Walter Doraz of Sociology (34 years), Enrique Lopez-Contreras of Modern Languages (12 years), Pamela Marques of Social Work (14 years), Karen Sniezek of Advanced Studies in Education (25 years), and Mark Bender (6 years), the Founding Endowed Chair of Agricultural Studies. Gary Novak of Psychology, who has served as Founding Dean of the College of Human and Health Sciences, is retiring in December (see separate story).

Dosie Lewis tops the list of staff and administration retirees. Since joining CSU Stanislaus in 1969, she has served as a familiar face at the cashiers counter, first in the Library Building and then in the Mary Stuart Rogers (MSR) Building. She participated in the change in the cashiering system from manual cards to a series of computerized networks and the current PeopleSoft system.

Cliff Bailey, a CSU Stanislaus graduate and Director of Landscaping, Transportation, and Custodial in Facilities Services, has had a lot to do with the University's expansion from its original two buildings to the beautifully landscaped campus of today. He will retire in December

with 34 years of service, but has been with CSU Stanislaus since starting as a Facilities Services student assistant in 1969.

After earning his Bachelor's Degree in Art and teaching credential, and while serving in the Army Reserve Engineers, Bailey started a full-time laborer job in Facilities. He has served in all phases and trades of Facilities and moved into management in 1988. Active as a Boys Scout leader and with the community arts scene for many years, Bailey said he's going to devote some of his retirement to his car restoration hobby.

A number of other management and staff with 20 or more years of experience are in the retirement group. They include Diana Bowman, Administrative Analyst of the Academic Senate office (32 years); Grace Whetstone, Evaluator in Admissions and Records (32 years); Bob Rosas, a familiar face around campus who is a shipping and receiving assistant in Financial Services (31 years); Shirley Mollard, Senior Budget Analyst in Academic Affairs (27 years); Marian Jessee, Administrative Support Coordinator in Sociology (25 years); Christine Sanders, Administrative Support Coordinator in Public Safety (25 years); Vadon "Mac" McIlwain, Associate Director of Undergraduate Admissions (24 years); Connie Bratten, Administrative Analyst in the College of Business (23 years); Kathleen Kennemer, Accounting Technician in Financial Services (22 years); Kitty Alves, Accounting Technician in Financial Services (21 years); and Katie Cravinho, Administrative Support Coordinator in Mathematics (20 years).

Jeanne Elliott, Confidential Administrative Support in the office of the Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs, will retire at the end of the year with 39 years of public service employment. She has served at CSU Stanislaus for 22 years and another 17 at San Francisco State and Modesto City Schools in previous employment. Suzanne Green, who served as Interim Vice President for Business and Finance for a year, retired with 35 years of California State University service, having previously worked at Sacramento State University, CSU San Marcos, and San Diego State University.

Other staff and administrative retirees include Christine Hollister, Director of Career Services (12 years); Ardean Campbell, Evaluator in Student Records (10 years); and Nancy Havens, Associate Vice President in Financial Services.

### **Founding College Dean Gary Novak closes out 36-year CSU Stanislaus career**

Gary Novak has come full circle with his career in higher education since joining the California State University, Stanislaus Department of Psychology faculty 36 years ago – professor, department chair, and Founding Dean of the College of Human and Health Sciences.

As Novak prepares to retire at the end of December, he takes great satisfaction in the opportunities he has had to help establish academic programs and to create a new college that is an important cornerstone of the University. Having had a distinguished career as a Psychology Professor, Novak accepted the Founding Dean position three years ago and was in on the planning for creation of the college for a year before that.

“What I am most proud of is the cooperative spirit among the faculty and staff across departments and programs,” Novak said in a recent letter to colleagues. “This spirit has produced a number of accomplishments, some very visible and other not so visible but yet real.”

In 1973, Novak accepted the opportunity to help shape the then 13-year-old Stanislaus State College at a starting annual salary of \$9,900 and played a key role in developing groundbreaking Psychology programs. The New Jersey native developed special education and behavioral analysis programs that became nationally accredited, helped secure a grant to establish the University's first Child Development Center as its first director at Beulah Covenant Church in Turlock, and served as Psychology Department Chair twice.

The products of those programs and a long teaching career are the many students who have gone on to successful careers in the fields of psychology, psychiatry, and teaching, he noted with a sense of pride. His efforts were recognized with the 1989-90 CSU Stanislaus Outstanding Professor Award, which he describes as a high honor.

Novak has continued to teach Psychology classes since becoming Founding Dean and would like to continue teaching, possibly in Italy as part of his travel plan for retirement. His other retirement plans call for spending time traveling with his wife, Susan, a retired Stanislaus County librarian, writing some articles and books, and tinkering with his 1967 Alfa Romeo automobile.

### **New faculty join University in Fall for 2009-10**

CSU Stanislaus has hired three new full-time faculty to fill key openings for the 2009-10 academic year which began on September 9.

"Rating among the best in their academic fields, these new faculty members have the outstanding credentials to fill high priority openings in the Nursing, Economics, and Political Science Departments at California State University, Stanislaus," President Dr. Hamid Shirvani said.

The three new faculty are:

- April Roberts Aleman, Nursing, M.S. from Fresno State University. Previously served as Health Services Supervisor and a School Nurse with the Merced Union High School District.
- Dr. Monticha Sompolvorachai, Economics, Ph.D. from UC Davis. Previously an instructor with the Department of Agriculture and Department of Resource Economics at UC Davis.
- Dr. Seong Soo Oh, Politics/Public Administration, Ph.D. (joint degree) from Georgia State University and Georgia Institute of Technology. Previously an instructor and researcher at Georgia State.

"CSU Stanislaus is pleased to welcome these new faculty members to fill key positions at the University," said Dr. Herman Lujan, Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. "Our students will benefit from their experience and expertise."

### **Longtime Nursing faculty member Nancy Clark honored in Hall of Fame**

Dr. Nancy Clark, who helped pioneer the development of the CSU Stanislaus Department of Nursing, has been honored by her peers with a spot in the Central San Joaquin Valley Nursing Hall of Fame.

Clark, former Chair of the CSU Stanislaus Department of Nursing who retired after 29 years in 2008, joined the elite list of hall honorees during a September 16 ceremony at Fresno State University. Clark taught and advocated for community health nursing during her 40-year nursing career until retiring from CSU Stanislaus in 2008.

As Chair, Clark guided the Department of Nursing through expansion that was highlighted by the addition of a four-year pre-licensure Bachelor of Science in Nursing Degree in 2002. More than 130 students have graduated from that program and gone on to successful nursing careers. A number of them have become leaders in local health departments and in other community agencies, also becoming mentors to students and graduates of the program.

“The California State University, Stanislaus Department of Nursing developed an outstanding reputation under Nancy Clark’s enthusiastic approach to teaching and her leadership during a time of great demand for qualified nursing graduates,” CSU Stanislaus President Hamid Shirvani said. “Her work in community health has had a positive impact on local, state, national, and international communities.”

The Central San Joaquin Valley Nursing Hall of Fame, established in 2004, honors the distinctive careers of nursing leaders in the seven-county region that includes Merced, Mariposa, Madera, Fresno, Tulare, Kern, and Kings counties. Clark is a longtime resident of Atwater in Merced County and earned her Education Doctorate in Nursing through a cooperative program at UC Davis and Fresno State.

### **Music Professor Stephen Thomas performs in China**

Pianist Stephen Thomas, a CSU Stanislaus Professor of Music, took his talents to China in August to perform concerts, present master classes, and to adjudicate piano competitions.

Students responded positively to his advice during master classes in Jinan, China, and his performances and presentations were met with great enthusiasm. His tour also took him to Harbin, China, and prompted invitations to return in the future, Thomas said.

### **Garfield’s school for homeless children in Stockton reopens at new site**

The Transitional Learning Center school for children of the homeless founded by CSU Stanislaus Professor of Teacher Education has relocated to a new home of its own.

Closed down at its original site of 17 years in June, the school reopened less than a half mile away from its previous location, this time at the former site of the Stockton Alternative High School on Van Buren Street. In addition to instruction, the school will continue to offer clothing, supplies, access to counseling, and referrals for medical, dental, and other services.

The school closed in June at the St. Mary’s Interfaith Community Services campus under the Crosstown Freeway after leaders at the site cited declining enrollment and lack of resources. A separate TLC Foundation with broad-based community support has since been established and the school is officially operating in a partnership with the San Joaquin County Office of Education.

Since Garfield founded the school in 1992, more than 7,000 children of poverty-stricken families have passed through its doors. Many CSU Stanislaus students have been able to obtain valuable experience by joining other volunteers in providing staffing at the school.

### **Biology Chair Mark Grobner talks about rabbits in Canada**

Dr. Mark Grobner, Chair of the Department of Biological Sciences, was the keynote speaker at the recent annual meeting of the Ontario Rabbit Association in Canada.

Grobner told his audience that many American rabbit producers do not plan ahead as they establish rabbit herds and find the costs often surpass the profits. He noted that gaining knowledge about the rabbits is the key factor, pointing out that herds fed a diet higher in fiber have proven to be healthier.

An experienced rabbit breeder, Grobner earned his Ph.D. while working at the Oregon State University Rabbit Research Center. Starting out in the rabbit-raising business when he was eight years old, Grobner later launched companies in Western Oregon and later in California with herds of more than 1,600 rabbits. He currently keeps 300 breeding does at his rabbit ranch south of Turlock and has done extensive research on operating rabbit ranches and factors that go into successful rabbit production.

### **Mark Bender of Ag Studies honored with Good Egg Award**

Dr. Mark Bender, who has served as Founding Endowed Chair of the CSU Stanislaus Department of Agricultural Studies since 2002, was honored with the Good Egg Award in Modesto on October 29. The award is presented annually to leaders and supporters of the egg industry.

Heading into the Faculty Early Retirement Program (FERP) with a part-time teaching schedule this year, Bender has helped to improve the connection between the University's steadily growing Agricultural Studies Program and the community. Bender has been active in fair competitions over the years and promoted ties with regional community colleges. Before joining CSU Stanislaus, Bender served as Dean of Agriculture, Environmental Sciences, and Technical Education at Modesto Junior College.

Recipient of a number of national and state honors, Bender served as the advisor to the U.S. Department of Agriculture Kika de la Garza Fellowship Class in Washington D.C. this past summer. His duties included assisting and advising the Hispanic National Program Leadership panel with the Fellowship program that promotes increased educational opportunities for Hispanic-Americans. One of 20 faculty from all over the country who were recognized in 2007 with participation in the program, he has been invited to participate again next summer.

### **Former CSU Stanislaus instructor involved in upcoming Gem Show**

Michael Whittier, who has taught geology classes at CSU Stanislaus, is President of the Mother Lode Mineral Society that will hold its annual Gem & Mineral Show at the Stanislaus County Fairgrounds in Turlock, March 13 and 14. A number of CSU Stanislaus faculty and students have been involved with the show over the years.

## DIGEST – NOTES FROM HR

### Watch for Open Enrollment changes

Employees are advised to be sure to check their January 1, 2010 pay warrants for open enrollment changes. New health premiums are located in the Human Resources Web site at [www.csustan.edu/hr](http://www.csustan.edu/hr).

### Campus will close for winter break in December

CSU Stanislaus will be closed during the holiday season from Friday, December 25, 2009, through Friday, January 1, 2010. The campus will re-open on Monday, January 4. Human Resources wishes everyone a very merry holiday season and a Happy New Year!

### Employee address changes should be recorded

Employees who have moved this year are advised to update their addresses. This helps to ensure that they receive their payroll W-2s in January. Addresses can be updated in one of two ways: (1) Log on to MyCSUSTAN and go to Personal Information or (2) Complete an Employee Action Request form located on the HR Web site at <http://www.csustan.edu/hr/FormsPublications.html> or at the Human Resources Department, MSR 320.

### Retirement Savings Account –TSA 403(b), 457 and 401K

Now is a good time for employees to review their payroll contributions. Payroll deductions for the November pay period, for pay issued on December 1, 2009, are the last contribution for the 2009 tax year. To make changes and/or for more information, please visit the Human Resources Web site at [www.csustan.edu/hr](http://www.csustan.edu/hr).

### STAR Staff Recognition Awards – More details to follow

The annual Staff Recognition Awards Program to recognize and reward excellence at CSU Stanislaus is coming up next spring. The program gives employees an opportunity to nominate staff and administrators to receive recognition and cash awards for outstanding contributions to the University campus community. The program will offer four cash awards as follows:

Lifetime Achievement Award - \$500

Behind the Scenes Award - \$500

Rookie of the Year Award - \$500

Team Award - \$1,000

### RECRUITMENT WELCOMES

Name	Classification	Department
Isabel Pierce	Executive Assistant to the Speaker	Academic Senate
Breann Nelson	Presidential Aide	President's Office
Glenn Pillsbury	Information Technology Consultant	Information Technology