



## CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY STANISLAUS

### **DIGEST - SEPTEMBER 2009**

#### **Student Recreation Complex grand opening is September 18**

The University's new \$16.1 million Student Recreation Complex, which includes a fitness center, 2,300-seat lighted soccer stadium, all-weather track, and lighted intramural sports fields, is being unveiled with the start of soccer season and makes its official debut with a ribbon cutting ceremony and grand opening on Friday, September 18.

The event will include men's and women's soccer matches against UC San Diego starting at 4:30 p.m., tours of the fitness center, food, face painting, and more. The grand opening celebration begins at 4 p.m. and is free and open to the public.

Coming to CSU Stanislaus as the new Student Recreation Complex Director is Dan Houlden. He brings extensive experience from the University of Tennessee Health Science Center in Memphis where he was director for 14 1/2 years. He also served as Director of Student Life for the past three years.

The 24-acre facility will serve as a showpiece in the northeast corner of campus. The landmark of the Complex is the 18,500-square-foot Student Fitness Center. Standing out architecturally with its distinctive tower, the Fitness Center includes a workout room with new equipment, a multi-purpose gymnasium equipped with a wall scoreboard, group exercise aerobics studio, and combined restroom-shower rooms.

Center hours will start off at 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday, and noon to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Faculty and staff access details are still being determined.

The facility is being financed by student fees that CSU Stanislaus students overwhelmingly approved in a May 2006 vote.

#### **Key donors support endowed academic chairs**

Over the past few months, nearly \$1 million has been raised to support endowed academic chairs at CSU Stanislaus.

Ron Foster, President and CEO of Foster Farms, contributed \$500,000 to fund the Foster Farms Endowed Chair in Business Economics with an emphasis in econometrics. The chair holder will engage in economic forecasting for the region and help business leaders, investors, and citizens make informed decisions based on a thorough understanding of the current economic environment. Research conducted by the endowed chair will also measure the fiscal impact CSU Stanislaus has on the Central Valley.

The University received a gift of \$400,000 from the estate of Kenneth and Shirley Whalen in memory of their late daughter, Christie Sue Whalen-Sexton, which will be used to create an endowed chair in the College of Education. Funding from the gift will help establish the Christie Sue Whalen-Sexton Endowed Chair in the Department of Teacher Education. A graduate of CSU Stanislaus, Whalen-Sexton was a middle school teacher for 20 years until her passing in 2002.

Endowed professorships represent a long-term private investment in the future of a University. These are the second and third endowed chairs for CSU Stanislaus, with the first established in 2002 in Agricultural Studies.

### **Nearly \$1 million National Science Foundation grant to boost science, math teacher scholarships**

An \$896,000 National Science Foundation (NSF) grant awarded to CSU Stanislaus in June will provide major scholarship incentives, starting in fall 2010, for future science and mathematics teachers in the Central Valley and the rest of the state.

CSU Stanislaus plans to award scholarships of up to \$30,000 each over the next five years to 34 students who plan to become science and mathematics teachers at “high-need” secondary schools. Those \$10,000 annual scholarships that can be awarded during students’ junior, senior, and teaching credential years, will come from the main portion of the NSF’s Robert Noyce Teacher Scholarship program grant. The Noyce Scholarship program is named in honor of Robert Noyce, co-founder of Intel and co-inventor of the microchip who has established a foundation dedicated to improving public education, particularly K-12 math and science.

Scholarship recipients will, in turn, make a commitment to teach a minimum of two years at a junior high school, middle school, or high school that is classified as “high need.” Those schools typically have a high percentage of students from low-income families, high teacher turnover rates, and a shortage of teachers qualified to teach science and mathematics.

Titled “Teachers from the Valley for the Valley,” the grant is expected to help CSU Stanislaus attract students who can help meet the acute need of the region and the state for 7th through 12th grade science and mathematics teachers. CSU Stanislaus President Ham Shirvani noted that the scholarships will greatly advance the University’s Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) teacher preparation program.

“I extend my deep appreciation to the faculty of the College of Natural Sciences and the College of Education, administrators, staff, and student members who worked collaboratively on this proposal for their dedicated efforts in attaining this prestigious grant,” President Shirvani said.

“My hope is that the scholarships will encourage more science and math majors to select teaching as a career,” said Dr. Michael T. Stevens, a member of the Biological Sciences faculty who spearheaded the grant application in a team effort with other faculty, administrators, and staff from the University’s Office of Research & Sponsored Programs and the Colleges of Natural Sciences and Education. “Qualified science and math teachers can make a big difference in the lives of individual students and can also improve the economic potential of our region.”

Partner school districts and agencies participating in the grant that serves schools in the “high need” classification include the Stanislaus County Office of Education, Stockton Unified School District,

Modesto City Schools, Merced City School District, Lodi Unified School District, and the Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) Delta Sierra Region VI program.

“This represents a real commitment to prepare students for careers as science and math teachers,” said Dr. Roger McNeil, Dean of the College of Natural Sciences. “These scholarships will attract some top students to our program.”

### **Summer HiMAP opens new mathematical world to students**

Learning to drive is a normal teenage rite of passage, particularly in the summer. Racing toy cars according to a given graph, trying to match just the right distance and velocity? Not so common!

Calculator-based rangers had the opportunity to develop and use their skills during the High School Mathematics Access Program (HiMAP) held this summer at CSU Stanislaus. The program is geared to teens in or entering high school, with exceptions for younger students who are ahead or want to excel in math.

Throughout the academic year, HiMAP conducts a tutoring session on Wednesdays from 4:30 to 6 p.m. on the CSU Stanislaus campus. However, this is the first year HiMAP has also been transformed into an intensive summer camp.

University Mathematics Professor Dr. Viji K. Sundar, founder of the program, takes great satisfaction in seeing students master mathematics challenges.

“Many of the school districts in the University service area were forced to cancel their summer sessions this year,” Sundar said. “I had requests from parents and high school math teachers to have a program for students who are at or above grade level.”

Erin Cuarenta, a teacher in the program, said the difference between this and regular school is that throughout the year, kids have to compete in learning breadth versus depth, but in this institute, the focus is definitely depth.

“I think we’re giving them the opportunity to sharpen their critical thinking skills, which they’ll use no matter what field they enter,” Cuarenta said. “We get to do the stuff that teachers wish they had time for.”

From July 6-30, the 27 enrolled students arrived on campus with their minds open at 9 a.m., ready to learn new math puzzles and tricks, including reinforcing basic skills like factoring. After a joint session, the students divided into two groups: Geometry and Algebra II, depending on their preparedness.

“It’s all about exploring real world math,” said Valeh Aghassi, also a teacher for the program who is a junior high school math instructor in Ceres. “Math is everywhere, everyday.”

Roger McNeil, Dean of the College of Natural Sciences, noted that since mathematics is the technical language for science, engineering, and business, student participants gain valuable jump starts on their way to future careers in those fields.

“The HiMAP summer program provides a wonderful opportunity for high school students to explore real-world applications of math. The students gain an important edge on their way to further education and careers.”

Sundar said she fully believes the program will not only sharpen students’ performance in geometric concepts but will also give them the “passport to pass through the gatekeeper course” that qualifies them for advanced college classes.

“Through the use of manipulative technology, teaching algebra from the learner’s perspective, a team of University faculty including two outstanding credentialed secondary math teachers and student coaches, the course is sure to unlock the mystery called Algebra,” Sundar said.

The stated goal of summer HiMAP is to help students gain the skills they need to become successful mathematicians -- that is -- to have the disposition and imagination to inquire, investigate, tinker, dream, conjecture, invent, and communicate with others about mathematical ideas.

### **High School Math, Science tutoring program offered for fall**

The CSU Stanislaus Office of Mathematics Grants is offering the High School Math Access Program (HiMAP) sessions on Saturdays this fall for students in grades 6-12 who need tutoring in math and/or science.

Featuring a schedule change on days and times from previous years, the program will meet on Saturdays, from September 26 through Jan. 30, 2010. A HiMAP Orientation program will be held on Saturday, Sept. 19 from 10 to 11:30 a.m. to explain the new components that have been added to the HiMAP program.

Regular sessions will be held on Saturdays in Demergasso-Bava Hall from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Registration and further information can be found on the Mathematics Department Web site at: [www.csustan.edu/math/proj1./htm](http://www.csustan.edu/math/proj1./htm). Click on Program Director Dr. Viji Sundar’s programs and select HiMAP Fall 2009 Informational Flyer. Program cost is \$75 and \$10 for the HiMAP T-shirt.

To have registration packet mailed directly, e-mail name and address to Rita Glynn in the Math Grants Office at [rglynn@csustan.edu](mailto:rglynn@csustan.edu).

### **Population Connection leader to speak at CSU Stanislaus on September 22**

John Seager, President and Chief Executive Officer of the national organization Population Connection and an expert on environmental issues, will speak at CSU Stanislaus on Tuesday, September 22.

Free and open to the public, Seager’s 7 p.m. presentation in Snider Music Recital Hall will focus on the threats posed by uncontrolled population growth. His talk, co-sponsored by the College of Natural Sciences, Department of Biological Sciences, and the Yokuts Group of the Mother Lode Chapter of the Sierra Club, is titled “Global Population: 6.8 Billion and Growing, Are We There Yet?”

Seager's extensive background includes work with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and as a Congressional aide. Seager served under seven-term U.S. Representative Peter Kostmayer of Pennsylvania, succeeding him in 2005 as President of Population Connection, formerly known as Zero Population Growth.

Seager will talk about the impacts of the earth's population growing by one billion people every 12 years to its current number of nearly 6.8 billion. He contends that there is a clear connection between human population growth and virtually every global challenge, from poverty to climate change and from species extinction to political instability of failed nation-states.

Seager's presentation will include a brief overview of the causes of rapid population growth, its impacts, and how to meet this challenge through voluntary approaches such as access to affordable family planning and empowerment of women.

### **Chartwells provides new variety of Campus Dining choices**

CSU Stanislaus Auxiliary & Business Services is happy to announce some exciting changes occurring in Campus Dining.

After an extensive Request for Proposal process, the University has contracted with Chartwells for exclusive campus food service.

Diners will see new venues opening in the servery such as Wild Greens, Outtakes, Coyote Jacks, and Na Pazzelli's pizza. Quality food and service is the motto of the Chartwell's management team: Robin Boyer, Director of Dining; Scott Smith, Assistant General Manager; and Tom Dorsey, Catering Director.

In addition to new food venues, there are some exciting renovations taking place in the Dining Hall. Mom's will be closed until mid-October for the addition of a grill and turbo chef hot food menu in the revamped servery. Hot food and coffee drinks will be available in Mom's for breakfast, lunch, and dinner, with hours being extended for serving evening students.

The Village Café, in the Residential Life Village, will be open in the fall for students with a new look and expanded meal plan food choices. Auxiliary & Business Services and the University look forward to a rewarding partnership with Chartwells.

## DIGEST - ARTS STORIES

### Arts Calendar

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

## DIGEST - ATHLETICS STORIES

### Regalado leads second-half charge as Warriors win season opener

[http://warriorathletics.com/news/2009/8/29/MSOC\\_0829093758.aspx](http://warriorathletics.com/news/2009/8/29/MSOC_0829093758.aspx)

The men's soccer match fans at Warrior Stadium saw in the first half August 29 was definitely not the same match they saw in the second half.

### Stanislaus women's soccer team blanks Fresno Pacific

[http://warriorathletics.com/news/2009/8/30/WSOC\\_0830091006.aspx](http://warriorathletics.com/news/2009/8/30/WSOC_0830091006.aspx)

The Cal State Stanislaus women's soccer team continued to shut out its opponents in making it two in-a-row after beating Fresno Pacific, 3-0, on August 29 in front of an appreciative crowd at Warrior Stadium.

### Scrappy Warrior volleyballers are taller in 2009

[http://warriorathletics.com/news/2009/8/28/VBALL\\_0828090952.aspx](http://warriorathletics.com/news/2009/8/28/VBALL_0828090952.aspx)

One of the most valued traits in a team is experience; the veterans that guide the newcomers to continue a long line of success. The 2009 Cal State Stanislaus volleyball team is, in fact, far from experienced. But what the team lacks in journeymen, it holds a substantial advantage over other teams in another trait: Scrappiness and size.

### Warrior men's cross country is No. 10 in West Region

[http://warriorathletics.com/news/2009/8/27/MXC\\_0827090902.aspx](http://warriorathletics.com/news/2009/8/27/MXC_0827090902.aspx)

Led by returning senior Joey Nunes, the Cal State Stanislaus men's cross country team will begin the season in the regional rankings.

### Former pro and collegiate standout Lekics joins men's soccer staff

[http://warriorathletics.com/news/2009/8/14/MSOC\\_0814093808.aspx](http://warriorathletics.com/news/2009/8/14/MSOC_0814093808.aspx)

The Cal State Stanislaus men's soccer program continued its summer overhaul by announcing the addition of another experienced coach to the staff in Paul Lekics.

### Warrior Athletics Web site

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

## DIGEST – FACULTY & STAFF NOTES

### **Russell Giambelluca named Vice President for Business & Finance**

Russell Giambelluca, most recently an Assistant Vice President for Finance, Financial Planning and Services at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in New York, is the new Vice President for Business and Finance at California State University, Stanislaus.

In announcing the appointment, University President Dr. Hamid Shirvani pointed out that Giambelluca brings a wealth of experience to the vice presidential post.

“Mr. Giambelluca has extensive financial and strategic management experience in senior level positions in both higher education and corporate settings,” President Shirvani said. “His strong management and leadership skills will be a valuable addition at CSU Stanislaus.”

In addition to his budget and finance responsibilities at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Giambelluca provided management oversight to the Offices of Admissions and Financial Aid.

Giambelluca’s distinguished career includes experience at UC Berkeley where he served for 10 years as an assistant vice chancellor and as director of the College of Chemistry, and nine years at California Institute of Technology in Pasadena as senior division administrator of the Division of Geological & Planetary Sciences.

With a Bachelor’s Degree in Metallurgy and Materials Science from Carnegie Mellon University, Giambelluca started his career as a welding engineer at Gulf Research and Development Corporation in Pennsylvania. He moved into management at C F Braun & Company in Alhambra, CA, where his jobs included directing the quality engineering, cost and materials engineering, and information systems and technology divisions. Giambelluca earned a Master’s of Business Administration Degree at UCLA.

### **Theatre Professor Clay Everett comes up with more Stanislaus County Fair magic**

CSU Stanislaus Theatre Professor Clayton Everett and his wife, Elaine, stepped their creative talents up a notch at this year’s Stanislaus County Fair with the creation of the Rainforest Adventure.

After coming up with the popular Jurassic Journey at last year’s fair that featured a maze of more than three-dozen dinosaurs, the Everetts created an interactive rainforest-themed exhibit under a large tent cover this year. It featured 8,000 square feet of dense foliage, waterfalls, streams, and a wide variety of live animals ranging from snakes and a small alligator to porcupines and even tarantulas.

Clay Everett has been building sets and designing stages at locations all over the country. He said the opportunity to create this year’s exhibit in an open environment was too good to pass up. “It really puts us on the creative side, which I enjoy,” Everett said.

Fair officials credit the Rainforest Adventure and Jurassic Journey exhibits with helping to boost attendance over the last two years. The Everetts’ attention to detail in creating a variety of

attractions that included a theater presentation area for the various animals drew high praise. The exhibit also accommodated daytime school group tours during the fair's weekday closure hours.

"We hope we can do this every year," Clay Everett said.

For a Stanislaus County Fair video featuring an interview with Everett and the Fair's rainforest exhibition, go to the Web at: <http://vimeo.com/5996868>.

### **History's Richard Weikart authors book on Hitler's evolutionary tactics**

History Professor Richard Weikart's book, *Hitler's Ethic: The Nazi Pursuit of Evolutionary Progress*, is being released by Palgrave Macmillan on September 1. Weikart also published an article this summer, "Was Darwin or Spencer the Father of Laissez-Faire Social Darwinism?" in a special issue of *Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization* devoted to social Darwinism.

In his new *Hitler's Ethic* book, Weikart helps unlock the mystery of Hitler's evil by vividly demonstrating the surprising conclusion that the German leader's immorality flowed from a coherent ethic. Weikart's book delves into how Hitler was inspired by evolutionary ethics to pursue the utopian project of biologically improving the human race. The author's research demonstrates that Hitler's evolutionary ethic underlay or influenced almost every major feature of Nazi policy: eugenics (i.e., measures to improve human heredity, including compulsory sterilization), euthanasia, racism, population expansion, offensive warfare, and racial extermination. Weikart notes in his book that Hitler also believed that morality was biologically innate, so he thought that eliminating the "evil" Jews would bring moral progress.

Weikart's book has drawn praise from his peers.

"There have been many attempts to provide the key to Hitler's world of ideas, but Richard Weikart has succeeded in revealing what must be the central element in any understanding of Hitler's world view," said Richard Overy, Professor of History at the University of Exeter in the United Kingdom and author of *The Dictators: Hitler's Germany and Stalin's Russia*. "The terrible paradox at the heart of the Third Reich, that biological utopia could only be created by intense physical suffering and violence, now has a proper explanation. What seemed to others bizarrely immoral appeared to Hitler an honorable duty."

### **Humanities and Social Sciences Dean visits Portuguese education leaders**

Carolyn J. Stefanco, Dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, recently returned from a two-week trip to the Azores and mainland Portugal, where she met with faculty and administrators at the University of the Azores, the New University of Lisbon, officials of the Luso-American Foundation, and the president of the Camoes Institute.

Stefanco said her travels will benefit the Center for Portuguese Studies at CSU Stanislaus, and will help the College to forge stronger connections with the local Portuguese community.

### **Biology Professor Pamela Roe honored by Nemertean Society for pioneer work**

Dr. Pamela Roe, Professor of Biological Sciences at CSU Stanislaus since 1971, was honored by the Nemertean Society during its Seventh International Conference held in Santa Barbara in July.

A long-time devoted researcher of deep sea worms, tiny creatures that live in the depths of the Pacific Ocean, Roe helped organize the Nemertean Society's first International Conference held

in Philadelphia in 1983. Her colleagues dedicated the conference and the conference volume to Roe and fellow Nemertean researcher Janet Moore for all of their dedicated work and research. Participants at this year's conference came from the United States, Russia, Germany, Spain, Japan, and China.

Roe, who started the Faculty Early Retirement Program (FERP) in 2008-09, is one of less than 100 people worldwide who have devoted their research to the abundant but unique worms that range in size from less than an inch to more than a foot. She participates annually in a research program conducted through the Smithsonian Institute's National Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C., that identifies new worm species. Researchers note that some of the worms may hold the key to finding a cure for a number of diseases.

One new species of deep sea ribbon worms was officially named after Roe" "Carbarincola Pamelae."

### **Communications/Public Affairs projects win four awards**

The University's Communications & Public Affairs Department won four awards for its work at the Central Valley Public Relations Organization's (CVPRO) Excellence in Communications Awards in Modesto.

CSU Stanislaus was recognized with Award of Excellence honors in the Corporate Communications category for its "Reasons Campaign," the Internal/Employee Communications category for its "Let's Grow Brochure," the Annual Report category, and the Newsletter category for "STAN Magazine."

### **Recent Faculty/Staff Passings:**

- **Robert Colescott**, who taught painting and teaching art for 15 years, June 4, 2009.
- **Robert Wesley Irons**, who supervised student teachers for the Department of Teacher Education, June 22, 2009.
- **Richard N. David**, a former member of the University Police staff, September 13, 2008.
- **Jim Lee**, who worked in the University's Facilities Department from 1976-2003, June 2009.

## DIGEST – NOTES FROM HR

Open enrollment for a number of University programs is scheduled for September 14 through October 9. They include:

- Medical Insurance
- Dental Insurance
- Flex Cash
- HCRA
- DCRA

Open enrollment is the time to make changes to medical and/or dental plans and to re-enroll in the HCRA and/or DCRA plan. For those who do not want to change their medical or dental plan, no action is necessary.

### **Health Care Reimbursement Account (HCRA) / Dependent Care Reimbursement Account (DCRA)**

Employees must enroll each year in the HCRA and/or DCRA plan.

The 2009/2010 Calendar for College Year has been updated to include furlough days and is located on the Human Resources Web site at [www.csustan.edu/hr](http://www.csustan.edu/hr).

### **Campus to be closed Labor Day and Veterans Day**

CSU Stanislaus will be closed in observance of Labor Day on Monday, September 7, and Wednesday, November 11, for Veteran's Day.

### **RECRUITMENT WELCOMES**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Classification</b>	<b>Department</b>
Daniel Houlden	Director	Student Recreation Complex
Russell Giambelluca	Vice President	Business & Finance
Claire Tyson	Associate Vice President	Financial Services
Cynthia Coit	Assistant Director	Accounting Services
Regan Linderman	Assistant Director	Financial Reporting
Patrick Hunt	Manager	Advancement Services
Nicole LaFlamme	Executive Assistant to the President	President's Office
Joan Andersen	Evaluator I	Admissions & Records