



## CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY STANISLAUS

### **DIGEST - APRIL 2010**

#### **First Symposium on Hispanic Education features school leader**

The first Stanislaus Asociación de Investigación Latina (SAIL) Symposium on Hispanic Education held on March 9 in the University's Faculty Development Center featured an expert on dual language education.

Francisca Sánchez, Associate Superintendent of Academics and Professional Development for the San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD), was the first speaker at the kickoff event. Her presentation was titled "Dual Language Education: a Path to Academic Achievement for Hispanics." Sánchez shared her experiences on the successes and challenges of providing effective dual language education for SFUSD.

The plenary session was well attended by doctoral, master, credential students, and doctoral faculty. The symposium is part of the ongoing SAIL goals and efforts to foster a doctoral culture in the College of Education. Sánchez conducted a discussion session with CSU Stanislaus Educational Leadership doctoral students, giving them and faculty the opportunity to engage in a constructive dialogue on the topic.

SAIL is funded by a grant from the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE) acquired from the U.S. Department of Education by Dr. Juan Flores, a Professor of Teacher Education. Dr. Nancy Jean Smith, Chair of the Teacher Education Department, organized the symposium. The FIPSE directive includes Flores as Principal Investigator and Dr. Smith, Teacher Education Professor Dr. Dennis Sayers, and Teacher Education Professor Dr. Ramón Vega de Jesús as collaborators.

FIPSE is a unit of the Higher Education Programs located within the Office of Postsecondary Education, U.S. Department of Education. FIPSE's mandate is to "improve postsecondary educational opportunities" across a broad range of concerns. The FIPSE program has established a record of promoting meaningful and lasting solutions to various, often newly emerging, problems and of promoting the highest quality education for all learners. Through its primary vehicle, the Comprehensive Program grant competition, FIPSE seeks to support the implementation of innovative educational reform ideas, to evaluate how well they work, and to share the lessons learned with the larger education community.

Flores said the goal of SAIL/FIPSE is to sustain the symposia in order to continue fostering the doctoral culture and to inspire CSU Stanislaus graduate students to conduct more research focusing on the needs of Hispanic learners in the University service area.

### **Seven scholars take top prizes at Student Research Competition**

Seven CSU Stanislaus students advanced to state level competition and scored the top prizes at the University's annual Student Research Competition on March 19 in the John Stuart Rogers Faculty Development Center.

All six top placers will advance to the California State University system-wide competition at San Jose State University on April 30 and May 1. Students from the 23 CSU campuses will submit written papers and make oral presentations before juries of professional experts from major corporations, foundations, public agencies, and universities.

Serving as judges during the afternoon of presentations were Dr. Richard Wallace, Anthropology & Geography; Dr. John Sumser, Communication Studies; Dr. Megan Thomas, Computer Science; Dr. Jung-Ha An, Mathematics; Dr. Elizabeth Breshears, Social Work; and Dr. Deborah Motton, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Research at UC Merced.

The top placers in the two divisions were:

#### **Undergraduate:**

**FIRST PLACE: Evan Parker** (Chemistry) - "Detection and quantification of Melamine by AP-MALDI MS/MS."

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Scott Russell, Chemistry

**SECOND PLACE: Emily Mall** (Psychology) - "Comparison of the Behavioral Assessment and Research System (BARS) to gold standard neurobehavioral tests."

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Dawn Strongin, Psychology

**THIRD PLACE: Ashley Amador** (Psychology) - "The role of personality and stereotype threat on leadership aspirations."

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Victor Luévano, Psychology & Child Development

#### **Graduate:**

**FIRST PLACE: Joseph E. Gonzales** (Psychology) - "Dangerous bedfellows: Evidence that casual sex and Friends-with-Benefits relationships are associated with risky sexual behavior."

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Victor Luévano

**SECOND PLACE: Heather M. Adams** (Psychology) - "What's so casual about it?: Differences between Friends-with-Benefits, casual sexual, and long term relationships."

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Victor Luévano

**THIRD PLACE: Steve Charbonneau and Kay Vang** (Education) - "Student Achievement in California two-way immersion programs."

Faculty Mentor: Dr. Dawn Poole, Advanced Studies in Education

### **STAR Staff Recognition Awards nominations deadline is April 15**

Nominations may be placed until Thursday, April 15 by faculty, staff, administrators, and students for the second annual STAR Staff Recognition Awards.

Awards include "Lifetime Achievement," "Behind the Scenes," "Rookie of the Year," "Employee of the Year," "Outstanding Contribution," and "Exceptional Team." For more

information and to place nominations, go to the University Web site at [www.csustan.edu/hr/awards](http://www.csustan.edu/hr/awards).

The cash awards go to staff members who exemplify exceptional performance, integrity, and service to the University community. Award recipients are announced at the annual spring awards ceremony.

### **Promise Scholars students to participate in Washington, D.C. internship program**

Two students in the CSU Stanislaus Promise Scholars program have been selected to join the Class of 2010 Congressional Foster Youth Internship Program in Washington, D.C., this summer.

LaTasha Hayes and Serena Vidaure are two of only 16 students from universities in the United States who were selected by the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute to participate in the May 29 through July 31 program. They will have the opportunity to do full-time work experience in a Congressional office in Washington.

Hayes and Vidaure, who both come from foster youth backgrounds, submitted a pair of essays about their personal resilience and passion to change the American foster care system.

### **Students' hard work results in \$2,000 award to Career Services**

CSU Stanislaus students working for Vector Marketing singled out the University's Career Services department as the recipient of a \$2,000 award that was presented by company representatives in March.

Juanita Cruthird, Career Services Coordinator, accepted the donation check that was based on the performance of CSU Stanislaus students who are part of Vector's sales force. Campus Relations Manager Amanda Perriera said Career Services was selected to receive the award because "it is one of the only departments that serves the entire student body equally."

CSU Stanislaus students working for Vector are judged on total sales, productivity, and total student participants. They ranked first in productivity and ninth in total sales for the Western Region which includes California, Oregon, Washington, Nevada, Alaska, and Hawaii.

### **University Pool has new lap swim hours for spring**

Faculty, staff, students, and the community are welcome to participate in spring semester lap swimming sessions at the CSU Stanislaus Pool next to Warrior Arena.

Monday through Friday hours are 6 to 8 a.m., 11:15 a.m. to 12:45 p.m., and 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Fees are \$20 per month for faculty and staff and \$40 per month for community members. Students are admitted free.

For more information, contact Sean Newland, Associated Students, Inc. Recreation and Wellness Coordinator, at 667-3150, [snewland@csustan.edu](mailto:snewland@csustan.edu).

### **Heat illness prevention, small vehicle safety classes scheduled**

The University's Safety and Risk Management has scheduled classes on heat illness prevention for Friday, April 16 and small vehicle safety for Tuesday, April 27 as part of a series of safety training sessions.

Check the Campus Training and Professional Development Web site at <http://www.csustan.edu/ctpd/> for the list of current courses or contact Kellie Marshall at [KMarshall@csustan.edu](mailto:KMarshall@csustan.edu), 667-3114.

### **Carol Whiteside to speak at April 22 Ag Studies program**

Carol Whiteside, Founder and President Emeritus of the Great Valley Center in Modesto, will be the featured presenter at the Thursday, April 22 Agricultural Studies Speaker Series program.

Scheduled for 7 p.m. in Room 118 of the Rogers Faculty Development Center on the CSU Stanislaus campus, the program is free and open to the public. The College of the Humanities & Social Sciences and Yosemite Farm Credit are co-sponsors of the series.

Whiteside, a former Modesto Mayor and Modesto School Board member, founded the Great Valley Center in 1997 to support organizations and activities that promote the economic, social, and environmental well-being of California's Central Valley. She currently serves as a policy consultant with California Strategies, LLC on government relations, land use, and community development issues.

### **Eric Karlstrom to address global warming and cooling topics on April 15**

Dr. Eric Karlstrom, a CSU Stanislaus Professor of Anthropology and Geography, will talk about global warming and cooling issues at a Faculty Center Lecture Series presentation at 4 p.m. on Thursday, April 15 in Room 118 of the Rogers Faculty Development Center.

The title of Karlstrom's free lecture is "Radical Global Warming and Cooling In the Last Million Years! Climatic Clues From Ancient Soils and Periglacial Features near Glacier National Park, Montana."

Karlstrom will talk about his research that shows abundant climatic evidence which confirms that Eurasia and other parts of North America experienced temperature variation similar to the climate changes happening in the Glacier National Park region.

## **DIGEST - ARTS STORIES**

### **University, Turlock Concert Association present April 15 Golden Gala Concert**

The College of the Arts' Department of Music will join the Turlock Concert Association to present the Golden Gala Concert in celebration of CSU Stanislaus' 50th anniversary on Thursday, April 15 at 7:30 p.m. in the Turlock Community Theatre.

The concert will feature outstanding traditional and contemporary music performances by CSU Stanislaus faculty and students, including choral, wind and jazz ensembles.

A generous donation has enabled the Turlock Concert Association to commission two original compositions by CSU Stanislaus faculty. This special celebration will feature world premiere performances of these new works.

The Turlock Community Theatre is located at 1574 East Canal Dr. in Turlock. Seating is on a first-come, first-served basis. Tickets will be available at the door, and are \$10 for general admission and \$8 for students, seniors, and CSU faculty and staff. All proceeds from ticket sales at the door benefit the Department of Music Scholarship Fund. For more information contact the College of the Arts, (209) 667-3959.

### **“A Midsummer Night’s Dream” performances in May**

The CSU Stanislaus Theatre Department and the College of the Arts will present outdoor performances of “A Midsummer Night’s Dream” May 5-9 in the Amphitheatre.

Performances are scheduled for 7 p.m. from Wednesday, May 5, through Sunday, May 9. Admission is free and open to the public.

### **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

### **University runner Bhatia second at Modesto, qualifies for Boston Marathon**

J.D. Bhatia ran a race of his life at the first running of the Modesto Marathon -- and the reward will be the chance of a lifetime opportunity to run in the prestigious Boston Marathon.

[http://warriorathletics.com/news/2010/3/21/MXC\\_0321102917.aspx?path=mcross](http://warriorathletics.com/news/2010/3/21/MXC_0321102917.aspx?path=mcross)

### **Annie Burlingham is an All-American in pole vault**

Having been at the Albuquerque Convention Center for a preview meet at the start of the year, and having her husband with her, probably helped Annie Burlingham.

[http://warriorathletics.com/news/2010/3/12/WTRACK\\_0312104126.aspx?path=wtrack](http://warriorathletics.com/news/2010/3/12/WTRACK_0312104126.aspx?path=wtrack)

### **CSU Stanislaus men's and women's soccer lead nation in attendance**

CSU Stanislaus soccer games attracted notably large crowds in 2009, according to newly released National Collegiate Athletic Association data.

[http://warriorathletics.com/news/2010/3/17/MSOC\\_0317102320.aspx](http://warriorathletics.com/news/2010/3/17/MSOC_0317102320.aspx)

### **Stanislaus cross country earns USTFCCCA All-Academic Team awards**

The U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association (USTFCCCA) announced the Division II Academic Teams recently and Cal State Stanislaus men's and women's teams made the list for 2009.

[http://warriorathletics.com/news/2010/3/9/MXC\\_0309105257.aspx?path=wcross](http://warriorathletics.com/news/2010/3/9/MXC_0309105257.aspx?path=wcross)

### **Men's golf team moves up to No. 16 in the nation**

The latest national ranking for men's golf shows the Cal State Stanislaus Warriors are ranked No. 16 and probably moving up, according to the Golf Coaches Association of America (GCAA).

[http://warriorathletics.com/news/2010/3/18/MGOLF\\_0318100307.aspx](http://warriorathletics.com/news/2010/3/18/MGOLF_0318100307.aspx)

### **Warrior Athletics Web site**

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

## DIGEST – FACULTY & STAFF NOTES

### **Geology’s Julia Sankey participates in new dinosaur discovery**

Dr. Julia Sankey, CSU Stanislaus Associate Professor of Geology, helped find a new dinosaur while on a 2009 paleontology venture in Big Bend National Park, Texas.

The discovery, a partial skull from an approximately 75 million-year-old dome-head dinosaur, was named and published in the journal, *Cretaceous Research*. Dome-heads had very thick skulls, which were probably used in fighting by the relatively small dinosaurs. This is a fairly rare dinosaur worldwide, and is the first known from Texas.

Sankey has done field work in Big Bend National Park, Texas, since 1994, working with a permit from the National Park Service. Sankey takes CSU Stanislaus students to Texas on paleontological expeditions, and currently, student Sean Isley, is doing research on this dinosaur.

Funding for Sankey’s research came from CSU Stanislaus RSCA grants, the Dinosaur Research Institute, and her faculty sabbatical.

Sankey was in a group of paleontologists at Big Bend that included Darren Tanke of the Royal Tyrell Museum in Alberta, Canada, who spotted the skull, and Dr. Nicholas Longrich of Yale University.

### **Routh, Sundar, Filling, An named recipients of top faculty awards**

CSU Stanislaus 2009-10 Outstanding Professor awards recipients are Dr. Stephen Routh (Politics/Public Administration), Dr. Viji Sundar (Mathematics), and Dr. Steven Filling (Accounting/Finance), while Dr. Jung-Ha An (Mathematics) is the Elizabeth Anne P. Papageorge Award winner, Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Herman D. Lujan announced on March 22.

The recipients will be honored at the May 5 Faculty Awards Reception and during the June 4 and 5 Commencement.

### **Outstanding Professor: Dr. Stephen Routh**

Letters from current and former students illuminate Routh’s brightest achievement: a passion and commitment to successful student learning. His efforts to present current and relevant information in his classes to engage students in meaningful discussions are laudable. His students excel under his guidance, as evidenced by his IDEA evaluations and student comments. One student noted that “his lectures not only focus on basic knowledge, facts, (and) theories necessary to understand the legislative process, but he brings it to life by utilizing class discussion and current events.” Other students noted that they “gained a greater appreciation of (law) through this class” and that his “class provides a positive atmosphere that is conducive to questions, which is important to me as someone who doesn’t always feel comfortable speaking in class.” In addition to his teaching accolades, Professor Routh clearly demonstrates a commitment to research, scholarship, and active participation in the campus community.

### **Outstanding Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity Professor: Dr. Viji Sundar**

Sundar's research and scholarly activities focus on a very specific research agenda: to determine the gap between mathematical competency and confidence and to develop innovative, creative methods to increase both confidence and knowledge in her students. Driven by passion and devotion to her discipline, she has relentlessly pursued every possible option to develop and enrich her students' educational careers. Sundar's accolades are many, and many of her colleagues recognize and praise her efforts as a "tireless champion" to educate students and teachers in the Central Valley. As noted by one colleague: "As is appropriate for a true scholar, Viji's interests extend well beyond local concerns, encompassing issues that are truly international in scale." Another colleague notes that she has "made significant contributions to the understanding of how teachers teach and students should learn mathematics." Perhaps the most important qualification for this award is Professor Sundar's inclusion of her research in her teaching, which has contributed to the betterment of hundreds of students.

### **Outstanding Service in Faculty Governance: Dr. Steven Filling**

Filling's devotion to faculty governance is evidenced not only by his election and appointment to significant Statewide and campus governance positions, but most especially by his steadfast participation in such matters. A few examples of these include his work on the University Educational Policies Committee, various strategic planning and budgeting committees, and the University Writing Committee. Many of his faculty colleagues support and appreciate Professor Filling's strong commitment to the centrality of faculty voices and values on our campus, as evidenced by his second election and appointment as Speaker of the Faculty.

### **Elizabeth Anne B. Papageorge Award: Dr. Jung-Ha An**

This award recognizes and encourages outstanding achievement by probationary faculty members. By all accounts, Professor An is an exemplary teacher-scholar. Students appreciate her passion and engagement with Mathematics coupled with her dedication to student learning and achievement. An demonstrates her extensive knowledge in mathematics through her diverse course offerings, ranging from prebaccalaureate remedial mathematics to complex upper division curricula. Her students excel under her guidance, as evidenced by her IDEA evaluations. Excellent teaching is informed by ongoing research, including her research on medical image segmentation, which has augmented her commitment to student mentoring and research management. Here on campus, Professor An has participated in the Faculty Mentor Program (FMP), given numerous lectures to students outside of her department, and co-founded the CSU Stanislaus chapter of the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM), illustrating this commitment.

### **Professor Ed Hernandez directs student team to state Human Resources title**

Directed by Professor of Management/Human Resources Dr. Edward Hernandez, who has developed a reputation for being a demanding but successful coach, a pair of CSU Stanislaus student teams made their mark at the state and regional levels in February.

After winning first and third place at the State Human Resources Collegiate Competition in February, the CSU Stanislaus teams advanced to the March 20 Pacific Western Regional Championship Reno, Nevada, on March 20 and scored second and third place finishes.

The *Jeopardy*-style games are an annual academic event designed to foster friendly competition among university students while preparing them for careers in human resources. Joining Hernandez as a co-advisor is Management, Operations, and Marketing faculty member Dr. Jarrett Kotrozo.

CSU Stanislaus won 17 out of 21 matches at the state competition held at CSU Bakersfield sending two teams to the Pacific Western Regional Championships in Reno. Fresno State came in second place.

“This hard-working group’s achievements demonstrate the commitment and academic prowess of CSU Stanislaus students. I wish these teams the best at the regional competition later this month,” said CSU Stanislaus Dean of the College of Business Administration Linda Nowak. “This is an example of the Management, Operations and Marketing Department’s diligence and the dedication of faculty.”

CSU Stanislaus is an established powerhouse in the HR games. The University has won four state championships: 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2010. Of the six Pacific Western Regional Championships it has entered, CSU Stanislaus has also won four: 2004, 2006, 2007, and 2009. In 2006, the University won nationals, beating notable teams from Utah State and Cornell University.

The state first-place team included Joe Aja, Demetrios Zarafakis, and Tabitha Lilly. The third-place team was comprised of Kenny Brown, Sarah Lamas, and Amanda Fritz.

### **Fulbright Professor from Poland finds “Intellectual Heaven” at CSU Stanislaus**

As an acknowledged expert in the behavioral treatment of autism, Dr. Monika Suchowierska describes her Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence experience at CSU Stanislaus as being in “intellectual heaven.”

Her description is understandable, considering the fact that CSU Stanislaus has a number of experts on its faculty who have done considerable research on autism and been recognized internationally for their groundbreaking studies that focus on treatment of the behavior disorder.

Suchowierska, Director of the Psychology in English Program at the Warsaw School of Psychology and the early intervention center Step by Step in Warsaw, is serving as a Fulbright faculty member with the Department of Psychology teaching classes during the spring semester. She founded the Center in 2005, the first behaviorally oriented private institution in Warsaw that provides early intensive intervention to children with autism.

As the only board certified behavior analyst in Poland, Suchowierska was convinced that she should serve a Fulbright experience at CSU Stanislaus after meeting retired Dean of the College of Human and Health Sciences, Dr. Gary Novak, during one of his research ventures in Poland.

“There are faculty here who are working to make things better for children with autism, as I am also attempting to do in Poland,” Suchowierska said during a break between classes. “Autism is still a disorder that is misunderstood in Poland, but people are becoming more aware. Behavioral

analysis and interventions, like the work being done by faculty here at CSU Stanislaus, are making a difference in helping to alleviate misconceptions about autism.”

Suchowierska said she was eager to come to CSU Stanislaus and work with faculty like Psychology Professor Jane Howard and her colleagues who are making significant advances in working with children afflicted with autism. The Polish professor said she has found her experiences sitting in on graduate classes to be invaluable.

“I am in intellectual heaven here, surrounded by people who do what I do, and who have had much of their research published,” Suchowierska said.

Suchowierska said her goal while at CSU Stanislaus is to find a way that she and her colleagues and students in Warsaw can collaborate with faculty and students here. She has high hopes that a program that would allow faculty and students at the two higher education institutions to work together, share research information, and conduct exchange visits can be established in the future.

### **Jane Howard of Psychology named one of county’s “Outstanding Women”**

CSU Stanislaus Professor of Psychology Dr. Jane Howard, who has done groundbreaking work on research and projects involving people with special needs, was recently honored as one of the Outstanding Women of Stanislaus County.

She was recognized for her dedicated support of women and children in providing innovative intervention services to children. Howard founded and co-directed the Center for Direct Instruction at CSU Stanislaus in 1979 to provide intensive literacy remediation to local schoolchildren.

Howard has helped meet a serious need over the past nine years as co-founder and co-director of the Kendall School and Therapeutic Pathways in Modesto. The agencies provide intensive behavior analytic intervention to young children with autism spectrum disorders.

A member of the CSU Stanislaus faculty since 1978, Howard is a licensed psychologist. She was a principal investigator in the completion of a pioneering study and report on autism treatment in 2005. She received the CSU Stanislaus Outstanding Community Service Professor Award in 2006 and is a published researcher, reviewer, and well-known presenter at national and international conferences.

### **Costa, Hodge named to endowed professorships**

President Dr. Hamid Shirvani announced on March 23 the appointment of two new endowed professorships in education and nursing.

Dr. Elmano Costa, a professor of Teacher Education at CSU Stanislaus since 1995, was named the Christie Sue Whalen-Saxton Professor of Teacher Education. This endowment was established to support and enhance teacher-training programs. Whalen-Saxton received her B.A. degree in 1977 and her teaching credential in 1979 from CSU Stanislaus.

“Dr. Costa’s commitment to advancing education in the Portuguese community, his sundry contributions to the department and college, and his attention to students make him most deserving of this prestigious professorship,” said President Hamid Shirvani.

Dr. Peggy Hodge, a professor and chair of the Department of Nursing who joined the CSU Stanislaus faculty in 2003, was named the Marian Palmer Professor of Nursing.

“Dr. Hodge is a distinguished leader of our nursing program, who has made extensive contributions to the University and community,” President Shirvani said. “In many ways, Dr. Hodge’s dedication to the University and community mirrors that of Ms. Palmer.”

Palmer served on the California State University, Stanislaus’ Foundation Board of Directors for a decade and was also a founding member of the Emanuel Medical Center Auxiliary, one of the largest hospital volunteer groups in the region. Palmer’s passion for helping others is carried on through the Marian Palmer Nursing Scholarship Endowment.

“Marian Palmer was a beloved member of the community and loyal University supporter,” President Shirvani said.

“I’m indebted to the Foundation Board and Vice President of University Advancement Susana Gajic-Bruyea for securing funding for this prestigious position,” President Shirvani said.

Each endowed professor will receive an additional annual stipend of \$7,500. They will take over the positions July 1.

An endowed professor is among the most important gifts to higher education and a vital tool to ensure faculty excellence. Philanthropic endowments have been known since ancient times. The Greek philosopher Plato bequeathed valuable land to his disciples so they could maintain his Academy. Today, an endowed professor honors and recognizes the distinction of superior faculty while providing invaluable financial support.

### **Kinesiology’s Erin Hall coordinates jump rope record event**

Department of Kinesiology faculty member Dr. Erin Hall served as event coordinator in joining other members of her department who helped Walnut Elementary School in Turlock participate in a statewide attempt to beat the current world record for most people jumping and skipping rope at the same time.

For 10 minutes on Monday, February 1, there were 731 people jumping rope in unison during the effort that was broadcast live via streaming video all over the state.

The mother of a Walnut first grader, Hall contacted Walnut administrators and suggested that students, teachers, and parents participate in the event. Joining in the effort were CSU Stanislaus softball coach Jan Schefkowitz and members of her team.

Participants’ names and record attempt data were collected and verified for the California Governor’s Council on Physical Fitness and Sports Governor’s Challenge program, along with the Jump Rope for Heart program.

### **Teacher Education Professor Brenda Betts presents in Pasadena**

Dr. Brenda Betts, Professor in the Department of Teacher Education, presented “Creating Mandalas to Support the Social Studies Curriculum” at the California Council for the Social Studies 49th Annual Conference in Pasadena on March 7.

Mandalas are circles decorated with symbols. They can be created in any medium – paint, sand, crayon, markers, chalk, colored pencils, and on computers. Mandalas can be made in any size and applied to many surfaces including paper, poster board, butcher paper, and construction paper.

Betts said that by creating symbols on mandalas, students can demonstrate what they have learned. A mandala can be created on any topic by children and adults of all ages and is an effective and enjoyable way to connect art and creativity to the curriculum, she noted.

Joining Betts at the conference was Elaine Hildebrand, a graduate student in the Department of Teacher Education, who made a presentation titled “Our Founding Mothers: Pioneers for Human Rights in American History.” Hildebrand examined the perspectives and struggles of famous women through their letters and speeches.

### **“Stories of Oprah” book edited by faculty member Trystan Cotten**

Dr. Trystan T. Cotten, CSU Stanislaus Assistant Professor of African American studies, served as co-editor of a recently released new book titled *Stories of Oprah: The Oprahfication of American Culture*.

Published by University Press of Mississippi, “Stories of Oprah” is a new collection of essays that explores TV talk show host Oprah Winfrey’s broad reach as an industry and media brand. Contributors analyze a number of topics touching on the ways in which her cultural output shapes contemporary America.

Cotten has also been a co-editor of two other books, *Cultural Sites of Critical Insight: Philosophy, Aesthetics, and African American and Native Women’s Writings* and *(Un)Making Race, Re-making Soul: Transforming Aesthetics and the Practice of Freedom*.

### **Lopez-Contreras interviewed on syndicated Spanish radio program**

Dr. Enrique Lopez-Contreras, CSU Stanislaus Professor of Modern Languages, was interviewed February 2 on the syndicated Spanish radio program “Voces de America” about the opportunities and challenges of higher education for Hispanic students in the United States.

Lopez-Contreras, a former university president in Venezuela and a Spanish professor at CSU Stanislaus who has published articles on Hispanic and bilingual topics, said he feels strongly that an emergency must be declared in the Hispanic community to increase the number of students who earn college degrees.

Noting that Hispanics have the highest high school and college dropout rates in the country, Lopez-Contreras singled out programs that are producing results at CSU Stanislaus. He mentioned his participation in the University’s Faculty Mentor Program that pairs professors with students to provide encouragement and helpful advice on how to succeed in college and other retention programs that focus on student retention. Lopez-Contreras pointed to the success

of the first generation of Cuban Americans who came to the United States with a high level of education.

### **Lee Renner's son, Jeremy, shares the Oscar spotlight**

Lee Renner, CSU Stanislaus Senior Director of Retention Services, had another proud moment on March 7 when his son, Jeremy Renner, joined the winner's circle at the Academy Awards program in Los Angeles.

A Best Actor Oscar nominee for his performance in the hit movie "The Hurt Locker," Jeremy Renner also celebrated an Oscar triumph on stage when the film received the Oscar for Best Picture.

Lee Renner joined a group of people who watched the internationally televised program at the State Theatre in Modesto.

A graduate of Modesto Junior College, Jeremy Renner visited CSU Stanislaus in October 2008 when he participated in a reading with Theatre Professor John Mayer from the Summer Reading Program book "Into the Wild."

### ***Brian Duggan's book on Salukis receives national award***

Brian Duggan, CSU Stanislaus Director of Learning Services and author of the book *Saluki: The Desert Hound and the English Travelers Who Brought It to the West*, receives the Maxwell Medal for Best Breed Book in the Dog Writers Association of America 2009 Writing Contest from Carmen Battaglia, President of the Dog Writers Association of America. The awards banquet was held in New York on February 14. Duggan's book was also a finalist in the non-fiction category of the Alliance of Pure Bred Dog Writers annual competition.

### **University mourns passing of founding Theatre faculty member Douglas McDermott**

Dr. Douglas McDermott, one of the founding members of the CSU Stanislaus Theatre Department known for his resounding voice and direction of many University performances, passed away on February 19 following a long battle with cancer. He was 73.

During his 30-year career at CSU Stanislaus, McDermott was an active participant in many campus projects, directed numerous plays, and was a founding member and later director of the University's first Honors Program. Since retiring, McDermott continued to ride his bicycle to the campus to do research on a book that he had been working on for many years.

## DIGEST – NOTES FROM HR

### Employee Assistance Program provides variety of services

As a reminder, the Employee Assistance Program (EAP), provided by Managed Health Network (MHN), is here to help. Below are just some of the services available to eligible CSU Stanislaus employees and their dependents – 100 percent free and totally confidential.

Services include:

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

Members are entitled to as many telephonic sessions as their 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.

To access the services, call MHN at (800) 227-1060, toll-free 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and state you are a CSU Stanislaus member. Or, go to [www.members.mhn.com](http://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 website.

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

### Visit the Human Resources Web site

Checked out the Human Resources Web site lately? A number of great resources are available. Visitors will find 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. The site also includes links to all the collective bargaining contracts, corresponding salary schedules, and much more. Check it out at:

[www.csustan.edu/HR/](http://www.csustan.edu/HR/)

### RECRUITMENT WELCOMES

Name	Classification	Department
Araceli Maldonado (Garcia)	Education Opportunity Program Advisor	Education Opportunity Program (EOP)
Eve Hightower	Interim Director, Media Relations Director, Auxiliary Enterprise	President's Office
Briquel Hutton	Accounting	Business & Finance
Dale Texter	AVP, Auxiliary Services	Financial Services
Michael Wojciechowski	Shipping & Receiving Assistant I Administrative Support	Property Services
Jamie Fletcher	Coordinator I	Provost's Office
Patti Carpenter	Accountant I	Financial Services

Lisa Sandoval	Accountant II	Financial Services
Linda Nowak	Dean, College of Business Administration	College of Business Administration
Kristina Belanger	Executive Director, Extended Education	University Extended Education
Janet Faridi	Administrative Support Assistant I	University Extended Education
Jennifer Ajinga	Promise Scholar Academic Advisor	Education Opportunity Program (EOP)
Charles Naray	Accountant II	Financial Services