



## CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY STANISLAUS

### DIGEST - DECEMBER 2008

#### **New University Bookstore celebrates grand opening**

The new University Bookstore, the latest architecturally impressive building added to CSU Stanislaus, made a special debut during an October 30 grand opening ceremony.

CSU Stanislaus President Ham Shirvani, who presided over the festivities and ribbon-cutting, saw his vision come to fruition that the new bookstore be a campus landmark and provide a place where students could gather in a collegial atmosphere. He was joined by a number of people from CSU Stanislaus and current bookstore contractor Barnes & Noble who were on hand for the special day.

“As California State University, Stanislaus begins celebrating 50 years of higher education excellence, it is a perfect time to dedicate such an impressive new facility,” President Hamid Shirvani said. “The University takes great pride in this building in which people can enjoy the experience and wonderful atmosphere. It represents the University’s identity and character.”

The \$5.6 million facility, located next to the Student Union complex and the first separate building for the bookstore in the nearly 50-year history of the University, features an impressive architectural design with an octagonal entry tower and basilican form. Lead architect Thomas Gordon Smith is a recognized international leader in contemporary developments of classical architecture. The bookstore entryway includes sculptor Andrew Wilson Smith’s herms of ancient Greek poets side by side with images of California authors, celebrating literary connections between ancient Greece and California.

The 12,000 square-foot building is twice the size of the former shop in the Student Union. In addition to the sections for books, supplies, and always popular CSU Stanislaus clothing and memorabilia items, the store includes a reading and lounge area. A coffee-dispensing machine and cold drinks are available in the store.

“We are delighted to join with Cal State Stanislaus in celebrating the grand opening of this beautiful, new bookstore,” said Barnes & Noble President Max Roberts. “For Barnes & Noble, this store is far more than a physical structure. It is a testament to the 20-year partnership between Barnes & Noble and California State University, Stanislaus, and it speaks to our commitment to help the University in its mission to engage every member of the campus in expanding their intellectual, creative, and social horizons.”

#### **Homecoming Week celebration features variety of activities**

Faculty, staff, students, and alumni found activities and entertainment in ample supply as CSU Stanislaus celebrated its annual Homecoming the week of November 17-21.

Contestants in the “Mr. and Ms. Warrior” competition were challenged in a variety of events, including dancing exhibitions with faculty and staff partners that drew a big crowd of onlookers in the Quad on November 18. The winners were David Johnson, a senior biology major, and Lia Lai Saechao, a senior sociology major.

Other activities included outdoor rallies, the traditional student parade through campus on November 20, an open house marking the 30th anniversary of the University Student Union, and basketball games. The women’s team rallied with a three-pointer at the horn to beat Northwest Nazarene 73-71 on the opening day of Homecoming and the Warrior men topped William Jessup University of Rocklin 95-79 in a Thursday evening contest that included presentation of the “Mr. and Ms. Warrior” winners.

A “Homecoming Official After Party” for students concluded the week’s activities on Friday evening.

### **Film star Jeremy Renner teams with Professor Mayer in Summer Reading performance**

Film star Jeremy Renner joined University Theatre Chair and Professor John Mayer in a reading from the California State University, Stanislaus Summer Reading Program book “Into the Wild” on October 27 in the Flora and Bernell Snider Recital Hall.

Renner, a Modesto native and son of CSU Stanislaus Senior Director of Retention Services Lee Renner, mixed with members of the audience during a reception after the performance.

“Into the Wild,” a non-fiction best-seller written by Jon Krakauer and adapted for a movie of the same title in 2007, was selected as the University’s summer reading assignment as part of the freshman orientation requirement. The book is about the adventures of Christopher McCandless who died in a wilderness area of Alaska in 1992. Opening with the discovery of McCandless’ body inside an abandoned bus, the story retraces his travels during the two years he was reported missing after graduating from Emory University in Atlanta, cutting off communication with his family, and discarding his possessions.

Renner, 36, has enjoyed major success since making the transition from the theatre to television and the big screen where he has compiled a long list of credits.

Mayer has devoted his career to the stage and studied with actors Gary Sinise and John Malkovich of Chicago’s highly acclaimed Steppenwolf Theatre. He also studied at Chicago’s Second City and has recently performed in a variety of stage roles.

The Summer Reading Program assignment is aimed at providing a common intellectual experience for incoming students to help jump-start their University experience, improve their connection with the campus, and contribute to their future academic success.

### **Thailand professors participate in summer mathematics project**

Research by two faculty members from Phranakhor Rajabhat University in Bangkok, Thailand, who joined the Central California Mathematics Project Summer Leadership Institute at CSU Stanislaus will be published in the program’s upcoming Journal of Mathematics. The publication will debut in January with a foreword by CSU Stanislaus Provost William Covino.

Mathematics teacher leaders in the University region participated in the two one-week programs held in July. Participants worked together to develop and author a mathematics article for publication that also involved the faculty visitors from Thailand. Phranakhor Rajabhat University has a working partnership with CSU Stanislaus that has involved faculty exchange visits between the two higher education institutions.

The peer reviewed articles compiled by participants and the visiting faculty will cover difficult to teach skills in the K-12 math curriculum as well as the best lessons of individual writers.

### **Phi Kappa Phi sponsors children's books distribution on Halloween**

Youngsters who visited the 15th Annual Housing and Residential Life Halloween Gala on October 31 received free books along with their tricks and treats.

The Phi Kappa Phi honor society chapter conducted a "Spooktacular Boobook Drive" on the University campus so that trick-or-treaters at the Haunted House in The Village could receive the gift of reading during their visit. New paperback book donations for children ages 2 to 14 were collected and sorted by Phi Kappa Phi student and faculty members.

In addition to the traditional Haunted House and locations for trick-or-treating conducted by Housing and Residential Life at The Village, the event included a carnival featuring a variety of games and crafts.

### **Math Club conducts "Tutoring Nights" for students from local schools**

High school and junior high school students from area campuses received tutoring for challenging mathematics assignments from members of the Math Club at CSU Stanislaus as part of a fundraising project.

The club conducted three "Tutoring Night" sessions during the fall semester. The programs were open to all high school and junior high school students on a drop-in basis and more sessions are planned for the spring semester.

For a \$5 donation, students teamed up in small groups received help with their homework as well as study preparation for tests in algebra, geometry, math analysis/precalculus, and calculus.

"The Math Club received positive feedback from parents and local teachers both during and after the first evening of tutoring, and many of them returned with their children for the October Tutoring Night," said Dr. Brian Jue, a CSU Stanislaus mathematics professor and club faculty sponsor. Dr. John Rock of the Mathematics faculty is also a faculty sponsor for the club.

Healthy snacks for students and their parents were provided courtesy of Starbucks, Raley's, and Safeway.

### **Research and Scholarship Week features variety of programs**

Research, creative, and scholarly activities of CSU Stanislaus faculty were in the spotlight September 30 through October 2.

Coordinated by the University's Office of Research and Sponsored Programs, Research, Scholarship, and Creative Activity (RSCA) Week featured a series of late-afternoon and evening

programs headlined by a pair of noted speakers, tours of CSU Stanislaus research locations and facilities, faculty panel discussions, a poster display/open house in the University Union Event Center, and an Observatory Night.

More than 50 faculty participated in the research display program and 20 University departments participated in the various events. Dr. Marina Gerson of Biological Sciences, who co-chaired the event along with Dr. Melanie Martin of Computer Science, said that several hundred people turned out for the different programs, including a capacity audience for featured speaker Joshua Rosenau. Gerson said she hopes even more departments will participate in next year's program.

Tour programs included the CSU Stanislaus Sustainable Agriculture Field Lab and BioAg site, the Art Department's Digital Media Lab, a "Visual Attention Computer Lab" presentation by Psychology Professor Dr. Harold Stanislaw, and the Geography Information Systems Lab.

### **Bioneers Conference focuses on environmental, social issues**

Topics that address environmental, social, human rights, and other related issues involving people who are making a difference took center stage during the CSU Stanislaus Council for Sustainable Futures Second Annual Great Central Valley Bioneers Conference held October 17-19.

Films, music, food, panel discussions, a keynote address, and satellite broadcasts from conference headquarters in San Rafael were featured during the event held in Demergasso-Bava Hall. CSU Stanislaus was one of 19 sites all over the nation participating in the conference.

### **Penumbra magazine accepting submissions through February 26**

Submissions of short fiction, poetry, art work, and photography are being accepted through February 26, 2009 for "Penumbra," the annual CSU Stanislaus art and literary magazine.

All interested writers, artists, and photographers are welcome to make submissions. Written submissions must include a cover letter with a list of submitted works, a brief biography, and name, address, e-mail, and phone number. Art submissions may be submitted on a CD in .jpg format and should not exceed 11 by 17. All art work will be printed in black & white, except for the color cover piece.

Send submissions to Rofiah Breen in the CSU Stanislaus English Department, Turlock, CA 95382. For more information, call Breen at (209) 667-3673.

### **Ag Series speaker Cliff Ohmart addresses sustainable agriculture issues**

On November 20, the CSU Stanislaus Agricultural Studies Department hosted Dr. Cliff Ohmart, Research/IPM Director for the Lodi Winegrape Commission as the guest lecturer for the Fall Ag Studies Speaker Series, sponsored by Yosemite Farm Credit, ACA. Dr. Ohmart delivered on his promise to speak about "Everything You Ever Wanted to Know about Sustainable Agriculture," presenting a look into the past, present, and future of this concept.

Dr. Ohmart discussed the contributions of Rudolf Steiner, an Austrian philosopher and scientist, who extended his beliefs about the interconnectedness of spirituality and science into a concept called biodynamic farming. Introduced by Steiner in 1924 in response to concerns regarding the

rise of industrial farming, biodynamic agriculture is the oldest non-chemical agricultural concept and it is still employed today and certified by the Demeter Association, a non-profit corporation. Ohmart compared biodynamic farming's idea of the farm, as a self-contained unit with an emphasis on soil management and off-farm inputs, with organic farming and with present-day integrated pest management as a component of sustainable agriculture.

Ohmart explained that the concept of sustainable agriculture did not grow out of the idea of organic farming or biodynamic farming, both of which were created in response to pesticide issues that reached their hiatus during the Green Revolution of the 1950s and 60s. He stated that while sustainable agriculture shares similar goals with organic farming, it differs in that it is not input focused and does not have the nationally recognized standards that guide the production practices of organic farming.

Ohmart described sustainable agriculture as a response to current issues regarding our water supply, energy needs, air quality, genetically enhanced organisms, climate change, and human resources. He stressed that these issues can be dealt with using five components of integrated pest management that employ ecological principles. These components include an understanding of crop ecology, an understanding of pest ecology and natural pest enemies, a monitoring program for pests, the use of economic thresholds to make decisions regarding the use of pest controls, and the consideration of pest control options that minimize economic, environmental, and health risks.

What does this mean for the California Wine Industry? Ohmart described the goals of the Lodi Winegrape Commission which focuses on the sustainable management of soil, water, winegrapes, human resources, ecosystems, and facilities to achieve the principles of being economically viable, environmentally sound, and socially equitable. Ohmart concluded with an explanation of the innovative "Lodi-Winegrower's Workbook: A self-assessment of integrated farming practices," published in 2000 by the Lodi-Woodbridge Winegrape Commission and revised in 2008, and the "Code of Sustainable Winegrowing Practices Self-Assessment Workbook" published in 2002 by the Wine Institute and California Association of Winegrape Growers.

## **DIGEST - ARTS STORIES**

### **Arts Calendar**

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

## **DIGEST - ATHLETICS STORIES**

### **Women's soccer receives Academic Award for the second consecutive year**

[http://warriorathletics.com/news/2008/12/2/WSOC\\_1202082703.aspx?path=wsoc](http://warriorathletics.com/news/2008/12/2/WSOC_1202082703.aspx?path=wsoc)

### **Women's Tennis returns as No. 22 in nation, No. 3 in West**

[http://warriorathletics.com/news/2008/11/3/WTN\\_1103081339.aspx?path=wten](http://warriorathletics.com/news/2008/11/3/WTN_1103081339.aspx?path=wten)

### **Warrior soccer player Melissa Phillips on All-Region team**

[http://warriorathletics.com/news/2008/11/12/WSOC\\_1112083537.aspx?path=wsoc](http://warriorathletics.com/news/2008/11/12/WSOC_1112083537.aspx?path=wsoc)

### **Ruiz named CCAA Freshman of the Year for men's soccer; Johnson second-team pick**

[http://warriorathletics.com/news/2008/11/5/MSOC\\_1105081121.aspx](http://warriorathletics.com/news/2008/11/5/MSOC_1105081121.aspx)

### **Warrior Men Basketball Schedule**

<http://www.warriorathletics.com/schedule.aspx?path=mbball&>

### **Warrior Women Basketball Schedule**

<http://www.warriorathletics.com/schedule.aspx?path=wbball&>

### **Warrior Athletics Web site**

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

## **DIGEST - UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **Holiday Luncheon scheduled for December 12 in Warrior Arena**

Faculty, staff, and retirees are invited to attend the annual Holiday Luncheon on Friday, December 12 in Warrior Arena.

Hosted by the Office of the President and Staff Council, the buffet luncheon will run from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Programs featuring the traditional movie production featuring CSU Stanislaus “stars” are scheduled for 11:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., and 1 p.m.

### **University will have float in Turlock’s December 5 Christmas Parade**

Members of the CSU Stanislaus community and their family and friends are invited to participate in this year’s Turlock Downtown Christmas Parade on Friday, December 5.

The University will have a “The Spirit of Christmas Past” float in this year’s lighted parade sponsored by Alumni Affairs in University Advancement. Faculty, staff, students, family, and friends can walk with the float over the 2.5-mile route through Turlock. Parade lineup starts at 5:30 p.m. and the march gets under way at 7 p.m.

### **Holiday Crafters Annual Bazaar is December 3 in Main Dining Hall**

Hand crafted items by a group of on-campus artists will be available at the Holiday Crafters Annual Bazaar on Wednesday, December 3, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., in the Main Dining Hall.

Proceeds from the sale will go to the University’s Hunger Network which provides food and other items for the poor and homeless of the region. Purchases are cash only. Contact Lana Jones at 667-3371 for more information.

### **Adult CPR class scheduled for December 11 at Public Safety**

CSU Stanislaus employees and students can participate in an Adult CPR class on Thursday, December 11, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the University Police Department. Registration fee is \$8 and participants must register in advance on the Campus Training and Professional Development Web site at

<http://www.csustan.edu/CTPD/JobClassificationTrainings/CardiopulmonaryResuscitation.html>.

The course will help participants identify and eliminate potentially hazardous conditions in their environment, recognize emergencies, and make appropriate first aid care decisions. Participants learn skills they need to give immediate care to a suddenly ill or injured person until more advanced medical care arrives with a focus on cardiac emergencies.

## DIGEST – FACULTY & STAFF NOTES

### **Professor Elmano Costa receives Portuguese American Leadership Award**

Professor of Education Dr. Elmano Costa received a special award at the 12th Annual U.S. Portuguese American Leadership Council (PALCUS) Awards Gala on September 1 in San Jose. PALCUS is the only national organization unifying the Portuguese communities in the United States.

The Educational Leadership Award was the first of two honors received by Costa in September. On September 24, he received the honorary insignia of Commendator of the Order of Public Instruction from the government of Portugal for his dedication to promoting awareness of the Portuguese culture.

“Dr. Costa has been a cultural ambassador who has worked diligently on behalf of our communities, manifesting the hardworking spirit of our culture and the family values we hold dear,” said John Bento, PALCUS Board Chair. “He has achieved amazing success and has provided an example to the community through his work. In his career he has proudly recognized his Portuguese background.”

A Professor of Education at CSU Stanislaus for 13 years, Costa is also director of the University’s Center for Portuguese Studies. He previously served as an elementary school principal in Delhi and Livingston for 10 years and a middle and elementary school teacher for seven years.

Costa was a co-founder of two non-profit agencies in Turlock: the Portuguese Education Foundation of Central California and the Valley Area Living Enabling Resources (VALER) Social Services Referral Agency. He is also on the Board of Directors for the Portuguese-American Citizenship Project based in the Washington, D. C., area, serving as the coordinator for the California Region.

“While I can say that I have volunteered much time to several causes, the success of those undertakings is not just due to my efforts but to those of every member of the organizations with which I work,” Costa said. “Education is the preparation that allows us to take advantage of the opportunities that we cross in the journey of life.”

### **Vega de Jesús publishes letter in newly released book**

Teacher Education Professor Dr. Ramón Vega de Jesús has published a letter to educator and author Paulo Freire titled “The Fire of Conscientization Still Burns” in Sonia Nieto’s new book, “Dear Paulo: Letters from Those Who Dare Teach (Series in Critical Narrative).”

Sonia Nieto is Professor Emerita of Language, Literacy, and Culture at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. She is the author of many books, among them: “Affirming Diversity: The Sociopolitical Context of Multicultural Education,” “What Keeps Teachers Going?” and “Why We Teach,” to name a few.

Vega de Jesús reflects on the times in his life he encountered educator Paulo Freire and his influence in his philosophy of education. He first met Freire at the University of Puerto Rico as a



pre-service teacher in the mid 1970s and later in the early 1990s as teacher of language for minority children.

Amazon.com describes the book as “a heartfelt response from teachers, academics, and community workers to the work of the internationally renowned educator and author Paulo Freire. From newly minted teachers terrified of facing their first day in the classroom to seasoned academics whose work has largely been inspired by Freire, this collection is both a loving memorial and a call to action to work for social justice, praxis, and democracy, ideals envisioned and brilliantly articulated by Paulo.”

Fifty percent of the royalties of the book will be donated to two non-profit organizations: Seeds of Solidarity (SOS), and Teaching for Change. Seeds of Solidarity (SOS) [www.seedsofsolidarity.org/](http://www.seedsofsolidarity.org/) is an organization that “provides people with the inspiration and practical tools to grow food and use renewable energy, linking environmental and social justice through community-based action.” Teaching for Change <<http://www.teachingforchange.org/>> provides teachers and parents with the tools to transform schools into centers of justice where students learn to read, write, and change the world. This mission is accomplished through publications (catalog and bookstores), professional development, and parent organizing.

### **Christy Gonzales guides a flock of students through Faculty Mentor Program**

A self-described “poster child” of the University’s Faculty Mentor Program, Dr. Christy Gonzales of the Liberal Studies Department is one of a number of faculty members who have devoted time to helping students.

Having earned her bachelor’s and master’s degrees at CSU Stanislaus, Gonzales benefitted as one of the first student participants in the Faculty Mentor Program. Now she is giving back by mentoring between 13 and 20 students per academic year. A former Faculty Mentor Program director before becoming a faculty member in 1988, Gonzales strongly believes that the advice and listening time she devotes to the program are vital for student participants.

Gonzales completed her Doctorate Degree in Education from the University of Pacific in August.

### **Jim Youngblom co-authors article on genomics education in journal “Science”**

Dr. Jim Youngblom, Professor of Biological Sciences, co-authored an article titled “Genomics Education Partnership” in the October 31 issue of “Science.”

Youngblom teamed with 37 other experts on the article that focuses on the Genomics Education Partnership that offers an inclusive model for undergraduate research experiences, with students pooling their work to contribute to international databases. The authors note that undergraduate research experiences can sustain student interest in a science career, providing an opportunity to work collaboratively with colleagues while making novel contributions to the community.

Genomics, the authors point out, is an attractive area for student-scientist partnerships as they study exciting advances in the life sciences and analyze genes, the basic unit of heredity in a living organism. They report that involving undergraduates in a genomics research project is a rewarding way for faculty to teach and for undergraduates to learn.

### **Ag Studies Chair Mark Bender receives national FFA award**

Dr. Mark Bender, Agricultural Studies Department Chair, added another prestigious award from the Future Farmers of America (FFA) to his list of honors in October, this time at the national level.

Bender received the Honorary American FFA Degree at the national organization's 81st National Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana. Coming on the heels of his acceptance of the Honorary California State FFA Association Degree during the 2008 State Conference in Fresno, Bender's latest award was in recognition of his dedication to the advancement of agricultural education and the FFA through outstanding personal commitment.

The state honor, presented in April, is the highest award bestowed by the California State FFA Association and recognized Bender's work with high school agriculture students and the FFA, as well as his statewide efforts for agricultural education at both the secondary and post-secondary levels.

Bender has more than 36 years of service in agricultural education, including seven years at CSU Stanislaus as Founding Chair of the Agricultural Studies Department in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences. A former Modesto Junior College (MJC) Dean of Agriculture, Environmental Sciences, and Technical Education, he has developed a bachelor's degree program at CSU Stanislaus that emphasizes partnerships with the state's community colleges and other universities.

"Teaching agriculture and serving young people at the high school, community college, and university levels, as well as 4-H, FFA, and community organizations has been a big part of what I have dedicated my career to," Bender said. "It is truly an honor to have that effort recognized at the national level."

A familiar face on the regional agriculture scene, Bender served as superintendent of various FFA divisions at the Stanislaus County Fair for 25 years. He was also San Joaquin County Fair Livestock Manager for five years and served on high school agriculture department advisory committees and organized FFA Field Days at MJC for 27 years. Bender has had an active role in developing high school and college agriculture curriculum and Tech Prep initiatives for student leadership, articulation, and internships. A licensed American Rabbit Breeders judge, Bender has developed a rabbit curriculum that is used by high schools in California and Oregon.

Bender is co-author of the E'Portfolio personal and professional leadership and career tool that is used by colleges and high schools in California.

In June 2007, Bender was one of 20 faculty from all over the country recognized in June 2007 in Washington, D.C., as an E. (Kikda) de la Garza Fellow in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA's) Hispanic-Serving Institutions National Program (HSINP).

The California Association FFA has a membership of more than 60,000 students and is part of the National FFA, one of the largest youth organizations in the world.

### **Brenda Betts and graduate student Jane Rodgers make presentation**

Teacher Education Professor Dr. Brenda Betts and Jane Rodgers, a graduate student in the Department of Teacher Education, presented, “Children Who Made a Difference” on October 18 at the California Reading Association Annual Conference 2008 in Sacramento.

In their presentation, Betts and Rodgers talked about how much children enjoy reading about the lives of other children. They point out the remarkable contributions of many children who have made charitable and community service projects. These projects can be adapted for classroom and school implementation, Betts and Rodgers told the audience. They added that when students learn about the accomplishments of other children, they may be motivated to create a project for their classroom or school.

### **University photographer Cary Edmondson wins two national awards**

California State University, Stanislaus photographer Cary Edmondson received first and third place honors in the University Photographers Association of America summer image competition.

Edmondson’s first-place photo in the Portrait category features the University’s now familiar poster character named “Ben Carded” who was created to promote a signup campaign for new student identification cards earlier this year. In the photo, “Ben” is promoting the fact that the new card can be used for purchases on and off campus.

A photo taken by Edmondson during the student move-in day in The Village received third-place honors in the News & Features category. His photo captures a shadowed scene from above of a University student moving belongings into the Housing and Residential complex.

### **Marni Churchill named Director of Development for Stockton at CSU Stanislaus**

Marni C. Churchill brings a variety of experience and fundraising success to California State University, Stanislaus as the new Director of Development for the Stockton region in the Office of University Advancement. She started her new duties in late September.

A graduate of the University of Virginia, Churchill previously served as Vice President for Philanthropic Services with the Berks County Community Foundation in Reading, Pennsylvania. Her earlier professional career included service as Director of Development with the Reading Public Museum, Director of Development for Major Gifts at the University of Connecticut, and Associate Director of Alumni Relations for the Darden Graduate School of Business at the University of Virginia. Churchill recently moved to the CSU Stanislaus region with her husband, Leon Churchill, the new City Manager of Tracy.

“Marni Churchill brings years of proven experience and a demonstrated passion for raising money for public programs that will be welcome at CSU Stanislaus,” said Susana Gajic-Bruyea, Vice President for University Advancement. “People in the Stockton area are going to love working with her, since she is blessed with a charming personality and a talent for making new friends and acquaintances. Marni is already sharing in the enthusiasm about the Stockton Center as a major public higher education resource in the community.”

“I’m looking forward to promoting the strengths of the CSU Stanislaus-Stockton Center,” Churchill said. “It is my intent to build relationships and get the community excited about what is happening at the University.”

Professor, FDC Director Armin Schulz retires in December

Dr. Armin Schulz, a Professor of Teacher Education and Director of the Faculty Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning known for his love of poetry and reading that brought him hall of fame distinction, will retire in December 2008.

Recipient of the University’s 2003-04 Outstanding Professor Award and former Interim Dean of the College of Education, Schulz joined the CSU Stanislaus Teacher Education faculty in 1990. Active with the California Reading Association (CRA), he was elected to the CRA Hall of Fame in 2004 for outstanding and significant literacy contributions in areas of service, scholarship, and leadership. Schulz was the recipient of numerous other awards for his teaching and was also founding Regional Director of the California Literature Project.

“Being a part of a learning community that cares and shares has been a real joy and blessing to me,” Schulz said. “I will miss the opportunity for daily on-going conversations, laughter, and exchanges with friends from the campus community. The support I have felt from many sources over the years spent at CSU Stanislaus is truly a gift I cherish.”

Schulz was named Director of the Faculty Center for Excellence in Teaching and Learning when it opened its doors in the John Stuart Rogers Faculty Development Center in 2003. He was coordinator of the reading and language arts specialist credential and reading certificate programs for a number of years, served on a number of campus committees, and developed a reputation for opening and closing programs with appropriate poetry readings.

### **Pioneer English Professor James Jensen passes away in Washington**

James Jensen, who was one of the first English faculty members at CSU Stanislaus and taught here for many years, died August 29 in Seattle, Washington.

Jensen, 80, had retired to Seattle with his wife, A. Lowell Jensen, and his beloved book collection. After joining the then Stanislaus State staff in 1961 at the temporary campus at the Stanislaus County Fairgrounds, he taught for more than 30 years and was noted for his scholarship on William Empson. A native of Washington, Jensen served in the U.S. Army in Japan, and received his bachelor’s, master’s, and Doctor of Philosophy in English at the University of Washington. The family requests that remembrances be made to the Alzheimer’s Association.

### **Former University Officer Richard David dies in Alaska**

Richard David, who was an officer with the CSU Stanislaus Department of Public Safety in the 1970s, passed away in Homer, Alaska, on September 13.

After his nearly 10 years of service with CSU Stanislaus, David moved to Homer where he served as city harbormaster until his retirement and pursued boating and fishing hobbies. David is survived by two children.

## **DIGEST – NOTES FROM HR**

### **TSA Special Enrollment program resumes in January**

Employees who did not enroll or re-enroll during the special enrollment period in November for the Tax Sheltered Annuity deduction will have the opportunity to do so starting in January. There will be a blackout period November 29 through December 31, 2008, during which time no one will be able to enroll. Those who enroll after January 1, 2009 will see their contributions resume about one month after they sign up.

### **ScholarShare College Savings Plan accounts available**

With tuition perpetually on the rise, and loans becoming increasingly burdensome to students and parents, it's now more important than ever to provide families the means to invest and save wisely for their kids' college education.

ScholarShare savings accounts can pay a substantial part of the costs of college. Run through the State Treasurer's Office, ScholarShare is California's 529 college savings plan. Disbursements are federal and state tax-free when used for tuition and other qualified expenses.

ScholarShare accounts offer great flexibility and state employees can participate in the ScholarShare through payroll deduction. There is no annual fee, no income limit, and the program offers a high maximum contribution limit of \$320,000. Employees who open a new account online with automatic investing receive a \$50 Target Gift Card. For more information call 800-544-5248 toll-free, or visit ScholarShare on the Web at [www.scholarshare.com](http://www.scholarshare.com).

### **Campus to close from Christmas through New Year's Day**

The University will be closed during the holiday season from Thursday, December 25 through January 1. CSU Stanislaus will re-open on January 2. Human Resources wishes everyone a very merry holiday season and a Happy New Year!

### **Employees reminded to submit address changes**

University employees who have moved this year are reminded to update their addresses with Human Resources. This will help to ensure that they receive their payroll W-2 in January. Addresses can be updated 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.

### **Staff Recognition Awards nominations coming soon**

The annual STAR Staff Recognition Awards program to recognize and reward excellence at CSU Stanislaus is accepting nominations. 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:  
Lifetime Achievement Award - \$500  
Behind the Scenes Award - \$500  
Rookie of the Year Award - \$500  
Team Award - \$1,000

For more information go to [www.csustan.edu/hr/awards](http://www.csustan.edu/hr/awards), or contact the Office of Human Resources at 667-3351.

### **Recruitment Welcomes**

| <b>Name</b>          | <b>Classification</b>               | <b>Department</b>             |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Marni Churchill      | Director of Development             | University Advancement        |
| Robyn Criswell-Bloom | Director, Extended Education        | University Extended Education |
| Ryan Eggers          | Research Technician I               | Institutional Research        |
| Pat Martin           | Administrative Support Assistant II | Chemistry                     |
| Tim Overgaauw        | Facilities Maintenance Manager      | Facilities Services           |