

# Newsline

## A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

On behalf of the faculty, staff, and students, the College of Business Administration would like to thank you for your support during this very successful academic year. Through the internships, scholarships, and sponsorships you provide, we are able to offer our students a highly valuable professional business education that is accessible, affordable, and empowers people of all ages and backgrounds to transform their lives and realize their potential.

Our students are given a strong business foundation that prepares them for the challenges of the future. The excellence of our academic programs has earned the college full accreditation by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business, AACSB International. AACSB accreditation is the hallmark of excellence in business and management education. Only five percent of all business schools are accredited by AACSB, the highest standard of achievement for business schools worldwide.

This spring the college honored 12 of our students for their outstanding academic performance in each of the following business disciplines:

Accounting - Eduardo Vиейtes  
Computer Information Systems - Eric Price  
Finance - Samuel Fahle  
General Business - Delilah Vasquez  
Management - Danielle Fletcher  
Marketing - Brandyn Harvey  
Operations Management - Anita Nichols  
MBA - Ruth Madera  
MBA- Zachary Spurlin



*The College of Business Administration's 2011 Awards Reception, one of many highlights during the 2010-'11 academic year.*

Executive MBA - Lolanda Carson  
Executive MBA - Matthew Langford  
Master of Science Business Administration,  
International Finance - Jayson Elliott

Once again, thank you for your ongoing support. We could not have all of these great programs without you!

Sincerely,

Linda I. Nowak, Ph.D.  
Dean, College of Business Administration

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**LINDA NOWAK**  
Dean of the College

**Accounting & Finance**  
David Lindsay  
Department Chair

Annhenrie Campbell  
Steven Filling  
Don Garner  
Tzu-Man (Mandy) Huang  
Lynn Johnson  
Thomas McGhee  
Kim Tan  
Andrew Wagner  
Sophie Zong

**Computer Information Systems**  
Pi-Sheng Deng  
Department Chair

Zbigniew Gackowski  
Pengtao Li  
Panos Petratos  
Eleftherios (Al) Tsacle

**Management, Operations, & Marketing**  
Al Petrosky  
Department Chair

Nael Aly  
Randall Brown  
Marjorie Chan  
Theo Chronis  
Tahi Gnepa  
Randall Harris  
Ed Hernandez  
Alan Khade  
Jarrett Kotrozo  
Kaylene Williams

**MBA Program**  
Randall Brown, Director

**EMBA Program**  
Ashour Badal, Director

*"Newsline" is published by the CSU Stanislaus College of Business Administration for alumni, friends, and supporters.*

## Business Advisory Board Supports Students with Endowed Scholarship

The College of Business Administration is pleased to announce the winner of the 2011-12 Business Advisory Board Scholarship, Brandy Lopez. This competitive scholarship provides \$500 to a first-generation college student who is obtaining a business degree from California State University, Stanislaus.

This prestigious scholarship signals a commitment from our local business community to CSU Stanislaus business students. "Just knowing that people are supporting me, makes me try harder," said Brandy, an accounting student from Los Banos with a 3.84 grade point average. "The meaning behind this scholarship is as important as the money."

The Business Advisory Board recently launched a campaign to fully fund the endowed scholarship at the \$100,000 level. Thanks to a matching gift from Dean Linda Nowak, all donations made before December 31, 2011 will be matched up to \$10,000. Your matched donation will go twice as far in helping college students earn their degrees and go on to serve as our region's workforce.

As this endowed scholarship fund grows, more scholarships will be available to more students. By investing in students who are the first in their families to attend college, you are creating new possibilities for an entire generation. Your donation has the power to break the cycle of economic hardship and create self-reliant citizens and a well-educated and qualified workforce for California. To make a donation, please contact Shannon Nichols at 209-667-3693 or nichols2@csustan.edu.

## Business Advisory Board Member Named "Woman of the Year"



*Sharon Silva*

Sharon Silva, President/CEO of the Turlock Chamber of Commerce was named "Woman of the Year" for the 26th Assembly District. The California Legislative Women's Caucus sponsors the annual "Woman of the Year" celebration, where a woman from each Assembly District is selected to be honored for the day. The event was held at the State Capitol on Monday, March 21, as part of Women's History Month.

Sharon's position as President/CEO of the Turlock Chamber of Commerce, now going on 13 years, reflects her unwavering dedication to the Turlock community. Her knowledge and commitment is inspiring, ranging from the arts and business to community and education. Sharon has been an active member of the College of Business Administration's Business Advisory Board since 2006. In May 2007, Sharon received the BAB's Special Recognition Award.

The College of Business Administration and the university are honored to have an individual, such as Sharon Silva, dedicated to our mission and our students.



## TARGET JOINS THE COLLEGE AND OFFICE OF SERVICE LEARNING FOR TENTH YEAR OF VOLUNTEER INCOME TAX ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



*Target Representatives on campus to present the "Target Campus Grant"*

The College of Business Administration, in partnership with the Office of Service Learning, at California State University, Stanislaus received funding from a Target Campus Grant for student participation in the Internal Revenue Service's (IRS) National Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Project for 2011. Funding from the Target Campus Grant program provided leadership and scholarship opportunities for five of our outstanding students to participate as Student Site Managers in the CSU Stanislaus Empire VITA Project. The students are Howard Gregory, Yuka Hill, HyunJung Son, Eduardo Vieytes and Sintia Younan.

The Empire VITA Project was started in 2001 by the College of Business Administration, Dr. Steven

Filling, Professor, Department of Accounting and Finance, and the Office of Service Learning, to give University students an opportunity to learn real-world accounting skills. The VITA Project provides free income tax return preparation for low-income families in Stanislaus County, focusing on migrant and elderly populations.

Since 2002, the VITA Project has served an average of 150 clients per year and has annually put approximately \$300,000 in tax refunds back into our local economy. The project also serves as an important educational and professional experience for university students, with 30 to 50 university students participating annually in the program along with alumni, faculty and community volunteers.

## CSU STANISLAUS HR STUDENTS WIN MAJOR NATIONAL HUMAN RESOURCES SCHOLARSHIPS

Danielle Fletcher, current President of the campus Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM), won the 2010 National SHRM Top 10 Student Award. This results in a scholarship for \$2,500 given to each of the top 10 Human Resource Management students in the nation. The scholarship is based on academic excellence and contribution to the HR field. Danielle Fletcher made a name for herself by



*Danielle Fletcher*

giving the opening welcome speech at the National SHRM Conference in San Diego. She also won the 2010 National SHRM Internship Scholarship. She is a 4.0 student in all of HR studies and is a member of our 2011 HR Games Team. Danielle

also serves as the president-elect for her sorority on campus.

Vanessa Hunter, current Vice-President of our SHRM club, won the 2010 National SHRM PHR Scholarship to cover all of her costs for studying and taking the difficult PHR (Professional in Human Resource



*Vanessa Hunter*

Management) certification. This is given to a very few, highly promising students in the nation. Currently, our university holds the national record for students passing the PHR in any one test period with 15 (beating University of Illinois with 12). Vanessa is also a member of our 2011 HR games team!

## CSU Stanislaus College of Business Administration Hosts First Annual Women's Leadership Forum

Dean Linda Nowak of the College of Business Administration welcomed a gathering of more than 100 people who came to the California State University, Stanislaus Event Center on Friday, March 18, 2011, to attend the first annual Women's Leadership Forum. Guests enjoyed the opportunity to hear three featured speakers talk about their experiences in "Leading Through Adversity—Grace Under Pressure."

Business owner Paula Zagaris Leffler, Riverbank Mayor Virginia Madueno, and CSU Stanislaus Promise Scholars program director Wanda Bonnell—all CSU Stanislaus alumni—each spoke about

their varied backgrounds and their personal belief in the power of education in overcoming life's obstacles. The three then participated in a panel discussion.

It is hoped that the Women's Leadership Forum will continue as an annual event. For more information, contact the College of Business Administration at (209) 667-3672.



*Dean Linda Nowak welcomes guests to the 2011 Women's Leadership Forum.*



*Paula Zagaris Leffler, President, Liberty Property Management.*



*Virginia Madueno, Mayor of Riverbank.*



*Wanda Bonnell, Director, Promise Scholars.*

## Student HR Chapter Wins National Award

The CSU Stanislaus Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) chapter is very proud to announce that it won the 2011 National SHRM Outstanding Student Chapter Award. This is the absolute highest award given to a student chapter during an academic year, and is based on multiple criteria including programming, activities, charity work, academic accomplishments, and participation in SHRM activities. Our chapter has won the "Superior Merit Award" six times but never the top Outstanding Chapter Award.

"This is the pinnacle of awards for a student SHRM chapter," said Dr. Edward Hernandez, SHRM club advisor. "To win this award your chapter must have a very diverse set of activities and programs that cover all areas of the HR field. In addition, the club must demonstrate how the students, local HR professionals and overall community have benefitted from their activities."

"This is such a tremendous honor for our club. We have worked so hard throughout the year to ensure that our activities are meaningful and educational for our students and the HR community," said Danielle Fletcher, CSU Stanislaus SHRM club president. "The club officers and members are very happy that their hard work has been recognized on a national level."

There are 495 student chapters in the United States and only 10 chapters win this award annually. The CSU Stanislaus chapter is the only chapter in California to win the award this year. We hope to send some of our club officers to Las Vegas this year to accept the award.

Each year the SHRM chapters throughout the nation are rated on a scale from Honorable Mention, Merit Award, Superior Merit Award and Outstanding Student Chapter Award. The winners of the Outstanding Student Chapter Award go to the National SHRM Conference each year to receive the award.



Our award winning SHRM Game Team members: Jacquie Kinimaka, Amanda Fritz-Kuppens, Vanessa Hunter and Danielle Fletcher.

## CORPORATE DONOR SPOTLIGHT



### **Oak Valley Community Bank**

#### **Chris Courtney**

President

Oak Valley Community Bank

#### **Why did your company make a gift to the College of Business Administration?**

Oak Valley Community Bank believes contributing to the College of Business Administration is a way to the needs of the Central Valley business community for an educated workforce. Contributing to first-generation college students through the college's scholarship program has also been a meaningful way of giving back to the communities that have made the bank a success.

#### **What is your gift and what will the gift provide?**

The bank is in the midst of a \$10,000 contribution to the Business Advisory Board Scholarship Fund and is considering pledging another \$10,000 gift in 2012.

#### **Best business advice to pass on to someone who wants to support the College of Business Administration?**

Donate to the scholarship program and hire a student! Your support is an investment in your business and the community, and the scholarship is a great way to provide direct financial help to a worthy student.

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

### **Michelle Pimentel-Montez '98**

#### **Degree and Major:**

B.S. Business Administration  
with Concentration in Accounting

**Occupation:** CPA/Business Owner

**Hometown:** Modesto

**Current city of residence:** Modesto

#### **Career/life achievements:**

I graduated with honors from California State University, Stanislaus while attending night school and working full-time during the day. After nine years in the industry, I opened my own accounting firm in 2007. Since my firm's inception, my business growth has been exponential and very rewarding personally. I have enjoyed meeting and working with many quality businesses and people in our local community over the years, and feel privileged to have been able to assist them in their tax and accounting needs. I have also testified in court and performed various litigation-based accounting services. I served as Past-President of the CSU Stanislaus Business Advisory Board and assisted the Board by solidifying its goals and future direction. I also participated in the Student Mentorship/Sponsorship program offered by the Business Advisory Board and facilitated the student/mentor pairings and evaluations. I have attended many Stakeholders' meetings, and spoken in classes and at the Accounting Society at CSU Stanislaus. Other charitable activities I have undertaken include volunteering to help children learn to read at Robertson Road School, serving food at the soup kitchen/shelters, assisting in raising funds for Make-a-Wish and United Way, and have donated financially to multiple local charitable organizations.

#### **Passions/interests/life goals:**

I love spending time with my family and friends. My life goal is to experience my son's growth and all that he will accomplish; he is the greatest joy in my life. My professional goals encompass accommodating my business growth by increasing efficiency, timing, and staffing. To help improve my community, my charitable goals include spending more time assisting local charities.



#### **I chose CSU Stanislaus because:**

I had heard about the great accounting program and high CPA exam passage rates of past CSU Stanislaus graduates. In addition, the ability to have one-on-one professor access is higher at Stanislaus than many other colleges. It is a beautiful campus and close enough to home to commute daily.

#### **How CSU Stanislaus helped prepare me for my career:**

CSU Stanislaus helped me by providing a good educational foundation for my career, and the knowledge I obtained greatly assists the thought processes I use daily in my profession and my passage of the CPA exam. Even though I majored and work in Accounting, the other business courses I took from Marketing to Finance to Operations opened my mind to other business functions that I also use today as they are all interrelated in the business world. I still look back fondly at the education I received at Stanislaus and the relationships I developed with my professors and know that the education I received has only helped my advancement in my profession.

#### **Best business advice (or tip) to pass on to someone:**

Get into an industry you enjoy. Strive to continuously learn the applicable laws, guidelines, and practices so you can offer the very best services/products to your clients. Conduct your business and interactions with others in a reputable fashion, as your reputation is crucial to success.



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