ENTREPRENEUR AND PHILANTHROPIST
SEBASTIAN PAUL MUSCO
RECEIVES HONORARY DOCTORATE
Welcome to the Spring 2007 issue of the California State University, Stanislaus magazine. I trust you will enjoy reading it as we have implemented a renewed focus on you – the alumni and supporters of this great institution of higher learning. We have also incorporated more photographs and graphics to give you a better sense of the great things that are taking place at your alma mater today.

As usual, I have a number of announcements that demonstrate the continued and growing success of California State University, Stanislaus. Of utmost excitement is that CSU Stanislaus has been ranked one of the best 366 colleges in the nation by The Princeton Review. This elite ranking is shared by only 10 percent of colleges and universities nationwide. Only two other CSU campuses – Sonoma State and Cal Poly San Luis Obispo – have ever been included in the prestigious academic ranking. The “Best 366 Colleges” guidebook is scheduled for nationwide release in August, so be sure to get a copy.

The Princeton Review also named California State University, Stanislaus as one of only 165 “America’s Best Value Colleges” this year, testifying to our commitment to providing both a top quality and affordable higher education experience for students.

Despite these distinguished achievements, we are always looking for ways to expand our reach and improve our programs. This August, we are launching our first Executive Masters of Business Administration (EMBA) degree program for career professionals looking to earn an MBA and advance their careers. The 15-month, 36-unit program will be held on Saturdays in the downtown Tracy Fire Administration Building training facility. As the program expands, we will move into other cities throughout the region as well.

Finally, our outstanding faculty and students continue to receive recognition for their ongoing achievements. The CSU Stanislaus Human Resources Management team is ranked number one in the nation for the second year in a row after defending its national championship earlier this spring. Many of our athletic teams realized championship status this year as well, including the women’s softball team which took first place in the NCAA Division II West Regional Softball Championships and fifth place in the College World Series for Division II.

Professor Ed Hernandez was named National Human Resource Advisor of the Year; Vice Provost Diana Demetrulias was named one of Stanislaus County’s Outstanding Women of the Year; and Professors Patrick Kelly and Daniel Williams of the Endangered Species Recovery Program were presented a conservation research award for their recent study and paper on scat-detection dog surveys for the endangered San Joaquin Kit Fox.

California State University, Stanislaus’ reputation for a top quality and enjoyable academic experience is growing. The University’s 4.1 percent enrollment growth for the 2006-07 academic year was higher than predicted, and we are on track for beating enrollment targets again this fall. Exciting things truly are happening on this campus; we are proud to call you one of our over 35,000 alums and supporters, and we encourage you to get involved in CSU Stanislaus and experience all the great opportunities and events we have to offer.

Regards,

Hamid Shirvani
President

CSU Stanislaus named “best in nation” by Princeton Review
4 ON THE COVER
Entrepreneur and philanthropist Sebastian Paul Musco is the University’s most recent recipient of an Honorary Degree of the Doctor of Humane Letters. A host of renowned guests came to CSU Stanislaus on May 12 to honor Mr. Musco at his honorary doctorate ceremony.

12 SCIABICA PASSION
While cultivating an appreciation for olive oil among palates near and far, the Sciabica family - which owns and operates California’s oldest olive oil producer - nurtures the legacy created by its great-grandfather. Daniel Sciabica credits CSU Stanislaus for his fascination with economics.

2 SPANISH IMMERSION PROGRAM
Beyond polished Spanish-speaking skills, students come back from a three-week visit to Cuernavaca, Mexico with hearts full and eyes opened to a new worldview.
For more than 10 years, groups of California State University, Stanislaus students and faculty have been venturing to the heart of Mexico annually in January for what has been described as a life-changing adventure.

Drawn by the opportunity for a bilingual experience at the beautiful Universidad Internacional campus in Cuernavaca, located 55 miles south of Mexico City in the state of Morelos, students take Spanish immersion classes from the Mexican university along with a class from a CSU Stanislaus faculty member for three weeks during the winter term. Students who joined History and Nursing faculty leaders this time around for the sessions also immersed themselves in the language and culture of Mexico.

“It’s a life-changing experience for many students,” said Dr. Steve Stryker, a CSU Stanislaus English Professor and bilingual expert who served as program director during this year’s winter term venture. “It gives them an opportunity to see what life is like in Mexico and changes the worldview of students. They come back with a whole new concept of what Mexico is because their experience blunts the stereotypes.”

Stryker, who was making his fifth trip to Cuernavaca with this year’s group of 37 students and faculty, said the program coordinated through the Office of International Education offers students multidimensional benefits. Participants stay with Mexican families in Cuernavaca, immerse themselves in challenging Spanish classes according to their skills on the exquisitely landscaped campus, take field trips into the surrounding areas as well as the thriving city of Cuernavaca, and come home with college credit for winter term courses.

For students like Barbara King, a senior English major, the Cuernavaca program’s history class and the intensive Spanish study were just what she was looking for.

“Studying in Cuernavaca was as much a growing experience for me as it was a learning adventure,” said King, whose concentration is in the Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) program. “My main reason in studying at Universidad Internacional was to broaden my cultural experience, enabling me to bring that to the classroom as a teacher.”

King and her classmates received a full immersion in the Spanish language while getting to know their Cuernavaca Spanish professors and host families who helped them maximize their comprehension.

“Alejandro, my Spanish professor, helped me refresh the language through lesson activities filled with song and charm,” King said. “My host parents, the Ruiz de La Torre’s, walked me down the path of their lives during my stay.”

A participant in the class taught by History Professor Marjorie Sanchez Walker, King said the course highlights for her were the field trips to outlying villages in Morelos that took them to the historic sites of the struggles of the Mexican Indian population.
“Americans live such an isolated life because many of us tend to judge everything by our standards,” said Dr. Sanchez Walker, an expert on Mexican and Latin American history.

Sanchez Walker, who has been to Cuernavaca three times, said she puts a heavy emphasis in her class on getting students to the numerous historical sites in the region. Those ventures take students to small villages where the history professor says they receive a real taste of what life is like for many of the Mexican people. Those culture lessons can range from manners and public transportation to the food and even clothes drying on a line outside of a well worn home.

“Students are exposed to a very different way of life, which is a way of demonstrating to them that our ways are not always the best way,” Sanchez Walker said.

Major highlights for the entire CSU Stanislaus group were trips to Mexico City with its impressive cathedrals and architecture, and the pyramids in Teotihuacan Archaeological Park about 30 miles northwest of Mexico City.

“Seeing these historic locations and climbing the pyramids is eye-opening for many of these students,” Sanchez Walker said.

History major Teri Lunt of Waterford, who plans to enter the History master’s program this fall, pursue a doctorate, and teach at the college level, said she gained an appreciation of the Mexican culture.

“I am so happy to have seen the paintings of Diego Rivera, climbed a pyramid at Teotihuacan, and toured Mexico City and the Route of Zapata,” Lunt said. “My experience in Cuernavaca has expanded my perception of the world, and I would recommend the program to everyone.”

Senior History major Chris Moreno, who aspires to go into education guidance counseling after college, liked the experience so much he returned for a second time after accompanying a group from Modesto Junior College two years ago. He is fluent in Spanish but values the rich history and cultural experience of the program.

“There’s always room to learn more Spanish, and I really picked up a lot out of the grammar program in the advanced class,” Moreno said. “The highlight of the trip for me was the 1968 Mexico City Olympics massacre site. I have a lot of interest in that part of Mexican history.”

Over the years, the Cuernavaca program has featured classes from the Child Development/Psychology, History, Nursing, and Social Work departments. For students who can’t afford to participate in the year-long Study Abroad program involving a variety of countries, the Cuernavaca experience, priced at under $2,000, is an affordable alternative.

“Access is the name of the game, and this program offers an innovative approach for students to have an international education experience,” said Hildy Heath, Director of the CSU Stanislaus Office of International Education. “They receive intensive exposure to the language and the culture.”

Nursing Professor Judy Keswick, who accompanied 12 Nursing majors to teach a Cultural Variations in Nursing class in Cuernavaca, said the experience was invaluable for student nurses preparing to help Spanish-speaking patients. In addition to the Nursing class and a Spanish class, students also took a two-hour medical conversation class taught in Spanish. They toured hospitals, clinics, and an orphanage, heard a presentation by a native healer, and interviewed people in the community in Spanish about their health practices and beliefs for their nursing journals.

“My students learned so much that I’m making plans to take another group in 2008,” Keswick said.

Nursing student Alla Susid of Modesto, who speaks four languages including Spanish, said the program met her quest for intensive exposure to the Spanish language.

“My host family helped me with our Spanish homework and we had lots of writing assignments,” Susid said. “I spent a lot of time with other students who wanted help, so it was very good for helping to remember all you’ve learned about the language.”

– story by Don Hansen
alchemy  

1: a medieval chemical science seeking to transform base metals into gold and discover the elixir of life  

2: a power or process of transforming something common into something special
The most recent recipient of an Honorary Degree of the Doctor of Humane Letters from California State University is a modern-day alchemist of Italian ancestry who adores opera and lives his belief in giving back.

Sebastian Paul Musco has been in the precious metal industry for more than 50 years. In 1973, he founded Santa Ana-based Gemini Industries, an immediately successful company that pioneered groundbreaking technology to economically recover platinum and palladium from spent auto catalysts. It now boasts the largest plant facilities in the world.

Beyond his innovative professional pursuits, Musco, 81, devotes his boundless energy to causes that bring out the best in people — “anything that’s good for children, for education, and for the development of young talent,” he says. With such a broad brushstroke, it comes as no surprise that the list of his philanthropic pursuits is long and includes, but is not limited to, Opera Pacific, the Los Angeles Opera, the Muscular Dystrophy Association, and Chapman University, where he and his wife Marybelle Hesling Musco established a professorship in Italian.

Musco was born in Providence, Rhode Island to Sicilian immigrants Carmelo and Lucia Musco. The Muscos impressed upon their 10 children (three daughters, seven sons) that success was expected of each one of them.

Musco says, “I tell people that my father was in civil service for 35 years; he was a janitor. He’d say, ‘Do you want to grow up like me and be a janitor? Or go to school?’ ”

About half the brood chose careers in health care (nursing and dentistry); two sons became mechanics; one is an educator. Most of the children also served in the Armed Forces. Paul, as Musco prefers to be called, began his career as a U.S. Navy pharmacist, a foreshadowing of his life’s work in chemistry.

His childhood ambition was simple. “I had to prove to my family that they could be proud of me.” He confesses to an early resolve to make one million dollars. Having far exceeded his goal, Musco now focuses on sharing the wealth. “In life, you earn; in life, you learn; in life, you return. God’s been good to me. Whenever I give, I usually refer to the money as just paper.”

Many people, including his own nieces and nephews, ask Musco how he achieved his success. “I tell them, ‘It’s a four-letter word that starts with W.’ It’s work. Nothing comes easy unless you win the lottery — and that’s rather difficult.” Apart from hard work, Musco says, the secret to success is to have a dream. “There are two kinds of dreamers: those who wish they come true, and those who make them come true. You must believe in yourself, set a goal, and have the guts to follow through.” Asked if he had achieved his lifelong dream, Musco muses, “I’d like to build my own opera” — but quickly clarifies he has no intention of singing.

On May 12, eminent guests gathered at CSU Stanislaus’ Snider Hall to witness University President Dr. Hamid Shirvani present Musco with his honorary doctorate. Among those assembled were former Yugoslavian Prime Minister Milan Panic, whose wife is a renowned opera singer; California State University Trustee George G. Gowgani; and James L. Doti, President of Chapman University. Snider Hall’s acoustics provided the perfect setting for the performances of selected arias by some of the most talented CSU Stanislaus students. One was especially suitable to honor this alchemist in search of the elixir of life. “Una furtiva lagrima” (A furtive tear), sung by tenor Marcio de Oliveira, is from the opera “L’elisir d’amore,” which translates to “The Elixir of Love.”

“What impressed me most about the occasion was to see my dear friends who were there to acknowledge the honor,” Musco said. “I found it a little strange that I was being honored for doing something that everyone should be doing: being kind to your fellow man.”

He remembers driving by a sign atop a Calvary Baptist Church that read, “Try to be the person you think you are.” Musco agrees. “Inwardly we all think we’re marvelous. We just need to manifest it.”

Musco was scheduled to receive a second honorary doctorate a week later from the University of Rhode Island. He took the news of his bicoastal honors with characteristic humor. “I’m all upset now that no one from the Midwest has approached me. I told my son, the ophthalmologist, ‘I have more doctorates than you do.’ ”

— story by Marie Sardalla-Davis
Turning a musical comedy like “Little Shop of Horrors” with its man-eating plant and singing cast into a successful stage production takes a lot of work, cooperation, dedication, practice, and talent.

Those ingredients all came together in award-winning form for the recent California State University, Stanislaus production. After a successful run in October 2006 on the University stage that drew high critical praise, the show was selected for participation in the Region 8 competition of the 2007 Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival in Cedar City, Utah.

“Everything has to go well and the chemistry of the cast and crew has to be just right for a production like this to work,” said Music Professor Joseph Wiggett, who teamed with Theatre Professor and Director Drew Sutherland to co-produce the show. “We knew from the start that this one was going to work.”

It was the fifth time since 1972 that CSU Stanislaus has been recognized with an invite to the regional festival, but the first time that a musical production from the University has been selected for the event. The production brought together the talents of the University’s Music and Theatre departments which teamed up for everything from the musicians and actors to costumes and technical direction.

“In addition to excellent vocal performances by University students, the production featured a lively five-piece band, an atmosphere-capturing set, and dazzling costumes, wigs, and makeup fashioned by students working under the tutelage of Caroline Mercier of the Theatre Department faculty. Mercier, who has a Ph.D. in Creative Costume Design, said the lead characters’ different costumes as the play progressed portrayed the transformation of the show’s characters.

“Visually, it was a powerful production, a fun, entertaining play,” Mercier said.

In addition to showcasing the finest work produced in college theatre programs of the Western United States, the February 12-17 festival
in Utah also featured workshops, seminars, audition opportunities, scholarships, and awards for participating students and faculty.

The CSU Stanislaus group took home the “Load In & Load Out Smooth Move Award” in recognition of its almost mind-boggling assembly and tear-down of the set. Under the direction of Clay Everett, Theatre Department Chair and technical director of the production, the packing, transport, assembly, and disassembly of the set was a well-organized process that involved all 36 of the participants who went to Utah.

“He (Everett) was conducting the assembly and tear-down like a symphony,” Wiggett said.

Featuring a number of detailed skid row buildings and other imaginative props, the set was the work of Everett and Noble Dinse, Professor of Theatre and acknowledged as an outstanding designer. Everett, who earned his bachelor’s degree at CSU Stanislaus in 1991, said Dinse has been his long-time mentor. The “Little Shop of Horrors” set project was one of the last University projects for Dinse who will retire at the conclusion of the spring semester after 38 years at CSU Stanislaus.

Some 100 people were involved during the nearly three-month process to make the show happen in October and then resurrect it in February. Rehearsals ran from 6 to 10 p.m. Monday through Friday and then to six and seven-day weeks as the performance dates drew closer. While student participants get one unit of class credit, faculty participants dedicated hundreds of hours after their daily class schedules to the production.

Josh Bailey, a sophomore music major from Cottonwood who played the lead singing role as the nerdy flower shop clerk Seymour, said the long hours of rehearsal paid off.

“You work hard to memorize every line and you have to get everything down completely natural before you can even start playing the character,” Bailey said.

“It becomes a big part of your life as you strive to understand your character. You have to get inspired and work at playing off your counterparts on stage.”

Bailey said he spent time strategizing with student actor/puppeteer Dan Mauterer and voice actor Chris Zumaran who brought the Audrey II ‘Venus’ flytrap plant to life.

“I started thinking of him (the plant) as a dog, like a favorite pet, so I could get comfortable talking to it,” he said.

~ story by Don Hansen
Foster care students discover boost in Promise Scholars Program

“I’ve seen a lot of things in my life that influenced me into wanting to go to college and help people…”  
—Serena Vidaure

Wanda Bonnell (center) has formed a close bond with Promise Scholar students like Misty Deckert (left) and Serena Vidaure.

Serena Vidaure and Misty Deckert feel fortunate to have met Wanda Bonnell at a pivotal time in their lives.

As freshmen at California State University, Stanislaus and with memories of tougher times in their past as foster children, they found a welcoming face in Bonnell, who is coordinator of the University’s new Promise Scholars Program. Students like them have the opportunity to pursue their higher education goals at CSU Stanislaus through the foster care program that was launched in fall 2006. They receive guidance from Bonnell that is as important as the financial assistance which covers their college fees and room and board on campus.

“This program has been a really big help,” said Vidaure, an aspiring politician and talented musician from Merced. “Wanda’s helped me resolve some problems, and I really love being a student here.”

Vidaure became a foster child at age 10 when her mother died. She was raised in a single parent foster family after that until she was 18. Before her mother died, the youngster was helping to care for a number of family members with a variety of serious health problems. She remembers her grandmother, who died in 2005, struggling with trying to secure home health care.

“I’ve seen a lot of things in my life that influenced me into wanting to go to college and help people,” said Vidaure, who plays six musical instruments and is also a dancer.

Deckert, majoring in Criminal Justice with a Forensic Science concentration, said she wasn’t even aware of the program when she chose to come to CSU Stanislaus. The child of a broken home in Tennessee who ran away when she was 11, Deckert says her life took a positive turn when she was placed with her foster father in Sacramento who has been a stabilizing influence in her life. When the time came to head off to college, she found more positive direction from Bonnell.

“Financially and mentor-wise with classes and advice on units, Wanda has been very helpful,” Deckert said.

Nine students who come from a variety of foster care backgrounds are in the CSU Stanislaus program spearheaded by Bonnell. Many of them have had to overcome a variety of challenges during their childhoods, teen years, and into young adulthood to persevere and stay on track to realize their dreams of earning a college degree. Statistics reveal that many foster youth are not prepared or able to take advantage of higher education opportunities. That’s often because when they end up on their own after foster care, the support and mentoring needed to make the transition to college life is not typically available.

“The transition to post-secondary education can be overwhelming for foster youth,” Bonnell said. “Research clearly shows that strong support can and does make all the difference. I try to provide consistent, individualized attention to each student I work with. It’s very rewarding.”

For more information about the Promise Scholars Program for foster youth at CSU Stanislaus and how to provide financial support to help eligible students meet their college expenses, contact Bonnell at (209) 667-3108.
Learning while serving: students take the classroom into the community

"...I can use my service learning experience to showcase my ‘real’ world skills"  
— Gabriela Nuno

Through its Service Learning courses, California State University, Stanislaus is leading the way in the development of partnerships that encourage students to expand the classroom into the community.

The dynamic hands-on teaching method increases student comprehension of course work, while broadening civic awareness through application of their course curriculum to meaningful community service activities. Since 2001, the Office of Service Learning at CSU Stanislaus has partnered with faculty, students, and community members, resulting in a variety of high quality service learning programs available to students.

One long-term model program is the University’s partnership with the Parent Child Home Program (PCHP). Students enrolled in Dr. Jennifer Henk’s Child Development course, “Early Intervention with High Risk Children,” work with low-income families to help parents improve their children’s literacy development. Agencies that work with these same families have been astounded at the children’s progress in social and emotional development.

The Office of Service Learning has received a number of national recognitions as a premier program within the area of community engagement.

In 2005, Campus Compact, a national coalition of 950 colleges and universities, recognized CSU Stanislaus as an outstanding Minority-Serving Institution of Higher Education in its “Indicators of Engagement Project” funded by the Carnegie Corporation of New York. The project profiled exemplary service learning institutions engaged in improving the quality of life in diverse communities. Selected as a model Hispanic-Serving Institution, the community-based work at CSU Stanislaus was extensively highlighted in the project’s publication “One with the Community” (Campus Compact, 2005).

In 2006, Julie Fox, CSU Stanislaus Service Learning Coordinator, received the California Campus Compact’s “Richard E. Cone Award for Excellence in Cultivating Community Partnerships in Higher Education” award. This year, President Bush recognized CSU Stanislaus in the “Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll” for extraordinary contributions to community service and service learning.

True to its mission, the Office of Service Learning’s success depends on the partnerships and dedication of faculty, administration, community members, and the students served.

“Service learning gives our students real-life experiences that help them choose a career path and that helps them develop empathy with and understanding of the people whom they assist,” said Dr. Phyllis Gerstenfeld, Department Chair, Criminal Justice.

Francine DiCiano, Director of the Parent Resource Center in Modesto, points out that CSU Stanislaus students participating in the Parent Child Home Program receive valuable guidance and training in order to nurture strong parent-child relations that improve the quality of life for client families.

Students confirm these observations. “I know that when I apply for a job, I can use my service learning experience to showcase my ‘real’ world skills,” 2006 Sociology graduate Gabriela Nuno said. “What I understand about my community has grown with my participation in service learning at CSU Stanislaus.”

CSU Stanislaus Professor of Chemistry Dr. Koni Stone (left) and her Biochemistry students engage Osborn Elementary School fifth graders in science experiments using common household products. This day’s experiment yielded gastronomical success: the students made ice cream.
Filled with anticipation, over 300 guests dressed in evening gowns and tuxedos visited California State University, Stanislaus in January to celebrate the naming of the University’s new science building and the lives of the late Nora and Hashem Naraghi.

The evening gala took place on January 17, the first anniversary of Mr. Hashem Naraghi’s death and was held to memorialize the $2 million gift the Naraghi family donated to CSU Stanislaus last fall. In honor of their generous gift, the University named its new science building the Nora and Hashem Naraghi Hall of Science. The building is scheduled to open before classes begin this fall.

Nora and Hashem Naraghi came to the United States from Iran in 1945, with their two-year-old son Wendell in tow. After spending three years in New York, the Naraghis moved to the Modesto area in 1948 where their business ventures flourished quickly. Known for their significant contributions to agriculture, entrepreneurship, and real estate development, the Naraghis dedicated their lives to California’s Central Valley community.

Nora Naraghi was a published writer under the pen name Elba and wrote in the Armenian language. The consummate family woman, though, she set aside her writing career to devote herself to caring for her husband and three children.

In the 1940s, Hashem Naraghi harvested almonds and peaches. He also pioneered egg production in the San Joaquin Valley and eventually became one of the largest egg producers in California. In 1963, he continued to follow his pioneering passion by being the first farmer to plant almond orchards in the uncultivated and arid areas of eastern Stanislaus County, land previously dismissed as infertile.
By the 1970s, Hashem Naraghi was one of the largest almond growers in the world, with a farming operation that spanned more than 20,000 acres in Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, and San Joaquin counties. He also patented drought-resistant almond trees as well as the Hashem I and Hashem II varieties of almonds.

Nora Naraghi passed away in 2003, and Hashem passed in January 2006. But today, almost six decades after the Naraghi family settled in Stanislaus County, H. Naraghi Farms still grows almonds, walnuts, wine grapes, and pistachios throughout the state of California.

Shortly before his passing, Hashem Naraghi pledged to provide the $2 million gift to CSU Stanislaus, from where his daughter Sharon graduated in 1979 and grandson Hashem W. in 1994. His adult children followed through on his pledge last fall, two months before the gala was held to honor the Naraghi family and celebrate the naming of the science building.

As guests arrived on campus on January 17, they were greeted in front of the science building construction site by 12-foot high banners announcing the structure as the Nora and Hashem Naraghi Hall of Science. Inside, they enjoyed wine and hors d’oeuvres while listening to a lovely string quartet and viewing floor plans of the building before being escorted to the CSU Stanislaus Main Dining Hall, where they enjoyed a distinguished program, elegant décor, and a traditional Persian meal.

The event attracted many local elected officials as well as other distinguished guests, including newly elected California Attorney General Jerry Brown who spoke of his friendship with and fondness for Nora and Hashem Naraghi.

Before inviting attendees to enjoy the delectable Persian food prepared by Uncle Ray’s Catering from San Jose, CSU Stanislaus President Hamid Shirvani presented proclamations to the Naraghi’s children (Wendell, Sharon, and Margaret), thanking them for their support of the University and the future of higher education. Shirvani also spoke about his own Persian heritage and his extraordinary experience with Hashem Naraghi before his death. Shirvani and Naraghi shared a special bond over a six-hour lunch and grew to care for each other and respect each other’s leadership.

“I am very moved by the late Mr. Hashem Naraghi’s magnificent gift and his confidence in me as it reflects the tireless commitment of the Naraghis as ambassadors of the University and its major contributions to the educational and economic vitality of the San Joaquin Valley community,” Shirvani said.

Wendell Naraghi, Sharon Naraghi, and Margaret Naraghi-Quattrin all acknowledged, “Our dad welcomed Dr. Shirvani as the new leader of CSU Stanislaus. He was excited about his vision and rapid advancement of the University (since being named President in June 2005). The gift symbolizes his vote of confidence that under Dr. Shirvani’s leadership, the science building will become a distinctive and nationally recognized Science Center, on the cutting edge of important research and educational initiatives.”

The CSU Stanislaus science building is a cutting-edge, three-story, 110,000-square-foot facility that includes new laboratories, classrooms, offices, and an observatory. The building will serve the Biology, Chemistry, and Physics/Geology Departments.

The excellence that drives CSU Stanislaus left an impression on those who attended the Naraghi event on that cold January night. Guests left with touching memories of the late Nora and Hashem Naraghi, a better understanding of the opportunities for quality and access available at CSU Stanislaus, and the exquisite taste of Persian cuisine delighting their palettes.

Summarizing the elegant evening and the impact of the Naraghi gift, University President Shirvani said, “We couldn’t be happier to have such distinguished business leaders and outstanding citizens as Hashem and Nora Naraghi forever linked to our institution in such a monumental way. The Nora and Hashem Naraghi Hall of Science will stand as a symbol of the tremendous generosity these two extraordinary individuals have contributed to our community. The University is blessed to be the recipient of their philanthropic support.”
Modesto’s Sciabica family, which five generations back traces its roots to Italy, owns and operates California’s oldest olive oil producer. While teaching people to appreciate olive oil, the family keeps its great-grandfather’s legacy alive.
Fast forward to the present: Joseph, now 92 and aided by a walker, still has olive oil coursing through his veins. His company presses olives from other growers as well as from the family orchard. A small cadre of family members helps him carry on Nicola’s legacy, undiminished in passion and spirit. Each one brings personal strengths to the business.

Dan calls Joseph “the rock on whom everyone is grounded. He has a wealth of knowledge and experience — things you can’t learn in school.” Joseph remains active, ever visible at the Pleasanton and Modesto farmer’s markets. He calls on old accounts to woo back business. He tells people, “If you use our olive oil, your stomach will thank you.”

Dan graduated from CSU Stanislaus in 1974 with a bachelor’s degree in Business Administration. He handles bulk sales and has leveraged his marketing expertise to groom the next generation of Sciabica scions. His people skills have been memorialized in “The Olive in California” (2000) by Judith Taylor, M.D., who credits Dan in her preface with jumpstarting her research for the book. She comments on his helpfulness and describes him as “a warm and friendly man, very affable and approachable.”

Nick is mechanically inclined and good with numbers. He oversees the mill and knows how to coax the metal giants out of the occasional sulk.

While her husband and sons take the olive from tree to table, Gemma’s crusade is teaching people how to cook and bake with olive oil. Dan calls her the firm’s Research and Development person. The four cookbooks she has self-published are packed with heart-healthy family recipes from appetizers through desserts. Her piecrust recipe, 20 years in development, finally yielded a flaky crust without butter. Each cookbook is inscribed with Gemma’s trademark signoff, “Olive you!”

Jonathan Sciabica is confidence crystallized in front of a crowd. Five rows of senior citizens, fresh off a tour bus, sit riveted as he chats about olive oil — its benefits, delights, and varietals. His mastery of the subject is something one would expect from a lifetime presenter — which can’t very well be, as Jonathan is just 27.

Although he’s young, Jonathan’s roots reach deep. He is a fourth-generation Sciabica (‘SHA-bica’), the family that founded California’s oldest and still operational olive oil producer, Nick Sciabica & Sons. Translated from Italian, the name means both the boat and the net that fishermen use.

Patriarch Nicola Sciabica emigrated in 1911 to Westbury, Connecticut from Marsala, a city on Sicily’s west coast. The Connecticut winters drove Nicola to San Francisco in 1920. In 1924, he bought a load of watermelons in Salida to sell in San Francisco. He must have taken a liking to the Central Valley weather and lifestyle because the next year, he settled in Modesto. He bought a hillside property overlooking Dry Creek, on which he planted vineyards and orchards. He sold peaches, grapes, and tomatoes for a living. He also built a home on the property, where his grandson, Dan, now lives.

Nicola’s older brother, Tony, and Tony’s wife, Florence, also moved to Modesto from Connecticut. Tony opened a cobbler’s shop downtown on K Street, which he later moved to 13th Street. It was Florence who introduced Nicola’s son Joseph to his future bride, Gemma. The women had worked together at a Westbury shop that made decorative boxes. Joseph and Gemma married in 1943. She was 19; he, 28.

In 1936, the Spanish Civil War ceased olive oil exports from Spain, the world’s biggest olive oil producer. Nicola seized the opportunity and set his mind to making olive oil, a trade he had learned in Marsala. That year, he established Nick Sciabica & Sons with his sons, Joseph, Peter, and Vincent. Peter passed away while young; Vincent worked in the business until the ’50s. Joseph left high school after his first year to help his father with the olives. Like many in his generation, he worked through the night, lived through the Depression, and went without vacations. Those years gouged a deep imprint on his work ethic — an ethic shared by Sciabicas down the line.

Joseph’s life story (and that of Nick Sciabica & Sons) is one of grit and gung-ho persistence through lean times, market fluctuations, and encroaching development. Nevertheless, it is ultimately a story of triumph borne of loyalty and respect for heritage.

Sciabica olive oil’s fiercest competitor was and continues to be imported olive oil from Spain and Italy, which is cheaper to produce. Olive trees bear fruit only every other year; some years, the family orchard did not yield enough. Joseph sold grapes from his vineyard to stay afloat.

Following back surgery in 1970, Joseph was forced to rely on his sons more. Nick, who was a peach grower, lent a hand in the off season; Dan was working with a major department store. In 1978, Sciabica & Sons was on the verge of closing shop. In response, Dan quickly quit his job and worked for the family full-time.
Jonathan, Nick’s son, is the technology whiz who is sweeping the Sciabicans into the next century. He has focused on taking the oil beyond their backyard and in front of people further afield via the Web.

“It amazes me not only how many people love our olive oil, but also how many haven’t heard of us. My long-term goal is to get the word out there, to make sure that everybody who would love our olive oil would get an opportunity to try it,” he says.

Equipped with a Business Agriculture degree from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, he was recently promoted to vice president of sales and marketing.

Watching Jonathan lead a tour, it becomes clear how much he inherited the family penchant for persuasiveness.


“Don’t worry about all those terms,” he sums up, holding up a bottle bearing the family label. “All you have to do is look for the word ‘Sciabica.’ ”

“He’s getting good at this,” comments Dan, who had previously led the tours and taught Jonathan how to acquaint people with the Sciabica philosophy.

“I wing it every time. I watched my uncle and my grandfather and combined their techniques,” Jonathan says later. “My grandfather has this amazing ability to convince people they need the olive oil. It’s part of his charm to put pressure on them in a joking way. As soon as I can make a customer laugh, I’m know I’m going to make a sale. It’s really just confidence in the product.”

The roomful of visitors is anxious to begin tasting. A few have already been surreptitiously popping the morsels of bread provided for dipping. A clamor for “More bread!” arises. The room is abuzz, and more bread appears.

Jonathan talks them through the tasting. In orderly fashion, bread is dipped into one of six clear vials of liquid gold, spaced evenly on a captioned placemat. These are a sampling of the 21 varietals and eight kinds of olives that the family usually presses. Specific varietals are recommended for pasta, salad, marinade, fish, sandwiches, and so on. Jonathan names the varietals with flawless recall.
“If my grandfather were here, he’d say ‘Drink it. Wasting olive oil is a sin,’ ” Jonathan quips.

“Awesome,” pronounces a gray-haired taster. “Umm, ahhh,” agree the rest.

Notably absent from among the samples is the award-winning jalapeño variety. “My grandfather says you’ll flip your lid,” Jonathan explains. A few hands go up anyway, wanting a go at the fire fluid. Jonathan directs them to the tasting bar in the gift shop next door post-tour.

Sciabica olive oils have garnered gold for 17 consecutive years (1988-2005), including “Best of Show” awards from Chefs in America, the American Tasting Institute, the California State Fair, and the Los Angeles County Fair. The crowning achievement thus far came in 1995 when the Sevillano Variety Fall Harvest captured the highest marks at the World Olive Oil Competition in Lucca, Italy. Away from the competitive scene, nothing endears this olive oil to individual palates better than the tasting tours that Jonathan now leads.

Jonathan cautions the crowd, “When you see the word ‘infused’ — run.” Infusion, he explains, means the process of heating the oil to absorb a flavor. Olive oil should only be heated once, he adds — in your kitchen, when the flavor releases into your food. For this reason, Nick Sciabica & Sons won’t heat its olives in the mill, even though heated olives yield more oil. Instead it cold-presses fresh ingredients into the oil — lemons, oranges, jalapeño peppers, basil, garlic, and rosemary.

The company pioneered varietal olive oils. Rather than blending different kinds of olives in a bottle, one variety per bottle keeps the flavor distinct. Simplicity and conviction. They flavor the Sciabica family’s approach to life and to olive oil. Want to know how to pick the right olive oil? Fry an egg in it, suggests Nick. If you like the taste, you have great olive oil. Dan advises people to rub a few drops between their palms to warm up the oil, and then take a good whiff. The pleasure is two-fold: softer skin, pampered nose.

As Tony Sciabica, 97, saunters into the tasting room, applause breaks out. Jonathan hands him a bottle. Time for Tony’s testimonial: “Wanna live long? Use our olive oil.” Jonathan recounts how Tony’s cardiologist expressed disbelief that his medical chart belonged to someone in his 90s. “Come back when you’re a hundred,” he was told.

Having established his credibility, Tony puts in a plug for “Uncle Tony’s Cocktail,” a boxed set of flavored oils and balsamic vinegar bearing his picture. That seals his celebrity status with the crowd. He’s everyone’s Uncle Tony now.

Someone inquires about a picture on the wall showing a man in a white knitted beret. Jonathan confirms it is his grandfather, Joseph. The cap is his trademark, each one patiently knitted by his wife, Gemma. “I wouldn’t recognize him without it,” Jonathan says.

When the door opens again, the crowd instantly recognizes a legend in the flesh. Joseph Sciabica wears a bright turquoise knit beret and matching vest. He complies with a request to doff his cap and out tumbles a full head of silky white hair. Dan muses, “I should have listened when he told us to put olive oil on our hair.” Doubtless there were times over the years when Joseph might have been tempted to pull his hair out in exasperation. Whether he actually did or not, his hair isn’t telling.

“My grandfather was a big reason I came to work here directly after college,” Jonathan says. “Life’s short. There’s a finite amount of time when we can absorb the knowledge of the older generation.”

Now Joseph’s voice is faint, his frame on the frail side. Still, his handshake is firm and his eyes brim with sincerity when he tells a visitor at the conclusion of the tour, “It was a pleasure having you.”

Daniel Sciabica was just four years old when he first appreciated what his family did for a living. Among the reels of home movies is a filmstrip of Dan swigging Sciabica olive oil.

His passion for the oil came early and stayed steadfast for the past five decades. His memory bank is replete with boyhood days spent helping out at the plant of Nick Sciabica & Sons in Modesto.

“It was our job after school to label bottles,” he says. “Our early years were rustic. I was lucky if I did 15 cases a day. Sometimes we competed to see who could do the most.”

Sciabica attended St. Stanislaus School, Central Catholic High School, and what was then Stanislaus State College (renamed California State University, Stanislaus in 1985). In college, he developed his second passion: economics.

“Economics is like a science. The professor explained in everyday terms how our market-based economy works on the micro and macro level,” he enthuses. “I was exposed to things I had not heard before. I was fascinated.”

Sciabica graduated from CSU Stanislaus in 1974 with a bachelor’s degree in Business Administration.

“It gave me a good groundwork for what being in business is all about,” he says.
Dan Sciabica looks out from atop a hill at his family’s orchard. At his feet, frenzied bees dart in and out of a knee-high row of rosemary in lavish purple bloom.

Olive trees sport gray-green, narrow leaves on billowy branches. They grow to 50 feet high with gnarled trunks 30 feet around. Olives are among the hardest trees to kill. Some can live for five centuries. They sprout back after being chopped down, burned, drowned, or parched. The young trees in this orchard represent seven varieties of olives: six Italian and one Greek. The first year’s harvest produced 500 gallons of oil. Each row is punctuated with a pomegranate tree, in keeping with an ancient Roman tradition. The rows follow the slope, and at the bottom, a chain link fence abruptly separates private property from public park.

Dan and his longtime foreman, Pablo Mendoza, walk the perimeter of the property. Pablo has worked for the Sciabica family for 23 years. He prunes and fertilizes each tree by hand, calling them “my babies.” Dan calls Pablo “my friend.”

“There’s something here that keeps them,” Dan says about Pablo and a few others who have stayed with the company through the years. “We like to treat people the way we’d like to be treated. And we go the extra mile for our customers because there are people out there who would love to have our business.”

Family members do not get a free pass from the hard work. Jonathan remembers working full-time through summer, Christmas, and spring breaks.

“What makes it worth it is the one customer who comes up and is really excited to meet a Sciabica. They love the product and love what I’m doing,” Jonathan says. “They congratulate me on choosing to work in the business as the fourth-generation Sciabica. My grandfather says I could’ve chosen better things — and by ‘better’ he meant I could’ve made more money. Money wasn’t the driving force. It’s more the sense of pride with the sale. Working for somebody else, you don’t get that feeling.”

Sciabica scions Andrew, 7, and Nicholas, 10, assure the continuance of a family legacy that stretches back seven decades.
**The Gift Shop**

Andrew Sciabica moves about energetically. He runs the cash register. He has the air of a proprietor, but for his diminutive size and tender age. At seven years old, Andrew speaks his destiny: “I’m gonna run this place someday.”

Andrew and his brother Nicholas, 10, the fifth generation of Sciabicas, are the sons of Jonathan’s older brother, Joseph.

“He’s just like my father — a salesman from the get-go,” Dan says of Andrew. The little boy insisted on buying a lemon tree for his back yard so he could have a sure supply for his lemonade stand. He has a sign-up sheet for customers. At the grocery store one day, when his Dad balked that the family couldn’t possibly consume everything he put in the cart, Andrew assured him, “Whatever we don’t eat, we’ll sell.”

“If I tried to give Andrew advice now, it would probably be a little lost on him,” Jonathan says. “He’s too young to understand the legacy and the product; in his heart he just loves to sell. It supersedes video games. But it has to be chosen. My dad instilled that in me. If you don’t choose your path, you’ll be unhappy with it.”

Just as an olive tree’s sprouts assure its longevity despite the odds, the Sciabica youngsters carry the promise of keeping Nicola’s legacy going for more generations to come.

— story by Marie Sardalla-Davis

---

**Recipe for Pizza**

(Reprinted from “Cooking with California Olive Oil: Treasured Family Recipes” by Gemma Sanita Sciabica, with permission from the Sciabica family)

**Pizza Dough**

*Makes one 15x10 or two 12-inch crusts*

- 3 ½ to 4 cups flour
- ¾ teaspoon salt
- 1 package dry yeast
- 1 ¼ cups water (110 degrees)
- ¼ cup Marsala Olive Fruit Oil
- 1 egg white

In mixing bowl, add dry yeast to ¼ cup water. Let stand about 10 minutes.

In another bowl, combine dry ingredients. Make a well in the center; pour in yeast mixture, oil, remaining water, and egg white.

Stir into a smooth, pliable dough. On lightly floured board, knead for several minutes.

Place dough back in lightly oiled bowl, cover, set aside in warm place for about an hour or until doubled.

Turn dough out on floured board; cut into desired sizes.

Place toppings of your choice. Let rise about 20 minutes or until dough is puffy.

Drizzle with olive oil.

Bake in a 375 degree oven for 20-30 minutes or until crust is golden.

**Variations:** Substitute 1 cup whole wheat, semolina, or cornmeal flour for white flour. Add ¼ cup wheat germ.

---

**Pizza Sauce**

- 1 onion, chopped
- 1 bell pepper, chopped
- 2 cups fresh or canned tomatoes, chopped
- ½ teaspoon oregano
- 2 tablespoons tomato paste
- salt, pepper, and cayenne to taste
- 1 teaspoon fennel seeds
- 2 tablespoons Marsala Olive Fruit Oil
- 2 cups mozzarella, shredded
- ½ cup fresh basil, chopped

Cook onion in oil over medium heat until tender. Add remaining ingredients, except mozzarella; simmer about 15 minutes.

**Topping Combinations:**

- Fresh tomatoes, fresh garlic, grilled vegetables, fresh herbs, Feta or Gorgonzola cheese, crumbled
- Pesto-brushed crust, provolone, ricotta, Romano, fresh tomatoes, roasted garlic, and grilled mushroom slices
- Olive oil-brushed crust, garlic, mozzarella, fresh spinach (cooked, well drained, chopped), mushrooms, roasted peppers, and Canadian bacon
- Grilled lemon herb chicken, roasted potatoes, dried ricotta or shredded provolone
- Fresh tomatoes, fresh or canned clams, garlic, parsley, basil, oregano, black and red hot pepper flakes, Romano cheese
- Shrimp, pineapple tidbits, Canadian bacon, mozzarella, Romano cheese, tomato, olives
When Jenny was little, excursions were part of the family routine. Her parents, Irene and Tom, took her to ghost towns, coastal fishing villages, the wine country, Fisherman’s Wharf, and so on. From an early age, she began observing and absorbing the landscape.

Not all little girls graduate from family trips to global travel as part of their grown-up career, but this one did. Jennifer Helzer, Ph.D., became a professional geographer. She is an associate professor and coordinator of the Geography Department at CSU Stanislaus, and was recently elected president of the California Geographical Society through 2009. This year, she won a McColl Family Fellowship to travel to Australia for six weeks and research how Italian immigrants shaped the region’s character and socioeconomic development. The award covered her round-trip airfare.

After delving into archives to identify field sites, Dr. Helzer ventured from her research base in Adelaide, Australia to observe ethnic festivals, agricultural settlements, agro-tourism sites, and urban districts bearing an Italian theme. She’s been given visiting scholar status at Flinders University in Adelaide.

She structured her research to focus not on the extent to which immigrants kept their ethnic heritage but rather on the impact they made over time on the cultural landscape. This study will parallel her earlier work on Italian immigrants to northern California, the subject of her dissertation in 1998.

“The Italian lifestyle appeals to the American imagination, with visions of rolling hills, vineyards, and olive orchards basking in the sun,” Dr. Helzer noted. “There’s a noticeable trend in commercial development toward Italian-themed architecture. The olive oil industry took off when marketing strategies tied in with the concept of the Italian lifestyle.”

Italian immigrants to Australia have left a tangible stamp as well, and Dr. Helzer’s work will uncover and document the evidence. She will then compare and contrast Italian immigrant migration and settlement patterns and their impact on the regional identity of two distinct Pacific Rim destinations, California and Australia.

“The ubiquity of Italian heritage landscapes in both California and Australia presents an ideal laboratory to study this transformation and the
close connection between heritage, identity, and landscape,” Dr. Helzer wrote in her project proposal for the award.

Dr. Robert McColl, professor emeritus of geography at the University of Kansas, established the McColl Family Fellowship in 1999. A benefactor of the American Geographical Society (AGS), FOCUS on Geography magazine, and the AGS Library at the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee, Dr. McColl’s lifelong passion for geography has taken him to nearly 60 countries on every continent except Antarctica.

His philanthropy has enabled geographers to study human uses of caves in Madagascar, indigenous response to hurricane damage to the rainforest of Honduras, intelligent technology in Malaysia, Jamaican immigrants in Toronto, and environmental justice in South Africa.

Recipients of the award are expected to write an article on their findings suitable for publication in FOCUS on Geography. The magazine describes its authors as geographers who “think like geographers and write like journalists.” The articles explore geopolitical issues and the complexities of an extensive array of countries.

New College of Natural Sciences Dean brings physics expertise

Dr. Roger McNeil, formerly Chair of the Department of Physics and Astronomy at Louisiana State University and an experimental high energy particle physicist, became the Dean of the new College of Natural Sciences in May.

Professor McNeil received a Ph.D. in Physics from UC Davis and was a member of the LSU faculty for 21 years. His work in high energy particle physics has involved research at accelerator centers all over the world that has been the subject of more than 260 refereed publications. Dr. McNeil has secured grants from the Department of Energy and other sources totaling more than $7 million to support research projects and other programs at LSU.

Recipient of a number of awards recognizing his teaching excellence and cited for expanding and improving academic programs in his department, Dr. McNeil submitted a grant program at LSU aimed at improving K-12 science and mathematics teaching. A Math-Science Partnership called the Louisiana Teacher Institute was formed between LSU’s departments of Biology, Chemistry, Math and Physics, the College of Education, Southern University in Baton Rouge, the Louisiana Department of Education, and the East Baton Rouge School District that is dedicated to teacher preparation in mathematics and science. McNeil said he hopes to help arrange a similar partnership at CSU Stanislaus.
Deborah Kavasch knew she wanted to be a composer as a young college student when she found herself discovering and creating music in her head rather than watching the beautiful scenery on a trip through Europe.

John Marvin began studying music when he was four and wrote his first complete musical work when he was a college junior, but his talent in mathematics took him in another career direction. Marvin stayed involved in music during his off time, composing and playing the oboe and English horn during visiting ballet and opera performances at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.

Fast forward a number of years to a meeting of the two musical minds at a music composers conference in Newport, Oregon. Both had established their reputations as accomplished composers, Kavasch as a California State University, Stanislaus Music Professor and Marvin as a Mathematics and Music Professor at Evergreen College in the Seattle area. It was the start of a long-distance romance that embraced the sharing of a love for making music, and the two professors were married in 1997. Creating music continues to be a strong bonding force in their relationship.

“We invite criticism of each other and get ideas from each other that often turn into composing for performances,” Kavasch said.

“She’s a great soprano with a wonderful sense of self-humor,” Marvin added, noting that she had been described to him by a colleague at the conference where they met as a “killer soprano” and was wearing a baseball cap and matching t-shirt with the word “DIVA.”

The CSU Stanislaus composing duo brought more recognition to the University recently as part of the New York City-headquartered “Meet the Composer” program. Composers from all over the Central Valley gathered at CSU Stanislaus on February 17, capping the get-together with a concert titled “Sonic Bloom” that touted performances of works by the region’s talented composers.

Their professional paths that had taken them in different directions earlier in their lives have come together at CSU Stanislaus which is benefiting from their talents. Kavasch has established herself as a renowned soprano vocalist and composer and Marvin is an established composer in his own
right. Deborah and John have their own computerized composing studio that they jokingly call the “Thunder Room” above the garage in their Turlock home. Marvin has written a number of vocal/instrumental pieces that Kavasch has performed in bringing classical stories to life. Kavasch has more than 60 compositions to her credit, and Marvin has at least 25. Many of their works have been released on CD. Kavasch has also been playing the violin and studying piano since she was a youngster.

A member of the CSU Stanislaus Music Department faculty since 1979 and department chair this year, Kavasch spearheaded the addition of a music composition degree program that is complemented by a thriving composition studio. Her specialty in the pioneering of extended vocal techniques has gained her international recognition.

Kavasch often weaves the extended vocal techniques touch into her music, a method that draws from research on the musically expressive and often unusual and dramatic capacities and sounds of the human voice through the study of the world’s musical cultures and improvisation. She started her exploration of the expressive technique while earning her doctorate from UC San Diego where she participated in a group research grant program. Those efforts and the resulting music have drawn international acclaim.

Kavasch’s reputation has scored her invites to perform solo in concerts all over Europe and the United States. As her understandably biggest fan, Marvin said media critic descriptions of Kavasch’s talent as a “multi-faceted, multi-timbral vocalist with articulate radiance and astonishing range and agility” attest to her perfect-pitch singing voice.

Kavasch will live on in CSU Stanislaus history as the one who wrote the song for the lyrics of the University’s alma mater written in 1996 by retired Director of Global Affairs Linda Bunney Sarhad. Bunney Sarhad, an accomplished writer and poet, has been collaborating with Kavasch on her music for more than 25 years.

Marvin, who teaches CSU Stanislaus music classes as an adjunct professor, has continued to focus his talents on both his mathematics and music composing interests. He worked at Goddard Space Flight Center in Maryland for many years, programming computers, working with astronomers and astrophysicists on studies ranging from radio astronomy to big-bang theories. During his 10 years at Evergreen College, he began to attract the attention of leading professional performers in the music field. A number of his works which range from instrumental and vocal chamber music to larger works for solo instruments with orchestra and wind ensemble have been performed at major concerts all over the United States.

“Teaching and working with mathematics has always been a pleasure for me, but I’ve always loved music more,” Marvin said.

Through it all, Kavasch said the biggest satisfaction their music provides is when they have the opportunity to share it with audiences and their students.

“Oh Stanislaus, oh Stanislaus, our vision will not swerve. You give to us the chance to learn and we go forth to serve. In this land of golden sun, with gifts of earth, the citizens of our fair state have sacrificed to give you birth.

Many peoples, many tongues have come together in this place, and we have learned to live as friends within your nourishing embrace.

Oh Stanislaus, oh Stanislaus, our vision will not swerve. For your renown is in our hands as we go forth to serve.

Alma Mater, we give thanks for what we’ve learned, for how we’ve grown, for wider vistas we have seen, for seeds of wisdom you have sown.

Alma Mater,
we give thanks
for what we’ve learned,
for how we’ve grown,
for wider vistas we have seen,
for seeds of wisdom
you have sown.

Alma Mater,
we give thanks
for what we’ve learned,
for how we’ve grown,
for wider vistas we have seen,
for seeds of wisdom
you have sown.

Alma Mater,
we give thanks
for what we’ve learned,
for how we’ve grown,
for wider vistas we have seen,
for seeds of wisdom
you have sown.
Founding members of the new Alumni Council met in March to begin setting the stage for a dynamic and active Alumni Council intended to serve you – our outstanding alums—and to support California State University, Stanislaus. The Council spent much of the time talking about ways to engage alumni in the University and to keep you better informed about all the exciting activities and opportunities that your alma mater has to offer.

The Council is urging everyone to join the Alumni Donor Society because the alumni participation rate is a crucial number used to rank the university nationally. Many foundations take the rate into account as well when deciding what grants they will award. Like the majority of us, most current students depend on financial aid. The grants and scholarships we received were the direct result of alumni gifts. So please consider joining; a gift of any amount will be appreciated! The higher our percentage of alumni giving, the better we can compete with other universities across the nation.

The Alumni Council is also interested in you. Below is a “Connect!” form that offers a quick and easy way for you to send your updated contact information and news to the Alumni Relations office. By providing your e-mail address and other information, we will be able to communicate with you on a more regular basis and keep you informed about campus activities.

One upcoming event on campus is the annual Summer Arts Festival, including the Fantastic Fourth celebration, the Shakespeare Festival, and a children’s production of The Three Bully Goats Griff. In conjunction with the Fantastic Fourth concert and fireworks show on July 4, the University will be hosting an Alumni Reception from 4-6 p.m. at Snider Hall. Spread the word to your former classmates and join us for this social gathering and networking opportunity.

Summer Arts at CSU Stanislaus provides family-friendly activities and a great way for alums to re-connect with their University. Visit our website at www.csustan.edu for more information about Summer Arts, including sponsorship opportunities that give you or your company exposure to nearly 15,000 people throughout the region. You may send your contribution to us at the address below or for a credit card payment, call (209) 667-3131. So call your friends and family members, pack a picnic basket, and meet us on the lawn at the University amphitheatre to enjoy Summer Arts at CSU Stanislaus!

Send contributions to:
CSU Stanislaus
Office of University Advancement
801 W. Monte Vista Ave.
Turlock, CA 95382

www.csustan.edu

Stay connected to your alma mater. Visit www.csustan.edu, and explore the University’s new award-winning website. You can make donations (now with the ease of using a credit card), tell us what’s new in your life, or read news from your fellow alums.

Connect!  Tell us what’s new!

Help us and your classmates keep in touch with you. Please send us news about your promotion, career move, additions to your family, awards, etc., for inclusion in Class Notes.

Name: ________________________________
Year Graduated: __________ Degree: __________
Contact Information: ________________________________
Phone: ________________________________
E-Mail: ________________________________
Mailing Address: ________________________________

Mail to:  CSU Stanislaus, Alumni Relations, 801 W. Monte Vista Ave., Turlock, CA 95382
or send us a Class Note online at www.csustan.edu/Alumni
Restaurateur’s advice: Nosh and learn

Bistro’s layout encourages the range of customers. Decibels rise in the front, while the back section’s acoustics best showcase a powerful rendition of “Happy Birthday” — in Russian, or another language by request — by server and CSU Stanislaus opera graduate student Owen McIntosh.

By quirky coincidence, the restaurant also morphed into a second home for Bethel’s fellow alumni, who comprise 90 percent of the staff, including three teachers. Restaurant manager Erin Ingalls Hobbs (’00, BS Business Administration, concentration in Operations Management) is married to local attorney David Hobbs (’00, BA Philosophy).

“A degree is important whether you use it as a stay-at-home mom or a CEO,” Bethel said. “We promote education with the people with whom we work. Whether they take one class a semester or a year, we always work around school schedules.”

Given her lifelong love of teaching, Bethel’s deep appreciation for education is no surprise.

“I have always been a teacher in some capacity, whether it was piano lessons or swimming, children’s choir or vacation Bible school at migrant farm camps,” she said. Bethel even recognized the photographer who took her picture for this story as a former Sunday school student.

She recalls being hired to teach reading and writing part-time at CSU Stanislaus — something her husband, Ken, jokingly called her “pretend job,” as her real job was to raise the couple’s two daughters.

Retired professor Lola Johnson of the English department modeled Bethel’s ideal teacher.

“With Lola, everything was doable. You could teach anybody to write. They may not become the next Walt Whitman, but that skill would see them through life,” she said.

As Bistro 234 approaches its fifth year, Bethel appreciates the opportunity to practice her life’s philosophy of giving back more than she’s been given. She has come full circle from her so-called “pretend job” at CSU Stanislaus to now providing jobs for alumni.

“I had a great experience at CSU Stanislaus,” she said. “It’s what has prepared me for what has happened in my life. I will be eternally grateful to the fine professors I had.”
helping people at churches in Oakdale, Escalon, Groveland, and Modesto.

**Don Hall**, ’76 BA Art and ’90 MA Interdisciplinary Studies, was a best-of-show winner at the Turlock City Arts Commission’s 25th annual Spring Art Show in March. Hall is an accomplished artist who has exhibited his works all over California. He teaches art at Modesto Junior College and Stockton’s San Joaquin Delta College.

**Nancy Hollister**, ’72 BA Liberal Studies and ’73 Teaching Credential, is in her 34th year of teaching kindergarten in the Turlock Unified School District. She currently teaches at Wakefield Elementary. Her husband, Jim, retired this year after 38 years of teaching at Turlock Junior High School.

**Martin Jaureguy**, ’79 BA Liberal Studies, was one of three featured photographers in an exhibit at Turlock City Hall. A photography teacher at Turlock High School, he recently produced a series of infrared black and white landscape photo prints taken at CSU Channel Islands.

**Arturo M. Flores**, ’71 BA Social Science, was named the finalist to succeed Jim Enochs as Superintendent of Modesto City Schools on April 3. Flores was previously Associate Superintendent of the Sacramento City Unified School District, overseeing more than 20 schools in the district that serves 46,000 students. His career there included service as principal of America’s Choice High School, one of four new charter high schools opened in 2003 as part of a reform effort in the district.

**Carol Kirst**, ’76 Music Teaching Credential, has been a music teacher at Lakewood Elementary School in Lodi for 30 years.

**Tom Kohlepp**, ’77 BA Social Science, is the owner of Tom’s Used Books in Lodi.

**Tony Leo**, ’73 BA Physical Education, has been CEO of the Stanislaus County Fair and grounds since 1998. He served as Merced County Fair manager for 14 years after starting his fair management career in 1980 at the Los Banos Fair.

**Victoria Miller**, ’75 BA Liberal Arts, ’76 Teaching Credential, and ’94 MA Education, is the new principal at Carroll Fowler Elementary School in Ceres. Miller brought 25 years of teaching experience to the post, most recently as Learning Director in the Merced City Elementary School District. She was selected as the 2006 Advanced Studies in Education Department Award winner at CSU Stanislaus.

**Joyce Reichmuth**, ’76 BA Liberal Studies, teaches at Apricot Valley Elementary School in Patterson.

**Vanston Shaw**, ’78 Teaching Credential, ’82 MA School Administration, is the new superintendent of the Yreka Union School District in Siskiyou County. The Modesto native started his education career as a teacher with the Stanislaus County Office of Education and has published a book on his method of education titled “Building in the Classroom.” He previously served as Modoc County Superintendent of Education.

**Polly Vasché**, ’75 BA Music, of Modesto was honored as lifetime-achievement winner at the Stanislaus Arts Council’s Excellence in Arts Awards on March 24 in Newman. Vasché was choral director at Downey High School in Modesto for 29 years and was named CSU Stanislaus Alumna of the Year in 2005. She has performed with orchestras, choral companies, and ensembles all over the country and remains active in the local music scene as well.

**Alan Wilbur**, ’78 BA History, has been named vice president, investment representative, at Oak Valley Community Bank in Oakdale. He served as vice president of retail investments at County Bank for six years before joining
Oak Valley and has been awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award in Investments from the Independent Bankers Association.

80’s

Glenda Barlow-Catanzarite, ’84 BA Psychology and ’88 MS Counselling Psychology, is a licensed marriage family therapist, child-custody mediator, and educator in Turlock. She has taught classes at CSU Stanislaus.

Paul Bawek, ’85 BA Theatre Arts, is an assistant professor of directing and acting at Florida Southern University. He has worked as an actor, director, and teacher at a number of theatres and schools in the U.S. as well as in London. He directed Colin Hanks, the son of Academy Award-winning actor Tom Hanks, at the Studio Theatre in Sacramento, in the late 1990s.

Brenda Brown, ’83 BA Psychology and ’88 Teaching Credential, is a sixth-grade teacher at Westport Elementary School in Ceres.

Kirk Brown, ’86 BS Biology, is a biology teacher and consultant at Tracy High School. In 2006, he spoke at a National Science Teachers Conference in Utah and won a $15,000 award from the Carlson Family Foundation for excellence in teaching.

Amy Bublak, ’88 BA Sociology, was appointed to the Turlock Planning Commission in February 2007. She is an officer with the Modesto Police Department.

Pat (Souza) Clark, ’84 BA English, has been Entertainment Editor at The Modesto Bee for 10 years.


Stephanie Giahos, ’84 BA Liberal Studies/Teaching Credential, is a kindergarten teacher at Rose Avenue Elementary School in Modesto. She has been teaching for 21 years.

Ron Harris, ’87 BS Liberal Studies, is teaching at Prescott Junior High School in Modesto. He previously taught for 18 years at Eisenhut Elementary School in Modesto.

Kathy Harvey, ’82 Teaching Credential, has been teaching for more than 30 years in the Manteca School District and is currently a middle school instructor at Walter E. Woodward Elementary. She started her career teaching adult-education classes and has taught elementary and middle school students for nearly 25 years.

Luc Janssens, ’83 MA French, has distinguished himself as a winemaker, artist, educator, linguist, and aviator. A native of Belgium, he is helping handicapped Laotian children who have been victimized by the unexploded bombs that remain there since the Vietnam War. He has built a hospital and other facilities in Laos, having established the Lao Rehabilitation Foundation which has raised funds for aid. He and his wife, Genevieve, have built a small Napa Valley winery and donate a portion of the proceeds to the Foundation. A graduate of the Royal Academy of Fine Art in Brussels, Belgium, and one of a few artists skilled in the art of photogravure, Janssens has donated art works to help disabled children in Laos. He flew as a pilot for Air Zaire in Africa and has also taught art and French.

Dave Menshew, ’80 BA History, was named Lead Teacher of the new Forensic/Biotechnology program at newly-opened James C. Enochs High School in Modesto. Co-developed by Menshew, the program is the first four-year program of its kind in the nation. He spent the summer of 2006 working on research at the Biosciences Directorate at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory.

Linda Murphy, ’85 BA Liberal Studies/Teaching Credential and ’95 MA Education, was named principal of Julien Elementary School in Turlock in August 2006. She previously served as principal at Turlock’s Wakefield Elementary and started her career in the district as a teacher.

Kimberly Omanski-Potter, ’92 BA Liberal Studies, is a teaching principal at Rail Road Flat Elementary School in the Calaveras Unified School District. A teacher for 10 years, she began working as a teaching principal in fall 2006. She previously taught in Stockton.

Eileen Pastenieks, ’83 BS Business Administration, of Ripon is a partner in Warmerdam CPA Group LLP of Modesto. She is a certified fraud examiner and certified public accountant, also specializing in tax services, and has served on the board of the local chapter of the California Society of CPAs.

Chris Pedretti, ’82 Teaching Credential, is in his 22nd year as head baseball coach at Merced College.

Tami Truax, ’85 BA Liberal Studies, was named principal at Dennis Earl Elementary School in Turlock in August 2006. She previously served as an assistant principal after starting her career as a teacher.

Dean Way, ’89 BA Social Studies/MA Education, Teaching and Administrative Credentials, started as principal at Bret Harte High School in Angels Camp in July 2006. He was an assistant principal at Livingston High School for 10 years before being named principal in Angel’s Camp.

90’s

Keith Boggs, ’95 MPA, is Deputy Executive Officer of Economic Development for Stanislaus County. Working in the economic development area since 1998, he focuses on business park development, community technology initiatives, regional tourism, and community outreach endeavors. He developed a community-wide technology program for improving technology, access, and multi-sector cooperation within the county.

Karen Carranza, ’98 BA Liberal Studies, is a kindergarten teacher at Stockard Coffee Elementary School in Modesto. She has taught kindergarten for eight years after starting out as a third-grade teacher.

Martha Connor, ’90 MA Nonprofit Agency Administration, is President and CEO of DirectLine Technologies, a fund-raising call center she founded in 1992 that serves clients nationwide. The company is a national leader in alumni association membership sales by telephone.

Lori Crivelli, ’91 BS Business Administration, of Turlock is owner and insurance agency executive of Crivelli Insurance Services, which has offices in Turlock and Modesto. She started her insurance career in 1993 and is currently a Nationwide exclusive agent.

Mary Eklund, ’91 BA Sociology, who lives in Delhi, recently published a book titled “Princess Vika’s Forever Family.” She wrote about her adoption experiences with foster children and orphans as well as international adoption issues.

Cecil Felkins, ’96 Physical Education/Teacher Credential, is a teacher and coach in Dixon, and was featured in March 2007 as “Teacher of the Month” by KXTV News 10 in Sacramento. Felkins, who played baseball at CSU Stanislaus, teaches at Jacobs Intermediate School where he also coaches three basketball teams as well as a baseball team at Dixon High School. His wife, Julie (Mack) Felkins, ’95 Physical Education, is an athletic director and coach with the Dixon School District.
Patti Lingerfelt, ’91 Teaching Credentials in Administration and Special Education, became principal at Fischer Elementary School in Vallecito (Tuolumne County). She previously served as a vice principal at James Marshall Elementary School in Modesto.

Jessica Rosette Maravilla, ’95 Teaching Credential, teaches mathematics and English learner classes at Buhach Colony High School in Atwater. The school’s Hispanic Youth Leadership Council membership has boomed since she became adviser three years ago.

Pat Matheny, ’94 BS Accounting, of Riverbank is controller and general office manager of Matheny Industrial Builders in Riverbank. She also owns her own construction company consulting firm, specializing in implementing construction accounting and job costing software, and working with clients on an ongoing basis in maintaining and using their system.

Margaret McDevitt, ’90 BA Psychology, is an associate professor at McDaniel College in Maryland where she has drawn recognition for her use of pigeons to teach students behavior research methods. She was introduced to pigeons for her research while taking classes taught by Bruce Hesse, a CSU Stanislaus Psychology Professor who conducts similar studies.

Michael Mello, ’99 BA Organizational Communications, is a news writer at the San Bernardino County Bureau of The Riverside Press-Enterprise. He previously was a reporter at The Modesto Bee.

Cindy Minter, ’93 MS Business Administration, of Modesto was named the new technology director for the Tracy Unified School District in June 2006. She previously served as the assistant general manager for information at the Modesto Irrigation District, managed the computer network at the Stanislaus County Office of Education, and taught computer courses at Modesto Junior College.

Silvia Morales, ’99 BA Liberal Studies, is a kindergarten teacher at Jose Serna Jr. Elementary Charter School in Lodi. Morales, whose specialty is bilingual education, has been a teacher for 21 years. She also teaches adults in a Lodi-based English-learners program.

Susan Nisan, ’99 Teaching Credential, is a Latin teacher and program coordinator for the KTL Charter School in Keyes. The charter school serves families who home-school their children, with most students attending classes once or twice a week. Nisan helped create KTL’s “core knowledge program.”

Twyla Olsen, ’94 BA Organizational Communication and ’00 MA Interdisciplinary Studies, is a program specialist with Merced County’s First 5 program that helps pre-school age children prepare for school. The program partners with school districts, public health and other government agencies, and the Challenged Family Resource Center to establish a referral network.

Phillip Paslay, ’94 BS Business Administration, is a fourth-grade teacher at Cunningham School in Turlock.

Stephanie Paslay, ’96 BS Nursing, is an infant intensive care nurse at Memorial Medical Center in Modesto.

Shelly Schatz, ’90 BA Liberal Studies/Teaching Credential, was named Lodi Unified School District’s Teacher of the Year in February 2007. In her 18th year of teaching, she teaches kindergarten at Reese Elementary School, where she started school as a kindergartener and met her husband, Glen.

Lisa Schnaidt, ’93 BA Liberal Studies, is a third-grade teacher at Joseph Widmer Jr. Elementary School in Manteca. She has been teaching for 15 years and has been praised for mentoring new teachers, tutoring children after school, and getting involved with the school’s Parent Teacher Committee and school events.

David Silveira, ’92 BA Liberal Studies, was appointed principal of Lathrop School in December 2006. Silveira comes to the Manteca School District campus from Great Valley School where he was a vice principal.

Tracy V. Sparks, ’95 BS Accounting, of Turlock is senior vice president, chief financial officer, and treasurer of Yosemite Farm Credit in Turlock. She has been with the agricultural lending company for 15 years.

Tyler Summersett, ’00 BA Political Science, was hired as a Calaveras County transportation planner in December 2006. A former CSU Stanislaus employee, Summersett grew up in the Arnold area of Calaveras County and previously worked as a transportation planner in Tuolumne County.

Chris Victorino, ’01 BS Accounting and ‘05 MBA of Modesto combines his career as an accounting manager with helping his wife, Kristi, coach the Downey High School varsity girls basketball team. He was featured in an April 2006 profile in The Modesto Bee.

Jami (Massey) Westervelt, ’94 BA Organizational Communications, is assistant
programs manager at the Great Valley Center in Modesto. She served as CSU Stanislaus Director of Alumni Relations for five years prior to joining the Great Valley Center, which is affiliated with UC Merced.

Lori Wolf, '98 BS Biology, of Modesto is co-owner and estimator of Professional Landscaping, a Ceres-headquartered business. She handles estimates, personnel, payroll, plant ordering, and customer service and said she still ends up mowing once in a while.

00's

Amy Lee Beebe, '03 BA Criminal Justice, who joined the Turlock Police Department as an officer in December 2006, is pursuing her master's degree in Criminal Justice at CSU Stanislaus.

Justin Blizzard, '02 BA Art, recently recorded and released a music album titled "If I Were Adam." Blizzard performs at a number of Central California locations and did the art work for his album cover. His paintings have been featured at art shows and exhibits, and he created the giant mural art work on the wall at Turlock's Columbia Park pool.

Kristina Hoffman, '04 BA Liberal Studies and Teaching Credential '05, is a kindergarten teacher at Great Valley Elementary School in Manteca. She plans to complete her master's degree at CSU Stanislaus in May 2007.

Maria C. Jaime, '00 BA Social Sciences, joined the Modesto-based law firm of Curtis & Arata as an associate attorney in November 2006. She received her law degree from Lincoln Law School in 2003 and worked for California Rural Legal Assistance. Her focus is on insurance defense litigation, personal injury cases, and criminal law.

Curtis Lee, '03 BS Accounting, joined Clendinin Bird and Co. LLP in Modesto as an accountant. He has a background in private accounting and internal audit experience.

Patty Lezama, '00 BA Communications, a television news anchor at Univision station KSMS Channel 67 in Monterey, was honored February 9 at a Helping Hands and Healing Hearts luncheon in San Jose. She was recognized for overcoming her childhood abuse difficulties.

Carlos Magaña, '03 BA Liberal Arts, is in his fourth year as a fourth-grade teacher at Fox Road Elementary School in Hughson.

Susan Mendiesta, '00 MBA, was one of 15 people honored by the Latino Community Roundtable of Stanislaus County as Outstanding Latinos of 2006. Mendiesta is director of marketing and public relations at Oak Valley Hospital. She is a mentor and adviser for the Public Relations Student Society of America chapter at CSU Stanislaus and is active with the Girls Scouts, Modesto Rotary, American Red Cross, Community Hospice, and The Salvation Army.

Ashleigh Pallios, '05 BA Communications, joined Cardoza & Associates Inc. of Modesto as a project manager. She is responsible for coordinating events, organizing projects, working with clients and vendors, and managing the public and media relations office.

Gigi Sherriffe, '05 BA Psychology, works for the Modesto Junior College Foundation, raising money for scholarships and programs. She was profiled in a February 11, 2007, Modesto Bee Black History Month article for her community involvement.

Casey Van Gorkum, '05 BA Economics, is store manager at Strand's Ace Hardware in Escalon, where he has been employed since graduating from high school. The growing business recently moved to a larger location on McHenry Avenue.

Alumni

Leah Marie Beita, '74, BA Liberal Studies, February 12, 2007

InaLee (Newport) Bhend, '67, BA Sociology, December 7, 2006

Ora Dandridge House-Scruggs, '83, BA Social Sciences, March 6, 2007

John Harvey McVey, '61, BA Liberal Studies/Teaching Credential, November 30, 2006

Kenneth D. Weaver, '75, BA Social Sciences, March 8, 2007

Faculty

Narendra Lal Maria, 78, Mathematics Professor and Math Department Chair, January 3, 2007

Raymond Zarling, 60, Computer Science Professor, October 4, 2006
Despite the fact that he has compiled one of the most impressive coaching records in the history of college golf, Jim Hanny tolerates the teasing about his age and looks to his players for more.

“I’m still really enjoying myself,” said the CSU Stanislaus coach who has gained legendary status for the great teams he has recruited and guided since taking over the program 36 years ago. “I don’t drink and I don’t smoke, so I feel good, and I love working with the players.”

The 81-year-old Hanny is appropriately addressed as “Coach” by those who have come to know him since he joined the CSU Stanislaus staff as a Physical Education Department faculty member and coach in 1966. His golf teams have made 18 consecutive appearances in NCAA post-season tournaments, including a record 12 Division III national titles and five individual national champions from 1976 to 1989. The Warriors showed that winning form in late April, rallying to win the California Collegiate Athletic Association Tournament for their first conference title since 2001.

That reputation has attracted good golfers to the highly respected CSU Stanislaus program which was rated fifth in the pre-season NCAA Division II national rankings by Golf Digest. The Warrior golf team was also rated among the Top 50 collegiate programs in the nation, a salute of high respect in the golfing world.

When he finally does decide to retire from coaching, Hanny would like the team to have its first NCAA Division II national championship trophy already on the shelf. His clubs have come close over the years and the longtime coach determinedly recruits talented players who have the right stuff, optimistically indicating that the Warriors have the makings of an up-and-coming championship club over the next two seasons.

“I’m committed to winning and that means getting the top players,” Hanny said. “You find good players and then the good ones come to you.”

Crediting a characteristic toughness and discipline to his upbringing by his parents, Hanny said he makes every effort to pass that attitude along to his players. “Winners are successful in life, so I encourage my players to take that attitude with them into their lives with their families,” Hanny said.

Hanny has the life credentials that qualify him as a legend. A four-sport high school star in Ohio, he was the number two marathon runner in the country at University of the Pacific in Stockton. His college education was interrupted in 1943 by World War II, and he fought with General George Patton’s Army during the Battle of the Bulge in France and Belgium.

After college, Hanny taught and coached at the high school level, the last nine years at South Torrance High in Southern California before coming to CSU Stanislaus. Hanny launched the men’s basketball program with some talent-laden high-scoring teams and then took over the golf program.

Ed Holmes, who played in the early days of men’s basketball at CSU Stanislaus and now serves as President of the Southern California Golf Association, said Hanny had an “uncommonly strong” impact on his life as his coach at South Torrance High. In his column in a recent issue of the Association’s Fore Magazine headlined “Thanks, coach!”, Holmes expressed lasting appreciation for the lessons he learned from Hanny that sum up the coaching legend’s reputation. The column is online at http://www.scga.org/FOREWEB/holmes_ND06.pdf.

“Coach Hanny has, since those early years, affected many other lives too numerous to list,” he said. “It is his nature to be tough, disciplined, fair, and understanding -- traits I’ve used in raising a family, starting a business, and working with the Southern California Golf Association.”
Kim Duyst coaches USA Team at World Championships

California State University, Stanislaus head coach Kim Duyst brought the University’s name to the world stage when she led a USA cross country team to Africa in March.

Duyst, in her 20th season as CSU Stanislaus coach, served as senior women’s team leader for the USA team squad at the 35th International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) World Cross Country Championships in Mombasa, Kenya. The USA senior women’s team, competing without two top runners, finished a respectable eighth in the competition that is traditionally dominated by runners from Africa.

“I am very honored that they felt I was worthy when the coaches were selected,” Duyst said. “I had the opportunity to work with some of the world’s best runners.”

Although 12 of the 100 women from all over the world who ran went down during the race due to the heat, all of the USA competitors finished. Duyst said her coaching role was to help prepare the runners during practice sessions with race strategy and orientation to the eight kilometer course.

More than 50,000 people, some of them climbing trees to get a better view of what is a very popular sport in Kenya, turned out to watch the international competition.

It was the fourth USA team coaching appearance at the international level for Duyst. She also served at the 1998 World Cross Country Championships in Morocco, at the World Track & Field Championships in Edmonton, Alberta (2001), and Paris (2003), and 1993 World University Games in Buffalo, N.Y.

Warrior volunteer and fan honored by Hall of Fame selection

Donna Pierce’s love for sports is partial to anything to do with the Cal State Stanislaus Warriors.

Her devotion to the Warrior athletic teams as a fan, volunteer, supporter, and one-time women’s softball coach was acknowledged on March 10 when she joined her husband, Wayne, and many of the athletes, coaches, and supporters she rooted for as one of seven inductees into the University’s Athletic Hall of Fame. Wayne Pierce, a CSU Stanislaus Biological Sciences professor and longtime faculty representative to athletics and the NCAAs, was inducted in 2003.

“I feel honored and privileged to be in the Hall of Fame,” said Donna Pierce, who is usually sporting a CSU Stanislaus shirt, sweater, or jacket just about everywhere. “Everything we did has been out of love for this program and enjoyment. A large part of it for me was to be associated with these outstanding scholars and athletes who have distinguished themselves as fine human beings. I’ve had a blast.”

Since Pierce first volunteered to handle the shot clock at men’s and women’s home basketball games in Warrior Arena in 1978, she has been a regular on the sidelines. She and Wayne have scheduled their busy lives around Warrior home basketball games as well as many of the road contests and playoff games.

One time, she recalls, she was hosting a bridge game at her home when the realization hit her that it was a game night in Warrior Arena. They all went to the game and cheered for the Warriors before returning home for their card game.

Donna also steps in to handle the scorebook or game clock when regulars Dave Gomes and Abe Rojas are unable to be there and is known for her lively commentary on the sidelines.

“She makes the games interesting, even when they are boring,” Rojas said. “She’ll say things like ‘we’re getting hammered underneath’ when officials wouldn’t call fouls, and when our kids were at the free throw line, she’d say ‘you have to bend your knees to make the free throw.’ ”

Pierce said one of her biggest thrills about being named to the Hall of Fame was seeing all of the former athletes who attended the March 10 program. Donna and Wayne have maintained contact with many former Warrior athletes over the years.
July 4th • 8:00 p.m. • University Amphitheatre

Fantastic Fourth!

Come enjoy Summer Arts at CSU Stanislaus, beginning with the annual Fantastic Fourth celebration, featuring the Stanislaus POPS band and a spectacular fireworks show. Sponsorship opportunities are available. Visit www.csustan.edu/summerarts for more information.