

2009

STAN

California State University | Stanislaus

ALUMNI REPORT

People give their support. Students benefit. The University's 2008-09 Annual Report awaits you inside.

CLASSROOM COMBAT

Dr. Shawna Young invites you into the gym where she teaches Combative Activities and the importance of including them in K-12 physical education.



the
PROMISE
of determination.

Promise Scholar recipients overcome more odds before they enter college than most of us do in a lifetime. Meet three of them inside and learn about how this program for foster youth is providing opportunity and encouragement.

VITO CHIESA

In the Ambassador Spotlight, Chiesa covers sustainability, responsibility, and more.

DR. ELLEN BELL DIGS IT

The CSU Stanislaus professor uncovers the incredible history of the lost Maya kings.

A TENNIS WARRIOR'S DAY

We followed student athlete Verena Preikschas to see what goes into that on-court perfection.





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and so much more
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launches into the spotlight.
Its students gain knowledge,
society benefits.

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tough? Try taking one
of Shawna Young's.

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STAN

California State University | Stanislaus

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years of
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INTRODUCING!

MY **STAN**mag

ORG

GET MORE OF THE STORIES, JOIN US ONLINE
AT WWW.MYSTANMAG.ORG

WHAT YEAR IS IT, ANYWAY? That's right, with less than a single year left to wrap up the first decade of the new millenium, we figured it was now or never. Introducing: MyStanMag.org—the online compliment to the magazine you're holding in your hand right now.

It's an exciting time for us here at STAN magazine. You'll find background details from the stories you're about to read, plus a plethora of Web-exclusive, media-rich content that is sure to please your inquisitive, well-rounded, Stanislaus-educated mind.

We're going to be posting updates throughout the year as well—adding content on a number of exciting topics and blogs. Join your fellow alumni in the conversation. We can't wait to hear from you. Go to www.MyStanMag.org now to unleash your opinion upon the world!

HIT THE LINKS:

GET YOUR CLASS NOTES

The CSU Stanislaus Office of Alumni Affairs welcomes the chance to inform your fellow graduates of the events and activities in your life. Browse online by class to find news about your former classmates and take a moment to submit a note of your own. Our class notes are now entirely online, allowing the information to be updated more frequently and be displayed for a longer period of time. Check it out!

STANSTAFFBLOGS



PHOTOGRAPHER CARY EDMONDSON

received the prestigious "Grand Gold Medal" for 2009 "Photographer of the Year" from The Council for Advancement and Support of Education. Take a look through his lens by visiting his photo blog.



THE 'HERB'AL REMEDY

Our very own Herb Smart⁰⁵ delves into a variety of topics from social networking to media to education. So come read all about it and join the conversation!

Don't miss out on the slippery footage of your fellow alumni t video online!



A WORD WITH PRESIDENT SHIRVANI

Difficult decisions were made this year at California State University, Stanislaus. Due to several rounds of state budget cuts, enrollment growth, and unfunded mandates, CSU Stanislaus had to trim its general fund budget by nearly \$12 million.

In the midst of this economic downturn, there is plenty of uncertainty. What is certain, though, is that our top priority at CSU Stanislaus will continue to be instruction and service to students. We must continue to depend on the entire campus community of faculty, staff, alumni, donors, and friends to provide a top-quality and well-rounded university experience for CSU Stanislaus students.

To save funds, we will only be printing one STAN magazine each year. However, we are pleased to launch a new and interactive product for our alumni—STAN mag online at www.mystanmag.org. Inside this online publication, you will be able to stay current on university news and class notes from fellow alumni, read blog entries, and more. It will be a dynamic feature, and we look forward to your feedback.

If you can support STAN magazine with an annual gift, we would be most appreciative. Enclosed is an envelope you can use to send a contribution. Any amount is helpful.

I am delighted to have seen so many more alumni visiting our campus over the past year. The Alumni Spring Reunion in May was a pleasant time to meet many of you and see your families enjoy our beautiful campus.

We will continue to keep you informed about the status of your university's budget as California's fiscal crisis continues. More tough and unpleasant choices will be made, but through it all, we will come out stronger and better prepared to educate students in a new society.

Public universities can remain true to their diverse educational missions by sustaining the best parts of their past, but we must also boldly reshape and reinvigorate our institutions for the future. You can help us do that by becoming informed and active alumni, engaged in conversations and activities at your alma mater. I look forward to seeing you on campus.

Regards,



Hamid Shirvani, Ph.D.



UNIVERSITY NEWS

GEOGRAPHY ST DEATH VALLEY.

FOR THE LAST 32 YEARS, CSU STANISLAUS GEOGRAPHY STUDENTS HAVE EMBARKED UPON AN ANNUAL JOURNEY THAT IS ALMOST INSTANTLY FOSSILIZED INTO THEIR ACADEMIC MEMORIES.





STUDENTS FACE

Geography major Julia Stephens looks up from studying one of the crystal formations growing in Devil's Golfcourse.

Professor Ida Bowers notes, “There are very few better ways to learn about a subject than to actually get out and experience it with your own two hands.”

The annual trip to Death Valley has become a landmark staple of the rich educational experience that reflects the program’s philosophy of learning. This year was no different for the small group of seven students and their accompanying entourage who signed up for the trip as part of the intensive “Geographical

Processes in Arid Landscapes-Death Valley” course curriculum; no different except for the fact that it may very well be the last trip made.

The massive state budget cut affecting the entire CSU system has not spared the Geography Department’s funding for the annual trek. The news comes at a bad time for Bowers as well, as she has been preparing her own farewell on the way to final retirement at the conclusion of an illustrious 37-year career at CSU Stanislaus.

Bowers expresses a subtle sense of sorrow knowing that the field trip may not continue without her.

“There has to be a strong belief in the importance of field work in many environments for Geography students,” Bowers said. “Students tell me they remember more when they’re out learning in the field and not in the classroom. It’s up to students to let their professors know that they want field work.” **S**

FEELING INSPIRED? Go online and check out our exclusive Death Valley Web content. Catch a glimpse of what it was like for the students in Death Valley through some amazing photography and

video captured by STAN magazine. You can also learn more about Dr. Ida Bowers and ways you can support saving the annual field trip.



EARN POINTS, NO ANNUAL FEE, SUPPORT MY FELLOW WARRIORS WITH EVERY PURCHASE?

YEAH, SIGN ME UP.

The Office of Alumni Affairs credit card with WorldPoints® rewards card is the only credit card that supports CSU Stanislaus Alumni and earns points toward cash back, air travel, merchandise, and more—all with no annual fee and a low annual percentage rate!

For every new account that is opened and every purchase made with the card, Bank of America will make a contribution to CSU Stanislaus Office of Alumni Affairs at no additional cost to you! Members may review information about the rates, fees, other costs and benefits, and apply by calling 1-800-932-2775 (mention priority code FACR8A for Alumni).



CALL TODAY TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE PROGRAM AND TO APPLY FOR YOUR CARD

1-800-932-2775

CARNEGIE FOUNDATION HONORS SERVICE LEARNING PROGRAMS

CSU Stanislaus has been recognized twice nationally for its active involvement with the region it serves. The latest honor came from the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching's 2008 Community Engagement Classification.

CSU Stanislaus is one of only four universities in the California State University system and one of an elite nationwide group of 119 colleges and universities that have been added to the Carnegie Foundation's Community Engagement listing which recognizes the community connection activities of the nation's higher education institutions.

CSU Stanislaus students and faculty engage communities in the region through a variety of programs and issues such as literacy development, public policy, at-risk youth, healthy families, homelessness, science education, environmental sustainability, and diversity. The University currently offers more than 50 courses per year through its Office of Service Learning that extend classroom learning to community service projects. More than 2,000 students have had the opportunity to participate in volunteer activities and services totaling more than 30,000 hours of service annually.



CSU Stanislaus students, faculty, staff, and alumni volunteered their services to assist low-income individuals with their income tax returns in Turlock.

CSU TRUSTEES APPROVE FUTURE GROWTH

The California State University Board of Trustees approved an update of the CSU Stanislaus Campus Physical Master Plan in March 2009 that will serve as a guide for development to an eventual enrollment of 12,000 students while preserving the open green space and mature landscaping that makes CSU Stanislaus a uniquely beautiful campus.

The final approved environmental impact report and campus master plan update that covers the next 15 to 20 years is the first of its kind since 1968, three years after the current campus opened.

A major library expansion project, renovation of the original science building into a classroom facility, addition of a 1,200-seat auditorium in the College of the Arts complex, and another multi-story residence hall are high priority proposals on the CSU Stanislaus master plan and capital projects list.

Find a link to the Master Plan video and more details at www.MyStanMag.org. Come to the CSU Stanislaus campus and see all of the great changes for yourself. Maps to CSU Stanislaus and of the 228-acre campus are on the University Web site at <http://www.csustan.edu/directories/Maps/>.



For the third straight year, CSU Stanislaus was also named to the Presidents Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll in February 2009 by the Corporation for National and Community Service. The University was one of 14 CSU campuses selected for the award out of a field of more than 500 colleges and universities that submitted applications.

Find out how students are making a difference with a literacy program read about it at www.MyStanMag.org.

THE SPECIAL
FIFTIETH
ANNIVERSARY
REPORT



**INAUGURAL
GALA RAISES \$225,000**

For a night, bow ties replaced books, gowns replaced grades, a lieutenant became a doctor, and California State University, Stanislaus took a giant leap forward.



Gary Sinise and his "Lieutenant Dan Band" played at the event.

The 50th Anniversary Inaugural Gala featured a sold-out dinner and a concert performance from actor, director, and musician Gary Sinise and his "Lieutenant Dan Band" at the University Amphitheater.

Prior to the Gala, Sinise was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Fine Arts degree by CSU Board of Trustees Chair Jeffrey L. Bleich and CSU Stanislaus President Dr. Ham Shirvani. Honored for his multiple accomplishments in the film and television industries, Sinise is best known for his performance as "Lieutenant Dan" in the Academy-Award winning film *Forest Gump*.

CSU Stanislaus is planning a series of special events heading into the 50th anniversary of the startup of the University at the Stanislaus County Fairgrounds in 1960, a major gala event in fall 2010 to celebrate its 50th year. **S**



The Mary Stuart Rogers building transformed into a fine dining hall during the 50th Anniversary Inaugural Gala



Gary Sinise chats with entrepreneur and philanthropist Sebastian Paul Musco and President Hamid Shirvani inside the President's suite.

Matt Swanson, CSU Stanislaus Foundation Board President, meets and greets Gary Sinise

Childhood pals, Theatre Department Chair Dr. John Mayer and Sinise

Demi Mehas and Fathy Shirvani strike a pose alongside Sinise and CSU Trustee Peter Mehas



SPOTLIGHT

AMBASSADOR

Perhaps it's the fact that he's a second generation rancher whose roots go deep in Stanislaus County, but a conversation with Vito Chiesa has a certain rhythm that evokes the revolving seasons and a sense of balance between the past, the present, and the future.

Vito Chiesa is the newest member to the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors. Speaking about the causes and issues that link him to higher education in general, and CSU Stanislaus in particular, Chiesa returns often to the themes of continuity, sustainability, our ties to the past, and our responsibility to future generations.

Educational Partnerships Provide Solutions

Chiesa is committed to walking the talk when it comes to supporting CSU Stanislaus and higher education in Stanislaus County. "Dr. Shirvani has my promise to do everything in my power to promote education in any way I can. If the University succeeds, the residents of Stanislaus County succeed. If the University struggles or fails, it will be that much more difficult for people of the County to prosper."

"We face tremendous challenges: the '09 high school graduating class will be the largest in history, yet, college enrollment is capped or declining because of budget limitations. There will continue to be more competition for fewer spots." Chiesa firmly believes that business and education can work together to meet real-world needs. "Everyone has to be on the same page; businesses need to collaborate with educators to meet their specific needs."



In Chiesa's view, the emerging field of biotechnology offers examples of this education-meets-business needs philosophy, and illustrates how education and business can collaborate to not only prepare the future workforce, but also solve problems facing today's farmers and ranchers. At Chiesa Ranch, the family farming operation in which Chiesa works with his parents, Mary and Aroldo, and brother, Andrew, Chiesa looks to biotech solutions for both labor-saving efficiencies and increased production. "The solution might come in the form of chemicals that increase crop resistance to disease, new water efficiencies, or eco-friendly practices that preserve and protect farmland and the environment. The point is we're looking to science, and the scientists of the future to help solve these problems."

Personal commitment to education

Chiesa recognizes that alumni of California colleges and universities are at a unique time in their lives, having gained a base of experience and, hence, perspective while at the same time having abundant energy and the ability to embrace new ideas. "We can build alliances, and lend our support—emotionally and professionally as well as financially—to the institutions that supported us as students."

Speaking of the importance of maintaining college connections, Chiesa reminds alumni, "We are



A CONVERSATION WITH VITO CHIESA

By Denise Nordell

providing not just for our children's future, but for that of our grandchildren as well. Our kids are attending schools our grandparents built. If you believe you received a world class education from your school, you have an obligation to give back


and be sure we are focusing on the things that people need and care the most about. And the reality is, without education, we don't have a chance to climb out of the hole we're in."

A lifelong resident of Hughson, California, Chiesa was elected to the Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors in 2008. He represents the 2nd district, which includes Turlock.

"Dr. Shirvani has my promise to do everything in my power to promote education in any way I can. If the University succeeds, the residents of Stanislaus County succeed. If the University struggles or fails, it will be that much more difficult for people of the County to prosper."

to it and help future generations of students."

Asked about the difficult economic climate, Chiesa is upbeat yet pragmatic: "It's easy to get caught up in the doom and gloom, but I believe there are always opportunities for government to reinvent itself to better serve its citizens. By necessity, we may need to contract a bit during lean times, but at the same time, it's a chance for introspection, to "reset,"

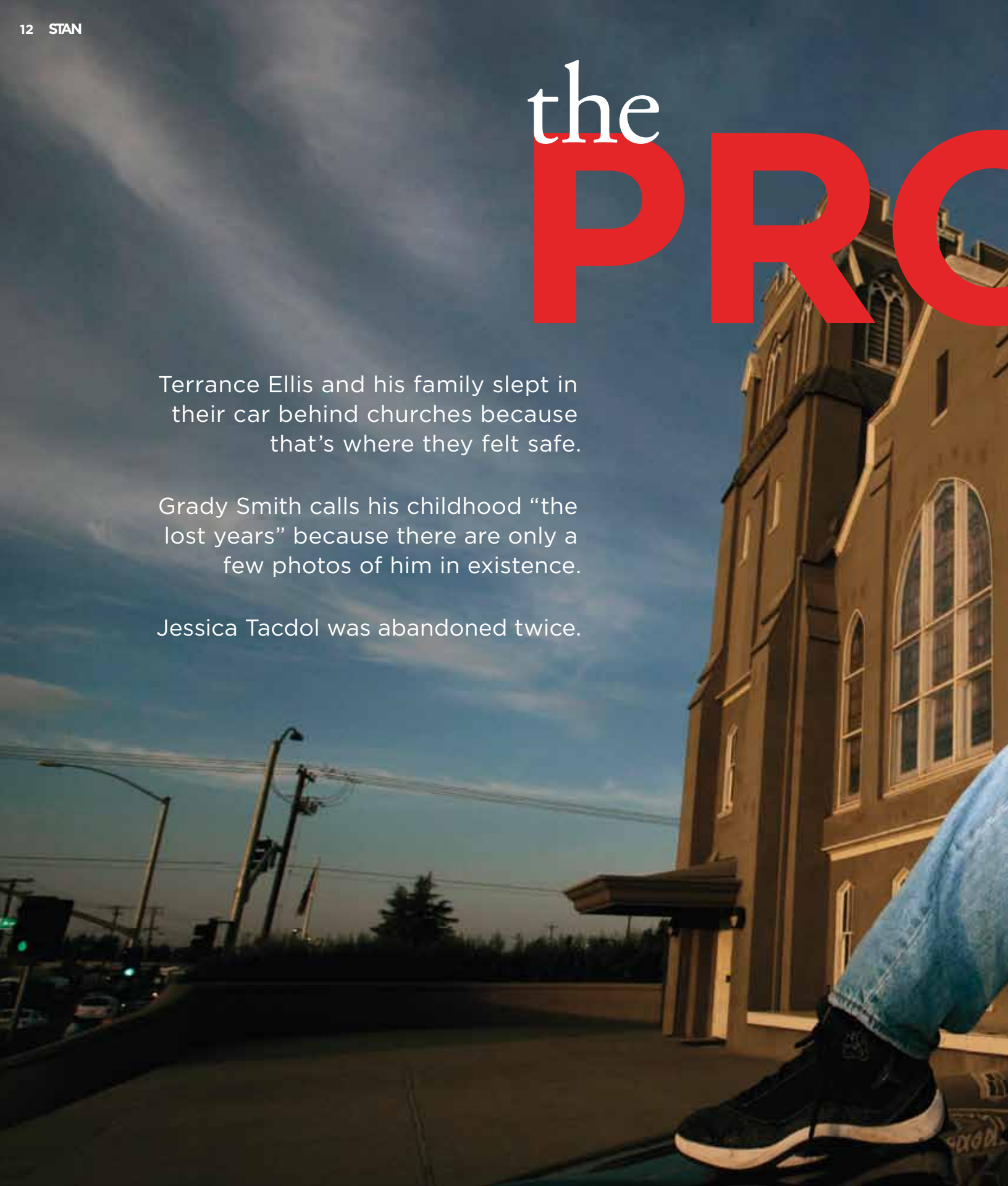
Chiesa's musical heartstrings are tied to the University's Jazz Band, in which he played lead trumpet under Dr. Dan Moss. He began playing the trumpet in the fourth grade, and played all through high school (at Hughson High) and MJC. With a smile, he says he would still be playing, but for a faux pas early in his marriage to wife, Jill. When he cut short their honeymoon to return for a jam session, "Jill put her foot down, and I don't play as much anymore." 

the PRO

Terrance Ellis and his family slept in their car behind churches because that's where they felt safe.

Grady Smith calls his childhood "the lost years" because there are only a few photos of him in existence.

Jessica Tacdol was abandoned twice.



A young man with dark hair, wearing a dark jacket and blue jeans, is sitting on a ledge in front of a building. He is looking towards the camera with a slight smile. The building behind him has several windows and a gabled roof. The sky is a deep blue, suggesting dusk or dawn. The overall mood is contemplative and hopeful.

PROMISE

of determination.

By Herb Smart

All of this before they were ushered into California's foster care system — a network that currently contains more than 80,000 infants, children, and teenagers.

They could have hung their heads. Could have wasted their talents or claimed raw deals. Instead, they chose CSU Stanislaus. Of equal importance, thanks to the support of many, the University was given the opportunity to choose them.

Three of 28 students enrolled in the Promise Scholars Program for emancipated foster youth, Ellis, Smith, and Tacdol have overcome dark odds to light the paths to their futures through a CSU Stanislaus education.

"I look back at where I was and I'm like, 'I beat a lot of odds,'" says Ellis, who spent much of his first two years of high school living on the streets with his father and brothers. "I'm pretty sure most (foster youths) just live with it."

Ellis is well aware that the numbers were never in his favor as a foster youth; less than half of the nation's foster children make it through high school, let alone graduate. Less than five percent attend college.

So when he was part of a family decision to be placed into a San Joaquin County foster care program for his own welfare, his prospects of going to college were slim at best.

Conventional wisdom suggests that Smith and Tacdol should have never made it to college either.

And how are they faring now?

"For the first time in my life, I am truly happy," says Smith, a criminal justice major who is taking classes leading him toward a career in forensic photography. "(CSU Stanislaus) has made me feel like more of a normal person."

Normal is an antonym for what these students experienced before becoming Promise Scholars. Most of them were children of parents who made bad decisions or lived self-destructive lives. Others saw their parents die long before children can begin to cope with tragedy. But all the Promise Scholars are grateful for the people who have helped put their dreams within reach.

Support on campus, and on Capitol Hill

Providing individualized support for students has become a trademark of the Promise Scholars program. Admission to CSU Stanislaus and priority placement for campus housing is only part of what the University is able to offer.

"Just getting them in the door is not good enough," says Wanda Bonnell, Promise Scholars Program Coordinator since the program's inception in 2006, talking about the importance of providing students with a support structure.



“For the first time in my life,
I am truly happy.”

Grady Smith

a criminal justice major who is taking classes
leading him toward a career in forensic photography

Among other resources, each Promise Scholar receives academic and career advising, a full financial aid package, along with psychological counseling and tutoring services. In many cases, the program covers all or most of the expenses associated with attending the University, so Promise Scholars can focus on their studies.

But the type of support that Promise Scholars receive from Bonnell and countless others who are a part of the University's Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) might not have been possible without the support of one of CSU Stanislaus' more notable supporters.

Congressman Dennis Cardoza and other legislators recently secured \$285,000 in federal funds for the expanding Promise Scholars Program. When President Obama signed the FY09 Omnibus Appropriations Bill on March 11, the result of four years of Cardoza's support and the hard work of many came to fruition.

“(My wife and I) are very aware of the plight of foster children, especially those who are out of the system,” said Cardoza, who adopted two former foster youth in 2000. “Where do they go for Christmas Vacation? What kind of support is in place during the trying times that every young person goes through? I think that these dollars will go a long way toward filling that gap.”

CSU Stanislaus President Dr. Ham Shirvani agrees. “The Promise Scholars Program posi-

tively affects the lives of underprivileged individuals who have the drive to push past hardships of their childhood while pursuing the many rewards of a CSU Stanislaus education,” he said. “The University deeply appreciates the support of those caring people who have shown the initiative to further this much-needed program.”

The Promise Scholars Program addresses the overwhelming need to provide individualized attention, access, and supportive resources to assist emancipated foster youth in achieving academic success in higher education.

“We can't change their past, but we can make their futures better,” Bonnell says. “Education changes lives, no matter who you are or where you come from.”

Success Yields More Success

A CSU Stanislaus education has not only improved Tacdol's life, but it's given her the drive to help others. She graduated in Spring 08 with a bachelor's degree in liberal studies and is now working toward her teaching credential so she can advise and inspire students similar to the way Bonnell counseled her as an undergrad.

Bonnell calls Tacdol the “shining star” of the Promise Scholars Program for good reason. Despite being placed in foster care before she was two years old and being



“We can’t change their past,
but we can make their futures better.”

Wanda Bonnell

Coordinating the Promise Scholars Program
since its inception in 2006



Terrence Ellis is looking forward to applying his education to helping others. Above, a detail from a painting Ellis created that focuses on the benefits and hope of having been selected as a Promise Scholar.

shuffled around more than a dozen homes, Tacdol wants to give back to other teens in need.

“When I first met Jessica, she was a shy, reserved teenager,” says Bonnell, “She definitely utilized our advising and counseling programs. And now she is a confident, strong woman.”

In addition to helping bring another wave of six to 10 Promise Scholars each fall, much of the \$285,000 will be used to strengthen the program by providing additional student support services, scholarships,

housing assistance (particularly in the summer months,) community outreach initiatives and internship opportunities.

Ellis, a talented visual artist and musician who plays several instruments, runs for the men’s cross country team. He has developed lasting friendships in the classroom, on the team, and with other Promise Scholars. While he’s been able to find himself as a student, he’s still narrowing the focus on his future.

“I don’t know what I’m supposed to do in this life,” says Ellis, who



PROMISE SCHOLARS BOOSTED BY PHILANTHROPY




CSU Stanislaus is among a growing number of universities helping young people transition out of foster care by offering an array of financial, academic, social, and housing assistance. Doing so not only helps individuals reach their full potential, but also significantly decreases prospects of homelessness and unemployment among former foster youth. Private philanthropy plays an important role in providing these services. Here's how your donations can help:

////////////////////////////////////
Jessica Tacdol graduated in Spring '08 with a bachelor's degree in liberal studies and is now working toward her teaching credential.

has yet to declare a major, "but I know that in some way I want to help people."

Estimates show that approximately 20 percent of the nation's foster youth reside in California. The Promise Scholars at CSU Stanislaus are case studies concluding that foster youth have the desire to attend college and use their talents to become valuable products of higher education.

While the Promise Scholars see unlimited value in a degree, their greatest reward is something that cannot be held in the palm of their hand or hung on a wall.

Says Ellis, quoting his grandmother Maxine's mantra: "Never be too obsessed about anything that's tangible, because the only thing you truly own is knowledge." 

HOUSING



In the summer, approximately 20 percent of Promise Scholar students at CSU Stanislaus do not have anywhere to go. Financial assistance to help pay rent is greatly needed and will not conflict with existing financial aid that students receive. A \$3,000 donation would help one student have a safe place to live in the summer months.

BOOKS



A \$300 voucher for each student would pay for a typical semester of books and would enable students to stretch their financial aid even further throughout the semester.

**CONSISTENT,
CARING
ADULTS**



Having a person who knows about your situation and helps you succeed is perhaps one of the greatest contributions of the Promise Scholars Program. Your donation can help provide such a person for students. In addition to lots of encouragement, program staff help students develop problem solving and coping skills to manage the complexities of living independently and going to college.

**STUDENT
ASSISTANT
JOBS**



Funding to provide a job within CSU Stanislaus would not only provide much needed income for students, but also a chance to receive job training and develop life skills such as job interviewing and dressing appropriately for professional work.

If you would like to positively impact students' lives by making a donation to the Promise Scholars Program at CSU Stanislaus, contact Shannon Nichols at 209-667-3693 or via e-mail at snichols2@csustan.edu.

ALUMNI CONNECTION



During his 32 years of service in Washington, D.C., Steve Jost, '77 Political Science, has retained a strong sense of the part his education at CSU Stanislaus played in getting him where he is today.

Steve Jost touts CSU Stanislaus pride as seasoned executive on Capitol Hill

Jost's solid reputation led to his appointment in May by President Barack Obama as Associate Director of Communications with the Census Bureau. It will be the second presidential appointment for Jost who was named to the same spot in 1999 by President Bill Clinton. Jost will help lead the \$400 million 2010 Decennial promotional effort to encourage all Americans to participate in the important data gathering program.


"My career in Washington is a direct result of my CSU Stanislaus experience," Jost said. "I have always been proud to represent Stanislaus in our nation's Capitol, and I feel strongly the opportunities that have come my way trace back to the first-rate education I received there. The

special, personal contact with the faculty made a big difference for me, especially opening the doors of the internship programs that I was fortunate to experience."

Jost credits what he calls a very aggressive internship ethic spearheaded by faculty leaders, the now retired Professor Ken Entin and the late Professor Paul Magnelia. They helped Jost gain internships that led to his hiring after graduation from CSU Stanislaus by former Congressman John J. McFall.

Jost has been a major player on the Washington, D.C., scene for many years and his resumé is impressive, particularly when it comes to political campaigns. He has served on the staffs of six members of Congress, two of them as Chief of Staff.

In between, Jost also co-owned a highly successful consulting business for six years with another CSU Stanislaus alum Michael J. Fraioli to assist 40 members of the House, Senate, and state and local candidates with election campaigns. He has twice served as finance director on the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee.

Jost lives in Southern Maryland with his wife, Tracy, and three children, Geneva, Jackson, and Helena. They often visit with Jost's three brothers and their families who live in Modesto. 

Go to www.MyStanMag.org for more on the CSU Stanislaus "roots" of Steve Jost and his family.

Bill Kehaly, an '82 Finance major, demonstrated Warrior spirit as Publications Commissioner, Signal Business Manager, Warrior Day Committee member, Student Union member, and President of Associated Students from 1981 to 1982.

The Spirit of Bill Kehaly

Coming from J.E. McAteer High School in San Francisco, it took Kehaly a couple of years to find his place at CSU Stanislaus. That is, until he met Dr. Cherukuri, professor of Finance. "My fondest memory of CSU Stanislaus was spending Warrior Day with friends and learning the true value of hard work from Dr. Rao Cherukuri."

Kehaly's natural free spirit, strong work ethic, and willingness to think outside the box, led to his first great adventure in the early 1990s. The idea to improve Major League Baseball came in the form of a pen-based charting system, replacing the old manual pitch charting system. "What we're looking for," said Robert Schweppe, Administrator of Baseball Operations for the Los Angeles Dodgers, "are tools to improve player performance and enhance player confidence. Bill's system is fast, easy, and gives us the edge we

need to compete against clubs that are getting more technologically sophisticated every day."

Kehaly has sold his new system to seven Major League Baseball teams, 20 colleges, USA Baseball, and USA Softball. He later took the concept and adapted it for use by two National Hockey League teams.


For Bill Kehaly, Spirit is also a racing vehicle that drives itself without human or remote control. Kehaly is General Manager of Axion, LLC and the team leader and sponsor of Axion Racing. In 2005, Spirit was one of only five teams to complete all runs at the 2005 Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) Grand Challenge National Qualifying Event in Fontana, California.

The DARPA race is part of the Pentagon's effort to fulfill a con-

Kehaly enjoyed throwing a first pitch for the Los Angeles Dodgers—one of the first Major League Baseball teams to make use of his innovative charting system.



Kehaly is General Manager of Axion, LLC and the team leader and sponsor of Axion Racing.

gressional mandate to have one third of all military ground vehicles unmanned by 2015. Two of the other teams included H1ghlander, a converted Humvee Sandstorm created by Carnegie Mellon University; a modified Volkswagen Touareg by Stanford University; and Spirit, Kehaly's former Jeep Grand Cherokee complete with surf boards on top. 



Because every single CSU Stanislaus alumnus deserves to be spotlighted, we've moved our expanding "Class Notes" section online at MyStanMag.org. There, you can read updates on the

remarkable feats your fellow alumni are accomplishing. And if you're taking on a new endeavor, let us know; head to www.csustan.edu/alumni and click "Warrior Class Notes."



Grad Joanie Alderson, Dr. Marla Marek team up to help women in Sierra Leone

Joanie Alderson, '07 BS Nursing, and Marla Marek of the CSU Stanislaus Department of Nursing faculty have dedicated themselves to help improve treatment for women seriously injured during childbirth in the Western African country of Sierra Leone.

Alderson, who spent part of her childhood in Sierra Leone with her missionary parents, returned there after graduation to become a ward supervisor at Aberdeen West Africa Fistula Center, a modest medical facility that offers surgery for women who survive often fatal obstructed birth complications.

Marek volunteered her nursing skills during a pair of visits with her former student and hopes to take a group of CSU

Stanislaus student nurses there in summer 2010. Marek joined hospital staff to travel into the country's interior, sometimes by canoe to remote villages, to help victims of obstructed labor. Sierra Leone has one of the world's highest mortality rates for women who have suffered childbirth complications.

Alderson supervises 20 nurses at the center where she lives and is on 24-hour call. She said the country, devastated by 11

years of civil war that ended in 2002, is in desperate need of midwives, medical specialists, and additional facilities. She plans to take a break later this summer to earn a Nurse Midwifery Certificate from UC San Francisco and then eventually take her skills back to Africa. **S**



Updating Your Info is Easy


Help us and your classmates keep in touch with you. Keep us posted with news about your promotion, career move, additions to your family, awards, or anything else! Please provide us with your e-mail address in order to receive Warrior E-news.

Log onto www.MyStanMag.org to find out how.

THE FIRST ANNUAL SPRING REUNION TOOK OFF!

CSU Stanislaus Office of Alumni Affairs kicked off its First Annual Spring Reunion on Saturday, May 9. The campus came alive with excitement as alumni, student groups, and the greater community came together to enjoy a family-centered event celebrating CSU Stanislaus' 50 years of excellence. The afternoon featured campus tours and a Family Fun Zone including bounce houses, face painting, and Skyy Dogs USA! In addition, alumni were able to reunite with fellow students as well as faculty and staff at our "College Row". We hope you have next

May saved for the 2010 Spring Reunion where we will be honoring all of our past student body presidents at CSU Stanislaus.

To learn more about additional events, activities, programs, and volunteer opportunities offered through the Office of Alumni Affairs, please visit STAN mag online or www.csustan.edu/alumni. Or, contact Jacob McDougal, Director of Alumni Affairs, at www.MyStanMag.org. 



A performance from Skyy Dogs USA was one of the day's highlights as alumni and friends came together.

UPCOMING events

2009
2010

SEPTEMBER

FRIDAY
13
Student Recreation Complex Grand Opening

MONDAY
21
Warrior Athletics Golf Tournament

OCTOBER

THURSDAY
8
Alumni & Friends Social Mixer

SATURDAY
17
Fan Fest Warrior Baseball

NOVEMBER

ALL MONTH
Introducing NOVEMBER as Alumni Month!
ALL ALUMNI!

SATURDAY
14
Warrior Athletics Crab Feed

THURSDAY THRU
17-20
Homecoming Week Alumni Reception

ALSO IN NOVEMBER:
Warrior Alumni Roundtable
CHECK ONLINE FOR DETAILS!

JANUARY '10

14
Alumni & Friends Social Mixer

FEBRUARY

SATURDAY
27
Alumni & Friends 2nd Annual Dodge Ridge Ski Trip

MARCH

SATURDAY
6
Alumni & Friends Wine, Cheese, & Jazz Festival

APRIL

IN THE WORKS:
Alumni & Friends Night at the Modesto Nuts
CHECK ONLINE FOR DETAILS!

MAY

FRIDAY
14
Warrior Day

SATURDAY
15
Alumni & Friends 2nd Annual Spring Reunion

JUNE

FRIDAY
4/5
2010 Commencement
SATURDAY

ALSO IN JUNE:
Alumni & Friends Night at the Stockton Ports
CHECK ONLINE FOR DETAILS!

JULY

THURSDAY
8
Alumni & Friends Social Mixer by Affinity or Decade

SEPTEMBER

MONDAY THRU
13-16
50th Anniversary Campus Events
THURSDAY

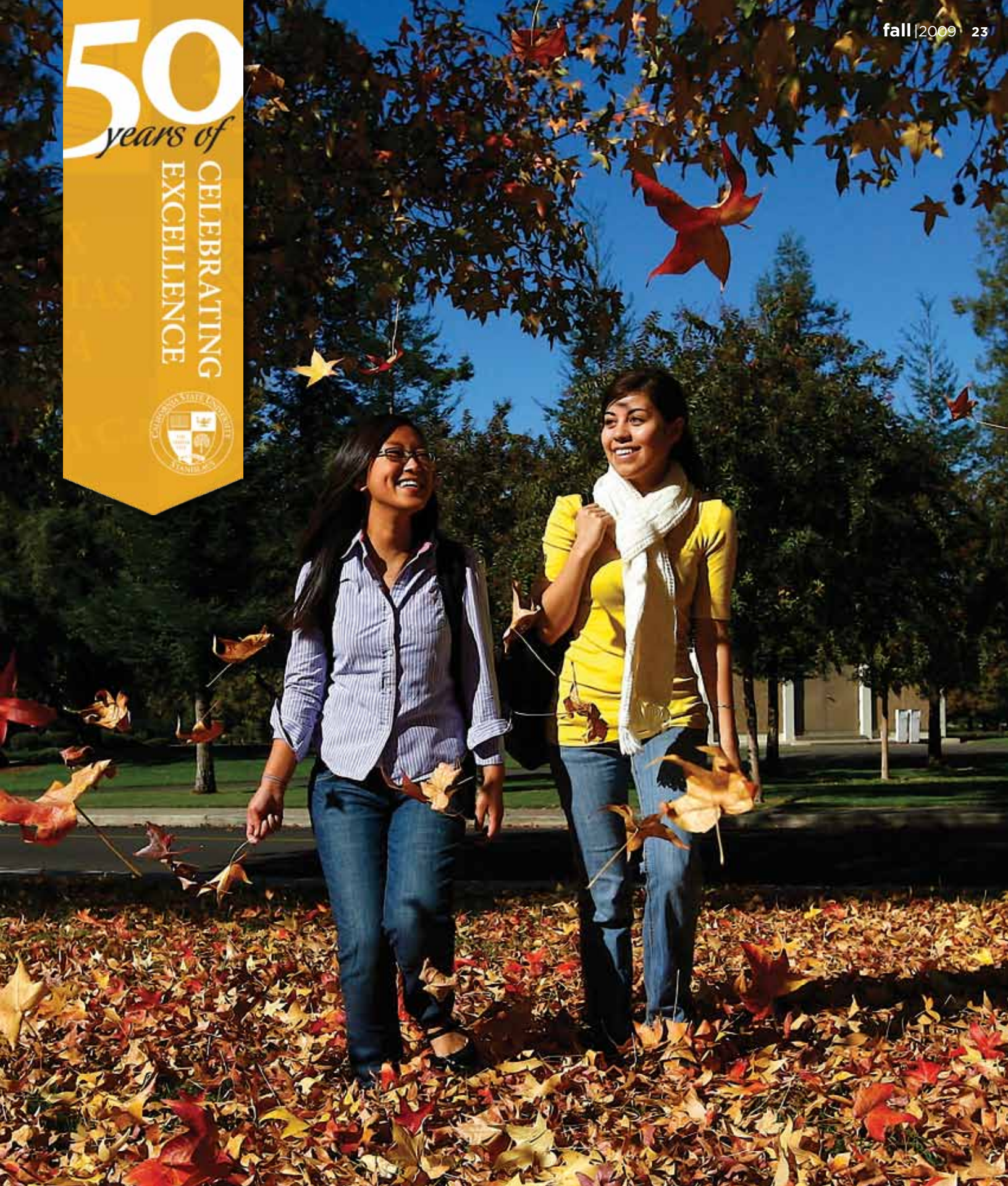
FRIDAY
17
50th Anniversary Community Event

SATURDAY
18
50th Anniversary Black Tie Gala

50

years of

CELEBRATING
EXCELLENCE





A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matt Swanson', written over a horizontal line.

MATT SWANSON
Foundation Board President

As the calendar propels us toward the University's 50th birthday in 2010, we pause to take a brief look backward at a year that was both challenging and fulfilling. It is with pride that we report to you some of our many endeavors, including the impressive results of the signature event of the year, the 50th Anniversary Inaugural Gala, which raised over \$225,000 for CSU Stanislaus.

Working together, the top priority of the CSU Stanislaus Foundation and University Advancement is to support the University's goal of achieving academic excellence. We do this by cultivating private, philanthropic support. Our work would be impossible without you, our friends and supporters.

Our fundraising mission is growing more important every year as we face diminishing state support for public higher education. We hope you will consider making a gift to CSU Stanislaus and share in the celebration of all that makes our University an exceptional place where futures begin.

Despite a sobering economy in 2008–09, we are pleased to report that we exceeded our financial goals due to several significant gifts from community members, alumni, and organizations who share our passion for CSU Stanislaus. We are grateful for your continued support. Without all of you listed on the following pages, many vital needs would go unmet.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Susana Gajic-Bruyea', written in a cursive style.

SUSANA GAJIC-BRUYEA
Vice President, University Advancement



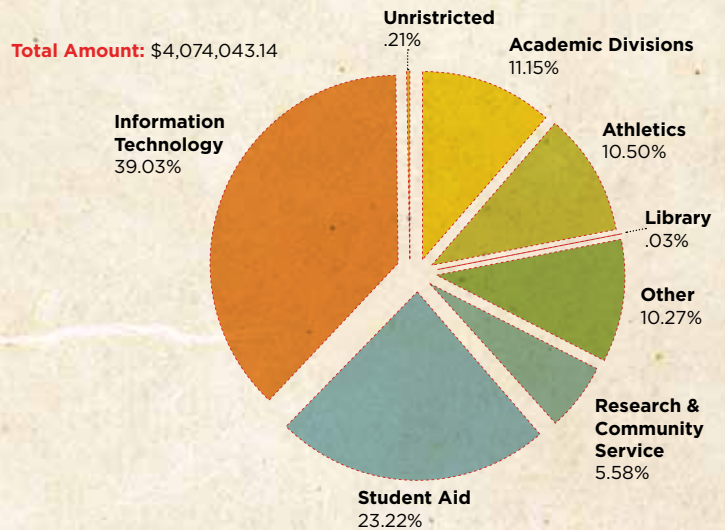
**2008–2009
Annual Report**



California State University | Stanislaus

2008-2009 Annual Report

CSU Stanislaus gratefully recognizes those individuals, businesses, and organizations who have generously contributed to University programs over the 2008-09 fiscal year. Financial support from our donors and alumni plays a critical role in helping our students earn a college degree and in helping us provide excellence in our programs and services.



PRIVATE SUPPORT

Pledges, Cash, and In-Kind Gifts for the Period of July 1, 2008–June 30, 2009

ANNUAL REPORT 1

\$500,000-\$1,000,000+

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\$200,000-\$499,999

Doctors Medical Center
Kaiser Permanente

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Assn-DIV 38

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 Stevinson Ranch Golf Club
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 Alpha Epsilon Chapter Delta
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 California Poultry Federation-Calmex
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 EF Cash-Dudley
 Issac Faraji
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 First Card ATM
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 LNL Construction
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 Lyons Investments
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 Golf Fitting Lab
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 MedicAlert Foundation
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Martin Foster

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Cheryl Zanini
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Obelia Ahid
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Alaska Transportation Company
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Stephen Ashman
Leslie Azevedo
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Robin Baldrige
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Balswick's Tire Shop
Bank of Stockton
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Felice Belloni
Hazel Berger
Bergman Landscaping
and Maintenance
Haley Bermudez

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 Leland Bettencourt
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 Beverly Blackmon
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 Owen Burgess
 William Burke
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 Association Stanislaus
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 Carol Castillo
 Michael Catino
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Tawnya Coffey
 Melissa Colvard
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 Concinnity
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 Darwin Van Wyngarden D.C., Inc.
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 La Quita De Marco
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 Audrey Dermond
 Deborah Dillon
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 Kimberly Dinardo
 Kenneth Ditmore
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 Tomas Donnelly
 Whitney Donnelly
 Double Play Sports
 William Dructor
 Brian Duggan
 Gerald Dupree
 Elizabeth Earle
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 Shelly Edwards
 John Eisenhut
 EMF Motor Sports
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 Christina Envia
 Julia Erickson
 Anna Eshoo
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 Kristine Estrada
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 Maria Faria
 Farmers Livestock Market
 Robert Ferrel
 Paulette Field

Fernando Fimbres
 Wesley Firch
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 Marianne Franco
 Karen Frank
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Lisa Lodi	Network for Good	Brenda Roberts	Susan Stephenson
Bonnie Loghry	Network Paradigms	Michael Robertson	Steven J Geller and Associates
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Louis G Lemos CPA	David Nunes	Teresa Rogers-Foss	Mozella Strong
Melanie Lourenco	Adelina Nunez	Tony Romero	Anne Sturtevant
Gregory Lucas	Oakdale Golf & Country Club	Linda Rosa-Aguiniga	Sugar Bowl
Joe Luis	Peter Ogilvie	Ina Rosselli	SupHerb Farms
MAAD Hares Trucking	Arthur Oketani	Rosaura Rossete	Gailerd Swisegood
John Maciel	Jazmin Olsen	Maxine Rovedatti	Elisabeth Sylvester
Macrho Corporation	Scot Olson	Russell A. Meyer Charitable	Tahoe Donner Association
Veronica Maldonado	Magdalena Ortega	Trust	Cristina Tanner
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Gregory Mathews	Julie Overholt	Anthony Salafia	Somchai Thienpothong
William Mathews	Pacific Coast Producers	Teresa Saldivar-Morse	Lynne Thompson
Brandi Matos	Pacific State Bank	San Jose Giants	Pamela Thornberry
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news from the PARK

Stockton Center By Denise Nordell

Stockton Center strives to put graduates on the road to success

When Traci Whittemore decided to resume her college degree pursuits two years ago at the CSU Stanislaus-Stockton Center, she discovered her own personal pot of gold along with the Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice presented to her in June.

That treasure came in the form of a \$48,000 post-graduate scholarship that the mother of three from Tracy accepted from Golden Gate Law School in San Francisco to pursue her law degree.

Whittemore was among a group from the ranks of the nearly 200 Stockton Center degree recipients who participated in the June 3 Graduates Reception next to the Magnolia Mansion at University Park.


As students were recognized individually and expressed themselves before family and friends and University faculty and staff, their triumphant reactions echoed as testimonials to those who helped them hurdle a variety of obstacles. Many are thankful for the opportunity to complete their degrees locally in the face of difficult financial challenges and a chance at building successful careers.

"The convenience of being able to take my classes in the evening enabled me to work out a schedule with my children, a big concern for me, since one of them is disabled," Whittemore said. "My professors were very supportive, and I'm really pleased that I'll have the chance to become a lawyer."

Stories of student determination abound at the Stockton Center where the average age is 32 and most of those taking the evening classes also work full-time jobs and rely on financial aid for additional help. Jacki Montijo, 44, of Stockton, who completed her

Bachelor's Degree in Psychology this year and plans to work as a school counselor, said she had been taking college classes off-and-on for the past 27 years.

A recently formed Stockton Advisory Group that includes a cross-section of community leaders is mounting a scholarship fundraising drive to give more students a crack at realizing their dreams and career goals through higher education. The Stockton Center Scholarship Fund is designed to encourage deserving high school students to attend local community colleges and then transfer to the CSU Stanislaus-Stockton Center where they would receive \$5,000 scholarships to cover the cost of fees and textbooks. The program seeks to help meet one of the biggest workforce needs in San Joaquin County—more people with college degrees.

To participate in the Stockton Center Scholarship Fund, contact Marni Churchill, Director of Development, at 209.467.5418 or mchurchill@csustan.edu. 


PHILANTHROPY REPORT

LEGACY GIFT SUPPORTS GROWTH AND LEARNING

Wayne Pierce, a longtime and beloved faculty member of CSU Stanislaus, had a vision of creating a native plant arboretum on campus. He imagined a winding pathway, along the south-side of the campus that college students, elementary and secondary students, and community members would visit to learn about the trees, shrubs, and herbs of the Central Valley and the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

In the mid 1980s, Dr. Pierce's vision began to take shape when 300 oak tree seedlings were planted by students, faculty, staff, and volunteers as the first phase of the Trans-California Pathway Project. For three years, volunteers watered the seedlings until they were well established. Today, 50 trees stand tall along University Way and are a testament to what is possible with dedication and vision.

When Dr. Pierce passed away in August 2008, his wife Donna sought to continue his life's work and pledged \$35,000 to take the Trans-California Pathway Project to the next phase. Her donation, combined with the memorial gifts for Dr. Pierce, will launch phase two of the project enabling the installation of ponds, electrical, and water lines.

"This University was his life," says Donna Pierce of her late husband. "He put his heart and soul into teaching and would love the idea of students benefiting from this project for generations to come. I can't think of a better way to honor him, and our shared values of preservation, conservation, and generosity." 



Nursing Department Chair Peggy Hodge chats with Marcia and Gary Nelson

NELSON CONTRIBUTION HELPS LAUNCH NEW MASTERS DEGREE FOR NURSES

A \$10,000 donation from Gary and Marcia Nelson helped CSU Stanislaus start a new Masters of Science in Nursing. This spring, 14 nurses began the program which offers two tracks: Nursing Education and Gerontological Nursing.

Graduates will have the skills to become administrators and policy planners who work with the growing elderly populations, and be able to teach at both the college level and in staff development roles within various health care organizations.

The Nelsons are owners and operators of Nelson, which includes Nelson Staffing, Nelson and Associates, and Nelson Technology. Their generosity will serve the Valley for generations to come.

ENDOWED PROFESSORSHIP FOR EDUCATION

CSU Stanislaus received a major gift of \$400,000 from the estate of Kenneth and Shirley Whalen this year, which will be used to create an endowed professorship within the College of Education. The gift was made in the name of the Whalens' daughter, Christie Sue Whalen-Saxton, to support and enhance the University's teacher training programs. Christie Sue, who is now deceased, received her B.A. degree in 1977 and her teaching credential in 1979 from CSU Stanislaus.

The Christie Sue Whalen-Saxton Endowed Professorship in Teacher Education represents a long-term investment in the future of the University. It also helps further student access to one of the University's most popular programs.

Holding an endowed professorship or endowed chair position is considered a great honor in the academic world. The announcement of who will receive the Christie Sue Whalen-Saxton Endowed Professorship will be made this fall.

MUSIC THANKS LONGTIME SUPPORTER

The Ann and Gordon Getty Foundation is a longtime supporter of CSU Stanislaus' Department of Music and has helped build a successful program for students in the Central Valley seeking both professional and liberal arts degrees in music. The Foundation's recent gift to the Department of Music brings its total charitable giving to nearly \$50,000. Each year, the gift has enabled students and faculty to continue their exploration of music and find ways to share their work with the people of the Central Valley.

Alumni Annual Giving Program

This year, we reintroduced the Alumni Annual Giving program, which allows alumni to direct their funds to their specific college, department, or athletic programs. For information about our Annual Fund program, please contact Jacob McDougal at 209-667-3836.



Jacob McDougal

FOCUS ON FACULTY



ANTHROPOLOGY PROFESSOR UNCOVERS MAYA HISTORY IN HONDURAS

by Don Hansen

When Anthropology Professor **Dr. Ellen Bell** talks about the “Lost Maya Kings” in her classes, she’s speaking from personal, on-the-scene discovery experiences.

A member of the University faculty since 2007, Bell has been conducting archaeological research in the ongoing search for the 16 Maya kings who ruled in the Copan kingdom more than 1,500 years ago. She has made many ventures to western Honduras to participate in archaeological projects that are documenting the Maya kings and their civilization that once thrived in an area from southern Mexico to Central America.

Participating in the discovery of what is believed to be a founding king’s royal burial chamber early in her archaeological career convinced Bell that Honduras would be her regular destination for many years to come.

“As soon as I got to Honduras for the first time, I knew it was what I wanted to do

for a career,” Bell said. “I’ve been lucky enough to be able to keep doing it ever since.”

Bell’s work has been documented in publications and included in a 2001 Public Broadcast Station (PBS) “Nova” program called “Lost King of the Maya.”

She gained her first Honduras experience in 1990 as a student at Kenyon College in Ohio while she was working under the tutelage of the noted husband-wife professor duo Edward M. Schortman and Patricia Urban. A few years later in the mid 1990s, when she was a Ph.D. student at the



Dr. Ellen Bell gained her first Honduras experience in 1990 as a student at Kenyon College in Ohio.

Dig up more on the Copan discoveries and Bell’s work in Honduras. Visit MyStanMag.org.



University of Pennsylvania, came payoff experiences in the burial chambers of the founding king and his queen who ruled during the fifth century AD.


Bell recalls that she was in a group digging in the lower layers of the Copan Acropolis when a stone fell out of a wall, creating an opening to a burial chamber in the tomb. Inside the chamber, and probably viewed for the first time in more than a thousand years, were bones believed to be that of the founding king, jewels, pottery, utensils, and an assortment of other artifacts. An earlier dig discovered a nearby burial chamber for the queen.

“It was an incredible experience, finding a tomb of one of the Maya founding fathers, their George Washington,” Bell said.

Now focusing her research on the El Paraíso Valley of Honduras near the Guatemalan border, Bell is documenting a pair of large Maya centers that suggest Copan hierarchy may have mobilized an innovative administrative strategy to rule a diverse regional population.

CSU Stanislaus students Stefanie Griffin and Catalina López accompanied Bell to Honduras during the summer of 2008. They helped supervise local workers on dig sites, determine excavation locations, and document findings that provided information for Bell’s “On the Edge of the Maya World” project.

“Participating in this kind of a project provides students with a way to study and live abroad while getting some first-hand archaeological experience,” Bell said.

Perhaps CSU Stanislaus students will some day experience similar discoveries in the ruins of the Maya cities abandoned more than a thousand years ago. 

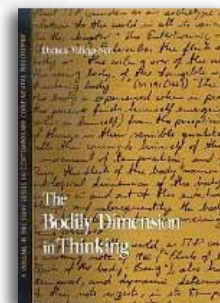


Faculty Publications



Philosophy Professor authors book on Mind/Body Connection

Philosophy professor **Daniela Vallega-Neu** specializes in Nineteenth and Twentieth Century European thought. She is the co-editor of *A Companion to Heidegger's 'Contributions to Philosophy'* and received a Research and Creative Activity award in Spring 2007.

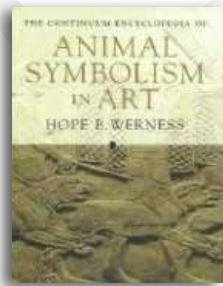


In her latest book, *The Bodily Dimension in Thinking*, she uses the work of Plato, Nietzsche, Foucault, Scheler, Merleau-Ponty, and Heidegger to question how people experience thought through the body. This “bodily dimension” precedes other theories of mind-body duality, and challenges how we perceive our relation to the world.



Sankey's book provides advice on analyzing plant, animal microfossils

Geology Professor **Julia T. Sankey's** latest work, *Vertebrate Microfossil Assemblages*, released in April 2008, focuses on how to analyze vertebrate microfossils and minute plant and animal remains. The book describes how paleontologists can use these remains for dating larger fossils and for understanding their native climates. A vertebrate paleontologist with a background in both biology and geology, Sankey is an active researcher who has made a number of fossil discoveries during her numerous expeditions in North America and Asia. Her current research includes Cretaceous theropod dinosaurs and microfossils.



Hope Werness publication focuses on world cultures animal imagery

Art Professor **Hope Werness** is the author of *The Continuum Encyclopedia of Animal Symbolism in Art* released in November 2006. Her book focuses on the significance of animal imagery in the art of world cultures.

Werness, who joined the CSU Stanislaus Art faculty in 1976 and was honored as the University's Outstanding Research Scholarship Professor in 2004, served as chair of the Art Department for six years and Director of the University Art Gallery for nine years. She excels in both research and creative works, including books, book chapters, journal articles, professional papers, and creative works in a wide variety of media. She co-founded the All Creatures Humane Society, a Turlock program that has sheltered rescued horses and burros, and is also home to an increasingly aging population of dogs, cats, and pet steers.



Criminal Justice Professor Chronicles Conflict Negotiation in Africa

New faculty member **Abu Karimu Mboka**, an Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice, published a book in 2008 titled *The Politics of Chapter VII Interventions in Violent Conflicts*. The book discusses conflict negotiations in Bosnia, Iraq, Rwanda, and Sierra Leone, and examines the actions of the Security Council's Title VII interventions based on Security Council resolutions, U.N documents, and Amnesty International annual reports. Mboka earned his Ph.D. from Arizona State University.

Stevens, Youngblom author science education research articles



Dr. Michael T. Stevens



Dr. Jim Youngblom

Upholding a tradition in which University faculty continue to make extraordinary research contributions in their respective fields, **Dr. Michael T. Stevens** and **Dr. Jim Youngblom** of the Department of Biological Sciences are participating in different research projects about science education issues that were highlighted in articles published in the highly-regarded international journal "Science."

Stevens, whose research expertise includes biology education and plant ecology, participated in a report titled "Science Faculty with Education Specialties" that was published in the December 2008 issue. A greater commitment by

university science faculty to focus on science education with increased training opportunities and improved support of research and professional activities could drive education reform at universities and K-12 schools, according to the report by the team of five researchers from the California State University (CSU) system and one from Purdue University.

Youngblom, an expert in genealogical and DNA research, co-authored an October 2008 article titled "Genomics Education Partnership." He said that genomics is an attractive area for student-scientist partnerships as they study exciting advances in the life sciences and analyze genes, the basic unit of heredity in a living organism.

FACULTY NOTES

Professor Elmano Costa receives Portuguese American Leadership Award



Professor of Education Dr. Elmano Costa received a pair of special awards in September 2008 recognizing his dedication to promoting education and awareness of the Portuguese culture. The U.S. Portuguese American Leadership Council (PALCUS), a national organization committed to unifying Portuguese communities, presented Costa with its Educational Leadership Award. Soon after, he received the honorary insignia of Commendator of the Order of Public Instruction from the government of Portugal for his dedication to promoting awareness of the Portuguese culture. Costa is director of the University's Center for Portuguese Studies and has a passion for promoting the Portuguese culture and language. He is also on the Board of Directors for the Portuguese-American Citizenship Project based in the Washington, D. C., area, serving as the coordinator for the California Region.

Dr. Patrick Kelly receives national recognition for preservation efforts



Dr. Patrick Kelly, Coordinator and Director of the University's Endangered Species Recovery Program (ESRP), was named one of the country's 18 recipients of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) 2008 Recovery Champion Award in March 2009. One of two bestowed in the agency's Pacific Southwest Region, the award recognizes recipients for contributions to the recovery of threatened and endangered species in the United States. Kelly was cited for his leadership efforts and his staff's hard work on programs aimed at preserving riparian brush rabbits which were at one time on the brink of extinction in the San Joaquin Valley.

Ag Studies Chair Mark Bender receives top FFA awards



Dr. Mark Bender, Agricultural Studies Department Chair, added a pair of prestigious awards, one at the national level and another for California, from the Future Farmers of America (FFA) to his list of honors in 2008. Bender received the Honorary American FFA Degree at the national organization's October National Convention in Indianapolis. Coming on the heels of his acceptance of the California State FFA Association Degree during the 2008 State Conference in Fresno, Bender's latest award was in recognition of his dedication to the advancement of agricultural education and the FFA through outstanding personal commitment. He was one of 20 faculty from all over the country recognized in June 2007 in Washington, D.C., as an E. (Kikda) de la Garza Fellow in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA's) Hispanic-Serving Institutions National Program (HSINP).

History Professor Sam Regalado part of award-winning "American Experience"



California State University, Stanislaus History Professor Dr. Samuel Regalado contributed commentary and served as academic advisor in the award-winning documentary film "Roberto Clemente" which aired on the nationally televised PBS program "The American Experience" in 2008. The PBS program received the National Council of La Raza's (NCLR) ALMA Award as the Outstanding Made-for-Television Documentary. Regalado, an historian recognized for his expertise on the impact of Latin baseball players in American professional baseball, has appeared in a number of national television specials and was designated a Smithsonian Faculty Fellow in 1994. He recently released the third edition of his popular book titled "Viva Baseball: Latin Major Leaguers and their Special Hunger" that has attracted international coverage and recognition.

More notes online!



Check out the Focus on Faculty section at www.MyStanMag.org for Web exclusives!

A Day in the Life of a

“How do you spell that?” a photographer asks her about her first name while warming up with doubles partner Katie Eng.

“V-E-R-E-N-A,” she announces, while slamming a forehand to her counterpart across the net. “Like Serena, but with a ‘V.’”

While Cal State Stanislaus tennis star Verena Preikschas, an international student from Arnsberg, Germany, has work to do before becoming the next Serena Williams, she sure does frustrate her opponents with her near mistake-proof backcourt play.

STAN Magazine shadowed Preikschas on a humid, April 22 match day to see what a day in the life of this Warrior is like. And the 20-year-old freshman did not disappoint.



7:30 A.M.

Pre-match meal at Main Dining Hall over talks of bagels and boyfriends with teammate Vanesa Reibstein. Preikschas’ carb of choice? Cinnamon raisin bagels, hands down. Reibstein fixes the long braid on Preikschas’ shiny blonde hair. Preikschas approves of the styling, connecting with a fist bump with Reibstein.



8:19 A.M.

Head Trainer Gary Hogan tapes up Preikschas’ knees as a precaution. “I haven’t really had a lot of injuries,” claims Preikschas. That’s probably one reason why Cal State Stanislaus’ No. 1 player and conference MVP has dominated the CCAA this year, going undefeated in singles and doubles play.



8:37 A.M.

Calisthenics and court set up with team, along with Coach Verek Visaraga. The team faces Cal Poly-Pomona on this day in the final home match of the season. Despite her thousand-watt smile, Preikschas and her team are on a mission – win and clinch a spot in the NCAA Division II Regionals to take place in Hawaii.



10:12 A.M.

Doubles matches begin. Preikschas and Eng defeat Pomona’s Chow and Fallon Blattner in 51 minutes.

20-year-old freshman



11:15 A.M.

Preikschas
Jennifer
er, 8-3, in

While on a break before singles, Preikschas listens silently while Assistant Coach Jack Schneider roasts Reibstein about how the Gatorade has turned her tongue a bright red. Says Schneider about Reibstein's tongue: "Man, you can pick your nose with that thing! Hey Verena, how long is your tongue?"



11:19 A.M.

Visaraga gives a pre-singles play pep talk to the team, telling them not to get rattled. When he asks, "Whose house is this?", Preikschas' perfect English is audibly louder than her teammates' when she answers: "Our house!" The battle cry leads a teammate to recoup: "That was legit – I felt that one."



11:34 A.M.

On court against Pomona's Jackie Trendt. In her trademark, counterpunching style, Preikschas runs all over the backcourt tracking down balls, forcing Trendt into unforced error after unforced error. Preikschas wins, 6-2, 6-1, in just over an hour. She improves to 17-1 overall in singles for the season, putting the finishing touches on a 10-0 record in conference play. Her only loss came more than six months earlier to BYU Hawaii's Hewenfei Li, who is regarded as the best player in D-II.



1:41 P.M.

Eng loses her three sets to matches, but State Stanisla defeats her o the win and s to Regionals echoes a fan the chant of,



For more on the day with Preikschas, including funny stories about why she respects her coach and how her boyfriend jokingly demands on-court perfection, go online to www.mystanmag.org.



1:50 P.M.

5:05 P.M.

5:30 P.M.

er singles match in
to conclude the day's
minutes earlier, Cal
laus' Heather Cotter
opponent, clinching
ending the Warriors
in Hawaii. Preikschas
in the stands with
"Aloha!"

Coach Visaraga congratulates the women on their efforts: "I am so proud of you guys. Soak it up as much as you can." Athletic Director Milt Richards joins in for a congratulatory word and mentions their reward for making Regionals – to join him for a dinner at Outback Steakhouse in the coming weeks.

Load travel bags into team van for next-day tournament down south in Ojai.

Dinner at Chipotle in Turlock before the long trip to the Ojai Tournament, where Preikschas is seeded seventh out of a talented field of 128. Perhaps a chance to rest on the way southbound – maybe even give her teammates another chance to see her sleep in the upright, seated-forward position about which they kid her.

Just another day in the life of a Warrior.



Warrior

Photos by Cary Edmondson

Captions by Herb Smart

THE INTERSECTION OF Teaching, Research, and Life in Combative Activities

by **Shawna Young**

Associate Professor

Physical Education and Health

When asked what I teach, I enjoy the brief exchange that usually follows my response which includes a schedule of courses such as graduate level *Exercise & Sport Science, and Curriculum, Instruction, & Assessment in Physical Education*, and undergraduate level *Motor Learning and Theory and Analysis of Combative Activities*. It gives me an opportunity to share about the multidisciplinary nature of physical education/kinesiology, drawing on biology, chemistry, physics, psychology, sociology, philosophy, and pedagogy. When asked what my favorite course is, immediately I respond with *Combative Activities*.

What are combative activities? They incorporate person-to-person combat such as wrestling, self-defense, and judo. In this course, I emphasize the importance of inclusion of combative activities in the secondary physical education curriculum. Learning a combative activity can provide critical skills necessary for self protection and personal safety, and there is tremendous potential for fitness development. Reflective of its importance, combative activity is one of the eight curricular areas mandated in the *CA Education Code* for high school physical education and is included in the *CA State Standards for Physical Education* – which is why we require CSU Stanislaus physical education students preparing to be teachers to take *Theory and Analysis of Combative Activities*.

Despite the noted benefits of learning combative activities and its mandated curricular inclusion, in my first few years of teaching at CSU Stanislaus, I was beginning to suspect that combative activity was commonly being overlooked in California secondary physical education programs.

Observation of programs in the state, interactions at state conferences, and anecdotal information provided by my students were continually raising my concern. This prompted me to conduct a statewide survey funded through a research grant from the *CAHPERD Foundation*. Results suggest that less than half of the high school physical education programs in California

incorporate combative activities. Survey responses indicate several reasons for not including combative activities, most notably fear of injury liability suits and fear of concerns raised from physical contact (teacher-student and student-student) inherent in combative venues. In an article published in the *CAHPERD Journal*, I respond to these concerns and make recommendations for teaching combative activities appropriately.

It is particularly important for female Physical Education majors to master the course content. With women's wrestling being an international sport with World Championships since 1989 and an Olympic sport since 2004, girls' wrestling in the U.S. has increased significantly. Having females prepared to coach junior high and high school teams that have female members could be critical for addressing concerns raised about males teaching/coaching female students in the context of wrestling. In 1987, my first year as a high school wrestler, there were 124 girls (compared to 246,771 boys) in the U.S. documented by the National Federation of State High School Associations to be competing on boys' high school wrestling teams in this country. Now, there are over 5,048 girls (compared to 257,246 boys) wrestling on high school teams in the U.S., and Hawaii and Texas classify girls' wrestling as an official state-recognized sport with female teams. California is one of the states with the greatest number of high school female wrestling participants, tallying 1,142 girls, though California does not yet recognize girls' wrestling as an official sport.

The controversy, history, and evolution of the sport of female wrestling is fascinating, with early formal discussion about the appropriateness of women and girls wrestling debated in Plato's dialogues found in *Republic and The Laws*. Among Plato's radical social proposals was a call for gender equality in physical education, a large component of which was wrestling. Threads of Plato's discussions described the virtue of physical training for girls and women designated as



Dr. Shawna Young discusses various wrestling techniques during a combative fighting class inside Warrior Arena.

guardians of their community equivalent to that of their male guardian counterparts. In contemporary Western society, the road plowed by pioneering wrestling girls and women has been turbulent. Denied access to boys' junior high and high school wrestling teams, discrimination suits, misinterpretation of Title IX, and the eventual inclusion of women's wrestling as a medal sport in the Olympics has painted a colorful history. For me, particular satisfaction was enjoyed watching women's wrestling debut in the Olympics in 2004, the year the Games were hosted in Athens, Greece. While it was certainly occasion for celebration, it seemed especially fitting that women wrestlers of the highest level were competing in the place that was once Plato's home.

I plan to eventually write a book about women's wrestling.

There are amazing women's stories to be told, struggles to share... and most certainly not just on the mat. My years of dedication to women's wrestling as a competitor, researcher, and fan, is in part why I love teaching *Theory and Analysis of Combative Activities*. It is an opportunity to share with my students my passion for the activity, the importance of including it in the physical education curriculum, and the tools to implement it. Sharing the combative activity experience with my students and watching their growing interest and excitement is one of the very many reasons I love being a professor of physical education at CSU Stanislaus. For me, this course is the absolute intersection of teaching, research, and living—each continually informing the other. **S**





VERONICA ESTRADA

Like many Stockton Center students, VERONICA ESTRADA is both typical and unique. The child of farm workers, Veronica, 28, took a seven-year break from her education before making the life decision to return to school and pursue her BA in Criminal Justice. She obtained her GED, then took advantage of the 2+2 program, completing her AA degree at Delta College before transferring to the CSU Stanislaus-Stockton Center at University Park for her BA.

"I knew it was up to me to make something of myself," Veronica says. "I wanted a career in law enforcement, and all of the classes I needed were offered right here in Stockton."

Veronica, who hopes to become a detective, works part-time while attending classes and raising two daughters. "My 10-year-old sees what I'm doing, and wants to be like me, so she is studying harder, getting better grades, and completing all of her homework on time. I am proud of her, and she is proud of me."



TARA GARRISON

TARA GARRISON is a first year Graduate student seeking her Master's Degree in Education, with a concentration in school counseling. In her role as a University Ambassador for the Outreach Program, she recruits high school students and gets them acquainted with life at CSU Stanislaus. University Ambassadors promote access to higher education by providing tours, presentations, and special events to parents and students. Garrison aspires to be a college recruiter, and says that she "tries to promote the small school appeal" of CSU Stanislaus. "It's a small enough school to have a family appeal, where you feel like you know everyone, like they're your family."



CHAD CUMMINGS

CHAD CUMMINGS of Modesto wants his college career to be a new learning experience and a challenge.

He is focusing on a major in economics and a minor in mathematics as he pursues a bachelor's degree and contemplates attending graduate school.

"The only time you truly learn is when you're in a new experience and environment that you may not be comfortable in," Cummings says. "I'm learning how to handle problem-solving and to be a critical thinker."

A Modesto Junior College transfer and graduate of Modesto High School, Chad values the emphasis on education set by his family. He was homeschooled by his college-graduate mother, Sherry, through the eighth grade; his father, Darrell Cummings, '78 Music, is a CSU Stanislaus graduate; and his two older brothers, Christopher, '07 Biology, now a Ph.D. student at Vanderbilt University, and Christian, '08 Economics, followed at the Turlock campus.



Shirvani named President of the Year – again!

In May, California State University, Stanislaus received statewide recognition thanks to its dedicated president, Dr. Hamid Shirvani. The California State Student Association (CSSA) honored Dr. Shirvani at a ceremony in Long Beach as the 2009 Robert C. Maxson CSU President of the Year. Shirvani received the same recognition in 2007, and is one of only two presidents in the history of the California State University system to be named President of the Year more than once.

“President Shirvani is a President that goes out of his way to make regular students seem welcomed in any atmosphere. His enthusiasm and passion for what he does is contagious and truly inspirational to students who do not even attend CSU Stanislaus, like myself.”

Curtis Schlaffman,
ASI President at CSU Fullerton

“Dr. Hamid Shirvani is perhaps the role model CSU President. He is not only a walking encyclopedia, but has a very unique perspective with a strategy that is clearly going to place CSU Stanislaus on the map. His international work and knowledge is extremely admirable, as he pioneers with Stanislaus leading the other 22 campuses on the global circuit.”

Udepto Maheshwari,
ASI President at CSU East Bay

“Students from the other campuses have shared with me that I am fortunate to have a President who is invested in student life. The President of the Year award bestowed on President Shirvani acknowledges his vested interest in students and his servant leadership as a university administrator.”

Diana Heredia,
Associated Students (ASI) President at CSU Stanislaus

“President Shirvani’s hard work and commitment to students is remarkable and reaches far beyond expectations.”

Timothy D. Snyder,
Chair of the Board for CSSA; Sacramento State ASI

Shirvani is heralded by the CSSA for continually going out of his way to get to know students personally. The Association cites him as a strong leader who is well known for being widely accessible to students and effective in advocating on their behalf.



STUDENT RECREATION COMPLEX GRAND OPENING

The kick-off celebration begins Sept. 18th.

RIBBON CUTTING: 4:15

MEN'S SOCCER GAME: 4:30

WOMEN'S SOCCER GAME: 7:00



Goal.

CAL STATE STANISLAUS STUDENTS WILL SOON HAVE A NEW FACILITY IN WHICH TO BUILD A NEW ERA.

The University's \$16.1 million Student Recreation Complex (SRC) will open in the fall among hundreds of excited Warrior Faithful—leaders, students, and community members.

“The Complex will enable us to continue improving the quality of our programs and will help us recruit top-notch student athletes for our soccer and track and field teams,” President Ham Shirvani said.

The SRC, located at the southeast corner of campus, features a lighted, 2,500-seat stadium with a state-of-the-art polyurethane track, and an 18,644 square-foot Student Fitness Center.

You can support Cal State Athletics by purchasing a stadium seat in the new sports complex today. Your name will become a permanent fixture on campus and a symbol of your generous support.

CALL 209.667.3131 OR VISIT US ONLINE AT WWW.CSUSTAN.EDU/SRC FOR DETAILS.

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