University Welcomes Largest-Ever Freshman Class for 2005-06

California State University, Stanislaus launched its 2005-06 academic year on September 7 under the leadership of its new President, Dr. Hamid Shirvani, and welcomed a record-sized freshman class as fall semester classes started.

Now three months into his presidency, President Shirvani has more than 26 years of experience in higher education, including 18 years in senior executive leadership and management posts at Chapman University, Queens College in New York, the University of Massachusetts, Lowell, and the University of Colorado, Denver. He started his teaching career at Penn State University.

President Shirvani has been well received in the region, as evidenced by a September 22 Modesto Bee editorial that praised him for his get-things-done style and saluted him with “an A for effort and energy” as his “first quarter (honeymoon) grade.”

More younger students will be enrolled at CSU Stanislaus this fall as the University welcomes its largest-ever freshman class of nearly 900 students. In addition, The Village on-campus residence complex, expanded to nearly 650 beds last year, will be near capacity for the first time since its expansion.

Joining student residents as “Faculty In Residence” at The Village this year is Jeffrey Mantz, a member of the Anthropology Department faculty. Mantz said he hopes to get other faculty involved with student residents for film and current events discussions in an effort to add an intellectual atmosphere to the Village community. Mantz has a lot of travel and research expertise to share, having spent two years on the island of Dominica in the Caribbean studying the culture of the islanders.

Included in the freshman class are six students who are successful high school graduates of the Stockton Eighth Grade Initiative (SEGI) scholarship program established five years ago. SEGI was designed for Stockton middle school students who come from underrepresented backgrounds and were considered “at risk” students as eighth graders.

Projections indicate that the University’s fall enrollment will show an increase to an all-time high of more than 8,000 students.

Many new faculty will join CSU Stanislaus starting this fall (story and photos coming in an ensuing issue of the Digest). The University has selected 31 tenured full-time faculty to fill openings and meet enrollment demands. A number of the University’s full-time faculty, many who joined CSU Stanislaus in its early days, have retired in recent years.

Construction is well under way on the University’s largest-ever academic building project near the Monte Vista Avenue campus entrance. Completion of the $54.4-million, 115,000-square-foot, three-story Science II facility that will include classrooms, laboratories, offices and an observatory is scheduled for 2007.
Digital “Warrior Card” Launched for Students and University Employees

California State University, Stanislaus has launched its new campus ID card, “The Warrior Card,” for students and employees.

The new digital image card is used for identification and easy access to services and cashless payments all across campus. The card may be used at the bookstore, all on-campus food service locations, health services, housing, and in the future, other points of sale and service around the University. The new card is being issued this fall to all new and returning CSU Stanislaus students, and is also available to faculty and staff.

The card program is managed for the University by CardSmith, a company specializing in campus card technology and services.

“We’re very enthusiastic and pleased to bring this exciting One Card service to our students, parents, faculty, staff and business partners,” said Clyta Polhemus, Commercial Operations Manager at CSU Stanislaus. “It’s a big step forward for the University, and something we’ve wanted to do for a long time. The Warrior Card is the first official photo student identification card at the University to provide campus offices a consistent means to validate students and deliver services.”

The Warrior Card program includes extensive services for students, parents, faculty and staff. Cardholders can add value to the card’s “Warrior Cash” pre-paid spending account instantly on-line, or set up a recurring “allowance” that funds the account at regular intervals throughout the semester. Account holders can check balances, view transactions and edit account preferences 24/7 at www.warriorcard.com, a new web site dedicated to the program. There’s also a professional customer service center and help desk open every business day to assist students and parents and process payments.

Faculty and staff can obtain a Warrior Card at the Business and Finance office, MSR 290, from 10 a.m. to noon and 2 to 4 p.m. daily. The $5 fee will be waived for those who bring in their current University identification cards.

Students register for their new “Warrior Card” in the University Union.

University Professors Publish Revealing Report on Methods for Treating Autism

A California research team that includes a pair of California State University, Stanislaus psychology professors has taken a significant step in what most experts predict will be a long journey in developing effective treatment for autism. They were part of a team of psychologists who conducted a study that dispels some popular notions about how to treat autism.

Autism is a disorder of brain development characterized by deficits in language, learning and social interaction. It typically appears during the first three years of life and affects males about four times more often than females across all income strata and ethnic groups. Genetics seems to be a contributing factor, but the specific causes of autism have not yet been identified.

The National Institutes of Health note that prevalence studies have been done in several states and also in the United Kingdom, Europe, and Asia. Prevalence estimates range from 2 to 6 per 1,000 children. Most individuals with autism who do not receive effective treatment are unlikely to live independently as adults.

The California study found that intensive Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) was a substantially more effective treatment for a group of preschool children with autism than the mixture of methods that is provided in many education and treatment programs. ABA emphasizes breaking skills down into small parts and building them systematically through repetition and positive reinforcement. At the same time, behaviors that are harmful or that interfere with learning are analyzed carefully and are not reinforced. The long-term goal is to help each child be as successful and independent as possible at school, at home and in the community.

The pioneering study was completed by CSU Stanislaus psychology faculty members Dr. Jane Howard and Dr. Harold Stanislaw and their colleagues Coleen Sparkman, Director of The Kendall School in Modesto; Dr. Howard Cohen, Clinical Director of Valley Mountain Regional Center in Stockton; and Dr. Gina Green of San Diego, a nationally known researcher and consultant in the field of autism.

“This study corroborates earlier studies showing the power of early intensive behavior analytic intervention,” said Howard, the study’s principal investigator. “It is important because it is one of only a few studies in which the ABA intervention was delivered through a community-based, rather than a university-affiliated program. These results signal the potential for delivering effective intervention without the resources of a university-based clinic.”

Howard noted that this aspect is important because there are too few university-affiliated programs capable of providing ABA intervention for the growing number of children diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders.

“The study is also noteworthy because it is only the second one to compare the common practice of combining multiple treatment approaches (‘eclectic’ treatment) with a cohesive approach based on the science of applied behavior analysis,” Howard said.

The report indicates that most autism experts agree that the earlier the
California State University, Stanislaus is one of 12 campuses cited in a national study for creating a campus culture that has helped improve student success and resulted in graduation rates higher than predicted.

The American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU), working with the National Association of System Heads and the Education Trust, identified aspects of campus culture and leadership that resulted in CSU Stanislaus and 11 other universities reporting high graduation rates.

“This peer-review assessment speaks to the high quality of our educational offerings,” said Dr. Hamid Shirvani, President of CSU Stanislaus. “Retention and graduation rates are key elements of success for a university committed to teaching and learning. This is the result of our committed faculty and staff.”

The Graduation Rate Outcomes Project study found that what sets these campuses apart is the presence of a campus culture and leadership that values student success. According to the report, campus culture at these universities reinforces the belief that the students can and should succeed and projects a prevailing attitude that what is now being done can be done better. It also conveys mutually high expectations for students as well as faculty and staff, the report noted.

“The Graduation Rate Outcomes Project adds significant new insight and understanding about student success,” said Constanine W. (Deno) Curris, President of AASCU. “Improved graduation rates are possible when there is strong academic leadership and a commitment to student success integrated into the campus culture.”

Successful student retention factors noted in the study include residence life, frequent student-faculty contact and a rich range of extracurricular activities. Faculty-supported initiatives designed to create a “learning community” atmosphere and the University’s ability to provide mentoring and support were singled out for contributing to student success at CSU Stanislaus.

“California State University, Stanislaus is honored to have been recognized by our peers nationwide for our work on student success,” President Shirvani said. “We pride ourselves on our commitment to helping all students achieve, for our co-curricular efforts to engage students on campus and strong links between students and faculty.”

Stacey Morgan-Foster, Vice President for Student Affairs, said the University enjoys a culture that encourages communication and joint problem solving in the area of student success.

“Faculty and staff genuinely care about students,” she said. “Development of lifelong learners is a core value that permeates all levels of the University.”

In its report, the nine-person AASCU study team described CSU Stanislaus faculty and staff as highly motivated and determined to “do what it takes” to succeed. Commitment to access, especially for first generation students at the culturally diverse university, contact with faculty and student connection to the campus through organizations and activities were cited as major components of the success at CSU Stanislaus.

“The result of campus culture, leadership initiative and organizational focus is that CSU Stanislaus has been well-positioned to respond to state incentives to improve graduate rates and retention in ways that reinforced its mission,” the report noted.

The six-year graduation rate for CSU Stanislaus students entering in 1996 (which was the year selected for study for all cohorts) was 51.3%, the third highest in the CSU system. The system-wide average that year was 41.6%. Furthermore, the campus recorded one of the highest graduation rates in the CSU for students receiving Pell Grants, typically indicative of the most financially needy students, with 51.9% graduating within six years for the 1996 cohort.

Overall, CSU Stanislaus consistently has placed in the top half of all CSUs in terms of freshmen graduation rates and overall retention rates. In 2004-05, the six-year graduation rate for students entering in 1999 was 51.1%; the freshmen-to-sophomore retention rate was 80%.

The Graduation Rate Outcomes Project was designed to determine why the 12 selected institutions were successful, and to help other campus leaders develop formulas for improved student success based on this information. The study was conducted by teams representing more than 90 state colleges and universities.

AASCU is a higher education association that includes more than 430 colleges, universities and systems of public higher education throughout the United States and its territories.
University Accepts Three Students Affected by Hurricane Katrina for Fall Semester

California State University, Stanislaus has reached out to students from Gulf Coast area colleges displaced by Hurricane Katrina. "This University is prepared to help out these students and their families," President Shirvani said. "We want to do all we can to help make sure that the educational goals of these students are not halted by the hurricane's devastation."

As of late September, California State University, Stanislaus had enrolled three students from universities in New Orleans. They are Harpreet Samra of Tulane University, Kimberly Mitchell of Xavier University and Jim McCoin of the University of New Orleans.

"We are pleased that these students have accepted our sincere invitation to come to California State University, Stanislaus," President Shirvani said. "We welcome them with open arms and hope to be helpful with their transition."

Many people have rallied to help the hurricane victims and some employees have served as volunteers in the hurricane-devastated regions. The CSU Stanislaus Associated Students and University employees are conducting a relief effort for the victims of Hurricane Katrina. AS President Scott Harvey said students have set up collection tables that will remain on campus throughout the fall semester. Collection cans for contributions have also been placed by faculty in all of the academic buildings. Money raised will go to the Red Cross Hurricane Katrina Relief Fund.

CSU Stanislaus employee Heidi Lofgren, a native of Louisiana, organized a benefit street dance in Modesto on September 18 featuring Cajun bands. Money donated went to the American Red Cross.

A series of public seminars titled “The Gulf Coast and Beyond: Past, Present and Future” started on September 21. Other programs featuring faculty and regional experts talking on hurricane-related topics are scheduled for October 5 and 19 and November 2, 16 and 30. For more information, call (209) 667-3750.

Former Residents Gather at Yosemite Hall Site for Alumni's “Goodbye” Program

All that remains of the former Yosemite Hall residential complex across from California State University, Stanislaus are the memories.

On September 15, former residents of the University’s first campus housing, students and friends gathered at the site to look at photos and exchange favorite stories about the recently dismantled facility and bid a “Last Goodbye to Yosemite Hall.”

At the conclusion of the program, former residents assembled for a group photo that will be displayed in the Village Café, part of the current on-campus residential village at CSU Stanislaus. Copies of the photo are available for purchase by contacting the Alumni Relations office at 667-3693.

CSU Stanislaus received funding from the California State University Chancellor’s Office earlier this year to demolish the buildings at the former housing complex. Demolition and clearing of the site was completed in August.

The building had been vacant and boarded up since 1993 due to its age, seismic conditions and the presence of hazardous materials. Opened in 1966 after CSU Stanislaus moved to its permanent Monte Vista Avenue site in 1965, the complex included rooms for 180 students, along with a cafeteria, study lounge and swimming pool. When the University opened the first phase of The Village housing on campus 12 years ago, the original housing facility was closed.
Amy Thomas Named to Public Safety Management Post

Amy Thomas, who has distinguished herself as a crime prevention and emergency resource officer at California State University, Stanislaus since 1996, has been named Assistant Director for Environmental Health, Safety & Emergency Management in the University’s Department of Public Safety.

Thomas assumes the position formerly held by Ron Misaki, who retired in June. She joined the CSU Stanislaus Public Safety department as Crime Prevention and Emergency Resource Officer. Thomas earned her bachelor’s degree from CSU Stanislaus in 1995 and a multiple subject teaching credential in 1996, graduating summa cum laude.

Reporting to Steve Jaureguy, the Director of Public Safety/University Police Services, Thomas has extensive experience in her field that includes certifications in hazardous waste and asbestos, injury and illness prevention, disaster planning, emergency management, victims advocacy and training as a Red Cross instructor.

“I have every confidence that under Amy’s leadership we will move to the next level to ensure a healthy and safe environment for our students and the entire campus community,” Jaureguy said.

In her new post, Thomas will provide support, guidance and leadership while engaging the campus community on safety. Her responsibilities include conducting environmental health programs on topics such as hazardous waste materials, waste regulatory issues and county health regulations, offering occupational safety training programs ranging from workplace violence to first aid and preparing emergency readiness and response programs such as building evacuation procedures.

Public Safety’s Ron Misaki Retires as Director

Environment, Health and Safety Assistant Director Ron Misaki retired June 30, completing 15 years of service at California State University, Stanislaus.

Misaki’s responsibilities included all matters relating to safety of workers, victim advocacy, crime and accident prevention, hazardous materials and biological topics. He also was responsible for providing training in health and safety for CPR and First Aid. Before joining the CSU Stanislaus staff in 1990, Misaki worked for Shell Oil in the field of health and safety.

During his retirement, Misaki said he plans to spend more time with his first grandson and family.

Misaki noted he was grateful for the opportunities he had on campus to learn more about law enforcement and other issues pertaining to health and safety. He also expressed appreciation for his colleagues.

“I will miss working with the department people,” Misaki said. “I just want to thank the campus community for the opportunity to assist them over the past 15 years. With their cooperation, I have been able to provide some assistance.”

U.S. News & World Report Rates University in West’s Top 10 Publics

For the first time, California State University, Stanislaus ranked 10th in the category of “Top Public Universities-Master’s (West)” and moved up four spots to 46th overall in the “Best Universities-Master’s (West)” category of U.S. News & World Report magazine’s 2006 edition of “America’s Best Colleges.”

The report, released in the national magazine’s annual August issue, is popular with students and their parents who are sizing up prospective colleges and universities.

“This is another measure of our high quality faculty, staff and students,” President Shirvani said. “While the numbers are impressive and lend distinction to our fine institution, it is the facts behind the figures that are a testament to the substance of California State University, Stanislaus. Our University continues to be a leader in providing educational access to a diverse population of learners, many of whom are first-generation students.”

U.S. News & World Report generates its rankings and scores for “America’s Best Colleges” by assessing a variety of criteria including peer assessment, graduation rate, student-to-faculty ratio and freshman retention rate.

According to U.S. News & World Report’s website, the higher the proportion of freshman who return to campus after their first year and eventually graduate, the better a school is at offering the classes and services students need to succeed. The freshman retention rate for CSU Stanislaus is currently 82%.

Other categories the University fared well in include graduation rate and ethnic diversity. CSU Stanislaus has been recognized nationally for its 27% Hispanic student population.

In the category of economic diversity, the University achieved a strong score for its percentage of undergraduates receiving federal Pell Grants, which are typically awarded to undergraduates with family incomes less than $40,000.

Finally, the University also placed well in the least debt category. Only 24% of CSU Stanislaus students graduate in debt; the average debt load of those students is $14,700.
Student Parents are Focus of New University Program

Students and their parents have a new support network at California State University, Stanislaus.

Mayra Mireles-Tijero has joined First Year Programs and Advising in Student Affairs as the coordinator of the new Parents Program. A Ceres native who earned a psychology degree at UC Davis and a master’s in counseling at CSU Sacramento, Mireles-Tijero has previous experience with the Sacramento Office of Education, American River College and Yuba College as a counselor, career advisor and college recruiter with a specialty in outreach to disadvantaged students.

The new coordinator and academic advisor will be establishing a number of programs for parents, including a hotline, weekend activities, the Stanislaus Parents Association and a newsletter.

“Both the University and students’ parents are interested in seeing students succeed at California State University, Stanislaus,” Mireles-Tijero said. “Our program will serve as another resource in the University’s support network for students and their parents.”

Building Service Engineer Doug Merritt Concludes 35-Year University Career

Building Service Engineer Doug Merritt retired in May, wrapping up a 35-year career at California State University, Stanislaus.

Merritt was in charge of running and maintaining the engineering plants that provide campus heat and air conditioning.

Merritt started in 1970 as the University’s fireman and was later promoted to engineer. His responsibilities ranged from locksmith to painter until the University began to grow and others were hired to assume the positions Merritt had filled for years.

Merritt and his wife, Bev, who is a CSU Stanislaus graduate and school teacher, plan to travel to the East Coast, Arizona and Newport Beach.

“It was good, but it was time for me to go,” Merritt said. “I’ll miss the staff. They were good quality people, hardworking and friendly.”

Staff Council Funds Employee Scholarship Awards for Two

Thanks to a generous donation from the campus Staff Council, the Employee Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce that two California State University, Stanislaus staff members received scholarship awards for the fall 2005 term.

Rebecca Mirza (Global Affairs) and Tammy Worthington (Financial Aid) each received a $125 award to help them with their educational expenses.

All full-time CSU Stanislaus employees, including those working in the Foundation, are eligible for scholarship consideration from this special fund. Consideration is given on the basis of financial need, academic scholarship, career development programs and job-related objectives.

The Employee Scholarship program has provided financial assistance to University employees since 1982 and to their dependents since 1978, and is funded entirely through donations. For the past several years, awards have gone to staff members only, supported financially through the efforts of the Staff Council.

University faculty and staff can also support the Employee Scholarship Program through an annual donation or through payroll deductions.
Samuel Regalado (History) made an appearance on national television, providing commentary in a September 23 Spike TV feature presentation titled “Viva Baseball.” The film, inspired by Regalado's book “Viva Baseball: Latin Major Leaguers and their Special Hunger,” celebrates the achievements of Latinos in Major League Baseball and how they enthralled millions of fans and captivated a nation. Regalado is a nationally-acknowledged scholarly expert on the topic of Latino baseball players. He has interviewed many well known Latino ballplayers for his book and other research publications and has made numerous of television appearances.

Marjorie Chan (Management) received a leadership award at the Annual International Conference on Advances in Management in July. At the conference, she presented a paper titled “Executive Compensation.” Chan also published a refereed article, “The Liabilities of Social Capital with respect to Career Development, Third-Party Relationships, Creativity Generation, Change, Organizational and Societal Fragmentation, and Collective Wrongdoings,” in an edited research volume titled “Current Topics in Management” by Transaction Publishers in June.

Nancy Taniguchi (History) presented a paper titled “That Golden Moment: Jed Smith Reaches the Pacific” at the American Historical Association-Pacific Coast Branch conference on August 7 at Oregon State University.

Peter DeCaro (Communication Studies) traveled to the University of St. Martin de Porres in Lima, Peru, in June as Director of the American Communication Association to finalize discussions on a Conference of the Americas, scheduled for July 2006 in Lima. Representatives from all over the world are expected to attend the upcoming conference. DeCaro also made a second speaking appearance in China on July 19 at the Peking University School of Communication and Journalism.

Peter Nelligan (Criminal Justice) presented a report recently on domestic violence rates in Stanislaus County. The report indicated that the county’s rate of domestic violence cases has shown a decline in the last few years. Nelligan looked at crime statistics from 1986, when the Legislature mandated that local law enforcement agencies must keep track of domestic violence calls, through the latest data available from 2003. Stanislaus County ranked third out of 58 counties in domestic violence rates in 1997, but had improved to 18th as of 2003.

**Faculty/Staff/Administration Notes**

Samuel Regalado

Marjorie Chan

Nancy Taniguchi

Peter DeCaro

Peter Nelligan

**“Welcome Back” Pancake Breakfast Served**

Walter Doraz of the Sociology Department faculty (right) shares a lighter moment with Lee Renner of First Year Programs/Advising while flipping flapjacks at the September 6 “Welcome Back” Pancake Breakfast held in the Quad. Administrators, faculty and staff volunteers teamed up to serve a breakfast of pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausage, juice and coffee to University employees on the eve of the fall semester opening day.

**Information Technician Michael Mitchell Dies**

Michael Mitchell, an equipment technician with the Office of Information Technology for more than a year, died on September 17 in Merced.

In a September 21 announcement to the campus, President Shirvani said Mitchell’s contributions to the University included construction of the last six “smart classrooms” equipped with built-in media at Dorothy and Bill Bizzi Hall and the updating of projectors in the Demergasso-Bava Hall classrooms.

Mitchell was a valued employee who supported classroom technology and was known to give up his Saturdays to help avert any disruption of instructional services due to technological malfunctions. He was fond of saying “Never forget, we’re here for the students,” noted President Shirvani. Mitchell worked from 6 to 10 a.m. the Saturday of his death.

A celebration of Mitchell’s life was held on Friday, September 30, at his family home in Merced. The family requests that remembrances go to the Herbert Mitchell Scholarship Fund, P.O. Box 2147, Merced, CA 95344. Attention: Sonia Garcia.
In Brief

Daniel Berkow Named Director of Counseling Services

Daniel Berkow, a former faculty member and counseling administrator at the University of North Carolina, Wilmington, is the new Director of Counseling Services at California State University, Stanislaus.

Berkow, who started his new position at CSU Stanislaus on September 19, was the Associate Director of Counseling, Coordinator of Training and Counseling Psychologist at the UNCW. He has served as interim Director of Counseling at UNCW, psychologist at Kansas State University and as a psychology intern at UC San Diego.

Berkow taught at UNCW for more than five years and is published in various articles and books. He holds a bachelor’s degree from Colorado State University and master’s degree and Ph.D. from University of Georgia.

Observatory Programs Coming Up In November

The Department of Physics and Geology has scheduled a pair of public observation nights for November 1 and 15.

Mars and the Pleiades will be the focus of the Tuesday, November 1 program at 7:30 p.m. Mars makes a close approach to Earth – within about 43 million miles – on October 30 and will be clearly visible, weather permitting.

A full moon rising just before sunset in the early evening (about 7 p.m.) will be the target of telescopes on Tuesday, November 15. Some of the folklore about the moon will also be discussed.

Programs are held between Willow Lake and the Science Building. Admission is free. Check out the department web site at: http://physics.csustan.edu.

Walking Program Under Way at Warrior Fitness Center

“STRIDES,” a stress-free walking and workout program on the California State University, Stanislaus campus in Turlock, is under way at the Warrior Fitness Center.

A pair of student instructors are on-hand at the Center to provide workout advice from 6:30 to 7:30 a.m. Mondays through Thursdays.

Participants are urged to bring along walking partners for the STRIDES (Students Teaching Rewarding Individualized Daily Exercise Strategies) program.

The Center is open from 6 to 8 a.m. and 12:30 to 8 p.m. Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday and 3 to 7 p.m. Sunday. It is open to University students and employees who have a Warrior card. Student fitness trainers are available by appointment. Contact Janice Herring at 667-3855 for information.

Aerobics Classes for Students, Employees Under Way

Step and tone aerobics sessions sponsored by the University Union are under way, and will run through December 8 in the Event Center.

Classes, conducted by staff member Filomena Wojciechowski, are held Tuesdays and Thursdays at 5:30 p.m. Students are free and faculty and staff pay $15. Advance sign-ups are encouraged at the Activities Center in the Union. Call Jen Rose at 667-3150 for information.

Illness Claims Former Faculty and Administration Member Charlie Hanna

Charles C. (Charlie) Hanna, former Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dean of the Graduate School and Professor of Educational Administration at California State University, Stanislaus, died September 17 in Sunnyvale after a long battle with Parkinson’s Disease. He was 75.

A memorial celebration of his life will be held at 5 p.m. on Monday, October 17, in the Rogers Faculty Development Center.

Hanna worked at the University from 1977 until retiring in 1992. A native of Minnesota, he was an ardent golfer and past Board President of the Turlock Golf and Country Club. Hanna served on the Modesto Family Service Agency Board and was an active member of the Turlock VFW.

“He was an extremely personal professional career and his personal life were characterized by humor, intelligence and integrity,” said R.J. Moriconi, a retired Professor of Advanced Studies in Education and close friend of Hanna.

His is survived by his wife, Barbara, and two children.

Remembrances may be made to Faith Home Teen Ranch, 6643 Faith Home Rd., Ceres, CA 95307.

The University Digest

This is the first issue of the University Digest for 2005-06. The University Digest is published monthly from September through May for the faculty and staff of CSU Stanislaus. The University Digest is accessible on the University Web site under “Publications” at: http://www.csustan.edu/DUR/Publications/Digest.pdf

A number of printed copies are also sent to each department and to employees with limited or no computer access. The Office of Development and University Relations reserves the right to edit submissions. For information call (209) 667-3997 or e-mail: dhansen@stan.csustan.edu.

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AFFIRMATIVE ACTION: California State University, Stanislaus is an Equal Opportunity Employer and is strongly committed to significantly increasing the numbers of minority students, faculty, and staff.

CSU Stanislaus seeks individuals committed to preparing students for life in a multiracial, multicultural society.
Athletics

Warrior Teams Get Off to Winning Start

Women's Soccer
The California State University, Stanislaus women's soccer team is off to a strong 10-1-1 start after its first month of competition. After four consecutive 10-win seasons, the Warriors of Coach Nicole Van Dyke are looking to challenge for one of four spots in the California Collegiate Athletic Association tournament and a shot at the NCAA Division II National Championship playoffs.

Men's Soccer
The Warrior men's soccer team is looking to be one of the best teams in recent history. The Warriors have return starters at every position and the cohesiveness of the squad is starting to show with the team's 5-6 start. An early season highlight was a resounding 3-2 win at home over defending NCAA Division II national champions Seattle University on Sept. 13 that was followed by a 4-0 win over CCAA rival San Francisco State two days later.

Volleyball
Led by new head coach Christina Difani, the Warriors are a young team that is expected to improve over the course of the season. The Warriors are off to a 2-6 start and are looking to strengthen their young players with playing experience.

Women's Cross Country
The women's cross country team is off to a strong start and looking to challenge for a spot in the NCAA regional and national championships. The team, led by senior Desiree (Dvorak) Castellenos, finished first and second in its first two competitions.

Men's Cross Country
The Warriors' men's cross country team had two first-place finishes in two events so far, taking the team titles at both the Stanislaus Invitational and the William Jessup Invitational. Senior Art Garcia led the way, finishing first in each race and earning back-to-back conference “Runner of the Week” honors.

Student Athletes Group Raises Make-A-Wish Funds
The California State University, Stanislaus Student-Athlete Advisory Committee raised the highest total of money in the California Collegiate Athletic Association’s 2004-05 Make-A-Wish Foundation fundraiser.

Warrior athletes raised a CCAA-best $1,201 this past season by hosting fundraising events at most home basketball games and other University functions. After coming up short the past few years, SAAC President Geraldina Garcia vowed that CSU Stanislaus would raise the bar for the rest of the conference and set their sites on besting one of their rivals — Chico State.

“In the past, we only raised $100 and had been last in the conference, so I think it was a great achievement for us,” Garcia said. “Raising over $1200 made us feel good, but it was humbling, too, since the money goes to help someone’s dream come true.”

The Make-A-Wish drive was just one of the many projects SAAC worked on this year. The group helped the Dennis Earl Elementary School in Turlock with its “Lasso A Book” fair. Student-athletes, along with Clifford the Big Red Dog, read to the students, played games and worked on art projects.

They also participated in a fitness fair at the school for parents and students, helping to create awareness of physical fitness for both children and adults.

Over Thanksgiving, the student-athletes raised $600 to help five local families with food and extra spending money during the holiday.

The group also sponsored a Modesto-area youth to attend the “Friday Night Live” program, a CSU Stanislaus program that supports youth-adult partnerships through special activities. For their contributions, student-athletes were recognized with Athlete of the Month honors for each sport, and received gift certificates courtesy of Jamba Juice.

Pair of Warriors Named to Scholar-Athlete Honors
California State University, Stanislaus juniors Joanna Miller and Bryan Jillson were two of 20 student-athletes from California Collegiate Athletic Association member institutions named 2004-05 recipients of the CCAA Dr. Hal Charnofsky Outstanding Scholar-Athlete and Inspirational Scholar-Athletes honors.

The award is named after the late Dr. Hal Charnofsky, a long-time faculty athletics representative for CSU Dominguez Hills who died in 2003.

Miller played for the women's soccer team the past two seasons and was a member of the 2002-03 women's basketball team that advanced to the NCAA West Regionals. She majored in physical education and graduated with a 3.82 GPA. Miller plans to attend Malone College in Canton, Ohio, to work on her master’s in Christian ministries with a concentration in sports ministry.

Jillson participated in track and field for two seasons and made it to the NCAA Division II National Championships in 2005. He barely missed becoming an All-American in the high jump, finishing ninth. Jillson had just returned from a 13-month hiatus from the track during which he served with the Army Reserve's 341st Military Police Company in Iraq. He married former Warrior volleyball standout Chrissy Ford in July.
Tickets Remain For October 8 Carol Channing Performance

Tickets are still available for the October 8 "A Salute to the Arts" performance at California State University, Stanislaus by famed actress, singer and Broadway star Carol Channing.

The benefit performance for the University’s School of Fine & Performing Arts, which will also include students, faculty and alumni of California State University, Stanislaus, will be held in the Bernell and Flora Snider Recital Hall at 7:30 p.m. Tickets, priced at $75 per person, include the 5:30 p.m. Carol Channing Gallery reception, silent auction and wine and hors d’oeuvres. Call the CSU Stanislaus Development and University Relations office at 667-3931 for information.

The evening of entertainment with Carol Channing will include musical theater hit favorites by University students Roque Berlanga, Donn Bradley, Marcio DeL Oliveira, Susan Brummet, Kristina Priest and Owen McIntosh. Numbers will also be sung by alumni Anthony Merchant, Kristina Thelen and Chelsea Costa. Joseph Wiggett, Director of the CSU Stanislaus School of Fine & Performing Arts, a music professor and talented singer, will perform the carousel tune "If I Loved You."

Known worldwide as “the first lady of musical comedy,” Channing has enjoyed a distinguished stage career that gained international acclaim after her performance as Lorelei Lee in “Gentleman Prefer Blondes.” The three-time Tony, Golden Globe and Emmy award winning and Oscar-nominated comedienne will forever be endeared to the hearts of audiences everywhere for starring in a record-breaking 5,000 performances as the irrepressible Dolly Gallagher Levi in “Hello Dolly!” without missing a single performance. The octogenarian continues to enjoy a highly active schedule with her new highly applauded one-woman show titled "The First Eighty Years are the Hardest."

Channing and her husband, Harry Kullijian, are making plans to launch a statewide, and what they hope will eventually become a national campaign, in support of fine and performing arts programs in schools. They hope the October 8 performance will be the first of a number of fundraising programs toward that end.
Open Enrollment for Benefits Plans Runs Through Friday, October 15

Now is the time to enroll in or make changes to your health, dental, flexcash and Dependent Care Reimbursement Account (DCRA) or Health Care Reimbursement Account (HCRA) plans. All open enrollment changes become effective January 1, 2006. Visit the Human Resources website at: www.csustan.edu/hr for information and forms regarding open enrollment. Several informational “brown bag” sessions to address enrollment plan questions will be held on campus.

To help choose a health plan that best meets their needs, employees can utilize the Health Plan Chooser at CalPERS On-Line. The Chooser allows you to:

• Rank health plans for cost, doctor availability and hospital affiliation, member satisfaction and covered services
• View reports showing doctors’ addresses and their specialty certification
• Learn about covered services such as chiropractic and acupuncture, hospital care, drugs, home health and mental health.

Health Plan Changes Outside of Open Enrollment Available On-Line

The Health Plan Chooser at CalPERS On-Line is available year-round if you:

• Want to change your doctor
• Seek decision-making help in changing your marital status, changing your number of dependents, or changing your plan for retirement

The Health Plan Chooser is at: www.calpers.ca.gov in the “For Members” area under “Shortcuts.”

Re-enrollment is required each year for DCRA and HCRA participants. Those who wish to participate (even those who are currently participating) in the dependent care reimbursement account (DCRA) or the health care reimbursement account (HCRA), and want to continue participation during 2006, must submit a new enrollment form during open enrollment. The forms are available at www.csustan.edu/hr.

Visit the HR Web Site For Information Needs

Have you checked out the Human Resources website lately? If not, you may be surprised at all the great resources available at your fingertips. Not only are position vacancies listed, but the training calendar, a variety of benefits documents, forms and applications, the Campus Directory, campus maps and the fiscal year calendar are also available. In addition, the site has links to all collective bargaining contracts, corresponding salary schedules and much more. Check it out and let HR know what you think: www.csustan.edu/hr/.

Recruitment Welcomes:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Department</th>
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<tr>
<td>Aaron Flores</td>
<td>Building Service Engineer</td>
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<td>Alyssa Mazzina</td>
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<td>Anne Harris</td>
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<td>Benjamin Parent</td>
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<td>C. Treb Padula</td>
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<td>Daniel Berkow</td>
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<td>David Klein</td>
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<td>Tsu Ya</td>
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<td>Graduate School</td>
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<td>Vanessa Portillo</td>
<td>Accounts Technician I</td>
<td>Financial Services</td>
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University Digest – September/October 2005 — 11
Personnel Notes

New Staff Members Welcomed

Recently hired University staff members who participated in the September 14 orientation program conducted by Human Resources include (from front) Michele Holland, "Wellness Works!" Program; Elizabeth Greathouse, Anthropology/Geography; Robin Hards, Anthropology/Geography; Miriam Verduzco, Financial Services; Davina Arreaga, "Wellness Works!" Program; Sonya Hernandez, Economics; Rhonda Lyman, Development & University Relations; Derek Bihr, Career Services Center; Jerry Anderson, Mediated & Distance Learning; and Tawn Gillihan, Facilities Services.