

STANISLAUS STATE

STAN

SPRING 2018

MAGAZINE



Making it
COUNT



A word from the
PRESIDENT

More than a year after we began developing a road map that would guide Stan State to 2025 and beyond, I am confident in saying that as a University we are poised to soar.

Our University Strategic Plan (see pages 11-13) is a large part of the reason I'm so excited about the direction of the University, but it's because of the people in place who are equally dedicated to student success — our campus leadership, including the deans, faculty, administration and staff — that we will flourish under this plan.

Their commitment to succeeding as a team is reflected in every aspect of the University Strategic Plan, including the way the plan is structured. Instead of organizing the plan division-by-division, it flows through a series of principles that require all groups to take ownership

of the plan. We're pulling together in this effort — and that's why we will achieve these goals together.

The success of the plan cannot be defined within a document; it can only be measured by how its implementation allows the University to grow and flourish. And for that to happen, everyone on campus needs to find their own role, their own purpose, within the plan. Every member of the faculty, administration and staff must find a way to use their skills and strengths to give life to the plan.

The core element of the Strategic Plan is student success, and that's why the first goal is for Stan State to be a student-ready University. It means that we have a primary commitment to the academic success of our students, measured by raising graduation rates and increasing enrollment in graduate studies.

Beyond that, being student-ready means fostering our students' sense

of belonging and helping them grow not only as scholars but as individuals ready to take on the region's challenges. The University is committed to allocating resources to help students find their own path and successfully navigate it.

The Strategic Plan is a road map we will reference to successfully maneuver the many crossroads that will inevitably be in our future as Stan State continues to grow with our region.

Warmly,

Ellen

Follow @PrezJunn on Twitter



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COVER STORY

Making it Count

Local Winery Counts on Stan State Alumna

STAN MAGAZINE Spring 2018

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If you receive more than one copy of STAN Magazine, please pass it along to a friend of Stanislaus State. If you would like to support Stanislaus State, visit csustan.edu/giving.

Stanislaus State alumni have the benefit of participating in a variety of affinity programs. Those not wishing to participate in the affinity programs can opt out at: csustan.edu/alumni/affinity-program-opt-out.

Stanislaus State serves a diverse student body of more than 10,000 at two locations in the Central Valley — a beautiful 228-acre campus in Turlock and the Stockton Center, located in the city's historic Magnolia District. Widely recognized for dedicated faculty, high-quality academic programs and exceptional value, the University offers more than 100 majors, minors and areas of concentration, along with 15 master's degree programs, seven credential programs and a doctorate in educational leadership.



Stanislaus State

NEWS BRIEFS



Career and Professional DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Julie Sedlemeyer joined Stan State last fall as the new Director of Career Development and oversees the Career and Professional Development Center. Under Sedlemeyer, who previously served as Interim Director of Career Services at San Jose State, the goal of the reenvisioned Center at Stan State is to encourage all students to develop, implement and evaluate their career plans.

The University maintains partnerships with more than 50 local and regional employers looking for their next employees and are willing to lend a hand to help develop Stan State students into leaders.

csustan.edu/career

STAN PLANNER

Eases Student Scheduling

Navigating the road to a Stan State degree got easier last fall with the addition of STAN Planner, a semester-by-semester breakdown of courses students need to take to complete their major(s) and graduate. The planner links to STAN Degree Progress, which tracks completion of all graduation requirements, and STAN Scheduler, which lays out the next term's time-day options to fit in needed classes. Together, these three online tools create My Academic Pathway (MAP).

csustan.edu/myacademicpathway



STAN Planner



STAN Degree Progress



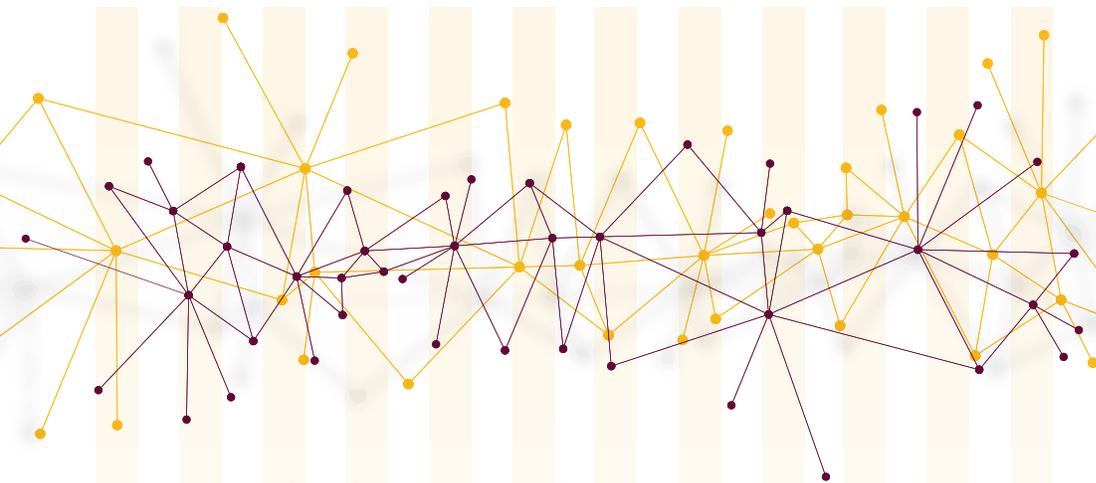
STAN Scheduler

Stockton Center

EXPANDS LIST OF DEGREES OFFERED

Stanislaus State's Stockton Center now offers 17 undergraduate and six graduate degrees and two teaching credential programs that can be completed entirely in Stockton, including bachelor's degrees in business administration, communication studies, history and psychology, and graduate degrees in school administration and counseling and public administration. The Stockton Center offers accelerated degree programs in criminal justice, health science, social science and, for second degree candidates, nursing. Four-year integrated degree/teaching credential programs in multiple subject and education specialist are also offered at the Center.

csustan.edu/stockton

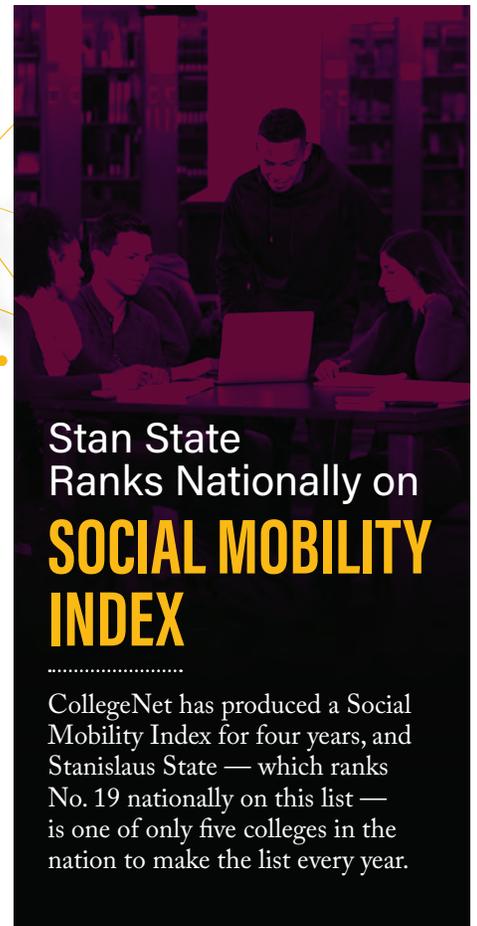


MBA CONCENTRATION

in Analytics

Stan State is one of the few places where students working toward their MBA can concentrate on business analytics — a focus that can be utilized by graduates in nearly every aspect of the business world. The skills of collecting and analyzing large amounts of data can springboard a Stan State MBA graduate into the worlds of marketing, operations, management, finance or accounting.

csustan.edu/MBA



Stan State Ranks Nationally on SOCIAL MOBILITY INDEX

CollegeNet has produced a Social Mobility Index for four years, and Stanislaus State — which ranks No. 19 nationally on this list — is one of only five colleges in the nation to make the list every year.



CAMPUS CARES

The Stanislaus State Campus Cares Funds raised support last fall to meet the needs of our students as well as Sonoma State fire victims. Fifty percent of Campus Cares donations raised From Oct. 16 through Dec. 31 were donated to the Sonoma State Fire Victims Fund, finishing with a crowd-sourced donation of \$8,247.25. The Sonoma campus re-opened to students Oct. 18, nine days after fire swept through the area.

ROGERS SCHOLARS PAST AND PRESENT

Gather for Reunion

The Mary Stuart Rogers Foundation has granted nearly \$3 million in scholarships to more than 550 Stan State students since 1991. Recipients demonstrate proven scholarship, perseverance in the face of adversity and a commitment to giving back.

John, June and daughter Janet Rogers attended the event in October to recognize and congratulate the scholarship recipients and reunite Rogers Scholars alumni.





Foster Farms ALUMNI SIGNAL SUPPORT

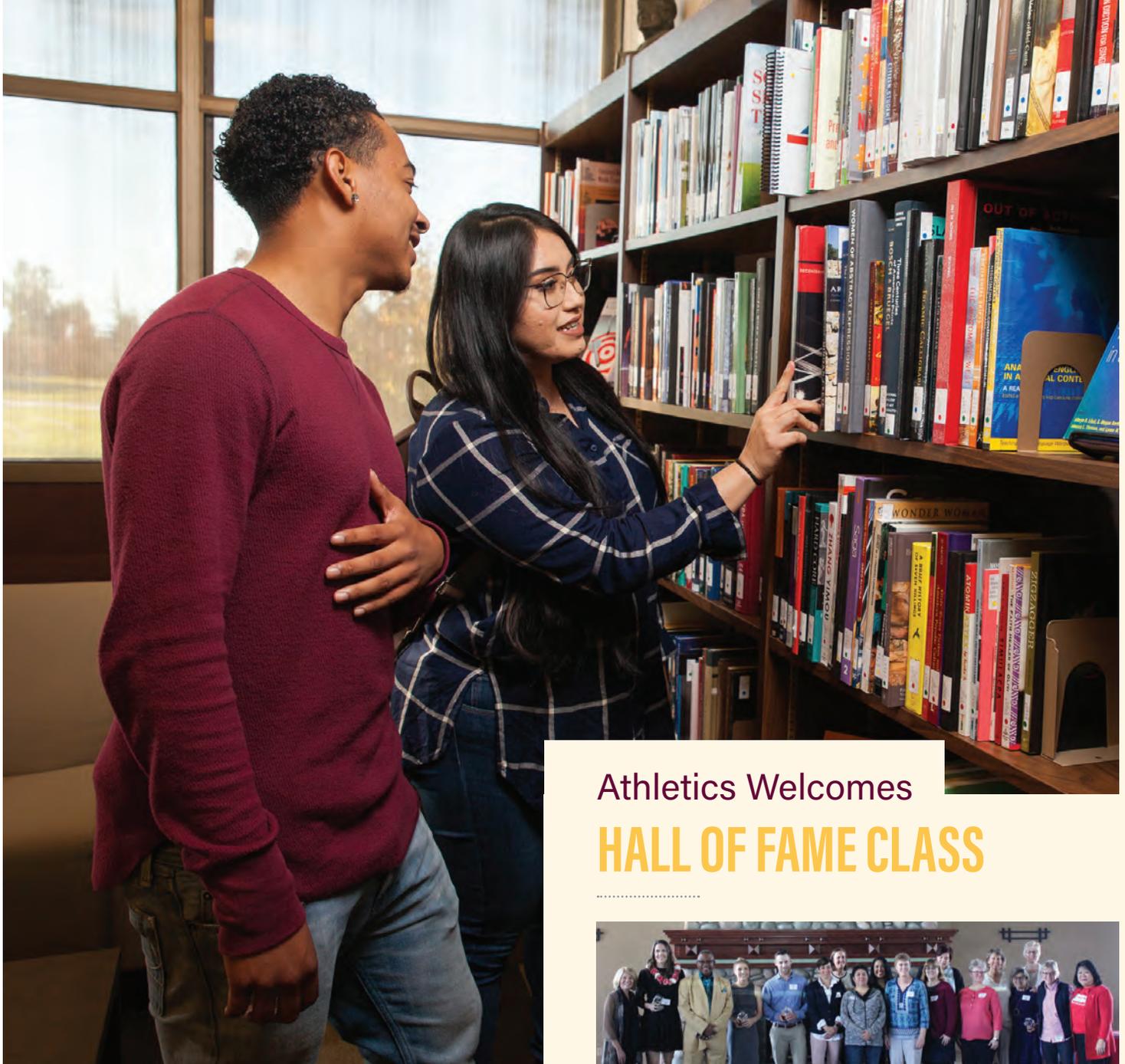
A reception for Stan State alumni who are Foster Farms employees proved a catalyst for increased mentoring and support, and a successful pilot for alumni outreach. "The partnership between industry and Stan State can give our students mentorship from those who have walked in their shoes, our esteemed alumni," said Lisa McMullen, director of alumni relations.

BUSINESS FORECAST REPORT

View the latest San Joaquin Valley Business Forecast Report, produced by Foster Farms Endowed Professor of Business Economics Gökçe Soydemir. Forecasts are presented annually, with mid-year updates, to provide businesses with detailed information about trends in the region relative to those of the state and the nation.

csustan.edu/sjvbf





Athletics Welcomes HALL OF FAME CLASS



Stanislaus State inducted five individuals and a memorable women's basketball team into the Warrior Athletics Hall of Fame Class at a special luncheon on Feb. 10, as a part of Homecoming Week. Heading the class was the 1988-89 women's basketball team that went 27-2 under coach LeAnn Millar and reached the national championship game in the University's final year in

Division III. The individual honorees were 1994 national triple jump champion Jomal Bush; dominant volleyball outside hitter Chrissy Ford; two-time All-American tennis player Verena Preikschas Boga; four-time All-American golfer Ryan Thornberry; and Doris Hanny, the wife of legendary Warrior coach Jim Hanny and a Warrior volunteer and fan for five decades.

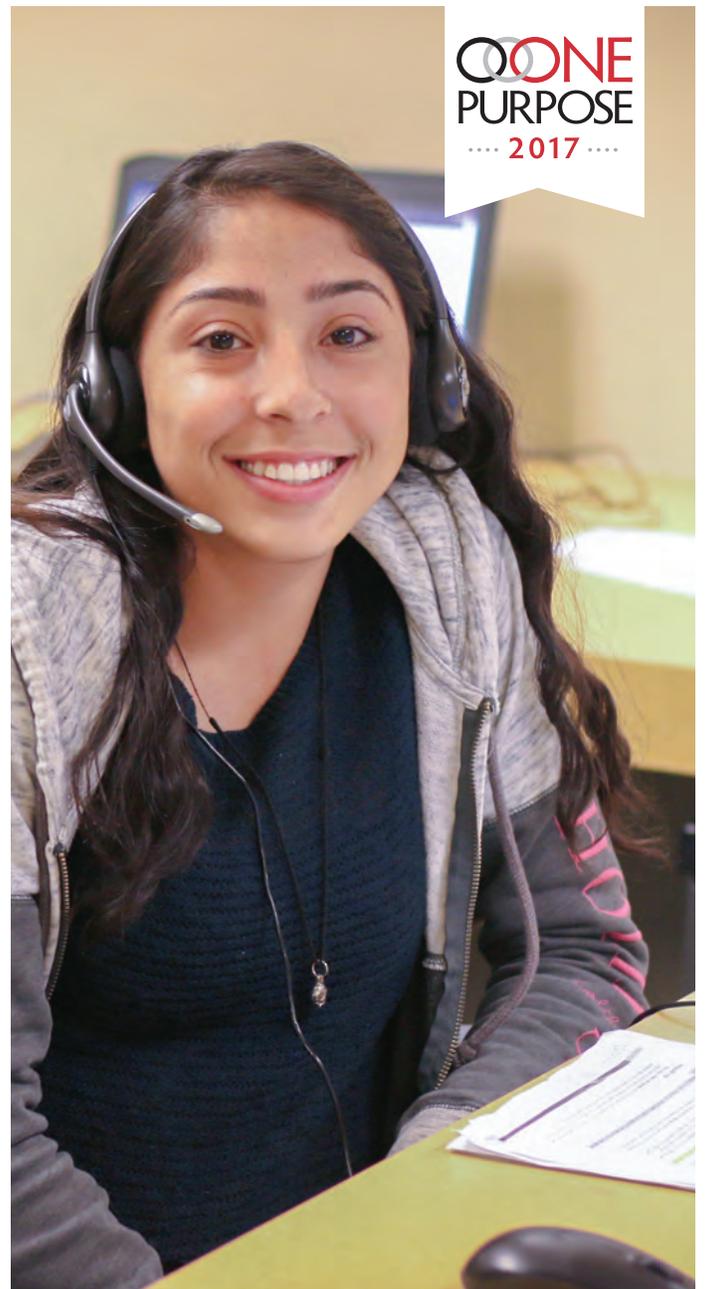
Two Year LIBRARY RENOVATION

The Vasché Library Building will get a \$55 million makeover starting summer 2019. The complete overhaul — planned to take two years — will renew and improve its aging infrastructure and renovate its interior space. More quiet study seats, group study rooms, a café and an event space are envisioned. Student services such as the Academic Success Center, Career Center and the Diversity Center could join tech support and technology labs and counseling services in the refurbished building.

One Purpose Scholarship Campaign

TAPS STUDENT VOICES

The One Purpose scholarship campaign wrapped up its annual drive in December, bringing the total raised to nearly \$2 million in four years. This year, the effort hinged on Stan State student callers speaking from the heart about how community philanthropy is making a difference. James and Gena Brenda served as campaign co-chairs and donated \$25,000 to kickoff this year's effort. One Purpose scholarships go to high-achieving students selected by each college, providing encouragement and meaningful support to our best and brightest.



GEIKEN NAMED

Associate Vice President for Development

Jason Geiken, most recently the vice president for institutional advancement at Hannibal-LaGrange University in Missouri, is the new associate vice president for development at Stanislaus State, joining the Warrior family on Dec. 11.

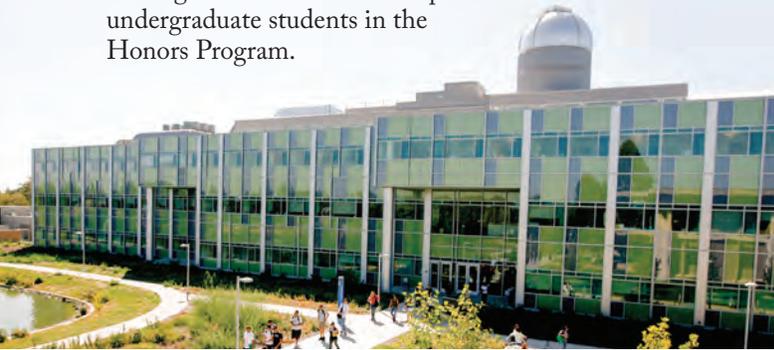
Geiken, a native of Des Moines, Iowa, earned his bachelor's degree from Baptist College of Florida and his MBA from Iowa State University, where he later served as director of development for the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

\$2.37 MILLION GIFT

Applied Toward Honors Program Scholarships

Students in the University Honors Program will directly benefit from January's \$2.37 million gift from the estate of Helen Yecny – the largest gift from an individual ever made to Stan State.

Yecny passed away in March 2017. Her husband, Lou Yecny, passed away in 1995, but not before suggesting that their estate be left to area schools to fund scholarships. Stan State's share of the estate gift will fund scholarships for undergraduate students in the Honors Program.



Discover PLANNED GIVING

Planned giving is a way to integrate your personal, financial and estate planning goals. The right planned gift may provide you with tax and income benefits while helping Stan State further its mission.

Here are some of the most common planned gifts you can make:

BEQUEST

Your Will may include a gift of a specific asset, a dollar amount or a percentage of your estate to charity.

CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITIES AND CHARITABLE REMAINDER TRUSTS

These plans can provide you with lifetime income, a charitable income tax deduction and leave a nice gift to charity. If you own appreciated assets such as stock or real estate, we can help you sell those assets tax free.

LIFE ESTATE

You can make a tax deductible gift of your home and remain living in it for your lifetime. There are additional real estate sale strategies that can provide you with cash, a charitable deduction and even income.

Contact us (209) 667-3131 or visit our website today, so we may assist you in discovering the right plan for you.

plannedgiving.csustan.edu

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

STAN Magazine Survey

We are delighted to bring you this 8th issue of the redesigned STAN Magazine. Please take a moment to complete our short survey at

csustan.edu/stan-magazine/survey





A STRATEGY FOR SUCCESS

Stan State Adopts Strategic Plan:
A Sense of Place, Inclusion,
Transformation and Future

By Nan Austin

- ▶ **After a year of listening, analyzing and collaborating, Stanislaus State unveiled its University Strategic Plan, titled “A Sense of Place, Inclusion, Transformation and Future” — a flexible, living document which represents a distillation of ideas and a road map meant to guide the University’s steps into 2025.**

“I applaud the University Strategic Planning Council for its hard work and transformative vision in crafting this Strategic Plan,” said President Ellen Junn. “The finished product will guide and inspire us in helping our students achieve their dreams and advancing our region in partnership with civic and industry leaders.”

The plan is organized into five overarching principles, rather than University divisions, to signify unified purpose. Provost Kimberly Greer explained, “We had a lot of conversation about being bold in how we crafted the plan and not having it be siloed. We wanted it to be a plan where people could find inspiration for themselves and their departments in many places.”

GOAL 1: Be a student-ready university.

The success of the University is measured by the success of our diverse student body.

This goal focuses on exploring ways to create an infrastructure that helps all students achieve timely completion of degrees and build relevant learning

and leadership skills.

The plan raises the bar for completion, aiming to have 65 percent of freshmen graduate in 6 years, up from 55 percent, and to eliminate the achievement gap for students receiving Pell Grants.

Interventions tailored for first-generation, underrepresented male and underprepared students were piloted in 2016-17.

They included intensive summer and first-year

essential skills-building courses, integrated writing instruction across the curriculum and winter session math help.

Class scheduling improvements designed to better fit student needs, such as the online STAN Planner tool, will aid students in navigating complex course pathways — a daunting challenge for first-generation



college students who make up 75 percent of the student body. Plans also include a co-curricular transcript being developed to document internships, job skills workshops, service learning and other student experiences.

GOAL 2: Facilitate transformational learning experiences driven by faculty success.

The University Strategic Plan recognizes the best teachers are life-long learners, and the best education environments nurture faculty exploration and collaboration. Goal 2 strives to better align spending and personnel decisions with University priorities of faculty scholarship, diversity and equity and to engage and support faculty seeking external funding for research and student initiatives. Supporting excellence in faculty teaching provides a foundation to engage students in research, internship and mentorship and to develop innovative programs, ultimately reinvesting in student success.

GOAL 3: Boldly pursue innovation and creativity.

Stan State will pursue big ideas with an orientation toward excellence in action. Creative solutions and academic innovation are seen as the key to preparing students for a dynamic workforce and emergent professions.

Developing interdisciplinary degrees focused on solving regional problems is part of this goal, as is exploring hybrid classes and high-quality, rigorous online baccalaureate programs.

GOAL 4: Hone administrative efficacy through thoughtful stewardship of resources.

A more transparent budgeting model aims to tie financial resources to strategic plan priorities.

“I applaud the Council for its hard work and transformative vision in crafting this Strategic Plan. The finished product will guide and inspire us in helping our students achieve their dreams, and advancing our region in partnership with civic and industry leaders.”

- President Ellen Junn



Optimizing academic scheduling for degree completion, facility use and faculty availability serves dual goals, furthering student success while offering savings through efficiencies. Career ladders and professional development for staff are envisioned as part of rethinking processes to harness technology for greater efficiency and lower paper use.

GOAL 5: Forge and strengthen bonds with our communities rooted in a shared future.

Stan State will build and strengthen relationships with key strategic partners throughout the Central Valley region. Increasing public awareness of University faculty, programs, successes and services at the Turlock and Stockton campuses is a critical component in aligning and leveraging University assets to meet the needs of the respective communities we serve.

Across the six-county region, the University aims to become a greater resource by incentivizing applied research and collaboration with public and private sectors, and increasing student internships with local agencies and firms.

Transformation and Future

Implementation of the Strategic Plan began immediately, complementing

The University Strategic Plan was unanimously approved by the Academic Senate without abstention on October 31, 2017.

many student success initiatives recently undertaken by the University. Academic supports are seen as working in tandem with engagement efforts to help students speed toward graduation.

In the coming year, the University will look to establish a think tank, bringing together innovators from the University, public entities and industry to develop entrepreneurial activities. Examples might be start-up companies for faculty and students, and the creation of intellectual property. These collaborations will lay the foundation for programs responsive to Central Valley workforce needs.

Read the full plan and updates at csustan.edu/strategic-planning

University Strategic Planning Council

Membership

- Kimberly Greer, Co-Chair, Provost and Vice President, Academic Affairs (Ex-officio, voting)
 - Stuart Sims, Co-Chair, Speaker of the Faculty and Chair of Academic Senate (2016-17)
 - Cathlin Davis, Co-Chair, Speaker of the Faculty and Chair of Academic Senate (2017-18)
 - David Colnic, Chair, Department of Political Science and Public Administration
 - Darrell Haydon, Vice President for Business and Finance (Ex-officio, voting)
 - Suzanne Espinoza, Vice President for Student Affairs (Ex-officio, voting)
 - Horacio Ferriz, Department Chair, Department of Geology
 - Carmen Garcia, Administrative Analyst/Specialist, College of Business Administration
 - Eileen Hamilton, Community Member and Stanislaus State Alumna
 - Faimous Harrison, Dean of the Stockton Center
 - Annie Hor, Librarian
 - Julie Johnson, Associate Vice President for Human Resources, Title IX and Campus Compliance (Ex-officio, voting)
 - Ellen Junn, President (Ex-officio, non-voting)
 - Gitanjali Kaul, Vice President for Strategic Planning, Enrollment Management and Innovation (Ex-officio, voting)
 - Michele Lahti, Vice President for University Advancement (Ex-officio, voting)
 - Nicole Larson, President, Associated Students, Inc. (2016-17) (Ex-officio, voting)
 - Brandon Demers, President, Associated Students, Inc. (2017-18) (Ex-officio, voting)
 - Julia Reynoso, University Budget Advisory Committee
 - Ilene Ruesga, Administration Support Coordinator, Department of Communication Studies
 - Kim Tan, Professor, Department of Accounting and Finance
 - Shradha Tibrewal, Professor, Master of Social Work
 - Maggie White, Student Trustee (2016-17) Graduate Student
- ### Non-voting Consultative Support
- Diana Demetrulias, Vice Provost and Professor Emerita (Consultant)
 - Benjamin Duran, Executive Director of the Central Valley Higher Education Consortium and Retired President, Merced Community College District (Consultant)
 - Neisha Rhodes, Director for Presidential Initiatives (Administrative Liaison)
 - Harold Stanislav, Co-Chair for WASC Accreditation (Information)
 - John Tillman, Director of Institutional Research (Information)
 - Shawna Young, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs and Accreditation Liaison Officer (Information)



Making it COUNT

LOCAL WINERY COUNTS ON STAN STATE ALUMNA

By Brian VanderBeek

Arleen Wallen was agonizing over finding that perfect class to fill the gap in her general education requirement. Like most students, Wallen (then Arleen Lopes) was honing her strengths and working on her weaknesses. Her strengths included

anything to do with numbers, and while she just wasn't as successful with science, there would have to be a laboratory science course in her future if she ever planned to graduate with her bachelor's degree from Stanislaus State. ▶

► **While perusing the catalog, she spotted a winter session course in wine making. It sounded interesting, but most important it filled the lab science requirement and because it would be a winter course it would be over in just four weeks.**

“The syllabus said the course would cover wine concepts such as varietals and appellations, countries of origin, and then you’d learn the basics of making your own wine,” Wallen said. “Years later, when I came in for an interview with Dan Leonard, the vice president at Bronco Wine Company, he asked me if I knew what a varietal was and if I knew the definition of appellation. Because of that class, I did. I just took it to get my lab science out of the way because I didn’t want to take any chemistry, but it helped me answer a question for this job.”

That interview was back in 2005, and although Wallen believes she would have earned the position even without her wine knowledge, it didn’t hurt. Now, 13 years later, Wallen has risen through the ranks at Bronco Wine Company to the position of controller, and she oversees seven departments at the Ceres-based winery — the fourth-largest wine producer and the largest owner of vineyards in North America.

“You don’t realize it, but there are bits and pieces you will take from all of your classes that will stay with you throughout your life.”

- Arleen Wallen



Wallen, a native of Turlock, graduated from Stan State in 1998 with a degree in business administration and remains active at her alma mater. She is a guest speaker twice a year for Stan State’s accounting society, a member of the College of Business Administration Advisory Board and recently participated in a Warrior Wisdom dinner, a mentoring program for Stan State students.

And just like the time she had to reach into her memories to recall wine definitions, she says the lessons, details

and problem-solving methods she learned in her college classrooms come into use very frequently — even those she gathered during classes taken outside her major.

“You don’t realize it, but there are bits and pieces you will take from all of your classes that will stay with you throughout your life,” she said. “In one of my English courses, we had to write a paper on a concept from another course we were taking that we were having trouble understanding. At first, I thought it was silly to write about something we didn’t understand. But while brainstorming about the concept, and talking about it in a group setting, I suddenly understood it. The more I talked about it, the more it clicked. I do that now — when I don’t understand something I try to talk about it out loud and hear myself think.”

More practically, Wallen said the basic accounting concepts and techniques she learned in the accounting classes she took from Accounting Professor David Lindsay are used in her work on a daily basis.

“The first course I took from Dr. Lindsay was the entry-level accounting that every business major has to take,” she said. “He taught us about the fundamentals — debits, credits, T-accounts, income sheets and so forth. I already had taken an accounting course at Turlock High, but Dr. Lindsay made me fully understand what I was trying to do.”

Wallen was an honor student at Turlock High, but neither of her parents attended college, nor did her older brothers. The mother of a close friend helped her register for classes as well as talk to her about what to expect in college, but those talks couldn’t cover everything — like the first time Wallen had to come to terms with getting what for her was an undesired grade on a test.

“When I started some of my upper-division courses at Stan State, they started getting more challenging,” she said. “I got my first C on a test and I was devastated. This guy next to me got a C and he was ecstatic. It took me a while to understand that some of the classes were just going to be that way and that I would be challenged in some classes and excel in others. ►







► I'd never thought of it that way, and I learned to relax a little bit, although I never settled for any grade."

Wallen worked as a receptionist for a local dentist while in college, and upon graduation, she transitioned to accounting supervisor at Valley Dental Consulting and Leasing. In 2005 — after showing off her Stan State-gained wine knowledge — she took a job at Bronco as a staff accountant, preparing the financial statements for its agricultural division.

...she has taken notice of how well-prepared Stan State grads are, not only to interview but to step into the workforce.



Since then, she's enjoyed a steady move up the corporate ladder. It's a lot of work, but she has great support at Bronco Wine Company as well as at home, where she and her husband Jared — the owner/operator of Shirrtail Graphics in Denair — are raising two children: Alexandria, 16, and Cameron, 14.

Wallen's current position represents her sixth promotion at Bronco, and she handles a lot of the company's interviewing responsibilities. Wallen said she has taken notice of how well-prepared Stan State grads are, not only to interview but to step into the workforce.

"I know that most applicants who have come through Stan State are going to be rooted in the area," she said. "If I'm interviewing an accounting applicant, it helps that I know Stan State's course curriculum — I know what they've learned at Stan State, and I know some of the things Stan State students know that other universities don't teach."

She also wants the students to know that when she's on campus, she's not only handing out advice, but she's also listening and looking-out for future Bronco employees.

"I always hang around after events to speak with students and to answer their questions," Wallen said. "We like to recruit from Stanislaus, and it makes sense for us. The majority of my employees once were Stan State students." 🍷

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*Unveiled at Stan State's Unity and Inclusion Week,
this slogan was written and voted on by students.*

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NEW DIVERSITY CENTER

A Place to Learn, Discuss or Perhaps Just to Chill

By Brian VanderBeek

It's a space with no formal name, very few rules and no restrictions on its use. But there is no doubting the potential importance of Stan State's new Diversity Center to the campus community.

"This is a place where all are embraced," said Stan State President Ellen Junn during the Nov. 29 dedication ceremony. "A place that not only allows individuals to embrace their own sometimes-complex identities, but also allows everyone the freedom to learn from each other as well as the freedom to embrace and validate each other."

Located on the second floor of the Vasché Library Building, the Diversity Center — which will be officially named at a later date — is a place for learning, for fellowship, for open and free expression and sometimes just a place to chill. The role of the Center will expand as a permanent hire is made to oversee and develop programs, but the basic charter is to support students — especially those from underrepresented groups — as they explore their own diverse identities and perspectives in a spirit of collaboration and with appreciation for the richness of the student population.

"The new Center firmly establishes a place on campus for students to come and have courageous conversations about the things that matter to them in a supportive environment," said Matthew Lopez-Phillips, dean of students and associate vice president for student affairs. "It is a safe place to hang out and discuss what is happening on an individual, community and national level."

The Center was established in direct response to student voices seeking



a space where Stan State's diversity could be celebrated, and where greater understanding between University groups could be fostered through education and discussion in a safe and inclusive environment. It was more than a year in development.

"The Diversity Center is a critical component in recognizing our diverse student population and providing opportunities for students from underserved communities to be empowered," said Vice President for Student Affairs Suzanne Espinoza. "The work the Center will accomplish is central to the mission of Student Affairs to prepare students for success during and after college."



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The dedication ceremony featured blessings and inspirational words from several speakers, including Stan State political science instructor Andrew Conteh, who was Sierra Leone's ambassador to the USSR from 1976-81 and later a delegate to the United Nations General Assembly. He spoke of the need for spaces like the Diversity Center where people can be free to express themselves.

"We need to understand that all human beings have the same human rights, and feeling safe is one of those human rights," he said. "Regardless of race, all of our human rights are indivisible and must be respected. Diversity is a fact of life and the failure to understand that can lead to conflict."

The Center's dedication served as a fitting cap to a calendar year in which the University redoubled its efforts to acknowledge, address and celebrate its diversity in many ways. From a day of remembrance for the Japanese-Americans sent to internment camps during World War II, to the dedication of the Peace Pole and discussions during Unity and Inclusion Week, to the full spectrum of colors and cultures on display during President Junn's inauguration — 2017 certainly was a year of celebrating diversity at Stan State.

"The dedication of the Center is a part of our continuing effort to deepen and make visible our strong support for a diverse, inclusive and welcoming University environment," Junn said. 🍎

Attending the dedication of the Diversity Center:

1 - Catherine Hannula, user engagement and outreach librarian, and Kristin White, web services librarian, display their We STANd Together t-shirts

2 - Stephanie Hubbard, special assistant to the associate vice president/dean of students, and Kilolo Brodie, associate professor of social work

3 - Allysa Gonzales, USU Board of Directors chair; Jennifer Galeana-Vasquez, USU Board of Directors vice chair; and Brandon Demers, ASI president

4 - Stanislaus State President Ellen Junn addresses students, faculty, staff and special guests

5 - Mi'shaye Venerable, ASI director for diversity

6 - Noriel Mostajo, ASI governmental relations coordinator, shares his thoughts with local media

Reflecting *on* LEADERSHIP

UNIVERSITY REFLECTING POND
NAMED FOR PAST PRESIDENT

By Nan Austin



A transformational leader for California State University, Stanislaus returned to campus to be honored on Sept. 29 with the dedication of the Dr. Marvalene Hughes University Reflecting Pond. Dr. Hughes announced the creation of a student leadership training initiative at the event.

Hughes led Stan State from August 1994 to June 2005 and was the University's longest-serving, first woman and first African-American president. During her tenure, the campus nearly doubled its enrollment, adding six buildings, academic programs and important accreditations. She also oversaw the construction of four lakes that connect

her work at the state, national and international level in developing mentorship programs for underrepresented educational leaders.

"Marvalene's focus, her unrelenting commitment, was education, and particularly for those who needed a chance," said Patrick Johnston, state senator for the 5th District during Hughes' tenure. He worked with Dr. Hughes to create the Stockton Center.

American Poet Nikki Giovanni wrote a poem for the event, titled "Quiet," a tribute to Dr. Hughes and her late husband, Dr. David Brinks. Legislators brought proclamations from Washington and Sacramento.

Dr. Hughes said it was her mother, an elementary school principal, who developed her passion for service. "It's important that you be thinking about what you can do to open doors for others. Because when you open doors for others, you are making it possible for everybody to advance," she said.

In that spirit, she committed to nurture future leaders. "What I promise to you, for the rest of my life, and even after, I am committed to making whatever leadership training opportunities can be made, for student leaders on this campus."

Last fall, Dr. Hughes founded the President Emerita Marvalene Hughes Leadership Institute, which will receive an annual gift and an estate bequest to assure her work continues.

Elevating and expanding access to education is of critical importance, she said. "Around the world, cultures vary; religious affiliations are very diverse; politics are vastly different; and human and ethnic identities are varied. The one common denominator is education. It is through this creative vehicle that worldwide knowledge is expanded. Through education, possibilities are opened and dreams are realized."

To the faculty, Hughes said, "Trust your capacity to create your own 'Silicon Valley.' ... You have that capacity to discover new knowledge and shape the future through the wisdom you pass on to students." ◉



**READ DR. HUGHES'
FULL REMARKS**
csustan.edu/reflecting

to the Reflecting Pond to form a 12-million-gallon storage system for storm runoff and well water, providing for landscape needs without tapping municipal drinking water.

"This body of water reflects not just the beauty of the University, but also behind the scenes its purpose is multi-faceted, supporting the work and well-being of the campus," said President Ellen Junn. "And as I reflect on Dr. Hughes' legacy, I see similarities. She is here today, as vibrant and beautiful as ever — but at her central core — always — is a purpose — to be a leader, a mentor and a friend."

The ceremony brought dignitaries to campus to salute Dr. Hughes and





Family nurse practitioner master's students, from left to right, Lin Wan, Arnold Velasquez and Soria Beltran.

HEEDING THE CALL

Stan State Receives \$1.6 Million Gift to Train Family Nurse Practitioners

By Brian VanderBeek

The need for primary care providers is acute throughout California and critical in the Central Valley. Stanislaus State is stepping up to help solve that problem.

Thanks to a \$1.6 million gift from Livingston Community Health, in partnership with Legacy Health Endowment, the University has established a family nurse practitioner (FNP) master's degree program at the Turlock campus.

Stan State will use the gift to support tuition assistance for students who plan to live and work in the region and for mentoring initiatives that will connect them with local healthcare professionals. The gift will also support initial programmatic costs associated with starting the FNP program.

"We could not be more grateful for this transformational gift, which will significantly enhance the Stanislaus State School of Nursing," said Stan State President Ellen Junn. "Our University is here for the purpose of preparing our region's workforce, and there is a great need for nurse practitioners in the Central Valley."

A study released last fall by the Healthforce Center at UC San Francisco underscored the dire need for primary care providers in California. The study identified the statewide need while pointing to the Central Valley as the neediest region.

The study found that:

- By 2030, demand for primary care clinicians in California will increase 12-17%
- Physician supply will decline between 2016 and 2030

According to the Fresno-based Central Valley Health Policy Institute, there

are four primary concerns that feed the deficit: lower Medicare reimbursement rates in the Central Valley than in urban areas; one-third of California's physicians nearing retirement age; the lack of academic resources for young doctors; and a desire for young practitioners to work in higher-income areas.

"The healthcare workforce shortages, long-term care crisis and the overall health needs of the northern San Joaquin Valley constitute complex challenges. This program represents a first step in addressing at least one."

- Jeffrey Lewis
President & CEO, Legacy Health Endowment

"California faces a looming shortage of primary care clinicians in the coming decades," said Janet Coffman, Healthforce Research Faculty Member. "If we continue along our current path, more and more Californians will need to visit the emergency room for conditions like asthma, ear infections or flu because they lack a primary care provider."

The gift is an example of how Stanislaus State and local businesses and organizations are able to partner for the purpose of addressing specific educational needs in the region.

"We know that a very large percentage of our graduates settle in the area," said Debra Tavernier, director of the Stanislaus State School of Nursing. "With the need for medical professionals so great, we're excited to be in a position to continue to train the next generation of nurse practitioners in our region."

This spring, 24 students are already enrolled in the program working toward their master's degrees.

"It has always been a dream to serve my community as a primary care provider, and this program is giving me the opportunity to do so," said FNP student Arnold Velasquez. "I had an awesome

experience in the undergraduate nursing program at Stan State. Choosing Stan State for the FNP program was a no brainer. This program will produce many quality health care providers that will be caring for current generations and generations to come."

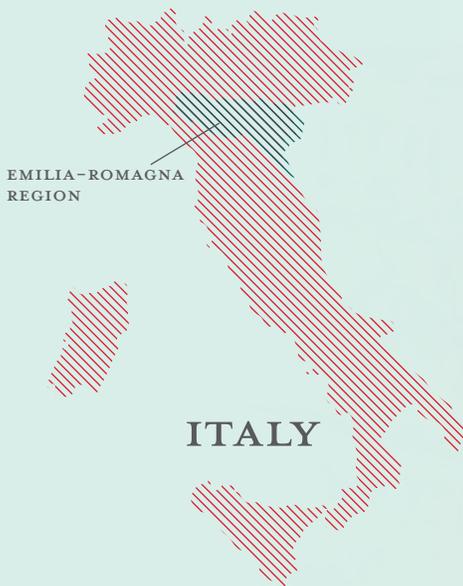
Future cohorts will enroll up to 30 students.

The School of Nursing had a long-term plan to establish this program, having secured approval from the CSU Chancellor's Office. This gift allows the University to accelerate that timeline.

"Having an FNP program at Stan State will increase access to care and supply patients with providers who have a multi-faceted approach, drawing from their acute care bedside nursing and

higher education practitioner training," said Newman native and FNP student Courtney Fontana. "This gift is a benefit to Stan State itself, and also to all of the communities it serves." 📍





From Italy TO TURLOCK

Farmers Visit Stan State to Discuss
Common Sustainability Issues

By Brian VanderBeek

Within a few minutes of the arrival of 25 Italian farmers at Stan State's Sustainable Garden, the leaves, twigs and branches began to fly.

The group was brought to campus by Dr. Costanza Zavalloni, a professor of plant science in the Agriculture Department, and was here in early February to talk to students and tour orchards, nurseries and vineyards in the region to compare ideas and practices about sustainable farming.

The moment the farmers reached the Sustainable Garden, where they were greeted by about 20 Stan State agriculture students, they saw there was work to be done. There were Muscat table grapes vines, as well as pluot, cherry and peach trees that needed pruning. And since there also just happened to be no shortage of the tools needed to do the trimming, the farmers clicked into work mode with a combination of knowledge, speed, precision and purpose that amazed the students.

"I'm learning how to prune just watching them," said Jose Ortiz, an Oakdale High

graduate who transferred to Stan State from Modesto Junior College. "This is really cool. They're showing me a lot of things I wouldn't even be thinking about if I came out here and tried to prune a tree."

In short order, the tools were handed to the students, who took over the task. The Italian visitors quickly became the educators, as Zavalloni watched and beamed. She is a native of Italy and worked in agriculture research there before coming to the United States and earning her doctorate at Michigan State University. The farmers' group received a grant in Italy to visit California, specifically to learn about sustainable farming practices they might be able to apply to their own region.

"I'm watching the Italians and my students and I can see that they're having a good time and they're not only learning, but they're amazed at what they are learning," Zavalloni said. "A couple of the students already have told me that they had no idea there was a proper way to prune a tree. And there's not just one way

to prune a tree, but it's done differently in different parts of the world. A lot of it has to do with the differences between the regions, and if we didn't have these visitors, my students never would have seen how they do this in Italy."

The majority of the group lives and works in the Emilia-Romagna region of central Italy, where the climate is very similar to that of the Central Valley, and thus the farmers frequently are at the mercy of the weather. The visiting farmers raise a wide variety of products, most notably wine grapes, kiwi, apricots and peaches, but a few raise the young swine that becomes the region's world-savored prosciuttos, and at least one of the visitors is a cheese maker who specializes in the region's exclusive and authentic Parmigiano-Reggiano.

"It was very interesting being with the students, and coming out to the farms has shown us that we deal with many of the same problems — not just the lack of water," said Imario Montebello, who has fruit trees and produces grapes for the region's famed Prosecco (Italian sparkling



“The more we talk, the more we realize that all of us are wondering the same things about the future of farming, specifically, where do we go now?”

- *Imario Montebello*



wine) in the town of Soliera, about 25 miles northwest of Bologna. “The more we talk, the more we realize that all of us are wondering the same things about the future of farming, specifically, where do we go now? Things are tough now for farmers and they aren’t going to get any better, so it’s important for us to talk to the farmers here, to talk about the common problems, and perhaps we can come up with common solutions.”

Turlock was the base and Stan State was the first stop on the group’s three-day tour of the region. They spent an afternoon at 400+ acre Frantz Nursery in Hickman, where co-owner Mike Frantz shared how water is obtained, stored and used,

and how the nursery’s irrigation runoff is collected and reused.

The following day, the group visited experimental nurseries in Tracy and Modesto, then drove north to Lodi to visit wineries and enjoy a reception with wine growers at the Lodi Wine Commission. Their final

day in the area was spent at a Turlock Irrigation lateral project outside Hilmar, followed by a visit to Duarte Nursery in Hughson and to the Ferrari family’s almond ranch in Ballico, where because of the unseasonably warm weather the first blossoms were already out.

The group’s tight time schedule kept them from spending as much time on campus and with the farmers as they would have liked.

“We all were very pleased with how we were received at the University,” Montebello said. “There is only one regret, that we didn’t have enough

time here to really do anything at the University and at the farms. Maybe we will put it on our schedules to do this again, and now we know the way to get here.”

That was to be expected, Zavalloni pointed out. After all, this was only the first of what she hopes will be many visits to our region from Italian farmers. The goal, she said, is to open a dialogue that will help solve many of the sustainability issues shared by both fertile growing regions.

“For example, in Italy they prune trees so they can do all the harvest from the ground, which saves on labor costs,” she said. “And who knows if this region will have to start doing the same if labor becomes too expensive? Maybe the growers in the Central Valley will be forced to adopt many of the methods that they use in Italy.

“Overall this visit is all I could have hoped for, and I hope this becomes an annual event.” 🍷

TECHNOLOGY ENHANCED ACTIVE LEARNING CLASSROOM



1 MAIN COMPUTER

2 VIA TECHNOLOGY

8 ADA-COMPLIANT TABLE

9 BOUNCE PAD HOUSING





4 80-INCH PHILIPS DISPLAYS

5 DOCUMENT CAMERA

6 COLLABORATIVE PODS

7 BLU-RAY PLAYER

Over the past year, technology upgrades were completed in 20 classrooms, including Stanislaus State's first Technology Enhanced Active Learning Classroom. Stan State was one of the first to be selected to participate in a Kramer Electronics beta program — along with SpaceX, Lucas Films, NASA and The Ohio State University — to launch the cutting-edge Kramer Control collaborative classroom solution. Through this program, the technology was used on our campus before it was fully released.

The system, leveraging Kramer Control coupled with the VIA application, provides a fully wireless experience allowing users to connect a PC, Mac, Chromebook, tablet or mobile device to span/mirror their screen onto any display in the room.

Here's an inside look at the features students and faculty can utilize in these interactive spaces, which are strategically designed for a flipped classroom experience. Students can interact in groups, engage in classwork activities and also complete their homework in a collaborative environment — all while utilizing technology that blends the experience together.

- 1 - **MAIN COMPUTER** Monitor is touch screen enabled for annotation and features an iPad to collaborate with the entire classroom through the Kramer Control and VIA application
- 2 - **VIA TECHNOLOGY** Download the VIA application on any device and enter the room code to begin presenting
- 3 - **EQUAL SOUND DISPERSION SPEAKERS** Recessed in the ceiling for 180-degree sound response throughout the space
- 4 - **80-INCH PHILIPS DISPLAYS** Feature hue lighting and a dedicated iPad control panel for individual Pod control and interaction with the instructor
- 5 - **DOCUMENT CAMERA** 60 FPS camera to display and analyze objects and broadcast live writing
- 6 - **COLLABORATIVE PODS** Five pods with backlighting connect up to 6 students each to span/mirror devices to any screen in the room
- 7 - **BLU-RAY PLAYER** Play virtually every Blu-ray, DVD and audio format disc or USB, easily utilizing multiple disc formats within a single system
- 8 - **ADA-COMPLIANT TABLE** Provides a sitting or standing workstation
- 9 - **BOUNCE PAD HOUSING** iPad can be detached and used to control the app from anywhere in the room
- 10 - **SHORT THROW EPSON PROJECTOR** (not pictured) Connected to VIA application and features a touch enabled surface

IN THE WEEDS

Stan State Continues to Take Fresh Looks at Locally Based Research

By Brian VanderBeek

Charcoal and weeds. Basically, things that can be found in almost every backyard in the Central Valley — seemingly mundane items that can't possibly have any interest for university-level research ... right?

For Costanza Zavalloni and Andrew Gardner, two Stanislaus State professors who arrived on campus in 2016, thinking about charcoal and weeds takes up a disproportionate amount of their waking hours.



Zavalloni, who teaches agriculture studies, doesn't mind getting her hands blackened by charcoal and she's studying ways to use it as a soil amendment called biochar.

"It's made in a similar way as the one you put in your grill," she said. "The idea came from the people who used to live in the Amazon Basin 2,000 years ago. They put charcoal together with waste residues in their fields and they noticed that the crop production in the charcoaled area was higher."

Meanwhile, biological sciences professor Gardner frequently finds himself ankle-deep in what most Californians must think are roadside weeds.

"These plants have been studied for a long time, but through methods developed in the 1700s — the old school of figuring out how to classify plants by comparing them to old specimens," Gardner said. "We're

applying modern DNA sequencing to figure out where these plants really are related. The core of my research is to take a group of plants and develop an evolutionary tree that we can use to interpret the historical processes to which the plants were subjected." Zavalloni and Gardner are in different colleges and campus buildings, but what they share is a passion and hunger for research that runs throughout Stan State. "President (Ellen) Junn seems very interested in raising the research profile of the University and I get the sense a lot of the faculty is excited about that," Gardner said. "It's clearly not our primary mission, and that is the kind of thing embedded in the historical DNA of the CSU system, so changing that is going to take some effort."

What certainly will help foster the development of research methods at Stan State is an understanding of how the results will directly benefit the region served by the University.

Research by Zavalloni

In the case of Zavalloni's research on biochar as a soil amendment, the possibilities are as abundant as the local produce.

"Biochar has been used in grapes with beneficial effects on soil water retention and I'd like to see it used more in other tree fruits," said Zavalloni, who was born in Italy and earned her doctorate at Michigan State University. "The first great potential for California is in water reduction, since biochar holds water and holds it for a long time. The second impact would be in pest and disease control. Biochar has been found to help with pest resistance since it has a hormonal-like effect on the plant that increases their resistance to pests. If the use of biochar results in the use of one fewer pest spray, then it also will positively impact air and water quality."

Gardner's Research

Gardner's research is much more elemental and involves using modern DNA sequencing to trace the genetic lineage of plants most people generally consider to be simply invasive nuisances.

"My research is about building an evolutionary history — a structure I can use to infer the evolution of other things, like flower shape or continental occupancy," said Gardner, who earned his Ph.D. at the University of Wisconsin.

While working on his doctorate, Gardner frequently invited and worked with undergraduates in his research projects, and he is doing the same at Stan State.

"They're involved with all aspects of the research," said Gardner, adding that the student work runs the gamut from cataloging and database-entry to field work. "When an undergrad comes to me and says they've heard about what I'm doing and they find it interesting, I always invite them to participate in the lab. My research students are engaged with multiple independent projects, which allows them to find their own niches in our work. We have weekly meetings to discuss our projects, and that's when they share their progress and generate many of our best ideas."

"My focus here has been to lay a foundation for more local research, and I'm trying to provide as many opportunities as possible for students to get involved." 🍷



Right: Dr. Andrew Gardner
Far right: Dr. Costanza Zavalloni





Stanislaus State

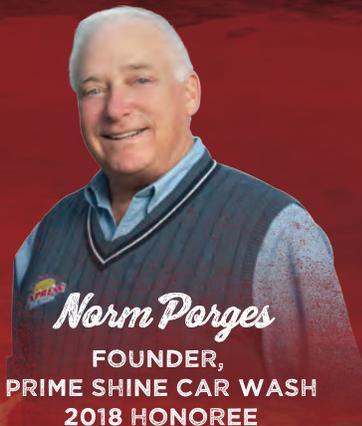
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