

CSU Stanislaus Ag Monthly



Volume 1

2014-2015



CSU Stanislaus Ag Monthly

Get the Inside Scoop for May

Volume: 1

Issue: 6

May 2015



Dear Readers,

We hope you all have enjoyed these monthly publications and found them useful. The Agricultural Studies program and Ag Ambassadors have seen a lot of growth during this past year and this bulletin is one of the many projects that we hope added value to your college experience. We know that being the first editorial team of the CSU Stanislaus Ag Monthly has helped to make our college experience fuller and years from now we hope to look back and see that it has become a primary source of information for our agricultural students.

Of course this is only one of the many ways that students can become involved. As you read over our final 2015 issue, we hope that you are inspired to participate in the events listed. We also want you to know that you are empowered to bring your own ideas to life. If there are any

events or projects that you feel our organization should participate in, we encourage you to contact the officer team.

Finally, we would like to thank our editorial team who contributed articles, ideas, and their time. As many of us know, the first year of any project is full of challenges, surprises, and achievements. It has been a pleasure working with you; we are very proud of what we created together.

If anyone is interested in joining the writing team, contact the 2015-2016 reporter, John Westburg at agambassaors@csustan.edu.

Thanks for a great year!

Your editors,

Helen Ott & Nina Ferretti

Dear Agriculture Ambassadors,

This has been a very challenging, but rewarding year for the Agriculture Ambassador club. We have successfully navigated the changing leadership of our program while also increasing the quality and quantities of the activities in which we have participated. In the last year, our club has been involved in: the Stanislaus County Fair, Taste of the Valley, a Corn Maze, a Thanksgiving Food Drive, Meet and Greet, two networking workshops, Fertile Ground Networking Mixer, Ag Awareness, and Ag Edventure.

Throughout these activities and student involvement, we have

helped the less fortunate in our communities, provided a voice for agriculture, and fostered a network through our friends and peers. These achievements are not only helping our community, but also shaping us into individuals that will continue to impact our communities in a positive way for years to come. During this last year, I have gotten to know many of our members on a personal level, and I hope that through participation in the Agriculture Ambassador's you have also created friendships that will last throughout college and after.

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve as the President of our club and I will always look back with pride of the activities that we accom-

plished this year. My hope is that the officer team and I are leaving the club better off than when we started and that after each year the club is able to continue to grow and expand.

Thank you for working diligently this last year; without the members of this club and their contributions to each of our events we would have been unable to accomplish a single thing.

Sincerely,

Heath Sousa

Come grow with us!

A Message from The Rolland Starn Endowed Chair of Agricultural Studies

It is with great pleasure that I present to you this special edition of the CSU Stan Monthly Bulletin. I am particularly proud of the work and commitment of our students, in developing the bulletin to strengthen the close-knit family environment we enjoy and also engage all our stakeholders. Special credit goes to the editorial team, led by Helen Ott, for laying a solid foundation for others to build upon. This is one of the many signs that CSU Stanislaus Agricultural Studies Program is growing and we are proud of our progress!

Within the past few weeks, we concluded the hire of a new faculty to teach plant science courses. We developed three new courses and modified two existing courses. A review of the curriculum is ongoing. We are starting an on-campus produce market to provide students with the experiential learning opportunity and apply the principles and theories covered in the classrooms. These are some of the steps we are taking in our pursuit of academic excellence to ensure that our students are competitive in the labor market and as successful agribusiness entrepreneurs. This bulletin highlights some of the interesting student activities within the past six months. It also recognizes our donors and supporters, and profiles some of the outstanding faculty and staff that make us tick. Rightfully, a special tribute is paid to our Agricultural Industry Advisory Committee, led by Mr. Bill Mattos.

Apart from some of the above listed highlights, this edition of the bulletin is special for two basic reasons: First, It showcases our graduating students, who will be starting new and exciting chapters in their professional careers within the next few weeks. Some of them have displayed remarkable qualities as leaders in our Agricultural Ambassadors student organization. I am happy that they will now have the opportunity to become problem solvers and leaders by translating their college experiences and skills into solutions in the Ag Industry. Second, the bulletin also profiles the incoming executive committee of the Agricultural Ambassadors. The incoming executive has already taken up the mantle of leadership of the organization and committed to making the coming academic year an exciting one! We all look forward to welcoming a new group of Agricultural Studies Students in the Fall.

Many exciting initiatives are in the pipeline in the Agricultural Studies Program and we will be exploring many more. If you would love to hear more about our plans and success stories, feel free to email me directly at oodeh1@csustan.edu. I also welcome information from employers regarding opportunities for our students. We have outstanding and responsible students, who are ready to work in this community.

I encourage you to stay in touch and continue to grow with us!

Sincerely,

Dr. Oluwarotimi Odeh

Come grow with us!

Here are the 2014-2015 highlights of the Ag Studies Department and Ag Ambassadors!

We started off the new semester by establishing our mark on campus and adding the Agriculture Ambassadors Club table to the campus quad area.



The twelfth annual **Tastes of the Valley**, was held on October 2, 2014. Industry leaders, agriculturalists, Stanislaus State alumni, and family of Agricultural Studies students gathered to attend the fundraiser held at the Turlock Fair Grounds. Wineries and breweries from across the valley supplied samples of their products to the guests while local restaurants showcased tastings of their best dishes. Thanks to the many donors and sponsors of the live and silent auction items, funds were generated to support the CSU Stanislaus Agricultural Studies program scholarships, club activities, outreach events, and the sustainable garden.

In November, many industry leaders in agriculture, economic research, government and education met at the essential elements series conference in Coalinga, the **West Hills College Essential Elements Series**. A group of the Agricultural Studies students from a variety of concentrations attended to voice our thoughts and participate in the collaborative process. Students spoke with panelists on career employment readiness issues and learned a lot about upcoming agricultural product distribution changes and the new emerging opportunities in food marketing for California. As the only student body present at the conference, leaders were surprised and delighted to hear the opinions of younger adults.



In October, the Ag Ambassadors visited **RAM Farms** to complete the corn maze. It was a fun evening for everyone.

Come grow with us!

At the **First Fertile Ground Networking Workshop**, students were coached on fundamental networking and job search skills. The goal of the series was to prepare students for the first Fertile Ground Networking Mixer in April, where students will have a chance to meet with representatives who are looking for employees and interns.



Every year, the Agriculture Ambassadors collect items for a **Thanksgiving Food Drive**. This year the Agriculture Ambassadors put together 30 boxes of food for the less fortunate in the community. With the help of the local United Samaritans, the boxes were allocated to those who were struggling to feed their families. These boxes included Thanksgiving essentials like stuffing, potatoes, green beans, bread and more. The club voted to establish similar annual food drive in the spring for families in need during the Easter holiday.

The Agricultural Ambassador club officers and members convened at our campus event center for the **Semester Kick off Meet and Greet**. They caught up on current and past agricultural events with one another and unveiled our Agricultural Departments new apparel line. The club was introduced to Agricultural Studies Alumni and some of the newest Agricultural Studies students. The gathering was casual and enjoyable with plenty of pizza, beverages and team activities.



The **Second Fertile Ground Networking Workshop 2** took place on February 27th. Professionals from a wide variety of fields and businesses were present including Foster Farms, Gallo, TID, Stanislaus Farm Supply and Stanislaus County. Students were able to talk casually with professionals to work on their networking skills and at the end of the mixer were given feedback on how they can do better in future networking opportunities.

The **Fertile Ground Networking Mixer** was organized and hosted by Women in Agriculture for Mentoring Empowerment (WAME) for the benefit of the Agriculture Studies Department. It provided agricultural students with a comfortable open environment for professional networking and links to future career opportunities with



representatives from companies across the valley and elected officials' offices. During the event, WAME honored Betty Wynne, a founding member of California Women in Agriculture, for her promotion of women and contributions to agriculture over the last 40 years. WAME has announced plans to grow this event with a goal of 500 people in attendance in the year 2020.



Come grow with us!

The Agricultural Studies Department
would like to thank all of our sponsors.

We appreciate your support!

A.L. Gilbert Co.	Muller Berry Farms
Ag Production Co.	Oak Valley Bank, Oakdale
American Ag Credit	R.C. Starn and Sons Farm
Bronco Wine Company	Operations
Braden Farms	Rabobank
California Poultry Federation	Ricky Ricardo Promotions
Diamond Foods	Safeway Division Office
Duarte Nursery	Save Mart Supermarkets
E&J Gallo	Stanislaus Farm Supply
Farm Management Inc.	Superior Fruit Ranch
Friends of the Stanislaus County Fair Foundation	Turlock Irrigation District
Garton Tractor Inc.	Veterinary Service Inc.
Hilmar Cheese Co.	Wahl, Willmse, Wilson
J.S. West Milling Co.	Wells Fargo Bank
JKB Energy	Wilkey Industries
JM Equipment Inc	Women in Agriculture For Mentoring and
Lander Veterinary Clinic	Empowerment (WAME)
Lyons Investments/Mapes Ranch	Yosemite Farm Credit
Modesto Irrigation District	

Come grow with us!

The Agricultural Studies Department staff and students
would like to thank the
Agricultural Studies Industry Advisory Committee.

Bill Ahlem	Jim Andersen	John Mendes	Ed Perry
Les Crutcher	Margo Souza	Steve Gemperle	Bill Mattos
John Scheuber	Mark Anglin	Bill Hoobler	Michael Frantz
Wendy Olmstead	Krista Vannest	Jarod Martin	
Patty Page	Glen Anderson	Stefanie Rocha	

We appreciate your support and the work you do
to make our department a success!

The Agricultural Studies Industry Advisory Committee is a group of individuals that provide advisory input for the Agricultural Studies program and the Rolland Starn Endowed Chair of Agricultural Studies. Input ranges from on program improvements to providing resources from supporters and opportunities for students through scholarships, internships, and job shadowing. These members include faculty from local community college campuses and prominent industry professionals. The committee meets three times a year with the dean, provost, and the Agricultural Studies Department faculty in order to work together to advance and add value to the program. This committee is important to our future as they are the bridge between CSU Stanislaus and the professional industry.

We would like to show our appreciation to Bill Mattos, President of Agriculture Industry Advisory Council, who donated a \$250 award prize for the bulletin naming contest. We are excited to announce that our bulletin now has an official title: CSU Stanislaus Ag Monthly. Thank you to all who contributed names for the contest. Congratulations to our winner, **Corrine Roberts** whose submission received the most votes!

Come grow with us!

2015 Agricultural Studies Graduates: Agricultural Economics



Karen Fredriks

I plan to work for my family business, Fredriks Nursery.



James Hurd

My future plan is to grow with Foster Farms. I am currently the Egg-Room Lead Person at the Foster Farms Turkey Hatchery.



Nicole Serpa

I plan to continue to work for Yosemite Farm Credit and work towards completing my MBA at CSU Stanislaus.



Jessica DesGeorges

I plan to continue working at Hughson Nut. In the near future, I hope to get into agricultural lending and within a year start my courses for agricultural appraisal.

** Ag Ambassador Historian*

Come grow with us!

2015 Agricultural Studies Graduates: Agricultural Economics

Marilyn Castaneda

I wish to expand upon the Agricultural Studies degree I have earned by exploring a career path through local agricultural brokerage firms and commodity boards. I also plan to effect agriculture legislation for the better by pursuing a political career that will allow me to represent local California interests.



Brian Silva

I plan on working for my family business and as a crop advisor.



Nina Ferretti

I plan to pursue an MBA focusing on courses in entrepreneurship and marketing. My goal is to work on a sales and marketing or brand management team for a processor or commodity board.



Heath Sousa

Minor: Geography

I plan to continue working for the Farm Service Agency for the next few years. After that I will be traveling overseas with my beautiful wife.

**Ag Ambassador President*

Come grow with us!

2015 Agricultural Studies Graduates: Agricultural Economics



Corrine Roberts

I am currently applying to jobs in the valley and keeping my options open where I would like to work in marketing or the business side of a company.



Gaby Ortiz

I plan to continue working for the Farm Service Agency with the goal of being hired full time after I graduate or I would like to pursue a career with an agricultural bank.

**Ag Ambassador Vice President*



Santiago Garcia

I plan to pursue a career in sales or farm management.



Lauren Arnerich

Having a successful career in agriculture and continuing to rodeo are my goals.

Come grow with us!

2015 Agricultural Studies Graduates: Agricultural Economics



Jesus Martinez

My future plans are to work for the U.S.D.A as a meat or food inspector.



James E. Kinzie

Become full partner at B.E. Lynch & Sons Inc. (Developing Leases and Almond Orchards as well as farming them).



Joseph Antonacci

Continue my career at Helena Chemical Company, Modesto.

**Ag Ambassador ASI Representative*



Ricardo Macias

My plan is to work in the agriculture sales industry.

Come grow with us!

2015 Agricultural Studies Graduates: Agricultural Economics



Alexandria Assali

In the future, I plan to work for Gallo Winery and marketing the family business.

**Ag Ambassador Treasurer*



Miguel Vasquez

I plan to continue working for my family operation with plans to expand and offer a full line of almond products and services.



Lexi Bavaro

After graduation, I will continue working with my family farming business.



Alexandra Mapes

My plan is to take the CBEST and start substitute teaching while I get my credentials.

Come grow with us!

2015 Agricultural Studies Graduates: Agricultural Biology



Spencer K. Voss

Mid Valley Agriculture,
Sustainability Coordinator,
Oakdale, CA



Ryan Garcia

I plan to pursue a career as a crop advisor.



Emily Breuss-Piersma

Minor: Geography

I plan to continue working for Hilmar Cheese, hopefully finding a position that will better suit my degree. Eventually, I would like to work for a nursery or own my own.

Come grow with us!

2015 Agricultural Studies Graduates: Sustainability

Helen Ott

Minor: Environment and Resource Studies
I will be working as a field technician with
F&R Ag Services providing regulatory
assistance to dairymen in the Central Valley.

**Ag Ambassador Reporter*



2015 Agricultural Studies Graduates: Special Concentration (Ag Biology, Ag Economics, And Finance Courses)



Jacqueline Silva Tabarez

I plan to help expand the family
farm while pursuing a career as a
Pest Control Advisor.

**Ag Ambassador Secretary*

Come grow with us!

2015-2016 Agriculture Ambassador Officer Team



Gaby Ortiz
Agriculture Economics
PRESIDENT



Juan Rios
Sustainable Agriculture
VICE PRESIDENT



Stephanie Lopez
Sustainable Agriculture
SECRETARY



Loryn Johns
Agricultural Economics
TREASURER and HISTORIAN



John Westburg
Agriculture Economics
REPORTER



Dervin Garcia
Agriculture Economics
OFFICER ALTERNATE

Come grow with us!

During the fall 2014 semester, students organized projects in their communities.

Below are the summaries and outcomes of the projects.

Canned Food and Clothing Drive: Ag Service Learning Project Fall 2014

Danielle Axley, Steven Baptista, Katie Jo Dumford, Brooke Carey, Darren Jones, Kacey Gookin, and Nick Ballatore

GOAL: Our goal through this project was to collect as many cans and non-perishable food items as possible. We established an initial goal of 100 non-perishable food items and 10 bags of clothes. We also aimed to raise hunger awareness and help those in need during the holiday season. We accomplished this task through reaching out to the communities of Stanislaus and San Joaquin counties for donations. The donated items were brought to the United Samaritans Foundations in Turlock.

METHODS: To raise awareness of our campaign, we posted fliers detailing our campaign and who we are working with. To collect the non-perishable food items, we posted fliers throughout our communities. For the collection of large donations, fliers and a letterhead from USF authenticated our project.

WHERE: We reached out in our local communities to collect our items. The members of our group came from throughout Stanislaus County. Thus, we collected items from Ceres, Turlock, La Grange, Modesto, Linden/Lodi, Oakdale, and Ripon/Riverbank.

RESULTS: We were very proud of the results and success of our project! We collected a large amount of items to donate. Cans: 495, Boxed Items: 156, Bags of Clothes: 21, 651 Pounds of Food, 500-600 pieces of clothing, 3 teddy bears!



Come grow with us!

Farm to Fork 2014: Hughson School District

Inderpal Pamma, Lexi Mapes, and Lauren Hammond

Over the last three months, our group from Dr. Odeh's Professionalism in Agriculture class began working with Hughson School District to start a program that would connect high school students in Ms. Schmidig's agriculture class from Hughson High School, and students in Mrs. Lambert's third grade class at Hughson Elementary. The goal of this program was to instill the importance of agriculture to a younger audience. We believe that children need to begin learning where their food comes from, long before they reach high school. We wanted to show them not only how



a plant grows, but the amount of effort it takes for farmers to get a plant to the point of consumption. Many students believed that their food simply came from the grocery store, as if it just appeared there.

In November we visited the school. We brought the elementary students to the high school and paired them up with their "Buddy", a high school student that they will be working with for the remainder of the school year. We began with a small presentation and video. The video explained everything from planting, cultivating, and harvest to transport, processing, and store display. We set up a program with the two teachers we had been working with. The students will continue to visit the high school every two weeks until the end of the school year. They will be given a plant in the garden that is their own and they will be responsible for tending to it with the help of their high school buddy. This is not only beneficial to the younger children; it allows the older students to assist in teaching them something important that they will carry with them. At the end of the presentation, we took everyone outside to the green house where the younger children were given a flower pot and a lettuce plant to take home. They painted whatever they wanted on the flower pot and then the older kids assisted in helping them plant their lettuce plants. It will be a tradition that will open the door to agriculture for many years to come.

Come grow with us!

United Samaritans: Ag Service Learning Project Fall 2014

Alexxis Carvalho-Mires, Corinne Roberts, Santiago Garcia, Emily Breuss, and James Hurd

For our group project, we worked with the CSU Stanislaus Sustainable Garden and the United Samaritans Foundation. We harvested vegetables grown by Martin Hildebrant at the Sustainable Garden. The food was then donated to two ministries who work to feed the needy in local communities: United Samaritans and Westside Ministries. The United Samaritans received: 11 pounds of cucumbers, 50 pounds of Juliet tomatoes, 10 pounds of bell peppers, 10 pounds of Italian peppers, 10 pounds of blue lake green beans. Westside Ministries received 36 pounds of eggplants. A total of 127 pounds of food were donated which adds up to approximately \$200 dollars. Additionally, we each volunteered at the United Samaritans Foundation and completed specific tasks as described below.

James: Cut 10 pounds of Ham; Moved 3 pallets of frozen turkeys to a freezer, Loaded food trucks with supplies, Coordinated with various ministries, Prepped food at United Samaritans

Santiago: Made 500 egg salad sandwiches; Inspected 10 boxes of bread for mold, Moved eggs to the freezer, Prepped food at United Samaritans, Loaded apples, bread and sandwiches in to the food trucks, Coordinated with various ministries, Picked tomatoes, and eggplants

Emily: Sliced 15 flats of desserts- about 600+ slices, Washed Dishes, Loaded food truck, Picked tomatoes, egg plants, carrots, Delivered 36 pounds of eggplants to Westside ministries, Delivered 56 pounds of Vegetables to United Samaritans

Corinne: Coordinated with various ministries; Made calls to Westside ministries, Dropped off 25 pounds of Juliet Tomatoes, Picked egg plants, Sliced 15 flats of desserts- about 600+ slices, Washed Dishes; Loaded food truck

Alexxis: Delivered 56 pounds of Vegetables to United Samaritans, Picked tomatoes and egg plants, Delivered 25 pounds of Juliet tomatoes to United Samaritans, Prepped meals, made 500 egg salad sandwiches, Inspected 10 boxes of bread for mold; Moved eggs to the freezer, Loaded apples, bread and sandwiches in to the food trucks



Come grow with us!

Turlock Men's Homeless Shelter: Ag Service Learning Project Fall 2014

Kaylie Cates, Sheyenne Sousa, Christina Dirkse

GOAL: Our objective for the project was to collect items and create care packages to donate to the Turlock Men's Homeless Shelter. We anticipate the men will be very grateful and appreciative of our donations and we hope they know that there are people in the community care about their wellbeing regardless of why they are in the men's shelter. We also hope that some will find this little boost getting them back on the right track to join society and become independent men once more.

METHODS: To accomplish this project, we needed to collect items to donate, store them until our scheduled donation date, and then transport all the items to the Men's Homeless Shelter in Turlock. We had organized a timeline to help us accomplish our project.

- September 8- Assembled first team meeting
- September 22- Second team meeting
- September 25- Received donations of clothes
- September 26- Received donations of toiletries
- September 29- Third team meeting
- October 6- Fourth team meeting
- October 9- Received more donations of toiletries
- October 13- Fifth team meeting
- October 20- Sixth team meeting
- October 29- Received donation of clothing
- November 3- Seventh team meeting
- November 10- Received donations of final items
- November 17- Donated all items to the shelter



RESULTS: Together our team collected and donated four bags filled with men's clothing and several care packages filled with basic necessities such as toothbrushes, medicines, soap, etc. Overall, our team was very pleased and happy with the outcome of our project. Although we all had very conflicting schedules, we were able to meet and discuss our project and then donate several items to the Men's Homeless Shelter. The Shelter was very thankful for all of our donations and we were more than happy to have done this project.

Come grow with us!

Aiding United Samaritans in Their Fight to Feed to the Needy: Ag Service Learning Project Fall 2014

Mercedes Encinas, Andrea Zylstra, Stephanie Lopez, Reinaldo Medina, Kayla Harris, Raquel Gomez

Who?

Our group of six agriculture students partnered up with the United Samaritans Foundation of Turlock for our community service project.

What?

Our project consisted of a can food drive and countless hours of community service. For the can food drive we set up boxes around the Stanislaus State University campus and at a local elementary school. We handed out and posted fliers around the two locations in order to inform others. All the can food items were later donated to the United Samaritans Foundation.

Each member of our group also volunteered our time.

We helped out with everything from sorting clothing donations to working on the food truck.

Where?

Throughout the Stan State campus we set up donation boxes on each of the major buildings in an attempt to collect as much canned goods as possible. We also spent a large number of hours volunteering at USF.

When?

Between the dates of October 20th and December 1st, we received and collected canned food goods to donate to USF.

Why?

Our goals were to collect a sufficient amount of canned goods and donate them to USF in order to help people in need.

Results:

110+ can food items and 39 volunteered hours



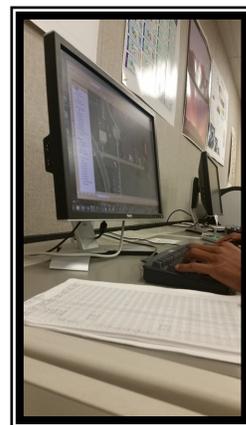
Come grow with us!

CSUS Campus Landscape Irrigation Survey & Drought Tolerant Testing: Ag Service Learning Project Fall 2014

Petros Maskal, Gabriel Meadows, Nick Nyugen, Robert Bordei, and Margaret Thompson

GOAL: Through our Agricultural Service Project and Field survey, we addressed the water issues faced by the campus of California State University Stanislaus: water logging, irregular irrigation system and uneven or uncontrolled distribution of water. Our experiment was completed in two parts: a GIS Field Survey and Transplant Drought Test. The objectives included: to provide community awareness of resource management, finding qualitative Information that can be used in future improvements, provide supportive data collection for campus facilities to seek funds for better irrigation management technology.

PROCESS: For the GIS Field Test we studied the Student Recreation Center and the Stanislaus Track and Soccer Practice Field. Our team broke up data collection into four parts: 1) Surveying Irrigation line layouts and devices, 2) Survey water spray distribution patterns and levels of remaining water, 3) Surveying Lawn and Soil conditions, 4) Geographical information system map construction. We received permission to use blueprints and irrigation schedules, rented a GPS device and conducted several surveys on foot, and used DNRB/Esri software to collect, manage and analyze data. In the process, our text file was converted into a shape file that was spatially displayed. Blueprint sprinkler and water spray distance specs were used to determine minimum, average, and maximum water distribution for irrigation. A GPS program was utilized to collect survey data and track damaged lawn variables. Each map was overlaid with a certain spatial features to convey a current condition on the Stanislaus Campus.



In our transplant test, we conducted our research in the Stanislaus agricultural garden and the campus greenhouse. Our team collected plants donated by Modesto Junior College. We use those plants to perform a test to measure how long the moisture will last within the different mixtures of soil: 100% Compost, 100% Soil, 75% Soil 25% Compost, 75% Compost 25% Soil, 50% Soil, 50% Compost. We divided the donated plants into 5 groups and transplanted each group into a #5 pot, with a different soil/compost ratio. We placed the transplanted plants in the greenhouse and watered them until saturated and collected height and width measurements and noted observations on soil dampness and plant conditions.



RESULTS: GIS Field Test: As a result this mapped information helped provide irrigation and drought tolerant insight to the CSUS landscape staff and awareness to the CSUS community. From this experience the team acquired a better understanding of organizational structure and managing teamwork. We came away from the project with personal growth and gratitude for being able to serve the community. Transplant Test: we can inference that the native soil is better in retaining water moisture. We have seen that the 25/75 Compost and native Soil have the most growth, however the control with 100% Native Soil has the best results in holding water.

Come grow with us!

Meet the professors and staff who are involved in the Agricultural Studies Program. *Thank you for all you do for our department!*

Dr. Rotimi Odeh joined CSU Stanislaus 8 months ago, arriving from Virginia. He received his Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics from Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS. In addition to being the Endowed Chair of the department, Dr. Odeh teaches Ag Leadership, Ag Economics, and oversees Ag Studies Internship. He says the thing he likes best about the department is that the students generally have rich agricultural backgrounds. He is also pleased by the strong symbiotic relationship between the agriculture department and the local industry. Dr. Odeh encourages his students to be engaged in department activities, stating that their purpose is to prepare students for successful careers. His advice to students is let your studies be your number one priority, and seek guidance from faculty.

Dr. Kelvin Jasek-Rysdahl is from Clarkfield, MN, and earned his MA and PhD in Economics from Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO where his focus was international economics and public finance. He joined the staff of CSU Stanislaus in 1996 and teaches Principles of Macroeconomics, Economic Thought, Political Economy and occasionally Principles of Microeconomics. The things he likes most about being involved in the agriculture department are that the program is well connected with the area community colleges and the local agriculture industry, and the energy of the students within the program. His advice to students is to “Work hard to develop your critical thinking and communication skills. The industry is changing and you will need to continue to adapt. Your degree is a ticket to enter the door. How far you go will depend on how well your skills have been developed and how well you use them.”

Dr. Rebekah Shrader grew up in Southeast Idaho and obtained her PhD at Washington State University where her focus of study was Agricultural Economics. Her dissertation covered microeconomic applications of food policy issues. She has been at Stanislaus since August 2014 and teaches Farm Management, Ag Markets and Pricing, Intermediate Microeconomic Theory and Principles of Macroeconomics and Microeconomics. She is excited about the changes occurring in the department and says she loves being part of the expansion. She also likes that students are extremely hard working and excited about their future. Her advice is to really take advantage of what this department has to offer! Even if your schedule makes it difficult, make a point to go in and get help from your professors if you are ever confused. Dr. Odeh is also excited to help move you forward in your academic career, so ask him advice if you are unsure about your next academic move. Finally, be a part of the Sustainability Garden!

Dr. Stuart Wooley grew up on a farm in southern Missouri, but has been at CSU Stanislaus since 2007. He received his degrees in Botany at Brigham Young University, Utah, and his PhD in Entomology from UC Riverside. His main focus of study has been how defensive plant chemicals affect herbivore feeding and plant ecology. Dr. Wooley likes being connected to the Ag department because he likes the students and is willing to help in any way he can. He hopes that students will study hard and recognize that their teachers are experts who have given great consideration about how to best teach their subject. Dr. Wooley teaches General Biology II, Medicinal Plants, and Plant Physiology.

Originally from southern California, **Dr. Edward Erickson** obtained his degree at the University of Southern California where he focused on macroeconomics and the financial sector. As a professor at Stanislaus for many years, he teaches many economics courses. The diversity of backgrounds and interests here at the Stanislaus Agricultural Studies Department is something that he enjoys. His advice to students is to not be surprised if your job or career changes; be flexible.

Come grow with us!

Dr. Mike Zylstra grew up in the Modesto and Turlock area and earned his B.S. and MBA at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. He then earned his Ph.D in Food and Resource Economics at the University of Florida, Gainesville. Dr. Zylstra has been teaching at CSU Stanislaus since 2009 and currently teaches Agricultural Finance. His favorite part when it comes to being involved in the Stanislaus Agricultural Department is learning about the connections his students have to agriculture as well as being able to work with them after they have graduated. Although almonds are the most widely grown crop in the area, Dr. Zylstra advises students in the department “real milk comes from cows, not nuts.”

Dr. Jennifer Helzer is the Geography Program’s human-cultural geographer. She has been at Stanislaus since 2001 and is originally from the Redding area. Dr. Helzer got her Ph.D in Geography at the University of Texas, Austin where her focus was on the contributions of Italian immigration to the development of the California wine industry in Sonoma County, and farming and viticulture practices in Amador County. Dr. Helzer says she enjoys having agriculture students in her classes due to their strong ties to the region, real-world experiences, and unique perspectives. She considers field experiences, community engagement and service learning to be an important part of her teaching activities and encourages students to be engaged not only in courses and academics, but also student clubs and the community. Dr. Helzer’s courses include Cultural Geography, Ethnic Geography, Geography of Wine, Planning Issues, and the Urban Sustainability & Design. She also teaches regional classes including the California Cultures & Environments, Geography of Europe, and the Geography of North America. Her final advice to students take advantage of the resources the University has to offer!

Dr. Peggy Hauselt has taught at CSU Stanislaus for seven-and-half years. She currently teaches Geographic Information Systems, Advanced GIS, Agricultural Geography, Sustainable Agriculture, and Wine Geography. Dr. Hauselt grew up in Livermore and received her Ph.D. at UC Davis in Geography. She wrote her dissertation on the spatial model of water use in California rice production. Her favorite aspect of our agriculture department is interdisciplinary collaboration.

Having been teaching at CSU Stanislaus off and on since 2007, **Dr. Alison McNally** has been a full time geography faculty member since fall of 2014. Originally from northern California and currently lives in the Sierra foothills, Dr. McNally graduated with her undergraduate degree in geography from CSU, Stanislaus, and her Master's and PhD in Geography from UC Davis. Her focuses of study are physical geography and biogeography and studying what mechanisms influence distributions of species. At Stanislaus, she teaches variety of classes including Geographer's Toolbox, GIS, Climatology, Geographic Processes in the Western U.S., and will be teaching Cartography and other new classes including Wilderness Exploration and Navigation, Water and Power, and Hazards and Risk Management starting this summer and fall. Not only does she like being able to teach students new ways of analyzing and understanding landscape, but she also enjoys learning more about agriculture in the San Joaquin Valley and beyond. Her advice to students is do not be afraid to challenge yourself; you may be surprised at how that one tough class you are required to take might actually introduce you to new concepts or techniques for you to apply in your chosen career.

Dr. Elaine Peterson started at CSU Stanislaus in the fall of 1996. Originally, she grew up in Massachusetts, went to Colby College in Maine for her undergraduate degree, and then worked at the Federal Reserve Board in Washington D.C. as a research assistant before going to graduate school in Wisconsin. She obtained a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in August 1996. Her focus of study was Public Economics. In the Agricultural Studies program, she has been teaching the “Natural Resources & Environmental Economics” class since fall 2013, which is one of her favorites. Dr. Peterson recognizes that the students in the agriculture department at Stanislaus are hardworking and have interesting examples related to natural resources to share with the class. Her advice to students is to not be afraid to visit your professors and ask questions. Students are the reason we are here. Sometimes some of the concepts are a bit complicated and involve working through some mathematical analysis, but they can be powerful tools to help solve some very important problems; the more tools you have the better.

Come grow with us!

Mr. Bill Martin has taught at Stanislaus for five years and advises students to be involved in things that matter, take personal responsibility for their actions, and keep it real. Enjoying the opportunity to work with the agricultural program students, he currently teaches Planning Issues in Agriculture. Mr. Martin grew up on a small dairy farm in Merced County and earned his B.S. in Ag Business Management and an MBA in Organizational Management at the University of Phoenix.

Mr. Richard Bell joined the faculty at CSU Stanislaus this spring semester to teach the Appraisal of Agricultural Property course. He was born, raised, and continues to reside in Gustine. Attending Fresno State, he majored in Animal Science and minored in Ag Business. He enjoys the local students here at Stanislaus and being able to help them learn about the agricultural appraisal profession. His advice to students is to take your cases seriously and work hard; it will be noticed.

Originally from South Korea, **Dr. Eungsuk Kim** obtained his Ph.D in Economics at Indiana University, in Bloomington, where his focus of study was International Trade and Finance and Industrial Organization. He has been at CSU Stanislaus since 1999 teaching Principles of Macroeconomics, Principles of Microeconomics, Introduction to Econometrics, Managerial Economics, International Economics, and U.S. and World Trade. Through his involvement with the Agricultural Studies Department, he enjoys getting to know more about the local economy based on agriculture and the interaction with the students in the program. His advice to students is to think and compete globally and realize that globalization of agriculture trade and business is important.

Mr. Martin Hildebrant is the campus garden manager and helps students with assignments and projects. He has lived in multiple areas, from Escalon to Ripon and currently Modesto. He's been with the department for six years and studied ornamental horticulture at Modesto Junior College. He enjoys helping students become more aware of the potential of our world as well as their own potential. He advises students to focus on improving their public speaking skills since students need to be able to promote their ideas face-to-face as well as in their writing.

A special thanks to **Mrs. Susan Jordan**, the Administrative Support Coordinator for the Departments of Economics, Agriculture Studies, and Social Sciences. We appreciate the work you do for our Agricultural Studies Department and its students!



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