Survey Confirms SJSU Science Academic Excellence

During the last academic year, five private foundations that award funding to support scientific research at predominantly undergraduate institutions conducted an Academic Excellence Study amongst 136 responding institutions. The results of the survey were published recently as a 500+ page “Sourcebook” of detailed information (Academic Excellence: The Sourcebook – A Study of the Role of Research in the Natural Sciences at Undergraduate Institutions). The survey data were compared and analyzed in part within the context of a set public data gathered on 1115 such universities nationwide by agencies such as the National Science Foundation. In the nationwide data the 1115 institutions were ranked in 14 categories including areas ranging from number of degrees granted to the amount of research funding awarded. No fewer than 14 of the 23 CSU campuses appear within the top 150 of these 1115 universities. San José State's rankings included:

• First in the nation for National Science Foundation grants awarded in the Research for Undergraduate Institutions Program
• Fourth in CSU and sixth nationally for total science baccalaureates

In fact, more than any other CSU campus, SJSU ranked within the top 22 schools in 10 of the 14 categories and seven of these rankings were in the top ten. For more details on these rankings, consult the web site at http://www.science.sjsu.edu/sjexcel.htm. Clearly, these results support the conclusion that the quality of the undergraduate education provided by the CSU in general and SJSU science departments in particular is something in which we can all take pride.

In the College of Science, the availability of student research opportunities under faculty supervision is a key factor in explaining why many employers in our valley prefer hiring our students to those from neighboring Bay Area institutions and why our students largely are successful in subsequent graduate programs. Such academic excellence results from the creativity, scholarly endeavors, and student mentoring provided by our faculty. Maintaining this level of quality is increasingly becoming possible only through the support of our donors and alumni. Clearly, the academic excellence results from the creativity, scholarly endeavors, and student mentoring provided by our faculty.

W.M. Keck Facility for Chemical Research Now Operational

If you have been to the basement of Duncan Hall in the last two years, you know that there has been a lot of construction and renovation. Torn out ceilings, heavy equipment in the hallways, old walls being removed, new walls being added – this has been the scenery for the past two years. Much of this work has been associated with a grant to San José State University from the W. M. Keck Foundation to establish state-of-the-art laboratories for instruction and research in the Department of Chemistry. The grant for $500,000 was received early in 2000 and was based on a proposal submitted by Joseph Pesek, Roy Okuda, and Paul Wagenknecht of the Chemistry Department. Upon receiving the grant, Roy Okuda said, “The improved instrumentation and new research lab space will benefit the growing research programs in the department and greatly enhance the teaching programs. Not only will...”
SJSU to Host NASA Faculty Fellowship Program

Professor Bradley M. Stone of San José State's Department of Chemistry was recently awarded a $455,000 grant extension from NASA headquarters – which brings the total grant award to date to over $1.2 million – to administer the 2002 NASA Faculty Fellowship Program. This will be the third consecutive year that Dr. Stone has been awarded the position of Co-Director.

The 10-week faculty fellowships provide the opportunity for research collaborations between college professors from around the country and research scientists from NASA Ames Research Center and NASA Dryden Flight Center. The Program goal is to facilitate the creation of lasting relationships between academia and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

In Summer 2002, approximately twenty-five Fellows will conduct research at NASA in collaboration with assigned colleagues. To supplement their research activity, the Fellows will participate in: specially organized tours, seminars and workshops (including a two-day retreat at Asilomar Conference Center in Monterey, California in June) and weekly noon-time talks given by NASA technical specialists on major programs, both at Ames and at SJSU. The speaker series tradition that invites public attendance will continue. The lectures will be held at SJSU and NASA Ames Research Center on alternate Thursdays. At the end of the summer, each Fellow will present a brief oral and written report on his or her research study. These brief lectures will be held at the NASA Ames site and allow colleagues and any interested Ames employees to attend.

Ames Research Center is located in the heart of one of the world's most dynamic, technical and education-oriented communities – Silicon Valley. Its state-of-the-art facilities include: wind tunnels such as the National Full-Scale Aerodynamics Complex (NFAC), the world's largest wind tunnel; advanced flight simulators; the Numerical Aerospace Simulation (NAS) Facility which provides a full-spectrum supercomputer environment consisting of high-speed processors, mass storage, high-performance networks, and visualization hardware and software; and NASA Ames Research Center's Future Flight Central, the world's premier technical design studio for 21st century airport operations and planning.

Professor Bradley Stone has been on the faculty in the Department of Chemistry at SJSU since 1985. He first began a research collaboration at NASA Ames Research Center as a NASA-ASEE-Stanford Summer Faculty Fellow in 1989. At that time, he performed experiments on the photophysics of planetary atmospheres with Dr. Thomas Scattergood in the Solar System Exploration Branch. Dr. Stone was awarded NASA Faculty Fellowships again in 1995, 1996, 1998, and 1999 to collaborate with Dr. Louis Allamandola's Astrochemistry Group. During these fellowships, Stone was the principal designer and builder of a new laser laboratory used for studying molecular fluorescence. Today, he continues to do research in the Astrophysics Branch at NASA Ames in collaboration with Dr. Louis Allamandola and Dr. Steve Charnley.

For more information on the NASA Faculty Fellowship Program (NFFP) go to www.sjsu.edu/nasa-asee. To learn about other fellowship programs offered by ASEE (American Society for Engineering Education), go to: www.asee.org.

SURVEY continued from page 1

continuing support by our alumni and friends – support in the form of gifts for program and faculty development (Dean's Teaching Excellence Fund) and for student scholarships. In the College of Science, we strive for continuous improvement in all aspects of our academic mission, a path that is predicated largely on your support. Heartfelt thanks and appreciation are extended to all the donors listed on page 3 for making our success possible.
students have an opportunity for hands-on experience with many of the important tools used by chemists in research and development, the facility will also provide a means for Silicon Valley companies to develop cooperative activities with the SJSU Chemistry Department."

The Keck Facility has been operational since the Fall of 2001 and is already fulfilling its goals as outlined above. With grants from the National Science Foundation, matching funds from the College of Science, and equipment donations from local companies, the Facility has been outfitted with instrumentation that rivals many PhD granting institutions. The research activities of five faculty research groups significantly involve the Facility, and several more make use of its instrumentation. Two advanced laboratory classes have also made use of some of the spectrometers housed there. In addition, several companies have arranged to use some of the instrumentation in the Facility and this has fostered scientific discussions between these companies and our faculty. ♦

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**KECK continued from page 1**

The W.M. Keck Facility For Chemical Research

in the
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Friday, April 5, 2002

Grand Opening Program 1:30
Washington Square Hall 109

Keynote Address
Professor Richard Zare
Department of Chemistry
Stanford University

Ribbon Cutting, Reception,
Facility Tour 3:00
Duncan Hall Basement Level

For information: Roy Okuda
(408) 924-2525
or email: okuda@sjsu.edu

www.science.sjsu.edu/
KeckDedication.htm
NEW FACULTY

ROBERT K. CHUN
Computer Science

Dr. Chun received his PhD in Computer Science from the University of California, Los Angeles in 1989. His major field of interest is Computer System architecture with particular interest in VLSI System Design and Artificial Intelligence. In the past 12 years he was a research staff member at Hughes Research Laboratories in Malibu, Lockheed-Martin in Sunnyvale, and Actel Corporation in Sunnyvale. His work in software engineering includes applying artificial intelligence techniques to decision-intensive and real-time process control and applications, building object-oriented expert systems and applying object-oriented analysis and design methodology to identify reusable system components. He also found time to teach part time at Long Beach State, Santa Clara University, and San José State.

SUNEUY "SUNNY" KIM
Computer Science

Dr. Kim received her PhD in Computer Science from Penn State University in December 2000. She earned her BS and MS degrees in Computer Science at Ewha Woman's University and YonSei University respectively in Seoul, Korea. Her research interests center around the design of efficient Multimedia Systems, Streaming and Performance Evaluation, Resource Management in Distributed Systems, and Computer Networks. Sunny has wanted to be a teacher since childhood.

STEPHEN R. KENNEDY
Computer Science

Dr. Kennedy received his PhD in Operations Research from Cornell University in 1973. He was an Assistant and Associate Professor in two different departments in the College of Engineering at San José State from 1972 to 1982. After spending 19 years in the local industry designing computer controlled digital telephone switches for Rolm Corporation, and designing disk drives for Quantum Corporation, Steve is returning to San José State as an Associate Professor of Computer Science. His primary research interests are in the area of Performance Evaluation of Computer Systems, specializing in I/O subsystem and disk performance. He brings valuable experience in teaching, curriculum development, and administrative skills to the Computer Science Program.

CHRIS POLLETT
Computer Science

Dr. Pollett received his PhD in Mathematics from the University of California San Diego in 1997 and was hired as an Assistant Professor of Computer Science. His varied research interests include Computational Logic, Quantum Circuits, Knowledge Representation, Cryptology and Databases. Since 1997 Chris has served as a Faculty Associate at Boston University, a Visiting Assistant Professor at Clark University, and an Adjunct Professor at UCLA. He has taught a wide variety of courses in computer sciences including Artificial Intelligence, Automata, Database Management, Data Structures in C, C++, and Java, Programming Languages, non-numerical programming in ML, Prolog, and LISP, a course in web programming in Perl, an advanced course in Java, and a course on video game design.

STEPHEN M. CRUNK
Mathematics

Dr. Crunk received his PhD in Statistics from the University of Pennsylvania in 1999 after obtaining a BS degree in Music from Weber State and an MS degree in Mathematics from CSU Northridge. He was an Assistant Professor in Mathematics at New Jersey Institute of Technology for two years before coming to San José State in Fall 2001. He brings a much needed curriculum focus in Statistics and an active research program in Statistics to San José State.

TIM HSU
Mathematics

Dr. Hsu received his PhD in Mathematics from Princeton University after graduating from Massachusetts Institute of Technology where he received the Phi Beta Kappa award along with SB degrees in Mathematics and Music. He has taught at the University of Michigan as an Associate Professor of Mathematics and three additional years at Pomona College as a Visiting Assistant Professor. Dr. Hsu has an impressive research record in the area of group theory. Tim is interested in revitalizing the Center for Applied Mathematics and Computer Science, a place designed to identify problems of substantial interest in mathematics or computer science from outside sponsors and to form small teams to work on them.

LESLEE ANN PARR
Biology

Dr. Parr joins San José State as an Assistant Professor with 20 years of teaching experience. She began her career as a secondary science teacher in public schools
DEPARTMENT UPDATES

BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

SJSU Biology Students Survey Future State Park Land

Last Spring semester, 14 students from the Biology Department’s Redwood Forest Ecology course conducted an extensive biological survey of a recovering redwood forest in the Santa Cruz Mountains. Currently owned by the Sempervirens Fund (a Los Altos based redwood forest conservancy), this 1340-acre parcel called the San Lorenzo River Redwoods is scheduled for sale to the California Department of Parks and Recreation over the next few years as an addition to Castle Rock State Park. This will effectively increase the area of the park by 50%, protect valuable wildlife habitat, and provide miles of publicly accessible, scenic hiking trails.

Prof. Chris Brinegar, a redwood biologist and the course instructor, arranged for the class project through Brian Steen, the Executive Director of the Sempervirens Fund, who had requested assistance from area ecologists to study the forest so that as much scientific information as possible would be available upon transfer to the State. Much of the property was clear-cut in the late 1800s and is now dominated by second-growth redwoods. The upper San Lorenzo River, habitat to threatened steelhead trout, runs through the property and was the focal point of the study along with the dense forest on its banks.

The survey was designed and carried out by the students, who collectively spent over 250 hours in the field between March and May conducting measurements and observations on stream habitat, canopy cover, plant and animal species, and tree sizes and distributions.

National Geographic Holdings (San Francisco) generously donated copies of TOPO! topographical software, allowing the results of the survey to be accurately mapped with the aid of hand-held global positioning system (GPS) units. From approximately 300 sampling sites over 1000 redwoods and Douglas firs were measured, 93 species of plants and 51 species of animals were identified, and steelhead nesting and feeding sites were characterized throughout the 2.5 km length of the river that runs through the property.

In November, Prof. Brinegar gave a summary of the project to the Sempervirens Board of Directors along with a 40-page report of the detailed findings. A copy of the report was also made available to a representative in the acquisitions division of the California Department of Parks and Recreation. The final transaction cannot occur until the Sempervirens Fund fundraising campaign is complete and more State funds are earmarked for the purchase, but hopefully the information provided by the Redwood Forest Ecology students will convince the State of the ecological importance of the San Lorenzo River Redwoods so that it will be given a higher priority on the list of over 300 potential parcels now being considered for acquisition. ◆

Dr. Sally Veregge Receives 2002 “Woman of Achievement” Award

Sally Veregge, Chair of SJSU’s Biological Sciences Department, received a 2002 “Woman of Achievement” award at the 28th Annual Women’s Fund of Silicon Valley awards dinner held in March. The WOA awards spotlight accomplishments of Bay Area women and their contributions in business, education, arts and government. One of 113 nominees in 14 categories, Sally received the award in the Science & Technology category. Sally is not only an accomplished scientist and college professor, but also works to get young people interested in different aspects of the field. She has been involved in programs such as Expanding Your Horizons in Math and Science, a workshop that brings up to 850 sixth through ninth grade girls onto campus for the opportunity to speak with successful women scientists in a variety of fields. In addition, she served as a mentor in the MBRS program that gives minority students interested in obtaining advanced degrees in the sciences, the opportunity to do research projects. ◆
IN MEMORIAM

DIANE CONRADSON, 1927 – 2002

Diane died on February 15, 2002 after a long battle with cancer. She began her illustrious career at SJSU in the Natural Science Department in 1966, retiring in 1992. During those years, she trained many of the science teachers currently working in our local high schools. She also wrote Exploring Our Baylands, a field guide to San Francisco Bay. She was cherished by both students and faculty. If you want to remember Diane, the family requests donations to the Science Education Scholarship Fund, College of Science, SJSU, One Washington Square, San José, CA 95192-0099 (Note: “in memory of Diane Conradson”).

SARMA LAKKARAJU, 1947 – 2002

Sarma passed away suddenly on February 25, 2002. A beloved husband and father, Sarma was a Professor of Physics at SJSU and a pioneering scientist in the area of biophysical research, much of it conducted at Moss Landing and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratories. He was an aspiring musician and a generous donor of human spirit. In his memory, donations to the Sarma Lakkaraju Scholarship Fund may be sent to the College of Science, SJSU, One Washington Square, San José, CA 95192-0099. Please note “In Memory of Sarma Lakkaraju.”

DEPARTMENT UPDATES

PHYSICS

Update From Professor Michael Kaufman

This past summer, I spent 3 nights observing at the United Kingdom Infrared Telescope (UKIRT) on the 14,000 ft. summit of Mauna Kea, Hawaii. UKIRT is the largest telescope devoted entirely to observing infrared radiation from space. With collaborators from Korea and Britain, I was studying the formation of stars in a group of galaxies called “irregulars” because of their strange shapes and rapid star formation. On a related project, in December I traveled to the CalTech Infrared Processing and Analysis Center with undergraduate student Amber Gray, where we learned to process and interpret galaxy spectra from the Infrared Space Observatory data archive. In January, I attended a Submillimeter Wave Astronomy Satellite (SWAS) science team meeting at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics in Cambridge, MA. SWAS was designed to study oxygen, carbon, carbon monoxide and water in the Milky Way, and I’m comparing computer models of C and H2O chemistry with the SWAS observations. In addition, I’ve received $40,000 from NASA to run similar models in preparation for observations with NASA’s newest “Great Observatory,” the Space Infrared Telescope Facility (SIRTF) which will be launched in January, 2003.

Ken Wharton Writes Sci-Fi Novel, Divine Intervention

Assistant Physics Professor Ken Wharton’s new science fiction book, Divine Intervention, has just been released by Ace (Penguin/Putnam) publications. Wharton says that he writes science fiction with “real” science, a style that is called “hard science fiction.” Noted science fiction writer Allen Steele calls the book a “page-turning adventure story.” Contact Wharton at: wharton@science.sjsu.edu.

MOSS LANDING MARINE LABORATORIES

SOFeX Expedition Conducts Southern Ocean Research

At the end of December, seven Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute researchers left for Christchurch, New Zealand, to embark on one of the largest, most complex research projects ever undertaken by the U.S. oceanographic fleet. This data-gathering phase was completed in March 2002.

The Southern Ocean Iron Experiment (SOFeX) program involved 76 scientists from 17 different institutions. Dr. Kenneth Coale, Director of Moss Landing Marine Laboratories, was chief scientist on the R/V MELVILLE.

The aim of the SOFeX project was to investigate the effects of iron fertilization on the productivity of the Southern Ocean. The results of this work will contribute significantly to our understanding of important biogeochemical processes which bear directly on the global carbon cycle, atmospheric carbon dioxide concentration, and climate control. For more information about the SOFeX project, go to www.mbari.org/education/cruises/SOFeX2002/.

Faculty News & Dept. Updates
Frank is a graduate of St. Thomas More High School in San José, CA with a 4.0 GPA. He is the eldest of nine children and has always had a lot of responsibility. As a senior, he was ASB president, captain of the varsity basketball team, played baseball and volleyball, and was editor of the school yearbook. Frank's goal is to be of service to others, especially by helping students who have trouble in school. ♦

Alexander is a graduate of King City High School, King City, CA with a 3.95 GPA. As a senior he was active as an ASB officer, leadership class, jazz band, CSF member, Physics Club and community service. He participated in Concert Band, sports and his church youth group. Alexander's goal is to teach math. He likes taking on leadership roles, encouraging and teaching others, and helping them succeed. ♦

2001-02 Alumni Scholarship Recipients: Halle Ruth Morrison, Abhinand Vase

Halle Ruth Morrison
A graduate student in geology, Halle graduated magna cum laude from the College of Wooster in Ohio, where she was awarded the Robert W. McDowell Prize in Geology.

At SJSU, she received the Departmental Thesis Proposal Award, a grant from the United States Geological Survey, a Lottery Funds Proposal Award and a Kalm Scholarship.

Currently she is doing research on tectonics in Southern California under the guidance of Dr. Richard Sedlock, whom Halle credits with helping her discover alternative careers and opportunities for postgraduate work in the Bay Area Earth Science Institute and Collaborative for Disaster Mitigation.

Halle intends to pursue an academic career that combines teaching with public service in the areas of environmental advocacy and community education. ♦
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