Distinguished Alumna

Sheikha Jameela bint Mohammed Al-Qasimi

Recognized for Humanitarian Services in the United Arab Emirates
As I write this introduction only three weeks remain to the end of the spring semester; excitement fills the College of BSS as students complete semester projects, deliver oral presentations, and prepare for finals. Each May nearly 1,100 undergraduates and over 100 graduate students earn baccalaureate and master’s degrees in Behavioral and Social Sciences. Faculty donned in academic regalia will attend graduation again this year and watch with great pride as students cross the stage with diploma in hand and exuberance for the future.

Reflecting on this academic year, I am confident as I am every year that students have received an excellent liberal arts education that has enabled them to discover and develop their civic identities and improve their intellectual and personal skills and capacities. Civic identity is at the very core of a liberal arts education and may be defined as “finding one’s place in making individual or collective actions designed to identify and address issues of public concern” (Kriesberg, L. 2003). Civic identity as sense of self integrates critical thinking with empathy and active reflection. The development of civic identity cannot happen in isolation; it requires interactive and applied learning activities and opportunities. Literature supports the premise that individuals with well developed civic identities are more apt to become fully engaged citizens willing to take on leadership roles in communities both locally and globally (Knefelkamp, L.L. 2008).

This issue of Vanguard is filled with trenchant examples of student, faculty, and one alumna’s acts of civic engagement. The articles you will read range from local activities such as Geography and Planning students conducting a study regarding the location of the Saturday Chico Certified Farmer’s Market to Sheikha Jameela Al-Qasimi’s (Alumna, Psychology, 1982) exemplary efforts to establish humanitarian services in Sharjah, U.A.E. and the surrounding gulf countries in the Middle East. Sheikha Jameela’s extraordinary humanitarian contributions earned her recognition this year as the College of BSS 2010 Distinguished Alumna (feature article on page 7). Perhaps in reading this issue of Vanguard you will reflect on your own civic identity and ponder these words by President Obama: “We must not fear the future. We must shape it.”

– Gayle E. Hutchinson, Dean
BSS Welcomes New Department Chair, Dr. Frederica Shockley

Dr. Frederica Shockley, who came to Chico State in 1978, is the newly elected chair of the Economics Department. She received her bachelor’s degree in sociology from Mississippi University for Women, her masters in economics from Mississippi State University, and her PhD in economics from Georgia State University. She and her husband, Dr. Jon Ebeling, have a consulting business that specializes in economic forecasting and evaluation research with close ties to local government in northern California.

Children’s Perceptions of Conflict and Conceptions of Peace: A Cross-Cultural Comparison between the United Arab Emirates and the United States

Our research is an interdisciplinary, collaborative, cross-cultural examination of the processes by which children learn how and whom to hate. We use ethnographic and key respondent interview data collected from sample populations of boys and girls between the ages of 6 and 12 from Chico, California, and from the United Arab Emirates to describe children’s attitudes toward and conceptualizations of enemy, war, and peace. Our methodology is focused on integrating undergraduates into the research process and on fostering direct interaction between students from CSU, Chico and Zayed University in the UAE. With generous support from Dean Hutchinson, Dr. Coughlin (Child Development) and Dr. Dizard (Anthropology) traveled to Dubai, UAE with two students, Caity Sanders majoring in Child Development and Sean Moriarty majoring in Anthropology. National security in the 21st century will be enhanced and strengthened through international cultural and scholarly dialogue and exchange of ideas that displace cultural myths, replacing them with more enduring and accurate representations creating the foundations for lasting security: mutual understanding, tolerance, and respect.

From left to right: Ms. Najma Azzan, Dr. Saroj Thapa, Dr. Gloysis Mayers, Mr. Sean Moriarty, Dr. Jesse Dizard, Ms. Caity Sanders, Dr. Chris Coughlin, Ms. Saeeda Juma, Ms. Amal Yousef

Anthropology Forum Every Thursday
For Current Schedule Visit:
http://www.csuchico.edu/anth/forum.shtml
Harm, Harmony, and Wellness Among Chico State Students

A collaborative project titled “Harm, Harmony, and Wellness Among Chico State Students, 2009-2010” is currently underway this spring in the Sociology 411: Quantitative Research Methods course. Sociology 411 is a hands-on, applied research course where, as a team, students carry out one large survey from start to finish. Under the supervision of Dr. Jim Sutton, those enrolled in this semester’s quantitative methods course are conducting a survey of approximately 1,000 Chico State students. Themes pertaining to students’ well-being and quality of life are being examined around issues that include campus safety and violence, health and wellness, diversity and social relationships, and substance use. The sociology students are planning to share their findings with a wide variety of campus organizations. Most of the students currently enrolled in Sociology 411 are graduating seniors. The firsthand skills and experiences they are gaining through their involvement with this project will be helpful in future employment and graduate studies. A goal of the Sociology Department is to combine classroom instruction with hands-on practice whenever possible.

The Technology and Learning Program at Chico State was inducted March 2010 into the “Wimba Hall of Fame” that celebrates educators world-wide who have demonstrated creativity and excellence using Wimba distance education technology. Dr. Chunyan Song’s Sociology 354: Ethnicity and Nationalism course was highlighted as an example of innovative pedagogy when the organization granted Chico State the award. In the course, Dr. Song had students read the memoir by Savo Heleta, Not My Turn to Die: Memoirs of a Broken Childhood in Bosnia. Using Wimba technology, Mr. Heleta presented a guest lecture via a webcam from his home in South Africa and answered students’ questions about his traumatic childhood. Students were so moved by Heleta’s story that when they learned that he had to borrow a laptop to give the lecture, they raised enough money for the author to buy a laptop with a built-in webcam.

POLITICAL SCIENCE

CLIC’s Environmental Advocates Attend Environmental Law Conference in Oregon

Six student interns from Environmental Advocates (EA) of Community Legal Information Center (CLIC) and faculty member Kimberlee Candela attended the 28th Annual Public Interest Environmental Law Conference at University of Oregon School of Law in February. Alongside 3,000 other attendees, EA interns enjoyed many informative panels and workshops. CLIC EA interns began the tradition of attending this conference many years ago, under the guidance of the late Professor Paul Persons. This year’s trip was supported by Chico State’s Institute for Sustainable Development, the Political Science Department, and fund-raising by the interns.

Participation in this conference informs and inspires EA’s work. This semester, guided by student director Rachel Gomes, interns are working on a variety of projects, including encouraging our local community to reduce consumption of single-use products such as plastic bags and plastic water bottles, as well as developing the Right to Recycle program which will promote and assist with recycling opportunities in apartment complexes.
During the fall 2009 semester, two Chico State professors and their classes were instrumental in resolving a contentious issue regarding the location of the Saturday Chico Certified Farmers’ Market. The project came about when discussion at a City of Chico Internal Affairs Committee meeting about safety and parking issues at the Farmers’ Market became heated following suggestions to change the site and/or location of the market. At the meeting, Dr. LaDona Knigge offered the services of her fall planning for sustainable communities class (GEOG 425) to conduct a study of parking, safety, and other issues which the Committee voted to accept. When Dr. Richard Gitelson was invited to participate, the study became a collaborative effort between two courses (GEOG 425 & RECR 300) from two different departments and colleges at CSU, Chico.

The project sought to provide objective data to facilitate the decision-making process by citizens, local government officials, and the business community about the location and site of the Farmers’ Market. Knigge’s planning class focused on safety, bicycle/vehicle parking issues and attitudes and needs of the vendor/farmers. Gitelson’s classes conducted an extensive survey of market attendees’ shopping behaviors including pre-and-post purchases in the adjoining downtown businesses, attendance, safety, distance traveled to the market, and parking behaviors. The map below represents the collaborative effort between the two classes. Knigge’s students analyzed and mapped the parking data obtained through surveys that focused on shopping behaviors of Farmers’ Market participants that was administered by Gitelson’s students over three Saturday in October.

Results of the study were presented by Knigge’s class at the December 8th Internal Affairs Committee meeting held in City Council Chambers and in a panel at the CSU Conference on Community-Based Research held in Berkeley on March 5th. The study benefitted students through their participation in a service-learning project and benefitted community members and city officials in the resolution of the controversial issue. The study demonstrated the benefits of an interdisciplinary approach that entailed collaboration between departments and colleges and the importance of including community partners in the research design and implementation. Through close collaboration with the market manager and city staff throughout the semester, according to the local newspaper “a highly contentious discussion ended with some simple and largely agreeable suggestions, after the Internal Affairs Committee was presented with a study of the Saturday Chico Certified Farmers’ Market” (Scott, Chico Enterprise-Record Article ID 13958519).
Distinguished Alumna

Sheikha Jameela bint Mohammed Al-Qasimi

Recognized for Humanitarian Services in the United Arab Emirates

Once a year the college has the opportunity to recognize an outstanding alumna/alumnus who has truly had a positive and profound impact on society. This year the college is proud to recognize Sheikha Jameela bint Mohammed Al-Qasimi.

Sheikha Jameela graduated in 1982 with her BA in Psychology and currently serves as the director general, Sharjah City for Humanitarian Services in the United Arab Emirates. A native of the United Arab Emirates, Sheikha Jameela is a member of the Royal Family of the Emirate of Sharjah. She has a deep love for her homeland and has spent her life developing and providing humanitarian services for the region. Sheikha Jameela is devoted to her work as an advocate for the rights of the disabled, children, and humans in general. In her role as the director general for Sharjah City's Humanitarian Services she has been instrumental in set-up new services for the disabled and their families, including schools servicing deaf and hard of hearing, mentally handicapped, and autistic children.

She earned her EMBA in 2004 from the American University of Sharjah. The Sheikh is currently seeing one of her dream projects come to fulfillment with the establishment of one-of-a-kind private center for psychiatric and mental patients in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates. She is also at work establishing a center for early intervention for at-risk children in Cairo, Egypt.

Sheikha Jameela is a true pioneer in the Middle East with her work devoted to special needs education and services. The College of Behavioral and Social Sciences is very proud to honor such a distinguished alumna.

Psychological Research Reveals Unconscious Processing

Chico State was highly visible at the Association for Psychological Science (APS) conference in Boston this May. Dr. Michael Ennis and three of his students presented three posters on unconscious processes at the annual event that attracts thousands of psychological researchers throughout the U.S. and beyond.

Dr. Ennis presented his research that assessed the validity of several questionnaire measures that claim to quantify unconscious processes. In addition, Gibran Mendez and Anna Aguilar presented their work on unconscious racial preferences. They found that when people try to inhibit their prejudiced thoughts, their “fight or flight” response (measured by skin conductance) increases. This suggests that inhibiting unwanted thoughts from reaching consciousness requires significant physiological effort. Finally, Kaci Smith presented her work with salivary testosterone. She has found that testosterone in young men is positively correlated with their “positive illusions” about themselves. This capacity for self-deception may have evolutionary value since men who can convince themselves that they have many desirable characteristics may be able to convince more romantic partners of their desirability.

All three posters attracted a great deal of attention, and new projects are being prepared for next year’s conference.

Check out the conference:
http://www.psychologicalscience.org/
MSW/Faculty Student Volunteer Experience in Thailand

After a year of planning, nine MSW students, four faculty, and one MSW recent graduate from the California State University, Chico School of Social Work traveled to Bangkok, Thailand for an international social work volunteer experience. From January 9 through January 23, 2010, the group was hosted by Cross Cultural Solutions (CCS). CCS is a well-established organization that provides comprehensive programs that serve the needs of the local communities. The students were placed in social service agencies that serve children and older adults.

The goal of the experience was to increase participants’ cultural humility and develop a framework for introducing international experiences in our School of Social Work. The objectives included increasing participants’ skills in cross-cultural communication and service delivery, developing a forum for current and future cross-cultural exchange, and evaluating and developing continued endeavors to increase social service exchanges in our global community. The experience in Thailand was chosen due to our region’s high percentage of residents of Southeast Asian origin.

In addition to the daily volunteer work, field trips allowed participants to meet with Thai social service personnel. Sites visited included Thammasat University School of Social Administration (Social Work), Thailand Health Administration, and Bangkok Municipal Social Services.

Addicted to Love

Dave Hibbard of Psychology and Gail Walton of Child Development presented their Wellness forum, “Addicted to Love,” for the second time this year to a group of students interested in building and maintaining healthy relationships. This forum focused on presenting students with the research behind topics such as attraction, dating, love, communication, cohabitation, and marriage. Students were encouraged to apply this information to their own life by thinking about the qualities they find necessary in a mate, how their personal history influences who they select as partners, and how they know they’re “in love.” John Gottman’s four deadly horsemen to effective communication in relationships was also discussed, and a web link to his “love lab” was provided.
Journey of the Bitter Melon Seeds

Journey of the Bitter Melon Seeds is an educational theatre production written and performed by Leaders for a Lifetime, a Hmong youth development program offered through the Health and Community Services Department. The production tells the story of the Hmong people after the Vietnam war through drama, comedy, song, and dance. Faculty member Bow Lee and seven students worked with 60 high school youth to weave the experiences of their families into an accurate picture of the challenges the Hmong people faced as they fled their homeland to refugee camps in Thailand, waited for sponsorship to America, and learned to assimilate into American culture while maintaining their cultural traditions. The production allowed our local Hmong population to celebrate their triumphs while it exposed the rest of the audience to the Hmong culture and refugee experience. Most importantly, the youth gained a greater understanding of their family histories and were empowered to become spokespersons for their culture. For 12 years Leaders for a Lifetime has presented this opportunity to Hmong youth.

Why did the youth call the production Journey of the Bitter Melon Seeds?

When the Hmong were fleeing their homeland the women buried their possessions believing that someday they would return, but they packed the seeds of their core foods so that wherever they found safety, they could feed their families. Bitter melon seeds were commonly packed and the bitter melon has many similarities to the Hmong people.

The bitter melon has a rough and bumpy surface surrounding a seed-filled interior tightly connected by membrane. The Hmong people had a rough journey to America but maintained their strong family ties. The bitter melon is sweet only when it is eaten at the right time. The Hmong people are warm, caring and true, but it may take a little time and effort to get to know them.
James Kenneth O’Toole, 65, passed away on Saturday, Dec. 19, 2009 from colon cancer. Services were held on Dec. 30 at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church.

O’Toole was born on April 25, 1944 in Saginaw, Michigan to Kenneth and Agnes O’Toole. After graduating from St. Mary’s High School in 1962, O’Toole began his lifelong study of economics, receiving a BS in 1966 and an MA in 1968 from the University of Detroit. He lectured at the University of Detroit, University of Eastern Michigan, and Hope College and was an assistant professor at Valparaiso University in Indiana from 1979 to 1984. He received a PhD from Virginia Tech in 1983.

O’Toole was a professor in the Department of Economics at CSU, Chico since 1984. He was professionally active, authoring publications and papers, receiving numerous grants and honors. He served as department chair from 2003 to the present.

“Jim O’Toole began his successful career in 1984 when he and his wife, Cathleen Coolidge, came to Chico State to teach in the economics department,” said Frederica Shockley, interim chair of the department. “He taught public finance and urban economics and conducted applied research in related fields. During the last six years, he was chair of the economics department. He helped bridge the gap between faculty and administration. He always sought faculty input, but he also tried to work with administration to produce the best outcome for our students. The economics faculty will all remember Jim as a fair supervisor, a devoted teacher, and a loyal father and husband.”

Nancy Doonan, department administrative assistant, said, “Jim had great rapport with students. He was a very caring person. As a supervisor he was fair and patient. I have never worked for a better boss.”

O’Toole was married to Cathleen Coolidge, also a professor in the Department of Economics. In addition to his wife, he is survived by his children, Seamus and Caitlin O’Toole, his sister, Doris Miles of Saginaw, Michigan, and three nephews.

Jim will be greatly missed.

The College of BSS 2009/2010 award recipients will be honored at our annual BSS Awards Ceremony. This year the ceremony will be held on Saturday, May 22, 2010, 7:15 am and is located in Plumas Hall breezeway. A group photo will be taken at 7:45 am.

To view the BSS Award Ceremony click here

The College of BSS 2010/2011 scholarship recipients will be honored during an evening reception to be held on October 12, 2010 at 5:30 pm.

Charles M. Price Fellow Awards

Each spring the Political Science Department has the honor of awarding the Charles M. Price Fellow Awards to two students who are enrolled in internship programs at the state capitol. This year’s recipients are Kathryn Huttleston and Scotty Whyte. The award honors Professor Emeritus Chuck Price, who dedicated many years to developing internship opportunities in Sacramento for Chico State students.

From left to right: Dean Hutchinson, Scotty Whyte, Kathryn Huttleston, and Dr. Charles Turner
In between the chilly winter storms, a ray of sunshine graced the CSU Chico campus and community on the evening of January 28, 2010, as the Valene L. Smith Museum of Anthropology officially opened its doors to the public in its new location in the Meriam Library complex.

Faculty, students, staff, and members of the Chico community gathered for this special celebration to honor Valene L. Smith’s $4.6 million in gifts and pledges to the museum. Speaking to the power of her bold vision and financial commitment to the museum, President Paul Zingg opened the ceremony with these words: “This is a powerful lesson that goes beyond your expertise, because it comes from your heart.”

The museum’s new exhibit, “Living on Top of the World: Arctic Adaptation, Survival and Stewardship,” invites visitors to see the Arctic like they’ve never seen it before, leading them to discover the wonder of the place, the animals and, above all, the people.

For thousands of years, the top of the world has been the home of Arctic peoples. This is also the homeland for polar bears, caribou, walruses, seals, whales, wolves, fox, and many other animals unique to this dynamic region of the Earth.

In this exhibition, visitors can see some of the ingenious ways that humans have adapted to survive and enjoy life even in such a challenging environment. It may surprise visitors to learn that the original people to inhabit the Arctic and the array of wildlife found in these northernmost lands may hold the key to our planet’s future and the fate of humankind.

The Valene L. Smith Museum of Anthropology is still first and foremost a hands-on laboratory for training students for future careers in the museum world. Coupled with the museum’s mission, visitors and students alike develop an awareness for human cultural diversity with each new exhibition. The recent move to the Meriam Library complex allows the museum to reach even more members of the University and North State. The museum’s future envisions a greater role as a partner in sustainability and enriching educational activities as part of the greater museum corridor on campus and beyond.

What’s next for the museum?


Check out: http://www.csuchico.edu/anth/museum/
“We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give”

-Sir Winston Churchill