Distinguished Alumnus

Robert W. Christopherson
Recognized Leader in Research & Teaching
California State University, Chico is the second-oldest campus among the 23 that comprise the California State University System. This year marks our 125th anniversary. The campus was founded in 1887 with the approval of a state legislative act permitting the development of a “Normal School” in Northern California. General John Bidwell generously donated eight acres of his cherry orchard toward the building of the school. The cornerstone to the “Normal School” was laid in 1888; the doors opened in September of 1889, and the first class graduated two years later with 15 students. Over the years the school’s name changed from Chico Normal School (1887) to Chico State Teachers College (1921) to Chico State College (1935), and to California State University, Chico (1972). For 125 years, CSU, Chico has sustained a strong tradition of academic excellence and has remained committed to student learning and student success.

Much has changed since 1887, but our mission to provide high-quality education to students and serve the region remains steadfast. Faculty and staff in the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences effectively provide students with outstanding interactive and leading-edge learning opportunities that ignite their curiosity about the world, develop their critical thinking skills, prepare them as engaged citizens and workers, and encourage them to crave life-long learning.

Many of our graduates make significant contributions to society, and when possible we acknowledge their outstanding contributions. This year we honor Mr. Robert Christopherson as our outstanding Behavioral and Social Sciences Distinguished Alumnus. For more information about his impressive professional achievements, please read the cover story on pages 6 and 7.

Professor Christopherson, and all of our students in BSS, are not only inspired by the subjects they study, but also by the talented faculty who teach them. Faculty achievements in this college are many. As featured in this issue of Vanguard, I wish to congratulate Drs. Way (Political Science) and Oppy (Psychology), who have earned prestigious fellowships with the American Council on Education.

We are proud of our students, faculty, staff, and alumni and the contributions they make in the world. They are “you.” So please, when you have a moment, share with us your achievements and contributions by e-mailing me at the address that appears below.

On behalf of the college, we look forward to hearing from you and wish you and yours a happy and healthy summer ahead.

Gayle E. Hutchinson, Dean
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GPS Guides Chico State to Local Elementary Schools

Six years ago, a parent at Chico Country Day School inquired if someone in the Social Science Program (SOSC) would be willing to teach Global Positioning Systems (GPS) technology to his child’s fourth grade class. Steve Stewart, a SOSC instructor, responded to the request, and it was so successful that it is now included in the syllabus for his Spatial Concepts class (SOSC 301) and encompasses working with fourth graders from various elementary schools in the Chico Unified School District.

Due to the success of the GPS service learning project, SOSC 301 students have expanded their activities to cover other spatial concepts, such as latitude and longitude, map reading, landforms, and climate.

SOCIAL WORK

Graduate Social Work Students in Action: Senior Legislative Days

The California Senior Legislature (CSL) was established in 1980 for the purpose of providing model legislation for older citizens and advocating for the needs of seniors. The objectives include identifying priority senior concerns, developing legislative proposals in response to those concerns, and advocating for the inclusions of these in the State Legislative process. Each October the CSL hosts Senior Legislative Days. Seven students from CSU, Chico’s School of Social Work attended the event this past October and learned a great deal about the legislative process as well as a variety of issues that are impacting seniors in the state. The state-sponsored senior legislature provides students with an experiential learning opportunity that promotes intergenerational mentoring and political advocacy. Participation in the event is an opportunity for students to participate in a unique intergenerational co-learning experience.
The Ishi Centennial

On August 29, 1911, Ishi, the last living member of a small band of Yahi Indians, chose to walk into the Euro-American society of the early 20th Century. The Department of Anthropology coordinated several events to celebrate this important centennial and enhance our relationship with neighboring Native American communities. We began with a symposium dedicated to Ishi at the Society for American Archaeology in Sacramento. Faculty and students from the department addressed several issues regarding the material culture, physical characteristics, and the ethnic identity of Ishi. Many of these same speakers participated in the Ishi speaker series as part of the Anthropology Forum, a community venue. In October 2011, California State University, Chico hosted the 26th Annual California Indian Conference, and in December, the Valene L. Smith Museum of Anthropology opened an exhibition on Ishi.

The Celebration Continues!

One of the outcomes of this productive year has been a series of films produced in our Advanced Visual Anthropology Lab (ALVA). One of these films, *California Indian Voices*, premiered on February 23, 2012 and drew a capacity crowd to the Anthropology Forum. At least 20 representatives of regional Native American tribes attended, and we anticipate many future opportunities for continued collaboration.

The California Indian Conference

Seven hundred people came from around California to participate in “Sustaining the Circle of Knowledge,” the 26th Annual California Indian Conference. From the opening blessing to the closing ceremonies, it was a time of rich learning, sharing, and connecting with others. Amy Huberland, assistant coordinator of the Northeast Historical Resources Information Center and coordinator of the conference, attributed the great success of the conference to the combined efforts of local tribes, CSU, Chico, faculty, staff, and students, state and federal agency representatives, and community members. An unprecedented number of attendees participated in presentations, workshops, tribal-hosted meals, traditional Native performances, a Youth Track, a contemporary Native American art show, and a master basket weavers demonstration. The event offered an exceptional opportunity for tribal members from across the state to network with academics, students, agency representatives, and community members and in addition, highlighted the beauty of CSU, Chico and the North State.

The Valene L. Smith Museum of Anthropology

The current exhibit, Coming Home: Ishi’s Long Journey, traces his many encounters, transformations, and adaptations to the modern world. From the beginning of his journey with a short stay in the Oroville jail to entering Victorian society in San Francisco, Ishi became a part of a new chapter in Native American history. With Professor Alfred Kroebner in the anthropology department of the University of California, Berkeley, Ishi provided a first-hand and personal account into a bygone way of life. His stories and his work with the anthropologists have left a profound history of insight, information, and material culture that help better explain the cultural practices of the Yahi people and of California Indians, in general. The exhibit will run through July 26, 2012.
Interns Put Activism into Practice

Students at the Center for Multicultural and Gender Studies (MCGS) benefit from service learning in the form of internships, in which they draw on the theoretical background they have been exposed to in the classroom and apply it in their work with real-world organizations.

Molly Heck, who earned her undergraduate degree from MCGS and went on to earn a Masters of Social Work in the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences at CSU, Chico, supervises these interns each semester.

“Healthy activities are nothing new to the Center for Multicultural and Gender Studies, which dates back to the 60’s when students demanded African American studies be made available to Chico State students. Currently, most of the non-dominant groups on campus are reflected in the areas of student in the center. “The legacy of diversity, multiculturalism, inclusion and pluralism is alive and well here at the Center!” said Kurt Nordstrom, director of MCGS.

Sociology Professor to be Featured on National Geographic Television Show

Sociology professor Liahna E. Gordon will appear on an upcoming episode of The National Geographic Channel’s series Taboo. The series seeks to take viewers into worlds previously unknown to explore behaviors and lifestyles that many people find odd, confusing, or even revolting. Gordon, whose area of specialization is the sociology of sexuality, was asked to appear as an expert on the show. This particular episode focused on people with fetishes, and she was asked not only to explain from a sociological perspective why people have fetishes, but also the social repercussions they are likely to suffer for breaking our culture’s sexual norms. Since sexual deviance is most often explained in the media from a perspective of pathology, Professor Gordon was particularly delighted that the show’s producer specifically sought to add a sociological viewpoint to the issue. The episode is expected to air next fall.
As life becomes more challenging for our youth, schools and communities are under continuous and mounting pressure to provide instructional assistance and mental health services to support the needs of children and adolescents. The educational systems today serve increasingly diverse student populations, and each child brings unique strengths and difficulties to the learning process. Therefore, school psychologists can play a crucial role in the collective efforts to discover and unlock each child's potential for success.

The Pupil Personnel Services (PPS) Program at CSU, Chico is a three-year, state- and nationally-accredited school psychology program that includes an internship in the public schools. Our program philosophy has long emphasized proactive, comprehensive, and prevention-oriented services and intervention at a systemic level, where possible. Our graduate students are trained in a wide range of pupil personnel functions including, but not limited to, behavioral and instructional consultation, cognitive and behavioral assessment, counseling and crisis intervention, inservice training, program development and evaluation, and collaboration with other professionals and community agencies. Throughout the program, students take coursework while gaining practical experience in school placements throughout the region. They finish the program with an M.A. in Psychology (Option in Applied Psychology) and a PPS Credential in School Psychology.

In addition, since it became a program requirement in 2007, 100 percent of our graduates have taken and passed the National School Psychology Exam, which in turn makes them eligible to become Nationally Certified School Psychologists (NCSP).

School psychologists positively impact children’s lives and make a lasting difference in communities across the nation. The demand for school psychologists is evident and on the rise. In these unpredictable financial times, the field of school psychology has proven to be a stable career choice with robust growth opportunities and has, in fact, been cited by US News and World Report as a top profession since 2002. Our PPS graduates from Chico State have had tremendous success in securing immediate and lucrative employment after graduation and are frequently sought after by school districts throughout the state. Recent graduate Carrie Suchy, now a school psychologist in Washington, secured a position even prior to graduation and believes that her training at Chico State enabled her to be a competitive out-of-state candidate.
Once a year, the College of Behavioral and Social Sciences has the opportunity to recognize an outstanding alumna/us who has truly had a positive and profound impact on society. This year, the college is proud to recognize Mr. Robert W. Christopherson.

Christopherson received his Bachelor of Arts degrees in both geography and history from California State University, Chico in 1969, and his MA in Geography from Miami University, Ohio. Christopherson’s first textbook was published in 1992; he is now the author of the leading physical geography texts in the U.S. and Canada: *Geosystems, 7/e; Elemental Geosystems, 6/e; Geosystems Canadian Edition, 2/e; and Applied Physical Geography, 7/e*, all published by Pearson Prentice Hall. His wife, Bobbé, serves as photographer and production assistant on his textbooks, which have received numerous national awards.

According to Christopherson, the steering of academics in applied and relevant directions, given the rate of global change, is at a critical juncture. He believes geospatial science is the essential discipline to
Robert Christopherson is the author of the best-selling physical geography texts in the US and Canada:

Christopherson, in reminiscing about his student days at Chico State, said, “My time at CSU, Chico was so important in shaping my track to graduate school at Miami University (Ohio) and then onto my professorship. Bruce Bechtol and Margaret Trussell were key mentors to me in the department, as well as Art Karinen, David Lantis, Ladd Johnson, and Bill Hutchinson, fondly known as Old Hutch. In fact, Old Hutch wrote a book, *California, Two Centuries of Man, Land, and Growth in the Golden State*, that I keep in my library, along with *Oil, Land, and Politics*. I took the Western U.S. course from him in fall 1968, when he won the teaching award at Chico, as I recall. Taking his class was a highlight of my years at Chico.”

Together, the Christophersons have completed 12 expeditions to the Arctic and Antarctic regions since 2003. Their most recent book project is *On Melting Ice: The Survival of Our Polar Bears*, written with Arctic expedition leader Rinie Van Meurs. Illustrated with photos of the Arctic and its inhabitants, this book is highlighted by Van Meurs’s stories of polar bear antics and encounters and Christopherson’s highly-accessible explanation of the science of global warming.

Christopherson has been recognized for excellence in teaching with the 1999 Distinguished Teaching Achievement Award from the National Council for Geographic Education and the Outstanding Educator Award from the California Geographical Society. In 2009, he was elected to the Textbook and Authors’ Association prestigious Council of Fellows.

Christopherson describes himself as an active student and teacher of geographic education, climate change science, physical geography and Earth systems science, and textbook authoring. He is currently a professor emeritus of geography following 30 years of teaching at American River College.
Geography and Planning senior (double major with Economics) Ryan Miller was selected to participate in the Air Pollution Education Program at University of California, Davis last summer. As part of this program, Ryan worked as a research intern with the Department of Agriculture and Resource Economics and the Institute of Transportation Studies at UC Davis on a project that mapped vehicle miles traveled and fuel consumption across all zip codes in California. The poster that resulted from his project won first place at the culminating poster session for the summer program. His poster was titled *Mapping Fuel Consumption in California: How Where You Live Affects How You Drive*.

**Undergrad Wins Best Poster at Air Pollution and Education Program, UC Davis**

Geography and Planning senior (double major with Economics) Ryan Miller was selected to participate in the Air Pollution Education Program at University of California, Davis last summer. As part of this program, Ryan worked as a research intern with the Department of Agriculture and Resource Economics and the Institute of Transportation Studies at UC Davis on a project that mapped vehicle miles traveled and fuel consumption across all zip codes in California. The poster that resulted from his project won first place at the culminating poster session for the summer program. His poster was titled *Mapping Fuel Consumption in California: How Where You Live Affects How You Drive*.

**Renowned Economist Retires**

Winning a lottery ticket for $250 when he was about 9 years old turned Professor John Eckalbar onto the world of finance and economics. His father explained to him that he could use the winnings to purchase a stock, a bond, or he could put it in some other type of savings. With his newly-found interest in the stock market, the young Eckalbar read about the economy in newspapers and magazines, with his interest culminating in an undergraduate degree in finance and a PhD in economics.

Recently, Professor Eckalbar turned his attention to similarities between the spread of infectious diseases and economics. In the fall of 2008, during the peak uncertainty period associated with the mortgage/financial crisis, he noticed that recessions are somewhat like epidemics. If someone loses income (i.e., “catches” the recession infection), then that person cuts spending; however, this spending is someone else’s income. Therefore, that person “catches” the recession from the original individual who cut his or her spending. Eckalbar looked at methods that mathematical epidemiologists use to study the spread of disease. For additional expertise in the biological aspects of his research, he brought his son Walter on board, and the result was a paper titled “Non-Linear Analysis: Real World Applications.”

Following that paper, Eckalbar began working with his son and Prof. Tsournos to determine how much others benefit when someone gets a vaccination. If society can estimate total benefits of a vaccination, then it can better allocate funds to vaccinations versus other uses. Eckalbar is combining an epidemiological approach with an economic one to measure total benefits. The resulting paper will show the effect of “yesterday’s” disease prevalence on today’s demand for vaccinations.

Since arriving at Chico State, Professor Eckalbar has written more than 20 articles that have been published in prestigious journals, including the one that he co-authored with his son, Walter, who is close to completion of his PhD in genetics.

**ECONOMICS**
Political Science Department’s Town Hall Meeting Program Receives National Recognition

The Department of Political Science has served as the home for CSU, Chico’s Town Hall Meeting program since fall 2009. This innovative program received national recognition in the report, “A Crucible Moment: College Learning and Democracy’s Future,” commissioned by the U.S. Department of Education, released to the White House in January 2012.

The Town Hall Meeting program began in 2007 in the Department of English as a way to connect student research and writing with public spaces for dialogue, providing a model of what is called “Public Sphere Pedagogy,” which continues today in the Department of Political Science. In addition, Political Science recognizes that the program further enhances its broader purpose—preparing students for engagement in civic and political life.

Each semester, hundreds of students in multiple sections of the Introduction to American Government course research issues of local, national, or international importance. Students’ research and writing in the course is directed through common assignments that are intended to prepare them for a town hall meeting event held two-thirds of the way into the semester. At the event, students are welcomed as a large group in the Associated Student’s Bell Memorial Union. Immediately following, students participate in “breakout sessions” of approximately 15 to 25 students that are held in classrooms throughout the campus. The breakout sessions consist of face-to-face discussions with members of the community and university who consult with the students about the issues that the students have researched. At the close of the Town Hall Meeting event, students gather in smaller groups with community and university consultants to develop concrete plans for civic and political action.

The Town Hall Meeting program has an impressive impact across the university and the community. The program has grown from 150 student participants in 2007 to over 600 student participants in fall 2011. Each semester, it also involves nearly 100 participants from the university and community who serve as moderators and consultants. Since the Town Hall Program began in 2007, the first cohort of Town Hall students began graduating in 2011. Preliminary research has revealed that these students graduated at higher rates, even when controlling for their college entrance exam scores and high school GPA. We have also found evidence suggesting that participation significantly increases each student’s sense of well-being. Currently, participating professors are examining the observation that the Town Hall notably improves student writing in the Introduction to American Government course.

The Town Hall Meeting also serves to build collaborative relationships between faculty, staff, administrators, and the community. Each semester the program involves anywhere up to five faculty and six graduate assistants in the Department of Political Science. Professor Ellie Ertle coordinates the program, as well as serving as an instructor. Professors Diana Dwyre and Jim Jacob teach the program every year, and other participating faculty include Professors Cynthia Bynoe and Eileen Morris. Moreover, numerous Political Science faculty support the research evaluation of the program, including Professors Craig Scarpelli and Rebecca Britton, with Professor Lori Weber coordinating the research evaluation.

For more information, see:
- The Town Hall Meeting’s Web site: http://www.csuchico.edu/fye/Public_Sphere_Work/thm/csuc_town_hall_meeting.shtml
- An informative video: http://www.csuchico.edu/fye/Public_Sphere_Work/thm/index.shtml
- The National Task Force’s recent report: http://www.aacu.org/civic_learning/crucible/
The Health and Community Services Department makes services to children and youth a priority in five of their professional process classes. The curriculum in these classes for future health educators and environmental specialists teaches skills in need assessment, capacity building, program planning, and evaluation. Rather than relying on textbooks, these classes take the students into local schools and afterschool programs to learn by doing. In a typical semester, 260 Health and Community Services students participate in service learning programs where they create a program, present it, and evaluate it.

Some programs, such as the Health Academy and Read Across America, have existed for years, and students create a new offering in a structured program. Other programs, such as Planet Protectors (environmental education) and Let’s Move (increasing activity levels in youth), are brand new and will be rolled out this spring.

HCSV programs for children during spring 2012:

- Health Academy
- REAL Girls
- Let’s Move
- Planet Protectors
- Read Across America
- Spring Into Health
- Leaders for a Lifetime
Understanding the complementary ways in which mothers and fathers are involved with their children is the topic for an upcoming special issue of the journal *Early Child Development and Care*. For this special issue, co-editors, Drs. Diana Coyl-Shepherd (CSU, Chico), Lisa Newland (University of South Dakota), and Daniel Paquette (University of Montreal) have been reviewing research studies from a set of international scholars. The research team was invited to guest edit this issue after Newland and Coyl-Shepherd co-chaired a symposium titled “Unique Pathways from Mothering and Fathering to Child Attachment” at the Society for Research in Child Development conference in Montreal last spring.

Titled *Unique Contributions of Mothering and Fathering to Children’s Development*, the journal is scheduled for publication in the summer of 2012. It will contain 13 to 14 original qualitative and quantitative research studies that include families with infants, toddlers, kindergartners, and school age children in Australia, Canada, Taiwan, and the United States. Within these studies, mothers and fathers were asked about their family contexts, including work constraints, employment conditions, parenting stress, coparenting behaviors and attitudes, and their own sources of social support. The research studies how these multi-dimensional contexts influence their parenting practices and their children’s development in areas such as language acquisition, parent-child attachment, emotional expression, social competence with peers, home learning and school involvement, and child problem behaviors.

Several studies compare mothers’ and fathers’ experiences within the same families, with some focusing more specifically on unique aspects of father involvement. In particular, some studies focus on Father-Child Rough-and-Tumble Play (RTP), which has led to new theoretical concepts of fathering and empirical studies of how fathers facilitate physical health and positive social and emotional development in young children through RTP.
Two College of Behavioral and Social Sciences professors have been named American Council on Education (ACE) Fellows for academic year 2012–2013.

Brian Oppy, chair of the Department of Psychology, and Lori Beth Way, professor in the Department of Political Science, are among the 57 faculty members and administrators in the United States and abroad who were chosen for the program, which is designed to identify and prepare future leaders in higher education.

“The ACE Fellows Program is the best and most respected higher education leadership development program in the country,” said CSU, Chico President Paul Zingg. “It is extremely rare when the program accepts two individuals from the same institution into the program in a single year. But, then, both Lori Beth and Brian are folks of great promise. It is very gratifying that ACE recognized that and a lovely reflection on our university that we will be doubly represented in this year’s class of Fellows.”

ACE Fellows focus on issues important to their home institutions while spending a semester or academic year working with a college or university president and other senior officers at a host institution. Oppy and Way have not yet been assigned universities where they will serve their fellowships. Oppy will be at a host institution for the fall 2012 semester, and Way will be at a host institution for the 2012–2013 academic year.

Established in 1965, The ACE Fellows program has included more than 1,700 participants. Of that group, more than 300 have become chief executive officers and more than 1,100 have become provosts, vice presidents, or deans, including the dean of the college, Gayle Hutchinson.

Along with their appointments at host institutions, Fellows attend three week-long retreats on higher education issues organized by ACE, read extensively in the field and engage in other activities to enhance their knowledge about the challenges and opportunities confronting higher education today.

**Brian Oppy**

Oppy came to CSU, Chico in 1995 after completing his PhD at UC Davis. He has been chair of the Department of Psychology for five years and is past vice-chair of the Academic Senate. Oppy is on the executive committee of the University Chairs Council. He is a recipient of an Exemplary Online Instruction award and is on the Academy e-Learning faculty team considering new models for redesigning courses with large enrollment. His scholarly interests include cognition, perception, psycholinguistics, and the role of technology in education.

**Lori Beth Way**

Way joined the CSU, Chico faculty in 1999. She earned her PhD in political science and a graduate certificate in women's studies from Syracuse University. She is chair of the Academic Senate’s Educational Policies and Procedures Committee and serves on the Senate Executive Committee. In 2009 she was awarded a Lantis University Professorship to support her leadership in the U.S. Department of Justice-funded Safe Place project. Way served as a member of the General Education Design Team and was co-chair of the GE Implementation Team. Her co-authored textbook CJ: Realities and Challenges, in its second edition, was recently released.
Many alumni and friends attended the 11th annual Capital Alumni Luncheon in Sacramento on March 27, hosted by CSU, Chico President Paul Zingg and Dean Gayle Hutchinson. Guest of honor Charles M. Price, professor emeritus, was recognized for his impact on state politics through the Charles M. Price Internship Scholarship. This year’s scholarship recipients were Evelyn Braz and Jessica LaMaack. The luncheon also featured the Town Hall Meeting which included remarks from Dr. Thia Wolf and Ellie Ertle.

BSS FACULTY COLLOQUIUM

The BSS Faculty Colloquium Series is a yearly event at which a BSS faculty member is honored for his or her nationally or internationally recognized scholarship. In fall 2011 we were proud to recognize Dr. Sherrow Pinder, who holds a joint appointment with the Department of Political Science and Multicultural and Gender Studies, as our keynote speaker. Pinder is widely recognized as an important scholar in her field, and her keynote talk on “Michael Jackson and the Quandary of a Black Identity” was both interesting and evocative.

STUDENT AWARDS

Multicultural and Gender Studies student Jillian Ruddell received both the Valene Smith Outstanding BSS Student and University Student Leader Awards this April. Ms. Ruddell was recognized for her extraordinary leadership and service, both on and off campus. She currently serves as a trustee on the CSU Board of Trustees, beginning her second year of a two-year appointment.

Jillian Ruddell with C.C. Carter, director of the Cross Cultural Leadership Institute
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www.csuchico.edu/makeagift

“Be the change you want to see in the world.”

— Mahatma Gandhi