



Fall 2007 Convocation

Eduardo M. Ochoa

Provost and Vice President for
Academic Affairs



Topics

- New Faculty & Announcements
- 2006-07 Accomplishments
- External Environment
- Academic Objectives for 2007-08
- The SSU Baccalaureate

*[Slides of this presentation will be posted at
<http://www.sonoma.edu/aa/provost/reports/>]*

New Full-time Faculty (I)

School of Arts and Humanities (6)

- **Edward J. Beebout, Department of Communication Studies (COMS)**
M.S. 1983, Iowa State University. Formerly Lecturer, SSU
- **Brantley Bryant, English**
M.Phil 2004, M.A. 2000, Columbia University. Formerly Graduate Writing Fellow, Columbia University
- **Ajay Gehlawat, Hutchins**
M.A. 2000, New York University. Formerly Lecturer, John Jay College, New York
- **Daniel Melero Malpica, Chicano and Latino Studies (CALS)**
M.A. 1992 UCLA. Formerly Visiting Professor, Pitzer College
- **Dr. John Palmer, Music**
Ph.D. 1996, UC Davis. Formerly Lecturer, University of San Francisco
- **Dr. Jennifer Roberson, Arts and Art History**
Ph.D., 2004, University of Minnesota. Formerly Assistant Professor, Minnesota State University, Moorhead

New Full-time Faculty (II)

School of Business and Economics (4)

- **Dr. Florence Bouvet, Economics**
Ph.D. 2006, UC Davis. Formerly Assistant Professor, Lewis and Clark College
- **David Horowitz, Business Administration (Mkt)**
MBA 2003, San Diego State University. Formerly Teaching Assistant, Florida State University
- **Chong-Uk Kim, Economics**
Ph.D. 2007, University of Oregon. Formerly Instructor, University of Oregon
- **Dr. John C. Urbanski, Business Administration (Mgmt)**
Ph.D. 2000, University of South Carolina. Formerly Assistant Professor, Western Carolina University

School of Education

- **Dr. Chiara Bacigalupa, Literacy Studies and Elementary Education (LSEE)**
Ph.D. 2005 University of Minnesota. Formerly Assistant Professor, University of Utah

New Full-time Faculty (III)

School of Science and Technology (5)

- **Dr. Jeremy Qualls, Physics & Astronomy**
Ph.D. 1999, Florida State University. Formerly Assistant Professor, University of Texas-Pan American, Texas
- **Dr. Deborah Roberts, Nursing**
Ph.E.M. 2002, University of LaVerne. Formerly Assistant Professor, Humboldt State University
- **Dr. Shailendhar (Shally) Saraf, Engineering Science**
Ph.D. 2005, Stanford University. Formerly Assistant Professor, Rochester Institute of Technology, NY
- **Dr. Scott Severson, Physics & Astronomy**
Ph.D. 2000, 1992 University of Chicago. Formerly Associate Research Astronomer, UCO/Lick Observatory, UC Santa Cruz
- **Dr. Michael Smith, Geology**
Ph.D candidate, University of Wisconsin-Madison. Formerly Adjunct Professor, University of Montana, Missoula

New Full-time Faculty (IV)

School of Social Sciences (3)

- **Dr. Ian Feinhandler, Geography**
Ph.D. 2006 University of Colorado, Boulder. Formerly Instructor,
University of Colorado, Boulder
- **Dr. Amy Kittelstrom, History**
Ph.D. 2004, Boston University; Formerly Lecturer, Harvard University
- **Dr. Joshua Meisel, Criminology & Criminal Justice**
Ph.D. 2001, University of Colorado at Boulder. Formerly Lecturer,
Humboldt State University

Library (1)

- **Sheila Lyn Cunningham, Library**
MLIS 2003, San Jose State; BA 1993 San Francisco State
Formerly Instruction & Reference Librarian, UC Davis



New Student Convocation

Monday, August 20

11:30 am to 1 pm

All faculty invited

come in regalia if you have it –

but please attend even if you don't

Meet at the Stevenson Loading Dock at 11:15 am

1500 students expected to attend

Part of First Day program

(<http://www.sonoma.edu/ar/admissions/firstday>)



Green Music Center Site Tours Today

- 30- minute tours from 3:30 PM to 5:30 PM
- Sign-up at lobby, Senate Office or to laurel.holmstrom@sonoma.edu
- Gather at parking lot across from site
- Wear closed-toed shoes, please

[<http://greenmusiccenter.sonoma.edu/>]

Academic Affairs Accomplishments in 2006-07

- Teaching and Learning
- Sponsored Research
- Presentations and publications
- Fundraising
- Accreditation



Teaching and Learning

- Over 8,300 students served
- 20 new full-time faculty on board
- The Excellence in Teaching Award was given to Drs. Patricia Kim-Rajal (Chicano and Latino Studies) and Sunil Tiwari (Mathematics)
- Teaching and Technology Workshop Series offered by the Center for Teaching and Professional Development (<http://www.sonoma.edu/ctpd/>)
- Faculty Development Monthly Workshops offered by the Professional Development Subcommittee



Sponsored Research

<http://www.sonoma.edu/aa/orsp/>

- 33 SSU faculty were awarded over \$ 5.1 million in 80 grants across 19 departments
- Examples:
 - Heather Smith, Psychology, \$256K, NSF, Undergraduate Research.
 - Hal Cushman, Biology, \$212K, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Recovery of Vernal Pool Grasses.
 - Les Adler & Miriam Hutchins, \$139K, NEH, Jack London project.
 - Lynn Cominsky, \$909K, NASA, Astronomy projects.
 - Adrian Praetzellis, \$1.1 million, Various agencies, anthropology projects.

Presentations & Publications

A Sample:

- Library Lecture series – 29 faculty presented in series “Citizens of the World: on Common Ground?” – Library organized with help from Modern Languages
- Library - Four art exhibits – one with the Museum and Gallery Methods course and one student exhibition by recipient of the Boyle Scholarship plus two others of broad appeal
- Distinguished Speakers on campus: Drs. Lani Guinier (Harvard U.) and Molefi Kete Asante (Temple U.)
- ORSP’s 11th Annual Faculty Exposition of Scholarship and Sponsored Research featured a record 28 faculty and staff presentations

And numerous books, chapters and articles



Fundraising

- The School of Business received a \$5 million dollar endowment and a \$100,000 endowment for Economics for scholarship
- The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at SSU received a second \$1,000,000 Endowment grant from the Bernard Osher Foundation
- Schools and the Library received over \$1 million in other gifts this academic year



AACSB Accreditation

- SSU received initial accreditation for its business programs by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB)

WASC Accreditation

<http://www.sonoma.edu/aa/portfolio/>

- Accreditation Review Steering Committee (ARSC)
 - Co-chaired by Provost and Prof. Andy Merrifield
 - Developed well-received Self-Study Proposal for WASC
- Faculty Associates Diana Grant, Beez Schell, and Andy Wallace
- Draft Capacity and Preparatory Review report will be available for campus comment early this Fall semester
- Final CPR Report due to WASC in December
- Capacity and Preparatory Review visit on March 2008



Looking Forward: Global Environment

- The Flat World – outsourcing, off-shoring, Internet, broadband communications. The economic upsurge in China and India.
- The accelerating competition in global economy means college education is a must
- The explosion of information and rapid commoditization of expert skills
- Creativity, flexibility, a broad liberal education: an increasingly practical imperative
- Graduates will change careers multiple times; cross-disciplinary teamwork, lifelong learning will be universal requirements



National environment for higher education

- Push for accountability in K-12 spreading to higher education
- Learning outcomes, graduation rates, time to graduation
- Regional, peer-based accreditation under challenge
- Higher education is facing significant consolidation of overcapacity in the next 10 years
- Strong competition for talented students; added pressure from college rankings
- Colleges and universities are seeking distinctive identities and niches to buffer themselves from commoditization

CSU Response: Access to Excellence Strategic Plan

(http://www.calstate.edu/acadaff/system_strategic_planning/)

In process; draft strategic initiative areas:

1. Success and Access in Education
2. Reinvestment in Faculty and Staff
3. Improved institutional stewardship and governance
4. Build and market plan to grow resources



SSU: 2007-08 Academic Objectives

- Fully fund instructional growth
- Increased support for faculty professional development
- Completion or advancement of initiatives in progress
 - University Strategic Planning
 - Accessible Technology Initiative (<http://www.sonoma.edu/accessibility/>)
 - WASC Accreditation
 - RTP Policy Revision
 - GE revision
- Improved communication and consultation

University Strategic Planning

(<http://www.sonoma.edu/uaffairs/strategicplan/>)

- Strategic Areas Identified (in alphabetical order)
 1. Academic Programs
 2. Community Resources
 3. Diversity
 4. Enrollment Management
 5. External Support
 6. Faculty and Staff Development
 7. Infrastructure
 8. Quality of the Student Experience
 9. Sustainability
- Draft of strategic plan to be revised this semester
- Impact of Planning Process



RTP Revision

- Draft revision completed by Faculty Standards & Affairs Committee
- Will be released for comments this semester
- Revisions designed to increase transparency, streamline processes, and clarify expectations for faculty undergoing tenure and promotion review

Reform of General Education

- A faculty-driven 12-year (so far) process
- Three-stage blueprint for reformed GE program outlined in faculty documents (www.sonoma.edu/ge_initiative)
 - Holistic first-year program
 - Senior Capstone Course
 - 2nd- and 3rd-year breadth in the disciplines
- Linked to transition to 4-unit courses
- Under development by GE Subcommittee

Freshman Year Experience Pilot Course

http://www.sonoma.edu/ge_initiative/fye_pilot.shtml

- Year Two of two-year experiment
- Cohort of 150 freshmen
- Ten faculty to deliver the multidisciplinary course on “Identity and Global Change”
- Large lecture/small seminar combination
- Prof. John Kornfeld, FYE Coordinator

The Nature of the SSU Baccalaureate

- Developing a campus-wide consensus: still the extant task
- The emerging national consensus on liberal education (AAC&U)
 - *Greater Expectations* (www.greaterexpectations.org)
 - *Taking Responsibility for the Quality of the Baccalaureate*
(www.sonoma.edu/aa/assess_effectiveness)
 - *College Learning for the New Global Century*
(<http://www.aacu.org/advocacy/leap/>)

Broad Framework for Academic Renewal

1. a focus on expected learning outcomes;
2. coherent organization of the educational experience;
3. widespread use of active and collaborative instructional methods;
4. assessment of students' progress and success in learning.



The Major

- A set of guiding **educational goals**
- A beginning providing **insight** into the ways scholars in that field think and create knowledge
- A purposeful middle creating **cumulative and deeper learning**
- A culminating experience **integrating learning** and producing a significant piece of intellectual work
- A major that functions as a “**learning community**”

The General Education Program

- **Purposeful.** Clear rationale and explicit educational goals
- **Coherent.** The various components fit together and mutually reinforce each other
- **Engaging.** Students are engaged with subjects that matter to them and stimulate their curiosity to learn
- **Rigorous.** Students are challenged and rewarded for learning difficult material
- **Extends throughout all four years.** Students master more advanced content and sophisticated skills
- **Has good leadership from the faculty and administration**
- **Is a corporate responsibility of the faculty**
- **Enjoys sufficient resources to achieve its purposes**

Common Threads of Quality Programs

- Intentionality in overall program design
- Faculty leadership and engagement in forming collective consensus
- Consensus guides detailed curriculum design



Further Thoughts

- On Chair Wandling's remarks
 - Our dual mission: prepare for careers and form engaged citizens
 - Two major stakeholders: students and Legislature who emphasize the former while we treasure the latter – both must be accomplished
 - SFR Statistics
 - SSU uses CSU methodology
 - Individual experience may not match aggregate statistics
- AS President Whitney Diver's and Staff Representative Lane Olson's remarks: a stirring call for unity and collaboration



Our blessings

- A dedicated faculty, staff, and administrators
- A beautiful campus in a beautiful setting
- SSU as the intellectual (and soon, artistic) hub of the North Bay, a region with an affluent population open to supporting SSU
- The potential to transcend our constraints and to create a virtuous circle of improving quality of programs, students, faculty, and external support
- The opportunity to build on these strengths together



HAVE A GREAT YEAR!