On April 6, the Department of Kinesiology took over the operation of the pool at the Timpany Center (located at 730 Empey Way, near Valley Med, close to the 280/17 interchange). This was due to the strenuous efforts of Drs. Megginson, Shifflett, Lilienthal, and Montgomery, plus Dean Bullock, and many other faculty and staff, especially Vy Bui who coordinated the move. Thanks to all for making this happen!

We regard this as a very exciting first step in establishing the Timpany Center as a service learning site for many of our undergraduate and graduate students. The Timpany Center was opened in 1979 as a place to help children with disabilities be active in the pool and the gym. Over the years, it broadened to work with people of all ages with disability and, most recently, the pool has become a place where older adults come for aquatic therapy because the pool is maintained at 92 degrees.

Since we opened, we have had the pleasure of getting to know over 180 clients and the following KIN students are currently working there: Frank Barnes (reception), Nate Lorens (reception), Steven Williams (lifeguard), and Lisa Josefik (supervisor). Other students are on-deck to assist in the future.

In the next couple of months, we plan to bid for the long term operation of the entire facility: the pool, the gym, the classroom, and a room that we believe would be ideal as a research center. We have some new equipment on order that will greatly expand our students’ knowledge and our department’s ability to meet the needs of the local community regarding physical activity for many non-traditional populations. This means many more hands-on and research opportunities for students and faculty alike, while we serve community needs and build relationships through collaborative partnerships.

We plan to involve not only adapted specialists and teachers, but also biomechanists, psychologists, sport/event managers, athletic trainers and pre-physical therapists, and exercise specialists. In short, everyone in KIN can get involved in these practical, hands on experiences, where we will need interns, lifeguards, receptionists, managers, and volunteers! Check it out at timpanycenter.org and let Dr. Megginson know if you would like to be involved there, in any capacity now or in the fall. 

Shirley H. M. Reekie, Chair

Three KIN faculty receive awards!

The recipient of the university’s Outstanding Professor Award for this year is Dr. Emily Wughalter. This is the highest award a professor can receive at San José State University. Emily will be a member of the platform party at Commencement and will deliver the address at the Honors Convocation. Many congratulations, Emily!

The recipient of the Department of Kinesiology’s Outstanding Alum Award for 2009 will be Dr. Peggy Plato. She will receive the award at the Dean’s “Salute to the Stars” event on May 4th. Congratulations, Peggy!

And Carol Sullivan will receive the Outstanding Lecturer Award of the College of Applied Sciences and Arts, also at the Dean’s “Salute to the Stars” event. Congratulations, Carol!

Summer class/times; looking ahead to winter

Owing to reduced funding because of the state’s financial crisis, KIN will offer only one class this summer: KIN 175. We anticipate that fall classes will be full and as usual, we will offer a range of classes in winter session which, because it is funded differently, will be less affected by the cuts.

2009 KIN Graduation Banquet Information

Date: Friday May 22, 2009
Time: 5:00PM-9:00PM
Event: Full sit-down dinner including choice of Vegetarian, Beef or Chicken entrée.
Grad Ceremony: Recognition ceremony for both Graduate and Undergraduate students (Winter 2008 and May 2009)
Cost: The anticipated cost is $37.00/ticket (w/ no ticket limit!)
Dress: Cap & Gown for ceremony
Sales: Reservations can be made in the front office (SPX 56)
Faculty News

New faculty member, (soon to be Dr.) Elizabeth Domangue, currently finishing up her doctoral degree at Louisiana State University, will join us in the fall to teach Physical Education Teacher Education. Thanks to all faculty and students who participated in the search and gave input. More details in the next Communicator.

Dr. Jay Johnson has been elected member-at-large to the board of the North American Society for the Sociology of Sport.

One of our part time instructors, Jenn Schachner, has been accepted into the doctoral program at UNLV to study sport educational leadership, working in the area of senior fitness. She’s working on trying to stay and do it from here as much as possible and maybe going there summers. Way to go, Jenn!!

And on the subject of doctorates, Holly Brown has been accepted into USF’s educational doctorate program in learning and instruction. She, too, plans on continuing to work in Kinesiology while pursuing her degree. Way to go, Holly!!

Dr. Jessica Chin was selected for the Emerging Professional Award by the Western Society for Physical Education for College Women (WSPECW). This award reflects her excellence in teaching, creativity, and professional contribution. The award was accepted in November 2008 at the annual meeting of WSPECW. At that meeting, Dr. Chin also delivered a presentation titled “Talkin’ bout a non-[r]evolution: Understanding Gender and Sports in a New Democratic Context”, in which she discussed the shifting meanings of gender and gender construction in contemporary Romania.

Along with Co-editors, Peixin Geng (People’s Education Press) and Guoli Liang (University of Wisconsin, Whitewater), Dr. Greg Payne organized and published (October, 2008) An Introduction to Human Motor Development. This book, the first motor development text in China, was published by the People’s Education Press (Chinese Ministry of Education) and was a joint project of American and Chinese Scholars. Greg also wrote the opening chapter in the book. Greg also completed two other book chapters. continued on back page

Events in KIN

* KIN launches new professional journal! On behalf of assistant editors, Dr. Matthew Masucci, Dr. Ted Butryn and Dr. Amy Fitzgerald, Dr. Jay Johnson is pleased to announce the introduction of the peer reviewed open access publication: The Journal of Sport, Physical Activity, Body and the Environment (ISSN: 1947-6167). The anticipated call for papers will be circulated in conjunction with Earth Day on April 22, 2009. The primary goal of the Journal of Sport, Physical Activity, Body and the Environment is to provide an international forum for the discussion and presentation of scholarly work, from a variety of methodological, theoretical, and disciplinary perspectives, that broadly considers the relationship(s) between sport, physical activity, the body, the environment and environmentalism. The interest that we bring to the examination of the intersection of sport, physical activity, the body and the environment is not only one of “concerned” global citizens, but as critical scholars searching for understanding and possible alternatives for creating sustainable cultures. It is our hope that JSPABE will elicit engaging submissions that consider multiple perspectives of the environment and the complex and nuanced relationships that are forged in geographic as well physical space(s). While still under construction, you may access the journal at following web address: www.kin.sjsu.edu/JSPABE. We are thrilled to have some of the leading scholars from a multiplicity of research disciplines who have agreed to join our editorial board for no less than a period of two years, including Dr. Jay Coakley, recognized as one of the most preeminent Sport Sociologists in North America, Dr. Michael Atkinson, Dr. Brian Wilson, Dr. Becky Beale and Dr. Jessica Chin, among others.

* Department table tennis tournament big success! Thanks to Dr. Gong Chen, the first annual tournament had over 70 participants. Check out the photo blog of the event at: http://files.thespartandaily.com/multimedia/04-13-09TableTennis/

* Ballroom dance club spring swing-a-thon a delightful success! Pros from the community taught workshops in East Coast Swing, West Coast Swing, and Jive. In addition, there was lots of open dancing, jack & jill contests, performances from students enrolled in KIN’s beginning social and latin dance classes, and a live band to wrap up the event, reports advisor Dr. Bethany Shifflett.

* KIN students win Whitmore Wellness Challenge! This was a six week challenge that motivated individuals to adopt healthy habits relating to physical fitness, nutrition, general wellness, and components of life balance, which included intellectual, emotional, spiritual, and social activities. About forty groups of four people competed. Melody Epp’s group (also two staff members from the Student Health Center and the president of the Pre-PT Club, Kristine Amii). Their team name was “Lunachicz,” named after the Lunabar. They won, and the grand prize is to have dinner at President Whitmore’s house. Way to go, Lunachicz!

* Associated Students and Kinesiology Department Host 2nd Annual Spartan Triathlon! Triathletes “Go Green” and Raise Money for Charity. Advisor, Dr. Jay Johnson, writes that the second annual Spartan Triathlon will be held at the SJSU Aquatic Center on April 25, 2009. Registration for the triathlon will begin at 8:30 AM, with the first heat beginning at 9:00 AM. SJSU’s Associated students, the department of Kinesiology and the SJSU Triathlon Club helped organize the event. The mini-triathlon will consisted of 15-minute swimming, (stationary) biking, and running legs with a five minute rest period between each event. Over 100 students are expected to compete in this year’s triathlon. The Spartan Triathlon, which takes place the first Saturday after Earth Day, will continue to be a sustainable event, reducing waste and using bio-degradable materials. Participants are encouraged to bring canned food, clothing, blankets or shoes to donate to Inn vision (www.innvision.org), and Life Builders Shelter (www.ehlifebuilders.org), charities that support abused women and families and the homeless.
Student News


Seongkwan Cho, a KIN graduate student in sport psychology, was recently accepted into the Ph.D. program at Florida State University. Seong is currently finishing his thesis on the use of imagery and music in golf putting performance.

Graduate student Susan Armenta has been awarded one of five CASA 2009 CEED Distinguished Service Awards for demonstrated leadership in activities that foster diversity in our community. The award will be presented at the CASA Dean’s Award Reception “Salute to the Stars” on May 4, 2009.

In addition, the Adapted Physical Activity Club (President, Cynequa Caldwell-Kozak) will receive the CEED Student Organization Award, also presented on May 4th. Congratulations to all winners!

During the fall 2008 term, undergraduate student Mike Sebasta studied abroad in Milan, Italy. He writes: It was an unforgettable experience in which I gained eternal skills. I know this is a typical study abroad students response, but honestly there is nothing but benefits I have to say. I have returned with increased self-confidence, maturity, independence, and enlarged worldview. You will also get to have the chance to create lifelong friendships with people from all corners of the globe. In addition to the numerous personal benefits studying abroad can provide, it also provides professional advantages. Studying abroad will help you become a globally aware individual that is increasingly sought by many corporations. By the way, did I say it gives you an excellent opportunity to travel to exotic locations? You will seriously return from studying abroad a changed individual, with more possibilities, stories, and qualities then you ever would from studying solely in an American university. This will truly be one of the best experiences of your life that you will carry with you forever.

Graduate student Lailie Ibrahim and Dr. Sonja Lilienthal presented “Muslim Women in the World of Sport,” at the AAHPERD National Convention in Tampa, FL.

Susan Armenta (graduate student) and Dr. Sonja Lilienthal presented “Salud por Vida: The Impact of Fitness and Nutrition Programs on Low-income, Latina Girls and Women,” at the CAHPERD Conference. Susan is the Program Director Bay Area Women’s Sport Initiative.

Sport Studies graduate students Robert Wright and Lindsey Eliopulos successfully presented their papers at the Popular Culture Association & American Culture Association 2009 Joint Conference held in New Orleans. Robert’s presentation was titled, “Framing Barry Bonds: A Mixed Methods Inquiry into Media” and Lindsey presented, “Framing Media Representation of Sport-Celebrity Relationships: An Analysis Of The Modern Femme Fatale”.

Michael Dao has been accepted as a study-abroad student for a year at University College Dublin in their sport management program.

Alumni News

Diane (Augustine) Pearce (MA, 2003) has been accepted into the UCSF Master’s Entry Program in Nursing. She is currently a clinical exercise physiologist at El Camino Hospital, working in the cardiopulmonary rehab program. Other KIN graduates working in cardiopulmonary rehab at El Camino Hospital are Craig Clemens (MA, 2006) and Esther Agustin (MA, 2008).

Andrew Vu (BS 2006, MA 2008) is currently working in Dr. Jon Myers’ exercise physiology research lab at the Palo Alto VA hospital.

Jesus Gomez (BS, 2008) writes: I was just thinking of great teachers I have had and of some fun classes. Of course I thought of Beginning Kayaking. It was fun. I had done some kayaking in Mazatlan but taking that class was awesome. I am now teaching physical education at North Salinas High School.

Upcoming Important Dates

- May 12, 2009 Fall 2009 Schedule of Classes available online
- May 13, 2009 Last Day of Classes
- May 15-21, 2009 Final Exams
- May 22, 2009 KIN Graduation Banquet
- May 23, 2009 Commencement
- May 25, 2009 Memorial Day - Campus closed
- June 1, 2009 Summer Session 2009 Begins

The online version of The Communicator (available at www.sjsu.edu/kinesiology) is the preferred method of distribution.

Are you receiving messages through TIG & FIG (about job, internship, scholarship opportunities etc.)?

If not, we don’t have your current email, so you won’t receive the next Communicator.

Please stop by SPX 56 and update us!
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Faculty News cont.

The recent year’s successful promotion of Cardio Tai-chi by Dr. Daniel Weng has just brought him back from another trip there. He was originally invited to lead US Shuai-chiao Team participating in the 2009 International Kuoshu (Wushu) Championships in Taiwan in March. Daniel was on the Arbitrator Committee and interview by a national TV station during that event. He then lectured on “Cardio Tai-chi and Wellness” in Taipei (Chinese Culture University, Central Police University, National Taiwan Sport University), Kaohsiung (Cheng-hsiu Technical University), Beijing (Beijing Sport University), and Wuhan (Wuhan Institute of Physical Education).

Dr. Gong Chen met with Dr. Fong, one of the trustees of the CSU system.


Dr. Gong Chen has conducted four self-defense instructor training workshops for physical educators in California middle and high schools. The certificates of course completion have been awarded to 65 participants. These workshops are sponsored by a grant received by Gong and Dr. Shirley Reekie from the CAHPERD Foundation and a series of workshops are forthcoming.

Dr. Shirley Reekie hosted a workshop at the CAHPERD conference linking together sub-discipline specialists from the CSU and community colleges.

This semester we have five visiting scholars from China. Dr. Chuansheng (David) Dong is the vice dean of graduate school at Shenyang Sports University and he will be here for six months. Professor Na Li is from Shenzhen Technique University will study our fitness curriculum for six months. Professor Hongxia Zhao (studying Olympic culture and history) and Yonghui Piao (studying sport management) from Shenyang Sports University will be here in April/May for three months. Professor Cheng Wang is the vice chair of the P.E. department at Northwestern Polytechnic University, and he will be here for a year (June 2009-June 2010) studying self-defense education.