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## Connect with us!

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Did you know?

Winter Intersession planning is underway.

Thank you to faculty for providing support for intersession - you’ve made an impact with SSU students’ academic success!

The School of Extended and International Education is committed to helping Sonoma State students achieve their educational goals! We work hard to provide students with more academic opportunities, to shorten their time to graduation, and to improve the overall graduation rate at SSU.

In January of 2017, 1,164 students enrolled in the 63 Intersession courses offered through SEIE, and ultimately earned over 4,000 units towards graduation. That’s the equivalent of over 30 undergraduate degrees!

We’re proud to help, but we couldn’t do it without the commitment and dedication of the SSU faculty, and SEIE is always looking for new Intersession instructors and classes.

Are you a SSU faculty member and considering teaching a course?

Classes start on January 3 and run through January 17, and we offer a wide range of options, from campus-based classes that meet five hours a day, five days a week, to hybrids that meet two or three days a week (or five days a week for just a few hours), to asynchronous, fully-online classes that students and faculty can do from the comfort of their own homes.

Interested? Have more questions? If you would like more information on teaching a course or submitting a proposal, please contact:

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707.664.2396

Winter Intersession 2018 Scheduling Information & Calendar:
sonoma.edu/exed/misc/propose-a-course
The School of Extended and International Education (SEIE) provides services for a wide variety of both traditional and non-traditional students pursuing lifelong learning. We serve six counties (Lake, Marin, Mendocino, Napa, Solano, and Sonoma), supporting students ages 9 and up, offering classes all year round. In the fiscal year ending June 30, 2017, we served over 10,000 students, including more than 2,500 matriculated SSU students who earned academic credit during our intersession and summer offerings, allowing them to graduate faster. SEIE is also a university within a university, running several unique degree programs and bringing SSU’s programs to a global audience. These are just some of the ways SEIE increases access and extends SSU into the broader community.

Beyond my life as a school dean, I am an economist. This is my primary existence beyond being a husband and father; I have been a professor of economics at Sonoma State for over 22 years. While I see almost all human phenomena through that social science lens, I recognize lifelong learning is not only equations and marginal decisions. Our Lifelong Learning programs include both the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute courses (OLLI) for ages 50 and up and also the EXCEL program for students ages 9-13 during the summer. These programs extend the university to many ages and types of students. These lifelong learning programs are at the heart of Sonoma State’s mission and bring people of all ages (including EXCEL parents) to our beautiful campus.
SEIE also is home to intensive English language (SSALI) programs to help international students prepare for degrees or careers where English is needed as a second language. We also host students through our Semester at Sonoma program if their home university does not otherwise have an agreement with SSU. International students are welcome here; you will see a recent celebration of SSALI alumni hosted by SEIE over Summer 2017 in this newsletter.

SEIE’s degree programs are coordinated by academic leaders on SSU’s campus, leading to intramural partnerships and access for faculty to engage in degree programs that may struggle to find resources outside of SEIE, as well as serving students who might not be able to pursue a more-traditional degree. Our non-degree programs offer certificates and continuing education units (CEUs) earned by our students to help maintain professional licensure and to expand their career horizons.

Of course, SEIE’s core mission is to help SSU’s undergraduate students graduate faster by taking intersession and summer classes if they choose to do so. To increase access to this option, we used over $220,000 from our reserves last fiscal year to provide students with need-based scholarships of $500 to $600 per term. SSU students earned over 10,000 academic units through intersession and summer classes in 2017.

Finally, for SSU faculty, SEIE acts as an entrepreneurial playground for classes they may not be able to teach otherwise. Many of our faculty are themselves lifelong learners who continue that pursuit in the classroom.

Our two key core values are access and partnership. The stories in this newsletter are testaments to how our staff provides extraordinary support for these core values on behalf of students, faculty, and SSU’s service area communities.

Thank you,

Dr. Robert Eyler
Dean
School of Extended and International Education
What did we do last year?

Connected the campus through education & partnership.

$3.5 million in faculty salaries.

2,350 students closer to graduation through Winter & Summer session courses.

$220,000 awarded in Winter & Summer GPS Scholarships.

$1.3 million in revenue transferred to fund Summer Session 2017

$10 million in revenue generated.

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Lisa Vollendorf joined Sonoma State University on July 1, 2017 as the new Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs. She is the university’s chief academic officer. Vollendorf is an accomplished academic leader committed to student-focused leadership in higher education. Previously, Vollendorf was the dean of San Jose State University’s College of Humanities and the Arts.

President Judy K. Sakaki said in a statement, Vollendorf “stands out for her strong commitment to students and faculty and for her admirable track record overseeing a large and diverse college in a collaborative and inclusive manner.” After an extensive national search, with more than 100 candidates applying for the job, Vollendorf was selected for the position.

As a Spanish professor and someone whose research touches upon Spain, Portugal, Latin America, and the Atlantic world, Vollendorf is a great supporter of international and extended education. “Sonoma State University is proud to offer an array of extended education programs to help enrich our community,” said Vollendorf. “The School of Extended and International Education expands the boundaries of the university by helping us serve our broader community while also serving our goals of internationalizing and diversifying the campus.”

Prior to her dean position at San Jose State, Vollendorf was a professor of Spanish from 2005 to 2012 at California State University, Long Beach, where she also chaired of the Department of Romance, German, Russian Languages and Literatures and served as Academic Senate chair.

Vollendorf was also on the faculty at Miami University of Ohio from 1995 to 1997 and Wayne State University in Detroit from 1997 to 2005.

She received her Ph.D. in Romance Languages at the University of Pennsylvania in 1995 and a B.A. in English and Spanish at Colorado State University in 1990.

As an undergraduate, Vollendorf studied abroad in San José, Costa Rica, an experience the Colorado native said changed her life and inspired her love of travel and exploration. When not at Sonoma State, she enjoys traveling and spending time outdoors.
In 2016-2017, a team of staff and students at Sonoma State University built a first-at-the-university GPS Scholarship program for Winter Intersession and Summer Session students to further the SSU graduation rate initiative, improve access for students with need, and increase general enrollments in these self-support summer and winter programs. The team developed program objectives, identified and invested resources (time, money, staff), formed collaborative partnerships across campus, created a strategic marketing plan in cooperation with the SSU student PR group, Primitivo, and tracked the results. The marketing campaign deployed in Fall 2016 and Spring 2017, combined with the 396 scholarships awarded, drove larger enrollment while generating sufficient revenue to recover fully the initial investment and establish the foundation for future growth in the program.

The efforts of this team had an immediate and positive effect for hundreds of students. In Winter Intersession 2017, 349 students applied for the scholarship, 240 met the needs-based eligibility criteria and were awarded a $500 scholarship, and 198 students used the scholarship to take courses during Winter Intersession. In Summer Session 2017, 329 students applied, 247 met the eligibility criteria and were awarded a $600 scholarship – 196 used the scholarship to take courses in Summer Session. The end result was a total distribution of $216,600 to Sonoma State students and a significant increase in the number of students accessing Intersession and summer courses to aid their progress towards degree.

Not only did these students receive assistance toward taking Winter Intersession courses, but even more students registered to take Winter Intersession courses (with a 29% increase over the previous year, to a total enrollment of 1,188), including a 33% increase in the number of students who met the needs-based eligibility criteria.

In response to the success of the
scholarship for Winter Intersession, the team adjusted the scholarship amount to $600 per student for Summer Session 2017, and SEIE committed to fund at least 150 scholarships. Again, eligible applications exceed expectations and SEIE funded all of them. The additional revenue produced by higher winter and summer enrollment more than paid for all eligible scholarships, and ensured the school’s ability to offer the scholarship program again in the coming year.

In hearing this, the GPS Scholarship Development team was recognized with the 2017 SSU Team Impact Award for outstanding service for working together, going far beyond the boundaries of their jobs to develop something truly outstanding for our students. The team developed from scratch a new scholarship program that has provided an immediate and significant benefit to SSU students. They did something that will have a lasting impact and saw the need themselves and knew that cost was a barrier for many students participating in Winter/Summer Intersession. Rather than just acknowledging that need, they took action.

In September, members of the GPS Scholarship Development Team will travel to Seattle to present the plan behind the GPS Scholarship at the UPCEA (University Professional and Continuing Education Association) West Regional Conference. The GPS Scholarship Development Team’s presentation “It Was Almost Called GAS: Using a Scholarship Program and its Marketing Campaign to Increase Enrollment, Accessibility, and Revenue,” is one of 15 concurrent sessions at the conference. In addition to the presentation, the GPS marketing team will also be accepting the Outstanding Administrative Process/Service Award for the West Region by UPCEA.

As the new school year gets underway, SEIE looks forward to continuing to help support students in reaching their academic goals and helping the graduation initiative.
In April, the College of Marin Board of Trustees signed a partnership agreement with Sonoma State University (SSU) to begin providing new SSU programs on the College of Marin (COM) campuses.

“Recognizing the need to create a more accessible transfer path for underserved ethnic and socioeconomic groups, along with the need to minimize educational gaps for transferring students, this partnership will make the process to transfer attainable,” said Robert Eyler, dean SEIE. The Dean believes the new partnership will accomplish this by addressing two common barriers to university transfer.

“This partnership solves advising and commute problems for many students that want to complete a degree but may not be able to complete otherwise,” said Dr. Eyler. “It also solves problems for students that may be more traditional – who are in a program that guarantees admission to a CSU, have completed the requirements for the B.A. or B.S. program, but do not want to move or can’t.”

College of Marin and Sonoma State started talks about this partnership in March of 2016. In April 2017, SSU and COM signed a general partnership memorandum of understanding. The goal is to have SSU and COM faculty partnering to offer SSU degrees within their areas of expertise to provide a high-quality experience for students in courses on the campuses of the College of Marin.

College of Marin students interested in completing their degree in a SSU degree program will still have to meet the Sonoma State transfer requirements.
requirements – completing any prerequisite courses before applying.

Both schools have worked together to identify the needs of COM students, using information from student focus groups and surveys. This collaboration paved the way to create the partnership between SSU and COM for students to finish their education and complete the bachelors without commuting to Sonoma County. They hope to provide access to those who might not otherwise have the opportunity to finish their degree at Sonoma State or another CSU campus.

“This partnership with Sonoma State creates a seamless path to a local bachelor’s degree for Marin County residents,” says Jonathan Eldridge, acting superintendent/president. “For College of Marin students, the prospect of completing a four-year degree while never having to leave the comfort and resources they have come to know here at COM is significant. College of Marin is now connecting with students from the 9th grade through completion of a four-year degree. This partnership is the next logical step in our commitment to educational opportunity for all.”

This partnership is self-supporting, with state fee waivers not applicable. Financial aid and Sonoma State scholarships are available for students who are eligible.

For more information about the program, please call Beth Warner at 707-664-3977.
In March of this year, Sonoma State University became one of three California public universities to offer an accredited cannabis course. Sonoma State partnered with United Patients Group, a medical cannabis education provider based in Marin County for the one day program "Medical Cannabis: A Clinical Focus," designed for those in the healthcare industry.

"Courses like 'Medical Cannabis: A Clinical Focus' are the future of education in the medical use of cannabis. This is the first step in educating the next generation of doctors, nurses, and pharmacists about the immense knowledge base of benefits and treatment applications of this product as medicine," said Robert Eyler, dean, SEIE. "We’re delighted to partner with a medical cannabis leader like United Patients Group to discuss the science of cannabis and help develop a workforce for the future at Sonoma State."

The medical cannabis course had been on the university’s agenda for some time, and with the passage of Proposition 64 and a $7 billion dollar industry projected to bring California $1 billion in taxes, this class was the next step, Eyler said.

Following up on the success of the medical cannabis course, in June SSU offered a professional development course titled "Regulatory Environment & Public Policy in California and Cannabis Industry."
Accounting & Tax Compliance.” This course was focused on the cannabis industry itself and for those who are in the industry or looking to get into the industry.

Topics included what the legalities and regulations look like at the federal, state, and local level, along with human resources issues around employee cannabis use and testing.

Experts in the accounting & tax compliance and legal industry conducted the morning workshop and it concluded with an afternoon panel of those in the industry holding a question and answer session to address the upcoming changes to California cannabis laws in 2018.

Each of the one day program’s drew about 100 attendees from various parts of the Bay Area. Despite the passage of Proposition 64, cannabis is still illegal at the federal level and Sonoma State is unable to address cannabis issues such as cultivation and distribution. Courses in finance practices will be offered later in 2017 and planning is underway for courses in 2018 to be taught by doctors for those in the medical profession on medicinal cannabis.

For more information about the Cannabis in California program, visit sonoma.edu/exed/cannabis

Disclaimer: Notwithstanding Proposition 64 and other state laws, the possession, use, transport, cultivation, and sale of marijuana remain illegal under the Federal Controlled Substances Act.

Moreover, as a recipient of federal funds, Sonoma State University is required under federal law to: (1) maintain a drug-free community; (2) prevent illegal drug use; and (3) discipline students and employees who unlawfully possess, use, or distribute illegal drugs on University property or at University-sponsored activities. Accordingly, the use, possession, cultivation, transport, and/or sale of marijuana is prohibited on Sonoma State University campus property, and at University-sponsored activities, whether on or off-campus.
Osher Lifelong Learning Receives $2 Million Bequest

This past April, Sonoma State University’s Osher Lifelong Learning Program (OLLI) received a $2 million bequest from an anonymous donor. This generous donation is one of the largest ever received by the Osher Institute.

The donor, who wishes to remain anonymous, resides in Sonoma County, and hopes the gift would encourage people to “expand their horizons.”

The Osher Foundation supports 120 lifelong learning programs across the the country, including Sonoma State’s program. The non-credit educational programs are specifically offered to adults aged 50 and older with offerings from history to natural science and the arts.

“Osher Lifelong Learning classes are offered at the Sonoma State and Oakmont Campuses and are open to all adults 50 and older. OLLI classes are taught in six week sessions with no tests or grades, just a relaxed atmosphere to gain new knowledge.

To learn more about OLLI, visit: sonoma.edu/exed/OLLI

“OLLI gives us the opportunity to learn things we otherwise wouldn’t have known.”

- Judy Miller

Sonoma State’s OLLI program, in it’s 17th year with an annual budget of $400,000, supported by student fees, donations and earnings on its initial endowment, will now see the endowment double with this incredible anonymous gift.

“This munificent legacy gift will create abundant and exciting academic and social opportunities for generations of lifelong learners,” said Sonoma State OLLI Director Carin Jacobs. “As a self-support program that receives no financial investment from the State, OLLI relies largely on private annual and estate gifts like this. There are no words to express the magnitude of my gratitude.”

Judy and Irwin Miller // Photo Courtesy of Nicolas Grizzle

OLLI Director Carin Jacobs and President Judy K. Sakaki // Photo Courtesy of Nicolas Grizzle
In June 2017, Sonoma State University’s American Language Institute (SSALI) class of 2007 hosted their 10 year reunion. Since 1979, SSALI has been teaching intensive English to international students on SSU’s campus. Every year SSALI hosts students from as many as 18 different countries around the world.

The SSALI curriculum is rigorous instruction in grammar, composition, oral communication, reading and vocabulary, and study skills. In addition to learning English, the Center for International Education organizes various social and cultural activities for the SSALI students to take part in. Weekly international student club events, campus events, local sightseeing, and trips to nearby San Francisco, the Pacific Ocean, the redwood forests, and the Sonoma and Napa valleys. For many, like the Class of 2007, it’s a chance to spend time outside of campus and create lifelong friendships.

SSALI staff and SSU alumna Beatrice Cortina Becker organized the event. SSALI alumni from China, Brazil, Switzerland, Japan, Costa Rica, Taiwan, Korea, and Honduras attended the 3-day reunion at Sonoma State. Alumni had the chance to take a tour around campus to see all the changes since their last time here at SSU. Associate Vice President of Student Affairs, Matt Benney greeted the alumni in the Center for International Education in International Hall; a new location for some of the alumni from when it was previously located in Stevenson Hall.

To learn more, or to refer someone to SSALI, please visit sonoma.edu/eexed/ssali
For the past 20 years, the Sonoma State Hybrid Saturday B.A. Degree Completion program has helped students succeed in reaching their educational goals. This innovative program combines monthly Saturday meetings with weekly online discussions to provide the flexible schedule adult students need. The curriculum is designed to explore current issues, providing a strong platform for graduate work or career advancement. Since its beginning in 1997, 345 non-traditional students have proudly earned the Bachelor’s degree they worked so hard for over the years.

In August, the program celebrated its 20-year anniversary with a day of reconnecting, starting with morning seminar discussions on various topics ranging from climate change and banking to Tao poetry. An afternoon lunch and celebration concluded with a planting party in the courtyard of Carson Hall.

“It is such a privilege to serve these students,” said Beth Warner, Senior Academic Programs Coordinator. “I’m sure Susie McFeeters, program advisor, would agree with me that their dedication and perseverance is inspiring.”

Looking to the next 20 years, the program’s goals are not only to continue to provide access to students, but to help expand SEIE’s partnerships with academic departments and community colleges to create more opportunities for those who may be marginalized and don’t fit into the typical student demographic.

“The goal of education is forming nurturing minds. There is a critical mass and need for degree completion, whether it’s the person who didn’t finish college and seeks personal fulfillment or one who requires a degree for career advancement,” said Mutombo M’Panya, a founding member of the Hybrid Saturday B.A. degree completion program and retired professor from the Hutchins School of Liberal Studies, the program’s academic partner. “Overall, the B.A. Degree completion is a great opportunity for [Sonoma State] to help people who are motivated to finish the degrees they have started, and it would be good to see even more integration of SEIE programs at SSU.”

Recent graduate of the program Joy Jaco, attended the celebration and shared her experience. “It was amazing and set me off to fulfilling my academic goals and more,” said Jaco. “The Degree Completion Program and its hybrid design made it possible for me to juggle the responsibilities of working and raising two small children, while completing my Bachelor’s degree.”

For more information about the program, please visit: sonoma.edu/exed/libs
As a singer-songwriter used to performing solo, I wanted to experiment in creating certain sounds, but was not sure of the tools and methods needed to get me there. I needed to understand better how to create and produce my own music, while furthering my career in music and audio.

The great experience in music education I received with the Audio & Recording Production Certificate has allowed me to apply for opportunities such as an internship at Women’s Audio Mission in San Francisco. Opportunities like this were not at all on my radar before the program.

Check out Brittany’s music: soundcloud.com/aquamarinerhythms
Mark Your Calendars!

Important dates for Faculty and Staff.

**Winter Intersession**
*Jan 3 - 17, 2018*
- Intersession Proposals Due: Sept 18, 2017
- Registration & Scholarship Applications Open: Oct 18, 2017
- Scholarship Applications Due: Nov 15, 2017

**Summer Session**
*May 29 – Aug 17, 2018*
- Summer Session Proposals Due: Jan 29, 2018
- Registration Opens: March, 2018
  (specific date to be determined)

**Professional Development Programs**
- Spring 2018 Course Proposals Due: Sept 15, 2017
- Summer 2018 Course Proposals Due: Jan 29, 2018
- Fall 2018 Course Proposals Due: Feb 19, 2018

**Self-Support Degree Programs**
- Fall 2018 Applications Open: Oct 1, 2017

**Sonoma State American Language Institute (SSALI)**
- Spring 2018 Applications Priority Deadline: Dec 1, 2017

**Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI)**
- **Open House Preview, University Campus**
  - Winter 2018 : Dec 11, 2017
  - Spring 2018 : Mar 19, 2018
- **Open House Preview, Oakmont Campus**
  - Winter 2018 : Dec 13, 2017
  - Spring 2018 : Mar 14, 2018
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Did you know?
Winter Intersession planning is underway.

Thank you to faculty for providing support for intersession! Find out how you can join in supporting student’s success.

For more info turn to p3.