



# BUSINESS CHAPTER SACRAMENTO STATE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

June 2008

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## Business Chapter

*700 Members Strong*

**Mission**—A network of business professionals working together to support the continued improvement of the Alumni Association, the College of Business and Sacramento State; to promote individual member achievement and career advancement; and to make a positive impact in the communities where our members work and live.

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## Alumni Spotlight—Ryan Wood

By Deanna Schluter

Ryan Wood graduated from CSU, Sacramento in 2001 (B.A., Cum Laude) and then from McGeorge School of Law in 2004 (J.D., With Distinction). He then began his career in law at Porter Scott, an Insurance and Public Agency Defense law firm and later joined Downey Brand Attorneys LLC. He now specializes in environmental litigation for Downey Brand.

Before receiving his degrees, Ryan joined the Delayed Entry Program for the United States Navy in 1993 and began active duty in 1994. Ryan left active duty in 1998 and has been a Senior NCO/ Naval Facilities Expeditionary Logistics Center (Surge Unit) Training Chief for the reserves ever since.

He was deployed to Al Anbar Province, Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom from July 2006 to March 2007 as the Intelligence Chief for a construction battalion. Ryan was subsequently awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal for tactical mission planning that contributed to the safety of construction and tactical units operating in Western Iraq and was also awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal for outstanding leadership of an eighty member detachment.

In October 2005, while in the

Navy Reserve, he gave a presentation titled "Wills, Trusts and Powers of Attorney: Things To Know Before Deployment," at the in the Navy and Marine Corps Reserve Center of Sacramento.

Ryan's goals include making partner at his firm and becoming one of the "go to" trial lawyers in the state. He lives in Sacramento with his wife, Carleen Wood (a lawyer at Baydaline & Jacobson LLP). They are expecting their first baby on June 6th.

In his spare time, Ryan has volunteered for Community Legal Services (McGeorge School of Law, 2002-2004, Former Governing Board) and currently sits on the board of the CSU, Sacramento Alumni Association (Business Chapter).

He is also a member of the Sacramento County Bar Association (Business Section), the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the United States District Court for the Eastern, Northern, and Central Districts of California. He also says he likes to sleep in when he can and enjoys traveling to Las Vegas at least once a year.

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# Interview with Jenni Lee Helfrich

Director, Extension Programs of the College of Continuing Education

By Vincent Mostoufi

I interviewed Jenni Lee Helfrich, Director of Extension Programs of the College of Continuing Education (CCE) recently. The College can be considered one of Sacramento State's best kept secrets...

**V.N.M.:** Will you briefly tell us about the history of the CCE?

**J.L.H.:** The CCE started as the Office of Regional and Continuing Education and offered primarily teacher education courses and degree programs for non-traditional students. By the year 2001, CCE was serving enough students to be granted College status, which gave the college more independence and the college started to offer custom training programs for state agencies and local employers by 2002. We are completely self-supported, which means we receive no public funding and the fees collected are used to cover the costs of instruction and administration.

**V.N.M.:** Who should investigate courses offered by the CCE?

**J.L.H.:** People who need to acquire a professional certification should consider the CCE. For example, we have a Project Management Certificate Program, which is registered with the Project Management Institute and gives project managers enhanced skills to complete projects on-time and on-schedule. It also prepares participants to pass the certification test and become Project Management Professionals. People in careers such as human resources or facilities management could use the practical and fundamental education provided through the certificate courses we offer and the participants also become more marketable in the job market.

**V.N.M.:** What are some of the best offerings from the CCE now?

**J.L.H.:** We have an exciting new Green Business Operations Certificate to educate professionals how to cost-effectively implement environmentally responsible business practices. Our Project Management Certificate Program has been very popular and Cal-Trans used it to increase its number of PMP certified personnel from two to 200. The Human Resource Management Certificate Program helps participants increase on-the-job effectiveness and learn new methods of management. The CCE is a great way to learn because the teachers are practicing professionals of the subjects they teach and it's a great place to network with other professionals.

**V.N.M.:** What are some of the best things planned for the CCE?

**J.L.H.:** We are working to use technology, social networking technology and television studios, to enhance the educational experience; we want to make the CCE educational experience more ac-



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You are invited to a Business Graduate Programs  
**Information Session**  
**June 26, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.**

Alumni Center, Sacramento State Campus  
Seating is limited; please register online  
at [www.cba.csus.edu/mba](http://www.cba.csus.edu/mba).

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## Interview with Jenni Lee Helfrich Continued

cessible and customized. We'll also invite international leaders of governments from other countries. Leaders from China for example, will interact and learn best practices from our government leaders. Our international guests also come here to enhance their skills in areas like logistics and supply chain management. We also plan to have job readiness training courses to help people, such as senior citizens, youth, or people reentering the workforce, to obtain the skills necessary to fill skilled positions and get people away from using public aid.

**V.N.M.:** Will you tell us more about the EMBA program?

**J.L.H.:** The program is a great option for experienced professionals and managers who want to enhance their skills through advanced education, but have strict schedules. The program lasts 15 months and classes meet on Fridays from 3 to 7 PM and Saturdays from 8 to 2 PM at business partners' sites in the Sacra-

mento region. Local business leaders help develop the curriculum to address individual and organizational needs. The program is also a great way to network with other professionals.

**V.N.M.:** What makes the C.C.E. unique?

**J.L.H.:** We actually work with community leaders and local employers to build training development programs to address relevant issues, such as employee retention, updating skills, and culture change.

**V.N.M.:** Where can people get more information about the C.C.E. and its courses and programs?

**J.L.H.:** The C.C.E.'s website is [www.cce.csus.edu](http://www.cce.csus.edu). We are located in Napa Hall, across the street from the Alumni Center. Our telephone number is 916-278-4433 and we'll be happy to give anybody more information about the college.

## Business Pathway to Success

The fourth annual Business Pathway to Success (BPS) was held on Wednesday, April 23, 2008, at the Alumni Center at Sacramento State. The event was the best attended event in the four year history with over 100 students participating.

The College of Business (Bonnie Burnell) and Business Alumni Chapter (Kevin Nakano) co-chaired the event. The purpose of the BPS event is to connect business students with working professionals. It provides an opportunity for candid question and answer interactions for students to prepare for their transition to the professional arena upon graduation.

Over 40 professionals from 22 companies participated in the event. Three of our chapter board members participated: Matt Cologna (Grubb & Ellis), Laura Dannels (Northwestern

Mutual Financial Network) and Vincent Mostoufi (Merrill Lynch).

The event was made possible by the following event sponsors: Target, Apple, Allied Insurance, Excel, Ernst & Young, Sacramento Entrepreneurship Academy, Chevron, Fastenal.

If you would like to volunteer for the event in 2009, please contact Bonnie Burnell at the College of Business at (916) 278-5576.



## Upcoming Events

### **Every Third Wednesday**

**Event:** Business Chapter Board Meeting

**Time:** 6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

6:30 PM - Dinner & Mixer

7:30 PM - Board Meeting

**Location:** Rotating

**Contact:** Kevin Nakano, President

**Work:** (916) 628-1044

**E-mail:**

[kevin@nakanorealty.com](mailto:kevin@nakanorealty.com)

### **Tuesday, 6/3/08**

**Event:** Breakfast Club Meeting  
Featuring Alejandra Bologna,  
Consul General from Mexico

**Topic:** Trade issues, Mexican/American diplomatic relations and immigration from the Mexican perspective.

**Time:** 7:30 AM

**Parking:** Free

**Location:** Alumni Center

**RSVP required:**

[alumni@csus.edu](mailto:alumni@csus.edu) or 916-278-6295

### **Tuesday, 06/24/08**

**Event:** Speed Networking Event

**Description:** Alumni and Non-Alumni Welcome!! Speed Networking is a quick way to help you expand your business network through meeting many professionals 1-on-1 in about one hour. Honing your networking skills through this process gives you positive and instant results.

**Admission:** FREE to Alumni Association members and non-member first time participants. General Admission \$20.

**Time:** 5:30PM.

**Appetizers:** Provided by Bali Wine Bar & Grill

**Location:** Sac State Alumni Center

**RSVP:** Limited seating. RSVP required. Register on-line at chapter website.

**Reminder:** Bring 60 business cards.

[www.SacStateBizChapter.org](http://www.SacStateBizChapter.org)

## ***Members On the Move***

**Every issue, we feature member updates. If you'd like to be in this section, please send your information to [d\\_schluter@yahoo.com](mailto:d_schluter@yahoo.com).**

Rebecca Friedman married Angel Verdugo on May 2, 2008. The couple were married in Napa, CA and will celebrate their honeymoon in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico. Rebecca is a recent graduate of the EMBA program. She started a position in February with Deloitte Consulting LLP within their Technology Integration service line. Angel is an Infrastructure Release Manager at Verizon Business.

Tara Garrett (General Management, 2007) has been promoted to Senior Supply Chain & Logistics Analyst at VSP in Rancho Cordova in the newly-formed Supply Chain & Logistics Department. She will be working on Supply Chain Initiatives such as ERP Implementation, International Logistics, and Metric Strategies that will help build a high quality product fulfillment system for VSP and its family of companies.

## ***2008 Scholarship Recipient***

Deanna Schluter, Scholarship Chair, and the Business Chapter board had the difficult task of selecting the 2008 Business Chapter scholarship recipient. The Business chapter provides a \$750 scholarship to a deserving business major student every year. After reviewing the many scholarship applications, Deanna and the board selected Nicole Sawyer to be the 2008 scholarship recipient.

Nicole is currently pursuing a Bachelors Degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Accounting. She put herself through school by working part time and receiving grants and scholarships. She managed to pursue her degree while raising her children on her own. She said that the scholarship will enable her to devote more time to her studies, student organizations and community involvement.

She currently volunteers for the Yuba Sutter Foster Adoptive Parent Association. She donates her time every year assisting in producing a calendar which is sold at their main fundraiser.

After graduation, she plans to pursue a career in accounting and later a Master's Degree in Business Administration.

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