

Humboldt

The Magazine of Humboldt State University

Fall 2009

Tallest Trees Unveiled

Professor Steve Sillett
reveals the hidden world
of redwood canopies



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ON THE COVER: Professor Steve Sillett in Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park. Sillett will soon launch a groundbreaking study into the effects of climate change on redwoods.

BACKGROUND PHOTO: This Gigapan image of the redwood forest canopy was created from hundreds of photos taken by a robot set up by Professor Steve Sillett atop the largest (not the tallest) tree in Humboldt Redwoods State Park. To see more panoramic images of the redwoods, visit www.gigapan.org and search for "Steve Sillett."



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from the President

I HAVE FOUR CHILDREN, all of them college-educated and as happy and successful as this uncertain world allows. But I miss having them in our home, and like many American families today, the grandchildren live far away. It is just one of countless things life does not allow me to control.

I am particularly reminded of this state of affairs each fall, when parents and families drop off a new batch of students at Humboldt. The students tend to be eager to meet new friends and get started in an exciting new phase of their lives. Their fathers, mothers and other relatives mainly try to put on brave faces. I know how they feel.

Those of us who work at Humboldt State try to make things easier. We involve families in summer orientation programs, and faculty members and staff take plenty of time to talk with them individually. It's their introduction to the Humboldt sense of community.

I talk to parents as someone who has been in their situation many times. Mainly, I encourage them to remain involved with their children, while still allowing them the freedom to shape their interests and establish their own futures. When possible, I also share some of the things I said to my own children when they left for college, as well as things I didn't say.

I remember encouraging my kids to get the most out of their university experience. I urged them to choose their friends wisely because they would be of help during the college years, and those friendships could last a lifetime. I suggested getting to know the faculty because they would ask the hard questions, challenge their perspectives and enable them to cultivate their own beliefs. I told my children to take classes outside their interests to expand their horizons.



And lastly, I urged them to manage their money carefully because those skills make a positive difference in life.

What I didn't say was that I expected their lives to be transformed by their years at college and that I hoped they would learn to balance what is important in life. I wanted them to succeed and yet have fun in the process. I also didn't tell them that making mistakes and learning from them is

very important and that it would benefit them for the remainder of their lives. I hoped that the choices they made would nurture their confidence.

These are the sorts of things that all parents and families want for their new college students, and I confidently tell them that they made a great choice in Humboldt State. I feel privileged to work at a place with such a strong commitment to fostering students' inherent potential. Our faculty and staff motivate, inspire and guide students, providing them with a supportive community that brings out their best. At the same time, we have a surrounding community that welcomes our students, and our alumni enthusiastically promote the unique HSU experience, providing philanthropic support and serving as outstanding role models.

It all makes a tremendous difference, which Humboldt State parents and families discover as they become part of our community.

Sincerely,

Rollin C. Richmond

humboldt.edu/magazine

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President

Rollin C. Richmond

Vice President

for University Advancement

Robert Gunsalus

Associate Vice President

for Marketing & Communications

Frank Whitlatch

Editor

Allison Monro

Graphic Design

Hugh Dalton, Kristen Stegeman-Gould,
Connie Webb, Benjamin Schedler

Photography

Kellie Jo Brown

Writing

David Lawlor, Paul Mann, Jarad Petroske,
Paul Tolmé, Kevin L. Hoover

Web

Charles Klein, Matt Hodgson

Alumni Relations

alumni.humboldt.edu
(707) 826.3132

Submit Class Notes to the alumni website
or alumni@humboldt.edu

Humboldt magazine
Marketing & Communications
1 Harpst St., Arcata, CA 95521

magazine@humboldt.edu



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I READ WITH PLEASURE Jarad Petroske's article on the Marching Lumberjacks where he mentions Marching Lumberjacks Day in honor of the band's 40th anniversary. My surprise was that I thought I was a member of the Marching Lumberjacks in 1952. I recall the band getting new green and gold "lumberjack" uniforms, sporting bright yellow hardhats. Professor Charlie Fulkerson was the leader. All the memory does is add a few years to the Marching Lumberjacks' history.

Robert Titlow '53

P.S. Does the band still play
"H.U.M.B.O.L.D.T. - HUMBOLDT
All the Time?" – LOL

EDITOR'S NOTE: We're guessing that the Marching Lumberjacks nickname existed well before its official debut in 1968. While the song "H.U.M.B.O.L.D.T. - HUMBOLDT All the Time" has been retired, the new standard "Drive On Humboldt" is played at nearly every game—and gets the crowd fired up every time.

I GREATLY ENJOYED THE article by David Lawlor about Professor Morgan Varner's research on fire ecology. It brought to mind an ecologist at Humboldt State in the late '50s. He was Assistant Professor of Range Management Charles F. Cooper and, like Professor Varner, was a fire ecologist. He introduced me to the wonders and complexity of fire ecology for which I have always been most appreciative since I could use his lessons when I taught ecology.

Jack Maze '60

Keep in Touch

Email: magazine@humboldt.edu

Web: humboldt.edu/magazine

Mail: *Humboldt* magazine
Marketing & Communications
1 Harpst St., Arcata, CA 95521

Letters are welcome and may be published in upcoming issues of *Humboldt* magazine. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

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Thanks for Your Photos!

To help celebrate HSU's upcoming centennial, we asked for your unique and historic photos. Many thanks to all who responded! The Marching Lumberjacks were well represented in the photos we received and several of these will be used in the forthcoming photo book about campus, due out in spring 2010. Visit humboldt.edu/magazine to see some of the photos we received.



SUBMITTED

Big Stem Cell Grant a Boon to Science Students



Biology Professors Amy Sprowles and Jacob Varkey in the newly expanded biotechnology lab on campus, where undergraduates use cutting-edge equipment to study stem cells.

THE CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE FOR Regenerative Medicine (CIRM) has approved \$17.5 million in funding for training in stem cell research at institutions across the state, with an anticipated \$1.6 million slated for Humboldt State University.

The funding will help establish a new certificate program in addition to internships, training for local medical professionals and outreach to the community.

Students in the certificate program will learn embryonic stem cell biology techniques and be able to complete additional study at either Stanford University Center for Human Embryonic Stem Cell Research or the University of California, San Francisco Institute for Regenerative Medicine.

"Part of the impetus for this training program is that we're at a point where stem cell science is translating into actual therapies. All Californians are soon going to have to deal with health choices, either

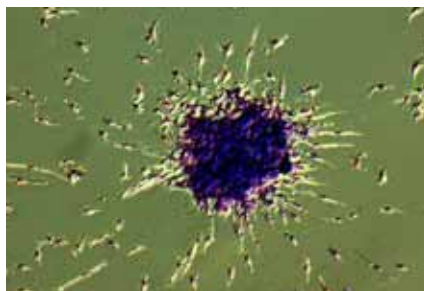


PHOTO COURTESY OF AMY SPROWLES

for themselves or their family members, which include stem cell sciences," says Professor Amy Sprowles of the Department of Biological Sciences.

"Getting the local professionals up to speed means they'll be better able to educate their patients and make sure they're aware of the most up-to-date medical care. So that will benefit all our community members."

HSU Professor Jacob Varkey, who teaches genetics and biotechnology, says

stem cell biology will be a major facet of modern science in coming years.

"Stem cell biology is a basic science — to really understand what development is and how cells divide and differentiate into different cell types. This grant is a beginning for what we see as a long-term objective of HSU," says Varkey.

The CIRM was established in 2005 with the passage of Proposition 71, the California Stem Cell Research and Cures Act. To date, the CIRM governing board has approved 253 research and facility grants totaling more than \$635 million, making CIRM the world's largest source of funding for human embryonic stem cell research.

Learn more online
www.cirm.ca.gov

Ax-Wielding Students Put Logging Tradition on Display

FOR THE FIRST TIME this spring, Humboldt State played host concurrently to the West's top collegiate logging competition and the annual Redwood Region Logging Conference. The college competition was covered by ESPN-U, the national collegiate sports network.

HSU's Logging Sports Club welcomed 11 schools from five other states and picked up eight wins in the competition. The conclave was held in tandem with the 71st annual Redwood Region Logging Conference, which educates students and the public about logging and forestry practices and supports faculty who attend the Forestry Institute for Teachers.

Contests were held at HSU's Fern Lake, behind the new Kinesiology and Athletics Building, and at Redwood Acres Fairgrounds in Eureka. It included a variety of events that test forestry knowledge as well as physical prowess. HSU's team captured the top five rankings in dendrology, a demanding trial in identifying plants and trees. The men's timber cruising team took first place in its category, which involves estimating tree volume inventory.

There were many newcomers this year to the Logging Sports Club and they performed exceptionally, too. Freshman Jack Kidder, a forestry hydrology major, won the men's birling contest (balancing on a floating log) with scarcely three weeks of practice.



Whitney Chaney Buttleman, right, a senior in natural resource interpretation, shows off her underhand chop. Below, freshman Jack Kidder competes in the men's birling contest. He won the log rolling competition with only three weeks of practice.



Head of the Class Program Celebrates 40 Years of Educating Native Teachers

FOR ROSEMARY PIMENTEL, her time with the Indian Teacher and Educational Personnel Preparation (ITEPP) program has left a deep and lasting impact. “My biggest learning experience at this University has been through the club, through the relationships and through the community we’ve created.”

It’s now been going for four decades, preparing native students to teach, not only among California’s 687,400 Native Americans (more than any state in the nation), but in classrooms across the state.

Pimentel, who graduated this spring, says that ITEPP is a way to connect with other students passionate about supporting their native heritage. Often the relationships forged in the program last long after graduation. “There is no separation for me between the club and the way that I live. You have to walk the walk. It’s not just about planning for graduation, it spills into all parts of our lives,” Pimentel says.

Former directors, recalling the academic landscape of rural Northern California before ITEPP, say the program has been a success. “In the early days we could count maybe four college graduates in Hoopa, and now I go look in the classrooms and see ITEPP grads working throughout the elementary and high schools. The impact that ITEPP has had in the communities has been phenomenal,”



ITEPP alum Briannon Fraley, '09, just completed an internship at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C.

said Laura Lee George, a graduate of the program herself who served as director in the mid-'80s and early '90s.

At its heart, the program’s mission is to help native students, regardless of their major, navigate through higher education. It offers extensive curricular resources, personal attention and mentoring, and, perhaps most importantly, a place for the students to call their own.

“When I got to HSU I knew about ITEPP and at first I was intimidated,” says Briannon Fraley, who just graduated with a degree in Native American studies and a museum and curation practices certificate. “But I knew I needed to be around people who were similar to me and that’s been the biggest influence on my education. And ITEPP has been really welcoming. Just having this space has been a life-saver.”

KHSU Seeks Radio Alums to Celebrate 50th Anniversary

KHSU-FM 90.5 BEGINS a year-long celebration of its 50th anniversary with a party on Oct. 24 at the Arcata Theatre Lounge. KHSU, the most-listened-to radio station in Humboldt County, will host special concerts, events and programs to celebrate during the following 12 months.

With “Diverse Public Radio” as its motto, the station carries national programs from the likes of NPR alongside hundreds of hours of locally programmed music and public affairs shows.

If you were involved in the station’s early days, your stories are needed to build an audio history. Contact Katie Whiteside at the station’s main number: (707) 826-4807. The Anniversary Committee is also seeking station alums to help with the year-long celebration. Visit KHSU.org for more information.

Alum Sticks Neck Out to Save Li'l Smokey

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW AND MAN-AGING timber harvests might be Adam Deem's main job duties at the California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection, but when much of the state's wildlands are engulfed in fire, the HSU alum ('99) hops to action. Last year, during California's worst fire season on record, Deem received national media coverage after reports surfaced of his heart-warming rescue of a badly injured bear cub.

In July of 2008, Deem was driving through burned hillsides in the Shasta-Trinity National Forest west of Redding, Calif. He was reviewing the fire suppression efforts, looking for any environmental problems that may have resulted, when he spotted what appeared to be a stranded bear cub. "I thought it would be a good photo op," he says, so he snapped a few pictures from the safety of his pickup truck, out of reach from any nearby mother bears.

The cub was headed into a tree when Deem realized it had been badly burned. "His paws were burned right down to the raw flesh," he says. "I got on the phone to get a game warden out, and that's when he decided to escape."

Not wanting the cub to get away, where he wouldn't last long in the wild, Deem imitated the cub's distressed cries in an attempt to lure both the cub and the cub's mother. When mama bear failed to arrive, Deem grabbed the cub and loaded him in his truck. "He fought me the whole way," Deem says. "I didn't really want to take it to this level, but it was obvious he wouldn't survive without some intervention."

Since his rescue, Li'l Smokey recovered at the Lake Tahoe Wildlife Care rescue and rehabilitation center in South Lake Tahoe before being released back into the wild last winter. Thanks in part to Deem's heroic efforts in saving Li'l Smokey, he

was awarded Firefighter of the Year by the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

Deem has been fighting fires for years. As a youth, he volunteered with Samoa, Calif.'s fire department. Through HSU's Forestry Department, Deem saw a way he could be involved with forestry issues and earn a degree. He and his wife are currently working on a children's book, *Saving Li'l Smokey*, which is due out in the next few months.

For updates

on Li'l Smokey and information on the forthcoming book, visit www.lilsmokey.net



Firefighter Adam Deem ('99) rescued Li'l Smokey after spotting the bear cub in a scorched tree. Deem imitated the cub's distressed cries in an attempt to reunite the cub with his mother.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ADAM DEEM

Recent Grad Named Fulbright Scholar to Malaysia

RECENT GRADUATE RANJAN HATCH ('09) has been awarded a Fulbright scholarship to serve as a university English teaching assistant in Malaysia.

"English is their second language so they might show me a thing or two. I'll also be using my strengths in cellular and molecular biology to teach math and science," Hatch says.

Hatch was urged to apply for the scholarship by a friend, and despite considering himself a long shot, he was accepted to the program and will spend seven to 10 months abroad beginning in January.

Hatch has been active in civic pursuits throughout his time at Humboldt State, serving as a campus Social Justice Summit co-coordinator, an HIV counselor and volunteer at Six Rivers Planned Parenthood and as coordinator of the Farmer's Market Food Aid Project, an effort designed to



Fulbright scholar Ranjan Hatch ('09)

help Humboldt County families stricken by HIV/AIDS.

Besides sharing his skills with Malaysian students, Hatch hopes to get something

out of his journey for himself. "I hope to gain a lot of personal growth—to be completely secluded from what's natural to me. I really just want to be a part of a culture that I don't know anything about. I've become so accustomed to this culture, I want to experience something new."

Founded in 1946 to encourage international educational and cultural exchange, Fulbright awards total \$262 million annually and are given to U.S. students, teachers and professionals who work in 155 countries. Past recipients from Humboldt State include Melissa Baughn ('02), Professors Susan Sonntag and Noah Zerbe from the Department of Government & Politics, Psychology Professor Tasha R. Howe, Wildlife Professor Mark Colwell, Philosophy Professor Mary Bockover and Richard Engel, senior research engineer with the Schatz Energy Research Center.

Campus Scores National Climate Award

HUMBOLDT STATE UNIVERSITY HAS been honored by the National Wildlife Federation as a winner in the annual competition Chill Out: Campus Solutions to Global Warming.

The award recognizes U.S. schools that offer creative solutions to global warming on their campuses. HSU was one of eight schools chosen from a national pool of entries.

Humboldt State advanced alternative transportation with the Jack Pass, an unlimited-ride bus pass for all HSU students. The student club Green Wheels, which worked with HSU Parking Services and President Rollin Richmond, devised and implemented the transportation initiative.

"It's really cool that our efforts were recognized," says Tommy Vidulich, president of HSU Green Wheels. "We need to continue to make improvements in public transportation so more and more people want to use it and so that it becomes easier to use."

Since implementing Jack Pass, the Redwood Transit System has seen a 30 percent



HSU's unlimited-ride bus pass recently won a National Wildlife Federation award.

increase in ridership, which translates to huge reductions in the county's carbon footprint. Local transit systems have expanded their schedules and routes to accommodate the increased ridership.

In addition, in the year after the introduction of the Jack Pass, 526 fewer parking permits were sold on campus. Thomas Dewey, HSU police chief, said

there have been approximately 500,000 Jack Pass bus rides since the program was implemented in 2007.

Green Wheels also organizes Car Free Day and Alternative Uses for Parking Spaces where they spread the word about Jack Pass. Freshmen and incoming students receive information about Jack Pass during campus orientation.

The winning colleges were featured in an NWF webcast, broadcast at Earth Day events on over 160 campuses, and received monetary awards from \$500 to \$2,500 to continue exploring innovative global warming solutions.

Learn more about the many eco-conscious clubs, courses and events at Humboldt State:
humboldt.edu/green



© THOMAS JOSHUA COOPER

Thomas Joshua Cooper ('69), a 2009 Guggenheim Fellowship recipient, traveled to the Arctic Circle to take "Looking towards the Old Lands."

To the Edge and Back Guggenheim Recipient Documents Extreme Places

IF LLOYD'S OF LONDON, the British company that famously insured Betty Grable's legs for \$250,000, won't touch your boat because your journey has been deemed too insanely dangerous, then you know you're in for tough times.

For Thomas Joshua Cooper, his photography work means accepting those risks and pushing forward to document some of the world's most unforgiving locations along the Atlantic basin. Whether he travels through forests or deserts, getting to coastal waters is always difficult, none as much as his three-month journey to Antarctica's Prime Head.

"The weather was astonishingly unforgiving and also lethally dangerous. We got there and brought back a wonderful set of pictures, and when we finally got back to safety at one of the island research stations one of the scientists asks where we've been. We tell him and the guy laughs and says, 'Can you prove it?'

My captain was deeply offended; there were four of us on that boat for three months at sea, and in that kind of weather it was like being in solitary confinement. We showed him the chart path and the guy says you do realize that more people have stood on the face of the moon than have stood on Prime Head Point. It's that hard to get to."

For Cooper the work became a lesson in the brutal reality of Earth's most extreme places.

"It's been an education in humility for me. I thought foolishly that since they're so easy to see in big atlases, it just seemed so simple. It was just astonishingly difficult but also deeply rewarding."

Cooper ('69 Art, Secondary Education) has been awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship for his Atlantic basin project, which takes the photographer to the "beginnings of civilization" surrounding the Atlantic Ocean. In addition to being incredibly hard to get to, the locations

Cooper visits offer him first-hand affirmation of the effects of climate change.

"The great idea of the permanence of the north is changing in our time," says Cooper. "Despite everyone's opinion about it, I've been in places that verify that the Earth is changing and we made it do that."

During his time at Humboldt State Cooper studied under Professor Thomas Knight, who founded the fine art photography program at HSU in the 1950s. Cooper credits Knight, along with all the faculty in the Art Department, with helping him develop his personal aesthetic.

"The early and founding members of HSU's extraordinary Art Department were all wonderful, exceptional and inspirational teachers to me. The professors were profound in their positive effect in bringing both the requirements for the craft and the purpose of an artist fully and clearly into my youthful and not very experienced life at the time," says Cooper.

Top Rung Alum named California's Chief Firefighter



PHOTO COURTESY OF DEL WALTERS

Del Walters ('77)

TRYING TO MANAGE FIRE-FIGHTING for a state as large and complex as California is an enormous task. Throw in a practically year-round fire season and big budget cuts and it gets even tougher. Good thing Del Walters is up to the job.

The 1977 HSU alum was recently named director of Cal Fire, the state agency responsible for managing wildfire in California. Walters, who has been with the agency for more

than 30 years, began as a firefighter in 1971. He has been a fire apparatus engineer, a fire captain, a forester, a battalion chief and an executive officer.

Walters faces a bevy of challenges in his new position. Fire seasons in California are becoming longer and more intense due to factors including accumulation of forest fuels and climate change. State budget cuts compound the situation.

"The period of time when California burns keeps getting longer," Walters says. "We're only budgeted to be at increased

staffing for a certain period of time. And now we're fighting fires sooner and ending later than that budgeted period. It's something we'll have to address very soon."

One key approach to addressing the extended fire season is prevention.

"The best way to not have these large fires and spend lots of money is to spend money up front to keep them small," he says. "That's job number one for me."

While a student in HSU's Department of Forestry, he studied silviculture—the establishment and propagation of healthy forests—but then returned to battling blazes.

"When I graduated I fully expected to go into a more science-based career. But firefighting gets in your blood. Plus, I had a permanent job within two weeks of graduating from Humboldt, so that made a big difference."

When he's not traveling the state on business, Walters works from his 15th floor office overlooking the state Capitol in Sacramento, Calif.

"When a boy grows up and wants a job where he can be outside, you never envision yourself in a high-rise," Walters says. "Up until this point I said the best job I ever had was as battalion chief in Sonoma County, but this new one is shaping up to be the all-time best."

Budget Pressure

THE FINANCIAL CHALLENGES IN California and nationwide have led to what officials are calling a fiscal emergency at Humboldt State University.

This summer, even as the campus prepared for its largest freshman class ever, it was scrambling to deal with an unprecedented budget shortfall of more than \$12 million. Uncertainty about budget talks at the state Capitol made the challenge even greater.

But as difficult as the current year is, it's just part of a more troubling story – an apparent retreat from California's commitment to affordable higher education. It's a trend that could threaten California's economic growth for years to come.

Over the last decade, state funding for the California State University system (which includes Humboldt State) has been



flat – falling well short of the rising costs of health benefits, insurance, technology and the like. This year, it's worse. The state budget leaves the system in the hole by \$564 million, with state general fund allocations dropping to \$1.6 billion.

CSU campuses have been forced to start turning away qualified students. A year from now, the CSU expects overall enrollment to decline from about 250,000 to 210,000.

Meanwhile, student fees have jumped from \$1,428 to \$4,026 since 1999 (not including campus-specific fees, which at HSU are \$1,009). That's still relatively low by national standards, but three decades ago their parents were paying just \$144 (or approximately \$422 in today's dollars).

Stalking the Big Game

Dave Kitchen: Wildlife Coach Extraordinaire

POP QUIZ: In freeze-tolerant toads, what substance is released from the liver to prevent cell damage? If you're an HSU wildlife major, you might know the answer. If you're on Professor Dave Kitchen's Wildlife Conclave team, you'll definitely know it.

AND IF YOU'RE AT the National Wildlife Quiz Bowl and you buzz in with "glycogen," you were part of the team that walked away with the national title.

As coach and faculty advisor to the Wildlife Conclave, Kitchen has led his students to a string of national victories – six in the last eight years of competition. His office has become so cluttered with plaques and awards that soon he'll have to rearrange furniture to clear space for them all.

The team earned its most recent victory at the 2008 National Wildlife Quiz Bowl in Miami. As is often the case, it wasn't a matter of merely winning. They trounced the competition, which included schools like Purdue and Texas Tech.

Training is intense. It begins in Wildlife 480, an elective course open to students of any major. Typically around 40 students enroll, but only half end up going to the bowl. Kitchen makes sure the subject matter is close to what working wildlife professionals encounter in the field.

Students are routinely quizzed on expected subjects: wildlife policy, biology, ornithology and herpetology. But questions about chemistry, math and statistics are thrown in to keep students on their toes.

"New students are overwhelmed by the density of the subject matter, but the older students will immediately mentor them," Kitchen says.

What really sets the HSU team apart is rigorous preparation. They meet six to nine hours a week outside class and cram facts as they prepare for the competition. "Dave really gets us ready. He doesn't just show us a skull and that's it. He helps us learn why it's that skull, what its unique features are," says student Leslie Tucci.

To achieve that level of readiness, Kitchen, who has coached both cheerleading and basketball, pulls out all the stops. "My little tricks: I've been doing this long enough that I know all the faculty at the other universities. So I know what styles they're going to write. It's what any coach would do," says Kitchen.



Professor Dave Kitchen leads students through a practice quiz bowl, complete with red-button buzzers. The trophy case is spilling over into his office, since Kitchen has led HSU to six national victories in the last eight years.

The conclave team is gearing up for the 2009 bowl in Monterey this fall, and it's a safe bet that trip will include field trips to get the team shaped up. "Last year at the Miami conference, we went to the Everglades. We didn't need a guide, because we were our own guides. We had somebody who knew birds, somebody who knew reptiles and we went out and caught baby alligators all night long," Kitchen says.

Student Dave Spangenburg, who has spent three semesters with the conclave, says simply: "He's so much fun, we don't want him to retire."



campus scene

THE LUMBERJACK ON DEADLINE

It's 5 p.m. on Tuesday in the office of the student-run newspaper *The Lumberjack*. Layouts, headlines and photos still need to be finalized, and work can sometimes creep into the wee hours. "On election night [in 2008] we stayed until 3 a.m. Some said it was the best issue we've ever done," says editor Sara Wilmot.

1 Headlines, story leads, photos and layouts were all under discussion just hours before deadline. "Don't be afraid to take risks," one reporter encouraged.

2 Bagels, Cheetos and hot dogs were the fuel of choice when we stopped by. There was also vigorous debate on best doughnut flavors. Lemon won.

3 The newsroom is one big Apple museum with multiple generations of iMacs in use.

4 Past issues of the newspaper hang on the wall for inspiration, review — and self-critiquing.

5 The whiteboard serves as the hub of the action, where story ideas are recorded, organized and approved — or not.

6 Risk is on hand in case students need to switch gears and try their hand at world domination.

7 A thesaurus and AP Style Book are a writer's best friends when it comes to finding the right word and avoiding grammar casualties.

8 Papers are delivered to newsstands around Arcata by 11 a.m. each Wednesday. Leftovers are dutifully recycled.

9 High tech meets low tech: Post-it notes prove indispensable for organizing information.

10 Reporters dread the editor's red pen marking corrections on their copy.

Finally, the editor announces, "That's it, guys. Everything is final and edited." A cheer goes up from the newsroom, but there's one more step — updating the website, which recently got a new design: thejackonline.org





MAPPING a MENACE

Putting a face on **pesticide exposure** in the Central Valley

By Kevin Hoover





CALIFORNIA'S CENTRAL VALLEY is America's salad bar, an agricultural cornucopia where more than half the nation's fruits and vegetables are grown. But behind the glistening produce lies a story rife with contrasts. It's one of opportunity and isolation, abundance and deprivation, health-giving nutrition and malady-inducing toxins.

The valley's farmworkers are mostly Latino, and their homes are clustered in and around the fields in which they work. The tight-knit, low-income communities are served by nearby small markets, banks and schools for the laborers' children. That proximity to agricultural worksites places workers in the pesticide hot zone, day and night.

Workers, their families and the industrial chemicals all share common space, but helping the layperson understand the connections between pesticides, populations and health hasn't happened — until now.

Facing page: Farmworkers harvest crops in Tulare County, Calif. A new study by HSU professors and students maps pesticide use and its proximity to sensitive facilities like schools and playgrounds in six California communities.



A NEW STUDY BY two Humboldt State professors and their students offers ways to literally look at the problems – and some approaches for addressing them. “People, Places and Health: A Sociospatial Perspective of Agricultural Workers and their Environment” is the work of Professors Sheila Lakshmi Steinberg and Steven J. Steinberg. Funded by the California Endowment, it maps pesticide use and its proximity to sensitive facilities like schools and playgrounds in six California communities.

Sheila Steinberg, a sociology professor, is director of community research for HSU’s California Center for Rural Policy. Steve Steinberg, a professor in the Natural Resource Planning program, is director of the Institute for Spatial Analysis. To map pesticide use and dispersal, the husband-wife team fused her expertise in sociological field research with his acumen in geographic information systems (GIS). The resulting study has jumpstarted change on the ground where the chemicals are sprayed.

Real people, real maladies

TULARE AND MONTEREY COUNTIES are the second- and fourth-biggest agricultural counties in California, together accounting for \$7 billion in agricultural value in 2005. The counties employ a proportionate share of the state’s nearly 900,000 farmworkers and absorb a like proportion of pesticides – with nearly 200 million pounds applied in the year 2000.

Health risks associated with pesticide exposure are known but not well understood. Health anomalies can include flu-like illness, nervous disorders and cancer, with lingering suspicion that pesticides may be a factor. When spraying occurs, notification by local authorities is discretionary and inconsistent. And that lack of communication goes both ways. Cultural isolation fosters a sense of detachment among farmworkers from the processes intended to protect them.

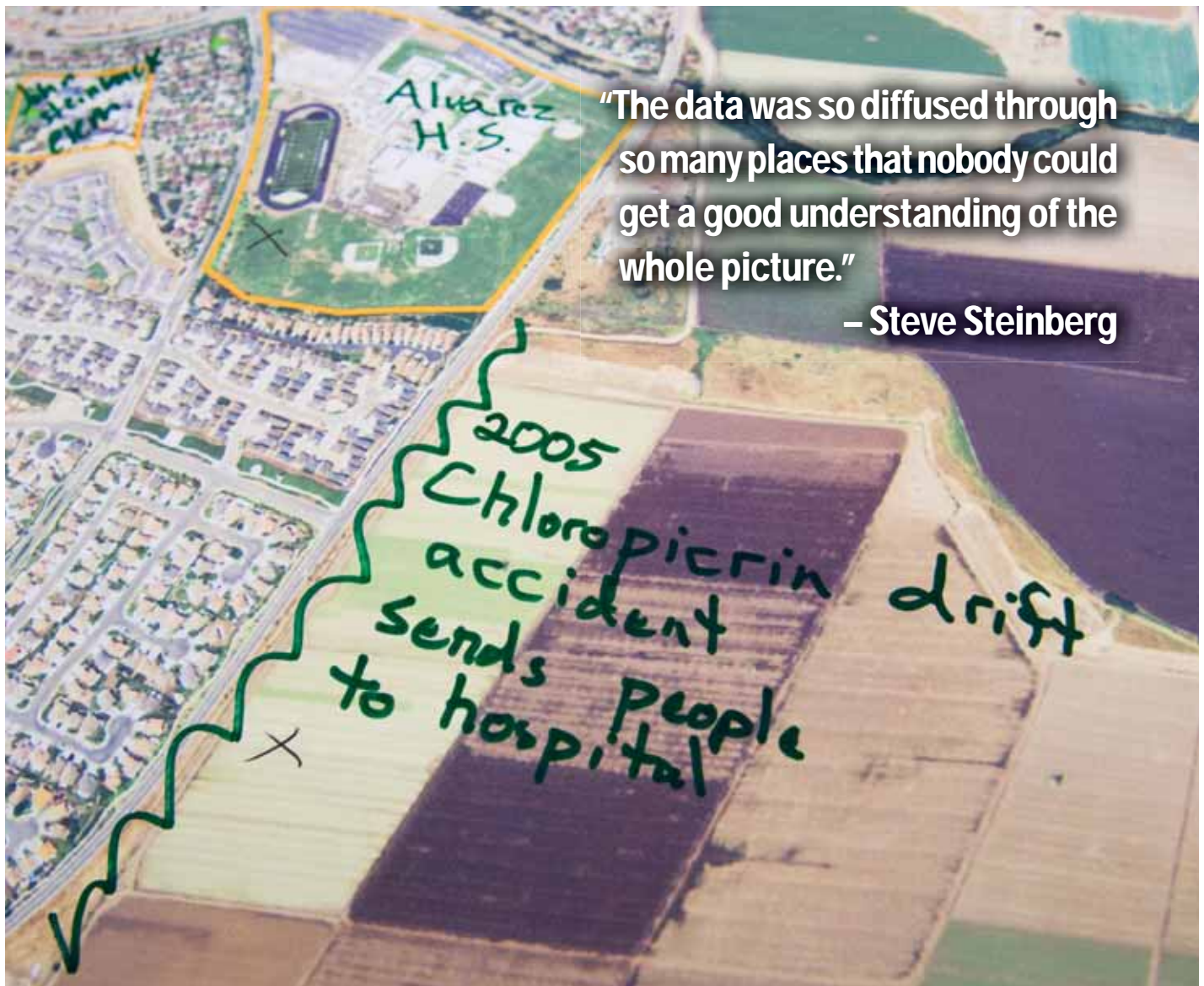
Like any other people, work, family and hope for the future consume the daily lives of California farmworkers. “These families are really interested in the education of their children,” says Alma Martinez, a reporter with Fresno-based Radio Bilingue. “They come to this country and what they want is their children to do better than they did, to advance academically and have a career.”

Digital divide

JUST WHAT CHEMICALS ARE applied where? The numbers available through the state’s Department of Pesticide Regulation (DPR) aren’t all that helpful. “There’s a huge digital divide,” says Sheila. “They say it’s ‘public data,’ but the average person would have a hard time getting access to it.”

It’s not for lack of organization. Advocacy groups are active in the region, and communication lines are well established between activists and laborers. In fact, the Steinbergs chose

PHOTOS COURTESY OF STEVE STEINBERG



"The data was so diffused through so many places that nobody could get a good understanding of the whole picture."

– Steve Steinberg



PHOTO COURTESY OF STEVE STEINBERG



PHOTO COURTESY OF STEVE STEINBERG

Above: In a series of community meetings, residents marked their observations directly on maps. Facing page, top to bottom: Typical housing for field workers in Tulare and Monterey counties; farmworkers use gloves and makeshift masks to protect themselves from pesticide exposure; participants were shocked to see maps showing the amount of pesticides applied near schools like this one.

the two counties for their study because the Agricultural Worker Health Initiative, a project focused on worker health and political empowerment, was already in place

Steve says the DPR is forthcoming with data, but information is not the same as knowledge. "They do produce reports and summary tables, but that's a lot of numbers and statistics. The data was so diffused through so many places that nobody could get a good understanding of the whole picture."

The Steinbergs could tap a resource few others have: an Institute for Spatial Analysis at HSU staffed by professors and students trained in GIS and other analytical techniques. Geographic information systems allow one to see and interpret data in ways that reveal patterns and trends. A GIS map is one way to work with geographic data to help make it understandable at a glance. Drawing a pesticide information picture for those who can best use it was the project's goal.

Armed with large, unadorned maps of the six areas in the study region, in 2007 the research team met directly with the communities for input. During a series of meetings, residents marked their observations directly on the maps. Their information was then digitized and added to the maps as overlays. Participants, guaranteed anonymity to encourage participation, revealed the need for improved communication and education – especially given the language barrier.

"Farmworkers don't understand," says one interviewee. "Most people just go to work and don't realize the consequences for coming in contact with pesticides."

Of particular concern were the schools, since children are especially vulnerable. Says one respondent, "There is no notification for pesticides in California with the exception of schools and day cares... and there is a strong noncompliance with the law."

Other testimonials detail stories of family illnesses consistent with chronic pesticide exposure. Especially troubling is the undercurrent of helplessness. "Even if people know they got exposed and feel ill, the symptoms look like the flu or a hangover," says one respondent. "They realize that they have to go to the doctors, but they don't go. Even if



Professors Steve and Sheila Steinberg. "Without their work, I don't see how this would have been possible," says reporter Alma Martinez.

they do, we see that doctors don't know how to identify exposure."

The maps

THE KEY TOOL FOR bootstrapping the entire community to a new awareness – citizens, ranchers, regulators and educators – are the startling GIS maps the study generated. Readily usable across language and cultural lines, the color-coded visualizations show locations of pesticide and fumigant use in the two counties.

On the maps – there are dozens of them – chemical use is overlaid on locations of schools, hospitals and even state Assembly and Senate districts. "A map really is

worth a thousand words," says Sheila. "We presented this in a lot of different venues, to non-English speakers, and they get it."

Data was collected for the project with the help of a team of HSU students in natural resource management, GIS, psychology, English and sociology. The students participated in everything from field interviews and research to cartographic analysis.

On seeing the graphic depiction of the toxins billowing around them, parent groups and school districts have been electrified. "When mothers and grandmothers saw the tons and tons of pesticides, they were outraged," Martinez says. "People know the smell of pesticides and what they have seen. It started them thinking about solutions."

The map that had the most effect was one labeled "Reported Pesticide Use in Areas Surrounding Cutler and Orosi, Calif." In deepening shades of orange, it details pesticide saturation around residential areas. "That map was the most shocking to them," Martinez says. "The darker zones, astonishingly enough, were where the schools were."

Getting the drift

The maps made it clear that agricultural chemicals don't stay put in the fields. Because of wind drift, "Everyone is getting a certain amount of exposure just because that's where they live," Steve says.

A recent Tulare County drift incident exercised the workers' new familiarity with pesticide enforcement procedures. "They were

surprised,” Martinez says. “We’d trained them and given them the maps. It’s making them more motivated and empowered.”

Meetings with local commissioners, county supervisors and ranchers followed. Officials decided to notify those within a quarter-mile of pesticide application – an option they can exercise at their discretion but which is not required. “Now, when they are going to be spraying, they [county representatives] knock on their door and tell them,” Martinez says.

The project has fostered activism among all ages and genders in the affected communities. “Our group in Orosi is mostly women, and in Lindsey it’s mostly men and their fathers,” Martinez said. Youth are becoming involved, adding energy and innovation. One teen discovered a novel way to spread awareness: La lotería de los pesticidas. Based on a traditional Mexican bingo game, La lotería includes 54 cards that teach pesticide safety.

The game was a hit. “It was really amazing that it came from one of the teenagers,” Martinez says.

Aftermath and action


THE STEINBERGS’ STUDY IS not destined to gather dust on a shelf, and the maps were not its only artifacts. A bilingual website, peopleplaceandhealth.org, offers the fruits of the project, including the maps, the final report, a booklet, testimony from interviewees and posters designed to raise awareness – all still in use by those at ground zero in pesticide country.

While much remains to be done, Martinez credits Steve and Sheila Steinberg with getting the ball rolling. “Without their work, I don’t see how this would have been possible,” she says.

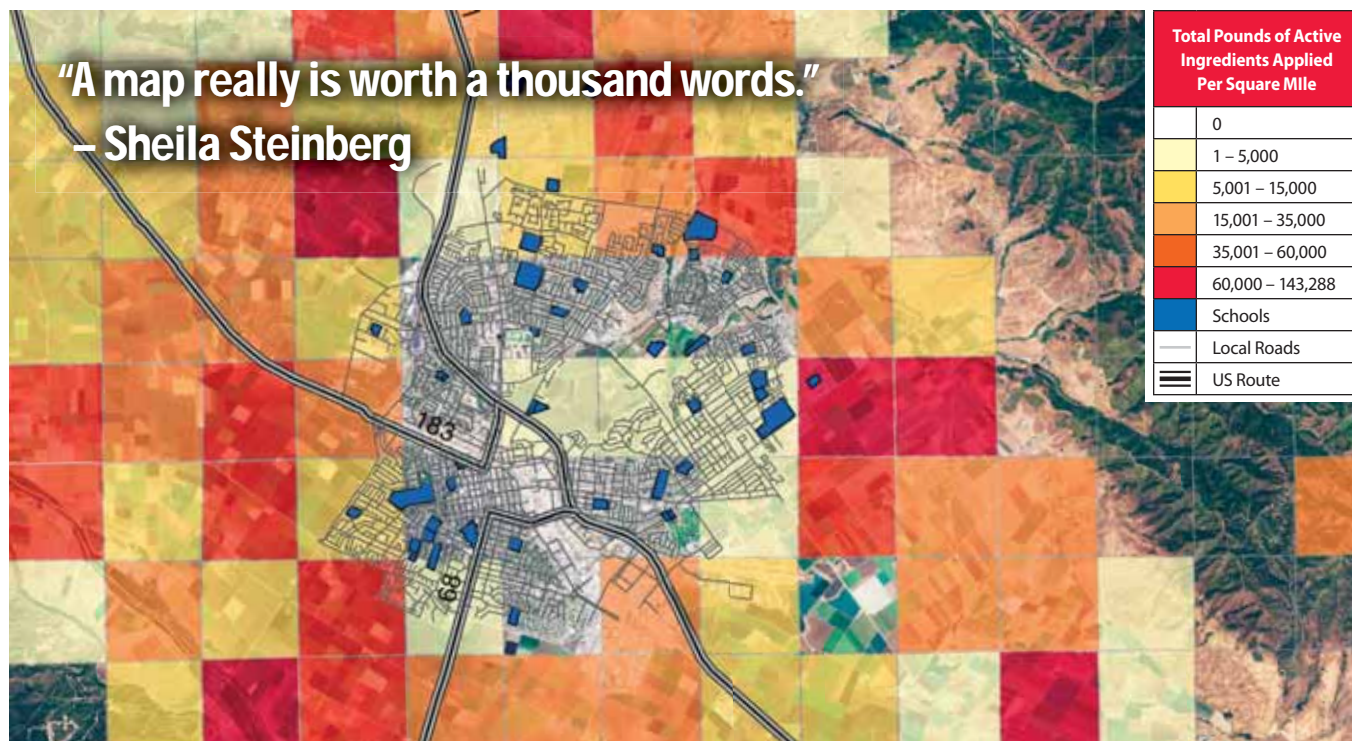
The study provides an informed basis for more investigation into health effects of pesticide exposure, as well as legislation to create buffer zones around sensitive sites. Reforms could include better advance warning before pesticide application; creation of a database for pesticide information; establishment of buffer zones around sensitive sites; and more research into wind drift.

Efforts are already underway

“THEY’RE VERY SMART, THE community organizers,” Sheila said. “They’re trying to work with the owners of the farmland to come up with a solution that’s viable for both groups. They’re trying to work together.” She says she’s proud to have laid the groundwork for further studies as well as political action.

Steve concurs. “For Sheila and me, that’s the main motivator – real-world research that’s not ‘ivory tower.’” 

A bilingual website offers maps, testimony from interviewees, awareness posters, a booklet and the full report: peopleplaceandhealth.org



This map shows reported pesticide use in areas surrounding Salinas, Calif., schools. On seeing the graphic depiction of the toxins billowing around them, parent groups and school districts have been electrified.



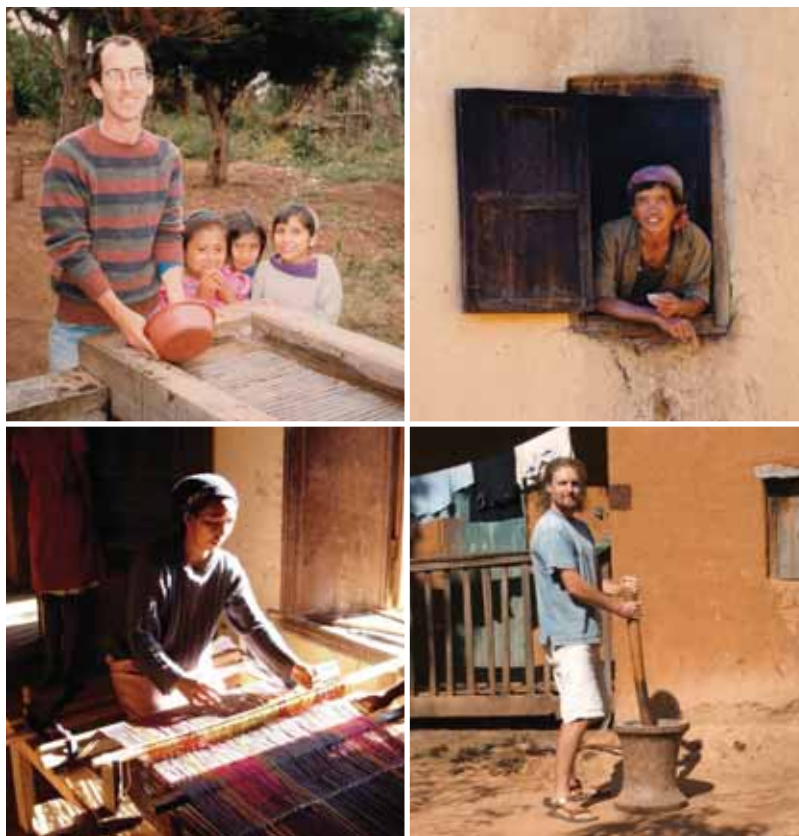
Idealism ADDS UP

HSU rises in ranks of colleges
sending graduates to the Peace Corps

By Kevin L. Hoover



“HSU may be tucked up there in Northern California, but its graduates have a major impact all around the world.”



MOST REMEMBER THEIR UNIVERSITY years as a time of high energy, major effort and strong ideals. For HSU students going on to the Peace Corps, it doesn't end there. Even as a career and family plans beckon, fixing the world takes priority.

Humboldt State jumped to 14th among medium-sized colleges for Peace Corps service in 2009, from 20th the year before. It's the highest ranking yet for HSU and means that this year, 25 of Humboldt's freshest alumni are headed into the program.

What's behind HSU's Peace Corps connection? "We find that HSU students have a real empathy and curiosity for the world," says Nathan Hale Sargent, public affairs specialist at the corps' San Francisco office.

HSU students also graduate with professional abilities that developing countries can put to good use. "Countries around the world need the skills that students develop at Humboldt State, particularly in forestry and natural resources," Sargent says. He notes that HSU is proud of and encourages its Peace Corps volunteers, and even offers a graduate school fellowship for returned volunteers.

"We prize our relationship with HSU," Sargent says. "It may be tucked up there in Northern California, but its graduates have a major impact all around the world."

“A man for others”

SEAN MCCARTNEY’S JOURNEY TO the island nation of Madagascar began on a recumbent bicycle at Humboldt State, where he volunteered to collect recyclable material as part of the campus recycling program.

“I was raised to be, pardon the expression, a man for others,” McCartney says. “At HSU, the people that inspired me the most were the ones who were actually trying to give back to the community.”

On hearing from friends who had served in the Peace Corps, McCartney became convinced it was the right vehicle for his energies. “The more I looked into the Peace Corps, the more it seemed a logical progression – to volunteer, get life experience and world travel,” he says.

After he earned his geography degree in 2004, he set out for the remote village of Miadampahonina. Natives of the sub-tropical highlands cultivate rice as their principal crop, produced in a time-hardened traditional manner. McCartney jumped in with both feet and quickly realized that learning the local dialect was crucial. After months of struggle, there was a turning point when McCartney knew he’d mastered Malagasy.

“Until you can make a joke in that language, you’re not going to understand the majority of what’s being said,” he notes. “To actually make a joke that’s kind of witty, that took me a good four or five months into my service. That was a huge hurdle for me.”

Mindful of the potential pitfalls of being a know-it-all, do-nothing outsider, McCartney hit the ground running. McCartney would rise before 6 a.m. to the sound of children pounding rice. He helped work the rice fields and was given two plots of land to cultivate as a model for the surrounding community—the perfect vehicle for his past experience volunteering with the Arcata Educational Farm.

Other duties included helping teach English to middle- and high school-age students and building fuel-efficient stoves.

One key technique McCartney shared with the struggling farmers was the System of Rice Intensification, a method of increasing the yield of rice produced in farming. Developed in 1983 by a French Jesuit priest, the practice has spread throughout the globe. But Madagascar has been slow to adopt it, even though the system was created at an agricultural school just 60 kilometers from Miadampahonina.

Another project was development of a six-and-a-half hectare community park. McCartney scoped the small community’s needs and desires, then drew up plans and oversaw construction with volunteers from the village. After eight months, the result was an integrated complex of trails, wildlife areas, basketball courts and a soccer field.

Gratifyingly, McCartney was able to close the global loop when he helped a native counterpart’s son travel to the United States. That exchange was set up via EarthCorps, which organizes global volunteers to help with restoration projects in the Pacific

Northwest. “I even took him on a road trip to Arcata,” McCartney says.

McCartney’s three years among the Malagasy people was a journey, a validation, an education and in the end, the maturation of a global citizen. “I wouldn’t trade it for anything,” McCartney says. “I lucked out and had phenomenal people I worked with on a daily basis.”

Two-way enrichment

IN 1996, RICHARD ENGEL happened to be attending an Earth Day celebration in Berkeley. “I saw a Peace Corps recruiting table and it just sort of hit me—‘Oh yeah, Peace Corps.’” He had graduated from HSU in 1988 with a degree in environmental resources engineering and then spent eight years working for the City and County of San Francisco and for the City of Palo Alto.

With a career change looming, soon he was posted to Honduras, living among 35 families of indigenous Lenca people in a secluded village in the province of LaPaz.



Left: Sean McCartney saying goodbye to his first village. **Top left:** Carolina Tercero, center, with her host family in Mongolia. **Top right:** Richard Engel had more than just a typical enriching experience in Honduras; he also met his wife Basilia there. **Facing page:** McCartney and villagers sift clay, ash and rice hulls, which they will mix with water to mold into fuel-efficient cook stoves.

Operating at first in an atmosphere of “polite indifference,” Engel struggled with language and social barriers to teach soil conservation, start tree nurseries to replant deforested areas, conduct environmental education in schools and do management planning for an environmental sanctuary.

“It’s certainly true that the learning goes both ways,” he says. “Sometimes there are things that make you say ‘Why on Earth are they doing things this way?’ But you learn subtle things over time that show you that they are doing things the right way. You bring your own set of blinders with you.”

Eventually, he became more in tune with the locals, and they with him. “Something turned the corner around the middle of my two years and I started to feel a lot more accepted, liked, and eventually loved,” he says. “It takes you a full year to find your footing.”

He found himself recognized every so often, too. “I ran into two Humboldters in Honduras,” he recalls.

For Engel, the personal enrichment he’d hoped for came through on a scale he couldn’t have dreamed of when he met Basilia, the woman he would eventually marry. “One of the most wonderful things to come out of my Peace Corps experience was meeting her,” he says.

It worked out well for Humboldt, too. Basilia immigrated to the United States on his return and the two were married in 2001. She went on to earn a degree in soil science at HSU in 2007 and now works with the AmeriCorps Watershed Stewards project.

A changed Richard Engel returned to the United States. “I just couldn’t face the big city again,” he says. “Arcata seemed so sane to me, and it still does,” he says. “I’m glad to say it changed me because a lot of things about my daily life are informed by what I saw and did there.”

Now a researcher at HSU’s Schatz Energy Research Center, Engel is returning to Central America in January. He has received a Fulbright grant to help Universidad Don Bosco in El Salvador develop a degree program in renewable energy. As he says, “The adventure continues!”



“Sometimes you say ‘Why on Earth are they doing things this way?’ But over time you see that they are doing things the right way. You bring your own set of blinders with you.”

High perspectives

TWO YEARS OF ADVENTURE await Carolina Tercero ('07), who has just embarked on her Peace Corps assignment as a Youth Development Volunteer in Mongolia.


At Humboldt, Tercero founded the multicultural Gamma Alpha Omega, a service sorority that did “everything, actually,” managing a range of events on and off campus. “It was a great experience, really,” she says. “I kept busy.”

Since graduating with a social work degree in 2007 she’s worked in Sacramento with AmeriCorps Vista on community development projects and in her home town of Santa Ana on after-school and career planning programs for at-risk high school students. But the Peace Corps

always beckoned.

“Two of my supervisors at the HSU Learning Center were returning Peace Corps volunteers and I asked them about it,” she says. “Everyone I talked to about the Peace Corps had the same energy, the same high perspectives and just loved their experiences.”

In Mongolia, she’s working with nonprofits to help young people develop life skills and do community development—in other words, social work.

“My skills and experiences here will help me work with the youth in Mongolia,” she says. “I want to connect the students there with my students here.” 


Did You Know?

Humboldt State University ranks 14th among all medium-size colleges for the number of Peace Corps volunteers in 2009.

Since the Peace Corp’s inception in 1961, 737 HSU alums have served.



TALLEST TREES VAN UWVEILED

A photograph of a person climbing a large, moss-covered tree trunk in a forest. The person is wearing a striped shirt and is positioned on the right side of the frame, looking up. The tree trunk is thick and textured, with a large amount of green moss growing on it. The background is filled with lush green foliage, including ferns and other trees, creating a dense forest scene.

The best-selling book *The Wild Trees* made Steve Sillett a legend among tall-tree climbers. Now, as *National Geographic* magazine features his work in a cover story and documentary, Humboldt State's skywalking professor launches a groundbreaking study into the effects of climate change on redwoods.

By Paul Tolmé



PHOTOS: THIS PAGE AND FACING PAGE © SILLETT & ANTOINE

Left: The tops of old redwoods have often been killed in crown fires long ago. Eventually they regrow new vibrant crowns, such as this tree is doing here. **Middle:** Huckleberry bushes grow from pockets of decaying wood and soil high up in tall redwoods—a handy snack for scientists performing canopy research. **Right:** The first branches on tall redwoods are often 150 feet or more above the ground. For climbers, the view can be intimidating.

STEVE SILLETT FELT EXHILARATED as morning sun rays burst through the redwood canopy. He was dangling from ropes in one of the world's largest trees as a National Geographic photographer snapped pictures. For eight days straight, Sillett, his team of climbers and photographer Nick Nichols had risen before dawn and climbed this tree, hoping to get the perfect shot of Sillett and his team positioned throughout its crown. Nichols had already taken thousands of pictures. Finally, Sillett thought, they had nailed it.

"We looked at the images and they were awesome," Sillett recalls. "But Nick says, 'I think we can do better.' So for six more days we went out. The guy is relentless."

The same could be said about Sillett, one of the world's leading forest scientists and the Kenneth L. Fisher Chair of Redwood Ecology at Humboldt State University. He climbs tall trees about 100 days a year, spending fall and winter in the coast redwoods and summers in the giant sequoias of California's Sierra Nevada. In between, he travels the world to locate, climb and study tall trees. "My work is my hobby. I don't consider it work," he says.

In 2007, Sillett was featured in Richard Preston's book *The Wild Trees*. It chronicled the hunt by Sillett and colleagues for the world's tallest redwood, which Sillett climbed to confirm its height: 379.1 feet—70 feet taller than the Statue of Liberty. The discovery and book made Sillett a legend among tall-tree climbers and provided the public with its first glimpse into the crowns of ancient redwoods, where few had previously dared venture.

Sillett and the redwoods are now getting their next close-up. The October issue of *National Geographic* magazine will

feature a cover story about coast redwoods, and an accompanying hourlong documentary will be aired on the National Geographic Channel. Sillett devoted months to the magazine and documentary, which will be seen by millions, and says they are mind-blowing.

"We did a shot where the camera is being lifted by counterweights and panning through the canopy so you get the sense that you're flying through the forest," he says. "There are shots where the camera is zooming by while we're climbing. It's going to be sweet."

For Sillett, working with National Geographic was a chance to educate the public about the seldom-seen crowns of tall redwoods, which support a rich community of life including huckleberries, ferns, salamanders and other creatures.

"It's hard to fully appreciate these trees from the ground. You can tell they are awesome, but you don't know the half of it."

Sillett hopes the media coverage will inspire the public and spur funding for scientific research on tall trees around the world.

Coast redwoods, which extend from Big Sur to southern Oregon, have survived

for more than 10 million years. Until the last ice age they grew widely across the northern hemisphere and in the area that is now Oregon and Washington. Sillett calls them "super heroes." They resist rot and are nearly impervious to fire. Nothing eats them. They can grow in deep shade. "All these things promote great longevity. Once a redwood is there, it stays, and once a forest is established, it cannot be defeated. Unless it is loged."

"It's hard to fully appreciate these trees from the ground. You can tell they're awesome, but you don't know the half of it."



Top: Sillett near the top of a 371-foot-tall redwood inspecting sensors that measure air humidity, temperature and leaf wetness. **Bottom:** Sillett inspects equipment 250 feet above the ground around a large fern mat. Large redwood crowns often harbor heavy loads of leather-leaf fern; its decomposing mass is the main component of arboreal soil, which can reach depths of up to three feet.



FACULTY AND RESEARCHERS AT WORK ON FOREST ECOLOGY

Redwood forests are complex ecosystems offering many challenges to scientists. In addition to the work of Steve Sillett, numerous Humboldt State professors and researchers are working to expand our understanding of forest ecosystems. They include:

John-Pascal Berrill | Forestry & Wildland Resources

Research interests: multiaged silviculture (the agriculture of trees), tree response to stress/climate change, forest restoration, and carbon forestry (silviculture to maximize biomass production/carbon sequestration).

Allyson Carroll | Biological Sciences

Research interests: dendroclimatology (the study of tree rings to determine past climates), fire histories, and applied tree ring research.

Walter G. Duffy | Fisheries Biology

Research interests: ecosystem energetic processes, the ecology of Pacific salmon, watershed restoration, and wetland ecology.

T. Luke George | Wildlife Management

Research interests: passerine (songbird) ecology, forest management effects on wildlife, forest fragmentation, and the behavior and ecology of corvids (jays, crows, and ravens) in old-growth redwood forests.

Richard Golightly | Wildlife Management

Research interests: animal energetics, nesting ecology of marbled murrelets, and forest carnivore ecology.

Han-Sup Han | Forestry & Wildland Resources

Research interests: woody biomass for energy production, economics of forest operations, forest road systems, and assessment of environmental impacts in the forest.

Terry Henkel | Biological Sciences

Research interests: ecology and systematics of neotropical macromycetes (fungi), and the role of mycorrhizae (fungus roots) in structuring forest communities.

Matt Johnson | Wildlife Management

Research interests: wildlife habitat relationships and selection, ecology and conservation of migratory songbirds, and tropical wildlife ecology.

Erik Jules | Biological Sciences

Research interests: the spread of invasive organisms, the effects of habitat fragmentation on plant populations, and community interactions and environmental history.

John Stuart | Forestry & Wildland Resources

Research interests: dendrology (the study of trees and other woody plants), forest ecology, and fire ecology.

Robert Van Pelt | Forestry & Wildland Resources

Research interests: old-growth ecology, canopy structure and its control of the understory environment, spatial patterns in old-growth forests, and tree plant geography.

Morgan Varner | Forestry & Wildland Resources

Research interests: applied fire management issues, dynamics of fuels, natural history of managed areas, and post-fire tree damage.

Peggy Wilzbach | Fisheries Biology

Research interests: ecology and conservation of anadromous and resident salmonids, stream ecology, and watershed restoration.



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Top: These are the highest leaves on earth; the crown of this redwood in Redwood National Park sits more than 379 feet above the ground.
Left: To quantify data about an entire tree, researchers cut branches and measure them for bark, sapwood and heartwood—the dark red centers.
Middle: The scientific equipment in the lab includes these housings for air temperature and humidity sensors. **Right:** Samples collected in the forest are meticulously stored and documented for research in the lab.

Hired at HSU in 1996 to teach botany, Sillett has since moved to the Department of Forestry and Wildland Resources, a post where he hopes to do nothing less than rewrite the book on how redwood forests are managed. Ninety-six percent of the

old-growth redwood forest has been logged. "I'm not anti-logging," he says during a recent visit to Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park and Redwood National Park, where much of the National Geographic filming took place. "I have no problem cutting trees. I just think we can do a better job of picking the trees we cut."

Sillett believes forestry could benefit by learning the science of arboriculture. "Arborists know how to promote tree health. I hope to stimulate a marriage between arboriculture and forestry." Current timber practices produce low-quality lumber by cutting redwoods before they have time to grow dense, rot-resistant heartwood. By selectively thinning timberlands and allowing some trees to mature, the lumber industry could get high-quality wood back into the marketplace and promote healthier forests. "Historically, redwood was the best. It built San Francisco twice. But look at the wood being sold today. There is a little core of hardwood, and the rest is sapwood. It's junk."

Sillett is a man of strong opinions and intense drive. While others study redwoods from the ground, Sillett goes to the top. He combines the intellect of a leading scientist with the adventurousness of an elite climber, and his studies about redwood physiology are changing conventional wisdom.

For instance, scientists once believed redwoods grew slower as they aged. "Our work is demonstrating that's not true. These trees," he says, waving his arms at the giant redwoods surrounding us in Prairie Creek, "are adding more wood than at any point in their lives." His studies of redwood growth rings, obtained by taking core samples from various heights, are providing the most accurate age estimates ever for living trees. "We are able to take these trees back through time and estimate when they were zero age. That's never happened before." Sillett has determined that one of the largest coast redwoods he's studied is at least 1,850 years old, give or take 100 years.

"Most scientists are incrementalists," says Ken Fisher, an HSU alumnus and financial advisor whose endowment provides Sillett with a \$100,000 annual research budget. "They work in baby steps. They don't do anything radical. Steve is different. He wants to do transformational research that allows us to make quantum leaps forward. He's not constrained in his thinking. That's what attracted me to him."

This fall, Sillett expects to launch a groundbreaking study into the effects of climate change on redwoods. Funded by the Save the Redwoods League, Sillett and collaborators

**"Once a redwood is there, it stays,
and once a forest is established,
it cannot be defeated.
Unless it's logged."**

will establish research plots in all the major parks and reserves for coast redwoods and giant sequoias.

The study team will include a dream team of redwood scientists. Sillett and U.C. Berkeley professor Todd Dawson, who did pioneering

research about the utilization of fog by coast redwoods, will be co-directors. Robert Van Pelt of the University of Washington will be the lead scientist. Anthony Ambrose, a Berkeley post-doctoral researcher who studied the effects of height on redwood physiology with Sillett, will analyze carbon and oxygen isotopes in the tree rings to see how redwoods have responded to past climatic changes.

"Working with Steve is challenging and rewarding," says Ambrose, who earned his master's degree under Sillett at HSU in 2004. "He has high standards and demands the best performance and the most rigorous science."

Initial climate data are already yielding fascinating insights. Redwoods in Humboldt Redwoods State Park appear to have undergone a growth spurt during the 20th century. Sillett hypothesizes this may be due to increasing atmospheric carbon dioxide—so-called CO₂ fertilization.

Climate change is a concern because redwoods are adapted to specific growing conditions. Coast redwoods, which get water from rain and fog, should endure because the



WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

Since 1918, the Save the Redwoods League has led the movement to preserve the ancient coast redwoods and giant sequoias.

Learn more: savetheredwoods.org



North Coast is expected to change less than other regions (although the trees will probably contract to the south). Giant sequoias, however, are in more trouble. *Sequoiadendron giganteum* gets water from mountain snow, which is decreasing with climate change. "Giant sequoias are vulnerable," Sillett says. "I'm worried about them."

As conservationists and governments promote forest growth to moderate the impacts of climate change, Sillett believes these super-hero trees could help. "Pound for pound, no species soaks up and effectively stores more carbon than redwoods," he says. "If there is interest in creating large forest reserves whose primary purpose is carbon sequestration, then why wouldn't you plant the most successful carbon sequesterers the Earth has ever produced? It's something to consider."

Back in the park, Sillett stops his car to admire a tall tree where he filmed with National Geographic. His year-long sabbatical is about to end, and he has a pile of work to complete: journal articles to write, lab results to analyze, preparation for the new course he will be teaching on Silvics/Tree Physiology. He and his wife, HSU lecturer Marie Antoine, a tall-tree climber herself, just finished building a house, which is sided with salvaged redwood. And Sillett recently returned from Australia, where for seven years he has studied the southern hemisphere's tallest species—*Eucalyptus regnans*. Catastrophic wildfires swept through southeastern Australia before Sillett's most recent visit, killing the 300-foot eucalyptus forest. "All of our trees burned. Every one of our study trees is standing deadwood."

The news was more joyous in Tasmania, where Sillett climbed and measured a 327-foot eucalyptus, the world's tallest. He also joined an expedition in New Zealand that located the country's tallest known tree—a 224-foot redwood planted in 1901.

Sillett helped popularize many of the tree-climbing techniques now used by researchers worldwide. First he shoots an arrow attached to fishing line over the lowest sturdy limb, sometimes over 200 feet up. He ties tactical rope to the fishing line, hauls up the rope and ascends to the limb. Then he tosses weighted ropes over successively higher limbs and climbs until he reaches the crown, where he unhitches from the main line and uses multiple ropes attached to his harness to travel through the canopy, sometimes from tree

"Pound for pound, no species soaks up and effectively stores more carbon than redwoods."

REDWOODS GET A CLOSE-UP

THE OCTOBER ISSUE OF *National Geographic* magazine features a cover story about coast redwoods and Professor Sillett's work. An accompanying hourlong documentary about *Sequoia sempervirens* will be broadcast on the National Geographic Channel starting Sept 29.

Learn more: nationalgeographic.com

to tree—a technique called skywalking. Author Richard Preston's descriptions of Sillett's daring climbs are some of *The Wild Trees*' most riveting passages. Sillett has mixed emotions about the book. On one hand, Preston helped educate the public about the redwood canopy. "It gave people a window into part of the forest they would never experience." On the other hand, it instigated a rush by tall-tree fanatics to find the tallest trees, whose whereabouts were closely guarded.

In hindsight, Sillett thinks it was a mistake to name the tallest trees. He and colleagues no longer do so, instead assigning numbers. "Naming a tree makes it a celebrity. When you give it a mythological name, people say, 'I've got to go see it.' We don't want to make these trees targets of visitation." The crown on the most-visited tall redwood has died in the past several decades, and Sillett thinks there may be a connection.

Sillett's days of bushwhacking through impenetrable underbrush in search of the tallest trees are over. Have they all been found?

"Yes," Sillett says definitively. New airplane-mounted laser technology called LIDAR has allowed researchers to locate all of the 350-foot-plus redwoods in Redwood National and State Parks as well as Humboldt Redwoods State Park. There are over 170. "We're done finding the tallest trees."

Sillett is now embarked on a new quest. "The next frontier of discovery is finding the largest trees by volume." General Sherman, a giant sequoia, is the largest of all, but for other species the largest individuals may still be undiscovered. That seems likely. After all, until Sillett and his colleagues began looking, the tallest redwood was thought to be 367.8 feet.

Sillett parks at a trailhead and walks to a redwood with a hemlock tree swirled around its trunk like a snake. He shows this curious sight to a park ranger, who has never seen it. He proceeds to an immense redwood he has eyed for many years. He places his hands on the trunk, as if touching an old friend, and stares up. "That's something, isn't it?" he says of the tree, which he has never climbed. "Maybe it's time." 📍



Learn more: humboldt.edu/redwoods

CAMPUS EVENT FEATURES REDWOOD EXPERTS

On Oct. 3, Humboldt State will host a special series of talks by key participants in *National Geographic's* redwoods cover story and others. Speakers will include:

Steve Sillett | HSU professor and the Kenneth L. Fisher Chair in Redwood Ecology

Nick Nichols | a National Geographic wildlife photographer

Michael Fay | National Geographic explorer-in-residence and conservationist with the Wildlife Conservation Society

Ruskin Hartley | Executive Director of Save the Redwoods League.

See details: now.humboldt.edu/events



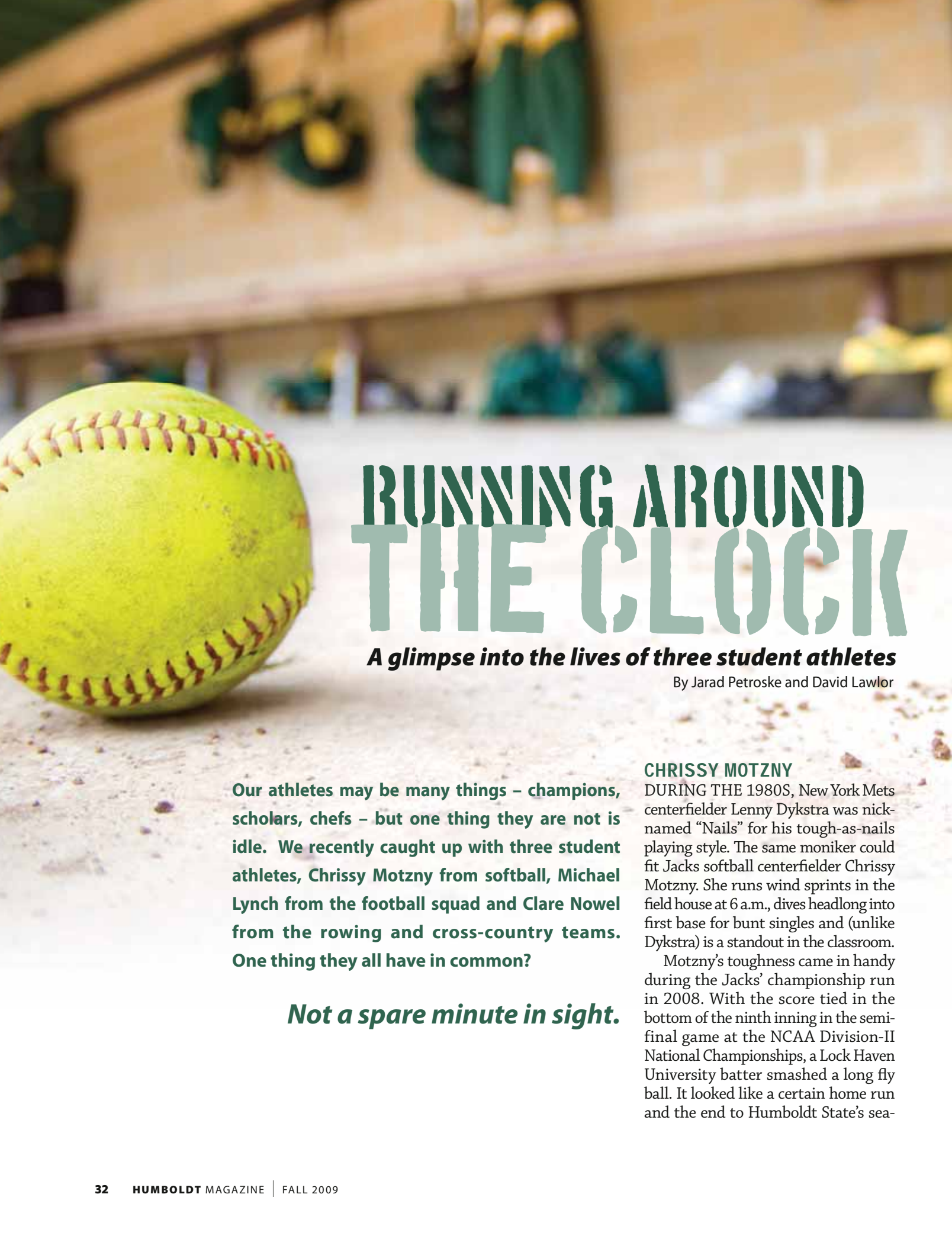
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Clockwise from top: The journey to the top of a 300-foot-tall tree takes an experienced climber about 20 minutes; climbers tend to start their day of data collection near the treetop and then work their way down. Sillett sets up a robot called a Gigapan, which takes hundreds of photos along a regular grid that can then be digitally stitched together to create a highly detailed composite image. Hardhats, harnesses and climbing rope are part of the standard equipment for climbing redwoods safely.



RUNNING AROUND THE CLOCK

A glimpse into the lives of three student athletes

By Jarad Petroske and David Lawlor

Our athletes may be many things – champions, scholars, chefs – but one thing they are not is idle. We recently caught up with three student athletes, Chrissy Motzny from softball, Michael Lynch from the football squad and Clare Nowel from the rowing and cross-country teams. One thing they all have in common?

Not a spare minute in sight.

CHRISSY MOTZNY

DURING THE 1980S, New York Mets centerfielder Lenny Dykstra was nicknamed “Nails” for his tough-as-nails playing style. The same moniker could fit Jacks softball centerfielder Chrissy Motzny. She runs wind sprints in the field house at 6 a.m., dives headlong into first base for bunt singles and (unlike Dykstra) is a standout in the classroom.

Motzny’s toughness came in handy during the Jacks’ championship run in 2008. With the score tied in the bottom of the ninth inning in the semi-final game at the NCAA Division-II National Championships, a Lock Haven University batter smashed a long fly ball. It looked like a certain home run and the end to Humboldt State’s sea-

son, but Motzny scaled the centerfield fence, reached up with her glove and snagged the would-be game-winning run. The Jacks went on to win and, one game later, clinched the national title.

That same toughness has served Motzny well during her time at Humboldt State as the San Jose, Calif., native has juggled softball and academics, while trying to carry on a semblance of a social life.

"It can be hard finding a classmate to tell you what you missed in class when you were gone," says Motzny, a senior psychology major. "My schedule last semester was really heavy, 22 units. I got straight A's though—I'm kind of a perfectionist."

With the start of the fall semester, Motzny begins her days with a workout, followed by classes and then afternoon practice with legendary HSU softball Coach Frank Cheek. On Saturdays come five-hour scrimmages. During the season, the Jacks play anywhere from two to eight games a week. Spending so much time together, it stands to reason the teammates become close.

"Really, my friends on the team, along with my sister, are my best friends up here," she says.

Motzny plans to apply to graduate school and has her sights set on a Ph.D. in psychology. She's also interested in traveling overseas to perhaps play softball in European leagues.

"Arcata is such a small town that you're known in the community, it's kind of funny," she says. "I go out wearing my softball stuff and people say, 'Oh, you're one of Frank's girls,' or 'Hey, you're Chrissy Motzny.' It's good knowing that people in the community support you like that, even if it is a little weird."

MICHAEL LYNCH

MICHAEL LYNCH IS IN charge. He knows what he has to do on the field (destroy the offensive line), he knows what he's going to do after college (get a law degree to be a criminal lawyer) and knows what he has to do to make work go smoothly (get the hordes of middle school students to behave themselves).



Chrissy Motzny studies as she works out at the gym. "I go out wearing my softball stuff and people say, 'Oh you're one of Frank's girls.' It's good knowing that the people in the community support you."

On a typical day Lynch begins his days in the gym before classes and afternoon drills. Catching up with Lynch in between the weight room and class, he recites a workout plan that would make even the sternest coach happy.

"Today was a lower body day. So we did overhead squats, overhead pulls, squat cleans, power cleans with a push jerk, then lunges, then front squats, then side squats, then a hamstring work out. In about an hour we're going to do some drills out on the field," says Lynch.

As a business administration major, Lynch is busy learning about capital markets and the magic of compound interest. But his heart lies with criminal justice, which he studied at the University of Nevada at Las Vegas before being recruited to HSU. Why the switch? "I wanted to come in and play right away, plus I really liked Coach Shay McClure and Coach Solomona Tapasa. I talked on the phone with them a lot and they were really open and honest. They really helped me with the transfer, which isn't the easiest thing to do," says Lynch.

Lynch's arrival at Humboldt was in time to play during Coach Rob Smith's first year helming the Lumberjacks. Even though the team ended the season with a losing record, Lynch has high hopes for the '09-'10 campaign.

"I think we'll do a lot better. We've got seven or eight returning starters coming back on defense so that helps with experience. You can see it on the field, we're looking strong. We're a much more cohesive unit than last year," says Lynch.

Like many student athletes, free time is a rarity for Lynch. He spends much of it with teammates or with his girlfriend. But through his job at Zane Middle School in Eureka, Calif., Lynch has found another way to feel like a kid.

The after-school program at Zane offers Lynch a way to make money, work with kids and have some fun. The kids, most in their early teens, clearly like Lynch, and he is equally fond of them. With the demeanor of a principal, Lynch checks up on their homework and sends wayward kids home

who aren't enrolled in the program but would like to hang out on campus.

Students come up to him and recite their recent track victories or ask Lynch to throw them a really, really long pass.

"It reminds me of being in junior high every day, man, everyday."

CLARE NOWEL

AFTER TWO YEARS WITH the HSU Rowing Team, senior Clare Nowel is starting to feel comfortable in her role as a team leader. She's led the team as coxswain through plenty of regattas and this semester she takes on assistant coach duties alongside coaches Robin Mieggs and Pat Hyland. But Nowel might argue that it's her steady hand in the kitchen that's really secured her leadership position. "When we get together we're like a big family. Some of the new girls on the team will feel a little homesick and it just takes one home-cooked meal and they're feeling better," says Nowel. Then she lists the delicious meals she and her teammates prepare as a way to keep fit and strengthen bonds. Sushi night, barbecues and even a few meals cooked by Nowel's father are just some of the items on the menu.

That food sustains Nowel through her schedule that includes running upwards of 50 miles a week and taking 21 units over the summer session. She's also a distance runner on the cross-country team and competes in the steeplechase for the track team. Clearly, sleep is one of the more elusive parts of her life. Nowel came to Humboldt after a stint at community college where soccer was her main sport. After poring over HSUjacks.com, trying to find a place in the HSU Athletics family, she came upon something she'd never done before.

"I kept going on the website and looking at coaches, because I didn't want to go to college without being on a team," says Nowel. "I was reading Robin (Mieggs's) profile and about how 'we study hard and train hard,' and it seemed like she had a really good coaching style that would fit with me. So I called up, asked 'Hey can I row, I don't know what it is,' and she said 'yes' and I came up here." **H**





PHOTO COURTESY OF HUMBOLDT CREW



Top: Michael Lynch juggles football, class time, socializing and work. The after-school program at Zane Middle School offers Lynch a way to make money, work with kids and have some fun. The kids clearly like Lynch, and he is equally fond of them.
Bottom: Clare Nowel doesn't have much time to sleep. So whenever she has a few minutes and sees a couch free, she grabs a nap.



BEHIND THE spotlight

Student crew shoots for
film festival glory

by Jarad Petroske



PHOTO COURTESY OF MATT ST. CHARLES

Opposite page: Professor and director David Scheerer reviews a scene with actress Theresa Ireland during the filming of “The Music Inside.” Left: Student Elizabeth Cruz, with Scheerer and student Sandra Grimm, reviews production notes before resuming filming. Right: Production professionals and dozens of students from the Department of Theatre, Film and Dance transformed the Gist Hall studio theater into a working movie set for the weeklong shoot.

FOR FIVE GRUELING DAYS in January, beginning at 8 in the morning and ending 12 long hours later, students and alumni from HSU’s Theatre Film & Dance department upheld the director’s commands of “quiet on the set.”

The students were filming Professor David Scheerer’s “The Music Inside,” the story of a young woman who confronts a UC Berkeley professor and inspires him to confess the painful truth about his past.

The movie was produced in a uniquely independent way. Instead of taking money from a major studio – the traditional approach that includes surrendering a certain amount of artistic control – Scheerer and his colleagues developed the legally chartered Montana Motion Picture Cooperative.

The idea is simple. Everybody who contributes capital, donates equipment or works on the set shares in the film’s eventual revenue stream. All contributions are treated equally and the potential for a healthy return on the investment is relatively high. In the age of Hollywood blockbusters, sometimes a movie’s box office take barely covers the cost of production. Consequently, more and more investors have turned to independent film as a way to encourage new talent who create well-crafted work with low budgets.

The original cut of Scheerer’s film was ready in 2005. However, in hopes of gaining entry to the festival circuit, he and producer-writer Michael Van Wagenen reworked the ending, converting it from a tragic tone to one of hope. And that’s where Humboldt State entered the picture. A new scene had to be shot to wrap up the story and Scheerer recognized it as an opportunity to engage his students in a way that most could only dream of.

From Jan. 12 to 17, the Gist Hall studio theater was the working set of “The Music Inside,” and for many students, it was their first time on a professional film crew.

“This is definitely the most pressure I’ve felt on the set. The hardest part is learning all the new equipment,” says Elizabeth Cruz, who ran the set’s sound mixer.


The equipment included lighting, sound mixers and plenty of walkie-talkies for on-set communication. But attracting the most attention was clearly the massive Panavision camera that dominated the small theater.

“The students are really gaining professional experience, working on a pro set and working with this level of equipment, especially the Panavision camera that David was able to get donated,” says Professor Ann Alter, the set’s unit production manager.

The set, a professor’s office, was designed months prior to shooting by Professor Jody Sekas. Dozens of students in his scene-building classes were involved in building and refining the intricate detail required to create an authentic feel.

The main challenge was to design a set adaptable to multiple camera angles yet realistic enough to not appear simulated on film.

“The special feature of this ‘office’ is that the walls can be moved out of the way to get just the right camera shot. The students have been painting the set and props to make everything appear absolutely real. They are learning firsthand the techniques and level of detail necessary when creating a set that is believable and functional for film,” says Sekas.

Benjamin Bettenhausen, an alum from HSU’s Film program, described the shoot as a big reunion. “It’s great to see old students again and students who have only taken a few film classes. It’s also great to see theatre and film students working together.” 

A sneak preview of “The Music Inside” will be held in the Van Duzer Theatre on Nov. 13 and 14. For information, visit humboldt.edu/theatre.

For Love of the Game

Scholarship honors one alum's passion for sports

SPORTS ARE AT THE center of Elizabeth Shannon's HSU experience. First was volleyball. She knew she wanted to play, and HSU had the best program around — not to mention, she liked the coaches. Then there was her major, Kinesiology with an emphasis in Exercise Science. As part of her program, she gets to test people's fitness in the Human Performance Lab

inside the brand new Kinesiology and Athletics building on campus.

And to top it all off, she was awarded a scholarship earmarked for students of physical education.

For Shannon, a senior from Pioneer, Calif., the scholarship meant help with the financial demands that every student faces: fees, textbooks, rent — all the expenses that can creep up. Easing that stress leaves more time for things like daily three-hour practices and traveling to games, time that has helped her be part of a close-knit community. "The team is like family. The players, they're my sisters."

It's a good guess that this would have pleased her scholarship's namesake, the late Virginia Torp Harris, who graduated from what was then known as Humboldt State College in 1938 with a degree in physical education. She taught P.E. to girls in junior high in South San Francisco and later in Portland. James Harris ('36) was a student at Humboldt State when he met Virginia, and they were married for 52 years. James' brother Robert established the endowed scholarship in 1991 to honor Virginia's passion for sports.



"Kids really liked her, she really took an interest in them," says Suzanne Harris, James and Virginia's daughter. "She even showed the girls how to walk in heels for graduation. They didn't know how, so at lunchtime they brought their heels in and she showed how to walk in them. That was just who she was, always looking out for the young girls she taught."

Several Torp Harris scholarship awards are handed out each year. Priority is given to students of physical education, but music students are also eligible. That's because, in addition to being a champion tennis player, Virginia was an accomplished violinist who loved music and dancing.

For Liz Shannon, finding her own passion for exercise science is due in no small part to faculty in the program. "I love all my kinesiology professors," she says. "They really want students to succeed." Her hands-on experience on campus in the Human Performance Lab was recently augmented by a summer internship at Providence Health and Services in Portland.

After Robert Harris started the scholarship upon Virginia's death, friends and family made additional donations in her memory. James Harris, who before retirement was an executive at Chevron, makes regular contributions, and his gifts have been matched by the company. Suzanne Harris muses, "If it can inspire somebody else to help in whatever little way, it all fits together. It's keeping her memory alive in a way that is her and would mean so much to her."



Top: Virginia Torp Harris taught physical education and was always looking out for her students. Right: Senior Elizabeth Shannon, a Kinesiology major, was awarded a scholarship that honors Torp Harris's love of sports.

1960s

Rodger Schmitt, '66 Business Administration (and '72, B.S., Environmental Resources, Sacramento State), was appointed in March 2009 by Washington Gov. Christine Gergoire to a six-year term on the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission. The Commission sets policy and guides the Washington State Parks System. After a long career as a park ranger and park manager, Schmitt retired in 2003 from his position as Director of the National Recreation Program for the Bureau of Land Management in Washington, DC. He is a Certified Park and Recreation Professional and a Fellow in American Academy for Park and Recreation Administration. After retirement, he served on the boards of national nonprofits Wilderness Inquiry and the Public Lands Interpretive Association. He currently serves on the Board of Directors of the Jefferson Land Trust in Port Townsend, Wash. He is the father of two beautiful daughters and grandfather of three and lives with his wife, Jill ('67, B.A., Recreation, Washington State University) in Port Townsend.

Richard Hafenfeld, '67 Wildlife, recently retired from the U.S. Forest Service in Missoula, Mont. as the Regional Aviation Officer. His career spanned more than 30 years with the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service, working in fire and aviation management at various locations in California, Idaho and Montana. He now splits his time between a small horse ranch in Lemhi, Idaho, and a cabin on the Beaverhead River near Dillon, Mont. His wife, Patty, works for the Forest Service on the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest. He also has a Montana Guides License and works part time for an outfitter in the Absaroka-Beartooth Wilderness.

1970s

Michael Brattland, '70 History, is president of the Theta Epsilon Alumni Association (TEAA) of Tau Kappa Epsilon Fraternity at Humboldt State University – the “Old HSC/HSU Tekes.”

Alan 'Skip' Jorgensen, '71 Geography, is the District Superintendent for the McKinleyville Unified School District and serves on the HSU Education Advisory Committee.

Robert Williams, '71 Physical Education, taught Driver Training, PE, Social Studies, Health and U.S. History in Modesto, Calif. for almost 20 years. He was the PE department chairman from 1985-2008 and received the Teacher of Excellence award in the 1998-99 school year. He retired in June 2008 and moved to Lantana, Texas.

Tim Beals, '73 Geography, is the County Planning and Public Works Director in Sierra County. He and his wife, Marcia, live in Sierra City and have raised two boys, both of whom have gone to CSU Chico.

Noah Tilghman, '73 Geography, has retired after 35 years of state service, first with the California Coastal Commission and for the last 20 years with California State Parks. Jeanne, his spouse of 33 years, is also retired. His last position with Parks was the Assistant Deputy Director for Park Operations.

Phil Young, '74 History, has been nominated by the State Historic Preservation Officer for New Mexico for The Governor's Historic Preservation Award. He says, “I'm a bit humbled by it. Upon opening it I had to check the date of the letter to make sure it wasn't April 1st; still not sure they got the right guy. There are so many more deserving. As an archeologist digging at Bandelier, and later as a seasonal ‘Buck Ranger’ at Little Bighorn, Death Valley, and Mount McKinley I just wanted to do what I could to help protect our special places and the heritage that was being entrusted to my generation. Still do. . . .” Phil also recently taught a seminar in Archaeological Ethics, Law & Sensitivity at the Archaeological Society of New Mexico Conference in Taos and took a dive trip to the Florida Keys.



IMAGES COURTESY OF DAN CURRY

Dan Curry Trekkie Hero Learned Tricks at HSU



HOLLYWOOD SPECIAL EFFECTS WIZARD Dan Curry ('79), winner of seven Emmy Awards for his Star Trek creations, once practiced ambushing audiences at Humboldt State.

Curry put together a one-act sci-fi production about an alien prison in which student members of the audience partici-

pated, playing the part of hydroponic plants.

“We had a shill in the audience with a dummy that had an exploding head,” Curry laughs, describing the prank. It instantly threw the set into confusion and bewilderment.

Curry, who received a Master of Fine Arts degree in Film and Theatre at HSU, fondly recalls being a painter on HSU theatrical productions.

Now he is world famous for his artistry with “Star Trek: the Next Generation,” “Deep Space Nine,” “Voyager,” and “Enterprise.” Currently he is visual effects supervisor for the Warner Brothers/NBC television series “Chuck.”

Curry has not forgotten what fun it was, and the opportunities he enjoyed, as an HSU student partnering with the Arcata community. “Suppose we wanted to do a shoot at nine in the morning in the Jambalaya restaurant. They couldn't wait to help us. Or, if we were filming a scene downtown and needed a street closed off, the Arcata Police Department was right there to assist.”

Curry says his education equipped him to realize his talents to the fullest. “My professional career was really built on the foundation of the work I did here,” he says. “It was here that I got comfortable with cameras, sound mixing and editing, post-production. Even though the technology has changed, the aesthetic issues remain the same.”

Speaking at the 2009 Commencement ceremonies, exactly 30 years after he graduated, Curry told graduates, “You are the lead character in your own life. Find within yourself that person whose passion excites others and you will win allies eager for your success. Focus your energy on things that ignite your passion and you will never really work.”

Jennifer Skjellum

High-tech Entrepreneur

JENNIFER SKJELLUM'S ENTREPRENEURIAL VOYAGE though the high-tech industry has included startups, spinoffs and business breakthroughs. Her first business experience was at Humboldt State, where she worked for Lumberjack Enterprises. Customers at an on-campus pizza outlet and coffee shop couldn't have known their friendly cashier was destined to create and guide corporations with global reach.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JENNIFER SKJELLUM

Skjellum ('91, Speech Communication) with her husband Anthony co-founded MPI Software Technology, Inc. The company focused on developing software and solutions that enabled some of the first massively parallel supercomputers to run.

As CEO, Skjellum led the company's expansion to some 50 employees and two overseas offices. Clients included several Fortune 500 companies, government labs, large universities, and even NASA.

After selling the company and working in the corporate world for five years, she went entrepreneurial again, spinning off RunTime Computing Solutions. As president, she's back on the leading edge of tech – in her words, “high performance computer software and services for the embedded space” – enabling customers to maximize application performance and platform portability.

Even amid the whirlwind of business and technology, Skjellum volunteers, sharing her business skills as part of Junior Achievement. She gives talks about entrepreneurship in the Vestavia Hills, Ala. school system, where her daughter Hannah, 13, and son Nicholas, 12, attend.

Navigating the business world takes patience, clear vision and simple principles – which Skjellum says she picked up at Humboldt State. “I got a really good base from the teachers at HSU,” Skjellum says. “What I learned there prepared me not only to teach, but to be a better critical thinker. These skills I still draw upon, in corporate life and in the classroom.”

In February, she won the Birmingham Business Journal's “Top 40 Under 40” award. As to what motivates her to push forward with her business and civic initiatives, Skjellum admits, “Everyone wants to be recognized.” But her ideals are in play as well. “It's a desire to be a role model, especially for women and for people who are looking to do something outside their comfort zone.”

James Christian, '75 Geography, worked for the Eureka Fire Department after graduation until 1991, when he became Assistant Fire Chief with the Diamond Springs-El Dorado Fire District in El Dorado County, Calif. He became Fire Chief in 2000, and retired in 2003. Since then he has served as a Division Supervisor on the Northern California Interagency Incident Management Team 2. He and his wife Elaine, a native of Eureka, were married in 1985 and now live in El Dorado Hills, CA. They travel internationally as much as possible and were fortunate enough to be in Paris for the Millennium celebrations. He has competed in the World Police and Fire Games in Barcelona, Quebec City, Adelaide, Australia and Vancouver, British Columbia.



SUBMITTED

Retired firefighter James Christian

Ernie Wasson, '75 Geography, lives in the Santa Cruz area and works as the Nursery and Garden Curator for the Horticulture Department at Cabrillo College.

Emily Kratzer, '76 Journalism, is a staff writer for The Journal News/Gannett in the lower Hudson Valley of New York. She previously served as page designer and copy editor at the paper. She is married to Fred Voss and they have two children, Russ and Alex. Her hobbies include walking, yard work, reading biographies (*Passionate Pilgrim* by Antoinette May about Alma Reed) and computer games (she says “blame my kids”). She also wants to know: “Cluster program folks - where are you now?”

Jeff Levine, '76 Journalism, is currently the Charge' d'Affaires (the senior diplomat) at the American Embassy in Budapest, Hungary. Last summer, a second Humboldt alum, Dan Travis '92 was assigned to the Embassy as Second Secretary and Consul. They are fairly certain that Budapest is the only U.S. diplomatic mission in the world with two Humboldt grads on the staff.

Chris Haynes, '78 Geography, earned his master's degree in social science at Humboldt and returned to the Geography Department as a lecturer in 1988. Now that he is retired, he and his wife, Robin, plan to travel much more.

Charles Joannes, '78 Business and Recreation Administration, is the Assistant Pastor at Mission Valley Christian Fellowship and the Principal of Grace Christian Schools in San Diego. He has been the Recreation and Parks Director for two cities in California and guest lectured at Cal Poly SLO. In 1984 he and his wife, Terry, immigrated to Australia. While there Charles was the Administrator of the Perth YMCA and later became the principal of a school. While there he also founded the first Calvary Chapel in Australia. He played on the national basketball team and toured with them in the Philippines and China. From Australia he continued to travel: to the Amazon jungle of Peru, sharing Christianity with about 60 indigenous people; to Malawi, Africa, where he worked with widows and orphans with AIDS; and to Russia.

Brant Toogood, '78 Geography, married his wife, Dana, in 1982 and has twin college freshmen (Andrea and Austin). Andrea is a student at HSU and Austin is at SDSU. Brant just retired as director of real estate and development for Subway Sandwiches in San Diego County and is now helping Dana run their own Subway Shop.

Linda West, '79 Geography, recently returned to the Eureka area as a planner for the Six Rivers National Forest.

Julie (Berg) Wilkerson, '79 Speech Pathology and Audiology, joined the Peace Corps as a Speech Pathologist in El Puyo, Ecuador. She returned to the U.S. to get a master's degree but fell in love during a summer job in Alaska. She is living on an 80-acre homestead, working as the Chief of Administration for Denali National Park, and looks forward to sailing in warmer climates during the winter months when she retires. Her daughter received a degree in fashion design and is living in Chicago.

1980s

Michael Koch, '80 Geography, is a 23-year veteran of the L.A. County Sheriff's Department as Bureau training coordinator and Bureau terrorism liaison officer. He and his wife have three children.

Karen Gillentine, '81 Geography, is an early childhood educator and preschool director in McKinleyville.

Rex Morgan, '82 Journalism, is an RN in the rehab unit at Boone Hospital Center in Columbia, Missouri, working mostly with stroke patients. Rex is engaged to the Rev. Heather M. McCain, pastor of Columbia Hope Church.



Rex Morgan

Janet McCrary Webb, '83 Forestry, took over for her father as president of Big Creek Lumber in Santa Cruz. The company operates the first redwood mill certified by the Forest Stewardship Council, a nonprofit organization that promotes responsible forest management worldwide. Webb began working at Big Creek in high school and knew as a small girl that she wanted to make her career in the family business.

Susan (Shafer) Haydon, '83 Geography, married her HSU sweetheart, an '83 Geology grad, and is an assistant district manager for the Southern Sonoma County Resource Conservation District.

Ricardo Quiroz, '83 Zoology, with wife Andrea, recently welcomed a baby boy, Calder Kincaide on March 23, 2009. Rick says that Calder is already "a future Lumberjack."

Eileen (Rorden) Godwin, '84 Journalism, is Senior Account Manager with WorkflowOne. Previously, she was a Production Manager with McGraw Hill. She and her husband, Robert Godwin, live in Cameron Park, Calif. and have two teenagers, Kyle and Stacey. She says, "Now that my son is going off to college it is bringing back flashbacks of both my fun times and hard times at Humboldt. I still miss it!"

Thomas Sa, '84 Business Administration, has been promoted to Chief Risk Officer and Chief Strategy Officer of Bridge Bank, a professional business bank headquartered in Silicon Valley. Sa, a founding executive officer of Bridge Bank, N.A. and Bridge Capital Holdings, will also retain his role and title of Chief Financial Officer of Bridge Capital Holdings. He began his career in Silicon Valley in 1984 as a certified public accountant in the audit practice of Deloitte Haskins & Sells. He lives in Los Gatos, Calif.

David and Christina (Zoffman) Slater, '84 Geography, settled in Tucson, Ariz., 12 years ago, after living in Santa Barbara and Seattle. Dave "still tours the world in his little yellow submarine" and is working toward a high school counseling degree at the University of Arizona. Christina works for First Magnus Financial as Vice President of Operations for one of their new subsidiary companies. They are celebrating their 20th wedding anniversary this year and hope to someday bring their three children to meet Joe Leeper before he retires. Together they hike Tucson's Sabino Canyon and the surrounding Catalina Mountains.



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John Diaz Wielding a Mighty Pen

AFTER MORE THAN 30 years in the newsroom, John Diaz ('77, Journalism) still hangs on to the Royal typewriter he used during his studies at Humboldt State. He bought it for \$5 at a yard sale. He installs a new ribbon now and then and teases his colleagues at the San Francisco Chronicle that when the big quake comes, he will be able to proclaim, "Mine still works!"

A busy man, John Diaz has been editor of the Chronicle's editorial page since 1996 — he has won numerous awards for his editorial writing — but finds time to mentor young reporters and students. This spring he received the 2009 Distinguished Alumni award and spoke to several classes while on campus. He tells students that despite the historic changes going on now in the news industry, there will always be a need for high quality reporting. News organizations will still seek go-getters who have a love of language and an appreciation for the richness of a story, he says. Accordingly, despite the current turmoil in the news business, John is encouraging: "There are still opportunities if you really love writing and reporting, even if not in the print press, because the public will always want accurate, accountable reporting." He advises students to "read, read, read" as a sure road to good writing.

Of the journalism faculty at Humboldt State in the 1970s, John recalls, "More than anything else, I came out thinking like a journalist. I had an appreciation for meeting deadlines and accuracy and the sense of ethics was ingrained in me."

Part of his education took place at Humboldt State's KHSU-FM radio station, an NPR affiliate, where he was a news producer, sports announcer and deejay. He hosted a three-hour music program on Friday night with a title he concocted himself: "Movin', Bumpin' and Trippin'."

"It was great headline writing experience," he chuckles.

Richard E. Winnie

Making the Case for Micro-enterprise

ECONOMIST AND LAWYER RICHARD WINNIE ('69, Economics) has an illustrious career in decentralized, local development that enables small communities to capitalize on their own

unique assets instead of relying on outside investment.

Now County Counsel to Alameda County, Calif., Winnie works with The New America Foundation, a nonprofit, nonpartisan public policy institute in Washington, D.C., that fosters micro-enterprises. These are small ventures—little shops, restaurants, home-based-companies and contractors—usually with fewer than five employees. Today they comprise an extraordinary 88 percent of all California businesses. Micro-development includes business management training, business plan development and micro-loans. Grass roots micro-enterprises that make use of indigenous assets

are more resistant to boom and bust cycles, Winnie says, both locally and globally. When the economy is strong, large corporations hire a great many people, he points out, but they lay off a great many when times are hard.

A Eureka native and 2009 Distinguished Alumni Award winner, he says the Eureka waterfront is a prime example of local economic development. "You have the skills and commerce right here, and a kingpin of the Humboldt County economy, HSU," which supplies intellectual capital on home ground, as well as cutting-edge research and partnerships with nascent enterprises. In hard times, such assets must be augmented to weather the storm, says Winnie, whose interest in decentralized development started when he was a teenager. While attending Humboldt State, he worked in the Eureka city manager's office, getting a first-hand look at municipal governance. For 30 years, "my focus was always local."

He earned his master's degree at Berkeley, but when he was just out of high school, "HSU was perfect for me. I could enjoy outdoor adventures and [the campus] was small enough to know people. And I was close to my profs. If I had gone to Berkeley when I was 18, I would've been smothered."

Winnie has served as staff attorney to the California cities of Berkeley, Oakland and Santa Rosa, in addition to extensive international work. His long history of civic service dates to his years at HSU, where he served on the Associated Students Council, volunteered with the campus Young Democrats and gave the valedictory address to his graduating class.



PHOTO COURTESY OF RICHARD WINNIE

Tom Watson, '84 Geography, is currently working as a senior consultant in the London offices of MTI Technologies. His home base is Seattle. He got married in May 2007.

Charles (Chuck) Cranfield, '86 Geography, is the Superintendent of the National Park of American Samoa, America's 50th National Park and the only one south of the equator.

David W. Crapnell, '86 Art, is the new pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Niagara Falls, NY. He received his initial seminary training at New Brunswick Theological Seminary. While there, he also followed the biblical admonition to visit the imprisoned, serving for two years as a prison chaplain. He then went to Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, where he earned his Master of Divinity degree. During that time, he met his wife, Lisa. Their love, Crapnell says, apart from his faith, "is the greatest thing that ever happened to me."

John Goddard, '86 Geography, works in global communications and public relations for DHL IT Services Europe. He lives in the Czech Republic.

Natalie Wojinski, '86 Journalism, is a teacher in the West Contra Costa Unified School District. She was voted Teacher of the Year in the district in 2008. This year she will serve as the advisor for Hercules High School's journalism programs. The school has award-winning yearbook and newspaper staffs and will begin expanding into online journalism. She and her husband, Peter, live in Hercules, Calif.

Jeff Lahr, '88 Geography, works for Coles County Regional Planning in East-Central Illinois. He and his wife, Melissa, have three children and one grandchild. He is a City Councilman in Charleston, Illinois.

John Locke, '89 Geography, is a geographic information system (GIS) instructor at Ogeechee Technical College in Statesboro, Ga.

Kathy Nixon, '89 Journalism, is Cloverdale Library branch manager for the Sonoma County Library system. She has worked for the library since six months after graduation from HSU. She lives with her partner Vicki Nelson. She writes, "My fond memories of two excellent professors, Howard Seemann and 'Mac' McClary, remain with me. I received excellent 'real world' exposure — both in class and at *the Lumberjack*. I was saddened to hear of Howard's passing, as he was a great teacher and dedicated journalist. Though my career took a different path from the newspaper business, I continue to use nuggets I retained from my HSU education. In my day-to-day work as a public service librarian who writes press releases, creates program fliers and must communicate effectively with community patrons, staff members and colleagues, I'm grateful for the Journalism Department's instructors' dedication, hard work and intellect. I still remember ethical issues Mr. McClary taught and Howard's odd jokes perhaps intended to convey life lessons while building stronger writing and editorial skills."

1990s

Tom Sinclair, '90 Geography, lives in Lake Tahoe and works for the California Coastal Commission.

Denise Woodward, '91 Geography, works as an audio engineer with the American Conservatory Theater in San Francisco and is a proud member of the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees, Moving Picture Technicians, Artists and Allied Crafts of the United States and Canada, Local 16 AFL-CIO.

Micheal Bender, '92 Geography, works at the Dodge Ridge Ski Resort in Tuolumne County as a snow reporter and sales manager. He lives in a cabin in the mountains with his dog "Auggie."

Dan Travis, '92 Theatre Arts, is Second Secretary and Consul at the American Embassy in Budapest, Hungary. He works with Jeff Levine ('76 Journalism), who is currently the Charge' d'Affaires (the senior diplomat) at the embassy. They are fairly certain that Budapest is the only U.S. diplomatic mission in the world with two Humboldt grads on the staff.

Alyson Hunter, '93 Geography, is a senior planner for Humboldt County.

Naim Zeibak, '94 Geography, says "Greetings from Kentucky! After three years with three different positions I have finally landed a tenure-track position at Western Kentucky University. Karen and I are really excited about the prospect of not having to move next summer. Wanted to especially thank all those at HSU who have supported me since '94. And I even defend this fall and get the PhD in December . . . it's about time!"

Lesley Atlansky, '95 Geography, lives in Estacada, Ore. with her first child, Owen, and many pets. She received a certificate in graphic design at Pacific Northwest College of Art and does freelance graphics.

Emma (Olenberger) Mathies, '96 Geography, is a Project Manager for AAA Safe2Go in Walnut Creek. She worked for eight years as a cartographer for AAA. She will be traveling to New Zealand at the end of the year.

Adam Forbes, '97 Rangeland Resource Science, works as an environmental consultant for a private consulting firm. He is married to Alison (Lorenz) Forbes ('99 Nursing and Psychology), who currently works as a Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner for Sea Mar Community Health Center in Mt. Vernon, Wash.

Robert Williams, '97 Geography, is married to Michelle Williams ('94) and they both work as DSL Specialists with Verizon in Southern California.

Lexi Tucker, '98 Geography, is self-employed as a consulting arborist based in Sonoma County.

Alison (Lorenz) Forbes, '99 Nursing and Psychology, graduated from the University of Washington with a master's in Nursing in June 2008. She currently works as a Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner for Sea Mar Community Health Center in Mt. Vernon, Wash. She is married to Adam Forbes ('97, Rangeland Resource Science). He works as an environmental consultant for a private consulting firm.

Gene Joyce, '99 Business Administration, was named 2008 Business Leader of the Year by the Arcata Chamber of Commerce. He co-owns the Arcata Exchange, a furniture store on the Arcata Plaza.

2000s

Kip Su, '00 Geography, is an engineering technician for the City of Alhambra in Los Angeles County, where he works with maps and blue prints. He recently traveled to Peru in March.

Sarah L. Wood, '00 Psychology, has received a Doctor of Jurisprudence degree from Golden Gate University School of Law. She received a Certificate of Specialization in Intellectual Property Law.

Michael Bronfman, '01 Journalism, is a stagehand with the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees in Southern California.

Patrick McDonald, '01 Geography, is a fine arts landscape photographer in Medford, Ore.

Jennifer Douglass, '02 Geography, opened a sushi restaurant called RAIN in Seattle in November 2004.

Rachel Smith, '02 Wildlife, is the coordinator for Seattle Mayor Greg Nickels' Climate Action Now. Prior to joining the mayor's staff, she worked in the environmental community as Field Director and later Development

Francisco Chavez Sizing Up the World's Oceans

FRANCISCO CHAVEZ ('77, OCEANOGRAPHY) has helped chart many new courses in biological oceanography. His groundbreaking work with the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute (MBARI) has helped identify decades- and centuries-long oceanographic cycles.

"I took a course in biological oceanography at Humboldt and that really changed my life. I was looking for what I wanted to do with my life and that course sent me in the right direction," said the 2009 Distinguished Alumni Award winner.

After graduating from HSU, Chavez earned a Ph.D. in botany from Duke University and has worked to understand how natural cycles and human activities impact the ocean and climate. "The early work showed how phenomena like El Niño affected the coasts of Peru and California, how it changed the abundance of fish and other living marine resources. Since then we've come up on longer-term cycles, which we have tried to call El Viejo and La Vieja, a play on El Niño and La Niña. They also show big impacts."

More recently Chavez's research has shown how CO₂ is infiltrating the ocean and how its waters have become more acidic because of it. "The ocean is saving us from a greater global warming problem but it may pay the price. We can explain those year-to-year changes by looking at the large-scale global patterns and that we are able to identify very clearly how our society is changing the ocean."

Looking forward, Chavez predicts an abundance of opportunities in environmental sciences, specifically oceanography. "We have the weather service that looks at the weather in the atmosphere and gives us day-to-day reports. We're moving closer to having the same thing for the ocean. There's going to be a big need to have folks to manage that operational system."



PHOTO COURTESY OF FRANCISCO CHAVEZ

We are accepting nominations for the
2010 Distinguished Alumni Awards.

alumni.humboldt.edu (deadline: Nov. 15)

Mark Your Calendar

Homecoming and Family Weekend

Oct. 16-18

Friday Oct. 16

4 – 6 p.m. – **Golden Grad Social**

6:30 - 8:30 p.m. – **Athletics Hall of Fame Dinner**

Kate Buchanan Room

Saturday Oct. 17

9 a.m. - noon – **Farmer's Market**, Arcata Plaza

12 - 2:30 p.m. – **Golden Grad Luncheon**

University Banquet Room (registration required)

2:30 p.m. – **Campus tour** leaving from Banquet Room

5 - 11 p.m. – **Nursing Class of 1979 30th Reunion**

Humboldt Bay Aquatic Center, Eureka

4 - 6 p.m. – **Barbecue**

Student and Business Services Building parking lot

6 - 9 p.m. – **Homecoming Game** (v. Southern Oregon)

Redwood Bowl

9 - 11 p.m. – **Post-game alumni reception**, Plaza Grill, Arcata

Sunday Oct. 18

9 a.m. – **Brunch**

See details: humboldt.edu/homecoming

City of Angels (musical)

Oct. 22, 23, 24, 29, 30, 31 and Nov. 1

Van Duzer Theatre

KHSU 50th Anniversary Party

Oct. 24, Arcata Theatre Lounge

HSU at UCLA (men's basketball)

Nov. 10

Alumni reception, Pauley Pavilion

See details: alumni.humboldt.edu

Home game (football) and tailgate

Nov. 11, Redwood Bowl

Sneak preview of "The Music Inside"

Nov. 13-14, Van Duzer Theatre

Los Lobos

Nov. 29, Van Duzer Theatre

What You Told Us

Alumni Survey Results

LAST FALL, WE SURVEYED HSU alums on a range of topics. If you were one of the 850 who responded, thank you! Of those who replied, 65 percent live in California, and 45 percent can be considered "baby boomers," while 22 percent are a member of "Generation X." Here are some highlights:

- ❏ You place a high value on your HSU degree and the respect it commands in your field (you rated it a 3.5, with 4 being the best). Also, learning about student and faculty accomplishments supports the high value you place on your degree.
- ❏ Humboldt magazine, the HSU website and regular alumni emails are key ways you keep current with HSU – and you think we're doing a good job on those (you rated each 2.8). Thanks!
- ❏ Most of you think we are serving current students well. You rated us highest at teaching environmental responsibility, providing a good overall college experience and giving students hands-on learning opportunities.
- ❏ Fifty-six percent of you regularly promote HSU to others, and 38 percent of you occasionally do so.
- ❏ Academics, relationships with faculty and skill training for your career topped the list of important aspects of your HSU student experience.
- ❏ You said that providing scholarships to today's students is important to their success.
- ❏ Sixty percent of you either currently support the institution with financial contributions or intend to donate to HSU in the future.
- ❏ You had some suggestions for things we could do better. In particular, you thought we could better help alumni identify job opportunities for graduates and mentor students. You also thought we should do more to help alumni give feedback to HSU about how it is perceived.

WE'RE PLANNING IMPROVEMENTS IN the coming year based on your feedback. For instance, alumni relations staff will be partnering with the Career Center to offer more services. We're also planning to offer alumni more opportunities to get involved with student activities. Stay tuned for details.

If you didn't get to participate in the survey, feel free to give us feedback any time:
alumni@humboldt.edu

Bill Boyce

Diving Deep for the Right Shot

WILLIAM BOYCE PLUNGED DIRECTLY into his dream career on graduating Humboldt State University in 1979. With a degree in Fisheries Biology, he signed on right away with the U.S. Forest Service and found himself right where a lifelong outdoorsman and angler would want to be – waist-deep in wild water.

“Outdoors, wearing a backpack and collecting data to manage a public resource,” he reminisces, “I was going to have a happy life.” And he has, but that was three careers ago. Since then, Boyce has evolved from field biologist to acclaimed outdoor photographer, videographer and host of a national television show.

Growing up, Boyce and his family fished avidly and extensively. The skilled outdoorsman worked and hunted his way through college, living off the land by catching steelhead salmon and red-tailed perch and duck hunting on Humboldt Bay. For side income, the enterprising Boyce built and sold custom fishing rods.

Environmental interest intensified in the 1970s just as Boyce graduated. With the Carter Administration initiating surveys of wilderness assets, Boyce was hired and worked initially in Tahoe National Forest. The habitat analysis work took him from the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific Northwest.

Boyce then set to sea, opening what would be dramatic new career dimensions. For 12 years, he mingled with sharks, dolphins, tuna and other big-water denizens for the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission at the Scripps Institute of Oceanography in La Jolla, Calif. His research culminated in appearances before Congress in 1997 in support of an international fishing treaty, which was ratified.

Always packing a camera, Boyce’s photos earned increasing attention. He’d narrate slide shows, and after positive feedback, set pen to paper and was soon published in leading outdoor magazines. “My name got out internationally,” he says. “In my wildest dreams I never thought anybody in Europe or Australia would know who I am.”

Working watersports trade shows, television producers started noticing Boyce’s photos. They suggested he try shooting video. “I would get some really amazing footage and they would ask me, ‘What were you thinking?’” he says. “I just started talking about what I experienced underwater, and they realized I was very at ease on camera.”

He was hired as a host for the Outdoor Channel and then went on to form his own production company. In 2008, his show “IGFA Angler’s Digest” won two Telly Awards, one of the highest awards given in cable television.

Science and the environment are still very much at the core of Boyce’s interest. He speaks at symposia, serves on boards of environmental organizations and stays in touch with fellow biologists. Says Boyce, “It’s been a wild ride, I’ll tell you what.”

Boyce’s photography may be viewed at boyceimage.com.



PHOTOS © BILL BOYCE

Top: A school of more than 2,000 spotted dolphins 800 miles west of Costa Rica. Fish and mammals shy away from scuba gear and the noise of an oxygen regulator, so Boyce freedives without a mechanical breathing apparatus or bulky gear. Middle: Striped marlin pass close to the camera off Bahia Magdalena, Baja California, Mexico. Bottom: Yellowfin tuna swimming with a school of dolphins, about 400 miles west of Guatemala. Upper right: Bill Boyce designed and built this double deck of Canon Elan 7 bodies with different lenses to work in whatever conditions he might encounter.



Nurit Katz

Building the Eco-Ethic at UCLA

DESPITE GROWING UP IN a dense urban area, Nurit Katz ('02) loved the outdoors and science as a child. Now, as sustainability coordinator for the University of California, Los Angeles, Katz is putting her Humboldt State lessons to work, helping the campus become more ecologically friendly.

"I grew up in Los Angeles so I wanted to get away a little bit when I went to college," says Katz. "I lived in a little cottage in Freshwater. It was a really wonderful experience."

At HSU, Katz designed her own major in Environmental Education. She served as co-director of the Environmental Education program sponsored by Youth Educational Services and worked with the Humboldt Watershed Council.

"At the Watershed Council we were taking a look at what happened with the timber industry with excessive logging," Katz says. "You have damage not just to the environment, but also to people's homes with flooding and to the fisheries because the salmon population was impacted, and timber workers were losing their jobs as mills closed. There was no clearer example for me of how important it is to consider social, environmental and economic factors—to really look at the triple bottom line."

Katz is helping UCLA incorporate that triple bottom line philosophy across campus. She was hired as the sustainability coordinator last fall, shortly after earning her M.B.A. and Masters of Public Policy there.

"We're doing a lot as a campus when it comes to sustainability," Katz says of UCLA. "Programs like van pools, ride share and subsidized transit passes. And, in combination, those efforts have led to a drive-alone rate of just around 55 percent for campus where Los Angeles as a whole is 75 percent."

While she was a student at UCLA, Katz started the Sustainable Resource Center on campus, which provides resources and education to the graduate student body, campus and community. In addition, she helped the university develop a Climate Action Plan. Thanks to her efforts, the campus expects to meet its goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions to 1990 levels by 2012—eight years early.

Director for Transportation Choices Coalition, after turns at the Northwest Environmental Education Council and WashPIRG. With a passion for transportation issues, Rachel is also the Board Chair of the Washington State Ridesharing Organization. Before moving to Seattle, she was a shorebird and marine mammal biologist.

Nicole Losch, '03 Geography, is a Bicycle, Pedestrian and Environmental Planner for the City of Burlington, Vt.

Laura Tankersley, '03 Journalism, is Senior Account Executive with Ogilvy PR Worldwide. She lives in Denver, Colo.

Paul Tibbett, '04 Geography, works as a park ranger for Redwood National Park.

Jen Cordaro, '05 Geography, is the Community Organizer of Burmese Refugees in San Diego. Her position is funded through the California Endowment but staffed through the Alliance for African Assistance. Her project's goal is to align the multiple ethnicities from Burma and help them to create a unified voice to put needs and assets into action. She earned a master's degree in International Human Rights Advocacy and Non-profit Management at the University of New Hampshire. She recently spent 3 weeks in India, working with The Rescue Foundation in Mumbai, to launch a computer literacy program for girls rescued from human traffickers.

Joel Correia, '05 Geography, served in the Peace Corps in Paraguay. He and partner Karen recently rode bicycles 6,000 miles through South America to raise donations that will be used to build, remodel and furnish schools in Paraguay. The donations will also be used to build sanitary bathrooms at the schools and install running water at each school as well as provide the schools with computers and didactic materials. Read about his adventure: bikingtobuildschools.giving.officelive.com

Cachette (De Fazio) Ellie, '06 Political Science, works as a Software Project Manager in San Francisco. She actively serves on racing committees for Sausalito and St. Francis Yacht Clubs while consulting socially-minded start-ups through early stage development.



Cachette (De Fazio) Ellie on the San Francisco Bay.

Kevin Farley, '06 Journalism, is a news producer with KIRO-TV Channel 7 in Seattle. He recently won two Emmy Awards for the Northern California Area. He says, "Missing the great faculty at HSU Journalism! Send my best to Mac, Marcy and Dr. Larson."

Kevin McManigal, '06 Geography, works as a GIS Specialist/Cartographer at Adventure Cycling Association in Missoula, Mont. He began the master's program in geography at the University of Montana in fall 2009. He is married to Anna Tina. Recent travels include exploring the blue ribbon fly fishing streams of Montana.

Melanie Silva, '06 Nursing, is an Army 1st Lieutenant and was deployed to Iraq in March. She is a member of the 10th Combat Support Hospital at Fort Carson in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Daniel Stauning, '07 Geography, is an assistant physical science technician for the National Park Service Inventory & Monitoring program. The goal of the program is to conduct long-term ecological monitoring of park resources. He works for the Sonoran Desert Network based in Tucson, Ariz.

Jorge Sanchez, '08 Geography, is in the teacher credential program at Humboldt.

IMPORTANT PRIVACY CHOICE

You have the right to control whether we share your name and address with our affinity partners (companies that we partner with to offer products or services to our alumni). Please read this information carefully before you make your choice:

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1. Print, complete and fax this form to (707) 826-5148
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3. Fill out, sign, and send this form to us (consider making a copy for your records):

Humboldt State University
Department of Alumni Relations
1 Harpst Street, Siemens Hall, Room#215
Arcata, CA 95521

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T H I N G S



[campus study spots]



Clockwise from top left: Music quad; Outside the Behavioral & Social Sciences building; swimming pool in the Kinesiology & Athletics building; Kinesiology & Athletics lobby; Science B building lobby; University Center South Lounge. Center: Wildlife display room in the Wildlife and Fisheries building.

meet humboldt

Daniel Hernandez ('10) of Downey, Calif., is majoring in environmental science with a minor in scientific diving. He just finished a coveted summer internship at the Joint Institute for the Study of Atmosphere and Ocean in Seattle. He is also a recipient of a Montgomery Scholarship, which was set up by retired judge Thomas Montgomery and his wife, Doris, to support a wide range of students, including those with financial need or a commitment to community service.

Landing that Internship "I think I was able to land my NOAA internship because in my statement I mentioned taking my undergrad work to the graduate level – fusing in-class preparation with the outside world. You're not just envisioning yourself out there, you're actually putting to use what you're learning."

Trying Something Different "For college, I really wanted to venture beyond my home, something distinct and different. But I knew I would stay coastal."

Graduating from College "I am definitely a product of a stable home, but neither of my parents went to college. I think it's inspiring to them to see how they could quite possibly have four kids who may graduate from college."

It All Adds Up "After making sure I had enough to cover tuition and books, I used the scholarship funds to replace some of my scuba gear for a semester of rescue diving and underwater photography."

My Mentor "My biggest mentor on this campus is Dr. Jacqueline Bolman. Without her, I wouldn't have even felt confident enough to apply for some of these scholarships, these internships. I've reaped the benefits of having someone there to say, 'You know what? You may feel like the underdog, you may not feel confident, but apply.'"

meet more humboldt students
humboldt.edu/meet



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Age	Payout Rate	Annual Income Payment	Tax-Free Income Amount	Charitable Tax Deduction	Effective Rate of Return
60	5.0%	\$500	\$276	\$3,351	6.7%
70	5.7%	\$570	\$359	\$4,298	8.1%
80	7.1%	\$710	\$506	\$5,244	10.6%
90	9.5%	\$950	\$757	\$6,289	15.1%



Botany Professor Frank Shaughnessy with his students
studying the intertidal pools at Baker Beach.