

Humboldt

The Magazine of Humboldt State University | Spring 2010



Wish you were here!

An insider's must-see, can't-miss guide to Humboldt

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ON THE COVER: A quintessential night at Bon Boniere on the Arcata Plaza.
Share your favorite Humboldt spot or activity: humboldt.edu/magazine.

BACKGROUND PHOTO: The lighthouse overlooking Trinidad Bay makes
a great spot to watch the sun set.



from the President

I HAVE SPENT MOST of my life at universities and will be forever grateful to the people of California who, in 1960, created an excellent system of affordable higher education. It gave me the education to create a happy and productive life.

My family valued education, but had little experience with higher education in this country. When the time came for me to go to college, we opted for the campus near our home in San Diego. What is now San Diego State University was good quality and a great bargain as well. I paid my own way, just \$105 per year in 1966, which essentially meant I was on a big scholarship from the state. Today, based on increases in the consumer price index, that would be \$697. For comparison, Humboldt State University students now pay more than \$5,000 per year.

The faculty and staff were very good to me. My goal was to go to medical school, so in my first semester I took a biology course from Dr. David Jameson, who also hired me as a work-study student. Dr. Jameson noticed that I was interested in the evolutionary genetics work he was doing with the Pacific tree frog, and soon he had me doing research with him. He taught me how to collect and mark frogs, mate them, extract pituitary glands, analyze data on some of the early computers and write scientific papers. He invited one of the world's eminent evolutionary geneticists to visit us, and that resulted in an invitation for me to attend graduate school at The Rockefeller University in New York City and work with Dr. Theodosius Dobzhansky.

Medical school never had a chance. My experience had helped me discover a wonderful career path that led to serving as President of Humboldt State University.

One of the reasons I enjoy being part of HSU is that it has many of the features I valued as an undergraduate. Our students often become friends with their professors and work with them on research and scholarship. Whether they wish to become artists or scientists, or explore many



other career opportunities, our students find encouragement. An HSU student I mentored, who is now in graduate school studying fine arts in New York, is a great example. She was befriended by a professor in our Art Department, who introduced her to photography. This led to a passion for the camera and a change in her major. Now, she is about to receive her MFA.

The remarkable idea that all Californians should

have the opportunity to attend a good public university – regardless of their financial status – has been gradually abandoned over the last two decades. While attending a CSU campus is still inexpensive, relative to other public universities, it has become much more expensive than it was for me. California now spends more on prisons than on the combined budgets of the CSU and the University of California. What has happened to our priorities?

At HSU we are still providing a high quality education to our students, but it is getting much more difficult. We have few alternatives left but to ask students and their families to pay more. That strategy excludes many students who struggle to pay the current fees, and it will exclude even more students down the road.

If you agree that higher education must be a priority for California, please let your legislators know. Ask them to support higher education, and remind them of the important role higher education plays in the economic future of California.

You can find information about contacting elected officials at our Advocacy Center at humboldt.kintera.org, and you can learn how to become a supporter of HSU at www.humboldt.edu/giving.

Sincerely,

Rollin C. Richmond, President

2009 CASE VII Gold Medal Winner

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

Jarad Petroske ('06), Paul Mann, Paul Tolmé,
David Lawlor ('08), Kevin L. Hoover,
Becky (Lee) Mosgofian ('96), Dorothyann Guido ('09)

Web

Charles Klein ('09), Matt Hodgson

Alumni Relations

Dean Hart, Kim Sekas
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 ENJOYED YOUR ARTICLE by Kevin Hoover on HSU and the Peace Corps. I was the first Peace Corps volunteer from Humboldt State in 1961. We trained in Puerto Rico and were sent to Ecuador. It was a different world. An article was written about me that ran in the *Hilltopper* in 1966. I returned to HSC, for a visit, after my Peace Corps tour and three years with USAID in Colombia. My years at Humboldt and the Peace Corps prepared me for my future. Congratulations to past and present Peace Corps volunteers from Humboldt.

Morris D. Gross ('61)
Gardena, CA

I READ, WITH INTEREST, the comments by Robert Titlow ('53) in the current issue of *Humboldt* magazine. I was a member of that band between 1957 to 1961 when I graduated. When I joined, David Backman was the leader but he left in 1958 and Professor David Smith took over. We wore the uniforms that Robert Titlow described, but Professor Smith didn't like them for some reason and he purchased military-style uniforms. Our helmets were shakos with a yellow pompom on top. When I left the band, we were given the old uniforms and I still have the green jacket I wore. Some years later, the old band was disbanded and the Marching Lumberjacks came into existence. By the way, we played "H.U.M.B.O.L.D.T. – HUMBOLDT All the Time" at football games and basketball games.

Joel Morrison ('61)
Eureka, CA

I GET THREE ALUMNI magazines now, from HSU, Boise State and Louisiana State University. Of all them, it is yours that inspires me the most. The others are lucky to get a cursory glance, but when *Humboldt* magazine comes I sit down and read it cover to cover. Look at this recent issue as a good example. You have an article on redwood canopies, and I conduct research in forest canopies. The Peace Corps is featured, and I served in the Peace

Corps after I graduated from HSU. The Wildlife Conclave gets a page, and I went to seven wildlife conclaves, was co-chair when we hosted it at HSU, and served as Team Captain for one away trip. My roots, my beginnings, the formulation of who I was to become all grew out of my Humboldt experience. You had me in your pocket until I got to page 18, where you write, "The data was so diffused," and "Data was collected." Data ARE plural. Data "were collected." It is not just a simple grammatical mistake. Your magazine is your face to a broad community. Your goal is to inspire, attract attention and project competence. Simple noun-verb agreement is not too much to ask. Failure in this regard robs HSU of the credibility you are trying to establish.

David L. Anderson ('91)
Ph.D. Candidate, Louisiana State University

Editor's note: *We had a spirited conversation about this before printing the article in question. Oxford Dictionary states that, particularly in the United States, the word "data" has come to imply "data set" and can be used as a singular noun. We followed that practice.*

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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Students Flock to Library's Tech-Friendly Café

WHEN STUDENTS FEEL THE need to recharge they can head to the library's new wireless café, where ample energy for iPods and cell phones sits alongside piping hot coffee and a bevy of snacks.

Humboldt State opened the Library Café in the building's main lobby. Patrons can buy refreshments and socialize, while taking advantage of multiple electrical outlets to power their devices.

Designed to provide a comfortable atmosphere with a Northwestern stream design motif, the Library Café serves coffee and juices, Los Bagels bagels and Vellutini Bakery pastries and sandwiches and salads. The café can seat 46 people at diner-style booths, bar stools and full-size sofas and armchairs.

All of the café staff positions are held by HSU students. Fire & Light Originals of Arcata donated unique sconces, sea glass and pendant light shades. A portion of the project was covered by gifts made through the Parent & Family Fund.

Wayne Perryman, Interim Dean of the Library, says, "I am absolutely convinced that students will quickly make the new café their home-away-from-home when they need a respite from their studies."

The café is part of a multi-pronged project to furnish the campus with a 21st century Learning Commons that reestablishes the Library as a central hub at HSU, according to President Rollin Richmond.



The new wireless café gives students a place to recharge. It was funded in part by the Parents & Family Fund.



Photo courtesy of HSULibrary

A student disc jockey at KHSC in the 1950s.

KHSU Celebrates 50 Years

WHEN THEY STARTED THE radio classroom at Humboldt State College in 1941, Don Karshner (Drama and Speech chair) and John Van Duzer (assistant Drama professor) couldn't have imagined it would go on to become the most-listened-to radio station in Humboldt County and a voice for a whole community.

KHSU-FM 90.5 is celebrating its 50th anniversary all year long with special concerts, shows, events and programming.

The station had its origins in the radio classes at Humboldt State College in the 1940s and '50s and was officially licensed in October 1960. Since then students, faculty, community volunteers and staff have grown KHSU into the unique station it is today. With "Diverse Public Radio" as its motto, the station carries news and programs from NPR alongside locally programmed music and public affairs shows.

As part of its anniversary celebration, the station is producing events and on-air specials bringing together former volunteers, students and staff. If you were involved in KHSC, the radio classes or KHSU, they need your stories to create an audio history. Send your story to: admin@khsu.org.

Unraveling the Moon Tree Mystery

THE WORDS “MOON TREES” might conjure up a romantic image, but research actually reveals a scientific definition. These mythical trees do exist, and they’re all over Humboldt State’s campus. Redwoods in various locations at HSU germinated from seeds that orbited the moon almost 40 years ago.

On Jan. 31, 1971, NASA launched the Apollo 14 lunar module and the ship’s three astronauts were allocated space for personal items. Stuart Roosa, a former smokejumper for the U.S. Forest Service, brought some 500 seeds from five tree species, including redwoods. Alan Shepard famously brought along three golf balls and a makeshift club to later tee off on the surface of the moon.

Five days later Shepard and Edgar Mitchell walked on the moon while Roosa remained in orbit in the command module. Roosa and his canister of seeds circled the moon 34 times as Shepard and Mitchell left their footprints in the lunar dust.

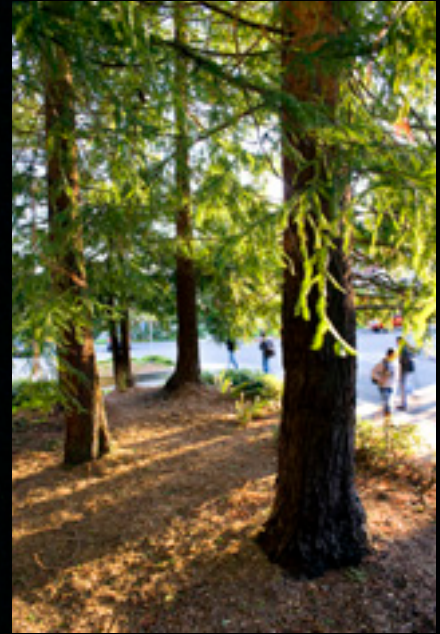
When the expedition returned, scientists from the U.S. Forest Service and NASA were eager to test the germination of these seeds and record the effects of space travel on the plants, which had not been widely studied.

In the end, almost all the seeds germinated successfully. Some were planted

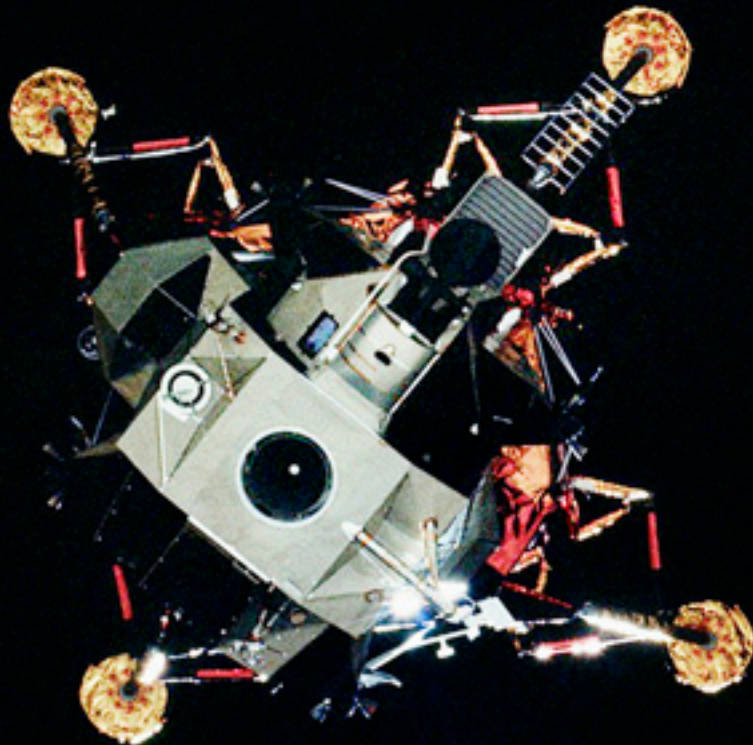
with their earth-bound counterparts as controls (after over 20 years there turns out to be no discernible difference).

Some of the seedlings arrived at HSU around 1976, according to retired HSU forestry Professor Bill Sise. “There were hundreds of them just sitting in our greenhouse, and none of us knew what they were,” he says. To this day, it’s hard to know exactly which trees orbited the moon, as they’re growing alongside traditional redwoods. But some of their locations have been documented, and they can be found alongside the Theatre Arts building, behind Plant Operations, near CCAT and next to the Forestry and Natural Resources buildings.

Sise reminisced about a plaque that used to mark the three trees next to the Theatre Arts building. “We did have a plaque so that people would know where some of the moon trees were located, but kids living in the dorms kept stealing it and hanging it like a prize in their rooms.”



Redwoods on campus grew from seeds that orbited the moon almost 40 years ago.



Right: The Apollo 14 Lunar Module carried the seeds of some of the redwoods now growing on campus.

Photo courtesy of NASA



Students gather mushroom samples on a biology field trip. A new grant will help more students earn a degree in biology.

Biology Expands Undergrad Research

STUDENTS WHO MAY NEVER have dreamed of studying the sciences will get the chance thanks to an \$892,000 grant awarded to Humboldt State by the National Science Foundation. It's for recruitment and training of under-represented minorities.

"The opportunity for students to work closely with a faculty mentor, on a research project spanning two years, will serve as a springboard for students to pursue careers involving scientific research in biological sciences," said Professor Matthew Johnson, chair of the Department of Wildlife and member of the Undergraduate Research Mentoring Program in the Biological Sciences.

The program is designed for minority students who are interested in earning a

degree in the biological sciences. It will help students develop the tools they need to master their chosen fields, and encourage and prepare them to apply to graduate programs.

Selected students will enter the program this summer and begin two years of course work, including three research projects. Each student will work closely with three different faculty members and will choose a mentor for the duration of the program.

Professor Bruce O'Gara from the Department of Biological Sciences is guiding the effort.

He says, "I'm hoping the students realize that they can do real science, and that they go on and contribute to society by producing some good science."

Alum Named Top U.S. Professor

HSU ALUM ROBERT THOMAS (geology, '85), professor of geology at the University of Montana Western, has been named a 2009 U.S. Professor of the Year by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education.



Thomas and three other winners were honored at an awards ceremony in November in Washington, D.C. for "actively engaging their undergraduate students in hands-on research and extensive team work."

During his tenure at Montana Western, Thomas has helped the campus evolve from a traditional state "normal school" into an experiential learning university that uses an immersion scheduling system, in which students take one course at a time in an 18-day stretch. Students build portfolios of what they can do, documenting their professional skills and equipping them with "a tremendous advantage over a transcript listing classes," he says.

Lori Dengler, chair of HSU's Department of Geology, said, "The best thing about my job is the absolutely top-notch students we get to interact with and [Rob Thomas] is in the elite group at the top. I can't think of anyone who deserves it more."

As part of his public outreach, Thomas has helped lead 10 "Geo Venture" field trips for the Geological Society of America, and the society recognized him with a Distinguished Service Award.

Thomas' professional service includes many years of teaching the Princeton University geology field camp. He has been president of the Rocky Mountain Paleontological Society and edited *Northwest Geology* and the *Journal of Geoscience Education*. He is a 2008 recipient of HSU's Distinguished Alumni Award.

Big Osher Gift Gets Boomers Back in Class

HUMBOLDT STATE UNIVERSITY HAS received one of the largest cash gifts in its history: \$1 million from The Bernard Osher Foundation to help fund HSU's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI), which provides learning opportunities for those over age 50. The grant will create an endowment to cover a portion of HSU OLLI operating expenses in perpetuity.

"OLLI is a terrific resource for older adults in our area," says HSU President Rollin Richmond. "We are deeply grateful for the Osher Foundation's support of this wonderful program."

The Institute offers intellectually stimulating, noncredit classes for learners over age 50, in turn creating a more vibrant community of engaged participants. Upcoming classes cover a range of subjects, from memoir writing to landscape design to the history of the Carson family, including rare access to Carson family properties.

OLLI member and volunteer class assistant Walter Frazer says, "I've taken over a half dozen classes through OLLI. It truly is education for grownups, who are there because they want to be, and I learn a lot from my classmates as well as from the teachers."

Under the stewardship of coordinator Laina Warsavage, membership in Humboldt State's OLLI has grown steadily in recent years, rising from 227 members in 2005 to 903 in 2009. Warsavage, who worked with University Advancement and the Osher Foundation to make this gift possible, also oversaw a major expansion of the number of classes offered to over 90 per year.

Because the \$1 million grant will create an endowment, HSU will invest the core assets and only the income will be used to help cover OLLI's operating expenses. HSU's OLLI will kick off a fundraising campaign this spring to help cover the full cost of the program. To make a gift to support OLLI, visit www.humboldt.edu/giving.



Photo courtesy of Walt Frazer

A tidepooling class at Patrick's Point State Park.

Check out OLLI's unique courses:
www.humboldt.edu/olli

Coach Cheek Gets Hall of Fame Nod

WITH HIS RECENT INDUCTION into the National Fastpitch Coaches Association Hall of Fame, HSU Softball Coach Frank Cheek adds one more laurel to a legendary career that includes two national titles and numerous trips to conference championships.

The former Marine has been coaching softball for 26 years. "Unfortunately for the women, I brought a drill sergeant approach to coaching softball," Cheek remembers about starting out. "Let's just say I made a lot of mistakes. But I've made a lot of adjustments since then."

What hasn't changed is the discipline and work ethic he brings to HSU softball. The result has been 17 conference championships, 18 appearances in the West Region tournament, five regional titles and two national championships.

"The successful players in his program are disciplined and the pressure he puts on them in practice is so intense that the game seems easy," said College of the Redwoods head coach Maggie White, who played for Cheek for four years in high school and four more at HSU before serving a stint as his assistant coach. "Not all players can play with this pressure. He attracts talented athletes who are also mentally tough or they do not make it."



The 2008 Lumberjacks proved to be one of Cheek's toughest groups, bouncing back from a first-game shellacking in the NCAA Division II West Region to win that tournament and advance to nationals in Houston. All-American pitcher Lizzy Prescott tossed a 17-inning, complete game, 1-hitter against Lock Haven University in the national semifinals, striking out an

NCAA-record 22 hitters in the 1-0 victory. HSU finished the season with a 10-game winning streak, crowning it with a 1-0 win over Emporia State in the national championship game.

The 2009 team struggled through ups and downs, by Cheek's standards, but still ranked No. 1 in the west most of the season and was listed among the nation's top 10 all year. Heading into the 2010 season, the goal of a national championship remains the primary focus, something the Jacks first achieved in 1999.

At 71 years old, he is still going strong.

"I love what I'm doing," Cheek said. "My daughter wants me to keep coaching, and my wife wants what's best for me. And I feel like I'm a vital part of this program. I've watched the program grow, and want it to keep on that path."

Tearing Up the Floorboards

Tom Wood retiring after 29 years

TOM WOOD HAS BEEN head coach of the men's basketball team for 29 years. Now, the man who led the team to 10 NCAA postseason appearances is coaching his last squad for Humboldt State. Wood, 62, will retire following the 2009-10 season.

"I'm proud of the progress we've made in building the program into a regional and national power," says Wood. "It's going well here, and I'm grateful for the opportunity to go out on a positive note. The timing just seems right, for me personally, and in the best interest of the program."

Whether he's giving the referee an earful or using body language to coax his team's offense into gear, Wood has always been intense.

"Bob Hammonds was my coach at UC Davis and he was all about intensity, he was nuts. I loved it," says Wood. "He required that his team really play hard and more than anything that's what I got from him."

Wood, a Humboldt County native who grew up on a ranch near Redway, played basketball and baseball at South Fork High School in Miranda before attending UC Davis. He played basketball at Davis and studied math, but switched to physical education as he set his sights on a coaching career. After earning a master's degree in physical education from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, Wood served as an assistant basketball coach for seven years with the Cal Poly Broncos. He returned home in 1981 to take the reins of the HSU program.

When he began coaching at HSU, the Jacks were a non-scholarship, NCAA Division III school. While it was tough in the early days to lure students to Arcata, Wood had immediate success on the court and began building the program. The Jacks continued to win under Wood as they bounced around different conferences during the '80s and '90s, regularly play-



ing teams in Hawaii, Alaska and various other outposts around the West.

"One trip when we were in the Pac-West Conference – talk about basketball taking you places – we were in Billings, Mont., on a Thursday night and in Silver City, N.M., on a Saturday night playing basketball. If you look on the map, you can barely get from one to the other in that time. It was quite a challenge."

HSU eventually stepped up to the Division II level and started recruiting more extensively during the 1999/2000 season. Since that time, the Jacks have played in the NCAA Division II Tournament eight of the last nine seasons and were West Region champions in 2003/2004. Over the years he had success building commu-

nity support and raising funds for student-athlete scholarships.

Wood looks forward to his impending retirement days, when he can direct more energy toward his golf game and spend more time traveling with his wife.

"Interacting with the players, coaching them and preparing them, has been the most rewarding part of this job," says Wood. "That continues with seeing them go on to their own successes in life, and thinking their experience here might have had something to do with that. I'll miss that the most."

Longtime assistant coach Steve Kinder has been named head coach for the 2010-2011 season, and Wood couldn't be more pleased. "(Steve's) been an equal partner in all our successes," says Wood. "He's an accomplished recruiter, and he's also an accomplished coach. I don't think the program could be in better hands."

Whether he's giving the referee an earful or firing up his team's offense, Wood is known for his trademark intensity.



Photo courtesy of HSU Athletics



WITH OVER 150 STUDENTS every semester, ceramics is one of the biggest programs in the Art Department, and the ceramics lab is its central hub. It has special rooms for kilns and glazing, throwing and hand-building areas, and an outdoor kiln for raku firings. The building once housed the University washing facility, and some students still call the lab “the Laundry.” During a recent 8 a.m. class, music blared from an iPod hooked up to a clay-covered boom box. One popular choice: vintage Rolling Stones.

1 Electric throwing wheels are easier to use than kickwheels when creating large pieces – the weight of the clay requires lots of leg power to keep the wheel moving. Flip-flops add an extra challenge.

2 Glazes can be applied in different ways: dipping (the most common), painting or spraying. The finished piece will be “tomato-iron red,” not this Pepto-Bismol hue.

3 Test tiles show what each glaze will look like once fired. Some of the glaze names are “flaming red,” “mirror black,” and “sea anemone” – otherwise known as blue-green.

4 Clay must be wedged (kneaded) to rid it of air pockets before it is ready to be shaped. Otherwise, bubbles can make the clay explode in the kiln. And no one wants to clean that up.

At the end of each semester, the HSU Clay Club holds a pottery sale on the University Center Quad. Proceeds help fund new lab equipment.



5 Ceramics honors students can stay all night at the studio – and some actually do. Here, Avery Palmer paints underglaze on one of his honors pieces. He is currently applying to graduate programs in ceramics.

6 Outrageous ceramic pieces cover almost every surface in the lab – even the microwave.

7 High-fire kilns require special clays and glazes to withstand the heat. A special room houses these gas-fired kilns – which is good, since flames shoot out the top when it is firing.

8 Students listen to Professor Keith Schneider with as much rapt attention as they can muster at 8 a.m. To help with that, many students drink a prodigious amount of coffee, most of it in earthy, handmade mugs.

9 One assignment: create a teapot. The end results range from traditional to wildly fanciful – think heads of lettuce and flying pigs. The best are exhibited each year in HSU's annual Teapot Show.



BLOODY GOOD TIMES

Students and Alumni Connect Through Rugby Tradition

By Kevin Hoover

A FRIGID WIND SWEEPS across Manila Community Park, aligned with the shadows of a winter afternoon. The HSU Men's Rugby team is about to take the field against Humboldt Old Growth, which is made up of players from years past. In common parlance, it's schoolboys vs. old men.

As harsh as the weather is, players are minimally clad, some in skin-tight shorts and looking vaguely British in their striped jerseys. Team members are taping each other up, doing warm-ups and running through plays. The ball, oblong but fatter than a football, sits ready for action. At the center of the field, the referee levels his gaze at the twitching combatants. "I expect clean play," he says. "If you cheat, I'll know."

Colin Bourgeois, a third-year student at HSU, reaches for the ball during "lineout," restarting play after the ball was out of bounds.

THE SCHOOLBOYS KICK OFF the game with their ritual chant, derived from a Maori war dance called a haka. It begins with a whispered call-and-response, then builds to a group wail (hear it at humboldt.edu/magazine).

The teams splay out across the field and the game is on. The ball is a tumbling blur as it flies from player to player, making its way down the field amid the mob of bodies. Here rugby's rhythms depart from the American sports standard of time-outs and interruptions. In rugby, there's no break in the action unless a penalty is called.

The schoolboys eventually beat the old men in this contest, 12 to 10. Battered, bruised but beaming, the Humboldt players leave the field in a flurry of handshakes and back-pats.

Contact and Camaraderie

SIMON TRAPKUS IS A veteran of Humboldt Rugby's golden age, a period in the 1980s and 1990s when the small but spunky HSU team was known for feisty play, both on and off the field.

Like many rugby players, Trapkus had tried baseball, football, soccer – even wrestling and track – but wasn't satisfied. It wasn't until he fell in with

the “wrong” crowd that he found the right way to go.

“I had some buddies, the kind you'd expect to be rugby players – maverick, outlaw types,” he says. They talked him into trying rugby. “I didn't think it was going to be any fun,” he says. “It wasn't mainstream, but I went out and played, and oh my gosh, it was fun. Once you've played, you're into it.”

His experience is common among rugby players. “In one game I got to kick, I got to catch, I got to pass, I got to run and I got to tackle without having to change position at all,” says veteran player Pat Bellefeuille, now president of the Humboldt Rugby Football Club. “I went from one little specialized thing to doing every single thing you could possibly do on the field. It's liberating.”

Bellefeuille invokes the two c-words you hear a lot in talking to rugby players – contact and camaraderie. “It's a contact sport, but at the same time it's a gentleman's game,” he says. “It's all about the camaraderie between the teams. It's kind of a culture.”

That culture has flourished at HSU. Trapkus heard about it from his high school coaches. When he asked whether he should go to Chico, Davis or HSU, their sotto voce, insider-information

reply was, ‘Go to Humboldt State. That is where the rugby tradition is thick.’

Founded in 1973, Humboldt men's rugby is a club team and was not affiliated with a league for its first decade. Only in 1984 did the team gain Division I status (from USA Rugby, not the NCAA, which does not officially recognize rugby). Then it started taking on powerhouse teams from UC Davis, Berkeley, Chico State and St. Mary's.

Humboldt's close-knit team hit 'em all hard and fast – and unexpectedly. “They were wondering why Berkeley was even playing Humboldt,” says Mike Foget, an '80s HSU rugby vet. In one match with Berkeley, he recalls, the Humboldt team lost the game while scoring a monumental moral victory. “They won, but the score didn't tell the story. We came out and played them pretty close on their own field. They were nervous.”

Experiences like that were frequent and eventually propelled the Humboldt team to the western regional playoffs. Several team members earned national prominence as All-Americans, including players like Trapkus, Kevin Miske, John Mitchell and Jim Morehouse.



Oddly, the Humboldt team's obscurity may have helped forge its unity. "We spent a lot of time on the road together traveling," Foget says. "That's how the remoteness of Humboldt helped to solidify that bond among the players."

Post-game Play

ANOTHER GALVANIZING FORCE WAS the team's legendary Green House. Part residence, part clubhouse and ground zero for Humboldt rugby, the house featured bedrooms upstairs, a bar in the downstairs garage and lots of team memorabilia – photos, trophies, and random pieces of equipment.

"You'd walk in and there's the tradition," Trapkus remembers. "There's 1973, there's 1983 when Chris Carroll broke that guy's jaw from Cal and we won. Come over here, this is where we won the Reno tournament three years in a row."

"It was pretty amazing," says Jon Mooney, another Humboldt Rugby old hand who now coaches the women's rugby team. "It was well known all over the West Coast."

According to rugby tradition, the on-field fury is just a warm-up to another stage of the game: the social side. Visiting teams – even bitter rivals like Chico State – were invariably invited back to the Green House for a post-game party.

"When you're out on the field, you play hard, you want to win and you're not going to take it easy on that person," Mooney says. "But when you step off the field, you leave it all there. You invite the visiting team over, have a barbecue, sing songs."

The intersection of roguery and refinement is where you'll find rugby's raunchy salt-of-the-earthers. The perception of rugby players as slightly ruffian rogues isn't something they do anything to discourage, either in word or deed. For instance, while the men's team has a song (based on a burger chain's jingle), its lyrics are best left to the imagination. Even the title is more-or-less unmentionable.



Top: Men's Rugby president Pat Bellefeuille, center, huddles with players during the pre-game chant, derived from a traditional Maori war dance. **Bottom:** Another oddball term: a "ruck" is the scramble for the ball after a player is tackled.

Opposite page: The HSU Men's Rugby team takes on the Humboldt Old Growth alumni team.



Clockwise from top left: Men's rugby practice is no less intense than full-blown matches | "We refer to it as a sisterhood," says women's co-coach Michelle Deutsch. "You protect each other." | Once the game is over, jerseys end up on the sidelines as players head off to celebrate | The ball is a blur as it flies from player to player | "When you're out on the field, you play hard," says women's co-coach Jon Mooney. "But when you step off the field, you invite the visiting team over, have a barbecue, sing songs." | Rugby is reserved for the tough and stubborn.

Opposite page: Jessica "J.T." Turner ('09) tapes her pierced nose to ward off injuries.

Women's Rugby

PIONEER FEMALE PLAYER ERIN Kate Springer, now a firefighter, wanted to play for Humboldt in the early '90s. There was no women's team, so she went ahead and joined the men's team.

Though outweighed by maybe 25 pounds, Springer didn't get any special treatment. As Trapkus says, "She hit; she got hit."

Springer also helped form the Humboldt women's rugby club team in 1997, and it's been going strong ever since.

Monday nights, the women practice in the recently refurbished Field House, part of the HSU Student Recreation Center. There, whoops ring out across the faux turf in the sprawling indoor field.

Seen from a distance, there's little to distinguish the players from their male counterparts. But while the play and the culture have similarities, there are differences.

Contact and camaraderie come up, but so do confidence and connectedness.

"We refer to it as a sisterhood," says Michelle Deutsch, who co-coaches the team with Mooney. "You protect each other."

As a college soccer player in Pennsylvania, Deutsch eyed the rugby practices across the field and then befriended a few players. "They were really fun, a lot more laid-back than other sports teams I've been on," Deutsch said. "We felt really connected to each other."

"I've played a lot of other sports and there's really nothing like it," she says. "It's so much more free-flowing than any other contact sport."

Deutsch says the rough-and-tumble, which men may be accustomed to, cuts women loose from ingrained constraints with a fresh sense of their own power.

"Suddenly, you're learning all these ways to use your body and your strength," says Deutsch. "Maybe you were told that you weren't as strong as a man and can't do the same things physically. But when you learn the ways you can use your body, it builds your confidence. You can play a rugby game, you can fix a car. It breaks gender-role stereotypes; the way you're 'supposed to be' as a woman."

Rugby Culture

IN 2000, THE MEN'S team switched to Division II status. Some see it as a setback, others a blessing.

"Honestly, I think it's a good thing," Mooney says. "We've competed strongly over the years, but when you go up against a school that's literally got 25,000 students to draw from, it's tough."

What hasn't changed is the fun and fellowship, nor the seasonal sporting

and social events. The September alumni game is a big draw, and the men and women players get together for an annual Winter Formal.

All types of people can fit into the rugby family. "Rugby teams want more people to be in the rugby culture, so it's really easy to make a change from another sport," Deutsch says. "They're totally accepting of women who have played another sport and are willing to teach from the ground up."

In fact, the players take a certain pride in their marginal mindshare, and see themselves as a lifelong band of brothers and sisters, even after leaving the game.

"There is a certain pride in being part of an underground, alternative sport," Mooney says. "There are people all over the place who have played rugby. You just keep running into them."

Trapkus has never stopped living life by rugby rules. "It was such a painful sport to play," he says. "It's just ingrained in you that that's how you'll live the rest of your life." 📍



THE wild life

Professor Rick Golightly is a wildlife jack-of-all-trades who has studied species from the South Pacific to South America. Now his innovative use of remote video cameras is providing insight into the seldom-seen behaviors of seabirds.





By Paul Tolmé

HUMBOLDT STATE'S GO-TO-GUY FOR wildlife crises got the call early on the morning of Nov. 8, 2006: a mountain lion was holed up underneath Warren House, and campus police were concerned about public safety. The area swarmed with police and game wardens as Professor Rick Golightly arrived to assess the situation. Some wanted to shoot the cat but Golightly, who has sedated hundreds of animals in the field, had a better idea. Immobilize it.

The crowd hushed as Golightly, holding a five-foot jab stick with a syringe at the tip, crept around the house and located the cat crouched in a dark corner. A thin wooden lattice separated the cat from Golightly, who could hear the animal breathing. As a police officer distracted the cougar, Golightly took aim and jabbed. He then crawled under the house and, after injecting another dose of sedative, pulled out the woozy lion, which was relocated by the California Department of Fish and Game.

The incident made headlines and Golightly was congratulated for his daring, but the mild-mannered wildlife biologist eschews praise. "It wasn't as big a deal as some people made it out to be."

Call it all in a day's work for someone who has studied and handled an astounding array of animals – lions, bears, elk, deer, raptors, foxes, coyotes, raccoons, fishers, martens and more – during 28 years at HSU. As director of the campus Marine Wildlife Care Center, Golightly helps rescue

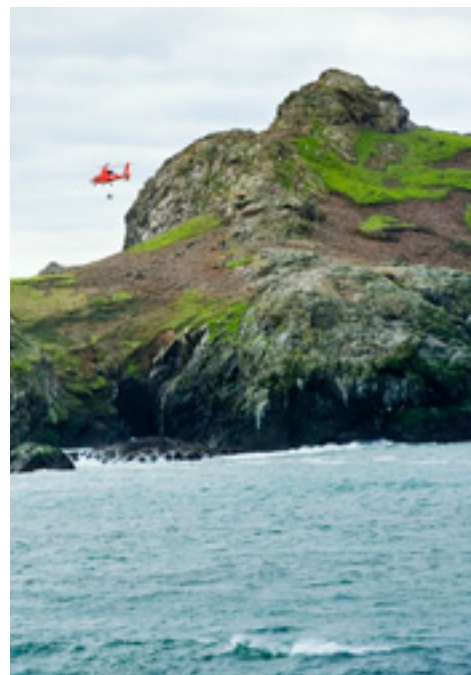
seabirds harmed by oil spills (see sidebar). "Rick always seems to be doing risky work or dealing with sensitive species," says Luke George, former Wildlife Department chairman. "I can't imagine too many people wanting to crawl under a house with a young, hungry mountain lion."

Now, after a long career filled with highlights, HSU's wildlife jack-of-all-trades is winning accolades for his cutting-edge use of remote video cameras to study seabirds. Golightly's work with elusive marbled murrelets is being funded in part by National Geographic. "Rick could toot his horn a lot more but he doesn't. He's humble," says retired Wildlife Professor Dave Kitchen. Adds Eric Nelson, manager of the Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge: "The guy goes about 350 miles an hour all the time."

One of Golightly's proudest achievements is the placement of video cameras on Castle Rock, one of the largest seabird colonies along the California coast. The island bustles with 100,000 birds during breeding season, but studying the birds is difficult. Castle Rock, two miles off the coast of Crescent City, is treacherous to reach and human presence can disrupt nesting.

Thanks to the robotic cameras installed in 2006, student researchers can zoom in on nesting common murres, puffins, cormorants, petrels and auklets to check for eggs and observe feeding habits without disturbing the birds.

Left: Twice a year, Professor Rick Golightly ferries student researchers to Castle Rock, one of the largest seabird colonies on the California coast. Graduate student Katie Rian reaches for supplies as Golightly operates the boat. Right: Golightly uses radio telemetry and remote cameras to track elusive wildlife.



If the weather is too severe to take a boat to Castle Rock, Golightly partners with the U.S. Coast Guard to travel by helicopter.

Microphones pipe audio to the mainland so students can eavesdrop on the activities of species that feed at night (check it out: <http://tinyurl.com/watchseabirds>).

Twice a year, Golightly ferries student researchers to Castle Rock to perform maintenance on the cameras. A skilled Zodiac pilot, Golightly drives his boat to within a foot of the island and, as the craft rises on a wave swell, passengers leap onto the rocks. “Driving a Zodiac is tricky and Rick is one of the few people who does it well,” says U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologist Gerry McChesney. “You don’t want to bang against the rocks because these boats are inflatable and can pop.”

Golightly occasionally has others drive so he can go onto the island. During one such visit, Golightly leaped from the boat but missed. “He short-stepped the landing and ended up in the drink,” Nelson says with a chuckle. “It didn’t faze him.”

The Castle Rock project was inspired by a seabird restoration Golightly assisted with on Devil’s Slide, south of San Francisco. The island’s common murre colony had been wiped out by gill net fishing and an oil spill. Researchers wanted to revive the colony, but murrelets are highly social and will only nest if others of their kind are present. So Golightly, McChesney and colleagues used wooden murre decoys, mirrors and audio players that broadcast common murre calls to fool the birds into returning.

Golightly’s latest seabird project is even more ambitious. Last summer, he and renowned HSU redwood expert Steve Sillett hoisted a camera up to a marbled murrelet nest in the redwood canopy – 270 feet aboveground. The camera has provided never-before-seen images of the birds. Murrelets are challenging to study because they fly at speeds over 50 miles per hour, spend much of their lives at sea and nest far above the eyes of researchers. “It’s not an easy bird to get your hands on,” Golightly says.

Watch real-time video of seabirds at Castle Rock: <http://tinyurl.com/watchseabirds>

(The video stream will be live as soon as weather allows Golightly to make the ocean crossing to place the cameras.)

To find the nest, Golightly and colleagues traveled offshore at night to net murrelets. They outfitted the birds with transmitters and used electronic receivers to track the little black speeding bullets back to their nests. Kitchen credits Golightly with pioneering many of these techniques. “In terms of using equipment and technology he is a cut above.”



Clockwise from top left: Grad student Mike Cunha on the boat. “Driving a Zodiac is tricky and Rick is one of the few people who does it well,” says biologist Gerry McChesney | Adjusting the antenna that transmits the video signal from Castle Rock, allowing observation of bird behavior. Solar panels power the microphones and cameras | Common murre roost below the camera. Photos courtesy of Stephanie R. Schneider



Left: Grad student Christina Rockwell displays a peregrine falcon at the HSU game pen. Right: Golightly shows students how to put a radio collar on a fox.

Golightly encourages students to become proficient with electronics and to develop real-world skills – handling boats, fixing computers, using a compass and GPS. “I call it Boy Scouts 101,” he says. As a graduate student at Arizona State University, Golightly learned to string snowshoes so he could trek into snowy ponderosa pine forests to study the winter feeding habits of Abert’s squirrels. “I stress to my students that biology is more than just handling animals,” Golightly says. “In my day it was stringing snowshoes. Today it is servicing video equipment.”

HSU’s Wildlife Department has a reputation for producing technically savvy workers. Golightly currently has graduate and undergraduate researchers working on projects from Devil’s Slide to Castle Rock to Big Sur to Yellowstone National Park. Graduates have landed jobs with wildlife agencies and learning institutions across the West – the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Geological Survey, New Mexico State, Kansas State, Smithsonian Institution; the California, Arizona and Nevada fish and game departments.

Sometimes his students are too impressive, as Golightly discovered when he convinced an undergraduate to present a paper on marbled murrelets. Afterward, a professor from another university


offered her a graduate post. With her bachelor’s unfinished, the student was not ready to leave HSU. “We give undergraduates substantial responsibility if they have the skills,” he says. “Research is an opportunity to get real-world experience.”

Golightly’s memorable experiences in the field are too numerous to count: catching murrelets on a moonlit night, watching coyotes play in the snow,

“I consider myself lucky. We get privileged access to wildlife.”

— Professor Rick Golightly

seeing peregrine falcons spar with bald eagles, trapping kit foxes in the Arizona desert for his dissertation, exploring the scrublands of Paraguay for capybaras, sleeping on a boat for 10 days and venturing into sea caves while studying the storm petrels of Santa Cruz Island. “Landing on any seabird island is memorable. Those are magical places.”

Wildlife biology has given Golightly a backstage pass to the greatest show on earth. “I consider myself lucky. Wildlife biologists get unique experiences that a lot of people would like to have. We get privileged access to wildlife.” 

Saving Birds from an Oily Death



Top: Birds at the Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge, where students collect samples and observe bird behavior. Bottom: At the Marine Wildlife Care Center, veterinarian Greg Massey feeds rescued birds with assistant Yvette Hernandez (M.S. '09) after an oil spill in Eureka.

OIL SPILLS DEVASTATE SEABIRDS

by matting their feathers and causing deadly hypothermia. When a spill hits the North Coast, Humboldt State's Marine Wildlife Care Center becomes a frenzy of life-saving activity. Experts and volunteers wash birds in soapy water, administer veterinary care and place the birds in swimming pools to feed and recuperate.

The center has been activated three times. The first spill hit nine months after the center opened in 1997 when a ship's fuel tank punctured in Humboldt Bay. Forty-eight species were affected – surf scoters, horned grebes, dunlin – and 42 percent of the treated birds survived.

The second incident came two years later when a barge leaked oil into the bay and offshore waters. The spill hit common murrelets especially hard, as they had just left nesting areas with chicks, and oiled birds fell out of the sky onto the Arcata Plaza. Of the 642 birds treated, 44 percent survived to be released.

"You would see these birds gasping and covered with oil and your heart would just sink," says former Wildlife Department chairman Luke George, who gathered birds and brought them to the facility. "A few days later you would walk out back and see these beautiful clean birds diving for fish in the pools. It was inspiring."

The latest local response was in 2006, when 53 gulls were treated after getting into improperly stored oily fish offal at a Eureka processing plant. Officials at the center, part of the Oiled Wildlife Care Network, also respond to crises elsewhere. In 2008, coordinator Tamar Danufsky and local volunteers rushed to help clean birds oiled by a spill in San Francisco Bay.

The facility demonstrates HSU's commitment to preserving the North Coast's treasured natural resources, says the center's director, Wildlife Professor Rick Golightly. "These events are team efforts." Golightly credits everyone from Plant Operations staff to the campus engineer to students and faculty for providing crucial help at a moment's notice. "These events brought together the entire campus community."





Wish you **WERE HERE!**

An Insider's Must-See, Can't-Miss Guide to Humboldt

by Kevin L. Hoover

Those accustomed to bright city lights may hesitate when considering remote, rural Humboldt. Just look at the map – it's waaaay up there, behind the Redwood Curtain.

What's there to do, besides stack wood and gather compost? It's true you can't do half a million things at 3 a.m. here – more like a half dozen. But no matter. You might not even make it past midnight in Humboldt, wiped out from all there is to experience during the day.

What follows is our humble attempt at a Humboldt must-do list – things that any first-timer, or alum returning after too many years away, should check out. Full credit is due to an impromptu discussion on the HSU Alumni Association's Facebook page (facebook.com/humboldtstatealumni), where alumni reminisced about their favorite Humboldt memories.

**Want to add your own must-do
item or reveal a hidden gem?
Leave a comment on our website:
humboldt.edu/magazine**



Arcata Farmers' Market

IN 1979, A HANDFUL of farmers decided to sell their fruits and vegetables directly to consumers. A gravel lot at Seventh and F streets was big enough. But not for long.

With demand for fresh, organic vegetables burgeoning, the market soon moved to the more capacious Plaza, and an institution was born. Three decades later, the Arcata Farmers' Market has evolved into a full-blown weekly festival. On Saturdays from April through November, 50 to 60 farmers head to Arcata from as far as Willow Creek and Weott.

Squeals of children mingle with the sound of whatever band might be performing – zydeco, Celtic, reggae or otherwise – next to the food vendors at the Plaza's center. The market continues to evolve, with homegrown beef, lamb and rabbit meat available this year.

humfarm.org



Beach Bonfires

GRADUATION, SUMMER SOLSTICE, New Year's Eve – any celebration seems more grand by the light of a wind-whipped driftwood pyre.

North Coast beaches are often dotted by bonfires. Clam Beach in McKinleyville is usually lit up on weekend nights, but others are also fire-friendly, from Luffenholtz beach in Trinidad to Mad River Beach in Arcata.

Officialdom largely tolerates the phenomenon, though any conversation about beach bonfires invariably moves on to concern and cautions.

"I think they're wonderful," says Arcata Fire Chief John McFarland. "But when they make them as big as this room and then walk away, we have a nightmare." He describes having to bring bulldozers and other firefighting equipment to remote beaches, and urges bonfire-bugs not to burn driftwood that's connected to larger heaps of washed-up fuel.

Also high on the no-no list are plovers and pallets. Western snowy plovers nest from March through September on some beaches, and their habitat is protected. Shipping pallets are the bane of beachgoers for the nails they leave behind.

Arts Alive!

IN 2005, EUREKA WAS named one of the "100 Best Art Towns in America," because it's home to so many painters, potters, sculptors, woodworkers, fiber artists, musicians and more.

The sheer preponderance of artists in Humboldt County means that almost every town here in Humboldt has a monthly arts walk these days. But none compares, either in participation or sheer *je ne sais quoi*, to Eureka's Arts Alive!

On the first Saturday of each month, artists and aficionados swarm the streets of Old Town once ruled by waterfront roughnecks and roustabouts. Warm light and laughter float out of galleries and shops. Fragments of conversation mix in the air with the wafting tunes of street musicians.

Call it art power. Artist Sharon Letts does. "That's what happens," she says. "Artists add an aesthetic sense to any space they are in. We visualize a space transformed, and then transform it using just what is at hand. Artists are a resourceful bunch to be sure."

Redwood Research & Rapture

REDWOOD TREES ARE HUMBOLDT'S icons. The world's tallest trees are everything from economic fuel to political symbols, spiritual touchstones and, for HSU Professor Steve Sillett, subjects of scientific study.

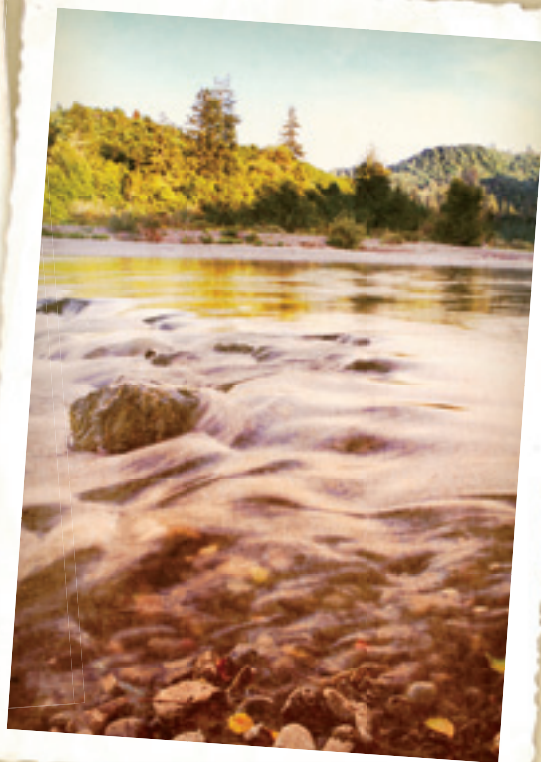
Stretching from Big Sur to southern Oregon, coast redwoods have been marketed, measured, photographed and argued about for decades. But there's still a lot to learn about *Sequoia Sempervirens*.

Sillett, who holds HSU's Kenneth L. Fisher Chair in Redwood Forest Ecology, was featured in a National Geographic cover story last October with his fresh scientific insights into redwood crowns. His visits into the elusive canopy revealed treetops bustling with critters and plants.

Sillett has measured the world's tallest redwood at 379.1 feet, and the oldest tree appears to be 1,850 years old. Now, he is set to launch new studies on the volume of redwood trees and how climate change may be affecting them.

For many, the sense of timelessness and spiritual solace that redwoods offer is enough. Those wishing for a taste of redwood magic can visit the same parks in which Sillett works – Redwood National Park, Humboldt Redwoods State Park and even the Arcata Community Forest right next door to Humboldt State.





Trinidad

CAPPING A STRING OF gorgeous seaside settings along the Humboldt Coast is Trinidad. Clinging to the rocky coastline, the town of 300 homes looks out on Trinidad Harbor, dotted with seabirds, fishing boats and kayaks. The pier extends out into the bay, over which looms Trinidad Head and bluffs lined with trails. Beaches to the north and south are also a big draw.

You could charter a boat ride on the harbor, go tide-pooling on Indian beach or climb the steps to Memorial Lighthouse. Or, you could meander the trails of Elk Head to gaze at dolphins and humpback whales passing by.

"The ocean is the big thing," says City Councilmember and HSU alum Julie Fulkerson. Other Fulkerson favorites include visiting the ancient Yurok Village of Tsurai and sampling wines at Moonstone Crossing's new tasting room.

In addition, HSU's Telonicher Marine Laboratory conducts oceanographic and biological research in town. It maintains invertebrates for study, conducts dives and operates the *Coral Sea*, the university's oceangoing research vessel berthed in Eureka. The lab offers tours, too.

humboldt.edu/marinelab

Kayak Kulture

SOMETIMES IT SEEMS THAT every other vehicle in Arcata is equipped with a fully loaded kayak. It's not clear when kayaking became The Thing To Do, but it is. The appeal is multifold: Kayaking is high exertion but low impact, you can make it as easy or as hard as you want, and it takes you directly into Humboldt's most stunning scenery.

Sea kayaking is Helen Wilson's passion, and as president of Explore North Coast, her enthusiasm is contagious.

She says a good starting point for the neophyte is Trinidad Harbor. "It's a gentle place to launch. Open ocean, but very protected." The sea life is stunning too, with tidepool denizens such as starfish and anemones emerging at low tide.

She says Hookton Slough on the south end of Humboldt Bay is good for a leisurely trek and for sighting migrating geese. And Big Lagoon to the north offers an ocean-like setting with warm, calm water and a sandy bottom. "It's perfect for skill development, exercise or just playing," Wilson says.

There are many more paddle-perfect spots. For those who want a lesson or two, check with HSU's Center Activities.

explorenorthcoast.net
humboldt.edu/centeractivities

Take Me to the River

HUMBOLDT COUNTY'S CREEKS, STREAMS and rivers are the bioregion's bloodstream, linking forests to ocean. They also connect outdoors-folk to recreation, and every curve seems to be someone's favorite place for swimming, kayaking or just lounging on a hot summer day.

Rivers range from the mighty to the minuscule, each with its own personality. The Klamath, Eel, Trinity and Mad are the big-league rivers. Smaller waterways include the Van Duzen, Mattole, Salmon, Elk, Bear and Little rivers.

Few know Humboldt's rivers as well as Smokey Pittman. An HSU-trained geomorphologist, Pittman came to Humboldt State in 1990 to get his master's degree and never left. He is drawn to the waterways for his work and pleasure. "We have tons of rivers that exist in their natural state," he says.

Still, some rivers require repair. Margaret Lang, a professor of environmental resources engineering at HSU, performs restoration projects throughout the region with the help of her students. Computer-optimized culverts restore salmonid access, helping to reinstate free flows for the fish.

Becoming Ecotopia?

THE TWO JEWELS IN Arcata's environmental crown are the Arcata Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary, and Arcata Community Forest. Both have earned international recognition.

The Marsh is a symbol of wise ecological planning. In the 1970s, solving the area's sewage problem looked like it might mean building a huge sewage treatment plant on nearby Samoa Peninsula. That would have been expensive, energy-intensive and doomed to obsolescence.

What followed was an epic tale of town, gown, science and politics.

HSU Professor George Allen had conducted a fish project near Arcata's garbage dump on the bay. He, with Professor Robert Gearheart and with help from the City of Arcata, pitched the concept of natural wastewater treatment through a series of ponds. Years of coalition-building and politics later, the trash heap was converted to restored wetlands and christened as the Arcata Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary. Today it's an eco-tourism destination offering recreation, birding and weekly tours. It serves as a research subject for students and host to the annual Godwit Days Spring Migration Bird Festival.

Up the hill lies Arcata's other world-renowned environmental achievement, the Arcata Community Forest. Walking its trails amid towering redwoods, the only sign that it is a second- and third-growth forest is the occasional shed-sized old growth "goosepen" stump. Stripped of timber in the 1800s, the regrown forest was dedicated in 1955 and now fills 793 acres.

Along with other city-owned forests, the Arcata Community Forest was certified sustainable in 1998 by the Forest Stewardship Council. Only a fraction of its growth is harvested, and proceeds pay for everything from habitat restoration to trail construction, making the forest a favorite destination. It's also now part of PG&E's ClimateSmart program, locking up carbon via reduced logging. And it's a living laboratory for Humboldt State students as well.

arcatamarshfriends.org
cityofarcata.org



Victorian Ferndale

JUST TRY TO DESCRIBE Ferndale without using the q-word. While technically possible, there's no avoiding the fact that it is simply quaint.

The village, at the edge of the foothills near the Eel River, was settled in the 1800s and remains a snapshot of when dairy was king. Victorian homes, known as "Butterfat Palaces," are scattered on ranchland dotted with barns.

Seemingly frozen in time, the entire town is a California Historical Landmark (No. 883). Major films like "Outbreak" and "The Majestic" were shot here – but Ferndale is more than just pretty pictures. Made for strolling, Main Street's shops and galleries allow visitors to chat with a blacksmith or buy retro notions usually seen only in old magazines. Stroll into the Ferndale Cemetery, then around to Russ Park, the city-owned wilderness park and bird lover's mecca. For another dose of quaintness, stop by the office of the 131-year-old *Ferndale Enterprise* on Main Street and pick up its free Souvenir Edition.

Fern Canyon

WHERE OTHER ATTRACTIONS OFFER super-sized sights, Fern Canyon in Redwood National Park steals your breath away with simplicity and subtlety. Tons of it.

Over the eons, unassuming Home Creek carved out a unique canyon with a near-level floor and vertical walls up to 80 feet high. As the creek burbles below, dewdrops drip down walls lined with ferns and mosses.

If it seems like a lost world, it is – officially. Fern Canyon was a location used in the Hollywood blockbuster "Jurassic Park 2: The Lost World."

The 3/4-mile meander is accessible from both ends. The 10-mile James Irvine Trail offers an easy hike, though some prefer the 6-mile drive to adjacent Gold Bluffs Beach, which features handicapped-accessible camping in Roosevelt Elk habitat.

Kinetic Sculpture Race


EVERY MEMORIAL DAY WEEK-END, thousands flock to Arcata's town square plaza for the launch of the Kinetic Grand Championship. When Saturday's noon siren screams, dozens of human-powered contraptions set off on a three-day, 41-mile trek to Ferndale, traversing paved roads, beaches and Humboldt Bay's choppy waters.

The competition is friendly, if grueling, and the stakes are high. Along with awards for engineering, pageantry and (it being a race) time, participants may be recognized for being the first to break down, finishing second-to-last or general mediocrity.

Humboldt's version, now one of several similar events across the country, is the original. It has spawned a fiendishly clever fusion of art and engineering. The pedal-powered sculptures must roll overland and navigate open water, all while maintaining maximum fancifulness.

After completing this year's Ruby Anniversary race marking 40 years, veteran kinetic sculptor Ken Beidelman and partner Robert Thoman were busy breaking down their award-winning Hippopotamus into buckets of parts. Underneath Hippopotamus' psychedelic skin were the complex mechanics that translate leg-power into forward propulsion. Yet no plans exist. The frame geometry and transmission linkages in his sculptures are mapped out in Beidelman's head. "Don't talk about it," Beidelman says. "Do it!"

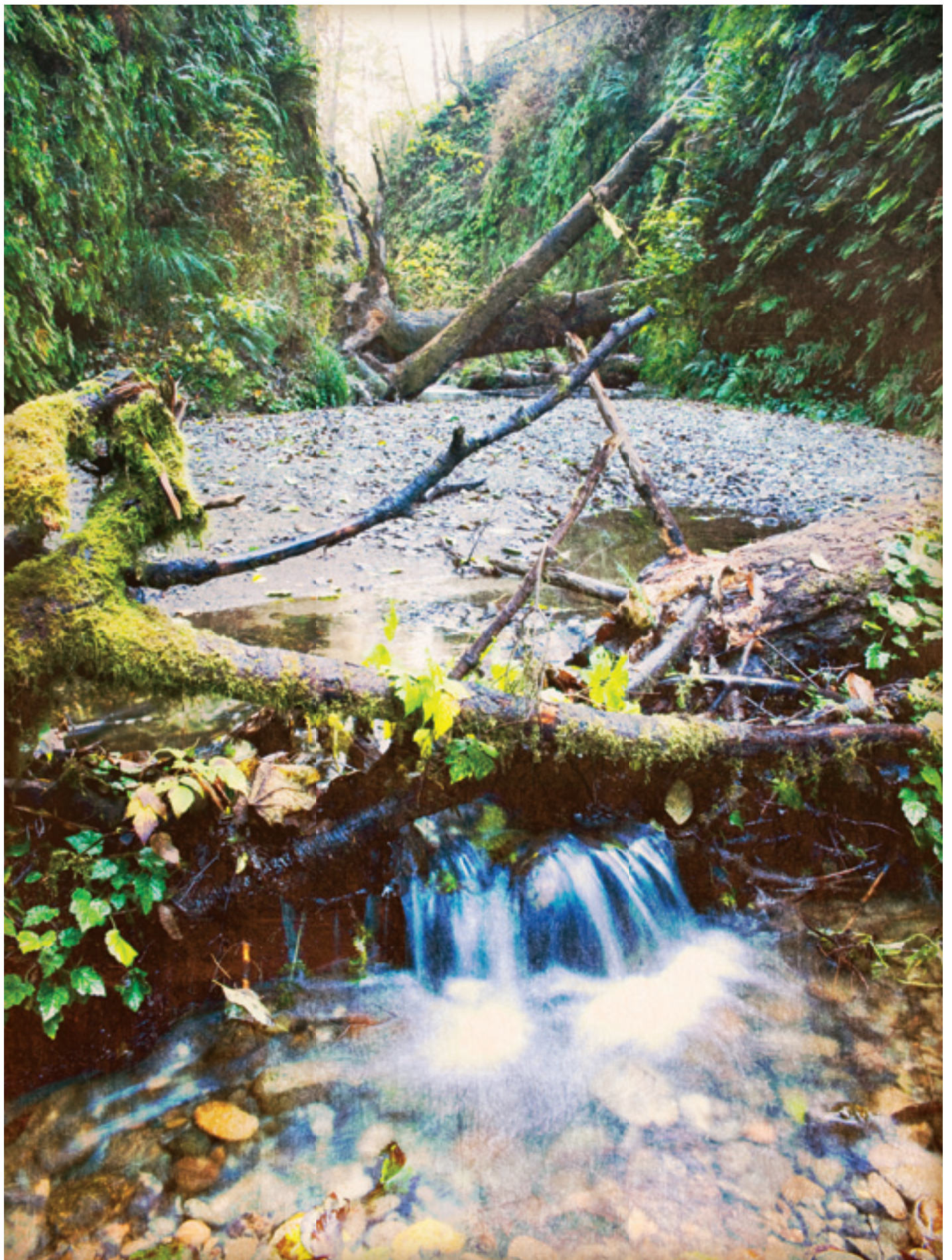
HSU Campus

READY TO COME BACK to campus for a visit, or show it off to someone else? You can cheer on your favorite teams at the Redwood Bowl, check out the new buildings on campus or see one of the many world-class performances at the Van Duzer Theatre. HSU also offers drop-in tours year-round. Custom tours and even class visits are available too. 

humboldt.edu/visit



Photo courtesy of Richard Stenger/Redwoods.info



But wait, **THERE'S MORE...**

There are so many uniquely Humboldtian things to do, we had a hard time limiting ourselves. Here are some elements of the Humboldt experience that were just too kooky, small or quirky to make the main list.



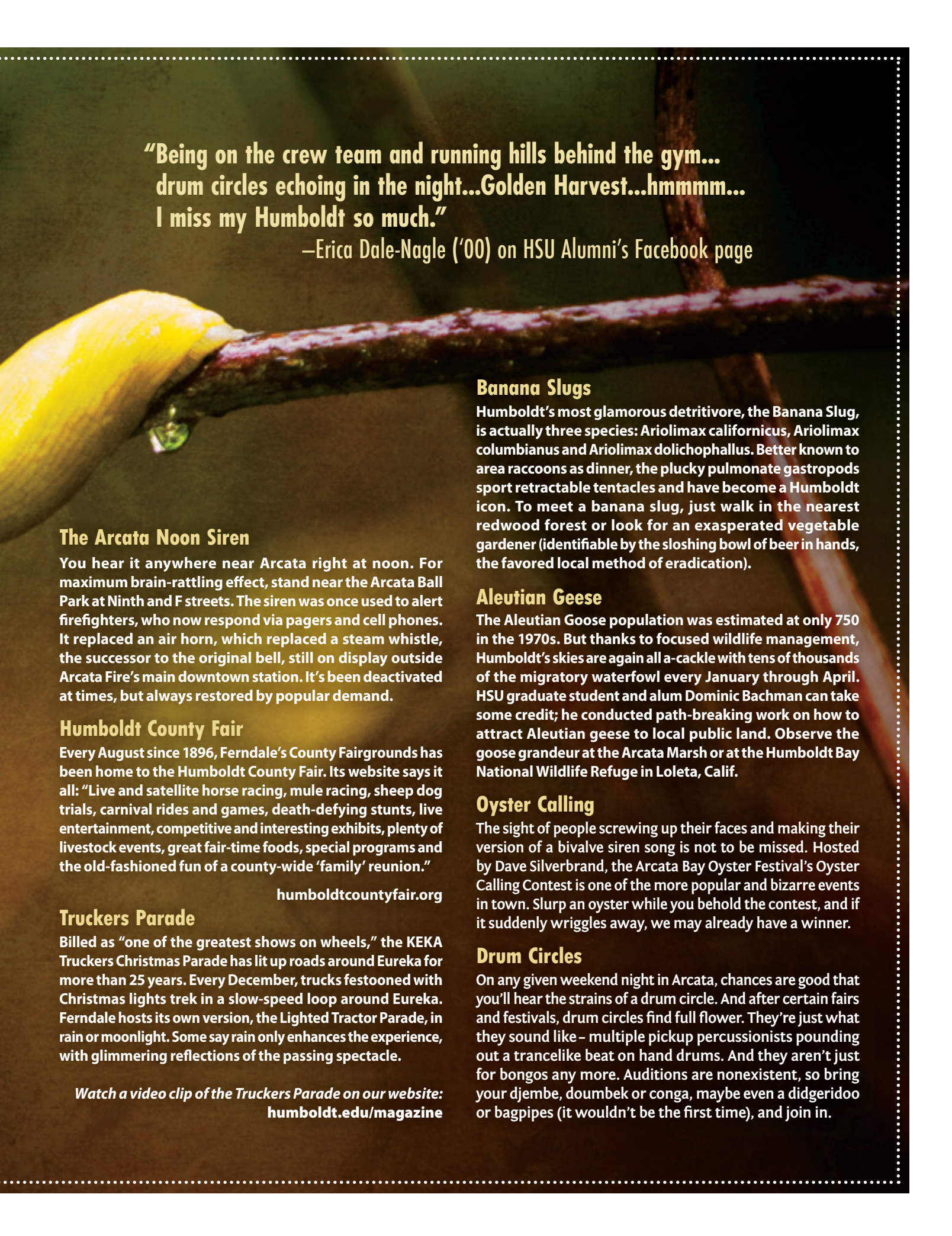
Redwood Burl

Lignotuber tissue, also known as redwood burl, accumulates at the base of some redwood trees. It hosts buds that will sprout after a big-enough fire. Most people see it not on trees, but in the form of furniture, bowls and in sculptures from elegant to kitschy and beyond at the many gift shops and roadside stands along the 101.

Bike Races

At first it might seem strange that a place as hilly as Humboldt hosts so many bicycle enthusiasts, but as it turns out, that's exactly why – the terrain makes people-powered transportation such an involving experience. Billed as "California's Toughest Century," the Tour of the Unknown Coast takes riders through some of Humboldt's most stunning scenery every May. In Arcata, Team Bigfoot hosts rides and races ranging from in-town (the Downtown Criterium, in August) to outlying areas (the Stomach Churn, in December).

tuccycle.org
bigfootbicycle.org

A close-up photograph of a banana slug, which is a large, pale yellowish-white gastropod, clinging to a dark, textured tree branch. A single, clear water droplet is suspended just below the slug's head. The background is a soft-focus green, suggesting a forest setting.

**"Being on the crew team and running hills behind the gym...
drum circles echoing in the night...Golden Harvest...hmmmm...
I miss my Humboldt so much."**

—Erica Dale-Nagle ('00) on HSU Alumni's Facebook page

The Arcata Noon Siren

You hear it anywhere near Arcata right at noon. For maximum brain-rattling effect, stand near the Arcata Ball Park at Ninth and F streets. The siren was once used to alert firefighters, who now respond via pagers and cell phones. It replaced an air horn, which replaced a steam whistle, the successor to the original bell, still on display outside Arcata Fire's main downtown station. It's been deactivated at times, but always restored by popular demand.

Humboldt County Fair

Every August since 1896, Ferndale's County Fairgrounds has been home to the Humboldt County Fair. Its website says it all: "Live and satellite horse racing, mule racing, sheep dog trials, carnival rides and games, death-defying stunts, live entertainment, competitive and interesting exhibits, plenty of livestock events, great fair-time foods, special programs and the old-fashioned fun of a county-wide 'family' reunion."

humboldtcountyfair.org

Truckers Parade

Billed as "one of the greatest shows on wheels," the KEKA Truckers Christmas Parade has lit up roads around Eureka for more than 25 years. Every December, trucks festooned with Christmas lights trek in a slow-speed loop around Eureka. Ferndale hosts its own version, the Lighted Tractor Parade, in rain or moonlight. Some say rain only enhances the experience, with glimmering reflections of the passing spectacle.

Watch a video clip of the Truckers Parade on our website:
humboldt.edu/magazine

Banana Slugs

Humboldt's most glamorous detritivore, the Banana Slug, is actually three species: *Ariolimax californicus*, *Ariolimax columbianus* and *Ariolimax dolichophallus*. Better known to area raccoons as dinner, the plucky pulmonate gastropods sport retractable tentacles and have become a Humboldt icon. To meet a banana slug, just walk in the nearest redwood forest or look for an exasperated vegetable gardener (identifiable by the sloshing bowl of beer in hands, the favored local method of eradication).

Aleutian Geese

The Aleutian Goose population was estimated at only 750 in the 1970s. But thanks to focused wildlife management, Humboldt's skies are again all a-cackle with tens of thousands of the migratory waterfowl every January through April. HSU graduate student and alum Dominic Bachman can take some credit; he conducted path-breaking work on how to attract Aleutian geese to local public land. Observe the goose grandeur at the Arcata Marsh or at the Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge in Loleta, Calif.

Oyster Calling

The sight of people screwing up their faces and making their version of a bivalve siren song is not to be missed. Hosted by Dave Silverbrand, the Arcata Bay Oyster Festival's Oyster Calling Contest is one of the more popular and bizarre events in town. Slurp an oyster while you behold the contest, and if it suddenly wriggles away, we may already have a winner.

Drum Circles

On any given weekend night in Arcata, chances are good that you'll hear the strains of a drum circle. And after certain fairs and festivals, drum circles find full flower. They're just what they sound like – multiple pickup percussionists pounding out a trancelike beat on hand drums. And they aren't just for bongos any more. Auditions are nonexistent, so bring your djembe, doumbek or conga, maybe even a didgeridoo or bagpipes (it wouldn't be the first time), and join in.

A Thousand Worlds

Please travel, says Geography Professor Stephen Cunha. Just don't forget to write.



This is a condensed version of the closing lecture delivered by Professor Stephen Cunha to his popular Cultural Geography class each spring. Cunha was named HSU Scholar of the Year in 2009.

TODAY WE CONCLUDE WITH SOME THOUGHTS ABOUT YOUR FUTURE.

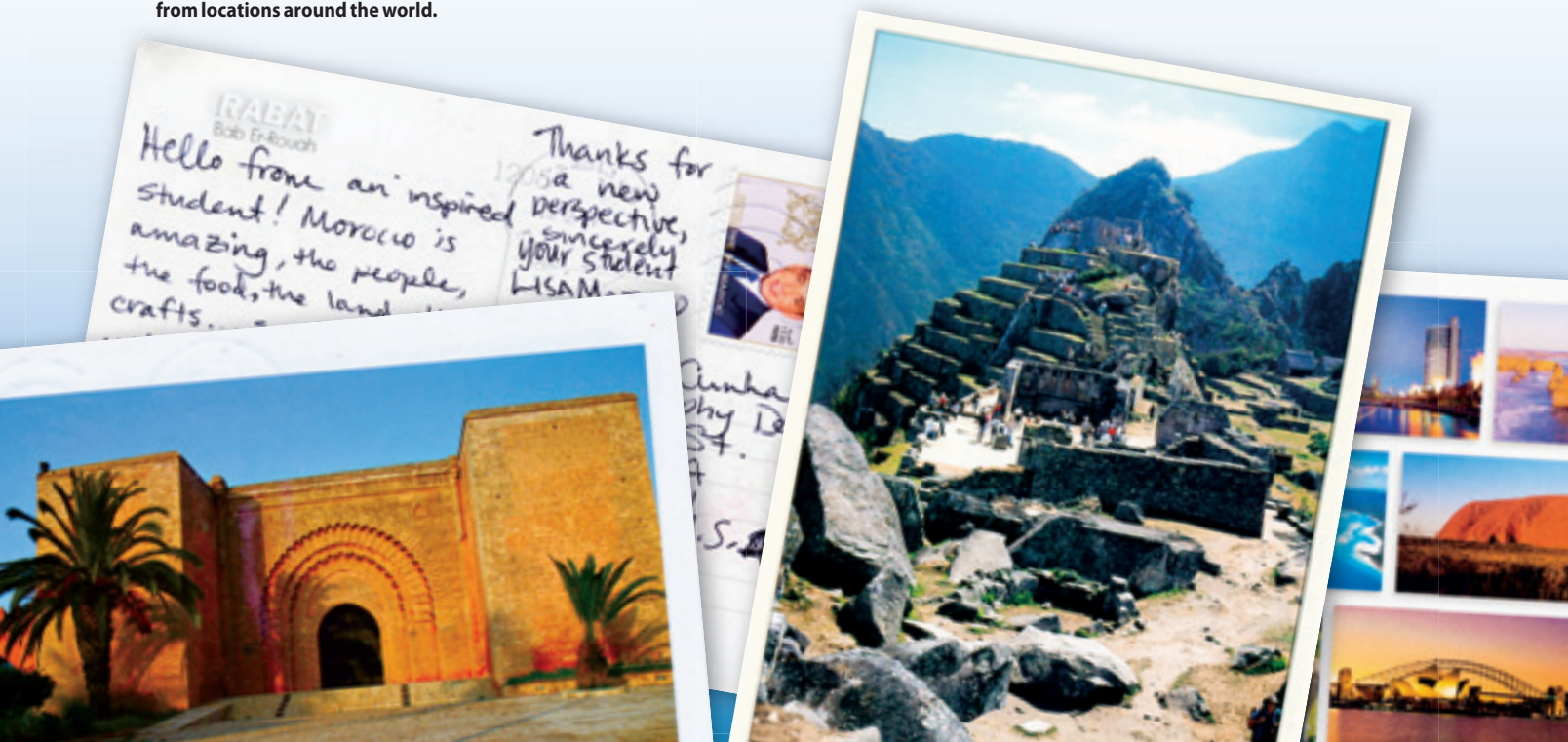
This requires sharing a deeply personal experience. Although peripheral to our class, it produced some clear thinking.

The isolated Obi Hingu watershed in the Pamir Mountains is a roadless Shangri-La with small villages perched above a swift river. I was in Tajikistan, in Central Asia, in 1992 working on a grant for the United Nations University to assess the suitability of the Pamir Mountains as a potential national park and Biosphere Reserve.

On this day I traveled alone, separated from our party by 40 km. Near sundown I noticed movement on the low edge of the canyon some 75 yards distant. The first thought was "animal," but a second glance revealed a human, crouched low to avoid detection.

The next instant a bullet entered my groin, followed by the unmistakable sound of firearm discharge. I screamed in Russian, "No, stop! Ya emayet dva sine." (No, stop! I have two sons). While struggling up a hill a second bullet lodged in my shoulder, and several more passed near my head. After cresting the top, I opened my pack to remove antibiotics and gauze, and noticed my entire crotch soaked in blood.

Postcards sent to Cunha by former students from locations around the world.



I escaped by rolling down to the river and swimming an icy current too strong for my assailant. While exiting the water a final bullet whizzed past my ear and pierced a birch tree. A night of cold marching, interrupted by bouts of lost consciousness, brought me to the safety of Tajik villagers who cared for me as one of their own.

THIS IS WHERE ALL OF YOU COME IN. For two days while lying in a mountain hut, bleeding, physically spent and waiting to die, I experienced a quiet and deep satisfaction with life because of three things: a loving family, an excellent university education and the many travels that had shaped my thinking. Of these, we can't always choose our family, but know that you hold complete sway over the other two.

College is an investment of time and money that endows your future. Not just because of starting salary, but also in the way it grows your inner self. The mind once stretched does not return to its original shape. You are what you know, and as this changes so do you.

An education fosters genuine belief that the world is harder to understand than it first appears, and that intellectual humility is a vital grace. It teaches us about our own strengths and weaknesses, the subjects that fascinate us and the skills we should have the courage to improve. It asks us to shape personal answers to what ethical obligations and limits we should observe in a free society, and how these might change over time and space. This is not easy. The enduring rewards of higher education follow sustained effort, intellectual discomfort and sacrifice – they do not come before.

To deepen your studies, I also urge frequent travel in order to reap what Mark Twain makes clear:

"Travel is fatal to prejudice, bigotry, and narrow-mindedness, and many of our people need it sorely on these accounts. Broad, wholesome, charitable views of men and things cannot be acquired by vegetating in one little corner of the earth all one's lifetime."

Homebound types have but one world, while travelers have a thousand. Travel broadens and textures the mind. It allows a person to develop empathy for the millions engaged in more difficult lives. Abandoning routine sharpens the senses. One never forgets the monsoon rain... birdsongs in Halong Bay... Alaskan bears up close... Arabian dust... Patagonian wind... the Yangtze... Alps... Serengeti... and generous strangers in far away places. By raising the flat map to life, travel inspires us to care about the planet, and nurtures global citizenship.

I HAVE A FEW REQUESTS. First, please send along one postcard. Prior students mailed these from around the world. They are fine reading and will be good company when I'm in a rocking chair, too old for travel.

Secondly, please say hello if we meet in some far-off place. The refreshments are on me. We can share travel tips and recall our time in Arcata.

And finally, draw upon these inspiring words attributed to Goethe: "Whatever you can do, or dream you can, begin it. Boldness has genius, power, and magic in it."



**Hodgson's study on
wine judging has earned
national attention, including
a recent article in the
Wall Street Journal.**



Putting the Tasters to the Test

Retired HSU Professor Bob Hodgson Stirs Up the World of Wine Judging



RECENTLY, BOB HODGSON, RETIRED HSU professor of Oceanography and owner of Fieldbrook Winery in Arcata, caused a stir by publishing a paper about the inconsistency of wine judging. He's become skeptical, to say the least.

It all began after one of his wines won a gold medal at one competition and nothing at another. He began to wonder about the discrepancies. He carefully designed a study, serving unknowing wine judges at the California State Fair the same wine from the same bottle in different glasses. The judges' reactions varied, sometimes widely. Hodgson concluded that wine judging is highly subjective and that luck, as much as anything else, plays a major role in winning competitions.

"I found that using the binomial probability distribution model really closely agrees with what's happening in the real world with wine," he says. "If you look at the wines entered in five competitions, the number of gold medals can be explained by chance alone. And, if you look at the wines that did win a gold, 98 percent of them got no award or a bronze at another competition. So, obviously, there's a lot of chance involved."

Ironically, the same man whose research is challenging the industry makes some of the best wine to come out of Humboldt County, based on the many awards from the very judges that Hodgson set out to scrutinize.

Hodgson, who grew up in Edmonds, Wash., left a job as a Navy physicist to study at Oregon State University in Corvallis. There, Hodgson met a woman in line at a local seed store. She was buying winemaking supplies and Hodgson struck up a conversation.

"I was kind of eavesdropping and I asked her how much it would cost for my friends and me to start making wine ourselves. She added up some stuff and said, 'About 75 cents.' So, I said, 'I'm in!'"

Hodgson and his friends made blackberry wine for a few years and were impressed at how easy it was to produce and how tasty it was to drink. Soon, he landed a job with the

National Marine Fisheries Service in La Jolla, Calif. A year later he received a call from HSU's Oceanography Department and was asked to join the faculty. Hodgson accepted the job and moved north with his wife, Judy (who received an HSU Distinguished Alumni Award in 2005 for her work as publisher of the North Coast Journal).

Soon after arriving in Humboldt, he came to know one of the most prominent and, at the time, one of the only winemakers in the county. Hodgson volunteered to tutor a student in math; turns out the student's father knew a winemaker in Eureka. As he tells it, "We helped out with his operation for a couple of years. And one year I thought, 'I can do this.' So, we just started."

Hodgson started buying grapes from the Napa Valley, bought a small crusher and produced his first commercial wine in 1976. Fieldbrook Winery was born and, small as it was, quickly started producing high quality wines. Hodgson started entering his wines in various competitions during the 1980s and '90s and started winning. At the 1994 San Francisco International Wine Festival, Hodgson's 1993 Pacini Vineyard Zinfandel won both a Double Gold Medal and Best of Show – being named the best red wine in the world. Fieldbrook Winery also won numerous medals at the California State Fair and its 1992 Meredith Vineyard Merlot was named the best in the state.

Hodgson's vinification, or oenology, expertise is built on a discerning palate (although he says his wife's is more refined) and a thorough understanding of the chemistry of wine. But, he says, his chemistry knowledge wasn't always so robust.

"When I was a faculty member at HSU, I went to one of the chemistry professors and told him I wanted to sit in on his class," he says. "The first exam I took, I flunked it and the professor just laughed. But, I ended up finishing freshman chemistry – that's a tough class. I also took a quantitative analysis class. I wanted to know that when I ran lab work here at the winery that my numbers were good. I thought if I could get the chemistry down then I would be a more confident winemaker."

Given the chance Hodgson has uncovered in wine tasting, the best judge of his wine may be the individual consumer. So, pick up your favorite varietal the next time you're shopping in Humboldt or visit the winery's website, www.fieldbrook-winery.com, and judge for yourself.

Bob Hodgson, professor emeritus of Oceanography and owner of Fieldbrook Winery, has concluded that wine judging is highly subjective and that luck plays a major role in winning competitions.

Distinguished ALUMNI AWARDS

HSU's 2010 Distinguished Alumni

Michael Crooke

MICHAEL CROOKE'S JOURNEY THROUGH corporate boardrooms is guided by values rooted firmly in the Earth.

Growing up in Oregon, he says he was always at home in the wilderness.

Little wonder that he was drawn to Humboldt State's Forestry program, graduating in 1986.

"I wanted to work outdoors," he says, and so he did – for a while. His career as a forester for the Pacific Lumber Co. ended during that company's acquisition by Maxxam Corp., a corporate maneuver he found unsettling – and interesting enough to draw him indoors.

"It rattled my cage," Crooke says. "I really wanted to understand the business side."

After earning an MBA from Humboldt State in 1989, he entered the corporate world, working for local outdoor equipment manufacturers Yakima and Moonstone, and later becoming CEO of Pearl Izumi, Revolution Living, Patagonia and prAna.

Crooke has since earned a Ph.D. in management and is now a business consultant specializing in corporate turnarounds. His environmental activism continues to inform his work.

His work is guided by what he calls "a mandala approach" of four equal principles: corporate citizenship, environmental responsibility, product/service quality and strong finances.

"When you have those four corporate macro values in place, 'flow' often occurs," he says, defining "flow" as "a rare state of consciousness that focuses the energies of those who experience it and helps lift them to peak achievement levels."

Crooke is a board member of the Earth Day Network and has served as President of the Conservation Alliance. He remains an HSU supporter and delivered a rousing keynote address at the 2008 Commencement.



Photo courtesy of Michael Crooke

Sue Grigsby

SUE GRIGSBY HAS ALWAYS been a blur on the landscape, but it wasn't until she came to Humboldt State that her track career really took off.

After high school in Los Altos, Grigsby had joined a community college men's track team. It was before women's sports began gaining equality under Title IX. "I was, fortunately or unfortunately, from an era when women were just starting out," she says.

As she contemplated her next step, her coach made a fateful suggestion: "You ought to check out Humboldt." She did, and ran with it.

By the time she graduated in 1979, Grigsby had left a trail of shattered records in her wake, in 800-, 1,500-, 3,000- and 5,000-meter events. Her accomplishments earned her admission to HSU's Athletic Hall of Fame in 1987.

Now a Physical Education, Health and Wellness instructor at Everett Community College in Washington, Grigsby is an accomplished masters runner. Her educational philosophy focuses less on teaching and more on leading – encouraging students to reach their personal best.

As part of that, she might hide poems around town and ask students to literally run them down, or offer cryptic clues to area landmarks for students to locate.

"I don't teach 'PE,'" she says. "That sounds like you just throw out the ball and play. I teach physical education, health and wellness, where you teach the how-tos and the whys."

Grigsby looks back in gratitude to her time at Humboldt State, and has never forgotten what instructor Larry Kerker told her: "You're on a scholarship from the State of California."

She's since augmented that for today's students, setting up the Sue Grigsby Scholarship Endowment for HSU kinesiology majors and the Sue E. Grigsby Women's Distance Running Endowment.

"I help students change their lives," she says. "It feels good."



Join Us! 2010 Distinguished Alumni Awards Banquet

**April 23, 2010 • 6 – 9 p.m.
at the Ingomar Club
on the Eureka waterfront**

**Tickets:
alumni.humboldt.edu/DA2010
or 707-826-3132**

THE DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS honor alumni for achievements in their fields or service to their community, nation or HSU. For 50 years the event has offered a chance to publicly recognize our alumni for their achievements.

NOMINATE SOMEONE FOR 2011. Visit alumni.humboldt.edu/distinguishedalumni for details and forms or call 707-826-3132.

Shaunna McCovey

WITH DEGREES IN LAW and social work, a love for the natural environment and a commitment to her Yurok Tribe, Shaunna Oteka McCovey has no shortage of work.

McCovey grew up on the Yurok reservation outside Weitchpec without electricity or even telephones. So she busied herself with books.

On coming of age, she was "isolated and kind of floundering," but says, "I knew there was this big world out there and I wanted to be part of it." Then she attended Humboldt State's 1992 Commencement and saw her father graduate with his degree in social work.

"I said, 'This is what I want to do and this is where I want to go,'" McCovey remembers.

Four years later, she graduated from HSU with a bachelor's degree in social work, later earning a master's degree in social work from Arizona State.

McCovey put herself through school by working at Arcata's Seventh Generation Fund, an Indian advocacy organization. That experience helped solidify her environmental values.

She earned a master's degree in environmental law, then eagerly accepted a First Nations Environmental Law Fellowship at Vermont Law School, later graduating with a law degree.

Returning to Humboldt, McCovey taught and helped the HSU Social Work Department develop a graduate program.

McCovey soon went to work as staff attorney for the Yurok Tribe, California's largest Indian Tribe with nearly 5,000 enrolled members. In that role, she assisted with issues like the Klamath Dam removal. Now, as deputy executive director and self-governance officer, she's working to ensure that the Marine Life Protection Act respects the Native American way of life.

McCovey celebrates native culture in literature as well. A published author, her book of poetry is titled "The Smokehouse Boys", and she contributed to "Eating Fire, Tasting Blood: An Anthology of the American Indian Holocaust."

McCovey says that, over the years, she has enjoyed tremendous support from HSU faculty members acting as mentors.

"I'm very proud to have gone to Humboldt State, and of going back to teach there," she says. "I had a great experience."



Photo courtesy of Shaunna McCovey

Robert Powers

ROBERT POWERS PASSED THROUGH Humboldt State's Forestry program in an era when sustainable management and carbon sequestration were fledgling concepts. Today, the 1966 graduate is a renowned Forest Service scientist who, even in retirement, stays active in cutting-edge research.

Forests, he says, offer obvious environmental positives, from habitat to watersheds and, not inconsiderably, beauty. But he says the forests' most basic contribution is not apparent, but is basic to the well-being of the environment – locking up carbon.

"The fundamental thing that forests do is capture carbon from the atmosphere in creating vegetation," Powers says. The central question now, he says, is how modern management is affecting the land's ability to do this.

Forest soils are earth's largest terrestrial sink for atmospheric carbon. Soil, Powers says, is like an organism, with juvenile and mature stages, but with one major difference. "It takes millennia for the soil to develop," Powers says. "But poor management can degrade it in the blink of an eye."

In seeking to understand soil's survivability, Powers conceived the North American Long-Term Soil Productivity Research Program. At more than 70 sites across North America, data is collected to improve our understanding of how soil changes affect plant growth and to develop means for measuring this. "Until now, it's largely been speculative and anecdotal," he says.

Powers' research could yield key clues to crafting climate catastrophe countermeasures.

He credits his HSU experience with cultivating his curiosity. He initially considered U.C. Berkeley (where he eventually earned his Ph.D.), but decided on HSU for a more intimate undergraduate experience, and it paid off. "I enjoyed the hands-on experience with young, enthusiastic professors," he says. "You don't always get that at a larger university. They got students to look at the forest as more than a collection of trees."



Photo courtesy of Robert Powers

A Lifetime of Pursuits

Scholarship helps student-athletes find their passion

STEVE BROWN MAY HAVE come to Humboldt State to play football, but while here he was able to take a summer course in photography with Imogene Cunningham. He calls it “one of the blessings of my life.”

The renowned photographer personally critiqued student work, Brown recalls. “It was a highlight,” he says. “I couldn’t wait to go to class.”

Brown, who graduated from HSU in 1969, is now President and CEO of Nexgen Pharma, a manufacturer of nutritional supplements and generic prescription pharmaceuticals. He continues to make time for a number of pursuits, including gardening, photography, woodworking and football, all of which became a way of life for him while at Humboldt State.

And he’s not the only one. First-year HSU student Joe Casey also arrived at Humboldt because of the football program. And like Brown, Casey has a surprising combination of interests. His major is nursing, and he has a love of acting inspired by



his high school drama teacher back home in La Habra, Calif. Since arriving at HSU, his favorite course is oceanography.

“I didn’t know this until I was here,” he says, “but HSU is the only university that allows its undergraduates to go out on their research vessel. That was awesome. I didn’t get seasick but everybody else did.”

Last year Brown pledged \$53,000 for scholarships to help pay tuition and fees for student-athletes like Casey. He knows from experience that athletic programs offer students a chance

to learn skills not necessarily fostered in the classroom.

“Working hard because you are part of a team, those are lessons you don’t learn in a lot of other areas,” says Brown. “There’s nothing like getting out there and experiencing the sweat and strain, the motivation to get up in the morning and come to practice when you are beat up. It prepares you for the hard things in life. Because it’s not always going to be easy out there. This is one place you learn it.”



Submit a Class Note

<http://alumni.humboldt.edu> or alumni@humboldt.edu

1950s

EARL M. LAUPPE, '52 Wildlife Management, had a 40-year career with the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG). He started as a DFG seasonal aid based at Humboldt in 1950 and was hired on a permanent basis in 1952. Earl started raising pheasants in DFG's Yountville, Calif., game farm in 1952, and ended his career as the Senior Supervising Biologist for the southern part of California. Since 1992, Earl has worked as a retired annuitant for DFG's Coastal and Inland Deserts Regions.

JACQUELINE (SINTIC) MULTANEN, '57 Social Science, is a retired high school administrator. She is currently an educational consultant and university lecturer. She cherishes her time spent and friendships made at Humboldt State. She enjoys traveling to special places in the world.

KAY ESCARDA, '58 Social Science, recently had a street in Arcata named after her, in recognition of her many years of dedicated work as a local housing advocate.

BOB ARCHIBALD, '59 Forestry, did not make the commencement ceremonies in the June of 1959; he was at Navy Officer Candidate School in Newport, R.I. While stationed on Guam, he married his hometown sweetheart in Honolulu. He worked as a forester with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in his hometown of Ukiah, Calif., for 10 years before transferring to Phoenix. He retired from the BLM with nearly 37 years of service. Concurrently, he was affiliated with the Navy Reserve and retired with 24 years of service and the rank of commander. Archibald and his wife, Margaret, retired in Glendale, Ariz., and have traveled extensively. They spend the summer at their home south of Flagstaff. He and Margaret celebrate their 50th anniversary this summer and are planning a Hawaiian cruise with their children.

WARREN BAKER, '59 Physical Education, was born and raised in Pittsburg, Calif. He lived in Eureka before moving to Hesperia, in southern California, where he has lived for the last 41 years. He has been a teacher, coach and administrator. Baker worked and managed real estate before becoming the Legislative Advocate for the Construction Industries and the Board of Realtors for nine years. While at Humboldt State, he participated in four sports, served two years on student council and served one year on the board of finance. He was inducted into the athletics Hall of Fame. He considers the great number of friends he made at HSU to be his greatest achievement while at Humboldt State.

JUDITH (JUDY) FERGUSON BONNIKEN, '59 Education, believes her degree from Humboldt State has served her well over the past 50 years. She taught grades K-8 in California and with the Department of Defense in Morocco, North Africa. More than 20 years ago she received a master's degree in Counseling from Point Loma Nazarene College in San Diego, and spent nine years at Southern Utah University as a Counselor and Director of Student Development. Bonniksen and her husband, Harman ('58) have traveled to North Africa, Europe, the Baltic states, Asia, New Zealand, the islands of the Pacific and as many of the U.S. states as possible. Bonniksen dabbles in photography and has ventured into the field of publishing her personal history and writing fiction. She stays fit by hiking in Zion National Park.

VIRGINIA GILHOUSEN BRODERICK, '59 Education, taught third and fourth grades for two years at an elementary school near Lodi, Calif. She and her husband raised their children on a small walnut ranch east of Stockton, Calif.

JACQUE MCLEOD CALLIHAN, '59 Education, married Dale Callihan ('58) during her senior year at Humboldt State and spent the next 10 years at home with their children. For the next 31 years she taught kindergarten and spent



Photo courtesy of U.S. Embassy Budapest

Jeff Levine, Dan Travis

Diplomatic duo

HOW MANY U.S. EMBASSIES in the world can say they have two Humboldt grads on staff? That's the case at the U.S. Embassy in Budapest, Hungary, where Jeff Levine and Dan Travis both serve. (For the record, at least one other pair of alumni serve together, at the U.S. Embassy in South Korea.)

Jeff Levine ('76, Journalism) worked as a reporter for seven years before he entered the Foreign Service. He received his master's degree at National Defense University in 1999 and until January served as the Charge' d'affaires ad interim at the U.S. Embassy in Budapest. The Charge' is the senior diplomat at an embassy when no Ambassador is present and Levine served in that position until the new ambassador appointed by President Obama arrived. Levine is now the Deputy Chief of Mission and will remain in Budapest until the summer.

Levine has served in seven overseas posts with the Foreign Service, including stints in Peru, Egypt and Cyprus. But perhaps his most unexpected turn of events was the assignment of Dan Travis, a fellow HSU alum, to the embassy in Budapest.

Travis ('92, Theater Arts) grew up at Humboldt State University. His father was the director of HSU's Career Development Center at the time. But it was his love life that had the most profound impact on his future. Travis' wife, Kasia, was a Polish exchange student at HSU in 1988, and he followed her back to Poland after graduation, where he started his career in government.

Today, Travis serves as Consul and Second Secretary at the U.S. Embassy in Budapest. His job requires him to think on his feet every day to solve problems. Once, while serving in Ghana, the Secret Service agent assigned to open President Carter's door was denied access to the event. It was Dan's responsibility to find a way to get him in. "At the time, we were speeding across rough African roads in armored Suburbans," he says. "I had to call one of my contacts in the Ghanaian President's entourage and convince him that if the Secret Service man was not allowed on the premises, President Carter's detail would not let him out of the car. And it would all happen in front of the international press. Needless to say, he made it in."

Mark Your Calendar

25th Annual Celebrity Dinner and Sports Auction

March 27
Kate Buchanan Room
www.hsujacks.com

Spring Preview: Experience Humboldt State

April 9
www.humboldt.edu/springpreview

43rd Annual Humboldt Film Festival

April 19 – 25
Van Duzer Theatre
www.humboldt.edu/~filmfest

Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner

April 23 • 6 – 9 p.m.
Ingomar Club in Old Town Eureka
<http://alumni.humboldt.edu/DA2010>

Piano Master Class With Yuja Wang

April 26 • 9 - 11 a.m.
Fulkerson Recital Hall

CCAA Women's Softball Championship Tournament

April 30 – May 2
Stockton, Calif.
www.hsujacks.com

David Grisman Quintet

May 8
Van Duzer Theatre
www.humboldt.edu/~carts

Commencement

May 15
Redwood Bowl
www.humboldt.edu/commencement

KHSU 50th Anniversary Auction and Fundraiser Dinner

May 22
Arcata Community Center
www.khsu.org/anniversary

three years as a school principal. She and her husband are both retired but remain active in their professions; he with a local wholesale grocery firm and she with substitute teaching. She has learned to make pine needle baskets and gathers the Jeffrey pine needles from her yard in Tahoe. She also enjoys pottery and photography. Her family is very close in distance and relationship, allowing her to greatly enjoy being part of their sports, music, school and home activities.

MARILEE AMMER DUNN, '59 Home Economics (Nutrition & Wellness), retired in 1998 after 37 years of teaching home economics, physical education and business. She taught for 32 years at Hoover Middle School in San Jose. She has been a member of Epsilon Sigma Alpha International Philanthropic Sorority for 49 years. For the past 25 years she has been a member of Soroptimist International of Santa Clara, an international volunteer organization that works to improve the lives of women and girls throughout the world. She was a delegate to the Fourth World Women's Conference in Beijing representing education. She loves to travel and especially loves cruises. She has been to five of the seven continents, and New Zealand and Australia are her favorite places. She has two children and four grandchildren and feels Humboldt was a wonderful place to get an education with the beautiful surroundings and the great staff.

DONALD (DON) JOHNSON, '59 Business Administration, returned to college on the GI Bill after serving in the Marines, and participated in Comus Club and the Business Club. He and his wife Carole Sue Nichols ('58) have lived in the greater SF Bay Area for 50 years. Since retiring from the lumber industry in 1993, he has participated in United Methodist Volunteers in Mission doing construction projects around the world for the needy.

BARBARA ELINE HELLBERG MAXON, '59 Education, was the Vice Principal of the South Bay Union District in Eureka for 15 years. She has been the retail owner of Globe Imports for 38 years. She has done property development management for Globe Properties since 1967. She is proud to be part of Old Town Eureka's redevelopment. Her interests include family and world travel.

TONY VASQUEZ, '59 English Journalism, married Sylvia Lee Linzy of Arcata and they had two children. Sylvia passed away in 2003. He moved to the Sacramento area in 1961. He directed various anti-poverty programs at the county, state and regional levels. He has spent the past 20 years working in Human Resources. He retired as Chief of Recruitment for California State Personnel Board. Since retiring in 1990 he has published a diversity jobs journal.

1960s

JUSTIN (BUCK) CROSBY, '60 and '68 Physical Education, believes his time at Humboldt State was the best of his life. There he met his wife of 48 years (Pat Hodges '59). He partied, drove his beat up old Jaguar around town, ran track, was on Humboldt State's first cross country team, and was a cheerleader. He spent his career as a teacher, coach, ranch manager and the owner of a construction firm. While teaching, he and his wife adopted three children. When his wife retired they moved to their ranch in Tenmile, Oregon. An ardent backpacker, he has hiked the John Muir Trail a dozen times. He has lectured at the Audubon Society, Sierra Club and Hubei University in China in 2000 on sprinting in track and field. Currently he coaches, works with youth in his church and works on his property. His wife, Pat, passed away two years ago. He has four granddaughters and one grandson.

MEL ODEMAR, '61 Fisheries, retired after 35 years with the California Department of Fish and Game as a marine biologist and environmental program manager. He worked in Argentina as a demersal fisheries expert with Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. He has been married 47 years to Jo Ann and is in retirement. They love to travel, and have traveled to every continent. He considers his years at Humboldt State among his most memorable.

PARKER POLLOCK, '66 Economics, has fond memories playing football and loading cars at Arcata Redwood. In 1966 he coached football with Fred Whitmire and Sal Siino at a high school in Pittsburg. He was a teacher and head of

department at Shasta College in Redding, Calif., from 1967-2007. Currently he enjoys fishing, kayaking, bicycling and riding his motorcycle. He is also an Animal Welfare League volunteer.

LARRY MILLER, '69 Political Science, recently began a new job as the chief academic officer for Snead State Community College. Miller moved to Snead State from his position as lead organizational development specialist at Erlanger Health System in Chattanooga, Tenn. He worked at Chattanooga State Technical Community College for eight years as vice president for institutional advancement. His career in education also includes serving as a director of continuing education at the University of Tennessee's College of Medicine in Chattanooga and campus president for American InterContinental University in Washington, D.C.

1970s

RON MELIN, '71 Geography, is a restorationist at the Madrona March Preserve. He is a retired teacher (physical geography and social sciences in Los Angeles Unified School District). He recently traveled to Washington, D.C., to lobby for wilderness status for the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska.

DARVIN DESHAZER, '72 Biology, is chairman of the Science Department at St. Vincent High School in Petaluma, Calif., and for over 20 years has taught Biology, Physics, Chemistry and Honors Chemistry. His scientific training was guided by Professor David Largent at HSU. He was one the cofounders of the Sonoma County Mycological Association (SOMAmushrooms.org) and serves as its Science Advisor. His expertise in mushrooms stems from more than 30 years in the field and has published over 5,000 color photos of fungi at MushroomObserver.org. Darwin has coauthored several publications about fungi, including "100 Edible Mushrooms." He teaches workshops in mushroom identification, truffle ecology and fungal microscopy.

FRANK WATTS, '72 Geography, is a retired fire captain (North Tahoe fire protection district). His recent travels include 10 days in Kauai hiking and snorkeling.

FREDERICK ROVNER, '73 Geography, is a family nurse practitioner and teaches at a medical school in Georgia.

JIM SOARES, '74 Geography, has retired from the logging business and is selling real estate in Wallowa and Enterprise, Ore.

MICHAEL GERRY, '75 Geography, lives in Danville, Calif., and has a real estate business.

TOM LESHER '75 AND ANNETTE (ANDREW) LESHER, '76 Geography, run a charter fishing boat business together out of Trinidad Bay.

LINDA KING, '76 Art, has been a professor of drawing and painting at Long Beach City College (LBCC) since 1991. King received her MA from Humboldt State and her MFA at the University of Iowa. She is LBCC's coordinator for the Art Department's printmaking and painting sections. She was a visiting artist at the Art Institute, an assistant professor at the University of Illinois and an instructor at Columbia College, Chicago.

BRIG. GEN.L (RET.) JAMES P. COMBS, '77 Art and Business, retired after serving more than 42 years. Combs was appointed as base commander Nov. 1, 2005. He served in Vietnam, Operations Desert Storm and Iraqi Freedom. Combs was promoted to the rank of brigadier general in August 1999 and earned many awards along the way. Combs and his wife, Janet, have a son, Vincent, who is serving in the California Army National Guard.

DANIEL STRICKER, '77 Geography, is a Development Project Manager for the City of San Diego. He is also a tournament bowler. Recent travels include Memphis, Las Vegas, Florida, Arizona and Australia/New Zealand.



Photo courtesy of Josh Murphy

Josh Murphy

Science meets filmmaking

FOR JOSH MURPHY ('04), earning a master's degree in Fisheries Biology has become a natural fit for his career in filmmaking.

"Film, like science, should be approached pragmatically. Think pragmatically, then go achieve that elegant solution, that's what I think science should do and that's what film should do," says Murphy, who was co-producer, second unit director and fish wrangler on the upcoming feature "The River Why," a coming-of-age tale told through the eyes of a young fly fisherman.

Murphy's production company, Unparalleled Productions, has been turning out a wide range of films and commercial spots since 2000.

The company began with Murphy, a group of friends and a 16mm camera he purchased on eBay. The Unparalleled ski films were some of the first pieces the company produced and gave Murphy a way to showcase his love of competitive skiing. Besides studying at the University of Vermont, Murphy spent plenty of time on the state's famed ski runs. He even taught science at the Mount Mansfield Academy, a high school for competitive skiers.

Murphy cites Jacques Cousteau as a role model, not so much for his daring experience as a deep-sea explorer, but for the films Cousteau crafted that showed audiences a world they could not visit. Connecting the audience to the experience is where Murphy saw a chance to combine science with film.

"I wanted to find a way to combine my background in science and start telling stories about what happens when mankind and natural resources go toe to toe."

At HSU, under the tutelage of Professor Eric Loudenslager, Murphy found a down-to-earth approach to science that would help him earn his master's degree and could be applied to filmmaking. His first film was actually made for a class project at HSU and investigated the cause and effect of an oil spill on Humboldt Bay.

"Dr. Loudenslager told me 'Choose something you can do well. Then you can prove your hypothesis and be done with it.' And it's the best advice I've ever received."

Janet McCrary Webb

Scaling the heights of the forestry business

JANET MCCRARY WEBB ('83, Forestry) was recently named president of Big Creek Lumber Co. in Santa Cruz. The company is a longtime Mendocino County stalwart known for its strong environmental ethics. Although this position is new to her, her



love of forestry began when she was just five years old.

"I have always been interested in the family business. I loved going to the sawmill with my dad on the occasional weekend and helping out where I could," says Webb. When she was 15, Webb earned high school science and PE credits for working out on the log deck, helping scale logs or helping the foresters with odd jobs.

Webb never questioned where she would go to college. Her choice was clear: Humboldt State University. "I chose HSU because of its reputation for providing a

practical education in the field of forestry and because of its proximity to managed redwood forests," says Webb.

She made the most of her time in Humboldt. She loved her outdoor forestry class labs in the redwoods, working on area ranches, taking her two horses for rides on the beach and tagging along on fishing trips with friends. She even found time to play viola in the Humboldt County Symphony. Webb still remembers rich political and forestry practice discussions with then-Forestry chair Gerry Partain and talking world forestry issues with Professor Sin Meng Sun.

After graduation, Webb went home to the Santa Cruz Mountains and worked in Big Creek's forestry department. Soon after, she became a licensed forester. She started working more closely with Big Creek's sawmill production and lumber sales department and eventually started managing those departments.

Big Creek, the McCrary's family business for six decades, was one of the first logging companies to selectively fell trees instead of clear-cutting. The company has received numerous awards for forest stewardship and environmentally conscious forestry: "Big Creek's ethics stem from our family having lived in the area and our love for it," she says. "We have a long-range perspective on our local surroundings, which is important in a field like redwood forest management."

Photo courtesy of Jason Polv

JOYCE JONTE, '79 **Art**, recently had an exhibition of her watercolors. Jonte finds inspiration from the exquisite world we live in.

JIM VEOMETT, '79 **Geography**, and **MARY PARADISE**, '79 **Geography**, live in Tucson, Ariz. Mary got her nursing degree in 1986 and has worked at University Hospital ever since in labor and delivery. Jim finished a master's in Geography in 1991 and is a senior planner and GIS analyst with Pima County Planning. They have one teenage son, Nick.

1980s

LYNN JONES, '80 **Geography**, is a middle school social studies teacher in Arcata. She is now an empty nester as her two sons are in college (one at HSU). Recent travels include front row seats to the Obama Inauguration and a St. Patrick's Day trip to Boston.

KEN ROCKWELL, '80 **Geography**, is the map librarian at the University of Utah.

ERIC SHIELDS, '83 **Geography**, is a development manager for T-Mobile USA. He lives in Puyallup, Wash.

NANCY BROWN DANZIG, '84 **Geography**, oversees planning and environmental work for the U.S. Dept. of Transportation in New York City.

AL WANGER, '84 **Geography**, is the deputy director for information technology and water quality for the California Coastal Commission in San Francisco.

MARK WHEETLEY, '84 **Geography**, works for the California Department of Fish and Game and is the mayor of Arcata.

DAVE BENGSTON, '85 **Physics**, started as a guide with the Yosemite Mountaineering School after earning his degree. Ten years ago, he was hired as the school's fourth director. During the winter, Bengston is in charge of the Badger Pass Nordic Ski Center. He still climbs once or twice a week. When not in the park, he enjoys climbing at Table Mountain near Jamestown.

JIM MCDONALD, '85 **Geography**, is a senior urban planner for the city of Sacramento. He married Catherine Lombardi in 2003 and they have a son, Stuart James, who is 20 months old. Recent travels include Germany, France and Spain. "Geographers should travel early and often."

ANNE BLUMENSTEIN, '86 **Economics**, was recently appointed vice president of marketing for ERA Franchise Systems LLC. Blumenstein brings more than 20 years of integrated marketing experience to her new role, as well as a successful track record of developing franchise support and growth models.

NICHOLAS KARAVATOS, '86 **English**, currently teaches literature and creative writing at American University of Sharjah, United Arab Emirates. He has also taught in Muscat, Sultanate of Oman and in the San Francisco Bay Area. Karavatos recently published a book of his poetry, "No Asylum".

SCOTT MEREDITH, '87 **Liberal Studies**, was named the head coach of the women's basketball program for Oregon Tech. Meredith has coached basketball for 29 seasons, 19 of those with women's teams. He has been a head coach for 23 seasons and spent six seasons as an assistant at the California Junior College level, NCAA Division I and Division II levels which included stints at Humboldt State and Santa Clara University. He married his wife, Priscilla, in Tokyo, Japan, where he taught English and played fastpitch softball. They have two children Hayley, 19, and Treyce, 15.

JOHN BISSELL, '88 **Geography**, is a principal at Higa Burkholder Associates, a land-use planning and engineering firm with offices in Everett, Wash., and Springfield, Ore. He works on projects from municipal project review and planning and to private commercial and residential developments. John spoke at the April '06 Geography Career Day at Humboldt State.

DAVID CROUT, '88 **Geography**, is a transit operations analyst for TriMet in Portland, Ore. He married Sandra in 1993 and recently toured England and Wales by rail.

1990s

GEORGE ALBERT, '91 Geography, is a cartographer with the Six Rivers National Forest headquartered in Eureka.

JACK DURHAM, '91 Journalism, founded the McKinleyville Press in 1996, where he serves as the editor, publisher and paperboy.

DAVE GALLAGHER, '91 Journalism, is the business editor at the Bellingham Herald. He has been reporting on the Whatcom County business community for nearly 10 years. Before moving to Washington state in 1997, Dave worked at the Times-Standard in Eureka, Calif.

BRET GOBLE, '91 Geography, is a strategy consultant for Design Forum. He lives in Cincinnati.

IRA GOLDSTEIN, '91 Geography, is a watch repair specialist with his own business, The Timekeeper, in Boise, Idaho. He met his wife, Barbara, at HSU and they married in 1992.

CYNTHIA TARWATER, '91 Geography, is a Project Coordinator at the Trinity County Resource Conservation District. Her work is concentrated in the South Fork of the Trinity River working on U.S.F.S. road upgrades and decommissioning projects. Cynthia presented at the Geography Career Day at Humboldt in April '06.

KEN FARNSWORTH III, '92 Geography, a geography major with a master's degree in social science, works as manager of Sun God Farms in Willits, Calif.

JONATHAN CASTRO, '93 Geology, is a Research Geologist at CNRS-Institut for Sciences de la Terre, in Orleans, France. He will soon be moving on to Monash University in Melbourne, Australia.

GUY THEBAULT, '92 Geography, is an operations analyst for Stimson Lumber Company. He lives in Hillsboro, Ore.

SKYLER BALDOCK, '94 Geography, is a mounted police officer in Sacramento. He is married to Virginia (Lee) Baldock ('94) and has a 10-year-old daughter. He spent a week mountain biking in Moab, Utah, and will travel to Norway this year.

NOLAN C. COLEGROVE, '94 Forestry, has been named the District Ranger of the Orleans Ranger District of the Six Rivers National Forest. Colegrove has worked for the Hoopa Natural Resources Department Forestry Division and served as the Tribe's Forest Manager. He also helped develop and implement the first Hoopa Tribal Forest Management Plan. During his tenure, he obtained one of the first Sustainable Forestry Certifications for a tribe under the Forest Stewardship Council guidelines. Colegrove and his wife, Tory, have four children, Nikki, Nolan Jr., Jordee and Hallee.

JOSEPH CROWLEY, '94 Geography, is currently working for the United Nations in Kabul, Afghanistan. For the past three years he has been the National Coordinator for a project dealing in humanitarian mapping, and national capacity building in IM and GIS.

JEFF LANGDON, '94 Art, was an Arcata Artisans' featured artist in July. Langdon, a conceptual artist with interests in many mediums, now makes his living as a painting and decorating contractor. He plays drums for a local group called The Fire Demons. His current mediums include lost object sculptures, cast militant garden gnomes, recycled wood sculpture and hand-built guitars.

ROBERT WALL, '94 Geography, is the head of the planning and permitting department for SHN Consulting Engineers and Geologists in Eureka, Calif. He is a certified land-use planner and earned a master's degree in rural and town planning from Chico State.

TIM CITRO, '95 Geography, lives in McKinleyville and works as a firefighter and paramedic for the Humboldt Fire District.

RANDALL LAW, '97 Geography, finished his Ph.D. in Archaeology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 2008. He works at various late Bronze Age (Indus Civilization) sites in Pakistan, India and Oman.

Buy a Brick

Support Students

It's not too late to order a personalized brick for the new plaza entrance to Redwood Bowl. The first bricks have been installed, and more will go in over the coming months.

All money raised supports student scholarships.

For those who have already purchased a brick – thank you! You have a permanent place in Humboldt's history, and you added \$18,250 to Alumni and Athletic scholarship endowments.

HSU supporters have used the engraved bricks as a way to honor memories, celebrate a loved one or give a gift to a graduate. Those who attended Homecoming last fall got a chance to see the first set of bricks in their spot overlooking Redwood Bowl.

For a contribution of \$250, each brick can be engraved with up to three lines of text – and it's 100 percent tax-deductible.

To order, contact Humboldt Alumni

(707) 826-3132 | alumni@humboldt.edu



HUMBOLDT alumni

Membership in the Alumni Association supports key programs at Humboldt State – like scholarships and special events that help alumni stay connected to each other and to HSU.

If you are not a member, please consider joining. It's only \$35 per year!

If you are an Annual Member, please consider upgrading to a Life Membership. For a limited time, you may receive credit for your past two years of annual membership towards the \$400 Life Membership. That's a \$70 savings! Call to find out your eligibility.

Join us today!

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LOWELL COTTLE, '98 Geography, works for the Oceanic Society as a Field Station Operations Manager/Field Researcher and Naturalist in Belize.

RICH HAPTONSTALL, '98 Theatre Arts, after earning his master's degree in directing, worked in professional theater in regional and national productions. For five years he taught at Valdosta State and worked on school productions as a set designer and lighting expert. He recently accepted a faculty position with the Flathead Valley Community College theater department in Kalispell, Mont.

TINA PISCIOTTA, '98 Geography, worked for Thomas Bros. Maps in Irvine and after moving to San Diego she worked as a research analyst for Burnham Real Estate Services. She plans to pursue an MBA at San Diego State.

GREGORY SOUNHEIN, '98 Industrial Technology, earned a Ph.D. in environmental chemistry through an outside program through Davis/OHM. Greg now is the CEO of SounPacific Environmental Services in Eureka, Calif.

KELLY EAGAN, '99 Geography, is a transportation planner for the California Department of Transportation. She lives in Yuba City, Calif.

KIERON SLAUGHTER, '99 Geography, earned his master's degree in Geography, emphasizing urban planning, from Cal State East Bay in 2007 and is working as an Assistant Planner for the City of Richmond.

2000s

RICHARD ROYBAL, '00 Geography, works as a care provider and teaches independent living skills to young adults with disabilities in Arcata.

SARINA BENAVIDES-GARB, '01 PBCRED, was recently honored as the Humboldt County Teacher of the Year by the Humboldt County Board of Education. Benavides-Garb has dedicated her 13-year teaching career to instilling a passion for the Spanish language and culture. She has been a teacher at McKinleyville High School since 2007. Prior to 2007, she taught Spanish at Arcata High School.

DOUG MORTON, '01 Geography, is a transportation planner for the Northeastern Vermont Development Association. He also worked as a GIS tech at MicroDataGIS. He lives in St. Johnsbury, with his wife and three children.

AVRAM HALPERIN, '02 Geography, is a professional photographer based in Burlington, Vt.

VERENA KELLNER, '02 Geography, works for David Evans & Associates in Portland, Ore., with a small hydrographic team. She worked for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association as a Hydrographic Survey Assistant Technician on a ship named the Fairweather off the coast of Southeast Alaska for several years.

STEPHANIE POOL, '02 Geography, is a fourth grade teacher in East Oakland. Her recent travels include trips to South America, Mexico and Cuba. This summer she plans to visit Croatia, Bosnia, Albania and Greece.

SEBASTIAN ARAYA, '03 Geography, graduated with his master's degree from the University of Colorado in May 2005. He works for Stillwater Sciences in Berkeley as a GIS analyst in San Francisco. He and his wife have a son, Lucas, born in February '08. He recently traveled to Aysen, Chile, for a tsunami survey.

JOSHUA UNTERMAN, '04 Studio Arts: Ceramics, has been working with clay for 14 years. He recently had a showing of his work called "Coffee by Candlelight." The show contained 100 pieces: 50 candleholders and 50 coffee cups. Unterman enjoys creating usable pieces like these, saying, "It's a way to get pottery and ceramics into daily life."

LAURA DELMAN, '04 Geography, is working for the San Joaquin Valley Pollution Control District in Fresno as an Air Quality Specialist. She also worked for the National Park Service in Sequoia-Kings Canyon Parks.

NOAH BURRELL, '05 Environmental Science, now a graduate student at HSU in Wildlife Biology with a focus on birds, recently had a showing of his photographs of local birds. He's an avid birdwatcher and has been involved in various wildlife conservation projects: working on Humboldt County beaches and the Eel River for three years; helping with the ongoing monitoring of snowy plovers, and contributing to local wildlife studies focusing on subjects such as tree frogs and wetlands restoration.

AQUILA FLOWER, '05 Geography, is completing her master's degree in Geography at the University of Victoria in British Columbia, Canada. Her research has focused on using tree rings to reconstruct past climatic variability in the northern Canadian Rocky Mountains. She works at the Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium as a Forest Impacts Researcher.

PETE NEUGEBAUER, '05 Geography, is working for the Bureau of Reclamation in Carson City, Nev., following a year with the BLM in Lakewood, Colo. His work includes negotiating water and grazing rights, land transfers, rights of way and easements.

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

JEN CORDARO, '06 Geography, earned a master's degree from the University of New Hampshire in International Human Rights Advocacy and Non-profit Management. She is the Community Organizer of Burmese Refugees in San Diego, funded through the California Endowment but staffed through the Alliance for African Assistance. She also volunteers for the Rescue Foundation in Mumbai, India, and the DEPDC in Mae Sai, Thailand. Both of these organizations work with the trafficking of persons for sexual purposes and focus on children and young women.

MORGAN CRANE, '06 Geography, was a safari guide driver on the Kenai Peninsula in Alaska during the summer after graduation. She is now the marketing director at Marimba One in Arcata. Her recent travels include rafting adventures in the Grand Canyon and Salmon River.

JO ERIKSON, '06 Geography, works as a researcher for geography competitions at the National Geographic Society.

MELISSA HESSNEY, '06 Geography, is the assistant manager at Six Mile Creek Vineyard in Ithaca, NY. She volunteers with Finger Lakes Culinary Bounty (local/sustainable foods and agriculture). She recently went backpacking in wilderness areas in the southwestern U.S.

KATHY DICKER, '07 Geography, traveled throughout Southeast Asia after graduating in 2007. She is working on a master's degree at San Francisco State University.

JARAD PETROSKE, '06 German, is married to fellow alum Angie Petroske (née Renzo, '08). The couple lives together in Eureka and will welcome a new baby in April.

ALDER SEAMAN, '07 Geography, is a trails coordinator for the Homer Soil and Water Conservation District in Alaska. She works on projects across the Kenai Peninsula to protect water and soil quality and increase community awareness.

MIKE BORUTA, '08 Geography, is working toward his masters' degree at Ohio University.

MIKE EDWARDS, '09 Art, was an Arcata Artisans' featured artist in July, showing his fine jewelry. He has shown his work at local and national craft fairs, and has worked as a bench jeweler at various jewelry stores on the North Coast.

In Memoriam

James Joseph, HSU Benefactor, Distinguished Alumnus Helped ensure survival of the world's tuna

DR. JAMES JOSEPH (B.A. '56, M.S. '58) passed away on Dec. 16, 2009. He served on the Humboldt State University Advancement Foundation Board and created an endowment to support the Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission/James Joseph Scholarship for outstanding students in the Fisheries graduate program. Dr. Joseph earned HSU's first M.S. degree in fisheries in 1958 and was recognized as a Distinguished Alumnus in 1986. Below is an excerpt from the eulogy, delivered by Chris Lischewski, president & CEO of Bumble Bee Foods.

"It was always difficult for me to accept that Jim was almost 80 years old. He was one of the strongest, most vibrant and energetic individuals I have ever been associated with. Over the last year he traveled extensively throughout the U.S., Canada and Europe as well as to key tuna fishing areas including Vanuatu, the Seychelles, Mauritius and Madagascar pursuing perhaps his greatest professional passion – ensuring the long-term conservation and sustainability of the world's various tuna species.

"I can honestly say I have never seen a more powerful and influential man in the world of global fisheries science, conservation and

management than Jim. He believed that in the complex world of fisheries conservation and management, encompassing governments, fishermen, processors, environmentalists and scientists, no lasting solution would be possible unless all parties were involved. Examples abound, but perhaps the most recognized is the 1999 Agreement on the International Dolphin Conservation Program, Jim's last major accomplishment at the IATTC. This groundbreaking achievement, a model for many other fisheries conservation agreements, would have been impossible without his leadership, and is a testament to his vision, his persistence, and his constant conviction that doing the right thing in the right way is worth whatever effort it takes."

Memorial contributions may be made to the James Joseph Scholarship Endowment at Humboldt State University, Gift Processing Center, 1 Harpst St., Arcata, CA 95521-8299.

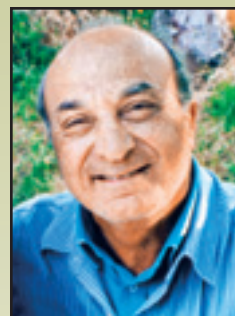


Photo courtesy of Beth Lockhart



THINGS



[campus food]

Whether they indulge in frothy coffee drinks all day long, crave vegetarian burritos or just want to grab a snack, students have lots of tasty options at campus eateries.



meet humboldt

Hollie Baptista ('10)

of Chico, Calif., is a chemistry major. She works in the chemistry stockroom on campus, where she makes "unknowns," solutions that students analyze to determine the fluids' chemical makeup. She is also a recipient of a Smullin Scholarship, which was set up by media pioneer William B. Smullin for HSU students from Northern California and Oregon.

Discovery "I found something new in chemistry, a shape that has never been seen. While doing theoretical chemistry on the computer, we ran the stabilities of a molecule. Turns out the molecule in a certain form does this bending that hasn't been seen. We're writing it up and submitting it for publication."

Wearing an heirloom "The coat I'm wearing is actually my mom's lab coat from nursing school. It has pen marks all over it where I try to put the pen back in my pocket while wearing my big protective gloves."

Getting the scholarship "I have been saving my money since I was around six years old, and when I got to college I thought I had plenty. But life seems to cost more at this age and the money ran out. Without the scholarship, I would have had to quit, because I had no way to make that kind of money."

My mentors "The profs in the chemistry department have all been mentors in one way or another. They say things like 'I really think you should do this or that with your career.' In my senior seminar I was all stressed out and they all gave me positive feedback. The department here is really warm and fuzzy."

Not just science "I took an amazing Jazz History class that expanded my thrill for music beyond what I thought possible. Now I'm taking History of Rock and Roll with Howie Kaufman. I love that class. I'm just sitting there singing along. I collect records and have almost 200 pieces of vinyl, including all the Beatles. I sang with a girl-punk-rock band in high school. I'm a pretty good singer even though I have no rhythm. I eat up the stage, honestly."

meet more humboldt students
humboldt.edu/meet





Henry Trione

"Charitable remainder trusts are truly a win-win situation, and I can't emphasize enough their many advantages," Trione says. "I'm giving to HSU through my trust because I feel a loyalty. I think all alumni should reciprocate if they can."

Charitable Trusts

Generate Income Now and Support HSU

HENRY TRIONE WAS RAISED helping in his family's bakery in Fortuna. He delivered bread, worked in the store and got an invaluable education in running a business. Studying business administration at Humboldt State was a natural next step.

Trione's business acumen is now legendary. He started a successful mortgage company in Sonoma County, which launched other winning businesses, from banking to wineries to one of his proudest achievements, the founding of Empire College in Santa Rosa.

Applying his business sense to his philanthropy, Trione created a Charitable Remainder Trust and named HSU as a beneficiary. Why?

Charitable Remainder Trusts provide several benefits:

- **A substantial personal income—especially helpful in retirement**
- **The ability to tap appreciated assets while avoiding capital gains taxes**
- **Income tax savings in the year the trust is created and for up to five more years**
- **Potential estate tax savings**
- **A generous future gift to support HSU's students, faculty and programs**

For more information, contact:

Kimberley Pittman-Schulz

Director of Planned Giving

(707) 826-5147 | giftplanning@humboldt.edu

Or visit our web site: humboldt.edu/giftplanning