

A photograph of a forest fire. In the foreground, there is a large pile of dry sticks and branches, some of which are on fire. A large tree trunk is on the left, and another is on the right. The fire is spreading across the ground between them. The background shows more trees and smoke.

# Humboldt

The Magazine of Humboldt State University | Spring 2009

## Fire on the Mountain

We've turned the West into a tinderbox. Now what?



# Humboldt

The Magazine of Humboldt State University

[humboldt.edu/magazine](http://humboldt.edu/magazine)

*Humboldt Magazine* is published twice a year for alumni and friends of Humboldt State University and is produced by University Advancement. The opinions expressed on these pages do not necessarily reflect the official policies of the university administration or those of the California State University Board of Trustees.

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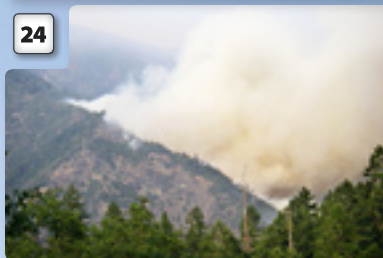
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**ON THE COVER:** A controlled burn southeast of Willow Creek, Calif. Called a "jackpot burn" because it targets fuel concentrations, this burn reduced fuels left over from a tree harvest. Photo courtesy of James Arciniega.

**Background Photo:** Marching straight into the ocean? It's just another day for the Marching Lumberjacks, who celebrated 40 years of irreverence this year.



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# *from the President*



WHEN I BECAME PRESIDENT of Humboldt State University, one of the things I worried about was losing contact with students. Presidents are generally expected to spend time with alumni and donors, other administrators, faculty and community members.

So when a colleague in our Educational Opportunity Program called me a few months after I arrived to ask if I would be willing to mentor students, I readily agreed. There are few things more rewarding to an educator than to watch as students learn and succeed.

I enjoyed the experience and have continued mentoring students each year. Two in particular stand out in my mind.

Krystyl improbably came to Humboldt from urban Southern California. She is an African American who struggled to fit into the different environment here. Money was always a problem for Krystyl and I remember trying to convince her to get a loan so that she could concentrate on her studies instead of working 30 hours a week. I wasn't successful with that argument, but she did okay anyway. I also remember scrambling to find her a few hundred dollars to buy books one semester.

I've watched a lot of students graduate, but I was especially proud to shake Krystyl's hand as she received her degree. She is now working to help others find jobs and is considering returning to school for a graduate degree. Her years at Humboldt have made a real difference in her life.

Diana comes from a supportive family and wanted to be a biologist, so it was suggested she work with me. She did well in the science courses, but the fire was never there. One semester she told me that she was going to take a course in photography to satisfy a general education requirement. As a sometime photographer myself, I encouraged her. It was wonderful to watch her develop a real passion and her own style. She studied under the direction of one of our best Art professors, who recognized her talent and got her to start teaching. Her life changed course completely.

When I suggested one day that we might want to find another mentor who knew more about photography than I did, she absolutely refused. "You are my friend now, and I want to stay with you," she said. Well, I recently received an email from Diana, who is now going to graduate school at a prestigious university in New York. She told me that she had gotten all A's in her first semester.

Similar stories could be told endlessly by our faculty at Humboldt State. The great student experience here and the success of our graduates stems from a close association with faculty and their work. I am so proud to be President at a university that truly mentors its students and to be a colleague of faculty who truly care about student success. I hope you, too, are proud to be a part of this remarkable university community.

Sincerely,



## Wave Energy Deemed Feasible, But Gnarly

**OCEAN WAVE ENERGY** IS a promising source of renewable electric power for the Redwood Coast, but the policy issues are complex and will force hard political tradeoffs, according to a state-commissioned white paper co-authored by experts from Humboldt State University and several other institutions.

The new findings suggest Humboldt County stands to gain hundreds of megawatts of sustainable electricity from so-called wave energy conversion farms. They would consist of offshore buoys which would capture a part of wave motion and convert it into electrical power.

In addition to the benefits of an alternative energy source and the profitable export of electricity, the farm's construction and operation probably would infuse the area's economy with hundreds of well-paid jobs, taking into account direct, indirect and induced employment.

But HSU contributors Steven Hackett, Professor of Economics, and Greg Crawford, chair of the Department of Oceanography, caution that development and production will require a good deal of time—wave energy conversion

is not going to make the North Coast energy independent or generate a lot of jobs in a year or two, or even several. For one thing, much more needs to be known about the efficiency, costs and impacts of wave conversion farms.

The white paper is titled "Developing Wave Energy in Coastal California: Potential Socio-Economic and Environmental Effects." It was prepared for the California Ocean Protection Council and the Public Interest Energy Research Program of the California Energy Commission.

Hackett and Crawford said the paper will help guide state agencies as they apportion research funds and assess proposals for wave energy conversion projects in the next five years or so.

In company with 13 co-authors, the HSU professors agree that far more research and data about existing marine uses should be collected to ensure that policymakers and political leaders make informed decisions. They say more information is needed about the extent and locations of commercial and recreation fishing sites, marine transit routes, marine vegetation harvesting, surfing and coastal recreation, wildlife viewing and aesthetic vantage points.





# Alum Discovers New Mushroom Genus

**IN THE FOGGY MAYA** Mountains of Belize, a salmon-colored mushroom grows on fallen logs. While the mushroom looks intriguing, it's notable for another reason: It represents a new genus of polypore, a group of mushrooms bearing significant medical potential. Dr. Timothy Baroni, a mycology professor at State University of New York at Cortland and a Humboldt State alum, discovered the new genus during a recent research expedition to Belize.

"We found lots of new species, but finding a new genus is almost unbelievable," Baroni says.

Discoveries like Baroni's new polypore have the potential to treat cancer and other illnesses. Approximately 25 percent of medicines originate in fungi or molds, including penicillin, though only 5 to 10 percent of mushroom species have been identified. There simply aren't enough mycologists to do the research. Scientists



Photo Courtesy of Timothy Baroni

The new polypore mushroom discovered by Baroni.

like Baroni who hunt for rare mushrooms are indeed a rare breed.

"I'm just like some kind of Indiana Jones when I go out in a new area," Baroni says. "I grab a couple cigars—I like to smoke while I work—a machete and my snake guards and say, 'Let's go find some fungi.'"



Photo Courtesy of SUNY Cortland

Professor Timothy Baroni, the "Indiana Jones" of mushroom hunters.

# Students Bring New Light to Africa Marketplaces

**FOR ABOUT 25 CENTS** a day Kenyan vendors can illuminate their market stalls with kerosene lamps. That might sound like pocket change, but in Kenya it represents a significant cost—in more ways than one. In addition to the financial cost, particulates produced by the kerosene lamps can cause respiratory infections, asthma and lung cancer.

The solution? Light emitting diodes or LEDs.

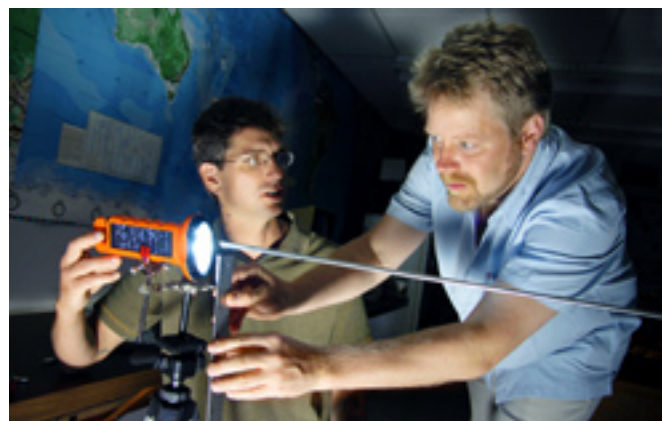
Environmental Resource Engineering Professor Arne Jacobson, a Schatz Energy Research Center Co-Director, traveled to Kenya in summer 2008 with graduate students Kristen Radecky and Peter Johnstone to conduct research on vendors using the ubiquitous kerosene lamps. Aside from gathering data, the Humboldt State team offered the vendors an alternative. Before traveling to Kenya, Johnstone and Radecky, along with fellow Schatz employees, spent many hours designing and assembling 20 LED lamps. The research team then spoke to vendors about the benefits of LEDs and sold more than a

dozen Schatz-manufactured lamps at a market-rate price of \$10.

"We found that LED products are likely better for people than kerosene lighting," Johnstone says. "They tend to be less expensive in the long run to own and operate, and do not emit dangerous particulate matter."

As a gift to the vendors who participated, Johnstone and Radecky took photos of the vendors and gave them a copy. Each portrait was labeled with "Off Grid Lighting Project 2008, Humboldt State University, Asante Sana," Swahili for 'thank you very much.'

"With the research results we can make recommendations to manufacturers who



Professor Arne Jacobson and Stephen Kullman ('08) test LED lights for durability and efficiency.

design lighting products so that they can deliver better lights to customers living in locations like Kenya," Radecky says.

**Learn more** about sustainability at HSU:  
[www.humboldt.edu/green](http://www.humboldt.edu/green)



## Big Drop

### Alum Sets World Record

**PAUL GAMACHE LITERALLY TOOK** his paddling to new heights when the HSU alum ('07 Business, Recreation Administration) set the record for a descent in a kayak in the Cascade Falls on British Columbia's Kettle River.

Plummeting more than 108 feet, Gamache broke the existing record while somehow managing not to break his collarbone (or anything else for that matter).

"We didn't know how tall it was. It looked like a waterfall that was runnable. We calculated the risks and decided that it added up," said Gamache, who says he wasn't expecting to set any records on his weekend excursion with his buddies.

After belaying in to a small undercut cave directly above the waterfall, Gamache got the OK from his team, who were positioned safely around the waterfall. "I paddled off the waterfall and managed to stay in control as I gained speed. Upon impact at the bottom, my paddle broke but I managed to roll up with half the paddle still intact," he said.

It was only after this harrowing drop that Gamache and his team measured the fall and realized he had broken the previous record of 107 feet set by Tyler Bradt on Alexandria Falls, also in Canada.

At HSU, Gamache was able to combine his love for kayaking with his educational pursuits.

"All the professors were really encouraging. As long as you're passionate about something, the professors will find a way to make it work with your education. I was able to focus my marketing on the kayaking field, which was a great way to mix my school with my outside life."

Alum Paul Gamache '07 sets the world record for descent in a kayak on British Columbia's Kettle River.

Photo Courtesy of Cody Howard



# Record Enrollment Spurs New Housing

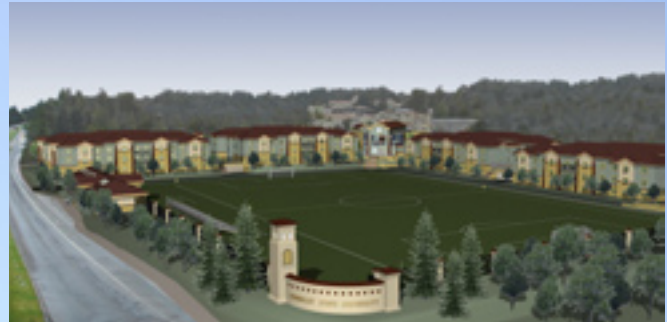
**NEXT TIME YOU VISIT** campus, you may notice that things look quite different. Just off Harpst Street—one of the main entrances to campus—what has been the Lower Playing Field is now the site of a major construction effort. Humboldt State began work in November on new student housing to accommodate record enrollments. The new project will also provide the campus with a community center and retail space.

Scheduled for occupancy in fall 2010, the nearly \$38 million College Creek Apartments will house 434 beds in four buildings. A regulation NCAA synthetic turf soccer field made of recycled rubber will adjoin the new facilities.

A typical housing unit will have three bedrooms, double occupancy, with two baths and a living area.

The 15,000 square-foot community center will host a full roster of campus activities and meeting rooms available for most of the same uses as those in the existing Jolly Giant Commons.

Funding is provided by state bonds separate from the University's operating and academic budgets.



HSU Facilities Management

A rendering of the College Creek Apartments under construction at the south entrance of campus.

Although California's precarious budget situation has meant that many construction projects on campus have been temporarily halted, work on the College Creek Apartments will continue. The complex should open on schedule.

The new apartments are one response to a record enrollment of 7,800 students in fall 2008. HSU has also set a record for freshman enrollment with 1,191 registering for the fall 2008 semester, a 13 percent jump over 2007.





## A Lasting Romance with Arcata

**WHEN CHRISTY LAIRD ('77)** first visited the Humboldt State campus in 1973, she was swept away by the lush rhododendrons. "They were giants and they were exotic," she says. "I had never seen such blooms before. They were so gorgeous!"

Eager to escape city life in Southern California, Laird was smitten by HSU's intimate close knit community.

"Everything about the campus was much smaller in those days," she recalls. "Just about everybody wore jeans, flannel shirts and hiking boots. We lived with other students up at High Valley Ranch, carpooled up and down the hill, pinched our pennies and did lots of exploring."

It was love at first sight with the town, too: "Our community is wonderfully embracing. We have so many creative people, entrepreneurial people. And Arcata is incredibly beautiful."

Her romance with the campus and the community would prove to be a lifelong one. Today Laird is entrepreneur extraordinaire of Rose Court Cottage and Arcata Stay, the upscale lodging network ringing downtown and adjoining the campus. She leads a business partnership of nearly a dozen HSU alums, fortified by links with University instructors, guest lecturers, Admissions staff and Athletics boosters.

An ardent fan of gardening, Laird entered Humboldt State in the early 1970s planning to major in botany, but soon discovered a multitude of interests. Ultimately,



Christy Laird ('77) started Arcata Stay, the lodging network that has become a favorite of visiting parents and scholars.

she set her sights on a mixed major of business and the humanities to prepare for a career in business and marketing.

Laird is part Native American, Choctaw on her mother's side of the family. Putting herself through school, she went to work with the staff of ITEPP (Indian Teacher & Educational Personnel Program) which for more than 40 years has supported innumerable Native American students in an array of academic disciplines.

Laird considers Humboldt State a linchpin of the alumni-partnered Arcata Stay, which opened at the start of 2004 and is a

favorite lodging of visiting parents, scholars and lecturers. The University has been an intellectual resource for her since she was a teenager, she says, adding, "My alumni colleagues share the HSU connection and a love affair with Arcata."

**Arcata Stay** provides a central reservation service for six unique, well-appointed accommodations, all within walking distance to Humboldt State University. See details: [www.arcatastay.com](http://www.arcatastay.com)

### Wanted: Unique and Historic HSU Photos

**HUMBOLDT STATE UNIVERSITY IS** pushing the century mark—can you believe we'll be turning 100 in 2013? To help celebrate, the HSU Humboldt Room and alumna Katy Tahja ('70) are pulling together a new photo history book about the campus.

Do you have a treasure trove of photographs from your student days at Humboldt? If so, the editors could use your help. Contact Joan Berman in the Library Humboldt Room at [Joan.Berman@humboldt.edu](mailto:Joan.Berman@humboldt.edu) or 707.826.4939. Photos submitted by the end of May will be considered.



Photo Courtesy of the Ericson Collection, HSU Library Humboldt Room



# Tune-Up Tips from the Bicycle Learning Center

**WE STOPPED BY THE** Bicycle Learning Center to talk with Humboldt State Environmental Science major and Center president Devin Trainor about the basics of bicycle maintenance and repair. So pull that old set of wheels out of the garage, dust off the cobwebs and get your ride into shape.

## WHEELS

**FOR YOUR BIKE TO** ride smoothly, it all starts with the wheels. First, Trainor says, replace any tires that are cracked or bald. Make sure tires are properly inflated.

Next, spin the wheels. If there is noticeable wobble, your wheel likely needs truing, the cycling term for straightening a wheel. This repair is best left to the pros at your local bike shop and won't cost much.

Replacing worn brake pads is essential, Trainor says. This cheap and simple fix can even be performed by the mechanically challenged. Simply disconnect the old pads with an Allen wrench, position the new pads and tighten them down.

## DRIVE TRAIN

**LUBRICATING THE CHAIN CAN** breathe new life into a squeaky drive train. Apply lubricant directly to the chain while rotating and wipe off any excess with a rag.

Is your bike shifting improperly? Where



Devin Trainor shows students at the Bicycle Learning Center how to true a wheel.

the cable attaches to the derailleur is an adjustment barrel that can be turned to center the derailleur. "Experiment a little but don't go too crazy," Trainor says. "Like most things on a bike, slight adjustments can make a big difference."

## ODDS AND ENDS

**CRUISE AROUND THE BLOCK** and test your bike's shifting and brake levers. Are they sluggish or sticky? New cables and housings will only cost about \$25 and your bike will stop quicker and shift smoothly.

Feel a knocking in the handlebars when stopping with your front brake? Your headset, which attaches the front fork to the bike's frame, might need replacing. Your local bike shop is the best choice for this.

## OLDIES ARE GOODIES

**"THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH** old bikes," Trainor says. "They knew how to make good bikes 10 or 20 years ago. Unless there's excessive rust or a bent frame, there's no need for a new bike."

Once your bike is ready to roll, the many benefits of cycling are yours to enjoy. "When you're on a bike as opposed to in the car you can see people and wave hello to them," Trainor says. "You see more of the world; you can see, smell and hear things you can't in the car. It's also a great way to work up a sweat and hang out with friends."

## SOME ESSENTIALS

- ✓ A **HEADLAMP** and rear blinker for riding at night
- ✓ A **HELMET** to protect your brain in the event of a fall
- ✓ Front and rear **FENDERS** to keep you dry and clean during rain riding
- ✓ A heavy-duty **U-LOCK**

## Feds Tap HSU to Study Water in the West

**A TEAM OF HUMBOLDT** State faculty and graduate students has won a \$620,000 federal grant to develop water management solutions in the face of soaring population growth and rapid changes in water and land use in the rural West.

Field work for the three-year project will be situated in the upper Snake River basin in Idaho and Wyoming at the Henry's Fork (North Fork) watershed, considered by fly fishermen to be one of the world's premier trout fishing streams. Funding is provided by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The Humboldt State team will be led by alum Rob Van Kirk, ('84), Associate Professor of Mathematics and a specialist in applying math and statistics to natural resource problems.

The faculty team comprises Brad Finney, Professor of Envi-

ronmental Resources Engineering and an expert in surface and ground water hydrology and water resource management; Yvonne Everett, Associate Professor of Natural Resources Planning, who specializes in community-based management; Steve Steinberg, Associate Professor of GIS/Remote Sensing, who conducts spatial analysis and GIS applications in the social sciences; and J. Mark Baker, Assistant Professor of Politics, an expert in socioeconomics and community-based natural resource management.

HSU graduate students Brian Apple, Lora Liegel and Kimberly Peterson will work on hydrologic models and sociological methods to bolster water conservation. Based on their research, the scientists and students will provide findings about the watershed's hydrologic system and offer conservation strategies.



# Celebrating the Photography of Professor Tom Knight



Tom Knight in the classroom.

FOR HUMBOLDT STATE PHOTOGRAPHY Professor Tom Knight ('50, '54), light was everything. Whether it was illuminating the crescent outline of a subject's face or highlighting the opalescent luster of a common washbasin, Knight made finding the right light at the right moment his life's passion.

"Tom had definite feelings that everything should be natural. Light was so important to him," says Katy Knight ('53), Tom's wife. "He didn't use flash or lights unless he was teaching the studio photography class. He didn't think you needed new equipment. He just thought everything should be very basic and I think it shows in his work."

A new book of Knight's work from the 1940s to the 1980s is titled simply *Tom Knight*. Katy Knight published the book with assistance from Bill Brazill ('70, '73) and Neil Gilchrist ('66), two of Knight's former students.

From an early age, Knight was a shutterbug. At just 11 years old he was printing photographs at his family's Berkeley, Calif., home in a backyard shed that his parents converted into a darkroom. At age 14, he entered a photography contest co-sponsored by the *Oakland Tribune*. The assignment was to photograph the Bay Bridge. Knight won. He entered the following year and won again. The *Tribune* was intrigued and soon his images were being published in the newspaper.

Those early assignments kicked off his career as a photographer. Always a people person, Knight created portraits far more than landscapes or still life scenes. His images of everyday people in Mexico and portraits of fellow professors display an intimacy and level of comfort that allows the images to feel very natural.

After a stint in the U.S. Air Corps in World War II, he enrolled at Humboldt State, eventually earning a master's degree in education. After three years teaching at Arcata

High School, he was hired by the Humboldt State Art Department to teach jewelry, design, painting and photography.

"Tom Knight was instrumental in creating an environment here for photographers because at the time there were no specific schools for photography," says Professor Don Anton, Knight's successor who currently teaches photography in the Art Department. "This is the second oldest school of fine art photography in the United States—Tom fought very hard to make this work here."

Knight taught at HSU until his death in 1990. During those 30-plus years of instruction he touched literally hundreds of student's lives. He also invited some of the best photographers in the world to speak at HSU, including heavyweights like Imogen Cunningham and the legendary Ansel Adams.

Vaughn Hutchins, the Art Department's darkroom technician, says Knight inspired him to become a photographer. He also enjoyed the professor's affable approach. "He had a real good way of messing up people's names; I think it was done semi on purpose," Hutchins says. "It would be made up names like Elsmaranda, which is very different than Lori, for example. He was just always very approachable, you could go right down to his office and talk anytime."

Hutchins is also the founder of the Tom Knight Fan Club that awards a scholarship to art students in conjunction with a more official annual scholarship awarded in Knight's name. Additionally, to honor his memory, the Morris Graves Museum of Art in Eureka, Calif., dedicated the Tom Knight Gallery on Jan. 1, 2000. The gallery project was spearheaded by Richard Duning, Bruce Van Meter

and many of Knight's former students who gathered the necessary funding.



Two portraits by Knight: a man in Mexico and former HSU Art Professor Reese Bullen.



# Now Showing: The Itty-Bitty Shrimp Circus

by Paul Mann



HUMBOLDT STATE ALUM ALEXANDRA Goodell runs her very own carnival and she has appeared on the History Channel—but she is not a circus barker.

Goodell is the self-made impresario of the “The Copepod Carnival,” a light show starring itty-bitty shrimp named copepods (“koepuh-pods”).

“If you’ve ever seen the cartoon *SpongeBob SquarePants*, Plankton is a copepod,” explains the HSU alumna, who earned her master’s in Biology in spring 2008. “I like that show,” she adds. “The villain is a copepod!” (Coincidentally, *SpongeBob SquarePants* creator Stephen Hillenburg is an ’84 grad of HSU).

But “The Copepod Carnival” is a scientific drama, not a TV series. It caught the attention of the History Channel for the “*Evolve*” documentaries, one of which centered on the evolution of the eye.

Goodell uses her multi-colored light emitting diode (LED) show to research whether aquatic invertebrates such as copepods and jellyfish can sense color as well as light. She exposes them to different wavelengths to test their behavioral responses. When the History Channel contacted HSU alum Chad Widmer (’96, ’00), senior aquarist at the Monterey Bay Aquarium, he immediately thought of Goodell’s videos of her jellyfish experiments. (The two were previously introduced when he gave a talk at HSU while she was working on her master’s degree.)

The History Channel crew wanted to film jellyfish responses to light, so Goodell—“Carnival” in tow—journeyed to Monterey Bay, Calif., early in 2008 for a shoot of her experiments from the aquarium’s dock and jellyfish laboratory. “It was interesting to see how things get filmed,” she says, adding that she discovered right away how repetitive and laborious a shoot can be. Reenactments are a staple. “We had to film things multiple times to get the angles and lighting just right.”

Much work lies ahead before Goodell and her colleagues ascertain if jellyfish really sense color, but the research to date is suggestive. Her light show comprises specific wavelengths—red, orange, blue, green and purple. In the

laboratory, she shifts the lights above, below and to the sides of a glass tank.

Her thesis work on copepods provided evidence that these critters do indeed sense color. “It’s anthropomorphic to say so, but they seem to ‘like’ or move toward long wavelength light that is red or orange,” she says. “They move toward those lights, no matter what position the lights are in.”

Alternatively, short-wavelength light, such as purple or blue, causes copepods to swim downwards in a seemingly frantic manner.

Goodell’s subsequent experiments with jellyfish show early indications that they too respond differently to different wavelengths of light. In green light, they appear to relax; their tentacles expand and their movement is slow and smooth. When exposed to purple light, however, they “flip out.” Their tentacles contract and they move upward quickly, often flipping in circles.

The jellyfish Goodell has researched do not have what we think of as eyes; they have ocelli—primitive sensors that detect light but do not form an image. Jellyfish have no brain, only a tiny nerve net. With more testing and research, Goodell hopes to confirm definitively if the ocelli react to color.

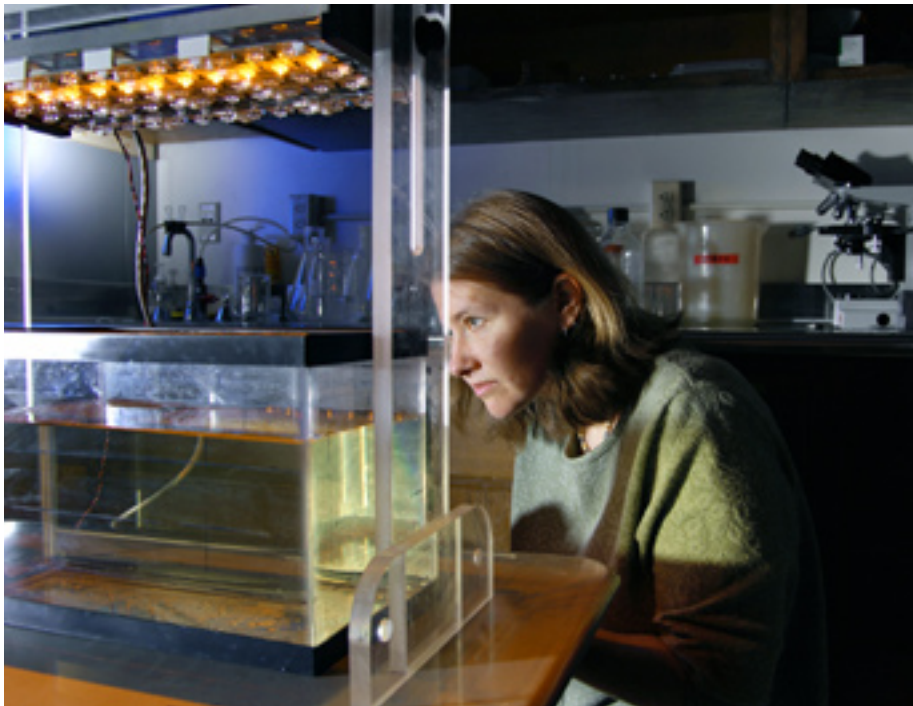
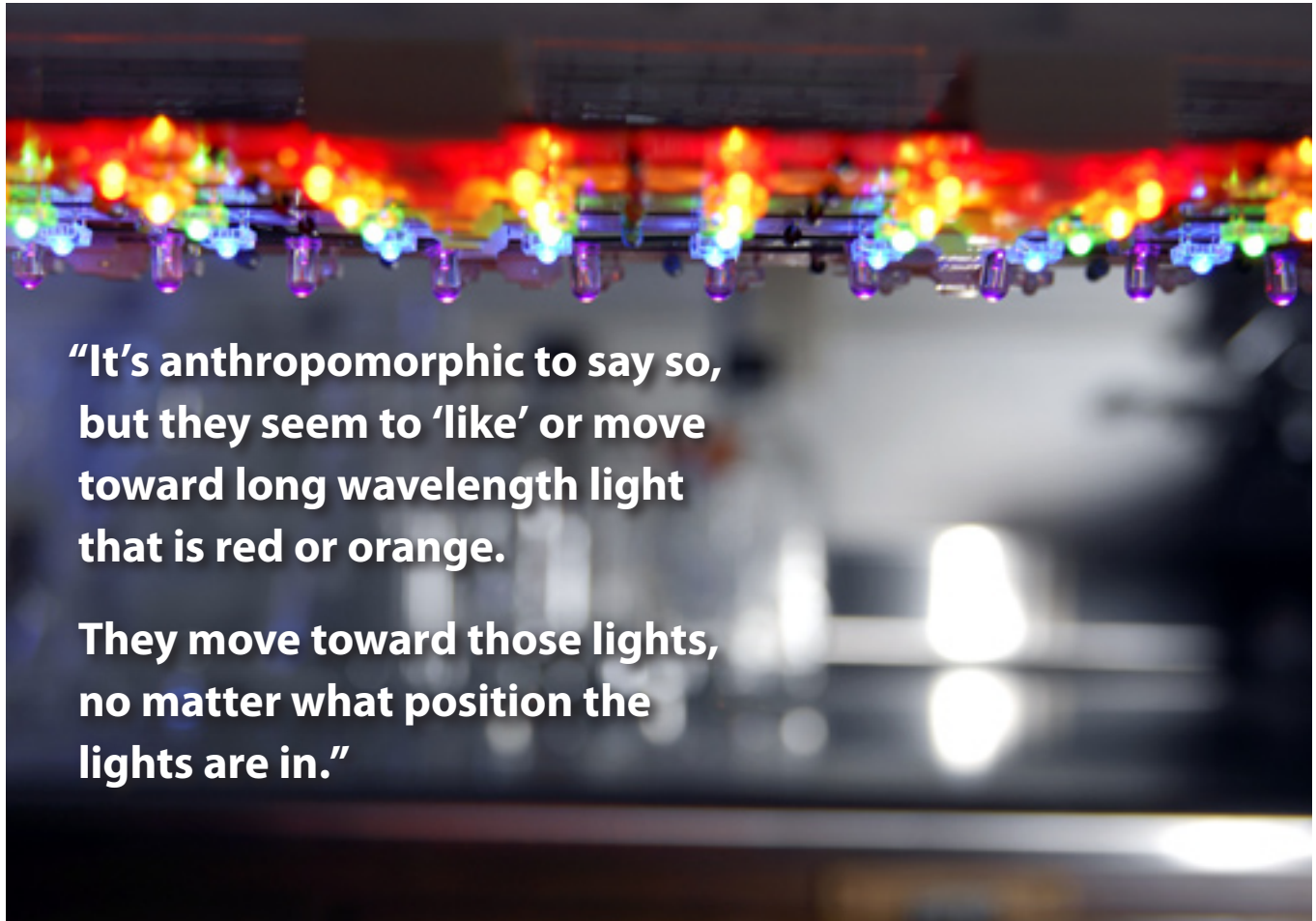
Originally from New Jersey, Goodell first moved to California to study music (she attended the Musicians’ Institute and continues to play bass guitar), but disliked living in Hollywood, Calif. She had always loved biology, and moved to the Redwood Coast because she heard good things about Humboldt State. After a stint in the Wildlife Department, she switched to Biology and hasn’t looked back.

Jellyfish are seasonal and fragile and the research is time-consuming. Goodell has approached a professor of evolutionary biology, Todd Oakley at UC Santa Barbara, for support in continuing her study. She wants to expand her jellyfish sample size and the number of species to find out more about behavior patterns.

Ultimately, Goodell hopes to learn a lot more about the entire ecology of “itty-bitty shrimp.”

In the meantime, she plans to enter UC Santa Barbara in fall 2009 and carry on with her study and research.





Alex Goodell ('08) uses a multi-colored LED to research whether tiny shrimp and jellyfish can sense color as well as light.





## & HOLLY Hosterman Paul “YASHI” Lubitz

*From Garage Workshop to Global Design*

The sound of jewelers' hammers ring in the background. Desks are covered in designs to be photographed for an upcoming catalog. The artful jewelry emerging from the Holly Yashi studio in Arcata, Calif., is made of vibrantly colored niobium, Swarovski crystals and semi-precious stones like garnet and amethyst. Less obvious, but no less important to the success of the company, are innovative investments like a new state-of-the-art water jet machine and a major new marketing effort.

*Opposite: A conceptual sketch for a one-of-a-kind piece by Holly Hosterman.*



*Holly Yashi's jewelry  
designs are inspired by ideas  
as diverse as ancient Egypt,  
nature, and even petit  
fours pastries.*

BACK IN 1982, JUST a year after Holly Yashi was started, its creators discovered the rainbow hues that can be created using titanium. Co-founders and Humboldt State alumni Holly Hosterman ('77) and Paul "Yashi" Lubitz ('77) brought their bright wares to a trade show and boom—they were swamped with orders. "Back then, our garage was our workshop," says Hosterman. "People went gaga over the new designs. We came home with a stack of orders and invited our friends and parents over to help us fill them. It really threw us into high gear in terms of production."

Holly Yashi's jewelry became popular initially because of its pioneering use of titanium—no one else was producing similar items. Later, the company shifted to niobium, a metal that can take on the same bright colors as titanium but requires no toxic acids to work with. Today, the company has branched out into a range of whimsical styles, from garnet-studded hoop earrings to strands of smoky crystal pearls. And the company's reach has grown as well, with more than 1,100 retailers around the world selling Holly Yashi jewelry.

Hosterman pairs her talents as creative director with Lubitz's entrepreneurial skills to continually grow the business. The last two years, they say, have been economically challenging but artistically successful. That creative success was fueled by the purchase of the \$200,000 water jet machine, which allows the company to quickly bring an idea to life. Hosterman can begin sketching designs in the morning, inspired by ideas as diverse as ancient Egypt, nature, or even petit fours pastries, and can scan and upload them as soon as she's done. The machine can then produce a prototype that same day. "We get a tool and we push it right to the edge. So when we call the machine tech we might even know more about its capabilities because we are trying so much that's new," says Lubitz, company president and CEO. "We have that artistic background. Our mentality is, 'Why can't we do this?'"

Purchasing the machine was a big expense, certainly, but it shortens the production cycle and opens up the materials the company can work with. It uses crushed garnet—an abrasive—combined with a hair-thin stream of water to cut through any material. So, the company can now produce jewelry from a whole new palette of materials, from traditional metals to glass to stone.

Another recent investment was in marketing, an effort led by a nationally known consultant who had worked on projects for Nike and Ralph Lauren. That ongoing effort included a new logo and an entirely new Web site geared to individual customers. "The idea of going direct to consumer for us is a great thing," says Lubitz. "In these challenging economic times, it's a glimmer of light to have these orders coming in every day." Despite the past years' growth, the current recession has slowed the company's sales somewhat. "The timing is just unfortunate," Hosterman says. "It's as if we finally got this new prom dress to wear out and there's no party."

Depending on economic conditions, potential expansion plans include pursuing international markets. Holly Yashi currently has sales reps in areas as diverse as Dubai and Paris, selling to shops and galleries there. The company is also considering moving into markets in Japan, Mexico and Russia.

Both Hosterman and Lubitz were named Distinguished Alumni by Humboldt State's Alumni Association in 1992. That recognition stems not only from their success but also their commitment to the Humboldt community. In 2001, when it came time to expand their physical workspace, they built their new studio in downtown Arcata, where they employ over 40 local artists, designers and metalsmiths.

That commitment to community hasn't wavered. For instance, the new water jet machine is the only one of its kind for a 200-mile radius, and Holly Yashi rents the machine to local businesses who otherwise would not have access to it. In 2007, the company donated 1,000 commemorative pins valued at \$20,000 for all HSU graduates who took the Graduation Pledge of Social and Environmental Responsibility, the oath conceived by HSU undergraduates which has since spread to universities around the globe. And HSU Professor Bill Wilkinson in the Applied Technology department regularly brings students to the studio to see the machine at work.

But what truly sets the company apart is its dedication to creating heirloom-quality pieces. Whether it's intricate metal filigree, the hand-welded joints on an earring, or the designs themselves, all are produced to last. "Market differentiation is not a problem—we really are different," says Lubitz. "We have this basic belief that you have to have a great product. That's it. That's what we're all about."



# a beat of **THEIR OWN**



# Forty Years in, the Marching Lumberjacks are Still the Best Scatter Band in the Universe

Next time you're at a Humboldt State basketball game, try chanting this to a snappy "Anchors Aweigh" beat:

Drive On Humboldt On Down The Floor  
Drive On Humboldt  
Show 'em the door Forwards snuff 'em  
Centers stuff 'em We are on the march

We must have a victory

For the Green & Gold So fight, fight, fight!

Win for Humboldt State

by Jarad Petroske

## Though the Humboldt State fight song

can't be credited—the lyricist's name was clipped off in the photocopier years ago—it's the rallying cry heard at every game of the season from Humboldt State's official, yet completely silly, marching band.

A blurb on their Web site sums up the band:

"We don't do that marching in step stuff—at least not intentionally, we don't do Latin fanfares, lame marching band competitions, and we don't waste our time making sure everyone's feet are exactly 6 inches off the ground or any other junk like that.

We've got jugglers, dancers, kazoo players, KEG players as well as some very talented musicians.

In short—this AIN'T your typical college band and this sure as heck isn't your high school band either. If you want to march, join the Army! This is college—it's supposed to be fun!"

As HSU's oldest student-run organization they've been having more fun for longer than almost anybody on campus. With little more than determination and a band room featuring some instruments that predate Founders Hall, this group of musicians travels up and down the coast, wherever the HSU Athletics' schedule takes them. The band might

be little more than a quartet or a swarming mass of brass and percussion, but wherever they are, their costumes are unmistakable. Of course they sport HSU green and gold. They also wear flaming red suspenders and yellow hardhats, most often decorated with stickers of every stripe, reflecting their no-holds-barred enthusiasm.

The band's zeal comes from a four-decades-old corps of alumni. These faithful musicians still come out to the games with a surprising regularity. "Our network of alumni is so big that if we're playing a game in the Los Angeles area, we'll get several old band members who will show up and play with us," explains Chris Larsen, the band's director of public relations, who can also be heard playing baritone sax at most games.

The Marching Lumberjacks claim to be world famous, and they get the attention to back it up: Their photo appeared in *National Geographic Magazine* in 1993, and band members appear in the 2001 film *The Majestic* starring Jim Carrey, which was filmed in Humboldt County. They've also achieved local recognition: Last year the Arcata, Calif., City Council declared Nov. 8 to be Marching Lumberjacks Day in honor of the band's 40th anniversary.





**“In short—this AIN’T your typical college band and this sure as heck isn’t your high school band either. If you want to march, join the Army! This is college—it’s supposed to be fun!”**

THEIR STORIED EXISTENCE DATES back to 1968 after a lengthy discussion about what a marching band should be and just who owns that band. Since 1940, various marching bands have existed at HSU: from the early days of the Humboldt State College Band with Professor Charles Fulkerson as musical director and Professor Leland Barlow directing the half-time show routines, or “stunts” as was the term of the day. The 1950s saw the adoption of “Block H” uniforms under President Cornelius Siemens and a more formal approach to the school marching band. By the mid ‘60s, however, band enrollment was dwindling and it was decided that the music faculty would no longer provide entertainment at athletic events. What was effectively the cancellation of the school’s marching band was understandably met with much opposition.

After a few stop-gap approaches to reconciling the need for a spirit band and the music faculty’s wish to cater to a new generation of students who weren’t interested in marching, the ideas which would produce the Marching Lumberjacks were starting to take hold. While the details are murky, essentially Humboldt State’s band director quizzed his U.C. Davis counterpart on what it took to create a student-body supported marching band. The ensuing data dump was the key to a successful push to hand ownership over to the students and, in doing so, the Marching Lumberjacks were born.

### Still Marching After All These Years

THE MARCHING LUMBERJACKS TURNED 40 this year and held a reunion on Nov. 8, a rain-soaked night of football in Redwood Bowl. While no official head count was taken, some estimates indicated as many as 150 people showed up, well-worn instruments in tow, to take part in the half-time performance. “It was just wave after wave of yellow and green descending from the bleachers,” recalls Andrea Grzybowski, general manager for the band. “I wish it hadn’t been raining so more people would’ve been there to witness that, but I guess that’s why we’re the ‘official band of bad weather.’”

The reunion performance included a trip down memory lane led by time-pixies (the children of band alumni) and a striking rendition of Queen’s “Bohemian Rhapsody.” During the famous “rock out” that is the song’s outro, the rain, which looked as though it might clear moments before the band took the field, came down the hardest it would all night. On the artificial turf, right on the 50-yard line, stood the ever-faithful Marching Lumberjacks, some playing a song they’d learned just hours before, belting out a chord progression that was probably never imagined for sousaphone and tambourine. But what the band lacked in preparation they made up for in spirit, and the mood was infectious. The crowd, though squished tightly together under the field’s great awning, exploded in applause as the Marching Lumberjacks left the field, triumphant and waterlogged.

### A Dwindling Breed

HERE ON THE WEST Coast, the Marching Lumberjacks can claim the title as the only regional scatter band—a tradition that grew mostly out of East Coast Ivy League schools and eschews conventional marching behavior, instead opting for a random scattering of musicians as they run from one formation to another.












While Humboldt State gets to enjoy a taste of Ivy League tradition, a friendly rivalry has been developing for years among California's collegiate bands and the competition between the Marching Lumberjacks and the UC Davis Aggies is definitely the most heated. Every year, marching bands from throughout the state gather for Picnic Day at UC Davis with the hotly contested Battle of the Bands highlighting the day.

In 2005, the event, which included HSU, Davis, Stanford, UC Berkeley, UC Irvine and UC San Diego, lasted for more than 12 hours as the Aggies went head-to-head in a competition that required each band to play as many songs as possible without repeating one. The Aggies claim more than 120 songs in their repertoire, while the Marching Lumberjacks boast at least 170. Without ever deciding a

victor the competition was called around 3 a.m. much to the delight of the chapped lips, aching backs and tired lungs in both bands. This display of musical prowess by both teams led to a rewriting of the rules, and now Picnic Day ends with an exhibition instead of the competition.

### Looking Forward

THE ALLURE OF THE Marching Lumberjacks is undeniable. After 40 years they've been able to keep crowds entertained and a diverse group of alumni coming back for more. Few other student groups can boast this sort of loyalty.

So what's the secret behind the Marching Lumberjacks' success? Grzybowski sums it up like this: "We have fun, we get to play great music to great fans and watch basketball games while we're doing it. Who wouldn't want to be in this band?" 

**"We have fun, we get to play great music to great fans and watch basketball games while we're doing it. Who wouldn't want to be in this band?"**





# *At Home* **WITH STUDY ABROAD**

International Enrollment Quadruples Over Five Years



BY JARAD PETROSKE





Jiniva Serrano and Anthony Pichardo de la Cruz prepare for their weekly radio show, Sabor Latino, in the KHSU studio.

**LISTENERS OF KHSU, HUMBOLDT** State's public radio station, have been getting a rare treat on Sunday afternoons—Sabor Latino, the only place to catch selections of Latin music in Spanish, indigenous languages, Portuguese, Italian, Catalan, Basque and more.

On the Friday before their show airs, HSU international students Anthony Pichardo de la Cruz, of the Dominican Republic, and Jiniva Serrano, of Panama, are in the studio slicing and dicing their favorite music into a two-hour program that shares a bit of their culture with Humboldt.

As the pair gets ready to tape their show, Serrano's laptop streams a collection of Latin music from all over the world. This week Pichardo is excited about sharing something different with his audience. "I found a lot of Latin music from France. I love the accent so I'm going to study the language next semester."

For Pichardo, this is an ideal move for a career he hopes will take him to the heights of hotel management. "The classes I'm taking here in Travel Industry Management will help me with my career goals. The English language skills will help me greatly, but so will the French," he says.

But how did these two end up hosting a show, instead of intently listening in to fine-tune their English?

"We were taking a speech class with Susan Dobie from the Communications Department and one day she brought us to KHSU for a field trip. We were just getting to know how it all works and we got to record our voices. Then they said 'We have a Spanish show and the girl who did it just left.' So we went through the training and we were the only two who made it through," explains Serrano.

It became a way for Serrano and Pichardo to provide a community service, which is required by their U.S. State Department study abroad program. For the North Coast and campus community, it's another reminder of the gifts a growing international student population can offer.

At Humboldt State, the number of international students has ballooned to 138, up from less than 35 as little as five years ago. And that's good for everybody, say campus officials.

### ***'A two-way street'***

HSU HAS BEEN WORKING for years to globalize the campus. It has been able to bring an increasing number of students to the United States and has been hosting events like International Education Week. The effort is now paying off, with the international student population quadrupling in five years.

The long-term goal is to keep expanding the International Programs Office into a full-blown International Resource Center, which would serve as a clearinghouse for all international programs and services for students and faculty.

"So many of these students are away from their very tightly knit families for the first time," says Marci Fradkin, coordinator for the International Programs Office. "Our main thing is student support so they feel like they have a home here. But beyond that we're here to facilitate all the various groups on campus to find ways to internationalize themselves, either through exchange programs, bringing students here from abroad or just experiencing some of the fun that the international students have on campus."



Where this experience really becomes a two-way street is in the International House in the Creekview Residence Halls. Set up as a multicultural encounter, the hall is made up of a mix of international and U.S.-born students.

"With the International House we assist in the recruiting and retention of international students," says Nick Sweeton, coordinator of Residence Life in HSU's Housing department. "We provide a space in the residence halls with a 50/50 mix of international and regular students. We focus on social activities like trips to the Bay Area, cultural movie showings and even a Thanksgiving celebration in which we not only bought a turkey, but ingredients for the international students to make dishes that are important in their cultures."

"We're always hearing about international students becoming great friends not just with each other but with American students, as well. And these are people who would normally never meet under any circumstances except at Humboldt State," says Fradkin.

## ***'Right here if you want it'***

DURING NOVEMBER'S INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION Week the campus was full of cultural programs from Indonesia, Japan, Panama, Spain and beyond. Events like Oodles of Noodles brought together people from far flung nations to share their culture's take on the versatile pasta, while an international fashion show put the traditional garb of the world on display.

But the week was about more than costumes and cuisine; it was also a way to present practical steps that students, faculty and staff could take to gain a global perspective. As Fradkin puts it, "You don't have to travel abroad to get the international experience. It's right here if you want it."

To that end, the Peace Corps gave presentations on volunteering overseas, the Fulbright organization held informational meetings and even the U.S. Post Office made an appearance to help people navigate the passport process.

## GLOBE TREKKING RECRUITER

**Dr. Guy-Alain Amoussou, director of HSU's International Programs, is involved in the academic lives of an ever-growing number of international students. As a native of Africa's Côte d'Ivoire, and as someone educated in both London and Paris and now living in Arcata, he knows better than most the advantages of bringing a global viewpoint to the classroom.**

IT'S SIMPLE, HE SAYS. "If you have a business class with students from the Côte d'Ivoire, Niger, India, and China, you're going to get more very different perspectives than you would in a class made up of only Americans."

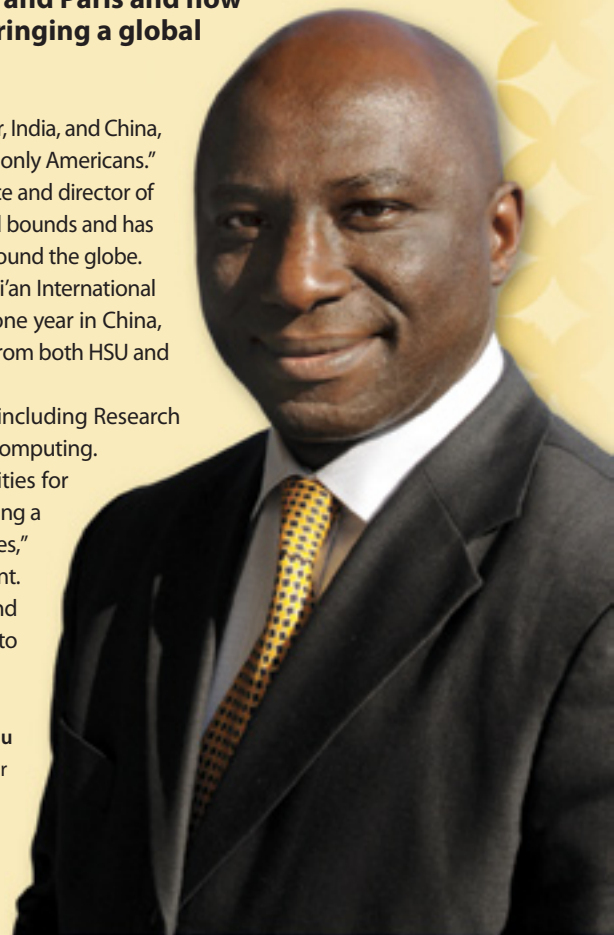
In his years at HSU, Amoussou, who divides his time as a professor of Computing Science and director of International Programs, has helped grow the international student population by leaps and bounds and has worked to establish many new partnerships, including study abroad, with institutions all around the globe.

Best known of these ventures is the 1+2+1 dual degree program, a partnership with Xi'an International Studies University in China that provides opportunities for Chinese students to attend one year in China, two years in America and then return to China to finish their education, earning degrees from both HSU and their home university.

Amoussou's work also includes five National Science Foundation-funded projects including Research Experience for Undergraduates, The Science of Design, and Broadening Participation in Computing.

Amoussou is also at work finding ways to expand international research opportunities for HSU's faculty in an effort to further globalize their academic experience. "In 2009 I am taking a group of researchers to the west coast of Africa to look for scientific research opportunities," he says. "One of the things we will look at is using computation tools for coastal management. If we can take what we have learned about managing the coasts around Humboldt Bay and translate that into something that works within other environments, then we will be able to validate these methods."

**Dr. Guy-Alain Amoussou**  
HSU International Program Director






**Clockwise from left:** Chinese student Jian Li, center, hangs out with American students Lauren Sanchez, left, and Marcos Naranjo on HSU's annual Day of Caring. Several international students participated in the campus's community service day. | Students enjoy a moment in the J, the campus's main dining hall. From left, Jiniva Serrano, from Panama; Marie Mourougaya, from France; and Adja Gbane, of the Cote d'Ivoire. | Linlin Xing, from China, grabs a bite to eat on campus. | A student takes notes during class.

In a panel session, six students from China, the Philippines, Indonesia and Japan held forth on the advantages and trials of being so far away from home. The first question lobbed at the panel was about their best day in America. Probably the most illuminating response came from Cheng Du, a biology student participating in HSU's Intensive English Language Institute and the 1+2+1 degree program. "It's hard to say what my best day has been, every day is so interesting," he said. But his optimism was in direct opposition to his appearance. He was clutching his wrist, which had been freshly treated by the campus Student Health Center following an overzealous performance on the soccer field. Cheng had also lightly injured himself, as he put it, "goofing off" in the residence halls. In a video-chat session with his family his new injuries alarmed his mother, but he assured her that everything was okay. "I told my mom I'm just trying new things," he said.

Such chat sessions seem to be a common feature in international student life. Programs like Apple's iChat, Microsoft's

MSN Messenger, Yahoo Chat and many others are making the distances back home almost negligible for these students. "When I am feeling low, I can just turn on Yahoo and chat with my brothers and sisters," explains Ria Sumartikah from Indonesia. "I chat with my mother almost every week."

Maintaining the link back to the home country is important, but the international students are also busy forming bonds in Humboldt. Jiniva Serrano, the KHSU DJ, fills her time with activities across campus. In addition to finding new Latin music from around the world to air on her radio show, "she's already signed up with the Gamma Alpha Omega sorority and has gone way past her 10-hour service requirement with the World Learning program," says Karynn Merkel, administrative support assistant for the International Programs Office. "Jiniva has made some solid connections that will last well beyond her time here." 



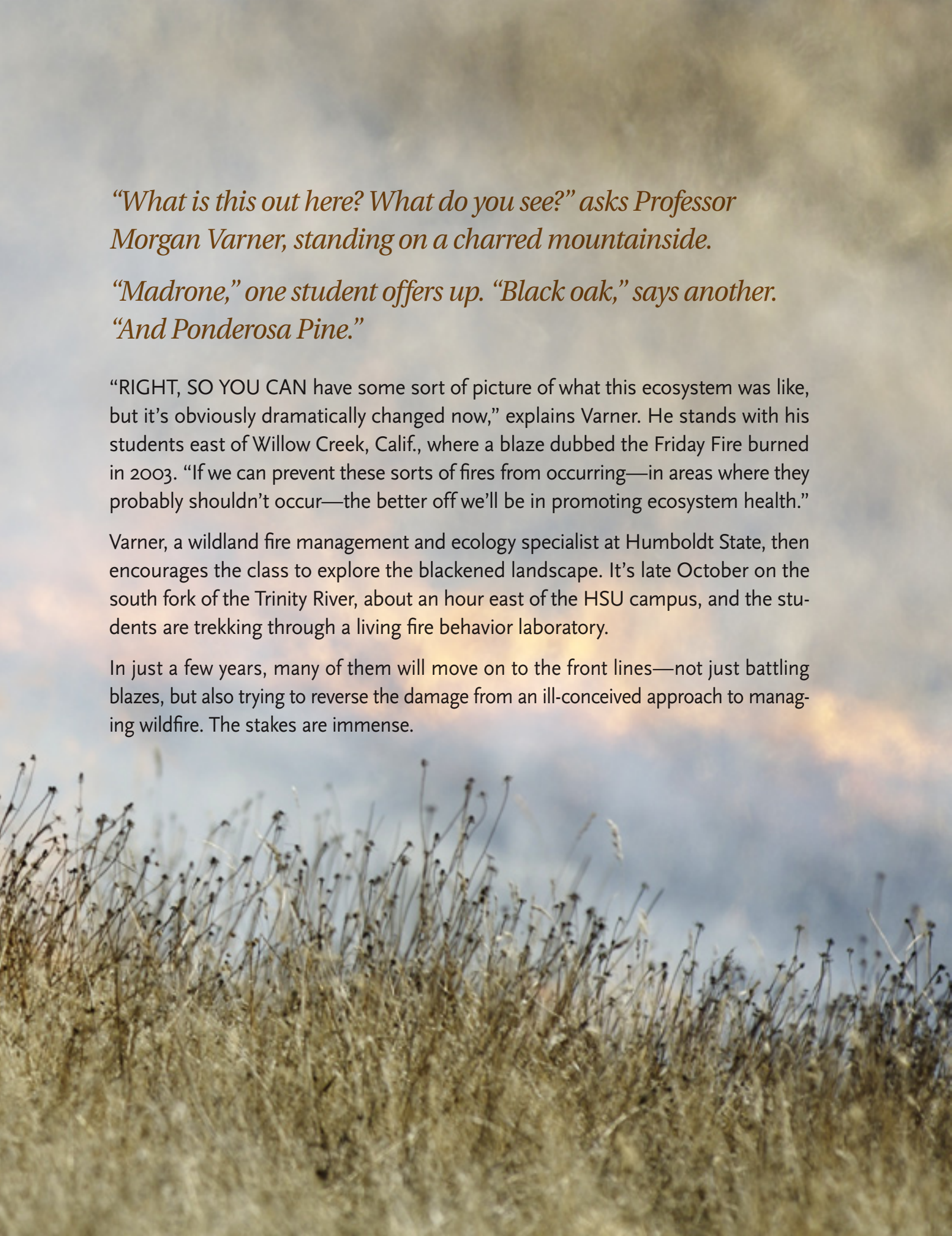


# FIRE *on the* MOUNTAIN

A CENTURY OF MISDIRECTED FIRE POLICY HAS  
LEFT THE WEST A TINDERBOX. NOW WHAT?

by David Lawlor





*“What is this out here? What do you see?” asks Professor Morgan Varner, standing on a charred mountainside.*

*“Madrone,” one student offers up. “Black oak,” says another. “And Ponderosa Pine.”*

“RIGHT, SO YOU CAN have some sort of picture of what this ecosystem was like, but it’s obviously dramatically changed now,” explains Varner. He stands with his students east of Willow Creek, Calif., where a blaze dubbed the Friday Fire burned in 2003. “If we can prevent these sorts of fires from occurring—in areas where they probably shouldn’t occur—the better off we’ll be in promoting ecosystem health.”

Varner, a wildland fire management and ecology specialist at Humboldt State, then encourages the class to explore the blackened landscape. It’s late October on the south fork of the Trinity River, about an hour east of the HSU campus, and the students are trekking through a living fire behavior laboratory.

In just a few years, many of them will move on to the front lines—not just battling blazes, but also trying to reverse the damage from an ill-conceived approach to managing wildfire. The stakes are immense.



## THE BIG BLOWUP

THE SUMMER OF 1910 was unusually dry and a series of July lightning strikes ignited numerous wildfires. But rangers from the U.S. Forest Service had managed to keep the blazes contained. By Aug. 19 everything appeared to be under control.

Then, a dry cold front bearing hurricane-force winds swept across Washington into Idaho and Montana. Gusts exceeding 70 m.p.h. stoked the once-contained fires, causing them to merge and spread at an astonishing rate.

Suddenly, it was like a scene out of a disaster movie.

Fire jumped canyons a half-mile wide in seconds. Whole trees uprooted and transformed to blazing projectiles. Entire mountainsides burst into flames. Men ran for their lives, desperately seeking refuge in creeks and mine shafts. The Montana sky was pitch black by 4 p.m. and from Denver to Chicago the heavens were dark. Sailors at sea were unable to navigate by the stars.

In the end, the Great Fire of 1910, also known as the Big Blowup, burned approximately 3 million acres of virgin forestland in eastern Washington, northern Idaho and western Montana. At its peak, some 10,000 men worked fire lines to contain the conflagration, which eventually claimed 86 human lives. To this day it is still the largest wildfire in American history.

To understand wildfire policy in the United States is to understand the impact of the Big Blowup. The fire's destruction and drama were recounted in newspapers from coast to coast, influencing public opinion and prompting officials to take strong action.

In the wake of the horror, the U.S. Forest Service adopted a doctrine of fire suppression. It was a policy informed by emotion and public sentiment, not science. For decades, the decision would define the agency's approach to wildfires and play a major role in the accumulation of fuels in national forests. It was a policy that set the stage for larger, longer burning wildfires with greater potential for devastation and loss of life.

## TEACHING A NEW APPROACH

WHILE NOT QUITE ON par with the Big Blowup, California experienced its own intense fire season in 2008. Wildfires burned about 1.4 million acres from Los Angeles to Humboldt County, making them the largest in the state's history in total area burned. They also exacted a financial toll as the U.S. Forest Service spent more than \$900 million and state agencies contributed an additional \$1 billion to battle the fires.

Last summer's fires represent a persistent increase in the length and severity of fire season in California. With almost a century of fuel accumulation—including everything from branches to underbrush—experts agree there is no silver bullet to address the situation. But fire science professionals

and academics are starting to employ a holistic approach to managing wildfire that they hope will reverse the trend of bigger, more destructive blazes and longer, more intense fire seasons.

"There are a few different strategies for addressing the kinds of fires we saw in Northern California last season," says Professor Varner, who teaches the Fire Behavior class. "One thing we can do is treat the landscape so that it's not so prone to high intensity fire by managing and reducing fuels. Another approach is to use prescribed fire to keep landscapes from getting into a degraded condition, where there's an abundance of fuels. But we also need to recognize that fires occur and we need to be a little more accepting about it."

Varner is one among a cadre of professors at Humboldt State studying wildfire management. Along with his colleagues, he is ensuring that the fire science professionals of tomorrow graduate with a new perspective on wildfire management that moves away from the doctrine of all-out suppression and tries to better understand the role fire can play. With a new generation and a new approach, wildfires—like the Friday Fire that Varner's students are exploring east of Willow Creek—might become less destructive and less frequent.

With a strong background in forestry stretching back decades, and the area's verdant natural setting, HSU is home to one of the premier programs in fire science. The University's program, developed over the past three decades, regularly produces fire science professionals that go on to be leaders in their field and shape fire policy throughout the country. They include HSU Forestry alum Del Walters, who was recently appointed director of Cal Fire, the state's wildfire management agency.

"When I started at Humboldt State in 1983, Professor Brooks Sibley handled all the fire curriculum. He was pretty much the only guy," recalls Professor John Stuart, a fire ecologist.

Sibley retired in the early 1990s and Stuart worked to build the fire science program—housed in the Forestry & Wildland Resources Department—by expanding the curriculum and adding lecturers. Eventually, a Wildland Fire Management option was introduced, as was a minor in Fire Ecology.

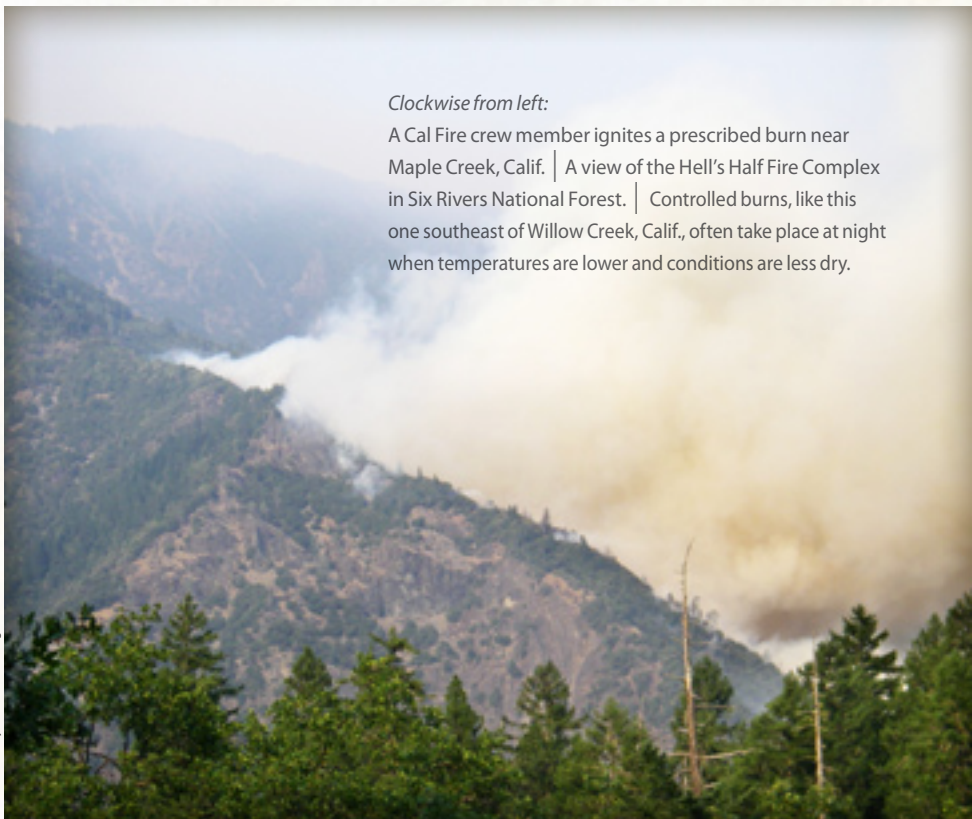
Stuart was also one of the catalysts behind the Wildland Fire Studies Institute at Humboldt State, an advanced training program offered to U.S. Forest Service employees and similar professionals at HSU.

In addition to Stuart and others in the department, the Wildland Fire Program hinges on collaboration with colleagues from a variety of disciplines like Professor Yvonne Everett of Natural Resource Planning & Interpretation and Professor Chris Dugaw of Mathematics. This unique interdisciplinary approach, along with top-notch facilities like the Wildland Fire Lab (see page 31) has made Humboldt State the preeminent fire science institution it is today.





Photo Courtesy of James Arciniega



*Clockwise from left:*

A Cal Fire crew member ignites a prescribed burn near Maple Creek, Calif. | A view of the Hell's Half Fire Complex in Six Rivers National Forest. | Controlled burns, like this one southeast of Willow Creek, Calif., often take place at night when temperatures are lower and conditions are less dry.



**“ THE TREND SEEMS TO BE MORE INTENSE WILDFIRES AND IT’S NOT EVEN CLOSE TO LEVELING OUT. ”**

Photo Courtesy of James Arciniega





## THE DOCTRINE OF FIRE SUPPRESSION WAS A POLICY INFORMED BY EMOTION AND PUBLIC SENTIMENT, NOT SCIENCE.

*Top Photo:*

Professor Morgan Varner talks with a student on a charred mountainside east of Willow Creek, Calif.

*Bottom Photos from Left:*

Varner takes his students on field trips several times each semester to explore recently burned spots. | James Arciniega ('06), a fuels forester for the Six Rivers National Forest, explains the behavior of recent fires to HSU students. | Professor John Stuart leads a field trip to the 2004 French Fire site in western Shasta County. | Hands-on training in the field is a hallmark of the HSU fire program.



Photo Courtesy of Professor John Stuart





## “ASBESTOS FOREST”

“FIRE IS SIMPLE PHYSICS. The story of fire and how things burn is pretty well worked out,” Stuart says. “The thing we have control over is fuel. We don’t have control over topography or the weather. So, if we’re going to be managing fire, we’re going to be managing fuel.”

Trees, dry leaves, twigs, shrubs, grasses and decomposed organic matter—known colloquially as duff—provide the fuel wildfires need to propagate. Reducing these fuels is perhaps the most significant step in preventing massive conflagrations.

When Indian people were the sole human inhabitants of the West Coast, they did not adhere to a doctrine of wildfire suppression and used controlled burning, also known as prescribed fire, in a very sophisticated manner, Varner and Stuart say. This approach incorporated fire as an essential aspect of land management, rejuvenating forests in a cyclical manner and preventing a massive build-up of fuels. But with that cycle broken, it’s now the job of fire scientists and managers to find ways to reduce fuels and change the way wildfires are managed.

James Arciniega, a 2006 Humboldt State Forestry graduate, is a fuels forester with the Six Rivers National Forest, which encompasses more than 1 million acres from the Oregon border to southern Humboldt County. He was working on a fuels reduction project about 50 miles east of Arcata just before the June 2008 lightning fires ignited. Once the blazes started, Arciniega was reassigned to the Hell’s Half Complex fire, where he created geographic information system maps of the area showing the progression of the fire, where resources were staged and where helicopters could land.

“What’s really interesting is that about 20 years ago, when my predecessors were starting their careers here, they called this the ‘asbestos forest’ because asbestos doesn’t burn,” Arciniega says. “There was hardly ever a fire here and if there was it was very small, usually under 50 acres. The forest typically didn’t get much lightning, logging had caused a reduction in fuels and the impacts of fire suppression weren’t as noticeable yet. But about 10 years ago, the fires started to get larger.”

“The trend seems to be more intense wildfires and it’s not even close to leveling out,” says Neil Sugihara, a U.S. Forest Service fire ecologist and Humboldt State alum (’76, ’81). “Almost all of the largest fires in California history have occurred since 2000. Before 1987 there were only a handful of fires over 100,000 acres in the state and now we have them several times a year.”

Sugihara, an adjunct faculty member in HSU’s Forestry Department, was the first president of the Association for Fire Ecology from 2000 to 2002. He says that while federal agencies are working to reduce fuels and reintroduce prescribed burning, they are fighting an uphill battle.

“The Forest Service has had a very intensive effort to manage fuels over the last 10 years, really at an unprecedented level, and we probably are not breaking even at this point. In fact, we’re probably not even close to breaking even,” Sugihara says. “We continue to accumulate fuels at a rate that’s not stable despite our efforts. It’s just a much bigger problem than we have the resources to deal with right now.”

In addition to being a large, costly project, the concept of fuels reduction—via thinning or prescribed fire—brings with it some controversy.

“Unless you can generate revenue from removing fuels, then it’s hugely expensive,” Stuart explains. “But, if we start talking about revenue from removing fuels you get a lot of people worried about companies or agencies making money off the wood. Plus, if you go far away from existing roads you need to build new roads and that can be an ecological hazard.”



## U.S. AND STATE AGENCIES SPENT \$1.9 BILLION TO BATTLE CALIFORNIA WILDFIRES IN 2008

Professor Chris Dugaw, a mathematical modeling specialist who focuses his studies on the natural world, is working with graduate students in the Environmental Systems program and colleagues in the Forestry Department to better understand how fire propagates and how to effectively utilize prescribed fire. Dugaw and his students are developing models to predict the likelihood that a specific area will burn, the fraction of duff that will burn in an area and even the probability that individual trees will be killed by fire. He says these types of models will eventually aid fire professionals in executing prescribed burns and understanding phenomena like tree mortality induced by smoldering duff.

"It's important to understand the mechanisms of fire spread. Mathematical modeling gives us that opportunity," Dugaw says. "When it comes to issues like smoldering duff and its impacts, we need to get a better understanding so we can manage fire more effectively."

### FILLING IN THE GAPS

MANAGING FUELS IS A key way to minimize wildfires. Managing the people who impact the amounts and types of fuels is another.

"We can manage human actions in the forest and we need to make those actions as ecologically sophisticated as possible," says Professor Yvonne Everett, a community-based disaster management specialist at HSU.

Everett, along with Michelle Fuller, a graduate student in the Environment & Community program, is researching California's fire safe councils. A movement to protect communities and individual homes from wildfire began in the late 1960s as more people started living in rural areas that were formerly forestland. Over the next two decades the idea of clearing vegetation around structures to create a "defensible space" gained traction, and following the 1991 Oakland Hills Fire in Oakland, Calif., fire safe councils emerged. These grassroots, independent groups are community-based and rely on volunteers. Today there are approximately 100 fire safe councils throughout California.

"Fire safe councils, the beauty of them is, they are totally idiosyncratic," Everett says. "It can be as basic as people living in a trailer park that get together and decide to create defensible space around their park or it can be like the San Diego County Fire Safe Council and the 60 other councils underneath it working together on issues in that region."



The councils, Fuller says, "fill in the gaps" where state or federal agencies might lack resources.

"Fire safe councils can help people clear brush around their houses, like elderly people who might not be able to do it themselves," Fuller says. "They can also share equipment or organize with an agency to get assistance. So it definitely helps to organize at the grassroots level and get people involved. Otherwise, some of these areas might not get tackled."

James Arciniega, fuels forester for the Six Rivers National Forest, has worked with both the Willow Creek Fire Safe Council and the Trinity County Fire Safe Council.


"At the meetings we provide updates on our projects, and working with those councils has helped direct us toward what types of fuels projects we might attempt and the areas where we look to do those projects," he says. "It forms a key connection between the Forest Service and the community."

### RETURNING TO A NATURAL CYCLE

WHETHER WORKING IN THE forest or with communities, in the end, managing wildfires all comes down to fuels.

"We need to be far more proactive rather than reactive. Instead of seeing a fire and trying to put it out we need to create conditions in the forest where we could comfortably let a fire burn and still have some control," says Arciniega. "That would happen through more fuel reduction projects, far more. What we're doing now is just a drop in the bucket."

The hope, Arciniega says, is that eventually a natural, cyclical pattern of fire could re-emerge in forests. It's a process already in motion at the Six Rivers National Forest and a prospect that greatly interests Varner and his students exploring the charred mountainsides east of Willow Creek.

"Look at this, this is remarkable!" Varner exclaims as his students peer out across the forested landscape dotted with numerous burned spots where recent fires occurred. "This is all within the last five years, this tremendous number of fires. That's cool because what we see happening on this landscape in the future is, if fires continue at this rate and it looks like they will, fires moving into old fires and putting themselves out. So, we'll have an incredible landscape that is relatively recently burned and perpetuates the characteristics of a healthy, frequently burned landscape. That's pretty exciting." 





A new thermal imaging camera gathers precise temperature information, providing fire scientists a more detailed understanding of fire behavior.



Graduate student Eamon Engber burns samples gathered from his research site in northeastern Humboldt County.

## FIRE LAB ON THE CUTTING EDGE

"WHEN I CAME TO Humboldt people kept saying, 'You'll like our fire table.' I was thinking, 'What the heck is the fire table?'" says Professor Morgan Varner, a fire scientist at HSU. "So, when I came into the Wildland Fire Lab and they lowered the hood I thought, 'Oh, wow, this is perfect!'"

In fact, Humboldt State is one of only three schools in the nation, along with Western Washington University and the University of Idaho, to house a true fire lab with a fire platform and ventilation hood.

"Committing to a chemical lab is pretty easy because lots of different people can use it," Varner explains. "But, if you're committing to a lab like this you're really committing to a fire program because this room is only designed for fire research."

Indeed, Humboldt State has become one of the country's top fire science institutions. Aside from a fully equipped lab where students can burn wildland fuels and study fire behavior, the lab also makes use of a new thermal imaging camera. The camera yields remarkably

accurate, pinpoint information concerning time and temperature, allowing fire scientists like Varner and his students to better understand fire behavior. In concert with the fire lab, the \$60,000 camera gives students and faculty access to the types of cutting-edge technologies being used at the highest levels of fire science.

"There are two approaches to fire research. One is a large scale model where we look at landscapes, and then there's the small-scale stuff, the reductionist, old school science that we do here in the lab," Varner says. "We are trying to learn why a specific phenomenon occurs, what the mechanism is. We control so many different things in a lab setting that we can figure out what drives flammability or why different plant communities burn the way they do."

Access to the latest technologies and numerous opportunities for hands-on research brought master's student Eamon Engber, who earned his undergraduate degree from UC Berkeley, to Humboldt State's wildland fire program.

"I'm trying to find out if the presence of an oak canopy is changing fire behavior and intensity," says Engber, who is in the lab burning fuels collected at his study area in the Bald Hills of Redwood National Park in northeastern Humboldt County. "If the fires are burning hotter in the grassland, then they might be limiting oaks from encroaching on the grassland and limiting Douglas-fir seedlings from coming into the oak stands."

Learning in some of the world's most amazing forests and studying in one-on-one settings with professors who are experts in their field have helped make HSU a national leader in fire science.

"I came here because of this guy," Engber says as he motions toward Varner. "The forestry program here is great and the location is awesome, but I mainly came here because I wanted to study with Professor Varner."





# Behind The Scenes

## A Winter's Tale

WITH A CAST OF 22 and dozens more working behind the scenes, getting ready for this semester's production of William Shakespeare's "A Winter's Tale" was no small feat.

Artists applied creams and powders while hair stylists perfected the female lead's hair to achieve a "studied carelessness." Backstage, all hands were busy with last minute adjustments to the play's three moving sets and that's not to mention the students tucked away in the booth running sound and lighting. For HSU's theater students, mounting a full-scale production boils down to just another day in the classroom.











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1. Actors perform stretching and vocal warmups minutes before a matinee performance.
2. Collin Trevino-Odell pulls double duty as he applies a few final details to the play's set. Trevino-Odell also performed as Camillo, advisor to King Leontes.
3. Keili Simmons Marble curls her hair before she matches her makeup to graduate student Kitty Grenot's detailed sketch.
4. A student checks the Van Duzer Theatre's lighting rig before the curtain rises.
5. Wardrobe Chief Taylor Moten adjusts Jonathan Barrett's (Antigonus) cravat in the theatre's dressing room.
6. The costume shop constructs and fits the attire for the entire cast, including several costume changes for the play's three acts.
7. Lighting Designer Jim McHugh talks with student light board operator Neville Martinson during rehearsal.



# 28 Years of Dedication and Counting

by Jarad Petroske

## *McCrone Gift Will Have a Lasting Impact*

DR. ALISTAIR MCCRONE, AFTER serving as Humboldt State's president for 28 years, is leading a new era of fundraising at Humboldt State University with a remarkable donation.

His contribution is a charitable gift annuity and is the first of its kind at Humboldt State. The funds are, in this case, money donated to the University without a specific designation. They might be used to fund a new research lab, purchase equipment or fill a need that may have been missed in the yearly budget process.

"It's more than just a gift, it's a vote of confidence in the institution," said Dr. McCrone. "An unrestricted gift of this nature allows the university to take prompt advantage of an opportunity that could not have been planned or even expected," he added.

A charitable gift annuity allows the donor to provide significant support to the University and receive generous fixed payments, partly tax-free income, and a charitable tax deduction. The U.S. Treasury sets the rate of the deduction based on the annuitant's age, the annuity rate and the date of the gift.

This system benefits both the donor and the University and helps to continue the tradition of academic excellence at Humboldt State. Dr. McCrone, for example, intends to use the annual paychecks from his annuity to benefit departments, students and scholarships that are in need of additional support.

The remainder of Dr. McCrone's gift will benefit the Alistair and Judith McCrone Graduate Fellowship, which they



*"I think people recognize that universities, as institutions, have a durability you can count on and respect. HSU is a unique institution and there is a cultural integrity in what we do here."*

established in 2001 to support graduate students at HSU.

Citing the singular role of higher education, Dr. McCrone underscored the reasons for giving to HSU. "I think people recognize that universities, as institutions, have a durability you can count on and respect. HSU is a unique institution and there is a cultural integrity in what we do here," he said.

While Dr. McCrone's gifts, both through the annuity and the graduate fellowship, will continue to benefit the University for years to come, he stresses that small, unrestricted gifts are often catalysts for something bigger.

"People adjust to hardship and cope with budget cuts. That's why a small donation can start in motion something that can lead toward greatness. Unrestricted gifts can be used to buy instructional equipment or create educational partnerships that can have a lasting impact."

Dr. McCrone feels that higher education provides countless benefits to society, whether for the graduate who has gained valuable experience, or to society as a whole, which benefits from having an educated, skilled and intelligent citizenry.

"Somebody asked me 'Why should I give to a public university when a private school depends on donation for its very survival?' Well, a donation to a public university goes further. I can take you into a classroom and show you a new microscope or to the library and show you a special book your donation bought."



# How is Our Endowment Doing?

**THE HSU ADVANCEMENT FOUNDATION** was legally incorporated on March 16, 2004 to help increase charitable giving and manage the University's endowment. The Foundation board's 18 members are dedicated to building wide support for the University. Chairman Gary Blatnick and Vice Chair Ken Davlin talked with *Humboldt Magazine* about the foundation and the state of HSU's endowment.



Gary Blatnick

**Q: What does the HSU Advancement Foundation do?**

**Gary:** The mission of the Advancement Foundation is to provide expertise, fiduciary oversight, and advocacy which will increase charitable giving to HSU and to manage the University's endowment. The Advancement Foundation is focused on increasing the financial strength of the University and securing additional resources to support students, faculty and programs.



Ken Davlin

**Q: What does the Foundation do to increase the level of financial resources available to HSU?**

**Gary:** The Foundation's most important responsibility is managing and increasing the University's endowment through a combination of securing new gifts and implementing a comprehensive long-term investment strategy.

**Ken:** The board and our investment managers have a collaborative strategy in place so that decades from now, the University's endowment will have grown to make an ever increasing impact on the University. We believe we are positioned well for growth when the economy turns around.

**Q: How much is the University's endowment?**

**Gary:** A fiscally prudent investment strategy combined with new gifts helped bring about a growth in endowment and other assets from our initial investment of \$10.9 million to a market value of \$18.5 million as of the end of the 2007-2008 fiscal year on June 30, 2008.

**Q: How is the endowment doing in the current market?**

**Ken:** The economic downturn has brought a decline of 16.77 percent in the market value from July 1, 2008-December 31, 2008. HSUAF had a .12 percent annualized return (prior to assessing investment fees) during the 3-year period ending 12/31/08. This return ranked in the top 9 percent of a Russell/Mellon Trust Universe peer group consisting of 112 endowments & foundations with less than \$500 million in total assets.

**Q: What is the endowment used for?**

**Gary:** The endowment provides resources to the University into perpetuity—it is a resource stream the University can count on. During the

2007-2008 fiscal year, more than \$533,000 from the endowment was distributed to student scholarships and campus projects. For example, the endowment distributed almost \$112,000 in scholarship funds for students with financial need. In addition, more than \$420,000 was distributed to projects around campus, including the Schatz Energy Research Center, the HSU Library and performing arts programs. The great thing about an endowment gift is that you know it will have an impact on your chosen area of the campus for years to come.

**Q: What can alumni do to help?**

**Ken:** One of the best ways to increase the endowment is for alumni and friends of the University to contribute to or create endowed funds. A new endowment is created by a contribution of at least \$25,000. The funds are invested for long term growth and each year a portion of the endowment's average market value from the past three years, currently 4 percent, is distributed to the campus for the purpose designated by the donor. Anyone interested in establishing a new endowment can call the foundation at (707) 826-5146.

## Foundation Board Members

### Officers

Gary Blatnick, Chair · Del Norte County Health & Social Services  
Kenneth G. Davlin, Vice-Chair · Oscar Larson & Associates,  
Consulting Engineers and Land Surveyors, Inc., retired  
Burt Nordstrom, Secretary · HSU Interim Vice President  
for Administrative Affairs  
Nicholas Frank, Treasurer · International Business Consultant

### Board Members

Jim Brown · Green Diamond Resources, retired  
Crystal Chaney · HSU Student  
Patrick Cleary · Lost Coast Communications  
Judy Dvorak · Marketing Director, retired  
Mary Glenn · Professor of Anthropology  
Rob Gunsalus · HSU Vice President for University Advancement  
James Joseph · Inter-American Tropical Tuna Commission, retired  
Dan Johnson · The Danco Group  
John McBeth · O&M Industries  
Alistair W. McCrone · HSU President Emeritus  
Rollin Richmond · HSU President  
George Schmidbauer · Schmidbauer Lumber, Inc.  
Bob Snyder · HSU Interim Provost & Vice President  
for Academic Affairs  
Mike Stockstill · Stockstill Communications

The Humboldt State University Advancement Foundation is a dedicated auxiliary of The California State University and a 501(c)3 California nonprofit corporation.



# Distinguished ALUMNI AWARDS

## Congratulations 2009 Distinguished Alumni

The Distinguished Alumni Awards are presented each year to honor alums who are leaders in their fields and who make outstanding contributions to their community, nation, or Humboldt State University. The event has become a tradition at Humboldt State, with honorees celebrated on campus each year for 50 years.

### The 2009 recipients are:

JOHN DIAZ (B.A. in Journalism, 1977) has had a distinguished career in journalism for nearly 30 years. He has been editor of the *San Francisco Chronicle's* editorial page since 1996 and has won numerous awards for editorial writing. His enthusiasm and high performance set him apart early on as a journalism student at HSU, and he continues to give back by mentoring journalism students and young reporters in the San Francisco area.



FRANCISCO CHAVEZ (B.S. in Oceanography, 1977) has had an illustrious career in biological oceanography. He is a Senior Scientist at Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute, where he has been on staff for 20 years. In 2005, Chavez was elected a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of the Sciences for his research on the impact of climate variability on oceanic ecosystems and global carbon cycling.



RICHARD WINNIE (B.A. in Economics, 1969) has been solving complex regulatory problems as counsel to all levels of government for over 30 years. He is currently the County Counsel to Alameda County, Calif., and has served as staff attorney to the California cities of Berkeley, Oakland, and Santa Rosa in addition to significant international work. He has a long history of civic accomplishment dating back to his time at HSU, where he served on the Associated Students Council, volunteered with the campus Young Democrats, and gave the valedictory address to his graduating class.



Join the many friends of the University who have attended this event to honor the award recipients for their many contributions. Come back to campus this spring to celebrate this year's honorees.

### 2009 Distinguished Alumni Awards Banquet

April 17, 2009

Reception: 6 p.m.

Dinner & program: 7 p.m.

Karshner Lounge and Kate Buchanan Room,  
HSU Campus

Nominations are being accepted for  
the 2010 Distinguished Alumni Awards.

You can find nomination forms at:  
[alumni.humboldt.edu](http://alumni.humboldt.edu)





## 1960s

**James Zobel, '62**, and his wife Virginia celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary last year. A bout of Lyme disease has curtailed current traveling, though his past destinations have included Kenya, Tanzania, Laos, Thailand and England. Two of his 8 grandchildren are now married, and he resides in Foresthill, Calif.

## 1970s

**Kathleen Tahja, '70**, a journalism graduate, had two books come out in 2008. *Rails Across the Noyo* is a trackside history guide to the Skunk Train in Mendocino County and *Early Mendocino Coast* is a photohistory of the Mendocino coastline from Sonoma to Humboldt. She lives in Comptche, Calif.

**Hank Kashdan, '73**, a journalism graduate, has been named associate chief for the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service based in Washington, D.C. Kashdan began his service as a Senior Executive in 2001 when he was appointed the Forest Service budget director, a position he held through 2005. He has worked in a variety of positions including assistant director in law enforcement and national forest administrative officer. Kashdan worked in duty stations throughout the country in Arizona, Idaho, Montana, Washington State, California, and Oregon prior to moving to Washington, D.C. in 1993.

**Timothy Fogarty, '75**, is retired and living in Mesa, Ariz. He spent much of fall 1965 and Spring 1966 enjoying Humboldt's charms. After a stint in the U.S. Air Force, including duty in Vietnam, he made it back to Humboldt State to study History with the late Lloyd Fulton and Geography with Hal Jackson.



Coronado 2008

**Geoffrey de Valois, '75, '81**, a psychology graduate with a master's degree in theater arts, is an award-winning documentary film director whose work has been broadcast in over 75 countries worldwide. After leaving Humboldt State, he worked for Industrial Light & Magic and IBM, and then taught film production at San Francisco State University, San Jose State University, and Cal State LA. He lives in Los Angeles with his 16-year-old daughter.

**Ellaina Klobas, '76**, an education graduate with a minor in Native American Studies, served in the U.S. Air Force for 26 years, traveling in Europe and the eastern and southern U.S. In 2002 she started her second career with the California Highway Patrol in Hayward. Born and raised in Eureka, she hopes to return to Humboldt County when her two children finish college. She lives in Fremont, Calif.



Life... before interruption.

## Mark Your Calendar

Native American Studies/Ensuring Native Inherent Traditions present

### 2nd Annual California Big Time & Social Gathering

April 3-4, 2009 | HSU campus

### Distinguished Alumni Awards Banquet

April 17, 2009, 6 p.m. | Kate Buchanan Room, HSU Campus

### Spring Preview

April 17-18, 2009 | HSU campus

### David Sedaris, humorist and contributor to NPR's This American Life

April 27, 8 p.m. | Van Duzer Theatre, HSU campus

### Softball, CCAA League Championship Tournament

April 30 - May 2 | Arnaiz Park, Stockton, Calif.

### Stomp, international percussion sensation

May 12, 8 p.m. | Van Duzer Theatre, HSU campus

### Commencement

May 16, 2009 | Redwood Bowl, HSU campus

### Homecoming Weekend

October 16-18, 2009 | HSU campus



## Richard Cuneo The business of fine wines

IT WAS BIRDS THAT introduced Humboldt State alum Richard Cuneo to wine and his wife.

"The Sebastiani and Cuneo families had known each other for a while," Cuneo remembers. "One day my mother and I went to visit the Sebastianis. I was involved in ornithology and collecting and keeping birds, so I wanted to see if Mr. Sebastiani had any birds to trade. And that's how I actually met my wife and became part of the winery."

Cuneo married Mary Ann Sebastiani, daughter of August and Sylvia Sebastiani, and in 1974 began working for the family winery located in Sonoma, Calif. The 1962 Business Administration graduate and 2008 Distinguished Alumni Award winner lent his business acumen to the winery—he is not a viticulturist—initially as controller and treasurer. More recently, he served as Sebastiani Winery's Chairman of the Board after stints as both its vice president and president.

"I had a little bit of winery knowledge and quite a bit of business knowledge," Cuneo says of his early days with the company. "It's good to have winery knowledge, but if you're in business, it's very good to have business knowledge."

Cuneo's skill in business yielded results. When he joined the company, the Sebastiani label represented an estimable wine at an affordable price, but was not considered to be in the same league with premier California wineries. Cuneo, his wife and the winery's staff worked to improve the quality of its product, and in 2001 sold

about 90 percent of its labels and production facilities to Constellation Brands, the largest wine company in the world. Cuneo's strategic decision led to a production cut from 8 million to 300,000 cases annually, allowing Sebastiani to produce higher quality wines that are garnering increased recognition from connoisseurs.

"Our wines have been getting great ratings in the last three or so years," Cuneo says. "I feel that the Sebastiani name is now increasingly recognized as a superior product. We try to provide a quality wine at a reasonable price. That's very important because if you're going to ask \$100 for a bottle of wine it better be very, very good. We try to ask \$20 or \$25 for a bottle and we've been getting ratings in publications like the *Wine Spectator* naming our Cabernet Sauvignon a best buy, so that's very satisfying."

Recently, the remaining elements of Sebastiani Winery were purchased by the California-based Foley Wine Group, marking an end to more than 100 years of family ownership. Before selling the company, Cuneo guided several major projects including an upgrade and reconfiguration of fermentation cellars to the tune of \$8.5 million, allowing the winery to coax more complex, piquant flavors from its grapes.

Finally—a requisite inquiry for any winery veteran—which varietal does Cuneo personally prefer?

"The wine I like is kind of a hard sell and it's called Zinfandel. It's not a really fancy wine like Cabernet or Pinot Noir. It's very fruity and berry-like, not too acidic, and it makes a good wine."



Photo Courtesy of Richard Cuneo



**Michael Margolies, '76**, a physical education graduate, lives in Seattle, Wash. He works in the golf industry and coaches premier level soccer. He invites old friends to get in touch.

**Cathy Lewis, '77**, a theatre arts graduate, is an attorney living in Hilo, Hawaii. She would love to hear from old classmates.

**Jeff Jilg, '79**, has worked at multiple computer companies including IBM, Dell, EDS, and ClearCube Technology. In 1988 he received his M.S. in Computer Science from UTEP in El Paso, Texas. In 1992 he received his PhD in Computer Science from Texas A&M Engineering School in College Station, Texas. He and his wife Theresa have lived in Austin, Texas since 1992.

**Frank May, '79**, an economics graduate, lives in Boulder Creek, Calif. He worked as a real estate analyst and appraiser in the Santa Clara-Santa Cruz-Monterey area for a few years before starting his own company in 1986. He writes, "What a great education! I am amazed when people talk about their university experience—how they rarely saw the professors, all the lectures were given by assistants, etc. Not only did I have real professors lecturing, but we had our own little econ house and we could hang out and talk with the pros about economic philosophy and what the philosophers meant... everything I thought the university experience was supposed to be!"



Another day at work...

## 1980s

**Cathryn Halvorson Rudolph, '80**, has worked for business consultants Growth Management Center since 1990. She is married to Dan Rudolph (Wildlife, '83). Dan manages the California Department of Food and Agriculture's new \$20 million Inspection Facility on Interstate 80. Daughter Hollund attends HSU as an Environmental Science major with a restoration emphasis. Daughter Lauryl is a junior in high school. They live in Truckee, Calif.



California State Fair 2008

**David Teachout, '80**, works in the hardware engineering lab for a computer company in San Diego. Next year he will be settling in the small town of Reedsport, Ore. He writes, "I always tell people that my HSU years were the best of my life: Patrick's Point, steelhead fishing, Lumberjack Days and intramural softball." He invites old friends to get in touch.

**Clay Miller, '82**, a wildlife graduate, has served as a U.S. Government environmental manager, advisor, and regulator for over 22 years. For 15 of those years, he served at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) Headquarters in Washington, D.C. as the Wetlands Regulatory



## Aerial Gilbert Turning Adversity into Outreach

**AERIAL GILBERT ('76) HAS** carried the Olympic torch, rowed in competitions from California to Spain, and been inducted into the National Jewish Sports Hall of Fame. At her side in these accomplishments is faithful companion Splash, a German shepherd guide dog. Gilbert has been blind since 1988 after using eye drops adulterated with lye. "I was that one-in-ten-million person who becomes a random victim of tampering," Gilbert wrote in *Incredible People Magazine*.

Gilbert at first retreated to her bedroom, occupying herself with music and audio books. She was lured back to one of her passions, rowing, by an acquaintance from a Bay Area boathouse. "The first time we pushed off the dock the muscle memory kicked in and being able to move in space and be powerful was a gift," said Gilbert. "For me, being on the water is the only time I forget I'm blind."

Over the next few years Gilbert learned to navigate life without her vision. She also found the group Guide Dogs for the Blind, where she met her first guide dog, a yellow lab named Webster. Soon she was back at work and volunteering with Guide Dogs and by 1994 she was their full time Director of Volunteers. Today, Gilbert is the group's outreach manager, educating visually impaired people about the rewards of life with a guide dog.

Gilbert earned her degree in Nursing from Humboldt State in 1976. "All of my interests have come together," she said. "My nursing background helps me promote active lifestyles and then, through rowing, I've been able to introduce blind people to the sport and keep building interest in the U.S. Adaptive team."



Photo Courtesy Cynthia Whelan

## Hank Kashdan

### Reaching the Top Ranks at the Forest Service

**HUMBOLDT STATE ALUM HANK** Kashdan ('73) has been named associate chief for the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service based in Washington, D.C.

Kashdan, a journalism graduate, has been with the Forest Service since 1973, when his career track took a turn away from the field he had studied.

"When I graduated I went to a trade school for heavy equipment and surveying, and that's what got me in to the Forest Service, but the journalism experience really set my career in motion," Kashdan says.

"I work with a lot of engineers and scientists who write very dense stuff and often very linearly, so communication skills have definitely helped me."

Kashdan quickly moved from surveying crews to the management track and bounced from station to station including stops in Washington state, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Sacramento, Calif., and, for the last 14 years, Washington D.C.

As second in command at the U.S. Forest Service, Kashdan says his role is to serve as the alter ego to the department's head and act as a spokesman for the mission of the Forest Service to improve the productivity of America's forests and wild grasslands for current and future generations.

Kashdan also offers a few tips for students interested in joining the service as a career.

"To get into the Forest Service today, you have to have patience and be flexible about where you want to live and get involved with the competitive internships you find on campus. The process for getting into the career track really hasn't changed that much in three decades."

"For me, it's been 36 years and I still love the Forest Service."

Chief and as Team Leader for the Wetlands Regulatory Program Operations Team. Most recently, Clay served 12 months in Afghanistan as an environmental advisor to the newly established National Environmental Protection Agency (NEPA), working to build their capacity to effectively and efficiently protect and conserve the natural resources and environment of Afghanistan. Clay received the USEPA's Office of Water 2005 Leader of the Year Award and has received many other USEPA awards. He recently received a U.S. Department of State Meritorious Honor Award for his environmental work in Afghanistan. He lives in Bealeton, Va.

**Ron Stuart, '84**, a chemistry graduate, was recently hired by the Port of Tacoma as its environmental project manager for air quality. In this position, Stuart will manage port-related emissions-reduction programs, oversee the preparation of air quality aspects of environmental impact assessments and implement initiatives for energy conservation and alternative clean energy. Before joining the port, Stuart spent 21 years with Simpson Tacoma Kraft Co., where his positions included chemist, laboratory supervisor, environmental engineer and environmental compliance auditor.

**Leonard Brennan, '84**, received his master's degree in wildlife from Humboldt State. He received The Wildlife Society's Outstanding Edited Book Award for his latest book *Texas Quails: Ecology and Management*. Leonard is a Professor and Endowed Chair at the Richard M. Kleberg, Jr. Center for Quail Research Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute at Texas A&M University.

**Shepard Tucker, '84**, works in the marine electronics industry at Navico Americas. His passion and energy for boating helped build Portland, Oregon-based Nobeltec into the leader in navigational software for recreational and professional mariners. He lives in Wilsonville, Ore.

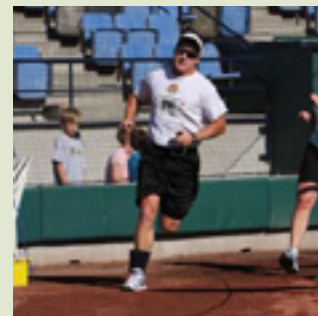
**Gary Sawyer, '84**, a psychology graduate, has worked as a third grade teacher the last eleven years at Salinas Christian School. He lives in Salinas, Calif.

**John Bailey, '88**, celebrated 20 years with EDS Corporation on July 11, 2008. He lives in Plano, Texas.

## 1990s

**Richard Brown, '90**, lives in La Mesa, Calif. He writes, "I remember driving in the HSU rain, and recall the driving lessons it taught me. While this is not academic, the lessons have saved my life while driving [in the recent rain] here in San Diego!"

**Jonathan Wright, '90**, (right) completed three half marathons in 2008 and is looking forward to more in 2009. He lives in Kuna, Idaho.



Sprint to the finish



**Walter Moody, '92**, is working on a new web mapping GIS system for vineyards and wineries to better manage their operations. He is also doing some 3D fly-thru marketing movies based in GoogleEarth. He lives in Santa Rosa, Calif.

**Noreen Moen, '93**, has 3 children ages 9, 6, and 3. She lives in Marysville, Wash.

**Jason Cleckler, '94**, (right) enjoys playing in the outdoors with his family. He lives in Montrose, Colo.



Hanging out in the desert

**Luke Williams, '94**, is a Paramedic Ocean Lifeguard Specialist assigned to Catalina Island. Luke also volunteers as a diver with the Aquarium of the Pacific in Long Beach, California and as a therapy dog handler with the Bright and Beautiful Therapy Dogs, Inc. He lives in San Pedro, Calif.



A boy and his waterloving dog!

**Tina Borgman, '95**, a psychology graduate, now has an MSW and works as a school social worker. She previously worked in group homes and community-based programs with emotionally disturbed youth. She writes, "The rest of CA is finally catching up with the environmentally-friendly focus of Humboldt State more than ten years later!" She lives in Pleasant Grove, Calif.

**Tonya Selberg, '96**, was married to her husband, Scott, about a year ago and works as a physician assistant in several local emergency departments and urgent cares. She lives in Santa Rosa, Calif.

**Tyler Smurr, '96**, moved to his wife's hometown of Boerne, Texas and earned a teaching certificate in Biology from the University of Texas. He currently teaches 8th grade Earth Science and coaches 8th grade football, basketball, shot put and discus. He



The Smurrs

writes, "All of the exposure I got at Humboldt to different people and different ways of life gave me the experience and people skills to teach and coach. HSU created a very well rounded person and I am grateful."

**Greg Hoetker, '98**, an English graduate, teaches at South Junior High School in Boise, Idaho and is working toward a doctorate in Education, Curriculum and Instruction, with a concentration in Literacy, at Boise State University. He lives in Boise with his wife Heather and their two children, Luke and Mia.

**Carl Fiorica, '99**, is a licensed Civil Engineer as well as a LEED Accredited Professional. He and his wife have 2 children and live in San Diego.

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## Eric Ramos

### Bringing Success to Blue Lake Rancheria

IN 2001, ERIC RAMOS returned home to Humboldt County eager to start his new job at Blue Lake Rancheria.

"I can remember on my first day I used the back of some papers from the recycling bin; I borrowed a pencil from somebody," he says. "It was really start up, really at the ground floor."

A lot has changed since Ramos, a 1996 Business Administration alum and 2006 Distinguished Alumni Award recipient, began working for Blue Lake Rancheria, a federally recognized tribal government with a tribal citizenry of 53 members about seven miles east of Humboldt State. He's gone from sharing an office and telephone with five employees to serving as President of Business Operations and has guided the Rancheria, of which he is an enrolled member, through tremendous growth. The Tribe now operates a highly successful casino, has diversified its enterprises to include a 20,000-employee staffing agency, among other entities, and plans to open a high-end hotel next to its casino this summer.

Ramos was born in Eureka, Calif., and raised in Blue Lake. He enrolled at Humboldt State as a philosophy major but soon switched to business after being inspired by courses he took. Upon graduation he landed in the Silicon Valley with the accounting firm KPMG where his high-profile clients included Adobe Systems, Apple Computer and Daimler Chrysler. The differences between life on the Rancheria and life in California's high-tech mecca were dramatic.

"It was absolutely bizarre to me," Ramos says of his arrival in Silicon Valley. "When I first moved there, before the Internet or Mapquest, I bought a Thomas Guide to learn how to get around. I knew how to get from work to my apartment. I would study that guide the night before visiting a client and drive around to figure out where I was. So, it was very different—at home, there wasn't much need to consult a map."

Ramos left KPMG and joined a telecom start-up company, Turnstone Systems. As Treasury Manager he managed a cash and investment portfolio in excess of \$270 million and participated in the company's initial public offering of stock. Eventually Ramos began weighing job offers.

"The Tribe told me that they were interested in developing a casino enterprise. I didn't know what the casino project would look like or how successful it would be, but I was always interested in coming home and I missed home, so I decided to come back."

Ramos was a driving force in developing the Rancheria's casino, which was an immediate success upon its opening in June 2002. He has high hopes for the new hotel, as the Tribe uses its revenue for education, meals programs and public safety among other services, which provide for tribal members and non-tribal residents.

"The continuation of our government and the community support we are able to provide are my motivations to throw my feet over the edge of the bed each morning and get to work."

Considering the skill with which Ramos has navigated the business world thus far, the Tribe's success looks like a good bet.





# 2000

**Bret Ritter, '00**, an industrial technology graduate, recently started his own construction business. He lives in Mt. Shasta, Calif. with his wife Beverly ('01), a fellow HSU graduate.

**Paul Savona, '00**, a forestry graduate, is a Forester and Peace Officer for CalFire in Crescent City, Calif. He and his wife Stacy ('04), a fellow HSU alum, live in Brookings, Ore., with their Labrador Retriever, Abigail.

**Aprillfawn (Grigsby) White, '00**, received dual BS degrees in marine biology and zoology at HSU. Working as a biochemist since graduation, she currently works at Ionian Technologies as a scientist in biowarfare defense. A single mom with three daughters, her work has been published in over 30 scientific journals, and she breeds Alaskan Klee Kai miniature huskies as a hobby. She is also founder and president of the national Alaskan Klee Kai Health and Genetics Research Institute.

**Kendra Zien, '00**, a recreation administration graduate, works as the Assistant Operations Manager at Children's Fairyland in Oakland, a small storybook amusement park. She lives in Richmond, Calif.

**Douglas C. Morton, '01**, has worked as the Transportation Planner for the Northeastern Vermont Development Association for 5 1/2 yrs. NVDA is a small rural Regional Planning Commission that represents the three Northeasternmost counties in Vermont. Douglas provides technical assistance (traffic counting, capital budgeting, municipal Infrastructure inventories, etc.) and grant writing among many other things. He lives in St. Johnsbury, Vt. with his wife and three children.

**Theresa Johnson, '01**, is a biology graduate with a minor in botany. She earned a teaching credential in 2005 in secondary life science at CSULA. She currently teaches biology, botany and health in Phoenix, Ariz. and looks forward to returning to California.

**Beverly Shaw-Ritter, '01**, an environmental science and wildlife graduate, works for Siskiyou County Health Department as an Environmental Health Specialist. In her role, she conducts restaurant, pool/spa, and housing inspections. She lives in Mt. Shasta, Calif. with her husband Bret ('00), a fellow HSU graduate.

**Stacie Lyons, '02**, a Journalism graduate, earned her MBA at Humboldt State in 2005. She lives in Arcata and works at HSU as a Senior Admissions Counselor. She says, "I love my job and promoting HSU, what could be better. Go Jacks!"

**Stacy (Hardy) Savona, '04**, a forestry graduate, is the Sudden Oak Death Forester for the Oregon Dept. of Forestry as well as a third year law school student. She lives with her husband Paul ('00), also an HSU alum, in Brookings, Ore. with their Labrador Retriever, Abigail.

**Benjamin Mears, '04**, an art graduate, and Sara Brown, '04, a communications graduate, were married on August 9th, 2008 in Santa Cruz, California.

**Wendy Mellberg Haecker, '04**, recently completed her master's degree in Special Education with an emphasis in Guide Dog Mobility at San Francisco State University. She works for Guide Dogs for the Blind in San Rafael, California, as a Guide Dog Mobility Instructor.



## Kirk Goddard California's best history teacher

**KIRK GODDARD DOESN'T CLAIM** a specific teaching style or philosophy. His approach to the classroom is informed more by common sense than pedagogical theory.

"If the kids want to be there, it's the easiest job in the world," says Goddard, a 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade history teacher at Jacoby Creek Charter School in Arcata, Calif. "The goal is to make it relevant to the students—to make class challenging, but enjoyable."

Goddard, a 1989 HSU Social Sciences graduate, has certainly attained his goal of making history relevant for his students. This past fall he was honored with the Preserve America History Teacher of the Year award for California. The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History sponsors the award. He was nominated by HSU History Professor Gayle Olson-Raymer, who works with Goddard supervising student teachers and has observed his teaching methods on several occasions.

"I think Gayle was impressed by the way I interact with the kids and extend their critical thinking processes," Goddard says. "I emphasize deep thinking more so than rote memorization and I try to apply the history the students are learning to not only their present, but also their future."

Besides encouraging discussion, the very arrangement of Goddard's classroom promotes communication and debate. Set up in a forum-like configuration, Goddard says the idea is to "allow the students to interact and share their interpretations of history."

"One thing I make clear from the start is that there's no right answer in history," he says. "History is a matter of perspective and interpretation. If there are 25 kids in the class there could be 25 right answers depending on how you look at things. As long as my students can support their answer with facts and details, that's a valid response."

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## Streaming Trio

Kiriki Delany, Jonathan Speaker and Jason Osburn

**HAVE YOU EVER LISTENED** to a podcast of the popular radio show “This American Life?” If so, you have unwittingly used the services of a streaming media company managed by a trio of HSU alumni.

Kiriki Delany ('00), his former faculty advisor Jonathan Speaker ('95) and Jason Osburn ('98) manage the company that uses the Web to broadcast radio, television, and live events around the world.

Together they stream public radio stations from New York (WNYC) to Chicago (WBEZ) to Yellowstone Public Radio. Highlights of their broadcasts have included streaming for the 2007 Jamaican elections, Mexico's largest radio broadcast group, and the number one iTunes podcast in the United States, “This American Life.”

It all started with Speaker and Delany's interdisciplinary education at Humboldt State. “I was thinking about information-based technology and multimedia,” says Speaker. “At the time the Web was so new that it was up to me to cobble together my major.”

Delany had a similar experience. “Humboldt State had a lot to offer but the resources were fragmented. I had to use the Art department to access the computers, Theater to access the sound and Music for the keyboard and audio equipment.”

Speaker and Delany got their start at Humboldt State's Courseware Development Center (CDC). Speaker created the CDC under Professor Hal Campbell's direction and ran it for a few years. He says, “We were staffed with students like Delany that were hungry for what was going on in the world of the web, and the CDC offered the only real hands-on experience during those days.”

Speaker says the best part about his job is “when you are a fan of the show that is being broadcast—that is job fulfillment.”



**Natalie Soder, '04**, recently recieved her master's degree in Sociology from Humboldt State. Her thesis was published in the International Journal of Community Currency Research.

**Kaleigh Gilmore, '06**, a social work graduate, is currently a research assistant and MSW student focusing on end of life care at the University of Iowa. She lives in Iowa City, IA with her husband, also an HSU alum, and their daughter.

**John Rogers, '07**, earned his master's degree in social work at HSU. He works as a child MSW therapist in a non-profit agency in Compton, Calif. and is working towards his LCSW. He says, "I had a really good educational experience at HSU. Thank you."

## What's Up With You?

**WE WANT TO HEAR** about important changes in your life. Your fellow alumni are curious also. Send us a Class Note about your career change, marriage, baby, community work, etc. Space permitting, we'll run it in a future *Humboldt Magazine*.

**SUBMIT ITEMS AT THE** alumni Web site, [alumni.humboldt.edu](http://alumni.humboldt.edu), or [alumni@humboldt.edu](mailto:alumni@humboldt.edu). Don't forget to include your name, the year you graduated, degree and contact information.

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When registering for the online community, have your Humboldt magazine handy. You will be asked for your constituent ID, which is above your name.

HUMBOLDT STATE UNIVERSITY

**THE boldt**

An electronic dispatch for alumni and friends of Humboldt State University

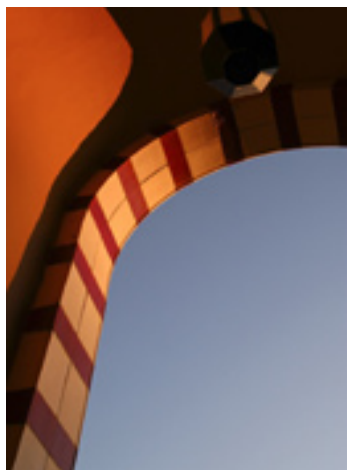


## Stay Connected to HSU

The Boldt, our alumni email alert, keeps you connected to the pulse of Humboldt. Published every other month, it brings you alumni and campus news, information on events and benefits, what's happening with professors and departments, and the Humboldt Quiz.

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# 8 T H I N G S ... [campus doors]

**WE SEARCHED HIGH AND LOW** for things to give you a sense of what campus is like today. And we discovered that doors at Humboldt State are way more intriguing than you might have imagined. Have something fun that you'd like us to feature? Drop us a line: [magazine@humboldt.edu](mailto:magazine@humboldt.edu)





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