

A person in a tan field jacket is holding a bird of prey, possibly a falcon, on their gloved hand. The bird has brown and white plumage and is looking towards the left. The background is a bright, hazy sky. The person's face is partially visible on the left side of the frame.

# Humboldt

The Magazine of Humboldt State University | Spring 2012

## For the Birds

The Rewards and Challenges of  
Avian Field Research



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Matthew Thompkins

**ON THE COVER:** On a crisp morning in Samoa, Calif., students in a Wildlife Management class learn techniques for banding raptors like this red-tailed hawk.

**THESE PAGES:** A hat keeps newly hatched snowy plover chicks from wandering off as they receive their first U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service identification bands with the help of HSU students.

Photo Courtesy of Luke J. Eberhart-Phillips





# from the President



I FEEL FORTUNATE to be able to live in a beautiful environment such as Humboldt County. Daily, I enjoy looking at the redwoods that surround and adorn the Humboldt campus and enjoy walks on the local beaches. Those of you who attended Humboldt State University can, I am sure, appreciate the local splendor of the area. Like many others, I am concerned that such a beautiful environment may not be available to my grandchildren or their children.

I am grateful that many students and researchers here at Humboldt State University recognize this as well and work tirelessly to improve the world around us. As you will note in this edition of *Humboldt* maga-

zine, the research work by professors like Matt Johnson, Luke George and Mark Colwell focus on understanding the habitats of birds, some of which are local.

Many years ago, I married a behavioral ornithologist and had the pleasure of occasionally helping her gather data on the mating system of cardinals. I was most impressed by how difficult this science was and the cover story in this edition emphasizes this point well. As the work of my colleagues demonstrates, it is becoming increasingly important to study the ecology and behavior of avian species. Humboldt has outstanding faculty who, through their infectious passion for the environment, have inspired students to become the new leaders of efforts to preserve our natural world both for other species and for ourselves. Humboldt students, like none I have ever met, are committed to social and environmental responsibility and will be a part of the solution for our planet.

I want to thank all of you who have attended Humboldt State for the contributions you are making to the world. I am sure that, having been Humboldt State students, you share many of the same ideals that our current students hold dear. Please come and visit us from time to time and enjoy what Humboldt has to offer.

Sincerely,

Rollin C. Richmond  
President

## 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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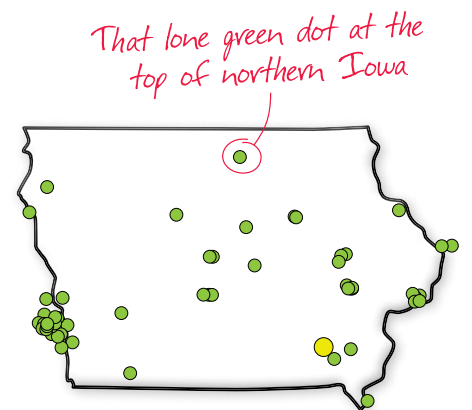
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## Feedback

I APPRECIATE RECEIVING your fine magazine that keeps me up-to-date on the many current events of a great institution that played a major role in shaping my future. I am that lone green dot at the top of northern Iowa on your U.S. distribution map of HSU alumni ("Where They Are Today," fall 2011, p. 27). After delving into the world of Roosevelt elk ecology and social organization in the late-1960s at Prairie Creek State Park for my master's in game management, the fire was lit to expand my horizons on other large mammals and continents. Four years of researching the endangered vicuña in the altiplano of Peru at over 14,000 feet elevation earned me my next advanced degree from Utah State University. From there I spent the next 25 years conducting and overseeing field studies on the Patagonia guanaco in southern Chile. I was fortunate during an exciting career to have authored a plethora of publications, helped produce television specials on my research for *Nova*, *Nature*, *Discovery* and *National Geographic*, and wrote and photographed three feature articles for *National Geographic*. Although officially retired, I'm now conducting guanaco field studies in the Falkland Islands in the South Atlantic Ocean off the coast of southern South America. I'm active in the Camelid Survival Service Commission of International Union for Conservation of Nature and continue writing. The lessons learned during those foggy mornings at Gold Bluffs Beach and in the shadows of



towering redwoods at Prairie Creek will always be a significant part of me. Thank you Humboldt State University. Thank you Professors Dassman, Mossman, Harris, and Genelly ... wherever you are ... for the inspiration and direction you gave me. It all would not have happened without you.

### William L. Franklin, Ph.D.

Itinerant Mammalian Wildlife Ecologist  
Professor Emeritus, Iowa State University

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Professor Franklin's most recent writing was a comprehensive review of the entire camel family in "Handbook of the Mammals of the World (Hoofed Mammals)" edited by D.E. Wilson and R.A. Mittermeier.

**LETTERS ARE WELCOME** and may be published in upcoming issues of *Humboldt* magazine. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

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# CHAMPS! Jacks Claim Conference Title

**HUMBOLDT STATE'S FOOTBALL** squad bested the Western Oregon Wolves 37-7 last November to secure the team's first Great Northwest Athletic Conference (GNAC) championship title.

The win not only netted a conference title, it avenged the Lumberjacks' only loss that season—also against Western Oregon in a 40-24 match in early October.

"There's no doubt who the best team in the GNAC is this year—Humboldt State," said Head Coach Rob Smith.

Conference laurels were not far behind. Smith was honored as the GNAC Coach of the Year. Mike Proulx, the Lumberjacks'

quarterback, was selected as Offensive Player of the Year, and Jona Faraimo, a linebacker who led the Jacks' defense, was chosen Defensive Player of the Year.

The recognition did not end with the GNAC. In January, Proulx and running back Lyndon Rowells were both named to the Don Hansen NCAA Division II All-America team. Meanwhile, defensive end Brendan Faubion was selected by the Austrian Football League to play and coach for the Salzburg Bulls beginning in March. Defensive back Guy Ricciardulli was drafted to the Carlstad Crusaders in Sweden. Defensive back Diamond Weaver signed with the Abilene Ruff Riders in the Lone Star Football League. And the San Jose SaberCats invited defensive end Jonathan Wells and defensive back Jordan McGowan-Smith to the team's training camp. The SaberCats are in the Arena Football League.

For the Jacks, the GNAC championship was the program's first title since winning the now-defunct Northern California Athletic Conference in 1995. It's the 10th conference championship in HSU football history, which dates back to 1924.

The league championship—capping off a 7-1 league record and a 9-1 overall record—was well deserved. But despite a winning conference championship, the Lumberjacks were left out of the NCAA Division II Playoffs.

The Jacks' 2012 campaign kicks off on Aug. 30 against Mesa State. Keep up with all the action at [hsujacks.com](http://hsujacks.com)

**Brian Blumberg (31), Brendon Faubion (47), Jona Faraimo (35) and their teammates celebrate after the Jacks secured the Great Northwest Athletic Conference title.**



## Understanding the Economics of Bee Demise



Brian Gross

**WHEN A MYSTERIOUS** illness struck the country's honeybee population in 2006, scientists struggled to understand how billions of honeybees disappeared from their hives, seemingly overnight.

The phenomenon is called colony collapse disorder. Researchers still aren't sure how to stop it—and other factors like mites, climate change and urbanization—from devastating the

world's honeybee population, which has experienced a 50 percent drop in the past half century.

At Humboldt State, Economics instructor Brian Gross is looking for answers. Gross, who joined the department last fall, is one of a handful of experts working on the Bee Informed Partnership, a national study of honeybees and beekeeping sustainability funded through the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Over the next five years, Gross and a team of economists, entomologists, epidemiologists and agriculture experts will try to explain the decline.

It's important work because of the critical role that honeybees play in the global food chain. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, about \$15 billion in U.S. crops—like apples, cranberries, melons and broccoli—benefit from honeybee pollination and one-third of every bite we eat is pollinated by honeybees. California-grown almonds—80 percent of the world's supply—depend entirely on honeybee pollination. The almond industry brings bees from around the country to California's Central Valley each spring, where they pollinate nearly 800,000 acres of almond orchards between Bakersfield and Red Bluff.

Last year, the Bee Informed Partnership conducted a census of U.S. beekeepers and currently, researchers are surveying beekeepers on issues like disease, colony mortality, pest control, labor costs and management decisions. The goal, Gross says, is to identify the best approaches to reduce honeybee losses and inform the people managing them.

"You have an industry that's really important for food production and the fact of the matter is we don't know a whole lot about it or how it works," Gross says. "Moving forward, what type of policies do we need to implement to make sure we have a resilient, sustaining honeybee population and beekeepers managing it?"

■ **FOR MORE INFORMATION** on the Bee Informed Partnership, visit [beeinformed.org](http://beeinformed.org)

**RELATED** ► Humboldt State Alumna Marla Spivak was awarded a MacArthur Genius Grant for her innovative research on bees. Read more about her and this year's other Distinguished Alumni Award recipients on page 34.



## Campus Nixes Bottled Water

**HUMBOLDT STATE HAS** stopped selling plastic water bottles on campus, making it the first public university in California and just the third in the nation to do so.

The ban came in response to concerns voiced by students. It includes all campus marketplaces and eateries, including the "J" cafeteria, as well as vending machines.

TC Comet, director of HSU's Office of Sustainability, says the move makes sense for a campus with a long commitment to the environment. "We are proud to be one of the first campuses to do a phase-out of this magnitude," he says.

Prior to this year, about 50,000 plastic water bottles were sold on campus each year. The peak in a single year was nearly 80,000. It's estimated that the production, transportation, storage and disposal of those 80,000 plastic water bottles required about 43 barrels of oil and released over 35,000 pounds of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.

On campus, there are still plenty of places to quench your thirst.

There are drinking fountains in every building on campus, as well as two "Hydration Stations" in the Depot and Kinesiology & Athletics Building. The stations provide chilled, filtered water, and are designed for refillable beverage containers. The campus is currently retrofitting more water fountains to accommodate reusable water containers.



## Prof: Tiny Primates Communicate with Ultrasonic Private Channel



Submitted Photo  
Marissa Ramsier

**HUMBOLDT STATE ANTHROPOLOGY** lecturer and alumna Marissa Ramsier ('03, Anthropology) has garnered international media attention for a recent paper published in the *Biology Letters* of London's distinguished Royal Society.

In her research, which has been publicized on MSNBC, Discovery.com, National Public Radio and elsewhere, Ramsier discovered that the tarsier, one of the world's smallest primates, probably has an ultrasound warning

system within its social groups.

Ramsier and colleagues in the field conducted research with the elusive Philippine tarsier using state-of-the-art recording technology. Recordings made so far indicate that the tarsier's

vocalizations may represent a "private channel" of communication via ultrasonic signals. They are undetectable either by the human ear or by many of the monkey's prey and predators.

Ramsier expects further research and analysis to determine what advantages the tarsier derives from its specialized sensory adaptation. But the evidence she and her colleagues have collected to date on the Philippine Islands have broader implications for all vertebrates.

That is because comparatively few mammals send and receive pure ultrasonic signal.

Advances in non-intrusive recording technology now enable researchers to generate audiograms of wild animals without compromising their way of life or habitat. Ramsier and her colleagues expect future research to provide insights into the basic attributes that would promote high-frequency hearing in all vertebrates.



New School of Business Professor Michelle Lane and students in a Management Theory class.

## Daredevil Alum Brings Slackline to Super Bowl

**YOU MAY HAVE CAUGHT** adrenaline-junkie Andy Lewis ('08, Recreation Administration) showing off his slackline skills and sharing the stage with pop-icon Madonna at the Super Bowl XLVI halftime show.

"I'm a breakout star, apparently," jokes Lewis, who caught national attention performing aerial acrobatics from a suspended two-inch nylon strap. Since then, he has received lots of media attention, including a prominent photo in *The New York Times*, an ABC interview and more. But personal fame was never part of the equation when Lewis signed on to perform. Rather, he hoped to bring a whole new level of public attention to his true passion, slacklining.

In slacklining, athletes balance themselves on a flat strap of nylon webbing, as little as one inch wide. Whether 3,000 feet over a canyon floor (highlining) or three feet off the ground performing acrobatic stunts (tricklining) slackliners are constantly defying gravity, testing their personal limits and abilities, and having a lot of fun.

For two months, Lewis worked 60-to-80 hour weeks perfecting his 20-second routine. "I got to be my own choreographer," he says. "I just wanted it to look cool and smooth."



Photo courtesy of Doug Mills/The New York Times/Redux

Andy Lewis shares the stage with Madonna as part of the Super Bowl halftime show.

And he knew he accomplished that goal the second he landed his backflip dismount on stage at the halftime show.

"I had about 20 houses cheering for me when it happened," Lewis says of the friends and family that tuned in to support him.

## Biz School Steps Up Its Game

**HSU'S SCHOOL OF BUSINESS** is in the midst of an ambitious expansion, supported by recent major gifts from the Patricia D. & William B. Smullin Foundation and an anonymous donor.

Over the last year the School has hired new faculty, made extensive changes to the curriculum and partnered with local businesses for an expanded internship program. Even more is in the works as part of a larger strategy to boost enrollment and focus the School on entrepreneurship and sustainability.

"This is a really exciting time for the School of Business as we look to expand and create our signature identity, which is rooted in entrepreneurship and infused with sustainability," says HSU Business School Chair Steve Hackett. In recent years, a number of business schools have started expanding the traditional curriculum to include classes in these areas, Hackett says. At Humboldt State, doing so is a natural fit.

The School's expansion got off to a strong start last year after HSU committed \$2 million in additional state funding to the effort and an anonymous benefactor stepped forward to provide \$500,000. Then this spring, the Smullin Foundation pledged \$400,000 to create paid internships for business students (see back cover).

The gifts are the two largest ever to the HSU School of Business. "The Smullin Foundation is pleased to be able to make a difference for undergraduate business students and North Coast

communities through providing paid internships," says Carol Anne Smullin Brown. "It is a privilege to support Humboldt State."

The university is hoping to partner with local foundations, businesses and alumni to raise an additional \$1 million.

The funding has allowed the School to hire three permanent faculty members in sustainability and entrepreneurship. Nancy Vizenor, a nine-year instructor in the school, was promoted to Assistant Professor in entrepreneurship. Michelle Lane joined the faculty to teach entrepreneurship and David Sleeth-Keppler and Sarita Ray Chaudhury were brought on to teach sustainable marketing. Kate Lancaster has joined the school to teach accounting beginning this fall.

Going forward, the School is exploring ways to broaden its reach to include national and international students. Ideas include the creation of an online MBA to offer classes in East or South Asia.

Other initiatives include an undergraduate internship class led by Business School Instructor Shari Duron, and a "Professor for a Day" program in which business leaders will be invited to interact with students and discuss current business issues. By next year, the School also plans to start a speaker's series featuring national business leaders.



## Text Questions Traditional Family



Professor Tasha Howe

**PSYCHOLOGY PROFESSOR TASHA HOWE** has published a textbook examining the biological, personal and social factors that make families tick. Howe asserts that, for many, the traditional family never existed and urges students to pay attention to their own family's strengths.

"Marriages and Families in the 21st Century: A Bioecological Approach" examines how outside influences like schools, media and culture affect modern families and looks at common issues like divorce, domestic violence, gender roles and work-life balance.

"I've been teaching for many years and had always struggled to find an appropriate textbook for my class," says Howe, who teaches the undergraduate course "Family Relations in Contemporary Society."

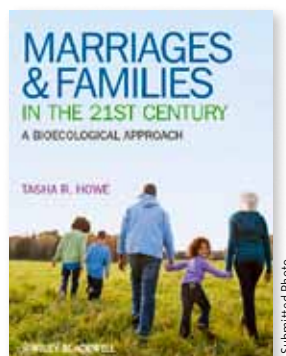
The interdisciplinary textbook includes vignettes from Humboldt County families and encourages readers to analyze

their own families using a "strengths-based approach."

Howe says that many people emphasize a family's structure—the fact that there are two fathers or a single mother—instead of focusing on family processes like love, openness and discipline.

She also argues that the idealized American family of the 1950s, consisting of a breadwinner father, homemaker mother and two children, didn't exist for most people.

"The truth is that there were no good old days like we envisioned on TV," Howe says. "Regardless of how wacky or weird your family is, my goal with this book is to get students to focus on the strengths of their family and to analyze the process dynamics at a deeper level." Howe specializes in family violence, developmental psychopathology and violence prevention at HSU. She is a Fulbright Scholar and nationally certified trainer for the American Psychological Association's Parents Raising Safe Kids program.



Submitted Photo

## Secondary Ed Credential Program Expands Online

**HUMBOLDT STATE'S PROGRAM** for future middle school and high school teachers is now being offered online. The new format means that anyone who meets eligibility

requirements can earn a California single subject preliminary teaching credential through HSU.

"We're particularly excited for the opportunity this provides," Fieldwork Coordinator Anna Thaler Petersen said. "It's going to increase the diversity of our applicant pool and the diversity of our school site placements, allowing students to teach in urban as well as rural communities around the state."

Through a combination of online instruction and experience in school classrooms, the one-year program prepares students to teach a single subject in grades seven through 12. Humboldt offers eight areas of specialization: art, English, social science, music, math, physical education, science and world languages.

It's the latest program at HSU to go online. This fall, HSU launched an online certificate in faculty preparation for graduate students, faculty members and working professionals interested in teaching in higher education. And the university offers several certificates and other courses either partially or fully online.

HSU's Secondary Education Credential Program currently enrolls about 50 candidates annually. Over 90 percent of graduates report positive career placement.

■ **FOR MORE INFORMATION:** [humboldt.edu/education](http://humboldt.edu/education)



HSU's Secondary Education Credential Program now lets students earn their credentials online.

## Professor Publishes 10-year-old's New Molecule

**WHEN KENNETH BOEHR** asked his fifth grade class at Border Star Montessori School in Kansas City, Mo., to build molecules with modeling kits, he didn't expect one of his students to make a scientific discovery.

But that's what happened when Clara Lazen, 10, randomly arranged a unique combination of oxygen, nitrogen and carbon atoms. The result was a molecule that Boehr had never seen before.

So he emailed longtime friend and HSU Chemistry Professor Robert Zoellner, a computational chemist who models the properties of molecules.

"Ken sent me a picture of the molecule on my cell phone and usually I can tell right away if it's real," Zoellner says. This time, he couldn't.

So he plugged the arrangement into Chemical Abstracts, an online database. Only one paper came up, Zoellner says. It was for a molecule with the same formula but a different arrangement of atoms than Lazen's.

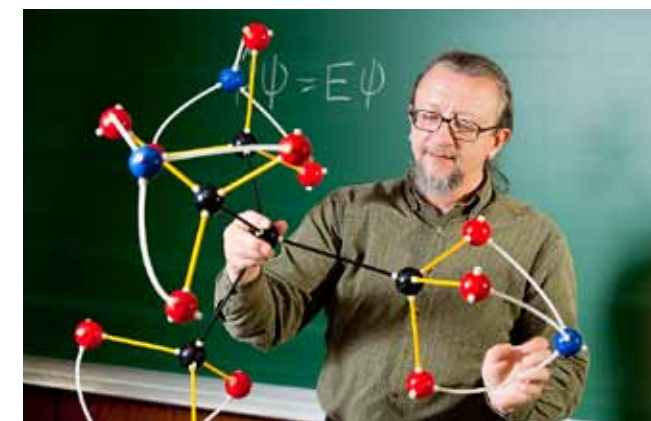
Zoellner dug a little deeper and determined that not only was Lazen's molecule unique, it had the potential to store energy. It contains the same combination of atoms as nitroglycerin, a powerful explosive. If a synthetic chemist succeeded at creating the molecule—dubbed tetrakis(nitratoxycarbon)methane—it could store energy, create a large explosion, or do something in between, Zoellner says: "Who knows?"

Zoellner submitted a research paper on his findings to the January issue of Computational and Theoretical Chemistry. Both Lazen and Boehr are listed as co-authors.

In an interview with *The Kansas City Star* newspaper, Lazen said she never thought she'd be a published author by age 10.

"Most 10- or 11-year-olds don't get their names in a science paper," she told the paper.

The discovery has been featured on the Huffington Post, *The Kansas City Star*, Gizmodo.com and many others.



Chemistry Professor Robert Zoellner with a model of the tetrakis(nitratoxycarbon)methane molecule.



Personal locator beacons can help get hikers out of sticky situations, but also might encourage risky behavior.

## Grad Student, Professor Shine Light on Personal Locator Beacons

**SINCE HITTING THE** market in 2003, personal locator beacons have saved hundreds of people from life-threatening wilderness situations. The satellite-linked devices alert search and rescue teams to the precise location of a person in danger, and can often mean the difference between life and death.

But in recent years, a growing number of people have started using the devices for non-emergencies—alerting authorities about water that's too salty, or making an emergency call for a snoring partner—according to research by HSU graduate student Kristen Pope ('11, Natural Resources) and Professor Steve Martin.

The research was detailed in the August issue of the International Journal of Wilderness. The article examines public perceptions of personal locator beacons, the false sense of security they can provide and the repercussions for land-use managers and the public.

Pope and Martin's field research focused on public perceptions of technology use. They surveyed 235 visitors to California's King Range Wilderness area in 2009 and found that 55 percent of respondents were "pro-technology." These people were more likely to take risks and to use a satellite-linked emergency device to request a rescue than the remaining "anti-technology" respondents, many of whom were more experienced, had personal experience with a life-threatening wilderness situation, and believed technology should not take the place of skill, experience and knowledge.

"Devices like personal locator beacons are fantastic when used properly because they really reduce the challenges associated with doing search and rescue," says Martin, who is chair of the Department of Environmental Science and Management. "But some people are using them as an inappropriate substitute for experience, skill and good judgment."





**“The purpose of this research project is to conduct a world-leading test of gravity at extremely short distances and more precisely than has ever been done before.”** C.D. Hoyle, HSU Physics Professor

STUDENTS AND PHYSICS Professor C.D. Hoyle hope to capture crucial evidence of what lies behind the origins of the universe, its accelerating expansion, and whether Einstein’s famous idea of gravitational force or quantum mechanics is the more accurate model of nature.

In a series of experiments that will continue through 2013, HSU undergraduates will put gravity on trial across distances half the thickness of a human hair—10-20 microns—to see if gravitational force breaks down at extremely short distances. If it does, Einstein’s celebrated theory might take second place to more recent string theory, which attempts to meld the theory of relativity and quantum mechanics into a single theoretical model of the universe. Quantum mechanics describes the structure, motion, and interaction of subatomic particles mathematically.

“In a nutshell, the purpose of this research project is to conduct a world-leading test of gravity at extremely short distances and more precisely than has ever been done before,” says Hoyle, principal investigator at the Gravitational Research Laboratory. “It may produce evidence that will either confirm or refute certain aspects of string theory.”

String theory is a unifying concept of physics which attempts to “explain everything in the universe” based on the extremely minute scales of quantum mechanics—atoms, molecules, magnetism, electricity and so on. (Einstein also strove to interlock all of nature’s forces in one holistic explanation.)

What Hoyle and his students are searching for is experimental evidence that might help sort out the mathematical inconsistencies between the theory of relativity and quantum mechanics. It should be possible to integrate the two, synthesize them, in a single consistent model that describes the universe.

To date there is no experimental evidence for string theory that can be measured and reproduced over and over again in the laboratory. And the idea presents complications of its own. In Hoyle’s words, “it predicts a whole bunch of weird things like extra dimensions and multiple universes and the fact that gravity should behave differently when particles are very close together.”

Working at the cutting edge of laboratory physics, Hoyle’s students have built their own highly sensitive torsion pendulum that measures infinitesimal alterations in gravitational pull. A torsion pendulum rotates rather than swings and is akin to hanging a dumbbell from a fiber. The degree of twist in the fiber measures the strength of gravity. Researchers gauge whether the predictions of gravity’s behavior are correct or whether new effects are at work.

Although a torsion pendulum is straightforward in concept and function, taking accurate tabletop measurements of gravitational forces is a demanding task. First of all, Hoyle’s students will be measuring distances that are almost impossibly small. The pendulum’s fiber may twist by an angle of no more than a nano-radian. How small is that?

Hoyle offers this illustration: imagine a lone pea on the ground in San Diego. The angle subtended by that pea all the way from the city to the Gravitational Research Lab in HSU’s Science A Building is approximately one nano-radian.

Another thing: you don’t go down to the local hardware store to buy a torsion pendulum that functions at the one-micron level. Hoyle’s physics students are building their project from scratch. They are putting in a lot of time developing the required hardware and techniques. “You can’t even buy the needed optical system to measure nano-radians of deflection,” Hoyle says.

So his students are picking up valuable experience in designing and building optical systems of their own. They are making their own electronic circuits to “read” and record physical and environmental parameters in the lab such as temperature, magnetic fields, and seismic activity. They are getting hands-on experience with computer-aided design, software programming suites, software/hardware interfaces, data analysis, and science displays.

“There is so much groundwork to be done,” says physics student Holly Leopardi. “You don’t just walk into the lab, push the start button and begin analyzing data. You have to build the whole thing first.” [H](#)

Student Holly Leopardi uses the Department of Physics & Astronomy’s torsion pendulum, which is used to measure gravity at infinitesimal distances.

# Searching for Gravity's True Nature

By Paul Mann

Physics Professor C.D. Hoyle has secured a \$117,000 National Science Foundation grant to explore the nature of gravity with his students in HSU's Gravitational Research Laboratory.



# Sudden Oak Death Could Mean Big Fire Threat

By Paul Mann



HSU alumnus and CAL FIRE official Hugh Scanlon says sudden oak death will require different tactics and strategies to contain forest fires fueled by dead trees.

■ **FOR MORE INFORMATION**  
go to [suddenoakdeath.org](http://suddenoakdeath.org)

HUMBOLDT STATE'S FOCUS on fire science continues to produce key findings of long-term importance to the Redwood Coast region (see "Fire on the Mountain," *Humboldt* magazine, spring 2009). The most recent studies have found that spreading tree disease could be a dangerous contributor to forest fires.

Research by scientists at HSU and the University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) in Eureka indicates that the onset of sudden oak death in North Coast forests poses a worsening fire threat.

The non-native disease, which was discovered in the Bay Area in the mid-1990s, is found in several coastal counties in California, from Monterey to Humboldt. It has infected 10 percent of the at-risk areas in the state.

Sudden oak death thrives in the coastal climate, and has killed hundreds of thousands of tanoaks and true oaks in the last 15 years. Tanoak, which dies quickly from the disease, is one of the most flammable oaks in California. It is also the hottest burning hardwood in North America.

Dense stands of tanoak blanket Humboldt County. Morgan Varner, a Humboldt State professor who specializes in fire behavior, says land and forest management officials are confronting an infestation that is hard to track and contain across the North Coast landscape. It could present major complications under wildfire conditions.

Although only 1 percent of Humboldt County is currently infected, the disease is spreading and many areas are in jeopardy. Portions of the Van Duzen and Mattole River basins are at risk, as are portions of the Kings Range and the Eel, Mad, Klamath, and Trinity River riparian belts. Within affected areas, the disease could eventually remove most if not all tanoaks, causing a potential cascade of ecological effects of unknown magnitude.

Varner warns that the most tragic potential location would be an area somewhere in the Klamath basin.

"The basin is home to tremendous tanoak forests on the Trinity, Klamath and Salmon Rivers," he notes. These areas are also prone to wildfire, and recent research by Varner and others shows that sudden oak death can be a game-changer when it comes to fuels and fire.

The disease drastically reduces the moisture content of leaves and foliage. Dead trees devoid of moisture pose a high risk of crown fires, which burn with exceptional heat and speed. They can also cause prolonged ecological damage. Owing to their height, crown fires are also more likely than ground blazes to be whipped up by prevailing winds.

The danger is intensified by a specific characteristic of the disease: tanoaks that die from sudden oak death retain their leaves for up to two years. Eventually, these dead leaves drop to the forest floor, adding to the fire threat. It is both a short- and long-term risk, stretching out in phases for as long as 10 years. Tanoak leaves drop, then the branches. Eventually the tree itself topples.



Scientists call tanoak one of the most flammable oaks in California and the hottest burning hardwood in North America.

"These unnatural fuel arrangements can lead to fires so intense that you can't combat them with standard, ground-based firefighting tactics," Varner says. "You just have to move back, and let them die down."

This is one of the principal findings of a paper published by Varner and Yana Valachovic, adjunct HSU faculty member and UCCE Forest Advisor, in the journal *Forest Ecology and Management* (posted at [elsvier.com/locate/foreco](http://elsvier.com/locate/foreco)).

Their second key finding is that fallen tanoaks contribute greatly to fuel loading on the forest floor, and it can take years for those fuels to break down. As Valachovic says, "In this way, the disease creates a hazardous fuels situation that is passed on to firefighters during wildfire—they must combat blazing downed trees, patches of increased winds and fire behavior and other physical and logistical obstacles."

Hugh Scanlon ('88, Forestry) chief of CAL FIRE's Alder Conservation Camp, helped co-author the paper with Valachovic and Varner. He comments, "In many cases, modeled wildfire conditions in sudden oak death-affected

forests exceed safety thresholds for handcrews. This can mean more heavy equipment, aircraft use, indirect lines and more area burned with higher intensity."

This is partly because of the deadly link between fire intensity and flame length. As flames grow longer, their intensity increases exponentially. According to Varner, "when a tree crown is on fire, it's not just that the flame is twice as long, it's that the heat intensity is many times greater." Fighting fire by hand under these conditions is neither safe nor feasible.

Heavy rains and consecutive wet springs speed up the spread of sudden oak death. After the wet spring of 2010, pathogen spread in Humboldt County has been more prevalent than in previous, drier years.

The pathogen survives on the branches and leaves of most affected plants and is easily dispersed. Laboratory tests are required for diagnosis because the symptoms of sudden oak death mimic those of other agents, like insects, fungi or bad environmental conditions. 📌



Humboldt State University

# Staying the Course: 1938–1962

Humboldt State's Centennial year is just around the corner, and *Humboldt* magazine is counting down with a timeline stretching through four issues.



**1938** Forestry Club organizes

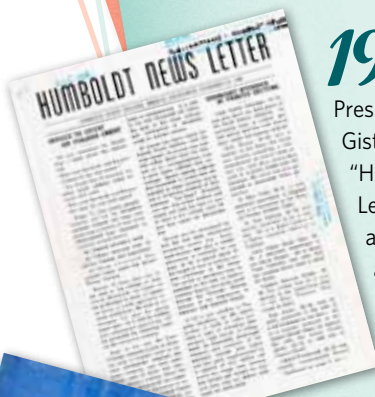


**1950** Jenkins Hall, completed



**1942**

President Arthur S. Gist begins writing "Humboldt News Letter" for men and women in the armed services



**1944**

Founders Hall (known then as the Main Building) is camouflaged with paint and ivy to avoid detection by the Japanese



**1951** Marching band forms

**1946**

Students build bleachers for Redwood Bowl



**1958**

Registration and grade recording now involves IBM punch cards

**1959**

Lucky Logger is adopted as mascot



**1959**

Parking fees established—\$13 per semester



**1960**

Football games are held in Eureka High School's Albee Stadium, as crowds are too big for Redwood Bowl



**1962**

Forestry Building and Library are completed.



Sources: "A View from the Hill" by HSU History Professor William R. Tanner and "Humboldt State University: The Campus History Series" by HSU alumna Katy M. Tahja ('70, Communication)

Photos and Memorabilia Courtesy of the HSU Library, Humboldt Room; University Advancement Yearbook Collection; Humboldt Alumni







## campus scene

### Marine Lab Gets Big Upgrade

**HSU JUST UNWRAPPED** a major renovation of the Telonicher Marine Lab's wet lab and public display area. The work was funded by alumni, grants and private donations. Located on a cliff overlooking the Pacific Ocean in Trinidad, Calif., the marine lab was established in 1965.

► "What we've been able to do is literally tear down the walls and start with a blank slate," equipment technician David Hoskins said. "It's really exciting for us, for our students and for the thousands of visitors we get each year."

► The public display area now includes a 12-foot by 5-foot tank for viewing local marine organisms, smaller tanks highlighting local marine environments and LCD screens feature videos and photographs by Emmy Award-winning cinematographer Rick Rosenthal ('67, Zoology).

► Upgrades to the wet lab include new water tank stands, a research area for visiting scientists and an enhanced electrical system.

► The lab has a circulating seawater system, lecture rooms and labs for oceanographic research.





# ULTIMATE! *disc*

Forget Lazy Days Playing Catch in the Park. Generations of HSU Students Have Taken Discs to a Whole New Level.

By Arianne Aryanpur





**The sun is shining** on Redwood Bowl. Thirty casually dressed players take to the field for another weekend practice. Some stretch, others do knee lifts, as an '80s-style boom box plays hip-hop music in the background. Players chase a disc as it gracefully glides across the field.

On the turf, someone does a cartwheel. "Go Buds!" an enthusiastic spectator yells from the sidelines.

This is Saturday morning practice for the HSU men's Ultimate Disc team—the Buds. Once considered a fringe sport, Ultimate has been popular at Humboldt State for years and has recently become more mainstream around the country. At HSU, both the men's team and the Hags—the women's team—have attracted a devoted following.

To the uninitiated, Ultimate's laid-back style belies the intensity and athleticism required of its players. The sport combines the speed and endurance of soccer with the transitions and handling of basketball. The objective is similar to American football.

In Ultimate, two teams of seven take their place at both end zones of a 70 x 40 yard field. One team launches a 175-gram plastic disc toward their opponent, similar to a kickoff in football. The goal? To pass the disc down the field and catch it in the opposing team's end zone for a point. A typical game lasts 90 minutes and is played to 15 points.

Unlike most competitive team sports, Ultimate is self-officiated, meaning there are no referees. The game relies on a unique honor system called The Spirit of Game, which requires that players uphold the sport's integrity and rules of conduct. Foul and contact rules are similar to basketball: No contact is allowed and players must stop and pivot before passing the disc to another player. There is also a 10-second limit on holding the disc.

Surprisingly, the game got its start on a high school field in New Jersey, according to USA Ultimate, the sport's national governing body. In the summer of 1968, a group of three friends were playing a casual game of Frisbee when they decided to add some rules. They drafted a rulebook, created a school club and dubbed the new sport Ultimate Frisbee. Today, it's simply known as Ultimate due to the "Frisbee" trademark.

With its unconventional rules and laid-back style, Ultimate quickly developed a following among East Coast college students. In 1972, Rutgers and Princeton played the first collegiate game.

Jamie Eickhert ('92, Construction Technology) recalls that Humboldt's teams emerged in the late 1970s shortly after the first California teams began cropping up in Santa Barbara and Los Angeles. "We were one of the first

Northern California teams that started, along with a handful in the Bay Area like Stanford and Berkeley," says

Eickhert, who played for the Buds in the late '80s and early '90s. During that

time, he says, the team nearly qualified for Nationals and also experienced an unfortunate, but briefly lived, name change to the Storm Trolls. With no regrettable name changes, the Hags have appeared in Nationals once since the 1980s.

Over the years, the teams' competitiveness has waxed and waned as seasoned players graduate.

To participate, students register for a two-credit course. For new players, the learning curve is short, says Coach Colin Morgan-Outhisack ('11, Studio Art/Art History). And he would know: He

had never played Ultimate or any other sport until joining the team as a sophomore. "I wasn't very active and had never been part of a team," Morgan-Outhisack says. "It was like a family for me."

In fact, that camaraderie is what attracts many former high school and college athletes to the game. For many, the Buds and the Hags provide intercollegiate discipline and competitiveness of varsity sports like track and soccer. That's what prompted Theo Williamson ('12, Economics) to drop soccer and join Ultimate when he transferred to HSU his sophomore year. "I got tired of the idea of being an 'athlete,'" says Williamson, now the team's only fifth-year player. "With Ultimate it's not all about winning, it's about having fun."

**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP:** Warming up before a Saturday morning game. • Pink skirt, pink shoes, no problem. • Worn cleats for a serious athlete. • Theo Williamson ('12, Economics) makes an impressive layout (Ultimate lingo for dive). • A regulation size field is 70 x 40 yards.

*To the uninitiated, Ultimate's laid-back style belies the intensity and athleticism required of its players. The sport combines the speed and endurance of soccer with the transitions and handling of basketball. The objective is similar to American football.*







Kristin “Charlie” Eide (‘12, French), was originally recruited to play softball for Humboldt State. She chose Ultimate.

Now, Eide helps create game strategy and lead practice for the Humboldt Hags. On a recent evening, she walked players through a complicated play, referring to a hand-drawn diagram on white paper.

“The dragon is trying to get the disc going under on the dead side,” she summarizes, using jargon that would confuse anyone but a serious player.

### Rigorous Schedules, Lighthearted Attitudes


BOTH TEAMS HOLD three-hour practices, four times a week. Sessions take place at the Redwood Bowl and the Student Recreation Center and focus on building cardio, strength or strategy. It’s a level of dedication that breaks the stereotype of Ultimate players, says Sean O’Connell (‘14, Business). “You have to have the speed and hands of a football player and the endurance of a track and soccer player,” says O’Connell, who ran four years of track in high school.

The mood on the field is lighthearted: One hallmark of Ultimate is that players often wear zany outfits, and the Hags are no exception. During a recent practice, Eide sported a sequin skirt over Spandex and pink socks. The outfit didn’t seem to affect her performance. After three hours of running drills, she was already planning the next practice.

The players’ commitment is also expressed in its travel itinerary. The teams participate in several regional tournaments each year against schools like Stanford, UC Davis, Chico and Berkeley. A lighthearted rivalry exists between all of them, says Emiliano Rodriguez (‘14, Recreation Administration). “We joke that the Cal players are just a bunch of rich guys,” Rodriguez says, adding: “We’re definitely better.”

Naturally, the ribbing goes both ways. At a recent tournament, Chico’s players sauntered onto the field dressed as Lumberjacks, and rivals often create cheers mocking each other. Even so, there’s an unspoken etiquette between opponents. Hosting teams, for instance, typically help provide housing for their visitors. “You pretty much see the same guys, the same faces, every time you go to these tournaments,” Morgan-Outhisack says. “There’s nothing like spending two days at a tournament with someone to create a sense of camaraderie.”

Like cycling and crew, Ultimate is a club sport at HSU. Funding comes from Associated Students and student fees, while the Recreational Sports Department will match any fundraising done by the team. As Ultimate’s popularity grows, the Buds and Hags hope it will bring some much-needed attention to the sport they love.

“We’re just out there trying to win and bring a good name for Humboldt,” Morgan-Outhisack says. 

**TOP TO BOTTOM:** Kristin “Charlie” Eide (‘12, French) blocks a pass during practice. • The Buds huddle for an impromptu post-game cheer. • Buds Coach Colin Morgan-Outhisack (‘11, Studio Art) stops to analyze a play.



Visit [humboldt.edu/magazine](http://humboldt.edu/magazine) for a map of disc golf courses in Humboldt County

**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:** Play it where it lies: A player makes a throw from a tree stump. • Experienced players usually carry a range of discs. • The target is typically a round metal basket on a pole. • The Redwood Curtain course winds through trees and other natural obstacles.

# PLAID Optional

**With a dedicated club and one of the area’s most challenging courses, disc golf is booming on HSU’s campus.**

Disc golf, another flying disc sport, has a more recent history at HSU—though it has a long history in Humboldt County. HSU’s co-ed club was started in 2010 by a couple of students interested in turning the casual affair into an official sport. So far, the club has attracted 25 members.

Top members from the club try out for the team, which recently participated in its first intercollegiate conference at CSU Monterey Bay last fall. This spring, team members will travel to Estacao, Ore., to compete against other teams for a bid to play in nationals.

As its name implies, disc golf combines the skill of golf with the strategy of disc throwing. The purpose is to throw a disc into the hole—typically a round metal basket on a pole—in the fewest shots possible. Courses are nine or 18 holes long and often include natural elements like trees and shrubs. Obstacles and changes in elevation make the course more challenging.

As the course progresses, players utilize different discs, similar to the different clubs used in golf. Smaller and heavier than the discs used in Ultimate, discs vary based on weight, plastic and aerodynamic design. The four most common types are putters, mid-range, fairway and long-range drivers.

“The discs all do different things, so learning that is huge,” says Curtis Gregory (‘12, Forestry), who participated in shot put, discus and hammer throw in high school. “It’s also learning to pull through and use your whole body instead of snapping your wrist.”

Humboldt State houses the Redwood Curtain, one of the most popular and challenging disc golf courses in the country. Nestled in the Arcata Community Forest, the 18-hole course winds through ferns, stumps and a canopy of redwood trees. The course is managed by Par Infinity Disc Golf Club in Arcata, whose President, Caleb Gribi, is also the HSU club team’s coach.



# For the Birds

## *The Rewards and Challenges of Avian Field Research*

by Desiree Perez



**AT HUMBOLDT STATE**, professors and students study all types of critters. But one step inside the Wildlife Building and it's hard not to be impressed with the vast collection of birds. These specimens are used to train the next generation of ornithologists, but before students can earn their feathers, so to speak, they've got to overcome the challenges of conducting research on a flying, migratory and extremely intelligent creature.

Vanessa Blount, a student in a Wildlife Management class, has her first personal encounter with a red-tailed hawk.



Long-distance Relationships

FOR WILDLIFE PROFESSOR and Department Chair Matthew Johnson, the main challenge in his research is distance. Once a year his passion for birds takes him and a handful of students thousands of miles away to the tropical climate of Jamaica’s famed Blue Mountains, where the team studies the relationship between coffee plantations and the birds that inhabit the area. The work is part of a three-year project funded by the National Science Foundation.

He schedules his fieldwork between semesters, which adds another layer of challenge: Not only are Johnson’s research subjects 3,200 miles away, he and his students have a limited timeframe in which to do their work. In addition to a semester’s worth of developing and refining research questions and hypotheses, Johnson and his students spend roughly 50 hours on logistics. From securing local housing and vehicle rentals in Jamaica, to packing spare batteries for their GPS units, success is in the details. “Unlike with a local project,” he says, “You can’t go back and measure later. You have to make sure you get every bit of data you need before you leave. And you have to have everything ready to go before you even arrive.”

Still, research challenges aside, the focus remains on the birds and the people who share the mountain habitat. And Johnson says that when it comes to the conservation of a species, success depends on meeting the needs of the people in the community as well as the needs of the wildlife.

For the species Johnson and his students have been studying—including the rufous-throated solitaire, the Blue Mountain vireo and migratory warblers—much of their habitat was being destroyed to make room for coffee farms, which provide a reliable source of income for the community. Johnson sought a way to integrate those seemingly competing requirements. And after getting to know the community of farmers and doing preliminary research on the native birds, Johnson discovered a common interest: bugs.

The insects the birds were feeding on happened to be destructive pests. Among them, the coffee borer beetle—a coffee farmer’s worst enemy. The beetle is singled out as the most harmful pest of coffee crops, affecting more than 70 countries, Jamaica included. Without bird habitat nearby, the farmers depended on expensive and potentially harmful pesticides to protect their crops.

After identifying the link between birds and bugs, Johnson and his students presented their findings to Jamaican officials, including the Coffee Industry Board and Ministry of Forestry, with hopes that land managers there would encourage more shade-grown coffee production. Now some of their recommendations to these officials have become on-the-ground changes. During their last excursion, Johnson and his students found workers planting native trees along the edges of coffee farms as bird habitat, courtesy of the Ministry. “It was one of those rare cases of a win-win situation, where what’s good for the farmer can also be good for the wildlife,” he says.



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Jamaica’s famed Blue Mountains are home to some of the finest coffee in the world. They’re also home to hundreds of wildlife species, many of which are found nowhere else in the world.

- Coffee beans are actually the seeds within these mature coffee berries.
- Tiny insects cause major destruction for coffee farmers. Female coffee borer beetles lay their eggs in coffee berries. During the larval stage, these pests feed on the seed, or coffee bean, significantly damaging farmers’ yields.
- Studying warblers, like this tropical parula, Matthew Johnson found that coffee borer beetles were a large part of the birds’ diet.
- Matthew Johnson holds a Jamaican tody on a coffee farm in Jamaica.

This vibrantly colored bird feeds on pests like the coffee borer beetle and only lives in Jamaica. • Johnson, far right, and Wildlife students, from left, Rob Fowler, Jherime Kellermann and Amy Stercho, used experimental cages over coffee bushes to study the impact of pest-eating birds on crop yields.





Photo Courtesy of Luke J. Eberhart-Phillips

**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:** Shorebird tracks dot the sand near plover territory. • Mark Colwell shows students Lena Orozco and Jane Kelly how much ground to cover as they survey shorebirds along Humboldt Bay's South Spit jetty. • Plover chicks are banded as soon after hatching as possible because, within a day, they leave the nest under the care of the male and roam widely. • Within a week of hatching a brood, female snowy plovers desert their mates. • Special banding pliers are used to fit newly hatched plovers with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service identification bands. • Plovers generally lay three camouflaged eggs per clutch in shallow scrapes like this. • Student David Orluck uses a birding scope to get a closer look at skittish shorebirds.



Photo Courtesy of Luke J. Eberhart-Phillips



Photo Courtesy of Luke J. Eberhart-Phillips



Photo Courtesy of Luke J. Eberhart-Phillips



Photo Courtesy of Luke J. Eberhart-Phillips

## Unrequited Love

IT GETS MORE CHALLENGING to help endangered wildlife when there aren't such clear benefits.

Mark Colwell, Wildlife Professor and expert on shorebirds, values the snowy plover. It's not uncommon for Colwell and his students to walk miles along local beaches studying the plovers amidst their habitat. The persistence is worth it, as the small shorebird is threatened with local extinction. But, unlike Johnson's pest-eating tropical birds, the plover has few direct benefits to offer Humboldt County's human population besides a pretty face.

"In losing plovers, we lose an increment of life on Earth," Colwell says. He's dedicated 12 years of his decades-long career to the plover, and works tirelessly with his students to better understand the ecology of the threatened shorebird. "The world is a less beautiful place without them."

Graduate student and Colwell's teaching assistant, Luke Eberhart-Phillips, has conducted research that suggests the plovers could go extinct locally in the next 50 years if wildlife management practices don't change. "Asking people to care more for the plovers is difficult, because they have no tangible instrumental value to society. If anything, conservation can be said to come at a cost," Colwell says.

*"Asking people to care more for the plovers is difficult, because they have no tangible instrumental value to society. If anything, conservation can be said to come at a cost."* Mark Colwell

And so, in working to protect the birds, Colwell and his students highlight another angle to this challenge: Should land managers use the carrot or the stick? That is, does one coax the public into caring for these birds or should punishments be doled out to those who disturb their habitats?

What makes the snowy plovers so vulnerable is that they don't build elaborate nests or perch in trees. Rather, they create shallow scrapes in beach sands where they lay their camouflaged eggs. In addition to threats from predators and a loss of habitat, their nests are vulnerable to the accidental or inattentive actions of beachgoers.

During the plovers' reproductive season, segments of Humboldt County beaches where plovers breed and encounter humans are cordoned off to the public. In other places, beach use is restricted and activities such as horseback riding and off-leash dogs are prohibited. This is conservation at a cost, as Colwell described.

Yet another option for land managers is threatening people with the consequences of violating the Endangered Species Act. But Colwell finds boosting community awareness (the carrot, not the stick) is a more productive method of protecting the plovers.

Regardless of method, Colwell's work has a multi-pronged affect. By getting his students involved in the challenge of saving the snowy plover, he's exposing them to the real-world struggle of protecting an endangered species, all while focusing on the fundamentals of conducting research on shorebirds.

## Aleutian Geese a Success Story

**BRINGING A SPECIES BACK** from the brink of extinction might be the ultimate challenge for wildlife conservationists. From the late 1970s through the 1980s, researchers at Humboldt State University played a major role in helping revive the dwindling population of Aleutian geese, a subset of the Canada goose complex that includes two species and at least six subspecies.

When their efforts began, the Aleutian geese population was below 1,000, the result of years of predation from foxes bred on the Aleutian Islands for their fur.

At the time, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service began a program to revive the population. Paul Springer, along with students from the HSU Wildlife Department, set out to answer questions about the birds, like where they travelled to during their annual migrations (turns out they travel as far south as Modesto, Calif.).

Foxes were removed from two Aleutian Islands, which eased pressure on the geese's nesting grounds. Hunting of Canada geese was also restricted to give a boost to the Aleutian population. Geese were reared in captivity for later release and several follow-up studies were conducted to track the bird's progress.

Now there are more than 100,000 Aleutian geese—a conservation success story.

However, an entirely different problem has arisen: how to deal with the estimated \$400,000 in annual damage done to Humboldt and Del Norte County pasture lands as a result of the grazing fowl. Humboldt State researchers are still involved with the project and are working with officials and landowners on solutions to the outsized success of the conservation effort.







Professor Luke George handles a red-tailed hawk while professor Jeff Black, in red, and students look on. The professors and students were working with HSU alum Jeff Kidd who demonstrated techniques for banding the birds of prey.

## Getting Close

YOU MIGHT THINK of ornithology as a spectator sport best suited to those content to admire from afar. But in order to gather meaningful data, bird researchers have to find ways to get close to their subjects. And no matter how determined the scientists are, tracking, capturing and handling birds can present a serious challenge.

Consider Wildlife Professor Luke George's efforts with red-tailed and red-shouldered hawks.

The hawks seemed to present a great training opportunity for George's undergraduate students. The birds are large, making them easier to spot and handle. They're also magnificent specimens. Data gathered by students could help determine the size of the hawks' home range and rates of survival from year to year.

Getting close to the birds of prey, however, turned out to be much more difficult than expected.

Without proper training, students cannot capture or band hawks. But George hoped the large birds would be an easy species for students to re-sight and track once banded by professionals. The problem, he says, is that after those raptors were caught and banded, they became very skittish—especially around slow moving vehicles associated with researchers putting out traps. “Ninety percent of our students never got a read on the bands,” he says.

The hawks proved less-than-ideal for training undergraduates to re-sight for long-term studies. However, they remain valuable when teaching students to handle birds. “They are relatively calm. They rarely try to bite. And they're large

enough to make it easy to grip their legs,” George says. “Even students that have not held birds in the past can safely hold, observe and release this very beautiful, powerful animal.”

So how can hawks be too skittish for most students to study after banding, but calm enough to be held by an inexperienced handler-in-training?

“It's like having a suspect in custody,” George says. “When they have been caught and cuffed, they don't try to get away because they know the game is up. When you release them, however, they get away as fast as they can and run the other way every time they see a police cruiser approaching.”

So the challenge persists. How does a wildlife professor like Luke George get his students interacting with birds, especially species appropriate for students who might not have the carefully trained hands of an experienced researcher? The hawks' size and demeanor were attributes that made them ideal candidates for this job, but they proved too wary of researchers.

In one case, George and graduate student Amy Scarpignato decided to go after a species known for its wits—the raven—which meant the researchers would need to outsmart one of the smartest animals on the planet. A challenge indeed.

## The Ones That Almost Got Away

THE RAVEN COUPLE, a male and female, ate peckishly at a nearby picnic table. Hidden in the distance, George and Scarpignato thought they had found perfect targets. But laying hands on the sly ravens proved a much bigger test than expected.

In order to conduct her research, Scarpignato needed to fit the birds with radio transmitters and that meant first capturing the birds.

The pair tried a number of traps to capture the ravens: filament nooses to snare the birds' ankles, nets to envelope the birds, and even a trap laid with delicious live bait.

Regardless of method, the birds came to recognize Scarpignato and her vehicle. As a result, to track the pair, she had to bring in an assistant and use another method of capture: mist netting. These gauzy nets are difficult for birds to see—almost as transparent as a pane of glass—and are strung up between trees or posts to safely ensnare birds. To persuade the ravens to fly into the mist net, the team mounted a mechanical great-horned owl near their nest.

“The ravens were livid,” George says. “They were screaming, calling, flying and diving around—but not toward the mist net.” Then the innovative birds began to use tools to chase the menacing owl from its perch near their home. “They started breaking off twigs and pinecones and throwing them at the owl,” he says, and when the mist net caught the twigs it became visible to the ravens.

The owl rouse had flopped. It wasn't until Scarpignato met a nearby resident that her luck with the ravens took a turn.

The neighbor, who had a chicken coop on the property, reported that the pair of ravens often flew down in the early morning to scavenge the chicken scratch. With this new information, Scarpignato sensed a positive end to her 140-hour research ordeal. She set up a trap near the chicken coop before dawn, and within five minutes of the ravens' arrival, the pair was snared. Challenge met.

Scarpignato's research helped her determine, among other things, that ravens have stable home ranges and territories, which they defend. It also proves, says George, that ravens regard some areas as dangerous and behave with greater suspicion and care in those areas. In other areas, like the chicken coop, the birds let their guard down.

“What really surprised me is, when we actually caught them and had them in hand, the ravens were calm,” George says. “They were watching. Processing. It really felt like you were dealing with another intelligent being.” 🙄



After the day's lesson on raptor banding techniques, this Wildlife student releases a magnificent red-tailed hawk.

# California Condors

## The Struggle Continues

**CHRIS WEST ('09, Wildlife)**, senior wildlife biologist for the Yurok Tribe, has worked tirelessly to help reintroduce the endangered



California condor to the state's North Coast. Although his efforts have seen some progress, the biggest challenge is keeping this iconic bird's precarious recovery tipped in the right direction.

The California condor, prey-go-neesh in Yurok, is an integral part of Yurok religious ceremonies.

Once, says West, the massive scavenger, with an average wingspan of nearly 10 feet, thrived along the North

Coast, feeding on beached marine animals and large land animals such as elk. By the early 1980s, only 22 survived in the wild.

Currently, the condor population has bounced back to a total of nearly 370, with just over half living in the wild, but the species isn't out of danger.

While West and his partners study the birds' ecology, food sources and habitats to better understand risks in the environment and causes of mortality, the number one threat to condors is lead poisoning from ammunition.

Lead ammunition fragments inside animals when shot. When condors scavenge remains, they ingest very small amounts of lead, which is extremely toxic to the birds. Condors don't reach reproductive maturity for six or seven years and only lay one egg every other year, so poisonings can have a huge impact on the population's stability.

Hunting with non-lead ammunition is an effective tool for condor reintroduction as gut piles that hunters leave behind provide a clean source of food.

Captive breeding has also helped to bolster the population's numbers, but, according to West, 38 percent of released condors haven't survived in the wild. In addition to lead, these remaining birds face threats from poachers, ingested toxins such as DDT and loss of habitat.

Sidebar Photos Courtesy of Chris West





# Words for the *Wild*

Promoting Conservation and Student Careers Through Creative Writing

By Corey Lee Lewis, Professor of English

IN MY FIELD—environmental literature and writing—we commonly see a link between our love of words and our love of the natural world. This field—called ecocriticism, or literary ecology—arose during the 1990s because of the significant impact that environmental writers were beginning to exert on our literary tradition and our larger culture, and it has led to innovations in both teaching and publishing.

Although I could concoct a properly impressive, but highly fictional, story about how I came to be an ecocritic and environmental writer, the unvarnished truth is: ever since I was a little kid, I liked getting lost in the woods and coming home to tell stories about it later. For most of us who love the outdoors—whether we hunt, fish, hike, backpack, peak bag, rock climb, or bird watch—we love swapping stories about being in the backcountry just as much as we love being out there. Whether it's sitting around a campfire, perched on a barstool, or curled up on a couch, we savor those words and stories that reconnect us with that wild world. So my most recent professional project—editing and publishing “The Pacific Crest Trailside Reader,” an anthology of stories about hiking the Pacific Crest Trail—was also a personal one, a project that has not only connected me to my own personal history but also much more deeply with the Humboldt State community.

When I came to Humboldt State in 2005, I already had established a close connection to the Pacific Crest Trail. The 2,650-mile-long trail runs from Mexico to Canada, following the high lines of the Sierra, Klamaths and Cascades through California, Oregon, and Washington. For years I had been working with trail crews on the PCT and teaching classes in environmental writing along its length, and wrote my first book, “Reading the Trail,” about these experiences. I did not, however, hit upon the idea for producing a collection of stories about the PCT until I met Rees Hughes, a colleague here at HSU, and another lover of the PCT. Rees and I worked together at the time, supervising HOWL, HSU's outdoor orientation program for incoming freshman, when he suggested the collaboration and the idea for “The Pacific Crest Trailside Reader” was born.

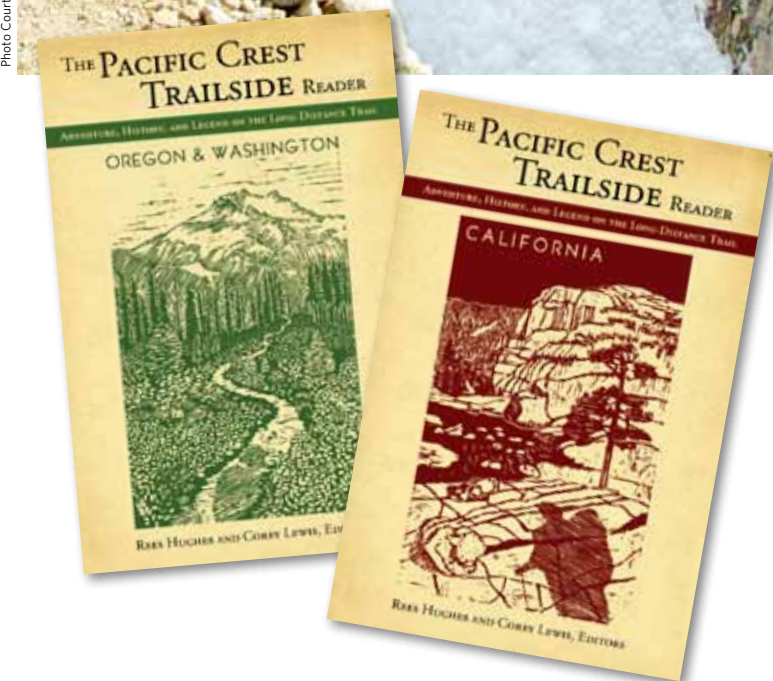
Rees and I decided to organize the collection geographically, so that the stories start in the south (just as most PCT

hikers do) and move north, with each story and its location on the trail identified. In order to keep pack weight down, and to follow the precedent set by the PCT Guidebooks, we decided to publish the collection in two volumes: one for California, and one for Oregon and Washington. And, in order to adequately cover the trail and its long history, we decided to include three types of stories: first, what we call boot-tested trail tales, these are real stories of people hiking the PCT, stories of hardship and rescue, and tales of wildlife and wild weather; second, historical accounts of immigrants and early explorers in the region, such as the Donner party's ill-fated expedition or Wasco creation stories; and third, selections from well-known regional writers like John Muir, Mary Austin, Gary Snyder and others.

We wanted to create a literary testament to the trail, something that could capture the significant meaning it has had in many of our lives. So we sent out calls for submissions to writing groups and hiking organizations; we sifted through volumes of historical accounts of exploration and regional writing. And, we identified HSU faculty and students who could contribute to the collection, colleagues such as Walker Abel, Director of the Sierra Institute, and Professor Jim Dodge, author of “Fup,” “Rain on the River” and other works. We were fortunate enough to have our own talented pool of student writers here at HSU, those with the backcountry ability and writing experience required for the project, and were able to assign each a specific section of the trail to go hike and write about. This allowed us to get better geographic coverage of every section of the trail, and to promote our deserving students and their writing through publication. Five HSU alumni have pieces in the collection: Ryan Forsythe, Mike Cipra, Chris Hall, Amanda Carter and Anicca Cox.

In addition to promoting the writing of our graduates and colleagues, we wanted our stories to give back to the trail itself, so the profits from the sales of the books are all going to the protection and preservation of the PCT. Rees and I, and all of our HSU authors, invite you to pick up a copy of “The Pacific Crest Trailside Reader” and to join us on a variety of backcountry adventures that can be taken from the comfort of your own home, and that give a little something back to HSU and the wild western mountains we all love. 📖

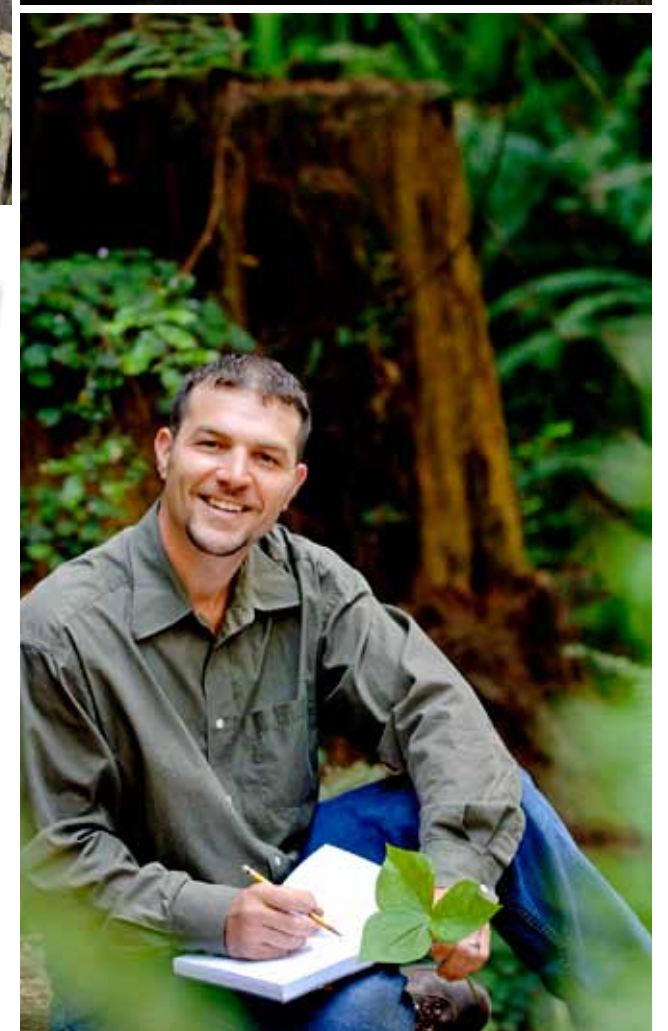
Photo Courtesy of Corey Lewis



**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:** Co-editor Rees Hughes scales the tallest peak along the Pacific Crest Trail. • Sunset over the Klamath River, seen from the Pacific Crest Trail. • English Professor Corey Lewis emphasizes creative writing and environmental literature with his students.



Photo Courtesy of Corey Lewis





# 2012 Distinguished Alumni

The Distinguished Alumni Awards honor alumni for achievements in their fields or for service to their community, nation or HSU. For over 50 years the award has been a chance to recognize alumni for their achievements.



Submitted Photo

**MARLA SPIVAK** • Beekeeping has long been a passion for Marla Spivak ('78, Biological Sciences), an internationally renowned entomologist and expert on honeybee health. Spivak, who is currently a Distinguished McKnight Professor in Entomology at the University of Minnesota, recently received the John D. and Catherine

T. MacArthur Foundation "genius award" for her pioneering work to protect honeybees from decimation by disease.

One of Spivak's most practical accomplishments has been the breeding of the Minnesota Hygienic, a strain of bees that uses olfaction to "sniff out" infected pupae and remove them from the hive before they can spread disease to the rest of the colony. In addition to supporting her research, the MacArthur award has enabled Spivak to launch the Bee Squad, a program that educates, trains and assists beekeepers and bee supporters in the Twin Cities area. Her goal is to restore healthy bee populations and pollinator landscapes by providing hands-on mentoring to people interested in supporting bees.

During her undergraduate studies at HSU, Spivak took a semester off to volunteer with Steve Taber, a renowned honeybee researcher. Taber ignited Spivak's interest in studying bees, and as soon as she completed her degree, she traveled to South America to conduct bee research. Since then, her groundbreaking research has taken her around the world and earned her numerous accolades.



Submitted Photo

**DEAN BRESCIANI** • Working for the Humboldt Orientation Program one summer, Dean Bresciani ('84, Sociology) realized that helping students was his passion. The experience laid the groundwork for a career in higher education administration, which has included top posts at universities throughout the country.

The Napa Valley, Calif., native is now the 14th President of North Dakota State University, which has an enrollment over 14,000. Previously, he was Vice President of Student Affairs at Texas A&M University in College Station.

After graduating from HSU, Bresciani went on to earn a master's degree from Bowling Green State University and a doctorate in higher education finance from the University of Arizona, at Tucson. He has also held student affairs administrative positions at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and the University of Nebraska at Kearney. After all these years, however, he still credits that one summer at Humboldt State for igniting his passion for higher education administration.



Submitted Photo

**CHESTER MATHIS** • Chester Mathis ('72, Chemistry) came to HSU as pre-med student, but found he had a greater interest in chemistry than medical school. Still, he found a way to study both by pursuing medically related chemistry.

His decision turned out pretty well for the field of Alzheimer's research. Mathis is currently an Endowed Chair Professor of Radiology and Pharmaceutical Sciences and Director of the Positron Emission Tomography—or PET—Facility at the University of Pittsburgh.

Recently, he and his geriatric psychiatry research partner William Klunk developed a radiolabeled dye that makes it possible to identify amyloid—a substance found in the plaque associated with Alzheimer's disease—in a living brain.

Mathis' research earned him a slew of awards, and he is continuing his work. He is now using the same technique to identify tau, another protein deposit found in the brain of Alzheimer's patients. Last year, the Michael J. Fox Foundation commissioned Mathis to develop a similar compound to identify alpha-synuclein, a protein deposit found in patients with Parkinson's disease and Lewy body dementia.



Submitted Photo

**KENNETH DAVLIN** • As a member of the University's Advancement Foundation Board, Kenneth Davlin is part of a team that helps increase charitable giving and manage the university's endowment.

Davlin studied engineering at HSU from 1959-1962 and received a degree in civil engineering from the University of Utah. His engineering career has included work on hydroelectric, wastewater, housing and alternative energy projects. Davlin is President of Oscar Larson & Associates, a California-based engineering consulting firm.

As part of the 29-member Advancement Foundation Board, Davlin is particularly interested in expanding the university's business and engineering programs. He says: "Both contribute to better future organizations, wiser infrastructure development and more sensible financing programs."

Looking ahead, Davlin envisions a board that has a broader geographical base of membership. "I'd also like to see expansion of the Foundation so that it can better serve every department, college and facet of the university," he says.

## Nominate someone for 2013.

Visit [alumni.humboldt.edu/distinguishedalumni](http://alumni.humboldt.edu/distinguishedalumni) for details and forms or call 707 826-3132.

Submit a class note: [humboldt.edu/classnotes](http://humboldt.edu/classnotes)

or email: [alumni@humboldt.edu](mailto:alumni@humboldt.edu)

# Class Notes

## 1950s



Submitted Photo

◀ **BILL JONES, 1956 Music Ed**, states, "Although the axe says 1950, the picture was taken in either 1953 or 1954 after I returned from the Navy."

**RICHARD GRIFFITH, 1958 Physical Education**, retired after many years of public service. He was last employed by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration as a Special Agent monitoring interstate commerce (trucking) and hazardous materials movement.

## 1960s

**VICTOR LEE DUSENBERRY, Jr., 1962 Industrial Arts**, became a U.S. Naval Officer. In the fall of 1965, he returned to Humboldt State College to complete a credential. By 1973, he became the Machinist Apprentice Shop Theory teacher, which he did until retirement in 1994. Concurrently he was an adjunct faculty instructor of Industrial Technology at Solano Community College, retiring in 2010. In 1996, Dusenberry completed a master's of education degree at Sacramento State University. He and his wife have two daughters, four grandchildren and one great-grandchild. They live in Vacaville, Calif.

**PATRICIA G. TILLEY, 1962 Education**, is retired with her husband, Forest, living in Mendocino County since '73. They have done volunteer work for many years in Fort Bragg, and enjoy traveling around the country in their travel trailer, often trekking to Vermont to visit her daughter and family.

**THOMAS J. WHEAR, 1962 Forestry**, is retired after 29 years with the U.S. Forest Service, and has moved to Gardnerville, Nev. He joined his brother in the self-storage business.

**DICK VERNIMEN, 1964 Wildlife Management**, has been retired from the Bureau of Land Management for 16 years. He retired while district manager of the Anchorage, Alaska, district.

**RONALD LEE KRAMER, 1965 Psychology**, is retired and raising horses, sheep and alfalfa in Omak, Wash.

**CARL CHATFIELD, 1966 English**, is happy with his current 33-year teaching career at a local high school. Carl says he owes it to the fifth-year teaching credential he received from HSU, and is very happy to still be living in Arcata.

**ROBERT T. LACKEY, 1967 Fisheries Biology**, is currently teaching at Oregon State University. He has been engaged in developing online classes in natural resources as part of OSU ECampus.

**JOHN MITCHELL, 1968 Fisheries Biology**, taught oceanography, biology and earth science for 33

years at El Camino High in Oceanside, Calif. He also coached football, baseball, softball, tennis and golf. Mitchell has been retired for eight years and has been married to Barbara (Clevenger) Mitchell ('68) for 44 years.

**DON KENNEDY, 1968 Psychology**, after 30 years in management and public accounting, opened his own consulting office. He never dreamed of a business career as a student, but says life has a way of changing our plans. Kennedy still cherishes his four years at Humboldt.

**BRUCE SIMONSON, 1968 Forest Management**, says that although his education did not lead him down his chosen career path, it may have saved his life. Two months after graduation, Simonson joined the U.S. Army and began training as a combat engineer with secondary training as a combat soldier. When Simonson was sent overseas during The Vietnam War, he managed to snag a clerical job for a frontline company. He says although there were a few close calls with mortars, he never saw much action.

**TIMOTHY ALLEN, 1969 English**, is currently the executive director of the Carlston Family Foundation. The Foundation's primary mission is to identify and honor outstanding California high school teachers.

**CHET OGAN, 1969 Biology**, retired in December of 2010 after 41 years with the U.S. Forest Service. Since retiring, he has traveled to exotic locations around the globe, such as the Ecuador's Galapagos Islands and Machu Picchu in Peru.

**GARY TUTTLE, 1969 Physical Education**, coaches girl's high school basketball and is active in the local Democratic Party.

**KENT WILLIS, 1969 Biological Sciences**, taught grades seven and eight at Fortuna Middle School in Fortuna, Calif., and served as both vice principal and athletic director. Willis developed a middle school level invertebrate biology study unit for his master's thesis at University of San Francisco, and was awarded a scholarship for a master's degree in Educational Technology Leadership at George Washington University in Washington, D.C. Willis recently completed a dissertation on the relationship of knowledge of multiplication tables and fraction operations to learning algebra, which was the final step to completing his doctorate in Teacher Leadership. His wife, Marsha Gallon, is an HSU alumna and teacher, as is one of their two children.

## 1970s

**KATY TAHJA, 1970 Journalism & Mass Communications**, is pleased that her Arcadia Publishing campus history book "Humboldt State University" is selling well. She is contemplating writing a book on the 49 railroads that existed in Humboldt and Mendocino counties.

**GORDON DENNIS WOGAN, 1970 Biological Sciences**, spent three years in the Coast Guard after graduation, and received his Master of Science degree from University of California, Davis. He has since worked as a technician with the University of Idaho's horticulture program, and was hired as a horticulturist with the Oregon Dept. of Agriculture's Nursery and Christmas Tree Program. He retired after 29 years with the ODA. He has been married to Patricia Hatfield for nine years, and together they have five children and three grandsons. They are currently enjoying retirement and all its luxuries: traveling, wood working, bird watching, gardening and "anything else that looks interesting."

**RON MELIN, 1971 Geography**, retired from teaching in Los Angeles Unified School District and is currently doing restoration work at Madrona Marsh and Preserve in Torrance, Calif.

**JUDY CHANCE HOPE, 1971 Art**, having worked as a ceramist and drafter (both mechanical and architectural), shifted her focus to painting 15 years ago. Last year, Hope received a gold medal award for a painting of the redwoods in Jedediah Smith State Park from the Redwood Forest Foundation. She works in acrylic and oil and has work in collections all over the country and Europe. Hope and her husband, also an HSU grad, have one daughter who is an artist in New York. They have a small farm in rural Mendocino County.

**JOHN P. MARSH, 1972 Dramatic Arts**, retired last year as professor emeritus after a 10-year stint as lead professor in the videography program at the College of Southern Nevada, Las Vegas. He started the all-digital movie-making program after an 18-year career in Hollywood producing music videos, TV movies and feature films for Casey Movies and Chestnut Hill Productions. After leaving HSU he dabbled in his low-budget doc-and-schlock movie company, Liberty Films. As a retiree, he and long-term girlfriend, Kelly Curtis, married and resurrected Liberty Films as an all-digital documentary film company.

**EDWARD GULLEKSON, 1973 Oceanography**, spent six years as a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration corps officer and three more doing environmental consulting. Then he completed a master's program and changed careers to management consulting. Gullekson now works in a technical company.

**DAVID PATULA, 1973 Fisheries**, just retired from the Nevada Department of Wildlife after 32-plus years as a field game warden.

**NORM BENSON, 1974 Forestry & Wildlife Resources**, is happily married and living in Northern California.

**ARNOLD (ARNIE) BRAAFLADT, 1974 Journalism & Mass Communication and Political Science**, is thrilled his older daughter, Nicole, an engineer with the California Department of Transportation, will be married in September to Tim Farrell, a CDF firefighter and also an HSU alumnus. Nicole and





Photo Courtesy of Alyssa Alvarez

## Valeria Van Zanten 98 Years Young



Photo Courtesy of Alyssa Alvarez

**ON AUG. 19, 2013,** Valeria Van Zanten, a 98-year-old Humboldt State University alumna, will celebrate her 100th birthday, the same year Humboldt State University reaches its centennial.

Van Zanten started at HSU in 1930 at 16. "It was Depression time, and we didn't have very much money," Van Zanten says. "I was very lucky to be able to go to school." Van Zanten and a friend lived off-campus in an Arcata apartment with a monthly

rent of about \$17. "I recall attending HSU for a little over \$25 per month," Van Zanten says.

The Crescent City, Calif., resident also recounts being excluded from a biology fieldtrip because of her gender. Van Zanten and a small group of young women were left behind in the biology lab to practice their taxidermy skills on an owl. The exclusion didn't stop Van Zanten: She would go on to graduate with her Bachelor of Arts degree on May 25, 1934, and within two years was teaching her first class at Klamath Union School.

Van Zanten retired in 1973 at the age of 60, and traveled to Europe, Israel, Palestine, Syria and Peru. "All of my life, I was fascinated by Machu Picchu," Van Zanten says. "To think that from the little farm and little school that I would one day stand at its base was just incredible to me."

In April 2011, the Zeta Iota Chapter of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International, an organization for women educators, recognized Van Zanten for 50 years of membership.

"I feel I've had a very good life," Van Zanten says. "I had a career I enjoyed and many travel experiences. I couldn't have done it without Humboldt State."

Tim live in Kneeland and are planning a "hoe down" on their mountain property (with two bands!) as their wedding reception. Braafladt is also happy to be "on the mend" from recent neck surgery and is looking forward to his next trip to Kauai in October to celebrate his 60th birthday.

**THOMAS B. JONES, 1974 Physical Education**, is an assistant principal at James Monroe High School in North Hills, Calif. Tom has spent 34 years with the Los Angeles Unified School District as a teacher, coach and dean. He is a current member of the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) Advisory Committee for Wrestling, and a member of the L.A. City CIF Section Athletic Committee. Tom has been married to his wife Mary for 31 years, and they have four daughters. Their youngest graduated from HSU in '06, and two are married with children.

**STEPHANIE FREDIANI EWAN, 1975 Geography**, has greatly benefited from her Geography degree in extensively traveling the world. She has worked for Pacific Bell for 16 years and Pacific Gas & Electric for 20 years.

**BONNIE JEANNE KOSKI, 1974 Nursing and 2009 Music**, retired from her 28-year profession as a public health nurse in Humboldt County and returned to HSU to pursue a bachelor's degree in Music. Koski is currently taking it easy while recovering from open-heart surgery last July. In the meantime, she enjoys helping her two young granddaughters, ages five and seven, with their piano lessons.

**TIM SPERRY, 1975 Natural Resources**, teaches science and health in the Los Angeles Unified School District, and is getting ready to retire within the next few years.

**PATRICIA KUSHNER, 1976 Teaching Credential**, is a retired elementary teacher, now working for the U.S. Forest Service as a seasonal information and collection officer in El Dorado National Forest.

**MICHAEL MARGOLIES, 1976 Physical Education**, recently published "The Athlete within You- A Mental Approach to Sports and Business."



Submitted Photo

**BONNIE MITCHELL-DUNLAP, 1976 Journalism**, has been an English teacher at Fortuna Union High School since 1994. Three years ago, she married Robert Dunlap and is now retired. Between them, they have seven children and eight grandchildren.

**JILL PERRY, 1976 Geology**, has been the curator of the San Jose Heritage Rose Garden, which has more than 3,000 varieties of roses and has lived in San Jose since 2005.

**LUIGI PINNA, 1977 Economics**, took an involuntary early retirement after 28 years at GTE/Verizon. Luckily, he was working in international business in Italy at the time, so he chose to remain in Europe. He is now a lecturer in Corporate Governance and Mergers & Acquisitions at Utrecht University in the Netherlands.

**ED TRIGEIRO, 1977 Health & Physical Education**, became a volunteer firefighter with the Arcata Volunteer Fire Department in 1975 while still attending Humboldt State. After graduation, he became an athletic trainer at College of the Redwoods, where he took care of both men's and women's athletic team's injuries. He was hired by the Arcata Fire District in

1982, working his way from firefighter, to engineer, to captain, and retiring as an assistant fire chief in April 2008. In 2009 he developed a Fire Technology Degree program at College of the Redwoods. His wife, Anita, works in the HSU University Center Business Office, and they have been married for 30 years. They have one son, Joe, who lives in Colorado.

**MARILYN TAYLOR, 1977 Math**, has switched sports from running to horseback riding and is retired.

**MARILYN YOSPE, 1977 Art**, lives in Eureka, restoring a Victorian home. She retired from a career as a social worker and is currently making jewelry to sell at local craft fairs.

**JOEL D. EIS, 1978 Theatre Production**, recently had his book, "A Full Investigation of the Historic Performance of the First Play in English in the New World, The Case of Ye Bare and Ye Cubbe, 1665," translated to the stage by Shotgun Players, a Berkeley, Calif., theatre company. The play is titled "God's Plot," and is one among three theatrical adaptations of his book. Eis, now living in San Rafael, Calif., where he and his wife Toni run the Rebound Bookstore, is finishing another book for Edwin Mellen Press, on the Greek theatre, due out in early 2012.

**DANIEL HALE, 1978 Speech Pathology**, says his years at HSU prepared him for success in his chosen field of special education speech pathology, and changed his life forever.

**BOB AASERUDE, 1979 Fisheries and Environmental Resources Engineering**, was recently named senior vice president with MWH Global, a wet infrastructure provider of environmental engineering, construction and consulting.

**MORGAN EATON, 1979 Geography**, is living it up in the dry side of Washington State and is looking forward to retirement soon.

**RUTH FLOCCHINI-EDWARDS, 1979 Speech Communication**, looks back at her HSU experience as one of her greatest accomplishments, and is now a senior project manager at her place of business. She owes all of her great opportunities along the way to her Speech Communication degree.

**CHRIS PLATIS, 1979 NRPI**, worked for California State Parks from 1977 until 2009 as a state park ranger. After graduation, he worked as an official for high school and collegiate wrestling for 20 years. He married in 1988 and now has four wonderful children. In October of 2008, he and his wife returned to HSU for the induction of their 1978 HSU wrestling team into the HSU Athletic Hall of Fame. He helped more than 100 Boy Scouts complete their Eagle Scout service projects. He and his family moved to Spain for a year and lived in Catalunya, just outside Barcelona.

## 1980s

**BRIAN AKRE, 1980 Journalism & Mass Communication**, recently moved his family to The Hague to become senior speechwriter for the CEO and senior leadership of Royal Dutch Shell. He previously worked as head of Executive Speaker Services at Nokia in Finland. Earlier this year, Akre received a Cicero Speechwriting Award for a speech he wrote with Nokia's former CEO.

**JAMES FREEMAN, 1980 English**, published his 18th book, "Irish Wake: In Loving Memory of Us



## As Firm Grows, Opportunities for HSU Engineering Grads Abound

**AT A TIME** when most companies are tightening their belts, engineering consulting firm Winzler & Kelly is expanding operations and providing more opportunities to HSU graduates.

The largest private employer of Humboldt State engineering graduates recently merged with GHD, an engineering, architecture and environmental consulting company with offices worldwide. The merger means that Winzler & Kelly's 300 people—including some 40 HSU graduates—are now part of a global company employing more than 6,500.

The firm has strong ties to Humboldt County. Two UC Berkeley graduates, John Winzler and Bob Kelly, along with John's father, George, started the company in 1951 as an engineering consulting company in Eureka.

Over the years, many HSU graduates have moved up the ranks, assuming high-level positions as local and regional managers throughout the company. "The ability for HSU grads to consistently excel at our firm speaks very highly of the caliber of people that come out of HSU," says Steve McHaney ('86, Engineering) who came to the firm in the mid-'90s. "In this business you're constantly doing things you've never done before," McHaney says. "What Humboldt State graduates bring to the table is the attitude of okay, maybe I've never done this before, but I can figure it out." McHaney was recently promoted to provide operations support for GHD.

The Eureka office of GHD offers internships to HSU students in Environmental Resources Engineering and a \$1,000 scholarship to engineering students who show academic promise.

Brett Vivyan ('12, Engineering) is a GHD intern working on a feasibility study for a proposed wastewater treatment facility in the small town of Willow Creek, Calif. He is helping evaluate existing and future wastewater service needs and applying for a grant to fund the needed improvements.

"I've been able to use software commonly used on the job, take classes to further my career goals and get professional advice," Vivyan says. "It's been a great opportunity that has thoroughly prepared me for a career in engineering."



# The Fishin' Lumberjacks

## Alumni Hooked on Fishing

by Desiree Perez

**BEING CALLED A** “fish-head” would be an insult to most people, but not to a special group of HSU alumni. These Fisheries grads have been coming together for the past decade to share their love of fisheries, Humboldt State and fishing on the open sea. They affectionately dub themselves the HSU Fishin' Lumberjacks.

They call their outings “pelagic surveys,” which is a technical way to say “searching for fish in the open sea.” And it's true, there's certainly a technical angle to what they do. It's not uncommon to catch them comparing professional notes as well as personal tips out on the deck. In addition to their commitment to sustainable fishing methods, they pay attention to weather patterns, the color of the water and general oceanography. If one of them hooks a unique species, all hands are on deck examining the catch, trying to figure out what it's been eating and more. But for the most part, these voyages are about friends, fun and building community.

The idea for the group came when Fisheries alumni Craig Heberer ('85), Dave Itano ('79) and Eric Pedersen ('84) were working together studying tuna. As they got to know each other on the job and during fishing trips to the Sea of Cortez, they realized their shared ties to Humboldt State and to the call of the open ocean. From there, the trio teamed up with Dave's brother Glenn Itano ('77), and Ben Meyer ('78), all HSU Fisheries grads, to plan their first pelagic fish survey.

“We decided it would be fun to go out together and do what we love to do—fish,” Heberer says. The four decided to call as many Fisheries alumni as they knew and invite everyone on a weekend-long outing for deep-sea fishing. At the time, they had no idea they would create an enduring tradition that would bring together generations of Lumberjacks.

Since their first outing, the Humboldt Fishin' Lumberjacks have grown to a core group of about 15 anglers and a total of about 24 alumni each trip. Despite the limited space, a handful of newcomers are still able to join in each year.

Before they set out to sea, fishers and their families attend the annual pre-trip barbeque. There, they get the chance to catch up with old friends and relive past trips through the group's important

and lush oral history. The telling and retelling of their adventures is an important tradition for the Fishin' Lumberjacks and just one way they like to “solidify the brotherhood”—and they've got some pretty good stories like “The Night of the White Sea Bass.”

“Tim Eckstrom, our captain, had us anchored up on this spot near the Cedros Islands with a couple bites while we settled in for dinner. We were fishing yellow tail,” Heberer recalls. The anglers had to eat dinner in two shifts due to the group's size. While the first group set into their meals, the second group stayed out on the deck to fish leisurely.

During the meal, Mike Shugars caught a white sea bass. Then another angler reeled in another sea bass. And another. And another. As the excitement mounted, those at the dinner table were drawn away from their half-emptied plates onto the deck. That night, the Fishin' Lumberjacks fished through the night, laughing and telling jokes. “The captain said it was the best sea bass bite he'd seen in 20-plus years,” Heberer says.

Even when the fishing isn't that exciting, the quality of the company keeps the anglers content. “We get five or six days, with no distractions, to develop our relationships in deeper ways,” Heberer says. To many Fishin' Lumberjacks, the group feels more like family than a group of old college friends. It's a bond they share in both the good times and the bad.

When Humboldt grad and returning angler Carolyn Parker passed away from a sudden illness before their 2011 trip, her brothers and sisters in the Fishin' Lumberjacks came together to celebrate her life. They helped support each other, through their grief. Near the Cedros Islands, one of their favorite and most fruitful fishing spots, the group had a memorial at sea for Parker, toasting her and remembering the impact she had on each of their lives.

Above all, it's that spirit of community that makes the Fishin' Lumberjacks a unique and close-knit crew. “Gregg Koonce has to be one of the best anglers on board,” says Heberer, “but he gets more pleasure out of showing someone how to tie a knot or putting his arm around someone who just lost a fish. There's a Zen to this trip that no one really expected when we started.”



Cedros Island in Baja California, Mexico, is one of the Fishin' Lumberjacks' favorite destinations.

Submitted Photo



**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:** Chris DeWees made the gyotaku ink print of the squid on the back of his collectible Fishin' Lumberjacks shirt. ■ Shawn Chase, holds a prime dorado specimen he hooked off the Royal Star fishing vessel. ■ The Fishin' Lumberjacks' famous Sponge Bob rod and reel combo proved no match for a powerful tuna, which destroyed the equipment shortly after this photo was taken. ■ Sharon Kramer poses with an albacore on the deck of the Shogun fishing vessel. ■ Rods curl under the weight of albacores as these Fishin' Lumberjacks fish off the deck of the Shogun vessel. ■ Fred Meyer, hangs loose on the open sea.



Submitted Photos



All,” a collection of 10 short stories, which is a fundraiser for a student scholarship at Bucks County Community College, Pennsylvania. The Philadelphia Inquirer’s then-book editor, Frank Wilson, said of Freeman’s earlier fiction: “If this book (“Ishi’s Journey”) doesn’t move you to tears, then you may be in need of a heart transplant.”

**LAWSON SNYDER, 1980 Fisheries Biology**, spent 31 years after graduation with the Florida Game and Freshwater Fish Commission, which later became the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. He started in 1980 as a freshwater fisheries biologist and is currently deputy director of the Division of Habitat and Species Conservation.

**CONNIE HENDRYX, 1981 Natural Resources**, is still working with the Klamath National Forest as a National Environmental Policy Act planner on the Salmon/Scott River Ranger District, but is looking forward to retiring in 25 months (but who’s counting?). Her husband, Michael (attended HSU 1979 to1981), retired as the museum director for Siskiyou County in 2010, but continues to work there part time. Their daughter, Emilie, recently started a full-time job in her church in Valencia, Calif., which is too far away for her parents’ liking!

**LIBBY MAYNARD, 1982 Art**, co-founded The Ink People, a community arts organization, with Brenda Tuxford (1980, Art, deceased) in 1979. The Ink People has facilitated over 200 community arts projects and currently oversees more than 60 ongoing projects. In 2011, Maynard received the Selina Roberts Ottum Award from Americans for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts for excellence in community arts leadership.

**DANIEL MONTOYA, 1982 Journalism**, recently celebrated 30 years of marriage and was nominated for teacher of the year at his school site, (didn’t win but placed!). Montoya is currently attending the University of California Los Angeles writers’ program.

**JO ANNE M. SMITH-FLUECK, 1982 Wildlife**, was president of the Scientific Steering Committee for the sixth and seventh International Deer Biology Congress (2006 and 2010, respectively) and is serving again for the upcoming eighth congress. Currently she is affiliated with Institute for the Analysis of Natural Resources (IARN), Universidad Atlántida Argentina in Mar del Plata, Argentina, as a research scientist.

**LAURIE BROWN, 1983 Psychology**, recently published the true crime book, “Stand-Up Guy,” which is available in eBook format.

**JANE HALL, 1983 Natural Resources Planning and Interpretation**, is a state park ranger and peace officer for California State Parks, and is currently the unit ranger at Empire Mine State Historic Park in Grass Valley, Calif.

**JACKI HOLZMAN, 1983 Geology**, works at the Federal Aviation Administration in the Office of the Regional Administrator. She is married and has a 15-year-old son. Holzman and her husband are members of a local taiko drumming group, Tomodachi Daiko. Her other hobbies are yoga and gardening and supporting her son’s swimming. Holzman has lived in Alaska for over 25 years and may be driving through Arcata this summer on a family road trip.

**SUZANNE LARSON, 1983 Journalism**, went to work as the public information officer for Beaufort

County government in 2004 after more than 20 years in television news and documentaries. She serves as press liaison. She initiated a government television station in 2006, The County Channel, which has earned five Telly Awards. Suzanne earned a Cine Golden Eagle in 1991 for producing and writing the historical documentary, “A Light On Treacherous Waters,” which she used as the basis for the play, “People of the Light,” in 2009. The play was presented at the University of South Carolina through a grant from the S.C. Humanities Council.

**MIKE MCHENRY, 1983 Fisheries**, has become a leading expert in salmon fisheries restoration in Washington State as the fisheries habitat biologist manager for the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe. His most recent project is working on the Elwha River dam removal project. In 2005, McHenry won the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s Environmental Hero Award and has been quoted in National Geographic about dam removal. McHenry writes, “Humboldt State University provided the solid background and knowledge so that I could excel in my career.”

**MICHAEL MOORADIA, 1983 Business Administration**, has been employed by the Los Angeles County Assessor for 23 years. He has been a supervising appraiser for the last 13 years in the Business Division, the Leasing Section and now the Audit Section. He and his wife Pam have been married for over 14 years. Their daughters are Susan, 13, and Dana, 10.

**DAVID TALLEY, 1983 Biological Sciences**, is finishing his 30th year as a public school educator. He taught science at the middle and high school level for 13 years in California before moving into school administration. Talley has worked at all grade levels K-12 and currently serves as principal of Quincy High School. Talley and his wife, Michele, have been married for 21 years and have two daughters, Danielle and Marinda.

**DEAN DIAZ, 1984 Business Administration**, moved to Fresno, Calif., and started working for Jostens in July of 1984. Twenty-seven years later, he is still with Jostens! He has been married for 22 years and has two children. Beau, 20, is a junior at University of Louisville in Kentucky, and Alejandra, 18, is a freshman at Boston University.

**BONNIE FOUAD, 1984 Home Economics**, is currently living in Kuwait while her husband works as an architect building the new Kuwait University. She is homeschooling her 10-year-old daughter and staying active as a leader for U.K. Girl Guides and teaching sewing and nutrition classes for a variety of small groups of children. She loves traveling in the Middle East but the family loves their time in the U.S. most of all. Fouad writes, “My favorite U.S. update I receive is my online HSU Alumni newsletter!”

**DANIEL MAYO, 1984 Forestry**, has been in law enforcement for some time and was recently promoted to an investigation position.

**GARY “EDUARDO” PERLESS, 1984 Geography**, is now teaching Spanish, world geography and history at a small university preparatory school in Poulsbo, Wash., after many years as a public school science teacher. Perless lives near Port Townsend, with his wife, Jocelyn, and children Will, 9, and Serena, 4. Perless would love to hear

from any Geographers or students who went to Oaxaca in ’84!

**SUE POUCHER, 1984 Industrial Arts & Technology**, is currently teaching a women’s Writing Retreat and creating another class that centers on helping people actually see the world around us instead of walking through it with all senses off.

**JACK EASTON, 1985 Forestry**, after 23 years in environmental consulting, has gone to work for Riverside Land Conservancy, a nonprofit land trust. He is reinvigorated and ready for another 23 years in the field.

**JOHN EBERL, 1985 Fisheries Management**, took an opportunity to work in South Korea teaching English, after an initial career in fisheries. Since then, Eberl has worked for both South Korean colleges and universities, and a U.S. college as an instructor. He presently lives in Seoul, South Korea, and works for a college in its suburbs.



Submitted Photo

**JANET MORLAN, 1985 Geography**, retired in 2011, and received the best retirement “gift.” In May, she was flown to Washington, D.C. to receive a National Wetlands Award. And it all began at the Arcata Marsh and Wildlife Sanctuary many, many years ago.

**DOUGLAS RISCHBIETER, 1985 Fisheries Biology**, just completed a career-crowning project: restoration of a degraded wetland site in the middle of the Mount San Jacinto State Wilderness. Coordinating California State Parks, California Conservation Corps, Army National Guard and several vendors’ resources, they successfully repaired a rare and fragile mountain meadow.

**HOLLY WIRTH, 1985 Business Administration**, works as a senior human resources consultant for Regence Blue Shield.

**TODD BERGGREN, 1986 Mathematics**, and Lynn Berggren, 1987 Mathematics, are living in Colorado where he is working as senior IT director for the Geological Society of America and she works as a math teacher.

**STEVE DE BLOIS, 1986 Biology**, just finished an acoustic-trawl survey for Pacific hake off the U.S. West Coast aboard the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Ship Bell M. Shimada.

**DAVID DIRK STANLEY, 1987 Computer Information Systems and 1989 Business**, says his daughter will be sending out her fall college application(s) and HSU is top on her list!

**KATHERINE LOUISE KALTHOFF, 1988 World Languages and Cultures**, is married with a 3-year-old daughter and is working on another child. Kalthoff has been clean and sober for more than 7 years. Kalthoff writes, “my years at HSU taught me about a sense of community that I have brought to my medical practice. I am truly blessed.”

**JOHN WEBB, 1988 Natural Resources Planning & Interpretation**, was hired as a Delaware Fish & Wildlife agent in January 1989. He plans to retire in two years and move to Michigan with his wife,

Becky, and two daughters, Kelsie and Carley. Webb is currently a sergeant and primarily does investigations into illegal hunting and fishing activities. He has arrested many people over his career and one of his future goals is to write a book about some of his more memorable cases.

**JOSEPH COOHILL, 1989 History**, is a history professor at Duquesne University. His books include “Ideas of the Liberal Party: Perceptions, Agendas and Liberal Politics in the House of Commons, 1832-1852,” and “Ireland: A Short History (Oneworld Short Histories).”

**BRENT EVANS, 1989 Biology**, retired from teaching for San Diego Unified School District.

**HALEY GOETSCH, 1989 Psychology**, has been working in California for the past 10 years as a school psychologist and school counselor. After working in Lake, Calaveras and Mendocino counties, she moved back to Humboldt in 2007, with her daughter Sonja. Goetsch became engaged to Greg Beaumont in August of 2010. Her daughter Sonja will soon graduate from Arcata High School and has been accepted to HSU for the fall.

**MICHAEL K. MOORE, 1989 Zoology**, went on to obtain a Master of Science in Zoology from Louisiana State University, and a Ph.D. in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology from the University of Louisiana. He is currently an associate professor of Biology at Mercer University in Macon, Ga., and teaches classes in ecology, evolution and environmental science. Most of his research has focused on the community ecology of larval anurans (frogs). However, lately Moore has spent a lot of time studying the patterns of biodiversity of opilionids (harvestmen) in Caribbean tropical forests. He mostly does field research in Trinidad and Tobago. Moore and his colleagues are currently working to complete species descriptions for 13 species of harvestmen from these islands, and they continue to study the behavioral and community ecology of this island fauna. Moore is still married to Katherine M. Moore (they were together during his Humboldt days!), and together they have three children Matthew, 13, Wyatt, 16, and Nicole, 24.

**JOHN RUTH, 1989 Nursing**, recently became certified as a wound, ostomy nurse after graduating from the Cleveland Clinic School of Enterostomal Nursing. He has been a registered nurse since ’89, and currently works in the field of home health. He is a wound, ostomy nurse for Providence Home Health, Portland, Ore.

**ROB SLATEN, 1989 Sociology**, has two boys, Jack and Harry.

**DOUG VOGT, 1989 Oceanography**, just received a promotion as a program manager for EWIE at John Deere Drive Train Operations.

## 1990s

**SANDRA LEE MATHEWS, 1990 Journalism and Mass Communication**, says her Journalism degree served her well in business. She worked in telecommunications for 20 years after graduation. The writing and presentation skills Mathews learned in the journalism department along with speaking skills, gave her the impetus to compete for and win jobs for her company. Mathews is currently retired and now volunteers in the Community Relations Department



Submitted Photo

## ConsumerBell Working for Consumers’ Rights

**WHETHER IT’S** A defective laptop battery or a bag of tainted spinach, when manufacturers recall products, consumers are often left wondering: am I in danger and how do I apply for a refund?

Ellie Cachette (’06, Political Science) is taking away some of the guesswork with ConsumerBell, a website she started in 2010 that tracks product recalls, sends consumer safety alerts and allows people to apply for manufacturer refunds online.

The company has tracked hundreds of cases, including last year’s recall of cantaloupe tainted with Listeria bacteria, mold growth in Capri Suns and defective cribs that pose a risk of suffocation. Last year, Cachette was nominated by *Fortune* magazine as one of the top female entrepreneurs of 2011.

Cachette’s passion for consumer safety began when she was just a child. Her father and thousands of other people were infected with HIV from a manufactured blood product that was later recalled. The incident compelled Cachette to begin advocating for consumer safety, but it wasn’t until she graduated from HSU that she decided to really do something about it.

With help from fellow HSU alum Stephanie Haller (’08, Journalism), Cachette launched ConsumerBell in San Francisco in 2010. Last year, she relocated the company to New York City and hired two HSU alums: Community Manager Derek Lactaoen (’11), based in Seattle, Wash., and Product Manager Ryan Mollenhauer (’08), in New York City. Both graduated from HSU’s Department of Journalism & Mass Communication.

Lactaoen, who monitors the web for product recalls, says it’s rewarding to work for a company that’s positively changing the world.

“Humboldt taught me to be conscious of my impacts on society and to try to do good things for my community and I really feel like my work is doing that,” he says.

■ **FOR MORE INFORMATION:** consumerbell.com





# Bruce Jackson: Space Bound

**NOT TOO LONG** ago, space travel was reserved for a select few: trained astronauts or those wealthy enough to charter a private trip to space. But in recent years, a growing number of companies have started offering commercial space travel to the paying public.

Bruce Jackson (’84, Political Science) is among those leading that effort at Virgin Galactic, a company started by British businessman Richard Branson in 2004 that plans to launch sub-orbital flights to space in the next couple years.

As Vice President of Trade Controls and Export Strategy, Jackson is responsible for ensuring that Virgin complies with federal export and technology control requirements that apply to its aircraft, WhiteKnightTwo, and its sub-orbital spacecraft SpaceShipTwo. It’s a unique responsibility that includes applying for export licenses and meeting with officials at the State Department, the Pentagon and on Capitol Hill.

Working on export strategy is familiar territory for Jackson, who spent the past 27 years in international trade, with a focus on export control laws and regulations. After receiving a degree in political science from HSU, Jackson interned with a U.S. congressman. Then, after a stint at the International Trade Administration within the Department of Commerce, he took a position as an international trade consultant with a law firm in Washington, D.C. He worked on global export compliance for a company in Germany and at a startup that was later acquired by JP Morgan before joining Virgin Galactic last April.

Jackson says that Virgin plans to launch space flights from its future headquarters at Spaceport America near Las Cruces, N.M., in the next couple years. Each trip will carry six passengers and two pilots and include several minutes of weightlessness. During that time, passengers will be able to unbuckle their seatbelts, see Earth’s curvature and float around the cabin. The cost? \$200,000 per person.

It may seem like a hefty price tag, Jackson says, but for many, it represents the opportunity to fulfill a childhood dream. About 500 people have already signed up. “Space travel is something a lot of people have dreamed of since childhood and to be able to be a part of making that happen is really exciting,” he says.



at Mercy Medical Center in Redding, Calif., where she contributes to the hospital newsletter and serves in public events hosted by the hospital.

**JANE MCKAY, 1990 Art**, recently completed her bachelor’s of science in nursing and is currently enrolled in a nursing master’s program. She was named clinical supervisor of hospice at Signature Hospice in Portland, Ore.

**LARRY STEPHENS, 1990 Forestry**, has been working for the California Department of Fish and Game for 12 years, enforcing hunting and fishing laws in the mountains of Southern California.

**JANA RIVERS-NORTON, 1991 English**, taught both full time and part time at several public and private institutions of higher learning including the University of New Mexico, SUNY, Alfred State College, the DeVry Institute and National University from 1991 to 2011. In 2005, Rivers-Norton received a Story Fund Grant from the California Council for the Humanities to conduct and publish an oral history project titled “Told From the Heart: Stories of California’s Native Women.” She most recently served as the associate dean of instruction at The Art Center Design College in Tucson, AZ.

**COLEEN SHADE, 1991 Natural Resources**, is a principal planner and Tahoe office manager for R.O. Anderson, an engineering, planning and surveying firm in Nevada and California. Her work is mainly concentrated in the Tahoe basin and in the Sierra. Shade is married to David Fournier, who is a forester with the U.S. Forest Service. They have two daughters, Larissa,16, and Sarah, 12.

**CHRISTINE (TINA) SHOYS, 1991 Liberal Studies**, is currently retired and living on the central Oregon coast, where she is an actively involved in community associations. She has recently taken up mosaic art as a creative outlet.

**KEN FARNSWORTH, 1992 Social Science and 1996 Geography**, is now doing freeform metal artwork on his ranch in Willits, Calif.

**M. SCOTT GRABAU, 1992 Theatre, Film, & Dance**, joined the Irvine Valley College Theater Department as fulltime faculty for the Spring 2011 semester. His professional design credits include: “da Kink In My Hair” (NAACP Award), “Don Quixote,” “Ain’t Misbehavin,” “The Goat,” “Long Story Short,” and “Superior Donuts” (San Diego Repertory); “The Sound of Music,” “Thoroughly Modern Millie,” “Dreamgirls” and “Annie Get Your Gun.” He received his master’s of fine arts degree from UC San Diego.

**DONALD (DONNY) TRIPLAT, 1992 Sociology**, is starting a native landscape business after 12 years of research forestry, five years of environmental restoration, five years of arborist work, and 10 years of service in the food industry catering and working in fine dining restaurants. He and his wife are creating the Truckee River Sanctuary, where they grow food, raise poultry and have built a kiva to share with their community.

**MATTHEW DANIEL MASON, 1993 History**, earned a Master of Arts in 1994 and a Ph.D. in 2008 from the Department of History at the University of Memphis in Tennessee, as well as a Master of Arts degree with a major in Archives Administration from the School of Library and Information Studies at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, in 2003. In fall 2004, Mason began tenure as an archivist at the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library at Yale University, where

he specialized in photographic collections, as well as manuscript collections principally based in the Trans-Mississippi West. In this work, Mason has processed several collections related to Northern California and Humboldt County.

**CAROL TAYLOR, 1993 Business**, is a retired in-home supportive services homecare provider, and former ethics officer in the Homecare Division of Service Employees International Union-United Healthcare Workers.

**STEVEN WERT, 1993 Liberal Studies Multiple Subjects**, is a kindergarten teacher at Fontana Unified School District.

**KIMBERLY (HUTCHINS) VON ATZIGEN, 1994 Studio Art**, married Nik von Atzigen in July 2010. They are currently living in Leucadia, Calif.

**RONALD G. DAVIS, 1994 Theatre, Film, & Dance**, lectured at various Canadian universities, including York University in Toronto, and Concordia University in Montreal, and is currently working on rewriting his dissertation on ecological aesthetics. He recently wrote a script titled “Glacial Melt and Sea Level Ride: (There are no solutions)” that is to be made into a performance piece for a 16-women’s chorus with the help of classical composer Joyce Todd of Berkeley, Calif.

**TERESA DONNELLY, 1994 Liberal Studies**, didn’t pursue her original goal of teaching elementary school-aged students, but she did begin corporate training and is now a senior trainer for Liberty Mutual Insurance. She is living in Denver, Colo., and is married to a wonderful man and has a fantastic 13-year-old son.

**MICHAEL BEEVE, 1995 Wildlife**, says his daughter, who was 1 year old when he started at HSU, is planning on attending UCSF this fall. “Life moves along”, he writes.

**SUSAN CONELL, 1995 Geography**, has been the Cascade County planning director since August 2010.

**JASON ESQUERRA, 1995 Theatre, Film, & Dance**, worked as an actor in Los Angeles, New York, and The Oregon Shakespeare Festival.

**KIM GRISWELL, 1995 English**, recently moved from her position as senior editor for Highlights to the position of developmental editor at Portable Press in Ashland, Ore., known for the Uncle John’s Bathroom Readers. Griswell will be developing books in the For Kids Only series.

**ROBIN HOLCOMBE, 1995 Wildlife Management**, recently retired from 15 years of teaching bilingual kindergarten (what she calls “Wildlife Management”!) She plans to move to Houston, Texas, until her husband retires. She adds, “Onward and upward, the sky is the limit!”

**PERRY PIERI, 1995 Math**, spent five years after graduation working as a technician, and is now in his eighth year of teaching middle school mathematics in Redwood Valley, Calif. He is so thankful for the great experience he had with all of the great math professors at Humboldt: Phyllis Chin, Mr. Khazanie, Mr. Patel, M. Reiner, Ken Yanosko, Mr. Biles, Mr. Howard Stauffer, and Mr. Hansen. Pieri feels lucky to have worked and studied with some of the best educators in California, and is thankful for the gifts of the

seventh- and eighth-graders who he says often make his day full of surprises and wonder.

**EVAN PINTO, 1995 Anthropology**, has been working as a secondary teacher for a virtual high school, and also teaches vocational education classes (in a bricks and mortar class). In addition, he, his wife, and two children just adopted a 2-year-old golden retriever.

**CARRI RATAZZI, 1995 Liberal Studies and Elementary Education**, is living in Denver, Colo., with her beautiful partner of 11 years and their two beautiful kids, ages 5 and 3. She is a geriatric care manager with Care Management Solutions, and loves her profession.

**LESLIE DEAN, 1996 Geography**, is working at a defense contracting company, BAE Systems, as a systems engineer. She has been with BAE for almost 12 years now in various roles, including cartographer/geospatial analyst, trainer on mapping software and tester on software.

**SHAWNA JOY HERNANDEZ, 1996 Philosophy**, did not pursue an advanced degree in Philosophy, but found her bachelor’s in Philosophy has served her well. Hernandez writes, “I feel that my written communication, critical thinking and ‘outside the box’ perspective have come in very handy as I have navigated my way through the business world.”

**JOHN JAMISON, 1996 English**, moved to China for a “short” teaching stint, and has been there ever since. In 2001, he received his master’s degree in English from Iowa State. Jamison is now working for Intel as its Chengdu site employee communication manager and working on its China staffing online engagement strategy.

**SOPHIA HABL MITCHELL, 1996 Geography**, recently started her own environmental consulting firm, Sophia Mitchell & Associates, after 11 years in the private sector. The firm’s focus is on California Environmental Quality Act and National Environmental Policy Act documentation and project management.

**JEFFREY NEWBORN, 1996 Forestry**, owns A & D Tree Service.

**SEAN SEIDELL, 1996 Interdisciplinary Studies**, and his wife, Nichole, recently had their second child (a girl).

**BRIAN EISENHAUER, 1997 Sociology**, is thankful and happy to continue to teach environmental and natural resource sociology while conducting research at Plymouth State University in New Hampshire, where he is director of the Office of Environmental Sustainability and acting director of the Center for the Environment (CFE). CFE coordinates an interdisciplinary Master of Science program in Environmental Science and Policy, and Sociology has a critically important role in the program.

**RICHARD A. MAYHEW, 1998 Physical Education**, received the 2011 Mildred Williamson Award, which is designed to reward and encourage excellence in the classroom. Richard received his teaching credential from HSU, and taught in the Carmel School District for nine years before transferring to the Monterey Peninsula Unified School District. He is currently teaching at Seaside Middle School in Seaside, Calif.

**NOAH RUBINSTEIN, 1999 Psychology**, has worked with individuals, couples and families for the last 20 years in various social service, counseling, and consultation roles within different communities, including mental health clinics, residential treatment centers, emergency shelters, hospice organizations, home-based therapy programs, summer camps, the Los Angeles Unified School District and in private practice. He has two young boys, Kobe and Niko.

## 2000s

**LAURA BAKER, 2000 Nursing**, lives in the San Francisco Bay Area where she was raised. She has worked as a staff nurse in labor and delivery since graduation. Baker recently transitioned out of patient care services into the clinical informatics department where she is on a team to build and implement an electronic health record system. Baker has been married for eight years, has two daughters, one chocolate lab, and two cats (from the Humboldt County Humane Society).

**TIM MULVEHILL, 2000 History**, and wife, Sylvia, just celebrated their son Nick’s first birthday. Mulvehill lives in Long Beach, Calif., and teaches world history at a large, urban high school. He earned a master’s degree in Education at Concordia University, in Irvine, Calif., and most recently became a National Board certified teacher of history.

**JORDAN SCHUGAR, 2000 English Literature**, and his wife, Heather Schugar, both Ph.D.s, recently published an article in the Spring 2011 issue of The California Reader, titled “‘Oceans Like Tiny Cups of Tea: Mapping Figurative Language in Narrative-Informational Text.” Both Jordan and Heather currently teach English and literacy, respectively, at the West Chester University of Pennsylvania. Jordan and his wife live in the suburbs of Philadelphia with two boys, Owen and Milo.

**JEANNENE EMS, 2001 Nursing**, has spent many years as a travel nurse, and is currently working in Denver, Colo., as a charge nurse in the emergency room. She plans to bring her new husband to visit the redwoods this fall.

**JESSE FELDMAN, 2001 Speech Communication**, moved in March of 2010 with his wife of four years to San Lorenzo, Calif. Their daughter turned 3 in September of 2010, and they have recently added a new member to their family: Cooper, a black and white longhaired Chihuahua.

**ELIZABETH GAZAREK, 2001 Business Administration**, and her husband are expecting a baby in the spring.

**MARLETTE GRANT-JACKSON, 2001 Native American Studies**, was a student assistant for the Indian Teacher & Educational Personnel Program (ITEPP) while attending HSU. After graduation, she was lucky enough to get a full-time job at ITEPP as the Curriculum Resource Coordinator and now after 10 years she is the resource coordinator and the student advisor for the program.

**STACY MADSEN, 2001 Political Science**, lawyer for the Los Angeles County Public Defender’s Office, and Alfonso Acosta (’01), an environmental associate for a large oil corporation, met while attending college at HSU, and have been married since 2004.



# Calendar

**JENNIFER POLSE PAYNE, 2001 Psychology and 2007 Chemistry**, misses Humboldt dearly, which she considers the best time of her life, and is thankful for such an in-depth education. She is now a licensed marriage and family therapist and the lead counselor at an alternative high school with a private practice in Berkeley, Calif.

**DAN REID, 2001 Theatre Arts**, is an Architecture graduate student at the University of Oregon. He and his wife welcomed their first child, Stella Evelyn, on Nov. 17, 2010.

**MICHAEL SAWLEY, 2001 Natural Resources Planning and Interpretation**, is happily married to HSU alumna Julie York ('00 Social Science) with two young daughters and living in Chico, Calif.

**TAMI MILLER NELSON, 2001 Journalism & Sociology**, has been living in Elk Grove, Calif., with her husband, Louis Nelson, and two kids for the past seven years after getting her Master of Arts degree in Journalism in Cardiff, Wales. She is an 8th grade Language Arts teacher for the Elk Grove Unified School District and is in the process of opening an online cloth diaper/natural family product store.

**ERIKA WRIGHT, 2001 English Literature**, says HSU helped prepare her for the next 10 years of her life. After graduation, she moved to London to pursue her Master of Art in national and international literature in English at University of London, School of Advanced Studies. Since studying in London and Berlin, she taught in Xi'an, China, teaching the 1:2:1 program, where Chinese students have the opportunity to study two years at HSU. Wright now lives in Perth, Western Australia, and is teaching ESL to pre-literate refugees at Murdoch University.

**JUSTIN BUFFINGTON, 2002 Political Science**, went on to Golden Gate University School of Law and is now engaged in the representation of public safety unions and their constituent members across the state of California.

**IAN COLVERT, 2002 Computer Information**, has enjoyed many adventurous opportunities the last 10 years: Colvert spent several years working as a fisheries and GIS technician in Yakutat, Alaska, and sailing a 50-foot sailboat from Tahiti to Hawaii as part of his graduate certificate work (HSU, 2006). Colvert also worked aboard the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Ship Rainier, as a hydrographer and working diver for four years throughout Alaska. Lastly, he is enjoying his service for the NOAA as a navigation response team member for the Pacific Northwest.

**KALISTA HICKMAN, 2002 Psychology**, is a licensed marriage and family therapist who makes good use of her psychology degree working for the psychiatry department at Kaiser Permanente in Vacaville, Calif. Kalista and her husband are also the proud parents of a 3-year-old son, Nathan. Nathan has an extra 21st chromosome, which has inspired Kalista to be active in her local special needs community.

**SHELLI MAHER-SARCHETT, 2002 Sociology**, is in her seventh year as the Assistant Softball Coach at Humboldt State University.

**KRISTINA PAULO, 2002 Liberal Studies Elementary Education**, is currently employed with the Los Angeles County Fire Department.

**MELISSA TENNILE, 2002 Philosophy**, says she kept busy this December because she owns two independent children's toy stores in Tacoma, Wash. Working at a public school library helped her create a large book section, but her favorite toys to sell will always be the science experiments.

**AMANDA J. BRAXTON, 2003 Environmental Science**, is working in Redding, Calif., for the Smart Business Resource Center as a job coach and program manager. She enjoys serving the jobseekers and businesses of Shasta County.

**JOSHUA DER, 2003 Botany and Biology**, received his Master of Science in Plant Biology from Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, where his thesis was selected for the SIUC Alumni Association Outstanding Master Thesis Award in 2005, and the Midwestern Association of Graduate Schools Distinguished Master Thesis award in 2006. He then earned his Ph.D. in Biology at Utah State University. He currently has a postdoctoral position at Penn State University, where he is the project manager of the Amborella Genome Sequencing Project. He and his wife, Kristal Watrous ('04 Biology), have two children.

**KATHY DILLEY, 2003 Biology**, has owned and operated her own business, GreenEarth Landscapes, in Arcata, Calif., for the past seven years. She is also the assistant manager of the Humboldt Fish Action Council Native Plant Nursery in Blue Lake, Calif., which is a nonprofit organization dedicated to local salmon habitat restoration.

**CHRISTIAN GANDY, 2003 Geology**, and his wife, Kathryn, are expecting their first child in December.

**JESSICA HOFFSCHILDT, 2003 Art**, is currently working at Kinoshita Circus in Japan.

**LAURA TANKERSLEY LANDOLL, 2003 Journalism & Mass Communications**, now manages public relations activities for the National Cattlemen's Beef Association after working the past 7 years for global and local PR agencies. She is expecting her first child in November and lives with her husband and dog in Denver. Landoll says, "I'm happy to help all undergrads with networking or PR job leads."

**JEREMY MILLS, 2003 Natural Resources**, began working for the Yurok Tribe transportation program in October of 2010.

**KRISTIN PETERS (SNOOKAL), 2003 Political Science and 2004 Film Production**, is living in San Antonio, Texas, with her husband and fellow HSU graduate, Gil Peters.

**HEATHER SUNDBLAD RHOADE, 2003 Journalism & Mass Communications**, owns a cake/cupcake business and works on freelancing for various publications.

**CARRIE VATH, 2003 Biological Sciences**, is currently a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Florida in the School of Natural Resources and Environment. Vath's research focuses on primate conservation, forest management planning, and community development in Cross River State, Nigeria.

**NICHOLAS BAUER, 2004 Fisheries Biology**, is now working for the California Sea Grant Program as a fisheries biologist monitoring Coho salmon in the Russian River.

**JOSHUA BROOKSHIRE, 2004 Geography**, is working for Bandelier National Monument as a lead helitack crewmember. Helitack refers to helicopter-delivered fire resources.

**CELESTE DODGE, 2004 Art**, is conducting graduate research in biology at San Francisco State University. As a Sierra amphibian biologist for the past four years, Celeste has worked with the Yosemite toad, which has been disappearing over the past 30 years. She is attempting to discover the cause of its potential extinction by investigating diseases that are causing amphibian and wildlife extinction around the globe.

**ERIC FRIEDLANDER, 2004 Geology**, spent three summers after graduation working as a hiking/backcountry guide in Skagway, Alaska. He lives in Lake Tahoe and works for the city of South Lake Tahoe as the environmental programs analyst. He will be married in August and is looking forward to a road trip to Humboldt County to show his fiancée the amazing campus at HSU, the redwoods and the incredible coastline.

**CHRYSTE JOHNSON, 2004 Psychology**, is living in Arcata and finishing her first semester at HSU's two-year master's of social work program. She is a recipient of the Title IV-E Stipend designed for those who wish to concentrate in child welfare services as a practitioner.

**ANDREA MAYER, 2004 Sociology**, is finishing her thesis toward a master's of business administration in nonprofit management.

**ROBERT ROBINSON, 2004 English**, has been teaching in San Diego for seven years. He taught at a private school for two years and a public school for five. He continued graduate work in education, focusing his attention on ethnic American literatures, social justice education, parent contacts, and culturally relevant pedagogy. Robinson teaches in the AVID program, working to increase the college enrollment of underrepresented students.

**ALEXANDER WESTBROOK, 2004 Journalism**, is working as the regional manager of business development at SAP Americas, Inc., a global software company that helps businesses of all sizes "run better." She lives in Scottsdale, Ariz., a stone's throw from the San Francisco Giants' spring training facility. Westbrook is enjoying the sunshine but misses the fog and cooler temps during summer.

**VINCE CAVIN, 2005 Religious Studies**, is currently a refugee resettlement job developer with Catholic Charities in Jacksonville, Fla. It is very rewarding and he is using the skills he learned at HSU every day.

**JOHN COMPAGLIA, 2005 Religious Studies**, earned a master's degree in medieval Islamic intellectual traditions with an emphasis on Islamic philosophy, science, and mysticism. On completing his master's in 2009, Compaglia was awarded a Henry Luce fellowship to study the history and origins of Islam in Indonesia at Gadjah Mada University in the city of Yogyakarta. His research is to be included in a book to be published by the university at year's end. Compaglia also is working on a book on similarities and differences of mythological and scientific methodologies.

**KYLE KNOPP, 2005 Political Science**, received his master's degree in Public Administration in



## HSU Softball Home Games

April 6 • 1 p.m.  
vs. San Francisco State

April 7 • 11 a.m.  
vs. San Francisco State

April 13 • 1 p.m.  
vs. Cal State East Bay

April 14 • 11 a.m.  
vs. Cal State East Bay

For full schedule,  
visit: HSUjacks.com



## Humboldt Bay Brass Band

April 7 • 8 p.m.  
Fulkerson Recital Hall

Tickets: (707) 826-3928



## Outstanding Student Awards Ceremony

April 19 • 3 p.m.  
Kate Buchanan Room



## 45th Annual Humboldt Film Festival

April 16 to 21 • Times Vary

More info:  
humboldt.edu/  
theatrefilmanddance



## Calypso Band with "We Got the Beat"

April 28 • 8 p.m.  
Van Duzer Theatre

Tickets: (707) 826-3928



## Humboldt Alumni Reception at New York Aquarium

April 14 • 1 p.m.

alumni.humboldt.edu



## Kinetic Grand Championship

May 26  
Arcata Plaza

kineticgrandchampionship.com

## Humboldt Alumni at the Crabs

June 22 • 12:00 p.m.

alumni.humboldt.edu

## Homecoming & Family Weekend

October 19 & 20

humboldt.edu/homecoming

## Humboldt State Commencement

May 12 • 8:30 a.m.  
Redwood Bowl

humboldt.edu/commencement

See More HSU Events at: [humboldt.edu/events](http://humboldt.edu/events)



HUMBOLDT STATE UNIVERSITY  
**HOMECOMING**  
& **FAMILY** *weekend*  
**Save the Date!**  
Homecoming & Family Weekend  
starts **October 19!**



'09 at SSU and now works as a senior analyst for budget policy and intergovernmental relations in the Executive Office of Mendocino County.

**FRANCIS SHAWN BAWDEN, 2006 History**, graduated with a Master of Library and Information Science, Archival Studies, from San Jose State University in December 2010. Bawden is currently employed with the U.S. National Park Service at the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area in Southern California.

**JOSHUA COLE, 2006 English**, and his wife, also a Humboldt grad, travelled to the UK where he went to business school and worked in finance. After their daughter was born, they returned to the U.S. and settled in Seattle.

**JEN CORDARO, 2006 Geography**, is working on her Ph.D. in Social and Cultural Anthropology at the California Institute of Integral Studies in San Francisco. She is working in social justice, focusing on human trafficking and refugees from Burma.

**KEVIN FARLEY, 2006 Journalism**, is a news producer at KIRO-TV channel 7 in Seattle. He won two Emmy Awards for his work at KSBW-TV channel 8 in Salinas, Calif.

**KRYSTAL ROGERS, 2006 International Studies, Art and French**, hiked 800+ miles over sections of the Pacific Crest Trail and Appalachian Trail, traveled to Kauai, led teenagers on backpacking and canoeing trips in the Maine woods, volunteered with children in Peru, hiked to Machu Picchu on the Inca trail (a lifelong dream), and just got engaged.

She is back in her hometown of Salt Lake City, Utah, and runs afterschool and summer programs for refugee youth resettling in Utah.

**GINGER SARVINSKI, 2006 Liberal Studies Elementary Studies, Multiple Subjects**, is so excited this year to have both of her boys playing for the Lumberjack Football Team. The boys have three Sarvinski uncles who played for Humboldt: Galen, Buzz, and Greg Sarvinski. "Go Jacks!"

**RASHAD KORAH THOMAS, 2006 Politics**, is the project manager (country director) for Uganda Village Project, a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for citizens in the villages that make up the Iganga District. They have programs in well construction, nets, fistula repair and more.

**EMILY A. HAMERCHER, 2007 Geology**, has been a graduate student in Geology at Caltech since finishing at HSU. Quite recently, she was officially promoted to Ph.D. candidate. She hopes to finish her Ph.D. in the next couple of years.

**ELAINE HOGAN, 2007 Politics**, after serving as a health volunteer for the Peace Corps in Honduras, is back in Arcata. She works for North Coast Children's Services as a bilingual family service specialist serving high-needs families with children enrolled in the Head Start Program.

**LIZBET HUSBY-GERRY, 2007 Anthropology**, is working and living in Oregon.

**MATTHEW MARKSTONE, 2007 History**, is currently a fulltime teacher at Santa Maria High School teaching advanced placement world history and modern world history.

**BECKIE MENTEN, 2007 Politics**, works at the California Energy Commission as an energy efficiency specialist. She is currently working on programs to increase the energy performance of residential and commercial properties, including identifying financing mechanisms for homeowners.

**GARRETT SPEARS, 2007 Journalism & Mass Communications**, had freelance camera work for KCSB (City of San Bernardino) from February 2008 to April 2008. He has also had work for the Empire Wrestling Federation with his first match on March 15, 2008. Spears is now a part of a new pro wrestling show called "Wrestling Revolution," which began taping in October.

**JOHN TRISKA, 2007 Administrative Services**, has been principal since 2008 at Brittan Acres School, a K-4 public school of 477 students in San Carlos, Calif., on the San Francisco Peninsula. Triska and his wife, Christine, live inside his school's attendance area, allowing him to ride his bike to work each day, and making it easy for them participate in all the events of their community.

**DIANA "DEE" CAMPOS, 2008 Politics**, lives in New York City, working for En Foco, a nonprofit organization, and recently earned her master's of fine arts in photography with honors from the Pratt Institute, in February.

**ZACHARY CINEK, 2008 Journalism**, worked for two years after graduation for the Ukiah Daily Journal, then set off on a road trip across America. He fell in love with Denver when visiting his cousin, and decided to move there permanently. Zack now works for a camera store in Broomfield, Colo., but confesses he misses the hands-on interaction of being a reporter and will get back into action as soon as he can land a job with the right paper.

**ARIEL MARIE GRUENTHAL, 2008 Psychology**, after graduating from the University of Central Lancashire, U.K., in 2009 with a Masters of Science in Forensic Anthropology, took a job with the Humboldt County Coroner's Office as a deputy coroner.

**CAITLIN HOY, 2008 Theater Arts**, has been working for a worldwide engineering company for three years. She just returned from a six-month computer-aided design coordination assignment in Israel.

**LAURA MCNAUGHTON, 2008 Communications**, moved to Vermont to work at Lyndon State College, a Vermont State College, as a student activities coordinator. Laura now lives in San Diego, Calif., with her Humboldt sweetheart and husband, Kienan Parr. She plans to attend graduate school in the next year for Higher Education.

**JUSTIN NASH, 2008 Music**, is finishing his Master of Fine Arts degree with an emphasis in Music Performance at Mills College in Oakland, Calif. He also performs professionally as a pianist and piano accompanist throughout the Bay Area. Last year Justin hosted a tsunami relief concert at Mills, and raised \$3,000 for a nonprofit organization benefiting victims in Western Samoa. Justin plans to live and teach in the Bay Area after finishing his current degree next fall.

**ARIC ANDERSON, 2009 English**, joined the AmeriCorps Volunteers in Service to America program, working on poverty reduction with the California Conservation Corps. He created transition programs and capacity building for age groups 18 to 25. Upon completing his contract Anderson was asked to stay on with the California Conservation Corps as a special corps member working in corps member development.

**RICHARD ESPINOSA, 2009 English**, immediately started in a pharmacy technician program from 2009 to 2010. Upon completion in May, he was asked to teach English in Thailand. Espinosa taught at a Catholic High School (Assumption College), for a year. He came back in May 2011 and has started the Ph.D. pharmacy program in Sacramento.

**DUANE LINANDER, 2009 Zoology**, is currently a research technician for fisheries cooperative research unit.

**TRABEN PLEASANT, 2009 Anthropology**, is currently pursuing a Master of Science in Social/Cultural Anthropology at University College London.

**JESSICA POLETSKI, 2009 Sociology**, received her Master of Arts degree in teaching in May from Warner Pacific College in Portland, Ore. She now resides in the Portland area and works for the Head Start Program.

**NICOLE QUINN, 2009 Political Science**, is currently serving her second term as an AFACR (Assisting Families Access Change Through

## Submit a class note

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

or email: [alumni@humboldt.edu](mailto:alumni@humboldt.edu)

Resources) AmeriCorps member at Humboldt County Children and Family Services.

**SCOTT SCHINDEL, 2009 Anthropology**, is volunteering on a howler monkey project in Southern Mexico.

**TONY SNOW, 2009 History**, worked for the Humboldt Area Foundation on different grant programs, which provided him with experience in the field of grant writing and grant review. A year later, Snow was invited to work with the State of California as a Native American Liaison for the Department of Transportation (DOT). He gained a lot of experience starting his freshman year at HSU working on campus for the Center for Indian Community Development. Snow believes that his degree in History has prepared him to succeed at his job. Two of the three of the DOT's Native American Liaisons have degrees in History.

## 2010s

**HARRIET ANN BURR, 2010 Economics**, started her master's program in Community Economic Development and is very excited about it. She joined the Northern California Translators Association, volunteered to do translations for the National Parks Services for the Pacific Region, and is considering an AmeriCorps VISTA contract.

**MICAH CARNAHAN, 2010 Wildlife**, left school in the middle of his last semester in the fall of 2009 for a son who was born with a congenital heart disease. During a three-month stay at UCSF, he kept in contact with his professors and they worked with him to finish his coursework during his stay. His son is now 15 months, healthy and well. Because of his HSU training, he was chosen from among a number of candidates to be the new environmental scientist for the California Department of Fish and Game's Lake and Streambed Alteration Program.

**KAT CATANESE, 2010 Anthropology**, worked for six months after graduating from HSU as a research assistant on a project through Tulane University concerning the reproductive strategies of male capuchin monkeys. Although she says it was an amazing life-changing experience, she came out of it knowing that she would much rather work with people, and she is currently seeking admission to HSU's elementary education program.

**DUSTIN DETWEILER, 2010 Rangeland and Resource Science**, has been working as a range conservationist for the Natural Resources Conservation Service's Student Career Experience Program. Once he graduated from HSU, he was converted to a career position with the agency and now works as a range management specialist working on ecological site descriptions for the Joshua Tree National Park Soil Survey and other surveys in the Mojave Desert.

**KACIE FLYNN, 2010 Art**, held an internship at Morris Graves Museum of Art during her undergraduate study. She was soon brought on staff to teach art lessons as part of the "Second Saturday Family Arts Day." Flynn graduated Summa Cum Laude and since then has become the museum manager at Morris Graves in charge of special programs and events. She was also invited to show in the Young Alumni Exhibition "Fresh Meat" at First Street Gallery in August. Flynn works at HSU in the Office of Research & Sponsored Programs as a grant coordinator and volunteers as a club advisor to Delta Phi Epsilon.

**JOHN P. HILL, 2010 History**, was accepted into the University of Oregon's Historic Preservation master's degree program, and received a competitive scholarship for "academic achievement and diligence."

**WESLEY KORPELA, 2010 Anthropology**, is pursuing a career in maritime archaeology.

**JAMES ROBINSON, 2010 Environmental Resources Engineering**, re-enrolled as a graduate student in HSU's MBA program and is working on a minor in music, as well. He is working on the start-up of Green Traveler after winning the Economic Fuel competition for student entrepreneurs.

**JAMIESON-LEE SCOTT, 2010 Anthropology**, was recently accepted to Gonzaga University's graduate program in Teaching English As A Second Language. Beginning this fall he'll be in the dampest state in the country.

**ADRIANNA SIMONE, 2010 English**, is currently applying for Ph.D. programs and helping out the community through volunteer work. She is a library volunteer at the Eureka branch, which includes assisting with the English and Spanish story times by reading books, and helping the children and parents with the weekly crafts. Simone also volunteers at Sacred Heart Church as a religious education instructor for seventh-and eighth-grade students.

**MELISSA WALDMAN, 2010 English**, is currently writing and editing at a textbook company in San Francisco and creates K-12 grade English and Language Arts materials for larger publishing houses like Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. She is also a freelance food and drink correspondent for the SF Examiner Online and The Local Dish!

**DANIEL ADELSPERGER JR, 2011 Construction Management**, was promoted to assistant project manager at St. Joseph's Hospital in Eureka. Adelsperger writes, "It's nice to know that all the hard work that I put into my major paid off. This proves how valuable Applied Technology is at HSU."

**ANDREA CASTILLO, 2011 Art**, is working for a nonprofit center for the arts in Los Angeles at a summer art camp for kids.

**JENNIFER MAYBERRY, 2011 Environmental Studies**, moved to Missoula, Mont., immediately after graduation with her partner, wildlife biologist and climate change scientist Joe La Manna. While La Manna completes his Ph.D., Mayberry will be working in her newly appointed position of interim director of FireSafe Montana. Using her expertise in wildfire ecology and FireSafe councils, she will be coordinating fire departments with city councils, county commissioners and neighborhood committees.



# meet humboldt

**MATTHEW THOMPSON ('12, Business)** is from the other side of California, South Central, Los Angeles, to be precise. "HSU was far away from home and a fresh start," Thompson said. He started out as a marketing major, but that quickly changed with his experience at the Career Center, as well as the Center for International Programs. He is now set to graduate this spring with a degree in Business and a minor in Chinese Studies. After studying abroad last spring and summer semesters in China, learning Mandarin Chinese, Thompson decided he wanted his international focus to be on business, while improving his language skills. Through his time at HSU, Thompson has had three internships as a legal intern, marketing intern and a term with the State Department working in trade and investments.

**MOST MEMORABLE TIME at HSU** "All the times I went to the Career Center, where they helped me set my goals. The Career Center helped me get the U.S. State Department internship where I worked with the Bureau of South and Central Asia Affairs. I worked specifically on trade and investments in India. It was a very lavish internship where I got to meet ambassadors, CEOs and Hillary Clinton."

**FAVORITE THINGS TO DO ON CAMPUS** "Running on the track at night helps me clear my head. You can see the stars and hear nature. It allows you to really focus. I also love going to the BSS building and studying on the top floor because the view is nice."

**FAVORITE THING ABOUT HSU** "It's a tranquil place where you can study and enjoy nature. And we are an eco-friendly school. There are not a lot of schools in the country that have that liberal, open-minded perspective."

**THE COURSES THAT STOOD OUT** Three courses really shaped Thompson's experience at HSU: Business Law, International Business and Chinese. "If those were the only three classes I ever took, they really prepared me for my study abroad experience in China and D.C."

**A BIT OF ADVICE** "Take courses that will challenge you because it builds character and it builds skill. Also, adventure out, always."

## meet more humboldt students

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

**BELOW:** Matthew Thompson paints three Chinese characters, fa ming jia, which translates to inventor. Thompson spent two semesters studying in China as part of his Chinese Studies minor and hopes to return to pursue an alternative energy business.



## 8 THINGS [the Quad]

Something is always happening on the University Center Quad. One day you might find circus performers, the next a packed clubs fair.







**HUMBOLDT STATE UNIVERSITY**

1 Harpst Street, Arcata, CA 95521

# Smullin Gift Creates Business Intern Program

Over the next five years, 150 undergraduate students in the School of Business will benefit from a recent gift of \$400,000 from the Patricia D. & William B. Smullin Foundation.

This gift creates the Smullin Undergraduate Business Internships to compensate undergraduates for hands-on work experiences in local businesses, nonprofits, and government in Humboldt, Del Norte and Trinity counties. The Foundation hopes the advantage of internship experience combined with actual monetary compensation will help the students establish their resumes and diminish their own debt while also benefitting the local entities that provide the internships.

This continues the Smullin Foundation's commitment to HSU. The Foundation supports The Smullin Scholarship Endowment established in 1987, which now provides scholarships to eight students each year to cover most of their university fees.

**HSU sincerely thanks Carol Anne Smullin Brown, her son Kevin Smullin Brown, and the entire Board of the Smullin Foundation.**

To learn how you can support Humboldt State University visit [humboldt.edu/giving](http://humboldt.edu/giving)

