INSIDE:
• LOL (Learning Out Loud) at the Library
• Inside the New Third Street Gallery
• Campus Scene: Glorious Greenhouse

Campus Lore and Tall Tales
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Content</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Reader Favorites</td>
<td>Last year’s most popular photos from the student-run Instagram account.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>News in Brief</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Campus Scene</td>
<td>The greenhouse in all its glory.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Fresh Coat of Paint</td>
<td>Inside the new Third Street Gallery.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>We’re No. 1!</td>
<td>HSU named “Outdoorsiest” school.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>LOL (Learning Out Loud)</td>
<td>Library makeover inspires creativity, collaboration, and conversation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>Rumor Has It ...</td>
<td>Campus lore and tall tales are an important part of the history and identity we share.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30</td>
<td>Wailaki Language Revival</td>
<td>Native American language was all but lost by the early 20th century.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>Charting a Course for Northern California Fishing Communities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>Humboldt Int’l Film Fest Turns 50</td>
<td>The oldest student-run film fest shines with indie spirit.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>Keeping the Gears Turning</td>
<td>Bicycle Learning Center offers tips for a smoother ride.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38</td>
<td>Online Teaching for a Wired World</td>
<td>Virtual class that teaches public speaking?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39</td>
<td>Alumni News &amp; Class Notes</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48</td>
<td>8 Things</td>
<td>Plenty of ways to float.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>49</td>
<td>Meet Humboldt</td>
<td>Jordan Johnson (’18, Recreation Administration)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ON THIS PAGE: A view of campus from the Arcata Marsh, a unique wastewater treatment facility and sanctuary for migratory birds and other wildlife. It’s also an important site for student and faculty research.
@livefromhsu Reader Favorites

Each week, a new student runs this Instagram account, which focuses on the HSU experience. These are the top photos from 2016. Follow @livefromhsu to see more.

Humboldt
The Magazine of Humboldt State University
humboldt.edu/magazine

Humboldt magazine is published 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 or those of the California State University Board of Trustees.

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Renowned Native Artist George Blake Receives Honorary Degree

“IT’S MY FINEST WORK,” says George Blake as he stands next to his ghost print “Sacrifice II.” The Hupa-Yurok artist is overseeing Art students in HSU’s Goudi’ni Gallery as they pack away pieces from his show, “George Blake: A Retrospective.”

Blake, who joined the ranks of HSU honorary degree recipients in October, is describing a gorgeous print that is both a technical anomaly and an aesthetic wonder. The print is actually the second made from an inking process that went awry. The first, Blake says, turned out like peanut butter. While it is possible to get a second print—called a ghost print—from the same inking, the results are almost always inferior. In Blake’s case, the ghost print is, to his eye, near perfection.

Blake describes the print as a visual interpretation of the abrupt ending to a pregnancy, adding resonance to the idea that the first print had to be given up so the second could appear. “Sometimes the little guy has to sacrifice himself so we can have better lives.”

Blake describes his pieces on display at Goudi’ni with vigor and fond memories of the moments connected with each piece. Sometimes the memory reached back to his earliest experiences making ceremonial artwork with his aunt and uncle, or a statement he wanted to make about contemporary perceptions of American Indians. Blake shared even more insight into his work during a campus ceremony in recognition of his honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters, conferred by the California campus in honor of his ties to Native American traditional cultural life since the 1970s.

Born in 1944 on the Hoopa Indian Reservation in Humboldt County, Blake is widely known for his work. Blake’s work has been exhibited internationally, and resides in the collections of major institutions like the Phoebe A. Hearst Museum at University of California, Berkeley and the Gene Autry Museum of traditional art of dugout canoe construction. The Kazan, Tatarstan, skyline features a large Orthodox cathedral (left) and mosque (right), symbolizing the harmonious relationship between Muslims and Christians in the region.

Political Boot Camp for HSU Student

NEVER IN A MILLION YEARS did Political Science major Dominic Cicerone imagine he’d meet Leon Panetta. But there he was, talking to the former CIA director and secretary of defense. “I kept thinking to myself that I’m just an average guy,” says Cicerone, who was one of 26 California students chosen for the Congressional Internship Program at the Panetta Institute last year. “There’s nothing special about me, and yet I was sitting across the table having a conversation with him.”

Cicerone’s meeting marked the beginning of his time with the program, which was created in 1997 by Panetta and his wife, Sylvia. It’s part of the Panetta Institute, a nonpartisan center for public policy based in Monterey, Calif. Every year, each of the 23 CSU campuses (in addition to Dominican University of California, Saint Mary’s College of California, and Santa Clara University) select one student for the two-month program. Students who participate offer an intensive introduction to politics and the legislative process through classes and seminars led by experts. Students are told what they can expect as a congressional intern and are then assigned to work for a California House representative in Washington, D.C.

Working in the office of Rep. Darrell Issa (R-Vista), Cicerone attended briefings and Congressional hearings to listen, take notes, and meet people lobbying for their cause.
HSU Inspires New Law on Student Hunger

A DEDICATED GROUP at HSU played an important part of a new California law that expands efforts to tackle hunger among college students. Authored by Assemblymember Shirley N. Weber (D-San Diego), Assembly Bill 1747 Food Assistance: Higher Education Students takes several steps toward ending student hunger, like providing funding to support partnerships between college food pantries and local food banks. The measure also supports CalFresh outreach programs and requires colleges to annually inform students of food assistance programs.

Major portions of the law were inspired by programs and research headed by HSU Social Work Professor Jennifer Maguire and Health Education Coordinator Mira Friedman. Leading up to measure’s approval, they testified in front of state lawmakers about HSU’s efforts to address student hunger. They outlined the development of Oh SNAP!, HSU’s program to alleviate hunger, and shared how HSU became one of the first universities in the nation to accept EBT cards so that students can use CalFresh benefits on campus.

“This law is a great move for California. Colleges will see more support from the state to address hunger among students and that can go a long way to ensuring student success. But we’re also just beginning to address this issue. Much work still needs to be done,” Maguire says.

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Health & Community Meet

STUDENTS INTERESTED IN HOW COMMUNITIES INTERACT with their environment have a new opportunity to earn an undergraduate and master’s degree in just five years.

The Environment & Community M.A. in Social Science program at Humboldt State was initially developed in 2001. It’s a multidisciplinary social science program that looks at relationships between environment and community, with a particular focus on sustainability and social justice.

“The idea of the environment is all-encompassing—the so-called ‘natural’ as well as ‘built’ environment,” says Program Coordinator and Politics Professor Mark Baker. “Which is why we have people looking at graffiti in Mexico City and coffee fields in Jamaica. These are all different ways of looking at the environment.” Baker says the program hopes to entice more students with the appeal of hands-on undergard research and all the things I’ve taken on, he says.

The focus of his study, which mirrors research by Walla Walla University Professor Kirt Onthank, is whether red octopuses prefer to eat crabs with higher levels of lipids. Found in the digestive glands of octopuses, lipids play an important role in their growth and development. Cowan says the research, part of his senior thesis project, can help shed light on intertidal ecosystems and how they’re changing.

But as he’s learned, studying octopuses is one thing. Making sure they thrive is another. The red octopus is known for being branny. One at the Monterey Bay Aquarium, for instance, latched onto a sponge and then made a dash for it, hiding for a year before it was found. Considering their smarts, Cowan makes sure to interact with them regularly and keep them stimulated.

“We sometimes put a crab in a dog toy. They have to figure out how to get it out,” he says. “It’s a matter of streamlining the process for getting an undergraduate and master’s degree in a shorter amount of time with a carefully planned course of study,” Baker says. “They can start taking graduate seminars during their undergrad terms, and start working on their own thesis or project work.” The requirements aren’t any different and the course load is the same. But it allows high-achieving and motivated students to seamlessly transition into the graduate program, reducing the stresses of grad school applications and tying their educational experience at Humboldt together.

Where Community and Environment Meet

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The dual degree pathway shaves a year off the normal time to earn two degrees and gets students more quickly into the workforce, where the fruits of their studies can have real-life effects.

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Studying Sneaky Cephalopods

RULE NUMBER ONE WITH OCTOPUSES: Don’t turn your back on them. “They’re highly intelligent and curious. When you walk away, they will try to slip out of the tank,” says student Declan Cowan.

It’s something Cowan keeps in mind while working with 14 Octopus rubescens (commonly known as the red octopus) at HSU’s Telonicher Marine Lab in Trinidad. Since 2015, the Zoology and Biology major has had a unique opportunity to study and interact with one of the world’s smartest invertebrates.

“HSU and the lab are so supportive of hands-on undergard research and all the things I’ve taken on,” he says. The focus of his study, which mirrors research by Walla Walla University Professor Kirt Onthank, is whether red octopuses prefer to eat crabs with higher levels of lipids. Found in the digestive glands of octopuses, lipids play an important role in their growth and development. Cowan says the research, part of his senior thesis project, can help shed light on intertidal ecosystems and how they’re changing.

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Caring for and studying these animals is a labor of love—one that started at the marine lab, which Cowan visited frequently as a kid growing up in Arcata. He became obsessed with the red octopus last summer as an intern at the Monterey Bay Aquarium where he studied cephalopod husbandry. He realized the importance of studying octopuses in a sustainable way.

“I want to find ways to improve husbandry for these animals in order to raise them in captivity so we don’t have to take from the wild,” he says.
In New Zealand, Professor Sees Earth’s Immense Power

Geology professor Mark Hemphill-Haley went in November to New Zealand to examine the aftermath of a powerful earthquake. What he saw astonished him: trees split in half; a section of train track warped and slipped; and a long fissure across the land.

Hemphill-Haley’s trip was part of 10-day mission with the National Science Foundation-sponsored Geotechnical Extreme Events Reconnaissance (GEER) Association team to investigate surface faulting from the magnitude 7.8 temblor, and to get a clearer picture of how the earthquake relates to Humboldt County’s geology.

When it comes to earthquakes, he says, Humboldt County and New Zealand’s South Island are similar in geology and level of preparedness. Both regions are in transition zones between large, active plate boundaries. Humboldt County sits in an area called the Mendocino Triple Junction where the San Andreas Fault and Cascadia Subduction Zone converge. New Zealand’s major Alpine Fault and the Hikurangi Subduction Zone meet at the location of the recent earthquake. And like South Island, Humboldt County is not heavily populated, people are more prepared for earthquakes, and many buildings are up to seismic codes.

“We want to know what’s happening in our transition zone and what would happen here if there was an earthquake of that size,” says Hemphill-Haley.

An expert in neotectonics (the study of recent faults), Hemphill-Haley has studied New Zealand earthquakes extensively. He spent much of his 2008 sabbatical studying faulting with New Zealand scientists, and in September 2010, he and Paul Sundberg (‘07, Geology; ‘13, Environmental Systems) studied the magnitude 7.1 earthquake near Christchurch, also on South Island.

Six years later, Hemphill-Haley was back in New Zealand after the earthquake that killed two people and caused extensive damage to infrastructure. The temblor struck about 58 miles north of Christchurch and ruptured parts of more than 10 faults extending at least 100 miles to the northwest.

He and his team worked alongside New Zealand scientists who included GNS Science senior scientist Russ van Dissen (’85, Geology). Using 3-D imaging, light detection and ranging technology, and drones to survey the region, they got a close and astonishing look at the damage.

Along the Kekerengu fault, for instance, the quake left an estimated 18-mile-long gash and moved the ground surface sideways by as much as 33 feet in some locations.

“It is always humbling to witness the immense power of the earth—an earthquake is one of the ultimate displays of this power,” he says. “I’m honored to participate in this reconnaissance, and to work with good friends and associates in New Zealand,” says Hemphill-Haley.

LEARN MORE ABOUT the Geotechnical Extreme Events Reconnaissance Association at geerassociation.org.

Collaborating on Climate

IF YOU THINK CO-TEACHING could lead to some conflicts, you’re right—especially when it comes to a charged topic like climate change. It’s part of the reason it’s rarely done in academia. But working through those disagreements, even in front of the class, is part of the point.

During the fall semester, Environmental Studies Professor Sarah Ray and Geography Chair Rosemary Sheriff joined forces and invited other HSU professors across different disciplines to teach students about climate change.

Ray and Sheriff share a common interest in environmental issues, but their backgrounds and expertise sometimes bring them to different conclusions about how goals should be achieved. That’s a good thing, especially when it comes to a topic like climate change.

Sheriff and Ray’s goal in the course (ENST480/GEOG473: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Climate Change) was to bring a variety of disciplines and perspectives to the topic. Climate change affects a huge array of topics—Hurricane Katrina, for example, included physical sciences like engineering and meteorology, as well as social science subjects like politics and race.

Sometimes, experts in those disciplines think they know what needs the most resources, or what should be the highest priority when tackling climate change. But Ray says a subject so complicated needs broader, more interconnected analyses.

So, the two professors challenged students to think outside their own perspectives to solve an issue, to get over the dead-end of “who’s going to solve the problem better.”

They invited HSU professors from a variety of science fields such as hydrology, oceanography, and wildlife, to share how their work provides context for climate change discussions and offer a critical view of the effects of and responses to it.

This approach paid off, says Ray. Students appreciated the variety of expertise and tools and learned to recognize both the strengths and limitations of each. “This also helped them understand the challenges to getting consensus on dealing with climate change,” Ray says.

Working to Understand Humans in the Wild

“What if personal locator beacons change the behavior of people, convincing them to take more and greater risks, putting them in danger, taxing rescue resources, and changing the wilderness environments they visit?” Those were the questions at the heart of a recent study by HSU Dept. of Environmental Science & Management Chair and Professor Steve Martin, who received the U.S. Forest Service Chief’s 2015 National Award for Excellence in Wilderness Stewardship Research recognizing his ongoing work examining human relationships with the wilderness.

“Change the behavior of people and it brings about change in the behavior of people and it changes the environment and it increases the risk,” Martin says. “It gives wilderness managers a better understanding of the issues they’re dealing with and gives them some tools to deal with those issues,” Martin says.

He has also looked into wilderness food storage, trailhead quota decisions based on backpacker travel patterns, and attitudes about intervention to adapt to climate change, and ecological restoration to fix problems caused by past human behavior.

Wilderness means different things to different people, and it is an evolving human construct. The existence and protection of wilderness remains an extremely popular notion in the United States, even as its definition, and how humans use it, may change. For that reason, Martin says, it’s crucial to study these lands from a variety of disciplines.

“There are a lot of human dimensions of natural resources,” Martin says. “There’s as much social science involved as there is natural science.”
Meet Trumpet Consort von Humboldt. The ensemble, founded by Music Professor Gil Cline, gives students a chance to play a unique instrument.

The Strangely Wonderful Baroque Trumpet

ITS BODY IS MORE THAN TWICE as long as a standard trumpet. It sounds like a cross between a horn and a bugle, plays all the notes of the “rainbow,” and is always in tune.

Welcome to the world of the baroque natural trumpet, an instrument played by only a few hundred people in the country. Among them are Music Professor Gil Cline and five HSU students. Together they form Trumpet Consort von Humboldt (TCvH).

Founded by Cline in 2003, TCvH is comprised mostly of Music majors, along with an occasional community member, who tackle the challenging instrument.

Played in the 1600s for royalty and at special occasions like civic and military events, the valveless instrument’s tubing is usually 8 feet long, creating a timbre that is richer than today’s garden-variety trumpet and not as loud.

Also, just as white light is comprised of multiple colors (a rainbow), so any single note we hear is made up of multiple notes.

Brass instruments can play each of these one by one. A bugle plays all the notes of the “rainbow,” and is always in tune.

“They didn’t write music down back then but played from memory like a rock band, which means they had to be very good musicians. Baroque trumpet players back in the old days practiced again this summer.

A big moment for TCvH came in 2012, when they put their skills to the test at the Historic Brass Society Symposium in New York City—an event that featured renowned baroque brass musicians.

Using replicas of 1667 baroque trumpets, TCvH played baroque and late Renaissance music, plus a rendition of “Low Rider,” and was the only group to perform without sheet music. The consort was a surprise hit of the concert and was invited to play at the symposium again this summer.

“I think they weren’t expecting to hear that level of professionalism,” recalls Music major Andrew Henderson, who played that day in 2012. A member of TCvH for the last five years, Henderson credits Cline’s bequest will empower us to move the program forward into the future,” says Chris Hopper, Interim Dean in the College of Professional Studies.

Whitson’s bequest establishes the Alice Louise Whitson Endowment to support future generations of aspiring school teachers. Endowments work by investing a donor’s contribution long-term and using only the income generated each year for educational programming, in perpetuity.

Retired Teacher Leaves Nearly $700K to Support Future Educators

HSU ALUMNA ALICE WHITSON (’53, Educa- tion) recently left a $678,947 bequest to support future teachers learning at Humboldt State University. Whitson’s bequest will enhance the Multiple-Subject Teaching Credential Program.

“Gil opened my eyes to the baroque trumpet and showed me another path I could take with music,” says Henderson. “He has a knack for helping you grow as a musician. His undying love of brass is very inspiring.”

Whitson grew up in Eureka and went on to teach in several Humboldt County elementary schools, including Blue Lake and Redwood Creek. She eventually moved to Willow Creek, where she taught until she retired. It was also in Willow Creek where she met her husband, Charles.

As a teacher, Whitson taught kindergarten through third grade. She particularly enjoyed teaching third-grade students because she had a knack for connecting with them through language arts. “It was a joy to see them blossom,” she once said about nurturing students’ skills and confidence in the classroom.

According to her friend Bev Westman and her sister-in-law, Joanne Stockhoff, Whitson was famous for using Willow Creek peaches in her pies and cobblers, her considerable skill at Scrabble, and her love for St. Bernard dogs. Described by her friends as classy but down to earth, Whitson had a positive impact on the lives of many young students during her career.

Whitson firmly believed that free public education for young people made the country great. Her bequest captures the spirit of her belief in the power of education to transform lives. Though she’s gone, the beauty of Whitson’s endowment is that it will allow her to help students for generations to come.

FOR MORE INFORMATION about the Alice Louise Whitson Endowment, or to learn about other ways to support HSU students and the community, contact the Office of Philanthropy at giving@humboldt.edu, 707-826-5200, or visit at loyalty.humboldt.edu.

Alumna Alice Whitson
WITH MORE THAN 1,000 SPECIES representing 187 plant families, Humboldt State’s Dennis K. Walker Greenhouse offers one of the largest teaching collections of living plants in California. Walker, a 1960 Botany alumnus who taught at HSU until 2005, was admired for his rigorous teaching and impressive collections of ferns and conifers. His collection of conifers is so complete, it represents 65% of the 70 living conifer genera in the world.

ESTABLISHED IN 1982, the 11,500-square-foot facility is where students in HSU’s Botany and Biological Sciences programs get hands-on access to amazing and useful plants like Pilea cadierei (aluminum plant), Manihot esculenta (cassava), and the always popular Coffea arabica. There are specimens from Guatemala to New Caledonia, and students explore different habitats in the greenhouse’s various rooms.

THIS IS THE GREENHOUSE’S subtropical dome, where instructor Courtney Otto asks Botany 105 class students to compare different features of plants—stems, leaves, buds, roots, and more—and determine how each plant earns an evolutionary advantage.
Fresh Coat of Paint
Inside the New Third Street Gallery
By Grant Scott-Goforth

After 20 years, this cultural institution has a new home in Eureka's Old Town, and it continues to provide Art students hands-on museum and gallery experience.
THREE DAYS BEFORE THE GRAND OPENING of the Humboldt State Third Street Gallery, director Jack Bentley and a group of Humboldt State student curators are working feverishly but wearing a calm demeanor.

They’re in the new home of Humboldt State University’s off-campus gallery, which opened on Oct. 1. On the bottom floor of the revamped Greyhound Hotel on Eureka’s Third Street, it opens into a large gallery with muted light from street-facing windows. It’s an elegant, but unassuming space, with dark wood floors. The move and remodel have been part of a long effort to find a space with more energy efficiency, better public visibility, and a better working space for the students who get hands-on experience in the gallery. Some trim is yet to be finished, and the room smells of paint. Leslie Kenneth Price’s show, “Verano,” is framed on the walls, covered in protective plastic sheeting.

At the back of the room is an entrance into another slightly smaller space with polished concrete floors. This is where four students enrolled in the Art Museum & Gallery Practices certificate program—Juniel Learson, Victor Feyling, Alexia Adams, and Milly Correa—as well as gallery assistant and Art History major Kelsey Dobo have gathered with Bentley to discuss today’s job: hanging the second show that will open the new gallery, Gina Tuzzi’s “The New Mother Nature Taking Over.”

To gain professional experience, students from the certificate program learn curatorial development, exhibition design, conservation, and storage of the University’s permanent collection. They work on temporary exhibits at the design, conservation, and storage of the University’s permanent collection. They work on temporary exhibits at the University’s permanent collection, and they expect more drop-in tourists and community members in the new location.

Students in HSU’s Art Museum and Gallery Practices program learn the principles, philosophies, and practicality of art showings as they hang Art Professor Gina Tuzzi’s work for the Third Street Gallery’s opening show.
HUMBOLDT STATE UNIVERSITY earned the title “outdoorsiest” school last fall, after winning a national contest to encourage people to get outside and reconnect with nature.

The 2016 Outdoor Nation Campus Challenge urged students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community members at 87 colleges to get outside and log their activities on a mobile app. For HSU, the goal was to make fresh air inclusive and push the idea that there’s an outdoors for everyone: hiking, biking, kayaking, quick walks, stargazing, and even hammocking earned participants points.

As a prize for being the “National Outdoor Champion,” HSU received $1,000 worth of North Face gear, which students can now borrow for free. “It’s a really impressive win, and I was honored to stand behind Humboldt State in their social justice approach to this competition,” says Ruby Jean Garcia (’16, Recreation Administration), HSU’s Outdoor Nation student coordinator. “The most important part of this challenge was using it as an opportunity to empower students, and foster their connection to nature.”

Humboldt State enjoys a special relationship with nature, being nestled among the redwood trees on a rugged part of the Northern California coast.

“At Humboldt State, we’re lucky to live and learn in such a beautiful natural environment,” says HSU President Lisa A. Rossbacher. “That puts us in a unique position to inspire the future stewards of our planet. I’m extremely proud of the HSU community for winning this competition and, most importantly, making a statement about how important it is to experience nature.”

Center Activities Manager Bridget Hand agrees. “This competition means so much more than winning,” Hand says. “It is about students connecting with each other to get outside and take advantage of the amazing places in Humboldt.

The outdoors is one of the best resources Humboldt has for health and fitness, self care, research and education, connecting with new friends, and just having fun. The competition was a celebration of that fact. Most importantly, the outdoors is available to everyone.”

HSU had several high-scoring participants, including HSU student Jordan Johnson. He earned more than 2,000 points completing five outdoor activities a day, making him among the highest individual point earners in the country.

“During my time competing in the Outdoor Nation Campus Challenge I was having a blast spending quality time in Humboldt’s amazing environment and it fired me up! In other words, it was too lit to quit!” said Johnson (read more about him on page 49).
Library’s continuing makeover helps students creatively and intellectually

By Aileen Yoo

NO LONGER PLACES OF SILENT STACKS and shushing bespectacled librarians, university libraries have become more than book warehouses. They’ve evolved into vibrant centers of campus life for learning and creating knowledge. HSU’s Library has followed suit as it undergoes a years-long makeover to inspire collaborative learning, research, and creativity for students and faculty.

The recent modernization of the library began in 2009 when the Library Café opened. Five years later, books, documents, and journals were relocated to free up space for new study areas. And in 2015 HSU began the first phase of a massive seismic retrofitting project, which includes structural improvements to the Theatre Arts building and other facilities.

Library Dean Cyril Oberlander saw the recent improvements project as an opportunity to reimagine how space is used. “Roughly 30,000 of the 500,000 books in circulation haven’t been checked out for over 15 years—or ever—and older industrial furniture no longer supports the needs of today’s students,” says Oberlander. “We are adding new technology and services, contemporary furniture, and open seating—all to enhance learning.”

The point is to get people talking. “The more lively you make the library, the more welcoming the space,” says Oberlander. “That allows students to work together, take risks and share together, and to learn together. These are forms of deeper learning.”

That’s exactly what’s happening. On any given day last semester, the Library has taken on the creative vibe of a Silicon Valley startup.

Students at the Library Café bistro tables have noses in laptops and headphones in ears. Nearby, drawings of molecular bonds and arrows cover whiteboards. Most noticeable is the lively discussions and laughter from students clustered around giant computers at workstations and other sections of the library.
Library in the Time of Transformation

The first University Library is thought to have been the Buddhist Takshila (Takshashila or Taxila) University built around 600 B.C. in what is now Pakistan, according to the American Library Association. Originally, academic libraries in the United States had one purpose—house printed material in what could be considered bleak digs today, according to library planning and design expert Geoffrey T. Freedman. In Freedman’s words, they were “dim and confining” and “difficult to navigate.” And they stayed that way for decades.

Following upgrades and other changes, the Library has become a living lab—a place to explore, create, innovate, and problem-solve.

The 21st century saw changes in technology and classroom pedagogy—with a focus more on group projects—transforming the library’s role in academia and interior spaces, according to Irene M. H. Herold, president of the Association of Colleges and Research Libraries.

“They don’t just house what’s been published. They help students connect with knowledge so students and researchers can create new knowledge,” she says.

Enter “collaborative spaces,” a buzzword for common areas. Often equipped with computers or other technology, collaborative spaces are designed to accommodate group work and inspire students to explore ideas.

Space Age

Many universities in the United States have embraced more creative uses of spaces. According to Herold, Ithaca College in New York was among the first colleges to install multimedia tables and open areas. The newly renovated science library at the University of Oregon features different learning rooms for different branches of sciences, each equipped with technology designed for those disciplines.

On the first floor alongside the writing center are the math and computer labs. Together they form the Learning Commons. The nearby Digital Media Lab lets students check out tech equipment such as digital cameras and offers access to computers and software needed to build websites, edit video, and design magazines.

Library staff, like Library assistant and intern Victoria Bruner (’16, Social Work), are also on hand to teach students how to use the equipment. The new Humboldt Scholars Lab features workstations with modern tables, chairs, and computers. It provides new publishing and digital services, including Humboldt State University Press. Workstations have been installed in other areas, as well. All are available to students for free.

No lab is complete without whiteboards, and now 70 of them are scattered throughout the library. The scrawl adds a touch of color and creative madness to the mix.

“Wherever there’s a white board people will cover it with fun things,” says Bruner, who is now in the MBA program.

“The drawings will be about biology or chemistry—classes I’ve never taken but I get to be part of them by walking around and observing.”

The open seating, workstations, and large screen computers are welcome additions for students like Taylor McKean. The Forestry major likes the Library’s new look and feel, especially for group projects.

“This is a really great setup,” says McKean. She and other Forestry majors at a Scholars Lab workstation are huddled around a computer to review their dendrology study guide.

“I think these open spaces are a better choice for groups that talk loud.”

Kyle Mann, also in McKean’s study group, finds the lively atmosphere conducive for staying awake. “If you’re studying at home it’s easy to do things besides your work, like fall asleep or watch cat videos.”

No cat videos or napping in the Scholars Lab; instead, a burst of applause within earshot of McKean’s group. The accolades are from Jim Graham’s Geographic Information Systems (GIS) 470 class. Using the built-in overhead projector, his undergraduate students are presenting final projects to their classmates and others who happen to be passing by.

From Graham’s perspective, presentations outside the confines of a traditional classroom tend to raise the bar for students.

“They struggle with presentations to larger groups—something they’ll need to do in their careers,” says Graham, professor of Environmental Science & Management. “Presenting in a more public space gives them that practice, and I’ve found the pressure improves the quality of their work.”

Silence Still Golden

Scenes like these demonstrate how the library has become a hot spot. With approximately 5,000 visits each day, it has become a place to see and be seen.

“Rather than isolating people in study carrels, the social learning landscape of the library encourages connections,” says Oberlander. “A student writing an equation on a whiteboard might be asked by another student how that problem was solved. Connecting people is the whole point of open spaces. You’re trying to enhance collaboration to share expertise.”

Of course, it is still a library, and it continues to embrace various forms of silence, including mental stillness. Hoping to encourage students to take a mental break, the Library has also created the Brain Booth, a pair of classrooms equipped with biofeedback machines for monitoring stress levels, sound machines, and even coloring books for grown-ups.

Students can also find large quiet zones on the second and third floors. The Library offers noise-cancelling headphones and earplugs available at the Library come in handy, especially as exterior seismic renovations enter the final phase.

For the “authentic” library experience, Psychology major Cohen Price and students like him retreat to the silent safe havens. “It can get noisy so I’ll go sit in the corner. I sometimes listen to music, but I mostly like silence.”

“Connecting people is the whole point of open spaces. You’re trying to enhance collaboration to share expertise.”

—Library Dean Cyril Oberlander

Learn more about the Library’s transformation at library.humboldt.edu/transforming.html.

Library bustles with conversation, and even stationary bikes. However, students can find quiet areas and places to take a mental break like the Library’s new Brain Booth, which offers virtual reality goggles and other relaxation tools.
Any institution that’s been around more than 100 years will have plenty of stories and rumors. HSU certainly has its fair share. Some reflect national issues of the day, and others are odd tidbits. All are an important part of the history and identity we share.

WRITTEN BY GRANT SCOTT-GOFORTH

LUCKY LOGGER’S ORIGIN STORY

LUCKY LOGGER WAS ADOPTED as the Humboldt State College mascot in 1959, but until recently many had forgotten where the idea came from. After 50 years, Lucky’s ancestry has been re-discovered in the Humboldt Room, and what a story it is!

He was born as Red Bunyan, a papier mâché statue with a redwood bark beard made by an unknown Humboldt County artist for display at the California State Fair, according to a 1966 Lumberjack story.

After the fair, Bunyan came to the Eureka/Arcata airport, but it became a nuisance because the statue had to be moved every time it rained. So airport officials contacted Humboldt Dean of Students Don Karshner and asked if he wanted it. Karshner told the Lumberjack he accepted because the Rally Club was looking for a mascot.

That mascot was a common campus fixture through the ’60s, though he did get the tongue-in-cheek ire of the administration on at least one occasion when it was determined that Lucky was unfit to represent the campus at events because he wasn’t enrolled.

“For this reason,” wrote the registrar in a memo to the Society, “you must see to it that this refugee from a sawdust burner stops participating in college events.”

He didn’t stop and today, Lucky can be spotted at games and events and his image adorns T-Shirts and bobbleheads.

RED BUNYAN BECAME LUCKY LOGGER, WHICH AS YOU PROBABLY GUESSED, REFERRED TO A POPULAR BEER CALLED LUCKY LAGER.

CHANGING FACES OF FOUNDERS HALL

THE BUILDING ON THE HILL was the first built specifically for HSU, in 1922, then known as Humboldt Normal School. Given the inauspicious moniker “Administration,” it has since become the iconic edifice of Humboldt State University.

And while it’s instantly recognizable to the HSU community, it’s undergone some subtle—and not so subtle—changes in its nearly 100 years.

The building’s original configuration didn’t last long. Students quickly realized that the open-air hallways made for chilly passage in Humboldt’s cool, wet winters. The corridors were enclosed with windows several years after construction was complete.

By the mid-1940s, ivy was growing up the front of Founders Hall, an aesthetic mix between the well-worn image of East Coast universities and California’s Mission style. That all changed in World War II, when, in response to concerns of a Japanese attack raised by the local community, Founders Hall was camouflaged with drab green paint. The paint killed the ivy, and the cream color was reapplied in 1949.

Later, concerns about a fast-growing campus made some ask, “Remember when people used to say hello?” Decades before social networks supplanted ice cream socials, people were concerned that the student body was losing touch with professors and one another. Thus, in 1954, was born “Hello Lane,” a walkway on the west side of Founders Hall where conversation was encouraged. Other times, it was mandatory—for several years the proclamation of “Hello Day” meant students and faculty saying “Hi” to everyone they passed.

THAT’S THE TEAM SPIRIT

EARLY WOMEN ATHLETES at Humboldt saw a lot of success. Softball was a popular team sport, and intramural volleyball, field hockey, basketball, track and field, archery, and golf also had strong participation.

Elta Cartwright, a track team star, broke national running records in 1927 and competed in the 1928 Amsterdam Olympics.

Lumberjacks Football wasn’t always an NCAA Division II force, partly due to low enrollment by men in the early years. The first football practice, in 1927, saw only 12 players show up, just enough to field a team. They’d play against local company teams since they were unable to travel efficiently out of the area. The team even played against Fortuna High School, where it suffered the indignity of a loss to the high schools.
ARCATA WAS NOT a lock for the Humboldt Normal School when it was first decided the area needed a school to train teachers in the early 1900s. In fact, the location of the eventual HSU became a bitter fight between Eureka and Arcata, cities that still harbored resentment from a similar battle for the county seat more than 50 years prior.

Eureka, with its central location and larger population, felt it was the right fit. But Arcata produced a convincing proposal that included use of the grammar school, high school, and other facilities. After a tense back and forth with state officials, the board voted in favor of Arcata—partly because of a 12.5-acre donation of ridgetop lands from local resident William Preston.

When all was said and done, a Eureka newspaper responded to a request for reconciliation; “The Standard is pleased to say to the Union and Arcatans generally that there is no hatchet to bury. Eureka wants the Normal School to be a success. … Forget the contest and go to work making the institution a power. Eureka is with you.”

TAKING A STAND

HSU MADE NATIONAL HEADLINES in the midst of the Civil Rights Movement when the 1960 undefeated football team traveled to Florida for the national championship game. The team’s five black student athletes stayed in segregated housing, per Florida state law at the time.

Back in California, 37 faculty members signed a telegram to the state superintendent of public instruction asking if there was some way to intervene or if some state policy were in place about participation in segregated events.

The segregation—and the telegram—caused controversy on campus and nationwide. And it brought a discussion of the national issue to HSU. A decade later, HSU saw the largest demonstration in its history as 3,000 students and faculty gathered on campus and declared a weeklong “Strike for Peace” to protest the invasion of Cambodia during the Vietnam War. Gov. Ronald Reagan closed state college campuses in an effort to prevent violence. Humboldt students spread their message to the community through door-to-door visits, sent draft cards back to Washington, D.C., in protest. Humboldt President Cornelius Siemens, meanwhile, called for an abolition of the draft and an end to the war.

TIME CAPSULES

SEVERAL TIME CAPSULES dot the campus. One, created on the University’s 40th anniversary, lives in the Humboldt Room on the third floor of the library, where it frustrates eager librarians who aren’t allowed to see the contents until 2053. Another was dedicated in 1989 when Student Business Services was built, and remains buried on the first floor of the building.

During HSU’s Centennial celebrations in 2014, another time capsule was buried in front of the Library just beyond the steps, where it’s marked today. While the contents of the others will remain a mystery until they’re opened, the 2014 capsule contained native plant seeds, artwork, and an issue of the Lumberjack, among other items.

POSTWAR PRANKS

RECALL THE CANNON on the lawn in front of Arcata’s Veterans Hall? Far fewer people remember the short residency it took in front of Founders Hall. Several days after its overnight appearance, it was returned as mysteriously as it had appeared.

The cannon wasn’t the only object of campus consternation. Whistling Pete, a cadaver used in anatomy classes, once made his way to the entrance of the women’s dormitory (probably not under his own power). At the time, the Lumberjack called the period of pranks “disgusting.”

No one knows (well, someone might know) what happened to the 9-foot-tall, 150-pound ax that used to change hands between the winner of the Humboldt-Chico football games. After one particularly controversial loss, HSU students frothing with school spirit drove to Chico to abscond with the ax. The trophy apparently lived under a bed for a year before it was lost in storage. It remains missing to this day.

KID HAS A BLAST

CHILDREN LIGHTING DYNAMITE? What could go wrong? Mary Estelle Preston goes down in history as the person who helped pulverize the first stump on the future site of Founders Hall. She went on to train as a teacher at Humboldt and was later crowned Homecoming Queen as an alumna.

COLLEGE UP FOR GRABS

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FEATURED CREATURES

IN THE LATE 1960s, a flock of migratory cliff swallows took up nest in the eaves of the newly built HSU Library on their yearly journey from South America. The University’s efforts to evict them prompted a strong response from students and faculty.

In June, the Academic Senate heard a proposed resolution penned by Forestry Professor Rudolf Becking and Librarian Charles Bloom, who called themselves the Society for the Welfare of Nesting Birds. Becking and Bloom proposed that “the aforementioned insidious and Bloom proposed that “the aforementioned insidious

invasion devoted to the study of the aforesaid universal

Advancement, Learning, Love and Observation of

the ladies, would dip the blimp gondolas low into the courtyard of Founders Hall.

Students, teachers, and bystanders got a great view of campus in the late 1980s when Biology Professor Jack Yarnell set up his 85-foot hot-air-balloon on campus for a visiting class of preschoolers—his way of getting students of all ages excited about science.

LOOk UP IN THE SKy

IF YOU WERE ON CAMPUS, you may have done a double-take when the Goodyear Blimp floated by last year, but that was a common sight at one time. U.S. military dirigibles, stationed in Samoa, often flew over during World War II, when Humboldt State was on high alert for foreign invasion.

Blimp pilots, in apparent efforts to impress the ladies, would dip the blimp gondolas low into the courtyard of Founders Hall.

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LABOR DAYS

THE EARLY DAYS OF HSU saw hands-on learning taken to the extreme. Once a year starting in 1945, students and faculty would take a day off classes to clean the campus buildings and grounds and other manual labor. One work day, in 1947, saw the Redwood Bowl’s east bleachers built.

With the new field built, Saturday game-day turnedArcata into a virtual ghost town, hurting the bottom line of the retailers who relied on Saturday shoppers. So, aided by alumni donations, local lumber companies and student activity fees, the University built a lighting system and games were moved to the evening.

TREE TRIVIA

HERE IN REDWOOD COUNTRY, our trees are legendary—and in more ways than one.

HSU’s 240-foot-tall Sitka spruce is the tallest tree on any university campus. It’s near Fern Lake, due east of the athletics complex. Come check it out the next time you’re on campus.

And did you know some of HSU’s residents have orbited the moon?

NASA’s moon program may be long over, but memories of those trips continue to grow around campus. Astronaut Stuart Roosa took 500 seeds from five tree species, including redwoods, on the Apollo 14 lunar module, and the future trees orbited the moon 34 times before returning to Earth.

Upon their return, some of the seedlings were given to HSU, where they were unknowingly distributed and planted around campus. After the fact, retired Forestry Professor Bill Sise was able to track down where some of them were planted and still thrive on campus to this day.

ScurriLOus History

THERE’S A GOOD CHANCE you’ve heard of the Coral Sea, the University’s 90-foot research vessel that’s an important contributor to HSU’s marine sciences. The Coral Sea was built and chartered as a research vessel in 1974, nearly 25 years before HSU acquired it.

After being released, the Coral Sea helped its crew chase pirates away from a sunken Spanish galleon, recovering treasure after diving and exploring the wreckage.

AFTER THAT, THE Coral Sea found new life as a cocaine smuggling control center in the Caribbean. The new owners operated an air fleet that transported eight tons of cocaine into the United States before they were caught in 1984. The Coral Sea was seized and spent time as a Florida state research vessel before being sold to HSU in 1996. Now, the Coral Sea’s pursuits are decidedly less scandalous, but no less adventurous, as it takes students, faculty, and researchers on regular hunts for answers to the ocean’s great mysteries.
The language of the Wailaki people, who lived along the Eel River watershed, had been all but lost by the early 20th century, a cultural victim of the decimation of California’s Native population. For the first time in generations, people are beginning to speak Wailaki. Wailaki, one of about 80 Native languages in California, shares some similarities with Hupa, though it’s not as well documented. A polysynthetic language, one Wailaki word often contains what in English could need an entire sentence. Wailaki joins other Native languages that are being spoken and revitalized in California. It’s a vision of the future—and a revival of the past—that’s at the heart of Native American Studies Professor Kayla Begay’s research. Begay’s work focuses on developing a working grammar of Wailaki. One of about 80 Native languages in California, Wailaki shares some similarities with Hupa, though it’s not as well documented. A polysynthetic language, one Wailaki word often contains what in English could need an entire sentence. Wailaki is a Hoopa Valley Tribal member of Hupa, Karuk, and Yurok descent. She’d always been interested in language, but it wasn’t until her undergraduate studies at Stanford that she turned in on linguistics, earning a degree with honors as well as a minor in Native American Studies. Though she saw a connection between the disciplines, the programs weren’t technically connected. She found a convergence at UC Berkeley’s Linguistics Program, where she earned a master’s degree and is currently finishing her dissertation for a doctorate, entitled “Topics in Wailaki Grammar.” Berkeley is home to a program with a history of studying and archiving California indigenous languages. “I feel responsible, not just to my language but to all California Native languages as well, so people have resources to learn them and they continue to maintain them,” Begay says. Begay has enlisted the help of two Native American Studies Professor Justin Spence, was invited this summer to present at the American Philosophical Society on her work and was presented with copies of some of Goddard’s original works on Wailaki. Begay isn’t the first HSU scholar to study Wailaki. Anthropology Professor Victor Golla also studied Wailaki in his survey of Native languages of California, working primarily from the texts of Chinese linguistics scholar Li Fang-Kuei. Begay has seen that firsthand, in work she’s done with the youth who grow up learning second languages are shown to have better rates of graduation and academic success. Begay has seen that firsthand, in work she’s done with the youth who grow up learning second languages are shown to have better rates of graduation and academic success. Speaking Native languages connects individuals with their cultures and communities. “So much of culture is evident in the way we structure languages and concepts in our languages. It’s one of the many forms of continuance we have,” Begay says. “It usually leads into other avenues for the Native communities to strengthen themselves.” Youth who grow up learning second languages are shown to have better rates of graduation and academic success. Begay has seen that firsthand, in work she’s done with the Youth who grow up learning second languages are shown to have better rates of graduation and academic success. Speaking Native languages connects individuals with their cultures and communities. “So much of culture is evident in the way we structure languages and concepts in our languages. 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Charting a Course for Northern California Fishing Communities

By Aileen Yoo

Humboldt County fishing communities have faced challenges with infrastructure and with fewer young people entering the local fishing industry.

HOPING TO ADDRESS ISSUES like these, Humboldt State University researchers are working with local partners to improve the long-term viability of commercial and recreational fishing in Eureka and Shelter Cove.

Led by Environmental Sciences & Management Professor Laurie Richmond, the project began in January. It will result in Community Sustainability Plans, which will take social, economic, and environmental snapshots of the fishing communities and offer concrete recommendations.

“Sometimes with new regulations, the fishing community feels forgotten. Here we can give them a voice,” says Richmond.

“So we’re looking at things we can do within the existing regulatory structure and take steps to make sure the fishing fleet survives and thrives.”

Funded by a $271,000 award from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s Salfonstall-Kennedy Grant Program, the project stems from a three-year assessment of the human dimensions of California Marine Protected Areas. Starting in 2013, Richmond and Economics Professor Steven Hackett surveyed and interviewed about 200 charter and commercial fishers and conducted focus group meetings with fishers in Eureka, Shelter Cove, and three other North Coast ports.

Their findings painted a picture of an industry affected by substantial declines in the number of fishing vessels and even buy locally caught fish. The tiny sea village has 193 active vessels and nearly $23 million in earnings at the dock—the third highest of any port in California. But with a shrinking fleet since the 1980s, there are concerns about sustaining support services and infrastructure.

Ninety miles away is Shelter Cove, one of the state’s smallest ports. It currently lacks an active fishers’ association and, due to various market factors, locals often can’t even buy locally caught fish. The tiny sea village supports a fishing industry without a harbor, forcing fishers to rely on tractor-trailers to move boats to and from the water. As a result, commercial and recreational fishing efforts tend to be small-scale. Locals said that close to 100 small vessels used to fish out of Shelter Cove, but now, only a handful of commercial and charter operators work out of the port.

The surveys highlighted another notable statistic: More than a third of North Coast commercial operators are over 60 years old, a trend fishers fear could threaten the legacy and future of local fishing.

“Based on these findings, Richmond and Hackett will develop plans that could help rebuild and strengthen Eureka and Shelter Cove fishing economies. HSU researchers will gather socioeconomic data (perceptions about current conditions of the community, information on the economic performance of the commercial and recreational fishing industries, etc.) and community feedback to create the plans,” says Bates.

Based on these recommendations, HSU professor Ken Bates—a longtime commercial fisherman and vice president of Humboldt Fishermen’s Marketing Association—says fishers have generally welcomed the effort.

“Fishermen have seen plans come and go and they’re always piecemeal. But the overall feeling is that Laurie’s project will be very positive for communities, planners, and city and county managers.”

Bates also believes the work may help bolster community relationships. “When I came to Eureka in 1970, you’d see fishermen meeting and talking in public spaces like cafes. As the industry shrunk so did areas where they’d congregate and eventually they lost areas to socialize. A fishing fleet not connected with the public is at risk of being forgotten.

“My hope is that Laurie’s project will also look at the cultural aspects of fishing fleet and how the community interacts with the fishing community.”

Beyond fishers, the project benefits HSU students like Laura Casali (’12, Oceanography), who helped conduct interviews in 2014 and now, with support from the NOAAGrant, is pursuing a master’s degree in Environmental & Natural Resources Science and will help with outreach efforts in Shelter Cove, where she has lived for nearly 25 years.

“I’m part of this project because it is something that I know is going to benefit the fishing community here, and I’m going to school because has Laurie inspired and supported me,” she says. Project team members include HSU professor Brian Tissot (Biology) and instructor William Fisher (Economics), and Joe Tyburcy of California Sea Grant. They will partner with Lisa Wise Consulting (a planning firm that helped develop similar plans for Morro Bay and Monterey) and local and federal government entities.
At 50, World’s Oldest Student-Run Film Fest Shines with Indie Spirit

By Jarad Petroske

In 1967 Lyndon Johnson was president, a movie ticket cost $1.25, and Humboldt State College students were organizing the campus’s first film festival. Half a century later, the festival is the oldest student-run film festival of its kind and even though the tickets have gone up (slightly) in price, it’s still one of the best deals going for moviegoers.

The students organizing this year’s event are ready to celebrate Humboldt Int’l Film Fest’s 50th anniversary with four nights of film at Arcata’s Minor Theatre, April 19-22. This year’s festival, for the first time, will include two screenings each night.

The festival—the world’s oldest student-run film fest—is a testament to the dedication of its student organizers. Every year, students enrolled in the film festival class sift through hundreds of submissions seeking the best and most interesting works. Submissions range from clever and quirky animations to mind-bending experimental films. Every once in a while, these independent films feature memorable actors or up-and-coming stars. “You get to see people like Kerry Washington before they’re big or you might say, hey, I saw him in The Matrix! That’s one of the coolest things about independent film festivals like ours,” says Film major Nairobys Apolito, one of the festival’s three student co-directors.

According to a 2002 edition of the Osprey, Humboldt State’s student-run magazine, the festival got its start from the National Student Film Festival in Washington, D.C., which collected student films and shared them all over the country. Some of those films—including George Lucas’s highly regarded 1967 student film “Electronic Labyrinth THX 1138 4EB”—made it to Humboldt State College.

The original 1967 HSU film festival was sponsored by the Theatre Arts Division’s “experimental college”—a student-led trial of hands-on learning that emphasized workshops in areas like costume and set design, lighting, and, yes, organizing film festivals.

Over time the festival has grown, moving from the Sequoia Theater (today the Van Duzer Theatre) to Arcata’s Minor Theatre and inviting professional filmmakers serving as judges to select the winning films. This year, as in the past, the panel of guest judges will lead intimate workshops with current students, discussing their careers and the film industry.

What hasn’t changed is the students’ desire to expose North Coast audiences to cutting edge storytelling while celebrating the works of independent filmmakers. “These are films made without Hollywood in control,” says Film major Andrew Weisz, a festival co-director. “You get to see filmmakers doing their own thing.”

Two Alumni Among this Year’s Festival Judges

THIS YEAR’S JUDGES are actor-director-producer John Oluwole Adekoje (’04, Theatre Arts MFA) and Tracy Boyd (’98, Philosophy & ’03, Theatre Arts MFA), both alumni of the 33rd Humboldt International Film Festival.

The judge’s panel also features award-winning director and Fulbright Scholar Patricia Cardoso who is known for her feature film, “Real Women Have Curves,” which won a Sundance Film festival Audience Award in 2002.

50th Humboldt Int’l Film Fest | April 19-22
Arcata’s Minor Theatre

Wednesday, April 19 — Animation/Experimental Night
Thursday, April 20 — Documentary Night
Friday, April 21 — Narrative Night
Saturday, April 22 — Best of Fest

hsufilmfestival.com for times of screenings
KEEPING THE GEARS TURNING

By Grant Scott-Goforth

MANY BIKE OWNERS have had their gears suddenly stop shifting. It’s guaranteed to make you extra sweaty commuting to HSU’s hilly campus.

Brakes, gears, flat tires—they seem like daunting issues, but they’re often easy, cheap repairs that can be done on your own. Enter HSU’s Bicycle Learning Center (BLC), a student-run toolkit and brain trust. The center has been around for more than two decades, but had become neglected and was forced by drainage issues to move out of its old brightly painted, wood-paneled space behind Nelson Hall. It closed for nearly a year before alumnus Rory Baker (’16, Environmental Management & Protection) led the charge to revive the center in 2015. It was relocated to a small workspace beneath the steps leading into the Recreation & Wellness Center. It’s now open for free, and judgment-free, bike advice.

Volunteers Emily McBride and Wyatt Kozelka call the new space the Harry Potter closet. It’s a cramped room with a slanted ceiling, but they’ve made the best of the small space, filling it with tools and spare parts. They’re there to help students make their bikes safer, easier, and more fun to ride.

“It’s intimidating,” McBride says, staring into a tangle of gears attached to a bike on a repair stand. Many people—especially those who rely on bikes as their only mode of transportation—will push through a worrisome noise or stop shifting when it’s not working right. But bike repair doesn’t have to be scary, she says.

McBride, an Environmental Management & Protection major, has been comfortable with bikes her entire life. Her parents are cyclists and McBride frequented a bike “kitchen” in San Luis Obispo before attending Humboldt State. Kozelka, an Environmental Science senior, worked at a bike shop in his native Palo Alto, and more recently for Pacific Outfitters. When his car broke down in 2013 he sold it and bought a bike. And then another. And another, and another. He likes the mechanical aspects of bikes.

Despite the hilly campus and community, geared bikes—with proper maintenance—make cycling around town for shopping and commuting relatively easy. Getting people to embrace biking should be easier, McBride says, in a small town where just about everyone knows at least one person with a car for those longer trips.

That’s a side lesson in the learning aspect of the center, and getting more students to use the Bicycle Learning Center is just one of the club’s challenges. The center runs on student volunteers—Kozelka was doing 15 hours a week before other volunteers took over some hours. And while they can do homework between tune-up lessons, it’s a big commitment. Kozelka’s happy to do it for now. “Instead of going to the library I come here. It’s really appealing. It’s convenient, there’s no stress, it keeps me busy,” Kozelka says.

In addition to their time, Kozelka and McBride have donated or loaned some tools and other items to the center. But the club can’t afford to stock all the types of things needed for the dozens of different models and brands of bikes that students ride—or could they store all those materials.

That’s why the focus is on learning. Kozelka and McBride hope to maintain the Bicycle Learning Center’s momentum, encourage students to stop by, and expand the center’s involvement in bike-related activities. About five people a day stop in and ask questions. Often, when they’re on foot, they’ll wheel their bike in the next afternoon. Most of them need small repairs—a tightening of brake cables or some chain oil. Others need advice on more complex issues, such as fine-tuning a derailleur.

McBride envisions growing the center, and she’s been meeting with students and staff to discuss other bike programs, like group rides to acquaint people with cycling around town, and a potential “bike fair.”

More: facebook.com/BicycleLearningCenter

Smother Ride

Easy maintenance tips from the Bicycle Learning Center.

• Chain: Oil your chain regularly and cycle it through all the gears.

• Gears: If the gears aren’t shifting properly, it may require small tension adjustments to get back on track.

• Brakes: Brakes should align with the wheel rims and slow the bike without having to press too hard on the brake levers. The brake cables can be tightened at the brake calipers.

• Tires: Inflate to the recommended tire pressure printed on the tires.

• Safety: Yes, wear a helmet. And make sure you have operating lights when biking at night.
Online Teaching for a Wired World

IF ARISTOTLE WERE ALIVE TODAY, Armeda Reitzel has no doubt that the Greek philosopher would teach oratory online.

“There’s no question in my mind that the creator of the five canons of rhetoric would do it using video technology,” says Reitzel, a Communication professor at HSU. Reitzel has taught public speaking (COMM 100) in brick-and-mortar classrooms at Humboldt State for nearly 35 years. But using newfangled technology and old-fashioned teaching skills, she’s begun to teach that course online.

First developed and taught by Communication Professor Laura Hahn in Spring 2013, the online version of COMM 100 has exceeded expectations: 96 percent of Reitzel’s students received a C+ or better in her Spring 2016 online course, compared to 93 percent in her Fall 2014 face-to-face class.

About 5,700 students are enrolled in 130 online courses currently offered at HSU, where online learning has become an effective way to meet the changing needs of students. “Students may be working. They may have children they need to care for. They may not have a way to get to campus, or find a class they need to take is already full,” says Alex Hwu, the associate vice president of HSU’s College of E-Learning & Extended Education (CEEDE). “Whatever the reason, there is a big demand for online courses at HSU.”

For Reitzel, the concept of teaching public speaking remotely was initially a hard sell. She was concerned that online courses wouldn’t be as engaging or rigorous as a face-to-face course.

With the help of instructional designers from CEEDE and the right tools, Reitzel proved naysayers—and herself—wrong. Reitzel was one of six recipients of the 2016 CSU Outstanding Professor in 1991 and served as dean for several years.

As for Reitzel, she’s now fully on board with online. “I never doubt that the Greek philosopher would teach oratory online. With the help of instructional designers from CEEDE and the right tools, Reitzel proved naysayers—and herself—wrong. Reitzel was one of six recipients of the 2016 CSU Quality Online Learning and Teaching award, which recognizes outstanding teaching and learning in blended and online courses.

“I spend time creating community to manage students’ anxiety so they’re more comfortable with the online format and speaking in front of strangers,” she says. The course is asynchronous, which means students can access course material and learn at their own pace. They “meet” online every few weeks using Zoom, a video conferencing tool. They also give slideshow presentations in real-time via VoiceThread. These interactions give Reitzel and her students a front row seat to speeches.

The point is to gain public speaking skills, get immediate feedback, and understand the technology tools used in today’s workplace, says Reitzel.

Hwu points out that online learning isn’t for all students or all teachers, nor is it meant to replace traditional classes.

“The online course is a companion to face-to-face learning,” says Hwu. “The goal is to make the education experience as whole and make it more rewarding for students.”

As for Reitzel, she’s now fully on board with online. “I never want to teach public speaking solely face to face again.”

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Submit a Class Note
humboldt.edu/classnotes
alumni@humboldt.edu
Robin Bailie
(’11, Liberal Studies)

In the first gift of its kind to HSU, Robin—a former staffer—and her husband, Sean, are creating an endowed scholarship, providing an annual $1,000 award to support student-veterans.

Jim Parsons, 1979

Fisheries Biology is an owner/partner in Troutlodge, Inc., the world’s largest supplier of rainbow trout eggs to the commercial and agency sectors. He was also elected president of the National Aquaculture Association in 2016.

1980s

James A. Freeman, 1980

Maryl, recently published Biko! Time Out Of Mind: Myths, Maps, and Memories with co-author and HSU Emeritus Professor Tom Gage.

Thomas J. Hatton, 1981

Natural Resources and 1983 M.S. Natu- ral Resources, was recently elected as a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Tech- nological Sciences and Engineering. Hatton immigrated to Australia after earning his Ph.D. from Utah State University in 1986. He retired in 2014 after a 25-year career in environmental research and natural resource management. For his contributions to water resource science and manage- ment, he was awarded the Australian Public Service Medal in 2008. He now serves as Chairman of the Western Australia Environmental Protection Authority and holds an Adjunct Professorship at the University of Western Australia where he is a member of their Oceans Institute Advisory Board and the Board of the International Centre for Radio Astronomy.

Neil Tarpey, 1983

M.A. English and 1995 M.A. Psychology, recently had his first book, “Flashes of Light- ning,” published by Fithian Press. The book is a collection of 52 flash fiction stories, 20 of which have been published previously in print or online. The book hit Humboldt County bookstores in October and is also available from online bookstores.

Kay Sinclair, 1983

Master of Business Administration, recently left a 30-plus-year career as an IT manager with General Electric, Martin Marietta, and Lockheed Martin, in Utah, New York. She has been teaching IT-related management courses at State University of New York Polytechnic Institute as an adjunct professor, while also continuing her non-profit work in the community. Sinclair is currently the president of the board at the Women’s Employment and Resource Cen- ter. She is also involved in STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) activities in the area, including co-teach- ing summer workshops for middle school students such as 3D Daze for Girls and Nan- otechnology. Last April, Kay was delighted to receive the Unsung Heroine Award from the Young Women’s Christian Association of the Mohawk Valley at its annual Salute to Outstanding Women luncheon.

Leonard A. Brennan, 1984

Wildlife, recently published his sixth book, The Upland and Wibles’ Migratory Game Birds of Texas with Texas A&M University Press. Bren- nan has been conducting ongoing research in the past 34 years, beginning with his gradu- ate project that began at HSU back in 1982.

1990s

Jon Pedo, 1990

Social Science, lives in Tigard, Oregon, with his partner. He recently completed his doctoral degree at Lewis & Clark Col- legiate in Portland. His dissertation is titled, “Morals, Values and Ethics: Their Impact on the Decisions of the School Principal.”

Gary B. Perlmutter, 1991

Zoology, graduated from North Carolina State University with a Master of Science in Natural Resources.

Michael Harmon, 1992

Photomuralism, is semi-retired from journal- ism and photography though he still does an occasional job here and there. Harmon taught English as a Second Language for nearly eight years in Henan Province in Central China. He has been back in the U.S. for about three years and cannot wait to return to China.

Don Rowan, 1992

Fisheries Biology is in his 71st year of science teaching. For the last three years, Rowan has been teaching Advanced Placement (AP) Biol- ogy, Biology 2, and AP Environmental Science at Bishop Union High School. He is also the Associated Student Body director and has recently been a peer reviewer for the Journal of Fisheries and Wildlife Management.

Conrad L. Huygen, Lt. Col. (ret.), USAF, 1994

Geography has returned to Washington, D.C., and is the deputy chief of the Defender Ser- vices Office at the Administrative Office of the U.S. Courts. Dedicated to providing the assistance of counsel for individuals who cannot afford a lawyer, his office funds, trains, and supports the more than 3,600 federal defender personnel and 10,000 private panel attorneys appointed to represent clients under the Criminal Justice Act. Conrad’s wife, Julie, has been promoted to Colonel and is the chief of the Air Force’s Military Justice Division at Joint Base Andrews, Maryland. The Huygens live in Alexandria, Virginia.

Stephanie Foster, 1995

Wildlife, is currently working at the Wildlife Center of Silicon Valley. The center provides care and rehabilitation for injured, sick, and orphaned wildlife.

Gage Dayton, 1996

Wildlife was recently appointed to the Wil- son W. Webster Jr. President’s Chair for the UC Santa Cruz Natural Reserves. Day- ton has served as administrative director of the UCSC Natural Reserves since 2008.

Matt Krupnick, 1998


Jennifer Kho, 1999

Journalism, and husband, Matt Krupnick, are currently living in Brooklyn, New York. Kho was a researcher in her recent work on the history of the Guatemalan US. Krho and Kho were previously living in Oaxaca, Mexico, for nearly a year.

2000s

Beth Downing Chee, 2001

Journalism, was named the director of the director of marketing for Birch Aquarium at Scripps Institution of Oceanography in La Jolla, California.

Heather Frambach: Farm to Table

BACK IN 2015, HEATHER FRAMBACH (’09, Political Science) was nervous about her decision to join Blue Apron, the world’s largest meal kit delivery corporation. All of her prior work in the public sector, which had taken her to Texas and back to California, was about social justice in food systems. “Making that switch was a little scary to me. I was so committed to the work I was doing and making sure the little guys were taken care of,” she says. But Fram- bach says her values easily translated to Blue Apron, where sustainability and working with small farmers and growers are part of the larger corporate culture.

During school, Frambach worked at a local Murphy’s Market and as a delivery driver for Franz bakery—two jobs that would provide a direction for her career. “I got interested in food systems: logistics, retail, distributors,” she says. “That interest never went away.”

After she graduated, she joined AmeriCorps in Sacramento, hoping to pursue a path in urban planning. But the most interesting part of the job, she says, was managing a farmers market in a historically black neighborhood. The market was a success and continues to this day. Food systems can be changed quickly, she says, unlike housing and other urban planning projects.

Frambach moved to Texas in 2010 to attend grad school at the University of Texas at Austin. Half Mexican and a Spanish speaker, Frambach, who was a researcher for the Austin sustainable food policy board and co-manager of another farmers market, was attending law school in solidarity along the U.S.-Mexico border. But once again she got bitten by the food bug.

Food in Austin was seeing a surge in opportunity, interest, and conflict, especially in the historically black and Mexican east side of the city, which was gentrifying rapidly. In the 1990s, those communities came together to clean up the remnants of decades of toxic industry in their neighborhoods. Before long, urban farmers began to set up shop. Their agricultural practices—particularly one sustainable, but smelly chicken and rabbit farm—created huge controversies with their neighbors, who’d worked hard to rid their neighborhoods of smelly, noisy industries that crowded them.

The mostly white urban farmers—well-intentioned but playing into troublesome past neighborhood dynamics, Frambach says—began to rally their own support, and tensions were growing on both sides.

In the middle of all this were 25-year-old Frambach and her colleague. They took the daunting but hugely rewarding task with gusto, undertaking a transparent and careful process to hear all sides and craft new policies and ordinances in the neighbor- hoods. It was a successful approach to urban farming—as well as a newfound understanding between the communities—has eased tensions. After Austin, Frambach returned to California, doing a stint at Community Alliance with Family Farmers, working on statewide programs to connect school kids to healthy food, before joining Blue Apron. Now she is the dairy category manager for the meal delivery company, which means she’s traveling all over the country meeting with dairy farmers and manufacturers to fulfill the 300,000-plus meals the company ships weekly.

Overcoming her fears of going corporate, Frambach says the company always sought to see how to be small and localized food producers that would guarantee fresh, quality, sustainable foods. Add to that the company’s waste reduction efforts, donations programs, commitment to nutrition and food safety, and Frambach’s proud to be where she is.
and science are sometimes at odds, “bee researchers have done services that bees provide,” Watrous says. In a world where industry far northern reaches, where bumblebees are the primary pollinators climate change on bee populations in the Riverside to measure the effects of of research by University of California, York Times

Watrous got her graduate degree at Utah State University in pollination biology—a sort of mix between bugs and plants. She was especially interested in native bees and plants, and it was a good time to be in the field: “People were talking a lot about bee ecosystem services that bees provide,” Watrous says. In a world where industry and science are sometimes at odds, “bee researchers have done the “pit crew of the aquarium.” Shaws team is in charge of the museum’s 48,000 living creature collection, which includes fish, birds, penguins, frogs, butterflies, alligators, and sharks. Every living creature that enters or departs the museum goes through Shaws department, where they are registered, quarantined, fed, treated, and protected during their stay. In her spare time, Shaw serves on several aquarium-related boards and committees, like the Aquatic Animal Life Support Operators and the Bay Area Life Support Alliance. Heather Sundblad-Rhoades, 2003 Journalism, served on many nonprofit boards, and then as a paid staff member serving as development director for the Education Foundation of Forest Grove after graduating. After two years, she shifted career focus and accepted a seat on the foundation’s board as communications direc- tor. In 2016, she became the marketing and tasting room manager at the award-winning Plum Hill Vineyards in Gaston Oregon.

Kristal Watrous excavates solitary bee nests near Anza-Borrego Desert State Park for lab research on nutrition in desert bees.

Colin Bratyon, 2004 Wildlife, recently started Alaska Fjord Char- ters, in Seward, Alaska, and takes guests to the Kenai Fjords National Park. Tobin Fulmer, 2005 Biological Sciences, has taken a position with the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality at the El Dorado office. Manolo Platin Morales, 2005 Politics, recently began a new job. Morales is the vice president for State Government & Industry Affairs with Chubb North America. Gordon L. Bussell, 2006 Native American Studies, is working to revitalize the Hupa language by teaching teachers in the Early Childhood Program. Bussell is also working to create a first-level immersion program targeting 0 to 6-year-old children on the Hoopa Reservation. As a Curriculum Specialist, Bussell is charged with implementing and designing all curric- ulum with the help of one assistant. Kevin Farley, 2006 Journalism, moved on to working in Olympic weightlifting after a decade in TV news. Far- ley manages the website, social media, and other communications for USA Weightlifting, the national governing body for the sport of Olympic Weightlifting in the United States. Eric Spith, 2006 Business, has been teaching at the college level for the past decade. Spith has been specializing in entrepreneurship, management, and marketing. For three years he was CEO of Mad River Brewing in Blue Lake, California, and was a business consul- tant in California and Oregon for 10 years. Spith is currently the new director of the Enterprise Center at Plymouth State Uni- versity. Prior to that position, Spith was a professor and the program director for the Center for Entrepreneurial Excellence and Development at Central Oregon Commu- nity College.

Robert Deane, 2007 History and Journalism, is a library techni- cian at the Oregon Institute of Technology, after working for the Butte Valley Unified School District as the district library tech- nician for six years. He is currently looking to return to school to earn his masters degree in teaching from Western Gover- nor’s University.

2010s

Randall Moory (’72, Geology)

Randall Moory: Proud of the quality education he received at HSU, Randy established the Geology Department Opportunities Fund with a recurring annual gift of $6,000 paid in quarterly installments. The fund pro- vides Geology students with experiential learning opportunities that strengthen critical thinking and creative problem- solving skills.

Stephen Lane, Class of 1975

Enjoyed speaking with you this morning, Hope you like the banner we made. Basically, we all attended Humboldt State University from approximately 1970 to 1975, give or take a year. We lived in Maple Hall. It was so much fun, we went camping almost every weekend, rain or shine. The cafeteria would take down our meal ticket numbers and pack food for us, even giving us fancy pans, etc. to use. We magically found a “close” family ever since, many marrying one another. We have done a campus reunion every year for 25 years, this year being the silver anniversary. In honor, we have made the T-shirt banner/kit, it contains T-shirts mostly designed by one of our group members (a graphics teacher in a high school who also teaches part time at Cuesta College and Cal Poly San Luis Obispo). Additionally, the ladies get together for two retreats a year and the guys do a fishing trip. Now the campus reunion is dedicated in memory of a member we lost. Our group has our grown adult children, and now, their children (grandkids?), as well. We have a crawdad feed and roast a pig. We have a new event in October: we are coming to the Humboldt homecoming. I reserved 20 rooms in a hotel, we plan to see the parade, eat one night at the Plaza Grill, one night at the Samsa Cookhouse (old haunt), see the game, and have a crawdad feed and roast a pig. We have a new event in October: we are coming to the Humboldt homecoming. I reserved 20 rooms in a hotel, we plan to see the parade, eat one night at the Plaza Grill, one night at the Samsa Cookhouse (old haunt), see the game, and taligate, if possible! Hope you like the banner! It was great seeing you at Homecoming and Family Weekend last fall! Hope to see you again this year! — Stephanie Lane, Forever Humboldt
Jenny Novak: Zombie Prep Earns White House Recognition

A ZOMBIE INVASION and natural disaster, it turns out, have more in common than meets the eye. And one HSU alumna is using that connection to raise awareness of potential catastrophes in Southern California.

Jenny Novak (’07, Geography) is the Emergency Management Coordinator at California State University Northridge. Novak recently visited the White House to receive an award for community preparedness programs from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Novak caught the attention of FEMA with a program she developed drawing on inspiration from the Centers for Disease Control’s zombie role-playing scenario.

In 2011, the CDC ran an experimental zombie attack response and captured the imagination of the media and public. According to the CDC, what started as a tongue-in-cheek campaign to engage the public with emergency preparedness proved to be a very effective format that could be repeated elsewhere.

Novak added a new twist to the CDC’s approach by introducing a scavenger hunt to the simulated preparation for a zombie invasion. The combination provided a unique and engaging way for the campus community to start thinking about disaster preparedness. “I loved the idea of taking something from pop culture and making it applicable to something that’s really important,” says Novak.

The scavenger hunt sent participants to eight locations around the CSUN campus, where students picked up items for their starter emergency kits; things like flashlights, emergency blankets, and multi-purpose tools. The hunt had the added benefit of boosting community ties by getting students to explore resources and meet people on campus. Disaster experts know that community ties recover from disasters when people share close ties and are involved and engaged with their communities before a disaster. “If people are more isolated and don’t have those relationships, they don’t know where to go for resources or even just emotional support after a disaster, and they’re not going to bounce back as quickly,” says Novak. She adds that more than three-quarters of the scavenger hunt participants visited a spot on campus they had never been before.

FEMA deputy administrator Tim Manning honors Jenny Novak for her novel emergency preparedness program.
DURING THE GLOBAL financial downturn, Chuck and Penny Raddon (‘66, Forestry and ‘66, Social Science) realized that the only way to save a portion of a trail made famous by Meriwether Lewis and William Clark was to save it themselves.

The Raddons have been leading volunteers into Idaho’s Bitterroot Mountains ever since, working for days to conserve part of the historic route.

“That’s what really pushed us into setting up the volunteer program. If someone doesn’t step up and do something, we’ll lose the trail. To me, it’s something that’s part of our history and it’s important,” says Chuck.

For their efforts, they were given the Trail Stewardship Award by the Lewis & Clark Trail Heritage Foundation, which promotes cultural awareness, protection of sacred sites, and preservation of the natural and historical resources along the trail.

The Raddons have been involved with the trail since Chuck’s career with the U.S. Forest Service took him to Idaho in 1988, but it took a global financial downturn for the couple to see that volunteerism was the only way to keep the trail in good condition.

Chuck likes to point out is that the two U.S. Army officers weren’t discovering anything new. “They knew where the mouth of the Columbia was. What they didn’t know is what is present-day Idaho, western Montana and the Columbia Basin,” Chuck told Idaho Public Television in a 2001 broadcast. Essentially what they “discovered” was well-trodden ground used by many Native American tribes, particularly the Nez Perce.

future. It’s hard work, but everyone agrees it’s rewarding.

Owing to his background in the Forest Service and his knack for logistics, Chuck said it was a natural step to organize a backcountry work party. Penny would manage food supplies, while Chuck organized the volunteers. People have lots of fun, too. In fact, Chuck said it’s hard to find any archival photos of people working during the workweek because so often people were having a good time.

For Chuck, professional obligations brought him to be involved with the history of the Lewis and Clark Expedition, but his interest in their trip grew over time. He became fascinated by the psychology of the expedition’s men, contrasting their mindset with modern day travelers. “If you’re driving down a desert road and you see a sign ‘next gas station 150 miles’ you look at your gas gauge and ask ‘can I make it or not?’ Back then, it was a different psychology, a different way of thinking. They were so independent and self-sustained.”

One important aspect of the Lewis and Clark Expedition that Chuck likes to point out is that the two U.S. Army officers weren’t discovering anything new. “They knew where the mouth of the Columbia was. What they didn’t know is what is present-day Idaho, western Montana and the Columbia Basin,” Chuck told Idaho Public Television in a 2001 broadcast. Essentially what they “discovered” was well-trodden ground used by many Native American tribes, particularly the Nez Perce.
Fantastic Floats

From a 90-foot research vessel to scores of kayaks and rigid inflatable boats, students have plenty of ways to get out on the water.

Meet Humboldt Jordan Johnson ('18, Recreation Administration)

Last year, HSU won the Outdoor Nation Campus Challenge, outscoring 86 other schools to be named the “outdoorsiest” school in the nation. Jordan Johnson was HSU’s runaway leader in that effort, and one of eight students nationally to log the most outdoor time possible, often in his trademark Hawaiian print shirt and sandals. Jordan works at the Humboldt Bay Aquatic Center and continues to be involved in a variety of outdoor efforts with Center Activities and Outward Bound, all with the goal of getting people outside. Among those who have noticed is outdoor gear company Merrell, which has made Johnson one of its college ambassadors.

Hooked on the Outdoors

“I grew up in Lemoore, California, a low-lying desert town in the Central Valley. I’d always longed to go to the Pacific Northwest, and at a school fair I found out about HSU, where the forest is your backyard and I could ride my bike 20 minutes to the beach. I got hooked on the outdoors my first semester.”

Finding a Place

“I came to Humboldt in Fall 2014 as a Film major, but before long I changed to an Environmental Studies major. As I spent more time exploring classes and the outdoors, something clicked with me, and I became a Recreation Administration major.”

Helping People

“I like making people feel comfortable in the outdoors. A lot of students come to Humboldt from places where there is limited access to outdoor recreation as we know it. One of the main focuses of Outdoor Nation at Humboldt State was inclusivity in the outdoors. There’s a lack of diversity in outdoor spaces and environmental sciences, partly due to economic barriers. Outdoor Nation offers a much more casual, accessible, and affordable approach to the outdoors—compared to the “extreme” portrayal that’s seen in advertising by outdoor brands. It’s also an effort for body positivity and for casual users to connect with outdoors on a regular basis.”

Helping the Earth

“I really want to help people connect to the environment. One way to do that is to get people outside. Talking about the outdoors, and books—those are great—but for people to get really excited they have to feel a personal connection to the outdoors, a joy, a sense of appreciation and belonging. From that comes a sense of responsibility.”
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