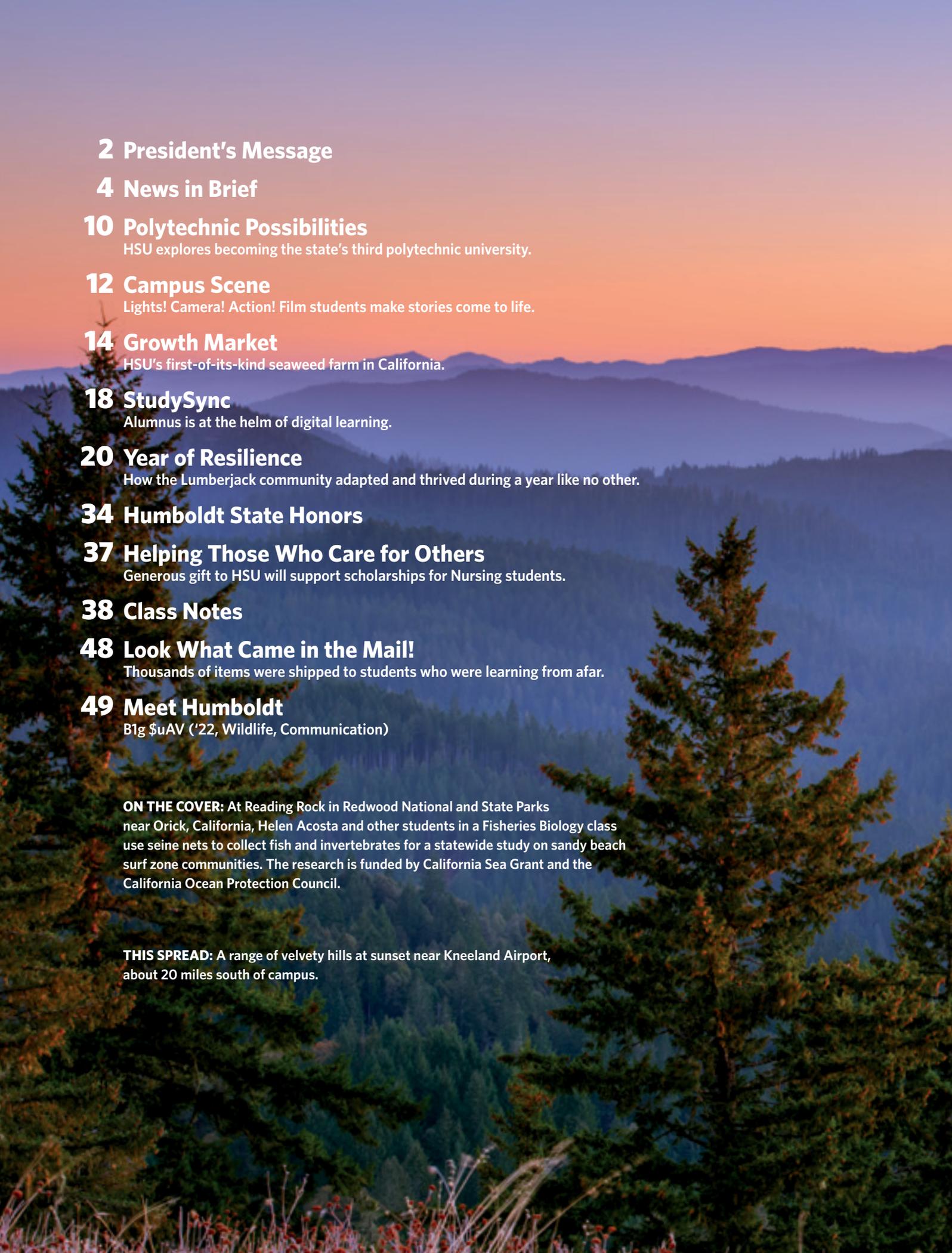


Humboldt

The Magazine of Humboldt State University | Spring 2021

**Year of
Resilience**



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Big \$uAV ('22, Wildlife, Communication)

ON THE COVER: At Reading Rock in Redwood National and State Parks near Orick, California, Helen Acosta and other students in a Fisheries Biology class use seine nets to collect fish and invertebrates for a statewide study on sandy beach surf zone communities. The research is funded by California Sea Grant and the California Ocean Protection Council.

THIS SPREAD: A range of velvety hills at sunset near Kneeland Airport, about 20 miles south of campus.

spring 2021



President's Message

NOT LONG AGO, I read a comment from a Humboldt State University student about her experience during the pandemic. She wrote: "I have nothing but AMAZING things to say about the professors, staff and my overall experience so far! I'm truly blessed and proud to be a part of HSU! All my professors were great and went above and beyond!"

Her expression of gratitude has stayed with me. It inspires me, and it reminds me of the heart of our HSU community and our commitment to students.

A little more than a year ago, COVID-19 changed the landscape of higher education. HSU and thousands of universities and colleges across the country were forced to transition to virtual operations and remote learning. We faced challenges large and small, just like individuals and organizations around the world.

I know that adapting to a mostly virtual environment has been necessary for the health and safety of everyone on campus and in the surrounding community. At the same time, as someone who believes that community plays a critical role in education, I know that our students have been missing an essential element of college life—spending time and interacting with each other in person.

Even so, Lumberjacks have shown a true spirit of collaboration and care over the last year. You'll find stories about that within the pages of this Spring issue of *Humboldt* magazine. You'll read about the ingenuity of faculty who kept students engaged in a virtual environment and who continued conducting important research, some of which has furthered our understanding of COVID-19. You'll read about the meticulous planning and preparations by staff who kept our campus operating through difficult times. And you'll read about students who are still learning and, as always, giving back to the community.

This is the story of Humboldt State, a university rooted in our commitment to accessible education, our unique location, and opportunities for students to apply what they learn in the real world.

As we look ahead, we have a bright and exciting future at Humboldt State. Because of our mission and singular strengths, the California State University has asked us to explore becoming the state's third polytechnic institution. This designation signals a tremendous opportunity to provide access to high-demand programs while expanding educational experiences that prepare students for a competitive workforce. Many students seek the hands-on learning and prestige associated with a polytechnic designation. This



Humboldt State University President Tom Jackson, Jr.

change would raise the profile of all our academic programs and attract new students from California and beyond.

At the same time, as a distinct campus within the CSU, we can make this polytechnic our own. It can be one grounded in our outstanding liberal arts programming, that infuses sustainability and traditional ecological knowledge into our curriculum, that leads in renewable technologies, and that prepares students to model equitable and ethical practices. We will most certainly remain an institution that is strengthened through our connection to the land and people of this region.

Like the student I mentioned earlier, I have nothing but AMAZING things to say about our HSU community and how we have rallied over the past year. I'm thankful for the determination, the generosity, and the compassion that has defined this University community. We have remained focused on providing students a positive, meaningful educational experience, and we continue to dream big together.

More on HSU's Polytechnic Self-study at humboldt.edu/polytechnic and the "Future Forward: 2021-2026 Strategic Plan" at strategicplan.humboldt.edu.

Humboldt

The Magazine of Humboldt State University

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Congratulations Graduates!

We're Proud to Honor
the Classes of 2020 and 2021

Watch the livestream of Commencement, May 14 and 15,
at humboldt.edu. Go to commencement.humboldt.edu for details.



BOTTOM IMAGES SUBMITTED

The Jacks Give Back

HUMBOLDT STATE UNIVERSITY student-athletes came together for their community during the 2019-20 season. Overall, the Jacks finished 21st in the nation for community service honors among NCAA Division II teams. The women's soccer team finished first among all women's sports teams, the men's soccer team finished second, volleyball third, softball fifth, and rowing came in sixth in their sport. In total, HSU athletes spent 4,536 hours on community service projects.

4,536 HOURS

Athletes spent on community service projects in the 2019-20 season

"Our student-athletes do an incredible job of giving back to the community. As a department, we strive to be service leaders, and that starts at home, here, giving back to the Humboldt community, which supports us throughout the season," says Jane Teixeira, HSU director of Intercollegiate Athletics & Recreational Sports. "This community is such a big part of what makes our University and Athletic department thrive, and it is vital that we give back in any way possible."



SUBMITTED

Kinesiology students share ergonomic tips for virtual learning and working.

Healthy Movement and Ergonomics at Home

WHEN HUMBOLDT STATE shifted to online instruction last spring, Kinesiology Professor Whitney Ogle found herself working from her kitchen and sitting on a hard wooden dining chair. As the co-director of HSU's Biomechanics Lab, Ogle quickly realized she needed to make ergonomic improvements on her makeshift office.

Knowing that millions of Americans were in a similar scenario, Ogle and her graduate students created a series of videos that share best practices for optimal working and learning at home.

"Healthy movement is all about variety throughout the lifespan," says Ogle.

One year into working from home, she has added two more workstations, including a saddle seat, a style of chair often used in medical offices. She stresses that just like any chair, it's not optimal for eight hours a day.

"People should figure out what works for them," says Ogle. She explains that there's no one size fits all for ergonomics and that repeatedly using the same muscles can lead to cumulative stress in wrists, hips, and shoulders.

In their videos, Ogle's students also emphasize the fundamentals of ergonomics, such as having the computer screen at eye level and utilizing tools like wireless keyboards for proper head alignment and bluetooth headphones, so you can get up and move around while listening to a lecture. She emphasizes that getting outside for a walk around the block or just a stretch in the yard is fundamental to both physical and mental health. Even taking breaks with your eyes to look away from your screen—ideally, outside at nature—is important for our brains.

"If you live in Humboldt, there are so many beautiful things to look at and ways to stay active," she says.

Watch the videos at hsu.link/HSUErgonomicsTips.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS

Tampa Bay Buccaneers offensive lineman Alex Cappa in action



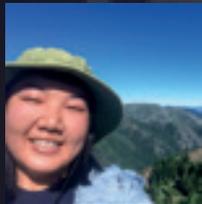
Congrats 'Cap'!

DISTINGUISHING HIMSELF as one of the Lumberjacks' all-time greats, NFL offensive lineman Alex Cappa ('17, Kinesiology) was drafted by Tampa Bay in 2018. Last season, he started all 17 regular season games, helping to protect quarterback legend Tom Brady before being sidelined with a leg injury in the wildcard game. Tampa Bay went on to defeat Kansas City in the Super Bowl.

Cappa was the first HSU Jack to be drafted by the NFL since 1992. Brady called him a "tough, hard-nosed football player" and credited "Cap" for his role in Tampa Bay's Super Bowl win.

BLM Artwork Shines in National Spotlight

LAST OCTOBER, Humboldt State University senior Melanie Zhao was named a winner in Zumiez's "Stand Up Campaign," a nationwide contest for activism in the arts. Zumiez, a major apparel brand with more than 700 stores worldwide, partnered with Amplifier Art to rally artists to create art for social change.



Melanie Zhao

Zhao's artwork, inspired by the Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement, has been projected on buildings across major cities from New York to Seattle.

"Art is a powerful platform for social change because it creatively expresses our emotions and thoughts," says Zhao. "This piece is my way to process what is happening, what has been happening, and what continues to happen toward Black, Indigenous, and people of color." She created the design, which features animal heads symbolizing diverse cultural identities, last July and was notified by Zumiez that she was named a winner last October.

A Biology major, Zhao is also a talented graphic designer who enjoys blending her passion for art and science. Her interests include pollinators, scientific communication, and creating illustrations that reflect her values.

Outside of class, Zhao is the graphic design coordinator for CheckIT, an HSU student-led group that focuses on promoting consent-centered culture and preventing sexual violence.

The Zumiez/Amplifier campaign asked artists across the country what they are willing to stand up for. As both an artist and a student activist, Zhao says that she believes in "listening, speaking out, and fighting for change in any way that you can, however big or small."



Winning illustration by Melanie Zhao.



Barn Owls: A Natural Way to Protect Vineyards from Pests?

BARN OWLS and their human-made nest boxes are a common sight in California wine country these days, with boxes installed all over the Napa Valley to attract owls in the hopes of reducing pest damage to vineyards.

Humboldt State Wildlife Professor Matthew Johnson, who has long studied the interactions between wild birds and agricultural settings, first noticed these boxes while driving past vineyards. Investigating further, Johnson found little actual research into the efficacy of owls for pest management.

For the last several years, Johnson and HSU graduate and undergraduate students have studied how barn owls' behavior affects these valuable and highly managed landscapes.

The latest research shows that owls prefer to hunt in the uncultivated areas adjacent to vineyards rather than on the growing grounds themselves. A study conducted by Xerónimo A. Castañeda, Allison E. Huysman, and Johnson, published in "Ornithological Applications" in January, found that barn owls spent two-thirds of their hunting time in uncultivated habitats, even when vineyards comprised half of the area around their boxes.

When the ratio of uncultivated land decreased, owls were more likely to hunt in vineyards. But they were also more likely to occupy human-made boxes when there was more uncultivated habitat nearby.

These findings are an important step to fully understanding the impacts of inviting owls to vineyards. Previous studies estimated that a family of barn owls killed 3,466 rodents in a year. Further research will try to determine the right amount of uncultivated land to attract owls and whether owls hunting those lands have a positive effect, mitigating the rodents that infiltrate vineyards.

Follow the researchers on Instagram @hsubarnowls.



Wildlife Professor Matt Johnson (pictured center, right) has led graduate and undergrad field studies on barn owls at vineyards in California's Napa Valley.



ALL PHOTOS SUBMITTED

'Science for All' with Spanish-Language Education in STEM



SUBMITTED

AS AN ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE & Management major, senior Christian Trujillo noticed he was one of the few Latinx students in his classes. Today, he is the program director of the innovative new campus organization, Ciencia Para Todos, which promotes “science for all” through bilingual education.

“The lack of representation in science has created an absence of opportunities, especially for those with diverse perspectives and knowledge in other languages,” explains Trujillo.

To inspire elementary school students to consider science majors in higher education, Ciencia Para Todos developed hands-on science activities, taught in Spanish. Partnering with Fuente Nueva Charter School in Arcata, Trujillo and his team lead activities like El Increíble Viaje del Agua, where students learn about the cycle of water through dance.

“We want to bring awareness to the way science is being taught in our communities,” explains Trujillo. “It’s important to create welcoming and safe spaces for Spanish-speaking students in STEM.”

Cycling Keeps You Young!

A STUDY BY RESEARCHERS at Humboldt State is shedding light on an unexpected benefit of bicycling for exercise in older adults.

The research, published in the “Journal of Aging and Physical Activity” last year, was co-authored by Daniel Aslan (‘15, Kinesiology, ‘16, M.S., Kinesiology), Joshua Collette (‘17, Kinesiology), and HSU Kinesiology Professor Justus Ortega, who got significant press a few years ago for a similar study about the effects of running on the aging process.

The study looked at adults over the age of 65—some of whom walk for exercise and some who bicycle for exercise. The researchers discovered that those who ride a bicycle for at least 30 minutes, three times a week, were less likely to experience age-related physical decline in walking efficiency than those who simply walked for the same period of time. The study also found that the older cyclists were 9% to 17% more efficient at walking than those who didn’t ride a bicycle.

“What we found is that older adults who regularly participate in high-aerobic activities—bicycling, in particular—have what we call a lower metabolic cost of walking than older adults who walk for exercise,” says Ortega, who is also the director of HSU’s Biomechanics Lab. “In fact, their metabolic cost of walking is similar to young adults in their 20s.”

Metabolic cost is the amount of energy needed to move, and it naturally increases as we age. High metabolic cost contributes to making walking more difficult and tiring. Decline in walking ability is a key predictor of morbidity in older adults.



Researchers aren’t yet sure what makes cyclists more efficient than walkers, but they believe it may have something to do with the mitochondria found in cells. Evidence suggests that people who exercise vigorously have healthier mitochondria in their muscles.

Read the study on cycling at hsu.link/CyclingStudy.

Communication and Community: New University Police Chief Anthony Morgan

ANTHONY MORGAN is Humboldt State University's new chief of police and the first African-American to hold the position in the University's history. Arriving in Humboldt with a long career in law enforcement, Morgan is excited about living in the redwoods and working hand-in-hand with the HSU community.

Q. Why is Humboldt State a good fit for you and your family?

HSU is an institution that is part of the larger conversation about how we can improve the relationship between law enforcement and the communities we serve. The University and officers are committed to ensuring that law enforcement practices on campus are equitable. As I did my research on the University and the region, it felt like a great fit for my family. There are a number of outdoor activities to engage in, and the community has been very welcoming to my family.

Q. What is your favorite activity to do with your kids?

Anything we can do as a family. My job requires some long hours, so any time I get to spend with my kids doing what they enjoy is a blessing.

Q. What inspired your career in law enforcement?

A DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) officer in my elementary school had a huge influence on me. The officer was extremely approachable, which is important in leadership, and that always stuck with me. It was impactful for me to see someone who looked like me wearing a uniform as well. Initially when I went to college, I considered working in the private sector, but it never felt right. I knew that I wanted to serve my community, so I changed my major to Criminal Justice.

Q. How will you make sure that HSU students have a voice?

Communication is key. We're accountable to meeting students' expectations. I'll be inclusive and transparent in all the department's actions and ensure that HSU students have



Anthony Morgan is HSU's first African-American Chief of Police

a direct line to voice concerns. I have started the process of meeting with student groups. That has had a ripple effect that has led to introductions with stakeholders. The key for me in this virtual world is to ensure I follow up and stay accessible. In the near future, it will be important for students to see my talking points turn into action.

Q. How will the University Police Department keep students and the community safe while addressing racial equity?

It starts with communication and a review of our internal processes. It also means reinforcing a culture where everyone is treated with respect and dignity. Internally, we have to model equitable treatment of each other. We are committed to policing in a procedural and just manner. That starts with holding myself to the University's high standard of conduct and behavior. We have put in place a new reporting method to capture the work of the officers proactively engaging with students and staff in a positive manner. We want to increase our visibility on campus, so everyone on campus feels safe. Finally, we will continue to report out incidents to the campus community.

A Bold Vision for HSU

HUMBOLDT STATE UNIVERSITY has a bold new vision in its “Future Forward: 2021-2026 Strategic Plan,” which outlines the University’s purpose, values, and goals for the next five years.

The plan articulates the University’s vision “to be a campus for those who seek, above all else, to improve the global human condition and our relationship with the environment.”

“The HSU strategic plan provides a roadmap to ensure a positive, meaningful educational experience for our students,” says HSU President Tom Jackson, Jr. “It encourages us to be bold and innovative in all that we do while celebrating our diverse institution and the work of our staff and faculty.”

To support HSU’s vision, the University has established six key themes:

- **ACADEMIC ROADMAP:** Providing recommendations for advancing academic excellence and access. The HSU Academic Roadmap promotes distinctive, innovative academic programs and ways of instruction centered on the curricular needs for well-prepared students, including our support and development of programs that assist HSU in achieving the polytechnic designation.
- **COMMUNITY COLLABORATION & SHARED SUCCESS:** Working together, sharing resources, communicating openly, and creating an inclusive and welcoming environment.
- **EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT & SUCCESS:** Ensuring all HSU employees have what they need to be involved in, enthusiastic about, and committed to their work and to HSU.
- **FUTURE PROOFING HSU:** Creating the type of university that can adapt and thrive in the future and respond effectively to internal and external challenges and opportunities.
- **RESOURCES STEWARDSHIP & SUSTAINABILITY:** Promoting goals that appropriately generate, manage, and invest resources toward the purpose of the University and its adopted guiding plans through the common lens of “student first,” equity, inclusivity, and sustainability.
- **STUDENT EXPERIENCE & SUCCESS:** Identifying and building strategies that promote positive and meaningful student engagement experiences and success.

Collaboration played a significant role in the creation of the strategic plan—a process that involved hundreds of students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community members who served on the steering committee and working groups or shared their ideas through virtual forums and feedback surveys.

The final draft marks the end of the first of three phases of creating and implementing the strategic plan. The campus has begun Phase 2 to develop institutional and divisional operational plans that include specific outcomes, prioritized initiatives, and measures of impact.

For more details, go to strategicplan.humboldt.edu.

Tenant-Landlord Program Builds Community

IN COLLABORATION with Humboldt State University and community partners, the Humboldt Tenant-Landlord Collaboration (HTLC) is a new educational program designed to promote best practices for tenants and landlords.

Led by Chant’e Catt, HSU’s off-campus housing coordinator, the program will help students, renters, and property owners build positive relationships. Individuals who complete the program earn HTLC’s “Good Neighbor” certificate, showing their commitment to improving community relations around housing across Humboldt County.

“We created the HTLC to pinpoint solutions, not problems,” says Catt. “Our hope is to relieve pressure on a complex issue that intersects with racial inequity, poverty, and other social challenges.”

While the housing crisis is widespread across California, and intensified by the pandemic, Catt and her team are focused on reducing the housing barriers that students face in Humboldt County.

The program will educate prospective tenants and landlords about the entire process, from screening tenants to paying utility bills to implicit bias.

The program consists of 32 informational videos and 10 learning modules, accessible and available in Spanish, all designed to foster understanding and good will between tenants and landlords.

“We want to humanize housing for everyone,” says Catt. “Education is the key.”

Read more about the Humboldt Tenant-Landlord Collaboration at housing.humboldt.edu/htlc.



A 21st-century polytechnic would incorporate cutting-edge STEM and applied sciences, robust liberal arts, Indigenous perspectives, and a focus on sustainability and social justice.

Imagine, Dream, and Consider Humboldt as a Polytechnic

Humboldt State explores becoming state's third polytechnic university

By Grant Scott-Goforth

IN A NOD to Humboldt State University's programs, location, and commitment to environmental and social responsibility, the California State University has asked HSU to undertake a self-study toward becoming designated as a polytechnic.

The request offers the momentous possibility of HSU becoming one of just three polytechnic universities in the state and the only one in Northern California. It would better position HSU to meet specific workforce needs on the North Coast and statewide, and it would significantly raise HSU's profile among prospective students and grant-funding organizations.

HSU President Tom Jackson, Jr. shared his enthusiasm for the request in a message to campus, calling it an "incredible, transformative opportunity."

"This is our moment. First, let's allow ourselves to imagine, dream, and consider Humboldt as a polytechnic," Jackson wrote. "What are the possibilities for this region and future students? What are the possibilities for new grants and research?"

Polytechnic institutions traditionally feature hands-on and career-focused programs, an emphasis in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) and applied science programs like health and agriculture, along with a strong liberal arts foundation.

In the requested self-study, to be completed by Spring 2021, HSU will have a chance to build upon the collective vision from its academic and strategic planning to reimagine the polytechnic for the 21st century. It could incorporate Humboldt State's broad

expertise in sustainability, along with areas like traditional ecological knowledge (TEK), renewable technologies, equitable and ethical practices, tribal and rural community development, and more.

In many ways, HSU is the obvious candidate to become the state's third polytechnic. HSU has among the highest percentage of courses with a hands-on component in the CSU, and it has the third highest percentage of students in natural resources and STEM programs. HSU also has the CSU's highest percentage of STEM graduates who go on to earn doctoral degrees, ranking eighth nationally among 660 master's level institutions.

Working groups have been formed to explore academic programs, naming options, the role of the liberal arts, business plans, facilities, external partnerships, inclusive student success, and more.

"Like many universities in the country, Humboldt State University is facing unique challenges due to COVID and changing conditions for higher education," says Congressman Jared Huffman (California District 2). "In California, we are lucky to have a strong model of polytechnic universities that could bring new opportunities to HSU and the students it serves while continuing to offer its current curriculum. Becoming the third polytechnic university in the CSU system could be an exciting way forward for HSU, its students, and the North Coast community."

Learn more by visiting humboldt.edu/polytechnic.

Prestigious \$949,000 NSF Grant to Study Microbes Will Open Doors for Underrepresented STEM Students

By Aileen S. Yoo



Professor Catalina Cuellar-Gempeler

MICROBES ARE ALL AROUND US—in the air, our water, the earth, even our gut (think “good” bacteria)—and grow within all living things.

What happens when microbes originating from one host migrate to another? Why does this matter? Humboldt State University students will explore these questions thanks to a prestigious \$949,000 National Science Foundation (NSF) grant awarded to

Biology Professor Catalina Cuellar-Gempeler.

Over the next five years, the grant will support Cuellar-Gempeler’s research on the effects of colonizing microbes on carnivorous plants.

Carnivorous plants depend on microbial communities of the insects they capture to get nutrients. The grant will fund Cuellar-Gempeler’s research into how these plants maintain their digestive function despite hosting different types of microbes. These findings may inform how to maintain ecosystem functions that are critical for life and advance our understanding of the microbiome—microbes that live inside and around us—and its role in human health and agriculture.

Beyond focusing on the small things in life, Cuellar-Gempeler is also determined to pave the way for a new and more diverse generation of scientists who specialize in ecology, molecular biology, and bioinformatics.

“A large portion of this grant will support applied research in a way that educates and mentors students at HSU, which is a Hispanic-Serving Institution,” says Cuellar-Gempeler, who has taught at HSU since 2018. “I want to capitalize on the growing diversity of college students. I love the diversity of our campus—that’s why I came to HSU.”

Cuellar-Gempeler says that oftentimes Latinx students don’t see themselves represented in the sciences, she says, and when they do, it’s a powerful and inspiring moment of recognition.

“A large portion of this grant will support applied research in a way that educates and mentors students at HSU, which is a Hispanic-Serving Institution. I want to capitalize on the growing diversity of college students. I love the diversity of our campus—that’s why I came to HSU.”

Professor Catalina Cuellar-Gempeler

“I’m an immigrant from Colombia, and I’ve had students tell me that I’m the first professor they’ve had who speaks Spanish. What that shows them is you can come from a different culture and be as much of a scientist as everyone else. It can be an emotional realization that helps students see a clearer path to achieving their dreams,” she recalls. “It’s great to have a common connection with students who are committed to their education.”

Cuellar-Gempeler’s microbe project will focus on practical experience. Hundreds of students, including 60 paid undergrad and graduate students, will explore key concepts of ecology through various practices such as growing microbes, isolating and measuring what they do, and learning how to sequence DNA.

“Students will have a broader ecological perspective and current skills to succeed in the job market,” she says.

VIDEO: Watch Biology Professor Catalina Cuellar-Gempeler communicate science through song: hsu.link/thefrogsong.



Campus Scene

Lights! Camera! Action!

IT TAKES AN INCREDIBLE amount of coordination to produce a film. At Humboldt State University, Film students are still making stories come to life in spite of the pandemic.

Last Fall, Film students kept rolling thanks to limited face-to-face classes that followed strict COVID-19 guidelines from the entertainment industry, HSU, and the county. Among many programs where practical experience is critical to learning, Film students have continued to make films throughout the pandemic, often using the broad cultural changes of the past year as inspiration. To complement in-studio activities, the department offers a slate of online courses that teach students to write, shoot, edit, and produce films using digital tools.

In Multi-Camera Studio Production, instructor Montel Vander Horck's students worked—masked and at a distance—in the Van Duzer Theatre, using cameras, field sound recording equipment, grip and lighting gear, and laptops for editing. They created six original multi-camera projects including "Season's Grievings," a four-minute film that explores grief, transition, and forgiveness directed by Film major Norbert Rodriguez.

"Filmmaking is a discipline that integrates critical thinking, storytelling, and technology," says Film Professor Ann Alter. "It's a powerful tool for exploring our shared humanity."

Today, moving images are everywhere, and the demand for film has grown exponentially in the pandemic, explains Alter. Through hands-on project-based curriculum, Film students are gaining the skills and professional experience to broadcast their ideas and enter the competitive film industry after graduation.



Growth Market

HSU's first-of-its-kind seaweed farm

By Mike Dronkers



THE TEAM SHOVES OFF the dock just before sunrise. It's low tide on a clear, brisk December day—the temperature has dropped into the 30s overnight, and the sun is still tucked behind the hills. This is the last day of finals, but more importantly, it is harvest day.

The Humboldt State University seaweed crew is motor-ing across Humboldt Bay to the University's new seaweed farm—the first of its kind in California—in hopes of kick-starting the state's entry into a billion-dollar global industry.

“Seaweed farming is an industry that is about 500 years old,” says Rafael Cuevas Uribe, farm co-designer and HSU Fisheries Biology professor. “But this is the first time here in California that somebody's doing red seaweed at commercial scale in open waters.”

The farm's designers want to show how a versatile crop, linked with marine conservation and climate mitigation, can work in California.

The pilot project, called HSU-ProvidenSea, is a collaboration between HSU and GreenWave, an environmental nonprofit that helps coastal communities launch and scale regenerative ocean farms.

“We want to give future farmers a ballpark idea of what to expect,” says graduate student Erika Thalman, whose master's degree thesis is centered around this pilot project. Testing the waters of California's regulatory and economic environment is a big part of the experiment. “HSU's farm is basically the guinea pig for farmers and for the various agencies that have a say in the permitting.”

It takes a diverse skillset to get a seaweed farm up and running in California waters. Permitting expertise, aquaculture scientists, governmental partnership, and the local harbor district all led up to the installation of HSU-ProvidenSea.





Fisheries Biology Professor Rafael Cuevas Uribe sows California's first open-water commercial seaweed crop.

HSU-ProvidenSea grows Pacific dulse *Devaleraea mollis* (previously known as *Palmaria mollis*), a red seaweed found in Humboldt Bay. Sometimes called “the bacon of the sea,” it’s known for its umami flavoring. While rich in minerals, vitamins, protein, and antioxidants, this seaweed is much more than a superfood.

“When I tell people I have a seaweed farm for a thesis, they always ask, ‘What’s the market for it?’” says Thalman. “But they don’t realize how many products seaweed is already in.”

The nutritional benefits of seaweed are well documented, but dulse has found its way into everything from fuel to fertilizer. And with so many applications, seaweed could offer overfished marine communities a way to diversify revenue.

Alongside the economic benefits, seaweed is a very efficient carbon trap. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, “eelgrass, mangroves, and salt marshes are already known for their ability to store carbon. But seaweeds pull more of the greenhouse gas from the water than all three combined based on biomass.” That means seaweed farms can help to combat local impacts of ocean acidification.

Other benefits include water purification, removal of nitrogen and phosphorus, and creating habitat for marine organisms.

Aquaculture is already big business locally, with Humboldt Bay producing about \$10 million in oysters and oyster seed. With infrastructure already in place, the seaweed team could follow the path of oyster growers.

“Our vision is to bring this new industry to Humboldt Bay, but we also want to be a leading example for the rest of California,” says Karen Gray, GreenWave’s California reef manager. The project is funded by the California State University’s Agricultural Research Institute and HSU’s Sponsored Programs Foundation.

Testing the Waters

ABOUT ONCE A WEEK, Thalman boards a small boat at Woodley Island Marina in Eureka and motors out to the farm, which inconspicuously sits about a quarter of a mile offshore in a pre-approved aquaculture site across the bay from HSU. Other than its boundary buoys, you could kayak right by it and not know it’s there.

HSU-ProvidenSea doesn’t need much babysitting. But when it does, it’s a heavy lift. “Sometimes kelp drifts into the line, and I can tell you that moving wet kelp is a very good

core workout,” says Thalman, laughing. “We have fun out there even if it’s raining.”

Other than clearing the lines, Thalman takes monthly seaweed samples that are analyzed for any contaminants the seaweed may be absorbing.

With students handling the day-to-day elements of the farm, they can monitor growth and troubleshoot problems as they arise. Their hard-wrought experience can be passed along to any future seaweed startups.

The farm’s design is simple, inexpensive, and scalable. “It’s a low-impact design that really works with the environment,” says Gray. The farm is mostly rope, suspended in the water column, with four anchors being its only physical footprint. “You don’t need fresh water, feed, or fertilizer. The seaweeds are growing with available nutrients and natural sunlight, and all it has to do is grow.”

Its design relies on two 350-foot ropes, called longlines. Anchored at each end, the longlines are held near the surface by buoys. Shorter ropes called droppers dangle down from those longlines. The droppers are seeded with dulse grown at HSU’s Telonicher Marine Lab.

There’s a Goldilocks element to this kind of vertical farming: If the seaweed is too close to the surface, it gets sunburned. Too deep, and it can’t properly photosynthesize. One of Thalman’s scientific priorities is to study the best growth depth, so they seeded the droppers at one-meter intervals, starting at surface level, down to three meters deep.

Proof of Concept

THE TEST CROP was a modest 25 pounds. “If we were a full-on commercial outfit, we would’ve loaded the lines all the way up, and let it go longer than four months,” says Thalman. But the proof of concept was the real harvest. “We learned that seaweed could be grown in Humboldt Bay.”

After the team took some samples for lab analysis, California’s first crop of commercially licensed seaweed had been harvested. Some of the harvest went to a local small business owner who was experimenting with soil amendments. The rest of the crop was donated to Trophic, an alt-meat startup.

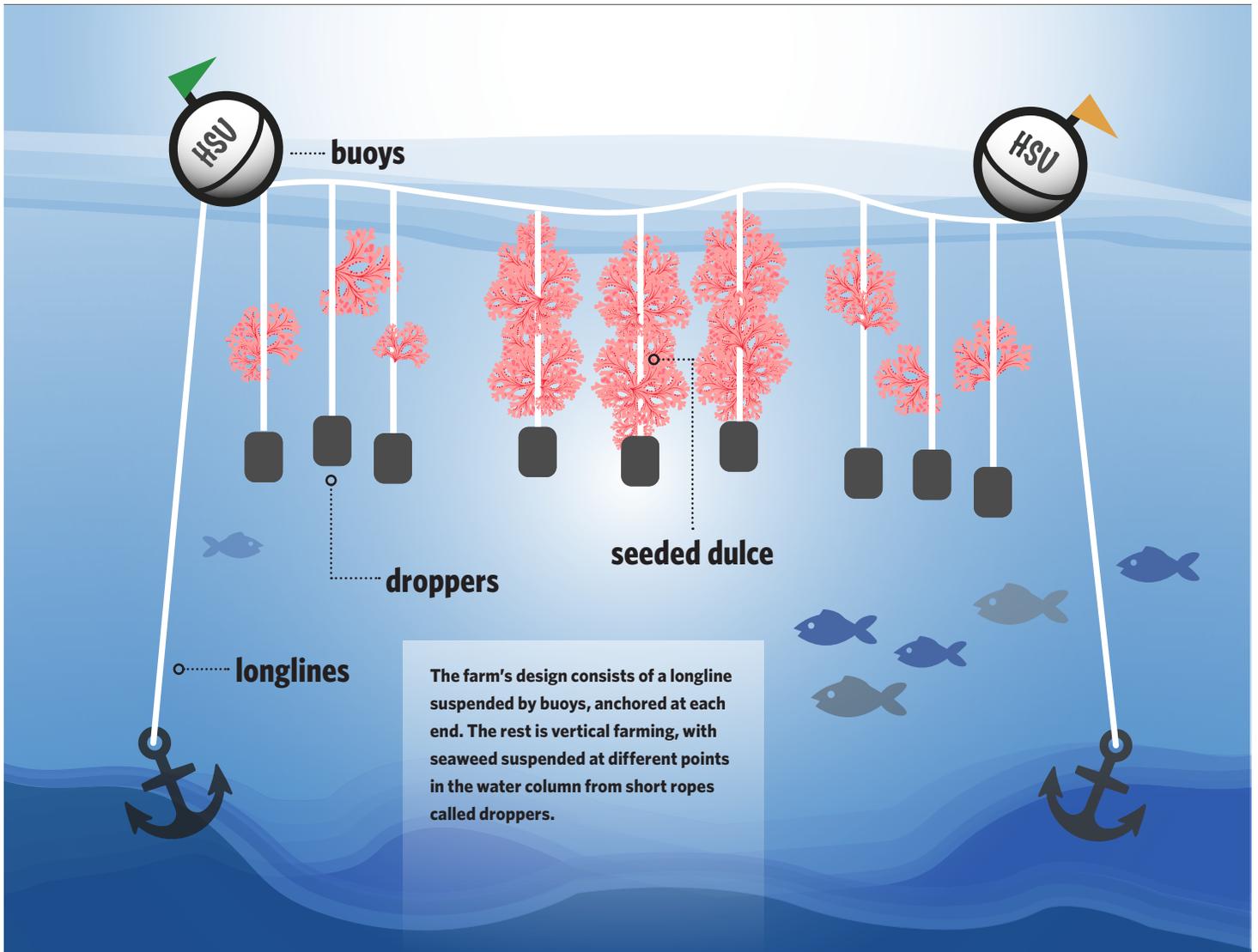
Using early data, HSU-ProvidenSea is already shaping the next crop and its management. For instance, Humboldt Bay’s vigorous tidal currents loosened some of the seaweed, so Thalman is considering using mesh bags for the next batch. And as far as the Goldilocks depth, data show that three meters is too deep, and one meter is just right.

For now, the team is getting ready for the next crop. And with the seaweed market expected to top \$12 billion by the end of the decade, HSU-ProvidenSea may be a key player in bringing this industry safely and sustainably to California. **H**

VIDEO: Watch the HSU-ProvidenSea team install the seaweed farm at hsu.link/seaweedfarm.



At HSU's Marine Lab, graduate student Erika Thalman (right) prepares Pacific dulse (*Devaleraea mollis*, previously known as *Palmaria mollis*), a red seaweed that HSU-ProvidenSea affixes to droppers in Humboldt Bay (left). Sometimes called "the bacon of the sea" and known for its umami flavoring, dulse is rich in protein, fiber, iodine, and potassium. It's used in a wide range of products from meat substitutes to garden amendments.



An Entrepreneurial Approach to Digital Learning

by Aileen S. Yoo



SUBMITTED

Alaska, 1992. Christopher McCandless stumbles down a snow-covered trail with only a few belongings.

So begins the voiceover to a movie trailer-like preview of Jon Krakauer’s best-selling book, “Into the Wild”. To Robert Romano, the video his company StudySync produced to intrigue young students symbolizes what teaching and learning should be in the 21st century: interactive, interesting, and relevant.

Robert Romano (’95, English, ’96, M.A. English) is co-founder and CEO of StudySync.

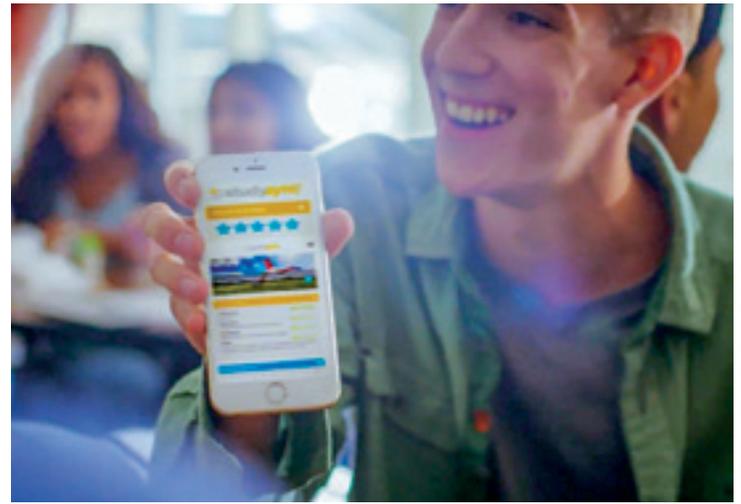
“TRADITIONALLY TEACHING INCLUDED a lot of talking ‘at’ students with little in the way of interactive discourse. Getting them to participate in their learning is essential,” says Romano (’95, English, ’96, M.A. English), who co-founded StudySync, an educational technology company, in 2009 with Jay King. “There is an entertainment value in what we do, but that’s just a means to engage students. We leverage the technology that students use in their ‘real’ lives to find points of entry to get them excited to read, to learn, to build knowledge.”

StudySync, Romano’s second ed-tech success, is based in Northern California and develops and publishes English language arts (ELA) curricula, providing multimedia exercises, lessons, and other materials. As CEO, Romano creates the vision for the product, conceptualizing the multimedia elements and finding unique applications of technology. He also prioritizes the focus for 100 employees—among them are academic, engineering, and marketing experts. In less than 10 years, the company has built a major foothold in classrooms across the nation. Used in all states and adapted to meet national educational standards and state adoptions, StudySync has become the country’s number one core ELA program.

Today over 3 million students and teachers use it daily. Those numbers have swelled during the pandemic, which has brought into stark relief the critical role online learning now plays and how it will shape pedagogy in the future.

“Being digital first, our products were suited to distance learning prior to the pandemic, so not much has changed as far as how we operate as a company or implement our product. But now there is even greater interest and need, with 2020 being our biggest growth year ever,” he says. “There are still many challenges to overcome, and many of them are coming to light with the pandemic, especially inequities in technology and teaching experience around remote learning. We have tried to simplify the experience to help facilitate a better teaching experience by providing greater support and implementation, including smaller modules that are more easily assimilated into the distance learning model.”

StudySync also meets students where they are with technology. Students have access to an online library of 5,000 books, informational texts, and source documents with associated lesson plans. There are video tutorials—shot and produced in-house at StudySync’s studio—of students discussing a book or excerpt to demonstrate how to deconstruct



VIDEO STILLS COURTESY OF STUDYSYNC

StudySync develops and publishes English language arts curricula, using technology to engage students.

“Robert is really an amazing story. He’s become one of the most important and influential people in K-12 digital learning in the United States.”

—HSU English Professor Emeritus Tom Gage

readings and build on the ideas of others, constructing meaning together. Taking its cues from social media, the company creates videos and has built-in functions that allow students and teachers to interact and provide feedback online.

Romano emphasizes that StudySync isn’t a replacement for teachers. It’s a teaching tool that enhances the teaching experience, opening up a gateway to literature and a journey of knowledge.

“Students might access ‘Grapes of Wrath,’ including media that sets the stage of time and place. That could lead to a discussion about the meaning of family, the economics of the Great Depression, the history of human migration, and the human experience. It’s a collaborative process where students build on each others’ ideas,” he says. “This isn’t a stagnant experience. Content can be associated with what’s happening in the world for them today.”

Between earning two college degrees, writing for Hollywood, establishing five businesses (while re-establishing another), and becoming a skilled woodcarver, Romano’s own journey has branched into different directions.

He studied Industrial Engineering at Northeastern University in Boston in the 1970s. Restless to experience something different and to learn more about natural sciences, he headed to California and transferred to HSU. Soon he was distracted by an entrepreneurial opportunity.

He and a partner resurrected a defunct woodworking factory in Eureka and designed and built furniture that was shipped throughout the country and to Japan. Romano sold the company in 1978 and later invested in a new project: real estate, launching a development company that built thousands of homes and apartments throughout the state before selling it in 1986. Around this time, he briefly worked in the TV and movie business.

By the ‘90s, he returned to what he loved: literature. At age 39 and with two young children, Romano came back to his graduate studies at Humboldt State.

Sensing Romano’s potential, HSU English Professor Emeritus Tom Gage introduced him to James Moffett, a pioneer in reforming the teaching of English language arts. That introduction would eventually lead Romano to his first ed-tech business venture.

“Robert is really an amazing story. He’s become one of the most important and influential people in K-12 digital learning in the United States,” says Gage.

After HSU, Romano was also accepted into a Ph.D. program at Harvard but instead chose the path of private industry. In 1996, he teamed up with Moffett and King to launch EdVantage, which produced a curriculum delivered on CDs that taught reading and writing to K-12 students. EdVantage was later sold to RiverDeep, one of the first ed-tech giants. Romano bought a vineyard in France and launched another company, Global Vineyard Estate, in 2005, and founded StudySync four years later. StudySync was recently sold to Imagine Learning, a division of Weld North.

“Humboldt tied me into my first start in education and technology. And being in a beautiful place with heartfelt people was inspiring. Students there are free thinkers, too. I love Humboldt State,” he says.

So what’s next, for Romano?

“I will continue what I’m doing for now, as CEO of StudySync, anticipating changes in technology, learning from the way students interact with their world, and developing new ways to build knowledge and ignite curiosity,” he says. “After this? Well, I must say I do have some ideas brewing.” 



Year of Resilience

How the Lumberjack community adapted and thrived during a year like no other

by Nora Mounce

UPENDING LIFE AS WE ONCE KNEW IT, the microscopic coronavirus has taken root in every corner of the world in the past year, including Humboldt State University. In the face of such a vast and dire challenge, the University continues to prepare students to become responsible members of diverse—and ever changing—communities.

HSU students, faculty, and staff have adapted in bold and creative ways in order to keep the community safe and keep learning and teaching alive.

Forestry students mask up and spread out for field work at the Arcata Community Forest.



A student does research on California's diverse forest types at the L.W. Schatz Demonstration Tree Farm.

“We’ve seen faculty embracing new technology while being intellectually playful and working to move students forward. It’s been amazing to see what instructors are discovering about themselves and their students.”

Enoch Hale, director,
Center for Teaching & Learning

LAST FALL, junior Gracie Oliva found herself gazing at the redwood canopy from a twisty trail deep within Arcata’s Community Forest. A Recreation Administration major, Oliva and a small knot of students were hiking as part of Professor Geneviève Marchand’s face-to-face Outdoor Adventure Recreation course. As the class took a physically distanced break, Marchand asked her students to pause and take it all in. After a few moments of silence, the class began to reflect on the toll of the COVID-19 pandemic and their opportunity, as students, to create pathways to a healthier future.

“How can we be better as a community? To ourselves? To our marginalized peers? To the land?” Oliva recalls asking herself. She says that Fall semester 2020 was her best semester at HSU yet, despite the impacts of COVID-19.

At HSU, 25% of courses have a hands-on component (labs and field-based activities, for example), which is among the highest in the 23-campus California State University system. Because of this, HSU was granted permission to offer half of those courses with a modified face-to-face model last Fall.

Faculty like Marchand followed strict safety protocols developed by the state, county, and CSU, including testing, face coverings, distancing, quarantining, and compliance, in order to make experiential learning a reality.

“Learning by doing is a key element of our educational approach,” says HSU President Tom Jackson, Jr. “At the same time, we’ve worked hard to elevate learning in virtual courses and expand student support across the University.”

For students like Oliva, it has made all the difference. “Whether virtual or face-to-face, each class was still consistently rooted in our personal program,” she says. Like many of her peers, Oliva praised faculty for their sensitivity and inclusion over the past year, and for going above and beyond to support students facing unknown challenges during the pandemic.

“I will always cherish that memory of my class in the redwood forest as a reminder of how good it feels to be part of something bigger than myself,” says Oliva.

One student’s reflection captures the determination and teamwork that took place across the University in the past year of uncertainty. Working together to overhaul operations, launch robust virtual curriculum, ensure hands-on learning, and boost morale, a spirit of unity continues at Humboldt State.

Faculty Dig Deep

WHEN ASKED TO learn new things, work differently than ever before, and above all, come together for students, HSU faculty said “yes.” They spent extra time last summer preparing for virtual classes and modified face-to-face instruction.

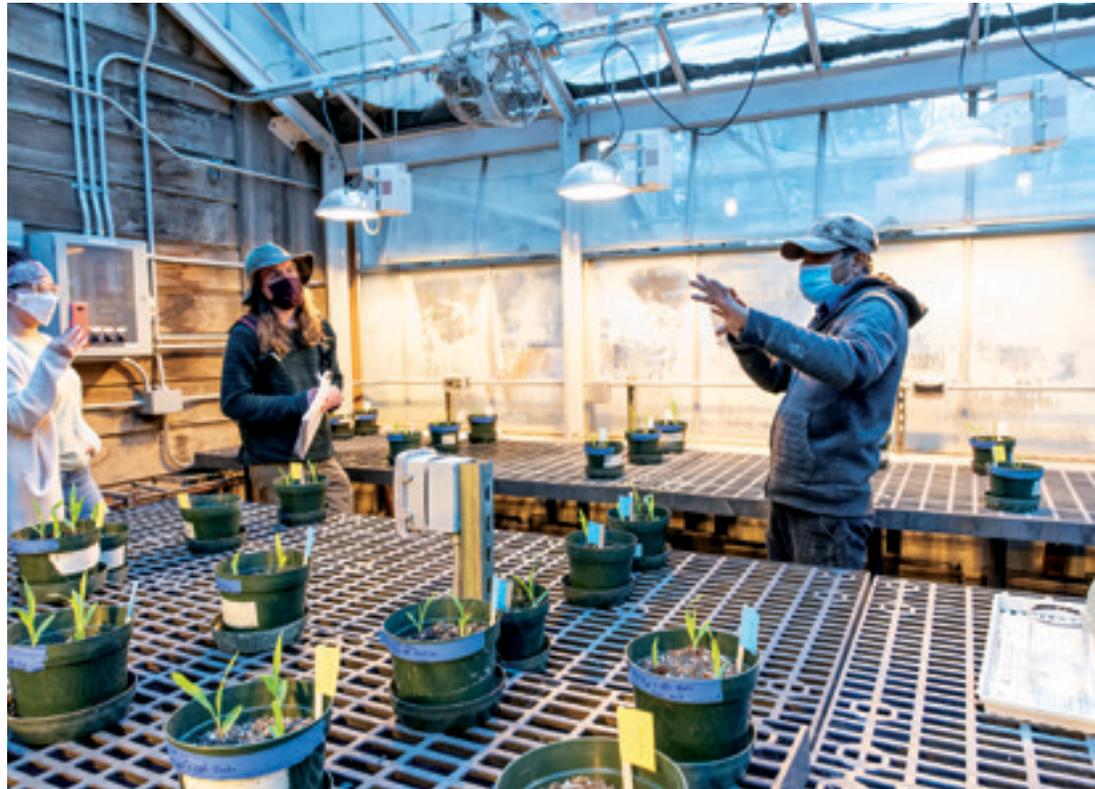
Assisted by the Center for Teaching & Learning (CTL), faculty redesigned syllabi, labs, homework, performances, and exams, all with students’ success and wellbeing in mind.



Top Left: Geology students during a field trip with Professor Mark Hemphill-Haley at Big Lagoon State Park.
Top Right: A student practices chamber music in the Guitar Lab with instructor Jennifer Trowbridge.



Middle: Recreation Administration students take it all in during Professor Geneviève Marchand's face-to-face Outdoor Adventure Recreation course.
Bottom Left: Students learn about camera settings in Film 315. **Bottom Right:** Forestry instructor Buddhika Madurapperuma works with students in the Forestry and Range Experimental Greenhouse during a sustainable agriculture course.



SUBMITTED

“Rather than replacing in-person interactions with technology, we help instructors use tools that humanize learning,” explains CTL Director Enoch Hale.

Often, this starts with improving accessibility for remote learning, such as user-friendly “liquid syllabi,” which students can access with one click on any mobile device. It also means infusing course content with videos, games, and opportunities to interact with instructors and peers that model the in-person classroom experience.

Dynamic virtual instruction depends on flexible approaches to teaching and learning, explains Hale. While many teaching tools have translated seamlessly to virtual platforms, the shift has forced educators to reevaluate pedagogies and ask themselves how they can best share their knowledge.

“We’ve seen faculty embracing new technology while being intellectually playful and working to move students forward,” says Hale. “It’s been amazing to see what instructors are discovering about themselves and their students.”

Staying Connected

WITH ADHERENCE TO strict safety protocols, Outdoor Adventure Recreation was deemed safe and essential for face-to-face instruction last Fall. But in any semester, the success of Marchand’s course depends on students’ teamwork, a valuable lesson in developing outdoor leadership skills.

“The adventure education world is very group-oriented,” says Professor Marchand. “A huge element is learning to work in groups in challenging settings.”

In normal semesters, students work together on technical skills like setting up shelter and reading maps for Marchand’s backpacking class. During the pandemic, they’ve still gone backpacking, but preparations are largely individual to maintain social distance.

Marchand, who prides herself on strong student connections, says that the smaller group outings have actually made those relationships even stronger. And while tasks like cooking on a backpacking stove are more difficult alone, students are learning self-reliance, a critical skill in the outdoor recreation industry.

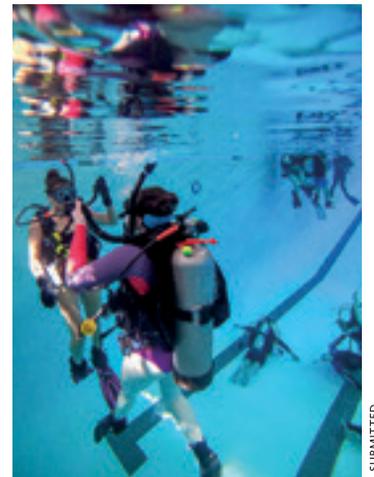


Art instructor Jimmie Nord teaches students how to make art with found materials from his home studio.



Left: An Environmental Resources Engineering hydrology lab takes place outside on campus.

Below: Oceanography students work at lab stations to record phytoplankton sinking rate measurements.



Above: Recreation Administration students start training to become Master Scuba Divers in the pool before diving into open water.

Left: Biology students try to count the number of organisms at the Eureka Marina.



“I know the pandemic has been hard on them, but these semesters have been just as valuable as any other,” says Marchand.

Art instructor Jimmie Nord also found a silver lining in making stronger connections with individual and small groups of students.

“Art is a wonderful way to get to know someone,” says Nord. “I’ve really seen my students dig deep and get creative during the pandemic.”

Without any experience in online teaching, Nord was unsure what to expect after the pivot to virtual instruction last Spring. But overall, he has found that simple modifications to his approach have led to successful outcomes.

In “Stories We Tell,” a module that Nord co-teaches with Music Professor Elisabeth Harrington and Film instructor Michelle Cartier, Nord helps freshmen learn college skills while using creative media. In Nord’s portion of the course, students used found objects from their homes to create a self-portrait sculpture.

Instead of gathering for a final critique, the class watched together on Zoom, with Harrington playing her students’ compositions live on the piano. “It felt like a film festival,” says Nord. “It was pretty cool!”

In typical semesters, Nord provides all the supplies for his art students. Since last Spring, he has helped his students

Right: Behind their masks, friendly Housing staff welcomes students back to campus on move-in day. **Below:** Across campus, facilities have been modified with safety measures like plexiglass dividers to reduce the spread of COVID-19.



Above Left to Right: A check marks the spot for each socially distant student. ■ Student Health & Wellbeing Services administers COVID-19 tests to students. ■ Dining staff safely serve students at the College Creek Marketplace.

find creative workarounds by using materials they already had at home. In the process, Nord says that his students' critical thinking and problem solving skills have blossomed.

"Many of them had never made a sculpture before," says Nord. "It was cool to see students come up with their own ideas, using gravity and balance, to make art."

It has been a lesson in adaptation for Nord as well. He learned that less time-intensive assignments allow students more opportunity to connect with him and their peers while reducing the temptation to procrastinate.

"I think they're working harder because they know how much I care," says Nord.

Wildlife Professor Daniel Barton made the most of his graduate students being displaced by the pandemic last Fall. To mimic in-person learning through online instruction,

Barton designed a distributed experiment in which students individually collected data to later populate into a larger dataset. Using AudioMoths, a low-cost acoustic monitoring device, each graduate student collected recordings of nocturnal bat activity. In preparation for the activity, Barton shipped and distributed supplies himself, including AudioMoths, batteries, and zip ties.

"Each student recorded bat vocalizations in their backyard or a local greenspace, as long as COVID-19 safety regulations allowed," explains Barton. In the process, students learned how to set up and configure an AudioMoth and compile data that tracked wildlife abundance and occurrence.

"Some things went wrong, some things went right," says Barton. "That's why we do experiments."

Barton's approach to remote learning and fieldwork was informed by his own research into the topic with an article, "Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Field Instruction and Remote Teaching Alternatives," recently published in the journal "Ecology and Evolution." After surveying faculty from around the country, Barton compiled instructors' experiences and pitfalls with online teaching for natural science disciplines traditionally taught in the field.

Campus Reimagined

WHILE VIRTUAL LEARNING continues to take place wherever HSU students call home, hundreds of essential workers are busy keeping campus safe and operational back in Arcata.

Playing a pivotal role in the University's pandemic response, the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) has worked to stay ahead of public health recommendations and best practices in higher education. The EOC and various advisory groups have continued to meet biweekly throughout the pandemic to plan, prepare, and respond to the virus' effect on every aspect of campus.

"Given everything that we're facing, communication has been the single throughline," says Mike Fisher, interim associate vice president for Facilities Management.

Dozens of staff members from every campus division convened in 2020 to activate the EOC, which trains regularly and provides a leadership structure to crisis response.

With the guidance of Cris Jones Koczera, EOC coordinator and interim director of Risk Management & Safety Services, Facilities Management reimagined campus last Spring, reducing classroom occupancy by removing furniture, posting directional signage, and installing controls like plexiglass shields and air-filtration systems. On average, instructional rooms are now being used at 30% of their original occupancy.

Early in the pandemic, the University purchased electrostatic sprayers, which custodians use to disinfect rooms after use. Custodial staff also regularly restocks classrooms with wipes and hand sanitizer. Looking toward Fall '21, campus custodians will continue to be essential in HSU's containment strategy against the virus.

"Rolling out a coordinated and effective response to an unprecedented emergency has been a tremendous workload for our staff and faculty," says Koczera. "But watching departments and individuals work together, all for the safety and protection of our students, has been inspirational."

Putting Health and Wellbeing First

THANKS TO RAPID ADVANCES in medical scientific research, the University was able to start offering COVID-19 vaccinations to the HSU community this Spring. Over the past year, a preventative approach to coronavirus testing has been crucial to the University's pandemic response.

Rolling out a coordinated and effective response to an unprecedented emergency has been a tremendous workload for our staff and faculty. But watching departments and individuals work together, all for the safety and protection of our students, has been inspirational."

Cris Jones Koczera, EOC coordinator and interim director of Risk Management & Safety Services



HSU started administering vaccines to the campus community in March 2021.



Students pickup Harvest meals prepared by Dining Services over the holidays.

“The Student Health & Wellbeing Services (SHWS) team has worked tirelessly for our campus and students,” says Sherie Gordon, interim vice president for Administration & Finance.

From March ‘20 to February ‘21, Student Health & Wellbeing Services (SHWS) has performed nearly 6,000 COVID-19 tests with an average positivity rate of 1.29 percent, lower than the rate for county and state populations, as well as comparable college campuses. Two-thirds of positive student cases have been off-campus residents, suggesting that the safety protocols in the residence halls are a protective factor in virus exposure.

“While testing is critical to minimizing the spread of COVID-19, we also take non-medical measures to keep the HSU community safe,” says Jennifer Sanford, SHWS interim executive director. “Our medical providers also routinely check in on these students to talk about how they are doing physically and emotionally.”

Sanford also emphasizes the key role that Counseling & Psychological Services (CAPS) has played, providing support to the student community through virtual one-on-one and group counseling.

“Our workshops have been really meaningful for students,” says CAPS psychotherapist Ned Peck. “The pandemic has

left lots of people feeling isolated and disconnected. Group therapy offers a way to connect.”

At Home in Humboldt

AS THE THIRD semester of the pandemic ticks by, hundreds of students still call campus home. Director of Housing Operations Todd Larsen describes the University’s COVID-19 response as a tight, well-oiled machine. While schools across the country have struggled to control clusters of the virus, HSU’s unified and preventative approach has resulted in good outcomes for the entire community.

All students in the residence halls must take two COVID-19 tests, seven to 10 days apart, after arrival, in addition to quarantining in their rooms for 14 days. The same clearance is required for students enrolled in face-to-face classes and any student who travels outside of the county upon return.

To manage the volume of testing records, Larsen and his team are in constant communication with SHWS and Humboldt County Public Health about testing. Resident Advisors and Housing staff help students navigate the process by sending reminders via email, text, and phone call, and have even walked students to their test appointments.

“It’s critical that we’re all doing our part,” says Larsen. “Our success depends on working together.”

In addition to testing, Housing and SHWS manage a University-wide contact tracing, backed by the County’s Public Health system. To accommodate positive contacts and contacts of positive cases, one residence hall on campus is set up with isolation units, prepped for students to live alone, for 10 to 14 days.

“We know it’s tough,” says Larsen. “The isolation is really challenging, mentally and emotionally.”

To help, Housing offers students in isolation a number of creature comforts, including linens, towels, yoga mats, and coloring books. They also send packing lists in preparation, underscoring comfy clothes and phone chargers.

“Our Resident Advisors do a lot of virtual programming to try and keep some fun in the mix,” says Larsen.

Coming Together in a Crisis

ACROSS THE COUNTRY, students found themselves scrambling to make up for lost wages, secure emergency housing, and handle unexpected costs brought on by the pandemic, particularly around virtual learning.

Since March 2020, donors have rallied for HSU students, giving more than \$130,000 to the Student Adversity Fund to cover a wide range of needs, from technology to basic living expenses. HSU has distributed 500 laptops and 400 hotspots to students, along with headsets, webcams, mice, and cables, thanks to support from the HSU Student Adversity Fund along with the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, a federal law meant to help cover emergency expenses related to COVID-19.

The University has allocated nearly \$10 million in CARES emergency grants to students, plus an additional \$50,000 in CARES funds has been dispersed to help HSU students living in rural areas access high-speed internet. Thanks to the generosity of the Humboldt Area Foundation (HAF) and donors, more than \$20,000 was raised in support of California Dream Act students, who might not have been eligible for emergency federal CARES funding. HAF provided an additional \$20,000 to support healthcare, housing, utilities, food, and other expenses for basic needs.

Environmental Science & Management major Gio Guerrero says this assistance has made all the difference in his senior year.

“HSU helped me to adjust to online learning by supplying me with a laptop,” says Guerrero. “Overall, my professors have been so understanding and helpful.”

Feeding the Lumberjack Family

THE PANDEMIC HAS also intensified food insecurity. Knowing that college students are already at risk for struggling

to meet their basic needs, the Dining team and HSU’s Oh SNAP! Student Food Programs redesigned operations last year to keep students nourished.

To prevent virus exposure on campus, Dining works closely with Housing, Facilities, and the EOC to coordinate meal delivery for students in isolation.

“Our number one priority is keeping students fed safely,” says Dining Services Director Melanie Bettenhausen.

Since last Spring, the Dining team has packaged over 145,000 “takeout” meals, which students can pick up from The J or College Creek Marketplace and enjoy with reduced risk of exposure to the virus.

Remarkably, Dining transitioned from a dine-in model to takeout without sacrificing the University’s commitment to sustainability. Serving food in reusable OZZI containers, Dining implemented an honor system that depends on students returning used food containers to 90-gallon cans placed around campus.

“We divert 2,000 containers from the landfill every day of the pandemic,” says Bettenhausen. “It never would have been possible without the hard work of our custodial team.” Back at The J, each container runs through the industrial dishwasher, which is FDA-approved to kill coronavirus.

With additional layers of protection, including masks and the routine sanitization of food-preparation facilities and common touch areas, Dining is working with reduced staff to accommodate physical distance protocols in the workplace. Bettenhausen says it’s been tough, but her team’s dedication has been commendable.

“At the end of the day, we’re here to nourish HSU students, faculty, and staff,” says Bettenhausen.

To ensure that no student goes without, the Oh SNAP! food pantry expanded services last year with pre-packaged meals with vegan, vegetarian, or meat-based options for pick-up. Each student enrolled in Oh SNAP! is eligible to receive one bag a week, supplemented with fresh local produce when available.

“Since last Spring, 90% of the students who use Oh SNAP! are coming in every single week,” explains Oh SNAP! coordinator Ravin Craig.

To accommodate students with transportation issues or medical concerns, the Oh SNAP! team delivers produce and groceries. Last fall, they made about 40 deliveries per week, off and on campus, and even worked with delivery services out of the area for students studying remotely.

To have fun and stay healthy with virtual platforms, Oh SNAP! hosts several cooking classes each semester. Students who sign up can pick up ingredient bags at Oh SNAP! and participate in live Zoom cooking classes at home. “It’s a lot of fun and a great way to learn about healthy seasonal food,” says Craig. 🍴

“Clubs and activities are central to the life of a university. They are often where students find their support group, their campus home, their trusted advisor, their best friends, an adventure, a place to spend their time outside of class, and maybe even meet their life’s partner.”

HSU President **Tom Jackson, Jr.**

Student Life Snapshot

While the University offers a network of resources to foster academic success for virtual and remote learning, fellow students have been an invaluable asset in navigating uncertain times. In the third semester of pandemic-era college life, student clubs and teams continue to find safe and creative ways to stay connected, give back to the community, and cheer each other on.

YES

FOR THE PAST three semesters, Youth Educational Services (YES), has kept the spirit of volunteerism alive in the HSU community. Many of the organizations supported by YES, established in 1968, are elementary schools and senior centers. With school-aged children learning at home and elderly residents unable to visit their families, both populations have been particularly vulnerable to the loneliness of the pandemic. So YES volunteers have committed to staying connected through old-fashioned letter writing.

“It was hard to imagine pulling off virtual volunteering last March,” explains Melea Smith, YES coordinator. “But with flexibility, creativity, and the support of campus and community partners, we’ve made great progress.”

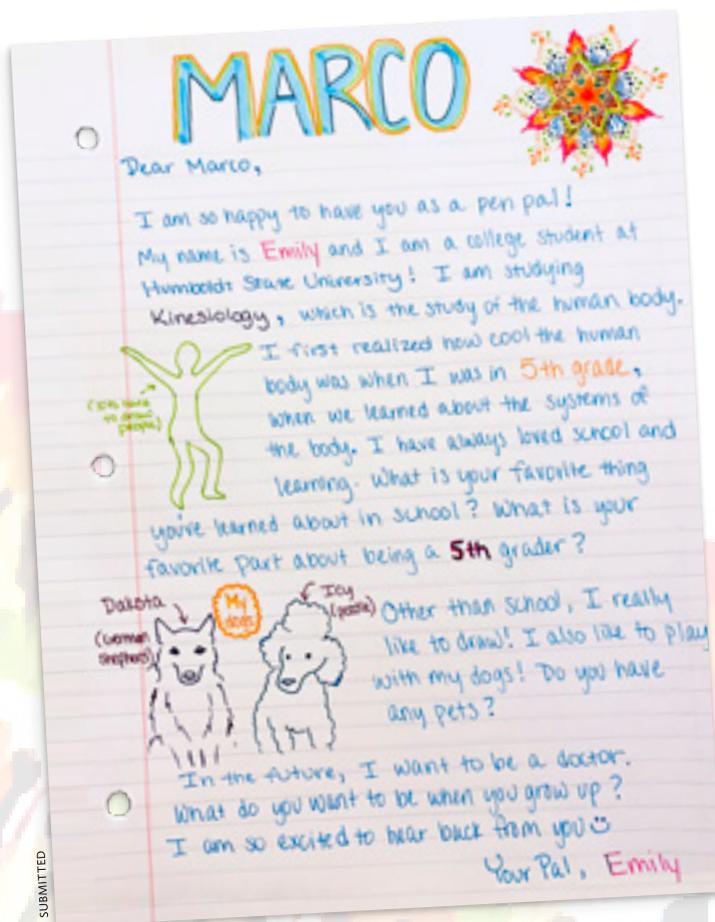
In a collaboration with the Humboldt County Office of Education, HSU’s Center for Community Based Learning, and Early Outreach Admissions, YES kickstarted the ConnectED Pen Pal Program last fall. This semester, the project has connected 57 HSU volunteers with 66 elementary students from fourth to sixth grade at Pacific Union School, Cutten Elementary, and Scotia Elementary. Together, they are combating the social isolation of the pandemic.

“The virtual requirements of this year have forced us to come up with creative new ways to connect with youth in our community,” says Andy Padilla, HSU senior and YES program director. He explains that some teachers print out the letters for each student to take home, while others use digital tools like Google Classroom.

“Despite the age difference between a fifth grader and a college student, there’s so much we can learn from each other,” says YES volunteer Ada Middelstadt, who graduated last semester.

Similarly, under the YES Golden Years letter exchange project, HSU students have partnered with 12 seniors living at Silvercrest Residence in Eureka. “It’s a great way to bridge the age gap and provide companionship to seniors,” says Smith.

Youth Educational Services student volunteers are the best pen pals.



SUBMITTED



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Campus Center for Appropriate Technology sent HSU students a coloring page of the CCAT house and garden.

CCAT

WITH HEALTH AT the top of everyone's mind, a renewed interest in gardening and sustainability has been a silver lining of the pandemic. The Campus Center for Appropriate Technology (CCAT), a student-run demonstration home for appropriate technology, continues to be a valuable resource for sustainable living in the HSU community.

Co-director Klara Hernandez says more HSU students are talking about growing their own food. "People are at home more and need a new activity for self care," says Hernandez, a senior in Environmental Studies.

To educate the HSU community, CCAT has stayed active on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube, offering virtual tours of the CCAT garden, collecting community compost, and growing food for the Humboldt Mutual Aid free farm stand. This semester, CCAT is focused on initiating events with a social justice component and transforming their campus food forest into an art gallery.

"We will be welcoming students to bring their art to install and setting up upcycled flat surfaces where students can paint small murals in the garden," says Hernandez. "It's a great socially distanced outdoor activity."

Intercollegiate Athletics & Recreational Sports

RESEARCH HAS SHOWN that college students are reporting higher levels of mental exhaustion, anxiety, and feelings of depression during the pandemic. Student athletes are no exception. A recent NCAA survey found that higher rates of distress have been reported among female, LGBTQ, and POC athletes.

To rally Lumberjacks' spirits, HSU athletes have stayed connected on social media with solidarity campaigns like #maskmonday and training together via Zoom. Last fall, Intercollegiate Athletics & Recreational Sports began an intensive return-to-participation process, which continues this semester under strict health and safety guidelines from the NCAA, Humboldt County Public Health, and the University.

"A return to sports activities has had a positive impact already," says Jane Teixeira, HSU's director of Intercollegiate Athletics & Recreational Sports. "You see it when you watch these young people participate, you see it in their academic performance."

This Spring, HSU's athletic teams joined "pods," so that games and matches limit interactions between athletes from different schools. Additional safety protocols that have allowed student-athletes to successfully return to play include testing teams in competition three times a week, wearing face coverings, and travel-related quarantine. Though spectators are still not permitted to attend, games are available to stream online (fees may apply) and Intercollegiate Athletics & Recreational Sports will share information about the games on its website and social media throughout the year.



The men's soccer team practices under strict state and county COVID-19 regulations.

Insight Into the Pandemic: Faculty Research on the Impact of COVID-19

HSU faculty are at the forefront of understanding how the pandemic has dramatically changed the world through research that examines everything from electricity use to the long-term psychological effects.

"Humboldt in the Time of COVID" is a multidisciplinary collection of oral histories that chronicle the unprecedented events of the past year. The stories will become part of a "living archive" in Humboldt State University Library's Special Collections that documents experiences of the local community during the pandemic.

In the **Department of Social Work, Professor Jennifer Maguire** conducted research on how the pandemic has impacted students' ability to meet their basic needs with a focus on food insecurity and homelessness. Her preliminary data suggests that campus may be a stabilizing and protective factor, so for students who were displaced by the pandemic, the struggle intensified.

Psychology Professor Amber Gaffney conducted research about the connections between social isolation, conspiratorial thinking, and resistance to COVID-19 protocols. Her experiments and surveys suggest that existential self-uncertainty, brought on by feelings of isolation during the pandemic, may encourage conspiratorial thinking and anti-mask sentiment despite the demonstrated effectiveness of wearing masks to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Wildlife Professor Daniel Barton conducted a survey about approaches to remote learning and fieldwork in the natural sciences. "Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Field Instruction and Remote Teaching Alternatives" was published in the journal "Ecology and Evolution" last fall. By surveying faculty from around the country, Barton compiled instructors' experiences with online teaching for natural science disciplines traditionally taught in the field.

Since last Spring, the **Schatz Energy Research Center (SERC)** has been working on the "cold chain" needed to keep COVID-19 vaccines and test samples at the right temperatures. Currently, the team is developing a tool to support low- and middle-income countries in upgrading their cold chains to enable COVID-19 vaccination, while limiting emissions and supporting community resilience. These projects are supported by funding from the World Bank/ESMAP and are part of SERC's ongoing research at the nexus of energy and public health.

In the **Department of Economics, professors Erick Eschker** and **William Fisher** worked with the Redwood Coast Energy Authority to evaluate changes in electricity usage in Humboldt County during the pandemic. They found that last Spring's shelter-in-place order led to an immediate drop in total electricity use but residential electricity use increased overall.

One-stop Shop for Business Owners in Crisis



(Staying) Open for Business

Since March 9, 2020, when the U.S. Small Business Administration declared an economic crisis for small businesses, HSU's NorCal SBDC has been busy:

75,900

Counseling sessions with businesses

56,200

People have attended group training sessions

68,000+

Unique individuals served

117,000+

Calls and emails answered about loan activity

Small businesses that need assistance can call the NorCal SBDC at 833-ASK-SBDC. For more information, visit asksbdc.com, norcalsbdc.org or @NorthCoastSBDC on Facebook.

AS SMALL BUSINESSES SCRAMBLE to keep their doors open and stay financially viable during the pandemic, Humboldt State University's Northern California Small Business Development Center (NorCal SBDC) has remained a critical resource for regional businesses that desperately need access to grant and loan programs to survive.

"It's heart-wrenching to hear each business owner's story," says Kristin Johnson, director of the NorCal SBDC, the fifth largest SBDC network in the country "People have put their entire lives into their companies. No one could have expected the economic devastation that this pandemic is causing. When we can assist an entrepreneur with securing a loan or help them maintain their workforce, it is very rewarding."

Established in 2006, NorCal SBDC serves 36 Northern California counties, supporting nearly 45,000 small businesses from Aptos, near Santa Cruz, to Crescent City. In addition to offering one-on-one business consulting, the nonprofit is a resource for accurate and timely information about local, state, and federal programs.

Those programs include the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, the law meant to help individuals and businesses cover emergency expenses related to COVID-19. NorCal SBDC put the \$7 million in CARES funds it received to good use, expanding current services and adding new ones to handle the surge in client demand.

Since March 2020, NorCal SBDC has supported thousands of people, answering calls and emails about loan activity and providing counseling and group training sessions. NorCal SBDC also launched a COVID-19 hotline and website and a call center, where businesses can receive immediate financial assistance from qualified consultants.

The center has also made supporting historically underrepresented populations, which have struggled disproportionately in the past year, a priority. It launched outreach campaigns for business communities whose second language is English. Additional in-language consulting and training are being offered to Vietnamese, Chinese, and Hispanic communities—the main focus has been on California's Hispanic population.

Another new important initiative, The Inclusivity Project, aims to secure \$100 million for 1,000 Black-owned businesses.

"One hundred million dollars is a lofty goal, but the SBDC is committed to economic diversity as it breeds economic vitality, and I think we are up for the task," says Chris Horton, a NorCal SBDC finance expert. "It's my hope that this opportunity will bring needed attention to Black and minority-owned businesses and demonstrate that the SBDC serves all people and builds pathways for minority-owned businesses to financial platforms."

2020 HUMBOLDT STATE

HONORS

Recognizing the achievements and contributions of alumni, faculty, students, and staff.

2020 Distinguished Alumni



SUBMITTED

Abby Abinanti ('70, Journalism)

is chief judge for the Yurok Tribe. She was the first Native American woman to pass the California bar and the first Native American woman in California to become a state judge. She was also a Court Commissioner for the City and

County of San Francisco, a position she held for 20 years. As a tribal judge, Abinanti is incorporating traditional culture into her courtroom with the dual aim of rehabilitating individuals and providing justice to people often failed by the regular criminal-justice system.



Dan Phillips ('91, Business and Computer Information Systems)

is the chief technology officer at the popular online streaming service Hulu, where he leads technical and product strategy to drive innovation for consumers and partners. Phillips, who grew up

in Humboldt County, and his wife, Cindy, created the Dan & Cindy Phillips Fortuna Scholarship with a \$250,000 gift to support Fortuna High School graduates who enroll at HSU either as transfer students from College of the Redwoods or as first-time freshmen.



SUBMITTED

Carin Kaltschmidt ('90, Computer Information Science)

is a retired Ernst & Young executive who led professional consulting services, managing complex business and technology transformations for large high-tech, media, and entertainment companies. She led a crisis

management program for Sony Pictures Entertainment, managed a program that set up Cisco Systems legal entities in over 30 countries, and headed a team to help launch Disney+. She's a member of the Humboldt State University Foundation board and established an HSU endowment fund that created an annual scholarship for Computer Science students.



SUBMITTED

Daniel Raleigh ('81, Chemistry, Mathematics)

is a professor of Biophysics at University College London and a Professor of Chemistry at Stony Brook University in New York. His ground-breaking studies on the role of protein misfolding and

aggregation in disease have led to a new view of the critical unfolded state of proteins. The misfolding and pathological aggregation of proteins is the direct cause of more than 20 diseases and contributes to Type2 diabetes.

Distinguished Alumni *continued*



Jason Ramos ('98, Kinesiology, '14 M.S. Kinesiology) serves on the tribal council for Blue Lake Rancheria (BLR) and as chairman of the BLR Gaming Commission. His work for BLR has earned several awards, including the 2015-2016 "Climate Action Champion" from the White

House and U.S. Department of Energy. Ramos serves on several boards at HSU and supports the Kinesiology department through the Jason M. Ramos Endowment for Kinesiology Research, which funds equipment and research for HSU's Biomechanics and Human Performance labs.

SUBMITTED

Seaman sits on boards for HSU's Center for Community Based Learning and the MBA Advisory Group. She also volunteers with North Coast Big Brothers Big Sisters program and Food for People.



Forest Stearns ('05, Art) is the principal artist at DRAWEVERY-WHERE, LLC where he produces unique artwork and leads collaborations connecting artists and institutions. He is the artist-in-residence and co-founder at Google Quantum AI. Stearns created the

first art show in space at Planet Labs, where he created original artwork and helped engineer the process for laser etching art onto multiple surfaces of more than 350 satellites launched into Earth's orbit.

SUBMITTED



Susan Seaman ('96, Journalism) is the mayor of Eureka and program director for Arcata Economic Development Corporation. As mayor, Seaman introduced the Eureka Family and Children Initiative, which focuses on making Eureka a more supportive environment for families.

SUBMITTED

2020 Distinguished Faculty

Excellence in Teaching Award



Professor Kishan Lara-Cooper, Child Development, has a passion for teaching, which shows in her ability to explain

difficult material and engage students with the gentle guidance one looks for in a professor. Many current and former students have said that Lara-Cooper is the most influential professor they had during college. She also brings something extra to the classroom by virtue of her Native American heritage. A former student said, "She's not only a role model for me but a role model for the whole of the Native community."

Outstanding Service Award



Professor Cutcha Risling Baldy, Native American Studies, has an impressive record of community service and continues to

serve on several University committees and initiatives. She is the volunteer executive director of the Native Women's Collective, a non-profit that supports the continued revitalization of Native American arts and culture. One colleague wrote: "She never hoards her knowledge or resources—instead, Dr. Baldy actively distributes the fruits of her labor, her social and professional connections, her skills, her publications, her visions, her voice, her hope."

Excellence in Teaching Award—Lecturer



Instructor William Fisher, Economics, has been praised for being an exciting, enthusiastic, and challenging instructor. Fisher

has worked for HSU for seven years, teaching a number of different Economics courses, and consistently receives outstanding student evaluations. Students speak of his passion, dedication, and clarity. They admire his approachability and willingness to help. They also appreciate his command of the subject matter, broad knowledge, and ability to engage everyone in the learning experience. "Honestly, the lectures were phenomenal," wrote one student.

2020 Outstanding Students

Doug Cherry,
Psychology Graduate Student



SUBMITTED

For more than a decade, Doug Cherry has been active in the psychology field as a case manager and behavior support assistant. As HSU's student council representative for the Western Psychological Association (WPA), he represented the University's interests and

advocated for students at the annual council meeting. He demonstrated leadership as a graduate assistant for the Psychology department and as an officer of several academic clubs and organizations. Beyond campus, he has volunteered for the Boys and Girls Club and local school districts.

Ellen Colegrove, Child Development and
Native American Studies Undergraduate Student



Ellen Colegrove balanced academics with community service. At HSU, she was involved with several organizations, including the Indian Tribal & Educational Personnel Program. Beyond campus, she was a major contributor of "Ka'm-t'em: A Journey Toward Healing," a book

that included the testimonials of local community members. She was a mentor and leader of the Ka'm-t'em Youth Photography Project and was selected as the Ambassador for the Hoopa Valley Tribe. She has also worked for several local organizations that support Native American families, health and wellbeing, and education.

2020 Staff Recognition



Susan Brater

Sponsored Programs
Foundation



Liz Deck

Youth Educational Services



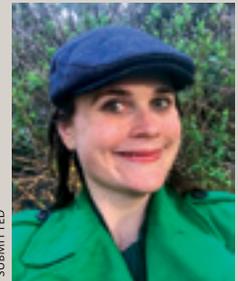
Kyle Leitzke

Academic & Career Advising
Center



Raven Palomera

HSI Stem (Place-Based
Learning Communities)



Courtney Proctor

Academic Personnel Services



Betsy Rogers

The College of
Extended Education
& Global Engagement



Danielle Trapkus

Environmental Science
& Management and
Oceanography



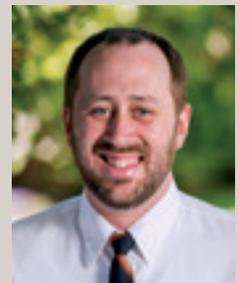
Jaime Tripp-Carter

Housing & Residence Life



**Kumi
Watanabe-Schock**

Library



Travis Williams

Alumni Relations

Helping Those Who Care for Others

MANY NURSES will tell you that nursing is a calling, describing their role as both advocate and protector, blending art and science in the care they provide.

Jack McGurk ('66, Biology) knows from personal experience the dedication and empathy it takes to become a nurse. These skills played a critical role when he was the caretaker of his wife, Diana, ('66, Home Economics), whom he met at Humboldt State College in the 1960s.

Sadly, Diana lost her battle with cancer in 2019. In her memory, and to honor the nurses who cared for Diana during chemotherapy and hospice, Jack made a gift of more than \$100,000 to HSU to establish the Diana M. McGurk Memorial Scholarship Endowment. The endowment will support scholarships for students in HSU's RN to BSN Nursing program.

The commitment to healthcare runs deep in the McGurk family. Jack owns Systems Improvement Initiators, a consulting company for healthcare facilities and other organizations. As executive director of the non-profit Hospital Alliance Association, he helps hospitals improve operations and implement cost-effective environmental improvements. His daughter and two sisters are nurses as well.

"The nurses who cared for Diana were an impetus for giving to HSU and the Nursing program," he says.

Jack says he was also inspired by HSU President Tom Jackson, Jr. "The president has a strong vision for the future, plus the tenacity and thoughtfulness to move it forward."

Launched last fall, HSU's RN to BSN program is designed to prepare leaders in nursing to practice cultural humility and is responsive to rural areas populated by diverse communities, including Indigenous communities. The program has a focus on addressing health disparities, rural health needs, and behavioral health. At the same time, the program will build the healthcare workforce in the North Coast, where nurses are in short supply but high demand.

Last December, via Zoom, Jack was able to meet some of HSU's nursing students. He shared with them why he's supporting the Nursing program, the reason behind his



HSU Alumni Jack McGurk and his late wife, Diana. Following her death in 2019, Jack established an endowed scholarship for nursing students at HSU in her honor.

SUBMITTED

lifelong passion for improving healthcare, and some ideas for decreasing infection rates in hospitals.

"I am grateful for Jack's generosity and support of our program," says Kimberly Perris, HSU's Nursing program director. "Our students appreciated hearing his story. It gave them a new perspective to see their role as nurses and an opportunity to consider creative approaches to improve the patient experience."

"Giving to HSU is like leaving a legacy," Jack says. "By providing access to excellent training and education at HSU, you're helping the next generation of people who are entering our workforce become successful. Students need support. Let's help them out." Jack says.

You can support nursing students through gifts to the Humboldt State University RN to BSN Nursing Endowment and in other ways. Call the HSU Foundation at (707) 826-5200 or visit giving.humboldt.edu for details.

1950s

Ernest Casperson, 1956, Fisheries Biology, passed away March 5, 2019, in Helena, Montana. He was a teacher in several small California communities. He later started his career with the Bureau of Reclamation on what was then the Auburn Dam and Reservoir project. When the project ran into some structural and political hurdles, it failed to receive necessary funding, and he retired to Montana to spend his leisure time fishing for trout.

David J. Lenhart, 1956, Wildlife Management, passed away on February 7, 2019, at the age of 88 in Portland, Oregon. Upon graduating from HSU, Lenhart started his career with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Umatilla, Oregon, working with waterfowl. He later transferred to the Division of River Basin Studies in Portland, Oregon. During his career, he worked on projects in Washington, Oregon, and California. He later served as branch chief of environmental contaminants in the USFWS' Regional Office in Portland. He retired after 33 years of dedicated service.

Capt. Wayne S. Salmon, 1958, Fisheries Biology, after working for four summers with the CF&G plus the ADFWG, it became obvious that the wages were not sufficient to raise a family. He then entered the U.S. Navy flight program, where he became an aerial navigator. A beautiful young lady he met on active duty brought him back to Indianapolis, where he entered the Naval Air Reserve program and got his teaching credentials and an M.S. plus 33 semester hours. He then went into teaching biology/science, which he thoroughly enjoyed. Several of his HSU teachers

greatly influenced Salmon's approach to teaching. He retired as a Navy O-6 and is the former commanding officer of VR-51 at NAS Glenview near Chicago.

1960s

Fernando Elizondo, 1966, Physical Education & 1967 Teaching Credential, retired after 41 years in education. Throughout his career, he served as a teacher, middle school principal, assistant superintendent, and for the last 15 years, as a superintendent of schools. Upon retirement, Elizondo opened a consulting business and has remained busy volunteering on the board of trustees for Natividad Medical Center and as a docent at Point Lobos State Reserve. He says he would enjoy hosting and introducing the new HSU president to HSU alumni on the central coast.

William Chilson, 1967, Forestry & Wildland Resources, has been working in the renewable energy industry with a focus on development of utility-scale power plants for the past 10 years. His current position is director of siting and real estate with Candela Renewables. Candela Renewables develops solar power plants throughout the United States.

Pamela Hartvig Range, 1967, Social Work, is a practicing psychotherapist, expressive arts therapist, and artist. After graduating from HSU, she earned her M.S.W. from California State University Sacramento, an M.F.A. in painting from the California College of Arts and Crafts in Oakland, California, and a Ph.D. in Expressive Therapy. She is now practicing privately in Sacramento, California.

Hartvig Range also worked as a medical social worker, performed many types of outpatient mental health services, and oversaw clinical supervision. She has shown her oil paintings and prints all over. She did abstract landscapes for 30 years and has now switched to the human form.

John R. Hawkins, 1969, Forestry & Wildland Resources, retired from Cal Fire in December 2018 after serving 55 fire seasons and finishing his career for the last 12 years as the Cal Fire Riverside Unit/Riverside County Fire Department fire chief. Hawkins commanded many of California's major fires over his career and served as a Type 1 Incident Commander on three teams and an Operations Section Chief on a federal Type 1 team. Hawkins was recognized as a Certified Fire Chief and graduated from the National Fire Academy Executive Fire Officer Program. He now lives in Southern California and works part-time as a Wildland Fire Consultant for the Los Angeles County Fire Department.

1970s

Stephen Bowlus, 1970, Chemistry, attended University of Illinois (M.S. '72, Ph.D. '74, postdoc Entomology '75), and went into industrial research. He worked primarily in the agricultural chemistry field, starting as a synthesis chemist, then migrating to computational chemistry, molecular modeling, and statistics. He retired from industry in 2003. In 2006, Bowlus started teaching as an adjunct instructor at Columbia College in Sonora, California, before retiring in 2019.

Michael Stockstill, 1971, Journalism, has been appointed to the board of the



PHOTO COURTESY OF STEVEN BUMGARDNER

Greg Stock climbs Glacier Point in Yosemite National Park.

Greg Stock: Rock Star

SINCE 2006, Greg Stock ('98, Geology) has kept Yosemite National Park's 4 million annual visitors safe with his work. He is the park's first geologist, a role that's part laboratory scientist, part rock climber, and part first responder. The HSU grad keeps watch on the park's 750,000-acre landscape, monitoring all rockfalls to keep the park safe and accessible.

In a place famous for its unique and towering rock formations, Stock doesn't have to wait long for rocks to start tumbling. "I can get a call at any time. I have to drop everything and respond to an emergency rockfall," says Stock.

Part of his job is assessing the potential for a rockfall and finding ways to mitigate risky situations, usually by moving infrastructure out of rockfall-prone areas. Stock stresses that most rockfalls occur in unpopulated areas and that fear of falling rocks shouldn't stop anyone from visiting.

Stock, who began his career with the National Park Service, originally came to Humboldt State to study English. He spent his youth exploring the Sierra Nevada, where he grew up, and he arrived at HSU with a natural curiosity about the Earth and geology. Soon after arriving, he enrolled in a general education Geology course, where his interest in Geology grew into a passion and a career, thanks to the encouragement of engaging Geology faculty members. It was during the department's annual summer field camp in the Inyo Mountains that Stock says he applied what he had learned in the classroom.

"Summer field camp brought together all of the critical thinking skills and knowledge of Geology I learned in the classroom, and things really clicked for me," says Stock. "I still use many of those skills in my job at Yosemite."



Left to right: Cathy Sandeen ('76, Speech Pathology), Lynnette Zelezny ('79 Psychology, '81 M.A. Psychology), Dean Bresciani ('84, Sociology) Devorah Lieberman ('75, Communication Studies), Bethami Dobkin ('85, Speech Communication), Hiroshi Kawahara ('79, Physics).

Alumni Presidents Excel as Leaders in Higher Education

FIVE UNIVERSITIES. One college. Six presidents. All have long and distinguished careers in higher education that began with degrees at Humboldt State University.

Recently joining the California State University presidential ranks is Cathy Sandeen ('76, Speech Pathology). The former chancellor of the University of Alaska Anchorage, University of Wisconsin Colleges, and University of Wisconsin-Extension, Sandeen returned to her hometown in the East Bay to take the helm of California State University, East Bay this January.

She says her years at Humboldt were a defining period in her life.

"My time at Humboldt State University was truly transformative. I arrived as a 17-year-old, first-generation college student living on campus with roommates from different backgrounds. My professors were proactive, approachable, and encouraging. Because of them, I found my place at HSU."

Lynnette Zelezny ('79 Psychology, '81 M.A. Psychology) made history in 2018 as the first woman appointed to lead CSU Bakersfield as president. But news of her selection also echoed throughout the CSU: For the first time, a majority of the presidents in the 23-campus system were women, a milestone in the name of equity.

HSU has been a tradition in the Zelezny family. Zelezny's husband, John ('78), and daughter, Serena ('04), are both Journalism alumni.

"I have been fortunate throughout my life to benefit from the wisdom and guidance of great mentors like HSU Psychology Professor Mary Gruber," says Zelezny. "What Mary and other mentors taught me was that to lead is to listen—truly listen—and engage."

Devorah Lieberman ('75, Communication Studies) is the 18th president of the University of La Verne, a nationally ranked institution located in Southern California. She demonstrates unwavering commitment to the mission and vision of the university and to the students and communities it serves. Lieberman has published books and articles in higher education on intercultural communication, faculty development, diversity, and institutional transformation.

"I credit my time at Humboldt State for my scholarly approach to problem solving and love for the field of intercultural communication. I cherish my undergraduate experience at HSU!" she says.

Bethami Dobkin ('85, Speech Communication) is the president of Westminster College in Utah, where her approach to education weaves together equity, wellness, and leadership and integrates liberal arts with applied and professional studies. Dobkin is an award-winning educator and researcher; she served as associate provost at the University of San Diego and provost at Saint Mary's College. Dobkin grew up in Arcata and still maintains ties to the community.

"HSU provided important foundations in critical reasoning, deliberation, and communication; powerful experiences in the arts; and lessons in science that continue to inform my personal and professional life," she says.

North Dakota State University President Dean Bresciani ('84, Sociology) has more than three decades of experience in higher education. He has served in administrative and faculty roles at prominent public universities including Texas A&M University and the University of North Carolina.

"HSU exposed me to perspectives that were, at the time, very different from those I was raised with in rural California," he says. "But competing perspectives gave me the opportunity to broaden my horizons in ways that wouldn't have happened otherwise. Doing so unlocked the door on what would be my life passion and career in public higher education."

At a recent virtual event, HSU discovered that alumnus Hiroshi Kawahara ('79, Physics) has been president of Cyber University, Japan's first fully online university, since 2012. He received his Sc.D. at the Department of Naval Architecture and Ocean Engineering, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and the Department of Oceanographic Engineering at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution in 1984. We are hoping to interview him for a longer profile soon!

Irvine Land Trust, a nonprofit building and operating low cost housing in Irvine, California. The Land Trust constructs rental and for-sale units that will remain in Land Trust ownership forever, guaranteeing the units remain affordable.

Andre Degeorges, 1973, Natural Resources, is retired and is living on the Eastern Shore of Virginia, hunting and fishing. Degeorges has several publications on researchgate.net under his name that are available to download for free. Publications include a seven-volume book on conservation and development in Sub-Saharan Africa, one on the Taliban, many peer-reviewed documents, gray literature, and PowerPoint presentations on coral reefs, community-based natural resource management (CBNRM), dams, wildlife management and hunting issues, and development/foreign aid, etc.

Claudia Carlson Cottrell, 1974, Fisheries Biology, graduated from Northwestern Health Sciences University with a doctorate in Chiropractic in 1991, 16 years after graduating from HSU. After 23 years of running a human chiropractic practice, she went to Options for Animals School of Animal Chiropractic. She now practices exclusively on horses, dogs, cats, and any other animals that are presented to her. Cottrell says she feels like she has come full circle. She lives in Duluth in her native state of Minnesota with her husband, Harry Cottrell, who is a native of Arcata, California, and is also an HSU graduate. They have two adult sons, have always had pets, and still visit Humboldt County.

Craig S. Harrison, 1974, Biological Sciences, spent a year in Africa before attending HSU. Craig recently published his travelogue "Dreams of a Vanishing Africa: A 1970s Transcontinental Trek." The book recounts his travels within the fabric of African societies in 1971-1972, where he avoided safe, well-trodden routes and instead used decrepit trains, cargo trucks, rattletrap buses, jammed bush taxis, dugout canoes, and ferries. He lived out of a backpack and experienced the land and people of Africa up close.

Jim Hervey, 1977, Speech Communication, passed in January 2019. He often said, "Every day is a gift." While at HSU, Jim met his wife, Linda Upson. Over a decade later, after earning his M.B.A. at the University of San Diego, he proposed on Valentine's Day. They lived in Sunnyvale and Menlo Park before returning to San Diego. He then studied to become a tax accountant. As an IRS-registered tax preparer, he used his skills at the Ward & Thorn Law Firm. Hervey was an avid body surfer, swimmer, and outdoors enthusiast. Those skills served him well as a leader in Boy Scouts of America Troop 500. He remained active in Troop 500 even after his only child, David, went off to college.

Gary Newman, 1977, Environmental Resources Engineering, went to Utah State University after graduating and earned a master's degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering. Upon graduation from USU, he was hired by Brown and Caldwell Consulting Engineers (BC), in their Pasadena, California, office. Newman has continued working with BC for the past 41 years, saying, "They treated me well and provided some wonderful professional opportunities." His specialty has been wastewater treatment. In addition to Pasadena, he has lived and worked in Salt Lake City, Dallas, Seattle, and now Phoenix. He has also worked on projects in Vancouver, B.C., Washington, D.C., New York, Nashville, and San Francisco. Newman says he will be mostly retiring in the next year or so but will continue working part-time.

Arthur Grusensky, 1978, Music, headed immediately after graduation to the University of Bologna in Italy, where he earned his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine and studied at Conservatorio di Musica G.B. Martini in flute. He subsequently became licensed in Ohio, Massachusetts, Utah, Colorado, and California. A dedicated athlete, he started and ran a small animal hospital in Moab for nine years—mountain biking, hiking, skiing, and kayaking during his time there. Ultimately returning to Hermosa Beach, California, he specialized in high-speed spay and neuter, studied Filipino martial arts (escrima), and became a world

traveler. His travels took him to exotic locations to trek such as Nepal, the Tibetan plateau (Zaskar and Ladakh), a bike tour of the Karakoram Highway in northeast Pakistan, and crossing the Himalayas at 13,400 feet outside Manali.

Christopher Swarth, 1978, Biological Sciences, moved back home to Oakland, California, after graduating, where he received his M.S. in Zoology from Cal State East Bay in 1983. After working for Point Reyes Bird Observatory, Lawrence Hall of Science (UC Berkeley), and Diablo Valley College, he married in 1987 and moved to Maryland. There, he spent 23 years as director of the Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary, one of the components of the Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve. In 2013, he moved back to Northern California to work and teach at UC Merced, where he was the director of the 6,500 acre Vernal Pools and Grassland Reserve adjacent to campus until he retired in 2016. He lives in Mariposa.

Robert vanCreveld, 1978, Forestry, spent a short time as a forester before becoming a photogrammetrist and aerial mapping photographer. He attended post-grad studies in Forest Survey at the International Institute for Geo Information Science and Earth Observation in the Netherlands. Following a short stint in the Marine Corps, he was recruited as a special operations officer at the CIA. Thereafter, he moved to Oregon, working as a soils consultant.

Cynthia (Cindy) D. Scheinert, 1978, Spanish, 1979, English, recently retired from teaching in Honolulu, Hawaii. In 1980, her first year teaching, she taught seventh and 10th grade English but quickly transitioned to a split of English and Spanish. In the late '80s, she began working on an M.A. in Spanish from Middlebury College and spent three summers on the Vermont campus. Scheinert says she was fortunate to be awarded a semester sabbatical to finish her M.A. in Madrid. After teaching Spanish for another decade, she felt the itch to do something new and moved to fifth grade language arts,

where she remained until retirement. Reflecting on her 39-year career, she said, "I am so very grateful to my English and Spanish professors at HSU, especially Tom Gage, professor and mentor. Mahalo nui loa to you all!"

1980s

Cynthia Glasgow-Ragus, 1982, Social Work, has retired after 34 years of teaching elementary school. Her career was spent at the same school for all 34 years, the same school she attended as a child. That makes 43 years total at the same school. She is now retired and enjoying planning trips and traveling with family and friends.

John Swancara, 1982, Wildlife, has spent over 30 years pioneering reverse osmosis water-treatment systems for homes and commercial applications. He pioneered small bottled water plants for small businesses. Currently, he is the lead sales engineer for American Beer Equipment in Lincoln, Nebraska, where he designs microbreweries. John has authored several articles on water treatment.

Ron Miller, 1983, Forestry & Wildland Resources, recently retired after 35 years of government service as a forester. Last year, in celebration of retirement, he walked the French route of the 500-mile Camino de Santiago across northern Spain, starting in St. Jean Pied de Port, France, and walking to Santiago, Spain. He completed the pilgrimage on June 3, 2018.

Mike Santuccio, 1983, Forestry, retired from Cal Fire after about 30 years of public service. Santuccio began his career as a seasonal firefighter while a student at HSU and rose through the ranks to deputy chief at retirement. He is a registered professional forester and currently works part time as a consulting forester. He met his wife, Lora, while at HSU and they return to Humboldt County as often as they can. Two of their three children are also HSU grads.

Glenn R Strachan, 1983, Sociology, has been fortunate enough to have

traveled to 116 countries while working for the United States Agency for International Development, funding projects in maternal health and international broadband solutions. Over the past 35 years, Strachan has seen the world and taken photographs everywhere he has traveled, which was inspired by his photography classes at HSU. After he retired, Strachan's work was selected for several juried shows. He is humbled by the selections and is up for a major award in London if he makes the final cut. Strachan says he misses his days at HSU as it was a perfect time to be there doing his graduate studies.

Leonard A Brennan, 1984, Wildlife, is in his 19th year as the C.C. Winn Endowed Chair for Quail Research at the Caesar Kleberg Wildlife Research Institute, Texas A&M University-Kingsville. His seventh book, "Quantitative Analyses in Wildlife Science, published by Johns Hopkins University Press in fall 2019, was co-edited with another Humboldt alumnus, Dr. Bruce Marcot.

Eileen Cashman, 1984, Environmental Resources Engineering, is starting her 21st year teaching at HSU in the ERE program. This year, she started her second term as department chair. She continues to love her job and is grateful to engage with current students and future alumni every day.

Charles Acosta, 1985, Biological Sciences, is retiring in 2021 after spending 34 rewarding years serving high school students. His oldest daughter, Krista ('12, Chemistry), arranged with the dean to allow him to walk across the stage at her commencement ceremony because he was unable to attend his own. While having breakfast in Eureka the following morning, his photo was captured on the front page of the "Times Standard" newspaper. After HSU, Charles and his daughter both served in the Peace Corps (Dominican Republic and Honduras) where they both married the love of their lives. Krista married Ekow Edzie, and Charles married Leyla Turcios. "Thank you, HSU, redwoods, sunsets, and APD for the great memories."

Carla Fisher, 1985, Environmental Resources Engineering, retired in 2014 after 29 years at the Environmental Protection Agency and became a part-time technical writer and editor for Akana, an environmental consulting firm in Bellevue, Washington.

Thomas Cappiello, 1986, Fisheries Biology, has retired from Alaska Department of Fish and Game after 21 years of service. Cappiello has been working in fisheries in Alaska for over 30 years. He still lives in Alaska and says he probably won't leave. Cappiello is a steering committee member of the Matanuska Susitna Basin Salmon Habitat Partnership, president of the MatSu Birders Club, and home baker of artisan sourdough breads and pizza.

Karen J. Haner, 1986, Natural Resources Planning & Interpretation, retired from a 36.5-year career with the National Park Service on April 1, 2018. Haner spent the last 20 years serving as the chief of interpretation, education and cultural resources at Lassen Volcanic National Park in northeastern California. She also worked in other national parks in California, Texas, Pennsylvania, and Indiana. Haner feels she has had a wonderful career made possible with her HSU degree and participation in the Cooperative Education Program through the National Park Service and HSU. Now she plans to go to national parks as a visitor and sometimes a volunteer.

Anthony Erba, 1987, Forestry & Wildland Resources, has retired from the USDA Forest Service to Northern Wisconsin after nearly 33 years of federal government service. His last position was as Eastern regional director, overseeing environmental planning, litigation, and landscape-scale conservation (lasting eight and a half years). Erba's career spanned all four organizational levels of the Forest Service, located in six national forests, one national grassland, one region, and the Washington office. Never in his wildest dreams would he have been able to predict his career when he graduated in 1987. Erba is grateful for his experience at HSU, which provided him

Sabina Gallier: Radio for the Win

A RADIO PERSONALITY for Humboldt County radio station KSLG, Sabina Gallier ('14, Journalism) is called a "boisterous force of nature with a twist of lime."

She channeled that energy into raising awareness about the experience of Black people in the community through public service announcements.

Gallier won a prestigious national Radio Mercury Award for her public service announcements called "Black Voices of Humboldt County."

"I broke down in tears when I found out I had won. It was the proudest moment of my broadcasting career," says Gallier.

The idea for the PSAs came in the days after the death of George Floyd last year. "My general manager wanted to know what our parent media company, Lost Coast Communications, could do for the Black community in Humboldt County. He said it just didn't feel right to stay quiet," she explains.

Gallier decided the community needed a voice. "What I envisioned was turning the radio over to the Black members of the community to voice their experiences."

In the end, she produced recordings in which intertwined voices recount personal experiences of racially motivated verbal and physical assault and discrimination.

Gallier started her radio career at HSU in 2011, hosting her own show on KRFH, HSU's student-run radio station. During her last semester at HSU, Gallier got an internship with KSLG, where she's now the program and music director.

Gallier says her experience at HSU was the biggest factor in who she is today. "I feel like I really found myself at Humboldt. HSU changed my life and helped me grow into myself."

As a radio personality for Humboldt County's KSLG, Sabina Gallier is raising awareness about the experience of Black people in the community.



Nora Wynne: 2021 California Teacher of the Year

RECOGNIZED FOR HER INNOVATION during a challenging educational climate, Humboldt State University School of Education instructor and alumna Nora Wynne ('94, Biology, '10, M.A. Education) was named one of five California Teachers of the Year in 2021.

Wynne's path to her education career started when she moved from Paso Robles north for college, studying Biology and Botany at HSU. "In my first class, the instructor took us on 'the old growth shuffle,' hiking in and around stands of old growth forests near campus," says Wynne. "It made me love the forests and the mountains and the rugged coast. My undergraduate science classes are definitely what made me fall in love with Humboldt County and settle here for good."

After graduating in 1994, Wynne headed to Guatemala with the Peace Corps, an experience that opened her eyes to the power of education and inspired her career in bilingual education.

"I saw how education could liberate people from dire poverty," says Wynne, who was also the Humboldt County Teacher of the Year in 2020. She has taught Spanish at Arcata-area schools since 1999 and currently teaches Spanish at McKinleyville Middle School and serves as the Spanish immersion coordinator in the McKinleyville Union School District.

Wynne has been an instructor in HSU's Secondary Education Credential Program since 2000. A perpetual learner, she earned a Master of Arts in Education from HSU in 2010. She also brings a global lens to her curriculum with a focus on educating students about racism and homophobia.

HSU's Secondary Credential Program is foundational to Wynne's identity as a teacher. With multicultural issues at the hub of the program, she and her HSU colleagues put the barriers facing California students—race, class, sexuality, and language—at the heart of their curriculum.

"We have a strong foundation in equity in the classroom," says Wynne. "It helps me to put theory into practice with every student."



SUBMITTED

Beloved Spanish teacher and School of Education instructor Nora Wynne was named a 2021 California Teacher of the Year.

the awareness needed to recognize career opportunities whenever they popped up.

Cristine Gilliland, 1989, Natural Resources, moved to New York City and worked as the adult development and training administrator for the Girl Scout Council of Greater New York. She left to become a senior administrator for a private independent camp in the Adirondacks. During that time, she worked on her Master of Arts in teaching and credential to teach seventh- to 12th-grade biology. Gilliland spent the last 20 years in New York teaching science and ecology. She has now retired to western Washington, where she has been working with a local college's fish lab. Gilliland says she has mostly been enjoying retirement and exploring her new environment with her adventure cat and kayak.

Michael Murdock, 1989, Theatre Arts, moved back to Los Angeles from the Seattle area to teach high school drama at a private school for "twice-exceptional" (2e) students.

1990s

Jon Pede, 1990, Social Studies, is currently a middle school principal in Hillsboro, Oregon. He is also an adjunct professor at Lewis and Clark College in Portland.

Laura Aguada Hallberg, 1993, World Languages and Cultures, returned home to the San Francisco Bay Area after graduating from HSU. She will be celebrating 24 years in education this August. After almost 20 years as a high school teacher (five of them as a German teacher), she made the move

into higher education and is now an assistant professor and program lead of the Ed.D. in Transformative Action in Education at University of the Pacific.

Lisa Treon Saulsbery, 1994, Liberal Studies Elementary Education, is a teacher at Weaverville Elementary School.

Joyce Schlachter, 1994, Wildlife, has retired after 26 years with the federal government, working as a wildlife biologist. Joyce is enjoying her freedom and continues to volunteer with Project Wildlife, rehabilitating bats. Joyce says, "Thanks HSU for the best years of my life."

Drew Coe, 1996, Forestry & Wildland Resources, began working in the forest industry following graduation. After several years, he returned to school, graduating with an M.S. in Watershed Science from Colorado State University.

Coe currently works as the forest practice monitoring coordinator/hydrologist in Cal Fire's Watershed Protection Program. He lives with his wife and two children in Redding, California.

John Baker, 1998, Journalism, worked several years for multiple Bay Area newspapers before entering public service. He went back to school, earning an M.P.A. from San Francisco State University, and currently works as a local government liaison for the State of California. He was elected to the South San Francisco Unified School District's Board of Trustees in 2016 and currently serves as its president.

Paul Deis, 1999, Communication, retired from the Department of State as a foreign service officer in 2009. Deis attended the University of Florida, where he earned a Master of Arts in 2011 and a Ph.D. in 2019.

Jennifer Elliott, 1999, Liberal Studies Elementary Education, has had a teaching career working in public schools across the United States (California, Indiana, North Carolina) and in Japan's public school system with the Japan Exchange and Teaching Program. She also spent time as coordinator of a federal grant program funding Indian education in Ventura County. Currently, Elliott is working as a first grade teacher at Montalvo Arts Academy in Ventura, California.

2000s

Heidi Gehlhaar Oriol, 2001, Environmental Resources Engineering, is a licensed civil engineer and has worked for water and wastewater utilities in the Bay Area and Sacramento, California, since her graduation from HSU in 2001. She currently works as a senior civil engineer in the Legislative and Regulatory Affairs office for the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District (Regional San) and the Sacramento Area Sewer District (SASD). She enjoys her role as a regulatory advocate and is also very excited to be supporting a project to bring recycled water to agriculture

in southern Sacramento County. She believes that the use of recycled water will reduce groundwater pumping, raise groundwater levels, increase flows in nearby streams, and improve wetland and vernal pool habitats.

Melissa Neuffer, 2001, Biology, studied desert and marine landscapes through ecological and social field methods in Baja, Mexico, in summer of 2019. Neuffer, a biology teacher at Roseland University Prep High School, lives in Santa Rosa, California, and is a graduate student in Miami University's Global Field Program.

Jeff Oliveira, 2001, Natural Resources, began working as a California Environmental Quality Act specialist for a consulting firm after graduation. He then became an environmental resource specialist with the County of San Luis Obispo, managing projects with complex environmental concerns. Eight years ago, he started his own consulting firm, Oliveira Environmental Consulting, LLC, providing environmental review and permitting support for private and local government clients. Today he is working on a wide range of projects, including mine permitting, CEQA/NEPA review, permitting for local infrastructure improvement projects, permitting for affordable housing projects, construction monitoring, wildlife/botanical surveys, pest species (feral pig) removal, etc.

Shannon Dybvig, 2002, Journalism, History, co-produced the documentary "Diving Deep: The Life and Times of Mike deGruy," which played at the Miniplex in Arcata in January 2020. In 2008, Dybvig earned an M.F.A. in Photography at Brooks Institute of Photography. Dybvig has been working in the documentary film industry in Southern California since 2005.

Devin Theobald, 2004, Politics, is employed by the County of Humboldt Public Works Department, Environmental Services Division.

Ashley B Birkeland, 2005, Psychology, completed her Ph.D. in Education Policy, Organizations, and Leadership at the University of Washington in June 2019.

Her research focused on dual-credit course taking in the state of Washington.

Michael Fritschi, 2005, Environmental Resources Engineering, is currently enjoying working as the district manager for the South Suburban Sanitary District in Southern Oregon. Life is exceptionally good and in complete balance with his wife and Jack Russell terrier.

Stephanie Kretz (Nicponski), 2006, Child Development, became a member of the California State Bar in 2015 and is currently a practicing attorney for the County of Humboldt.

Christopher Andriessen, 2007, Politics, recently joined Caltrans in its District 9 office as its new Maintenance public information officer, utilizing a decade's worth of private sector experience. The move follows two years of working for the California Department of Insurance in San Francisco.

Kristen Kendrick, 2007, Zoology, studied coral reefs, manatees, howler monkeys, jaguars, and other wildlife while learning the methods that communities are using to sustain them in Belize in summer 2019. Kristen, an animal care coordinator of ambassador programs at Zoo Miami, lives in Miami, Florida, and is a graduate student in Miami University's Global Field Program.

Jason Storlie, 2007, Wildlife, transitioned from wildlife biologist to manager of Bitter Creek and Blue Ridge National Wildlife Refuges.

Jesse Mestemacher, 2008, Industrial Technology & Business Administration, has joined Jacobs, a design, engineering, construction, and technical services firm, in their Redding, California, office. He brings six years of CAD experience in architectural design and manufacturing and is excited to join the building and infrastructure team. Mestemacher will primarily be assisting in water processing and conveyance design.

Heidi (Foote) Bowman, 2009, English, helped open the "sister charter school," CSArts-SGV, in the fall of 2017. A free public comprehensive high school

in California's San Gabriel Valley that embeds seven hours of conservatory arts instruction following the academic school day. Bowman is the Department Chair, and because of HSU's English Education program she graduated from in 2009, the department is the "Literature, Language, and Composition" team. The linguistics courses, the not-old-dead-white-guys literature courses, and the pedagogy-built-into-my-soul courses shaped her into an English teacher to be reckoned with.

Nick Entsminger, 2009, History, was accepted into the Doctorate of Medical Science program at the AT Still Universities, Arizona School of Health Sciences and has recently submitted both a journal article and medical textbook on prehospital 12-lead electrocardiogram interpretation for potential publishing. Additionally, through familial research, Entsminger was able to induct his family into both the Sons of the American Revolution as well as the Sons of the Union Veterans of the Civil War. He continues his love of history and views his time pursuing a history degree at HSU as the years that inspired his pursuits.

2010s

Alissa Sobo, 2010, Chemistry, stayed in the community and opened a restaurant called Naan of the Above after graduating from HSU. Sobo sold this business and moved to the Bay Area to teach science in after-school programs. Sobo then had two children, and while staying at home with them, taught herself to code. She built a web application called Ample that was recently mentioned in the "New York Times". She now works as a software engineer for Mozilla.

Spencer Ruelos, 2013, Anthropology, Critical Race, Gender & Sexuality Studies, went on to receive his Masters in Sexuality Studies from San Francisco State University after graduating from HSU. There, he wrote a master's thesis titled, "EveryoneGames: Exploring Queer Gamer Identity and Community," which he examined the worldmaking practices of LGBTQ gamers in digital and physical

spaces. While at SFSU, Ruelos received the prestigious CSU Sally Casanova Pre-Doctoral Fellowship. He is currently continuing his studies of queerness, video games, and technology as a Ph.D. student in the Department of Informatics at the University of California, Irvine.

Julie Marie Stewart, 2013, Environmental Management & Protection, worked for several years as an outdoor educator in various amazing outdoor school settings across California. She returned to HSU in 2018 to complete her teaching credential and was hired at Zane Middle School in Eureka as a science teacher in fall of 2019.

Garrett John Costello, 2014, Environmental Science & Management, and his wife (fellow alumni) got married and started an environmental consulting business over the last two years. As the business has grown, they have turned their attention to constructing low-tech beaver dam analogs to help restore critical stream and meadow ecosystems. This year, Symbiotic Restoration installed over 100 beaver dams across northeastern California. As the business expands, they hope to be able to employ and incorporate HSU students into these programs. Their current plans include looking for land so that they can move back to Humboldt County and build their home back where their journey began.

Stephanie Cowherd, 2014, English, works for Ecotrust, an environmental nonprofit organization based in Portland, Oregon. She leads community outreach and engagement, communications and manages tribal forestry projects for her Forests & Ecosystem Services team at Ecotrust. Her current projects include a landscape assessment of opportunities and barriers in tribal forestry workforce development, working alongside native educators to design culturally specific curriculum for forestry education tools, and community engagement with tribal forestry activities.

Erin Guidarelli, 2014, Kinesiology, graduated from Pacific University Master of Athletic Training program in May 2019 with honors and received the

Outstanding Graduate Award from the Alumni Association. She earned an M.S. in Athletic Training with a concentration in Interprofessional Education. Guidarelli also served as Secretary on the Northwest Athletic Trainer's Association Student Executive Board and is currently working on the public relations committee for the Washington Athletic Trainer's Association (WSATA). She worked with the Special Olympics Oregon Unified Basketball Games, providing medical coverage for the 2019 season.

Sophia Remer, 2014, International Studies, went on to culinary school in Sonoma County after graduating from HSU and worked as a professional baker. She has recently moved to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, with her partner (also an HSU graduate), who is getting his Ph.D. in Pollination Biology. Sophia is pursuing a dual degree, a Masters of Arts in Food Studies with an M.B.A. program at Chatham University to combine her backgrounds in food and cultural studies.

John Soener, 2016, International Studies, will be attending graduate school at Indiana University. Soener will be pursuing a masters in Public Affairs, focusing specifically on nonprofit management and policy analysis. His International Studies and Spanish degrees were a great way to start his career in public service, and Peace Corps was an incredible career booster that has provided him incredible opportunities to fund graduate school.

Ariana Hendren, 2017, International Studies, earned a Teaching English as a Foreign Language Certificate after completing her degree. She caught the travel bug after studying abroad in Spain with the HSU World Languages & Cultures Department. She is now teaching elementary and middle school students at an English academy in South Korea with her boyfriend, whom she met while living in Arcata. They will soon move to a new country to continue their teaching adventure.

Kaelie Pena, 2017, Forestry & Wildland Resources, converted to a full-time permanent position with the Forest

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Signature

Service upon graduating and is coming up on her two-year anniversary as a rangeland management specialist with the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest in the Bridgeport Ranger District.

Jason Sikorski, 2017, Environmental Science & Management, stayed local and worked at Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park as a senior maintenance aid, building ADA hiking trails in Jedediah Smith Redwoods State Park for one season after graduating from HSU. Afterward, he moved back to his hometown of Orange County and was hired by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services as an environmental health technician in Laguna Niguel, California.

Vanessa Vrtiak, 2017, Sociology, recently gave a TED Talk about her life and would like to share it with the HSU family. “Thank you for being there for me and helping me shape the woman I am today. I’m so grateful I was able to go to a university with people that truly believe in their students and champion their success.”

Benjamin Woodruff, 2017, Biological Sciences, became a California Institute of Regenerative Medicine (CIRM) Bridges 2.0 scholar and began his career as a researcher at Stanford University after graduating from HSU. There, he studied regenerative medicine as it relates to inner ear biology. Fueled by an enthusiasm for science and academia, he applied for graduate school and is currently a first-year Ph.D. student at Oregon Health and Science University in Portland, Oregon.

Lucas Allen-Custodio, 2018, Zoology, began a job as a laboratory technician at a local soil lab within two months of graduating. He is now the lead lab tech and is using his Zoology degree as the agricultural pest management advisor in the company.

Through this, he specializes in providing the agricultural industry with environmentally conscious biological control remedies that reduce the use of pesticides, and provides technical information to farmers on how to take care of and love their soil, based on laboratory results.

Colin Savage, 2018, Fisheries Biology, started working with Washington Fish and Wildlife as a hatchery specialist shortly after graduating. During his senior year, he worked in rearing many species of salmonids and White Sturgeon.

Valerie Tepetlanco, 2018, International Studies, has been accepted to the M.A. in Cultural Studies program at Claremont Graduate University.

Lyla Godfryd, 2019, International Studies, will be serving in the Peace Corps as an environmental education volunteer in Panama beginning in February. Lyla says she feels very blessed to have been provided with such an encouraging and caring group of professors and fellow classmates and the International Studies program at HSU has provided her with the skills and confidence she needs to embark on this journey.

Sylvia Lynn van Royen, 2019, Environmental Science & Management, was hired by the Karuk Tribe Department of Natural Resources based out of Orleans, California, after graduating from HSU. The Tribe’s DNR has groundbreaking management goals that she feels honored and blessed to be learning from. Van Royen was originally hired to supervise the summer youth crew working on manual fuels reduction units, but is now working as a GIS technician making maps and other spatially oriented technology to support field crews.

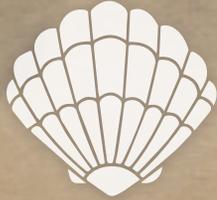
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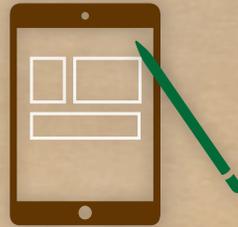
Look What Came in the Mail!

If students can't get to their supplies, the supplies must get to students. HSU has made sure of that over the past year, shipping nearly 3,300 items, large and small, to students who were learning from afar.



7 packs of sea shells

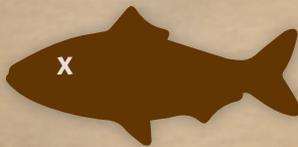
70 digital writing pads



5 soil sample boxes

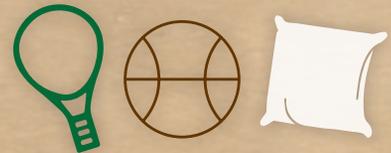
42 empty shipping boxes for students to return supplies

5 fresh fish for dissection



27 water testing kits

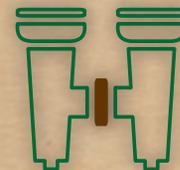
24 paddles, balls, and bean bags



2 full-size piano keyboards (with benches) and many, many sheets of music



164 pairs of binoculars



10 snowball microphones • 29 science kits • 45 thermodynamic kits • 20 fluid mechanics kits • 9 spotting scopes sewing kits • air quality testing kits • stage makeup and supplies • GoPros and tripods • nutrient pest strips conductivity meters • instrument mouthpieces • balsa wood bridge building kits • pipettes • GPS units • and more!

Meet Humboldt

B1g \$uAV ('22)

It may seem like Wildlife and Communication is an atypical double major, but junior José Juan Rodríguez Gutierrez says, his Humboldt State classes are the perfect ingredients for making his dreams come true. A passionate environmental and social justice activist, Gutierrez is known around campus by his rap handle, B1g \$uAV. From his lyrics to his social media feed to his job with Housing & Residence Life, he is amplifying his unique brand of positivity and activism. Living by the mantra, "As long as ya breathing, ya should be smiling," he says that he's just warming up.

Climate Change & Rap

"I want to make saving the world a trending topic. What better way to do that than through music? People are stressed, and some of the music they're listening to isn't doing anything positive for them. If they could just hear my lyrics like, 'Wanna save the world, wanna save the world, can't do it alone,' it might inspire people to take action. I want to build a culture around awareness and save the world from climate change."

Repping Humboldt

"Humboldt State was my dream school. I've been waiting to get here since my junior year in high school. I love it here. I want to invite people from the big city to Humboldt so they have the same opportunity to be in nature when they walk outside their door. Now I incorporate nature into every part of my life."

Lifting People Up

"Growing up in Ensenada and Long Beach, my moms encouraged me in school and taught me to care about myself. I have to be aware that not everyone had that support, that privilege of being looked after. I watched my mothers working hard, going without milk in the fridge or having electricity so I could go to college and have a better life. They pushed me to open my wings and learn to fly. I want to lift up others to do the same and make choices that are good for the entire planet."

The Latinx Steve Irwin

"I grew up watching 'Animal Planet' on TV. Animals are our friends and neighbors, and they deserve respect too. I want to share that message with the Hispanic community and be the Latinx Steve Irwin, connecting people to the idea of conservation. There's such huge distrust between the public and the scientific community. We also need to look at systemic racism in science and bring Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) into everything we do. I've got some radical ideas, but I'm taking it one step at a time."

What's Next

"I want to get my face out in the community, especially with the Latinx community through programs like Ciencia Para Todos and El Centro Académico Cultural and use my platforms to make sure no one gets left out. My biggest dream? To hear people turn up in the club with my climate change song. Having fun and staying positive is what it's all about."



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