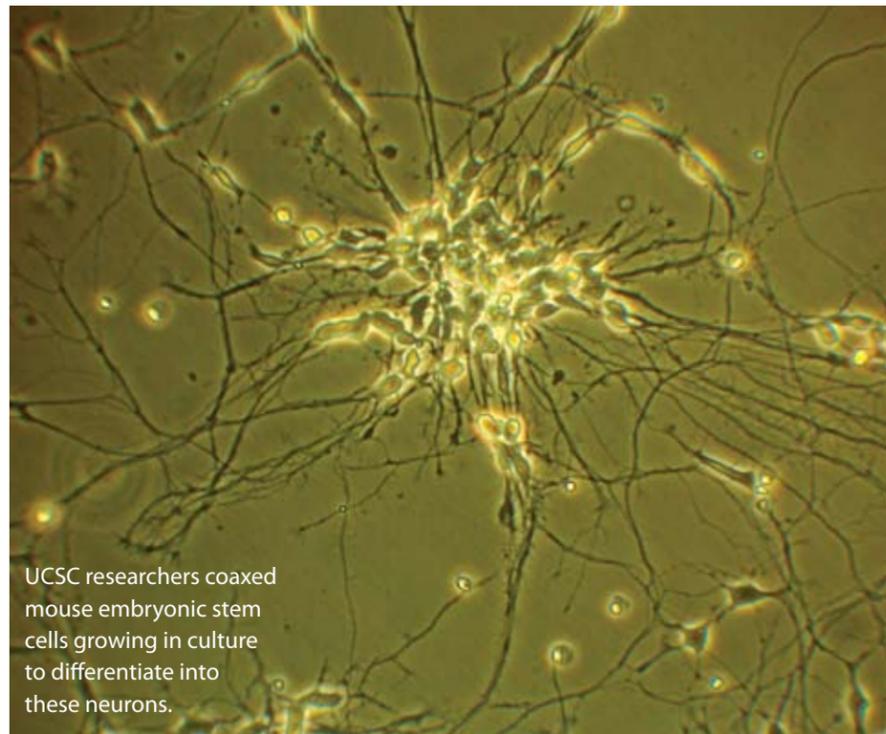


UC Santa Cruz awarded \$7.2 million grant for stem cell research center



UCSC researchers coaxed mouse embryonic stem cells growing in culture to differentiate into these neurons.

The California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM) has approved a \$7.2 million grant to fund a new stem cell research center at UC Santa Cruz. The center will house an interdisciplinary program involving faculty from five departments at UCSC and collaborators at other institutions.

“We’re delighted at this latest in an ongoing line of successes in obtaining funding for cutting-edge biomedical research at UCSC,” said Bruce Margon, vice chancellor for research. “For an institution that has no medical school, but does have a history of high-quality biomedical work, major grants such as this one are wonderful affirmations of the quality of our faculty.”

UCSC has now received a total of more than \$16 million from CIRM for new facilities and grants for individual researchers.

“It’s not just our faculty and their students who will benefit from this funding—these resources will allow innovative approaches to some of the most serious diseases that impact our citizens,” Margon said.

NEA grant lauds poetry of Robinson Jeffers

UC Santa Cruz is one of three California organizations that received grants in May from the National Endowment for the Arts to celebrate the poetry of Robinson Jeffers (1887–1962).

UCSC, the National Steinbeck Center, and the Robinson Jeffers

Tor House Foundation will each receive funds to host a range of activities centering on Jeffers’s life and work. Once shunned for his unpopular political views and harsh critiques of mankind’s egotism, Jeffers has regained



Robinson Jeffers

popularity in recent years as one of environmentalism’s most forceful poet-advocates. Featured on the cover of *Time* magazine in 1932, Jeffers’s major works include the *Roan Stallion*, *Tamar and Other Poems* (1925), *The Women at Point Sur* (1927), and a 1946 adaptation of the Greek drama *Medea*.

UCSC will host a symposium on the work of Jeffers, which will include a staged reading of his adaptation of *Medea* and readings by award-winning poets Adrienne Rich, Li-Young Lee, and Mark Jarman.

SAVE THE DATE FOR

Founders Day OCTOBER 24, 2008

Cocoanut Grove, Santa Cruz

UCSC’s Gala Dinner Celebrating Outstanding Achievement

Honoring

NARINDER KAPANY, entrepreneur and acknowledged “father of fiber optics”

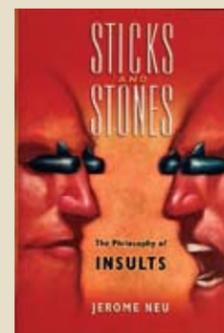
DANA PRIEST, UCSC alumna and award-winning reporter for the *Washington Post*

PATRICIA ZAVELLA, UCSC professor of Latin American and Latino studies

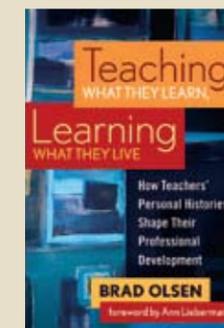
For tickets, call (831) 459-5003.

NEW RELEASES

from the UC Santa Cruz community

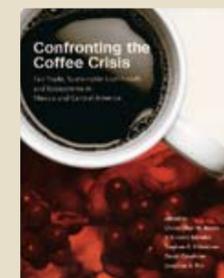


Sticks and Stones: The Philosophy of Insults (Oxford University Press, 2008), by UC Santa Cruz humanities professor Jerome Neu, explores the nature, purpose, and ultimate effect of insults. Employing a wide range of examples—from Aristotle to Eminem—Neu examines how notions of insult shape our beliefs about character, honor, free speech, social interaction, and law.



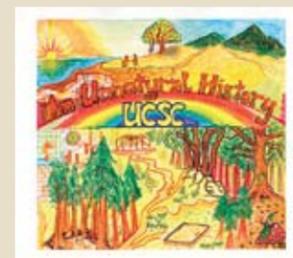
Introduction to Feminisms, Professor Bettina Aptheker’s popular class, is now recorded on a set of broadcast-quality DVDs. A deeply compelling speaker, Aptheker mixes art, poetry, guest speakers, historical essays, slides, videos, and music into a multifaceted course that lingers in the minds of undergraduates long after they leave the classroom.

Teaching What They Learn, Learning What They Live: How Teachers’ Personal Histories Shape Their Professional Development (Paradigm Publishers, 2008), by Brad Olsen, assistant professor of education at UC Santa Cruz, tells the stories of four aspiring teachers to illustrate the ways in which their teacher-credential programs did—and did not—acknowledge their personal histories. He focuses on the often hidden ways that teachers’ personal histories shape their professional learning.



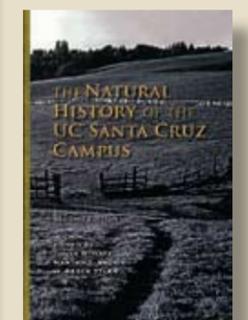
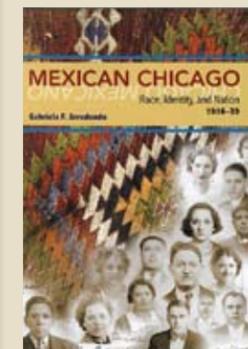
Mexican Chicago: Race, Identity, and Nation (University of Illinois Press, 2008), by historian Gabriela Arredondo, an associate professor of Latin American and Latino studies at UCSC, focuses on the experiences of Mexican immigrants in the Windy City during the years 1916–1939, a period when labor shortages brought large numbers of Mexicans to work in Chicago’s major industries.

Confronting the Coffee Crisis: Fair Trade, Sustainable Livelihoods and Ecosystems in Mexico and Central America (MIT Press, 2008), edited by UCSC professors Stephen R. Gliessman and Jonathan A. Fox and coauthors Christopher M. Bacon, V. Ernesto Méndez, and David Goodman, presents a series of case studies showing how small-scale farmers manage ecosystems and organize collectively as they create opportunities for themselves in the coffee market.



A second edition of **The Natural History of the UC Santa Cruz Campus** (Bay Tree Bookstore, 2008), edited by Tonya Haff, curator of the UCSC Museum of Natural History Collections; Martha Brown, Center for Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems’ senior editor; and W. Breck Tyler, research ornithologist for the Institute of Marine Sciences, is packed with information about the campus’s human history, geology, plants, mushrooms, lichen, and animals.

An Unnatural History of UCSC (Bay Tree Bookstore, 2008), edited by lecturer in writing Jeff Arnett, grew out of a UCSC writing class in which he asked students to research cherished and sometimes hidden sites on campus. The book tells the stories behind UCSC’s natural and unnatural wonders, past and present, including Porter Cave, the Labyrinth, Elfland, the Koi Pond, and Fort Peace.



For the full text of these stories and more news, go to currents.ucsc.edu



Pumas, also known as mountain lions, are secretive animals, but a UCSC team is poised to learn a lot about them in coming months.

UC Santa Cruz to lead pioneering study of pumas

A pioneering study of pumas in the Santa Cruz Mountains will generate unprecedented insights into the behavior of one of the region's top predators.

Led by an interdisciplinary team of researchers at UC Santa Cruz, the project will shed light on the movement, range, physiology, and predatory habits of pumas, also known as mountain lions. UCSC is collaborating with the Felidae Conservation Fund and the California Department of Fish and Game on the project, with additional support from California State Parks.

Understanding puma behavior is important as development pressures contribute to more frequent encounters between humans and mountain lions. The Bay Area Puma Project will utilize novel technology developed at UCSC to answer questions that have so far evaded scientists.

Ecologist Chris Wilmers, assistant professor of environmental studies at UCSC and the lead investigator on the project, and Terrie Williams, a professor of ecology and evolutionary biology at UCSC, will team up to explore questions of puma behavior, physiology, and ecology.

"We're trying to learn as much as possible about mountain lions—where they live, what their range and dietary needs are, and how to minimize conflict with humans," said Wilmers.

Kudos



Claire Max, professor of astronomy and astrophysics, has been elected to the **National Academy of Sciences** in recognition of her distinguished and continuing achievements in original research. Max is a pioneer in the field of adaptive optics, a technology that allows telescopes on the ground to see as clearly as if they were in space.



Thorne Lay, professor of Earth and planetary sciences, has been elected a fellow of the **American Academy of Arts & Sciences**. An eminent seismologist, Lay is known for his contributions to earthquake seismology, the use of seismic waves to probe the structure of the deep Earth, and the development of methods for monitoring the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty.



Georges Van Den Abbeele, dean of humanities, has been awarded the 2008 **Blaise Pascal Medal for Social Sciences** by the European Academy of Sciences. A scholar of French literature and philosophy, Van Den Abbeele was recognized for contributing "to the rethinking of human and social studies in a contemporary context..."

National engineering honor society Tau Beta Pi vice president **Solange Dao**, UCSC undergraduate and chapter president **Erik Pasternak**, and professor of computer engineering **Richard Hughey** pose with the Tau Beta Pi charter at a ceremony marking the installation of a UCSC chapter.



Students donned safety gear before touring a steel plant in Iowa.

Midwest factory tour brings learning to life for students

Educators who encourage their students to get out of the classroom don't typically direct them to steel mills, glass factories, and soda-pop bottling plants.

But that's exactly what environmental studies professor Daniel Press had in mind when he offered a new senior seminar last spring that included tours of industrial operations in four states. The goal? To learn firsthand about the challenges facing U.S. manufacturing today, including how to reduce energy usage, consumption of raw materials, and pollution while competing in fierce markets with China and other developing nations.

And learn they did.

"It's a whole different level of learning to actually go there and to apply what we'd written about to things we were seeing," said Nicole Nakagawa. "To learn about policy from industry leaders—that's something you can't get out of a book."

The class met with plant managers, corporate officials, union representatives, environmental regulators, and others as they explored the forces shaping U.S. industry. Students chose the topics of their term papers, and all agreed that the "field trips" took their understanding to new levels.

2008 Irwin Scholar hopes to make an impact with his art

Levi Goldman transferred to UCSC in 2006 after taking art classes in sculpture and photography for several years at Cabrillo College. At the university, he took a variety of classes in electronic arts, film, and new media to see if he was interested "in going down any of those roads." He eventually returned to his main interest—sculpture—and has focused on that work for the past year.



Now in his senior year, Goldman was selected as a 2008 Irwin Scholar and has received a \$2,500 merit award to further his art education. This latest award caps an impressive year of honors, including an Irwin Project Grant award, the Florence French scholarship, and a grant from the UC Institute for Research in the Arts.

"UCSC has invested in me incredibly—continuing to support my work and my growth, and helping me push the boundaries of my art," said Goldman.

His future plans include applying for artist's residencies and working on his graduate school portfolio.

"I think I want what every artist wants," he said. "I want to be in a community of artists that engage me as I engage them. I want to be continually expressing myself and evolving in my work. And I want my art to make an impact on society."

UCSC team 'instrumental' in space telescope success

Physicists and astronomers at UC Santa Cruz cheered NASA's successful launch of the Gamma-ray Large Area Space Telescope (GLAST) from Cape Canaveral on June 11. A UCSC team led the international effort to design and build a massive detector system for GLAST, which will explore the most extreme environments in the universe. Project scientists began turning on the instruments within a week after the deployment of the telescope in orbit about 350 miles above the surface of the Earth.

For UCSC physicists Robert Johnson and William Atwood, it was the culmination of nearly 16 years of work. Their team was responsible for the gamma-ray-detecting system on the spacecraft's Large Area Telescope, one of GLAST's two main components. Over the years,



approximately a dozen UCSC undergraduates, six graduate students (two currently working with Johnson), and five post-doctoral physicists contributed to this huge undertaking.

Scientists expect the orbiting telescope to detect thousands of hitherto unknown gamma-ray sources. With its extraordinary sensitivity and wide field-of-view, it is the first imaging gamma-ray observatory capable of scanning the entire sky every three hours on a daily basis.