Not long ago, Rachel Cordero was a divorced mother of two young children facing the aftermath of a difficult marriage, devastating economic dislocation, and an unknown future. Her sons struggled to adjust to their parents’ breakup. The shattered family moved into Cordero’s mother’s home to plan their next move. “I figured I could either go straight to work and barely pay the rent,” she remembers, “or look for a way to make a better life for myself and my family. I decided to go back to school and realize my dreams.”

Returning to community college years after she had first started, she received an A.A. degree and transferred to UCSC. Today, she is on track to graduate with a B.A. in psychology and plans to pursue a graduate degree and a career in organizational or clinical work. The future looks bright.

Success did not come easy, though. “I’m not a ‘normal’ student,” Cordero says. “As a parent, I’m working on UCSC’s intercollegiate women’s basketball team, Marvie MADDUX has completed her fourth year as an assistant basketball coach at Holy Names University (2008 Cal Pac Conference Champions) in Oakland. She received an M.A. in sports management from the University of San Francisco in 2007.

GRADUATE STUDIES

70 Jorge KLOR de ALVA (Ph.D., history of consciousness), senior vice president for academic excellence at the University of Phoenix, will lead the university’s newly formed national research center, which is focused on driving initiatives in teaching and learning that are most effective with adult students in higher education.

“83 Douglas MURRAY (Ph.D., sociology) is director of the Center for Fair and Alternative Trade Studies and professor of sociology at Colorado State University.

90 Lisa WHITE (Ph.D., Earth sciences), a professor of geosciences and associate dean of Graduate Studies at San Francisco State University, is the first recipient of the Bromery Award for Minority Contributions from the Geological Society of America. White is being recognized, in part, for her work with SF-ROCKS (http://sf-rocks.sfsu.edu), a geoscience education project with high schools in the southeastern part of San Francisco, and for her research.

IN MEMORIAM

79 William SHERIDAN (Stevenson), known by his friends as ‘Bill the Human,’ who was a ‘godfather of the Banana Slug logo’ and who worked as a radio DJ and as a tour operator for Catalina Island Tours, died August 19, 2007, in Bend, Ore., at the age of 50.

98 Stephanie Joy OGAS (Porter), who, after graduation, began working behind the scenes in the film industry and then found her career and a second family at WeDrive, an online creative production and presentation agency, died suddenly and unexpectedly on May 6, 2008, in Los Angeles; she was 31.