Tectonic shifts
What have we learned 25 years after Loma Prieta?

ALSO:
Toni Morrison on good and evil in literature
Feeding the world
From the Chancellor

Approaching a milestone

When I walked onto the UC Santa Cruz campus as a young assistant professor of astronomy and astrophysics in 1972, I had no idea I’d be here for the next 42 years—and certainly no notion that one day I would be chancellor! I was only in my 20s. The campus was just seven years old—no one was thinking of its 50th anniversary. Yet here I am, and here we are. Next year—2015—marks our 50th year, a major milestone for UC Santa Cruz.

Looking at old photos brings back so many memories. I’ve uploaded a few to the UC Santa Cruz timeline, a great interactive “scrapbook” created as part of our 50th anniversary celebration. See if you recognize the tall, bearded professor—and then submit your own photos at 50years.ucsc.edu/timeline.

For me, it’s been an amazing ride. I joined the campus in its relative infancy, drawn to an already strong Astronomy Department and attracted by UC Santa Cruz’s youth and spirit of daring.

There have been bumps along the way, but let’s face it: Nothing worth doing goes smoothly for 50 years! And our setbacks are vastly outnumbered by our successes: From the Earth to the heavens—literally, sustainable agriculture to astrophysics—UC Santa Cruz has had an outsized impact during its first 50 years.

We won the race to assemble the first map of the human genome—and then we put it online, ensuring that this amazing resource would be available to the world—for free, forever.

The Marine Mammal Protection Act has its roots here, in the work of beloved researcher and teacher Ken Norris, who helped write the legislation in 1972. Today, faculty, students, and alumni are building on Ken’s legacy with their contributions to California’s sweeping coastal protection network.

Our researchers are investigating novel approaches to treating cancer and protecting the environment. Our artists and historians are shedding new light on the civil rights movement, creating interactive works to engage the public on environmental issues, and much more.

And for nearly 50 years, our graduates have been making their marks on the world: authoring bestselling novels, writing Pulitzer Prize-winning exposes, directing path-breaking films and television series, advocating for the less fortunate, launching innovative businesses, and opening the eyes of students of all ages.

There’s something about UC Santa Cruz—the physical setting, the creative blending of the disciplines, the encouragement of free thought and questioning authority—that nurtures the best in each of us.

There is no place I’d rather be than right here at UC Santa Cruz, on the cusp of a momentous year.

George Blumenthal, chancellor

Editor’s Note

Where were you?

It’s a question people often ask each other when something momentous and tragic happens—I guess it’s a way to bond, grieve, and share.

One such event occurred at 5:04 p.m. on October 17, 1989—25 years ago this month. The Loma Prieta earthquake shocked Santa Cruz County and the surrounding area, including the Bay Area and the San Francisco Peninsula. Sixty-three people died, thousands were injured, and several of the Bay Area’s major transportation structures suffered catastrophic failures.

So … where were you? If you’re old enough to remember (some of our younger readers weren’t even born yet), the earthquake stays with you forever.

I was in a little house on College Avenue in Berkeley, where I lived with roommates while studying at UC Berkeley. A California kid, I’d been through many rounds of earthquake training in school. When the Earth shrugged, I dove under my desk. We were lucky—shaken but uninjured. In the next few hours and days, however, we would learn just how devastating the quake had been.

Earthquake knowledge and technology has come a long way since then—and UC Santa Cruz scientists have played a role in that advancement. Seismologists here, including Thorne Lay, Susan Schwartz, and Emily Brodsky, have been working to integrate data, understand the different types of slips that occur on faults, measure friction heat generated during fault slippage, and more. Their work has helped increase understanding of the basic physics of quakes—a first step toward better prediction of them.

As the campus looks both back and forward as it approaches its 50th birthday in 2015, it’s these kinds of things—memories of the past, introspection on history, working to understand our environment and improve our future—that make me proud to be part of a place like this. Maybe—just maybe—when the next “big one” is coming, we’ll already know.

— Gwen Jourdonnais, editor
Orders of magnitude

Twenty-five years ago, the Loma Prieta quake devastated Santa Cruz and the Bay Area. What have we learned about earthquakes since then?

Beloved author

Pulitzer- and Nobel Prize-winning author Toni Morrison speaks about writing, revelations, and the increasing prevalence of evil in literature.

Food for thought

UC Santa Cruz—"The Mothership" of organic agriculture—has much to offer the ambitious new UC Global Food Initiative.

The Road to '65

Page Smith rides in to shake up the system.

Cover: President George H.W. Bush viewed the destruction in downtown Santa Cruz caused by the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake, accompanied by then-Rep. Leon Panetta, 16th Congressional District; then-CA Assemblyman Sam Farr, 28th Assembly District; the late Mardi Wormhoudt, then-mayor of Santa Cruz; and Dan Aldrich III, then-UC Santa Cruz Assistant Chancellor-University Advancement. (Photo by Bill Lovejoy)
ALUMNI ADVOCACY

I think you may have missed an important alumni story with the short article on the $2 million gift from the Packard Foundation for Natural History Field Quarter and the Kenneth S. Norris Center for Natural History (Review magazine, spring ’14, Campaign Update, page 2).

This effort was spearheaded by an alumnus, Larry Ford (Kresge ’77, environmental studies and biology). He was motivated to move forward with this proposal to the Packard Foundation because 500 UC Santa Cruz alumni, who had taken Ken’s Natural History Field Quarter, showed up for a reunion during Alumni Weekend in 2012.

At that reunion, professor emeritus of environmental studies Steve Glissman, who taught NHFQ, put a stuffed gopher in a terrarium and challenged folks who were attending to “bury the gopher” with checks and cash donations to continue the teaching of the Natural History Field Quarter. Karen Holl, the Environmental Studies Department chair at the time, also encouraged folks to give. That started the fundraising effort, and about $65,000 was raised between then and this spring.

It’s a great story about the power of alumni to raise money for the things at UC Santa Cruz they’re passionate about.

—Jenny Anderson
Retired staff/lecturer,
Environmental Studies Dept.

INSTAGRAM AND GIVING
Find us on Instagram at “UCSC”

Thank you for the UC Santa Cruz Instagram account! I am an alum living in frosty Ann Arbor, Mich., for the last decade or so. I really enjoy the photos when I check them each morning—whether it is Alumni Weekend and Sammy, or a quiet bench in the forest, or a close-up of some new flowers sprouting up on campus.

I recently became a donor to the McHenry Library. My uncle—a fellow Banana Slug who graduated in the early 1980s—passed away, and I rounded up my family to make a gift to McHenry Library so we could create the “Robert Lindsay Hunt Memorial Pathway” as a tribute to a great man in our lives. The pathway is located south of McHenry Library between the stairs and the parking lot at the base of the hill.

Giving to UC Santa Cruz is a great way to pay tribute to fellow Slugs. Choosing Santa Cruz for undergrad was one of the best choices in my entire life. Becoming a donor is a close second.

—Melissa Cox
(Porter ’04, community studies)

LINKEDIN LOVE
Find us on LinkedIn at “University of California, Santa Cruz”

Phenomenal undergraduate experience! The beauty of the campus is undeniable. The small class size and quality of instruction was wonderful. I also had the opportunity to work as a research assistant, which was invaluable preparation for graduate school. I love the opportunity to recommend UC Santa Cruz!

—Susan Conner
(Cowell ’91, psychology)

Where’s Sammy? Congrats go out to Barbara Brotherton (Cowell ’75, art history), who was the first to write in with Sammy’s hiding spot last issue! Brotherton got her start in art history at UC Santa Cruz, she said, “having the most innovative professors in the field. Made me a broad thinker. Good for my position of curator for arts of the Americas at the Seattle Art Museum.” Sammy was on page 6, hiding in the pictured solar microbial device. We received 56 responses to the Where’s Sammy challenge. And now he’s slithered off again! Can you find him? He looks like the Sammy at the beginning of this paragraph. A Where’s Sammy winner will be chosen at random. So start the hunt! Write us at review@ucsc.edu.
UC Santa Cruz had its biggest fundraising year on record in the past fiscal year, during which it publicly launched its first comprehensive fundraising campaign. Private giving to the campus topped $50 million for the year ending June 30, bringing the total raised in The Campaign for UC Santa Cruz to more than $180 million. The campaign is adding essential resources throughout the university and to key initiatives supporting the student experience, coastal sustainability, data sciences, the Institute of the Arts and Sciences, and the UC Santa Cruz Genomics Institute.

CAMPAIGN UPDATE

CAMPAIGN PROGRESS

NOW AT $180 MILLION
The Campaign for UC Santa Cruz seeks to build resources across campus and in signature initiatives. Publicly launched in October 2013, its goal is to raise $300 million by the end of the campaign to enhance UC Santa Cruz’s extraordinary educational environment, high-impact research, and enduring commitment to social and environmental responsibility.

AMONG OTHER GIFTS:
A $1 million gift from alumna Julie Packard (Crown ’74, biology (BA), MA biology ’78), executive director of the Monterey Bay Aquarium, supports programs that help minority students excel in the sciences and mathematics. Says Packard: “I want to help ensure that underrepresented students in the sciences are able to enjoy the same opportunities at UC Santa Cruz that I did.” (To read more about Julie Packard and her gift, see page 6.)

LEARN MORE

GIVE

NURTURING SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

A $4 million gift to UC Santa Cruz established an endowment to support the Farm and Garden apprenticeship, an internationally recognized program that provides training in the concepts and practices of organic gardening and small-scale farming.

The gift, from a donor who chooses to remain anonymous, will be used to ensure the long-term viability of the apprenticeship program and other related training programs at the UC Santa Cruz Farm and Alan Chadwick Garden, where the program is based.

The apprenticeship is one of the core programs of the Center for Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems (CASFS), which has earned a reputation for the skill and knowledge of its instructors and researchers for more than four decades. Building resources for CASFS is a key goal of the Coastal Sustainability initiative in the Campaign for UC Santa Cruz. The initiative is a cross-disciplinary effort to restore and sustain the health of the coastal zone. Agricultural practices have major impacts on the health of oceans and marine life.

The apprenticeship blends the virtues of experiential learning with traditional classroom studies. It has trained more than 1,500 organic farmers. Topics covered during the six-month course include soil management, composting, pest control, crop planning, irrigation, farm equipment, marketing techniques, and Community Supported Agriculture practices.

The gift coincides with the launch of the UC Global Food Initiative, which recognizes the unique ability of the University of California to play a leading role in addressing the challenges of nutrition and sustainability. (To read more about the UC Global Food Initiative, see page 18.)

(Right) Christopher LaRose, Farm apprentice program graduate, 2009
This is UC Santa Cruz

Acclaimed architects to design new institute

UC Santa Cruz has selected award-winning New York firm Tod Williams Billie Tsien Architects to design the campus's new Institute of the Arts and Sciences.

Conceived as more than a museum, the institute will be the first of its kind at a research university, focusing on both the arts and the sciences and their relationship to other disciplines. Designed to function as an intellectual hub, it will provide space for site-specific installations, exhibits, seminars, residencies by artists and scholars, and hands-on research by students and faculty.

With a national and international scope, the institute will also curate traveling art exhibitions and create projects linked to the university curriculum, drawing from the rich archives and collections of all of the UC campuses.

Major (and minor) news

Beginning this fall, UC Santa Cruz will offer two new programs:

• A major in Critical Race and Ethnic Studies (CRES), leading to a new bachelor of arts degree;
• A minor in sustainability studies with an engineering component aimed at giving students hands-on experience that can lead to jobs in a “green economy.”

Curriculum for CRES, administered by the Humanities Division, will draw from the campus’s Anthropology, Education, Feminist Studies, History, Film and Digital Media, Literature, History of Art and Visual Culture, Latin American and Latino Studies, Psychology, and Sociology departments.

The sustainability minor, which will accept 30 students during its first year, is multidisciplinary and is affiliated with College Eight.
Learning by doing

UC Santa Cruz will undertake an ambitious program to revamp its introductory courses in biology, chemistry, and physics, replacing lectures with a more active learning approach.

Funded by a $1.5 million grant from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, the effort is intended to ensure that more of the students who enter UC Santa Cruz planning to study science persist through the required courses to earn a science degree.

Paul Koch, dean of physical and biological sciences, will oversee the program and develop faculty teams to work on the different introductory course series.

“It’s a big step forward for the campus,” Koch said. “Our goal is to use a more active learning approach—instead of lecturing, we will have students learn by doing.”

More science honors

Two UC Santa Cruz scientists—James Estes, professor of ecology and evolutionary biology, and Thorne Lay, professor of Earth and planetary sciences—have been elected to the National Academy of Sciences in recognition of their distinguished and continuing achievements in original scientific research. Membership in the academy is one of the highest honors a U.S. scientist can receive, and Estes and Lay join 12 UC Santa Cruz colleagues as members of the prestigious group.

The election “shows the growing impact that UC Santa Cruz faculty are having across all the sciences,” said Paul Koch, dean of physical and biological sciences. (For more on Lay’s work, see “Order of magnitude,” page 14).

Estes’s work has revealed how predators can profoundly shape ecosystems, leading him to argue that their loss is of great concern for conservation biology. Lay’s innovations in the study of earthquakes have generated insights about the structure of the deep Earth and how the Earth ruptures to generate quakes.

(Above) James Estes, professor of ecology and evolutionary biology

(Below) Thorne Lay, professor of Earth and planetary sciences
POTUS notice
A chance to visit the White House and chat with the president of the United States (POTUS) is a pretty big deal for most people, but UC Santa Cruz student Maria Hanes had the opportunity twice.

First, the 19-year-old Oakes College student was invited to the White House Science Fair to demonstrate her “Concussion Cushion,” a rubberized covering for football helmets to lessen the impact to players’ heads. She had created the science project last year as a high school senior, and it won the top school and county prizes and placed in the 2013 California State Science Fair.

Then, President Obama invited her to return to the White House two days later for his summit on youth sports and concussions.

Graduate enrollment up sharply
Enrollment of grad students at UC Santa Cruz for fall 2014 has topped 1,625, the largest cohort in the campus’s history—9 percent of total enrollment.

The increase is consistent with an upward trend that’s been happening since 2007. Grad enrollment was 1,465 in 2013 and 1,389 in 2012.

Fueling the growth is a record incoming class for fall, estimated at 550 new grad students, up from 460 last year and 391 the previous year.

“This growth illustrates the continuing strong upward trend in UC Santa Cruz’s attractiveness and reputation as a doctoral-granting and research institution,” said Tyrus Miller, vice provost and dean of graduate studies. “We hope to match the size and proportion of graduate education at other UC campuses where the percentage of grad students is typically more than 15 percent.”

Julie Packard: philanthropy and pragmatism
UC Santa Cruz received a $1 million gift from alumna Julie Packard (Crown ’74, biology; M.A. ’78), executive director of the Monterey Bay Aquarium. By establishing the Dean’s Fund for Diversity in the Sciences, Packard’s gift will support programs at UC Santa Cruz that help underrepresented minority students excel in the sciences and mathematics.

Packard, daughter of high-tech pioneer David Packard, says pragmatism runs deep in her family’s blood.

“My father was a very practical person and not really a dreamer,” remembered Packard of the man who co-founded Hewlett-Packard.

Philanthropist, she said, was also an early value, inculcated even before David Packard grew wealthy.

“Having resources to share is a gift, an opportunity,” Packard said.

But a big checkbook isn’t the only answer, she said. Change can come from acts as simple as voting, putting social media pressures on government, volunteering, and standing up for what you believe.

“I think all of us need to engage,” she said.

Mixing it up on Science Hill
An innovative graduate program is breaking down barriers between the biomedical sciences, encouraging interdisciplinary learning on Science Hill, and enabling students from different divisions to work closely together.

Now in its sixth year, the graduate Program in Biomedical Sciences and Engineering (PBSE) is a collaborative graduate program that includes faculty from five departments spanning the Divisions of Physical and Biological Sciences and the Baskin School of Engineering.

Originally, departments had their own graduate programs, “but research has evolved to where students now employ techniques and logic from multiple disciplines,” said PBSE director Seth Rubin, chemistry and biochemistry professor.

“We needed a graduate program that reflects the collaborative and interdisciplinary nature of biomedical research at UC Santa Cruz,” said Doug Kellogg, Molecular, Cell and Developmental biology professor and PBSE’s founding director.

Communication about science even spills over into the social realm.

“I’ll walk downtown and see students from different tracks hanging out together,” Kellogg said.

Plaque honors Jack
UC Santa Cruz honored Jack Baskin for his many contributions to the Baskin School of Engineering in a ceremony in May. A plaque in his honor, unveiled by Chancellor George Blumenthal at the ceremony, now marks the entrance to the Baskin School of Engineering.

Baskin has been actively supporting engineering programs at UC Santa Cruz for several decades, providing guidance to faculty and campus leadership as well as generous financial support. His cornerstone gift helped launch the Baskin School of Engineering in 1997, and his donations to the engineering school now total $8.8 million. Baskin and his wife, Peggy Downes Baskin, have also supported many other campus programs.

“When you look around UC Santa Cruz, you see Jack Baskin’s influence everywhere,” said Chancellor Blumenthal. “From engineering to the arts and humanities, his support transforms lives through scholarships, programs that open doors for our students, and endowed chairs for faculty that propel research and discovery.”

New librarian in town
UC Santa Cruz has selected M. Elizabeth Cowell as the campus’s new University Librarian.

A leading voice in state and national advocacy efforts on behalf of university libraries, Cowell has 20 years of management experience in academic libraries with a strong record of accomplishment and strategic leadership in operations, fundraising, and innovation.

Cowell served as University Librarian at UC Santa Cruz in an interim capacity since July 15, 2013. She first came to the campus in 2008 as the Associate University Librarian for Public Services, where she worked with administration and staff to absorb challenging budget cuts while maintaining core library services.

Cowell played an integral role in the recent expansion and renovation of McHenry Library, implementing changes that have resulted in a dramatic increase in library attendance.
Editor’s note: This fifth installment in our series of stories leading up to a celebration of UC Santa Cruz’s 50th anniversary in 2015 is about Page Smith, the first provost of Cowell College, whose unconventional approach set the tone for a rigorous and free-flowing education.

In 1964, Page Smith walked onto the fledgling UC Santa Cruz campus, his slight limp a reminder of the wounds he suffered when he tripped a stake mine in Italy as an Army captain during WWII. He was a tall man with a face that lay on the border between rugged and distinguished, a Maryland-born historian whose two-volume biography of John Adams had recently won a Bancroft Prize. But Smith, then 47, wasn’t at the new campus to enhance his rising reputation. Instead, the former UCLA professor and newly hired first provost of Cowell College had come to shake up what he saw as a boring, factory-like system of education.

In the next five years, the Harvard-educated Smith would do just that. He would not only help hire a fiery collection of thought-provoking pioneer faculty but would lead the charge to dump letter grades in favor of narrative evaluations, set a model for the campus’s core courses, and bring a heady mix of artists, activists, and thinkers to campus to teach and mingle with students.

The man who sometimes fired a musket during his history classes and wrote books on subjects as diverse as Thomas Jefferson and the importance of chickens saw UC Santa Cruz as an opportunity to innovate, to make learning exciting again.

“What Page and (his wife) Eloise started together was the idea that you educate the whole person,” said Faye Crosby, current Cowell College provost. “You don’t drive into the big parking lot of knowledge, fill up your brain, and drive away. You are part of an intellectual
teach. In 1973, he resigned in protest of a decision to deny tenure to his friend and colleague, Assistant Professor of religious Studies Paul Lee—a decision he saw as putting publishing above the important talent of teaching students.

Smith retired with his beloved Eloise to his bonny Doon ranch where he wrote eight more books, including the eight-volume *A People's History of the United States*, pursued social justice issues, and raised a menagerie of farm animals, including a flock of 100 chickens.

Smith died of leukemia on Aug. 28, 1995—thirty-six hours after Eloise succumbed to kidney cancer. He was 77.

“When mother died, he (Smith) was having chemotherapy,” his daughter Anne Easley recalled. “He just pulled the lines out right there.” By the next afternoon, he was in a coma and, surrounded by family, he died that night.

“One of the last things he said was, ‘Give my best to everyone at Cowell,’” Easley said.

—Peggy Townsend

“Celebrating the Smiths: Their Legacies at Cowell College and Beyond,” will be held from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Jan. 31, 2015. For more information, contact the Cowell College provost’s office at (831) 459-2251 or cwprvsta@ucsc.edu.

Stories about Smith’s early years at UC Santa Cruz abound: The white horse he rode around campus, the letter he wrote taking students to task for going barefoot, wearing raunchy clothes, and having too much sex—a missive that became the subject of a *TIME* magazine article.

But it was Smith’s progressive ideas about the nature of a rigorous and free-flowing education and his love for students that became legend at UC Santa Cruz.

It was Smith who set up weekly College Nights where faculty and students attended a formal dinner followed by mind-blowing speakers like the radical Harvard theologian Harvey Cox, writer/activist Susan Sontag, and neurologist Oliver Sacks. It was Smith who invited artists like Noah Purifoy, co-founder of the Watts Towers Art Center, and Ruth Asawa, a Japanese-American sculptress and activist, to lead seminars on campus. And it was Smith who conceived Cowell’s two-year World Civilization core course, taught by Professors William Hitchcock and Mary Holmes.

He nettled the UC system by leading the charge to get rid of letter grades which, according to his posthumously published oral history, he thought, “produced a competitive situation where some people prospered at the expense of others,” and he also rankled some for his admittedly “wretched” administrative style that left people waiting at his messy desk while he wandered the campus talking to students and faculty about campus needs.

But what many from the pioneer years at UC Santa Cruz remember most was the way he and his artist-wife, Eloise, threw open their doors and hearts to the UC Santa Cruz community—counseling students through personal problems, inviting them into their home, and making it a point to learn about each student’s interests and dreams.

“No matter who you were, no matter what your background,” said Bill Dickinson (Cowell ’68, philosophy), “they behaved as though you had nobility in you. And they made it abundantly clear that they, and the college community, stood ready to draw it out.”

Smith, who believed the first five or six years of a new venture were the most ripe for change, left the provost’s post in 1969 but continued to teach. In 1973, he resigned in protest of a decision to deny tenure to his friend and colleague, Assistant Professor of Religious Studies Paul Lee—a decision he saw as putting publishing above the important talent of teaching students.

Smith retired with his beloved Eloise to his Bonny Doon ranch where he wrote eight more books, including the eight-volume *A People’s History of the United States*, pursued social justice issues, and raised a menagerie of farm animals, including a flock of 100 chickens.

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—Peggy Townsend

(Pictured from left to right) Page Smith assisting new students in registering on opening day, 1965; astride his white horse; and pictured with his wife, Eloise, in front of their home in Bonny Doon.
Almost 50 years ago—fall 1965—this great campus began with 600 intrepid students and a dream. We’ve been questioning authority ever since.

Host your own
Host a 50th party of your own! Contact Allison Garcia for an “Event in a Box” kit: acgarcia@ucsc.edu or (831) 459-1909.

50 for 50
Volunteer 50 hours of community service. 50for50.ucsc.edu

Calling alum photographers!
We’re planning a photography feature on beautiful UC Santa Cruz campus spots in the next issue, and we’d love to see your photos. View guidelines at ucsd.edu/submissions.html and send submissions to review@ucsd.edu. Deadline: November 22, 2014.

Pictures of you
Contribute your photos and memories to our online, interactive timeline. 50years.ucsc.edu/timeline
Founders Celebration 2014
ucsc.edu/founders
October 25, 2014

Founders Celebration 2014 Honorees

Foundation Medal
Toni Morrison, Nobel– and Pulitzer Prize–winning novelist

Fiat Lux Award
The Long family and the Joseph and Vera Long Foundation, committed volunteers and leadership donors to UC Santa Cruz

Alumni Achievement Award
Mark Headley (Stevenson ‘83, politics and economics), board chairman, Matthews International Capital Management

Faculty Research Lecturer
Craig Haney, professor of psychology

14th annual Sidhartha Maitra Memorial Lecture
November 14, 2014
Wade Davis, anthropologist, explorer, and author

Faculty Research Lecture
April 7, 2015
Craig Haney, professor of psychology

For more events, visit events.ucsc.edu

50th anniversary events include

Martin Luther King Jr.
Memorial Convocation
January 28, 2015
Speaker: Angela Davis, distinguished professor emerita in the History of Consciousness and Feminist Studies departments at UC Santa Cruz

Anita Hill
February 26, 2015
“Speaking truth to power”

Climate Conference
March 13-14, 2015
(including annual Fred Keeley Lecture)

Alumni Weekend 2015
April 23, 24, 25, and 26, 2015

Founders Celebration 2015
October 2015—stay tuned for details

Visit 50years.ucsc.edu/events to see all 50th anniversary events.

Leading the charge
UC Santa Cruz changed the life of California Secretary of Natural Resources John Laird.

“It didn’t teach me what to think but how to think and how to analyze,” said the 1972 politics grad who was affiliated with Stevenson College. “It’s been the basis of an entire career for me.”

As a way to mark that experience, Laird—one of the first openly gay men to serve in the California Legislature—is heading a committee to help celebrate a half century of innovation and learning at UC Santa Cruz during the 2015 anniversary year.

The 50th Anniversary Leadership Committee, comprised of 23 outstanding alumni, is currently planning events around some of the campus’s most exceptional grads.
“When I’m writing, nobody’s telling me what to do. The expectations are high because they are mine, and that is a kind of freedom I don’t have anywhere else. Nowhere.”

—Toni Morrison

Beloved author

Pulitzer- and Nobel Prize-winning author Toni Morrison speaks about writing, revelations, and the increasing prevalence of evil in literature
Beloved author

By Dan White

Morrison reframes history, challenges perception of slavery

At 83, Toni Morrison has no plans to retire. At this point in her career, that kind of drive has little to do with unmet goals; the Nobel Prize winner has written 10 novels, a play, and many nonfiction pieces. Her body of work, including the novel Beloved, which won the Pulitzer Prize in 1988, is already part of the literary canon.

But Morrison, speaking by phone in her distinctive low, whispery voice from her home in New York’s Hudson Valley, said she just can’t be happy without a project. Her creative impulse and her desire for artistic freedom are as strong as ever.

“Writing novels is the world to me,” she said. “The outside world can be OK or not OK, beautiful or not beautiful, but I am in control here,” said Morrison, who still scratches out the first drafts of her novels with a pencil on yellow legal pads. “When I’m writing, nobody’s telling me what to do. The expectations are high because they are mine, and that is a kind of freedom I don’t have anywhere else. Nowhere.”

While Morrison was a well-known literary figure before Beloved, that book’s blockbuster success took her into the mainstream—a remarkable feat, considering the novel’s unflinching look at slavery. Its main character, Sethe, based on real-life escaped slave Margaret Garner, kills one of her children to spare her a life of enslavement.

The impact of Beloved—and Morrison’s writing output as a whole—cannot be overstated, said Angela Davis, the scholar, activist, and UC Santa Cruz professor emerita who will introduce Morrison at the Peggy Downes Baskin Ethics Lecture.

Morrison, through fiction, has made social change, a feat many others haven’t been able to accomplish through nonfiction writing and activism, Davis said.

“I don’t think that our notion of freedom would be what it is without the impact of Toni Morrison.”

Beloved “helped us think about U.S. history in an entirely different way,” Davis said, and Morrison’s specificity—including her elegantly crafted characters—helped change “the abstractness of the portrayal of slavery… It became possible to humanize slavery, to remember that the system of slavery did not destroy the humanity of those whom it enslaved.”

The two have been friends since the early ‘70s, when Morrison, while working as an editor at Random House, edited Davis’s autobiography. During that period, Morrison was bringing out new works by uncompromising authors including the African American feminist writers Toni Cade Bambara and Gayl Jones.

Morrison, once an outsider, went on to change the face of publishing, both as a writer and editor, said Paul Skenazy, professor emeritus of literature at UC Santa Cruz, who taught Morrison’s work for years.

“At this point, more than a quarter century later, it’s hard to remember how compact and insular the publishing world was before Morrison, Maxine Hong Kingston, and others made cracks in it,” Skenazy said.

Morrison’s book Song of Solomon is as smart and evocative as writing gets, Skenazy said.

Her ability in that book to move across fantasy and the hard terms of black life, to turn folk stories into palpable mythologies that rule the everyday, to make a quest of forgotten, unspoken, hidden, and discarded history: These are beautifully entangled in that book.

The silence of goodness

Writing gives Morrison more than the freedom to imagine worlds beyond her own. Her books allow her to explore a topic that has been tugging at her for more than 40 years, and which she will explore during the Santa Cruz lecture: “Literature and the Silence of Goodness.”

Morrison believes an “obsession” with evil has crept into literature over the past century or so while the forces of good have been driven to the sidelines and compelled to bite their tongues.

Morrison thinks this preoccupation, which she credits in part to the horrors of World War I, also holds true in the media. She spoke of news reports that portrayed the Amish community as “freakish” when members of the religious group reached out to comfort the widow of an Amish man who took his own life after committing a killing spree that left five schoolgirls dead.

TV broadcasts and newspapers “twisted” what Morrison considered to be a selfless refusal on the part of the community to seek vengeance.

She believes the media has a lurid obsession with things like mass killings, brazen kidnappings, and heinous abuse and neglect, and that it is simply “too easy” to let such forces dominate works of fiction.
Evil, she says, often has a superficial glamour in stories and novels: “I always think of evil with a top hat and a big band and a cape, a cane maybe, some shiny jewelry so you are very attracted by the glitter.”

On the other hand, compelling portrayals of good are harder to pull off, Morrison said. Nevertheless, “there really isn’t anything else that humans ought to be cultivating and living for,” she said. “The rest of it is petty and selfish: cartoonish almost.”

She talks about her efforts to dramatize good without resorting to sentimentality. She mentioned the strong women who nurse an ailing woman back to health in her most recently published novel, Home. There is nothing warm or cuddly about these “country women who loved mean … They didn’t waste their time or the patient’s with sympathy and they met the tears of suffering with resigned contempt.”

But these women are forces for good because they have an innate desire to heal and save lives. “When their maker said, ‘What did you do?’ they didn’t want to say, ‘Well, uh….’” Morrison said. “They had to answer.”

Revealing revelations

Some readers may be surprised to hear Morrison’s concerns about literary evil, considering its strong presence in so many of her books, which contain, among other things, a gang rape, gruesome depictions of slavery, and an act of infanticide.

Morrison concedes “there is a lot of sadness and melancholy among the people in my books,” but “for me, there is always an ending in which somebody knows something extremely important that they didn’t know before; the acquisition of knowledge is a gesture of mine toward goodness.

“The accumulation of events, theories, changes of mind, encounters, whatever is going on, at the end of the book, it tends to move toward some kind of epiphany that is a revelation of a better self.”

As Morrison pointed out, during one horrific rape scene early in her novel Love, one character, Romon, refuses to participate and is shunned by his peers. Romon comes to realize he has repressed his instinctual desire to help the girl and ends up reaching out to her.

And the infanticide at the center of Beloved is a morally complex act of desperation. During the interview, Morrison spoke of her deliberate withholding of judgment of Sethe.

“Suppose I knew definitely that my boys—my children—were going to be kidnapped, taken off, molested: What would I do? And I couldn’t answer.” (Morrison is the mother of two sons, Harold and Slade; Slade died in 2010 at age 45.)

Resisting cynicism

Morrison said she simply could not create her works if she wrote out of a place of cynicism or despair. This is not to say that her faith never wavers.

Sometimes the realm of politics and the cruelty of world events wear her down.

Once, 10 years ago, she was feeling especially “sad and disturbed,” she said. “Whatever it was, it was paralyzing. Peter Sellars [the theater and opera director, who has collaborated with Morrison] called up as he often does on Christmas Day or during the holidays…. He said, ‘How are you?’ and I said that I didn’t feel very good.

“I said, ‘You know, Peter, I can’t write,’ and I told him why I thought I couldn’t, and he started shouting, ‘No, no, no!’ He said this is precisely the time when artists go to work, not when everything is fine but when things were difficult. Dire. This is when we’re needed.”

After that pep talk, she had a realization: “I thought to myself, ‘God, think of all the writers who wrote in prisons.’ In gulags, you know. I mean, it is just amazing. I felt a little ashamed but very happy that he said that. I never had a problem since.”
On October 17, 1989, at 5:04 p.m., Susan Schwartz was jogging with a colleague on a field at UC Santa Cruz when the Earth began to shudder and the ground slipped beneath them. Schwartz, a postdoctoral fellow at the time, could barely stand. The initial 6.9 magnitude quake was over in 15 seconds. That quarter-minute was enough to make the Cypress Street Viaduct on the Nimitz Freeway tumble in Oakland, smashing cars and killing 42 people. A section of the Pacific Garden Mall in Santa Cruz collapsed, crushing three people.

When the shaking stopped, 63 people were dead already or mortally injured, nearly 4,000 were hurt, and thousands were left without homes. But Schwartz, of course, had no way of knowing all this. She only knew that “something very significant” had happened. She saw a few frightened people sitting on the ground feeling aftershocks near the Earth and Marine Sciences Building; books scattered over floors; and people gathered around battery-powered radios relaying distorted reports of the devastation: The whole Bay Bridge had collapsed. People were out in the water.

“And, of course, part of the bridge did collapse, but the initial transmissions were a little bit exaggerated,” Schwartz recalled. Then she took a walk on campus, looked out at downtown Santa Cruz, and saw the smoke of fires from broken gas mains.

The Loma Prieta quake—25 years ago this month—has become a touchstone in modern Central Coast history, a dividing line between “before” and “after” in the memories of long-time Santa Cruzans who remember the tragic deaths, the demolition of beloved landmarks like the Cooper House, and the dramatically altered look of downtown, including the reconfigured “Pacific Garden Mall.”

But it’s also a touchstone in the history of seismology. This year, three UC Santa Cruz seismologists—Schwartz, along with Thorne Lay and Emily Brodsky—looked back on that frightening time and reflected on just how far earthquake studies have come since then, while considering the work that must be done before scientists can more reliably predict quakes and prepare Californians for “the big one.”

And make no mistake, these scientists say—a big one is coming.
What have we learned about earthquakes since then?

Prieta quake ripped through sing devastation and tragedy

When he looks at recent California history, Lay senses a quake “deficiency,” and has a strong concern that “faults have been building up strain for a long time. We are due for an earthquake. Judging from the rates that plates are moving and faults are deforming, there is a 60-80 percent probability of a magnitude 7 quake around the Bay Area in the next 25-30 years.”

The quake that rumbled through Napa in the early hours of August 24 was a stark reminder that the Bay Area rests on a landscape with underground plates “grinding steadily along,” said Lay. “These little snaps and pops are part of the expected behavior of the fault system.”

He said scientists simply don’t have any way of knowing how a relatively minor quake such as the one in Napa would have any bearing on the “big one” that is bound to come.

And while he noted the “substantial impact,” Lay said that it was “nowhere near the largest that are likely to happen in the area.”

Lay says the East Bay and the San Francisco Peninsula are more likely candidates for quakes than Santa Cruz in the near future. But it would be “silly,” he said, for any Northern Californian not to be prepared.

The outcome of the Napa quake—which caused $1 billion in damages but no fatalities—gave him some hope that Northern California has been learning from past experience. If a comparable quake had happened in China, he said, hundreds would have been killed.

Sea change

Of the current seismologists at UC Santa Cruz, Schwartz was the only one on campus at the time. Brodsky was still a high school student in New York, watching the World Series that day—the San Francisco Giants vs. the Oakland Athletics at Candlestick Park. Suddenly the picture cut out.

Lay was a seismology professor at the University of Michigan, where ice storms posed a much more pressing concern than underground temblors. He had already been hired by UC Santa Cruz and was preparing to take the job. After the quake, he flew out to California, where he joined an ongoing aftershock study and headed out into the mountains.
This was his first encounter with a quake’s devastating aftermath. The damage and loss of lives were modest compared with the huge quakes that have struck other parts of the world more recently, such as the 20,000 fatalities from the Tohoku earthquake in Japan in 2011 and quarter million fatalities in the Sumatra quake and ensuing tsunami of 2004. Still, Loma Prieta exposed the area’s vulnerability. Bottled water supplies ran out quickly at local supermarkets. Those who had not saved fuel soon experienced shortages.

“The net impact was huge,” Lay said. He also noted that there is still a vacant lot downtown where a building was destroyed and has yet to be rebuilt, saying, “there was a multi-decade effect on the economy.”

Santa Cruz was forced to reckon with the fact that downtown structures are built on a weak riverbed and vulnerable to strong shaking, Lay said. “The impact was ...filled with lessons on how to implement wise decisions in land use, and do very good engineering and prepare for the inevitability of quakes.”

**A great leap forward**

Earthquake studies were not quite in the “dark ages” at the time, “but it almost felt like a cottage industry,” Lay said. Scientists had embraced digital quake-recording technology, leaving behind old analog earthquake-recording devices that used rolls of paper, needles, ink, and rotating metal “drums.” But retrieving data was still frustrating and cumbersome.

“You had to dial in with modems to a few individual stations,” Lay said. If the Loma Prieta quake happened today, the information would be available almost instantly to a global research community with 1,500 research stations worldwide.

The art and science of earthquake analysis has also changed a good deal since then—and UC Santa Cruz has been part of that leap forward.

Lay specializes in integrating seismic, GPS, and tsunami data. Schwartz uses high-tech portable equipment to study areas that have both volcanoes and quakes like Costa Rica and northern New Zealand, while trying to understand the diversity of slips that occur on faults.

Brodsky and her team have drilled directly into the fault that caused the Tohoku quake in Japan, taking its temperature to gauge friction heat generated during the fault slippage. The Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation funded this work in 2012, with a grant of more than $750,000. She has worked on a diversity of topics including the long-range triggering interactions of various quakes.

“Because of the way seismic waves travel, they sometimes trigger other earthquakes,” Brodsky said. “If you have sensitive enough instrumentation you start to see these small signals as an important part of the system.”

Even small quakes can influence other quakes. “They are always talking to each other,” she said.

And Brodsky is among the scientists who study the effects of shaking on groundwater systems, and how fracking and hydrothermal activities can trigger quakes.

The notion that earthquakes are always “acts of God” becomes woefully outdated when seismologists consider the various ways that water, being pumped in and out of the ground, can affect the slippage along a fault.

Brodsky pointed out that significant fracking and hydrothermal activity is going on right here in California. “People make quakes all the time,” she said.

Schwartz attributed some of this impressive progress to advances in computer capabilities, including simulated seismic waves shaking the Earth. She also noted that GPS sensors placed on either side of a quake fault can give scientists a better sense of strain along the fault.

“That still won’t tell us when it is going to occur,” she said; “but it does give us a better sense of where most of the slip (along the quake fault) will happen.”

Aside from their groundbreaking research, all three of these professors have found ways to communicate their findings in an accessible manner to students, community members, and reporters. Brodsky, for instance, is well-known for using everything from whole-wheat matzo crackers to bricks and bungee ropes to demonstrate the mechanics of the Earth’s crust breaking, and the build-up of strain along a fault.

In the process, through intensive research as well as teaching, these professors have helped increase the baseline understanding of quakes worldwide.

“We don’t do a lot of quake prediction,” Schwartz said, referring to UC Santa Cruz faculty. “but to improve quake prediction you must improve the base of understanding—and we have made a very large impact on understanding the basic physics of quakes.”
Bracing for ‘the big one’

While scientists have made great strides in understanding quakes, and at least have a better grasp of when a quake might happen and which faults are active, reliable quake prediction is still a long way away. This is not to say we have no capability of predicting quakes. Scientists have been able to determine the likelihood in a broad sense—usually over a span of 10 years or more—while closing in on certain sections of certain faults that are likely to slip in a given time period.

Since 1989, scientists have pioneered the use of GPS sensors to be placed on either side of a fault and tracked every day, showing them how the rock is slowly deforming, straining, bending to a breaking point. The trouble is, there is some elusive transition that occurs right before a fault fails. Lay likened it to that unpredictable moment when a child stretches a rubber band and builds tension, and then it breaks without warning.

“There is no smoking gun that works for all earthquakes all the time,” he said. “There are indications of precursory phenomena—but it’s anecdotal at this point.”

“Seismology is still a young field,” Schwartz said. “We’re still learning some fundamental things about the behavior of rocks under certain conditions. Every piece of information we obtain will help us predict, in some sense, but it is a very complicated system.”

Even in the absence of pinpoint-accurate predictability, Californians can still plan ahead. Every quake along every major fault guides good engineering practices to “harden” the built environment. “This has proven quite successful,” Lay noted. “The total loss of life in the 1989 quake and in the Northridge quake of 1994 has been relatively small.”

Still, he said that many structures in California are still not retrofitted, which troubles him, especially considering that some active faults have yet to be discovered. “Sometimes we first learn about faults when they first rupture,” he said. “Northridge was a fault that was not previously recognized (prior to the earthquake).”

Lay is also concerned that life lessons from Loma Prieta are “starting to get pretty far away” from local memory, in part because “a whole new generation of people has never run into how frustrating it is to go four or five days without fresh water, and you can’t function normally or drive because the roads are messed up.

“We need to remind people to take advantage of this anniversary,” he continued. “There are practical measures that are not too expensive but pay off a big benefit eventually.”

Among those measures: understanding how to shut off the gas at your house, how to turn off the water to avoid contamination, stocking up on fresh water and fuel.

After all, he said, “this is not going away. It is endemic. There will be another big earthquake.”

For earthquake preparedness tips, visit earthquakecountry.org
Food

UC Santa Cruz—‘The Mothership’ of organic agriculture—has much to offer the ambitious new UC Global Food Initiative.
THIS PAST WINTER, UC President Janet Napolitano was eating high-end organic food at legendary Berkeley restaurant Chez Panisse with a group of UC chancellors, an event hosted by famed restaurant proprietor Alice Waters. Among the topics were population growth, world hunger, and sustainable farming practices. Napolitano found the meal and conversation so inspiring that she reportedly started scribbling out ideas for a university-wide compact on a napkin. And then, in a moment that would have made John Hancock proud, all the people at the table signed it.

In July, Napolitano went public with this ambitious plan to develop food practices system-wide, expand classroom offerings about sustainable food, and increase sustainable farming practices at all UC campuses. The UC Global Food Initiative will harness the University of California’s resources to address one of the critical issues of our time: How to sustainably, equitably, and nutritionally feed a world population expected to reach 8 billion by 2025.

UC Santa Cruz is poised to play a pivotal role in the movement because the campus is nothing less than “The Mothership” of sustainable agriculture, said Daniel Press, executive director of UC Santa Cruz’s Center for Agroecology and Sustainable Food Systems (CASFS). “There is no other university with such a well-established sustainable agricultural program,” said Press. He met with Napolitano in June to discuss how the campus can help push the initiative forward. After all, CASFS has been an epicenter for sustainable farming for more than 45 years, and many of the organic farmers on the West Coast have trained at the center.

Since 1967, UC Santa Cruz has been a destination for those interested in learning organic farming and gardening skills. Trainees have come from around the world. “The training we provide here is being picked up in Latin America, Europe, and Asia,” said Press. With its long history as a training ground, CASFS has a national reputation for the skill and knowledge of its instructors and researchers. The center recently received a $4 million gift that is being used to create an endowment to keep CASFS a leader in the sustainable food world. This gift from an anonymous donor is the first step in building a $10 million endowment that will ensure the center’s long-term productivity and impact.

Along the way, knowledge and best practices exported from UC Santa Cruz have helped “sustainable” and “organic” go mainstream.

The world has changed since the days when a group of hardworking UC Santa Cruz apprentices set up makeshift tents on the 30 acres of campus land that have become the Farm & Garden.

“Sustainable farming is no longer seen as a ‘flaky, hippie’ activity,” said Press. “The world has taken a different view of organic agriculture than it used to.”

Our society has become aware of how food is farmed and where it comes from, and graduates from the CASFS apprenticeship program are changing the food world in the regions where they work, Press said.

continued next page
Winning over stomachs and minds

While UC Santa Cruz is participating enthusiastically in Napolitano’s initiative, it has already established its leadership in sustainability practices, and had been exporting its expertise across the globe long before that fateful “Night of the Napkin” at Chez Panisse.

One of the most important major fronts of the initiative is the dining hall. Alice Waters is famous for her efforts to challenge, and change up, the stereotypically greasy, dreary fare in school cafeterias across California. Producing local fruits and vegetables and serving them in dining halls and cafeterias has become a cornerstone of her Edible Schoolyard project, and is also a key component in the UC global Food Initiative.

In spring 2010, UC Santa Cruz undergraduates voted overwhelmingly to approve Measure 43, the Sustainable Food, Health and Wellness Initiative. Measure 43 generates over $100,000 each year from student fees to support a wide variety of education efforts, student grants, and other activities designed to promote a healthy campus food system and enhance students’ understanding of their food choices.

“We are reforming institutional food,” Press said.

Meanwhile, CASFS graduates are extending this cafeteria-reform effort to the corporate realm. Jered Lawson, a ’94 CASFS graduate and co-founder of the Pescadero working/teaching farm Pie Ranch, is partnering with Google and LinkedIn to develop stronger relationships between their cafeterias and local production of nutrient-dense foods.

Lawson is paying it forward by training the next generation of sustainable farmers. Pie Ranch offers a year-long apprentice program and works with high school kids from San Francisco, Pacifica, and Pescadero.

Lawson is drawn to educating teens about food and social justice because he grew up in Los Angeles, where “the disconnect between people and the resources that sustain them was painfully obvious.”

As an undergraduate at UC Santa Cruz, Lawson (Kresge ’92, community studies) read Wendell Berry’s The Unsettling of America: Culture and Agriculture, which includes an impassioned defense of locally-based, diversified farm and food systems in the face of mono-crop, industrial-scale production geared for export. The book, first published in 1977, had a profound influence on his life and his work today.

“That book helped me see how many of the solutions for the challenges the world was facing have a basis in agriculture,” Lawson said.

Exporting best practices

The UC Global Food Initiative wants to do more than just improve the health and quality of campus foods, and upgrade sustainability practices on campus. Another of its goals is to have UC graduates sustain and export those practices throughout the world.

One recent example is the acclaimed urban farmer Karen Washington, a 2008 graduate of the Apprenticeship in Ecological Horticulture at CASFS who is one of five winners of a James Beard Foundation Leadership Award.

A native New Yorker, she returned to the Bronx after her apprenticeship and has won acclaim for her work to revitalize the area with urban gardens, as well as for national...
efforts to promote green jobs, healthy diets, and community gardens. Washington, who has been farming since she was 8 years old, was honored by Michelle Obama at the White House in 2010.

“The apprenticeship was one of the best experiences I ever had,” said Washington. “It got me connected to the land. My time at UC Santa Cruz got me looking at food systems... I came back to the Bronx energized and ready to kick butt.”

Washington gives workshops on vegetable production and food advocacy—ideas that were at the center of her curriculum at UC Santa Cruz.

“I highly recommend the program to anyone who can do it. It’s a family. I’m still connected to my classmates. It inspired me to be the person I am today in the food movement.”

Supporters of the UC Global Food Initiative hope to have a positive impact across the world. Participating campuses are not afraid to ask themselves daunting questions, including whether it’s even possible to sustainably and nutritiously feed a world population of 8 billion.

That is a question that CASFS alumni are exploring in far-flung places. Godfrey Kasozi, executive director of the Centre for Environment in western Uganda, is working to create a more sustainable economy and environment within his native country. He came to UC Santa Cruz as a CASFS apprentice in 1999 and returned to Uganda to train farmers in sustainable agriculture. He’s also worked with small-scale farmers to establish their own gardens.

His intensive training at UC Santa Cruz is paying off now. “The Centre for Environment has increased income and food production to families in the region,” he said.

Seeking alternatives in the growing fields

Individual activists are working hard to bring about social change through food. But it takes more than education and hard work to change how food is grown worldwide. CASFS staff members are also contributing to the Global Food Initiative through their cutting-edge research, including their development of alternatives to methyl bromide, a gas that is used to kill pests in growing fields.

For the last 50 years, methyl bromide has been almost ubiquitous. “Chemical fumigation has been used as the major tool for controlling soil-borne diseases and weeds in fruit and vegetable production all over the world,” said Joji Muramoto, associate researcher in the Department of Environmental Studies.

But strong environmental and health concerns have led to heavy regulation. Research by Environmental Studies Professor Carol Shennan and Muramoto conducted at the UC Santa Cruz Farm has shown promising results with alternative approaches. One technique, known as anaerobic soil disinfestation (ASD) reduces pathogens for strawberries by creating a fermentation process in the soil. Researchers introduce a carbon source such as rice bran, chopped-up cover crops, or molasses to the strawberry bed, then irrigate and tarp off the beds to keep soil-borne diseases at bay.

The method has been tested for the past several seasons at the Farm and commercial fields across the California coast, and the results are promising: the technique has been shown to control the soil pathogen *Verticillium dahliae*, a major disease of strawberries. Now, ASD is being implemented in strawberry and cane berry fields in coastal California. It was used in 123 acres in 2012–2013, and 430 acres in the 2013–2014 season. Researchers expect its use and impact to keep growing.

Shennan and Muramoto, said Press, “are working on techniques for growing strawberries that are really revolutionary.”

For more information, visit casfs.ucsc.edu.

Amy Ettinger is a freelance writer based in Santa Cruz.
‘79 The Rev. John LEECH (CDSP ’84) received the Doctor of Ministry degree from San Francisco Theological Seminary on May 24, 2014. His dissertation/project was an interdisciplinary study of the human life cycle and faith development entitled “Embracing the Vocation of Eldership in a Congregation.”

‘80 Gabrielle SELZ’s memoir, Unstill Life: A Daughter’s Memoir of Art and Love in the Age of Abstraction has been published by W.W. Norton. Daniel TIFFANY published three books (and a chapbook) of poetry and literary criticism in the last year: Brick Radio, In the Poisonous Candy Factory, Neptune Park, and My Silver Planet: A Secret History of Poetry and Kitsch. Neptune Park was listed as one the “best poetry books of 2013” by several national journals and by the Poetry Foundation. Tiffany is professor of English and comparative literature at the University of Southern California.

‘83 Andrew Brookes ORLANS took an early retirement from teaching high school English and Latin in order to pursue other interests: gardening, stone masonry, and old house restoration. He currently is an antiquarian book dealer, residing in Marshall, Va., and trading under the name Brooke’s Corner Books on Alibris. He returned to Santa Cruz for three marvelous weeks in 2007, staying in the recently opened Norman Park and delving into the multifarious treasures contained in the Victorian mansion and learning to sail last year. He lives outside Washington, D.C., but wishes he lived in Santa Cruz.

‘09 Kristen HULBERG recently graduated from San Jose State with an MA in education and PPS school counseling. She also got engaged in February and will be getting married in May 2015. She lives in the Santa Cruz Mountains with her fiance and one-year-old lab puppy.

‘69 Gregg HERKEN is an emeritus professor of history at the University of California, who, despite retiring from UC in 2010, maintains a multi-campus affiliation at UC Santa Cruz and UC Merced, where he was a member of the founding faculty. His fifth book, The Georgetown Set: Friends and Rivals in Cold War Washington, will be published by Knopf this fall. Susan TRIMINGHAM is still living in Santa Cruz and returned to graduate school for a second master’s program in 2011 after a trip to Benn, West Africa, in 2010. Completed M.Ed. C & I, Integrated Teaching through the Arts in November 2013, and in January 2014 was hired as an adjunct professor for art education in both the Art & Art History and Secondary Education Departments at San Jose State University.

‘70 Paul BERGE’s new film, CoPay, is free online on Vimeo. Visit https://vimeo.com/buttercowninfipix.

‘82 Ise BATEK now has two websites devoted to recent work—www.esebatek.com (science) and www.isebatek.weebly.com (art). Batek writes, “I have changed my legal name to Ise Alexandra Batek. Ise is German for Isis. My name used to be James Robert Batek.”

‘86 Douglas REED has been spending his summers back in Santa Cruz with his family for the past two years. He recently published his second book, Building the Federal Schoolhouse: Localism and the American Education State, and learned to sail last year. He lives outside Washington, D.C., but wishes he lived in Santa Cruz.

‘87 Nicholas WALLERSTEIN is professor of English and humanities at Black Hills State University, in Spearfish, S.D., where he teaches early world literature, early British literature, the Bible as literature, and western religions. He received his Ph.D. in English from the University of Oregon in 1989 and then earned a master of theological studies degree from Harvard in 1996. His various scholarly publications are wide-ranging, with topics running from Beowulf to Audre Lorde.

‘89 Susanah Shaw ROMNEY is assistant professor of history at the University of Arkansas, Little Rock. Her book, New Netherland Connections: Intimate Networks and Atlantic Ties in Seventeenth-Century America, which locates the foundations of the early modern Dutch empire in interpersonal transactions among women and men, was published in the spring.
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For over a decade, Suzi Eszterhas (’99, environmental studies) has captured stunning moments from the lives of animals around the world that few of us would see without her photographs.

The award-winning wildlife photographer specializes in animal families and made a name for herself by focusing on some of the world’s most endangered species. Her interest in families grew from an initial love of cute baby animals.

“As I got older, I started to realize through my fascination with baby animals that these animal families are a fantastic backdrop to telling an animal’s story,” Eszterhas said by phone from California, where she was preparing to leave for a photo tour in Borneo.

By spending months—even years—in the wild observing families, Eszterhas has witnessed incredible events that take place during an animal’s lifecycle.

“A mother will defend her cubs, cubs will die from predation, and all these wildlife dramas take place while documenting an animal family,” she said.

Her work capturing these unique moments and more have led to publication in major magazines including TIME and National Geographic. They have also been featured in books including the recently released A Future for Cheetahs written by Cheetah Conservation Fund founder Laurie Marker, and a children’s book series written by Eszterhas.

For the full story, see “Alumni Profiles” in the December 2013 issue of the UC Santa Cruz Review.
Suzi Eszterhas: Eye on the wild

herself titled *Eye on the Wild*. In addition to this work she even makes time to share her talents with others by leading instructional tours and workshops in various countries including Australia, Brazil, and Indonesia.

Eszterhas credits her success in part to the luck she’s had throughout her life in meeting people who believed in her. During her time at UC Santa Cruz, the support of photography professor Norman Locks had a particularly profound effect on her.

“He really believed in me, taught me a lot, and challenged me,” Eszterhas said. “One of the most valuable things he gave me was a lot of support, which I didn’t get a huge amount of from my peers in photography classes because what I was doing was so different from their work, which was more fine art. Mine was more like harbor seals giving birth to pups.”

Her peers may not have appreciated her work, but Locks did, challenging her to improve and telling her honestly if she was in a rut. He was also the one who allowed her to take photography classes even though she wasn’t an art major. After meeting with Eszterhas and seeing she had a serious mission, he let her into the classes.

“I knew in my career as a wildlife photographer that a degree in environmental studies was more worthwhile than a degree in art. I wanted to take photographs about animal behavior and conservation issues,” said Eszterhas.

Once out of school, Eszterhas couldn’t immediately jump into the competitive wildlife photography field. She worked as a PR director for the Santa Cruz SPCA, where her boss was also very supportive. She was able to build a wildlife portfolio while managing to pay the bills and eventually moved to part-time work before finally quitting her day job altogether to pursue her dream.

“It’s so important to have people who believe in you when something is difficult to break into, which can be demoralizing sometimes,” she said. “Having these people around me who believed in me and gave me freedom was life-changing.”

*Lisa Granshaw is a freelance writer based in New York City.*
Greg Neri: A voice for urban teens

by Peggy Townsend

Greg Neri’s award-winning books have yet to hit the New York Times best-seller list, but they have a distinction about which the UC Santa Cruz graduate is proud. Librarians across the country tell him his teen novels are among the books most often stolen from shelves.

“UC Santa Cruz opened my eyes to all these different ways of thinking about the world and all its diverse people. It made me independently minded.”

Greg Neri (Cowell ’87, theater arts and film) smiles when he recounts that tale. He knows exactly who the thieves are: kids who live on the edges, urban teens whose worlds are narrow and gritty but who recognize something of themselves in the stories he writes.

“You can’t put Jane Austen in front of these kids because, socially and culturally, they won’t recognize the voice,” says Neri, whose books cover topics as diverse as street chess and urban black cowboys in Philadelphia. “But the way I write, kids recognize that voice. They say, ‘This book is about me. It’s about my world.’”

Neri’s life has always been what he calls “off the highway.” A talented but introspective artist and filmmaker, he was creating online media for old-school corporations like Disney and Mercedes-Benz with his brother when he started volunteering to teach animation in L.A.’s inner-city schools.

Beneath the street-tough exterior of the kids, says the now 50-year-old Neri, he saw a vulnerability and innocence caused by a lack of exposure to the wider world.

“I started to see these young people were worth saving,” says Neri. “It was about exposing them to other possibilities.”

Neri, who writes under the name G. Neri, got that opportunity when his wife received a professorship in Tampa, Florida, and he quit his L.A. job. He took a film script he’d written about the life of an 11-year-old gang-banger named Robert “Yummy” Sandifer, who’d been shot in 1994 on Chicago’s South Side, and began turning it into a graphic novel.

That book, Yummy, won a Coretta Scott King award and was honored by the Simon Wiesenthal Center. His other books—all of them based in real life—include Knockout Games, a story about an urban sport that involves teens attacking unsuspecting strangers; Ghetto Cowboy, about a hidden inner-city black cowboy culture; and Surf Mules, which centers around a group of surfers who run drugs as a sideline. His newest offering is a picture book about the life of singer Johnny Cash.

“Greg stands out because he has a very fresh take on fiction,” says his agent Edward Necarsulmer IV of Dunow, Carlson & Lerner Literary Agency in New York City. “What he does is get people to come face-to-face with, and really acknowledge, the way we live our lives now.”

That kind of non-mainstream approach, Neri says, was born at UC Santa Cruz, where the emphasis was not on grades but on risk-taking and pursuing your passion.

“UC Santa Cruz opened my eyes to all these different ways of thinking about the world and all its diverse people,” Neri says. “It made me independently minded.”

It’s the same message Neri sends to hundreds of students he meets during school visits across the country, many of whom say his books were the first they’d read. They tell Neri that his stories made them want to read more, that they reflected their fears and hopes, that they inspired them. One reluctant boy went from reading Neri’s free-verse novel Chess Rumble to discovering jazz poet Langston Hughes and Shakespeare. He later was accepted into a highly competitive creative arts magnet school.

“My lesson to kids is: If you’re open to taking a chance and walking down a different path, some really amazing things can happen,” Neri says. “You never know what’s around the next bend.”

Peggy Townsend is a freelance writer based in Santa Cruz.
This alumni photo submission feature highlights and celebrates the experiences, travels, and artistic insights of UC Santa Cruz’s diverse and fascinating alumni.

We’ve selected two images for publication in this issue and included the stories behind them. But we received so many excellent submissions that we decided to run honorable mentions online. Visit review.ucsc.edu to see them.

(Above) Cami Winslow (College Ten ’10, anthropology) took this photo of an old wooden mill in the ghost town of Crystal, Colo. While living in Colorado, she saw a postcard with a photo of this mill and thought, “I must go there!” She had to hike in to the mill but says it was worth every mile.

(Left) In 2008–2009 Robert Katzenson (Stevenson ’83, history) was an employee of the Kurdistan Regional Government’s Ministry of Municipalities. He lived in Erbil (the capital of the Kurdish region) and commuted back periodically to his home in the Netherlands. The Erbil Citadel is purportedly the oldest continuously inhabited place in the world and was used by Kurdish refugees fleeing the genocide Saddam Hussein inflicted on the Kurds in the 1990s. The Citadel’s Ottoman-era structures exhibited some stunning period architecture including this image of a derelict door. (More images at robkatzenson.com.)

Send future submissions to review@ucsc.edu. See the rules and guidelines at review.ucsc.edu/submissions.html.
Philanthropy Focus

While giving his college-bound daughter a tour of UC Santa Cruz, alum William Hancock wanted to show her the Quarry Amphitheater, once known as a great place to attend a lecture, take in a concert, or—during off-hours—sit quietly with a good book. He was shocked to find that the amphitheater was closed in 2006 due to its deteriorated state.

“It’s such a beautiful spot, and kind of hidden, and I just felt sad that it had fallen into disrepair,” said Hancock, managing principal of the California Appellate Law Group in San Francisco. “I remember hearing someone play guitar there. The acoustics were beautiful. My sister acted there in a play by Euripides.”

Hancock’s gift to UC Santa Cruz kicked off fundraising efforts to renovate the amphitheater. The project is in the early phase, but a recent campus survey got a tremendous response from UC Santa Cruz students. The Student Fee Advisory Committee (SFAC) has been consulted about this project and is poised to advise campus leadership on the use of student services fees and seismic fees to help return the amphitheater to its former glory and once again become a world-class performance space.

Reopening the Quarry Amphitheater is among the priorities of the Campaign for UC Santa Cruz, a $300 million fundraising effort to provide critical resources to the campus.

Hancock and a group of volunteers hope that fellow alumni will participate in the Quarry’s revitalization, partnering with students to give new life to the iconic space and provide an essential UC Santa Cruz student experience.

“I’ve talked with many people who, like Bill Hancock, have fond memories of the Quarry,” said Campus Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor Alison Galloway. “I hope this will be an appealing project, especially to our alumni.”

Built in 1967 at a cost of $82,000, the Quarry has a storied history.

Even before it was finished, UC Santa Cruz’s founding chancellor, Dean McHenry, held his 1966 inauguration there. Congresswoman Bella Abzug, author and architect Buckminster Fuller, and political activist Angela Davis have spoken there. The amphitheater once played host to a presidential stump speech by Gov. Jerry Brown and a teach-in featuring former U.S. ambassador Joe Wilson.

The venue has been sorely missed. An eclectic mix of student groups has been searching for places to gather and showcase their talent, said student Max Hufft (’15 Crown, computer engineering), former SFAC voting member and commissioner of academic affairs for SUA. “We’re seeing a really high demand for performance and meeting spaces,” he said.

Work on the architectural design concepts began in October of this year. Initial construction is anticipated to begin in spring 2016, and would address basic improvements including earthquake safety, accessibility, Wi-Fi, new seating, and lighting in the aisles.

In a future phase(s), the plan proposes installation of a “smart stage,” which could be easily reconfigured for different uses; a pedestrian bridge; and a small building for concessions, restrooms, and support space. Timing of construction is dependent on the ongoing fundraising.

The current budget forecast of the Quarry Amphitheater project is $18.1 million.

Those involved in the project visualize a place where students from all 10 colleges can meet and exchange ideas, said Samuel Shaw (’17 politics/history), College Nine Student Union Assembly representative.

“I would really like to see the Quarry become a locus for public life at the school,” Shaw said.

To contribute to the Quarry Amphitheater Project, please visit connect.ucsc.edu/quarry
DAVID KIRK, retired media specialist at McHenry Library, wants to continue giving to the library and campus he spent 29 years helping to build.

He is doing that by making the library a beneficiary in his estate plans. And he gives to the UC Santa Cruz Fund, which provides the chancellor with resources to invest where needed—including extending hours at McHenry Library.

Thank you, David, and all the others who’ve stepped forward.

Whatever your passion, we invite you to join in shaping the future of UC Santa Cruz—now and down the road.
IT’S ALWAYS BEEN ABOUT ASKING THE BIG QUESTIONS.

Join us as we celebrate.
50years.ucsc.edu

Literature professor Tom Vogler with students at a seminar at Stevenson College in 1966.