

AlumniNotes

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COWELL COLLEGE

'69 **Robin Barker** retired in 2012 after a career in libraries, mostly in Bellingham, Wash. For her first post-retirement activity, she decided to take in a foster child, a teen boy, never having had children of her own—a stressful but rewarding experience!

'71 **Father James K. GRAHAM** recently celebrated his second anniversary as pastor of St. Joseph Melkite Greek Catholic Church in Lansing, Mich. He continues to wield the red pencil (only figuratively now) of the "Authoritarian Grammarian" as copy editor of *SOPHIA*, the journal of the Melkite Greek Catholic Church in the United States.

'72 **Frank O SMITH's** novel, *Dream Singer*, was published in October 2014. In manuscript, it was a finalist for the Bellwether Prize, created by best-selling novelist Barbara Kingsolver, "in support of a literature of social change." In December, it was named a Notable Book of the Year in Literary Fiction by *Shelf Unbound*, the international indie book review magazine. In June 2014, *Sonny Days*, a book that Smith ghostwrote, was published. It's the story of a former federal undercover narcotics agent who became a champion of community policing. Smith lives with his wife on the coast of Maine. He can be reached via frankosmithstories.com.

'75 **Sue PERRY** is a disaster scientist at the U.S. Geological Survey and, after long hiatus, has resumed writing novels (currently a speculative detective series) and enjoying live music. Her twins have launched toward med school and into parenthood. Life is good.

'78 **John KENNEDY** is busy in Davidson, N.C., serving on the board of the Davidson

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Lands Conservancy and the Town of Davidson planning board. He was recently part of a fulfilling project at Lowe's that helps to benefit communities in the Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico: www.youtube.com/watch?v=JtARIDEU2M8

'81 **Sherril BABCOCK-WELLS's** small farm in Fresno was certified organic in 2014 by CCOF. Her husband was featured in a news story about farmer/veterans.

'83 **Peter GOLDSTEIN** has been appointed vice president for communications and marketing at the Population Reference Bureau in Washington, D.C. PRB is active in analyzing demographic data to inform policy and practice in health, gender, youth, inequality, and the environment. Previously, he was with InterMedia, a global research group active in the international development field.

'88 **Hammon P. ACUNA** was appointed as senior vice president of business development by the Cooperative of American Physicians. He lives in Silverlake, Calif., with his husband, Jeff Muehl, and their five-year-old daughter, Lola.

'90 **Gregory CANILLAS** is an assistant professor of clinical psychology at the Chicago School of Professional Psychology (Los Angeles campus). He also serves as co-chair of the Commission for Youth and Children (Long Beach). He presented his research at a number of national conferences over the past year and is working on a book on infidelity. He is co-chairing an EOP Reunion that will celebrate the Summer Bridge program with classmate **Laurene DOMINGUEZ** (Merrill '92).

'91 **Dyane LESHIN-HARWOOD** is the founder of the Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance (DBSA) of Santa Cruz County, and facilitates free support groups for women. She's thrilled to announce that her book, *Birth of a New Brain—Healing from Postpartum Bipolar Disorder*, with a foreword by Dr. Walker Karraa, will be published by Post Hill Press in fall 2016.

'98 **Jennifer (CLARK) Caloyeras** is a novelist and short fiction writer living in Los Angeles. Her short stories have been published in *Monday Night Literary*, *Wilde Magazine*, *Storm Cellar*, and *Booth*. She has been a college instructor,

elementary school teacher, and camp counselor. She is the dog columnist for the *Los Feliz Ledger* and the *Larchmont Ledger*. Her latest book, *Strays*, is a novel set in Santa Cruz and published by Ashland Creek Press. She will speak about her book at UC Santa Cruz and Bookshop Santa Cruz in spring 2016.

'99 **Brian Patrick FARRELL** is an actor in Los Angeles and was in Universal Pictures' *TED 2*, which premiered in summer 2015. You can follow him on Twitter @boopityba.

'02 **Sarah Mae NELSON**, conservation interpreter at the Monterey Bay Aquarium, was honored along with seven others by the White House in February as one of its "Champions of Change for Climate Education and Literacy."

'04 **Elizabeth HERBERT** set out April 28 on a year-long trip around the world, and is writing about it. Check out her website and travel blog at www.betsyherbert.com.

'06 **Joey ROCCO** is COO and cofounder of San Diego-based tech startup The Control Group. He has been a driving force behind the growth of the tech culture in San Diego. The company has sponsored many events to educate youth about coding and web development and has created numerous tech jobs in Southern California.

'09 **Catherine COURTIER** has been working as a research intern since January at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute in Panama City, Panama, with Dr. Aaron O'Dea on a paleoecology project. She is also writing for an environmental company in Santa Barbara called Loatree. In June she moved to San Diego to pursue her master's of advanced studies in marine

biodiversity and conservation at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography.

'11 Halley FARWOOD went on to a doctoral program in clinical psychology. As part of both her dissertation and a fellowship at her school, she designed and produced an educational video game about clinical depression. Happymart will be a free online game to help people learn about depression.

STEVENSON COLLEGE

'69 Lorrie (MCCLAIN) Farrelly's novel *Timelapse* has won First Place in Time Travel in the 2014 Cygnus Awards for SciFi and Speculative Fiction. *Timelapse* also won a 2014 Readers' Favorite International Book Award and a gold medal in the 2014 Authors Cave Annual Book Awards.

'70 Tom WEINER used his aka—Wyner—for much of his career (e.g., as listed on IMDB), but his name is Weiner, as it was when he attended UC Santa Cruz.

'75 Laurie SAIN was thrilled when her first book, *The Hidden Leader: Discover and Develop Greatness Within Your Company* (Amacom Press, 2015), hit the No. 8 spot on the nonfiction best-seller list at the *Washington Post* in February. She sustained a concussion in a fall from her horse in October, so it took a few months before she could contribute to the book's success, continue her writing and editorial consulting business, and, of course, get back on her dressage horse, Dezi. She has lived in Lander, Wyo., since 1993.

'86 Michael SHIPLEY has worked as a writer/producer for TV for 19 years. He's written for more than a dozen shows including *Family Guy* and *My Name Is Earl*. Two years ago, he and Eva Longoria sold a show to Hulu. Currently, he is an executive producer on Tim Allen's ABC sitcom, *Last Man Standing*. He's also released an album of original songs, works with Native American nonprofits, and just got very happily married.

'89 Karen WILLEMSSEN is the

education director for Define American, a media and culture campaign about immigration, identity, and citizenship. The campaign piloted a high school curriculum on the film *Documented*. Check it out at defineamerican.com. Go Slugs!

'92 Timothy WEINER was commissioned as a captain in the California State Military Reserves, and has been assigned to the Judge Advocate General (JAG) Corps, Southern Detachment, at the Los Alamitos Joint Forces Training Base. In civilian life he is still serving as a criminal prosecutor with the California Department of Justice, Office of the Attorney General.

'00 Brie (WELDEN) Jensen was promoted to partnership with Pacifica Law Group in January. **Nathan LOWENSTEIN** is managing partner of Los Angeles patent litigation firm Lowenstein & Weatherwax LLP. The firm is changing its name from Goldberg, Lowenstein & Weatherwax LLP to its original name of Lowenstein & Weatherwax LLP, and intensifying its focus on its primary practice areas of patent infringement litigation and post-grant patent office litigation.

'09 Quinn LATHROP received his Ph.D. in quantitative psychology from the University of Notre Dame in May 2015. He is now working as a research scientist for Northwest Evaluation Association, an educational nonprofit in Portland, Ore.

CROWN COLLEGE

'69 Vincent VITALE graduated from UC Davis School of Law in 1972 and went to Alaska for a year as a VISTA attorney with Alaska Legal Services. Thirty-five years later, he left Alaska for retirement in Arizona. During his Alaskan adventure he participated in one successful appeal before the U.S. Supreme Court and numerous appeals before the Alaska Supreme Court. In the 1980s he became one of fewer than 2,000 attorneys nationwide to obtain the designation "certified trial advocate" from the National

Board of Trial Advocacy. He and his wife, Judy Rich, co-authored a novel that was published in 2012: *The Claimers—a Tale of Skullduggery on the Backstretch*. The novel was well received by reviewers.

'75 Alan B. LILLY celebrated his 60th birthday by rowing a boat 280 miles down the Grand Canyon. **Pete GROSS** provided expert advice on how to run the rapids. **Lorraine Clarke YOUNG** was the 2015 recipient of the UCLA Serge and Yvette Dadone clinical teaching award at the David Geffen School of Medicine. **Charles R. CALLEROS** has completed his 34th year of teaching as a professor of law at the Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law at Arizona State University, where he teaches contracts, international contracts, and civil rights. He has published three books and more than 30 law journal articles, is a member of the American Law Institute, and has earned numerous awards for teaching and social justice. He and his wife Debbie once studied and performed flamenco dance. He still plays drums, now in an 11-piece soul band, the Repeat Offenders.

'78 Dan WARRICK is the author of a University of California Press book called *The Way to Make Wine*—one of the press's only how-to guides. The book includes advice and perspective from Environmental Studies Professor Daniel Press, executive director of the Center for Agroecology & Sustainable Food Systems. Warrick is also an alumnus of the UC Santa Cruz Science Communication Program.

'81 Amy Schrut CONTARDI continues to work as a Spanish and ESL teacher in the public schools and vineyards of Sonoma County. She also produces three radio programs on North Bay public radio stations KRCB and KBBF. She has lived in Sebastopol since 1991.

MERRILL COLLEGE

'90 David C. WOOD has been promoted to partner at law firm Perkins Coie. He is a member of Perkins Coie's Emerging

Companies & Venture Capital practice. He focuses his practice on the representation of emerging growth companies, venture funds, and other early stage investors. **Dan GLUESENKAMP** was recently appointed by Secretary of the Natural Resources Agency (and fellow alum) **John LAIRD** (Stevenson '72) to serve on the California Invasive Species Advisory Committee, where he will provide advice to state agencies on invasive species issues. Dan is executive director of the California Native Plant Society, living in Sacramento with his wife and first-grade daughter—who just volunteered at a Sacramento chapter UC Santa Cruz alumni event!

'91 Jennifer A. JORDAN is a sociology professor at the University of Wisconsin—Milwaukee. Her book, *Edible Memory: The Lure of Heirloom Tomatoes and Other Forgotten Foods*, came out from the University of Chicago Press in April. The book was mentioned in the *New Yorker* in the "Briefly Noted" section: www.newyorker.com/magazine/2015/05/11/briefly-noted-all-involved

'92 Ruth RABINOWITZ, a partner in Rabinowitz Family Farms, finds herself serving as the family's point person for managing 10 farms in six Iowa counties as well as one farm in South Dakota.

'95 Suree TOWFIGHNIA's new documentary explores the impact of uranium mining on the water, land, and people of the Great Plains. *Crying Earth Rise Up* is now on the festival and university circuit and will be broadcast on public television this year. Please reach out if you are interested in seeing the film.

'00 Melissa BARTHELEMY is a Ph.D. student in the Department of History at UC Santa Barbara. She is curator and project manager for a remembrance exhibit honoring the victims of the May 23, 2014, tragedy that occurred in the residential community by the UCSB campus, in which six UCSB students were killed and 14 other people were injured.

The exhibit was up from May 20–June 20 and had more than 1,100 visitors. The exhibit was so well received by the families and the larger community that the team has been asked to extend the duration of the exhibit.

'01 Wilson TAI is the lead actor in the film, *Will of the Sun* (2015), a documentary on a Bay Area crew of cyclists riding the longest and steepest paved road on Earth to the 10,000-foot summit of a volcano. In 2015, he established his company, Metrotuned, a creative agency empowering #localheroes with influential marketing in social media platforms.

'02 Nick LEVIN recently married Erica Garcia (UC Berkeley '06) in Los Angeles, where they reside. Nick works as an engineering manager for Netflix, building partnerships with movie studios and technology companies throughout the world.

'11 Jake D. PARENT recently published his first novel, *Only the Devil Tells the Truth*. The book is about a working-class teenager from San Jose who falls into addiction. It has been well received and highly praised in reviews.

PORTER COLLEGE

'70 Denzil VERARDO and **Jennie DENNIS Verardo** (Merrill '70) have been travelling the world since their retirement from public service. They also keep busy with their writing—they are co-authors of *The Sempervirens Story: A Century of Preserving the Redwoods* among others. Denzil is a commissioner on the California Senate Cost Control Commission.

'76 Laura DUFRESNE was named director of medieval studies as of fall 2015 at Winthrop University, Rock Hill, S.C. Her book *The Fifteenth-Century Illustrated Tradition of Christine de Pizan's The Book of the City of Ladies and The Treasure of the City of Ladies* was published by Mellen Press in 2012.

'77 Steve EMERY and **Kathleen LIPINSKI**, a married couple whose landscapes celebrate the natural beauty of Marin County, were chosen in January by the county Cultural Services Commission to be

honored with the 2014 Cultural Treasure Award. **Cynthia Anne HAAGENS** graduated from California State University, Northridge, with a bachelor in music degree and minor in creative writing in December 2013. Her second bachelor's degree included magna cum laude honors.

'91 Maureen O'LEARY Wanket's second novel *The Arrow (Children of Brigid Trilogy Book One)* was released in 2015 by Geminid Press. She has short stories in *Revolution John* and *Night Journal*, as well as Shade Mountain Press's anthology *The Female Complaint*. Her entry won the poetry prize in Heyday Books' Sacramento Valley Writing Contest and is slated for publication in a book about the Sacramento Valley next year.

'92 Michelle MACH's book, *Unexpected Findings: 50+ Clever Jewelry Designs Featuring Everyday Components*, was published by Interweave in late fall 2014. She sells her handmade jewelry online and in selected galleries.

'97 Jill (GRABOWSKI) Hogan is a graduate student in UC Irvine's Department of Criminology, Law and Society.

'01 Jacqueline DANZIGER-RUSSELL graduated from San José State University with a master's degree in library and information science. She previously achieved an M.A. in children's literature from Roehampton University, London (2005) and is the author of *Girls and Their Comics: Finding a Female Voice in Comic Book Narrative* (2012, The Scarecrow Press, Rowman & Littlefield). She is pleased to report that a copy of her book may be found in UC Santa Cruz's own McHenry Library.

'02 Nate COOPER worked in the Film & Digital Media Department until 2006, then moved to New York City, and most recently started a company and wrote his first book, *Build Your Own Website: A Comic Guide to HTML, CSS and WordPress*. The book has ranked consistently in the top 10 for Computers, Internet, and CSS categories on Amazon.com, peaking at No. 2 in each category. **Nicholas DOAN's** first graphic novel, *Monster*

Elementary, an all-ages comedy/adventure, was published in the spring of 2014 and won a gold medal in the 2015 Independent Publisher Book Awards for best "Graphic Novel/Drawn Book—Humor/Cartoon History (U.S.)." Nick shares this award with his wife, **Gwendolyn DREYER** (Porter '04), who served as editor and contributed the layout and design, as well as the eight artists who brought his written words to life.

KRESGE COLLEGE

'78 Joan E. DONOGHUE, who has served as a judge on the International Court of Justice since 2010, received this year's Thomas Jefferson Foundation Medal in Law. The Thomas Jefferson Foundation Medals, given in the fields of law, architecture, and leadership, are the University of Virginia's highest external honor.

Margaret REED starred in the Tony Award-winning play *Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike* in Cleveland and Rochester, N.Y., in April and May. She is best known for her roles as the kooky romantic Shannon O'Hara McKechnie on the long-running soap opera, *As the World Turns*, the furious ex-date Mary Contardi in "The Baby Shower" episode on *Seinfeld*, and the recurring role of tough lawyer Felicia Chatham on *Law and Order: SVU*.

'88 Eric RIDENOUR has been with SERA Architects of Portland, Ore., for the past decade, where he specializes in campus and community planning. He finds himself back in the Bay Area quite a bit these days, working with clients such as Stanford and Google.

'95 Robert SCHMITT was selected by the city council to be the city attorney of the City of Roseville, starting February 2015. The City of Roseville is approximately mid-way along I-80 between the cities of Sacramento and Auburn, and is a full-service city with four city-owned utilities.

OAKES COLLEGE

'84 Lizz HODGIN is still a music and theater freak. She is in her 20th year of being a licensed "Music Together" Center and in that time has served over 42,000

students throughout Santa Cruz and Santa Clara counties. She and her son were honored as "2015 Family of the Year" by Special Parents Information Network (SPIN) for all of the volunteer work they do to support local families who have children with special needs. She performs in various musical and theatrical venues throughout Santa Cruz County and goes out dancing as often as possible.

COLLEGE EIGHT

'76 Henri/etta (FINGOLD) Bensussen has a chapbook of poems, *Earning Colors*, out from Finishing Line Press in K.Y. She serves on the board of the Mendocino Coast Writers Conference and manages its blog, blog.mcwc.org; is an active birder with Audubon; and devotes herself to writing, gardening, and walking by the ocean.

'83 Anne BIKLÉ moved to Seattle in 1991 and will soon publish her first book—*The Hidden Half of Nature: The Microbial Roots of Life and Health*. Events that began in the backyard when she and her husband broke ground for a garden launch them on a stay-at-home journey. They uncover startling parallels between the wild and alive world around the roots of plants and the human gut and make the case for microbial stewardship in agriculture and medicine—employing the mind of an ecologist, the instincts of a gardener, and the care of a doctor.

'84 Donna MEKIS is currently serving as the president of the UC Santa Cruz Alumni Association.

'86 Erica SCHAFFER is happily practicing gentle chiropractic in Santa Cruz and trying to save the world one back at a time, or one sports injury at a time. Married to fellow Slug **Rex WALTERS** (Merrill '71), who is a busy business broker. She loved her entire UC Santa Cruz experience and is proud to be a Slug.

'87 Lawrence COATES has two books coming out this fall, his fourth and fifth. His fourth novel, *The Goodbye House*, is set in San José in 2003. His fifth book, a novella, won the Miami University Press novella contest.

His first book was a Barnes & Noble Discover selection, and he's won the Western States Book Award in fiction as well as received an NEA Fellowship in Fiction. He did a reading at UC Santa Cruz in 2004, and he hopes to do another this spring.

'91 Paul ALMEIDA is a sociology professor at UC Merced. His book, *Mobilizing Democracy: Globalization and Citizen Protest*, was selected for the 2015 Distinguished Scholarship Award from the Pacific Sociological Association.

'94 Usha SUNDARAM was admitted to medical school but decided to leave the medical

school track. She attended the UC Berkeley School of Public Health Genetic Counseling Program and worked as a genetic counselor for many years, but had a shift during her personal life and lost touch with her profession. She leaned against writing during this time and brought forward a series of writing collections of Old/New English poetry and essays in four published books. She founded the Akasha Spiritual Faith, a self-realization process. She sends her gratitude to UC Santa Cruz for offering its own freedoms that allowed her the ability to expand her thinking

and forge her own way.

'98 Carol Harper PHILLIPS worked for many years doing electronics for telescope instrumentation at LLNL, UC Observatories at both Lick and Keck Observatories, and in the UCSC shops. She also worked for NASA as a beta site observer for the Kepler planet search project on Mt. Hamilton. She is currently homesteading along the Klamath River in Siskiyou County and in the Santa Cruz Mountains, and enjoying horse and mule packing along the Pacific Crest Trail.

'05 Virginia JAMESON graduated in May 2014 with a dual master's degree in international affairs and natural resources and sustainable development from American University. She recently began work as the deputy state director for California at the American Farmland Trust. **Stacy FULLER** lives in Washington, D.C., and is in her second year of law school. She works as a research assistant and as a student attorney in the Low Income Taxpayer Clinic.

COLLEGE NINE

'92 Michael SWEET lives in Davis, Calif. He is a professor of biology at American River College. He takes his marine biology students all over the coast, including to Año Nuevo State Reserve, where he used to tag elephant seals on the island as a graduate student.

GRADUATE STUDIES

'83 Shannon M. BROWNLEE (College Eight '79) was featured in the ARCS Alumni Hall of Fame in their recent national newsletter. ARCS Foundation is a national organization of women committed to advancing science in America through raising funds for scholar awards. The Northern California Chapter supports UC Santa Cruz students.

'84 Jenelle (KAISER) Ball has been awarded the 2015 James Bryant Conant Award by the American Chemical Society as the outstanding high school (Chico High School, Chico, Calif.) chemistry teacher in the United States. She gave her award presentation at the ACS national

meeting in Denver in March.

'93 Lynet UTTAL journeyed from UC Santa Cruz via Memphis and ended up in Madison, Wisc., since 1998. She is a professor at the University of Wisconsin–Madison and recently completed her M.S.W. in social work and is trying to become fluent in Spanish. She is doing community-based research and education with Latino immigrants and Tibetan refugees. She is still married to Dan Veroff and they have three sons, David (27, who lives in Santa Cruz), Eli (24), and Benji (21).

'99 Lochlann JAIN is an associate professor in Stanford's Anthropology Department, where she teaches medical and legal anthropology. Her latest book, *Malignant: How Cancer Becomes Us* (UC Press: 2013), received positive reviews, including in *Nature* and *Discover* magazines.

'12 Calvin MCMILLIN discovered, restored, and wrote the introduction for Frank Chin's previously lost novel, *The Confessions of a Number One Son*, which was published by the University of Hawai'i Press in March 2015.

IN MEMORIAM

'88 Stuart Wayne CULLEN (College Eight) passed away at home in Hillsboro, Ore., on Oct. 2, 2014. He was only 55 years old. He only had symptoms for one-and-a-half years before his death from congestive heart failure. He graduated with honors from UC Santa Cruz with a B.S. in computer engineering. He wanted to thank all his instructors for helping him attain his dream of being a computer engineer. His strong faith helped him through his illness. In the end, he would say, "See you on the other side."

'91 Juan R. PEREZ (Merrill) served with his wife Amanda Guzman-Perez as preceptors for Oakes College Biko House. He passed away on January 27 in Arcadia, Calif., after going into cardiac arrest. He was very loved and will be missed tremendously. To contact the family, please e-mail Amanda Guzman-Perez at agpjrp@gmail.com.

Volunteer profile



Shelley Alingas

Porter '10

Residence:
San Francisco

Employment:
Digital communications
for the University of San Francisco

Why do you volunteer with UC Santa Cruz?

I volunteer because, like most of us, I have an inexplicable heart-connection to Santa Cruz. Choosing to go to UCSC was one of the best decisions of my life. Plus, I love connecting people. And Slugs are some of the best people in the world!

What types of things do you do as a Slug volunteer?

I plan and host fun and meaningful events in the Bay Area that all types of Slugs would enjoy. My pride and joy is our annual UCSC Day at the Oakland A's (let's go OAKLAND!).

What has been the most rewarding thing about volunteering with your alma mater?

Simply providing a space for Slugs to interact, converse, laugh, and learn with each other. I know it's been a successful day when alumni ask for more.

Words of advice for those thinking of volunteering with UC Santa Cruz?

Think about what drives you to volunteer and why you want to reconnect with UCSC. From academia to socializing to cultural history, so many of our events were sparked by alumni who expressed their strong interests. That's where our best ideas come from.

What's your best memory from your time at UC Santa Cruz?

Whether I was on Mainstage, the Barn Theater, or in Porter Dining Hall, my best memories happened while rehearsing and performing with my friends. That camaraderie and playfulness was very special.

For more on UC Santa Cruz alumni volunteer opportunities, visit alumni.ucsc.edu/volunteer.