George Blumenthal, a professor of astronomy and astrophysics at UCSC since 1972, was named permanent chancellor September 19, 2007, after serving as acting chancellor for 14 months. In his first address to the campus after being appointed by the UC Regents, he pledged to “plan strategically and act boldly” to advance UCSC’s standing in the world.

“Here at UC Santa Cruz, our faculty are making breakthroughs relentlessly. Our students are exploring new ideas and opportunities at a pace they’ve never before experienced. Our graduates are changing the world. Our programs are defining education and reshaping the future,” he told a capacity crowd at the Music Center Recital Hall, receiving two enthusiastic standing ovations.

Blumenthal called the campus a “place that fosters a culture of excellence, inquiry, creativity, diversity, and public service while developing solutions to the world’s most critical challenges.” He pledged to work with staff, alumni, community members, government officials, and campus supporters to “accelerate UCSC’s upward trajectory.”

In a recent interview, Blumenthal recalled coming to UCSC as a young professor in 1972 and finding a place where “I could reach out to faculty from other disciplines and learn from them. I discovered the intellectual stimulation that continues to thrive here. Our faculty are inquisitive and willing to put aside assumptions or paradigms and think big thoughts; students are not just interested in learning but in learning how to think.”

* The interview with Chancellor Blumenthal begins on page 8.

Alumni Reunion Weekend, April 25–26, will include an intellectual forum and reception with alumni wines

Among the events at this year’s Alumni Reunion Weekend will be an intellectual forum on innovation and education in a global society. Featured speakers will be Innovation Nation author John Kao and historian and political pundit Victor Davis Hanson (B.A. literature, Cowell ’75).

New York Times editor Katy Roberts (B.A. politics, Kesugi ’74) will be moderator. A reception featuring wines by alumni vintners will follow. For more information on the forum and other Reunion Weekend events and activities, please see page 24, or go to: alumni.ucsc.edu/reunions

Campus Update

Inauguration of George Blumenthal set for June 6

UCSC has appointed Ingrid Parker, associate professor of ecology and evolutionary biology, to the newly established Jean H. Langenheim Endowed Chair in Plant Ecology and Evolution. Parker is the first faculty member to hold the endowed chair, established by a gift of $500,000 from Langenheim, professor emerita of ecology and evolutionary biology.

The endowment provides funds to support and encourage research and teaching in the area of terrestrial plant ecology and evolution, including studies of human impacts on plants. Parker joined the UCSC faculty in 1998. Her research includes investigations of invasive plant species and the evolutionary interactions of plants and plant pathogens.

“It is such an honor to be associated with Jean, who is a real pioneer in plant ecology and evolution,” Parker said. “The endowment will provide valuable support for the projects of students who are working in plant biology on campus.”

The formal inauguration of George Blumenthal as UCSC’s 10th chancellor is scheduled for Friday, June 6, 2008. The ceremony, open to the public, will be held on UCSC’s East Field, overlooking Santa Cruz and the Monterey Bay.

The inaugural celebration will feature a traditional academic procession, the chancellor’s inaugural address, a cultural forum, and a reception with alumni wines. Featured speakers will be Innovation and education in a global society.

The ceremony, open to the public, will be held on UCSC’s East Field, overlooking Santa Cruz and the Monterey Bay.

For more information and tickets, please visit inauguration.ucsc.edu

Flowers speaker John Kao and Victor Davis Hanson (Cowell ’75)
UCSC ranks among best in conservation research

Research grants top $100 million, again

Researchers at UCSC attracted $111 million in external grants and contracts to the campus in the 2006-07 fiscal year. This marks the second year in a row that research funding has exceeded $100 million.

“These research programs, aside from fulfilling the university’s mandate to increase knowledge, give our students the wonderful opportunity to learn within a real-world environment from global leaders, who can bring the enthusiasm of discovery directly into the classroom,” said Bruce Margen, UCSC’s dean for research.

The single largest award, $18 million, was received for projects carried out by the University Affiliated Research Center (UARC) located at the NASA Ames Research Center.

Other major awards include:

► A $5.5 million grant from the National Human Genome Research Institute as part of a four-year project to build “a parts list” of biologically functional human genome. Under the grant, a team led by James Kent, associate research scientist at UCSC’s Center for Biomolecular Science and Engineering, will establish a Data Coordination Center for the ENCODE Project (ENCODE) project.

► A five-year grant totaling $4.5 million for stem cell research from the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine. The grants will support the research of Bin Chen, assistant professor of molecular, cell, and developmental biology, and Camilla Chen, assistant professor of molecular, cell, and developmental biology. Chen and Camilla Forsberg received CBMR New Faculty Awards for stem cell research.

Forsberg, assistant professor of biomolecular engineering.

► A $600,000 gift from the Gloria and Kenneth Levy Foundation will help fund an integral part of the Automated Planet Finder now being built at the University of California’s Lick Observatory, under the direction of Steven Vogt, professor of astronomy and astrophysics at UCSC. The new telescope will collect starlight on an 8-foot (2.4-meter) primary mirror and direct it into a world-class spectrometer.

► Major funding from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation for the Thirty-Meter Telescope (TMT), a joint project involving a U.S.- Canadian team (UC, the California Institute of Technology, and the Association of Canadian Universities for Research in Astronomy), with UC’s participation managed by UCSC-based UC Observatories/Lick Observatory. Grants announced this year of $15 million for design development and $200 million for further development and construction will be shared equally between UC and Caltech.

Gift funds endowed chair in Sikh, Punjabi studies

UC Santa Cruz has received a gift of $677,000 from Haridt and Harbhajan K. Singh, through the Sikh Foundation, to fund an endowed chair for Sikh and Punjabi studies in the History Department.

The Sarbjit Singh Aurora Endowed Chair in Sikh and Punjabi Studies, established in memory of the donors’ son, will be held by a distinguished member of the humanities faculty and will support research and teaching about the Sikh community from a global perspective.

“The Sikhs have been in California for more than 100 years, and the Sarbjit Singh Aurora Endowed Chair in Sikh and Punjabi Studies provides an opportunity for students to learn more about Sikh religion, history, arts, culture and diaspora,” said Dr. Narinder S. Kapany, chairman and founder of the Sikh Foundation.

“The gift will solidify UC Santa Cruz’s strength in South Asian studies by creating an endowed chair that focuses on the world’s fifth largest religion, its history, and the history of the Punjabi area,” noted Georges Van Den Abbeele, UCSC’s dean of humanities.

Two profs named fellows by leading science group

Two scientists at UCSC—Sandra Faber, University Professor and chair of astronomy and astrophysics, and Jin Zhang, professor of chemistry and biochemistry—have been honored as 2007 fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS).

Faber was recognized for “contributions to our understanding of galaxies, dark matter, and the formation of large-scale structure in the universe, and for scientific leadership in the community,” according to a AAAS statement. Zhang was recognized for his “distinguished contributions to the field of nanoscience and nanotechnology especially in the design and fabrication of nanometer-scale and nanophotonic materials and their optical applications in energy conversion and biomedical detection.”

Green campus

Town joins pawn to fight climate change

Chancellor George Blumenthal joined Santa Cruz and county officials in pledging to reduce greenhouse gas emissions at their respective institutions and to encourage private, public, and nonprofit investments as part of the solution to global climate change.

Blumenthal, then-Santa Cruz Mayor Emily Reilly, and Santa Cruz County Supervisor Neal Coors signed a Climate Action Compact at a ceremony in September. Blumenthal called the compact “a historic day for our region.”

The Climate Action Compact grew out of the Climate Solutions Leadership Summit held at UCSC in April.

UCSC, Zipcar steer Santa Cruz into car sharing

UCSC and Zipcar, North America’s largest on-campus car-sharing service, formed a joint partnership last year to provide Zipcars to campus faculty, staff, and students, as well as community residents, as an environmentally friendly alternative to the costs and hassles of keeping a car on campus. The partnership continues UCSC’s commitment to providing sustainable transportation options, and grows Zipcar’s on-campus programs to more than 50 university partners. Each Zipcar typically replaces up to 20 personally owned vehicles, reducing the need for additional parking spaces and replacing older vehicles with new ones that have more stringent pollution controls.

More campus food facilities certified ‘green’

There are new campus locations earning “green” certifications in November from the Monterey Bay Area Green Business Program: Porter/Kresge Dining Hall, Cowell/Stevenson Dining Hall, and University Catering. Crow’s/Merrill Dining Hall and Banana Joe’s Café were already certified.

In the works for future certification are Owl’s Nest Café, Terra Fresa, and College 9/10 Dining Hall.

To be certified “green,” participants must be in compliance with regulations and meet standards for conserving resources, preventing pollution, and minimizing waste.
Program's color-coding
helps Wikipedia users
judge reliability

The online reference site
Wikipedia enjoys immense
popularity despite nagging doubts
about the reliability of entries
written by its all-volunteer team.

A new program developed at
UCSC aims to help with the
problem by color-coding en-
try's individual phrases based on
contributors' past performance.

The program analyzes
Wikipedia's entire editing histo-
ry—nearly two million pages and
2,000 demonstration versions is al-
ready available on a web page op-
erated by the program's creator,
L魯 de Alfaro, associate professor
of computer engineering.

Other sites already employ
user ratings as a measure of
reliability, but they typically depend on users' feedback
about each other. This
method makes the ratings
vulnerable to grudges and
subjectivity. The new pro-
tagon takes a radically differ-
ent approach, using the lon-
gevity of the content itself
to learn what information is
useful and which contribu-
tions are the most reliable.

"The idea is very sim-
ple," de Alfaro said. "If your
contribution lasts, you gain reputa-
tion. If your contribution is re-
verted [to the previous version],
your reputation falls." De Alfaro
spoke about his new program last
fall at the Wikimania conference
in Taipei, Taiwan.

State agency OKs
UCSC coastal plan

A T HEARING in December,
the California Coastal
Commission approved
UCSC's Coastal Long Range
Development Plan (CLRP),
a land-use blueprint for possible
future development at the site
of UCSC's Long Marine Lab.

The CLRP for the "Marine Science Campus"
allows for the development of
an additional 12 acres for new
research and education facil-
ities, setting aside 72 acres of the
site for environmental restora-
tion and preservation.

Examining the
torment of Twain

M ARK TWAIN is often
depicted as America's
favorite humorist. But a new
book by American studies
professor Forrest Robinson
sheds fresh light on the
renowned author's tormented
moral life.

The Author-Cat: Clemens's
Life in Fiction (Fordham
University Press) is a culmina-
tion of more than 25 years of
research by Robinson on
Samuel Clemens, who is better known
by his pen name, Mark Twain.

A critical psycho-
biography, the book
frames Twain's work in
terms of major
American social issues,
particularly slavery.
It is a belated sequel
to Robinson's 1986 book,
In Bad Faith: The Dynamics
of Deception in Mark
Twain's America, in
which he talks about
the ways
Clemens's major fiction both
addresses and denies the moral
burden of slavery in American
culture.

This is a book about a man
deeply troubled by what he
believes are his own moral
failures," said Robinson.

"It's about guilt; he
never got over the
fact that he lived in
a slave culture as a
child and was
persuaded there was
nothing really wrong
going on."

Alumni Association honor distinguished
teacher, outstanding staff member

A S AGRONOMIST and a
Graduate Division director,
these Alumni have been selected to receive
two of the Alumni Association's highest honors for 2007–08.

Stephen Gliessman, Alfred E.
Heller Professor of Agroecology
and participant in a variety
of planned activities (see
Neuro-
surgeon Gary
Haint received the
Alumni Achievement
Award (see photo and
caption, above). Hest, a 1977
graduate of Oakes College, was
chosen for his development of a
procedure for neurological
disorders such as Parkinson's
disease and chronic pain.