Today’s Students

Plus: elementary school kids discover the university,
behind-the-scenes learning,
building the tools of modern astronomy
They are bright, eager to acquire new knowledge, committed to improving society, and very focused.

At UCSC, these traits are not unique to the students featured in this magazine. In fact, they are qualities that are shared by the large number of UCSC students that I’ve had the pleasure of meeting and working with in my year and a half as chancellor.

Whether at college open houses, at meetings with student leaders and members of a variety of student organizations, or at receptions at University House, the interactions have left me very optimistic about the future that awaits both them and the society to which they will contribute.

The interactions have also left me excited about UC Santa Cruz’s future in the new millennium. For if it’s true—and I believe that it is—that one important measure of the viability of any university is the caliber of students it attracts, then UCSC will continue to occupy a very special place in higher education.
Economics professor Nirvikar Singh said that the Economics Department’s marketing, finance, and accounting electives are consistently among the most popular classes. “Students have been begging us to do this,” he said.

The new program combines the Money and Banking; Real Estate Economics; and Entrepreneurial Studies programs. "We are delighted to receive this gift," said Chancellor M.R.C. Greenwood. "Narpat and Chandra Bhandari are well respected for their ongoing support of UCSC and the arts. This gift is a catalyst for a myriad of activities not only in the area but across the globe."

Beginning this year, the state fund for student programs and events at UCSC has increased to $250,000, up 4 percent, or 423 students, from the prior year. The fall enrollment included 6,920 continuing, 236 returning, and 3,426 new students. Of the total, 9,570 were undergraduates, and 1,068 were graduate students. "We merit our target for new undergraduates, and we maintain the diversity and quality of students," said Michael Thompson, executive director of enrollment management and director of admissions. "The boost follows a prominent mid-year wave."

The new program is an important endowment that will be distributed across the campus.

Gift establishes rare endowed chair in India studies

The establishment of the chair for domestic partners is the first step in a vision to establish an international center for the study of Indian civilization and culture. The gift comes from Narpat and Chandra Bhandari, Silicon Valley entrepreneurs who were born in India. Their gift has established one of the country’s few endowed chairs in India studies, named in honor of Chandra Bhandari, an educator with a lifelong interest in the history and culture of India and the precepts and practices of nonviolent resistance. The announcement coincided with Chandra Bhandari’s 70th birthday.

"We are delighted to receive this gift," said Chancellor M.R.C. Greenwood. "Narpat and Chandra Bhandari are well respected for their ongoing support of education both regionally and in India, and our university remarkable people and their talents as educators over the years. Their gift has established an important endowment that will be a catalyst for any of activities, not only in the bay, but also the globe." In early January, Chancellor Greenwood led a delegation of top campus administrators and faculty who traveled to India at the invitation of the Indian ambassador. The delegation met with the Indian prime minister, and the ambassador of the group also met with a number of other key leaders in government, academic, arts, and business. Campus representatives visited the cities of Calcutta, Bombay, Hyderabad, Bangalore, and New Delhi. "Upon our return, Chancellor Greenwood said, "This journey has helped strengthen the ties between our campus and the world’s largest democracy. Asia as a result, I expect we will build many new mutually beneficial partnerships in a wide array of disciplines."
essential tool. This is true especially for researchers who seek visualization of complex surface within a small, elevated space. Large numbers, in and of themselves, can reveal some useful information, but when a scientist sees the data—with help from computerized, shading, and visual aids—crucial insights emerge much more readily.

Seeking ways to overcome that is where a state-of-the-art visualization facility that would otherwise be impossible—to say the least—project director Jane Williams, associate professor of computer science and an expert in computer graphics.

### NSF awards $460,000 for fisheries lab

CSC scientists are joining with members of other UC campuses, as well as faculty and students from San Francisco State University, to create a state-of-the-art visual-ization facility that wouldn’t otherwise be possible,” said project director Jane Wilhelms, associate professor of computer science and an expert in computer graphics.

The Natural Sciences Division will match the federal grant with about $246,000 in funding and equipment, making the new lab worth about $700,000.

### Ucsc Atrium

He held that seat until 1966. While in the state senate, Farr focused his legislative efforts on environmental protection and planning.

### Fish and Wildlife

osmia. Now, an information-age eagle has made that picture more believable. The eagle wears a tiny backpack fitted with a lightweight satellite transmitter that beeps every 10 days. Signals from the satellite, sent via e-mail to SCPBRG researchers, show that the bird is staying at the nest and feeding the young. Indeed, years of behind-the-scenes efforts at UCSC and in Washington, D.C., are now paying off. “I am excited that we finally have the funding needed to...”

### Help students prepare for college

A n intensive partnership between the East Side Union High School District and UCSC will dramatically improve college participation rates of students in the district and increase the number of students who enroll at UC campuses. To that end, UCSC faculty and staff are teaming up with district personnel to build programs that will help students prepare for college, meet college admissions requirements, apply, and enroll.

### Scientific Lab 

The new project adds to a veritable tsunami of activity at Long Marine Lab and its environs. Already under way is construction of UCSC’s $5.3 million Marine Discovery Center, which will provide a state-of-the-art science education facility and the general public. The Santa Cruz Predatory Bird Research Group, responding to reports that the bald eagles have moved to the Palo Alto area, will launch an intensive...</p>
Today’s UC SC Students

WHO THEY ARE, WHAT THEY’RE STUDYING, WHAT THEY WANT FROM COLLEGE AND LIFE

Numbers offer just one view of UCSC’s current student body. Certainly, there are more enrolled than ever—10,638 this past fall. More importantly, individual distinction continues to characterize the students who choose UC Santa Cruz. Among this year’s new students, for example, are 48 Regents Scholars, high school graduates whose academic excellence qualified them for the University of California’s most prestigious scholarship. But statistics can’t tell the best part of the story. Like their predecessors, today’s UC Santa Cruz students are passionate, energetic, and—above all—eager to use their UCSC education to make a difference in the world.

Beginning on page 8, we profile 10 current students who are preparing to do just that.

photography by r.r. jones

undergraduates majoring in the social sciences 36%

34% undergraduates from southern California

226 undergraduates who studied abroad during 1996-97

59% current students who are women

ribbonucleic acid

34% acceptance rate of UCSC students into graduate and professional programs

13% undergraduates majoring in the arts

93% undergraduates majoring in the humanities

68% students receiving some form of financial aid

900 re-entry undergraduates age 25 or over

19% undergraduates majoring in the natural sciences and engineering

13% undergraduates majoring in the arts

6 NCAA Division III intercollegiate sports teams

45% students who live on campus

Delacroix

50 undergraduates who studied abroad during 1996-97

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Thomas Dundon

On his way home from classes each day, Thomas Dundon dodges donkey carts, careening buses, and even bicyclists balancing tall stacks of bread on their heads. It’s not your average commute, but Dundon isn’t your everyday student.

A participant in UCSC’s Education Abroad Program, he is conducting his studies this year in Cairo, Egypt. The adventure is only the latest in a string of diverse experiences that have defined Dundon’s three years at UCSC.

Not only is he earning a bachelor’s degree in politics, Dundon expects to add a second major in classics. In addition to his heavy course load, the high-achieving student has found time to volunteer for the United Farm Workers and the International Association of Machinists, act in UCSC theater productions, sing with several UCSC ensembles, and serve as a rape prevention counselor.

“I made a conscious choice to get a broad education and become involved with a range of student groups,” says Dundon, a junior who holds a prestigious Regents Scholarship. “There are a phenomenal variety of people and programs on campus that will lead you to places you never knew existed. These opportunities aren’t written into any B.A. program, so it takes a little more energy to find them. But the rewards are worth it.”

One of his most inspiring experiences at UCSC has been the Stevenson College core course—a yearlong class on world culture and social heritage. “That course gave me a launching pad to get interested in many other things,” he says. For example, Dundon recently took on the unlikely role of research assistant for biology professor Lincoln Taiz. Accomplished in Latin and Spanish, Dundon translated Medieval Latin texts by Avicenna, a 10th-century Persian scholar, to support Taiz’s research on the history of plant biology.

In Cairo, Dundon is learning Arabic and studying the economics of underdevelopment in the Third World. “I want to bring something back for my studies at UCSC. I’m interested in seeing how my ideas change after being in a new school in a different country.”

As his expedition to the Middle East demonstrates, Dundon embraces every new opportunity to learn, believing that each experience broadens his understanding of the world. “People talk about the university as an ivory tower, but I don’t think that’s true,” he says. “If you follow your interests and keep your mind open, the university offers many opportunities to take an active role in the real world.”

—Barbara McKenna

Changhua Sun Rich

For Changhua Sun Rich, a doctoral candidate in economics, finding solutions to the global warming crisis is a challenge with both personal and professional meaning.

A native of China, Rich has witnessed the severe environmental degradation that has accompanied China’s recent economic resurgence. “I grew up seeing acid rain that is damaging lakes, rivers, forests—even buildings and bicycles. And the problem goes far beyond China’s borders, contributing significantly to global climate change.”

Rich’s research has placed her at the forefront of efforts to develop economic incentives that will encourage countries to work together to reduce their sulfur dioxide and carbon dioxide emissions—by-products of industrialization that cause acid rain and global warming. In her dissertation, Rich proposes a system of tradeable pollution permits that provides incentives for Japan and China to reduce their emissions cooperatively. As was evident at the recent summit on global warming in Kyoto, getting countries to collaborate on these issues challenges the limits of diplomacy and international cooperation.

“Industrialized countries are saying ‘We must act now to clean up carbon pollution.’ But developing countries feel no obligation to participate in the cleanup, saying ‘You made this mess. You clean it up,’” says Rich.

Under Rich’s system, industrialized countries get credits for providing financial and technical assistance to developing nations that are trying to reduce their emissions. Rich’s proposal capitalizes on the unfortunate fact that China’s acid rain is affecting Japan—providing an additional impetus for cooperation.

Rich’s research has given her unprecedented access to China’s top scholars, many of whom represent China in negotiations on global warming, and she recently had a paper accepted by the American Economic Review, the field’s leading academic journal. Coauthor Daniel Friedman, an economics professor, says it was the fastest acceptance he had ever seen, “with nothing but praise from referee and editor.”

Rich’s success is even more impressive considering she came to the United States in 1987 at the age of 32 with only a fourth-grade education. Although economic booms have clearly fueled global warming, she is excited about harnessing the power of economics to help save the environment.

“We have only one earth, one atmosphere, and all peoples are one,” says Rich. “Countries can work together to enhance their common interests.”

—Jennifer McNulty
**Zoë Tobier**

Freshman, Film/Literature

Many college students spend years sampling dishes from the academic smorgasbord, searching for a few special subjects that are especially satisfying. Just 18 years of age, Zoë Tobier is already feasting from a buffet of scholarly interests.

"The idea of studying to become an elementary or high school teacher appeals to me," she says. "Or I might enroll in law school some day and pursue the legal profession. Then again, I can see myself becoming a psychoanalyst—or even a filmmaker."

Laughing, she finally ponders the possibility of combining a couple of interests: "Maybe I’m destined to become a filmmaker who specializes in psychological thrillers."

For now, this freshman from New York City has declared her intention to pursue a double major in literature and film. The decision reveals much about Tobier and her critical thinking. Declaring early will let me enroll in some very challenging upper-division courses right away."

Tobier has never shied away from learning. She is one of 48 new Regents Scholars on campus, students whose academic achievement in high school qualified them for the University of California’s most prestigious scholarship. She competed for admission to her high school, an experimental school for academically talented students run by the City University of New York.

When it came time to apply for college admission, for example, she followed her heart, not her friends, "most of whom applied to Brown or Vassar." Tobier was not interested in East Coast schools where she could get a good education. For me, real satisfaction comes from the interaction with others and the exchange of ideas."

--- Jim Burns

**Patrick Lapid**

Sophomore, Computer Engineering/Sociology

Information zips around the globe today with the greatest of ease. Indeed, thinking about the interconnectedness of our world can be a bit "mind-boggling," in the words of sophomore Patrick Lapid. But it’s not daunting enough to deter Lapid from wanting to plunge his hands into the Internet’s innards to find out how it all works.

Lapid is part of the fearless new generation of students who have known computers all their lives. "I wasn’t like a mini–Bill Gates or anything," Lapid says modesty of his childhood. Nevertheless, his aptitude for math and science and his drive to use the Internet for societal good have brought him to UCSC as a budding computer engineer at the new Jack Baskin School of Engineering.

Lapid grew up in working-class Vallejo, northeast of San Francisco, the son of parents who immigrated from the Philippines in 1970. Many students of color attended his crowded high school, but the best resources went mainly to honors students. "They just needed someone to motivate them." Through the Filipino Student Association (FSA), Lapid and his friends try to do just that. They bus high school students to UCSC to give them a taste of college life. FSA members also contact Filipino students who have been admitted, just as Lapid was called two years ago. That helped nudge him toward UCSC over the other four UC campuses that sought him, including Berkeley and UCLA.

--- Robert Irion
Designated a non-scholarship campus in intercollegiate sports, UC Santa Cruz attracts athletes to its NCAA teams who excel at more than sports. "Athletes here have to perform in the classroom like any other student," says Justin Balas, a member of UCSC’s nationally ranked tennis team. Balas, who expects to graduate this spring, wouldn’t have it any other way. "I'm trying to design something that behaves like the early visual processing system of an animal," Morales said. "It boils down to recognizing objects. That’s the first question any developing brain has to deal with."

The project reflects the creativity fostered at the Santa Cruz Institute for Particle Physics (SCIPP), a research unit at UCSC. "I would not thrive in any other academic environment," says Morales. "At SCIPP, the professors listen to our ideas, even the crazy ones. It makes learning much more entertaining."

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When we gaze at the night sky, we see sparks of visible light. But stars and galaxies also unleash radio waves, x-rays, and other radiation toward earth. Ignoring that steady rain would be like hearing just one octave within nature's symphony of sounds. Astronomers capture those special waves with some rather odd telescopes, including one in New Mexico called Milagro. It's a football-field-sized reservoir, shielded by a light-tight cover and chock full of water and detectors. This device catches gamma rays, the most powerful bursts of energy in the cosmos. It's fitting that Miguel Morales, a physics graduate student at UCSC, works on Milagro. Morales has always loved "wonder science," the big questions about the universe that Carl Sagan used to pose.”
Art history student Gabriella de la Rosa had the time of her life last summer. Working as an intern for the Art Institute of Chicago, de la Rosa was treated to an insider’s view of the world she hopes to join one day as a professional.

During the internship, de la Rosa experienced the thrill of handling the original artwork of such artists as Rembrandt, Matisse, Picasso, and Delacroix. She was also responsible for conducting extensive research for a catalog on French decorative painting that will accompany an exhibition the Art Institute will mount three years from now.

“That was probably the high point of my whole undergraduate experience,” says de la Rosa. “I learned about things I always took for granted before. I learned to appreciate all of it in a new light... You see a painting on the wall and never think about what it took to get it there and what happens to it when it comes down.”

Even as a student at her Los Angeles high school, de la Rosa was interested in art history. When the time came to select a university, she chose UCSC because of its uniquely interdisciplinary program. “I love art history,” says de la Rosa. “I always enjoyed it in high school, and it brings together all these interests I have in art, history, and cultural studies. UCSC’s program is very cutting edge in that way.”

Never short on initiative, de la Rosa decided in her freshman year to add intensive work in French to her other studies. In her sophomore year, she lived in Cowell College’s Maison Francophone, where residents converse exclusively in French. During the spring quarter of that year she went to Nîmes, France, as part of the Language Program study abroad program. In her junior year, she worked with Helen L. Stuebing, a professor of French at UCSC, to design and teach an undergraduate course on French literature.

“UCSC has opened up many new worlds,” says de la Rosa. “I’ve learned a lot about French culture, and I’ve had the opportunity to travel to France and experience French life firsthand. I’ve also had the chance to work with some amazing professors and to collaborate with other students on projects.”

In her senior year, de la Rosa is working on a senior thesis examining the role of women in 19th-century French painting. She is also planning to work on a project documenting the lives and experiences of students of color at UCSC.

Felix Cooper
Senior, sociology/film

ev
eybody knows Felix Cooper. At least, that’s how it seems as he crosses the Porter College quad and is greeted by virtually everyone who passes by. “I went from just wanting to edit film in a little editing room to working to save affirmative action,” says Cooper. “I’ve never been as active as I am now.”

This year, Cooper is a residential assistant at Porter and chair of the Porter College Senate. As a member of the Porter Multicultural Activities Group, he is spearheading an effort to produce a video series documenting the lives and experiences of students of color at UCSC.

Cooper now feels that he is part of several communities: Porter College, UCSC, and Compton. “This is my last year of college, and I want to really enjoy it,” he says. “Next year I’ll probably go back to L.A. That’s where I grew up, and it’s where I want to work.”

Although still captivated by film and awed by the power of the medium, Cooper is planning to apply to law school after taking a year off. He volunteered last summer at the Compton Legal Aid Society to get a feel for the profession, and he liked what he saw.

“I thought about going into law about four years ago, but so many people go into law these days that it seemed like a cliché thing to do,” he recalls. “But I wanted something with a little more substance, and less than 5 percent of lawyers are black, so maybe it’s not such a cliché after all.”

—Jennifer McNulty
Graduating senior Erika Fay jokes that she’s a “walking advertisement” for UCSC. “I love it,” says Fay, a double major in environmental studies and community studies.

One feature in particular stands out: “The professors are really available to you,” says Fay, a Davis native. “I’ve always felt I could go up to any teacher after class and ask whatever I needed. I have friends at Berkeley who never talk to their professors.”

Fay’s double major offered her both theoretical and analytical grounding, as well as real-world application. “I’ve spent enough time in the classroom, but a good chunk of time outside of it, too,” she says.

The highlight of Fay’s undergraduate years was a six-month field-study project in Costa Rica, where she worked with elementary school students in 13 villages on a major reforestation project.

“The mother was pregnant, and they said if the baby is a girl, they’ll name her Erika,” says Fay. “It was really hard to leave.”

Fay grew attached to the family she lived with and plans to visit them over spring break.

“I was teaching in Spanish, and by the end, I was being mistaken for a native,” says Fay. “That was awesome. That was the highest compliment.”

Senior, environmental studies/community studies

#### Lynn Lee

Lynn Lee is unearthing clues to one of science’s most vexing riddles: How did life on earth begin some 3.5 billion years ago? In the process, the UCSC senior has discovered a personal passion for the world of basic research.

A chemistry major working under the guidance of researcher Anastassia Kanavarioti, Lee painstakingly mixes an assortment of metals, ions, and organic molecules—analyzing the resultant products over time. Her goal: to replicate portions of the chemical soup that may have given rise to earth’s first life forms.

“The lab work is helping scientists understand how certain molecules might have merged to form ribonucleic acid (RNA), the chemical chains that many scientists regard as nature’s earliest tool for passing along genetic information.”

Lee’s first brush with research came during her sophomore year. Taking a class in organic chemistry, she discovered that undergraduates at UCSC can become valued collaborators in the lab. “Every day I’m drawing from what I’ve learned in the classroom,” she says.

Lee plans to earn a Ph.D. in biophysics—then embark on a career in research. “Research is difficult, frustrating, and time-consuming, but that’s where the challenge lies,” she says. “If the answers were trivial, why bother?”

Lee isn’t inclined to shy away from arduous work. As an undergraduate, she spends 10 to 12 hours a week in Kanavarioti’s lab during the academic year; over summer breaks, she worked there full-time.

She also finds the time to regularly summarize her research results in quarterly reports. These summations hold the promise of becoming the foundation for a research article published in coauthorship with Kanavarioti—a rare accomplishment for an undergraduate.

Lee hopes to have a chance to present her research findings to the American Chemical Society’s Undergraduate Research Symposium held at UCSC, and at a NASA Ames symposium at Moffett Field.

“Research is difficult, frustrating, and time-consuming, but that’s where the challenge lies.”

Senior, chemistry

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plifies why the Kecks were built—and why the UCO/Lick shops excel.

“This will be the deepest, most extensive survey of galaxies, and it promises to teach us much about how the universe has evolved,” he said. “It’s like Darwin’s voyage: We’re exploring the uncharted territories of the cosmos.”

—Robert Irion

Also notable are the “secondary mirrors” for the Keck Telescopes—surfaces that reflect light from the main mirrors into the instruments. To mesh with the Keck’s large design, UCO/Lick optician David Hilyard had to polish the 57-inch secondary mirrors to odd shapes with exquisite accuracy.

Underway are two more spectrographs, to be installed at Keck II later this year: the Echellette Spectrograph and Imager (ESI) and the Deep Extragalactic Object Spectrograph (DEIMOS). The latter instrument will disperse 15,000 faint galaxies to make a comprehensive map of the distant universe.

Chief engineer David Cowley, who manages UCO/Lick’s technical facilities, said DEIMOS will require $5 million and 60,000 staff-hours to complete. “This is the leading edge of technology, for the most exciting telescope on earth,” Cowley said. “This is as good as it gets.”

To Joseph Miller, DEIMOS exemplifies why the Kecks were built—and why the UCO/Lick shops excel.

“This will be the deepest, most extensive survey of galaxies, and it promises to teach us much about how the universe has evolved,” he said. “It’s like Darwin’s voyage: We’re exploring the uncharted territories of the cosmos.”

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Windows on the Universe

Lick Observatory specialists quietly build some of the world’s finest astronomical research tools.
We want kids to know what college is like, to know that study and hard work are important, and to know that learning at college is fun and exciting.

—from the introduction to Kids Around the University

Chances are, the kids at Aromas School didn’t know their book would change lives. But chances are that it will.

For two years, third and fourth graders at Aromas School in Monterey County researched and wrote a bilingual book about college life at UC Santa Cruz. Called Kids Around the University, the book quickly won the hearts of UCSC administrators, who published the book and are distributing it to fourth graders around the state this year.

For UCSC, the book represents a powerful outreach tool that will expose young schoolchildren to the academic and social value of attending college—and it gives kids hands-on information about how to prepare for college. Because the book is written in English and Spanish, it helps bridge cultural gaps, too.

These kids really captured the essence of university life,” said UCSC vice chancellor for student affairs Francisco Hernandez, who was profiled in the book. “They were able to distill the activities and value of a university, and they conveyed it in their own powerful words.”

Indeed, the young authors’ impressions of college life are refreshingly candid and on the mark—and their clear, simple prose appeals to children and adults alike:

In college you have to study hard. That means no goofing around.

Students sleep in the dormitories. . . . You can keep your room messy or neat.

Lots of people who work at universities and colleges are not professors. Their job is to keep students safe, healthy and learning.

To get into a university you have to take certain classes in high school.

If no one in your family went to a college or university before you, that does not mean that you should not go to one.

The book’s content is largely based on dozens of interviews the youngsters conducted with students, faculty, and staff at UCSC and Cabrillo College in Aptos. The kids took on the project after being unable to find a book about colleges and universities that was appropriate for their grade level.

“This book fills an enormous void. Teachers and educational professionals say there’s nothing like it,” said UCSC associate chancellor for enrollment management and admissions director J. Michael Thompson, an ardent supporter of the project. “For some students, this book will light a candle they didn’t know even existed. It reawakened the wonder in me about what the university is, and it caused me to step back and see the university through the eyes of a kid.”

The young writers show Chancellor Greenwood their creation.

The project has been successful beyond our wildest expectations,” said Stoneblom, who graduated from UCSC in 1996. McCue also attended UCSC, graduating in 1984. Another alumna, Randie Flower, collaborated on the design of the book with UCSC publications manager Jim MacKenzie.

Many praise Stoneblom and McCue for making the book a reality, but the teachers give all the credit to their team of nearly 60 students who worked cooperatively—many of them on weekends and after school—to see the book through to publication.

The students, whose reading levels range from first to tenth grade, benefited academically from the project, too, scoring higher on writing tests than their peers who were not involved with the school’s bilingual publishing program.

Carrel Moran, coordinator of the UCSC-based Monterey Bay Educational Consortium, teamed up with Stoneblom and McCue to produce a curriculum guide designed to inspire teachers around the state to help their students explore their own local UC campus, private college, community college, or state university.

Moran, an early champion of the book project, said the publication will be an “incredible tool for thousands of children.”

“This book has the very real potential to make a difference in their lives,” she said. “That’s why we felt so strongly about encouraging students to replicate the project in their own communities. Expanding the

For Aromas School teachers Katy Stonebloom and Linda McCue, who shepherded the project from conception through distribution, knowing that the colorful, 32-page book is receiving broad distribution is overwhelming. “The project has been successful beyond our wildest expectations,” said Stoneblom, who graduated from UCSC in 1996. McCue also attended UCSC, graduating in 1984. Another alumna, Randie Flower, collaborated on the design of the book with UCSC publications manager Jim MacKenzie.

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“This book has the very real potential to make a difference in their lives,” she said. “That’s why we felt so strongly about encouraging students to replicate the project in their own communities. Expanding the
If All the World’s a Stage... 

ike Hamlet, who declared “the play’s the thing,” most theatergoers focus on the plot and the actors who deliver it. And yet, it is the handiwork of the stage technicians—an alchemy of sets, lights, sounds, and costumes—that makes the world of the play come alive. At UCSC, students learn the secrets of this theatrical magic in the Theater Arts Department’s production program. Like those in the major who focus on performance, production students must complete a rigorous academic curriculum and a minimum of 150 hours of hands-on experience. Among their teachers are the seven members of the theater arts production staff, headed by technical director Joe Weiss and assistant technical director Paul House. Through their guidance, graduates in recent years have had notable success in the film and theater industry—landing jobs on and off Broadway, in film and commercial production in Los Angeles, and in theater companies across the country. The hands-on emphasis is one of the program’s many strengths, and the opportunities for production students to gain firsthand experience are numerous. Working in the production shops, some 60 students each quarter design and build sets, costumes, and props; record and mix sound; design and rig lights; and hammer out budgets and production schedules for shows. “In the four years I’ve worked here there have been roughly 200 shows—all but one of which were student designed,” says UCSC costume shop manager Naomi Arnst. “As students, experiencing that level of responsibility is invaluable. That’s how they really learn the ropes, and it’s what makes them stand out when they start looking for jobs.” UCSC’s program, which focuses solely on undergraduate studies, offers another advantage: “Our students here don’t have to compete with graduate students for opportunities,” Weiss explains. “Here, undergraduates are able to assume a level of responsibility practically unheard of in most other programs.” “If I’d gone to university with a large graduate program, I would have spent my entire four years as an assistant to a graduate student—I was lucky,” confirms Jennifer Bogg, who graduated in 1992. Instead, during her years at UCSC, Bogg was able to try her hand at such high-level positions as designer and stage manager. Since graduating, she has worked in film and commercial production, and she tours Europe each summer with a performing arts troupe. Rik Converse, who received a degree in literature here in 1984, is head of Media Slugs, an organization for UCSC alumni working in the entertainment industry. His roster holds the names of nearly 160 people in the Los Angeles area, the majority of whom, he says, are flourishing in the highly competitive field of technical production. A recent addition to Converse’s list is Stacie London, who graduated in 1994. London was working on a video shoot for rap singer Queen Latifah last summer when she learned she had received her stage technicians union card—an accomplishment practically unheard of for someone so newly out of school. “If it weren’t for Joe and Paul and that program, I just can’t imagine what my life would be like,” she says. “They have this incredible gift for teaching.” Among recent projects, London has worked as assistant stage manager for the touring company of the Broadway show Kiss of the Spiderwoman, as a dresser on the Broadway production of Damn Yankees, and as production designer in Los Angeles for the film Ill-Gotten Gains. Another distinction of the production program is its affiliation with a professional theater company. Shakespeare Santa Cruz (SSC), a campus-based summer festival, and the Theater Arts Department share facilities, equipment, and people. Several theater arts faculty and staff are also longstanding leaders of the festival. “This is educational theater at its best,” says assistant technical director House. “We can continue to work in the professional arena each summer and bring that back to the students each fall.” SSC and the Theater Arts Department also collaborate on the Summer Internship Program, through which UCSC students may participate in the festival, and with Shakespeare to Go, an academic-year course in which UCSC students perform a condensed version of a Shakespeare play in local schools. The unique structure that makes the production program so successful is a reflection of those who have created it. While they are working the alchemy of illusion onstage, they manage the myriad of teaching offstage. Los Angeles film producer Danny Kaufman, who has worked with a number of UCSC students recently, is a believer. “I can tell you that I’m impressed by all of the Santa Cruz graduates I’ve worked with. Whatever it is you’re working at there, you’re doing it right.” —Barbara McKenna

Working with professional technicians gives UCSC undergraduates the valuable hands-on experience they need to gain entry into the world of film and theater production after graduation.
In fact, this year’s callers were so impressed with their predecessors’ BUY-A-BOOK stories that they decided to direct the 1997 senior class gift to this purpose as well.

Association board

Many of the honored faculty taught during the intense and exciting formative years of the Santa Cruz campus, but the inspiration of younger scholars has been recognized as well.

This year the library received a record number of BUY-A-BOOK gifts in memory of the late Page and Eloise Smith, mostly from Cowell College alumni who remembered their integrity and warmth. Overall this year nearly 30 UCSC faculty members received BUY-A-BOOK tributes from appreciative alumni.

To all alumni, beloved teacher with books, send your contribution, marked BUY-A-BOOK and made payable to the UCSC Foundation, to the Carriage House, UCSC, 1156 High Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95064.

Alumni Association

“Open windows” for programs that foster a lifelong connection with the university. The purpose of the Association is to promote influence, and support the development, cultural, and social life of the University of California, Santa Cruz, and to provide a mainspring by which alumni may both serve the university. Its colleges, and its students, and help guide the university in the future.

So needs the new mission statement of the UCSC Association was newly updated by the alumni governing board at a strategic planning retreat. Over 7,000 dues paying members strong, the Alumni Association is governed by a 24-person volunteer board of directors composed of alumni who live throughout the state. Last summer they got together to set the future direction of the Association.

As a result of the one-day strategic planning retreat, the following association goals were announced:

- Offer programs and opportunities that encourage alumni to maintain a lifelong connection with UCSC;
- Support activities that attract students to UCSC, which the student experience, and help students succeed at UCSC and after;
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Jeanne LEONE-Sterwerf received her first film credit for Disney’s *Hercules*; she graduated from Syracuse University with a master’s in public administration in 1997, and she is working at the Environmental Protection Agency in Washington, D.C.

Allyson YANCEY received a master’s in social welfare from UC Berkeley in spring 1997. Including one for Best Television Series (drama), she has won nine Emmy Awards since 1994, with three of the awards presented in the areas of sound editing and mixing. In January, it received a Public Television Documentary Award for *Creation*.

Gary HEIMANN recently completed an M.A. in literature at Claremont Graduate University and will be pursuing a teaching credential at CSU Hayward.

John SCHWEITZER received an M.A. in education from UCSC in 1997, and she is now teaching first grade; her son, Nicholas, was born in December 1996.

Brant CORTRIGHT is a senior scientist at Seattle Aquarium on Mercer Island, Wash.

Dara PAPO received a master’s in social welfare from UC Berkeley in spring 1997.

Ray STEINER is a visiting professor of philosophy at Old Dominion University for the 1997-98 school year.

Linda CHAPMAN is director of the Integral Counseling Psychology Program at the California Institute of Integral Studies and a licensed psychologist with a private practice in San Francisco. He is the author of *Power and Spirit: Theory and Practice of Transpersonal Psychody. (SUNY Press), 1997.*

John CHAPMAN Sacha English at Tokai High School in Lodi, Calif., and is developing an academic curriculum for high school students.

Jan JOHNSTON is a director of the California Department of Psychiatry at UC San Francisco General Hospital.

Diana DUCHÊNE has been a children’s librarian at the San Jose Public Library for the past 22 years.

Susan ALFORD is a senior scientist at Seattle Aquarium on Mercer Island, Wash.

Robert MARFIONE is a senior scientist at Seattle Aquarium on Mercer Island, Wash.

John SCHWEITZER received an M.A. in social welfare from UC Berkeley in spring 1997, and she is now teaching first grade; her son, Nicholas, was born in December 1996. John SCHWEITZER is working in Finland/film, video, and photography as riding in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Susan TARKA is a Top 10 Emmanuel Owl and was supervising editor for *Shepherd Pharmaceuticals* and *Shepherd Pharmaceuticals* in South San Francisco.

Lise SYKES Williams, youngest son is beginning kindergarten. What he doesn’t know is that he’s already the parent of an entire household.

Marc BOND is working for the Equine Dental and Veterinary Association and living with his family in Milan, Italy, previously he was in Rome.

Susan ALFORD is a senior scientist at Seattle Aquarium on Mercer Island, Wash.

Chris TCHIRA spent the following year at the University of Arizona, and he is currently employed by Organ Environmetal in San Francisco.

Laura ESSENDEN is a math mentor during the 1997–98 school year. Laura enjoys wildflower hikes and writing fiction in her free time.

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Kathryn BOYD has been a children’s librarian at the San Jose Public Library for the past 22 years.
Zimbabwe and entered law school '95 is in his second year of graduate school at CSU Long Beach, studying student development in higher education.

PINYAN Sabers received an M.D. from Mayo Medical School and a Ph.D. from Mayo Graduate School and has begun her postgraduate training in internal medicine at the Mayo Graduate School of Medicine.

Having received a master's in an alternative teacher credentialing program designed to prepare teachers for work in inner-city schools and will receive a subject credential this year. After receiving her M.F.A. in nonfiction writing from Penn State University in May 1997, theological studies at Harvard Divinity School, Albion Moonlight '93 Tim McDERMOTT BUTTERS has completed her Ph.D. in religious studies, with a focus on Tibetan Buddhism, at Columbia University.

Since completing a master's degree in glass at Rochester Institute of Technology in May 1997 and was accepted for a Fulbright scholarship to study glass at the Australian National University at Canberra in 1998; she planned to enter the Ph.D. program in sociology at New York University in fall 1997.

is a United Methodist minister and is serving as vice president of the South Berkeley Housing Development Corporation.

Marc Grayson was named by Michael Strunk as executive director of the Southwest Voter Registration Education Project in San Antonio, Texas, which trains newly elected officials, candidates running for local office, and organizers for leadership roles. chair of the Manchester Christian community.
In a World full of Beavers, Bears, and Bobcats...

There’s only one Banana Slug!

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- Jitney to and from the Berkeley campus*

*Additional fee charged

To join, call us at (800) 933-slug.