

UC SANTA CRUZ

REVIEW

WINTER 2008-09





A vibrant new library for the 21st century

Private donors have made possible this new 81,600-square-foot addition to McHenry Library. A \$700,000 challenge grant from the Kresge Foundation has spurred \$1.1 million in contributions so far, including gifts from donors featured on pages 10–11. To help meet the Kresge challenge, contact the Library Development Office at (831) 459-5870.

UC SANTA CRUZ

REVIEW
Winter 2008–09

The Winter 2008–09 *Review* showcases and celebrates the **partners** who help make UCSC’s uncommon achievements possible.

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Many readers responded to our fall cover story “43 Things You Might Not Know About UC Santa Cruz.” Here are a few of their letters.

ANIMAL MAGNETISM

I enjoyed the article “43 Things You Might Not Know About UC Santa Cruz” (fall 2008). I wish I had known the story was coming up. Here’s a photo of Sam and Samantha (see No. 24 on page 14). I think it’s the only one that exists. The barn is at the base of campus and won’t be standing too much longer.

—DOUG ARONSON
UCSC Transit Operations



Sam and Samantha: A love story

HISTORICAL QUIBBLES

We enjoyed your article in the *UC Santa Cruz Review* on the “43 Things You Might Not Know About UC Santa Cruz.” However, it was disappointing that No. 26 perpetuated the canard about Sarah Agnes Cowell being killed in a haunted meadow near UC Santa Cruz as a young girl.

As we point out in our book *Pogonip: Jewel of Santa Cruz* (Santa Cruz: Otter B Books, 2007), pages 159 and 161, Sarah Cowell, a daughter of Henry Cowell, was neither young—she was days from her



40th birthday—nor was she killed at that spot. The buggy accident that resulted in her death occurred at what is now Wilder Ranch State Park.

—JOAN GILBERT MARTIN and
COLLEEN MCINERNEY-MEAGHER

HOW UCSC
CAME TO BE:
ANOTHER STORY

I don’t know if what I have to share is “unknown” in any way, but it rather contradicts your fact No. 23. When I was but a wee undergrad at Stevenson in about 1972, former California Governor

Pat Brown (he was a former governor then, too) told his after-dinner audience in the Stevenson dining hall how UCSC came to be. When he won the gubernatorial election to his first term, he carried all but three California counties: San Diego, Orange, and, you guessed it, Santa Cruz. So he built UC campuses in all three counties. I don’t know if that helped him get reelected in 1962, but he is the reason we ostensibly did not have Nixon to kick around anymore.

—J. MICHAEL BURKE
Stevenson ’74
Portland, Oregon

MORE TOP RANKINGS

I was surprised not to see the following rankings from the Research Universities Faculty Scholarly Productivity Index—one of the most prestigious national rankings of departments. In the 2006 survey, UCSC was ranked third in productivity in the disciplines of music and environmental health engineering among similar departments in all public and private universities nationwide. In the 2007 survey, UCSC ranked fifth in the nation in the discipline of astronomy and astrophysics.

—DAVID EVAN JONES
Acting Dean of the Arts
Provost of Porter College
Professor of Music

WESTON QUESTION

I think you found 43 pretty interesting things about UCSC for your last magazine, but I think No. 29 is a bit of an overstatement. The “project prints” of Edward Weston’s in Special Collections are very interesting, and something of a coup for UCSC, but they do not represent the largest holdings of Weston photographs in the country, or even the state for that matter.

—JASON CHRISTIAN
Santa Cruz

Ed. note: We apologize for the misunderstanding. We should have said that UCSC holds the only complete set of Weston “project prints.”

We welcome your letters and reserve the right to select and edit for space. Contact us by e-mail at review@ucsc.edu or send snail-mail to *Review* magazine, University Relations, University of California, Carriage House, 1156 High Street, Santa Cruz CA 95064.

January

SCHOLARSHIP
BENEFIT DINNER

The 2009 Scholarship Benefit Dinner will highlight the Leadership Opportunity Award scholarship program and recognize its founder, Chancellor Emeritus Karl S. Pister and his wife, Rita Olsen Pister. (To read a profile of a former LOA scholar, see page 12.) The event will be Saturday, January 31, at the University Center on campus. For tickets or more information, call the Special Events Office at (831) 459-5003, e-mail specialevents@ucsc.edu, or visit review.ucsc.edu/sbd.



Robert F. Kennedy Jr.

February

MARTIN LUTHER KING
CONVOCATION

The 25th annual UCSC Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Convocation will be held in February at the Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium. The event, which is free and open to the public, is part of the campus’s celebration of Black History Month.

This year marks the first time the Tony Hill Award will be given to someone in the Santa Cruz community who demonstrates the hallmarks of Tony Hill’s life: mentor, inspirational leader, gifted mediator, and bridge-builder in our community. Hill, a prominent community activist, died of a heart attack in August 2007.

The Tony Hill Award selection committee is seeking nominations; the deadline for submitting them is December 12, 2008. For more information, or to receive a nomination form, contact Casey Hemard, UCSC Government and Community Relations, (831) 459-3470.

At press time, the date and speaker for the convocation had not been finalized. Call (831) 459-3861 for up-to-date information.

April

ROBERT F. KENNEDY JR.
AT REUNION WEEKEND

Make plans to attend Reunion Weekend April 24–26, 2009. “Shaping Our Environmental Destiny” is the weekend’s theme. On Friday night the inspirational environmentalist Robert F. Kennedy Jr. will speak.

On Saturday, see old friends, learn how you can shape our environmental destiny, and have fun. The all-alumni picnic will feature wine, beer, and gourmet treats made by alumni. Attend lectures, panel discussions, tours, and receptions. Special activities are being planned for the Pioneer Class, Smith Renaissance Society, Latino Alumni Network, young alumni, soccer alumni, and Merrill and LALS graduates. For information about the weekend, go to review.ucsc.edu/alumni.

Kennedy’s talk is expected to sell out. For more information or to purchase tickets, call the UCSC Ticket Office at (831) 459-2159, or go to santacruztickets.com.



ARTS & LECTURES

INTERPRETI VENEZIANI
BAROQUE ORCHESTRA

Sunday, January 18
at 7:30 p.m.
UCSC Recital Hall

NEW MUSIC WORKS

Friday, January 23
at 7:30 p.m.
UCSC Recital Hall

VALENTINA LISITSA

Friday, February 6
at 7:30 p.m.
UCSC Recital Hall

TIEMPO LIBRE

Thursday, March 5
at 7:30 p.m.
Rio Theatre, Santa Cruz

MIKE MARSHALL and
DAROL ANGER with VÄSEN

Thursday, April 2
at 7:30 p.m.
Rio Theatre, Santa Cruz

MAESTROS IN CONCERT

featuring PANDIT
SHIVKUMAR SHARMA
and ZAKIR HUSSAIN
Friday, April 10
at 7:30 p.m.
Rio Theatre, Santa Cruz

GARRISON KEILLOR

Wednesday, May 13
at 7:30 p.m.
Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium

Go to santacruztickets.com
or call (831) 459-2159 for tickets.

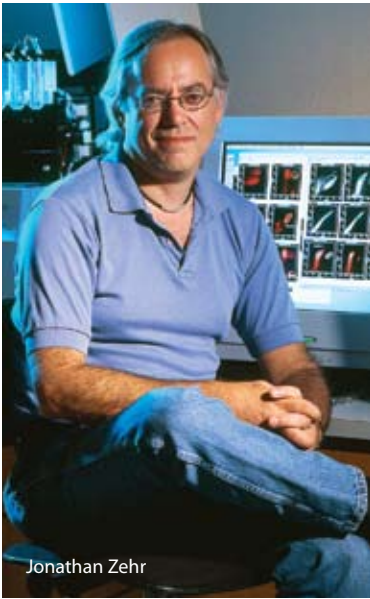
Grants help find clues to climate change

Ocean science professor Jonathan Zehr and his colleagues want to understand how some of Earth's tiniest inhabitants—marine micro-organisms—affect the global environment.

These microbes play key roles in ocean processes and will help determine how global climate change affects the oceans in the future.

The Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation has awarded a \$4.8 million grant to UC Santa Cruz to fund ongoing research in marine microbiology. Zehr is principal investigator.

The five-year grant supports a research program called MEGAMER (Microbial Environmental Genomics Applications: Modeling, Experimentation, and Remote sensing), established in July 2005 with a \$2.2 million award from the Moore Foundation. Zehr has overseen the establishment of MEGAMER.



In addition, the Moore Foundation has awarded Zehr a four-year, \$3.7 million grant to fund his ongoing research as a Moore Foundation Investigator in marine science.

“When people think about microorganisms, they usually think about pathogens and disease-causing bacteria,” Zehr said. “And when they think about ocean health, whales and seals come to mind first. But it’s the natural microorganisms that don’t cause disease that are the most important in the oceans.”



Celebrating innovation, ideas, and ideals

The second annual UC Santa Cruz Founders Day gala dinner drew more than 350 people to the Cocoanut Grove on October 24 to celebrate the founding ideals of the campus and the outstanding accomplishments of three individuals with ties to UCSC.

Guests were treated to three video presentations extolling the career achievements of alumna and *Washington Post* reporter Dana Priest, who won her second Pulitzer Prize in April; professor of Latin American and Latino studies Patricia Zavella, who was honored for being selected by the Academic Senate as the Faculty Research Lecturer; and Narinder Kapany, a research scientist, entrepreneur, and former UCSC professor who demonstrated that light could be passed through bent optical fiber.

Chancellor George Blumenthal said Priest, Zavella, and Kapany are the kind of success stories UCSC’s founders had in mind when they established the campus more than 43 years ago.



History is made

After months of discussion, a historic agreement was forged in August between UCSC, the City and the County of Santa Cruz, and campus neighbors. The agreement ends litigation related to UCSC’s Long Range Development Plan and enables the campus to implement its academic plan, proceed with construction of the Biomedical Sciences Building, and further meet the educational needs of students and the state.

“The agreement sets the course for a new collaborative relationship in the Santa Cruz community, one I hope and expect will become a model for campus and community relations everywhere,” said Chancellor George Blumenthal.

Under the terms of the agreement, UCSC will limit enrollment to 19,500 students by 2020; house two-thirds of additional students on campus; make fair-share contributions to transportation improvements on streets affected by campus traffic; and pay normal city fees for new water hookups.

Subterranean stories

“Are We There Yet?” is the title of a public artwork and interactive sound installation by UCSC assistant art professor Dee Hibbert-Jones—on exhibit in Japan this past fall.

Hibbert-Jones’s project is the result of an invitation she received to participate in an international festival of art, Dislocate 08, exploring technology and urban experience in Yokohama and Tokyo.

She describes her work (in collaboration with artist Nomi Talisman) as “an emotional map of stories” collected from passengers on Japanese subways.

To develop the exhibit, they spent a week collecting stories from people traveling the Yokohama Blue Subway Line and then edited these stories into an audio MP3 file that could be taken onto the subway. Visitors were able to check out an MP3 player from a gallery in Yokohama and then travel the subway—listening in to other travelers’ personal anecdotes. As they passed through each of the 32 stations, they heard a different story.

“We have tales, for example, of sparrows living underground, stories of false teeth lost and found on the subway, tales of a heart broken at a certain station, and the stories of a subway cleaning worker describing what he sees each day,” said Hibbert-Jones.

Hibbert-Jones also created an interactive installation at ZAIM gallery in Yokohama, where visitors could touch subway stops on a large Plexiglas table covered with drawings of the city. By touching any stop on the subway, a viewer could activate a video projection that described stories from that station.



In Memoriam

Frank Child, 86, a professor of economics who served as dean of the UCSC Division of Social Sciences from 1983 until 1987, died January 25. Before joining the Santa Cruz campus, Child taught at UC Davis, where he led efforts to establish the city of Davis’s signature bikeway system.

Tony Fink, 65, a professor of chemistry and biochemistry and a world authority on protein folding, who had taught at UCSC since 1969, died March 2. Fink was respected for his teaching, approachability, and command of the subjects. During his career he mentored more than 60 graduate students, over 50 postdoctoral associates, and more than 150 undergraduates.

Frances McAllister, 97, an ardent supporter of UC Santa Cruz’s Long Marine Laboratory who also helped develop the UCSC library in its early years, died August 3. A classmate and friend of founding chancellor Dean McHenry, McAllister was a key ally in helping Chancellor McHenry realize his vision for UCSC. McAllister Way at Long Marine Lab is named in her honor.

Gerhard Ringel, 88, a professor emeritus of mathematics and a world leader in the fields of combinatorics and graph theory who served as chair of the Mathematics Department for 13 years, died June 24. Ringel, who donated his extensive butterfly collection to the UCSC Museum of Natural History Collections, joined the UCSC faculty in 1970 and retired in 1993.



Endowed-chair funds advance research

This year, Dan Costa was appointed to the **Ida Benson Lynn Endowed Chair in Ocean Health**. An anonymous donor and her husband established the chair to honor her mother's love of the ocean. Generous proceeds from the endowment support graduate student research and activities that help the public understand the research.

The funds will enable doctoral candidate Stella Villegas to complete her dissertation research comparing California sea lion foraging behavior and physiology.



Ida Benson Lynn

Costa will use the public service funds to expand a Seymour Marine Discovery Center exhibit on marine predator tagging research.

"I find it increasingly useful to communicate our research to the public," Costa said, "and the chair will help further that goal."

For information on endowed chairs in the physical and biological sciences, contact Jeffrey Kongsli at (831) 459-4240 or kongsli@ucsc.edu.

Dan Costa with doctoral candidate Stella Villegas

Oceans of data

A swimming animal can sample biologically important waters a buoy could never reach.

The ocean is a trackless wilderness, at least to a landlubber's eye. But to the sea otters, albatrosses, and other animals that call it home, ocean waters delineate habitats and boundaries as clearly as any printed map.

"Marine animals are living in a fluid environment; their habitat is constantly changing. The trick is to understand how they utilize that environment," said Dan Costa, a professor of ecology and evolutionary biology.

Costa studies how marine animals ranging from fur seals to dolphins to penguins make a living in the open ocean. By attaching computerized satellite tags to fur, feathers, or blubber, he can track in real time where an animal goes, when and how deep it dives, and the temperature and salinity of surrounding waters. In 2000, Costa cofounded the Tagging of Pacific Pelagics (TOPP) program for top ocean predators such as great white sharks, bluefin tuna, and elephant seals. Once their migratory routes and critical habitats are known, that data can be used for conservation.

Now in its eighth year, TOPP has been funded primarily by the Alfred P. Sloan, Gordon and Betty Moore, and David and Lucile Packard Foundations, as well as the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the California Sea Grant program, the Office of Naval Research, and the National Oceanographic Partnership Program.

"Once we know what types of oceanic properties attract a species, we can start to predict where animals may or may not be," Costa said. "If the Navy's out there making noise, for example,

we can tell them to stay away from certain conditions because these species are likely out there."

Costa soon realized he could put tag data to a second, more global use—to learn more about the ocean itself.

"I saw that the tags could tell us about the environment that the animals live in, to help understand the ocean environment for its own sake," he said.

Most oceanographic buoys float passively with the currents, limiting their range. But a swimming animal can sample biologically important waters a buoy could never reach. In 2006, Costa and colleagues reported that their 58 tagged southern elephant seals returned more than 4,500 fall and winter seawater measurements from the Southern Ocean, including many dives beneath Antarctic shelf ice, compared with just 148 from ships and floats.

This recent work is just one of many scientific studies and expeditions Costa has led to the southernmost continent over his 30 years in the marine sciences. Just this year, a coastal landform in Antarctica was

named the Costa Spur in honor of his contributions to Antarctic research.

When not headed off to do field work in places such as Hawaii and South Africa, Costa has been known to do some serious cycling. He's already completed three AIDS charity rides and would like to do more.

"I recently got an e-mail from the administration about a course on time management," he said, adding with a laugh, "I'd love to go, but I don't have time to take the course."

—KATHLEEN M. WONG



Among the top marine predators Costa's research group studies is the elephant seal.

JOSHUA KARRASCH was close to bottom when he arrived at UC Santa Cruz in 2007. A former Navy corpsman who spent a tour of duty treating patients in sweltering field hospitals in Kuwait, he had exactly \$5 to his name. He had just been through a divorce and had been forced to sell his house at a loss. His health was damaged by years of heavy drinking.

But the 27-year-old Karrasch had loved treating patients in the Navy—the feel of serving others and saving lives. He dreamed of becoming an emergency room doctor.

“Once you have a goal, you just have to find a path to achieve that goal,” said Karrasch, who learned the value of hard work from his disabled-veteran father.

The path led him to UCSC.

With his Navy retirement money, Karrasch bought a beat-up 23-foot travel trailer where he could live and got part-time jobs as a paramedic and a handyman. He began classes in psychology and biology, eventually choosing psychology as a major. But even though he loved the wooded campus, life as a student was still an uphill climb.

After five years in the Navy, Karrasch had a hard time relating to the 18 and 20 year olds in his classes, and money was always on his mind. The list of courses he needed to get into medical school seemed daunting too.

But like most vets, he said, he had a hard time asking for help.

Then, Karrasch discovered a UCSC program called Services for Transfer and Re-Entry Students, or STARS, which not only provided a quiet place to study, but showed him how to shave a year off school by tailoring his classes to the medical schools he wanted to attend.

He even learned he could have gotten a loan to tide him over through those first few weeks of school.

“STARS gave me a sense of family and a base of operations. It was wonderful support,” said Karrasch.

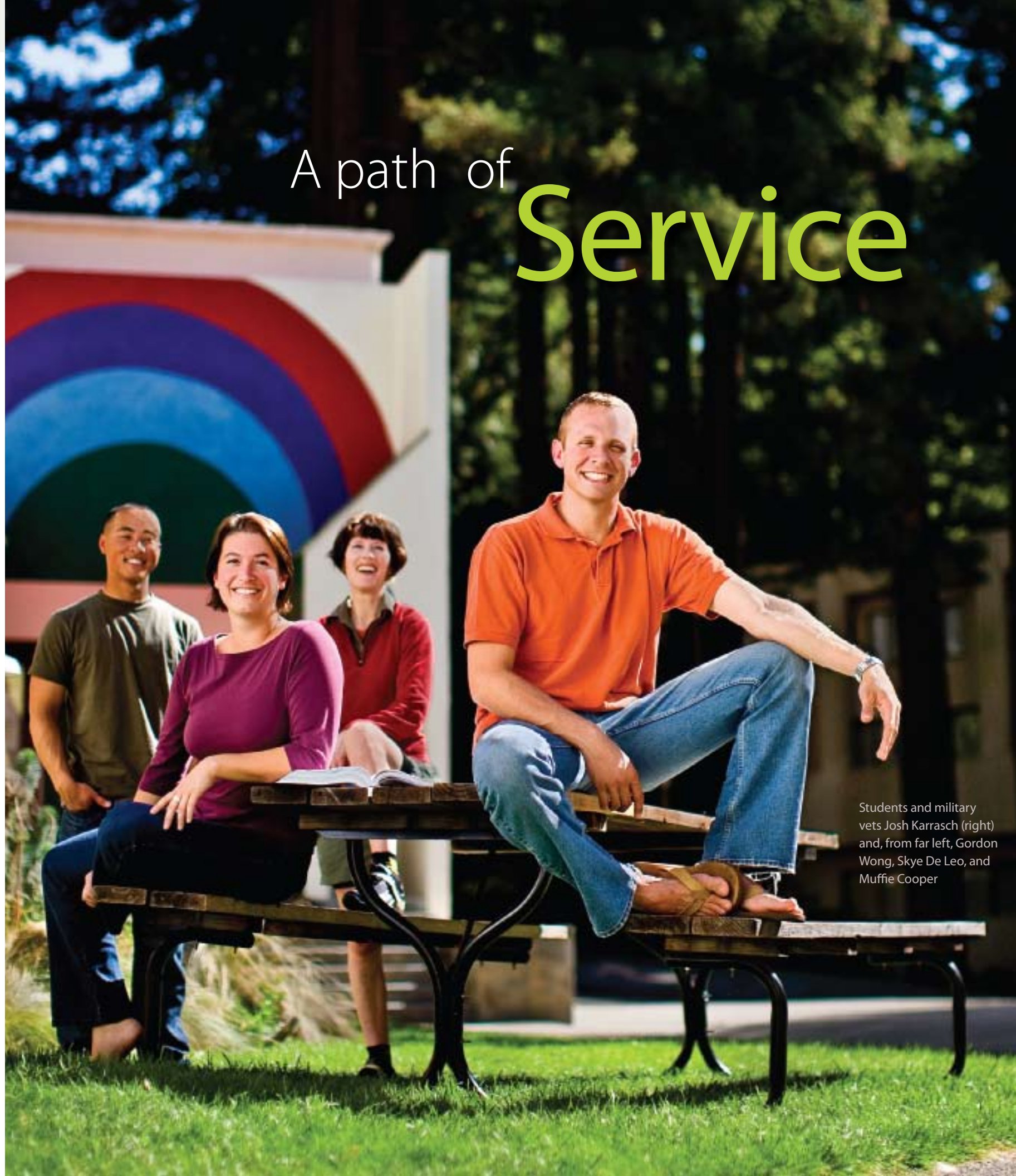
So the man who believes in helping others agreed to help STARS develop a peer-mentor program for veterans. Called Veterans Education Team Support, it pairs vets on campus with incoming service people to ease the transition to university life.

A few weeks ago, Karrasch got an e-mail from a soldier in Iraq who wanted to know what it took to go to college when he returned. Karrasch directed the soldier to financial aid and admissions officers who could get him started.

And that, he said, made him feel good.

—PEGGY TOWNSEND

A path of Service



Students and military vets Josh Karrasch (right) and, from far left, Gordon Wong, Skye De Leo, and Muffie Cooper

STARS helps uncommon students shine

More than 30 years ago, a group of single mothers at College Eight on the UC Santa Cruz campus got together to help each other with child care and studying.

Today, what those single moms began has turned into the **Services for Transfer and Re-Entry Students**, or STARS, program. Now, it not only provides tutoring and counseling for transfer students, single parents, and veterans, but it also helps them find housing, get financial aid, schedule classes, learn study skills, and even fit into the culture of university life.

More than 3,100 students came to the STARS program last year. But the fastest growing population the program serves now consists of veterans, according to Director Corinne Miller. Since 2004, the number of vets in the program has more than doubled from 40 to about 90 students, and that population is expected to increase as more young veterans come home from the Iraq and Afghanistan wars and utilize the new G.I. Bill.

Since its founding, more than 450 donors have supported the STARS program. The UCSC Retirees Association raises funds for scholarships for student veterans and stipends for Veterans Education Team Support (VETS) peer advisers.

“We are especially relying on the support of our generous donors this year to provide stipends for VETS peer mentors, as well as other important offerings for transfer and re-entry students,” said Miller.

For information about STARS, or to contribute, contact Kathleen Hughes at (831) 459-4552 or khughes@ucsc.edu.

Why We Give



Charles and Madeline Leavitt

To Help All Students

CHARLES AND MADELINE LEAVITT, *parents*

“Libraries are almost sacred spaces to us,” screen-writer Chuck Leavitt told us when he and his wife made the gift to name a room at the renovated McHenry Library. Madeline added, “I have a degree in early childhood education, in addition to being a theater director, so I loved the idea of giving to a part of the campus that all students could use—whether they majored in science or dance.”

Support the things that matter to you.
Make a gift to UCSC. review.ucsc.edu/giving



Gordon and Teresa Pusser

To Create Community

GORDON PUSSEr, *community member*

“I was at a concert by the Cleveland Quartet at Berkeley 33 years ago when I met my wife, Teresa. She was sitting alone, and I was sitting alone. I asked her to join me. From there, we fell in love and have had a wonderful life together. UCSC’s Arts & Lectures series brings the same caliber of entertainment to us, plus, we get an extra joy every time we attend a performance, remembering how we met. Of course, we appreciate that Arts & Lectures offers all types of performances, but music is a very important part of our life.”

To Fill the Gaps

LETA MILLER, *professor of music*

“Because I believe so strongly in UCSC’s disciplinary balance between performance and academics, musicology and ethnomusicology, and collegiality, I make donations that support its success. I give directly to the department. Perpetuating its success is part of my responsibility. Second, I’ve created an award to honor a graduating senior that honors my musician mother, Hortense Zuckerman. Finally, I donate to the library’s Marion Taylor Fund, which helps fill in the gaps in our music collections. As researchers and donors, that’s what we’re here to do: fill in the gaps in knowledge and support.”



Leta Miller



Charles and Barbara McFadden



Sally and Michael Graydon (Cowell '70)

To Make Something Meaningful Happen

MICHAEL GRAYDON, *alumnus, UCSC Foundation Trustee*

“It’s easy enough to make money. It’s a lot more fun to make something meaningful happen when you give it away. I supported the McHenry Library renovation when I understood what my donation could mean to the project. Since then, I’ve been amazed to watch the library I grew up with transform before my eyes. As a trustee, I want to help alumni recognize the value of their education and the importance of fostering that kind of education for future students. No matter what’s important to them, UCSC has a program to address that passion.”

To Provide Better Tomorrows

BARBARA AND CHARLES MCFADDEN, *community members*

“My husband and I wanted to support a scholarship in the name of my first son, Davy, who had died of cystic fibrosis when he was three years old. Davy was an extraordinarily bright, attractive little boy, but he ran out of tomorrows. We wanted to find a scholarship that would help others have better tomorrows. When we learned about the Smith Renaissance Society, we were deeply touched by the stories and achievements these kids have all been able to reach for. With this gift, Davy’s short life counts for so much in deserving young people’s lives.”

Real-life Heroes

Growing up in Ethiopia, all Deutron Kebebew knew about America was what he had seen in the movies. So he was excited when his father, who had fled the country for political reasons, invited him to come and live in the United States. He imagined the car chases he would see, the cowboys that would ride through town.

But although Kebebew's life turned out to be something like a movie, it was not the one he had imagined. At 14, Kebebew found himself in California's foster care system, living with a family in the small town of Gilroy.

Even though he liked his foster family, Kebebew longed for his parents and felt the sting of being treated differently than the couple's biological children—things like not being allowed to open the refrigerator or having to earn points to participate in the activities he liked. But Kebebew remembered what his mother and grandmother had taught him and vowed not to become angry like some of the 50 to 60 other foster children who flowed through the house with their stories of horrific abuse and neglect.

It was then that he met the first of his "heroes," a junior high teacher who told Kebebew he should run for vice president of the class.

"I said, 'My English barely works and I carry a soccer ball around with me,'" Kebebew, now 31, remembered. "I have a funny name and kids make fun of me."

But the teacher pressed, and Kebebew was elected vice president of his freshman class. Kebebew decided to throw himself into student

government, clubs, and schoolwork as a way to keep the sadness and anger at bay. It was that choice that helped him win a prestigious Pister Leadership Opportunity Award at UC Santa Cruz, a \$10,000-a-year grant that made it possible for him to attend UCSC. Kebebew was the 2000 recipient of the Thomas B. Porter Scholar award.

"I was so thankful for that opportunity and humbly grateful to the Thomas B. Porter family for their investment in my education," Kebebew said in a voice that still carries a lilting trace of his native country.

He also joined the Smith Scholastic Society, which provides mentors for former foster children at the university and encourages them to mentor others. "It was about creating a caring community," Kebebew said.

Four years later, Kebebew had an electrical engineering degree, but his heart took him back to the children he had met in foster care. He got a job with the Santa Cruz Community Counseling Center, where he worked with foster youth and is now involved in a major research project to study the impact of positive father involvement on children.

But Kebebew always remembers that first day at UCSC as he stood with a favorite social worker and watched parents carrying bags of groceries into the dorms for their children. So when two of the young people he mentors went to college, Kebebew was by their side.

"And I made sure they had all the groceries they needed," he said.

—PEGGY TOWNSEND



Deutron Kebebew

Pister's legacy lives on through scholarships

They've been aspiring biologists and teachers; immigrants from all over the world, including Hungary, Mexico, and Vietnam; single parents; and re-entry students. Many have had to overcome enormous obstacles to get an education, or have been the first in their family to attend college. These are a few of the students who have received **Karl S. Pister Leadership Opportunity Awards**.



Karl S. Pister

Established in 1993 by Pister, the campus's sixth chancellor, the program fosters the transfer of accomplished students from

regional community colleges to UCSC. All recipients receive a \$10,000 scholarship for each of two years, the support of a strong academic mentoring program, and assistance finding paid summer work experience in a field that complements their studies.

"When I reflect on the impact of actions that I took as chancellor of UCSC, creation of the Leadership Opportunity Awards program stands out above all others," said Pister. "Through their careers, LOA alumni have brought distinction to the program and to UCSC. The many campus friends who contributed to the \$6.1 million endowment that sustains the program have made a good investment in the future of California."

For information about the Karl S. Pister Leadership Opportunity Awards, or to contribute, contact Kathleen Hughes at (831) 459-4552 or khughes@ucsc.edu.

For the second time, the McCrary family of Davenport has donated a massive redwood timber for UCSC's iconic sign. The original sign was replaced this past summer with a nearly identical twin. Brothers Homer T. "Bud" McCrary and Frank "Lud" McCrary Jr. donated the first sign in 1965 at the behest of founding chancellor Dean McHenry. But over the years, weather, termites, and dry rot took their toll.



The original campus sign, donated by the McCrary family in 1965

Campus officials approached them a couple of years ago wondering if they could find another piece of redwood—a big piece. Lud McCrary said he remembered a fallen snag that had lain on family property off Swanton Road, about five miles north of Davenport, for 25 years.

The old redwood had stood, although dead and scarred, for more than 100 years. Fire had hollowed its once 28-foot girth into a semicircle of charred wood. Then it fell, undermined by a surging Scott Creek after torrential rains inundated Santa Cruz County in January 1982.

The McCrarys hauled the fallen log back to their sawmill and managed to mill a solid timber nearly identical to the original, give or take half an inch. It's nearly 24 feet long, 44 inches high, and 19 inches thick, with clean, clear grain.

"I am delighted we were able to maintain the natural character and simplicity of the original sign," Chancellor George Blumenthal said. "The redwood is a symbol of how this university campus blends into the land on which it's built."

The McCrary family first settled in the Swanton area in 1869, six generations ago, when Bud and Lud's great-grandmother moved with her husband and four-year-old son. Their father, Frank, arrived from Alaska in 1920. After returning from World War II, the two brothers founded Big Creek Timber Co. in 1946 with their father and uncle.

Today, the next generation is in place with Lud's daughter, Janet Webb, as chief forester. Now called Big Creek Lumber, the company is widely known as a careful steward of the land and has been hailed as an environmentally conscious logger by such groups as the Nature Conservancy and Natural Resources Defense Council.

The old sign, rotted in many places, was trucked back to Big Creek. Lud McCrary said he hopes to find enough solid wood to mill into something useful, perhaps shakes for historic buildings in the area. "We don't want to waste it," he said.

—GUY LASNIER



From left: Bud McCrary, Janet McCrary Webb, and Lud McCrary

Below (l-r): Chancellor Blumenthal, Janet McCrary Webb, her husband Steve Webb, and her father Lud McCrary at the new entrance sign

Business partners bridge campus and community

Many Santa Cruz-area businesses generously support UC Santa Cruz. For example:

► **New Leaf Community Markets** was lead sponsor and **Independent Energy Systems** and **Pacific Sun Properties** were contributing sponsors of the Arboretum's 2007 Music Series.

► **Bank of America**, which matches employee donations, doubled Senior Vice President (and UCSC alumnus) Matt Howard's gift to support scholarships and the Educational Partnership Center.

► **Coast Commercial Bank** sponsored the 2007 season of Shakespeare Santa Cruz; **Wells Fargo Bank**, which last year acquired Coast Commercial, cosponsored the production of SSC's *Bach at Leipzig* in 2008.

► The **Santa Cruz Seaside Company** and its president, Charles Canfield, made a generous gift to endow undergraduate scholarships.

► **Barry Swenson Builder and Ow Family Properties** cosponsored the 2008 Shakespeare Santa Cruz production of *Romeo and Juliet*.

► **Barry Swenson Builder** is also an Arts & Lectures leadership donor. **EcoStruction** and

Nordic Naturals support A&L events and outreach.

► **Safeway** has supported Shakespeare Santa Cruz for over a decade. In 2008, the Soquel Safeway sponsored a performance of *All's Well that Ends Well*.

For information on business partnerships with UCSC, contact Diane Cast at (650) 528-4030, ext. 131, or dcast@ucsc.edu.



Nurturing Change

Growing up near San Diego, less than 50 miles from the Mexican border, Nidya Ramirez was a firsthand witness to the immense hardships, alienation, and hostility experienced by recent immigrants.

Now Ramirez, who graduated from UC Santa Cruz in June with a degree in feminist studies, feels a responsibility to help people in difficult circumstances—including immigrants, the poor and working class, refugees, children, and abused women.

“I have a very personal connection to it because, among my family members and the community I live in, the majority of people are immigrants,” said Ramirez, 22, who moved back to her hometown of Escondido after graduating. “So the struggles they go through, I’ve seen and felt.”

Ramirez was one of two recipients of this year’s UCSC Community Service Award. The \$500 awards, presented annually to one or more graduating feminist studies seniors, were initiated in 2001 by local patrons Peggy Downes Baskin and Mary Solari.

Ramirez, a first-generation college student, interned at California Rural Legal Assistance (CRLA) in Santa Cruz in 2007 and now plans to attend law school.



“One of the nicest things you can do for an individual is help with their education,” says Mary Solari (above), who established the Community Service Award with Peggy Downes Baskin.

She provided translation services at CRLA, helped clients fill out paperwork, and called attorneys and social workers about clients’ cases.

“It was good experience because it was a small place that needed a lot of help,” Ramirez said.

Receiving the award “made me feel a sense of recognition,” she said.

Her experience at CRLA taught her that “there’s so much work to do for people who are low income, who don’t get the same attention as others,” Ramirez said. “There’s so much work, but it’s not paid as much as other jobs, and not a lot of people are willing to do it.”

She hopes education inspires others to build awareness about issues and transcend their perceived limits.

“Before going to UCSC, I didn’t know a lot,” Ramirez said. “I learned so much there about being critical about my surroundings

and how to put my passion for change into action.”

Being away at college in Santa Cruz made her realize how much there was to do at home in Escondido.

“I’m from this community,” she said. “I feel like I have a certain responsibility to it. I want to be here for a lot of the change that I would like to create.”

—GWEN MICKELSON



Nidya Ramirez

Recognizing community service

To **Mary Solari**, it’s important to help students who really need it and can advance in their careers “with a little bit of help.”

“It’s very gratifying,” said Solari, whose late husband, Richard Solari, was president, CEO, and chairman of Granite Construction Co. of Watsonville. “One of the nicest things you can do for an individual is help with their education.”

Solari and fellow UCSC patron **Peggy Downes Baskin**, a former professor of politics at Santa Clara University and a lecturer and research associate in feminist studies at UCSC, established the award in 2001 with a \$10,000 pledge.

The awards are presented each year to graduating feminist studies seniors to recognize outstanding community service.

For information about the Community Service Award, or to contribute to the Humanities Division, contact Liz Sandoval at (831) 459-4713 or lsand@ucsc.edu.



Not the same old Game

Artificial intelligence and player-driven stories make combat fantasies so yesterday

Sony's unexpected gift

UCSC's computer game design program is the first of its kind in the UC system—and one of just a handful nationwide. **Sony** employees' familiarity with the creativity and quality of the program inspired them to consider UCSC as the beneficiary of a gift of \$458,000—the result of a settlement reached in a class-action lawsuit involving video-gaming employees at the company—to establish a scholarship program for students majoring in this innovative discipline.

"This gift will allow us to attract the best students in the nation to come to UC Santa Cruz for our cutting-edge computer game design program," said Jim Whitehead, who helped pioneer the program.

For information about the computer game design program, or to contribute to the Baskin School of Engineering, contact Steve Bourdow at (831) 459-4572 or sbourdow@soe.ucsc.edu.

Michael Mateas (center) is one of four core game design faculty at UC Santa Cruz. In the background, Mateas's graduate students Mike Treanor and Sherol Chen playfully parody traditional gaming—worlds away from their own work.

According to Michael Mateas, we're on the brink of a revolution.

Mateas, associate professor of computer science and a lead faculty member in UCSC's hot new computer game design program, predicts that the interactive structure of computer gaming will soon transform media as diverse as movies, visual art, fiction, documentaries, teaching materials, and even advertising.

Fortunately, Mateas isn't envisioning the still somewhat wooden characters and simple plots that characterize today's blockbuster games. UCSC's young, dynamic game design faculty are shaping the next wave of "computational media" through research into artificial intelligence, complex "player-driven" story structures, and ways to express a player's unique aesthetic sense.

UCSC's new undergraduate game design major, established in fall 2006 in the Jack Baskin School of Engineering, is helping fuel this revolution. Computer game design integrates UCSC's strong programs in computer science and the digital arts; it's one of the fastest growing majors on campus, with more than 200 students in fall 2008.

"This is already one of the top three computer game design programs in the country because we were able to build on great existing programs, as well as make some fantastic faculty hires," said Mateas, one of four core game design faculty in the Computer Science Department. "At UCSC, the faculty teaching undergraduate courses are actually creating the future of gaming through our research."

And although it has "game" in the title, this program isn't child's play. Mateas notes that most majors have strong computer science backgrounds and want to use their skills in creative careers. The program is rigorous and hands-on, simulating a professional environment. In their senior year, student teams create near-professional-level games. With distinct pride, Mateas reports that a game designed by the first graduating class (2008) has sparked interest from a top gaming company.

Mateas is considered a pioneer for his work as codeveloper of *Faça*, hailed as the first in a new genre. The *Faça* "player" interacts with a troubled couple, Grace and Trip, and has a role in the fate of their marriage. The game flows so naturally that it's hard to remember the theoretical and computational complexity behind such believable interactions.

Mateas said he came to academia from the computer industry because it offered him more scope to mesh computer science with artistic expression, and because it gives him the opportunity to teach.

"Academia offers the freedom to really think about the future of computational media," he said, "and it's wonderful to help students invent that future."

—VICTORIA BOLAM

Sharing a love of *Opera*

“**E**xcellence in student opera,” may not be the first thought that comes to mind when people hear “UC Santa Cruz.” But that’s changing almost as rapidly as Don Giovanni’s amorous conquests.

UCSC’s fully staged, professional-level Spring Opera productions have wowed regional audiences since 2000 and are now winning nationwide kudos as well. That recognition included a top award from the National Opera Association in 2006.

The Spring Opera is a year-round collaboration of the entire Music Department, with opera program director Brian Staufenbiel at the helm (he is also a singer and a member of UCSC’s voice faculty). UCSC music professor and noted conductor Nicole Paiement serves as music director, preparing and conducting both the singers and orchestra.

Paiement and Staufenbiel are partners personally as well as professionally, and their shared enthusiasm for the opera program is infectious.

“Not only is music our deep passion,” said Paiement, “but we both have a ‘sky’s the limit’ approach and total commitment to the projects we take on.”

Opera is complex and expensive to produce, which makes the program’s success all the more impressive. Staufenbiel’s and Paiement’s zeal is put to the test annually with a grueling production schedule that begins a year in advance. They are now working on Mozart’s *Le nozze di Figaro* for spring 2009. Offerings alternate between classical operas (typically



Nicole Paiement and Brian Staufenbiel

work behind the scenes,” she said. “There’s a wonderful sense of excitement and community.”

Every two years, the Music Department also presents a children’s opera. This year, more than 700 kids and their parents enjoyed free performances of Humperdinck’s *Hansel and Gretel*, and Staufenbiel wants to do more such performances.

“They introduce children not only to opera,” he said, “but also to the UCSC campus.”

“We’ve been very fortunate to enjoy strong community support for all UCSC’s music events,” said Paiement. “Santa Cruz audiences are sophisticated and curious artistically, which encourages us to be more adventurous as well.”

—VICTORIA BOLAM

“We heard singing from 20 year olds
that measured up to the seasoned stars
we hear on the major opera stages.”

—Rich and DeAnne Hart

Mozart) and contemporary works such as Menotti’s *The Consul* (2008) and Britten’s *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* (2006). Throughout the year, elements of the opera are integrated into seminars, master classes, and public performances.

Staufenbiel has high praise for the student performers, who include members of the full orchestra as well as vocal roles.

“We are one of the few undergraduate programs in the country doing opera at this level,” he said. “We ask a lot of students, and they really deliver.”

Paiement adds that the entire Music Department gets involved.

“We even have the jazz students coming on in speaking roles, and students from across the campus



UCSC student opera productions have included *Don Giovanni* (full-page photo), *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* (above), *The Consul* (below), *The Magic Flute*, *Le nozze di Figaro*, and *Street Scene*.

Circle of support

Rich and DeAnne Hart know their opera. They’ve subscribed to the San Francisco Opera for more than 35 years and have attended performances all over the world.

“As involved as we are,” said Rich, “we didn’t discover the UCSC student opera program until about five years ago.”

When they did, they were impressed with the quality of the performances.

“We heard singing from 20 year olds that measured up to the seasoned stars we hear on the major opera stages.”

The Harts have been spreading the word ever since, and in 2005 they founded the Opera Circle, a community support or “Friends” group dedicated to raising community awareness of UCSC’s opera program and also raising funds to support it.



Said DeAnne, “We want to make sure everyone in the immediate community and beyond knows how exciting these performances are.”

For information on the Opera Circle or to contribute to UCSC’s Opera Program, contact Matt Henry at (831) 459-2439 or mfhenry@ucsc.edu.

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