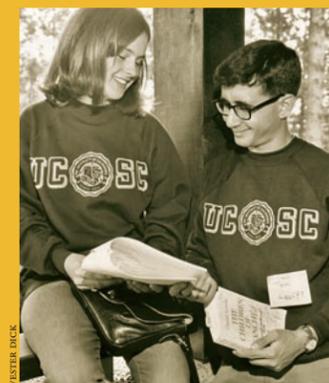


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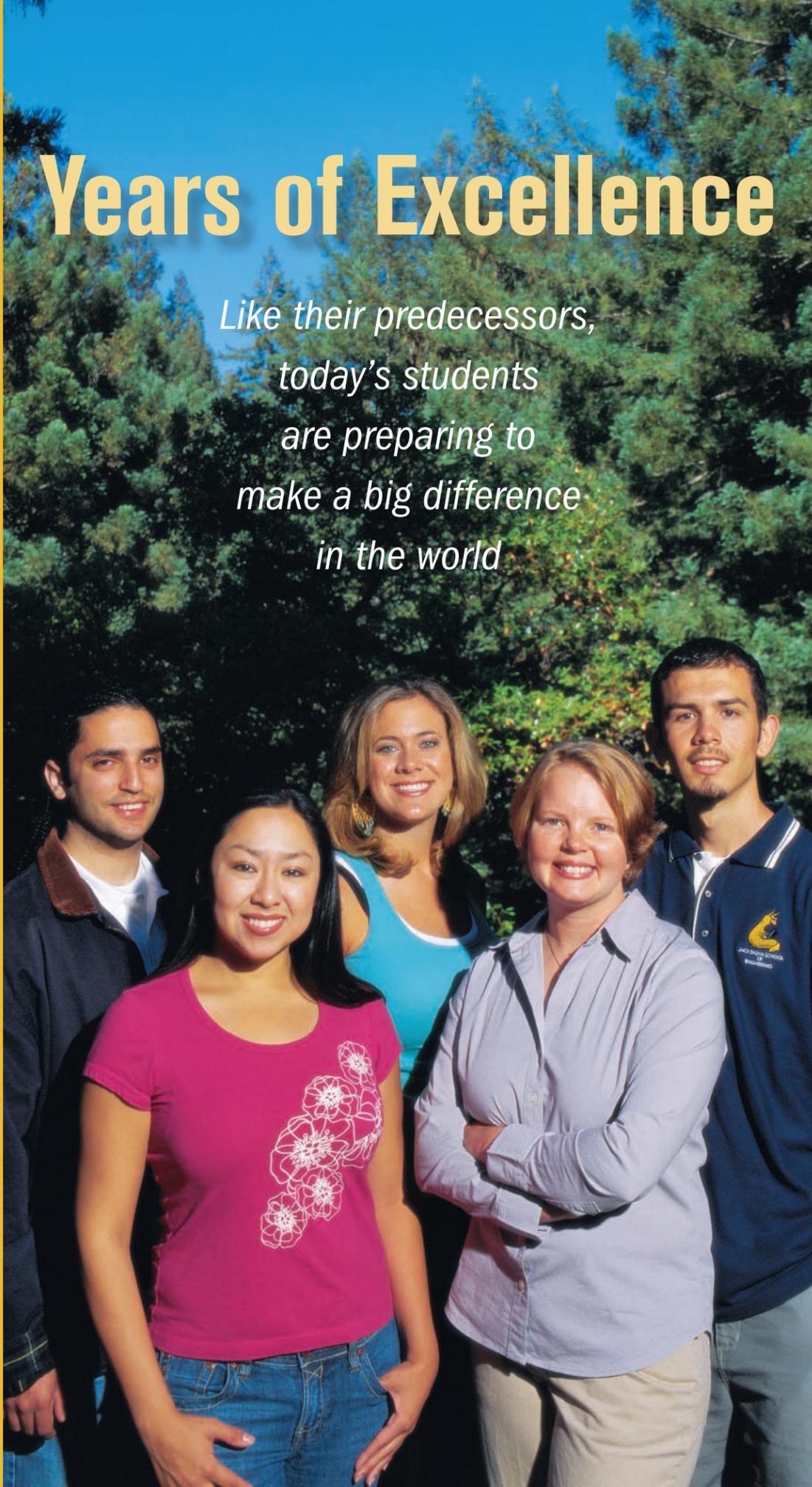
Years of Excellence

IN THE FALL OF 1965, UC Santa Cruz opened its doors to 652 students who were eager to learn and committed to serve. As the following five profiles illustrate, the passion of today's students remains true to the spirit of that founding class.

At right (l-r): students Reza Shabani, Christina Morales, Elise Youssef, Erin Kraal, and Eduardo Hernandez. Below: UCSC students, c. 1965.



*Like their predecessors,
today's students
are preparing to
make a big difference
in the world*



Committed to community

Christina Morales
Ph.D. candidate, History

CHRISTINA MORALES holds the distinction of being the first person in her immediate and extended family to attend a four-year college.

She also happens to be the second Latina graduate student in the History Department at UCSC to be honored with a \$69,000 Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellowship for Minorities. The award is given each year to only 60 students across the country who have “demonstrated superior scholarship and show the greatest promise for future achievement as scholars, researchers, and teachers in institutions of higher learning.”

Growing up in a low-income neighborhood in Gilroy, California, Morales was actively involved during her high school years in MECHA, the community-oriented student organization promoting education on issues involving Mexican Americans. As an undergraduate at Santa Clara University, she spent time volunteering at local

public elementary and high schools, tutoring and helping ESL students. She also directed the campus’s multicultural center, working with student groups to promote diversity education and recruit students and faculty of color.

After graduating with a B.A. in history, Morales spent a year working for Mujeres Pueden, a welfare-to-work program in San Jose, where she served as case manager for Mexican American single mothers on public assistance, helping them to become employed and self-sufficient. She also applied to three doctoral programs in history, ultimately choosing to come to UCSC.

“I had heard good things about Latino and Latina scholars here,” Morales recalls. “UCSC was also the only place where the faculty called me and students e-mailed me prior to my acceptance—it seemed really inviting. They expressed interest in what my research interests were, and I felt like it was going to be a good fit.”

Morales has completed her master’s thesis on the forced sterilization of Chicanas that took place at various medical centers in California during the 1970s. Her dissertation project examines the repatriation movement to expel the Mexican community from



JIM MCKENZIE

the United States during the Depression.

Although her ultimate aspiration is to become a university professor, Morales definitely plans to continue working in the community, well aware of how much her volunteer and work experience has come to shape her research interests.

“I’m really interested in

issues of education—one of my goals is to be involved in university policy and serve on school boards,” Morales said. “I would also like to be able to mentor students in the future,” she adds, “because I had such a positive experience with professors who mentored me.”

—SCOTT RAPPAPORT

Acting, naturally

Elise Youssef

Senior, Theater Arts

DURING SPRING QUARTER, Elise Youssef was out the door by 6 A.M. on weekdays to perform the lead role in the traveling Shakespeare To Go production of *The Winter's Tale*. The 50-minute play by Shakespeare Santa Cruz was performed 48 times in two months for Central Coast schoolchildren.

Once the day's Shakespeare performance ended, it was back to campus for classes and 5 to 11 P.M. rehearsals for the theater arts production of *Merrily We Roll Along*, a Stephen Sondheim musical.

At one point, Youssef performed both plays just hours apart.

"I love every minute of it," she says of her hectic pace.

Acting seems as natural as breathing for Youssef, who has been performing since the age of 8. "I enjoy being with an audience. It's like a conversation," she says. "I can't really imagine doing anything else."

Looking at her stage credits, it's hard to see how she has

had time to do anything else.

Almost from the time she set foot on campus, Youssef has been landing roles normally reserved for more experienced actors. She snagged a part in Shakespeare Santa Cruz's *Gretel & Hansel* her first quarter, and hasn't slowed down since.

There was the student-directed family drama *Tales of the Lost Formicans*, and a production of *The Trojan Women* at the off-campus community venue, The Attic. A Shakespeare Santa Cruz internship offered more opportunities,

including roles in two shows and creation of the Intern Showcase—a sellout.

Lighter roles are her favorites. "In high school, I loved playing the ingenues, but as I've gotten older I've found the most fulfilling roles are the comedic ones." One of her favorite courses last year was *Clowning Studio*, taught by assistant professor of drama and dance Patty Gallagher.

Youssef's most recent comedic turn, as Maggie in Shakespeare Santa Cruz's *Engaged* this summer, was another coup. "That was a really big honor," Youssef

says, noting that she won the role over Equity actors and that Shakespeare Santa Cruz artistic director Paul Whitworth "goes all over the world" to audition actors.

Youssef, just beginning her senior year, is sure to pursue even more choice roles. "It's my last year, so I hope to go out with a bang."

And after that? Youssef considers her time at UCSC invaluable preparation for an acting career, and has her next step all planned. "I'll definitely move to New York and tough it out."

—LOUISE GILMORE DONAHUE



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Economics sleuth

Reza Shabani

Dual-degree program leading to a B.A. in Economics and an M.S. in Applied Economics and Finance

REZA SHABANI considers himself lucky. Many of his childhood friends joined the military, while each day brings Shabani closer to his goal of earning a doctorate in economics.

Shabani was always good at math, and he discovered economics during his sophomore year. He promptly enrolled in the department's rigorous "Pathway" program to earn a B.A. and a master's degree in five years.

"The world revolves around economics—money and resources," he said. "It's a good foundation for anything I want to do in the public policy arena."

Shabani's concern about his friends in the military inspired an ambitious study of the health of Vietnam veterans. Shabani is using draft records to compare the fates of draftees to those who were not called up—a methodology worthy of a dissertation, says Shabani's faculty adviser, Assistant Professor Carlos Dobkin (B.A., economics, UCSC).

The team's preliminary findings have surprised Shabani: They indicate that vets have experienced lower rates of suicide and death in motor vehicle accidents than previous studies showed.

"One thing I've really learned in economics is you have to be honest in how you approach and interpret your results," said Shabani. "When you're after the truth, you have to put aside your own ideological agenda."

Integrity is evident in Shabani's extracurricular activities, too. Each spring, he participates in student-led outreach programs that encourage students of color to enroll at UCSC, and he founded a campus chapter of the nonprofit Project Namuwongo Zone, which fights poverty and AIDS in Uganda.

"Coming to Santa Cruz has changed me so much," says Shabani, who grew up in Richmond. Recalling his Crown College core course, he describes feeling like he'd "solved the state's water

crisis" after receiving positive feedback on a paper he wrote about water in California. "I got a glimpse of how I could affect the world. That moment made me realize what an opportunity I had here to better myself."

Since then, Shabani has won research awards, a fellowship to attend a summer public-policy institute at the University of Michigan, a dean's award, and two awards

for outstanding achievement in economics.

"I'm busy all the time. It's crazy," he says. "But I want to be successful. I have friends in Richmond and Oakland, and they're living in the richest country in the world facing the problems of impoverishment. No one can save every person, but you have to help out. You have to do your duty."

—JENNIFER McNULTY



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Mars explorer

Erin Kraal

Ph.D. candidate, Earth Sciences

ERIN KRAAL got hooked on Mars in high school, when she wrote a term paper on the red planet. Now a Ph.D. candidate in Earth sciences at UCSC, she studies Martian landforms for clues to the planet's history, looking for evidence that water once flowed across its now dry and barren surface.

"Mars is an amazing planet because it has so many mysteries and hints that it was once very different from what we see today," Kraal says. "One of the big questions about Mars is how its climate has changed over time, which has implications for the possibility of life there."

Many features of the planet—channels, basins, alluvial fans—suggest that water once flowed on the surface. The quandary, she says, is that surface water cannot exist there under current conditions.

Poring over the vast databases of images gathered by various NASA spacecraft, such as the *Mars Global Surveyor*, Kraal is mapping the distribution of features

on the planet that appear to be alluvial fans—fan-shaped deposits of sediments left when water flows out of a canyon into an open valley. She is also using experiments and computer simulations to investigate the physical processes that might have formed certain features.

Take shorelines, for example. An eroded shoreline implies open water with waves lapping at the edges. But Kraal has found that it would have been difficult for waves to take shape on Mars because of the low atmospheric pressure. These findings come from experiments conducted inside the Mars Surface Wind Tunnel at NASA Ames Research Center, the only wind tunnel where the pressure can be lowered to simulate the surface of Mars.

With funding from a NASA Graduate Student Research Fellowship, Kraal does much of her work at NASA Ames in Moffett Field. Her thesis adviser, associate professor of Earth sciences Erik Asphaug, helped her make connections

with collaborators at NASA Ames and other institutions.

"It was really her persistence year after year that created the Mars geomorphology program on this campus," says Asphaug, whose own research has focused mostly on asteroids and planetary collisions. "I had contemplated studying Mars as a graduate student myself, but I ended up getting into other things. Now I'm really enjoying this new track."

Before she began her Mars research, Kraal earned a master's degree at UCSC, studying Alaskan glaciers with Robert Anderson, then a professor of Earth sciences at UCSC.

"I felt it was important to really understand Earth's geomorphology before I tried to study a distant world," Kraal says. "Now I apply those same skills to analyze the geomorphology of Mars."

—TIM STEPHENS



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From cotton to computers

Eduardo Hernandez

Sophomore, Computer Engineering

SURROUNDED BY COTTON for as far as his eyes could see, 14-year-old Eduardo Hernandez would have been hard-pressed to imagine the redwoods of UCSC in his future. "It was one of the toughest jobs I'd never want anyone to experience," the computer engineering sophomore recalls of his days working the Central Valley cotton fields.

He left fieldwork behind as soon as he could, but work always went hand-in-hand with high school, as he balanced jobs as a butcher and a computer lab assistant on his way to becoming class valedictorian.

"It really pushed my limits—seeing how much I could do," he says of his hectic high school years. "I learned the value of money and the value of hard work."

Hernandez says he's always had a mechanical bent, but his interest in computers—and especially circuits—was sparked by an older cousin in

the high-tech field. Not only did that cousin bring the family into the computer age with the gift of a hand-me-down system, he taught Hernandez how to build his own computer, piece by piece.

Hernandez has found his niche at UCSC, continuing to get high grades and studying with a group of like-minded students of varying backgrounds: "We all have the same drive to succeed; we're all supportive of each other," he said. Hernandez plans to major either in computer engineering or information systems management.

Elected vice president of

the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers on campus, Hernandez has received two scholarships to defray college costs and is a resident adviser. He is active in the Multicultural Engineering Program and the statewide Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement program, and is a School of Engineering mentor for freshmen.

Hernandez also reaches out as a UC Ambassador. He explains to school groups how—until moving to Fresno his junior year—he was surrounded by classmates with no plans for life after high school. "It was

almost like being smart was a crime," Hernandez remembers. "You were persecuted for it."

Hernandez, who moved to the United States from Mexico at the age of 5, is grateful his family has always been supportive. His four older siblings are either in college or have graduated.

"I know there are a lot of students like I was who want to do something with their lives but don't quite know how to go about it. I think it really makes a difference when you tell them your own story."

—LOUISE GILMORE DONAHUE



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