

UC SANTA CRUZ

REVIEW

Spring 2006



Madison Nguyen:
A first for San Jose

Also in this issue:

**Chancellor Denton's
Investiture**

and much more



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UC SANTA CRUZ REVIEW

UC Santa Cruz

Review

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Produced by UC Santa Cruz Public Affairs

3/06(06-045/82M)

UC Santa Cruz (USPS 650940)

Vol. 43, No. 4 / March 2006

UC Santa Cruz is a series of administrative publications published in August, September, November, and March by University Relations at the University of California, Santa Cruz. Periodicals postage paid at Santa Cruz, CA 95060. Postmaster: Send address changes to the University of California, Santa Cruz, University Relations, 1156 High Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95064-1077.

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JIM MACKENZIE

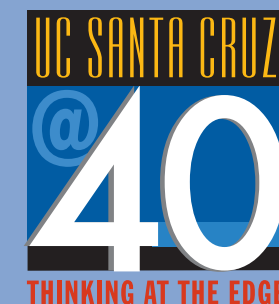
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On the cover: Madison Nguyen, alumna and San Jose City councilmember, stands in front of City Hall. She is wearing a scarf made by a constituent that honors the Vietnamese and U.S. flags.





Denise D. Denton was sworn in as ninth chancellor of UC Santa Cruz during an investiture ceremony in early November. The investiture was one highlight of a three-day celebration that featured a thought-provoking academic symposium on the relationship between excellence and diversity in higher education. The two-day symposium began with a keynote address by Shirley Ann Jackson, president of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, and concluded with breakout sessions involving members of the campus community and guests. Completing the investiture activities was the annual Scholarships Benefit Dinner, illustrating the chancellor's commitment to increase scholarship and fellowship support for UCSC's undergraduate and graduate students.

For complete coverage, please see pages 8-11.

Grad student works to save sea turtles

THE CRITICALLY endangered North Pacific loggerhead turtle nests only on certain beaches in Japan, where the number of females showing up each year to lay their eggs has dropped below 1,000. These long-lived sea turtles travel widely in the Pacific Ocean, and Hoyt Peckham, a UCSC graduate student in ecology and evolutionary biology, has been studying them in southern Baja California, where they congregate to feed.

His research addresses questions about the migrations, habitat use, and life history of these remarkable animals, and the results are helping

to guide conservation efforts.

Peckham knows that research alone will not save the turtles, which die by the thousands as incidental "bycatch," tangled in fishing nets and caught on long-lines set out to catch fish.

So he has helped develop an outreach and education project that fosters ocean conservation in small fishing villages along the Baja California peninsula.



Graduate student Hoyt Peckham, right, and fellow researchers prepare to release a young loggerhead turtle in Baja California.

Econ Department ranked ninth in international finance

UCSC'S ECONOMICS Department is ranked ninth in the world in the field of international finance in a survey of more than 300 public and private research universities.

The ranking is based on the research productivity of faculty as measured by scholarly publications in 63 academic journals from 1993 to 2003. The results were published by *econphd.net*, an online resource for prospective graduate

students in economics.

"These results reflect the work we've done to recruit top scholars and graduate students, and we are pleased to be at the top of the list," said economics professor and former department chair Michael Hutchison, who is now interim dean of the Division of Social Sciences.

"The Economics Department at UCSC has made a concerted effort over the past 15 years to develop complementary programs in the international field," said Hutchison. "The concentration of scholarly research and teaching in international economics has led to a highly distinguished program."

Physics course focuses on working in industry

Ucsc's Physics Department is giving students in the applied physics program something few college students in any major receive: a course on how to get a job after they graduate.

The new course, called *The Physicist in Industry*, lets students know what kinds of job opportunities exist for people with physics degrees and how to go about pursuing those opportunities and succeeding on the job.

"Most college students are not very aware of the job market and what they need to do to get those jobs," said Fred Kuttner, a physics lecturer at UCSC.

Kuttner and Bruce Rosenblum, professor emeritus of physics, designed the course and taught it for the first time last year. The course will be

offered every year during spring quarter and is open to all students, although first preference is given to students in the program.

Kuttner and Rosenblum have extensive experience working in industry, but they also wrote to a large number of physics alumni, hoping to hear from two or three who would be willing to come talk to the class. "We got about 40 replies," Rosenblum said.

Alumna Marianne Walpert spoke to students about working in industry. She is vice president for sales and marketing at Pacific Power Management, a solar energy company.



New study highlights role of hit-and-run collisions in space

HIT-AND-RUN collisions between embryonic planets during a critical period in the early history of the solar system may account for some previously unexplained properties of planets, asteroids, and meteorites, according to UCSC researchers who published their findings in the January 12 issue of the journal *Nature*.

The four "terrestrial" planets (Earth, Mars, Venus, and Mercury) are the products of an initial period, lasting tens of millions of years, of violent collisions between planetary bodies.

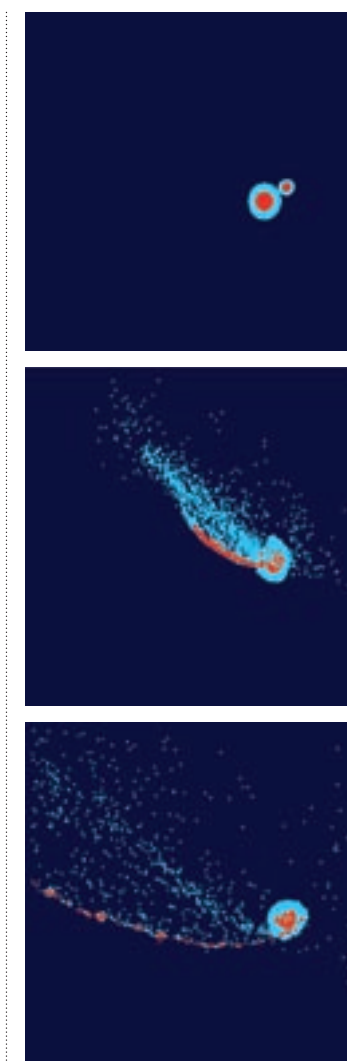
When planets collide, half of the time a planet-sized impactor hitting a larger planet-sized body will bounce off; these hit-and-run collisions have drastic consequences for the impactor, said Erik Asphaug, associate professor of Earth sciences and first author of the *Nature* paper.

"You end up with planets that leave the scene of the crime looking very different from when they came in—they lose their atmosphere, crust, even the mantle, or they can be ripped apart into a family of smaller objects."

Exploring a neglected piece of Jewish and European history

NEUFELD LEVIN Professor of Holocaust Studies Murray Baumgarten has been awarded nearly \$200,000 from the National Endowment for the Humanities to fund an institute for college and university teachers in Italy. The institute is scheduled to take place in Venice from June 19 to July 21.

The interdisciplinary pro-



The images (top, center, and bottom) show a collision between two planetary embryos before, during, and after the impact. Blue represents the rocky material of the mantle; red, the iron-rich material of the inner core.

gram will explore the cultural, intellectual, and historical experience of Italian and Venetian Jews through the study of literary, artistic, and dramatic works.

"The Jewish community in Venice is an important but neglected piece of Jewish and European history," Baumgarten said. "Having been expelled from most of Western Europe, Jews settled in Venice in 1516, and though they were sequestered in a ghetto, the Jewish community flourished in business and the arts... and had an integral role in early capitalism."

Popular Santa Cruz tourist attraction isn't so mysterious, after all

FOR YEARS, psychology professor Bruce Bridgeman has taken UCSC students to the Mystery Spot, a popular local tourist attraction, to demonstrate how the human brain works.

Tourists flock to the Mystery Spot to enjoy the “puzzling variations in gravity, perspective, height and more,” leaving baffled and perplexed by the apparent exceptions to the laws of physics and gravity.

But for Bridgeman, the site is a powerful—and entertaining—way to demonstrate the influence of the visual context on perception. “It shows that you can teach serious science in unexpected places,” said Bridgeman, who published a scholarly article that explains the perceptual effects at work at the Mystery Spot. His article,



Mystery Spot managers welcomed Bridgeman's research on the attraction.

“Influence of Visually Induced Expectation on Perceived Motor Effort: A Visual-Proprioceptive Interaction at the Santa Cruz Mystery Spot,” appeared in an issue of *Psychonomic Bulletin and Review*.

Mystery Spot visitors will recognize the scene of Bridgeman's research: In a cabin on a steep hillside, an 8-kilogram weight hangs on a chain from the ceiling. Although the weight hangs vertically, the

tilt of the cabin makes the weight appear to be suspended at an angle. Visitors find that pushing the weight one way is perceived as much more difficult than pushing it the other way. Rather than a magical defiance of gravity, the explanation lies in the “mismatch” between expectations and the actual weight: Expectations based on visual information override the proprioceptive experience of moving the weight.

UCSC engineers named IEEE Fellows

TWO FACULTY MEMBERS of UCSC's Baskin School of Engineering have been elected Fellows of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE). They are J. J. García-Luna-Aceves, Baskin Professor of Computer Engineering, and Darrell Long, Malavalli Professor of Storage Systems.

The IEEE Board of Directors cited García-Luna-Aceves' “contributions to theory and design of communication protocols for network routing and channel access” and Long's “contributions to storage systems architecture and performance.”

Library addition to provide increase in space, new features

AFTER YEARS of planning, a project to increase the size of and renovate McHenry Library took a giant step toward reality when construction on a multi-year project began in the fall.

Not only will space at McHenry be expanded by 72 percent, adding approximately 81,600 square feet, the project will provide a number of enhancements, including:

- An electronic research center with 60 stations to access library resources.
- A visual resource center, providing access to electronic



This rendering illustrates how the library will appear from the southwest.

graphic files and image banks, 35 mm slides, and historic collections in various photographic formats.

- An instructional design center to help faculty make innovative use of technology.
- A “cyber study” room and Internet café, providing social space and online access.

After Katrina, UCSC welcomes students from New Orleans lab

IN THE AFTERMATH of Hurricane Katrina, University of New Orleans researcher Stephen Winters-Hilt was struggling to get his life back to normal and his lab up and running again. Thanks to his strong ties to UCSC, however, about half of the students in his research lab temporarily relocated to UCSC in the fall to carry on their research here.

The students—four graduate students and one undergraduate—took up residence in campus housing, took classes, and conducted research in the UCSC Biophysics Laboratory.

Winters-Hilt, who earned his Ph.D. in bioinformatics at UCSC in 2003, is a coinvestigator with UCSC faculty David Deamer and Mark Akeson on two grants funded by the National Institutes of Health.

Three receive top awards from Alumni Association

A SENIOR WRITING lecturer, an epidemiologist in the international fight against AIDS, and a staff member who helps nontraditional students thrive have received the UCSC Alumni Association's highest honors for the 2005–06 year.

In an on-campus luncheon in February, Donald Rothman received the Distinguished Teaching Award; Cheryl Scott, the Alumni Achievement Award; and Corinne Miller, the Outstanding Staff Award. The three were honored along with 31 student award winners.

Rothman, who served as



FROM LEFT: Donald Rothman, Cheryl Scott, and Corinne Miller

provost of Oakes College in the 1990s, was instrumental in creating and shaping UCSC's Writing Program. In 1977 he founded the Central California Writing Project, dedicated to helping elementary and secondary teachers and university faculty improve the teaching of writing.

As director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) opera-

tions in Tanzania from 2001 to 2005, alumni award-winner Cheryl Scott (Oakes '74, biology) was in the thick of the global battle against AIDS. Under Scott's leadership, CDC-Tanzania assisted the Tanzanian government to improve its HIV/AIDS surveillance system, strengthen lab services, advance blood-transfusion safety, and develop a network of antenatal health centers.

What began as a small support system for “nontraditional” women students—those not fitting the 18- to 22-year-old profile—has blossomed under staff award-winner Corinne Miller's leadership. Services for Transfer and Re-Entry Students (STARS) now welcomes more than 3,000 transfer and nontraditional students and has a solid record for student success.

Grad students shine in arts collaboration

IN *Nightingale*—the first thesis project of UCSC's new graduate program in Digital Arts/New Media—dancers onstage trigger digital effects through their intricate movements, creating streams of light and colors that appear on images of their bodies projected on screens behind them.

Featuring video illuminated on three screens, interactive digital media, theater improvisation, and original sonic compositions, *Nightingale*—which was performed on campus five times in November—is the result of an ambitious collaboration between Digital Arts/New Media graduate students and BarnStorm, UCSC's new student-run theater arts company.

The production was choreographed by assistant theater arts professor Ted Warburton, who worked with student media designer Jess Damsen to pilot the

use of a technology called ActiveSpace, developed by Professor John Crawford at UC Irvine. With computer hardware newly purchased by the Digital Arts/New Media program, UCSC students can now take advantage of an interactive dance system that allows dancers to generate digital effects from their movements onstage.

“The basic idea is that one camera captures the image of a dancer, another camera registers the movement of that dancer onstage, and that movement triggers effects depending on how they are programmed,” explained Porter College lecturer and program alumnus Bob Giges. “The effects are then projected on screens behind the dancer.”

Giges wrote the

script for the production as his M.F.A. thesis project, taking the classic Hans Christian Andersen tale of “The Nightingale” and embedding it into a contemporary story about relationships in turmoil.

Nightingale was directed by program grad student Timothy Jordan and featured students from a variety of disciplines in the acting roles and technical positions.

Actors improvise in live interactions with taped interviews of audience members recorded just before the performance.



Luncheon, activities mark Women's Center's 20th anniversary

THE UCSC Women's Center in October observed its 20th anniversary with a luncheon, a new publication from the University Library, and an art exhibit by women staff and alumnae.

The luncheon, which was opened by Chancellor Denton, featured Santa Cruz County supervisor Mardi Wormhoudt and UCSC psychology professor Aída Hurtado, who both spoke on the topic: “Why a Women's Center?”

Crossing Borders: The UCSC Women's Center, 1985-2005, a new oral history from the library's Regional History Project, was also celebrated.

Two of the center's founding faculty—Helene Moglen and Marge Frantz—as well as five staff women who served as directors are featured in the publication.

Psychologist receives national honor

FAYE CROSBY, professor of psychology and an expert on affirmative action, has received the Kurt Lewin Award, one of the most prestigious honors in social psychology.

Crosby received the award from the Society for the Psychological Study of Social Issues. Named for the founder of social psychology, the Lewin Award recognizes “outstanding contributions to the development and integration of psychological research and social action.”



UCSC PHOTO SERVICES

Ecologist investigates role of plant roots in carbon cycling

SOIL ECOLOGIST Weixin Cheng is at the leading edge of scientific efforts to quantify the impacts of plant roots on the cycling of carbon between the atmosphere (where carbon dioxide contributes to global warming) and terrestrial ecosystems (where large amounts of carbon are stored in soil organic matter).

Cheng, an associate professor of environmental studies at UCSC, studies complex above- and below-ground systems to gather data on the movement of carbon in terrestrial ecosystems.

Plant roots contribute as

California's oak woodlands face new threat: Climate change

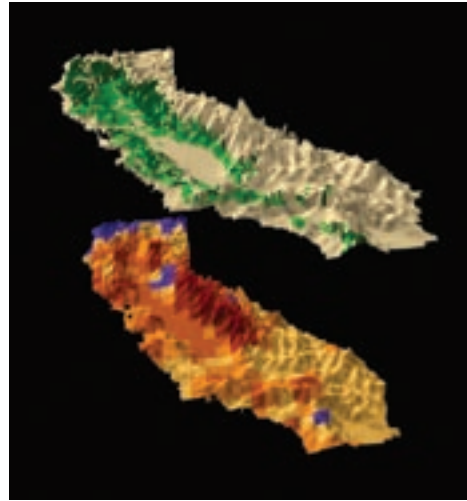
CALIFORNIA'S iconic oak woodlands have endured many assaults over the years—they've been cut for fuel, cleared for vineyards and housing developments, and their seedlings face intense grazing pressure and competition from invasive grasses.

But the future will bring a new threat—climate change.

Using computer models, UCSC researchers have taken a close look at the implications of climate change for two familiar California oak species—blue oak and valley oak. Their findings were published in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* in

November. The study was led by Lara Kueppers, a postdoctoral researcher working with Lisa Sloan, professor of Earth sciences.

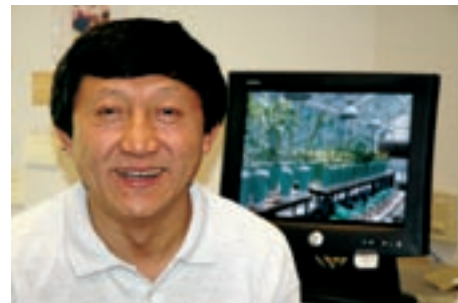
The researchers found that the areas of the state where the climate is suitable for these spe-



LOWER IMAGE—Precipitation model: yellows to reds, decreases; shades of blue, increases. UPPER IMAGE—Predicted habitat for blue oak: dark green, future suitable habitat; light green, no longer suitable.

cies to grow will shift northward and could shrink to nearly half their current size as a result of global warming.

much as 50 percent of the total carbon dioxide produced by terrestrial ecosystems, and they also



Soil ecologist Weixin Cheng

play a major role in adding organic carbon to soil. But many studies of soil carbon have measured it in incubated soil samples that lack roots and vegetation. “We’ve been oversimplifying the ecosystem,” said Cheng, who has

developed techniques for measuring below-ground carbon cycles.

In the greenhouse, Cheng is evaluating numerous plants, including soybeans, corn, wheat, Ponderosa pine, cottonwood, and amaranths.

By focusing on the rhizosphere, the soil that surrounds the roots of a plant, Cheng has documented changes in the rate

of soil organic matter decomposition that vary from 70 percent suppression to 300 percent stimulation, a range that underscores Cheng’s assertion that soil processes cannot be understood under plantless conditions.

UCSC and Los Alamos form partnership for data management

UCSC AND LOS ALAMOS National Laboratory have agreed to establish a collaborative institute for research and education in the area of scientific data management.

The Institute for Scalable Scientific Data Management (ISSDM) will address looming issues of data storage and management for projects that involve large-scale simulation and computing.

“This new partnership builds on a history of fruitful scientific collaboration between UCSC faculty and students and Los Alamos scientists. The educational and research programs supported by the institute will benefit both partners while addressing major challenges in scientific computing,” said Chancellor Denton.

The institute will provide opportunities for UCSC graduate students to gain specialized experience and expertise in this area by working on large-scale computing projects at Los Alamos. In addition, the students who take advantage of these opportunities will provide a pool of potential employees for the laboratory with skills in key areas of computer science and data management, where the lab foresees significant staff needs in the future.

“We want to be able to hire people who already understand our problems and can come in and be immediately productive. This partnership will provide a valuable pipeline for recruitment and retention of staff in a key area for the laboratory,” said Gary Grider of the High Performance Computing Systems Integration Group at Los Alamos.



JIM MACKENZIE

Robert F. Kennedy Jr. drew a large audience to the Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium in late January for a lecture titled “Our Environmental Destiny.” Greeting Kennedy at a dinner reception held in his honor were Chancellor Denton, center, and Anuradha Luther Maitra, president of the UCSC Foundation. Kennedy is a senior attorney for the Natural Resources Defense Council. The event was sponsored by UCSC’s Arts & Lectures program.

Historian finds women's labor movement in Latin America

IN 2001, history professor Dana Frank was asked by the U.S. Labor Education in the Americas Project (US/LEAP), a Chicago nonprofit, to develop a union label for the U.S. banana market.

Frank signed on as a consultant and traveled to Central America to attend union workshops and regional conferences. She stayed with women banana workers in Honduras and went on road trips to Guatemala and Nicaragua to observe workshops designed for younger members of

the union. Frank had meals with the workers and visited their packing plants and union offices.

As she conducted her research in Latin America, Frank discovered a powerful, sophisticated, and highly successful network of women’s banana worker activism that is largely unknown to the rest of the world. The result is *Bananeras: Women Transforming the Banana Unions of Latin America*, a new book that traces the growth of this transnational labor movement.

“It’s an amazing story, and I just happened into it,” said Frank, an expert on U.S. and international labor issues. “I didn’t go down there intending to write about it—I just

went down to work with the banana unions, and I was stunned by all of the women’s projects. My book is about the history and development of these projects for gender equity and power in the banana unions, and how these women were able to build them and win the support of the men.”

Historian Dana Frank



COURTESY DANA FRANK

Annual alumni panel featured at spring fair on April 22

APAIR OF EMMY AWARD-winning writers, an expert on nuclear strategy and nonproliferation, and an acclaimed science writer are among the graduates of UCSC who will participate in a panel discussion on campus on April 22 during the Banana Slug Spring Fair reunion weekend.

The four graduates, who will discuss the relationship between their UCSC education and current careers, are as follows:

- **ANNE FLETT-GIORDANO** (Porter ’76, B.A. psychology, theater arts) and **CHUCK RANBERG** (Porter ’77, B.A. theater arts) met at UCSC; they received an Emmy for their work as writer-producers of the TV show *Frasier*.

- **GEORGE PERKOVICH** (Cowell ’81, B.A. politics) is vice president for studies at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and author of *India’s Nuclear Bomb*.

- **EILEEN CHU** (Crown ’71, B.A. biology; ’82, Ph.D. biology) is a senior editor with the U.S. Government Accountability Office; she was a teacher of science writing at MIT and editor-in-chief of the journal *BioScience*.



GEORGE T. MARTINE



COURTESY GEORGE PERKOVICH



COURTESY EILEEN CHU

The panel takes place on Saturday, April 22, at 10:30 a.m., in the University Center’s Bhojwani Dining Room.

For more information on the panel discussion and other Banana Slug Spring Fair reunion events, see page 24 or go to: alumni.ucsc.edu/reunions.

In Memoriam

- **THEODORE SARBIN**, 94, professor emeritus of psychology and criminology, died at his Carmel home in August. A major contributor to the field of social psychology, Sarbin became known as “Mr. Role Theory” for his belief that problems thought of as “mental illness” could be construed as moral judgments rendered by those holding social power.

- **GEORGE HAMMOND**, 84, professor of chemistry and vice chancellor of natural sciences in the mid-1970s, died in Portland, Oregon, in October. A chemist, Hammond was widely credited with creating the discipline of organic photochemistry.

- **EILEEN BROOKS**, 33, an assistant professor of economics since 2001, died in February in Santa Cruz after an illness.

Leading at the Edge

“Today, we begin again. Our campus was born of a pioneering vision, which yet endures. Replete with stellar achievements, UC Santa Cruz is but a brilliant intimation of even more greatness to come.”

— CHANCELLOR DENICE D. DENTON

Chancellor Denton's Six Priorities

At her investiture, Chancellor Denton outlined six priorities she said were developed over several months of campus conversations. They will inform decisions and influence the commitment of resources. They are as follows:

1 Expand educational opportunities for undergraduate and graduate students; continue to revitalize and refine the colleges to express the 21st-century version of UCSC's founders' original vision; acknowledge and support graduate students; and establish professional schools that will attract the world's leading scholars.

2 Build on the quality of existing academic programs to develop new offerings that play off UCSC's existing strengths and enhance research. Emphasize interdisciplinary connections. Developing new academic programs will enhance competitiveness for additional extramural funding.

3 Bolster fundraising and organizational effectiveness by increasing partnerships among campus units and with companies, educational institutions, and governments in Santa Cruz, the Monterey Bay Area, Silicon Valley, and beyond. This will help advance a culture of philanthropy, with the goal of increasing private support for students and faculty.

4 Renew UCSC's commitment to its community, continuing to work with local governments to address shared concerns for affordable housing, appropriate transportation systems, and a vital economy; underscore the benefits of a great university for schools, volunteerism, cultural activities, and economic growth and stability. Honor the university's commitment to the people of California by offering access to the students of tomorrow.

5 Increase national and international recognition for the innovation and other contributions of the UCSC community. Showcase the achievements of students, staff, faculty, and alumni who are making a positive difference in our world.

6 Invest in people. Develop new strategies to attract, recruit, retain, and promote outstanding and diverse students, staff, and faculty. Nurture talent with a leadership development program to ensure a steady progression of future leaders.



SHIMMEL THAYER

Dr. Shirley Ann Jackson, president of Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, “a power which generates the new, the unique, the innovative, the excellent.”

The three-day Celebration 2005 was capped by the third annual Scholarships Benefit Dinner where more than 300 guests honored campus benefactor Jack Baskin and raised additional money to support undergraduate scholarships and graduate fellowships.

“UC SANTA CRUZ does things differently but for a purpose,” said Chancellor Denton in her inaugural address. She hailed UCSC's leadership in interdisciplinary research and challenged the campus to “lead at the edge.”

As he introduced Denton, Dyne

University of California President Robert C. Dyne presents Chancellor Denton with the Chancellor's Medallion.



SHIMMEL THAYER

described the new chancellor as forthright, honest, and a “trailblazer in the pursuit of equity and multiculturalism.” She has the “capability to raise this campus to the next level.”

Denton received a standing ovation as she took the podium at the Music Center Recital Hall. She praised UCSC's founding pioneers who challenged the “multiversity model” and promised to build on their achievements. UCSC's colleges are undergoing a renaissance, she said, in which students and faculty are engaged in “scholarly activities that are changing the world for the better.”

Denton, who received her Ph.D. in electrical engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, thanked her mother, a high school math teacher, who raised three children on her own. She told the audience she never imagined the opportunities that awaited her when she took her first engineering class at Rice University as a high school student. “I appreciate



Following the ceremony, Chancellor Denton receives congratulations.

those opportunities and I pledge my dedicated and passionate commitment to doing everything humanly possible to advance our great university.”

“What is excellence,” she asked her audience. “What is diversity?”

“For me, excellence is achieving the best possible results by engaging the strengths and talents of people from varied backgrounds and personal experiences.” Diversity “encompasses ethnicity, gender, race, gender identification, sexual orientation, culture, religion, academic discipline, class, ability/disability, nation of origin, diversity of perspective, age, socioeconomic status, and any other aspect of difference which characterizes humanity.”

A DAY EARLIER, symposium keynote speaker Jackson, the first African-American woman to receive a doctorate from M.I.T., noted discussions of diversity can be “turbulent and uncomfortable.” But, she said, “it is also clarifying, illuminating, leading to

(continued on page 11)

EMBRACING THE CAMPUS'S 40-YEAR RECORD of achievement and presenting an inclusive view of its future, Denice D. Denton was invested as chancellor of UC Santa Cruz in November. The swearing-in ceremony was preceded by a two-day academic symposium on “Achieving Excellence Through Diversity.”

Serving as UCSC's ninth chancellor since last February, Denton had worked with a committee of students, staff, and faculty to create a series of inaugural events that would ensure campus and community engagement.

The symposium, underscoring the chancellor's twin commitments to excellence and diversity, included a number of well-attended workshops.

Leading one was UC President Robert C. Dyne, who previewed a UC Faculty Diversity Study that shows UCSC generally doing better than the UC system in hiring a diverse faculty. Later, Dyne officially invested Denton and presented her with the UC Santa Cruz Chancellor's Medallion.

“Diversity is a kind of energy,” said symposium keynote speaker

Achieving Excellence through Diversity...

At the Symposium

Right: Chancellor Denton welcomes participants to the “Achieving Excellence Through Diversity” symposium.

Below, left: Shirley Ann Jackson delivers her keynote, opening the symposium.

Center: History of consciousness professor Angela Davis launches the symposium’s second day of activities.

Other photos: Students, staff, faculty, and visitors meet each other and participate in second-day discussion sessions.



JIM MACKENZIE



MATT FITZ



JIM MACKENZIE



JIM MACKENZIE



JIM MACKENZIE



JIM MACKENZIE

a deeper understanding of one’s self and one’s world. Diversity advances innovation—diversity powers excellence.”

“Just throwing people together does not necessarily create innovation,” Jackson said. It requires smart, focused people who can and will challenge each other. “It requires excellence, leadership, and community,” she said.

Conditions in today’s world demand nothing less, Jackson said. College graduates now confront population growth, energy demand, and resource consumption. It is a “thriving, though turbulent, global environment” in which nations and corporations are struggling for advantage. Corporations get it, she said. “Corporations are embracing diversity because it is essential to maintain their market edge.”

UC Foundation president Anuradha Luther Maitra presented Jackson with

the third UCSC Foundation Medal, recognizing individuals whose achievements illustrate the ideals of UCSC.

Jackson’s speech was followed by a panel discussion and the next day by three forums: “What is Diversity? Thinking at the Edge,” “Teaching to a Diverse Student Body,” and “Update on the UC Faculty Diversity Study.”

SPEAKING at the Scholarships Benefit Dinner, on the final day of Celebration2005, Tremain Jones, a 2005 UCSC graduate, described the rigors of growing up in East Palo Alto. A Pister Scholarship helped him complete a B.A. in anthropology. “Now a kid from East Palo Alto will be going to Borneo,” he said. Jones plans to study orangutans in the natural environment.

Chancellor Denton said that a record \$2.7 million to support under-

graduate scholarships and graduate fellowships had been raised in the past year. She announced that the campus Cornerstone Campaign had raised more than \$67 million, nearly \$18 million over its goal.

Jack Baskin, a key contributor to UCSC since the 1970s, was presented the first Fiat Lux Award. Chancellor Denton announced that Baskin’s family, friends, and UCSC colleagues have created the Jack Baskin Engineering Scholarship in his honor.

Inspired by these events, the campus and community are poised to embrace the opportunities and challenges ahead.

Read Chancellor Denton’s inaugural address, watch a video of the address and Shirley Ann Jackson’s symposium keynote, or download podcasts of either at celebration2005.ucsc.edu.

...and Celebrating Student Support



ROD SEARCY



ROD SEARCY

At the Scholarships Benefit Dinner

Left: Philanthropist Jack Baskin, with Chancellor Denton and Campus Provost David Klinger looking on, receives the campus’s first Fiat Lux Award.

Above: Following Chancellor Denton’s announcement that a record \$2.7 million in student support was raised in the past year, scholarship recipient Tremain Jones (B.A. anthropology, Kresge ’05) speaks about the personal impact of student support.

Elected to *make a difference*



“I get to influence people from all walks of life, regardless of class, race, gender.”

Madison Nguyen
B.A. History, College Eight '97

PHOTOS BY JUDITH CALSON

By Jennifer McNulty

During her recent run for a seat on the San Jose City Council, Madison Nguyen was puzzled by the way her campaign signs were disappearing from signposts. Confusion turned to pride when she learned why: Young children of Vietnamese descent were removing the signs and tak-

ing them to school, boasting, “Look, it’s my last name!” Nguyen (“Nwin”) went on Vietnamese radio to beg residents to leave the signs up until after the election. She proceeded to win the seat handily, becoming the first Vietnamese American elected to the council in the nation’s 10th-largest city, home to more Vietnamese residents than any city outside of Vietnam.

For Nguyen, 30, City Hall is a long way from the farm fields of California’s Central Valley, where she harvested crops as a girl. Born in Vietnam, Nguyen was a young child when her parents fled the country by boat in 1979. Rescued at sea by a Philippine freighter, the family spent time in a refugee camp, moved to Arizona under church sponsorship, and eventually settled in Modesto,

where the Nguyens were one of four Vietnamese families laboring in the fields alongside Latino farm workers.

Nguyen says she has spoken out against injustice since she was a child. “I saw so many things I just did not like, and no one else would speak up,” she recalls. “Working in the fields, we were looked down on. We didn’t speak much English. We were working like dogs, and I didn’t like the fact that we were looked down on. I didn’t want to live my life like that. I decided at a young age that whatever I do in life, I wanted to change that.”

Nguyen learned early about government services because her parents volunteered her to translate for newly arrived immigrants. When she turned 18, she became a U.S. citizen and maintained the family tradition of changing her first name. She admits she was inspired to choose Madison by the Daryl Hannah movie *Splash*, which she watched over and over on video as a child—though her father prefers the association of Founding Father James Madison.

Nguyen’s parents encouraged their children to pursue higher education—eight of nine graduated from college—and Nguyen says UCSC was the perfect school

for her. “I’d heard it was one of the most liberal campuses in California, and that students could voice their opinions without discrimination or being looked down upon,” remembers Nguyen.

Although UCSC had fewer students of color than some other UC campuses, Nguyen says diversity is about more than numbers. “More important than a diverse student body is an atmosphere where you can say what you want to,” she says. “In most of my classes, I was the only Vietnamese American, and maybe there were one or two other Asian Americans, but it was an opportunity to educate the students in our class about our backgrounds and experiences.”

She pursued grassroots community activism, marching with farm workers during the drive to unionize strawberry workers, and she enjoyed working with faculty historians Gail Hershatter and Alice Yang Murray and sociology professor Helen



Shapiro. “They were pretty amazing women, immersed in the academy but with a realistic approach,” says Nguyen.

“I wanted to earn my doctorate and teach at the university level,” says Nguyen. “I thought that was my calling until I got into this political scene.”

An elected member of the Franklin-McKinley School Board, Nguyen was an outspoken critic of how the San Jose Police Department handled an officer’s accidental shooting of a distraught Vietnamese American woman. When a City Council seat opened up, Nguyen had the experience and credibility to make a successful run.

“As a professor, you do influence people, but it’s a very small circle,” says Nguyen. “What I do now, I

get to influence people from all walks of life, regardless of class, race, gender.”

Forty-five percent of the residents of Nguyen’s district are Latino, 35 percent are Vietnamese, and many are recent immigrants who work more than one job to make ends meet. “I don’t see race. I see a reflection of myself growing up in Modesto,” Nguyen says of her constituents. “I see the struggle and the desire to move forward.”

Nguyen knocked on each door in her precinct twice during her grassroots campaign—three or four times, if you count the primary and runoff races. “People who’d lived there 20 years said they’d never met a candidate before,” marvels Nguyen. Asked if she feels she is inspiring a generation of Vietnamese American girls, Nguyen replies, “Not just Vietnamese—minorities in general.” Children as young as eight years old joined her on the campaign trail after

school, and students in high school and college volunteered every day.

Because Nguyen was elected partway through the four-year term, she faces a primary challenge in June. For now, her agenda is focused on public safety, renovation of dilapidated community centers, building partnerships with neighborhood associations to improve blighted areas, and getting stalled plans for the first Vietnamese American Cultural Garden off the ground.

“I’ve read a lot of Gandhi, and my favorite quote is, ‘You must be the change you want to see in the world,’” she says. “That’s what I want to do. I want to have a positive impact.”

San Jose Mayor Ron Gonzales (B.A. Community Studies, Kresge ’73) was profiled in the Summer 1999 issue of Review magazine at: review.ucsc.edu/summer.99/alumni-gonzales.html.





FOR NEW PARENTS, a child's first words evoke joy, pride, and often more than a little relief. Those utterances herald the beginning of a new era of communication between infant and adult, as words take the place of crying and tantrums.

To hasten that developmental leap, many parents attempt to "teach" their children. Eager mothers and fathers point to everyday objects, enunciating carefully and offering up words as if they were the keys to the kingdom: "Ball!" "Book!" "Dog!"

And infants love it. At about 18 months, their vocabularies take off, and by two years, they

The gift of gab

Experiments reveal just how motivated toddlers are to join the conversation

By JENNIFER McNULTY

are "word-learning machines," says Nameera Akhtar, a professor of psychology at UCSC and a pioneer in the study of language acquisition in young children.

But the process isn't as parent-driven as mommies and daddies might think. In a series of clever experiments conducted over the past decade,

Akhtar has established that young toddlers are much more keyed in to their environment than researchers ever suspected. It turns out that they are so eager to join the conversation that they approach their "work" with the focus of codebreakers, picking up signals and learning all the time, even without instruction.

Professor Nameera Akhtar entices research subject Natasha Mullins to play with a distracting pop-up toy.

"We think we're responsible for what children learn, but they are very motivated to communicate," says Akhtar. "Even when we're not talking to them, they're trying to figure out what's going on."



AKHTAR CONDUCTS her research in a developmental psychology lab outfitted to resemble a family room, with a couch, a toddler-sized table and chairs, and colorful posters on the walls. Only the 3-by-4-foot mirror that conceals a one-way window confirms what insiders know: It is here that Akhtar's clever experiments have revealed the powerful language-learning abilities of young children.

In one of Akhtar's most revealing studies, 24-month-old visitors were welcomed to the lab, given a fun pop-up toy to play with, and then basically ignored by Akhtar and graduate student Carmen Martinez-Sussmann. The two women went through a scripted exchange about four unfamiliar objects, one of which they referred to as a "toma"—a made-up word that was at the heart of the experiment. The children readily learned the novel word after merely overhearing it while engaged with the toy.

"Even at 24 months, children are keen observers of third-party interactions, and they're taking in a lot more

Akhtar and grad student Katherine Herold intentionally ignore Natasha, whose focus soon moves from the pop-up toy to Akhtar and Herold.

speech than what is directed to them," says Akhtar. The study also yielded an unexpected insight into toddler comprehension: The youngsters looked up systematically when they heard a new word and were clearly responding to new information. It was the kind of breakthrough that makes researchers giddy, confirming a hunch and taking the work to a new level. "We really haven't been giving children enough credit," Akhtar says with a shy smile that belies her determination to set the record straight.

Akhtar's work shows that children play an active role in their own development, and it establishes that the process begins much earlier than researchers thought. As a graduate student, Akhtar began working with 24-month-olds. She has since studied 18-month-olds and is now gearing up to assess 14-month-olds—a prospect she concedes with good humor will

be logistically even more challenging. But, like her subjects, she is a tireless learner, and she is already piloting studies to establish developmental milestones such as the age at which children begin to teach others. She can't wait to study the differences in how toddlers learn from strangers compared to family members.

In one new study, Akhtar and graduate student Katherine Herold will see

if youngsters imitate the actions of people they're not directly involved with, like they pick up new words. "Some researchers don't believe children at 14 months can learn from an interaction that doesn't involve them," says Akhtar. "But I want to see if children at that age can identify with the other person. Can they acquire an action through observation alone, or do they need to be interacting with someone to learn from them at this young age?" Akhtar expects to see differences among

shed light on strategies that would help these youngsters.

Far from Akhtar's lab, in many cultures around the world, adults do not teach infants language directly. Yet the absence of focused, one-on-one parent-child instruction doesn't appear to hamper their development.

"Our understanding of language learning is missing a great deal if we focus only on speech addressed directly to the child," says Akhtar.

Which isn't to say all those well-meaning parents should



Graduate student Carmen Martinez-Sussmann (right) observes and videotapes the experimental session through a one-way window. Natasha's father, Nick, looks on.

14-, 18-, and 24-month-olds.

Akhtar's research is not only contributing to our fundamental understanding of child cognitive and social development, it may indirectly benefit autistic children, as well. Half of all autistic children never develop language skills in part because they lack the strong desire to connect with others that motivates most children to learn to communicate. Akhtar's work may

back off. It may not be necessary in terms of a child's intellectual development for mommy or daddy to label the cat, the boat, and the shoe, but it's fun, and that's good. "Both babies and parents enjoy spending that time together, which is wonderful," says Akhtar. "But it may be more about pleasure than instruction. Children really are the engines of their own development."

Pixels in the Public Interest

By Scott Rappaport

One evening last year, UC Santa Cruz graduate student Abram Stern logged on to the C-SPAN web site to gather information for an art project. Stern knew that the cable television network had been providing live, gavel-to-gavel coverage of U.S. Senate and House of Representatives proceedings for more than two decades as a public service, and he was looking to obtain some older footage from its archive.

But Stern made an interesting discovery. He found that footage from the House and Senate floor is only posted on the C-SPAN web site for one week—with the size of the video image slightly larger than a postage stamp. You can't keep it, store it, or use it in any way. But you can buy it from C-SPAN—at prices ranging from \$3,450 for a two-day, nine-hour, and 27-minute 1988 Senate session about federal election campaign

Two students in UCSC's new graduate program in Digital Arts and New Media make C-SPAN interactive



financing, to \$29.95 for a four-minute piece of footage from a 2004 House proceeding.

A student in UCSC's new Digital Arts and New Media graduate program (DANM), Stern shared his finding with a fellow classmate, Michael Dale. Both students were doing research on the structure and organization of archives, and they were amazed that a comprehensive public record of the country's congressional proceedings did not exist on a free, user-friendly web site.

In response, they hatched a new plan for their thesis project—to create an enhanced and easy-to-access archive of the video feed from the C-SPAN sessions on the House and Senate floor, the only part of the network's wide-ranging footage that legally resides in the public domain.

The project would be ambitious: They would capture the feed of C-SPAN's static coverage of the House and Senate sessions, design a system that would enable participants to add contextual layers of information to the footage, and create a foundation for long-term access and modification.

Like *Wikipedia*, the popular communal online encyclopedia, the archive would be designed as a nonpartisan, open-source web site that applies innovative technology and art for the public good. "It's about opening up access to the public," Dale says. "It shouldn't take a multimillion-dollar corporation to do that anymore."

Stern and Dale will both earn master of fine arts degrees in June along with 11 other candidates as the first graduating class of UCSC's DANM program. Students and faculty are drawn to the program from a wide variety of disciplines including the humanities, computer engineering, arts, and social sciences.

"The goal is to enlarge our collective

imagination through an investigation of the boundaries and possibilities of digital art and new media," says theater arts professor and DANM faculty member James Bierman, who helped write the proposal that launched the program.

The two students' project is a prime example of the program's potential. Their archive—which they began collecting on January 1—has been creatively configured to become a flexible tool that can be used for both educational and artistic purposes.

When users visit www.metavid.org, they will be able to watch the C-SPAN

"It's about opening up access to the public. It shouldn't take a multimillion-dollar corporation to do that anymore."

—Michael Dale

footage, add a number of enhancements created by Stern and Dale, or manipulate the students' templates to create original overlays and links of the user's choosing.

For example, by adding a list of campaign contributors to the screen of a senator giving a persuasive speech about a major energy bill, the site could be used by political watchdog groups, teachers, and voters seeking information. Or, as senators debate a war-funding bill, direct links can be added to search engines that provide the most widely read blogs written about the bill.

The students built their own computers for the project to meet the

tremendous storage needs of the archive—which requires space to record up to 16 hours of video a day, five days a week. "There are also lots of technical reasons for building your own computers," notes Dale. "For example, if one of your hard drives goes down, the others can kick in so you have uninterrupted footage."

Stern and Dale employ a TV capture card—a TiVo-like recording device—to store the C-SPAN footage on their computers. They utilize free software and the Linux open-source operating system to make the project universally adaptable. "Someone, for example, could download the source code and modify it to launch a system that covers their own town's city council meetings," says Dale.

But Stern notes that the archive is more than just a research tool. It also has almost unlimited potential for artists and humorists. "If someone is so inclined, they could average out the collective images of Senate faces to get a composite face representing a senator from the Republican or Democratic Party," adds Stern.

"Or set up a comic overlay of a report card grading the literacy level of a particular politician. The possibilities are virtually infinite."

After Stern and Dale graduate, the archive will continue to be maintained by DANM under the supervision of assistant professor of film and digital media Warren Sack. "My intention is to keep the project going—the web site will stay on a server in my Social Computing Lab," notes Sack. "I think it's a great project; they found something that should be a public resource. And public universities like UCSC should be able to host projects like this that are in the public interest."

COEVOLUTION

By Tim Stephens



UC Santa Cruz biologist John Thompson's research explores how species evolve together in the web of life

IN THE CREEKS AND WOODLANDS around San Francisco Bay, garter snakes and newts are engaged in a biological arms race—the snakes eat newts, the newts produce a potent neurotoxin in their skin, the snakes evolve resistance to the toxin, the newts evolve to produce more toxin, and so on. While the newts still fall prey to toxin-resistant snakes, even a resistant garter snake may be incapacitated for hours after eating a highly toxic newt.

This situation has evolved over time as a result of “tit for tat” evolutionary changes driven by natural selection—a classic example of the coevolution of two interacting species.

Coevolution shapes all kinds of interactions between species—not only the antagonistic interactions of predators and prey or parasites and their hosts, but also mutually beneficial partnerships like those of flowering plants and their pollinators. In fact, most plants and animals depend on coevolved interactions with other species in order to survive, says John Thompson, an internationally recognized authority on the subject.

“Much of evolution turns out to be coevolution, and ecological communities are based on these deeply coevolved relationships between species,” says Thompson, a professor of ecology and evolutionary biology at UC Santa Cruz.

Thompson’s research explores the role of coevolution in organizing the web of life on Earth. The potential applications extend from medicine and agriculture to conservation of the Earth’s biodiversity. “It turns out that many of the major societal problems we face in biology are problems involving coevolution,” he says.

Thompson, who published his third book on coevolution last year, has been a leading player in the field’s rapid growth over the past decade. One of his major accomplishments has been to establish a coherent

The snake and the newt:
Trapped in a biological arms race



The moth and the flower:
Mutually beneficial, but not always



theoretical framework for studying and understanding coevolution.

“He has been instrumental in pushing the field forward,” says Indiana University biologist Edmund Brodie, whose research on the interactions between the newts and garter snakes illustrates a central concept in Thompson’s work: the geographic mosaic of coevolution.

This idea explains how the coevolution of two species can lead to different ecological outcomes in different environments. In the case of newts and garter snakes, their evolutionary arms race has escalated around San Francisco Bay and in one area on the Oregon coast, but not in other places where the same species coexist.

Thompson’s book, *The Geographic Mosaic of Coevolution*, includes many similar examples, some from his own research and others, like the snakes and newts, from the work of other researchers.

His geographic mosaic theory builds on a key insight about the genetic structure of species: Every species is made up of many different populations, each adapted to its local environment and therefore genetically distinct from other populations of the same species.

“Different populations of the same species are connected to each other to various degrees across landscapes, but each population evolves different adaptations to its local environment,” Thompson says.

He notes that the local environment for any given population includes locally adapted populations of *other* species. Coevolution is the dynamic process that occurs as each local population evolves in response to evolutionary changes in the populations of other

species with which it interacts.

The result is a complex geographic mosaic of species interactions. Some of these local interactions become co-evolutionary “hotspots,” where natural selection drives reciprocal evolutionary changes in the two species to an extreme degree. Why the San Francisco Bay Area is a hotspot in the coevolution of newts and gar-



Coevolution in the lab: Postdoc Samantha Forde creates a microcosm of bacteria and viruses that coevolve as the viruses infect the bacteria, the bacteria build resistance to the viruses, the viruses overcome the resistance, and so on.

ter snakes is still unclear.

“The challenge is to understand how coevolution occurs within all the conflicting pressures that are pulling populations one way and another,” Thompson says.

MUCH of Thompson’s own research has focused on the relationship between a small grayish-brown moth and a common wildflower called woodland star. The moth is both a pollinator of the wildflower and a consumer of its seeds, and their interactions have evolved in different locations to cover the full range of possibilities, from mutually beneficial to antagonistic. For example, in locations where

there are other pollinators for the flower, the plants have evolved defenses against the moth that are not present in populations that depend on the moth for pollination.

Thompson also uses laboratory experiments involving common bacteria infected with viruses to test the predictions of his theory. By working with microbes that reproduce

Each local interaction between species is like a coevolutionary experiment. Over time, some of those local experiments fail and populations go extinct. Other populations, however, prosper and spread their genes across landscapes.

“It’s this process of ongoing coevolution across landscapes that keeps interacting species in the evolutionary game over thousands or millions of years,” says Thompson, who is increasingly concerned about how the coevolutionary processes that organize ecosystems can be maintained in the face of rapid changes driven by human activities.

“One of the things we may be losing as development causes increasing fragmentation of natural landscapes is the luxury of occasional extinctions of populations,” he says. “It’s like having a diversified stock portfolio that allows you to win some and lose some and still stay in the game.”

Conservation strategies have tended to be based on the idea that the ecosystems that people want to protect exist in a fairly static state. But scientists are now realizing that populations can evolve and coevolve more rapidly than was once thought possible. As a result, conservation organizations are beginning to see the need to consider dynamic coevolutionary processes in their planning, Thompson says.

Biomedical researchers are also starting to recognize the importance of coevolution in understanding the dynamics of infectious diseases. In 2003, for example, Thompson was invited to speak at an international conference on malaria at Harvard University.

“Malaria is a good example of a disease that we know is geographically variable and has co-

evolved with its host species over thousands of years,” he says.

Human populations differ in their genetic defenses against malaria, and the mosquitoes that transmit the disease also show geographic variability. Rapid evolutionary changes have occurred in both the malaria parasite and the mosquitoes in response to the drugs and insecticides that have been deployed to fight the disease.

“The question is, how can we use what we know from evolutionary biology to develop better therapies and devise strategies that will minimize the evolution of resistance when we come up with new therapies,” Thompson says. “We are just beginning the conversations between disciplines that will help us answer those questions.”

Humans have, in fact, been manipulating the coevolutionary process for thousands of years. The story of agriculture involves a long history of human-induced coevolution between crop plants and rapidly evolving parasites and pathogens, Thompson says.

Controlled environment: Thompson inspects glass tubes used to conduct experiments with coevolving flowers and moths.



This game of surrogate coevolution continues, going back and forth between plant breeders, who are constantly producing new disease-resistant crops, and the fungi, bacteria, and viruses that are constantly evolving to become more virulent. A current example is the emergence in East Africa of a new strain of wheat rust that, according to biologists who raised the alarm in September, could wipe out 10 percent of the world’s wheat production. Of course, work is already under way to breed and disseminate new resistant varieties of wheat to combat this new strain of rust fungus.

AS RESEARCHERS learn more about how the coevolutionary process works and the factors that create hotspots and coldspots, they may find new ways of manipulating that process.

“We should be able to take the results from studying coevolution in the wild and start applying them to practical problems,” Thompson says.

Taking STEPS to advance environmental research

The theme of connectedness runs throughout the work of John Thompson, professor of ecology and evolutionary biology, and through the activities of the institute he directs at UC Santa Cruz—the STEPS Institute for Innovation in Environmental Research. The STEPS Institute encompasses science, technology, engineering, policy, and society in its approach to environmental research, which it supports through a variety of initiatives, workshops, fellowships, and grants.

An interdisciplinary approach to environmental research comes naturally to a scientist concerned with the interactions between species, the interconnected web of interactions within ecosystems, and the connections between human activities, ecosystem functions, and the global environment.

“Humans are creating changes in the environment that amount to a set of intertwined global experiments whose long-term effects are unknown. We don’t really know what’s going to happen down the road,” Thompson says.

The STEPS Institute fosters research and policy efforts that address these potential effects. Its efforts have coalesced into two initiatives—the Genes to Ecoregions Initiative and the Regional Climate Change and Water Initiative. Through these initiatives, the institute is forging new collaborations among faculty researchers, policy makers, and environmental managers.

Part of the Genes to Ecoregions Initiative, for example, is the Santa Lucia Gradient Study, which focuses on a region of California that is rich in both biological diversity and jurisdictional complexity. STEPS has hosted workshops at UCSC that brought together representatives of the many governmental and nongovernmental agencies, private groups, and university researchers studying the remarkable landscape of the Santa Lucia Range, which rises steeply from the Big Sur coast. The institute has developed a “meta-database” of biodiversity research in this region—a comprehensive resource to give researchers access to the results of decades of past work by researchers and managers working for different organizations.

The STEPS Institute was established in 2002 with a \$500,000 gift from UCSC alumnus Gordon Ringold and his wife, Tanya Zarucki. Since then, it has provided fellowships for interdisciplinary graduate research and research grants to faculty, graduate students, and undergraduate students. Most of the funds are for research projects that either link multiple research laboratories at UCSC or link UCSC laboratories with outside agencies or policy makers.

Thompson’s current focus for the institute is to increase support for graduate students interested in environmental research problems that span traditional disciplines. “We need to train the next generation of environmental scientists to think about problems in a more interdisciplinary way,” he says.

Dispensing Justice



with Compassion

By JENNIFER McNULTY

IN THE COMPTON

neighborhood of Los Angeles in the 1960s, Kelvin Filer's home was abuzz with conversations about civil rights and the struggle for racial equality.

"My parents were both civil rights activists, and as a child, I'd listen in when the adults were talking strategy," recalls Filer. "Their discussions always ended the same way, asking 'What do the lawyers say? Let's run this by the attorneys.' That's when I decided I wanted to be a lawyer." He was in the third grade.

Today, Filer is a highly regarded judge in the Compton district of Los Angeles Superior Court, dispensing justice with integrity and compassion. "No other profession ever crossed my mind—except basketball, and I knew that wasn't going to happen unless I grew," says the gregarious Filer, a diehard Lakers fan who stands 5 foot 10.

For 25 years, Filer has been making his mark in court rather than on the court, including arguing a landmark case before the California Supreme Court at the age of 27.

Filer earned a B.A. in politics from UCSC in 1977 and graduated from UC Berkeley's Boalt Hall School of Law. He was drawn to UCSC by the Narrative Evaluation System, the focus on liberal arts, and the absence of fraternities. He was one of only four African American students at Stevenson College his freshman year. The contrast could not have been greater for Filer, who came from Compton

High School, where most of the 750 students were black. He recalls feeling physically and culturally isolated at first.

"I remember when I first drove up the hill to High Street, and I asked myself, 'Where is the school? Oh, no, what am I getting myself into?'" But Filer loved UCSC. "Because there were only 150 or so black students out of 6,000, we were tight," he says.

Filer thrived in UCSC's student-centered living and learning environment. "For me, it wasn't so much about the professors as it was about learning from each other," says Filer. Nevertheless, an experience during the Stevenson College core course stands out in his memory.

"After the first assignment, the professor told me I had serious problems understanding Marxian concepts, and that really shook me up. No teacher had ever said anything like that to me before," he says. "I was determined to show him—and to show myself—that I could do it." Later in the quarter, Filer turned in a paper that the professor described as one of the best he'd ever read.

After law school, Filer spent two years working in the state Public Defender's Office in Los Angeles before opening a private practice in Compton. "I love

the practice of law," he says. "I love the challenge of representing the underdog, having them put their trust in you as you go up against the mighty people of the state of California. It's a lot of pressure, especially in death penalty cases."

During 13 years of private practice, Filer represented six clients charged with capital crimes. One is on death row, two were convicted of lesser crimes, and three had their cases dismissed.

Filer acknowledges that mistakes sometimes result in guilty individuals being released. "That's the irony, isn't it? But anyone doing criminal defense work will tell you that everybody has the right to a fair trial," says Filer. "That's what

makes ours the best legal system in the world."

Filer's landmark California Supreme Court case, *People v. Taylor*, established the right of the accused to wear street clothes in court, rather than "jail blues," which could prejudice jurors. The court's 8-0 decision reversed Alonzo Taylor's murder conviction. In the meantime, however, Taylor had been arrested and charged with another murder; he was convicted and remains incarcerated.

Filer moved to the bench in 1993 when he was appointed a commissioner of the Compton

Municipal Court. He misses some aspects of criminal litigation, particularly presenting closing arguments and cross-examining witnesses. "I love catching a witness in a lie. You can hear a pin drop," he says, clearly savoring the memory. "And I love the thrill of victory!"

But Filer relishes his role as a judge and enjoys being a role model. His daughter, Kree, appears destined for a career in law. His other daughter, Brynne, is a student at Sarah Lawrence College. "I was born, raised, and educated in Compton. This is where I'm from and where my family is from," says Filer, who visits schools every week to encourage students to work hard and follow their dreams. "I may not be able to change the world, but I may be able to change my little corner of it."

Although he moved to nearby Long Beach after being named to the Superior Court bench in 2002 by then-Governor Gray Davis (it's frowned upon for judges to live in the same community where they work), Filer is frustrated by media coverage of Compton, which focuses on crime, violence, and corruption. Success stories never get the media attention they warrant, says Filer, rattling off a list of illustrious Comptonites, from tennis stars Venus and Serena Williams to Michael Hamilton, an executive with AT&T, and Timothy Wright, a former aide to Bill Clinton.

Add one more name to that list: Kelvin Filer.

"I may not be able to change the world, but I may be able to change my little corner of it."

Kelvin Filer
B.A. Politics
Stevenson '77

Alumni Association Councilors, 2005–06

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Your reunion. You're invited!



Enjoying the 2005 Banana Slug Spring Fair reunion luncheon were (l-r) guest ANDREA GOURDINE, alumna and College Eight provost ROZ SPAFFORD (Merrill '71), and ANNE ROSENZWEIG (Cowell '71).

RECONNECT at Banana Slug Spring Fair April 22–23. Enjoy panel discussions, receptions, reunions, lectures, and more. For up-to-the-minute information and to RSVP, call the Alumni Association at (800) 933-SLUG or check the web, alumni.ucsc.edu.

The 16th Annual UCSC Alumni Vintners Wine Tasting Taking place during reunion weekend, this delectable event will showcase select wines, gourmet food, and music by talented alumni.

► **Alumni Panel Discussion** will feature Emmy Award-winning writers, an expert on nuclear strategy and nonproliferation, and an acclaimed science writer discussing how UCSC changed them and how they are changing the world (see article, page 7).

► **Alumni Reunion Luncheon** with classmates and favorite professors; special recognition will be given to '71, '76, '81, '86, '91, '96, and '01 grads.

► **Cowell Press Wayzgoose** for book artists and fans of Cowell Press.

► **Distinguished Faculty Lecture** "Financial Crises Around the World," by Michael Hutchison (Merrill '76, economics), UCSC professor of economics and interim dean of the Social Sciences Division.

► **Stevenson College 40th Anniversary Celebration and Dinner** with provosts (past and present), staff, faculty, current students, and alumni for discussion, socializing, and more.

► **Reception for alumni writers**—poets, fiction writers, journalists, screenwriters, and other partisans of the pen.

► **Humanities Division** "Classes Without Quizzes."

► **"The Future of Museums" panel discussion** with alumni directors and curators of major national museums and art galleries.

► **Admissions Office "insiders session"** for alumni parents of prospective students.

► **Departmental and divisional reunions** for economics, environmental studies, Earth sciences, the Jack Baskin School of Engineering, and all grads from the sciences.

► **TWANAS** (Third World and Native American Students) reunion.

► **Latino, Asian American and Pacific Islander, GLBTI, and African American** alumni and current student mentor circle.

► **Santa Cruz Hillel** Saturday night event for Jewish alumni, students, and friends.

► **Slug Run** reunion.

► **Receptions and reunion events** at the colleges.

Contact the Alumni Association

UCSC Alumni Association

University of California
1156 High Street
Santa Cruz, CA 95064-1077

Web: alumni.ucsc.edu

E-mail: alumni@ucsc.edu

Toll free: (800) 933-SLUG

UC Extension discounts: Another reason to join the Alumni Association

JOIN THE UCSC Alumni Association and take advantage of its many membership benefits, including discounts at UC Extension, the continuing education resource of the University of California. Offering some 17,000 different courses each year, UC Extension is one of the world's largest providers of continuing education, with campuses at Berkeley, Davis, Irvine, Los Angeles, Riverside, San Diego, Santa

Barbara, and Santa Cruz.

Some campuses are offering a 10 percent discount on one class per quarter, while others give a flat amount. The savings apply equally to Alumni Association members from all UC campuses, regardless of where they live or the campus from which they graduated. You don't even have to be in California to take advantage of the UC Extension discount. Many online courses are offered, and the discount applies to them as well.

For more information about this and other Alumni Association membership benefits, go to www.ucsc.onlinecommunity.com/members.asp.



The UCSC Alumni Association Scholarship Fund provided \$91,000 to 43 undergraduates with financial need this academic year. Recipients include BACK ROW, l-r: Sarah Pham (College Nine, neuroscience and behavioral science), Colleen McCarty (Porter, anthropology), and Scott Merrall (Cowell, history); MIDDLE ROW: Melissa Dailo (College Nine, sociology), Christina Hamill (Cowell, undeclared), and Amanda Mills (Crown, undeclared); BOTTOM ROW: Saurabh Mishra (Merrill, business management economics) and Ronald Hernandez (Stevenson, sociology).



In performance, Camper Van Beethoven members (l-r) Frank Funaro, Jonathan Segel (Porter '85), and Victor Krummenacher (Porter)

Alumni indie rock band returns to UCSC

BY THE TIME Camper Van Beethoven first played the Catalyst in downtown Santa Cruz in 1986, the band had already completed a national tour as the opening act for R.E.M.

One of the most influential indie rock bands of the 1980s, the idiosyncratic group, featuring three UCSC alums, returned to Kresge College in November to give a free concert for UCSC students.

Camper won widespread critical acclaim and took college radio by storm with its first three albums—full of satiric, irony-laced lyrics and a dazzling array of musical influences.

After the band's first album hit the Top 30 in England and its first three recordings all made the Top 10 in *Village Voice* polls, Camper

went on to make its major label debut on Virgin Records in 1989, releasing the landmark album *Key Lime Pie* before dissolving in 1990 during a tour in Sweden. Following a hiatus of more than a decade, the band got back together in 2002 and in 2004 released a CD titled *New Roman Times*.

Original core members of the band are guitarist/vocalist David Lowery (B.A. math, Kresge '84), bassist Victor Krummenacher (music major, Porter), drummer Chris Pederson (B.A. philosophy, College Eight '83), violinist/guitarist Jonathan Segel (B.A. music, Porter '85), drummer Chris Molla (B.A. music, Porter '88), and guitarist Greg Lisher, part-owner of Artisans, a store in downtown Santa Cruz.

Read more about Camper Van Beethoven's UCSC visit on the web at currents.ucsc.edu/05-06/11-28/camper.asp.

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- A staff member who made a difference
- An accomplished alum

Nominations are now open for 2006–07 UCSC Alumni Association Distinguished Teaching, Outstanding Staff, and Alumni Achievement Awards.

Go to alumni.ucsc.edu/programs and choose the "awards" button or call (800) 933-SLUG to request a nomination form by mail. The nomination deadline is Friday, April 28.

Cowell College

'71 Katherine HUBAY Peterson was confirmed by the U.S. Senate to the position of Ambassador to the Republic of Botswana in July; she is a career member of the Senior Foreign Service and had previously served as the U.S. Ambassador to the Kingdom of Lesotho.

'74 Gayle WILCOX is the fire chief for the Port Orford (Ore.) Fire Department, an EMT training officer for Port Orford Ambulance, and the owner of Sea Breeze Florist.

'77 Joan CORDOVA has joined the faculty of Drexel University's School of Education after earning a doctorate from Harvard University; UCSC friends who attended her graduation were **Ben MENOR** (Merrill '74), **Evelyn CASUGA** (Merrill '76), **Debra PANGANIBAN Louie** (Oakes '76), and **Alexis CANILLO** (Crown).

Rita ROSENKRANZ is the coauthor of *Put Your House on a Diet: De-clutter Your Home and Reclaim Your Life* (Rodale Books, 2005).

'78 Carl NICHOLS Jr. is the coauthor (with Bill Schley) of *Why Johnny Can't Brand* (Portfolio, 2005), a marketing primer that exposes the shortsightedness of the marketing establishment and revives "the lost art of the big idea" that can grab consumers' attention; Nichols and Schley are partners at david, inc., a branding consulting firm (www.davidid.com).

'83 Terry FLYNN has the title of chief learning officer at Sensis Corp., a position that gives her responsibility for organizational development, which she describes as the combination of human performance with organizational systems, structures, and policies. **Hilary HEFFERLIN** is living in Eugene, Ore., with her partner of 13 years; after nine years of church work, she has moved into executive support and human resources.

'84 Chris LINSON married Xenia Fretter last summer, and they have moved to Arcata, Calif.; he is a physical therapist, and she is an ASL interpreter. He can be reached at cjwoodspt@yahoo.com.

'89 Jonathan VOORHEES is an Episcopal priest who serves as chaplain at Kent School, in Kent, Conn., where he lives with his wife, Amy, and daughters, Beatrice (four) and Althea (six months).

'90 Betty SPINDLER's sculpture *Ceramic Hot Dog* goes on permanent display at the American Art Museum, Renwick Gallery, Smithsonian Collection, in Washington, D.C., this July.

'91 Jose Salvador JIMENEZ and **Gerarda PAGESOLINGAN** (Cowell '92), also known as Sal and Arda, are still together after meeting 19 years ago; they've been married 12 years, live in Montebello, Calif., and have two girls, ages six and 11.

'97 Emily NORTON is co-owner of the Eli Howard Surf School in Encinitas, Calif.; she spends the winter season as a ski patroller at Stevens Pass.

'01 Rachael BIRCH is living in Wisconsin and working for a green coffee company; those interested in home roasting coffee can find out more at www.u-roast-em.com.

Stevenson College

'69 Susan TRIMMINGHAM spent a month in service with the Crisis Corps, an organization of Returned Peace Corps Volunteers, working as a crisis counselor with Hurricanes Katrina and Rita survivors at the Greater Houston Disaster Recovery Center.

'70 Helen (Jean) PALMER (Daley) is a psychologist in private practice in Bakersfield.

'78 Michael KIMBALL and his wife, Rachel, had a son, Steven John, in January 2005.

'82 Mark CHRISTIANSEN is a licensed marriage and family therapist, and he is on the faculty of Santa Monica College; he and his wife have a son and daughter.

'87 Daniel EDELSON, who also holds a Ph.D. in computer and information sciences from UCSC, has been promoted to vice president of engineering at NextHop Technologies in Mountain View; in this position he will oversee development efforts for the company.

Marcie WALD, a counselor at Cabrillo College, has written a guidebook, titled *Nothing Can Stop Me: An Open Book on Transfer Application Essays*, for community college students applying to four-year schools.

'89 Tony MICHELS's book *Fire in Their Hearts: Yiddish Socialists in New York* was published in 2005 by Harvard University Press; he is George L. Mosse Associate Professor of American Jewish History at the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

'91 Robin GROSSINGER, who also has an M.S. in marine sciences from UCSC, is an environmental scientist working in Oakland at the San Francisco Estuary Institute; he and his wife, **Erica WANDNER** (Cowell '90), a clinical psychologist, live in Berkeley with their son, Leo.

'92 Ann STEPHENSON Volk is a freelance writer specializing

in health care topics; her article "He Even Kissed a Pig" appeared in the February 2005 issue of *Highlights for Children*. She lives in Dover, Del., with her husband, Robert, and three children, Deirdre, Aaron, and Meghan.

'93 Carolyn LEEDY received her M.D. from Northwestern University Medical School in 1998, and she is now a pediatrician at Children's Medical Center in Dallas.

'96 Amelia GROTH Weintraub and her husband welcomed their son, Seth, in July 2005; they live in Dublin, Calif.

'04 Emily DUBIN is the youngest graduate of Columbia University's environmental science and policy M.P.A. program; she now works for the City of New York as a geographic information systems (GIS) specialist.

Crown College

'70 Authors **Laurence YEP** and **Belle YANG** (College Eight '82) were celebrated at a Smithsonian-sponsored forum, "Two Chinese American Children's Book Authors," in November at the Hirshhorn Museum in Washington, D.C.; the event, which coincided with Children's Book Week, was part of the Smithsonian's development of Asian American exhibits and programs.

'75 Diana WHITESIDES received the 2004 "Good Egg" award from the Carmel Valley Chamber of Commerce; she also received the American Red Cross Award for Western States for excellence in aquatics-youth education.

'77 Stephen ROSE recently accepted the position of lead health care counsel for the Seattle-based business law firm of Preston Gates & Ellis, where he will be coordinating the firm's health care law efforts in Alaska, Washington, Idaho, Oregon, and California, as well as Hong Kong, Beijing, and Taipei; he lives in Snohomish, Wash., with his wife, Carole, and their two children, Andrew and Emily.

'78 Valarie ELLIS is happily working as an environmental engineer, protecting the waters of New York State; she is engaged to be married.

'90 Kathleen CHERRY Roarty is married to **Morgan ROARTY** (Crown '90), and they have seven children.

'92 Scott KENNELLY is a licensed clinical social worker supervising the Transition-Aged Youth Services Program for Butte County Behavioral Health; he is married, has two girls, and lives in Chico, Calif. Friends may e-mail him at smkplay@sbcglobal.net.

'04 Victoria CAMPBELL-NOVAK

is a graduate student at Sacramento State University, working toward her master's degree in family therapy.

Merrill College

'71 Georgiann McFADDEN Lyga was presented with a Lifetime Commitment to Social Justice Award by the Sacramento Chapter of Death Penalty Focus and the Friends Committee on Legislation of California at a banquet in June; she was the founder of "noon hour witness," a vigil at the Capitol to protest the death penalty.

'77 Roy Eric XAVIER is the associate dean and chair of the Graduate Committee in the School of Film and Television at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles; he earned an M.A. and a Ph.D. from UC Berkeley, specializing in communications, culture, and technology, and then went on to manage several TV stations in northern and southern California. He is married with three children; one son, Nick, is currently in his second year at Merrill College, studying international politics and history.

'90 Otilio QUINTERO was awarded the 2005 California Peace Prize by the California Wellness Foundation for his work with Barrios Unidos in Santa Cruz, a community organization dedicated to helping youth overcome poverty and the social ills that accompany it; the award, one of only three in the state, includes a \$25,000 prize.

'91 Rafael REYES has made a career change, moving to the nonprofit organization As You Sow, where he works on corporate social responsibility; he is engaged to be married.

Jennifer WALL is celebrating her tenth vintage with Barefoot Cellars, where, as winemaker, she has extended the range of wines while maintaining quality and value. Under her direction, Barefoot wines have had huge critical and popular success, including many gold medals.

'02 Mostafa GHOUS is the director of the Mathematics Engineering Science Achievement (MESA) Program at Solano Community College, which provides academic enrichment to economically and educationally disadvantaged community college students so they excel academically and transfer to

four-year institutions as math-based majors.

'03 Nick BURNS, a former writer/editor for *City on a Hill*, landed his first story in the *New York Times* last June 30; the story, titled "Are Men

scholarly journal *TENSO* and for her work as a scholar of medieval French literature.

'73 Donna BLAKEMORE has been named associate vice president for advancement at San Francisco



A remarkable new book by UCSC alumna Belle Yang (College Eight '82) taps into the hopes and fears immigrant children experience when they try to grab hold of the American dream.

Drawn from Yang's own saga of coming to San Francisco from Taiwan at the age of seven, *Hannah Is My Name* tells the story of a Chinese family's new life, in a brightly illustrated 32-page children's book published by Candlewick Press.

To read the complete article about Belle Yang and other recent stories of accomplished UCSC alumni, go to www.ucsc.edu/alumni_friends/profiles/.

Ready for the 5-Step, 10-Minute Shave?," is about how companies that make men's grooming aids are now selling a variety of products intended to transform shaving into a more elaborate skin care routine.

Porter College

'72 Wendy PFEFFER, a professor of French and chair of the Department of Classical and Modern Languages at the University of Louisville, has been named a Chevalier in the distinguished Ordre des Arts et des Lettres (Order of Arts and Letters) by the French government; she was recognized for her efforts as founding editor of the

State University; in this position, she will lead all fundraising efforts for SFSU, including planned giving, major gifts, annual fund, alumni relations, corporate and foundation relations, and capital campaigns.

'76 Lori HIGA is working at the Asian & Pacific Islander Wellness Center, a San Francisco-based HIV/AIDS nonprofit doing media relations/marketing for the Banyan Tree Project, a national social marketing campaign funded by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The Banyan Tree Project is a five-year community-based program to fight HIV-related stigma in Asian and Pacific Islander communities.

'84 Kay BRINSKY Judson writes that the Banana Slug tradition is continuing with her niece, who is now attending UCSC.

'88 Mayumi WATANABE is living in Florida and enjoying the warmer weather but missing the culture of California; he's still painting.

'90 Michelle DAVIS is working as a biologist in Everglades National Park, studying endangered birds; she is also racing small sailboats and planning a sailing voyage to the Caribbean. **Eric ELKINS** is cocreator of a new multiplatform media company called Bias Media, www.biasdotcom.com.

'93 Brenda SHAUGHNESSY teaches creative writing at Columbia University and lives in Brooklyn; she is the author of a book of poetry, *Interior with Sudden Joy*, and her poem "Magician" was published in the July 4 issue of the *The New Yorker*.

'96 Jesse GRIFFITH (a Porter B5C-Dorm veteran) married Tina Wong in Los Angeles in August.

'03 Frank LIN's debut feature film, *American Fusion*, has received positive reviews and won the audience award at the 2005 Hawaii International Film Festival; the movie tells a story of romance between a divorced middle-aged Chinese immigrant who thinks her life is over and a Mexican American dentist.

Jesse THORN hosts and produces an arts-and-entertainment show on public radio aimed at a young, hip audience; the show, *The Sound of Young America*, is broadcast every Saturday from 5 to 6 P.M. on KZSC 88.1 FM at UC Santa Cruz and is available on the Internet at www.splangy.com/radio.

Kresge College

'73 Bruce "Reed" LINDBERG is the managing director of the Boulder (Colo.) Psychotherapy Institute and a licensed counselor in private practice.

'77 Larry SMITH is a research professor at Montana Tech, and he enjoys working on water resources, glacial geology, historical preservation, and winter sports in Butte, Mont.

'79 Doug FRIEDMAN wrote, sang, and played "Island Girl" on his guitar for the Orange County

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Planning Department; he also wrote "Kitty & Weenie," a family comedy screenplay. **Julie SILLIMAN** has been hired as the director of civic art for the Los Angeles County Arts Commission—the first public art program adopted by Los Angeles County; she and her husband, John Coven, welcomed the birth of twin sons in March 2005.

'83 **Lynn HUDSON**, a specialist in African American history, has taken a position as associate professor in the History Department at Macalester College in Saint Paul, Minn.; her recent research investigates the legal, cultural, and social manifestations of Jim Crow discrimination in California in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

'91 After nearly nine years making video game manuals, **Belinda VAN SICKLE** has started her own business, called Game Docs; she writes, "I really like what I do, but I'm tired of working for other people. I hope to grow my company into the video game industry's top manual business."

'92 **Jeremy YUNT** received his master's degree in ethics (focusing on environmental ethics) in 1999 from the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, and he is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in clinical psychology at the Pacifica Graduate Institute in Carpinteria, Calif.; he has been published in the *Journal of Humanistic Psychology* and *Philosophy Now*, among others; friends may contact him at www.jeremyyunt.com.

'95 **Shelley BATES** is the author of *Grounds to Believe*, which won the 2005 RITA Award for best inspirational novel from the Romance Writers of America.

'98 **Natalie LEWIS** completed an M.S. in Asian medicine, and her partner, **Peter LEHMAN** (Merrill '00), is a Ph.D. candidate in comparative literature at UCLA. **Gail GRANT Schull** married Clay Schull in 2004 and in 2005 moved to Idaho, where she is the registrar and director of admissions at the College of Southern Idaho; she is also in a graduate program in educational leadership.

'99 **Claire HOFFMAN** (daughter of **Fred HOFFMAN** [Oakes '74], granddaughter of Dave Hoffman, who taught music at College Five in 1970–72) is currently a reporter

at the *L.A. Times*, in the last two years, she's gotten a master's degree at the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism and another master's at the University of Chicago in religious studies.

'01 **Alexandra MENDOZA** is in the American studies Ph.D. program at the University of Minnesota, where she's been awarded the Ford and MacArthur predoctoral fellowships.

'04 **Greg HOWLIND** is writing, painting, sculpting, and dreaming of someplace Spanish and warm, while rebuilding his VW bus.

College Eight

'88 **Mysti RUBERT Berry** has published a short story, "Reaction Shots," and a novel excerpt, "Strong Flower," in the *Todd Point Review*.

Rachel GOLDBERG is an instructor of conflict analysis and dispute resolution in the Department of Sociology at the Fulton School of Liberal Arts at Salisbury University; she completed her Ph.D. in social science at Syracuse University last May.

'91 **Dennis SULLIVAN** and his wife welcomed their son, Shane, into the world in July.

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'05 **Mike WEBER** is an AmeriCorps*VISTA volunteer in Boston, working at the Building Materials Resource Center (BMRC), a nonprofit that resells new and used donated building materials to the public, offering deep discounts to low-income individuals, and diverting usable materials from landfills.

Oakes College

'95 After working in Indian education for four years, **Christina PARKER** earned a law degree from Denver University in 2002; now she practices tribal law in Washington State.

'01 **Elijah Henry HELMER** is currently performing in the Bay Area; after parting with the group Delicious Vinyl, he produced his own compilation of songs, which was released in July; to download songs, go to www.elijahhenry.com.

'93 **Victoria SANDILANDS**, a poultry behavior and welfare scientist with the Avian Science Research Centre at the Scottish Agricultural College, wrote an article about animal welfare in Scotland for the web site *Global Friends of Scotland* that included a glowing description of her field studies class at UCSC with biology professor Burney Le Boeuf and the influence that class had on her career path.

'95 **Peder HILL** is living in Austria with his wife and two children and is writing a novel; excerpts can be found at www.musik-therapie.at/PederHill.

'97 **Madison NGUYEN** was elected to the San Jose City Council in September, representing District 7; she is the first Vietnamese American elected to the council (see story, p. 12).

'99 **Patrick CHANDLER** is working for the Riverside County Fire Department as a public information officer.

Graduate Studies

'94 **Karen HANSEN** (M.S., Earth sciences) has taken a new job with Graniterock, at the A. R. Wilson Quarry in Aromas, Calif.

'95 **Gregory HANCOCK** (M.S., Earth sciences), an associate professor of geology at the College of William and Mary, was the winner of one of five Alumni Fellowship Awards, which are presented annually, along with a \$1,000 honorarium, to younger members of the faculty who "possess outstanding qualities as mentors of William and Mary students."

'96 **Lieba FAIER** (M.A., anthropology) has been awarded a prestigious Abe Fellowship from the Social Sciences Research Council, which she will use to do research on human trafficking in Japan, the Philippines, and the U.S.

'03 **Roopali PHADKE** (Ph.D., environmental studies) has been appointed assistant professor in the Environmental Studies Department at Macalester College; her work over the last decade has focused on how river basin technologies, such as dams and canals, can be more sustainably and democratically designed and managed.

In Memoriam

Christopher COLLINS (Ph.D., chemistry '00), a senior organic chemist at SRI International, died unexpectedly in August 2005.

Virginia FIERRO (M.A., sociology '79), who worked at UCSC first as assistant to the director of the Bay Tree Bookstore and then in a similar position for the UC College Prep Initiative, died at her Santa Cruz home in December 2005 after a lengthy illness; she was 53.

Larry HEIN (Crown '82), a firefighter who served as assistant chief of the East Contra Costa Fire District, died in March 2005 of cancer; he was 47.

Walter McKEE (Cowell '76), a professional horseplayer with a gift for numbers and an interest in emerging music, who played a funky techno brand of keyboards, according to his old friend Don Wallace, died of heart failure at age 53 in September 2005.



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