

Inauguration of George Blumenthal set for June 6



Chancellor George Blumenthal and his wife, law professor Kelly Weisberg, following his appointment by the UC Regents as the 10th chancellor of UC Santa Cruz

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

The inaugural celebration will feature a traditional academic procession, the chancellor's inaugural address, musical performances, and a reception for all attendees. (For more information and tickets, please visit inauguration.ucsc.edu)

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

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

Blumenthal called the campus a "place that fosters a

culture of excellence, inquiry, creativity, diversity, and public service while developing solutions to the world's most critical challenges." He pledged to work with staff, alumni, community members, government officials, and campus supporters to "accelerate UCSC's upward trajectory."

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

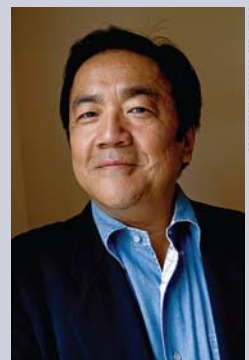
*The interview with Chancellor Blumenthal begins on page 8.

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

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

New York Times editor **Katy Roberts** (B.A. politics, Kresge '74) will be moderator. A reception featuring wines by alumni vintners will follow.

For more information on the forum and other Reunion Weekend events and activities, please see page 24, or go to: alumni.ucsc.edu/reunions



Forum speakers John Kao and Victor Davis Hanson (Cowell '75)

Dinner raises funds for students in need



Alumna and scholarship recipient Precious Ward (above) spoke at UCSC's Scholarship Benefit Dinner on February 9 about the important role individual contributions play in the education of UCSC students. Now in its fifth year, the dinner has become an important fundraising event providing undergraduate scholarships, internships, and research opportunities, as well as graduate fellowships. Many scholarship and fellowship recipients are students who might not otherwise be able to attend UCSC. Emmy Award-winning actress and UCSC alumna Camryn Manheim was the keynote speaker at this year's dinner, which drew a crowd of 250 and raised \$160,000.

Omigod! Women don't have lock on gift of gab

WHO SAYS WOMEN are the chattier sex? Not psychology professor Campbell Leaper, whose "meta-analysis" of how men and women communicate made headlines in the U.S. and Canada for its myth-busting conclusion: Women are no more talkative than men.



Campbell Leaper

The *Washington Post* was the first to write about the nonexistent "chat gap," followed by *Boston Globe* columnist Ellen Goodman, and numerous other newspapers. "It's a sexy topic, and it snowballed with the media," recalled Leaper.

Leaper's review of numerous studies of talkativeness, measured by the overall number of words used by men and women, revealed only inconsequential

differences. But readers resisted the news that the "chat gap" is all hype, and Goodman's column focused on the public's reluctance to embrace scientific findings.

So why do people cling to gender stereotypes? "It's part of human nature to put things in categories," said Leaper. "People want to anticipate what's going to happen. It trips us up when we overapply our generalizations."

Even though he approaches media interviews with some trepidation, Leaper believes it is important for academics to work with journalists. "We need to help people understand what we're learning," he said. "These studies dispel some pervasive stereotypes."

Botanist's \$350,000 gift establishes endowed chair

UC SANTA CRUZ has appointed Ingrid Parker, associate professor of ecology and evolutionary biology, to the newly established Jean H. Langenheim Endowed Chair in Plant Ecology and Evolution. Parker is the first faculty member to hold the endowed chair, established by a gift of \$350,000 from Langenheim, professor emerita of ecology and evolutionary biology.

The endowment provides funds to support and encourage research and teaching in the area of terrestrial plant ecology and evolution, including studies of human impacts on plants.

Parker joined the UCSC faculty in 1998. Her research in-

cludes investigations of invasive plant species and the evolutionary interactions of plants and plant pathogens.

"It is such an honor to be associated with Jean, who is a real pioneer in plant ecology



Jean Langenheim and Ingrid Parker

and evolution," Parker said.

"The endowment will provide valuable support for the projects of students who are working in plant biology on campus."



Frank Kofsky's photos of Janis Joplin, John Coltrane, and Frank Zappa

Age of jazz and rock rolls on with gift of photos, interviews

UCSC HAS RECEIVED a gift of more than 1,000 photographs of renowned jazz and rock musicians from the 1960s, taken by the late jazz scholar and historian Frank Kofsky.

The collection includes 35mm slides, prints, and negatives of such recording artists as John Coltrane, Janis Joplin, Jefferson Airplane, Ornette Coleman, and

Archie Shepp, of which only 36 have been published.

The gift also includes approximately 100 audio recordings of interviews Kofsky conducted with these musicians, each approximately 30 to 90 minutes in length.

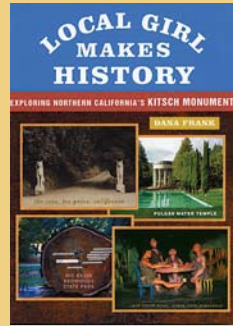
The collection was donated to the University Library's Special Collections by Frank Kofsky's widow, Bonnie Kofsky, who has dedicated it to the memory of John Coltrane. The gift includes a donation of \$8,000 from John Coltrane's widow, Alice Coltrane, to process and preserve the collection.

Prof reveals, revels in NorCal kitsch

HOW DOES A 2,000-year-old tree at Big Basin Redwoods State Park trace the history of imperialism? Who are the “Cave People” at the Santa Cruz Boardwalk? Why were two giant white stone cats erected near Highway 17 in Los Gatos? What is the real story behind the Greco-Roman-style Pulgas Water Temple built on the San Francisco Peninsula?

These questions and more are revealed in *Local Girl Makes History: Exploring California's Kitsch Monuments*, a new book by UC Santa Cruz historian Dana Frank. Blending investigative reporting, historical analysis, and personal anecdotes—along with multiple plot twists and surprises—Frank focuses on four landmark Northern California sites to reflect on the culture and politics of history.

As Frank notes in the book's preface: “This is not your usual local history book . . . it's about the unexpected ways in which larger historical politics are embedded in the landscapes of everyday life.”



UCSC ranks among best in conservation research

WHEN IT COMES TO conservation research, UCSC ranks as the fourth most productive institution in North America, according to a study published in *Conservation Biology*. The study compared the performance of research faculty from 315 colleges and universities in terms of the number of academic papers published and their subsequent impact in the field.

“We're thrilled that we're in the top five,” said Stephen Thorsett, dean of physical and biological sciences.

The study's authors, led by

Jacqueline Grant of Michigan Technological University, used a measurement called the Hirsch index to gauge each institution's research impact. The index balances the total number of publications against how often other articles have cited those papers.

Citations are a useful indication of respect. Each published article contributes an idea or a finding to a field of study, and subsequent researchers acknowledge that contribution each time they cite a paper. In general, the more innovative the finding, the more often it will be cited.



Conservation biology research at UCSC includes influential studies of the role of sea otters in coastal ecosystems.

Research grants top \$100 million, again

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

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

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

Other major awards include:

- ▶ A \$5 million grant from the National Human Genome Research Institute as part of a four-year project to build a “parts list” of biologically functional elements in the human genome. Under the grant, a team led by James Kent, associate research scientist at UCSC's Center for Biomolecular Science and Engineering, will establish a Data Coordination Center for the ENCyclopedia Of DNA Elements (ENCODE) project.

- ▶ Two five-year grants totaling \$4.5 million for stem cell research from the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine. The grants will support the research of Bin Chen, assistant professor of molecular, cell, and developmental biology, and Camilla

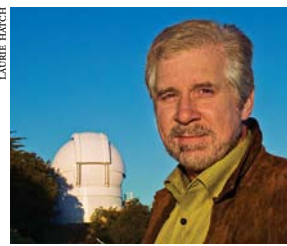


Bin Chen and Camilla Forsberg received CIRM New Faculty Awards for stem cell research.

Forsberg, assistant professor of biomolecular engineering.

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

- ▶ Major funding from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation for the Thirty-Meter Telescope (TMT), a joint project involving a U.S.-Canadian team (UC, the California Institute of Technology, and the Association of Canadian Universities for Research



Astronomer Steven Vogt, with the dome of the Automated Planet Finder in background

in Astronomy), with UC's participation managed by UCSC-based UC Observatories/Lick Observatory. Grants announced this year of \$15 million for design development and \$200 million for further development and construction will be shared equally between UC and Caltech.

Gift funds endowed chair in Sikh, Punjabi studies

UC SANTA CRUZ has received a gift of \$367,000 from Hardit and Harbhajan K. Singh, through the Sikh Foundation, to fund an endowed chair in Sikh and Punjabi studies in the History Department.

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

“The Sikhs have been in California for more than 100

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

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

Two profs named fellows by leading science group

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

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



Sandra Faber



Jin Zhang



Three emeritus professors—(l-r) Judy Yung and John Dizikes of American studies and Virginia Jansen of art history—and a founding librarian—Stanley Stevens—got together last fall to share their thoughts and experiences about the architecture, spirit, and evolution of McHenry Library. University Librarian Virginia Steel (far right) also gave an update on the progress of the library renovation.

Green campus

Town joins gown to fight climate change

CHANCELLOR GEORGE BLUMENTHAL joined Santa Cruz city and county officials in pledging to reduce greenhouse gas emissions at their respective institutions and to encourage



Chancellor Blumenthal signs the compact while Mayor Reilly and Supervisor Coonerty look on.

private, public, and nonprofit investment as part of the solution to global climate change. Blumenthal, then-Santa Cruz Mayor Emily Reilly, and Santa Cruz County Supervisor Neal Coonerty signed a Climate Action Compact at a ceremony in September. Blumenthal called the compact “a historic day for our region.”

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

UCSC, Zipcar steer Santa Cruz into car sharing

UCSC AND ZIPCAR, North America's largest on-campus car-sharing service, formed a joint partnership last year to provide Zipcars to campus faculty, staff, and students, as well as community residents, as an environmentally friendly alternative to the costs and hassles of keeping a car on campus. The partnership continues UCSC's commitment to providing sustainable transportation options, and grows Zipcar's on-campus programs to more than 50 university partners.

Each Zipcar typically replaces up to 20 personally owned vehicles, reducing the need for additional parking spaces and replacing older vehicles with new ones that have more stringent pollution controls.



More campus food facilities certified 'green'

THREE NEW CAMPUS LOCATIONS earned “green” certifications in November from the Monterey Bay Area Green Business Program: Porter/Kresge Dining Hall, Cowell/Stevenson Dining Hall, and University Catering. Crown/Merrill Dining Hall and Banana Joe's Café were already certified. In the works for future certification are Owl's Nest Café, Terra Fresca, and College 9/10 Dining Hall.

To be certified “green,” participants must be in compliance with regulations and meet standards for conserving resources, preventing pollution, and minimizing waste.



University Catering chef Al Marquez digs into the contents of the compost bin.

Program's color-coding helps Wikipedia users judge reliability

THE ONLINE REFERENCE site Wikipedia enjoys immense popularity despite nagging doubts about the reliability of entries written by its all-volunteer team. A new program developed at



A screen capture from de Alfaro's test site shows the gradations of color indicating degrees of content trustworthiness.

UCSC aims to help with the problem by color-coding an entry's individual phrases based on contributors' past performance.

The program analyzes Wikipedia's entire editing history—nearly two million pages and

some 40 million edits for the English-language site alone—to estimate the trustworthiness of each page. It then shades the text in deepening hues of orange to signal dubious content. A 1,000-page demonstration version is already available on a web page operated by the program's creator, Luca de Alfaro, associate professor of computer engineering.

Other sites already employ user ratings as a measure of reliability, but they typically depend on users' feedback about each other. This method makes the ratings vulnerable to grudges and subjectivity. The new program takes a radically different approach, using the longevity of the content itself to learn what information is useful and which contributors are the most reliable.

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



Developable areas in the CLRDP (outlined in white) comprise 28 percent of the Long Marine Lab site.

State agency OKs UCSC coastal plan

AT A HEARING in December, the California Coastal Commission approved UCSC's Coastal Long Range Development Plan (CLRDP), a land-use blueprint for possible

future development at the site of UCSC's Long Marine Lab.

The CLRDP for the "Marine Science Campus" allows for the development of an additional 12 acres for new research and education facilities, setting aside 72 acres of the site for environmental restoration and preservation.

Examining the torment of Twain

MARK TWAIN IS OFTEN referred to as America's favorite humorist. But a new book by American studies professor Forrest Robinson sheds fresh light on the renowned author's tormented moral life.

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

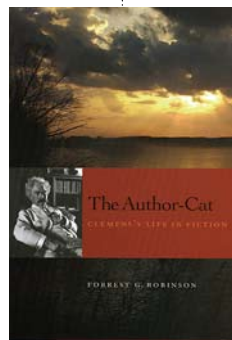
A critical biography, the book frames Twain's work in terms of major American social issues, particularly slavery. It is a belated sequel

to Robinson's 1986 book *In Bad Faith: The Dynamics of Deception in Mark Twain's America*, in which he talks about the ways Clemens's major fiction both addresses and denies the moral burden of slavery in American culture.

"This is a book about a man deeply troubled by what he believes are his own moral failures," said Robinson. "It's about guilt; he never got over the fact that he lived in a slave culture as a child and was persuaded there was nothing really wrong going on."



Forrest Robinson



Founders Day celebrates the extraordinary



More than 350 people celebrated the founding principles of UC Santa Cruz and the achievements of outstanding individuals at a gala dinner October 18 at the Cocoanut Grove in Santa Cruz. Billed as the beginning of a new annual tradition, the event honored Alumni Achievement Award winner Gary Heit (right); astronomy professor Stanford Woosley, the Faculty Research Lecturer for 2007–08; U.S. Rep. Sam Farr and his family, who received the Fiat Lux Award; and Chancellor Emeritus Robert Sinsheimer, recipient of the Foundation Medal.



Alumni Association to honor distinguished teacher, outstanding staff member

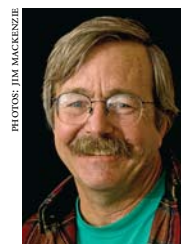
AN AGROECOLOGIST and a Graduate Division director have been selected to receive two of the Alumni Association's highest honors for 2007–08.

Stephen Gliessman, Alfred E. Heller Professor of Agroecology, is the Distinguished Teaching Award winner, and Bob Hastings, director of current students in the Division of Graduate Studies, is the winner of the Outstanding Staff Award. Each will receive \$500 and be honored at the All-Alumni Reunion Luncheon on Saturday, April 26, from noon to 1:30 p.m. in the College Nine

and College Ten Multipurpose Room. The event is part of Alumni Reunion Weekend, where hundreds of alumni and guests will gather to reconnect and participate in a variety

of planned activities (see Alumni News, page 24).

Neurosurgeon Gary Heit received the Alumni Achievement Award at the inaugural Founders Day event in October (see photo and caption, above). Heit, a 1977 graduate of Oakes College, was chosen for his development of a treatment for neurological disorders such as Parkinson's disease and chronic pain.



Stephen Gliessman



Bob Hastings

The Jack Baskin School of Engineering capped off a year of 10th anniversary festivities with a gala dinner at the University Center in November. Jack and Peggy Baskin, pictured right, were guests of honor at the event, which also featured a talk by David Haussler, professor of biomolecular engineering, on his group's investigations of the human genome.



Ancestry tests raise red flags

EVEN AS CONSUMERS embrace commercial genetic ancestry tests to trace ancestral roots or fill in gaps in the family tree, a team of researchers is urging buyers to use caution when interpreting test results.

The tests have significant limitations, say the authors of an article titled "The Science and Business of Genetic Ancestry Testing," which appeared in the October 19 issue of *Science*.

"These tests promise more than they can deliver," said Jenny Reardon, assistant professor of

sociology at UCSC, one of 14 researchers who coauthored the article. "They are being marketed as 'recreational,' but many people do not take these tests lightly."

The tests raise serious questions about how societies define race, and they can have profound impacts in terms of personal identity and the allocation of resources, said Reardon.

The coauthors argue that the limitations of the tests make them less informative than many realize. They call upon the scientific community to better educate the public about the tests and to develop policy statements that clarify the limitations and potential dangers of genetic ancestry testing.

In Memoriam

► **STANLEY FLATTÉ**, 66, a professor emeritus of physics whose work on wave propagation led to important contributions in the fields of atmospheric optics, ocean acoustics, and seismology, died November 4.

► **JOHN HALLIDAY**, 71, a member of the UC Santa Cruz Foundation Board of Trustees since 1988 who was active in fundraising for the agroecology, marine sciences, and astronomy programs as well as graduate student support, died December 25.

The families of Stanley Flatté, John Halliday, and Gary Lease have established or identified memorial funds at UCSC that honor these three individuals. People wishing to make contributions to these funds may contact Lynne Stoops at (831) 459-1376 or by e-mail at lstoops@ucsc.edu.