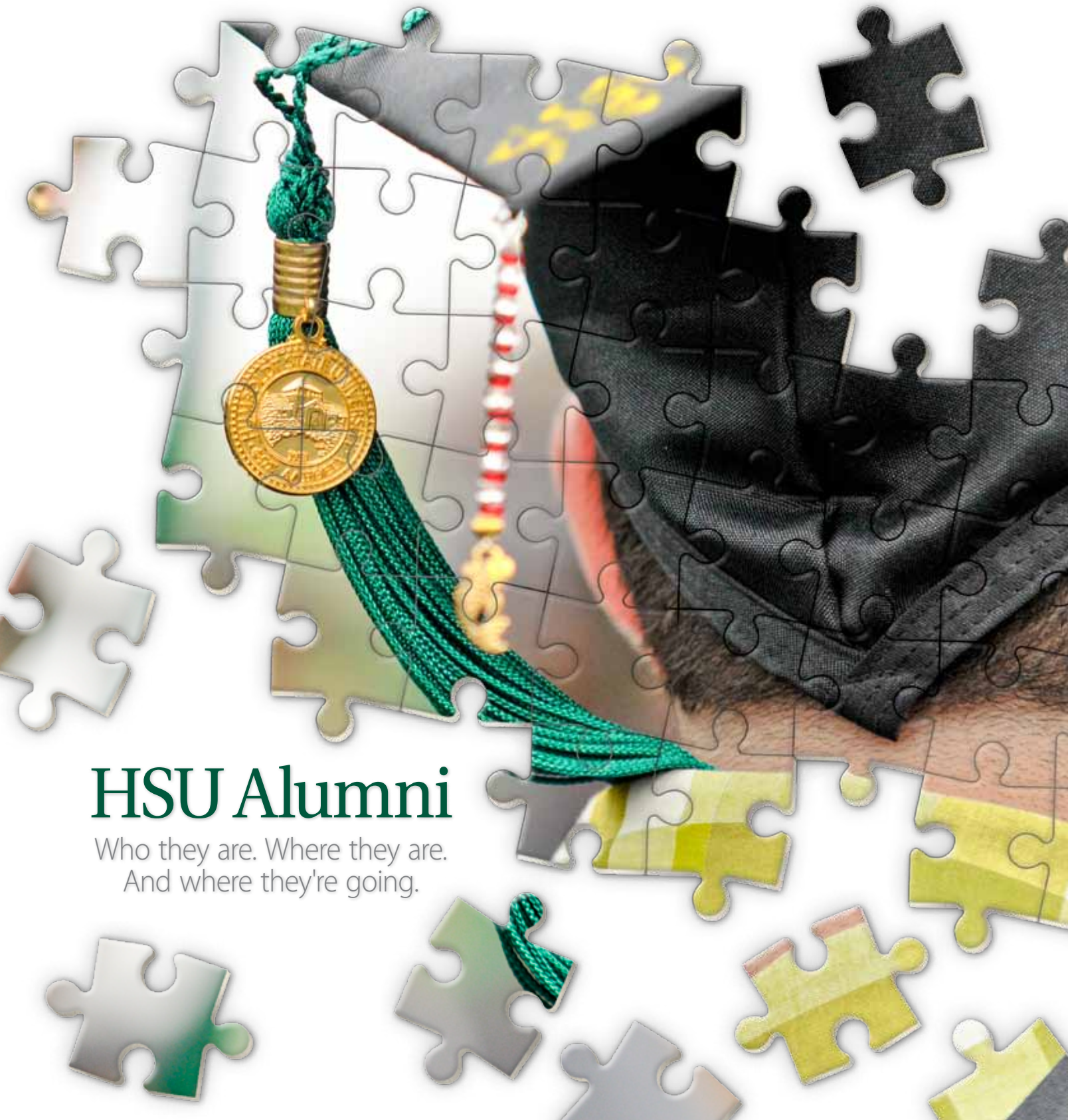


Humboldt

The Magazine of Humboldt State University

Fall 2011



HSU Alumni

Who they are. Where they are.
And where they're going.

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THESE PAGES: The view from Founders Hall at dusk.

from the President

THREE MONTHS. SEVEN STUDENTS. Hundreds of great conversations about Humboldt.

That was the first summer of the new HSU Discovery Project, in which students went out and visited one-on-one with alumni. It succeeded beyond all expectations, as we found that alumni were eager and often honored to take part, share stories and connect with current students.

Humboldt Alumni, it has been nice getting to really know more of you.

On a general level, as detailed in this issue's cover story, we already knew much about our alumni. We have addresses and degree information, and are able to contact many of you by email. Thousands of you make annual gifts to HSU, often after phone conversations with student callers.

But we have long wanted to know even more of you on a personal level. We are curious about your successes and interests, and how your Humboldt education has made a difference. This has been a challenge, given that our alumni can be found all around the country and the world.

In retrospect, the solution seems obvious. Who better to spend an hour or so talking to an alumnus—than a current student? And because many students return home for summer break, the distance challenge was solved.

In the spring, we recruited the student ambassadors. We sent out letters to a small group of alumni telling them what we were up to and asking if they would participate.

Hundreds responded, which set off a bit of a scramble. Luckily, we had an energetic and well-organized team of students. By the end of summer break, they had met with over 350 alumni and had gathered names of hundreds more to talk to.

What did we hear?

We heard you would like to help us organize more regional alumni events, and that you are very interested in our upcoming Centennial, which we will celebrate during the 2013-14 academic year.



HSU President Rollin Richmond takes a tour of the Campus Center for Appropriate Technology with CCAT student co-director Mitra Abidi, left, and student tour guide Juliana Willisen.

We also heard clearly that alumni value their experience at HSU. Many talked about the importance of personal connections with faculty, hands-on learning opportunities, and the strong sense of community at Humboldt. We heard about businesses, lifelong friendships and (no surprise) marriages that started as relationships on campus.

One student ambassador met an alumnus who had attended the same high school, and another who, like her, had played guitar in college. All of the students were changed by the experience. Alumni gave them plenty of personal and professional advice, and the students gained a broader appreciation for Humboldt.

The kickoff of the HSU Discovery Project has been a great success, and we plan to continue in the years to come. To learn more, visit alumni.humboldt.edu/discovery. To our alumni who participated, thank you.

Sincerely,

Rollin C. Richmond
President

Humboldt

The Magazine of Humboldt State University

humboldt.edu/magazine

Humboldt magazine is published twice a year for alumni and friends of Humboldt State University and is produced by University Advancement. The opinions expressed on these pages do not necessarily reflect the official policies of the university administration or those of the California State University Board of Trustees.

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The paper for *Humboldt* magazine comes from responsibly managed sources, contains 10 percent post-consumer recycled content and is certified by the Forest Stewardship Council® and the Rainforest Alliance.

[News in Brief]

Join the fun!

Homecoming & Family Weekend
is Sept. 30 to Oct. 1

THE CAMPUS IS GEARING UP for the annual celebration of things that make Humboldt State University great. This year there's more fun planned than ever before.

- Taste of Humboldt Welcome Reception
- Theatre, Art & Music Exhibits & Performances
- Classes without Quizzes
- Behind-the-Scenes Tours
- Pregame Tailgate Party & Food Festival
- Clubs Fair & Carnival
- Homecoming Football Game



HSU Mascot
Lucky Logger

LETTERS ARE WELCOME and may be published in upcoming issues of *Humboldt* magazine. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.

Send to magazine@humboldt.edu or the address listed below

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Standout Students Earn NSF Fellowships

A RECORD FIVE HUMBOLDT students were awarded prestigious National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowships during the 2010-2011 academic year. Four of the students were also members of the Indian Natural Resource, Science and Engineering Program (INRSEP) or the Society for Advancing Hispanics/Chicanos and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS).

"What makes these students outstanding scientists and engineers is a holistic understanding of their fields and the ability to express the value of their research and how people in the community can use it," says Jacquelyn Bolman, who directs INRSEP. "There's no doubt that they are going to do some awesome work."

The fellowship supports students earning graduate degrees. It includes a \$30,000 annual stipend and a \$10,500 cost-of-education allowance.

► **Rosalinda Gonzalez**, Oregon State University, Ph.D. program

As a child in the Southern California desert region, Rosalinda Gonzalez ('11, Environmental Science) always appreciated safe, drinkable water. In college, she focused on the range of life forms affected by water issues. As part of her doctoral studies, Gonzales hopes to utilize water sciences and fisheries as indicators of water quality.

► **Daniel Hernandez**, University of Washington, Ph.D. program

Coming from a coastal, tribal culture, Daniel Hernandez ('10, Environmental Science) always felt a connection to the ocean and its wildlife. During his Ph.D. program, Hernandez will study coho and sockeye salmon populations as they relate to changes in temperature.

► **Dawn McCovey**, Humboldt State University, M.S. program

"I already had the value of wanting to make a difference environmentally," says Dawn McCovey ('06, Wildlife Man-



Daniel Hernandez



Dawn McCovey



Jeremy Rude



Ryan Ziels

agement) on her decision to enroll in Wildlife as an undergrad at HSU. "I wanted to impart stewardship to the rest of my community as well."

McCovey works as a wildlife biologist for the Hoopa Valley Tribe and will pursue her master's degree in Natural Resources, with an emphasis on Wildlife at HSU. Her current research involves radio tracking of the culturally significant pileated woodpecker.

► **Jeremy Rude**, University of California, Santa Barbara, M.E.S.M. program

Rude ('11, Environmental Science) came to HSU as a C- student with a love of the tropics. But he turned things around,

focused his studies on Environmental Policy, and was able to participate in several national and international research projects.

In his graduate studies, Rude plans to explore the relationship between biodiversity, conservation and indigenous culture.

► **Ryan Ziels**, University of Washington, Ph.D. program

As part of his Ph.D. program, Ziels ('11, Environmental Resources Engineering) hopes to modify existing wastewater treatment plant technology to treat food waste as well, through the process of biodigestion.

With biodigestion, treated food waste creates biogas and compost as byproducts. The resulting biogas can be used as a cleaner-burning renewable energy source, and the compost can be used as a nutrient-rich fertilizer.

Ziels' ultimate goal is to create a biogas renewable energy company.

Rosalinda Gonzalez



Major Gift Helps Expand School of Business

AN ANONYMOUS DONOR HAS committed \$500,000 to support Humboldt State University's School of Business.

The gift is the largest ever to the HSU School of Business and among the largest gifts given by an individual to the university.

"This gift will help transform the school over the next five years," says HSU President Rollin Richmond. "We are very grateful. We are proud to partner with someone who sees a need in our community and is willing to lead the way in helping HSU address it."

The university is already committed to investing about \$2 million over five years

to significantly expand the size and scope of the school. It is also working with business leaders, alumni and others to raise at least \$1.5 million in private support. The focus is on business fundamentals, entrepreneurship and sustainability.

Among other things, the recent gift will help fund more full-time faculty, renovate facilities and open additional class sections. The business curriculum will be enhanced, new interdisciplinary certificates will be created for students in other majors and for working professionals, and the MBA program will be expanded. There will be more opportunities for

student internships with local businesses and for student research projects. There will also be additional support for the school's faculty to conduct research and undertake special projects.

"What we have here is something rare in higher education—the chance to really transform a program in a relatively short period of time," says Steve Hackett, an HSU Professor of Economics and the new Chair of the School of Business. "It's an exciting time, and it's inspiring that a community member has made such a tremendous investment in this effort."

Schatz Fuel Cell Finds Home in Persian Gulf

YOU MIGHT REMEMBER THE cover story about HSU's Schatz Energy Research Center in the Spring 2011 edition of *Humboldt* magazine. It showcased a number of milestones, and now they have another—the center's first technology transfer with the Middle East.

Long established internationally with links to Asia, Africa, Central America, Europe, Canada and Mexico, the Schatz Lab recently confirmed a partnership with the United Arab Emirates (UAE). It will provide a test station and accompanying fuel cell to the Masdar Institute of Science and Technology in Abu Dhabi, capital of the UAE on the Persian Gulf.

It all started when Masdar Professor of Mechanical Engineering Tariq Shamim came across the technology while teaching at the University of Michigan in the early 2000s. It was there he saw a Schatz fuel cell test station, a custom system built for the Walter E. Lay Automotive Lab.

Eager to replicate what he had seen there, he got in touch with Schatz Lab Director Peter Lehman to purchase both a fuel cell and research-grade fuel cell test station.

Created in 2009 in collaboration with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Masdar is laying the groundwork to diversify the UAE's oil-rich, but oil-dependent economy. It is aimed at incubating innovation and entrepreneurship to meet UAE and world energy needs.

The Schatz Center delivered the equipment in August. Two Schatz Lab engineers, Greg Chapman and Marc Marshall, traveled to Abu Dhabi to install the station and train Masdar technicians and faculty in its operation.



Schatz Energy Research Center engineers Greg Chapman, left, Marc Marshall and Kyle Palmer prepare a fuel cell test station for the Masdar Institute of Science and Technology in the United Arab Emirates.

Humboldt State Teams with NOAA on Ocean Monitoring



Eric Bjorkstedt

A JOINT EFFORT OF Humboldt State and NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service is bridging a major gap in monitoring the northern section of the California Coastal System. NOAA is the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Through a series of oceanographic surveys on board HSU's research vessel Coral Sea and research at the university's Telonicher Marine Laboratory in Trinidad, Calif., faculty scientists and students are collecting data considered essential to management of coastal fisheries.

One of the main goals of such long-term ocean observing is to support fisheries management off the North Coast and along the California Current as a whole.

"Eventually, we want to be able to develop Klamath-specific predictions for, say, Chinook salmon returns several years out," says Fisheries Biology Professor Eric Bjorkstedt. "Right now we're beginning to examine whether the Southern California data might be useful in the short term, but in another couple of years, when we have five or six years of data, we can begin to do our own analysis to inform fisheries managers who are trying to predict salmon populations. The whole purpose of the effort is to support informed and effective resource planning."

To Ban or Not to Ban

Student Research Helps Arcata Weigh Plastic Bag Embargo

TO BAN PLASTIC BAGS or not: That is one of the questions facing the Arcata City Council. Student-led research is helping them find an answer.

The research was conducted in Engineering 308, an Environmental Resources Engineering course led by instructor Lonny Grafman (read about Appropedia.org, another project led by Grafman, on page 16). Students analyzed both the environmental impacts of single-use plastic bags and what kind of effect a citywide ban would have.

Among the students' findings: Arcata shoppers use between 3 million and 5 million plastic bags annually. The energy that went into manufacturing those 3 million plastic bags is comparable to powering 774 desktop computers, eight hours a day for one year.

Grafman says students in the class learn how to use math and science to understand the environmental impacts of products and technologies—including the impacts of single-use plastic bags—and then use that information for real-world applications.

Although the student research is not a legal document like an environmental impact report, it does contain customized information that the city council might not otherwise have access to.

At this point, no decision on the city wide ban has been reached and the debate is ongoing.



Student Finds Clues to Famed Pirate's Identity



Wesley Korpela

THERE'S AN OLD PIRATE legend about a forgotten place on the Trinity River named Sailor's Bar. Now that saga has been revived—and revised—by an HSU undergraduate.

Last summer, senior Wesley Korpela, an Anthropology major and avid fan of pirates and underwater archaeology, heard claims about a band of fugitive British sailors led by William English.

The story was that a group of sailors made its way to Trinity County in 1842 after burning its ship off Cape Mendocino. The pirates were believed to have discovered and attempted to mine gold at Sailor's Bar. If true, it would mean revising the history of California's famed gold rush.

Bill Rich, co-director of the HSU Cultural Resource Facility, knew of Korpela's intense interest in the subject. He explained that historians around the area had been probing the mystery for decades, but kept running into dead ends. He then asked if Korpela would be interested in using the facility's resources to try to find something new. What Korpela uncovered was a mistaken name that led to the identity of a known pirate.

At the outset of his investigation, Korpela ran into false leads and dead ends galore.

Without definitive proof of pirates at Sailor's Bar, Korpela re-examined his notes, where he discovered the clue that gave a new break to the case.

According to information Korpela found in the Humboldt Room in the HSU Library, William English may have been the mistaken name of Major William P. Reynolds, the reputed son of a Massachusetts sea captain and a Malay-Chinese mother—a key part of the puzzle.

According to the Sailor's Bar legend, the mis-named Captain English piloted a warship of the British East India Trading Company, went rogue along the Chinese coast and was subsequently pursued by British authorities. It was said he fled across the Pacific to Cape Mendocino, where he burned his vessel.

Although many questions remain in the saga of Sailor's Bar, Korpela appears to be the first researcher to unmask the legendary William English as Major William P. Reynolds.

Since graduating in 2011, Korpela is pursuing a career in maritime archaeology.

Recent Grad Recognized for Eureka Chinatown Study

A PAPER EXPLORING EUREKA'S lost Chinatown by recent alumna Yang Yang has caught the attention of national media and earned high praise from the Association of American Geographers.

In "Lost Island of Strangers from Another Shore: Historical Chinatown in Eureka," Yang used newspaper archives and landscape studies to evoke "the racialization of

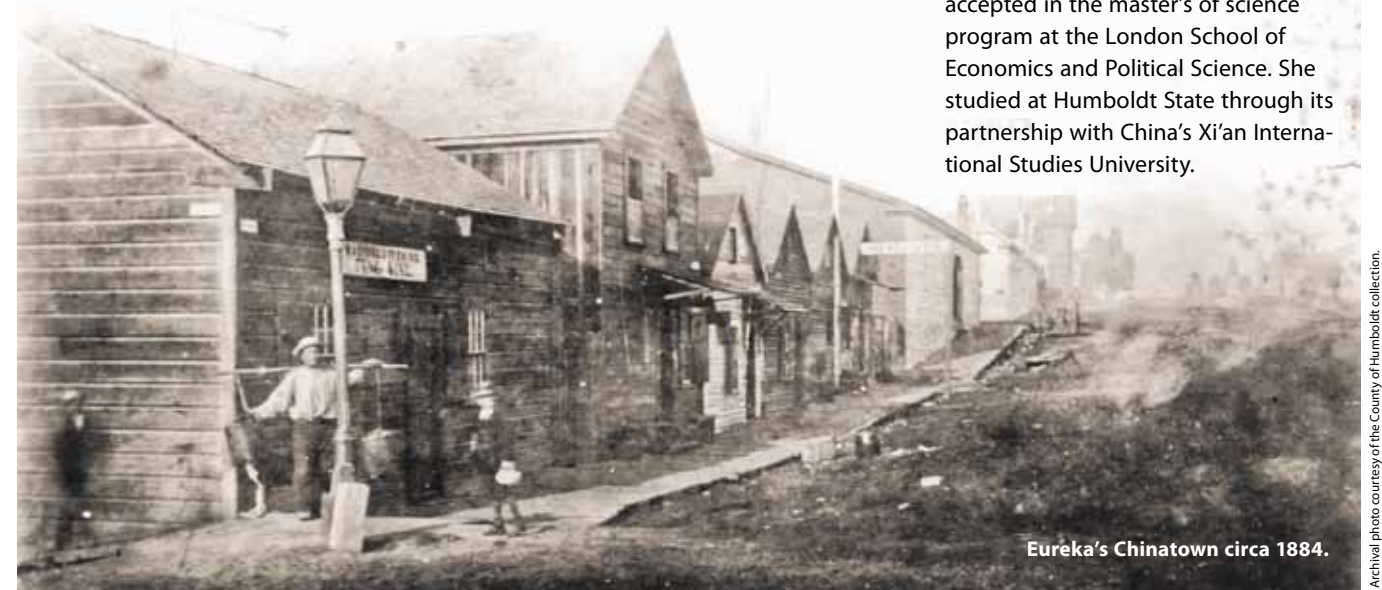
place" in Eureka's historical Chinatown, according to the AAG judges who awarded her the Outstanding Student Paper in April. Yang's paper made "a strong contribution to ethnic geography," they said.

Judges unanimously ranked Yang's paper the best, even though she was up against formidable graduate school competition. "You should be particularly

proud, given that you were the only undergraduate student to submit a paper," an awards official said.

Yang's success attracted plenty of media coverage in Humboldt County, as well as an interview on National Public Radio.

Yang presented her paper at the Association of American Geographers annual meeting in Seattle, and was accepted in the master's of science program at the London School of Economics and Political Science. She studied at Humboldt State through its partnership with China's Xi'an International Studies University.



Eureka's Chinatown circa 1884.

Former Lumberjack Signs with New York Jets



Photo courtesy of HSU Athletics

Taylor Boggs

FORMER HUMBOLDT STATE FOOTBALL player Taylor Boggs has signed as an undrafted free agent with the New York Jets.

Boggs was an offensive lineman and four-year standout for the Lumberjacks. He also won the Award for Excellence in Intercollegiate Athletics or Sports Clubs at the 2010-2011 Outstanding Student Awards. "I'm so happy for Taylor because he's getting the chance he deserves," HSU Head Football Coach Rob Smith said. "He's always been a blue-collar, lunch-pail guy. No one will work harder than Taylor to earn a place on an NFL roster."

The signing came days after the end of an NFL lockout that had halted contract activity and threatened to disrupt the 2011 season. Named an All-American following his senior year in 2010, Boggs showcased his skills at the Cactus Bowl all-star game in February. However, his name wasn't called during the seven rounds of the April 2011 NFL Draft, leaving him waiting as the lockout continued.

After four months, NFL player representatives and the league's owners signed a collective-bargaining agreement ending the lockout. Boggs reported for Jets training camp in New Jersey in early August.

Following an injury sustained during training, Boggs was waived and placed on the injured reserves list. He is still signed with the Jets for a one-year contract and will have the opportunity to participate in training next season as a second-year player.

"Boggs has the talent and the intelligence to excel in professional football," Smith said. "He'll pick up the complex systems quickly."

Boggs is the first Lumberjack to sign an NFL contract since Steve Cheek signed with the Kansas City Chiefs as a punter in 2004.

The NFL has previously drafted eight Lumberjacks. The last Lumberjack to be drafted was wide receiver Freeman Bay-singer, who was the 333rd overall selection, going in the 12th round in 1991. Scotty Reagan, an HSU defensive end, was the 179th overall pick in the seventh round in 1990, making him the highest-ever selected Lumberjack.

Wayward Whales Offer Students Rare Access

A GRAY WHALE THAT offered students a rare educational opportunity when it wandered into the Klamath River for nearly eight weeks this summer died in August after beaching itself on a sandbar.

Scientists still aren't sure why the 45-foot whale and its calf strayed into fresh water or what caused the mother's death. But the occurrence offered students in Humboldt State's Marine Mammal Education and Research Program (MMERP) and lucky passers-by a unique opportunity to view the majestic creatures up-close.

Scientists with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) immediately called Humboldt State Zoology Professor and MMERP Director Dawn Goley. Over the course of several weeks, Goley and her students worked closely with NOAA, the National Marine Fisheries Service and the Yurok Tribe, which owns part of the river, to study the mammals and try to lure them back to salt water. The calf swam back out to sea on July 23.

Scientists still aren't sure what caused the mother's death but are hoping that tissue samples taken before her burial will point them in the right direction.



Submitted Photo

The 45-foot gray whale and her calf wandered into the Klamath River in late June. Scientists still aren't sure what caused the mother to stay in fresh water so long.

Gray whales are generally difficult to study in the wild because of their size—they can reach up 50 feet in length and weigh 36 tons—and because they migrate vast distances between their summer feeding grounds in the Arctic Ocean and their winter breeding grounds in Baja California. A small number of whales forego their full northern migration and feed along the coasts of the Pacific Northwest. Goley and her stu-

dents have been studying whales that feed in the waters of Humboldt and Del Norte counties for 15 years. But never in a river and never up-close.

"While we are extremely sad that it ended this way for the whale, we can be grateful for the incredible educational experience it afforded us," says Goley. "The students really came to not only know the gray whales, but the nature of the Klamath River and the Yurok who call the river home."

Commencement 2011

FRIENDS AND FAMILY CHEERED as Humboldt State celebrated 2,100 new graduates in Redwood Bowl, May 14.

Honorees included the three Outstanding Students of the Year: Ian T. O'Brien, an Interdisciplinary Studies major and leading contributor to peer health education; David J. Janssen, a Chemistry major, who worked on Arcata Marsh projects and conducted research at Lassen's Boiling Springs Lake; and Du Cheng, a Cellular/Molecular Biology major and Chinese exchange student, who is the former president of the Chinese Students and Scholars Association (read more about Du Cheng on page 49).

Student volunteers from a number of clubs continued the "Green-Up Graduation" effort begun last year to minimize the use of single-use plastic bottles, disposable coffee cups and other waste.

At all three ceremonies, the commencement address was delivered by alumnus Robert Thomas ('85, Geology), Professor of Geology at University of Montana-Western, at Dillon. Thomas was named a 2009 U.S. Professor of the Year by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education and was honored as one of Humboldt State's Distinguished Alumni in 2008.

"Education is a transformative experience," Thomas told the graduates. "I left Humboldt a totally different person; I was more open-minded, more flexible and I craved a creative life. Most importantly, I learned enough to know that I didn't know very much and I wanted to know more. This is the hallmark of a great education; a Humboldt education."

The 2012 commencement ceremonies are scheduled for May 12.

► See more HSU Photos at flickr.com/humboldtstate



Kennedy Center Festival Takes Center Stage

The Department of Theatre, Film, and Dance has had quite a year: Not only did it produce the amazing Spring Dance Concert (check the Campus Scene on page 14) and the 44th annual Humboldt International Film Festival (page 18), it was host to the 43rd annual Region VII Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival—the largest Region VII festival in history.

A student stands in the spotlight, helping the lighting team prepare the stage for that evening's full-length play. Four visiting campuses were invited to put on full productions.



Students line the hallways of HSU's Gist Hall, awaiting their turn to take the stage.



HSU student Brittany Williams rehearses with her acting partner, Matthew Kirchberg, for her Irene Ryan Acting Scholarship performance. Students must be nominated to qualify for the award and must pass multiple rounds of auditions at the regional and national levels.

FROM FEB. 14 THROUGH 18, over 1,000 students and faculty from 121 colleges and nine states converged on campus for their chance to participate in the nationally recognized theater program.

This was the first time the event had come to campus since the region was redistricted, attracting students from Western states including Alaska, Colorado and Wyoming.

During the weeklong event, festivalgoers enjoyed and participated in on-stage performances, exciting and nerve-wracking auditions and intense hands-on (sometimes shoes-off) workshops.

On stage, students performed audition pieces and one-act plays. During the 10 Minute Play Festival, budding playwrights had their pieces performed in front of a live audience and received critiques from professional judges.

In addition to shorter pieces, four visiting campuses put on full-length productions at the John Van Duzer Theatre. From Monday through Thursday, these full-length features served as the evening's main event.

Off stage, students involved with technical design, lighting and set building were able to participate in skill-building, hands-on workshops and competitions of their own.

Festival awards were announced Friday, with three HSU students and alumni taking home a few of the top honors: April "Kitty" Grenot won first place in hair and makeup design, and represented Region VII at the national festival at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.

Student Jonny Barrett won a California State University Summer Arts scholarship in acting. He was awarded a stipend to attend Steppenwolf Classes West.

And alum Kato Buss was the graduate student winner in the New West Drama Conference Scholarly Paper Competition. He is now engaged in graduate studies at the University of Oregon.



Students, faculty, staff and community members watch the festival's 10 Minute Play Festival. With all seats filled, many people opted to sit on the floor rather than miss the show.



Acting wasn't the only focus of the festival. From heart-pumping Broadway dance to tech-driven design and lighting, students from both sides of the curtain got a chance to sharpen their skills and expand their repertoires.

The Beginnings: 1913–1938

As the campus readies for a yearlong centennial celebration starting in fall 2013, Humboldt magazine will be highlighting the history of Humboldt State in a timeline that stretches through the next three editions.

IT'S BEEN NEARLY 100 YEARS since instruction began at Humboldt State Normal School on April 6, 1914 with only 55 students.

There was no Founders Hall on that day. Instead, class was held in what one historian dubbed a "rather drab and austere" building on the corner of Arcata's 11th and M streets.

Today, Humboldt State encompasses a beautiful 144 acres and enrolls 7,900 students. A lot has changed, and with HSU's Centennial quickly approaching, planning has begun for a year-long celebration beginning in the fall 2013.

Whether you graduated from Humboldt State Teacher's College, Humboldt State College, CSU Humboldt or Humboldt State University, we want to hear your ideas for marking this occasion. Visit the website at humboldt.edu/centennial to share your ideas and help HSU make the most of this once-in-a-lifetime occasion.

Share Your Ideas for the 100th Anniversary Celebration
humboldt.edu/centennial

1911 Eureka's chamber of commerce begins an effort to win public support for a normal school. Eureka, Arcata and Fortuna offer proposals for the location of the school.

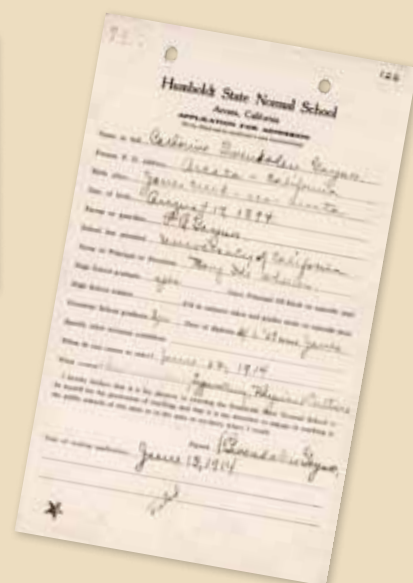


1913 A donation of 51 acres from William Preston and the Union Water Company ensures Arcata will be the home of Humboldt State Normal School.



June 16, 1913 California Gov. Hiram Johnson establishes Humboldt State Normal School.

1921 Humboldt State Normal School becomes Humboldt State Teachers College and Junior College.



April 6, 1914 Instruction begins at 11th and M streets in Arcata. Pictured above is one of the first applications to the normal school.

May 26, 1915 Commencement day for HSU's first graduating class of 15 women. Susie Baker Fountain is first to receive her degree.



1922 Construction of Founders Hall begins atop Preston Hill.



1924 Humboldt's first president, Nelson Van Matre, retires and is succeeded by Ralph Swetman who serves from 1924 to 1930. Arthur Gist takes over in 1930 and serves until 1949.



1927 Humboldt plays its first intercollegiate football game against Southern Oregon Normal School, losing 33-0.



Sources: "A View from the Hill" by HSU History Professor William R. Tanner and "Humboldt State University: The Campus History Series" by HSU alumna Katy M. Tahja ("70, Communication)

Photos Courtesy of the HSU Library, Humboldt Room



1937 Humboldt State College establishes bachelor's of science degree in education. Liberal arts degree programs in economics and business administration, speech and home economics are soon to follow.

1935 Another name change gives Humboldt the moniker Humboldt State College.



Gravity Defined: The Spring Dance Concert

MEMBERS OF HSU'S DEPARTMENT of Theatre, Film, and Dance presented *Gravity Defined* for the 2011 Spring Dance Concert. In 10 performances, dancers staged an eclectic show of intricate and physically impressive dances featuring a range of aesthetic styles.

- ▶ A total of 46 dancers presented styles from tango, to hip-hop to postmodern and ballet.
- ▶ Every other year, the spring dance concert choreographers work with scenic and costume designers from the department of Theatre, Film, and Dance. More than four-dozen students worked backstage on scene construction, painting, lighting, costumes and makeup. "With those elements and a variety of large and small ensemble dances, we put together what I think was a visually stunning show," said Professor Sharon Butcher, director of the Dance Studies program.
- ▶ The concert featured three dances by student choreographers invited to the Northwest American College Dance Festival Conference earlier this spring: A Step Behind by Kara Ajetunmobi, Elevated Contour by Lyndsey Lascheck and In This Place by Jacqueline Bookstein.
- ▶ "Something that was different this year," Butcher added, "was the presence of some talented freshmen and sophomores in our spring concert. This level of accomplishment doesn't usually happen until junior or senior year. So that was exciting not only for this year, but for years to come."



APPROPEDIA

the WEB'S MOST
eco-FRIENDLY
ENCYCLOPEDIA

WORLD'S GREENEST DIY GUIDE STARTED AT HUMBOLDT STATE

AN HSU INSTRUCTOR AND his students have helped create one of the web's largest do-it-yourself sites and it's designed to help users go green. Known as Appropedia, the name brings together three words: appropriate, apropos and encyclopedia. The brainchild of Lonny Grafman, an instructor in HSU's Environmental Resources Engineering department, the website appropedia.org is quickly becoming the go-to site for solutions on sustainability.

"The site has gone through a lot of incarnations and it's an idea that people have had for many years," Grafman says. "It's just that technology is finally catching up."

The website is a wiki, which allows users to create new pages and contribute content to already existing pages.

Since its launch in April 2006, the website has attracted users from almost every country and has over 18,000 pages created by contributors.

Energy, construction and community, and health and safety are three of the most popular topics for readers. For example, you can find information on different compost methods, materials needed to make a compost pile and tips for how to use the finished compost.

Grafman sees a bright future for the site. "I hope that everyone can find a use for Appropedia in their everyday lives," he says. "I want people to ask new questions and solve new problems instead of asking the same questions and making the same mistakes."

Lonny Grafman (right) works with students to build a wind belt that will help power the new sustainable-living hostel at the historic Samoa Cook House building in Samoa, Calif.



SOLAR OVEN: a step-by-step guide

Check out appropedia.org for more instructional guides

We enlisted one of our staffer's nieces, Hannah, 8 and Maggie, 5, to guide us through a very tasty project: making s'mores in a student-designed solar oven for kids. With less than \$20 you can find everything you need for this project.

YOU'LL NEED

- Large glass bowl
- Black oven or BBQ spray paint
- Small metal cooking bowl
(must fit entirely within large glass bowl)
- Lids for both bowls (or plastic wrap)
- Aluminum foil
- Tape
- Cardboard box
(the box should be at least 18 inches on all sides)
- Oven mitt
- Ruler
- Scissors

CLASSIC S'MORES RECIPE

- Graham crackers
- Chocolate candy bars
- Marshmallows

Sandwich a piece of chocolate and a marshmallow between the two crackers. Cook in the solar oven for 5 to 10 minutes.

According to Hannah and Maggie, the solar oven s'mores were delicious!

INSTRUCTIONS

1 Start by spray-painting the outside of the smaller bowl and let it dry.

THE OVEN

2 Flatten the cardboard box and lay it down in front of you with the bottom flaps closest to you. Using the ruler and scissors, cut 2-inch tabs into the upper flaps of the box bottom, stopping at the fold. Flip the flattened box over so the 2-inch tabs lay resting on the ground. Cut 8-inch tabs into the other side of flaps, stopping at the fold.

3 Roll up the box, from the non-tabbed side, to create the oven's curved shape.

4 Next, prop the box up and unfold the bottom flaps so the 2-inch tabs face toward you and the 8-inch tabs face out, creating a stand. On the curved inside of the oven, tape the 2-inch tabs to each other until it is sturdy and retains its shape. Lastly, tape the aluminum foil to the oven until covered. **Be sure to keep the shiny side up and try to keep the aluminum smooth so it will reflect as much sunlight as possible.**

COOKING THE FOOD

5 Nestle the spray-painted smaller bowl within the larger bowl. Place your food in the smaller bowl and cover both bowls with lids or plastic wrap. **Temperatures inside the solar oven will max out well below 200 degrees (ours hit 167 degrees), so be sure to only cook foods that are already fully cooked or don't need high-temperature cooking to be safe.**



A Reel Revolution

HSU Film Fest Sets Spotlight on Independent Film

By Desiree Perez

The Humboldt International Film Festival is many things. It's the longest-running student-run festival of its kind. It's a showcase for local and international filmmakers, alike. And it's also a weeklong celebration of the revolutionary potential of the cinema and the current revolution unfolding within the world of filmmaking.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Vintage magazines become commemorative buttons at the film festival's merchandise table. ▶ Student Andrew Baird steps out of the John Van Duzer Theatre's control room, where submitted films reach the big screen. ▶ Staff advisor Joshua Nelson speaks with co-directors Jeff Cronise and David Fox about the Best of the Fest award. ▶ A student-designed art installation dubbed "Revolution" greets guests as they enter the theater. **FACING PAGE:** Canisters contain film submissions from previous film festivals. For the past few years, submissions have been digital only.



"FILMS CAN CHANGE THE WAY people look at the world," says festival co-director and Film major Jeff Cronise. "And in the film world, digital brought its own revolution to the industry—all you need now is the camera and the editing software." Currently, film classes at HSU work primarily with digital, although a few still use film.

Since 1967, the festival has put HSU students to work building a venue for independent and alternative filmmakers to showcase their work. "Anyone can share their point of view," says co-director David Fox, a Marine Biology major. "We have film submissions from six different continents and all different walks of life."

Although the festival used to accept both film and digital submissions, for the past few years, submissions have been DVD only.

Tonight, it's Best of the Fest night for the 44th annual Humboldt International Film Festival, whose theme this year is simply, "Revolution." And right now the student co-directors putting on the show are trying to make sure everything goes off without a hitch.

It's All in the Planning

PREPARATIONS BEGIN A YEAR before the festival. Students spend hours screening submitted films, whittling down the hundreds of submissions to the few dozen that make it to the screen. Students also put their entrepreneurial talents on display, raising funds and teaming up with local businesses to promote the festival.

Any student can join the film festival class and lend a hand to organize the event. Last year, Theatre major Brittany White took the class on a whim. Since then, she's worked on three locally produced films. This year, she volunteered to take a leading role as house manager for Best of the Fest.

"I had never even seen short films before this class," she says. "It helped spark my interest in film and in helping short films get noticed in all their different forms. To me, that's the meaning of revolution: a new start and a way to bring attention to things that should be noticed."

What begins for many as a desire to watch cool films develops into a yearlong training in critical film analysis and event coordination. "It can be stressful. It's always on my mind," Fox says. "But it's so rewarding to see it all come together."

To pull it off the festival's student co-directors Cronise, John Manning, Fox and Glen Webster work closely with staff advisor Joshua Nelson and the festival's three guest judges, industry professionals Jessica Mae Stover, Al Hayes and Kevin M. Kearney.

On the morning of Best of the Fest, the group of professional and student film enthusiasts gets down to the business of deciding which films and filmmakers will be recognized that evening. Breakfast—and many cups of coffee—fuel the decision making.

While voting for films can sometimes be contentious, this morning everyone is in agreement over which entries will be honored at tonight's event. The winning titles are kept secret, but these standout films are guaranteed to uphold the tradition of excellence expected of the film fest. "Expect new ideas," says Fox. "Expect things you've never seen before."

Leading up to today, each guest judge hosted a night of events, including a workshop and an evening of screenings.

Kearney, a screenplay writer and former member on the Public Works Media board of directors, led Animation and Experimental Night; Hayes, a motion picture executive, hosted Documentary Night; while Stover, a professional film director, presented Narrative Night. In addition to hosting, guest judges had chosen winners from their respective categories.





Filmgoers watch “Stan vs. Squirrel” during Documentary Night at the John Van Duzer Theater. The film won Honorable Mention at Best of the Fest.



“It helped spark my interest in film and in helping short films get noticed in all their different forms. To me, that’s the meaning of revolution: a new start and a way to bring attention to things that should be noticed.”

Brittany White,
Theatre major and
film festival participant

During his workshop, Hayes gave students an insider’s point of view on how to get established in the film industry. The workshop topics fed largely off audience questions and concerns, touching on subjects ranging from attending the Sundance Film Festival to affordable insurance for shooting low-budget films. The biggest question on everyone’s mind was “How do I become a filmmaker?” And for Hayes, who comes from a political science background and first got into film in his 30s after law school, the resounding answer was: “You just have to try.”

“You have no excuses,” Hayes says. “With laptops, iPhones and digital cameras you have to go out and make movies, put them online and really distribute your work.”

For independent filmmakers, the Humboldt International Film Festival can offer exactly that kind of exposure.

Show Time

BACK IN THE JOHN Van Duzer Theatre, the air is tense with anticipation for the big announcement. The projection of a giant red protest fist fashioned out of filmstrips illuminates the entrance to the building, which holds nearly 200 filmgoers.

And the Best of the Fest winner is ... the Taiwanese film “Swing,” directed by Yen-Ting Kuo. The film centers on how living people influence the perspectives of people on the brink of death. The universal subjects of mortality and love, paired with impressive animation, sealed the deal. **H**

And the Winners Were...

The Humboldt International Film Festival honors numerous films each year. You can view many of these films online **humboldtfilmfestival.com**.

Best of the Fest, and Best Animated Film

Swing

Director: Yen-Ting Kuo

An animated film about the influence the living have over people facing the brink of death.

Best Documentary and Most Revolutionary Film

Bye Bye Now!

Director: Aideen O’Sullivan

A documentary about the fate of the Irish phone booth as it moves to the verge of extinction.

Best Narrative Film

Zwischen Licht Und Schatten (Fading Away)

Director: Fabian Giessler

Recently Martha has been behaving strangely. Herbert, her husband, is desperate. Is she just forgetful or is it more than that?

Best Experimental Film

I Give You Life

Director: Latham Zearfoss

Mutated voices and deleted words try to find their way back home while a father tries to find solace and justice in the wake of his son’s murder.

People’s Choice Award

Lest We Forget

Director: Chris Godfrey

Two mates—Vietnam veterans—have settled into a life in a quiet town. They become aware of a dark undercurrent of domestic abuse and take decisive, if surprising, action.

Jim Demulling Speak Out Award

The Work of 1000

Director: Susan Edwards

Marion Stoddart fought to save one of America’s most polluted rivers, transforming herself into an environmental leader.

Ledo Matteoli Award for Best Immigration Story

The Stitches Speak

Director: Nina Sabnani

Tanko Bole Chhe (The Stitches Speak) celebrates the art and passion of the Kutch artisans associated with Kala Raksha. The film traces multiple journeys toward forming the Kala Raksha Trust and the School for Design.

Eagle Eye Award (Best Cinematography)

Last Seen on Dolores Street

Director: Devi Snively

In a hard-boiled town, a heartbroken woman must say good-bye to an old pet and hello to a new nightmare.

Honorable Mention

Stan vs. Squirrel

Director: Lilly Ann Boruszkowski

What is a man to do when he wants to feed the birds but the squirrels keep stealing their food? Stan engineers a variety of devices to foil his furry opponents.



HSU ALUMNI

**Who They Are.
Where They Are.
And Where They're Going.**

As it nears its 100th year, Humboldt State has more than 50,000 graduates. They've spread out and settled across the country and around the world, making major contributions to their communities and in their professions—areas like education, forestry, natural resources, alternative energy, wildlife, art and more.



Fall Enrollment at the Start of Decades	
1914	55
1920	N/A
1930	372
1940	427
1950	654
1960	2,071
1970	5,479
1980	7,419
1990	7,654
2000	7,433
2010	7,902

fig. 1

Oldest Living Alum

Ione R. Bradley
100 years, 3 Months

Graduated 1932, with
a bachelor's degree
in Education

From Mostly Women, To Mostly Men, to Mostly Even

CLASS	FEMALE	MALE
1930s	74%	26%
1940s	59%	41%
1950s	38%	62%
1960s	32%	68%
1970s	36%	64%
1980s	45%	55%
1990s	51%	49%
2000s	56%	44%

Humboldt State Normal School's first graduating class in 1914 was made up of 15 women. Football games in the 1920s were only possible when every available man on campus was forced onto the field. By the 1930s almost three quarters of the graduates were women. Then, from the 1950s to early 1970s, the campus population grew from 750 to more than 6,000 students, and men made up nearly two-thirds of the student body. By the 2000s, following national trends, women were once again the majority.

fig. 2

By Jarad Petroske

AS AN ALUM ('06, German with a minor in Journalism), I know a bit about the strong connection graduates feel with HSU. Like you, I frequently meet other alumni—both when I travel or locally at the grocery store. In my role as a writer and now editor of Humboldt magazine, I come across many alumni success stories. But I was curious to know more about our far-reaching community.

WITH MUCH LESS THAN a fully developed plan, I set out. My first stop: The HSU Library's Humboldt room, where librarian Joan Berman and archivist Edie Butler helped me delve into the earliest records of Humboldt State alumni.

From a host of materials—commencement programs to yearbooks—I got to know the alumni who made up Humboldt's earliest graduating classes. In 1915, the small Humboldt State Normal School graduated just 15 students. The campus would grow to 654 by 1950 (see fig. 1) and wouldn't expand to its current size of about 7,500 students until the 1970s (A side note: In 1962 the California State University trustees predicted campus enrollment would reach 12,000 by 1990. Imagine trying to find a parking space). At the beginning of Humboldt State's existence, even the split between genders was surprising. In the 1930s, when the school started keeping records of this sort, the campus was nearly three-quarters women (see fig. 2). In the 1950s and 60s, as the campus' emphasis focused on natural resources, men made up the majority of students. By the millennium, however, women made up a slim majority of students—a figure that follows national trends.

After opening in April 1914, it wasn't long before the campus would begin to honor its alumni. In fall 1924 the Alumni Association formed to sponsor the first homecoming game, which honored the class of 1917 and included a 9-0 victory over Arcata High School (Yes, high school).

HSU Alumni

Where They Are Today...

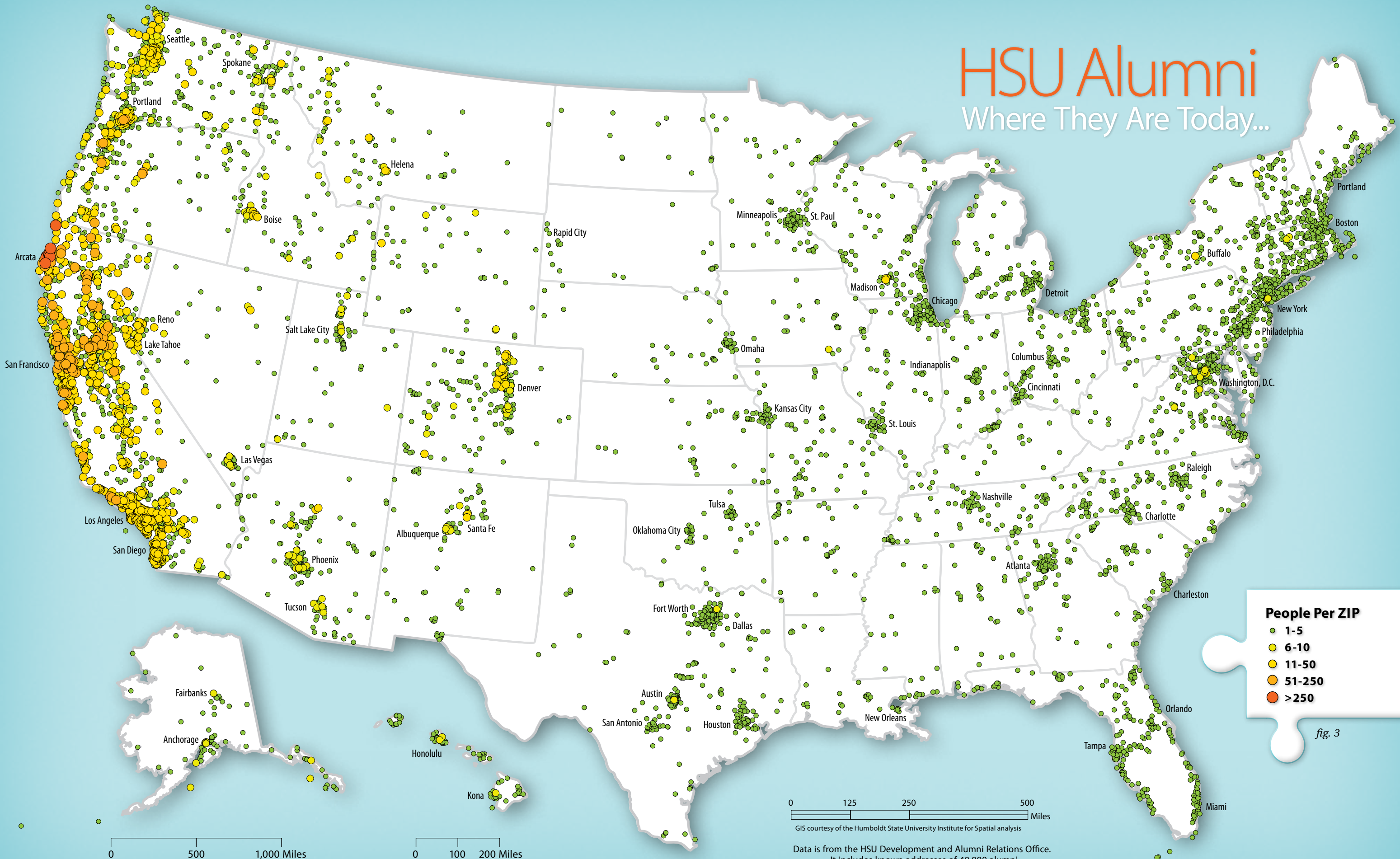


fig. 3

Digging through the archives, it became clear the alumni of the 1920s and '30s were especially committed to Humboldt State. They supported the growing school in many ways, including lobbying for support at the state level, offering housing for current students and even providing an early student loan program. In 1933 the Alumni Association published the *Humboldt Alumnus*, a precursor to this magazine.

In a stark reminder of the enrollment drop during the First World War, which threatened to close the school, World War II caused a major dip in the number of graduates. The 1944 graduating class from Humboldt State Teachers College, as it was then known, was only 27 students. By fall of that year, enrollment would drop to 176.

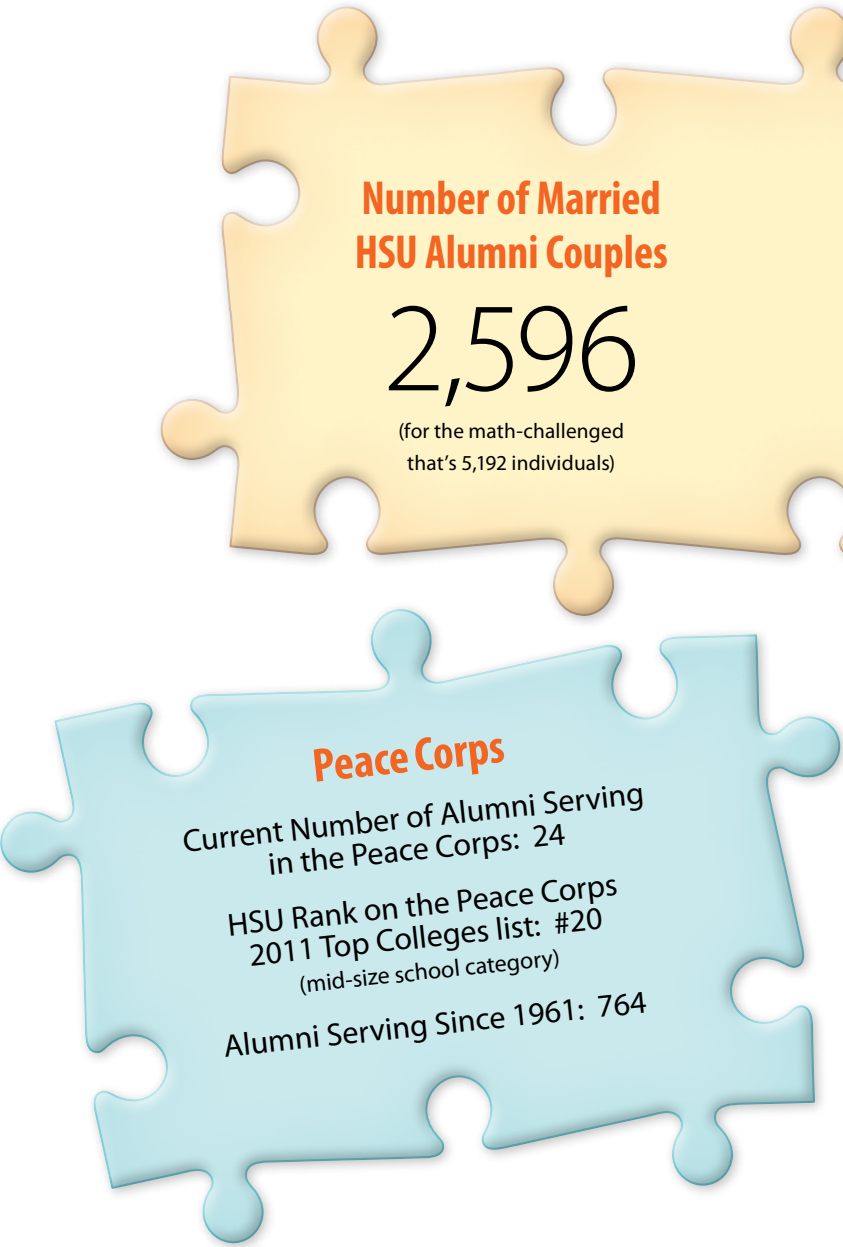
Following the war, enrollment soon rebounded and by the 1960s, Humboldt State alumni numbered in the thousands and the campus established the Who's Who Award to honor outstanding alumni. The first award went to George E. Hogan from the class of 1933, and since then, more than 80 alumni have received this honor. Today, the tradition is continued with the Distinguished Alumni Awards. Humboldt Alumni seeks nominations from all members of campus, including alumni. In fact, if you know a deserving Humboldt State alum, drop by alumni.humboldt.edu and share their story.

In the 1970s, the Alumni Association continued its work of keeping former students connected to their alma mater. In 1975, the *Humboldt Alumnus* became the *Humboldt Stater*. During that time, however, campus enrollment began a decline, notably in the social sciences and humanities. After reaching 7,500 students in 1974, enrollment dropped to 6,735 by 1978. The following year, campus sought to increase campus morale and the Great Humboldt Spirit Celebration looked to the community to enhance homecoming. That year, the alumni king and queen were chosen from the class of 1917.

It wasn't long before I had a real sense of who Humboldt State alumni were, and their contributions to campus. For one thing, alumni have never stopped giving back. In 2010, alone, an impressive 4,000 alumni made financial gifts to the university. Many of those gifts went to the Humboldt Loyalty Fund, which supports things like specialized equipment for labs, art supplies and digital art collections, talks by visiting scholars, student presentations at academic conferences, and much more. But I still wanted to know more. It turns out, the folks at Humboldt Alumni did to.

In their offices, I came across a survey HSU Alumni conducted in 2009 that gauged alumni attitudes on everything from opinions about campus today to their experiences as students. The responses were incredibly positive. About three-quarters of alumni said attending HSU was a great decision, and the vast majority agreed their education prepared them well for life-long learning. A little more than half said they regularly promote HSU. Others praised the campus for its quality academics and the valuable relationships forged between students and faculty.

Alumni said they wanted more opportunities to stay connected with the university. They were clear they want



◀ Quite a few students wind up with more than a degree from Humboldt State, they also meet the person they'll marry.

Number of Alumni Living Internationally as of 2011

Africa	6
Asia	33
Japan	42
Australia	23
Europe	48
South America	14
North America (outside U.S.)	52
TOTAL	218

Humboldt State alumni are international. Many are living in other countries, and that's not counting the thousands of students who have studied abroad. This is sure to grow as HSU international education programs expand

fig. 3

Alumni Living in the Humboldt Area

1930s	15
1940s	50
1950s	182
1960s	473
1970s	1,115
1980s	1,534
1990s	2,311
2000s	4,181
2010s	1,033

Many alumni stay in Humboldt County after graduation.

fig. 4

social events for Humboldt State grads throughout the state of California—where more than 35,000 alumni live—and beyond (see our alumni map for more details on alumni living across the country).

In sitting down with the folks at the alumni offices, I came across a host of other information about Humboldt grads. Did you know more than 700 Humboldt alumni have participated in the Peace Corps since its inception in 1961? HSU currently ranks No. 20 among schools its size for sending students into the corps. Beyond Peace Corps experience, more than 200 alumni are living internationally (see fig. 3). Not surprisingly, and I'm among this group, more than 10,000 alumni are still living in the Humboldt Area (see fig. 4). This number corresponds well with another set of data I came across concerning Humboldt State alumni. In 2010, the campus' Institute for Research and Planning conducted a survey of graduating seniors. The most interesting finding? Almost a quarter of that class came from the Los Angeles area but more than 30 percent of respondents said they intend to

Discovering HSU's Alumni

THE HUMBOLDT ALUMNI DISCOVERY Project matched a group of seven HSU students with alumni across California. In more than 350 interviews this summer, alumni shared stories of their campus memories, lives after college and what an HSU education means to them. All the students working on the project agreed that talking with HSU alumni opened their eyes to a world of possibilities after college and impacted them in ways they never expected.

“Seeing the graduates through the years really makes me proud to be an HSU student,” said Vanessa Gonsalves, one of the Discovery Project students.

A few things alumni had to say ...

“It was very small, only about 1,000 people when I graduated. Everyone was very friendly and you knew everyone on campus. You knew your professors very well.”

“I cherished the sense of community that running brought to my life. I still keep in touch with many of my track and cross country friends to this day.”

“Making very close connections with fellow students. We used to call each other at 1 a.m. for help on assignments.”

“I enjoyed the hands-on experience I received and that the university cared about the environment.”

“Some of my favorite memories are riding my bike across Arcata and going to the farmer’s market.”

Where Students Come From (2010)

Los Angeles Area	26%
Other States	16%
Local	15%
San Francisco Bay Area	13%
Northern California	11%
Central California	8%
San Diego Area	6%
Foreign	1%
Other / Unknown	4%

fig. 5

stay in Humboldt County and only 8 percent are planning on heading to Los Angeles. Say what you will about Humboldt County’s fog, clearly something has caught the hearts and minds of these students (see fig. 5 and 6).

Then the Humboldt Alumni staff turned me on to the Alumni Discovery Project. The idea behind the project is to have current students sit down with alumni throughout California and talk about the campus “back then” and how their lives have been shaped by their Humboldt State education.

The project started this summer break, with seven students matched up with alumni in their home region. And from all indications, it has been a great success. The students were inspired, and alumni shared interesting stories as well as their opinions about what makes Humboldt great. Many alumni later called into Humboldt Alumni to say how much they enjoyed meeting the students and how honored they were to be selected (see the Discovering HSU’s Alumni sidebar).

Where Grads Plan to Live (2010)

Humboldt County	34%
San Francisco Bay Area	12%
Northern California	11%
Los Angeles Area	8%
San Diego Area	3%
Central California	3%
Out of State	15%
Out of Country	4%
Not Sure	10%

fig. 6

Once the semester picked up, I sat down with the students from the Discovery Project and got a feel for the work they had done. “I wasn’t expecting to grow so much from this project,” said Vanessa Gonsalves, a Communication major, from San Jose.

“Talking to so many successful alumni really inspired me and excited me about my future,” said Jeff Bertotti, an Anthropology major from El Dorado Hills, Calif.

One thing Humboldt State prides itself on is the hands-on nature of its academic programs. According to Carsten Charlesworth, a Zoology major who worked with the project, folks in the “real world” know this too. “A lot of the alumni in management positions I spoke with say they like to hire HSU alumni because of their hands-on approach to problem solving. Other people might be qualified, but HSU grads aren’t afraid to dig into a problem to find the solution.”

After talking with these students, I bumped into fellow HSU alum, Steve Smith (’77 Wildlife management, ’81 Bio-


What Grads Plan to Do (2010)

Hunt for Employment	48%
Graduate or Professional Study	31%
Volunteer Service	9%
Start a Family	6%
Further Under-Graduate Study	2%
Armed Services	1%
Other	3%

fig. 7

logical sciences), who is now Dean of our College of Natural Resources and Sciences. Smith tells me he’s “living the dream” in his current position. I ran Charlesworth’s notion of HSU grads taking their hands-on approach into the workforce and Smith echoed this comment. “The alumni I run into talk about the best parts of Humboldt State—the hands-on learning, working closely with their professors. They really speak highly about the formative education they received at Humboldt State,” he said.

As I wrapped up my research into the world of HSU alumni, I knew quite a bit about my fellow Humboldt graduates. It turned out I had plenty to keep our graphic designers busy, as you can see with all the charts and graphs.

And more than ever, I understand the value of the Class notes section of this magazine. Take a look—this issue has more notes than ever. And if you’d like to update your fellow alumni on what you’ve been up to please visit humboldt.edu/classnotes to share your news. 

A group of people are gathered around a campfire at night. In the foreground, a person with long brown hair and a beard is sitting cross-legged, wearing a brown jacket and a blue scarf, and is writing in a spiral-bound notebook. They are wearing black gloves. To their right, another person is sitting cross-legged, wearing blue jeans and a black jacket. In the background, several other people are sitting around the campfire, which is made of logs and is burning brightly. The scene is illuminated by the fire and some ambient light. The overall atmosphere is cozy and focused on learning.

Know the Land

**Students Explore Native Traditions and
a New Take on Land Management**

By Desiree Perez

SUN BREAKS THROUGH THE FIR TREES and people, from children to tribal elders, circle the smoking campfire. A fine mist of frosted breath and steaming coffee fills the air as several campers crack open books and jot down notes for class.

This unique camp-out, not far from the banks of the Klamath River near Orleans, Calif., is part of Humboldt State's annual Ethnobotany course, also known as Anthropology 485. The program is a partnership between HSU's Department of Anthropology, U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and members of the Karuk Tribe, including several basket weavers and herbalists.

“We need to understand how important these plants are individually and as groups. And we need to understand Native American people and communities as essential parts of the ecosystem.”

Kathy McCovey Barger, Ethnobotany course instructor

DURING THE THREE-DAY, TWO-UNIT course, students from a variety of majors meet with instructors from tribal and land-management agencies. The two groups provide an approach to land management that makes sense for the area and the cultural needs of tribal groups. One goal is to introduce students to groups and ideas they might not find in a traditional classroom setting.

“It’s an opportunity to meet some amazing people,” says HSU senior in Cultural Anthropology Alexis Pereira. “You have a chance to learn something about the environment, a chance to meet people who’ve grown up locally and a chance to network with people doing research. And it’s a lot of fun.”

Tradition and Science

SPEAKERS FROM BOTH THE tribe and the state agencies set the stage for the course’s lessons and experiences.

“This new kind of forestry, called eco-management, is important,” says HSU graduate student and course instructor Kathy McCovey Barger. “If you don’t know the members of the community, then land managers don’t really know what they’re managing for.” Barger McCovey is also a Karuk medicine woman and forester.

Ken Wilson is one of the founders of the Ethnobotany course, which emerged from a state-run program a decade ago. Wilson, a retired state archaeologist and tribal liaison, agrees that cultural resources are a significant aspect of modern land management.

“It’s important to work with tribal communities and government agencies. It’s important to get the word out about how to manage the botanical resources important to tribes. And it’s really rewarding to get the two together,” he says. “Traditional ecology and modern science are interrelated.”

Soon the students break out into workshops throughout the site. One of the most telling lessons comes from the preparation of the acorns and the Indian potatoes. Clumps of dirt and roots sit in scattered piles at the Indian potato station. Students sift through the earth to uncover the scattered, walnut-sized vegetables. With proper land management, the students learn that these potatoes grow larger and more abundantly. However, firs have largely shaded out these full-sun-seeking plants.

Acorns are another traditional food source withering in the long shadows of un-managed firs. The oak trees that provide the acorn flourish in full sun. However, past policies of fire suppression have allowed young fir trees to surround oaks and eventually grow to block out the sun.

Fire suppression has also led to a dense and tangled understory, impenetrable and unusable to humans and many animals.

“A lot of area is not being used to its full potential,” McCovey Barger says. She cites a study about how native people of Orleans, Calif., utilized fire. “The Pnomnic people used fire to manage the landscape. Indian women set fires in a two-mile radius. The result was a fine grain mosaic of vegetation.”

“We need to understand how important these plants are individually and as groups,” she says. “And we need to understand Native American people and communities as essential parts of the ecosystem.” Revitalizing that relationship is at the core of Ethnobotany (For more about the ecology of wildfire, see the spring 2009 *Humboldt* magazine at humboldt.edu/magazine).

Traditional Use


A ROTATING GROUP OF five students sits in a sunny spot making a natural dye used to color traditional baskets. Using nearby stones to grind soft chunks of the red-orange elder bark to a fine dust, students learn about the traditional process of stripping bark without harming the tree.

Another nearby group lays out rows of four-foot hazel shoots and pounds them flat with rocks to remove the internal vascular bundles. After carefully peeling the fibers, students learn how they are used for basket weaving and how proper land management effects that use.

Erin Rentz has studied the affects of fire ecology on bear grass and hazel—plants traditionally used in Karuk basket weaving. “Is there really a difference in plant materials after they’ve been burned? My studies show that fibers that haven’t been burned don’t have the plasticity,” she says.

As the sun begins to set, the whole camp prepares the evening potluck. Fire-hot rocks are dropped into a pot of soaking acorn meal to create a soup. Indian potatoes and a handful of mushrooms picked from the native plant garden are placed over the fire next to salmon and eel fished from the nearby Klamath River.

Once every camper has a full plate, everyone gathers to hear traditional Karuk tales told around the fire.

“Storytelling is a way to pass lessons down from generation to generation,” Pereira says. She also says it is a way of sharing cultural understandings with students. “It’s important to keep an open mind because there are different ways of knowing and understanding things. I feel really grateful to this community for opening its doors to us. I’m definitely going to do it again.” 



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: Frank Lake whittles the stakes he’ll use to roast the wild salmon from the Klamath River that campers will enjoy for dinner that evening. ▶ Kathy McCovey Barger displays traditional woven fish traps as she demonstrates other traditional weaving materials. ▶ In Karuk tradition, women shell acorns, a culturally significant plant and food. ▶ A student inspects an unfolded bundle of bear grass. This is the way Karuk basket weavers traditionally store their materials. ▶ Salmon stakes surround the campfire.

Digging in the Data

Local Businesses and Government Benefit from Student Economic Research

By Erick Eschker, Professor of Economics

I WAS HAPPY TO hear that one of my students who had just graduated was rolling through Chicago and wanted to meet me for dinner and introduce me to his fiancée. I was at the University of Chicago on sabbatical in 2005 and Soren and I had just finished a paper titled “Is There a Housing Bubble in Humboldt County?” A few months earlier, he was busy looking through old records to get historical housing prices and rents. In that paper, we found that housing prices in Humboldt County were not sustainable given market fundamentals, and that if the bubble popped, a severe reduction in prices may result.

In March 2006 the Humboldt housing market peaked, and today inflation adjusted prices are over 40 percent lower. Humboldt County’s housing market experienced the same boom and bust as other areas of the country. We also experienced the same deep recession as the rest of the nation. While many local people speak of how different things are behind the “redwood curtain,” my students and I know better.

I’ve had the privilege of working with fantastic undergraduate students on applied research projects, and our work gets noticed. One student and I published a paper on the local gasoline market. A couple of years ago, as housing markets collapsed, students and I created a new real estate webpage and our site was in the top 10 Google searches for “real estate economics.” Two other students collected historical foreclosure data from the county and showed that local foreclosures are at record levels just as foreclosures nationally are at record levels.

Many student projects are with the Humboldt Economic Index. The index was created 15 years ago by economics faculty at Humboldt State because they saw a lack of current business indicators for our remote, rural region. Today, business boards, real estate agents, marketers and economic development agencies use the index to determine where our economy stands—and where it might be headed.


We’ve had a number of students work on the index over the years. The student assistant analyst is in contact with businesses and agencies and compiles the index. The student

assistant editor writes the index each month and tells readers how our local economy compares with state and national conditions. While reporters come to me for economic insight, I always remind them that the index is produced by students.

At this year’s commencement, an outgoing index student assistant told me how happy he was to come to HSU to study economics and that he couldn’t imagine getting the same experience anywhere else. I could see how sincere he was in his appreciation for his education. Many students are very excited by their research. This past semester I worked with students to begin to form a new measure of marijuana production in the county. That project is critically important for Humboldt County and I’m proud of the work that they’ve done.

I tell my friends, many of whom are faculty at other colleges, how thrilled I am to be working with Humboldt State students. I simply cannot believe the level of maturity that is exhibited by them (a level that is far greater than I had at their age!). Humboldt State is an ideal place for faculty to work. I can push my undergraduate students hard and they usually step up to the challenge. I’ve spoken with many HSU faculty and what I hear over and over is that they came here because of the fantastic quality of students and the liberal arts environment.

So where is the Humboldt economy headed? Predictions are difficult to make, but I’ll give two scenarios. It seems more likely to me that we are “near” the bottom. Housing prices will stop falling within two years and unemployment rates will begin a noticeable drop. Another possibility is that we “double dip,” which means that we enter another recession and unemployment begins to rise. Two unique factors that influence the Humboldt economy are government finances, since a large portion of our workforce is employed by the government, and the legal status of marijuana production.

Next year, my students and I will begin tracking manufacturing in the county and we will have results from our new entrepreneur survey. I’m looking forward to a great year! 



I’ve had the privilege of working with fantastic undergraduate students on applied research projects, and our work gets noticed.



Photos courtesy of Jim Tietz

Jim Tietz Keeping Careful Watch on the Farallon Islands



TO SAN FRANCISCANS, THE Farallon Islands are the sign of a clear day—as in, you can “see all the way to the Farallones.”

Days that clear are rare. This granite archipelago, 27 miles off the San Francisco shore, is cold, windswept and pointedly indifferent to its few human inhabitants: researchers from Point Reyes Bird Observatory (PRBO) Conservation Science, led each fall by HSU grad Jim Tietz.

A quiet, thoughtful songbird specialist, Tietz ('94, Environmental Biology; '06, Wildlife) is the head biologist for PRBO's fall wildlife survey. For 13 weeks each year, Tietz is the scientific and physical custodian of Southeast Farallon Island, supervising wildlife surveys, managing interns and directly observing all the island's inhabitants. Throughout a given year, hundreds of different bird species stop to rest, feed and breed on the

Farallones, as do seals and sea lions, who in turn attract a loyal following of hungry great white sharks. Tietz and his crew take careful note of all of them.

Tietz's easygoing manner belies fierce attention to detail. “He never takes any shortcuts,” says fellow biologist Rob Fowler ('06, Wildlife), who worked with him on the island for three seasons. “He's very, very thorough.” In his five seasons on Southeast Farallon Island, Tietz has discovered Asian and eastern American birds blown wildly off course, and rare hybrids, such as a Philadelphia vireo / red-eyed vireo cross, whose identification earned publication in the journal *Western Birds*.

Tietz didn't grow up birding, and came to Humboldt with no clear plan for his future. “When I took Field Ornithology,” he recalls, “I didn't even know what a robin was.” Tietz credits HSU Professor Dan Norris' General Botany course for sparking his interest in field biology. “I was just blown away by how amazing biology is,” Tietz says. “It's always a source of amazement for me to step outside and catch a glimpse into the natural world and have a partial understanding of what's going on out there. That just keeps me wanting to learn more.”

Submit a class note: humboldt.edu/classnotes
or email: alumni@humboldt.edu

1950s

LEWIS SBRANA, 1956 Music Education, is enjoying retirement after 33 years teaching high school music. He is now on the other end of the spectrum, making music with the New Horizons Band of Sonoma County, in Santa Rosa, Calif.

JOHN CHERRY, 1959 Wildlife Management, retired in 1993; he was associate regional director for the National Park Service in San Francisco and spent 32 years with the U.S. Department of the Interior.

1960s

MICHAEL E. WALKER, 1962 Biological Sciences, is approaching the end of his real estate career in Sacramento, Calif. Michael lives on a two-acre property in Auburn, Calif., with his wife and two collies. During his recent visit to HSU in May 2010, he participated with the Tau Kappa Epsilon alumni group.

ROBERT ADAMS, 1964 Forestry, has retired several times and is now 12 years into a new “career” at Flight Safety International.

HARRY BARTLEY, 1966 History, has worked in his minor field as an applications engineer for the company Tektronix since graduation. Harry jokes that he is currently the only History major working at Tektronix. Computer Aided Drafting and Engineering have provided him a career path in teaching drafting classes at Marysville High School and providing training and support in computing and high technology.

SANFORD “SANDY” WILBUR, 1966 Wildlife, is celebrating 15 years of retirement after a 35-year career with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. He is about to celebrate 50 years of marriage to fellow alum Sally Harris, whom he met in the dorms in 1959. He is currently in the process of completing the manuscript for his fifth book, a history of California as told by the California condor.

JAMES (JIM) BONOMINI, 1968 Physical Education, retired from teaching at Red Bluff Union High School in June of 2003. He has six children and a grand total of six grandchildren. He is currently coaching American Legion baseball.

STEVE ASKAY, 1969 Wildlife, retired after teaching biology for 38 years in Ventura, Calif. He spends his free time surfing, fishing, walking his dogs and playing with his grandchildren. His wife, Cheryl Linnett ('70), is also retired and spends her free time with her horse and singing in her church choir.

1970s

CRAIG BASHORE, 1970 Psychology and Sociology, recently retired with his wife, Debbie, and bought a home in Astoria, Ore. They say it's quite a change after 35 years in the Palm Springs area, and are glad to be back “in the rain.”

CHARLES P. MEACHAM, 1970 Fisheries Biology, spent 50 years in Alaska as a commercial fisherman, seafood inspector for the U.S. Army and seafood processor for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. He is now living in Washington state with his wife, Charlene Heriot Meacham, ('69, Art), and has three children and three grandchildren.

Class Notes

PETER PEDROZA, 1970 Physical Education, retired after 35 years as an adapted physical education specialist. Peter lives on a comfortable three-and-a-half acre property in Monterey County with his wife of 37 years, Beatrice, who is a retired elementary school teacher. They have two children, Aaron and Abrahm.

KATHY McPIKE, 1971 Business, spent 12 years in New Orleans before moving back to California nine years ago. She is the manager of strategic planning and training for the California and Nevada Credit Union Leagues.

MICHAEL O'BOYLE, 1971 Natural Resources, retired in 2010 after 20 years in the natural resources field as an animal control officer. He is living in Madera County with his wife of 37 years, Kay, and has four children and six grandchildren.

DARLENE R. SCOTT, 1971 Home Economics, after earning her bachelor's degree at Humboldt State at age 40, she taught high school home economics in San Lorenzo, Calif. She then earned her master's degree in educational leadership at age 59. When her husband had a job opportunity in Valley Forge, Pa., she enrolled at the University of Pennsylvania and earned a doctorate in human sexuality education at age 65.

ROBERT WILLIAMS, 1971 Physical Education, retired in Texas in 2008 (and is loving it) after teaching for 36 years with Modesto City Schools. He is currently working in the life skills classroom (special education) at John Guyer High School in the Denton Independent School District as a classroom paraprofessional.

MARY ELLEN BOYNTON, 1974 and 1978 English, taught English and journalism at U.S. Department of Defense schools for 23 years in Germany, Bahrain and Japan. She retired in 2007 and returned to Humboldt County.

KATHY DUNN, 1974 Nursing, is currently working as the clinical nurse specialist at the Spinal Cord Injury Center with the Veterans Affairs San Diego Healthcare System. Dunn also moderates a website for people with spinal cord injuries (SCI). She was inducted into SCI Hall of Fame in 2008 and awarded Clinical Nurse Specialist of the Year award in 2003.

ROBERT KLAMT, 1974 Fisheries Biology, worked 32 years for the North Coast Water Quality Control Board, the last eight months of which were spent as executive officer. His work was mostly monitoring and assessing North Coast waters, and in the most recent years of his career, working with the timber industry on water quality issues. Robert retired in November of 2010.

JOHN S. WRIGHT, 1974 Journalism, is living in Kenmore, Wash., with his wife and two kids. He is the Latin America news editor for “Energy News Today,” and has recently published two books: “The Obama Haters” and “Life Without Oil.”

JEAN MCGURK, 1974 Psychology, has been a real estate agent since 1985 and lives in Stockton, Calif. Annually, she connects with a group of fellow HSU alums and their families for a summertime campout—they enjoy these so much that the ladies have developed splinter groups for spring and fall reunions.

JOSE BERRIOS, 1975 Physical Education, has taught for 32 years in Victorville, Calif., which includes coaching football and wrestling. He led his 1987 team to victory during the California Interscholastic Federation State Wrestling Championships along with head coach, and fellow HSU alum, Sam Gollmyer ('71, Physical Education.)



Submitted Photo

Veronica Vega

From Bio Lab to Brewery

“I DON’T THINK ABOUT the story of how I became a brewer very often,” says Veronica Vega. “But I always had a feeling that I would do something awesome.”

Vega (’03, Biology) didn’t grow up with aspirations to brew great beer—but that’s where she ended up. For the past five years, she has worked for Deschutes Brewery in Bend, Ore.

After changing her major from English to Biology and earning a bachelor’s degree at HSU, Vega landed a job working as a biology field technician for the National Park Service. “I was going from park to park,” she says. “It was exciting.”

But after spending time in Bend, Vega decided that was where she wanted to settle.

Although odd jobs weren’t too hard to find, Vega had trouble finding a career near her new home. “I was about to give up,” she says. “I even had a job interview in Portland for biological field work the same week that I was hired at Deschutes.”

If Vega had received the call from Deschutes just a few days later, chances are she would have left Bend for a bigger city. And, instead of working for the brewery, she could have found herself on quite a different career path.

In her current position as Bend Pub Brewer, Vega uses her lab skills to help maintain a smaller brew house, producing 12 barrels twice a week. But working on a smaller scale hasn’t diminished her love for the job.

“I have such an amazing job that I still almost pinch myself, I can’t believe it,” she says. “In just one week, my life could have been drastically different. I feel extremely lucky things turned out the way they did.”

MIKE LINKER, 1975 Geography, is blessed with a wonderful wife and two children. Linker has 34 years with the United States Forest Service growing millions of tree seedlings annually for reforestation.

CHRISTIE LEE FAIRCHILD, 1976 Natural Resources, left the National Park Service and U.S. Forest Service after 18 years to teach environmental education full time. After 18 years in education, she is back to her previous profession as a park ranger. Fairchild and her husband also farm organically, with the help of their mules, and have homesteaded in the upper Skagit (near North Cascades National Park) for almost 30 years where she says, “Visitors are always welcome!”

SHELLEY GARDNER, 1976 Art, moved to Oakland, Calif., in 1976 to attend graduate school at the California College of Arts and Crafts. She makes and exhibits sculpture primarily in the San Francisco Bay Area, and looks back fondly at her memories of HSU.

PATRICIA CARLON KUSHNER, 1976 Teaching Credential and 1977 Environmental Education, retired in 2006 from 25 years of teaching elementary school. She now works seasonally for the United States Forest Service in El Dorado National Forest.

RICHARD OHNSMAN, 1976 Journalism, retired after 28 years as a public information officer for the Idaho State Police. Richard is now running True Light Photography, a small photography and graphics business.

TIM HAMAKER, 1977 Fisheries Biology, has been on an assignment to Southern California since March 2010 as the environmental compliance manager for a \$1 billion wind energy project near the Tehachapi-Mojave region of California.

LEE ANN LANNING, 1977 Psychology, has been working with the Eureka City Schools District for 24 years in various positions, including school psychologist, director of special education and elementary school principal. Now head of human resources and special education, she has recently been appointed interim superintendent by the Eureka City Schools Board of Education.

ROY W. LOWE, 1977 Wildlife Management, is currently project leader for the Oregon Coast National Wildlife Refuge Complex. In 2005, he received the Refuge Manager of the Year Award from the National Wildlife Refuge System, and the Federal Land Manager of the Year Award from the U.S. Department of the Interior in 2006.

KEVIN TIGHE, 1977 Business Administration, is a certified payroll professional and assists about 100 payroll departments as a client service representative. He has a green thumb and enjoys growing orchids, palm and baubinia trees, cactuses and more. He reminisces about his days at HSU when he would help his friends with dendrology class, although as a business major he was never able to take a class himself. Tighe is a cancer survivor.

DUNCAN McCLUSKEY, 1978 Fisheries Biology, was in the Ecology Outdoor Group at HSU and has since continued volunteering his time in the community. He generally volunteers between 300-400 hours each year. Among his many areas of service, Duncan has volunteered at the local, state and international level with Special Olympics and has volunteered with Paralympics sports for 17 years.

DANIEL MANDELL, 1979 History, published his sixth book, “King Philip’s War: Colonial Expansion, Native Resistance, and the End of Indian Sovereignty” with Johns Hopkins University Press in fall 2010. The American Library Association named the book the 2010 Outstanding Academic Title.

EUGENE TASHIMA, 1979 Sociology, graduated from University of California, Los Angeles, in 1985 with a master’s degree in Asian American studies. He has since been teaching full-time at Victor Valley College, where he served as head football coach from 1987-99.

1980s

JOHN ALVES, 1980 Wildlife Management, moved to Colorado after graduation and has been employed by the Colorado Division of Wildlife for 22 years. John is currently senior aquatic biologist responsible for fisheries management in southwest Colorado. He has been married to his wife, Yvonne, for 27 years, and has a 12-year-old daughter, Shannon.

JAMES FREEMAN, 1980 English, has taught language and literature at Bucks County Community College in Newtown, Pa., for 29 years. A collection of his stories, “Irish Wake: In Loving Memory of Us All” will be published in 2012.

CATHRYN HALVORSON RUDOLPH, 1980 Psychology, notes that it has been 30 years since she and her husband attended HSU. This year it is a special treat to have both daughters attending Humboldt: Hollund, who will be graduating in May, and Lauryl, who just started last August. Both are on the science track and enjoying all that Humboldt has to offer.

DAVE MAUSER, 1980 Wildlife Management, is a supervisory wildlife biologist and was named the National Wildlife Refuge System Employee of the Year. Mauser was recognized for his work in developing the Walking Wetland Program where wetlands are part of the crop rotation with agricultural lands.

JOHN MOSSMAN, 1980 Physics, has been an electronics engineer for 30 years in industrial, consumer and medical product development.

SAM STERLING, 1980 Botany, has worked as an adjunct professor of botany at various University of California, California State University and California Community College campuses, and as an adjunct professor of trade skills. He has also worked for San Francisco Public Library and as a volunteer interpreter for Native American material culture, and studied ethnobotany and flint knapping at various California regional and state parks, Indian museums and the National Park Service.

ERIC WIEGERS, 1980 Journalism, is senior vice president of communications and local government affairs for the California Apartment Association in Sacramento, Calif. He has two kids who are both recent college graduates “finally.”

LAURALEE WOODRUFF, 1980 Psychology, entered HSU in 1976 with one infant, Kiersten, and graduated as LauraLee C. Webb in 1980 with another infant, Khalil. She is now practicing as a licensed mental health practitioner at the Community Mental Health Center of Lancaster County in Lincoln, Neb. With husband Nathan Woodruff, she is enjoying being grandparents of three, volunteering for disaster response with the American Red Cross and training a therapy dog.

PAULA PROCTOR, 1981 Nursing, has been employed as a registered nurse as St. Joseph Hospital in Eureka since she graduated. After working in Medical-Surgical units and Pediatrics for many years, she has been a Short Stay Unit nurse for the past dozen years. Paula and her husband, Michael, have three children: Mia, Gina and Jackson. Mia (HSU Communication graduate) was married last fall to Will Sheufelt (HSU Business graduate and Lumberjack basketball player).

JUDITH LANGLEY, 1982 English, stayed in the area, because, “It is so beautiful”. The climate is perfect: Neither too hot nor cold. She currently works with the U.S. Postal Service as postmaster of Fortuna, Calif.

PAUL SHEPPARD, 1982 Forestry, is an associate professor of dendrochronology at the University of Arizona and says he still relies on his Humboldt Forestry training quite a bit. He recently trekked around Argentina and Chile to collect tree samples near volcanic sites in the central Andes mountain range.

JIM HINDERLITER, 1983 Speech Communication, is a special needs science teacher at a middle school in Oceanside, Calif.

BILL MARTIN, 1983 Wildlife Management, is senior project manager at the URS Corporation, conducting environmental review, impact analysis and environmental permitting.



Submitted Photo

Campbell Ingram

Delta Conservancy’s First Director

CAMPBELL INGRAM (’91, Natural Resources Planning and Interpretation) is now the first director of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy.

The California legislature created the conservancy in 2010 to manage habitat restoration and economic development in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The area is the West Coast’s largest estuary and serves over 25 million people.

“The delta is a magical resource and an incredibly rich ecosystem, but there is a desperate need to get out and make real improvements,” Ingram says. “I am grounded in the delta, and I have a real sense of love for it. It’s not going to be easy, but I have a chance to help implement meaningful projects.”

Some of those projects include sustainable water delivery, balancing human and animal needs and hundreds of restoration efforts up and down the Central Valley.

The son of a military father, Ingram enrolled at Humboldt State while living with his family in Korea. Once in Arcata, he found his calling in Natural Resources Planning and Interpretation. He also met his wife, Kimberly.

When the two graduated, they traveled to Paraguay with the Peace Corps. Ingram later pursued environmental work from Texas to California, including projects in the delta region, working for the federal government, contracting with the military and later working with the nonprofit, Nature Conservancy.

Chester Mathis

Uncovering the Hidden Signs of Alzheimer’s



Submitted Photo

CHESTER MATHIS ('72, Chemistry) came to HSU as a pre-med student, but found he had a greater interest in chemistry than medical school. Still, he found a way to pursue both. “I do medicinally related chemistry,” he says. “It combines the best of both worlds. It turned out pretty well.” His decision turned out pretty well for the field of Alzheimer’s research. Mathis’ groundbreaking research garnered the Society of Nuclear Medicine’s Kuhl-Lassen Award in Brain Imaging in 2009 and the Paul C. Aebersold Award for basic science imaging research in 2010.

In addition, Mathis and his geriatric psychiatry research partner William Klunk were awarded the 2004 MetLife Foundation Award, the 2008 American Academy of Neurology’s Potamkin Award, and the 2009 Alzheimer’s Association’s Ronald and Nancy Reagan Award for Alzheimer’s disease research.

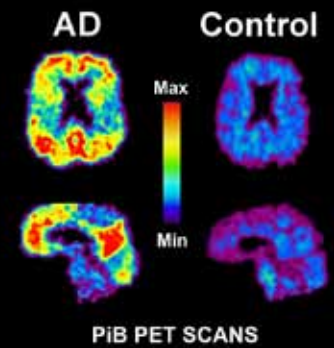
Mathis, valedictorian of HSU’s class of ’72, is currently an endowed chair professor of radiology and pharmaceutical sciences and director of the positron emission tomography—or PET—facility at the University of Pittsburgh. Together, he and Klunk developed a radiolabeled dye that makes it possible to identify amyloid—a substance found in the plaques associated with Alzheimer’s disease—in a living brain.

Previously, amyloid could only be found by doing an autopsy. By being able to identify people who might not yet have Alzheimer’s, but whose brains show amyloid build-up, researchers can better understand the disease.

It is now possible to not only see the effects of the disease as it progresses, but also to witness the effects of Alzheimer’s treatments.

Mathis views his work only as a starting point. “We were the first to show it’s possible (to trace amyloid in a living human brain),” he says. “But you can’t go back and replace the brain cells that have died. The name of the game is to detect it early and hopefully treat it early.”

Side by side scans of living brains show amyloid plaque in the patient with Alzheimer’s disease (left) and the absence of plaque in the control patient (right). The plaque is made visible with Mathis and Klunk’s traceable dye.



TOM DORST, 1984 Math, is currently the business manager for the propulsion and power generation business unit of the Northrop Grumman Corporation. Dorst continues to run when he can, participating in local races.

MICHAEL J. MORALES, 1984 Liberal Studies, joined the Peace Corps after graduation as an agro-forestry volunteer in the Philippines. He has been working for the National Park Service for the past 23 years and has spent the majority at Channel Islands National Park. He and his wife, Irma, have raised their two children in Ventura, Calif. Their daughter Maya starts school at HSU in the 2011 fall semester.

JEFF SCHORI, 1984 Forestry, has been appointed as the new unit chief for Tehama-Glenn Unit of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection and the Tehama County Fire Department.

PHILLIP W. KRAEMER, 1985 Business Administration, is currently living in Washington state and is a senior strategic account manager at WILD Flavors, Inc., and has over 25 years’ experience in the food science industry.

NANCY WEITZ, 1985 and 1988 Theatre Arts, went on to receive her doctorate in English from Ohio State University. She taught at various universities in the United States before moving to the United Kingdom in 1999. Weitz now runs her own company, Architela, which specializes in Internet strategy and online learning.

CHRIS BREY, 1987 Fisheries Biology, joined the Peace Corps after college as a fisheries volunteer in the Dominican Republic. He has worked as a fisheries biologist on the Bering Sea, and managed a salmon hatchery in Washington state. He has transitioned to environmental work in biotechnology industry and grew into a facilities management role, where he has been able to exercise his passion for sustainable business practices. He is married with two children and lives in Mountain View, Calif.

TERESA CHILDERS MATERA, 1988 Music, has been teaching elementary school music for the past five years in Alameda, Calif. She says she loves her job and is happy she finally gets to work in her field. Teresa lives in Martinez, Calif., with her wife, Fran, and two teenage boys, Zach, 17, and Ben, 14.

LYNN ENEMARK PRETZEL, 1988 Journalism, has remained local and is a college counselor and executive assistant at St. Bernard’s Catholic School in Eureka. She previously worked for the Times Standard and still does freelance writing and photography. Lynn enjoys spending time with her kids, Adam and Amanda, and working on her vintage tent trailer.

RENE GREG ESTRELLA, 1988 Wildlife Management, spent 20 years with the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve, then decided he would have more success in positively impacting the environment by educating inner-city youth in Los Angeles. He says that he is trying to be a role model for them, as well as create a few little environmentalists! He has been teaching since he graduated from HSU.

JAMES R. HAMILTON, 1988 NRPI, just recently went into retirement after 11 years as development services director for the city of Redding, Calif. Before he became top planner for Redding’s construction industry, he worked six years in the international armed forces. He spent part of his service at Mather Air Force Base outside of Sacramento as a flight controller, coordinating B-52s and Boeing KC-135 landings and departures on parallel runways. Hamilton plans to spend the early years of his retirement doing consulting and volunteer work, taking art and agriculture classes at Shasta College, and spending time with his 16-year-old daughter, Stephanie.

KATHLEEN (SALINAS) BAKER, 1989 Psychology, recently relocated to Seattle to begin work as director of housing and residence life at Seattle University. She lives with her husband, James, and three children: Adam, 6; Sarah, 5; and Ethan, 19 months.

KRISTI HANSON, 1989 Journalism, is teaching biology, marine biology, health and environmental studies in an inner-city high school in downtown Los Angeles.

1990s

MARIE BACHER, 1990 Liberal Studies, is a science coordinator for Santa Clara Unified School District and a mother of two, ages 4 and 13. She owns three bakeries with her pastry chef husband in the San Francisco Bay Area: Aki’s Bakery in San Jose, Calif.; Vienna Bakery in Fremont, Calif., and A Piece of Cake in Santa Clara, Calif.

LESLIE HENRY, 1990 Nursing, is a public health nurse with the California Tuberculosis Control Branch. She works as a nurse consultant in the multi-drug resistant tuberculosis service and the outbreak response team.

TOM SRAMEK JR., 1990 Psychology, has been priest-in-charge of St. Edward’s Episcopal Church in San Jose, Calif., since 2009.

JONATHAN TIMOTHY WRIGHT, 1990 Education, is married to Sue (Neal) Wright ('88), and is assistant principal and athletic director for the '10-'11 academic year at Emmett High School in Emmett, Idaho.

CHRIS OLDSTONE, 1991 Marine Fisheries, is raising three girls and fishing California spiny lobsters for a living; or, as he calls it, “Living the dream.”

JON DOHLIN, 1992 Biology, is currently the director of the New York Aquarium in New York City, and was recently promoted to vice president of the Wildlife Conservation Society.

AMY DURNELL, 1992 Recreation Administration, is a fifth grade teacher for the Lodi Unified School District and living in Galt, Calif., with her husband and two children, Shane, 9, and Marie, 2. She says she is looking forward to seeing her HSU family soon.

SANTINA PITCHER, 1992 Political Science, has worked at several universities throughout the years and has finally settled at University of California, Berkeley, as a career counselor. She has worked at Berkeley since 2010 with the College of Engineering and has served as a liaison to the Disabled Services Program.

JOANNE STRALEY, 1992 Philosophy, went on to graduate with a master’s of fine art degree in poetry from Columbia University in 2003. She now works at the University of California Berkeley Graduate School of Journalism. Joanne continues to publish her poems in various publications, including The Paris Review, Red China Magazine, and The Denver Quarterly. She lives in Berkeley, Calif., with her husband and two kids.

JAMES J. CONROY, 1993 Social Science, served 21 years in the Army National Guard, and has retired to work as a parole agent with the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation in Eureka. He plans to retire in the coming year and move to Alaska.

PEGGY MOLLOY, 1993 Art, currently has two featured programs on Humboldt Access Television: “Peggy Molloy Dance Class,” and “Serious Music Humboldt.” “Serious Music” features the work of HSU emeritus Music Professor Leland Barlow.

DALE POOLEY, 1993 Environmental Science, married alum Jennifer Wilcox, ('92 Environmental Education), after meeting while working at Redwood State Park. They have two sons, ages 8 and 6. Poole has been in environmental consulting for 12 years after working in the park and recreation industry and in museum science education. Wilcox is back with the California Department of Parks and Recreation after community relations work with utilities and water agencies. Wilcox is also program director of an outdoor science school.

PAUL RUNNELLS, 1993 English, is living and working in Las Vegas, Nev., as group reservations manager at the Venetian Hotel and Palazzo Resort, which entails coordination of all aspects of hotel room reservations for group events, trade-shows, and conferences.

ELLEN THERESA HALL, 1994 Physical Science, is currently living in Portland, Ore., with her family where she teaches chemistry, physics and earth science



Submitted Photo

Ryan Sundberg

A Tradition of Giving Back

RYAN SUNDBERG COMES FROM a tradition of public service: His uncle serves as chairman of the Trinidad Rancheria and for years, his grandmother shuttled between Sacramento and Washington, D.C., lobbying on behalf of Native Americans.

So it came as no surprise last year when Sundberg, who is of Yurok descent, decided to run for Humboldt County’s fifth district supervisor. The McKinleyville native won the seat in November on a campaign emphasizing job creation.

“I was brought up to give back,” says Sundberg ('02, Business Administration). Before taking office, he was an insurance broker and member of the tribal council for the Trinidad Rancheria, which operates a casino and harbor north of Arcata.

Sundberg recalls one particular experience at Humboldt State that significantly influenced his later success: an assignment from Professor Michael Thomas to write a business plan for a local business. Sundberg chose the Seascape Restaurant in Trinidad, which had recently been acquired by the Rancheria and was struggling financially. His suggestions, he recalls, were just what the restaurant needed to get back on its feet.

“Sometimes you go to school and you don’t know whether you’re going to apply what you’ve learned in the real world,” Sundberg says. “For me, it was different.”

Years later, Sundberg used the skills he acquired as a business student to help the Rancheria secure more than \$50 million in state and federal grants, fund several community improvement projects and create hundreds of local jobs.

“I think education was definitely a big piece of it,” Sundberg says. “I wouldn’t be in the position I am today without it.”

Marija Vojkovich

President Obama’s Pick for Fisheries Commission

MARIJA VOJKOVICH ('74, Fisheries Management) was recently appointed by President Obama as Commissioner in the Western and Central Pacific Fishery Management Commission for the Pacific Fishery Management Council. But her connection to the sea goes far beyond her work.

“I grew up on Catalina Island in a commercial fishing family,” she says. “I knew since I was in 8th grade that I wanted to work with fish.”

Vojkovich wanted to work as a fisher after high school, like her father and grandfather. But her father insisted she go to college first.

Humboldt State had one of only two fisheries programs in the Northwest, and Vojkovich decided to enroll. In the classroom, she learned to conduct

research and interpret data. But her father helped take her education even further.

“He’d take me to public meetings that NMFS (the National Marine Fisheries Service) was having for fishermen so I could be exposed to the issues and the process,” she says. “He encouraged me to have both sides of the picture.”

Considering all perspectives, including that of fishers, is a value that Vojkovich carried with her as she ascended the ranks of the California Department of Fish and Game.

“Our mission is to ensure that populations of animals can sustain themselves and provide people with an opportunity to enjoy them; and for those populations that aren’t, we can bring them to a level where they can sustain themselves and go on forever,” she says. “Fishers want that too.”



Submitted Photo

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at the high school level. She is building on the excellent science education she received at HSU by taking prerequisites to return to school to study evolutionary psychology. Ellen loved going to school at Humboldt, and she visits the Arcata area with her family every chance she gets.

CONRAD HUYGEN, 1994 Geography, has been promoted to lieutenant colonel with the U.S. Air Force. He is a judge advocate currently serving as an executive officer to the assistant vice chief of staff of the Air Force at the Pentagon.

ROSANE CENSOPLANO, 1995 Psychology, is living in her hometown of San Diego, Calif. She has been married seven years with four kids (the youngest are twin boys). She has been working at Rady Children’s Hospital of San Diego in the outpatient psychiatry department for the past 10 years as a child and family psychotherapist.

HELEN YOLISA DULEY, 1995 Liberal Arts, received her master’s degree in education from the University of Hawaii at Hilo in 2003, and worked as a school counselor until 2010. Helen has since begun her doctorate studies at the University of Cape Town, South Africa, with a focus on indigenous knowledge practices concerning health and well-being. She is presently conducting research in the rural Eastern Cape and volunteering at the community pre-school.

KEVIN KILPATRICK, 1996 Sociology, has had five young adult fantasy novels published, and has been invited to the Humboldt County Authors’ Festival in October 2011.

KATHY MOLEY, 1996 Geology, has been working out of McKinleyville, Calif., at the geologic consulting firm Pacific Watershed Associates for the past 13 years.

JENNIFER MOLINE, 1996 Journalism and Mass Communications, settled into deadline-free blogging and marketing for a Bay Area-based printing company. She loves living in Oakland, Calif., with her sister and two cats.

CAMERON ABEL, 1997 Science Illustration, recently published his first illustrations for a children’s book: “Kiko the Hawaiian Wave,” by Beth Navarro. He says his background with scientific illustration has made this a very new field for him, but he is learning a lot and really enjoying the creative outlet. His ultimate goal is to be connecting kids with nature.

ROBERT WEIR, 1997 Industrial Technology, is currently employed as a designer and engineer for the Double Star Corporation, which manufactures firearms in Winchester, Ky.

ELIZABETH P. HUNT, 1998 Recreation Leadership, married fellow alum Dennis Flaherty ('99 Environmental Science) in 2003, and is currently living in beautiful Bellingham, Wash., with her husband and two sons, Hayden and Kieran.

ADAM BEVERLY, 1999 Music, has been teaching music and English as a foreign language at a public school in Denmark for the past six years. On the side, he writes and records his own music, and currently has two singles on Danish National Radio.

GREGORY COLLINS, 1999 Anthropology and Geography, is currently the associate state archaeologist and cultural resources program manager for the North Coast Redwoods District of the California Department of Parks and Recreation.

CORY GADWOOD, 1999 Zoology, is working as a doctor of veterinary medicine at an all-feline hospital in Portland, Ore. Gadwood is working on his license for pet acupuncture.

MATT MALLE, 1999 Environmental Biology, has been working for the AECOM Technology Corporation as a biologist and project manager in California’s Inland Empire for more than 10 years.

LAUREN MAUCK, 1999 Liberal Studies Elementary Education, is currently living and teaching kindergarten in Soledad, Calif. For the past 10 years she has primarily taught the children of migrant farmers and enjoys it thoroughly. She has two children, Teagen, 12, and Kendrick, 9.

2000s

ALLEN ALDRIDGE, 2000 Industrial Technology, moved to Jamestown, Calif., where he manages Jamestown Harley-Davidson with his wife, Karen ('99 Recreational Administration). They have two children, a dog and a hamster.

MANJA ARGUE, 2000 Interdisciplinary Studies, is a published poet in three anthologies, and recently was accepted to be published by the San Francisco Bay Area Women’s Poet Society.

KATHARINE GOODENOUGH, 2000 Biological Sciences, won a two-year graduate fellowship from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the National Estuarine Research Reserve. She will be researching gull-billed tern foraging movements and diet at the Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve.

NATHAN GILBERT, 2001 Geography, is a father of two. He received a master’s degree in city and regional planning from the California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, in 2006 and is currently working as an associate planner for the city of Reno, Nev.

NATE MANLEY, 2001 Geology, has had two big events in his life this year. The first was the birth of his first child, a wonderful little boy named TJ, who he hopes will become a little Lumberjack someday. The second is that he has fulfilled one of his lifelong aspirations of becoming a college professor. Nate just completed his first semester as an adjunct professor at Yuba Community College teaching geology and earth science and loved every second of it.

DAWN ARLEDGE, 2002 Sociology, is working to reduce the number of youth killed in car crashes. She was awarded the Award of Excellence from the California Office of Traffic Safety and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

BEN BESHWATE, 2002 History, is currently an adjunct history instructor at Cerro Coso Community College after receiving his master’s degree from California State University, Fresno, in 2008.

ALEXIS GACH, 2002 International Studies, went on to receive a four-year professional diploma from Berkeley College of Music, studying voice and songwriting. She currently owns her own company, Miss Lexi Faye Presents!, where she teaches music and movement to pre-kindergarten to 4th grade children.

ZOE H. ARMSTRONG, 2003 Religious Studies, began serving in the Peace Corps in Armenia as a community and business development volunteer. Armstrong is currently a development specialist for a women’s resource center in Southern Armenia. She credits HSU’s Youth Educational Services program for giving her the opportunity with the Refugee Extension Program.

CHRISTIAN GANDY, 2003 Geology, is working for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as a senior geologist in Savannah, Ga.

MORGAN KING, 2003 Social Science, was recently hired as the sustainability and waste coordinator for Humboldt State, after five years as program manager for a sustainability nonprofit. King lives in Arcata with his wife and daughter.

MISTY MERSICH, 2004 Business Administration, graduated from San Jose State University with a master’s degree in urban and regional planning. She is pursuing a career in sustainable city planning and tackling climate change issues.

NICHOLAS J. OSBORNE, 2004 Sociology, completed his doctorate in 2010 at University of California, Davis, for educational administration and leadership. He was recently hired at the University of Illinois as the assistant dean of students and director of veterans programs.



Submitted Photo

Ken Pimlott

California’s Top Firefighter

KEN PIMLOTT ('89, Forest Resource Management) has been appointed director of the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) by Gov. Jerry Brown.

Pimlott follows another Humboldt State University graduate as head of the department. Del Walters ('77, Forest Resource Management) held the position from 2009 to 2010.

Based in Sacramento, Pimlott oversees the fire protection of over 31 million acres of privately owned California wild land. He also works with state and local agencies to respond to more than 5,600 fires and nearly 400,000 emergencies and natural disasters a year.

A native of Lafayette, Calif., Pimlott has nearly 30 years of fire service experience, including 23 years with CAL FIRE. He began his career at age 17 as a reserve firefighter in Contra Costa County and enrolled at HSU in 1984, studying under the mentorship of Forestry Professor Brooks Sibley.

“He was really instrumental in expanding the forestry curriculum and placing an emphasis on fire protection and forestry principles,” says Pimlott. “The depth of experience that I gained helped me understand both the technical and policy issues related to fire protection and forestry, which has helped me in my work.”

After joining CAL FIRE as a firefighter in 1990, Pimlott quickly rose through the ranks. He held various positions in fire protection and resource management before being appointed to lead the agency in July.

“To have worked my way up from a firefighter to leading the department has been extremely rewarding,” Pimlott says. “The best part about my job is collaborating with our local, state and federal partners to achieve the department’s mission which, at the end of the day, is ultimately about serving the public.”

SARAH REID, 2004 Social Science, is employed at KMUD-FM Redwood Community Radio as a general manager and station manager. She is married to Jessemyn Reid, with whom she plans to adopt a child.

SERENA ZELEZNY HALL, 2004 Journalism, is currently teaching marketing and copywriting at Southwest University of Visual Arts in Tucson, Ariz., and working as a communications consultant. She married Curtis Hall in June 2010.

WENDY MELLBERG HAECKER, 2005 Wildlife, received a master of arts degree in special education from San Francisco State University in 2008 and now works as a guide dog mobility instructor at Guide Dogs for the Blind in the San Francisco Bay Area.

BRIAN WELLS, 2005 International Studies, achieved his goal of working for the U.S. Department of State five years after graduating from HSU and after a three-year application process. He is a special agent with the Diplomatic Security Service, currently posted to the Washington Field Office in Washington, D.C.

SEAN CANTON, 2006 Journalism and Geography, is working as an interactive producer in Minneapolis. He just completed his work on VoteWithYourTaxes.com, a project he says is informed and inspired by his education and experience at HSU.

SEAN BROPHY, 2007 Wildlife Management, began his career with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at the Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge, but decided to trade in the rain, fog and abalone for the sun, desert and elk of New Mexico. He is now the wildlife refuge specialist at Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge in San Antonio, N.M.

MICHELLE GIENGER, 2007 History and Economics, married James Corcoran on in 2007 ('05 Business Administration, '06 Credential). Gienger graduated from Golden Gate University School of Law with a juris doctorate in 2010. She works as a federal investigator with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in Oakland, Calif.

LAUREN TAYLOR, 2007 Native American Studies, works for the Yurok Tribe as a tutor where she is dedicated to helping the students succeed at Del Norte High School.

LELA ANNOTTO-PEMBERTON, 2008 Dance Studies, is currently a first year candidate for a master of fine arts degree in dance at Mills College with an emphasis in choreography and performance.

CHRISTOPHER ROBERTSON, 2009 Anthropology, just accepted an offer of admission into the Asian Studies master's degree program at the University of California, Berkeley. He will be focusing on China studies during the fall of 2011. During the two-year program, he is hoping to take an extra year to study Chinese abroad in both China and Taiwan.

DUSTIN DETWEILER, 2010 Rangeland Resource Science, worked as a range conservationist in the student career experience program for the Natural Resources Conservation Service. Detweiler now works with the service as a range management specialist, working on ecological site descriptions for the Joshua Tree National Park Soil Survey and other surveys in the Mojave Desert.

JESSICA PETERS, 2010 Anthropology, has been accepted to the anthropology doctorate program at University of California, Los Angeles, with full funding for four years. Peters will be studying under anthropology Professor Sherry Ortner.

MARY PRELLE, 2010 Native American Studies and Psychology, is working on her master's degree in addiction studies and family counseling online through Grand Canyon University in Arizona. She hopes to work with veterans and the Native American community.

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Department of Alumni Relations
1 Harpst Street, Siemens Hall, Room#215
Arcata, CA 95521

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Homecoming & Family Weekend

Sept. 30 through Oct. 2
Humboldt State University

humboldt.edu/homecoming



HSU Volleyball Home Games

Oct. 19 • 7 p.m.
vs. Sonoma State
• • •

Oct. 21 • 7 p.m.
vs. Cal State Monterey Bay
• • •

Oct. 22 • 7 p.m.
vs. Cal State East Bay
• • •

Nov. 11 • 7 p.m.
vs. Cal Poly Pomona
• • •

Nov. 12 • 7 p.m.
vs. San Francisco State

HSU Football Home Games

Oct. 1 • 6 p.m.
vs. Dixie State College

(Homecoming & Family Weekend!)
• • •

Oct. 29 • 6 p.m.
vs. Simon Fraser University
• • •

Nov. 12 • 1 p.m.
vs. Western Oregon University

Brigadoon

Presented by the Dept. of
Theatre, Film & Dance

Oct. 13-15, 20-22 • 7:30 p.m.
Van Duzer Theatre

Tickets 707 826-3928



Pink Martini

Nov. 5 • 8 p.m.
Van Duzer Theatre

Tickets 707 826-3928



Arcata Farmer's Market

Every Saturday until Nov.
12 • 9 a.m.
Arcata Plaza

humfarm.org



They Might Be Giants

Nov. 11 • 8 p.m.
Van Duzer Theatre

Tickets 707 826-3928



Big Bad Voodoo Daddy

Wild and Swingin'
Holiday Party

Dec. 4 • 8 p.m.
Van Duzer Theatre
Tickets 707 826-3928

See more HSU events at: humboldt.edu/events



THINGS



[Outdoor Adventures]



Humboldt is known for outdoor adventures. Even *National Geographic Traveller* has caught on, calling Arcata one of the next great adventure towns. HSU's Center Activities gets students, staff, faculty and alumni into the outdoors with a host of classes and workshops.

meet humboldt



DU CHENG ('11, Biology) is a Cellular Molecular Biology exchange student from the Henan province of the People's Republic of China. Since transferring to HSU, he has been recognized for his original research on tick-borne disease. In 2011, Cheng was named an HSU Outstanding Student. He is continuing his education through an M.D.-Ph.D. program at Stanford University and hopes to eventually become a medical researcher.

MAKING BREAKTHROUGHS ▶ "Curiosity is where my passion comes from. The research project I'm doing is something original. After I do this, it's going to actually contribute to the scientific community."

CULTURE SHOCK ▶ "I found out that there was a Chinatown in Humboldt, but in the 1850s it was moved to San Francisco. I want to help bring diversity into this university. If you've never been to China, I can bring China to you."

HELPING HAND ▶ "I feel international students need a lot of help figuring things out and adjusting to American culture. Since I've been through it, I want other students to get through it and be successful, too. I like to help, even if it's just picking up international students at the airport."

TECH TOYS ▶ "I like to take things apart and put them back together to see how they work. I like to come up with new ideas too. Anthony Baker helped me make an adapter that allows me to take high-quality photos through my microscope—on my iPhone!"

meet more humboldt students

humboldt.edu/meet



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*Valentina Midence—daughter of Stephanie Yanzer ('05) and Pablo Midence
and a member of the HSU class of 2032.*

