

Humboldt

The Magazine of Humboldt State University | Fall 2019



Humboldt Welcomes New President Tom Jackson, Jr.

fall 2019

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ON THE COVER: President Tom Jackson, Jr. met the campus community in the Kinesiology & Athletics Building for "Coffee and Conversation." The event was one of several held in the first two months of his tenure.

ON THIS PAGE: More than half a million shorebirds were counted during a 2018 survey, a result that upgraded the importance of Humboldt Bay to the conservation of shorebird species. Wildlife Professor Mark Colwell continues to lead surveys to better understand how shorebirds populate the Humboldt Bay area year-round.



Getting to Know Humboldt

Tom Jackson, Jr.'s first few months as president have been a whirlwind!

Learn more about him and his vision for HSU on page 24.

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CHATTING WITH CELEBRITY CHEF GUY FIERI AT THE COUNTY FAIR.



SHARING A FIST BUMP AT A CRABS BASEBALL GAME.



VISITING A LUMBER MILL IN SCOTIA.



CHEERING AT THE HSU FAMILY PICNIC.

Humboldt

The Magazine of Humboldt State University

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St. Joseph Health Invests \$2 Million in North Coast Nursing Program

Grant kick-starts permanent endowment

OFFICIALS FROM HUMBOLDT STATE UNIVERSITY and College of the Redwoods recently joined state Sen. Mike McGuire to celebrate and thank St. Joseph Health, Humboldt County (SJH-HC) for making a \$2 million grant to help launch the RN to BSN nursing program at HSU.

Health care leaders and elected officials from across the county were on hand as the grant was announced in March at Humboldt State University. Many of them, including McGuire, have been part of the coalition that has been instrumental in establishing the North Coast Bachelor of Science in Nursing program.

“As a nonprofit health care organization, St. Joseph Health, Humboldt County is blessed to be in a position to sustain the rich legacy of caring for our community that our founding Sisters chartered nearly a century ago,” said Roberta Luskin-Hawk, M.D., chief executive, SJH-HC. “It is with this deep understanding of our commitment to serve our dear neighbors that we enter into this momentous partnership with HSU.”

The \$2 million grant is a major investment in enhancing health care and addressing the nursing shortage on the North Coast. SJH-HC is providing the grant through its Community Benefit program, which designates a portion of the organization’s annual operating expenses for investing in the health and wellness of the community.

“There is a severe nursing shortage on the North Coast and it’s impacting the health and well-being of patients and increasing the cost of delivering health care,” said McGuire, who has spearheaded the launch of the BSN program on the North Coast with Humboldt State and the College of the Redwoods. “We are truly grateful for St. Joseph Health stepping up and making a major investment to the nursing endowment and for the groundbreaking partnership of HSU and the College of the Redwoods who are leading the way to educate the next generation of nurses on the North Coast.”

The RN to BSN program will allow registered nurses who already have an associate’s degree to complete their bachelor’s degree in

nursing. The additional education will enable nurses to meet new hiring educational requirements some hospitals have implemented which require a BSN degree and allow them to prepare for leadership or advanced clinical training such as nurse practitioner roles. The program will also ensure the North Coast is educating its own nurses, which will make the entire health care system more resilient and create hundreds of family-sustaining careers in the years to come. Nurses will be able to continue working while completing the program.

Based on discussions with health care providers throughout the area, the curriculum is focused on particular needs of the North Coast: preparing nurse leaders who understand health disparities, rural needs, and cultural humility, and who can advocate for the physical and psychosocial health of the region’s communities. On-site training will take place at St. Joseph Hospital and other health care facilities throughout the region.

HSU President Tom Jackson, Jr., stressed the long-term benefits of the program. “This program is more than about attaining a degree,” he said. “Nurses will be learning, working, and living alongside the very community they’ll assist. We’re so thankful to all our partners and supporters for helping us grow our healthcare workforce and improve the health and wellbeing of our region.”

Efforts to develop the RN to BSN program have been under way for nearly three years, following a pivotal gathering of health care leaders, and CR and HSU officials. At that meeting, there was broad agreement on the need for such a program and commitments to support it.

In the last few months, University officials and others have launched a campaign for the first phase of an endowment to support the program. The University has also hired Kimberly Perris as the new director to lead the program. The leadership shown by St. Joseph gives the effort significant momentum to meet the goal of enrolling the first students by Fall 2020.



Starting in Fall 2020, students in the College of the Redwoods’ RN program (below) can pursue their bachelor’s degree in Nursing at HSU. The BSN program is made possible by a \$2 million grant from St. Joseph Health, Humboldt County. The grant was announced by state Sen. Mike McGuire (left) and others at a ceremony earlier this year at HSU.



2018 Sees Highest Graduation Rate in History

HSU'S CLASS OF 2018 broke records, with graduation rates for first-time and transfer students hitting all-time highs. The progress was thanks in part to several initiatives designed to support student success.

HSU's four-year graduation rate for first-time freshmen has increased from 14.5 percent in 2015 to 21.9 percent in 2018 (a 51 percent increase). The six-year graduation rate for first-time freshmen has increased from 46.5 percent in 2015 to 52.4 percent in 2018 (a 13 percent increase). The two-year graduation rate for transfer students has increased from 26.5 percent in 2015 to 37.2 percent in 2018 (a 40 percent increase).

HSU's success reflects efforts under the California State University system's Graduation Initiative 2025. The goals of this system-wide initiative are to increase graduation rates while reducing opportunity gaps for first-generation and traditionally underrepresented students, and for Pell grant recipients.

"We invested strategically in academic and social resources—two factors that can affect students' success at Humboldt State," says former Interim Vice Provost Rock Braithwaite.

To address retention and graduation, the University have undertaken several efforts, which has included hiring more tenure-line faculty. Over the last four years, more than 50 tenure-track faculty have been hired, and the student-faculty ratio had dropped from 22:1 to 20:1 by Fall '18.

In addition, students were offered more sections of courses that are repeated often, have low rates of success, or are in high demand. GI 2025 funds helped lower costs for summer bottleneck courses students needed to graduate.

The University also focused on: conducting a course audit and alert campaign for students on the cusp of graduation; reducing the number of students on academic probation through academic advising and peer mentoring; contacting students who are nearing graduation and encouraging them to enroll and finish; improving student orientation and increasing student and family engagement.

"We've made progress, and there's more to be done. We're actively working to improve students' experience at all stages of their college career so they can stay on track for graduation," Braithwaite said.



Professor Honored on National LGBTQ Wall of Honor

THE LATE ERIC ROFES, a scholar, activist, and professor of Education, was honored this year for his work in queer liberation and social justice on the National LGBTQ Wall of Honor at the Stonewall Inn in New York City.

Rofes, who died in 2006, was instrumental in developing the Multicultural Queer Studies minor at HSU (which later became part of the Department of Critical Race, Gender & Sexuality Studies) and is the namesake of the Eric Rofes Multicultural Queer Resource Center, which supports LGBTQ students and continues his community organizing efforts around queer, anti-racist, and feminist activism. He founded and led gay organizations in major U.S. cities, authored groundbreaking books on gay men's health, and organized national meetings on gay and lesbian issues.

"Eric was a whirlwind of energy and brilliance at HSU and in the world, and I miss him daily," says CRGS Professor Christina Accomando. "His influence continues to be felt through our curriculum, our student organizations, and Eric's former students who continue to do amazing things to make this a better world."

Activist and Professor Eric Rofes is the namesake of HSU's Eric Rofes Multicultural Queer Resource Center.



Immigration Legal Help Comes to Campus

THE CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM announced recently a plan for the provision of immigration legal services for CSU students and employees.

The California Department of Social Services has contracted with four providers throughout the state to deliver legal services to all CSU campuses, including HSU. The rollout of services is expected to be phased in over the next six months.

Attorneys, paralegals and/or accredited representatives from the service providers will visit campuses on a routine basis. Initially, the types of legal services offered will be limited to general consultations, DACA renewals, and general assistance in filling out forms.

Dan Saveliff, Humboldt State's liaison for the CSU service and director of the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP), says providing access to this service—available to HSU students, faculty and staff—will help meet a major need for the campus community.

"We don't have immigration legal services in our region, as far south as Santa Rosa and east to Redding," says Saveliff. "We have advocacy and support programs on campus and in the local community, but immigration law requires expertise that's not accessible. So we're excited the campus will have access to that expertise."

"We have advocacy and support programs on campus and in the local community, but immigration law requires expertise that's not accessible. So we're excited the campus will have access to that expertise." — Dan Saveliff

Starting in September, an immigration lawyer from the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights will be on campus for a few days each month to provide legal assistance at the EOP office. While undocumented students receive priority for legal services appointments, students who are from mixed-status families (regardless of the student's own citizenship or residency status) may also have immigration questions and are invited to make an appointment as well. Employees are also eligible for appointments.

For full details, go to hsu.link/immigration-legal-services



Children's Center West Elevation
C Street View

Trinity Annex Will Become Hub of Children's Services

HSU HAS RECEIVED \$8.6 MILLION to rebuild the Trinity Annex to house the University's Children's Center. The Child Development Laboratory is also exploring opportunities to relocate to the remodeled space.

This project will allow more children to receive services, improve efficiency of operations and sustainability, open the programs' current location to development, and reduce the amount of maintenance needed for campus infrastructure.

The renovation of the Trinity Annex, at 14th and B streets on the south end of campus, is possible thanks to \$8.6 million in one-time funding from the State of California Budget allocated by the CSU Office of the Chancellor. The project is expected to be completed in fall 2021.

The existing Trinity Annex building will undergo extensive work, but will retain the aesthetic of the west, original building. The building will be rebuilt to its current footprint design and complementary to the existing architecture. Built in 1944, the building served as the Trinity Hospital until 1972. The HSU Foundation purchased the property and in 2018 transferred ownership to the University.

Under the University's plan, the renovated facility will include play yards and better pedestrian and traffic circulation.

"We are very excited for this move," says Children's Center Director Betsy Wilson. "This new facility will allow us to increase our ability to continue our mission of providing high quality childcare to



families in the University community, as well as training opportunities for the many student assistants we employ."

A report commissioned by HSU found that early childhood education and the mission and values of the University are profoundly interrelated, and that child care is central to campus life for many students, staff, and faculty.

"Faculty and staff at the Child Development department and Child Development Lab are excited about this proposal," says Hyun-Kyung You, Child Development Lab program leader. "Overall, this potentially helps us continue our vision and mission, and do even better at what we have been proudly doing."

Established in 1971, the HSU Children's Center has continually provided affordable, subsidized, high-quality child care and early education programs for children aged three months to five years for HSU students, staff, and faculty families. Along with providing a broad range of comprehensive services to families, the Children's Center also employs student assistants as supervised "teachers in training" each semester.

For 50 years, the Child Development Lab, as a part of the Department of Child Development, has been a special environment designed to provide a model preschool for children, create a learning center for University students and faculty, support and educate parents of young children, and serve as a research and instructional center.

Big Drop in Humboldt Student Debt



IT'S A SURPRISING TREND and a bit of a well-kept secret. Even as the nation's average student loan debt has steadily climbed, it has actually been going down for students at Humboldt State University.

An analysis by HSU's Office of Financial Aid found the average debt for an HSU student who graduated with a bachelor's degree has dropped from \$20,982 in 2008-09 to \$12,743 in 2017-18.

Meanwhile, the opposite trend has been underway across the nation and in California.

In 2016-17, the national average debt of students who earned bachelor's degrees was \$28,350, the state average was \$22,744

and within the California State University system—where tuition remained steady from 2011-12 to 2016-17—the average debt was \$16,625, according to the CSU.

"We all know the country is in the middle of a student debt crisis, so it's encouraging to see our average loan debt steadily falling," says HSU Financial Aid Director Peggy Metzger. "Some of this has to do with showing students how to manage their money."

For more information, go to finaid.humboldt.edu/costs/money

Understanding the Law and Student Rights

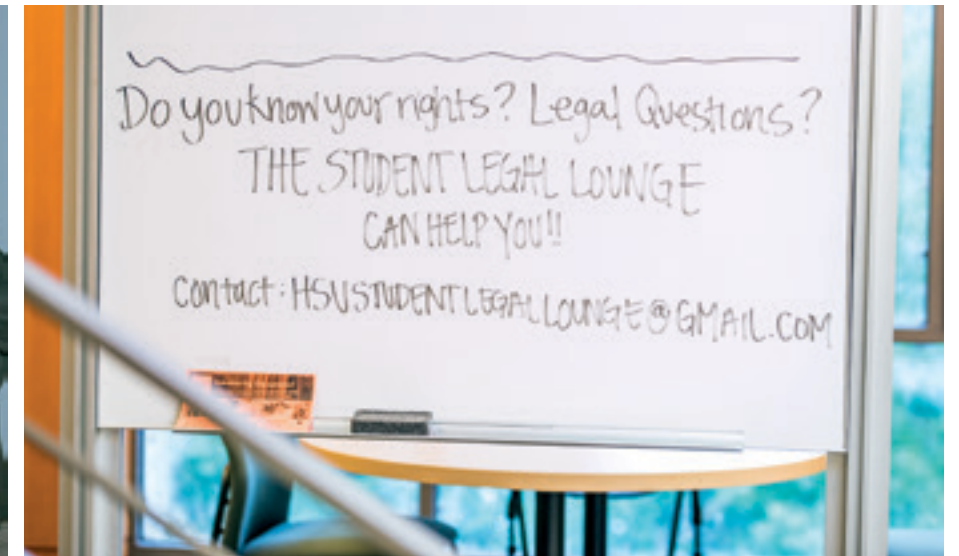
STUDENTS AT HUMBOLDT are known to be passionate, conscientious thinkers with a desire to change the world. That's exactly what they're doing through the Student Legal Lounge (SLL).

Funded by Associated Students, the student-run SLL helps the HSU and local community understand legal issues and their rights, and it connects them with legal resources.

Jessica Jane Richard ('19, Philosophy), who directed the SLL with Kimberly Nguyen, says the service is a great way to keep Humboldt State's community informed of their constitutional rights. The most common legal issue students need help with is tenant rights.

"Students may have a hard time finding and understanding when it's appropriate to assert their constitutional rights, and since we live in such a remote area, it can be difficult to access to legal information," she says. "However, our purpose is not to provide legal counseling and advice, it's to provide assistance to students in researching their options regarding legal matters."

The SLL's primary source of outreach is its mobile cart, which can be found on campus during athletic events and on the Quad. SLL provides volunteers with the opportunity to gain a better understanding of the legal system and suggestions on how to interact with law enforcement officials.



Left to right: Cole Haselip ('19, Political Science), Jessica Jane Richard ('19, Philosophy), and Joseph Kleist ('18, Environmental Studies) made up part of the Student Legal Lounge (SLL) team last year. SLL is a legal resource for the campus and the local community

When it Comes to Identifying Plants, We're #1 in the Nation

By Aileen Yoo & Andrea Corona

HUMBOLDT STATE UNIVERSITY science students and alumni know their plants.

For the second consecutive year, HSU placed first in the nation and third in North America in the annual Plant ID Contest held at the Society for Range Management's convention at Minneapolis earlier this year.

Team members were Eric Garcia ('19, Rangeland Resource Science), Sierra Berry ('19, Rangeland Resource Science), Tess Palmer ('19, Rangeland Resource Science), Rangeland Resource Science majors Thomas Mendoza and Louise Martin, Cecily Sanchez ('19, Environmental Science & Management), Alyssa Boyd ('18, Rangeland Resource Science), and Corina Godoy ('18, Environmental Science & Management).

They were among 156 students representing 24 North American universities, which included programs from large agricultural schools like Texas A&M. The colleges to beat, however, were two universities that have dominated the competition: Universidad Autónoma Agraria Antonio Narro in Mexico and The University of Alberta in Canada.

"We had a fantastic group that was dedicated and studied hard for this competition," says team coach Todd Golder ('00, Rangeland Resource Science), an HSU instructor and former member of the team.

The contest requires knowledge and speed as students faced the tough task of identifying 100 plants, mostly grasses, with only 50 seconds to figure out (and spell correctly) the family/tribe, genus, species, origins, and longevity of each plant.

Golder says the first 50 plants were easily identifiable. From there, things got tough. "The next 25 plants had something unique about them, and the remaining 25 were oddballs, impacted by factors such as overgrazing or brush management or fire. These last ones determine where you're going to rank."

He says about 45 percent of the students who competed were able to identify at least 60 plants. "It gives you an idea of the level of knowledge you need to have to pass this test."

The highest scoring HSU team member was Garcia, who ranked eighth overall and graduated in May. To prepare for the Plant ID Contest, students like Garcia take Rangeland Resource Science 475 (Advanced Study of Range Plants), which is offered every semester and taught by Golder. The class covers plants that range from California coastal areas to the East Coast, Canada, and Mexico. [H](#)

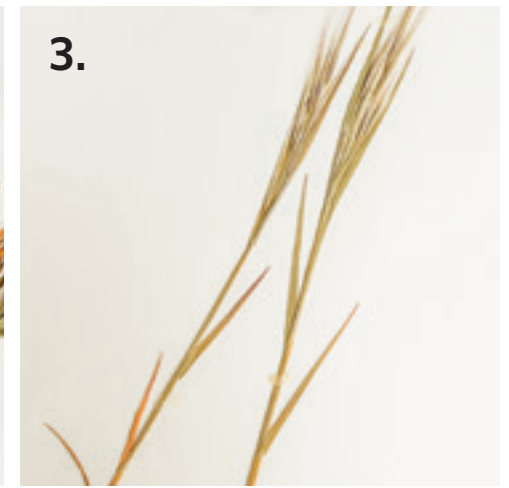


For more than 30 years, two suitcases full of plant samples have traveled with the team for competition. This year was no different. Coach Todd Golder (top) used those samples to help Louise Martin (left) and her teammates (below) prepare themselves for the big contest.



QUIZ ANSWERS:

1. *Sporobolus airoides*, native, perennial, grass
2. *Wyethia mollis*, native, perennial, forb
3. *Bouteloua hirsuta*, native, perennial, grass
4. *Fallugia paradoxa*, native, perennial, shrub
5. *Danthonia californica*, native, perennial, grass
6. *Liatris punctata*, native, perennial, forb
7. *Artemisia nova*, native, perennial, shrub
8. *Andropogon virginicus*, native, perennial, grass
9. *Krascheninnikovia lanata*, native, perennial, subshrub
10. *Bouteloua gracilis*, native, perennial, grass



PLANT POP QUIZ

.....

What does it take to win the Society for Range Management's Plant ID Contest?

.....

Identify 100 North American plants by their scientific name (bonus points if you can pronounce them) and whether they're native or introduced, and a perennial or annual. You'll also need to figure out if they're a grass or a grass-like herb, shrub, tree, or forb (herbaceous flowering plant).

GO AHEAD—GIVE IT A TRY!

Answers on pg. 10



7.



Who Composed the Alma Mater?

Setting the record straight about Humboldt's official song

By Aileen Yoo

FUN FACT: Humboldt State has an alma mater, and it was written in 1943 by a student named Joyce Bruner ('45, Music Education).

The alma mater, HSU's official song, is a piece of University music tradition. While generations of students have heard it, they may not have realized what they were listening to in the first place.

Alma maters are anthems for universities and high schools you'd hear at the end of college athletic competitions. The Marching Lumberjacks advisor Scott Gerving says the band has performed the song for decades.

Bruner's place in HSU history would have been forgotten had it not been for her daughter, Sally Luotto, who set out to confirm something she had heard decades earlier: that her mother composed the University's official song.

"I'm proud of her connection to Humboldt history. There aren't many people who can say their mother wrote a school's alma mater," says Luotto.

Her quest began after an accidental discovery. "I read something that mentioned the composer of HSU's alma mater was unknown, which I knew wasn't true. That's what started all of this," she says.

After doing some digging, she visited HSU's News & Information office one day last November. She came bearing snapshots of a decades-old newspaper story about her mom and snippets from Humboldt State College yearbooks—proof Luotto hoped the University needed to help set the record straight.

What Luotto didn't know was that on the third floor of the HSU Library, hidden among the Special Collections archives, was the original sheet music of the song. When Luotto was given a copy of the rediscovered document, she was stunned. She pointed out the longhand and Bruner's signature written at the top of the page.

"I see this and feel very close to her—her handwriting and style of music notation was so unique and familiar," says Luotto.

So who was Joyce Marian Bruner? She was raised in Ferndale and became an elementary school teacher. A product of the Depression era and World War II, she often buffed and waxed her linoleum kitchen floor to make it last. Music was a big part of her world. So was Humboldt State College, where she and her twin sister enrolled in 1941 and met two football players, their future husbands.

"My mom loved her years at Humboldt State College. When those four got together, they always reminisced about Humboldt, how it formed them, and how much fun it was," Luotto recalls.

The story goes that Bruner, who was in a campus madrigal group, entered a contest to compose the alma mater and won.

Luotto has more anecdotes from her own days as an HSU student in the late '60s and early '70s. There was the time her Music Professor Lee Barlow made a surprising announcement in class one day.

"We're standing on the risers when he says, 'I want to introduce you to a new member. This is the daughter of the lady who wrote the alma mater,'" Luotto recalls. She received a similar introduction by Music Professor Charlie Fulkerson during his music appreciation class.

Not long after, Luotto asked her mom why she never mentioned the song, Bruner responded: "Well, I didn't think anybody would be particularly interested in that."

Bruner died in 2007, though when Luotto looks at the sheet music, her mom is with her. "I feel like she's right here again. That's her handwriting and it's so amazing." 📖

Watch the alma mater being performed at hsu.link/alma-mater



Bruner's place in HSU history would have been forgotten had it not been for her daughter, Sally Luotto, who set out to confirm something she had heard decades earlier: that her mother composed the University's official song.



Professor Gil Cline, instructor Rachel Samet (conductor), and others from the Music department rallied singers and brass musicians to perform the Alma Mater in Fulkerson Hall earlier this year. Sally Luotto—the daughter of the song's composer, Joyce Bruner—was in the audience.





Campus Scene

Putting CCAT to Good Green Use

The Campus Center for Appropriate Technology (CCAT) is a live-in eco-demonstration home staffed and funded by Associated Students. Their goal is to leave the lightest carbon footprint possible by using and testing technology that is environmentally, socially, and financially sustainable. Take a tour!

1 Each year, three students call the Buck House home. The top floor features recycled bamboo floors, thermal curtains, and walls painted with a concoction of flour, clay, and natural pigment.

CCAT's partial answer to food refrigeration is Humboldt's cool air, which flows through an open vent of a "cold box." The "hot box," on the other hand, is an insulated kitchen cabinet drawer that retains enough heat to cook rice (just add hot water). Warm water is courtesy of two solar-thermal cells on the roof connected to the water heater.

2 The bottom floor serves as a public space for CCAT workshops and classes. There's also a seed-swapping station, a library, and, for those who prefer sun-dried socks, a clothes rack.

3 Equipped with solar panels, pedal-power bicycle generators, and other devices, the MEOW (Mobile Energy On Wheels) demonstration trailer brings CCAT's eco-education to the campus.

4 A rainwater catchment system makes perfect sense in Humboldt. Rain from the roof flows into PVC pipes to a cistern where it's filtered and stored in a tank.

5 Cob—a mixture of sand, clay, and straw—is the cornerstone of the bench, tool shed, and oven.

6 CCAT's greenhouse is made more efficient from the veggies planted in the ground to maximize growing space. The back wall is also insulated with invasive beach grass.

7 The cob terrace teaching garden grows plants that are native to different regions, including Black Emmer Wheat—an ancient grain that was cultivated in Mesopotamia.

8 The lawn garden is, as its name implies, a lawn converted into 10 edible garden beds—among the 35 that are on CCAT grounds.

9 A giant worm-filled bin turns yard waste and food scraps into compost used to fertilize CCAT gardens.

10 Modeled after the traditional Mongolian structure, has a plywood body topped by shingles made of upcycled cans. Glass Coca-Cola bottles embedded into the roof filter sunlight and cast a natural, ethereal glow inside.

Learn more ccat.humboldt.edu

Getting Back in the Game

Humboldt Concussion Program continues and expands its work

By Grant Scott-Goforth

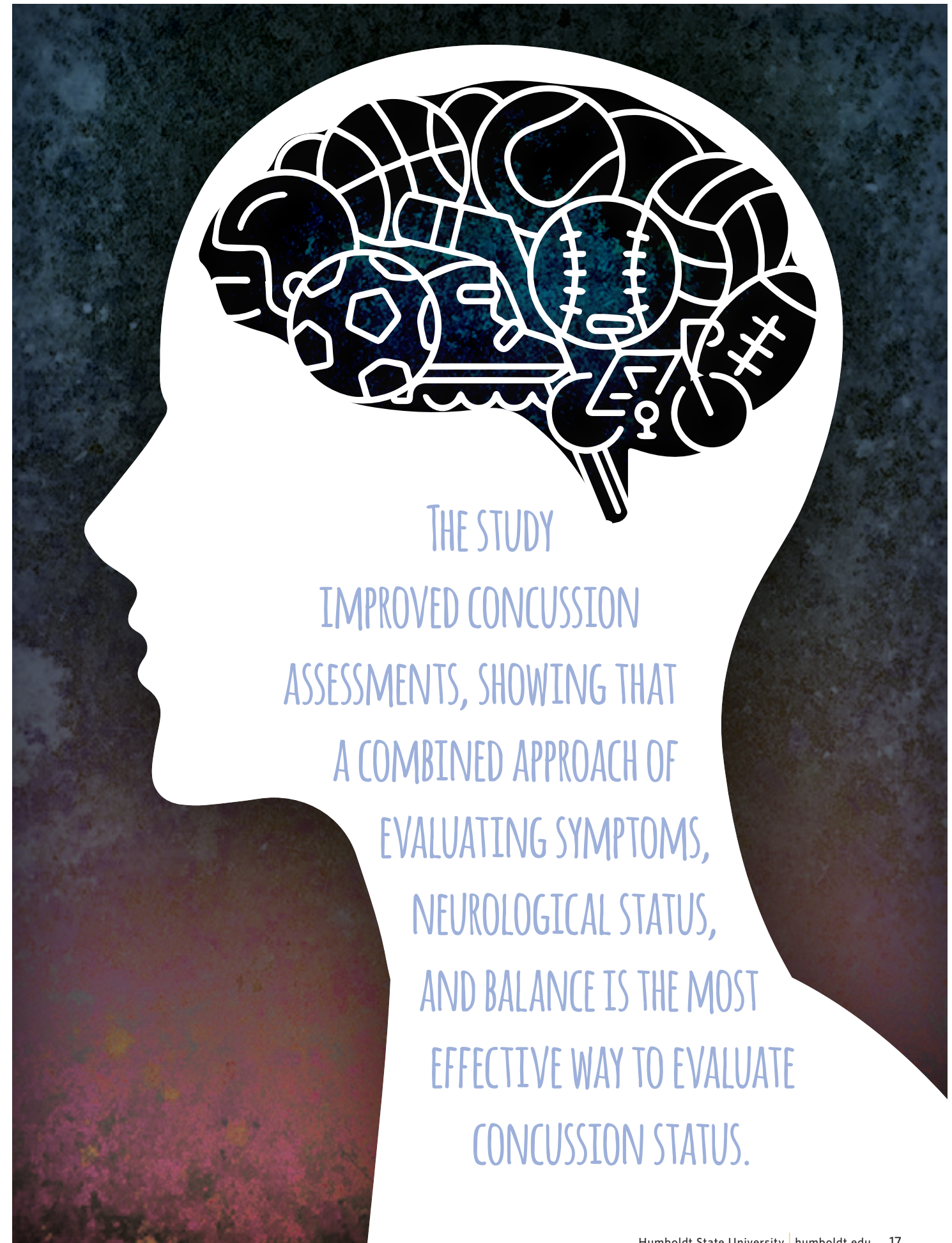
Erica McMullen is a competitive person. She logged thousands of minutes of playtime as defender on HSU's Women's Soccer Team, starting more than two dozen games.

She also suffered three concussions,—all during games—between 2012 and 2015. The symptoms ranged from pain and sensitivity to light to cognitive issues—and she was unable to attend classes after her final concussion.

"Sitting out was not something I was ever used to," she says.

BECAUSE OF THOSE INJURIES, McMullen was an early participant in HSU's North Coast Concussion Program (NCCP), which began in 2010 and expanded in 2015. Today, the program is still going strong as HSU joins a massive national effort to improve the understanding, diagnosis of and recovery from concussions, while preparing HSU students for careers and serving thousands of college and high school athletes and community members.

At its most basic, the NCCP has two functions: research and service. Program staff and students provide education and best practice care to students and community members. They invite student-athletes and local community members for baseline testing that provides a sense of their cognitive functioning. Working with the University's NCAA athletes, the program collects data on concussions—causes, diagnoses, and recovery—refining the tests that help them evaluate the injuries, and contributing that information to the national study.



THE STUDY
IMPROVED CONCUSSION
ASSESSMENTS, SHOWING THAT
A COMBINED APPROACH OF
EVALUATING SYMPTOMS,
NEUROLOGICAL STATUS,
AND BALANCE IS THE MOST
EFFECTIVE WAY TO EVALUATE
CONCUSSION STATUS.

“HSU is a great feeder school. We’re known for high-level research, service, and collaborations, as well as hands-on skills that graduates need for successfully conducting these kinds of interdisciplinary, multidimensional projects.”

Justus Ortega,
professor of Kinesiology

attitudes among student-athletes, medical providers, and athletic programs have changed, increasing the average recovery time and eliminating repeat concussions within 10 days of the original injury.

The study has also improved concussion assessments, showing that a combined approach of evaluating symptoms, neurological status, and balance is the most effective way to evaluate concussion status.

In the process of conducting research, HSU students who work on the study gain valuable experience. A Kinesiology major who wanted to become an athletic trainer, McMullen was invited to intern with NCCP and liked the idea of giving tailored one-on-one care to athletes. Her internship sparked a new interest—hands-on care of assessing concussion symptoms combined with gathering data for the largest study of its kind.

“The combination is what made me love it so much. Seeing academic papers from the CARE Consortium—the work you’re doing—it’s really rewarding,” says McMullen, who graduated in 2016 and is currently the NCCP’s Research Coordinator.

Justus Ortega, an HSU Kinesiology professor and director of the North Coast Concussion Program, says many students who worked for the HSU Concussion Program have gone on to prestigious graduate programs and medical schools.

“HSU is a great feeder school,” he says. “We’re known for high-level research, service, and collaborations, as well as hands-on skills that graduates need for successfully conducting these kinds of interdisciplinary, multidimensional projects.”

Late last year, the concussion program was awarded an additional \$250,000 by the NCAA and Department of Defense as part of a national study called the CARE Consortium to continue its research on college athletes. Since 2015, the CARE Consortium has seen dozens of universities collect data on more than 50,000 athletes and military cadets, the largest concussion study in history. The program finds other ways to pay for community testing, education, and service.

Study data collected by the consortium indicates that athletes who are removed from play immediately after a concussion injury return to play roughly two days faster than those who continue to play. The study also revealed that

The other function of NCCP, led by the program’s Service Coordinator Beth Larson, is educating the community and reaching out to additional sectors that may benefit from testing.

First intended for intercollegiate student-athletes at HSU, College of the Redwoods, and several local high schools, the concussion program has expanded testing for club athletes, all high school athletes in Humboldt and Del Norte counties, first responders, and others who’ve suffered concussions or are at risk. This, combined with information on best practices with local educators and healthcare professionals, has made it an important resource on the North Coast.

In the meantime, HSU’s groundbreaking concussion program has expanded the scope of research by applying lessons across the CSU system.

After a visit from CSU Chancellor Timothy White, Ortega says they began the CSU Concussion Initiative; a collaborative program of assessing concussion protocols throughout the entire university system and consulting other CSU campuses about best practices in concussion management.

Club sports particularly lacked concussion management, Ortega says. “That has changed dramatically in the last few years because of our collaboration with the Chancellor’s Office, CSU Risk Management, and the individual campuses.”

Now the institute assists with protocol for all 23 campuses, sharing assessment materials, best practices, trainings, and record-keeping methods. It also provides advice on implementation at different campuses.

The research itself has also changed. The entire national consortium is trying to understand recovery more fully, as successful diagnosis tools have been developed. They’re also trying to understand the mechanism of an injury—when, where, and why people are injured. For example, they’ve seen a disproportionate number of injuries in preseason football. One theory is that athletes play harder when they’re trying to secure a starting position for the season.

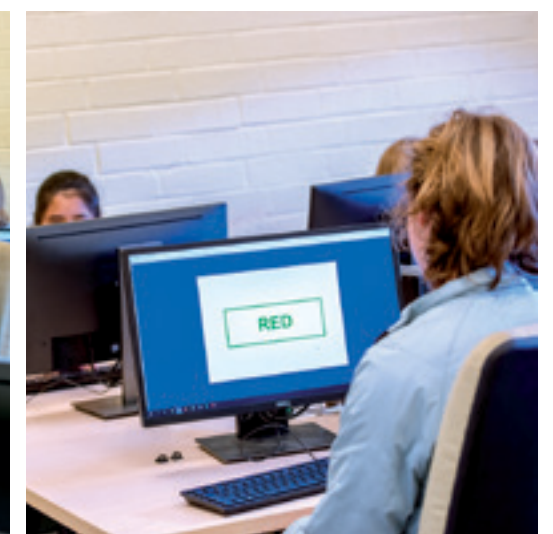
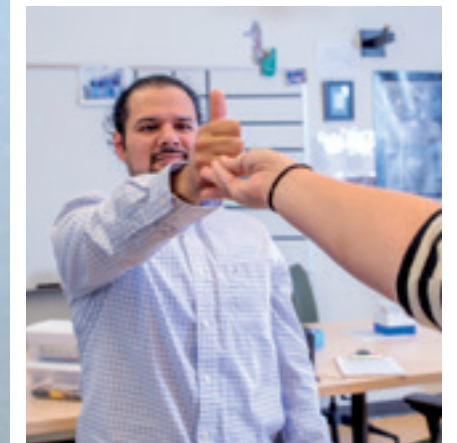
Finally, they’re collecting DNA from participants in the study, looking to see if genetic identifiers make certain people predisposed to concussions. This, they hope, will give future athletes a better understanding of their vulnerability to concussion, helping them make choices of sports, play style, and more.

That particular branch of research has caught the attention of Biology students, and student researchers from Biology Professor Amy Sprowles’ Biotechnology Laboratory have collaborated with the program. The program also works with the College of Natural Resources & Sciences Core Research Facility to analyze biomarkers related to concussions. Additionally, psychology students have joined the study, creating an interconnected, interdisciplinary group of researchers.

“They’re influencing the international consensus on concussions,” Ortega says. “Students are seeing the direct impact of their work on real people and integrating research, service to the community, and the curriculum.”



LEFT: Research Coordinator Erica McMullen (right) and Director Justus Ortega (middle) conduct a balance test in the HSU Biomechanics Lab **BELOW:** Kinesiology major Remi Chavez ('19) trains to give field assessment tests, which can be used to quickly determine if someone has suffered a concussion. **BOTTOM:** Service Coordinator Beth Larson conducts baseline testing with the Redwood Saplings, a local junior roller derby team. Testing uninjured people gives researchers an understanding of their baseline neurological status, which they can use to compare if the person is injured.



Among the largest in state history, the Thomas Fire in Southern California—which started in December 2017 and was fully extinguished in June 2018—illustrates the growing magnitude and destruction of California wildfires over the last two decades.



The Past, Present, and Future of California Wildfires

Essay By Professor Jeffrey Kane

The 2018 wildfire season in California was the deadliest and most destructive on record, burning almost 1.9 million acres—an area 2.5 times the size of Rhode Island and more area than had ever burned in California within the past 50 years. Most scientists, managers, and firefighters would tell you that last year’s fire season was not a surprise.

IF A FIRE SEASON like this didn’t occur last year, it would have been this year or next year or the year after that. In fact, 15 of the 20 largest fires in California state history have occurred since 2000. The tragic fires of 2018 are part of a broader pattern occurring across the West that shows no sign of abating in the near future unless we make substantial changes. We can surely agree that more needs to be done to limit the impacts of these events.

The 2018 fire season is the culmination of three main factors: climate change, past fire and forest management practices, and development in the wildland urban interface.

The marked increase in greenhouse gases over the past century has increased the average temperature in California by 2 to 3 degrees Fahrenheit. This seemingly modest difference has profound impacts on our state. Warmer temperatures are extending the fire season, meaning that fires are burning earlier in the spring and later into the fall. The fire season in the Sierra Nevada, for example, has doubled in length and is now more than 10 weeks longer than it was three decades ago. Under warmer conditions, the atmosphere also draws more water from the ground. This increase in evaporative demand more readily dries out fuels that can easily ignite.

Exacerbating the effects of climate change on fire is the legacy of past fire and forest management. For thousands of years prior to Euro-American settlement, Native American tribes and lightning fires burned as much as 10 to 12 million acres in California every year, with many areas burning every 10 years or so. These fires were typically more benign, burning more often but at lower intensities. The federal government’s focus on fire suppression has resulted in denser forests with more continuous fuel to burn in an intense fire. These conditions are quite common around and within most communities.

15 of the 20 largest fires in California state history have occurred since 2000

Finally, the population of California has grown rapidly over the past 75 years, increasing the risk of devastating wildfires. More homes are being built within or near wildlands and constructed with materials that can often burn easily.

These are daunting and often human-driven factors that we can reverse with effective policies and sufficient resources.

One thing that seems particularly evident is that fire can be a great unifier. An example of this is the growing support for expanding the use of prescribed fire, or controlled burning, which was once a common way of managing California ecosystems. In fact, one might say there has been a prescribed fire renaissance over the past decade as more people return to this practice to help reduce fuels, restore ecosystems, and protect communities. The Western Klamath Restoration Partnership is also manifesting a positive trajectory by embodying an “all hands, all lands” perspective to encourage private and public partners to solve some of these challenging problems together.

It will be up to future managers, scientists, and homeowners to solve these fire challenges. Thus, it is imperative to provide students with the knowledge, skills, and ability to tackle this problem.

Humboldt State University’s Forestry program works toward this goal through education, experience, and exposure to research related to the science and management of fire-prone ecosystems.



Forestry major Tenaya Wood, president of HSU’s Student Association for Fire Ecology club, works a fire line. Wood and other students from the club joined representatives from various organizations for the Prescribed Fire Training Exchange on Yurok land in the Klamath Mountains last year. The program teaches participants how to use controlled burns to manage land.




Forestry Professor Jeffrey Kane (far right) and his students observe fire behavior in HSU’s fire lab.

The program focuses on fire ecology, fire behavior, and fuels management to address current and future problems in California. Students use our indoor fire lab to burn fuels and research fire behavior. This active learning experience reinforces concepts learned in the classroom.

However, learning concepts and science necessary to inform appropriate management responses related to fire is not enough. That’s why we’re working with local partners, including Native American tribes, to provide students real-life experiences with wildland fire and fuels. For instance, students have participated in the prescribed fire training exchange program, also known as TREX, in the Klamath Mountains. Last year, 10 HSU students worked with the Yurok Tribe to bring fire back to ancestral tribal territory and to revitalize this once widespread management practice.

Students are investigating the long-term effectiveness of fuel treatments in the lower elevation shrublands and woodlands of Whiskeytown National Recreation Area, which burned in the 2018 Carr fire. Students are also researching the use of creative thinning techniques and prescribed burning treatments to reduce drought- and bark beetle-caused tree mortality in the central Sierra Nevada.

Events like those of the 2018 wildfire season tug at the heartstrings. Stories of so many lives and homes lost to fire, pictures of the rubble-strewn foundations, and charred forests can invoke the deepest of sympathies and feelings of loss. These images are powerful and harken the destructive potential of fire.

But fires can be restorative and must be part of the solution. The beauty and natural heritage of this state exist, in part, because of fire, which is an essential component of the California landscape. Many ecosystems have seen either too little, too much, or the wrong kind of fire, and the key is to find better ways humans and fire can coexist. 

Jeffrey Kane is a professor of Forestry at Humboldt State, among the top fire science institutions in the country and one of only three universities that have a fire lab. His areas of research include ecology and management of fire-prone ecosystems.



Opportunity, Optimism, and the Humboldt Experience



A Chat with New President Tom Jackson, Jr.

By Aileen Yoo

“A positive, meaningful educational experience.” You’ll hear Humboldt’s new president, Tom Jackson, Jr., say this often. It seems to be his mantra. And it reflects his core philosophy of what higher education should be—a place where students can explore their intellectual and personal potential. It also fits with his positive approach to his life and work.

PRESIDENT JACKSON’S OWN EDUCATION is rooted in possibilities and positive thinking. Under the laws of her era and the state she lived in, Jackson’s grandmother, a woman of color, could not pursue an education beyond the eighth grade. He says she dreamed her children would get their high school diplomas, which they eventually did. She even saved a collection of books she hoped they would someday read, which Jackson now keeps as a family treasure.

Just two generations from that dream, Jackson is the eighth president of Humboldt State and its first African American president.

Looking ahead, he knows there’s work to be done at Humboldt. He is focused on recruitment, retention, reigning in spending, and reconnecting with the local community. As a glass-is-half-full kind of person, he’s also focused on celebrating Humboldt’s strengths.



Getting into the Lumberjack spirit, President Jackson browsed the HSU Bookstore for Humboldt merchandise.

HE'S MOVING FAST, and the first clues about this came early. Just four hours after Jackson was named president by the CSU Board of Trustees, he and his wife Mona were at Humboldt hosting a casual gathering for the campus community in the Library.

He also enjoys the part of the job that involves getting out and talking with people, and you can never be quite sure where he will appear. One time he dropped by Humboldt's annual girls basketball camp and talked about pursuing dreams, and he has seized plenty of other chances to chat with young people. He has also made surprise visits to the *Mad River Union* newsroom, Fortuna Rodeo, county Folklife Festival and more.

Jackson's outings on campus and in the community—as well as his quiet, apparently boundless energy—reflect a *joie de vivre* he says he learned from his parents. And as both a parent and the first in his family to earn a college degree, Jackson appreciates the hopes families have for their students, as well as the hopes students have for themselves.

In a wide-ranging Q&A with *Humboldt* magazine, President Jackson reflects on these aspirations, outlines his priorities for the University, and discusses how those priorities will help students achieve their educational goals. The interview has been edited for length.

In the few months you've been here you've been getting to know the community. What are your impressions of HSU and Humboldt County?

I remember driving with a colleague back to Arcata after a tour of the Scotia lumber mill. We were on Highway 101, near Rio Dell, when I saw a stretch of redwoods, sky, and bluffs. I already knew Humboldt was beautiful, but the landscape in this particular location was stunning. It reminded me of how unique Humboldt truly is, not because of the things we do but because of where and who we are as a community.

And a crucial component of the community is this amazing place called Humboldt State University. People here are trying to make a difference for students who have entrusted us to provide them the best education possible. We carry that on our shoulders as a community that wants to support our students, so they can go into the world to create a better society.

You often talk about providing a “positive, meaningful educational experience” for students. Can you elaborate on that?

When we bring a child into the world and hold them in our hands as infants, we have high hopes for them. As parents, we do everything we can to help our sons and daughters lead happy, healthy, and meaningful lives.

Similarly, HSU will do all it can to help our students succeed because, in my mind, if they're good enough to get into this university, then we have to be good enough to keep them.

What I mean by that is this: We're not in the business of weeding out students because the one we weed out might be a late bloomer. Think about that for just a moment. Everyone grows at different points in their lives. Imagine if we were all judged by our abilities when we were at 18 or 19 years of age.

And imagine the one that we've removed from this university who could have created the third generation of the microgrid. That's why we as a university have to be really good at retaining students.

In today's educational environment, universities need to embrace what I see as a coaching agreement. It's an unspoken understanding that while students are expected to study hard and make the effort, we need to mentor them to success.

“We're not in the business of weeding out students because the one we weed out might be a late bloomer. ... Everyone grows at different points in their lives. Imagine if we were all judged by our abilities when we were at 18 or 19 years of age.”

Let's work with students one-on-one and provide opportunities beyond the classroom. Let's provide field research, hands-on learning, volunteering, and academic and social resources—all the things HSU is known for and that make this campus special.

So, from the moment students step foot on campus to the day they walk across the stage at commencement and become alumni, our hope is that they'll flourish in a supportive, global, and engaging culture of learning. Our hope as parents is that they'll gain knowledge, meet new people, and challenge themselves to do new things in order to become the people that we hoped they would be. We need to provide students a positive, meaningful educational experience that we would want our own children to have. That's the unwritten deal between a university, students, and their families.

Why is HSU a good fit for you and your family?

HSU embodies what my wife and I have always valued: a very strong university in a small-town community in a beautiful place. Our careers have taken us to places where we weren't lost in the shuffle of urbanness and where we were part of the community—such as Black Hills State University, where I was previously president. We had neighbors we knew and hung out with as colleagues and friends. We knew Humboldt would be all those things and embrace us and welcome our children. Also, my wife grew up in Virginia and I grew up in western Washington, so we've always been around trees, water, and mountains. When we saw and experienced Humboldt, we were all in!

Can you talk about your roots and the people who helped shape your world view and the person you are today?

My parents, my sister, foster brother, and my closest friend, Bud, were very influential. My father was an electrician, a humble man with a unique sense of humor—things that are hiding in me somewhere. My mother was a free spirit and willing to experience life in ways that most wouldn't allow in the '50s and the '60s. My parents taught us that we all have responsibilities, but they also reminded us to have fun and break the rules from time to time. I try to embrace those lessons and enjoy life, knowing that every morning, I get to decide if it's going to be a good or bad day.

But when I think about my challenges, I recognize they're nothing compared to the ones my parents experienced. Here's a tall African American man married to a petite Filipino Native American Irish Canadian woman in the 1950s. They

first lived in Missouri, where my father was raised and then promptly returned to the Seattle area where my mother had lived because it was a more inclusive environment with families of all backgrounds. It's still like that today. I remember people from all walks of life at picnics in the park hanging out, throwing balls, swimming together.

I often have gotten criticized for my colorblind approach to life. I naturally see life through a different lens. My family is African American, White, Asian, and International. I see family, not colors. Because of this, I recognize divisiveness right away—the poison in the air that doesn't need to be there.



President Jackson connected with alumni at a July reception in Long Beach, California.

Another influential person is Bud. He was the first in his family to go to college and that inspired me to pursue my degree, which I did after a stint with the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve. That inspired my sister to go to college. With or without a degree, she is one of the smartest people I've ever known.

Education is a gift. I recognize that and I always ask myself, “How do I use the knowledge and skills that I have, not just for my family and me, but also for the greater good?”

“My parents taught us that we all have responsibilities, but they also reminded us to have fun and break the rules from time to time. I try to embrace those lessons and enjoy life, knowing that every morning, I get to decide if it’s going to be a good or bad day.”

How would you describe your role as HSU’s president?

I see myself as an orchestra leader. There is an enormous amount of talent in an orchestra—some better than others but all are part of the orchestra and all are expected to perform and create music. HSU has a very strong orchestra, and it’s the president and the team’s challenge to say “let’s make music.” The trumpets can’t drown out the flutes when we need to hear the flutes and the subtleness and the softness of the sound. There’s still a rhythm and a sequence we have to fundamentally follow. And if we’re all in sync, we can make amazing music that reaches the people who need and want to hear us.

When we get that point in balance, then and only then will we have the true ability to invest in all of the innovative things that we want these days. So it’s a process that requires all of us to commit. If we do that then we’ll get out of it a little bit quicker. Digging in and not working as a team may stretch a three-year process into a six- or seven-year process.

We also have to stabilize enrollment. One of the ways we do that is by prioritizing recruitment. We don’t have 50,000 students waiting to get into this university. We have to get out there and sell ourselves. As we do, I believe prospective student interest will grow.

Let’s also focus on what we do have. We have been given the gifts of working in a beautiful natural environment and being an integral part of a wonderful community. The community has given so much to this university over time, so let’s continue to be a positive influence in Humboldt County. By working with the community, we can inspire jobs, innovation, and entrepreneurship and contribute to the artistic and cultural vibrancy of the region.

What are some of the things alumni and community members talk to you about?

The alumni I’ve met overwhelmingly talk about their positive experiences when they were students. At the same time, many have expressed their absolute joy over Humboldt State’s new RN to BSN Nursing program. And I’m thrilled, too!

Health care affects everyone—we all know someone who has needed professional care. HSU and our partners recognized that we needed to address the nursing shortage in the area and to improve the quality of life for the people we love. [\[Read more about HSU’s Nursing program on page 4\]](#)

As you know, thousands of alumni live in the communities around Humboldt, and they have an economic impact of about \$207 million.

Alumni of every university have an economic impact that influences their community. When I’m in a store, it’s not Tom the president. It’s Tom the shopper chatting in the aisle with someone about their kids or what we’re going to do this weekend. Thousands of HSU alumni are engaging with their communities in positive ways right now. Which goes back to the meaningful experience I mentioned earlier. Students who experience a supportive learning culture will graduate from Humboldt as inspired alumni we are proud of and who are proud to be part of the HSU family. 📍



Hours after he was named Humboldt’s new president in May, Tom Jackson, Jr. and his wife, Mona, made a surprise appearance at the HSU Library.

What are your priorities for HSU? What are you hoping to do over the next year?

We have a spending problem that we have to get under control. Let’s say we made \$50,000 a year for the last 10 years and we assume we’ll make \$50,000 for the next 10 years. But all of a sudden we’re making \$40,000 annually without making any corrections, and we’re still spending as though we’ve made \$50,000. A household can build up debt. A university does not have that ability to do that. There’s no American Express that I can charge until things correct themselves. So we’re trying to correct our spending to be in alignment with the resources that we have coming in.

PRESIDENTIAL FAST FACTS

From Seattle, Washington

First-generation college graduate

Veteran of the U.S. Coast Guard Reserve, Army National Guard, Texas State Guard, and Indiana Guard Reserve

Hobbies

- Flying (private instrument rated single- and multi-engine)
- Downhill skiing
- SCUBA diving
- Riding motorcycles and horses

Education

- A.A. General Studies, Highline Community College
- B.A. Business Management/Personnel, Southwest Minnesota State University
- M.A. Counseling/Student Personnel, Shippensburg University
- Ed.D. Education, University of La Verne

Career

- President of Black Hills State University in South Dakota
- Vice President for Student Affairs at both the University of Louisville and Texas A&M University-Kingsville
- Dean of Students for McMurry University in Texas
- Director of Student Activities for the University of Texas at El Paso
- Academic Development Specialist for California Polytechnic State University
- Area Coordinator for the University of Southern California
- Assistant Director of Residence Life for St. Mary’s University in San Antonio, Texas

Fun Facts

- Ran track and field in college
- Coached men’s and women’s collegiate tennis
- Has traveled to 31 countries and all 50 states (and Puerto Rico)
- Started as a Psychology major. Changed to Accounting and then Business. Ended up as a Business/Human Resources major
- Was a paperboy for the morning edition of the *Seattle Post Intelligencer*.





Helping Students Find a Home

By Grant Scott-Goforth

To help alleviate homelessness and housing insecurity among students, Humboldt State has enacted a number of efforts, including creating a new position that's the first position of its kind at the University and in the 23-campus California State University system.

SOCIAL WORK GRADUATE STUDENT Chant'e Catt, who experienced homelessness when she transferred to HSU, was hired as an off-campus housing liaison to help students find homes and learn about housing rights, how to be a good tenant, and more. She has worked with about 600 students since HSU established the position in January 2018.

Creation of this role is one of several measures designed to address housing and food challenges for students. The University now provides short-term emergency housing in residence halls and emergency scholarships to help students facing homelessness afford rental deposits and other needs. HSU also offers services under the Oh SNAP! Student Food Programs.

HSU is also developing an innovative new housing education program designed to ease housing barriers for students and build a stronger connection between Humboldt County landlords and student tenants.

In a recent statewide study commissioned by the CSU Chancellor's Office, Social Work Professor Jennifer Maguire and CSU Long Beach Social Work Professor Rashida Crutchfield found troubling rates of housing insecurity among CSU students. At Humboldt State, 19 percent of students reported being housing insecure at least once in the last 12 months.

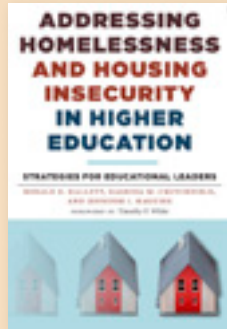
Catt, the housing liaison, was one of those students, and lived homeless for 16 weeks during her first semester at HSU, along with her young daughter, partner, and dog. Based on her experience, she co-founded the Homeless Student Advocate Alliance, a student club that advocated and supported student housing. As a result of the club's work, the housing liaison position was created and Catt was hired to fill the position.

In a report Catt prepared earlier this year for HSU, she identifies barriers students face, including: a shortage of affordable housing due to the local and student populations, marijuana grow houses, and vacation rentals; housing costs; racial inequality and discrimination faced by students of color; access to a co-signer; and the difficulty of touring and securing housing for students not currently in the area.

When someone reaches out, Catt begins by explaining the local housing market and unique difficulties students face. She also sends them an intake survey, which helps her understand their particular situation. Do they have pets? Do they have enough money for a deposit?

THE HOUSING CONTINUUM

IN THEIR NEW BOOK, *Addressing Homelessness and Housing Insecurity in Higher Education* (2019), Social Work Professor Jennifer Maguire, Ronald E. Hallett, and CSU Long Beach Social Work Professor Rashida M. Crutchfield developed a “housing continuum” that explains a range of situations and experiences that leave students housing insecure and homeless.



HOMELESS

Lacking housing that is fixed, regular, and adequate.

Real Life Example:

A student budgeted tightly for her semester and was stunned when her landlord evicted her and her roommates. She ended up homeless for four months.

HOUSING INSTABILITY

Housing situations that may not remain fixed, regular or adequate.

Real Life Example:

A student lived in a residence hall during the semester and stayed with her mother in an emergency homeless shelter during winter break.

RECENT HOUSING INSTABILITY

Stable housing but experience of housing security within the past 3 years.

Real Life Example:

A student often stocked up food or money, skipping meals and lapsing bills, because he feared that his newfound stability might disappear.

HOUSING SECURE

Consistent, adequate, and safe housing with consistent funding to cover expenses.

She'll then provide students a variety of resources depending on their needs: information on renter's rights, recommendations for lawyers on tenant issues, mentorship on applications, and advice on how to be a good tenant or a good roommate.

Catt also maintains a list of current housing availabilities. In her advocacy work and role at HSU, she's developed many contacts in the community, including landlords. “Community members tend to call me with a lot of resources,” she says.

Going one step further, Catt and others are helping to foster relationships between landlords, students, and community members with HSU's new Educated Landlord and Tenant Program (ELTP).

Under the ELTP, HSU students and landlords will take facilitated courses several times a month. With an emphasis on equity, courses will cover a range of topics such as how to be a good landlord and tenant, implicit bias, indigenous perspectives, emotional and service animals, and personal finance.

“The Educated Landlord and Tenant Program is a town-and-gown project that includes over 14 departments on campus, the City of Arcata and several collaborators who are coming together with hopes of relieving pressure on a complex issue that intersects with racial inequity, poverty, and other social challenges,” says Catt, who leads the program with the help of HSU Social Work graduate students Kaytlin Harris, Sonya Woody, and Ashley Bradshaw,

That collaboration showed in a November town hall meeting. The forum, geared toward landlords and property managers, gave participants a chance to discuss students' housing concerns and share their own perspectives and ideas.

The intention of the meeting wasn't to point fingers — it was to build stronger relationships. “The fact landlords participated was huge,” says Catt. “That tells us there's a need for open communication on both sides and that landlords are willing to listen to us.”

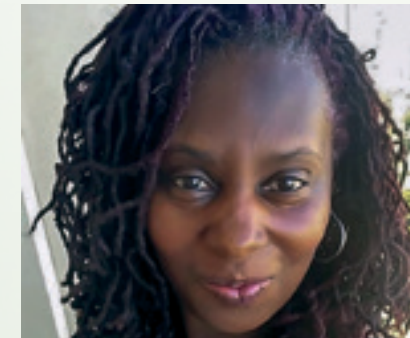
Community education is another key to the local housing shortage. HSU and College of the Redwoods hosted a community housing summit last year to build awareness and empathy, and to support existing programs and services. Equity Arcata, an effort of the University, City of Arcata, and local businesses to address equity and inclusion issues, is a hub for local stakeholders to prioritize affordable housing.

The University is pairing homeless awareness with an overall focus on student wellbeing, supported by student well-being ambassadors and an interactive online map to guide students toward mental and physical health and academic success. Students can also find guidance for signing up for various types of insurance, including Medi-Cal. 📍

2019 HUMBOLDT STATE HONORS

Celebrating the contributions of outstanding alumni, students, faculty, and staff

Distinguished Alumni



Lisa William ('92, Journalism, '96, English (Education)) is a professor at California State University, Sacramento and San Joaquin Delta College. William teaches more than nine courses a semester while maintaining a very active service and publication record. She has authored and co-authored nearly 25 academic journals, articles, book chapters, and other publications. Each semester, she teaches popular courses on topics like urban education, discourse on race and gender in educational settings, and social and psychological foundations of multicultural education. She is committed to improving opportunities for all her students.



Mike Radenbaugh ('12, Industrial Technology) and **Ty Collins** ('10, Journalism) are the co-founders of Rad Power Bikes, North America's largest electric bike company. They make electric bikes that are accessible, affordable, and appealing to the masses, and continue to pioneer the world of sustainable transportation. Radenbaugh built his first ebike in 2007 as a way to get to school without breaking a sweat. His “frankenbikes” quickly caught the attention of his small town, and he started building ebikes for friends, family, and neighbors. Today he and Collins employ a team of nearly 100 with headquarters in Seattle, Washington, Vancouver, British Columbia and Utrecht, Netherlands. They've also been named to Forbes and Inc. Magazine's “30 Under 30” lists.



Mark Andre ('79, Natural Resources Planning & Interpretation) is the Director of Environmental Services for the City of Arcata and a registered professional forester. In this role, he oversees Arcata's environmental programs, natural resources, parks and recreation, community forest, wildlife areas, and public utilities. Because of his efforts the Arcata Community Forest, established in 1955, has grown considerably. He has worked closely with Humboldt State to allow use of the forest not just for field trips but also for research by faculty and students. The forest is nationally considered as a model community forest. Andre recently helped lead the acquisition of 967 acres of public forest in the Jacoby Creek watershed, of which 884 acres was given to HSU.

Distinguished Faculty

Outstanding Professor Award



Professor John O. Reiss, Department of Biological Sciences, has had a lasting effect on his students, his colleagues, and the University community through 21 years of excellence in teaching, sustained scholarly activities, and a consistent record of service.

Reiss has taught a myriad of courses. Students consistently praise his accessibility, his dedication to his students' success, and his outstanding teaching in the classroom. Reiss has been a graduate advisor to 15 graduate students and his research has resulted in approximately 25 peer-reviewed papers and a book, which has received excellent reviews by experts in the field.

He recently was chair of the Department of Biological Sciences Curriculum Committee, where he led the department through a set of curricular revisions for each of its three majors: Biology, Botany, and Zoology.

Outstanding Service Award



Professor Justus D. Ortega, Department of Kinesiology & Recreation Administration, seamlessly integrates his research with his courses and his service with his research. In his 12-year tenure at HSU, Ortega has incorporated professional expertise with his service to benefit students and the academic and

local communities.

He has implemented a balance, mobility, and fall risk assessment and exercise program for local seniors. As part of the program, his students are trained to conduct and evaluate these assessments to guide seniors through exercises that minimize the risk of falls. Ortega also developed programs to work with local physical therapists and physicians to conduct clinical gait analyses for people with walking-related disorders such as cerebral palsy and stroke.

Ortega directs the North Coast Concussion Program (NCCP), which provides concussion assessment and educational outreach to over 2,800 community members annually.

Excellence in Teaching Award



Professor Susan E. Marshall, Department of Forestry & Wildland Resources, has been teaching in the department since 1996. Appreciated by her students, her peers, and the University community, she has established herself as one of the most distinguished teachers in the institution. She has been dedicated

to building and promoting the Rangeland Resource Sciences major. The only program of its kind in California, Rangeland Resource Sciences emphasizes authentic field experiences to train undergraduates to enter the profession upon graduation.

Her teaching philosophy reflects an acute awareness of the climate, practices, and learning environment necessary to engage students and cultivate their success. She has also motivated countless students, who describe her as an inspiring teacher who effectively engages students with the gentle guidance one looks for in a college professor but rarely finds.

Scholar of the Year



Nicole Jean Hill, Department of Art, has a record of scholarly achievement in the field of photography since joining HSU. A widely acknowledged leader in her field, she is a prolific artist. She has presented her work in several solo and two-person exhibitions, more than 30

group exhibitions, in more than 10 publications, and has been chosen for 13 awards, grants, and residencies. Her recent project, "So You Wanna Fight?," features mixed martial artists, boxers, and spectators in amateur fights.

Hill excels as a teacher, as well. According to an HSU colleague, "I most admire the fact that her practice is not only internationally recognized within the world of contemporary art photography, but that it engages deeply and immediately on the ground with our students here at HSU."

Outstanding Students



Mary Elise Conzelmann, Recreation Administration, has served the public and fostered collaborations to create healthy communities. She has presented at professional recreation conferences, published research, been a member of the HSU women's rowing team, worked multiple part-time jobs, and volunteered throughout her undergraduate education.

Conzelmann has engaged in her community by volunteering with numerous groups. In her first year at HSU, for example, she re-activated the Recreation Administration Club and served as president for two years. During that time, she was awarded a grant to host a Cultural Diversity Workshop for campus and community members. She volunteered with the Redwood Community Action Agency and Humboldt County Association of Governments on a traffic stress assessment in McKinleyville. Conzelmann completed her degree in three years and will pursue her M.S. in Management at Saint Mary's College of California.



Tanya Garcia, Environmental Resources Engineering and Math, has shown exemplary commitment to her majors and the broader STEM community. She co-founded the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers, a student-run club that seeks to promote academic excellence among Latinx engineers, and has served a number of leadership roles.

Garcia is also committed to Engineers without Borders, and participated in a service trip to Nicaragua where she and fellow engineering students helped install a water well for a rural hospital. Fluent in Spanish, she also served as translator for the group. She was awarded the "Engineers without Borders Excellence in Service" award for her work.

Garcia currently works for the Schatz Energy Research Center on improving access to services among people who live off-grid. She wants to be a leader and an educator and expand access to energy and water in low-income communities in the country and abroad.

Staff Recognition (left to right)

- Travis Fleming**, Facilities Project Supervisor, Facilities Management
- Sei Hee Hwang**, Academic Advisor—Student Athletes, Academic & Career Advising Center
- Erika Wright**, Pre-award Specialist, Sponsored Programs Foundation
- Kelda Quintana**, Academic Advisor, Academic & Career Advising Center
- Molly Kresl**, Clubs and Activities Coordinator, Clubs and Activities Office
- Debra Ryerson**, Administrative Support, Department of Theatre, Film & Dance
- Gay Hylton**, Research Analyst, Office of Institutional Effectiveness
- Paula Tripp-Allen**, ITEPP Academic Advisor, Native American Center for Academic Excellence
- Steve Monk**, Boating Safety Office, Marine Lab
- Pedro Martinez**, Light Equipment Operator, Facilities Management





Remembering Stephen Hillenburg, Creator of SpongeBob SquarePants



Stephen Hillenburg in the studio.

PERHAPS THERE'S NO MORE ICONIC UNDERSEA LIFE than a simple, yellow lifeform named SpongeBob SquarePants.

This animated character, born of HSU alumnus Stephen Hillenburg's love for art and the ocean, is a worldwide phenomenon and an inspiration for generations of kids and adults.

Stephen died of Lou Gehrig's disease, also known as ALS, in 2018 at age 57, but his creations and his commitment to education live on.

He was born in Fort Sill in Lawton, Oklahoma and later moved to Southern California. He graduated from HSU with a degree in Natural Resources Planning and Interpretation in 1984, but midway through his education he realized he was drawn to art even more than the sciences. His fascination with tide pools and the natural world, combined with a unique sense of humor, led to the creation of SpongeBob SquarePants in 1999.

Stephen never expected the quirky fry cook who lives in a pineapple in the Pacific Ocean to generate such an adoring and massive fan-base. In 2006, he told the Humboldt Stater: "I never dreamed I'd be doing this in life. I've been incredibly fortunate. I feel like I just lucked out—seriously."

Last year, Stephen and his wife, Karen, created the Stephen Hillenburg Marine Science Research Award Endowment at HSU with a gift to provide grant awards for student research projects in the marine sciences. This gift will help future generations of student scientists—who possibly grew up watching a sea sponge and his aquatic friends—learn about every other creature living under the sea.



ClassNotes

Submit a Class Note

humboldt.edu/classnotes online | alumni@humboldt.edu email

1950s

Lawrence (Larry) Flammer, 1956

Biological Sciences and Teaching Credential, taught high school biology at Del Mar. He was largely responsible for the creation and administration of the website for the Evolution and Nature of Science Institutes, which were founded (with the encouragement of the National Center for Science Education) "to improve the teaching of evolution in high school biology courses by encouraging teachers to teach evolutionary thinking in the context of a more complete understanding of modern scientific thinking," according to the NCSE. He passed away at the age 83 on December 13, 2018.

1960s

Sanford "Sandy" Wilbur, 1963

Wildlife, published his latest book, *Semi-Rough: A North Country Journal, about living off the grid in far northern New Hampshire*. It has several wildlife, weather, environment, and people stories from the North Country. Available as a free PDF at symbios@condortales.com.

Carl S. Chavez, 1966

Wildlife, retired in 1998 after 33 years with California State Parks. He was the superintendent of Humboldt Redwoods State Park from 1979 to 1987 as well as all the other redwood parks south of Eureka. In 1985 he was named the department's first Superintendent of the Year. Leaving the redwoods, he was appointed northern regional director and, later, the northern division chief. He authored *A Pathway Through Parks* and co-authored *A Year in Bodie 1966-1967* with his wife, Margaret (1966). He retired to Graeagle near Plumas-Eureka State Park, a unit he once managed. He is president of the board of the Feather River Land Trust.

Ray Chips, 1969

History, was named one of Pepperdine University's "40 over 40" recipients: pepperdine.edu/alumni/40over40. He is thankful for the

Gifts from the Heart

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support and academic success he received at HSU, which provided the foundation for his academic and professional future.

Thomas Eley, 1969

Wildlife, worked for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as a refuge manager and refuge officer. He is now retired and lives in Alaska.

Lawrence E. (Larry) Liles, 1969

Politics, dropped out of law school over a conflict with the role of law versus justice, which he learned later was a moral position. He completed a four-year union electrical apprenticeship, taught the same for four years, and then was elected twice as business manager for IBEW Local 413 in Santa Barbara. He was appointed in 1992 as an IBEW international representative in the Washington, D.C., headquarters and worked primarily in the research department representing workers' interests in many venues. He raised three stepchildren and two of his own. He retired early in 2010 to spend time with a late son. He's now living in the Virginia Piedmont, the east side of the Blue Ridge Mountains, doing genealogy, and is active in Scouting and the SAR.

Beverly Ferne Wasson, 1969

Physical Education, taught high school PE in the Mt. Diablo School District from 1970-1980. She started the first co-ed PE classes.

From 1980-2011, she grew wine grapes on her family's vineyards. She was the first woman to head the county farm bureau and was on the North Coast Regional Water Quality Board 1999-2006. She is now retired and lives in her family home in Alexander Valley, Sonoma County.

1970s

Alan Daniel, 1970

History, is retiring after 28 years as an H&R Block franchisee in Hawaii. At the height of his career, he owned 11 franchise offices on three islands, had 86 tax pros under contract, prepared taxes annually for 14,000+ taxpayers, and provided bookkeeping/payroll services for 100+ small businesses. Between 2003 and 2005, he consulted with the IRS in the development of electronic filing that most of you use today. He and Kathleen Kenan recently celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary in Seattle. They live on the beautiful island of Kauai. A hui hou.

Richard Mattson, 1971

Fisheries Biology, retired after more than 30 years with Douglas Island Pink & Chum, Inc. (DIPAC) in Juneau, Alaska. DIPAC is a major producer of hatchery chum and king and coho salmon in southeast Alaska. Mattson began in fish culture and then spent most of his career as an aquarist maintaining the visitor center marine aquariums and conducting education programs. He still works part-time maintaining aquariums on contract to the NOAA Ted Stevens Marine Research Institute in Juneau. He also volunteers for various organizations and will be continuing to do more with his extra time. Travel with his wife, Peggy, is definitely on tap, and he also enjoys reading, learning Finnish, and outdoor activities.

Margot Genger, 1973

Communication, published *Shift Happens—Breakdowns During Life's Long Hauls* in March 2018. Susan Bennett, Ph.D., English professor



Holding a sample of the moon retrieved during the Apollo 16 mission, David Draper (center), his brother-in-law (left) and family friend (right) are in a lab in the Astromaterials Research and Exploration Science Division at NASA's Johnson Space Center.

David Draper: Helping NASA Shoot for the Moon—and Mars

DAVID DRAPER ('85, Geology) has studied our universe for nearly 30 years. Still, after all this time, the wonders of the cosmos still bring out the nerd in him.

"I grew up during the Gemini and Apollo era, so I was an absolute space geek. I've never lost that sense of awe for space and I never will," says Draper, who spent 10 years studying samples from other planets as the manager of the Astromaterials Research Office at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston.

Just weeks before the 50th anniversary of the historic Apollo 11 Moon landing, Draper was named NASA's deputy chief scientist and will use his expertise in planetary science to help send astronauts to the Moon and from there, on to a bigger and redder thing: Mars.

"Working for NASA is a thrill. That I'm in a position to help the agency return to the Moon and then go on to Mars is deeply fulfilling," he says.

Despite his love of all things outer space, his original plan was to be a musician—an aspiration that changed in community college during a science course, where he learned about Mount St. Helens. When the volcano erupted, Draper knew then what he wanted to do and enrolled in Humboldt State's rigorous Geology program.

"When I think about my time in Humboldt, I remember the combination of a highly stimulating intellectual environment and extreme natural beauty. HSU was food for the mind and the soul," he says.

It was also fertile ground for an aspiring geologist like Draper. He and his classmates took Geology department field trips to the nearby

coast, mountains, and other areas and met professionals in the field. Perhaps one of his most formative experiences at HSU was what he learned beyond academics.

"My professors taught us not only the material but also how to learn and how to look at a problem from all angles," says Draper. "Those critical thinking skills pay off in planetary science because we're studying other worlds without knowing the full story. It's like a jigsaw puzzle where you don't know how many pieces there are and you don't have the box top so you don't even know what picture you're trying to make."

Draper, NASA, and international partners are now tackling a new puzzle. Under the project Artemis, astronauts will return to the Moon for the first time since 1972 and stay a while. During their extended visit, their goal is to research unexplored areas of the Moon and test technologies and resources that will help send them to Mars. Draper and other scientists have also proposed a separate project, the Inner Solar System Chronology mission, which would allow them to study the age of samples taken from younger parts of the Moon.

Skeptics may ask why we need to go back to the Moon and to Mars. Because, says Draper, these missions allow us to learn things about our world possible in no other way, and they fulfill a basic human need to explore.

"It's a big part of what makes us human, to ask what's over that hill? What's around that bend and what's at the end of that river? What's on the Moon? What's on Mars? Let's go find out."

Gifts from the Heart



Richard Stepp

Professor Emeritus Dr. Richard Stepp, who taught Physics at HSU for 39 years, made a \$5,000 gift to support the HSU Dance Studies program. His gift gives faculty the flexibility to enhance the program and provide more educational opportunities for Dance Studies students.

emeritus, writes: "Out of desperation to escape the confines of her small Northern California town, Genger breaks every rule of her 1970s social class, gender, and upbringing to become a long-haul truck driver. *Shift Happens* will make you laugh, cringe, and celebrate as Margot navigates the underground life of long-haul truck driving with 11 different driving partners. She crisscrosses the U.S. delivering everything from *Hustler* magazines to Washington State apples—sees both the beauty and the meanness that is America—and eventually realizes what she values in 'home'."

Vicki Bugbee-Reed, 1974

Psychology, retired in 2009. She taught in Australia, at HSU for three years, and in Oregon most of the remaining years (almost 30 total) before retirement. She also sailed a sailboat for six years from Newport, Ore., to Sydney, Australia.

Brian Miller, 1974

Art, retired from Hewlett Packard Enterprise (HPE) after a successful 40+ year career in the high-tech industry. Most recently, he

served as director of marketing transformation at HPE, leading a worldwide team across Europe, India, and North and Latin America. He currently provides pro bono marketing and technology advisory services to the Northern California wine industry.

Gregory Gottlieb, 1976

Politics, retired in 2017 from the U.S. Agency for International Development as the assistant administrator for democracy, conflict, and humanitarian assistance. He's now a professor at Tufts University and director of the Feinstein International Center, which researches international humanitarian assistance.

Gene Blankenbaker, 1977

Forestry & Wildland Resources, retired in January 2019 after over 41 years of service with the federal government. He spent approximately two years with the U.S. Geological Survey, Water Resource Division as a groundwater hydrologist, and over 39 years with the U.S. Forest Service in a variety of locations in California, Washington, D.C., Arizona, Wisconsin, and New Mexico in positions that included hydrologist, forester, district ranger, forest supervisor, deputy regional forester, and deputy director of human resources for the agency.

Daniel Mandell, 1979

History, is a history professor and has been appointed Distinguished Research Fellow at the Kinder Institute on Constitutional Democracy at the University of Missouri for 2018-2019. The Kinder Institute is an interdisciplinary effort of the history and political science departments, and since its creation in 2014 has blossomed into one of the most active intellectual centers in the region. During his year at the Kinder, Mandell will participate in its programs and begin a study of the evolving conundrum between individual and collective rights in the United States as highlighted by the history of Native American policies and laws.

1980s

Cynthia Glasgow-Ragus, 1980

Social Welfare, retired after teaching elementary school for 34 years to travel the world and check items off her bucket list.

Gifts from the Heart



Laura Fisher ('84, Geology)

A Humboldt State University Foundation Board member, Laura made a bequest commitment in her estate plan to support future students so they can make their own positive mark on the world.

Jim Peña, 1980

Forest Resource Management, is currently serving as regional forester of the Pacific Northwest Region of the Forest Service. He will be retiring in July with 40 years of service. He has had the privilege of serving at all levels of the agency.

Matt Vallerga, 1980

Fisheries Biology, retired from teaching in 2018 after 20 years in the classroom. He has taught third-, fourth-, and fifth-graders. Not bad for a third and last career. Prior to being an educator, he spent about 10 years working in environmental sciences (air quality control, trace metals analysis, water resources, etc.). His first career out of HSU was about 10 years in seafood marketing and aquaculture. He is looking forward to recreating outdoors and traveling with his wife, Barbara.

Paula Golightly, 1982

Wildlife, has worked for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for 24 years to restore aquatic and terrestrial habitats for fish and wildlife primarily on private lands in Humboldt County through voluntary programs within the agency. She was recently promoted as regional coordinator for

Gifts from the Heart



David Kalb ('76, Political Science)

A former member of the Humboldt State University Foundation Board, David recently celebrated more than 30 years of supporting students through his gifts to the Kalb-Haston Award Fund. Named after his former HSU Political Science professor and friend, Bruce Haston, the award supports outstanding students majoring in Political Science or serving in student government.



the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program covering Idaho, Oregon, Washington, and the Pacific Islands and is now based out of Portland, Ore.

Dave Feliz, 1983

Wildlife, is the reserve manager for the Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve in Monterey County, California. This is one of 30 reserves around the nation set up to conduct research, habitat restoration, and education on lands adjacent to and including estuarine habitats. These are all state/federal partnerships with the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration. The state partner at the Elkhorn Slough is the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, where he has been working since 1984, managing lands in various parts of California.

Jeffrey Rich, 1983

Wildlife, has a new book out, *Bald Eagles in The Wild* at jeffrichphoto.com.

Joshua McKinney, 1984

English, wrote his fourth book of poetry, *Small Sillion*, which was released by Parlor Press.

Maria Cecilila Avila, 1985

Biological Sciences, is living in Chile.

Sophi Buetens, 1985

Journalism, attended one year on the Cal State international program in Madrid, Spain. Since then she has worked as a journalist and elementary and secondary school teacher (Spanish). Her two adult children live in Oakland. One is a software engineer and the other is studying at Berkeley to be a science teacher. She and her husband were thrilled to move back to Arcata after many years in the Bay Area.

Bill (Sharky) London, 1985

Wildlife, recently retired from the Idaho Fish & Game after 32 years. The education, experiences, and guidance that he received at HSU made this fulfilling career possible. As a conservation officer, he patrolled vast wildernesses on horseback, boated rivers, chased poachers, taught kids to camp, hunt, and fish, trapped deer, surveyed big game and sage grouse, electroshocked fish, flew game counts, and dealt with lions and bears in town. It was an adventure. In 2004, he was promoted to district CO and worked from the Owyhee canyonlands to the Sawtooth Wilderness with an amazing group of officers. He recruited at HSU for 13 years to bring the best to Idaho. He is married (Shannon) and they have five children.

Ray Olson, 1986

Natural Resources, was appointed to a three-year term on the Arcata Wetlands and Creeks Committee by the Arcata City Council.

Gerald R. Jones, 1988

Fisheries Biology Aquaculture, has been working for ODFW for 14 years as a fish pathologist/fish health specialist.

Joe Foggiato, 1989

Business, participated in the Tokyo CSU Alumni Reception, which included CSU Chancellor Timothy White and presidents from CSU Northridge, Stanislaus, San Francisco, and Long Beach. Over 150 people attended with many on the waitlist. He proudly represented Humboldt State as the only alumnus at the venue.

Gifts from the Heart



Ben Gilbert ('98, Business Administration)

The Dr. Peter Kenyon Assistantship Fund honors Peter B. Kenyon, emeritus professor of Business Administration at HSU. Ben created the permanently endowed assistantship to enhance teaching and learning. This support provides paid opportunities for students to work on joint projects with faculty in the School of Business. The assistantship will annually support a student with a \$2,000 stipend.



Marshall Jett, 1989

Natural Resources, has been living in Washington since leaving Humboldt's grad program in Biology in 1993. He worked as a park ranger for Olympic National Park and many other parks for years and was a science instructor at Catalina Island Marine Institute. In 2001, he began teaching elementary school in Seattle after graduating with a teaching certificate from Western Washington University. His passion for cooking finally won over and he founded Veraci Pizza, Inc. in 2004. He now has three busy Italian restaurants and a mobile catering department. He lives with his teenage daughter, Olivia, in Tacoma, Wash. and is an avid sailor, gardener, and musician.

1990s

Jana Lynn Rivers-Norton, 1991

English, graduated with a master's degree in English from HSU in 1991 and earned a doctorate in Clinical Psychology in 2002 from Saybrook University. Since then, she has been teaching at-risk students in Sacramento, New Mexico, and Arizona, and writing and publishing a collection of essays titled *The Demeter-Persephone Myth as Writing Ritual in the Lives of Literary Women* by Cambridge Scholars Publishing (CSP) in 2017. Her next book, *Transcending the Tragedy of Medea in Life, Love and the Literary Arts* was accepted for publication from CSP for a fall 2019 release.

Suzanne Heck (Keck), 1992

Sociology, is married to Dave Heck and they have two children, Zoe and Dylan. They live in San Juan Capistrano in South Orange County. She is still true to her HSU campus recycling roots and is fighting the battle against single-use plastics.

Charlene Varney, 1993

Social Work, worked for California state agencies, county agencies, nonprofits, and tribal governments in various social services programs in support of families, disabled adults, and frail elderly. She currently lives and works in Sacramento with her eldest granddaughter.

JT Hayes, 1994

Nursing, retired from full-time nursing in 2018 but still teaches CNA classes and does p.m. shifts for Help for Health Hospice in Riverton, Wyo. where he lives with his wife, 17-year-old granddaughter, and four dogs.

Timi O'Malley, 1994

Anthropology, published *Consuming Love: The Joy of Sharing Meals* in December 2018. This is a memoir not only about food and the people that shared these meals with her, but the spiritual lessons learned along the way.

RG Davis, 1995

Art, is focusing on Cuban endemic birds for a paper movie scroll, based on the book *Why Birds Matter*.

Michael William Raftery, 1996

Oceanography, worked for Lockheed Martin Technical Operations as a satellite engineer (1996-2000), Loral Skynet as a spacecraft orbit analyst (2000-2004), and the Stevens Institute of Technology as a research engineer (2004-2012). He received a master's degree

Katelin Holloway: 'Culture' Pioneer at Reddit



IT WAS 2003, during the dot-com downturn, when Katelin Holloway ('02, Art) found herself in San Francisco. She knew she loved graphic design and wanted to be in tech, but how? Holloway would revisit that question over the next few years, navigating different industries and companies.

Today she's the Vice President of People and Culture of Reddit, an online network of communities where hundreds of millions of users share and rate content.

Holloway's professional trajectory from Humboldt State in the late '90s to Reddit not only tells the familiar story of a young person trying to find her place in the world, but also reflects the rise of Silicon Valley culture.

"I didn't know what I wanted. I changed my major at HSU a few times and played around with everything under the sun, from pre-law to being a writer and artist," she says.

She says an Art instructor inspired her to pursue that major in what was then the cutting-edge creative industry of graphic design. After graduating, she moved to San Francisco and took whatever jobs she could find until she was hired as an assistant at Pixar in 2006.

Over the next five years, she supported senior leadership, writers, and directors, and she worked with talent to create stories that wound up in movie theaters. She also experienced Silicon Valley business "culture"—the infamous ethos of creativity, big ideas, and innovation—in an unusual way.

"Steve Jobs [while CEO of Pixar] wanted the bathrooms in the center of the studio. Doing this created an environment where a line chef, a janitor, a producer, and storyboard artist might run into each other and have a conversation," she says. "That brought to life the notion that great ideas come from anywhere."

Holloway had ideas, too, and left Pixar to write a children's book. As she struggled to finish her book, she was offered an opportunity to work for consumer analytics company, Klout, and became the Head of People & Culture. That position and job title marked a significant turning point in Holloway's career in the field of HR.

"I claimed one of the very first 'culture' titles during the culture wave in Silicon Valley, and I was at the forefront of what was happening in HR: the shift in focus from compliance to the human experience," she says.

By 2016, she became Reddit's 75th employee and its first senior HR hire. She now helps more than 400 employees and cultivates a work environment that facilitates the esprit de corps of millions of users who make up Reddit's 138,000+ active communities. "Reddit is one of the most human places on the internet, and our goal is to help everyone in the world find their home," she says. "If we want to create that on our platform, why can't we create that for our people? I wanted to foster a very human place to work and I have the privilege to build that with my colleagues and founders in a way that is true to who we are."

That's evident in Reddit's approach to Silicon Valley's hot-button issue of compensation and gender equity. "We have zero gender pay gap," says Holloway of the company's thoughtful approach to salaries. "But that's not a headline story for us. It's part of our DNA and who we are."

Looking back over the last 10 years, Holloway feels fortunate to be in a field that has made a palpable impact on the workplace today. "I am lucky to be part of the change in HR. Every day is a treat for me. I don't know what I'd do without this field and without the people I work with."



Earlier this year, Hulu's Chief Technology Officer Dan Phillips returned to his grade school alma mater, Bridgeville Elementary, in Bridgeville, California. He shared stories about growing up in a small town (he once caught a bobcat) and his career.

Dan Philips: From Humboldt to Hulu

To say that Chief Technology Officer of Hulu Dan Philips ('91, Business and Computer Information Systems) navigates a competitive landscape is an understatement. "We compete with 'little' guys like Netflix, Amazon, Apple, and Google," he says tongue-in-cheek.

Taking on Silicon Valley goliaths is no minor feat, especially when you're in charge of keeping systems running for the streaming service that offers live and on-demand TV and movies to more than 28 million subscribers.

"We pay attention to what other companies are doing," he says. "We're also focused on our objectives, on what we want to do, and who we want to be."

Phillips is now one of the top leaders of Hulu, but he started small in the Humboldt County town of Bridgeville. With a population of a few hundred people, his hometown taught him invaluable lessons.

"Being from a small town has helped me immensely in the corporate world," he says. "I learned the values of community and hard work."

He recently returned to Humboldt to share professional and personal experiences, visiting Bridgeville Elementary, Fortuna High—his alma mater—and talking to local college students. His visit was part of a program called Get Ready Humboldt. Sponsored by HSU, Humboldt County Office of Education, and College of the Redwoods, the effort is designed to inspire young people to go to college.

Phillips' own higher education path was far from straight. He attended CR, went to Sac State briefly, returned to CR, and took time off. A year later he was back at CR, this time taking night classes, one of which was a computer course. He was instantly hooked.

Bitten by the tech bug, he attended HSU, where he graduated two years later with two degrees and at the top of his class in both majors. And perhaps just as important: He developed important relationships.

"Humboldt State played such a significant role in my journey. It's the place where I got the opportunity to meet some key professors, mentors, and other students" he says. "You can't underestimate the value of making connections. Cultivating those kinds of relationships is one of the most important skills to have as you build your career."

Among Phillips' mentors was Computer Information Systems Professor Jim Blaisdell, who gave Phillips the opportunity to work on his research for NASA Ames. They went on to start a tech business together—a move that paved the way for Phillips' career, which included overseeing operations for TiVO from 2005 until he joined Hulu in 2018.

"Don't be afraid to dream big. But without a plan, without the dedication, without taking the steps day in and day out, those lofty goals are just dreams. You have to do the work to get there."

in Ocean Engineering (Stevens 2009) and is the sole inventor on US Patent 8093736B2 (Wave Energy Harnessing Device) owned by Stevens Board of Trustees. He's currently working for Martin & Ottaway in Tinton Falls, N. Je., working to commercialize the SurfWEHD based on US patent 8093736B2.

Colin Gallagher, 1997

Natural Resources, joined the U.S. Peace Corps after graduating. He returned to the United States in 2000. He worked various local government gigs and picked up a master's degree along the way. He got into crypto and helped design cryptocurrencies and electronic wallets in a manner so as to foster efficient micro donations in the early years of decentralized cryptos (2009 - 2015). He also did a software QA gig. He is currently working for a crypto-fiat exchange and enjoying life.

Emily Murphy, 1997

Natural Resources Planning & Interpretation, was raised in Arcata and attended Pacific Union and Arcata High. Her first book, *Grow What You Love*, was released in 2018.

2000s

Cuahtemoc Carboni, 2001

Kinesiology (Education), is working as a professor at Imperial Valley College in the Exercise Science Department. Married for almost 18 years to Anna Elizabeth (they met in Arcata in 1999), they have three children. Miroslava, 11, Cuahtemoc, 9, and Olenna, 1. Last summer they took their children to visit HSU and they had a blast. They're looking forward to their next visit.

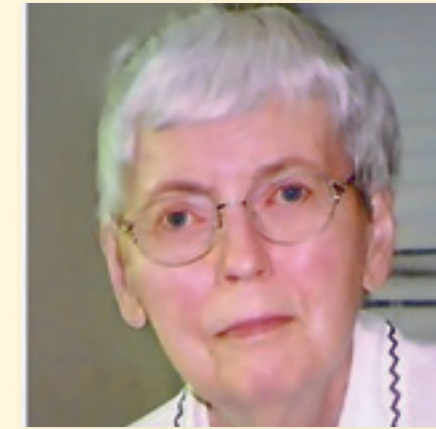
Steven Steward, 2001

Politics, currently works as a deputy district attorney for the Humboldt County Office of the District Attorney.

Tamara Ann Su'eSu'e, 2001

Organizational Leadership Outreach, went on to get her master's degree in Sociological Practice at CSU San Marcos and another master's degree in Educational Counseling from Azusa. She was a high school counselor for 10 years before having her first child, Tomasi. She is married and currently lives in Prescott Valley, Ariz., where she is a full-time mom and works in logistics for her family business.

Gifts from the Heart



Jean Shipman

Jean, who passed away in 2018, included in her estate plan a \$230,000 gift to HSU to honor her late husband Mark Rhea, a former professor of Soils Sciences. The Mark B. Rhea Soil Science Scholarship and the Mark B. Rhea Environmental Sciences and Management Scholarship provides nearly \$10,000 annually to students studying Environmental Science & Management.

Ron L. Anderson, 2002

Physics & Astronomy, is working at the U.S. Naval Observatory with earth orientation and orbital scientists.

Shad Scalvini, 2003

Wildlife, previously worked for Green Diamond Timber and several consultants as a wildlife technician. Scalvini has been the lead wildlife biologist for Mendocino Redwood Company (MRC) since 2012 and is in charge of the Northern Spotted owl program. Scalvini has also started a mutual program with the Wildlife 311 techniques class where they hold their field trip on MRC property at Rockport Beach. They have conducted small mammal trapping, songbird, bat, and small owl mist-netting, track-plates, telemetry, herpetology surveys, etc.

Megan Jones Patterson, 2006

Wildlife, recently completed her Ph.D. in Ecology & Evolutionary Biology in Emily DuVal's lab at Florida State University. Her research focused on the costs and benefits

of male cooperative display behavior in White-ruffed Manakins—a small bird living in mid-elevations in Central America. She continues her work as a staff scientist and science educator with the National Ecological Observatory Network.

Ruben Isai Madriz Villanueva, 2007

Biological Sciences, embarked on a two-year bicycle trip from Chicago to the southern tip of South America, volunteering along the way at wildlife rehabilitation centers and parks. He then attended UNAM in Mexico City and received a master's degree in electron microscopy. In 2011, he married HSU alumna, Kristina Lindsay ('06, Women's Studies), and they moved from California to Iowa where he earned a Ph.D. in Entomology from Iowa State. He and Kristina are currently living in Patagonia, Chile, where he is a Fulbright-National Geographic Digital Storytelling Fellow focused on rare insects.

Dora Mitchell, 2008

Art, published her debut novel, an illustrated children's mystery titled *The Haunted Serpent*, in hardcover by Sterling Children's Books in 2018. Kirkus Reviews says "fans of Dan Pablocki, John Bellairs, and R.L. Stine will all be right at home and smiling at the shivers (and the jokes)." Booklist says "Mitchell's well-developed kid characters and excellent caricatures (both written and visual) of the evil adult despots make this paranormal read engaging and goosebump-inducing." And School Library Journal called it "a spooky, high-interest adventure for reluctant readers and fans of action-packed tales."

Dr. Jessica Rendon, 2008

Environmental Science, recently received her Ph.D in entomology from the University of Idaho. She currently works for the Oregon Department of Agriculture, working to protect Oregon's agriculture and natural resources from invasive species. She was recently promoted to Japanese beetle eradication specialist. "Experiencing HSU education, student life, and its inspirations greatly shaped my desire for further education, and future career, which I so enjoy. It also made me fall in love with the Pacific Northwest," she says. Having begun volunteering experiences at HSU, she continues to volunteer on habitat and riparian restoration.

Heidi Bowman, 2009

English, helped open the "sister charter school": CSArts-SGV in 2017. The free, public

Gifts from the Heart



Theta Epsilon Alumni Association

Robert Kreuter ('72, History) and other members of the Theta Epsilon Alumni Association made a gift to permanently endow the Theta Epsilon Alumni Association Memorial Scholarship in 2018. The scholarship provides a minimum of \$1,000 each year to students performing voluntary service on campus or in the community.



comprehensive high school in California's San Gabriel Valley embeds seven hours of conservatory arts instruction following the academic school day. She has the distinct honor of being the department chair, and because of HSU's English Education program, the department is the "Literature, Language, and Composition" team. The linguistics courses, the not-old-dead-white-guys literature courses, and the pedagogy-built-into-my-soul courses, shaped her into an English teacher to be reckoned with.

2010s

Zachary Haitkin, 2010

International Studies, lives in San Francisco and works at the headquarters for the rideshare company Lyft. He began his career by making the transition from a Lyft driver to customer support associate. Since then, he has worked on the operations team and led the effort to build a competitive intelligence network in

an effort to improve Lyft's visibility into what competitors are doing at a market level. Most recently, he has moved over to Lyft's growth team as a project manager to help lead the charge in the localization of the Lyft platform into Spanish and other languages.

Janine Silvis, 2012

Critical Race, Gender & Sexuality Studies, is the coordinator for residential education for College Ten at UC Santa Cruz. After graduating, Silvis served four years as a student affairs administrator at UCLA, UC Berkeley, and the University of Oregon and then obtained a Master of Education in Higher Education and Student Affairs Administration at the University of Vermont. Silvis applies their experiences and education to formulate interdisciplinary approaches to ending campus sexual assault, developing residential curriculum, and supporting minoritized students in higher education. Silvis has received several awards and recognition for national conference presentations and has published in scholarly journals.

Christine Messer (Orlowski), 2013

Wildlife, worked for the California Department of Food and Agriculture before deciding to continue her education. She obtained a master's degree in Environmental Studies from California State University, Fullerton, in 2017. While completing her graduate degree, she worked for the County of Santa Barbara in the sustainability division. She currently works for the City of Lompoc as the city's recycling coordinator. She married Kirk Messer ('11, Biology, Zoology) in October 2017. They live in Santa Maria, Calif., and recently returned to HSU for a visit after five years away.

Ana Veronica Parra, 2013

Biological Sciences, fell in love with astronomy after watching "Cosmos: A Spacetime Odyssey" narrated by Neil deGrasse Tyson. She is currently taking math and physics courses at San Diego Mesa College and plans to apply to the University of Colorado's Astrophysics and Planetary Science Ph.D. program in December 2019.

Jonathan Baer, 2014

Environmental Science & Management, got married the year he graduated from HSU. Two weeks after graduating, he and his wife moved to Shenyang, China where they taught English for a year. This experience convinced

Gifts from the Heart



Tom and Renee Warnock

Tom ('85, Environmental Resources Engineering) and his wife Renee are building a more sustainable future with a planned gift through a charitable gift annuity. The Thomas W. Warnock Environmental Resources Engineering Research Assistantship Endowment Fund will support engineering students' hands-on learning experiences.



him to become a teacher for good. He applied to several schools for graduate programs and eventually decided to go with Southern Oregon University in Ashland. He received his master's degree in teaching with a K-12 teaching license with endorsements in elementary education and secondary social sciences. He subbed for a while and now is starting his second year teaching 6th grade in Baker City, Ore. We also had a daughter, Isabella, in October of 2017.

Brian Galvez, 2014

Fisheries Biology, graduated from Delaware State University with a Master of Science in Natural Resources with a focus on Fisheries Biology. His thesis was titled "Trophic ecology of juvenile Weakfish (*Cynoscion regalis*) from the Delaware Bay using stomach content and stable isotope analyses." He is currently writing a manuscript for publication in Transactions of the American Fisheries Society with the work presented in his thesis. He represented Humboldt State Fisheries Biology department by having the best thesis defense in the Delaware State University Natural Resources graduate

Roman Sanchez: Behind the Scenes—and Loving it

WHAT'S SPECIAL ABOUT THE PERFORMING ARTS? For Roman Sanchez ('18, Theatre, Film, & Dance), it's about carving your own career path.

Sanchez was first introduced to HSU at the California State Summer School for the Arts. He took a class about the opportunities in the performing arts industry beyond being a performer.

It turns out the arts have a considerable need for maintenance, insurance policies, accounting, human resources, and more. It all falls under the umbrella of arts administration, and it's something he is passionate about. "It merges my two loves of theater and business," says Sanchez, who has been involved in theater since preschool.

Sanchez has turned his behind-the-scenes experience into a full-time enterprise. He runs two businesses in the entertainment industry, Lime Arts Productions and Roman Sanchez Entertainment. He's also the assistant executive director for the Dell'Arte International School of Physical Theatre in Humboldt County.

His full schedule reflects a deep commitment to the performing arts community. Lime Arts is dedicated to helping young people find jobs in the theater arts. "Young people have ideas that shouldn't be underestimated. We're the future," says Sanchez.



To a great extent, Sanchez says his work is about building networks of people and potential collaborators. That social savvy goes back to his student days. "What is great about HSU is you're able to take advantage of the plethora of people, you get to make important connections every day."

program according to multiple people, including a Delaware State fish biologist and the department chair of his program.

Shayna Nagel, 2014

Social Work, graduated from the University of Michigan with a master's degree in Social Work with an emphasis in IP health. Since graduating, she has worked at a foster care agency in Los Angeles where she created a placement program for foster youth with health issues. She has also worked at a children's hospital in Los Angeles after hours in the house and ER. She is now following her dreams by working with people of all ages and backgrounds in hospice care.

Eddie Shin, 2014

Psychology, got married a year ago to the love of his life who loves doing what he loved to do most when in Humboldt—hike and spend time outdoors! He moved to Orem, Utah, shortly after graduating and in 2016 landed a job at a residential treatment center where he became their neurofeedback practitioner. He says it has been awesome working with these kids in improving their emotions and behaviors through a holistic intervention in their treatment. He is currently working on his

master's degree toward becoming a marriage and family therapist. He misses the redwoods and Humboldt coast dearly and thinks about that beautiful place every day. He lives his life the Humboldt way still and stays green.

Karlee Jewell, 2015

International Studies, is a local Americorps member who was recently recognized alongside 30 young people, ages 30 and under, by the North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE). The NAAEE 30 Under 30 highlights the work of young professionals of various backgrounds, ethnicities, genders, and communities around the globe who are using education to help protect the environment. The program was started by a partnership between NAAEE and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

Dylan Karl, 2016

Wildlife, completed two years of service as a Peace Corps environment volunteer in Guyana, South America. He volunteered as a community conservation promotor. Now that his service is complete, he is looking into going to Bowling Green State University for its Leisure and Tourism program.

Fernando William Manzanera, 2016
International Studies, moved to the Czech Republic in 2017 to be with his girlfriend. He works as a teacher and in IT support for a Swiss insurance company. Life is pretty great.

James A. Seward, 2016

Oceanography, was an environmental services intern for California Coastal Conservancy from July 2017 to January 2018. He is currently a technician with the Central & Northern California Ocean Observing System.

John Soener, 2016

International Studies, completed two years of Peace Corps service in Nicaragua and will be attending graduate school at Indiana University. He will be pursuing a master's degree in Public Affairs, focusing specifically on nonprofit management and policy analysis. His International Studies and Spanish degrees were a great way to start his career in public service and Peace Corps was an incredible career booster that provided him incredible opportunities to fund graduate school.

Diana Argueta, 2017

Critical Race, Gender & Sexuality Studies, returned to the world of immigrant rights after many years of being away, and she

Tom Frazer: Florida's Top Scientist

WITH A LIFELONG LOVE of the marine environment and a degree from Humboldt, Tom Frazer ('86, Fisheries Biology) is ready to face Florida's biggest environmental challenges as the state's first chief science officer.

The position—the first of its kind in the nation—was created as part of Florida's efforts to address mounting environmental issues, including widespread algal blooms fueled by excessive nutrient inputs. For Frazer it's an opportunity to put his years of experience as a research scientist to work in a state that in January committed \$2.5 billion to improve water quality.

Frazer, a confessed fishing devotee, grew up in the San Diego area and was drawn to HSU by the unique opportunity to study his fascination at the undergraduate level. Once at Humboldt, he learned from experienced faculty, including Professor Ted Kerstetter. Frazer credits Kerstetter with teaching him how to think. "He taught me how to ask appropriate questions and encourage creative ways to address them," says Frazer. "You knew all the professors by name, and they pretty much had open door policies."



Frazer remembers the department's hands-on approach led to jobs at Blue Lake's Mad River Fish Hatchery and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Fisheries Assistance Office in Arcata. Both were launching pads to a career that most recently included serving as the director of the School of Natural Resources and Environment at the University of Florida. "I always wanted to make sure that I found a position that made a difference," Frazer says. "That was an ethic from HSU that has continued to stick with me."

From his new post, Frazer is in the unique position to help those shaping Florida state pol-

icy make informed decisions about issues ranging from Everglades restoration to sea level rise. "There is a lot of information out there," he says. "It's important to harness that information, simplify it, provide it to individuals responsible for making policy, and carry out management actions. The science is intended to inform those policy decisions."

loves it. She is currently a social worker case managing two programs housing children in custody of the Office of Refugee Resettlement and Unaccompanied Refugee Minors. She advocates for children who have no one to care for them in their country of origin or in the U.S. as they start their life over in this country and apply for political asylum.

Jacqueline Heinzen, 2017

Anthropology, has started work as a user experience researcher with Binary Defense, a cybersecurity firm based out of Hudson, Ohio. It's her first full-time job where she was hired specifically to apply her research skills as an anthropologist.

Holly McLaughlin, 2017

Liberal Studies Elementary Education, teaches fifth grade at Washington Elementary school.

Jolene Saldivar, 2017

Biological Sciences, has committed to the University of California, Riverside's Plant Biology Ph.D. program and will begin this summer. She is also the recipient of the Eugene Cota-Robles Fellowship, which is the most prestigious diversity fellowship offered at UC Riverside.

Jessica Elaine Sepulveda, 2017

Biological Sciences, had an opportunity to work in startup using stem cell technology to reduce human impact on the environment. Unlike most stem cell technology that focuses on medicine, VitroLabs Inc.'s goal is to reduce our ecological footprint by making ethical leather in a lab. Her job entails making induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSCs), differentiating our stem cells into skin cells and generating leather. By producing leather in a lab from iPSCs we can eliminate the need for cow hides while still supplying the market

with this particular textile. She finds her work satisfying and is able to fulfill her graduation pledge in several ways: the product is ethical and ecological.

Jennifer Werthman, 2017

Politics, was engaged in January 2018 and had a baby boy named Jack on June 30. She began substitute teaching and will obtain a credential soon to become a high school government teacher.

Jesus Pascual Cisneros, 2018

World Languages & Cultures, is a Spanish immersion teacher at Dow's Prairie Elementary in McKinleyville, California.

Aaron Pudlicki, 2018

Forestry & Wildland Resources, obtained a full-time job as a forester living in Portland, Ore., and managing timberland throughout western Oregon within three months of graduation.

Giving

by the Numbers

Thank you to our generous alumni, parents, friends, and community members. With their support, Humboldt State students are getting the education and experience they need to create a better world and a brighter future.*

\$7,100,000

Total Raised

5,180

Total Donors

20,850

Total Gifts

1,130

New Donors

2,190

Alumni Donors

560

Student Scholarships and Awards

\$31,500,000

Total Endowment

To learn more about giving opportunities and philanthropy at Humboldt State University, visit giving.humboldt.edu, call 707.826.5200 or email giving@humboldt.edu.

*Based on 2018-19 figures.





things

Student Fashion

How do you stay comfortable, dry, and stylish while managing to carry everything you need for class? Take a lesson from these chic students.



Meet Humboldt

Madison Maglasang ('19, Social Work)

Charles Moore ('19, Psychology)

Chelsea Duncan ('19, Social Work)

Madison, Charles, and Chelsea know a thing or two about awkward conversations. As HSU's Clinical Peer Health Educators, they've put in hundreds of hours helping students learn about sexual and reproductive health, such as accessing contraceptives and testing for sexually transmitted infections. They design projects, lead workshops and talks, table around campus, and have met one-on-one with nearly 400 patients.

"We increase access and people's personal tool sets for sexual health. If it's a service campus doesn't offer, we'll help them find it off-campus as well." — **Madison**

"Sometimes when you ask a student if they want STD information they seem relieved because they've been wanting to know more but were too shy to ask. Sexual health revolves around social life, so having educators that are their age means we probably understand the kinds of experiences and relationships they're in." — **Charles**

"People are afraid to ask for more services, so we created a vending machine that contains emergency contraceptives. A vending machine can't judge you." — **Chelsea**



For more information, or to support the Overcoming Health Barriers to Graduation Crisis Fund, visit wellbeing.humboldt.edu.

HUMBOLDT STATE UNIVERSITY

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