

Humboldt

The Magazine of Humboldt State University | Spring 2007

HSU Students
Discover a
Galaxy



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Giving Them a Name

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It was a Galaxy Far, Far, Away... But We Found It!

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On the cover: Recent graduates Amy Furniss and Arik Mitschang take a peek through a 16-inch telescope in HSU's Fickle Hill observatory.

Pictured here: A group of faculty, students, and locals take advantage of a Center Activities surf lesson.





A Real Difference

STUDENTS DISCOVER A GALAXY... is not a headline that you see every day, but it is an example of Humboldt State's commitment to making a real difference in our world. As you look through the pages of this magazine, you will encounter stories of alumni, professors and students who are having a true impact on their communities.

There is, for example, an anthropology professor who is helping to solve crimes and give victims' families a sense of closure; a psychology professor whose national research on bullying in public schools is helping a local school mitigate that problem; and, yes, two of our undergraduate students have, in fact, discovered a galaxy. These are all representative of Humboldt State's approach to taking education outside the classroom and using it to make a difference in our world.

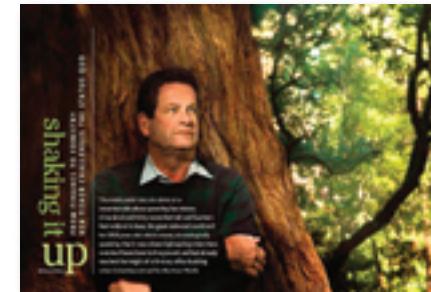
There is much at HSU that I am proud of as you will see for yourself in the following pages. You may notice some new things about our university magazine. The name is now changed from the *Humboldt Stater* to, simply, *Humboldt*. Also, our editor and graphic designers have returned to the drawing board and given the magazine a fresh and more refined visual style.

On that note, I also would like to invite you to provide our editor with your thoughts and input. Let him know what you liked or disliked about this issue by sending an email to editor@humboldt.edu.

I hope you enjoy *Humboldt*'s new look and enriched content.

Sincerely,

Rollin C. Richmond, President



KEN MOTIVATED MANY

ALOHA, GREAT STORY ON Ken Fisher and his extremely generous endowment gift to fund research on redwoods. His generosity does not surprise me at all. I was lucky enough to be a student at HSU with Ken in the early '70s. One thing your readers may not know is that along with the highly supportive faculty in Economics that he noted, as a student Ken motivated many of us, through his example, that our aspirations were more than pie-in-the-sky dreams. Being a 'townie' as I was, Ken appeared a rather exotic creature, from outside the Redwood Curtain, and whose father was this mysterious big-time investment advisor. We figured if a guy who drank Coors with us on Friday nights and argued the merits of monetary and fiscal policies at the same time could aspire to a life mixing academics and business (while living in a tree house!), then so might we.

Through the years I've only had sporadic contact with Ken, but he's always been generous with his time and his advice. Those were great years of academic discovery and excitement for us and Ken was always an important contributor.

David Hammes (Economics, '73)
Professor and Chair of Economics
University of Hawaii at Hilo

A GOOD READ

I WAS HAPPY TO discover this magazine the other day. It's inspiring to see the research, discoveries, and inventions of my fellow alumni. Though we may not all be famous, we're all still making our mark on this world. Your magazine shows what is possible, and where our imagination and perseverance can take us. I hope you include this publication in the materials you send to new students—our outstanding graduates are the best example of what makes HSU a school truly worth attending. Kudos as well on the visually appealing layout of the magazine; it makes for an engaging read.

Randle (Rocky) Brashear
(Journalism '02)



A SENSE OF COMMUNITY

I APPRECIATE THE EFFORT Humboldt State has put into its university magazine—it's been needed. Your magazine is a reminder of the lasting effect Humboldt State, its surroundings and the community have had on the lives of those of us lucky enough to spend a few years there. I'm glad to come across stories like *Fermenting the Entrepreneurial Spirit*, the article on how HSU is contributing to local businesses. The ethic of giving back to your community is irreplaceable and increasingly rare in this day and age. Thank you for reminding us of this, and for making it a focus of your magazine.

Tom Phillips
(Environmental Resources
Engineering, '98)

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Professor Helps School Reduce Bullying

NAME CALLING, SHOVING, THE occasional wedgie or toilet dunking in the boy's restroom—bullying, what was once considered a harmless rite of passage, is drawing national attention in the wake of high school shootings in Arkansas, California, Colorado, Minnesota, Mississippi and Washington. In many cases, the killers were identified as teens, bent on revenge, after being subjected to years of bullying.

Though school shootings are quite rare, several psychological studies, including one conducted by the U.S. Department of Justice, have found that beatings, harassment and social isolation, are all quite common and frequently lead to psychological trauma, depression and truancy in students.

Three years ago Sunnybrae Middle School in Arcata began a study to determine how much bullying was occurring at their own school. Sunnybrae's staff, however, was faced with a challenge—just how would they go about measuring the *severity* of bullying on their campus?



Humboldt State psychology professor Dr. William Reynolds had the answer.

Reynolds is an expert on teen depression and suicide. The research tools he developed to measure depression in adolescents are used in 35 countries and have been cited in several hundred research publications. Five years ago, Reynolds turned his attention to school violence and developed scales that will now enable school administrators anywhere to determine the psychological impact of bullying on their own campuses.

The good news? For starters, the study found that there is less bullying at Sunnybrae than you'd typically find in a school its size. The study also gave the school tools for engaging the issue. "The study's been really helpful," says school psychologist Chris Byrne. "Now we know where

and how the bullying is happening, and we're addressing it. We've changed some of our rules, incorporated an anti-bullying element in our curriculum, and are teaching students conflict resolution and bystander skills. Kids who are victims or depressed are getting help they may not have gotten otherwise."

For his part, Reynolds is happy knowing that his research is making a difference. "That's really why I do what I do," he says. "Even though I'm not a clinical psychologist, I still want to help kids in distress. I'm glad I can do that through my research."

"Our success is directly attributable to the outstanding support we receive from Humboldt State University," Peace Corps Director Ron Tschetter recently wrote to HSU President Rollin Richmond.

Peace Corps Lauds Humboldt State

ONCE AGAIN, THE PEACE CORPS has ranked Humboldt State as one of the top-volunteering universities in America. Over the years, 600 HSU alumni have served in the Peace Corps. Twenty-nine HSU graduates are currently volunteering in the Corps—a fact that led the organization to recently rank HSU an impressive 15th on the Peace Corps' list of top-volunteering medium-size colleges and universities.

Peace Corps volunteers apply the skills and knowledge they acquire at HSU to help improve the lives of people across the globe, while also representing the United States.

"Our success is directly attributable to the outstanding support we receive from Humboldt State University," Peace Corps Director Ron Tschetter recently wrote to HSU President Rollin Richmond.



Humboldt Awarded Half Million Dollar Science Grant

THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION (NSF) recently awarded Humboldt \$499,943 to finance the university's new Scientific Leadership Scholars Program. Over the next four years, the program will provide 120 scholarships of \$3,623 in Computer Science, Environmental Resources Engineering, and Mathematics.

"Humboldt has great programs in these fields," notes Environmental Resources Engineering professor and grant co-author, Beth Eschenbach. "These scholarships will help highlight what we have to offer and attract high-caliber students."

To learn more about the Scientific Leadership Scholars Program, go to www.humboldt.edu/~sls. The application deadline (for the fall of 2007) is April 15, 2007.

"The scholarships also give us a chance to serve our region," Eschenbach continues, "by increasing access to college in our North Coast communities."

The scholarships will be targeted to academically talented and financially needy Native American and first-generation college students who meet the high school GPA requirement of 2.75. However, all students who meet the financial need and GPA requirements will be eligible for the scholarship. The scholarship program also includes leadership training, professional development and service learning opportunities.

Lumberjacks Dominate New League



HSU guard Grayson Moyer and his teammates gave top-seeded Division I team UCLA a run for their money during an early season exhibition.

EXPECTATIONS WERE HIGH. LAST year, our men's basketball team made it to the post-season for the fifth time in six years and capped off the winning season with an appearance in the West Region playoffs. So, when the team made the move this year to a new league—the CCAA—many sports writers and fans predicted that HSU would prove a dominant force. Turns out they were right.

The Jacks started this season with a strong showing against UCLA, one of America's strongest college teams, and as of this

writing, have racked up an impressive 20-3 overall record. With just four games remaining in the regular season, the Jacks are the top seed in their Division II league and stand a strong chance of both competing in and hosting this year's West Region tournament.

Want to know more? By the time this issue of *Humboldt* goes to press, the post season will be in full swing. You can discover how all of our teams are faring by visiting www.hsujacks.com

Humboldt State in the Spotlight

HUMBOLDT STATE IS ATTRACTING kudos from the press—several times over. Once again, HSU made both the Princeton Review's Best Western list and U.S. News and World Report's list of top western master's programs. Perhaps our most glowing review came from Collegewise, an organization that offers college counseling to parents and schools from across America. Collegewise penned a page-long endorsement of HSU's strong natural science programs, low student-to-faculty ratios, and innovative approach to hands-on learning.

"What's particularly strong about that article," says Michael Reilly, HSU's Associate Vice President of Enrollment Management, "is that it was published by a national organization that works with students who are applying to the most prestigious universities in the country. The fact that Collegewise ranked us in that league says a lot about the quality of what we do here."

In addition to receiving praise from the press, HSU is also attracting more attention from students. Freshman and transfer student enrollment grew



Students study sediment from Humboldt Bay. Humboldt's dedication to hands-on learning is attracting national attention.

11 percent this past fall and freshman applications for the fall 2007 term have increased by 15 percent—a growth rate that is more than double the average in the California State University system.

What accounts for this boost in popularity?

"If we suffered, in the past, from a lack of recognition, it was never because we failed to offer a quality education,"

Reilly explains. "We were simply going about the business of educating students very *quietly*. We weren't promoting our strengths during a time when other universities began to compete for students' attention. We've been doing a better job of that this past year. We've extended our outreach efforts, revamped our Web site and created a very compelling set of recruitment materials, and it's paying off."

To read Collegewise's review of Humboldt State, visit www.news.humboldt.edu

Students & Faculty Treat Wildlife Affected by Oil Spill

WHEN HUMBOLDT BAY WAS hit by an oil spill this past November, HSU students and faculty, were among the volunteers at the Marine Wildlife Care Facility (MWCF) who worked to save 53 oiled birds.

The facility is located on the HSU campus and is part of a network of coastal wildlife emergency response centers, established by the Department of Fish and Game. Under normal conditions, the MWCF is used as a teaching facility for Humboldt State wildlife students. During oil spills it becomes a wildlife rescue facility, complete with stations for triage, washing, drying and recovery. The facility has now been activated three times to care for oiled birds.

To learn more about the Marine Wildlife Care Facility, visit www.humboldt.edu/~mwcc



One of 53 oiled birds treated at HSU's rescue facility.

HSU Football's Best Season IN DECADES

By Vernon Felton

It came as a surprise to many. Few of Humboldt State's football fans, even the team's most ardent supporters, predicted that 2006 would prove a breakthrough year for the Lumberjacks, who hadn't tasted a winning season in over a decade. You can imagine, then, the euphoria that filled the Redwood Bowl this November when the Lumberjacks narrowly defeated Western Oregon—securing a 9-1 record and Humboldt State's best season since 1968.





In just two years, quarterback Blake Moorman passed for 4,684 yards, setting a new record for career passing yardage. He also threw 34 touchdowns, just one TD shy of yet another school record.

THE LOCAL PRESS HAS directed much of the credit for this year's success at quarterback Blake Moorman, and with good reason. In just two years of play, Moorman passed for 4,684 yards, setting a new school record, and was also one lucky pass shy of equaling yet another record for career touchdowns.

Moorman was actually unaware, as he walked onto the field for the last time, that he stood a chance of breaking any records at all. No one, it seems, had even recognized that possibility until local sportswriter Ray Hamill mentioned it in his Eureka Reporter column the day of the game. Kara Polson, Moorman's girlfriend, read the article that morning and immediately called Blake's friends, telling them—*Whatever you do, don't let Blake read the paper today*.

Imagine, for a moment, that you're quarterback of a team that's trying to bring a winning season to a perfect close—against one of your strongest rivals, in front of a hometown crowd. Oh, and while you're at it, consider that your performance in this final game of your college career will determine whether or not you go down in the record books as one of the greatest quarterbacks to play at HSU.

Feeling a little stressed?

That last tidbit about the record books, Kara wisely decided, was something Blake would be better off not knowing.

"I'm actually kind of glad I didn't know about the record," Moorman admits with a laugh. "It was a tough game. The start was just horrible. I couldn't complete a pass to save my life. If I'd been thinking about reaching some sort of record at that point in the game, it might have messed with my head a bit."

Unlikely Hero

AT SOME POINT, JUST about every boy dreams of being a quarterback—the fearless leader of a fighting machine, the veritable arm of victory. Quarterback ranks right up there on most men's personal list of very cool jobs, right above Fireman and just below Professional Alligator Wrestler. Interestingly, Blake Moorman never dreamt he'd occupy the position. Sure, he played the game in high school, but at 5'10" and a 160 pounds, Moorman wasn't exactly college quarterback material.

For someone who spends their days dodging and shrugging off 230-pound linebackers, 160 and some change is downright waifish. Or as Moorman puts it, "You get pummeled. At that size, I couldn't see over linemen. I had my nose busted. It just wasn't much fun. You're actually lining up and sizing up the defensive linemen and linebackers so you have an idea of what's going to be coming at you. One hundred and sixty pounds just wasn't a good playing weight."

Not long after graduating from Cathedral High (just outside Palm Springs), Moorman threw in the towel. "I'd actually given up on football," he explains. "I just wasn't gaining the size or getting the results I wanted." Fortunately for Humboldt State, several coaches down south saw Moorman's potential, and encouraged him to stick with the game and keep building his skills, size and strength.

Moorman's breakthrough came at San Diego's Mesa Junior College when he moved up from full-time punter to starting quarterback. Always on the lookout for fresh talent, Head

Football Coach Adkins saw Moorman's astonishing performances at Mesa as a sign of things to come and invited the quarterback up to Humboldt. With intense year-round training Moorman grew to 200 pounds and soon mastered HSU's offense. The rest, as they say, is history.

It Takes a Team...

ACTUALLY, BLAKE MOORMAN WANTS to make sure that history gets the story right. So while Moorman is appreciative of all the attention he's received, he's also quick to point out the equally important performances of his teammates. All-American wide receiver Joey Stein, for instance, was on the receiving end of many of Moorman's passes and closed the season with a team-high 888 yards and nine touchdowns.

Likewise, Humboldt State fielded an awe-inspiring defensive line in 2006, led by All-American strong safety Kyle Killingsworth. In addition to racking up 56 tackles and three interceptions during the season, Killingsworth played on special teams, averaging 21.1 yards per punt return and 30.6 yards on kickoff returns.

"Our offensive line got a lot of attention, but our defense was just unbelievable," says Moorman. "They carried us at times. I can't even recall all the times we stopped other teams that were first and goal from inside our 10-yard line."

What does Coach Adkins attribute his team's success to?

"Well, for starters, the guys got used to the taste of winning," explains the head coach. "They learned that winning just flat out feels a whole lot better than losing. But a lot of the turnaround also has to do with the support we've received from the administration. More fundraising and alumni support has meant that we've been able to more than double our



HSU Team Statistics Fall 2006 Season

Women's Cross Country

2006 CCAA Championships,
12th Place Team Finish

Men's Cross Country

2006 CCAA Championships,
11th Place Team Finish

Women's Soccer

2006 Overall Record, 12-5-4

Men's Soccer

2006 Overall Record, 11-6-3

Volleyball

2006 Overall Record, 9-15

Football

2006 Overall Record, 9-1

scholarship offerings. That, in turn, allows us to attract higher-caliber student athletes. We recently went from being able to offer three scholarships to being able to offer eight scholarships, which is how Blake came to us. That may not seem like a big deal, but it makes a huge difference to our program."

Twenty-three players from the 2006 team will graduate this spring, which begs the obvious question—what are our odds for next year?

"I think the prospects are good," says Adkins. "This year we had one of our best freshman classes in years. We have a strong redshirt program, as well as some great talent returning, so the cupboard is far from bare."

Does having a winning year, in and of itself, give Humboldt a foothold for building a stronger program?

"I think it does. A winning program definitely attracts strong players, but another thing that we have working in our favor is that this university has so many strong programs you can't find anywhere else in California. If you want to study biology or forestry or the arts, you frankly can't do much better than

Humboldt State."

This spring Blake Moorman will graduate as well. He leaves Humboldt State with a degree in Kinesiology and hopes to eventually coach, bringing out the talent in college players, the way so many coaches did for him. Is he sad to see his football career come to a close? "I'm actually at peace with it," says Moorman. "I wasn't so sure I was going to be, but one of my goals in coming to Humboldt was to help get the program moving in the winning direction. We did that. Winning that last game and finishing off with a 9-1 season? That just made things so much better."





HE STOOD OUT IN A CROWD. You couldn't miss his large, off-center nose or his oddly-shaped head with its almost lumpy brow. And there was always that missing tooth, a gaping hole where his right incisor should have hung. Of course, you and I couldn't tell any of this by actually looking at him or, more exactly, what remained of him—just his skull. Humboldt State Professor Mary Glenn, however, looks at a bone and sees the life it was once connected to.

The skull in question was recently found in a forest north of Arcata. All that was left of John Doe were a few scattered bones. The case came to Dr. Glenn as they often do, with a phone call from Frank Jager, the county coroner.

GIVING THEM A **NAME**

PROFESSOR HELPS SOLVE LOCAL CASES

By Vernon Felton



"SOMETIMES THE SHEER ENORMITY of it all just bowls me over," admits Glenn. "Like this latest case. You're holding the skull in your hands and you realize that this is an individual from our county or perhaps someone who was just passing through and for some reason, they just didn't make it. You try to figure out their age, height, gender...You try to extract every detail. You just try to put a name to that person. And somewhere out there this person has a family who's wondering where they are... It's a pretty powerful thing to deal with."

2,300 PEOPLE WILL DISAPPEAR TODAY
ACCORDING TO THE NATIONAL Center for Missing Adults, 2,300 Americans are reported missing every day. Here in Humboldt County, the coroner's office averages 20 to 25 cases each year involving skeletons that have been found in uninhabited corners of the county.

"Most of these cases," explains Humboldt County Coroner, Frank Jager, "involve either animal bones or ancient Native American remains. Probably one or two a year wind up being 'John or Jane Doe' investigations that are suspicious in nature."

Of course, to most of us, just about every pile of bones looks suspicious. That's where Mary Glenn comes into the picture.

Glenn received her first call from Frank Jager in the winter of 1999. She had just begun teaching at Humboldt State, fresh from a decade spent researching the evolution of mico monkeys and bonobos in the jungles of Africa and Grenada. Primates are Glenn's specialty.

While asking a primatologist to examine human remains may seem odd, it's really not a stretch. Like many physical anthropologists, Glenn possesses a keen understanding of human anatomy. When you make a living studying evolution,



anatomy comes with the territory. Glenn had, in fact, taught this very subject to med school students while pursuing her own doctorate at Northwestern University.

There are researchers out there, board-certified forensic anthropologists, who specialize in bones and bones alone. These are the experts who often testify in court and are, in essence, the final word in a legal case. There are, however, fewer than 75 board-certified anthropologists in America and none of them live in Humboldt County—all of which makes Mary Glenn's expertise invaluable to the coroner's office and brings us back to that first call from Frank Jager.

Mary Glenn (left) examines human remains discovered in Humboldt County, with the assistance of former student Alisha Clompus. Glenn occasionally works with advanced students, like Clompus, when tackling forensic work.

A partial skeleton had been brought into Jager's office and the coroner was pondering his next step. He could send the remains to Sacramento for a DNA analysis, but the DNA database is hardly comprehensive and at \$5,000 a pop, such procedures quickly sap the coroner's lean budget. Besides, were these even human remains? And if so, were they two decades or two centuries old? Might they match some of the characteristics of locals who'd gone missing? These were questions Mary Glenn could answer.

"Mary found marks on the skull, which indicated trauma, that we didn't even see," recalls Jager. "She helped focus the case, which turned out to be a homicide." Glenn received another call from the coroner's office before the year was out. And then another.

"I've called Mary on a number of occasions," says Jager. "She narrows down the possibilities for us...age, gender, height, whether or not trauma's been inflicted... She's just tremendously helpful."

Glenn is ready for anything. A femur suddenly appears on a park bench in Trinidad, or a fisherman on Humboldt Bay pulls up his net and discovers a torso along with his catch... The anthropology professor never knows what she'll encounter in the coroner's office.

BONES TALK

THIS MOST RECENT SKULL case—the one involving the man who stuck out in a crowd—went cold a few months ago. These cases often do. That's hard for people to accept. Fifty million Americans tune in to three separate CSI television shows each week and believe what they see: modern-day Sherlock Holmes-types who only need a single carpet fiber or strand of hair to deliver justice each and every time.

The television crime scene investigators on shows such as CSI, Bones, Cold Case and Crossing Jordan are walking



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"WHEN YOU'VE DONE THIS LONG ENOUGH, YOU JUST START NOTICING THE WIDE RANGE OF HUMAN VARIATION IN PEOPLE. NOW, IT'S ACTUALLY HARD FOR ME TO STOP. I LOOK AT SOMEONE AND I IMMEDIATELY NOTICE THE WAY THEIR TEETH ARE ARRANGED, THE ANGLE OF THEIR JAW, THEIR BROW RIDGE. IT'S ALMOST AS IF I CAN SEE THE SKULL BEHIND THEIR FACE. I KNOW, THAT PROBABLY SOUNDS MORBID, BUT IT'S AN OUTGROWTH OF THE WORK. JOHNNY DEPP AND MARIA SHRIVER HAVE REALLY GREAT CHEEKBONES." — MARY GLENN

in a teenager's skull aren't so tightly fused. The joints of an overweight person often show distinct signs of stress.... If you know what to look for, the answers to many questions are there on the bones.

"It just comes down to spending hours doing it," says Glenn. "I can pick up a skull now and my mind immediately starts rolling over a list of things. There are more than 100 traits that you identify and measure... When you add up all the measurements, you have a highly probable sketch of what that person was like in life."

"When you've done this long enough, you just start noticing the wide range of human variation in people. Now, it's actually hard for me to stop. I look at someone and I immediately notice the way their teeth are arranged, the angle of their jaw, their brow ridge. It's almost as if I can see the skull behind their face. I know, that probably sounds morbid, but it's an outgrowth of the work. Johnny Depp and Maria Shriver," Glenn adds, "have really great cheekbones."

PUTTING A NAME TO THE FACE

FROM TIME TO TIME, some of Mary Glenn's advanced students join her in examining remains. Together they work to give the coroner a place to start the investigation—gender, height, age... that sort of thing. While they generally aren't in the business of directly assisting in the identification of remains, it has happened.

Alisha Clompus was a student of Mary's. In the spring of 2003 she was on the verge of graduating cum laude in both physical anthropology and art. She was also rebuilding a dead man's face. Though only 23 years old at the time, Clompus was already certified in facial reconstruction. She'd learned the art from Betty Pat Gatliff, one of the world's foremost forensic sculptors.

In September of 2002 a hiker found a skeleton a few miles west of Willow Creek. The man's remains had been in the coroner's office for a few months when Clompus walked into Frank Jager's office and asked to put her certificate to good use.

Inspired by Dr. Glenn's courses, Alisha Clompus learned, and became certified, in the art of facial reconstruction. The work she performed as an undergraduate helped uncover the identity of one local John Doe.

"I wanted to apply what I'd learned to the real world," recalls Clompus. "I wanted to help people and I knew that there were skulls sitting there in the coroner's office. Those were people I could help."

The remains, it turned out, belonged to a middle-aged man who'd seen hard times. He'd lost most of his teeth and walked with a serious limp. Clompus guessed this last detail because his anklebone was fused—the result of an old injury.

After 40 hours of Clompus' sculpting, the coroner's office had a face to work with. The authorities posted pictures of the reconstruction around town, along with a write-up, which noted that John Doe probably limped. The local media picked up the story. Clompus recalls the moment. "It was in the newspapers, it was on TV, and I was graduating that same week. It was an amazing time." More amazing still, the deceased ceased being a John Doe that summer. Someone had seen Clompus' work and identified the man as William Wiggins.

Alisha Clompus currently lives in Arcata where she serves as the office manager for the North Coast Environmental Center. She still sculpts faces for the coroner's office from time to time and has kept in contact with her mentor. In fact, Clompus lectures on forensic anthropology and facial reconstruction for Glenn's class every semester. The experience is inspiring her to follow in the professor's footsteps.

"Mary has had a big impact on my life. That first class I took with her made me fall in love with physical anthropology," says Clompus. "Mary, herself, was a big part of that. She's just such an amazing teacher. Speaking to Mary's classes and working with her have also been a really big motivating force in making me want to become a professor."

COMING FULL CIRCLE

FORENSICS WAS THE LAST thing on Mary Glenn's mind when she came to Humboldt State seven years ago. Still, she's glad she can make a difference in the community, even if some of the cases exact a toll.

"I never planned on doing this and I can't say that I enjoy the work at all," she concludes. "I had a case, for instance, where I was examining a gunshot wound, execution style, to the top of an 18-year-old girl's head. It's really difficult—holding a teenager's skull in your hand and just imagining what her final moments must have been like... But the family, the loved ones they leave behind, that's who you're really working for in these cases. There's definitely a sense of satisfaction I get working on these cases, even if ultimately, I'm not the end of the process. If I can help bring some sense of closure to their family, then I'm glad to help."

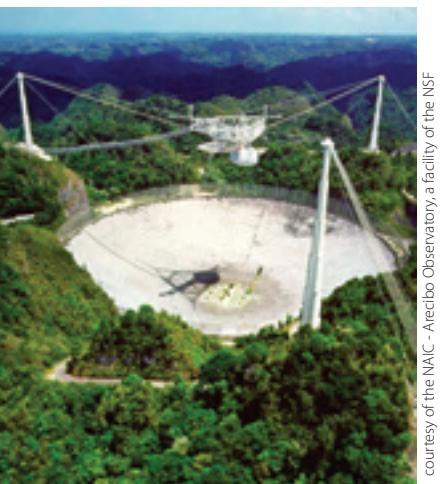


It was a GALAXY FAR, FAR AWAY ...But We Found It

by Serena Zelezny

**Amy Furniss was feeling pretty crummy.
She had the flu. But she'd been off her feet
long enough. There was work to be done.**

So she sat down at one of the 12 computers in the Arecibo Observatory and started flipping through slides of data — capturing a tiny segment of the sky — as recorded by the world's most powerful telescope...in the form of a blue screen with white spots. Lots and lots of them. Slide after slide of fuzzy white spots — like a television on the wrong channel. Amy just needed to find one that appeared slightly more "significant," one that could perhaps be a galaxy.



Courtesy of the NAIC - Arecibo Observatory, a facility of the NSF



While conducting research at the world-famous Arecibo Observatory in Puerto Rico, Amy (left) and Arik (right) both ventured out to the Gregorian dome suspended 500 feet above the telescope's dish—equipped with hard hats, of course. The dish is no laughing matter, either (center). It has a surface area equivalent to 26 football fields.

THE ARECIBO OBSERVATORY, LOCATED in sunny Puerto Rico, houses the world's largest, most sensitive single-dish radio telescope. It is also, in a word, *huge*. The dish spans more than 1,000 feet in diameter—a surface area as big as 26 football fields. You may remember Arecibo from the 1997 film *Contact*. It was where Jodie Foster supposedly picked up signals from the extraterrestrial (Furniss said the headset Jodie used is actually tuned in to the sound of tension in the telescope's cables, and perhaps a group of local frogs — but sure, aliens are much more exciting).

In February 2005, thanks to the recent installation of a new high-tech ALFA (Arecibo L-Band Feed Array) camera at Arecibo, an ambitious sky-mapping project got underway. ALFALFA (Arecibo Legacy Fast ALFA Survey) is expected to detect tens of thousands of galaxies over the next six to seven years, some as far away as 750 million light years. Of course, to collect such massive amounts of groundbreaking data, ALFALFA needed a stellar team of astronomers. The Cornell University-led project will involve more than 50 astronomers from 34 major institutions in 13 countries, including some doctorate, master's, and a small handful of undergraduate students.

Cornell graduate and Humboldt State University professor Dr. David Kornreich was asked to help with the project, making him the only CSU representative. "Dave stopped me in the hall," said Arik Mitschang, who, like his girlfriend Amy Furniss, was a senior physics major with particular interest in astrophysics. "I was just walking by and he said 'Want to go to Puerto Rico?' And I said 'Yeah!' I had no idea what he was talking about, but I thought 'Puerto Rico? I know what's in Puerto Rico.' It hit me instantaneously – 'He's talking about Arecibo.'"

For both Mitschang and Furniss, going to Arecibo was the ultimate jackpot, and a dream come true. Furniss, who grew up in rural Eureka, California, has vivid memories of looking

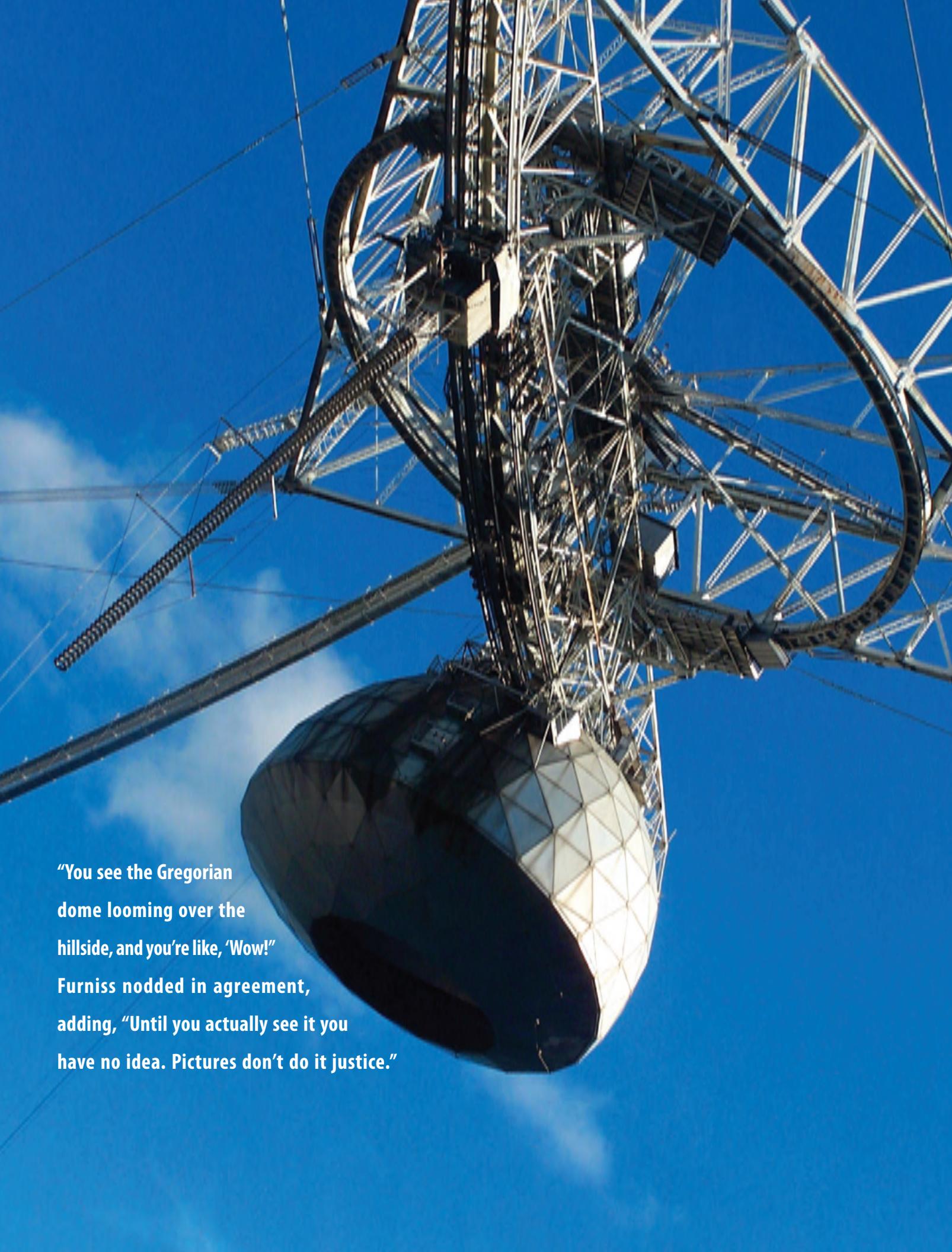
at the stars with her father, using a telescope he bought her when she was a child. For Mitschang, the obsession with astronomy and its mysteries came about in high school. One summer he built his own telescope, and has been studying stars ever since. Of course, both of them enrolled at HSU not intending to study astrophysics at all. Furniss was planning to be a dancer. But as Mitschang put it, "I really can't think of anything better to do with my life. What else could I do that would be this cool?"

Kornreich, Mitschang and Furniss set out for the nine-day Puerto Rico adventure in the middle of the spring semester, 2006. Despite all the preparation and excitement, Furniss and Mitschang admit they had no idea what to expect. "I remember the first time coming over the hill and seeing the big towers," Mitschang said. "You see the Gregorian dome looming over the hillside, and you're like, 'Wow!'" Furniss nodded in agreement, adding, "Until you actually see it you have no idea. Pictures don't do it justice."

But before long, they'd be practically running the place. "Literally, we got off the plane, we ate dinner, and then Arik went to observe. I went to bed, I had the flu."

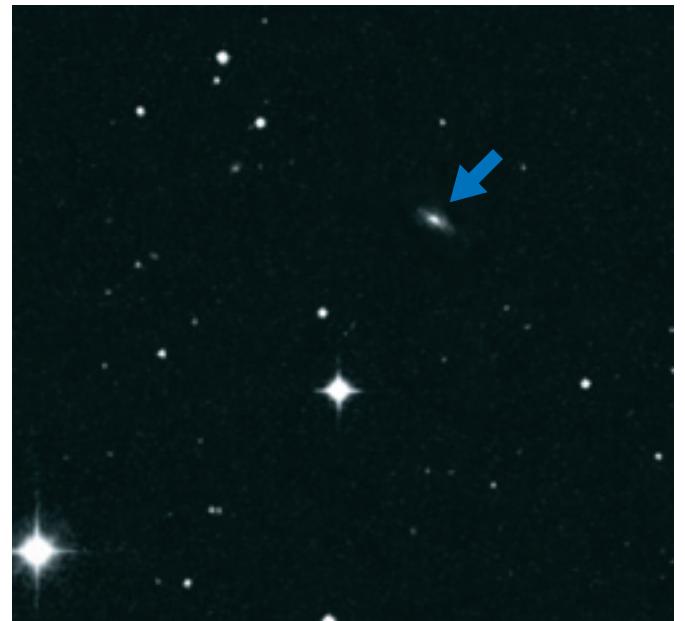
Amy had been sitting at the computer for six hours looking at slides with the same fuzzy white spots. But suddenly she stopped. Her eyes lit up and a surge of excitement rose up her spine. Could it really be? Among all those fuzzy white spots she saw something larger. It looked more like a blotch. It was an unrecorded edge-on spiral galaxy, much like the one we live in. Without hesitation, she threw up her hands and sang, "I found one, I found one, I found one."

With Furniss's energy limited by the flu during those first few days at the observatory, Mitschang was putting in up to 18 hours a day. Soon, however, both students were doing what they love best: real-world science. Mitschang and Furniss were tasked with data analysis during the day and running the telescope at night.



"You see the Gregorian dome looming over the hillside, and you're like, 'Wow!' Furniss nodded in agreement, adding, "Until you actually see it you have no idea. Pictures don't do it justice."

Amy had been sitting at the computer for six hours looking at slides with the same fuzzy white spots. But suddenly she stopped.... Could it really be? Among all those fuzzy white spots she saw something larger.... It was an unrecorded edge-on spiral galaxy, much like the one we live in. Without hesitation, she threw up her hands and sang, "I found one, I found one, I found one."



HSU's Fickle Hill Observatory is the only university observatory in California dedicated to undergraduate research and was recently upgraded with a new state-of-the-art 16-inch telescope (right). It was experience in that observatory that helped forge the way for Amy and Arik to conduct research – and discover a galaxy (left)—using one of the world's largest telescopes.

Those long hours ended up paying off — very quickly in fact. Their very first night, Mitschang was “driving” the telescope and captured data that indicated the existence of an unrecorded galaxy. “What happened was he drove the telescope over the region of sky that had the galaxy and then I analyzed that data,” Furniss explained. “So it wasn’t until two days later that we actually did the data analysis and realized what we had.” After she spotted the suspicious blotch, the team cross-referenced the data to an existing, but previously unanalyzed picture of that tiny slice of sky. There it was: an edge-on spiral galaxy.

The name of this new galaxy? Furniss smiled. “AGC193784,” she rattled off, not even taking a breath.

So no one else would forget either, Furniss had the galaxy name inscribed on a t-shirt and gave it to her proud father as a Christmas gift. “It’s funny. We were talking and he said, ‘Now when do you get the opportunity to say *Oh by the way, my daughter discovered a galaxy.*’ And I said, ‘Yeah, Dad, you need a conversation starter.’ So I got him a t-shirt and all it says is AGC193784. So now people will ask him, ‘Hey, what’s that?’”

Furniss and Mitschang graduated from Humboldt State in December. The two young researchers are currently awaiting acceptance to graduate schools, where they may even continue work with the ALFALFA project. “You know, I didn’t know that radio astronomy was as cool as it was until I did it,” Mitschang said. “Now that’s one of my primary interests...and this really directed me towards that field. It helped shape my interest.”

Furniss added, “Our experience just opened the doors to talk to people who are as enthusiastic about the mission of discovery as we are. And that’s encouraging.”

Looking back, the two realize they have much to celebrate: As undergraduates they had helped forge the way for the installation of a new state-of-the-art 16-inch computer-driven telescope in HSU’s observatory, the only university telescope in California dedicated for undergraduate research; they’d attended a major astronomical conference and presented research; and they had spent a week working on a major extragalactic survey based at the renowned Arecibo Observatory, even teaching an incoming Ph.D. student how to operate the massive telescope.

Oh, and they discovered a galaxy.

“You know, I didn’t know that radio astronomy was as cool as it was until I did it. Now that’s one of my primary interests...and this really directed me towards that field. It helped shape my interest.” — Arik Mitschang



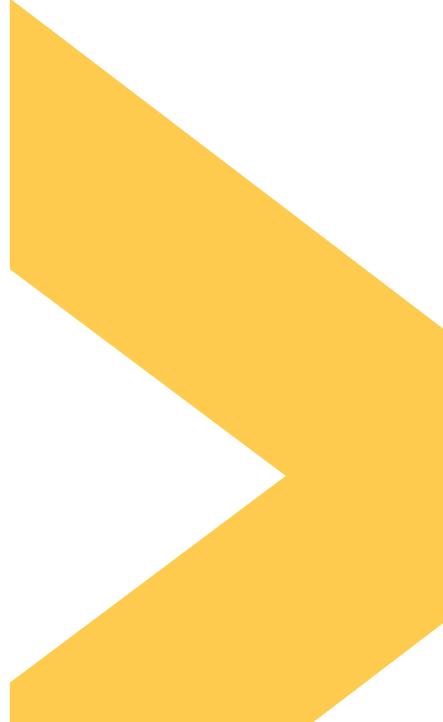
A photograph of a woman in profile, running towards the right on a snow-covered field. She is wearing a white long-sleeved shirt with a small emblem on the shoulder, dark pants, and brown running shoes. The background shows a line of trees and a setting sun over a body of water, casting a warm glow. The foreground is filled with the textured surface of the snow.

SUE GRIGSBY BROKE BARRIERS
AS ONE OF AMERICA'S FIRST
FEMALE STEEPLECHASE RUNNERS.
NOW, AT 50, SHE'S HOPING TO
BREAK YET ANOTHER RECORD.

>> HIT THE GROUND RUNNING

BY SERENA ZELEZNY

Sue Grigsby has a vast collection of medals, ribbons, and plaques to show for more than 30 years of track and field competition. But even after traveling the world and setting national records in races like the women's steeplechase (right)—which involves jumping off hurdles into pools of water, she still treasures her runs along the waterfront (previous) back home in Everett, Wash.



SUE GRIGSBY WAS BORN to run. As a child her favorite game wasn't House or even jump rope, it was Horses. Certainly, she was the horse.

Somehow it seems fitting for a woman like Sue — a former record holder in several track events, a Humboldt State track and field Hall of Famer (likely the university's first woman steeplechaser), and, now a 50-year-old American record hopeful — to make a game of, well, beating the odds.

She simply loves to run. Of course, many people can say that. But when the mercury drops below freezing and each breath lingers in the air, most would retreat indoors in search of a space heater and the Discovery Channel. Grigsby is cut from a different cloth. In the dead of winter, when a layer of snow and ice make her Everett, Washington neighborhood a true winter wonderland, she laces up her Asics, gives her hamstrings a stretch, and goes for a run. And if it's too cold for even that, she improvises: "When there's enough snow I cross country ski around the neighborhood."

With fingers crossed, her determination will pay off in the long run.

In six months, Grigsby will trade her sweat suit for a racing uniform and head to Italy for track and field's biggest masters meet of the year — the 17th World Masters Track and Field



Championships — and she'll be on the heels of yet another American record in the women's 2000 meter steeplechase.

Grigsby's career as a runner began in high school. At that time running wasn't exactly a women's sport; Title IX was just coming into play, giving women the opportunity to participate in athletics. The ladies only practiced twice a week, and few actually owned a pair of real running shoes. But perhaps that's why Grigsby loved it. It is her mantra: "Women don't usually do this. Maybe I'll try it."

By the time she came to Humboldt State in 1976 with a pair of rubber-soled shoes in hand ("It looked like a really beautiful place to run."), running had become part of her being.

She joined the university's track team and, as binders of newspaper clippings and boxes of photos and medals can attest, soon became "the gal to beat." During her two years on the team, she set school records in the 800-, 1500-, 3000-, and 5000-meter races.

Humboldt State was also Grigsby's first introduction to the steeplechase, a race scattered with hurdles and water obstacles — much like horse racing. The 3000 meter steeplechase has been an Olympic event for men since 1900. The women's steeplechase, though, made its first major championship

appearance in the 2005 World Championships. By that time, Grigsby had been competing in the event for nearly 30 years and already held the women's American records in the 2000-meter chase for the 40-to-44 age group and 45-to-49 age group.

Women don't usually do this. Maybe I'll try it.

"Humboldt State had some good steeplechasers when I was there in 1977," Grigsby said of her inspiration. But when asked about the most memorable race of her career, she names the 1977 Trinidad to Clam Beach eight-and-a-half-mile race. Grigsby set a new course record for women, shattering the old one by four minutes. "My time was 52:51," she says off the top of her head. "I think it was the first time I actually realized, 'Wow, I'm pretty good.'"

Grigsby's "pretty good" times and sheer love for the sport have taken her all over the world — Spain, South Africa, Australia, British Columbia — where she meets (and runs against) the world's best. This year, running will take her to Riccione, Italy, where she'll compete in her usual events: 800- and 1500-meter races and the 2000-meter steeplechase. Though, Grigsby admits to getting really nervous before a race, Italy will bring a whole new set of nerves: Now that she's 50, she'll be competing in a new age group, and looking at a new steeplechase American record just begging to be broken. Just last summer the standing record was a mere second quicker than her race time. But in August a new record was

set for the age group. It will be tough to beat, but Grigsby acknowledges it is not out of reach. "I don't know. Whew, it would be tough," she said. "But, oh yeah. I'm certainly going to try."

Obviously, winning is great. But Grigsby doesn't necessarily run for the fame and glory. "For me it's like brushing my teeth. It is just something I do."

Naturally, Grigsby chose a vocation that was closely linked to her beloved avocation. "I knew I wanted to do three things: teach, coach, and run." In 1983 she became a track and cross

> **NOW THAT SHE'S 50
SHE'LL BE COMPETING IN
A NEW AGE GROUP, WITH A
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AMERICAN RECORD
JUST BEGGING TO
BE BROKEN.**





country coach and health and wellness teacher at Everett Community College, less than an hour north of Seattle. She's made it her mission to help young college students — much like she had been — discover the benefits of living well and staying active, by serving as a model ("A picture says 1,000 words.").

Grigsby smiled as she remembered one student who wrote her recently asking, "How do you do it? I've tried to run before but every time I go, my entire run is narrated by 'Why on earth are you running, fool?'" The knowing teacher replied simply. "As I sit here with the sun streaming in my office window, I am thinking about the run I will do in a couple of hours. I'll do one of my favorite runs, along the Everett waterfront. To me, it's not just about the health-related benefits I receive, but about enjoying the fresh spring air, the view of the mountains, and the sense of accomplishment. It's not always fun, believe me — there are those days when it is a struggle and not fun at all. Still, I know that in another day or two I'll have a good run where my body moves fluidly, reasonably effortlessly."

She's even established scholarships for today's sports-minded students, including the Sue Grigsby Scholarship Endowment for Humboldt State kinesiology majors and

the Sue E. Grigsby Women's Distance Running Scholarship Endowment. "I hardly paid a thing to go to college," she said. "HSU Dean of Health and PE Larry Kerker used to tell us we were all at school on scholarship, thanks to the state of California." Since she graduated from HSU in 1979, she's watched college fees raise dramatically. Many of her students in Everett have to work to pay for their education. "It is important for students to take advantage of their special years in college," she said. So as part of her mission to give students the "tools they need to be healthier and happier," she established the scholarship at HSU in 1996 through gifts of appreciated stock.

Despite the occasional hamstring pulls, the fearless runner has no intentions of slowing down anytime soon. She says she'll keep running as long as her body keeps up, reciting some profound advice from an 88-year-old steeplechaser and decathlete "You don't stop doing things because you get old. You get old because you stop doing things."

"There is nothing more inspiring than watching 80- and 90-year-old people out there competing," Grigsby said. "I aspire to be in those age groups some day, competing as hard as I can. It sure beats the idea of old age in a rocking chair."

>> "TO ME, IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT THE HEALTH-RELATED BENEFITS I RECEIVE, BUT ABOUT ENJOYING THE FRESH SPRING AIR, THE VIEW OF THE MOUNTAINS, AND THE SENSE OF ACCOMPLISHMENT."





Putting Down Roots

By Vernon Felton

Botanist Dennis Walker Inspires a New Generation

DENNIS WALKER HAS BEEN to Australia, but he's never seen the Great Barrier Reef. He's been to India, but he's never toured the Taj Mahal. He's been to China, but do you think he's visited the Great Wall or the Forbidden City? Not a chance. These facts might lead you to think that Dennis Walker isn't the adventurous type. Nothing, however, could be further from the truth.

"I missed out on all the tourist attractions," admits Walker. "I went to Malaysia once and my uncle later asked if I'd gone and seen the snake temple in Kuala Lumpur. I said, 'Are you crazy? I never have time for things like that. I'm always in some little gully somewhere, trying to find some weird, mystery plant.'"

From Chile To China

COLLECTING LITTLE-KNOWN PLANTS IS something of a vocation for Dennis Walker. During his 40 years of teaching botany at Humboldt State, Professor Walker made a habit of traveling to the far corners of the globe in search of specimens that few people have even heard of. His field work led him to Borneo, Ecuador, Chile, China, Namibia, Peru, Singapore, Tasmania...and that's just the short list.

Many of the rare plants thriving in HSU's greenhouse are the fruits of Walker's labor. The professor is, in fact, one of the main reasons Humboldt State is home to one of the largest teaching collections of living plants in California. Walker used the money he earned teaching during the summer session to fund countless searches.

"I'm like that stamp collector who is willing to go on eBay and pay absolutely anything for a stamp with a plane flying upside down on it because he just has to have it."

Walker's jaunts, however, weren't simply fueled by a drive to collect oddities. The professor wanted to inspire in his students a passion for botany.

"I always had these visions of taking students out into the forest and showing them all these great things. But there'd be times when I'd try to describe a plant to my class and all I could do was reach for a slide of it. A slide just doesn't do it justice. I spent a lot of time traveling, but I always felt a great sense of accomplishment when I'd broach that topic the next time around and I could bring my students down to the greenhouse to show them the real thing."

Seeding the Next Generation

DENNIS WALKER SCRABLES THROUGH the greenhouse's maze of tropical plants. Our photographer—a veteran of shooting high-speed action sports—is having a devil of a time trying to keep the retired professor in frame. We

struggle to keep up, but the effort is well worth it. With Walker guiding the way, every plant has a fascinating trait or story attached to it.

Our progress is also checked by a steady stream of students, who present Walker with pots of green, leafy things. They gush over their specimens and ask his advice. It's clear that Dennis Walker has had a huge impact on generations of Humboldt students.

Though he recently retired from teaching, Dennis Walker is still inspiring students. This past fall, the professor established the Dennis K. Walker Botany Endowment. The endowment funds a student laboratory assistant position. The position, in turn, makes a real difference in the life of a student with a strong academic record and passion for botany. The lab assistant's duties include placing orders, setting up and taking down labs, collecting local specimens, and organizing the materials used in all the introductory botany lab sections. It also gives the student an opportunity to interact and learn from faculty.

"I liked the idea of an endowment," explains Walker, "because I wanted to target my gift towards something that was really important to me. I remember being a student and how hard it can be to find work that's related to what you're studying. This lab assistant position is an opportunity for a student to be a part of the instructional team. It definitely gives them a leg up."

The professor is, in fact, one of the main reasons Humboldt State is home to one of the largest teaching collections of living plants in California.

BY STARTING AN ENDOWMENT, Walker has also made a gift that will help generations of students. HSU's Advancement Foundation carefully manages endowments so that every gift grows in perpetuity and has a lasting impact for years to come.



21 Words that are Changing the World

Two Decades After Its Inception, the Graduation Pledge Continues to Impact Lives

By Vernon Felton

TRUE STORY. IT'S VIVIAN Hsiao's first day on the job and she's being introduced to her new co-workers. Her boss is explaining that one of the reasons he hired the recent college graduate is that she took a pledge upon graduating to consider the social and environmental consequences of any job that came her way. "This," he says proudly, "is exactly the kind of person we want working at this company."

What makes this anecdote important? It happened this past year at Sing Pong International, a trading company in Taiwan—five thousand miles away from Humboldt State, where the graduation pledge was born. How did people on the other side of the world wind up taking an oath that was hatched on the HSU Quad over 20 years ago? The story begins with a simple idea....

TWENTY-ONE LITTLE WORDS

IN 1987, A GROUP of students and community members formed a campus club called Student Citizens for Social Responsibility (SCSR). Concern over the nuclear arms race drew the members together. The 10 members of the group asked themselves, what could they do—then and there—to make a difference.

One of the members, an activist from Arcata, named Matt Nicodemus, suggested a pledge—an oath that would remind that year's senior class to seriously consider the role they would soon play in the world. It seemed like a good idea. Jennifer Berman, a biology undergrad, agreed to help Nicodemus draft the pledge.

"I do have a very clear memory of sitting on the Quad with Matt Nicodemus and working on the wording of the pledge,"

Berman recalls. "We were talking about ways to get people to think about the bigger implications of their actions. We were trying to address the fact that there's a person making a decision at the root of every social or environmental ill."

The result was 21 words long and read as follows, "*I _____, pledge to thoroughly investigate and take into account the social and environmental consequences of any job opportunity that I consider.*"

The group dubbed it "The Graduation Pledge of Social and Environmental Responsibility" and rallied fast. Their goal was to have the pledge become a part of the graduation ceremony, just a little over a month away. What followed was a whirlwind campaign. In short order, they gathered enough petitions to get the pledge on the upcoming student election ballot. The pledge passed with 57 percent of the vote and was also endorsed by the HSU Faculty Senate and the Arcata City Council.

On May 16, 1987, many of Humboldt State's graduating seniors gathered, accepted their diplomas and took the pledge. The event—the first of its kind in the United States—immediately drew national attention. The Wall Street Journal, San Francisco Chronicle and San Francisco Examiner were just a few of the newspapers that covered the story.

THE WORLD TAKES NOTICE

FLUSHED WITH SUCCESS, THE students created the Graduation Pledge Alliance—a national campaign to spread the pledge to colleges across the country. They organized a press conference atop a skyscraper in San Francisco. They mailed campaign letters to 3,300 student governments and 3,500 campus newspapers. They even created an organizing manual, which outlined how to successfully start a pledge at any campus. By 1993 the pledge had taken root at over 30 schools, including Stanford, MIT, the University of Colorado at Boulder and the University of Oregon at Eugene.

Then the movement hit a speed bump. The pledge campaign began to lose steam when two of its strongest leaders (Nicodemus and HSU alumnus, William Ihne) both left Humboldt County to pursue their careers. By 1996, only three or four universities were still hosting the pledge.

"I pledge to thoroughly investigate and take into account the social and environmental consequences of any job opportunity that I consider."



THE PLEDGE IS REBORN

FORTUNATELY, NEIL WOLLMAN WALKED into the picture. Wollman is a professor of Peace Studies at Manchester College in North Manchester, Indiana. Manchester was, in fact, one of the first schools to adopt the pledge in 1988. Wollman observed the pledge's decline and offered to take over the national campaign from the pledge organizers at HSU.

"It seemed like the word just wasn't getting out," explains Wollman. "It was almost as if the project was going to die, so we talked to the organizers at Humboldt and the materials were shipped off to us."

Today, between 100 and 120 schools in five countries are hosting the graduation pledge and, according to Wollman, another 100 to 150 schools are considering it. What led to the turnaround? Wollman believes technology lent a hand. "What hurt the progress of the pledge in the early '90s, was that the Internet hadn't reached its peak yet. I can't even imagine all the legwork involved with sending out a mailing to hundreds of colleges, but you can get out the word over the Internet with just a push of a button, and at almost no cost."

COMING BACK TO HUMBOLDT

THOUGH HSU WAS NO longer leading the national pledge campaign, it had never wavered in its commitment to the pledge. In 2005, Chris DeHart, a career counselor at HSU, began thinking about how to help reconnect HSU and the pledge in a bigger way. He contacted Wollman and the pledge's founders, and suggested a conference that would celebrate the pledge's 20th anniversary. The goal? To reconnect the many generations of students and alumni who helped spread the pledge across the country.

The group met in Cape Cod, during the summer of 2005, to brainstorm ways to expand the pledge even further. Nicodemus attended—flying in from Taiwan, where he has established the Graduation Pledge Alliance's Asia office. In addition to creating a strategic plan, the group began groundwork on the 20th Anniversary Conference, which is scheduled for fall of 2007 (for more information, contact Chris DeHart at cpd7001@humboldt.edu).

"The pledge is bigger than a single moment during graduation," says Nicodemus. "There's that whole rest of your life to live it out. It's very important for people to feel like they have resources—information and organization—to help support them in that effort. Part of what we're

doing with the conference is reuniting and building a community of people who have made that sort of commitment. We also need to connect with more students. In my mind, if the effort is not cross-generational, its odds of succeeding are so much less."

Has the pledge been a success? William Ihne, now an educator, writer and arts organizer in Ventura, California, ponders the question. "That's a tough one... How do you define success for a project like this? If the pledge can help our universities to better adapt to the social and environmental challenges we're faced with, then it's been a success. If the pledge helps the university to better prepare graduates to take leadership roles, helping them to align values with their life's work, then I think it could be called a success."

Jennifer Berman is confident that the pledge made a difference in her life. Berman still lives in Humboldt County and is both a soil scientist and founder of the Redwood Alliance Climate Action Project (a global warming education and action group). Says Berman, "Any time you can get someone to begin to consider and be responsible for the consequences of their actions, I consider it a success... I never forgot the ideals that went into creating the pledge... I always asked myself, 'What are the impacts of this job?' As a result, it feels like I'm contributing to something good. I really do have a responsibility to take an active role in contributing to improving our world and leaving it a better place for future generations."



"The pledge is bigger than any single moment during graduation. There's that whole rest of your life to live it out." — Matt Nicodemus

Meet Our Callers

FEW OF US LOOK FORWARD TO PHONE CALLS FROM TELEMARKETERS. But when it is a student caller from Humboldt State's phonathon on the other end, it's often a different story — the conversation may even rouse fond memories from your college days.

"I LOVE TALKING TO alums. They have really interesting stories," says freshman caller Samantha Brogna. "Because of a discussion I had with an alum, I'm actually a step closer to deciding my major."

In October, a team of 35 newly trained student callers kicked off a now year-round fundraising phonathon to check in with alumni, facilitate a connection between current and past students, and help bring in funds for HSU's Annual Fund.

A record number of alumni have already given back to the university.

Nicole Spencer, the new HSU Annual Fund Manager directs the phonathon efforts. "Gifts from the alumni and parents really do make a difference in our ability to compete for large grants from organizations that base their decisions on alumni participation rates," notes Spencer, who also happens to be an HSU alumna. "And, of course, those gifts are also extremely important to the success of our university."

MAKING CONNECTIONS

SO FIVE NIGHTS A week, student callers remind alums of the role they play in supporting the university and advancing its mission of excellence.

Much of the Annual Fund goes to finance student scholarships. Freshman Matt LaFever, an enthusiastic student caller explains, "We're putting students in the classroom. We can never have enough funds to support that effort."

The enthusiasm of Spencer, LaFever, and the rest of the student callers is paying off — literally. Last year the phonathon raised \$86,500 for the Annual Fund. This year's phonathon has nearly tripled that amount, bringing in some \$250,000.

Those impressive gains are strictly from the phonathon. Alumni giving, as a whole, is also up significantly. At yearend, 2,242 alumni had already given \$1.72 million to the university. By comparison, the three-year average shows donations at this point in the fiscal year are typically \$1.28 million. That number of alumni donors is also an increase-up from a three-year average of 1,960 alumni for the entire year.

Humboldt State University Vice President of Advancement Robert Gunsalus said the record increase in alumni giving is thanks to HSU's supportive alumni.

"As we all know, state funds for higher education have not kept up with the increased costs of running a university like HSU," he said. "We are very thankful to the many alumni who are stepping in to fill the gap. They are taking this opportunity to really support their alma mater."

Many alumni are happy to give back. This fact is not lost on sophomore Henry Bell. "Alums pledge because they love the school," says Bell. "And when I graduate, I plan to pledge and give back because my future and what I become will be due to the education and experiences I had here at HSU."

Samantha Brogna adds, "One person told me, 'I look forward to this conversation every year.'"



Class Notes

Composed by Kira Rubenthaler '06

1960s

Robert Lackey, '67, a fisheries graduate, is a senior fisheries biologist with the Environmental Research Laboratory. Robert lives in Corvallis, OR.

Bill Supernaugh, '67, a game management graduate with a master's degree in education, passed away after a 39-year career with the National Park Service. During his time as a park ranger, he traveled to the Republic of Georgia, Hungary, Sierra Leone, Poland, Australia and South Africa to work toward establishing sister park relationships. Before Bill's first wife, Linda, passed away in 1997, they raised two daughters, Victoria, who lives near Atlanta, GA, and Michelle, who works at Olympic National Park. Bill retired as Superintendent of Badlands National Park in 2005 and moved to Sulpher, OK, where his second wife, Jean, works at Chickasaw National Recreation Area.

1970s

Tom Hinz, '71, an art graduate, works for Cottage Realty and lives in Blue Lake, CA.

Tom Jones, '74, a physical education graduate, earned a master's degree and a professional clear administrative services credential from the University of Southern California. Tom is the assistant principal at James Monroe High School and lives in Sherman Oaks, CA. His daughter, Kaitlin, graduated from HSU in 2006 with a degree in anthropology.

Janice (Fontana) Sauvarin, '75, a psychology graduate, is a teacher with the Victorian Education Department and lives in Warrandyte, Victoria, Australia.

Gary Furness, '76, a fisheries graduate, is the medical director for Sutter Medical Group of the Redwoods. Gary lives in Santa Rosa, CA.

Lane Weiss, '77, a music graduate, is the superintendent of Saratoga Union School District and lives in Saratoga, CA.

Alumni Events

Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner

April 19, 2007

HSU Commencement

May 12, 2007

HSU Homecoming Reunions

Golden Grad Classes of 1956 and 1957 (50th Reunion)
October 13, 2007

Questions?

Call 707-826-3132 or email alumni@humboldt.edu



2007 Distinguished ALUMNI AWARDS

THURSDAY, APRIL 19, 2007

Kenneth L. Fisher

Class of 1972, Economics

KENNETH L. FISHER IS one of the world's leading financial advisors. Fisher Investments--the global money management firm he founded less than a decade after graduating from HSU—manages more than \$35 billion for Fortune 500 companies, prominent institutions and affluent individuals. Fisher is #297 on the 2006 Forbes "400 Richest People in America" list, with a \$1.3 billion net worth. Beyond serving as Fisher Investments' CEO, Ken is a prolific author. His Portfolio Strategy column has run in Forbes magazine for 22 years. He has written four finance books, including his new New York Times Business Bestseller, *The Only Three Questions that Count (Investing by Knowing What Others Don't)*, which was released December, 2006.

**Michelle D. Kelly RN, MN, FNP**

Class of 1985, Nursing

MANY PEOPLE DREAM OF using their education to serve people in other parts of the globe. Michelle Kelly made that dream a reality. As a nurse practitioner, educator and expert in war zone relief operations, Kelly has helped civilians affected by war over the



THE HSU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION requests the pleasure of your company at the Distinguished Alumni Award, as we honor our outstanding award recipients, Wes Chesbro, Ken Fisher, and Michelle Kelly.

Kate Buchanan Room
Humboldt State University

\$60 per person

Cocktails – 6 p.m.
Karshner Lounge

Dinner – 7 p.m.
Kate Buchanan Room

Presentation to follow

RSVP by April 10, 2007

Response card available at:
[www.humboldt.edu/
alumni/docs/DA07.pdf](http://www.humboldt.edu/alumni/docs/DA07.pdf)

**or from the office
of Alumni Relations**
707-826-3132
alumni@humboldt.edu

last 20 years. Her volunteer humanitarian work has taken her from the first job as an RN in nearby Hoopa reservation to Afghanistan, Angola, Iraq, Kashmir, Somalia, Sudan, Rwanda, Sri Lanka, Kosovo and Uganda. Somehow, despite an incredibly busy schedule of ongoing humanitarian work, Kelly also manages to inspire a new generation of HSU students as a dedicated lecturer in the Department of Nursing.

Wesley Chesbro
Attended 1969-1973,
Natural Resources

FOR THE PAST 37 years, Wesley Chesbro has represented California's north coast communities and proven a strong advocate of the environment. Chesbro's career in politics began at HSU, in student government, and eventually led to an eight-year term as a state senator. Chesbro chaired the Senate Budget Committee, where he was a champion for higher education, K-12 education, environmental protection, local government and rural health care. As a founding member of the California Integrated Waste Management Board, Chesbro is now working to help the state reduce its waste stream, with a focus on decreasing the contribution waste management makes to global warming.



1980s

Cindy (Purnell) Frakes, '81, a biological sciences graduate, lives in Scotts Valley, CA.



Mason Carpenter, '83, a business administration graduate, is a professor of business leadership at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. Mason lives in Middleton, WI.



Barbara Christie, '83, a zoology graduate, spent two years in Ghana, West Africa, teaching biology for the Peace Corps after graduation. She then earned a master's degree from Columbia University while teaching science at Manhattan East Middle School. Barbara earned a doctorate in education from the University of Southern California in 2003 and now works as the director of the Center for Student Success at Loyola Marymount University. Barbara lives in Playa Del Rey, CA.

Marie Celeste Williams, '85, a fine arts graduate, is a professional photographer living in Pacific Grove, CA.

Kevin Rex, '85, a journalism graduate, is a teacher at the Zion Lutheran School and lives in Caldwell, ID.

Thomas Cappiello, '86, a fisheries graduate, is currently a fisheries biologist, with the state of Alaska. Cappiello resides in Anchorage.

Cal Noling, '86, an environmental engineering graduate, is the president and CEO of StormwaterRx. He and his wife, Donna Grandstaff, a fellow HSU graduate, reside in Portland, OR.



Anthony Erba, '87, a forest management graduate, is a land management planning specialist for the U.S. Forest Service. Anthony lives in Springfield, VA.

Chris Rombach, '88, a biology graduate, is the president of Pacific Ozone Technology. Chris lives in Benicia, CA.

Cynthia Cammack, '89, a nursing graduate, is a case manager with Bruceville Terrace Convalescent Hospital, in Stockton, CA.

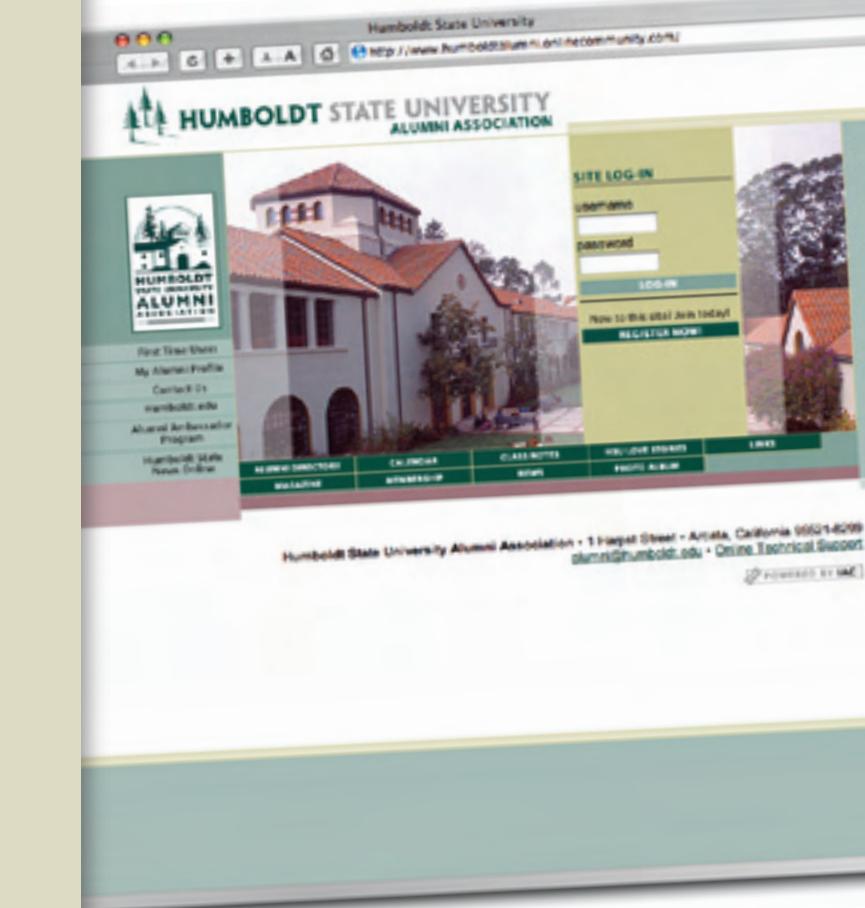
Joe Foggiato, '89, a business administration graduate, is the director of field sales operations in Asia Pacific/Japan for Symantec. Joe lives in Singapore and has begun Ninjutsu studies at a local dojo.

1980s

Join Our Online Community

THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION'S ONLINE Community (available to all alumni), is a great resource for staying current on HSU and alumni events and connecting with your fellow alums. The web site provides a searchable alumni directory, an online Class Notes feature, an electronic version of the *Humboldt* magazine, campus web links, an Alumni Association membership application with a secure online payment feature, and alumni news. Visit the site today. Registration is free and easy!

Register Your Alumni Profile at:
www.humboldtalumni.onlinecommunity.com



The Boldt

THE BOLDT — OUR Electronic Dispatch for Alumni and Friends of Humboldt State University — has hit the net! This e-newsletter, published three times per year, is a method for keeping you connected and current with HSU throughout the year! So be sure to forward your current email to alumni@humboldt.edu, or subscribe using the link below, and we will commit to delivering you pertinent quality news from your alma mater.

Subscribe to The Boldt at: www.humboldt.edu/~alumni/newsletter

The Boldt :: HSU Alumni News
HUMBOLDT STATE UNIVERSITY

featured

HSU Makes Waves in Marine Sciences
Woods Hole, Scops...Humboldt State? You might be surprised, but HSU is quickly establishing itself as a national research center in the marine sciences.

news

Distinguished Alumni Awards Call for Nominations
The Humboldt State University Alumni Association is seeking nominations for its 2007 Distinguished Alumni Awards. Distinguished Alumni are individuals recognized as leaders in their fields and outstanding contributors to their community, nation, or Humboldt State University. This year, the Alumni Association will award alumni in five different areas of distinction.

HSU Welcomes Record Freshmen Class
Shattering records, this fall, Humboldt State welcomed the largest freshman class in the school's history: 3,600 students, to be exact. It appears that Humboldt State is on its way to shedding its moniker as the "last great kept secret in California." What is it about that growth? Quite a lot, actually.

1990s



Fred Moore, '90, a business administration graduate, is the SVP/CFO for Redwood Capital Bank. Fred lives in Eureka, CA.

Spencer Waitman, '90, a biology graduate, worked in Alaska's salmon hatcheries for 11 years before shifting gears and gaining a BS in Medical Technology from the University of Anchorage. Spencer is currently a board-certified Medical Technologist at Providence Alaska Medical Center. He lives in Anchorage, has two children and is married to Kay—a third generation Alaskan.

Pryce Williams, '91, a business administration graduate, is self-employed and lives in Murrieta, CA.

Kristin Larson, '92, a history graduate, is a sales coach with Progressive Insurance. Kristin lives in Colorado Springs, CO.

Carrie Leonard, '92, an oceanography graduate, is the manager of applied sciences for BAE Systems. Carrie lives in Honolulu, HI.

Peggy Molloy, '93, an art and communication graduate, works as a bridal registrar for Gottschalks. Peggy recently began writing for the performing arts section of the Eureka Times-Standard and has had a song she wrote produced in Hollywood. Peggy lives in Bayside, CA.

Devanie Angel, '94, a journalism graduate, is the managing editor of Upstate Business Journal and InSideOut Magazine. Devanie lives in Chico, CA.

Jeanine Canedo-Moncrief, '94, a natural resources planning and interpretation graduate, is currently a division director with the city of Eureka.

Jennifer Kopp, '95, an interdisciplinary studies graduate, is the Executive Director of Napa Valley Grapegrowers—a trade organization that represents the interests of Napa Valley's grape growers and promotes the area's reputation as a premier wine region.

Tim Gibbs, '96 & '99, a history/globalization graduate, works as a grassroots organizer and lobbyist for the American Cancer Society. Gibbs resides in Sacramento, California.



Ron Smith, '96, a theater arts graduate, is a full-time professor at Brooks Institute of Photography and is currently designing lights, scenery, and video imagery for Santa Barbara Dance Theatre. He will be touring this year with the company to Ireland, Wales, and China.

DonnaMarie Ayala, '97, an interdisciplinary studies graduate, is an employment specialist with NCIDC. DonnaMarie lives in Eureka, CA.

Sara (Miller Poch) Bailey, '98, a nursing graduate, is a staff nurse with Kaiser Permanente. Sara lives in Santa Rosa, CA.

Jason Santiago, '98, a philosophy graduate, is the executive director for Rudloff Wood & Barrows, LLP. Jason lives in Oakland, CA.

Sara Skinner, '98, a natural resources interpretation graduate, is a training specialist for the California State Parks. Sara lives in Pacific Grove, CA.

Virginia Afentoulis, '99, a zoology graduate, is a biologist for the California Department of Fish and Games. Virginia lives in Oakland, CA.

2000s

Nancy Trejo, '00, a social work graduate, works for the Department of Children and Family Services. Nancy lives in Pomona, CA.

Christopher Barnes, '01, a biology graduate, is an environmental scientist, employed by Washington State's King County. Barnes currently lives in Seattle.

Brian Fodor, '01, a psychology graduate, is a social worker for the County of Humboldt. Brian lives in Eureka, CA.

Jason Kralovic, '01, a sociology graduate, earned a degree of Juris Doctor from the University of the Pacific McGeorge School of Law in May 2006. Jason works as a legal research assistant for the Sacramento County Office of the Public Defender and is awaiting results from the California Bar Examination. Jason lives in Sacramento, CA.

Esaú Nunez, '01, a Spanish graduate, is a banker with Bank of America. Nunez lives in Los Alamitos, California.

Calling All Alums for the 2007 Homecoming Reunion

THE HSU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION is sponsoring a homecoming reunion, scheduled for October 13, 2007. Alums from near and far are invited to attend the reunion. The event will have something for every one — be it football, the arts, or just hanging out.

The HSUAA would also like to recognize our Golden Grads (classes of 1956 and 1957) and those returning Golden Grads of previous years. We are calling the reunion "Golden Grad Plus!" As we speak with so many of you throughout the year, we hear the nostalgic tales of your years at Humboldt, as well as a longing to reconnect. Make this the year that you return to Humboldt!

We need alums from all classes, departments/colleges, clubs, and chapters to get their classmates excited to attend and to help plan the event. Contact Alumni Relations and volunteer.

Please contact Alumni Relations to RSVP. Once we have received several RSVPs we will set up a "Who's Coming" page on our Web site.

Alumni Relations: (707) 826-3132, alumni@humboldt.edu or visit our Web site at: www.humboldt.edu/~alumni/events



Golden Grad Celebration Expanded

THIS YEAR WE ARE excited to expand our Golden Grad reunion. Now called Golden Grad Plus, the event honors all graduates celebrating the 50th anniversary of their graduation. In addition to inducting the classes of 1956 and 1957 as Golden Grads, we are now also inviting all alumni who graduated from Humboldt before that date. Golden Grads will enjoy an on-campus luncheon and a variety of other homecoming events. If you'd like to attend Golden Grad Plus, you can RSVP for the reunion by calling us at 707-826-3132 or by filling out our on-line form ([at www.humboldt.edu/~alumni/homecoming07](http://www.humboldt.edu/~alumni/homecoming07)). We will also mail an invitation to your home this summer.



Patricia Parkinson, '01, a liberal studies graduate, has been a realtor in Truckee, California, since 2006. Parkinson has traveled to Europe four times, speaks French, Spanish and Italian, and was also a member of the Humboldt State Women's Soccer team from 1995 through 2000.

Rachel (Stathem) Poertner, '02, a music graduate, lives in Greeley, Co.

Trisha (Floyd) Fawver, '03, a theater arts graduate, is the assistant marketing manager for PsPrint, LLC. Trisha lives in San Leandro, CA.



Meredith Herndon, '04, an environmental ethics graduate, is an environmental scientist for Earth Tech. Meredith lives in Fallbrook, CA.

Malia Britton, '05, a journalism graduate, is a casting assistant for Anisa Productions. Malia lives in Van Nuys, CA.

Beau Broomall, '05, a computer sciences graduate, is a technical support engineer for IVC. Beau lives in Dorchester, MA.

Michelle Cobaugh, '05, a liberal studies elementary education graduate, is a teacher for the Napa Unified School District. Michelle lives in Santa Rosa, CA.

Leslie Dean, '06, a geography graduate, is a systems engineer with BAE Systems. Leslie lives in San Diego, CA.

Submitting a Class Note

To submit a class note, log-in to the online community, www.humboldtalumni.onlinecommunity.com, click on Class Notes, and then Add/Maintain My Notes. Be sure the box after "Should this note be eligible for display in your alumni magazine?" is checked. Alternatively, you can submit a class note using the Contact/Request Form at www.humboldt.edu/~alumni/contact.html.



WHAT WILL YOUR LEGACY BE?

Through our planned giving programs you can make a real difference in the lives of generations of Humboldt students.

To learn more about making a planned gift to Humboldt State University, such as a charitable gift annuity or a bequest in your will, call us at 707-826-5101 or email us at advance@humboldt.edu.



Membership is Important

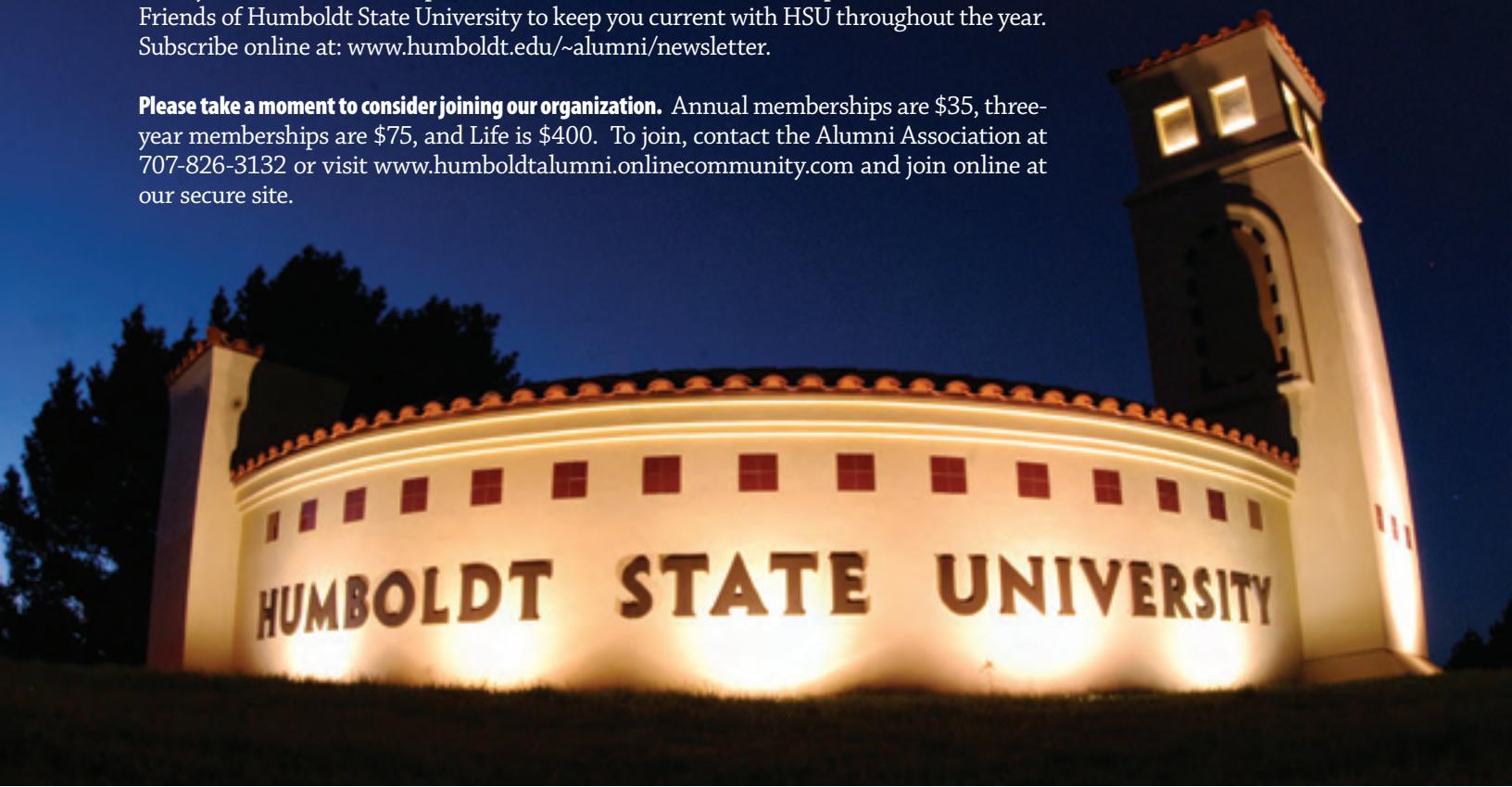
Membership in the Alumni Association is important. Your membership supports key programs – such as alumni scholarships, grants, special events, and publications/communication – is what drives our success.

Alumni Scholarships and Grants – Each year the Alumni Association provides scholarships to deserving students.

Special Events – Each year the Alumni Association produces several events for its members. The Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner is our next big event. We have three amazing alumni to honor on April 19, 2007. We are planning a homecoming reunion for October 13, 2007 – featuring a Golden Grad Plus (classes of 1913-1957).

Publications and Communications – We are committed to delivering pertinent, quality news from your alma mater. We publish The Boldt – Our Electronic Dispatch for Alumni and Friends of Humboldt State University to keep you current with HSU throughout the year. Subscribe online at: www.humboldt.edu/~alumni/newsletter.

Please take a moment to consider joining our organization. Annual memberships are \$35, three-year memberships are \$75, and Life is \$400. To join, contact the Alumni Association at 707-826-3132 or visit www.humboldtalumni.onlinecommunity.com and join online at our secure site.



HUMBOLDT STATE UNIVERSITY

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