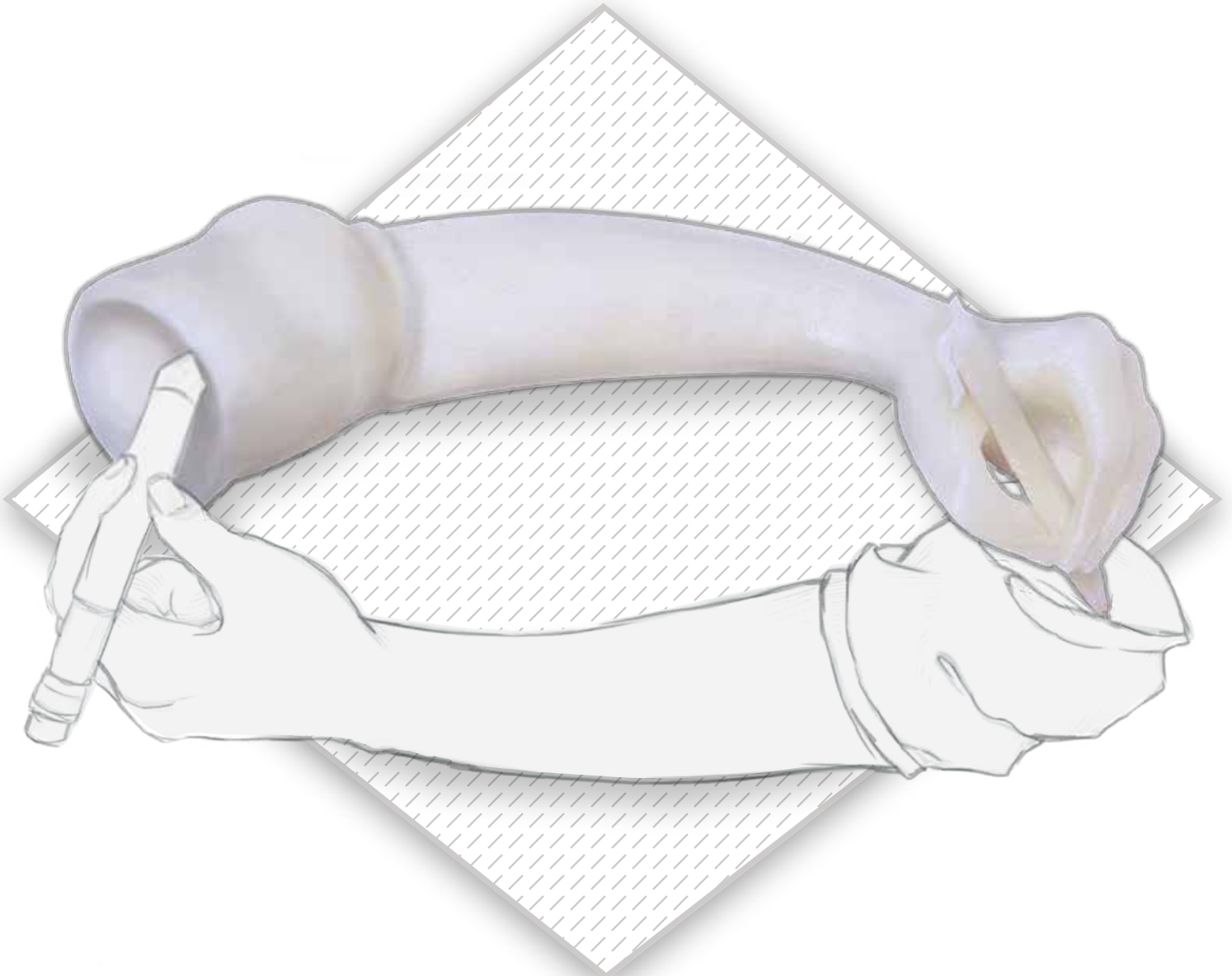


insights

SPRING 2017

THE MAGAZINE OF SONOMA STATE UNIVERSITY



If you can *dream* it,
you can *make* it!

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Classroom in the sky

Four community college instructors got out of their own classrooms last fall and spent four days at SSU learning how to build and fly drones and rockets. Why? To participate in a one-semester course for 10 Hispanic-serving community colleges in California. The Rising Data program, organized by SSU Physics and Astronomy Chair Lynn Cominsky, looks to increase interest in science and technology. Pictured here, Professor Greg Kriehn, drone expert at Fresno State, gave flying lessons.

Photos by Greg Kriehn





insights

Spring 2017

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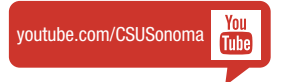
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Letters may be edited for length and clarity, and may be published in any medium.

Join the conversation



Greetings Sonoma State Alumni and Friends,

When I first learned I would become Sonoma State University's next president, I was as excited about this wonderful new opportunity as I'd been about anything in my career. Now, after almost nine months on the job, I feel even more fortunate to be part of this special University and community.

As I have gotten to know the people of Sonoma State, I have been truly moved. Alumni, students, faculty, staff, donors, volunteers and friends in the region have been so warm and supportive—inspiring me even more to work collectively to accomplish great things for our students and the region.

Throughout my career as an educator, I've been privileged to be able to work toward making a quality higher education accessible and affordable for all students. My own journey convinced me that education is the most effective way to change individuals and the world. That's why I try to live by the words of America's pioneering civil rights leader, Mary Church Terrell, "lifting as we climb" so others can have similar opportunities.

Student success and academic excellence mean everything at Sonoma State. We work hard to be a university with the physical and human resources to move students toward a degree in a timely manner and help them launch successful careers after graduation.

I hope you'll be part of this process. If all of our 65,000 alumni could give back just a small portion of their time and expertise, together we would lift Sonoma State and its students to extraordinary heights.

An easy first step would be to connect with the Sonoma State Alumni Association's campaign to update email information for SSU graduates. Please share your email and mailing address with us and we'll send you a special complimentary Sonoma State University paw pin with a copy of the Seawolf Commitment. You can participate by visiting the email campaign web page at www.ssualumni.org/alumniupdate.

By working together, I have no doubt we will make Sonoma State University and our students' experiences even better, always lifting as we climb!

With Warm Regards,



Judy K. Sakaki, Ph.D.
President



Please share your email and mailing address with us and we'll send you a special complimentary Sonoma State University paw pin with a copy of the Seawolf Commitment. You can participate by visiting the email campaign web page at www.ssualumni.org/alumniupdate.







Foster with Linden tree



Recircling Life

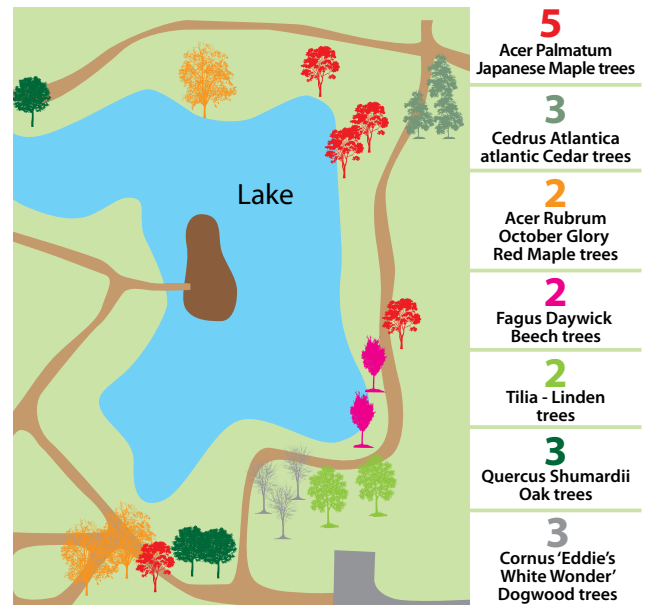
Helena Foster has a deep love of trees. A Holocaust survivor from Poland, who lost her family during World War II, connects with their enduring life and the memories they hold for individual people. She holds a special place in her heart for the Anne Frank tree in Sonoma State's Holocaust and Genocide Memorial Grove. When she touches it, the visceral memories of lives that were stolen from her come flooding back.

She returned to campus last summer to see the Anne Frank tree and to tour the Circle of Trees that she made possible by a donation following the Anne Frank tree planting ceremony. It was the first time she had seen the trees in four years. She was especially overjoyed to see the Anne Frank tree flourishing in its new home. "It's so beautiful I feel like crying," she said softly.

The 18 trees, planted around the picturesque pond at the University's Commencement Lawn, were picked by Sam Youney, Sonoma State's director of landscape services, from a book about trees native to the area of Foster's hometown of Cieszyn, Poland. In Hebrew, the number 18 means "life."

Maples, dogwoods and magnolias are among the varieties in the Circle of Trees, but it was a tilia tree that drew Foster close. She breathed in deeply, conjuring a memory from her childhood. "I remember these," she said.

Her eyes were closed and her smile confirmed she wouldn't rather be anywhere at this moment other than this orchard of memories she helped create at Sonoma State.



“The horse chestnut reminds me of my childhood. We used to play in the garden. It brings back memories of my brother, who did not make it, because they got him. I'm the only one who survived.”

~ Helena Foster, after kissing a new leaf on the Anne Frank tree at SSU

Plugged In



Saving the Earth is nice, and not having to pay for gas sure helps balance the checkbook. But here's yet another reason to consider an electric vehicle: SSU now has six electric vehicle charging stations in campus parking lots. Three are in Lot D near the Student Center and three are near the Green Music Center. The parking spaces and charging stations are located in prime locations at the front of the lots. The stations were funded in part by a \$14,000 grant from the Bay Area Air Quality Management District's Charge! program.

BRONZE for GREEN

Sonoma County has long been at the forefront of sustainability, and now SSU has the (post-consumer waste recycled) paperwork to go along with it. At a lecture by climate change journalist Bill McKibben in October, the University announced it has received an award from one of the largest international higher education sustainability nonprofit organizations in the world. The Bronze Award from AASHE's STARS program is the result of two years of dedicated work by a small group of students led by ENSP major Claudia Sisomphou and advised by Geography Professor Jeff Baldwin. The award is the only student-led effort of the 787 institutions using the STARS tool.



Preserving Living Heritage

Global modernization has caused many cultures' sacred sites around the world to be compromised, or worse, destroyed completely. But after the bestowing of an award last year from California Governor Jerry Brown, government agencies all the way up to the federal level are looking at a project involving SSU's Anthropological Studies Center, Caltrans, the Kashaya Pomo tribe and California State Parks as a model for working with Native American tribes in preserving living heritage. As a result of the project, Caltrans is able to maintain coastal highways along Highway 1 from Salmon Creek to the Gualala River without disturbing culturally sensitive sites, and a walking and driving tour will be available to the public later this year documenting the sites according to the tribe's oral and written history. The project was started in 2008, but the relationship between SSU and the Kashaya Pomo goes back to the 1970s when David Frederickson founded the University's Anthropological Studies Center.



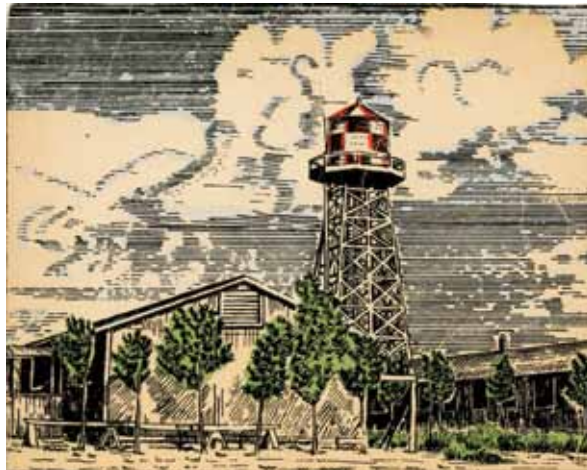
“Will video games rot our brains, as some parents would like their controller-wielding children to believe?”

Online Gaming

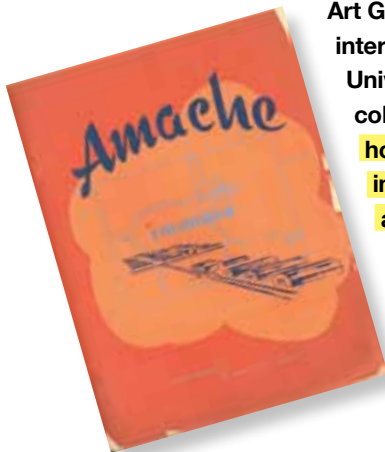
Will video games rot our brains, as some parents would like their controller-wielding children to believe? Human Development Professor Ben Smith is looking for the answer in an unlikely place. Smith is studying the effects of online gaming on indigenous masculinities in Puno, a region of southern Peru roughly the size of Nebraska. He is looking at the popular free multiplayer online game DOTA2, which has exploded in a region devoid of online games until about 10 years ago. Its popularity among young boys in internet lounges of Puno has created concern among local parents and authorities, though the only crime being committed is children skipping school. To the kids, it’s just “hanging out” in the modern age, where most socializing takes place online. But this new world is fraught with its own challenges like internet bullying, and the long-term ramifications of this type of socialization are as yet unknown.

Creativity Unconfined

During World War II, the forceful removal of people of Japanese descent from the West Coast sent nearly 120,000 people, two-thirds of whom were American citizens, into incarceration camps within our nation’s interior. Despite an unjust situation and harsh, unforgiving landscapes, internees prevailed, revealing an unbreakable spirit. An exhibition in the University Library

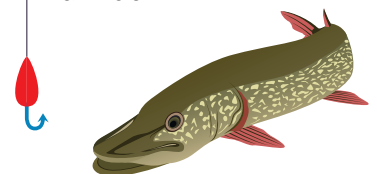


Art Gallery last year showed this through artwork made by internees at Amache, Utah. Thanks to an NEH grant, the University’s Anthropological Studies Center was able to collect and display photos, stories and items. The Library hosted a reception with speakers from across the state, including SSU President Judy K. Sakaki, telling stories about their families’ histories in internment camps. The items and stories were digitized and added to the SSU and the California State University’s digital special collections at library.sonoma.edu/specialcollections/collections and csujad.com/csuscollection.html, respectively.



Here Fishy, Fishy

Biology Professor Sean Place is serious about his ice fishing — so serious, in fact, he went to Antarctica to catch emerald rock cod. But when he drills a hole in the ice and drops a line into the frigid polar waters, he’s not looking to catch dinner. The molecular biologist received a \$618,000 NSF grant to study how climate change might affect species living in extreme cold environments. Antarctic fish, he says, are often considered extremely vulnerable to even small temperature changes. Place is also researching the assumption that, after millions of years in frigid waters, these fish have completely lost the capacity to respond to a rapid increase in temperature. If this proves common across Antarctic species, it could mean the effects of global climate change may actually be greater than anticipated for the ecosystem as a whole.



Ch-Ch-Ch-Changes

Sonoma State has seen some changes come to campus since President **Judy K. Sakaki** took the reins last July. Her student-centered approach has led to some restructuring of the University with interim vice presidents in place while searches are conducted for new candidates. Residential Life, Greek Life, the Student Center, Registration and Records, Admissions and Recruitment, EOP and other programs and departments have been moved to Student Affairs under Interim Vice President **Michael Young**. **Stacy Heldman-Holguin** has been brought on as the Interim Associate Vice President for Student Affairs to assist with this transition. **Jeri Echeverria** is serving as Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, and **Stan Nosek** is Interim Vice President for Administration and Finance. **Peter Smits** is overseeing the combination of the University Affairs and Development divisions into the new Advancement Division. Fresno State President Emeritus **John Welty** is serving as an Interim Vice President and Special Consultant to the Green Music Center. In addition, **Henry Hansel**, local business leader and current vice chair, is serving as the new chair of the Weill Hall and Green Music Center Board of Advisors as **Sandy Weill** and **Joan Weill** have stepped down as chair and vice chair, respectively.

Website Revisited

A new, responsive design for the Sonoma State website launches this spring. The new design has improved navigation and a better user experience on all platforms. Best of all, it is responsive, which greatly enhances browsing on mobile.

The rollout of the new design will be in stages. The initial launch included the home page, admissions, SSU News, events and various pages that link from the home page. The remainder of the University's web pages will migrate over the next 18 to 24 months.



Check out
the new
sonoma.edu.

Academic Athletes

It's easy to let sports take precedence in a student-athlete's life, but SSU stresses the classroom take priority over the court, the field and the pool in a student's life. That effort is paying off, as a school record 93 Sonoma State University student-athletes earned All-Academic honors from their respective conferences for the 2015-16 academic year. And for the second consecutive year, **Sonoma State student-athletes set a new department GPA record**, topping the previous year's record of 3.037 with a combined GPA of 3.097 in 2015-16. Ten of the 14 athletic programs at Sonoma State earned a GPA of 3.0 or higher in 2015-16.



A Fine Fellow

Biology Professor Daniel E. Crocker has a special membership to the California Academy of Sciences — he has been named an Academy Fellow for his notable contributions to the natural sciences.

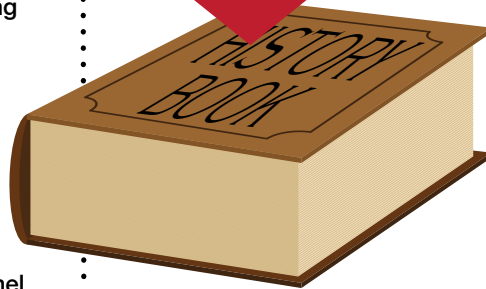
Crocker has received grants from the National Science Foundation and other organizations for his work with elephant seals, seals, sea lions and other pinnipeds. His approach is to integrate physiology and behavior with the aim of addressing ecological theory. He authored or co-authored an astounding 21 research papers in 2015. Crocker's research focuses on the ecology of marine vertebrates, including their physiology and behavior. He studies the metabolic adaptations that allow animals to go for long periods without food and water, and to hold their breath while exercising. The Academy Fellows are a governing group of more than 400 distinguished scientists who have made notable contributions to one or more of the natural sciences. Members are nominated by their colleagues and selected by the Board of Trustees and remain members of the Fellowship for life.



Project Censored Turns 40

Trustworthy journalism is becoming more rare with each passing news cycle, and media watchdogs like SSU's Project Censored are showing their importance now more than ever. With the proliferation of "fake news" now influencing politics and affecting everyday life for millions around the world, it's important to celebrate and support organizations dedicated to vetting, fact-checking and promoting real news. A fitting highlight for the 40th anniversary celebration of Sonoma State's Project Censored was to have a panel of independent journalists discussing the importance of investigative journalism. The organization responsible for the annual "Top 25 Most Censored News Stories" books hosted a two-day conference in the Student Center in October, with speakers like "Empire Files" creator Abby Martin, MintPress News founder and editor Mnar Muhawesh, best-selling author and founder of Salon.com David Talbot, and NYU media professor Mark Crispin Miller.

"With the proliferation of 'fake news' now influencing politics and affecting everyday life for millions around the world, it's important to celebrate and support organizations dedicated to vetting, fact-checking and promoting real news."



California became the first state to require LGBT history be included in public schools.

Mental Health Checkups

Hutchins Professor Francisco Vázquez is working to bring mental health services to the Latino community in Sonoma County. With a disproportionately large population of the county's Latino community suffering from mental health problems, there is a need for outreach and education as to what services are available and how to obtain them. Vázquez is president of Latino Service Providers, a Sonoma County nonprofit that received a \$1 million grant last year to explore how Latino cultural practices promote mental and behavioral health. As part of the grant, SSU faculty and students will work with the organization and other agencies to recruit and train high school students over the next five years to identify and implement cultural practices as therapeutic practices. Vázquez hopes this will open the door for MediCal and insurance companies to pay for cultural practices as mental health practices.



LGBT History in Schools

Those who attend public school learn about the civil rights struggles of many cultures, but are taught nothing of the struggles for acceptance by the LGBT community — until now. Since meetings began in 2013, Women's and Gender Studies Professor Don Romesburg has been a leader in the effort to include LGBT history in the framework for California public schools' history and social science curriculum. Last year the State Board of Education approved the new framework, which includes history of LGBT people and the LGBT Civil Rights Movement. Romesburg worked with several groups to craft the framework, which he hails as the "most inclusive in the country." California became the first state to require LGBT history be included in public schools when Governor Jerry Brown signed the FAIR Education Act into law in 2011.



Donnee Komisar



Redwood Café owner Mustapha "Moose" Jamal, left, with employees Anna Dabbas, and Jolee Fernandez, right.



Patrons wait in line to order at the Redwood Café.

Dine and Donate

Patrons at Cotati's Redwood Cafe last winter helped raise the holiday spirit and funds to support SSU student emergency food needs. Donnee Komisar, grandmother of a current SSU student, coordinated a dine and donate event with the SSU Alumni office that sent 15 percent of the day's receipts back to SSU.

Student food and housing insecurity have been the focus of the CSU Chancellor's Office. Last fall the system conducted the second phase of its study associated with its Basic Needs Initiative on how CSU campuses were meeting the needs of displaced and food insecure students. Results of the study will be used to develop campus and system programs and services to enable more students to succeed and graduate.

Did you know?

1 in **5** CSU students experience food insecurity.

1 in **12** CSU students experience housing displacement.



Finding a Groove

by Nicolas Grizzle, '06

The Green Music Center is hitting its stride as a unique and irreplaceable resource for Sonoma State University students and the North Bay community.

It started in 2008, when music faculty and staff moved into the new Music Education Hall. Then Weill Hall opened in 2012, bringing performing artists of the highest caliber to Sonoma State on a regular basis. When the versatile Schroeder Hall opened in 2014, the Green Music Center was complete. With all the pieces in place, the GMC is now enmeshing itself into the fabric of the Sonoma State community and beyond.

The GMC is about more than classical music. Yes, it is the home of the Santa Rosa Symphony, but

students of all ages have performed at the GMC, and the community has been invited to several free performances, movie nights and other events. The venues provide the largest lecture spaces on campus, and students have access to performances and private master classes with many artists.

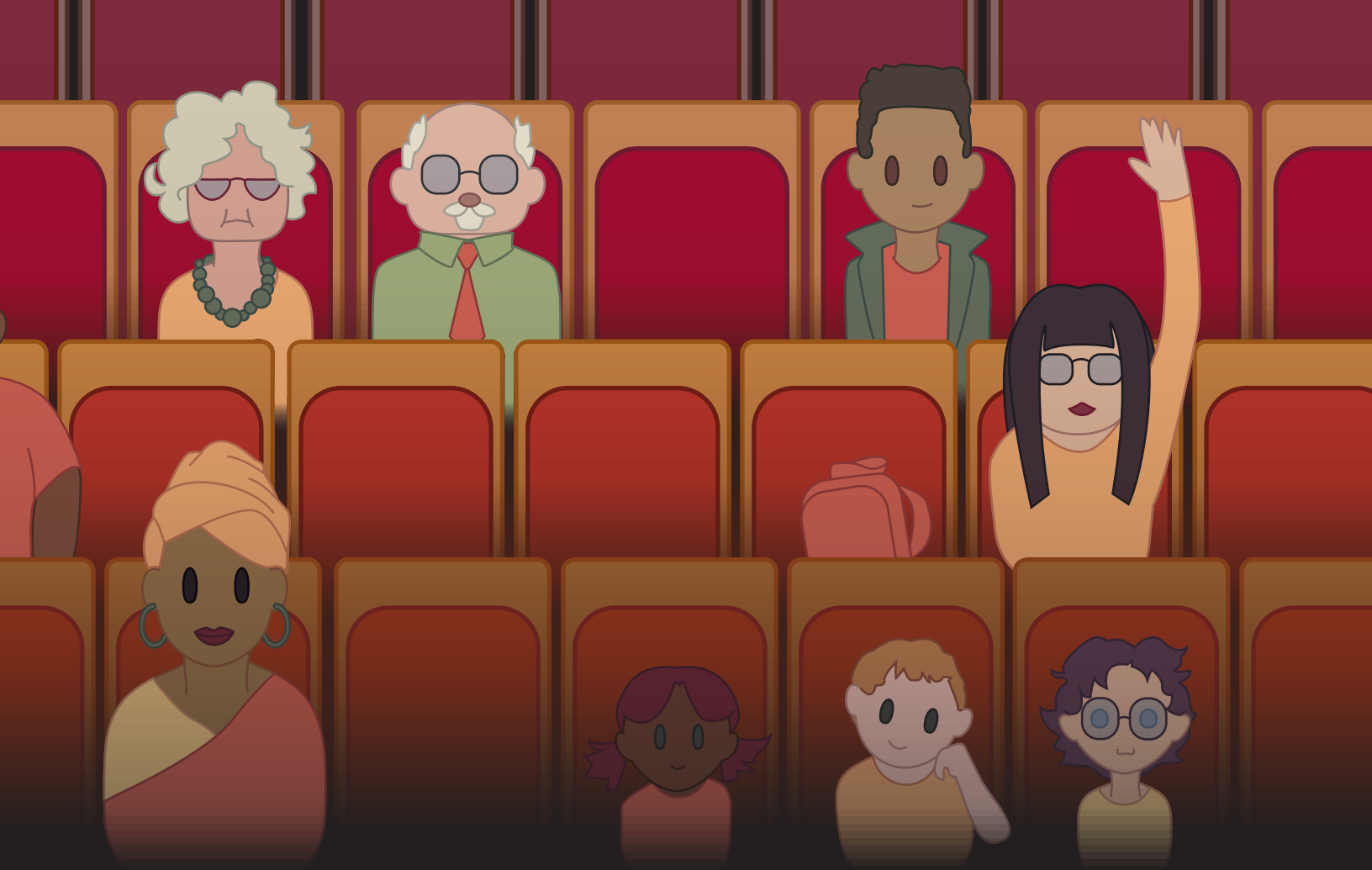
Arts Integration

“The Green Music Center exists, first and foremost, for the students,” says Theatre Arts and Dance Professor Scott Horstein. With his help and the University’s Arts Integration Program, more than 1,350 Sonoma State University students attended performances in fall 2016 with their academic classes free of charge.

Nearly \$45,000 in tickets were reserved for the academic classes to view Pat Metheny, the Folger Consort with Derek Jacobi, Jazz at Lincoln Center, Zakir Hussain, Itzhak Perlman, the Shanghai Acrobats and many others. “This is an effort to capitalize on this resource for educational purposes,” says Horstein, who also serves as Arts Integration Program coordinator. “No matter what they study, we want students to have some meaningful engagement with art on campus.”

The Arts Integration Program aims to promote interdisciplinary learning across majors. One of the most popular performances in Weill Hall, the Folger Consort with Shakespearean

Illustration by Arielle Lehmer, '17



Three years after completion, the Green Music Center is opening new worlds to the North Bay community.

actor Derek Jacobi, combines excerpts from Purcell's chamber opera "Dido and Aeneas" with a dramatic reading of Shakespeare's "Measure for Measure." More than 400 students from theatre arts, English, music, history and criminal justice courses attended this performance.

"It's letting people access a different way of thinking and experiencing as part of their liberal arts education," says Horstein.

One performance in Schroeder Hall was specifically arranged for the Arts Integration Program. In November, German electronic music group Aggressive Loop Productions played live accompaniment to the 1927 German silent film "Berlin - Symphony

of a Great City." Nearly 200 of the 240 seats were reserved for students studying German, music technology and modern languages and literatures.

For some students, this is their first time attending a performance in Weill Hall or Schroeder Hall. To introduce them to the Green Music Center, each Arts Integration performance includes a 15-minute in-class talk by Green Music Center staff to preview the concert and make students feel at home in the world-class performing arts facility.

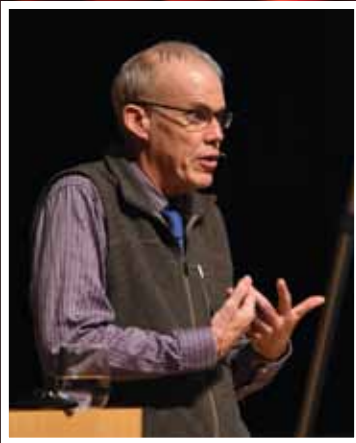
The program includes exhibitions at the University Art Gallery and performances by the Theatre Arts and Dance and Music departments. More than 2,000 students participated in the

program last fall, double that of the previous semester's total.

Artist Access

Thanks to the Green Music Center, SSU students have the chance to interact with and learn from some of the best musicians in the world on a regular basis.

The benefits began early, in 2013-14, when a partnership with Carnegie Hall brought Carol McGonnell, clarinet, Sæunn Thorsteinsdottir, cello, and Elizabeth Joy Roe, piano, for an artist-in-residence program. The group performed as Trio Ariadne and lived on campus, serving as instructors and mentors for music students. Since then, dozens of artists, including trumpeter Wynton



Renowned Speakers

In 2016, climate change journalist **Bill McKibben**, founder of the nonprofit 350.org, gave a keynote talk at SSU's annual Sustainability Days conference. He has started a global campaign to increase awareness of the effects of climate change in hopes of slowing its effects. He showed photos from activists around the world, including a group in the Maldives, an island nation that will be completely underwater in less than a generation if ocean levels continue to rise.



Masterclasses

Since Weill Hall opened in 2012, dozens of artists have taken time to meet with students and talk about music, performance and everything in between. For example, versatile trumpeter and bandleader **Wynton Marsalis** gave a one-hour master class to 10 jazz majors when he visited in 2015, and last year gave a "Jazz for Young People" concert, offering free tickets for youth of all ages to learn about jazz legend Duke Ellington and his music. Renowned Israeli violinist Pinchas Zuckerman also gave a master class to SSU music students in conjunction with his concert in February this year.



Lip Jam

Loud music, a great light show, surround seating and high-energy dancers come together for a great cause each year during Alpha Gamma Delta sorority's Lip Jam fundraiser in Weill Hall. This fundraiser for diabetes research is always a sellout, and Weill Hall is the only space large enough to accommodate the massive crowd. The SSU chapter of Alpha Gamma Delta raised over \$50,000 last year, and was the top contributing chapter to the Alpha Gamma Delta Foundation internationally.

Marsalis and violinist Pinchas Zuckerman, have taken time to meet with students and talk about music, performance and everything in between.

"It's a really exciting time," says SSU Orchestra Director Alexander Kahn. "In the music department, we're really looking forward to having more student interaction with the artists."

The GMC also offers pre-concert lectures for some performances, something that has proved popular and will be expanded to include 18 performances this year, says Kahn. "People like to familiarize themselves more with the repertoire before they go into a concert," he says.

The Arts Integration Program aims to promote interdisciplinary learning across majors.

Even computer science students have made a connection to the GMC. A group of students are working on an app for Amazon's voice command device Alexa to include information about the Green Music Center. When completed, users can download the free app and add it to Alexa's database to personalize it for their own use. Users will then be able to ask Alexa about the GMC, upcoming concerts and how to get tickets. Alexa will respond

with the up-to-date information from the GMC's website.

Building Community

Even before construction broke ground, Weill Hall at the Green Music Center was building community.

The Santa Rosa Symphony has supported the project since fundraising efforts began in the late 1990s by holding benefit concerts and fundraisers for the



Swiss Army Hall

Schroeder Hall, the 240-seat recital hall, is one of the most versatile spaces on campus. It was designed as an intimate recital hall, but its adjustable acoustics, dropdown projection screen and removable desktops in each chair allow for much more than just music. Its size makes it one of the largest gathering spaces on campus for lectures or film screenings. It was the perfect venue for a lecture and lengthy Q&A session by **Rep. Mike Thompson**, proving large enough for several classes to take advantage of the opportunity to speak directly with the congressman.



Students of All Ages

Musicians from several K-12 schools in the North Bay have played on Weill Hall's stage since it opened five years ago. The GMC hosts several K-12 music festivals, like the California Music Education Association that features choral groups, jazz bands and wind ensembles from around the Bay Area. The Sonoma County Honor Band, two orchestras comprised of the top musicians from Sonoma County middle and high schools, also performs each year in Weill Hall. Teachers say the chance to play at the Green Music Center motivates students to practice and make music a priority.

GMC. The 90-year-old, award-winning orchestra supports several programs for young people, including the Santa Rosa Symphony Youth Orchestra, and programs specifically designed for families with young children. The premier performing arts venue in the county was a natural fit for the orchestra, which was named in 2012 as the GMC's Orchestra in Residence.

Both SSU and K-12 students have the opportunity to share a stage with professional artists at the highest level. Ensembles like the Symphonic Chorus, Jazz Orchestra and SSU Symphony Orchestra regularly perform on the Weill Hall stage, often with guest soloists. The GMC

regularly hosts festivals and concerts for the California Music Education Association and the Sonoma County Honor Band, both made up of K-12 students.

"The opportunity to play in the hall is something special," says Andy Shepherd, marketing manager at the GMC. "Growing up, I never had an opportunity to play in a place like this with my school band. Students hear about all the big name artists that come through here, and are

excited that they get to play on that same stage."

The GMC hosts free community concerts, like last year's Mariachi Reyna de Los Angeles concert with the Santa Rosa Symphony. The Chicano and Latino Studies Department has also hosted free performances from critically acclaimed artists in Weill Hall, like Los Angeles band Las Cafeteras and Santa Rosa theater group The Imaginists. **S**

The GMC regularly hosts festivals and concerts for the California Music Educators Association and the Sonoma County Honor Band, both made up of K-12 students.

A day in the life of a

Political

by Nicolas Grizzle, '06
Photos by Charles Gesell

Rock Star

During election season, David McCuan's phone starts ringing and buzzing with media requests or hits of information by 4:45 a.m., continuing until around 11 p.m. Thanks to his non-partisan, accurate and easy-to-understand analysis, the Sonoma State University political science professor has established himself as a go-to source for local, national and international publications. In fact, he has become something of a political rock star in the media, answering more than 1,500 media requests in the 2016 election season since the Iowa caucus in February.

"David's the gold standard for political analysis," says Carla Marinucci, a reporter for *Politico*, which has a monthly online readership of 19 million. "He knows how to communicate complex subjects in a really sharp way, and that is a very, very rare commodity."

McCuan receives calls and emails each day from print journalists working for national publications such as the *Economist*, as well as large international newspapers interested in the American elections. Sometimes he is quoted in a story, but more often he provides analysis to help a reporter understand a story within a given context.

For example, Russian and Swedish media were interested in Socialist-leaning Democratic candidate

Bernie Sanders and his "political revolution." McCuan told the Russian newspaper *Pravda* that for Sanders, it's about

"Professor David McCuan is a great source of info about American politics and related processes. He is putting things into interesting and inspiring perspectives, not just saying some 'juicy' quotes. He gives a real analysis of the situation with possible outcomes, not like some talking heads who are giving you their personas but not a real analysis."

Andrej Matisak,
Pravda newspaper

reforming and remaking the modern Democratic party, and that leading a revolution in many ways is the victory that Sanders gets by losing the nomination. He reiterated that point in the Swedish daily newspaper *Svenska Dagbladet* by saying that many Sanders supporters are believers in his reforms, but not necessarily supporters of him as a candidate.

"No two days are alike and they are all full," says McCuan, emphasizing the last word. "More importantly, they are usually interesting and driven by the calendars around politics."

McCuan joined the faculty at Sonoma State in 2003. In 2009-10, he was a Fulbright Teaching Scholar working in the Department of International Relations and European Studies, Masaryk University, Czech Republic, where he taught courses in U.S. national security policy, terrorism and U.S. foreign policy.

His courses at SSU run the gamut from national and international politics, to international security and terrorism,

including state and local politics, campaigns and elections, and political behavior.

In May 2016 and March 2017, McCuan spent several weeks in Germany on U.S. State Department-sponsored



Media that Request David McCuan's Analysis

International

Svenska Dagbladet (Sweden)

Veja Magazine (Brasil)

Pravda (Russia)

Online

Politico

Huffington Post

Buzzfeed News

Time Magazine

Center for Public Integrity

Local

Mercury News

Press Democrat

Marin Independent Journal

Napa Valley Register

East Bay Times

National

The Economist

New York Times

Los Angeles Times

Baltimore Sun

Washington Times

San Francisco Chronicle

Radio/TV

KCBS

KQED News

("Forum" program)

KSRO

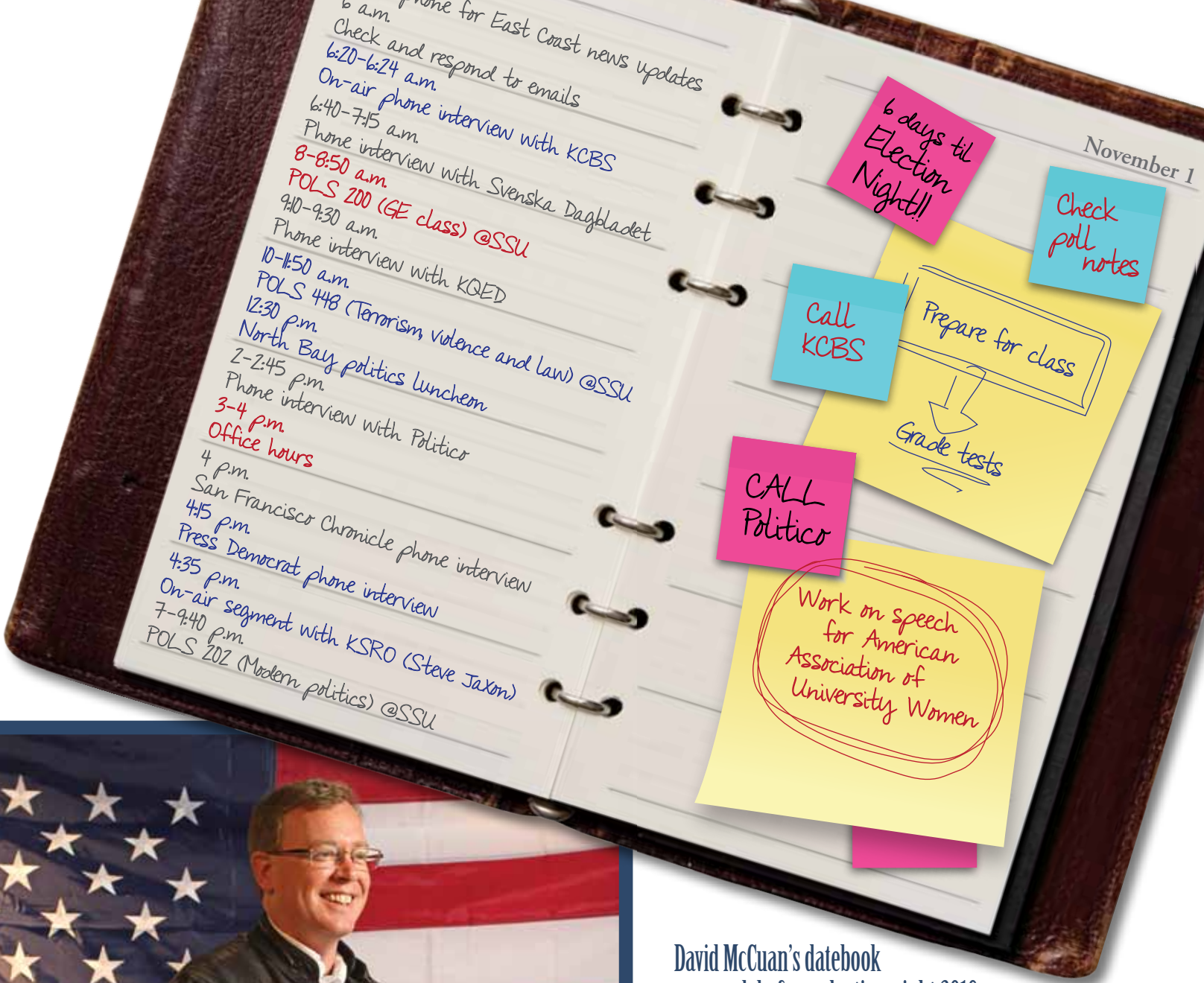
("Drive Hall of Fame" contributor)

KCRW

NBC TV

ABC TV

Fox News



David McCuan's datebook one week before election night 2016

lecture tours about the 2016 elections. The talks focused on explaining the American voting system and current state of American politics to German high school and university professors at three different U.S. Teacher Academy engagements. He also gave talks at the U.S. Embassy in Berlin and several other locations.

For McCuan, it's all part of the job. He sees his professorial duties extending beyond the classroom as he strives to keep the public as informed as possible. "An educator's role doesn't end when we walk out the door of our place of employment," he says. **S**

Investiture 7th OF THE PRESIDENT

JUDY K. SAKAKI

Most university presidents serve their institutions considerably longer than most U.S. presidents remain in office. While U.S. presidential inaugurations are international events, university investitures are not lacking in historical significance, formality or celebration.

Dr. Judy K. Sakaki is only the seventh president to serve Sonoma State since its establishment in 1960. Her distinguished career includes university teaching and management, and most recently, the position of vice president of student affairs for the University of California system.

Her investiture on April 20 celebrates the past, present and future of Sonoma State with a variety of activities for the entire community.

The day begins with a University-themed Mini-Conference at the Student Center featuring research

presentations, music, art and library exhibits.

The investiture ceremony will be held at the Green Music Center in Weill Hall, starting with a welcoming display of student performances in poetry, symphonic music and dance.

Chancellor Michael Drake of Ohio State University, a longtime colleague of Dr. Sakaki, will deliver the keynote address.

Additional speakers include President Frank Chong of Santa Rosa Junior College, community leader Willie Tamayo of La Tortilla Factory, mathematics professor Ben Ford, President Emily Hinton of Associated Students, staff member Katie Musick and *Press Democrat* columnist Gaye LeBaron.

Chancellor Timothy P. White of the California

State University System will introduce President Sakaki and officially announce her investiture. A subsequent hymn by a student vocal ensemble will underline the grace of her insights and acceptance address.

The celebration continues with a public reception in the Trione Courtyard.

The festivities conclude with a concert by the Japanese-American jazz-fusion band Hiroshima at Weill Hall.



Dr. Judy K. Sakaki is only the seventh president to serve Sonoma State since its establishment in 1960.

Investiture: Other CSU Presidents Recall their Special Day



Dr. Joseph I. Castro
Fresno State University

"There hadn't been a ceremony on my campus in 20 years, so we invited the entire community to celebrate the moment as its own special occasion."



Dr. Leslie E. Wong
San Francisco State
University

"My investiture was special for me, my family, our campus and all of its supporters. After a successful run of 23 years by my predecessor, the campus was looking ahead to a new chapter."



Dr. Jeffrey D. Armstrong
Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo

"Graduation is always a special occasion for me, so we scheduled my investiture in conjunction with the spring commencement. I was thrilled to have the chancellor in attendance as well as my family."

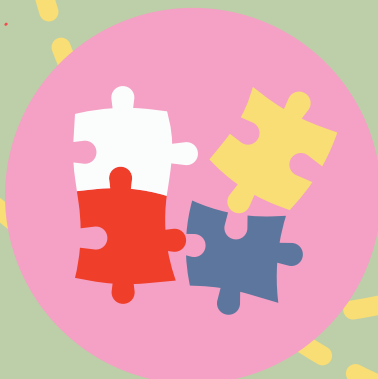
HEALING WORDS

Gary Glazner's Alzheimer Poetry Project has helped more than 25,000 people living with Alzheimer's and related dementia reconnect with life



"WE PERFORM AND CREATE POEMS WITH PEOPLE LIVING WITH MEMORY LOSS USING CALL-AND-RESPONSE. THE TECHNIQUE IS PART OF NEARLY ALL RELIGIOUS CEREMONIES AS WELL AS THE MUSIC GENRES OF JAZZ, BLUES AND GOSPEL."

~ Gary Glazner





"WE ARE POROUS/WE ARE THE PAST/WE ARE FORGET"

~ from "We Are Forget" by Gary Glazner

by Joe Gargiulo

Inspiration often strikes when people are engaged in routine or repetitive actions. Sensing a more profound obligation, the subconscious takes a more prominent role as it responds to challenges or creative yearnings. Those insights are often basic ideas demanding further consideration or refinement.

The inspirations of Gary Glazner reached fruition after he received a grant to conduct poetry workshops for memory-loss patients. Believing that traditional readings would fall short of the desired response, he theorized that children's poems might resonate better.

He tested his hypothesis in 1997 while conducting a workshop at an adult daycare facility where a seemingly detached individual began reciting the next line of the Longfellow poem that Glazner was reading.

What began as a connection to one elderly man has morphed into many successful years for Glazner and his Alzheimer's Poetry Project. "I knew that I had something with that workshop," he said.

Established in 2003, the Alzheimer's Poetry Project (APP) now has facilitated programming in 26 states and the countries of Australia, Germany, Poland and South Korea while assisting more than 25,000 people living with dementia.

"We perform and create poems with people living with memory loss using call-and-response," said Glazner. "The technique is part of nearly all religious ceremonies as well as the music genres of jazz, blues and gospel."

Sonoma State Foundation

Glazner studied poetry therapy at Sonoma State University, earning a BA in 1982 from what was called the Expressive Arts Program. "SSU acknowledged that a person's interests could drive education," he said.

The program gave students the freedom to design their own curricula. Glazner was able to read in the library, attend poetry readings, and work with musicians, choreographers and dancers who applied rhythm to his poetry.



“All these things — the foundations of which I studied at Sonoma State — I’ve continued to use throughout my life,” he said.

The Growth of Inspiration

Glazner’s commitment to people affected by Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias couldn’t be more timely.

According to the Alzheimer’s Association, the number of people aged 65 and older living with the disease is expected to nearly triple by 2050 while the Aging, Demographics and Memory Study estimates that 14 percent of Americans aged 71 and older have dementia.

Glazner has taught more than 3,000 family caregivers, healthcare workers and artists how to use poetry to connect with people living Alzheimer’s disease and related dementia.

His work has expanded to authoring *Dementia Arts: Celebrating Creativity in Elder Care* as well as online training and certifications via the APP and his other organization, the Institute of Dementia Education and Arts.

Glazner’s work has inspired a handful of other studies including “Healing words: a study of poetry interventions in dementia care” that was published in *Dementia* in 2014.

Glazner has parlayed APP into other programs

- **Poetry for Life** — a cooperative effort with the *Poetry Out Loud: National Recitation Contest* where students create and perform poems with seniors.
- **Preschool Poetry** — an intergenerational program where preschool to high school students create and perform poetry with seniors.
- **Memory Arts Café** — a series of free art events co-produced by the New York Memory Center.
- **Dementia Arts for Sports and Military** — a pilot-project with the Veterans Administration to create an innovative dementia arts program.
- **Arts and Medicine** — a curriculum at the Art and Medicine Program, University Of Arizona College Of Medicine, Phoenix that he co-teaches.
- **Research** — involvement with formal studies including how non-pharmaceutical interventions may improve the quality of life for memory loss patients and programs at several universities.

Recognition

The APP was named a “best practice” by the National Endowment for the Arts and has been featured on NBC’s “Today” show and NPR’s “All Things Considered.” It also received the 2013 Rosalinde Gilbert Innovations in Alzheimer’s Disease Caregiving Legacy Award and the 2012 MetLife Foundation Creativity and Aging in America Leadership Award. [S](#)

Upbeat About Music Education

Alan and Susan Seidenfeld

Alan and Susan Seidenfeld have positively impacted the local community during their short time in Sonoma County, but they prefer to have the spotlight focused on their mission of self-empowerment through music education rather than themselves.

The couple moved to Santa Rosa from Denver in January 2011 to enjoy retirement near their family, but quickly discovered the Luther Burbank Center

Seidenfelds' giving enables local K - 12 school children to attend classical, jazz and world music performances at Weill Hall. "Music is the universal language," said Alan Seidenfeld.

The pair is also involved in the Santa Rosa Symphony's

Simply Strings program that develops musical excellence and promotes social engagement.

Children in

grades two through eight are given a violin and daily ensemble instruction for two hours each day after school hours.

They also support music education in the county through the SRS's It's

Elementary program,

needed to succeed in life," said Seidenfeld. "It instills a sense of commitment and responsibility as well as a positive competitive spirit."

Married for 37 years, the couple has very similar interests and shares the joy of watching children gain confidence and life lessons through music.

"We sincerely hope this article inspires more involvement with music and education," said Seidenfeld. "Music is at the heart of our lives — perhaps it will lead to children getting interested at even younger age levels." **S**

"Music teaches children the hard work and discipline needed to succeed in life. It instills a sense of commitment and responsibility as well as a positive competitive spirit."

as well as its four youth orchestras. "Music teaches children the hard work and discipline

for the Arts. They were especially drawn to the center's Education Through Arts programs that serve 30,000 children and adults annually. Two-thirds of the children are reportedly from low- to moderate-income families. Their work with these programs opened the doors to their involvement with similar ones at Sonoma State and the Transcendence Theater Company in Sonoma Valley.

The launch of Weill Hall at the Green Music Center in September 2012 presented another opportunity for the Seidenfelds, but more importantly, a chance to expand their commitment to bridging education and children via music appreciation.

Central to their involvement is the couple's support of the Music Access Partnership, a vital part of the GMC's Community Outreach and Engagement Programs. The



Photo by Will Bucquoy

Making the impossible

NSF grant brings Maker Movement to SSU

by Francisco A. Carbajal, '18
Photos by Charles Gesell

When a reporter asked Thomas Edison how it felt to fail 1,000 times before making the light bulb, Edison replied that he didn't fail 1,000 times, but that the light bulb was an invention with 1,000 steps. Taking a cue from the famous inventor, failure is being laser-etched into the DNA of STEM education at Sonoma State University thanks to a high-tech Makerspace and a half-million dollar grant from the National Science Foundation.

Last fall, geography major Chase Simon took the class Science 220: Dream, Make and Innovate. For his final project, he aimed to help combat water waste by creating an LED showerhead that works like a spotlight. The showerhead changes colors when the user has gone over the allotted time given for a water-saving shower. "Our project failed at least twice before working properly," Simon says. "But failing pushed me harder because that's what makes me push myself to be successful."

Last year, SSU received a \$584,705 grant to create a new signature Maker program with a Makerspace on campus for students, faculty and staff to use free of charge. Physics Professor Jeremy Qualls, who designed the Maker program and teaches Science 220, believes SSU is taking a big step toward creating future Makers. "I think Making is one of the most significant changes in my generation," says Qualls. "It's allowed technology to affect not only what we can make in the lab but how we think and how we can solve problems."

Sonoma State is one of five California State University campuses with a Makerspace, a laboratory of limitless potential where one person can create, design and build a project from conception to reality. Students are empowered by hands-on learning in the Makerspace, discovering the power of perseverance with a little help from failure.

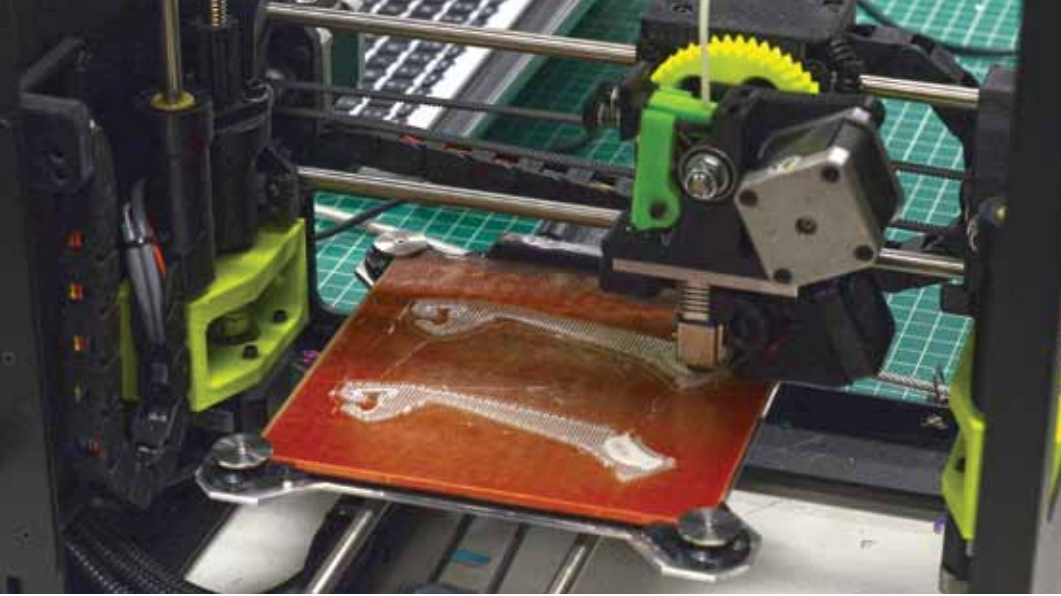
The grant triples the size of the existing Makerspace to 1,500 square feet and brings tools like 3D printers, a computer controlled mill, laser cutters, micro controllers and electronics like Raspberry Pi mini computers, as well as materials like cloth, metal, leather and more, to campus. It will open on the second floor of the University Library this spring. "You can make the same things you could in a machine shop, and more, and it's easier and safer to do," says Qualls. "This Makerspace will have everything you need to create. It really gives us the space to create whatever we dream up.

"We are merging science with art, adding that extra 'A' to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) education to make it 'STEAM' education," says Qualls, who is working with Physics and Astronomy Department Chair Lynn Cominsky and others on the program.

"The idea is to get over the hump where students aren't totally afraid and are able to tinker and learn that it's ok to fail, it's ok to experiment and learn the process," says Cominsky. "You're not expected to know everything about Making right

Physics Professor Jeremy Qualls with Escher arms created on a 3D printer at SSU





3D printer working on Escher arms

Engineer and inventor Chris Stewart volunteers his time in Science 220, giving guest lectures about entrepreneurship and innovation. “Students are encouraged to not just create but to innovate ideas and think, how can I make an everyday object better?” says Stewart. “More importantly, the class teaches perseverance in making and working on a project of their own.”

A decrease in the number of STEM majors led former President Barack Obama to ask colleges to educate 10,000 more engineers a year and 100,000 more STEM teachers. Sonoma State is meeting that challenge. A previous NSF grant funded Science 120: A Watershed Year. Freshmen who took that class were three and a half times more likely to enter into a STEM major one year after the class. And Science 220, which can be taken for General Education credit, is intended to introduce sophomore students into the world of science and Making while encouraging them to think of a future in a STEM-related major.

“Making takes students of all backgrounds from observing to engaging in learning. It turns abstract ideas and challenges into hands-on experiences and skills,” says Lynn Stauffer, dean of the School of Science and Technology.

According to the White House, 1,400 K-12 schools, representing almost

away and the best part is that there’s no judgment.”

Qualls hopes the Makerspace will inspire and empower the Sonoma State community to turn ideas for products and inventions into real, functional prototypes. Students, faculty and staff are invited to attend free workshops before classes begin in the fall. The themed weekly workshops provide a space to come together and socialize while getting to work together on special projects.

infinite possibilities

In addition to 3D printing, the Makerspace will have a vinyl press to transfer a design onto mugs, clothes, gloves and more. E-textiles — fabrics that enable digital components to be embedded in them — allow students to create “smart clothing” that can be

modified to do things like change color according to the weather, or to even work as a bio-monitor displaying calories burned during a workout or blood sugar level.

But the most powerful tools in the new Makerspace are the laser cutters. They allow for nearly anything to be cut with exact precision, which is good for projects ranging from custom jigsaw puzzles to etching a decorative design directly into a laptop surface. The laser can even be used to cut a design out of nearly any material to later be put together like a model airplane kit.

“A student can design and 3D-print a board game in the Makerspace in the library, and then sell it at the Made By Seawolves store in the Student Center,” says Qualls. “They can make a piece for their skateboard, or even design and make one from scratch. The space is full of infinite possibilities.”



Erich Diel
Infrared scanner for use in place of an x-ray for some applications



Chase Simon
Stoplight showerhead to encourage water savings

1 million students from all 50 states, are committing to a dedicated space for Making, designating a champion for Making, and having a public showcase of student projects. It's important to continue this type of learning in higher

education, says Stauffer. amazing things together with the power of diversity. Cross-discipline learning can help build a community ecosystem for Making. Say an art student creates a piece of art in the Makerspace, and an engineering student turns that piece into

self-discipline," says Cominsky. "Students learn you can't quit just because it doesn't work the first time. Nothing in science works the first time. You have to persevere if you want something done."

Early childhood studies major Taylor Crawford made a flashlight necklace for her Science 220 project. The invention helps people navigate in the dark when their hands are full, or when they might want to keep their hands free.

Crawford and her partner Emily Chavez designed a necklace case using 3D modeling programs Blender 3D and Cura, then printed it on a 3D printer. A small LED light bulb and battery were added later.

"The really nice thing about Making is that although I feel like I am not really good in math and science, I am still able to create all the cool ideas I might have with this technology in the Makerspace," says Crawford. "I can have something in my head and without knowing all the

"Making takes students of all backgrounds from observing to engaging in learning. It turns abstract ideas and challenges into hands-on experiences and skills."

Lynn Stauffer, dean of the School of Science and Technology

education, says Stauffer.

"At the university level, Making allows students to invest in their learning in new ways and helps to put them on a trajectory that reaches beyond college and to their professional futures," she says.

The new Maker program also encourages interdisciplinary partnerships for students to explore their own creativity. "We want students to know that whether their major is engineering science, business, psychology, theatre, communications or anything else, they are encouraged to come create and build with us," says Qualls.

"The cross-discipline aspect is very important in the Makerspace environment," says Stewart. "We can create

'kinetic art' and gives it that science angle. They couldn't have done without each other. It's really an amazing thing."

failing is learning

Cominsky, who helped write the application for the NSF grant, knows full well the power of perseverance in science. She was part of the team that in 2015 made the first observation of gravitational waves — ripples in the fabric of space time originally predicted in Albert Einstein's 1915 general theory of relativity. "I think this class teaches a lot about

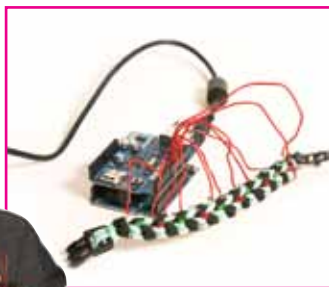
Making Maker Teachers

SSU started the Maker Educator Certificate Program

in 2014 as a 50-hour certificate program through the School of Extended and International Education. The program was developed by School of Education Dean Carlos Ayala and Education Professors Jessica Parker and Dan Blake, with help from Dale Dougherty, founder and CEO of MAKE: Magazine and the Maker Faire.

In addition to inspiring teachers to apply Making in the classroom, the program has shown promise in other non-obvious ways, like helping English learners pick up language quicker. With the success of the first Maker Educator Certificate Program, a second installment was added in the form of a four-part online class called "Introduction to Making."

The program has expanded to six Maker educator certification classes per semester, with online classes being offered in the fall, spring and summer. The courses are still offered in a traditional class setting as well. The goal is to create the first complete online Maker educator certificate program in the country and expand it statewide to other CSU campuses.



Kyle Williams

Fashionable LED bracelet

Hands-On Learning Innovation

Physics Professor Jeremy Qualls has been involved in Maker-style classes that have been a sort of inspiration in helping create the Science 220: Dream, Make and Innovate class. Qualls also teaches two lab-based classes called “The Physics of Toys” and “The Physics of Martial Arts.”

In these classes, students are expected to learn about physics in an unconventional way that doesn't require a textbook the whole time. Students start learning the wonders of physics from actual toys with instructional items like Beyblades and Nerf guns to measure torque and angular momentum, and from the world of martial arts, techniques from Ninjutsu are used to understand and experiment with concepts like mass and pressure.

With a spin-off class called “The Physics in The Kitchens” being taught this spring semester by Physics Professor So-Young Han with help from Executive SSU Chef Alexandre Purroy, the idea of learning through hands-on experience is rapidly growing in the STEM community at Sonoma State.

calculations right away, I can still have a prototype made that very same day.”

Qualls hopes other students will gain this type of self-empowerment perspective from the class as well. “The Maker movement is internalizing how we see ourselves and how we build things from the inside out,” he says. “A lot of people who don't ever take



Aaron Marquez
3D-printed Seawolf paw

science, or are bad at math, they feel intimidated by someone else's skill set. The mindset is, 'There's something wrong with my car, I'll just take it to the mechanic.' I think that a lot of that can be overcome with this kind of environment where anyone is able to design and make things on their own.”

That mindset has stuck with Crawford. “After taking this class, I definitely feel a lot more comfortable with being able to fix things on my own — and being a female on her own in college, that skill really comes in handy once in a while,” she says.

easy to learn

Erich Diel is the student assistant for Science 220, helping students in the Makerspace during project hours. On a given day, Diel works on three different software programs to fix the code of a fellow student's prototype; he refills and changes the bio-degradable 3D-printing filament on the Lulzbot Mini Printer; and troubleshoots problems that arise with various projects. Though he operates like an expert lab technician, he only first set foot into a Makerspace six months prior to starting as a student assistant.

“The really nice thing about Making is that although I feel like I am not really good in math and science, I am still able to create all the cool ideas I might have with this technology in the Makerspace.”

Taylor Crawford, SSU Student

“I always knew about 3D printing when I was in high school, but the technology was just really expensive and very limited to where it could be found,” says Diel. “Sonoma State having a Makerspace gave me the opportunity to not only learn this craft, but with the help of Dr. Qualls, I can help teach what I've learned to other students.”

The concept of Making came naturally to him. “It was not hard to learn at all,” he says. “It's something anyone can learn. It's easy for anyone to get into and the end potential is huge.” After a pause, he adds, “It's nearly limitless.” **S**

Alumni Association Board of Directors 2017

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From the Alumni Association President

Greetings Alumni Family!

I write this letter with optimistic enthusiasm to share with you some exciting changes occurring on campus and with the Alumni Association.

Under new SSU President Judy K. Sakaki, the Alumni Association has refocused efforts to support students and alumni and promote Sonoma State University under three specific pillars: alumni engagement, student scholarship and alumni recognition. We are working to improve programming and engagement opportunities including connecting alumni with current students as well as hosting events on campus and throughout the Bay Area. Be sure to read the Distinguished Alumni feature in this issue. It highlights two outstanding SSU alums recognized for their exceptional achievements.

I invite you to come back to campus and attend the second annual alumni reunion event, Sonoma Summer. You'll have a chance to stay on campus and relive your dorm days, reconnect with old friends and check out how much the campus has grown. Mark your calendar, July 28-30, 2017, for an action-packed, Sonoma County weekend at SSU. Visit www.sonomasummer.com for more information.

The Alumni Association is working to build a community with a sense of family, unity, inclusion and support. Please reach out if you have a desire to make an impact on a student by mentoring, speaking in a classroom or giving career advice and guidance. **If you are not currently an Association member, now is a great time to join. We are moving to a lifetime-membership-only model and have reduced the one-time dues from \$300 to \$199.**

I always look forward to meeting SSU alums. I hope to hear from you, or see you at one of our events on campus or in our community.

Cheers!

Joseph Huang

Business Administration '02, Economics '04

Josephhuang8@gmail.com



www.facebook.com/ssualumni



1. Travis Saracco 2. Nate Campbell 3. Jim Manly 4. Elizabeth Dippel 5. James Elliot 6. David Felte 7. Joseph Huang 8. Sarah Scudder 9. Michelle Fielder 10. Amanda Mueller 11. Annette Powell 12. Vanessa Johns 13. Shari Shamsavari 14. SSU President Judy K. Sakaki 15. Laurie Ogg 16. Anne Biasi *Not pictured: Molly Rattigan, Vincent Cortese and Patrick Maloney*

Distinguished Alumni Awards

The Distinguished Alumni Awards Program is a time-honored tradition at Sonoma State University. The award is a symbol of achievement and success presented to distinguished alumni from among SSU's six academic colleges. Since 1988, these awards have been presented to the most prestigious graduates for their professional achievements, contributions to society and support of the University.

Judge David V. Brewer, B.A. Economics, 1974

The objectivity that David V. Brewer brings to his seat on the Oregon Supreme Court is rooted in the classrooms of Stevenson Hall where professors encouraged him to respect his own viewpoints.

Now entering his 24th year as an Oregon judge, he blends that impartial

sense of justice with a devotion to the principles of the state and federal constitutions.

Brewer received a B.A. in economics from Sonoma State in 1974 and a J.D.



“State courts are case-based laboratories for good government and are committed to improving the administration of justice because they are close to the people.”

at the University of Oregon Law School in 1977, then spent 15 years as a private practice attorney.

He was appointed to the Lane County Circuit Court in 1993 and subsequently elected to a six-year term. Next, he was appointed to the Oregon Court of Appeals in 1999 (chief judge from 2004–12) and elected to two six-year terms. He began serving as an associate justice of the Oregon Supreme Court in 2013 after winning a non-partisan election.

Brewer has tremendous faith in the American justice system. “We’re blessed

to live in a country where judges are allowed to speak freely without pressure,” he said. “State courts are case-based laboratories for good government and are committed to improving the administration of justice because they are close to the people”

A published author and accomplished public speaker, he has served on numerous boards, committees, councils and task forces. His professional recognition includes the 2008 Distinguished Service Award from the National Center for State Courts. [S](#)

Geof Syphers, B.S. Physics, 1993

The Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines “power broker” as “a person able to exert strong influence through control of votes or individuals.” The term is generally used to describe the brokering of political power, but scores of products or services can be brokered, including renewable energy.

As the CEO of Sonoma Clean Power, Geof Syphers fosters a healthier environment as he contracts to buy energy produced by geothermal, wind and biomass sources.

His formal education was tailor-made for his current leadership: B.S. from Sonoma State in physics and an M.S. from the University of Massachusetts Lowell in energy engineering with an emphasis on community solar energy systems with distributed storage and utility energy efficiency rate-based

incentive program design.

“SSU’s applied physics program was perfect for my hands-on style of learning,” said Syphers. “The accessibility of the faculty and flexible approach that allows students to design their own projects is excellent, and something more common to graduate programs.”

He joined Sonoma Clean Power after spending 20 years as an energy consultant to California companies, utilities and public agencies. His experience includes micro grid design, zero-carbon community design and energy efficiency program implementation, and he is involved with

statewide lobbying efforts for clean power generation.

Led by the vision of Syphers since its inception in 2013, Sonoma Clean Power has implemented programs designed to encourage electric car ownership and smart electric car charging stations. [S](#)



“The accessibility of the [SSU] faculty and flexible approach that allows students to design their own projects is excellent, and something more common to graduate programs.”

Do you know an outstanding alum? Nominate them to be this year's Distinguished Alumni. Visit www.ssualumni.org.

Weddings, Births, In Memoriam

Do you have a special event to share with your fellow SSU alumni? We are ramping up a new section of Classnotes dedicated to weddings, births and in memoriam. Please send photos of your recent nuptials and family additions, or if we can help remember an SSU alum who has passed on, please let us know. Visit www.ssualumni.org/alumniupdate to submit photos and to share your milestones.



1



2

1. Candela Martinez, '15 BS Business Administration, married Tyler Theobald, '15 BA Psychology, on Aug. 28, 2016.

2. Charlie Swanson, '06 BA Communications, married Katie Stohlmann, on January 14, 2017.

Give Every Year, Make a Difference Every Day



Through the generosity of alumni, parents and friends, the Fund for Sonoma State provides unique and relevant educational experiences for Sonoma State University students. Our signature programs have granted more than 200 Wolfbucks for Books awards and funded more than 150 student/faculty research teams.

Through *your* example and with *your* support, we continue to be *the* University that outstanding, hard-working students choose for an enriching education.

Join the Effort and Invest
in Sonoma State Students.

Make Your Annual Gift today!

The Fund for Sonoma State

Give every year, make a difference every day.

Contact University Advancement at 707.664.2036 or visit www.sonoma.edu/development/fund-for-sonoma.

Lagunitas Fundraiser

Nov. 21, 2016

Lagunitas Brewery

Petaluma

Event raised more than \$3,000 for the Heart of SSU Alumni Scholarship



Check out your SSU Connection e-newsletter to learn more about the next Lagunitas mixer.

To subscribe, go to www.ssualumni.org and click on "Get Free E-Newsletter."



SF Happy Hour

Nov. 4, 2016
The Brickyard
San Francisco, MOMA District



Golf Tournament

Oct. 15, 2016
Foxtail Golf Course
Rohnert Park



Sonoma Summer Alumni Reunion

July 2016
SSU campus



Upcoming Events

Washington, D.C.
CSU Mixer
April 4, 2017

New York, NY
CSU Mixer
April 6, 2017

SSU Campus
Sonoma Summer Alumni Reunion
July 28-30, 2017

1970s

Noel Bryne, '71, BA Sociology, retired in June 2016 after teaching at Sonoma State University for 38 years in the Sociology Department. He now intends to develop a "folk history" of Sonoma State College/ Sonoma State University.

R. John Jones, '77, BA Business Administration-Management, was featured on the August 2016 cover of CalCPA and honored with the CalCPA Public Service Award for his work providing more than 20,000 eyeglasses to people in rural Nicaragua. The company he is a part of, Linkenheimer LLP CPAs and Advisors, also conducted a firm-wide trip to Nicaragua in January 2017 to help provide eye care to rural regions that are under served.



Elliot Werk

1980s

Elliot Werk, '80, BS Geology, was appointed to the Idaho State Tax Commission by Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter for a six-year term.

Cynthia Weichel, '83, BA Music, is the president of the Kiwanis Club of the Redwood Empire for the 2016-17 term. She was invited to join the Club in 2011 as its first female member.



Georgia Leyde

Georgia "Tammy" Leyden, '84, BA Liberal Studies, '87, MA Education, has been named Sonoma County Teacher of the Year by the Sonoma County Office of Education. Leyden will retire this year after nearly four decades of teaching. She also serves as adjunct faculty for SSU's School of Education.

Lou Binik, '86, BA Psychology, works from his home to make, market and send Polartec fabric clothing to people all over the world. Studying sports psychology and taking many SSU outdoor classes has helped Binik tremendously in learning how to listen to people's needs.



Lou Binik

Teresa Ruffoni, '87, BA Liberal Studies, '09, Credential Administrative Services, '10, MA Education, will be opening Richard Crane School in 2017, a year-round school in Rohnert Park. Prior to its opening, she has been involved with at Evergreen Elementary.

1990s

Michael Dotson, '91, BA Physical Education, and his wife Moira Beveridge have opened Crocodile, a French restaurant in Petaluma.

Bob Engel Jr., '91, BA Communications, passed the state boards in June and is now a licensed marriage and family therapist with offices in Sebastopol. He interned at Petaluma People Services and Lomi Psychotherapy Clinic in Santa Rosa before opening his private practice specializing in work with couples.

Michelle Carstensen, '93, BA Psychology, '96, MA Counseling, has been appointed victim services director for the Sonoma County District Attorney's Office. A licensed marriage and family therapist, she began her career at the DA's office in 1995 as a domestic violence counselor.

Andy Rubinger, '96, BA English, is chief deputy public defender for Napa County. Rubinger previously worked for the Tulare County as a deputy public defender for 14 years. He is happy to

be back in the North Bay and living in the Napa Valley with his wife and nine-year-old daughter.

Michael Shefrin, '96, BA Communications, received his MA in Jewish/Judaic Studies and been ordained as rabbi by Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. Rabbi Shefrin is now serving as assistant rabbi at Temple Emanu-El in Sarasota, Fla.

Sarah Fountain, '99, BA Liberal Studies, '01, Credential Multiple Subjects, '05 '10, Credentials Special Education, '13, Credential Administrative Services, '13, MA Education, has been in education for more than 16 years and is now the principal at Monte Vista Elementary School in Rohnert Park. Her goal is to promote growth of the school with the community.

Jason Carter, '99, BA Psychology, works for the city of Santa Rosa and oversees a department that serves and funds programs for at-risk families. His work focuses on four areas: schools, economic conditions, crime and safety and family engagement.

2000s

Nicholas Cadigan, '00, BA Environmental Studies, has been awarded the MAI designation by the Appraisal Institute following 13 years of practice in the North and East Bay. The MAI is

awarded upon completion of advanced education, practical experience and testing that demonstrates professional knowledge, understanding and ability.



Heather Mills

Heather Mills, '01, BA Art History, recently joined Balletto Vineyards in Santa Rosa as its hospitality and customer appreciation manager. Mills will lead visitor programs and help build the winery's direct-to-consumer sales.

Katherine (Miller) Anderson, '01, BA Environmental Studies, works for the San Diego County Outdoor Education program at Cuyamaca Outdoor School. Anderson also serves on the board of directors for the Association for Environmental and Outdoor Education.

David Fichera, '02, BA Music, '08 '09, Music Credentials, '11, Credential Administrative Services, '15, MA Education, is currently working as Petaluma City Schools' first district communications coordinator. He is responsible for overseeing marketing and

communications, managing the district's online presence and acting as a functional leader for enrollment and registration.

Gary Helfrich, '04, BA Environmental Studies, has stepped down as the executive director of the Sonoma County Bicycle Coalition to pursue new opportunities.

Jeannie Calverley, '03, BA Psychology, '05, MA Psychology, director of employer and communications relations for St. Joseph Health Northern California in Santa Rosa, received national recognition at the June 2016 Live Healthy America Health and Well Being Summit.

Armen Khachaturian, '03, BS Business Administration-Wine Business, joined Napa Valley Winery Clos Du Val. Khachaturian as its director of national sales. He was previously director of national sales for Hanzell Vineyards and Ehlers Estate.

Vanessa Araujo, '05, BS Business Administration-Management, '05, BS Business Administration-Marketing, is currently managing her own consulting firm in Hong Kong focusing on digital marketing.

Thomas Fonseca, '05, BA Environmental Studies, joined the County of Sonoma as a systems programmer analyst, and is also a film

actor in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Karen Fies, '06, MPA, has been named the director of the Sonoma County Human Resources Department. She has served with the department since 1986, most recently as assistant director.

Jessica (Osborne) Peroff, '06, BA English, teaches philosophy and AP literature at Cleveland Humanities Magnet High School in Reseda, Calif. She completed her master's degree at Pepperdine University and was the 2016 recipient of the Keeping History Alive Grant from Azusa Pacific University.

Wendy Lopez, '07, BA American Multicultural Studies, has been recognized for her community efforts organizing "Valley Fire Volunteers Calistoga." She spent two weeks at the Calistoga Fairgrounds helping with relief efforts for thousands of victims whose homes were lost in the 2015 Lake County Valley Fire.

Michelle Phillips, '07, BA Sociology, is the manager for the relocated branch of Community First Credit Union in Sebastopol. She has worked in banking services for more than 20 years, including six with Community First.

Andrew Malmanis, '08, BS Business Administration-Accounting, is the CPA manager at Linkenheimer LLP accounting firm.

Meredith Carey, '09, BA Sociology, accepted an adjunct faculty position with Ashford University.

Luis Bravo, '09, BA Sociology, joined Sonoma Valley High School as a counselor, and will also provide counseling at Adele Harrison and Altimira Middle schools.

Kaitlynn DeGrano, '09, BA Liberal Studies Hutchins, '10, Multiple Subject Credential, '15 MA Education, joined the Sonoma Valley Unified School District as a district-wide grade level proficiency project coach.

2010s

Talia Eisen, '11, MA Organizational Development, is a senior consultant at the HR Matrix, a human resources firm in Santa Rosa.

Julia Machado, '11, BS Business Administration-Marketing, has been working at Facebook for the past two years. She is currently managing outbound and internal communications around Facebook Audience Network.

Suzie Byrne, '12, MS Nursing with RN, has been named area quality leader for the Kaiser Permanente San Rafael Medical Center. She has worked in patient care for more than 30 years.

Kayla Webster, '15, BA English Literature, joined the Appeal-Democrat and Tri-County Newspapers as a reporter.

Tenae Stewart, '15, BA Art History, joined the Calistoga Chamber of Commerce as the Welcome Center ambassador, and was recently promoted to membership and events coordinator.

Briona Hendren, '16, BFA Art Studio-Sculpture, has been recognized by Creative Sonoma, a division of Sonoma County's Economic Development Board, as one of the finalists in its fourth annual "Discovered" juried exhibition program

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SheCan Provides Help for Teen Moms

There are roughly 400 new teen mothers in Sonoma County each year, but due to a lack of funding, only one in four will receive support from the Sonoma County Department of Health and Human Services Teen Parent Connection Program. Recognizing the need for more services for teen parents in Sonoma County, a group of four young women, including two Sonoma State alumnae, founded the Santa Rosa nonprofit SheCan in 2016.

Jenni Heskett, Pri Murphy, Becky Perkins and Brittany Simpson started the organization with the idea to connect teen moms, mostly high school students,

"It's a one-stop hub to connect teen parents with existing Sonoma County services... Just because you're a teen parent doesn't mean you have to give up on your education"

with existing services already available to them. They also will host workshops and support groups to encourage and enable new mothers to continue their education.

"It's a one-stop hub to connect teen parents with existing Sonoma County services," says Murphy ('11, English).

"We want to make sure these young people are set up for success," says Perkins ('17, teaching credential), who is putting her teaching education to work in creating tutoring programs for homework as well as GED and SAT exams.

"Just because you're a teen parent doesn't mean you have to give up on your education," adds Murphy.

To encourage involvement, teens can earn points through check-ins and program participation that can be put toward maternity clothes, formula, diapers, infant and toddler clothing and shoes, and interview clothing.

The nonprofit is in the process of identifying a building in Santa Rosa to open its doors by fall 2017, hopefully in the Roseland area where the need is greatest. For more information, or to donate, visit SheCanSantaRosa.org.

Varsity S Spotlight: Judy Mefferd (Vonheeder)

Women's Soccer 1985, '87-'89

One of SSU's outstanding student-athletes and a member of the Varsity S Club, Judy Mefferd (VonHeeder) was a 2005 inductee into the SSU Athletics Hall of Fame.

What is your favorite memory as a student-athlete?

Sonoma State vs. UC Santa Barbara, 1988, on the "brand new" home field now known as the soccer stadium, which at the time was fenceless. I scored the 2-2 tie breaking goal, leading us to a 3-2 win over the D1 Gauchos that day. Then to make it even sweeter, the SSU football team had been lined up under the redwood trees behind that goal and were cheering us on. In that crowd of Cossacks, my future husband and former Cossack QB, was the very first one I saw screaming and jumping with excitement.

How do you think you changed as a person, from freshman to senior year?

Every single day, I worked really hard to be better with my teammates and never ever without them. I learned each year how to welcome, but challenge, the new players coming in and to work hard with them, to lead by example, without making them ever feel like an isolated newcomer. In doing this, we re-built our program and by 1990 (my graduation year) we had won the NCAA Division II women's soccer national championship.

If you could give advice to a freshman student-athlete today, what would it be?

Come into the team fully prepared mentally and physically to work hard from day one to day end. Never expect it to be easy both on the

field and in the classroom. Respect your team, their history. Recognize your value in their system then add to it, and never take from it.

What are you up to these days?

Today, I am in my 25th year as a law enforcement officer, uniquely at my very own alma mater, SSU. For the past 10 years I have held the title of sergeant and I have investigated many types of criminal activities over the years and will say that my efforts to maintain law and order have positively contributed to the safety and well being of all who work, attend or visit SSU.

I have participated and collaborated in numerous personal safety measures with regards to sexual violence, drugs and alcohol, and child safety seats, including "Every 15 Minutes" program in collaboration with the local high schools for the past 18 years.

How did Sonoma State University help prepare you for your career?

While I am not sure SSU "prepared" me for this career in a classical textbook/

I learned each year how to welcome, but challenge, the new players coming in and to work hard with them, to lead by example, without making them ever feel like an isolated newcomer.

classroom sense, I feel the experience of going away to school and figuring out how to successfully do life all by myself is what prepared me the most. It was a balancing act of prioritizing and problem solving my life experiences. I feel police work is much the same, it is balancing, prioritizing and problem solving the unexpected or unplanned events on a daily basis.



(top) Judy Mefferd (Vonheeder) from her soccer days at SSU. (bottom) Judy Mefferd, left, with and her husband, John, right, and their son Gunner, second from left, Jaenna, second from right, and Jillian, front.

About the Varsity S Club

The Varsity S Club is an exclusive group of past and present Sonoma State University student-athletes, coaches, cheerleaders, athletic trainers and administrators formed for the purpose of building enthusiasm for SSU Athletics through philanthropic and social events.





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New Den Packed

New bleachers, chair back seats and a red hot Seawolves team brought a sellout crowd of 2,080 fans to see SSU take down the Chico State Wildcats 66-50 on Feb. 3. The Pack the Den night lived up to its name. It was the largest crowd ever to see a men's basketball game at Sonoma State. It was also the grand re-opening of the Wolves' Den and the first time the basketball team competed in their home gym since mid-November 2016.