

insights

A MAGAZINE OF SONOMA STATE UNIVERSITY

Why Mother Nature Is Good for You

THE SCIENCE OF ECO PSYCHOLOGY | PAGE 22



PLUS: SAVING THE WESTERN POND TURTLE • THROWNOLGY
SOFTBALL PLAYS HARDBALL • THE ANNE FRANK SAPLING
SACRED SAND MANDALA • ALUMNI NEWS & MORE

summer
2011

insights

A MAGAZINE OF SONOMA STATE UNIVERSITY

SUMMER 2011

Insights is produced by the
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COVER: Naturalist trainees at Fairfield
Osborn Preserve learn to connect with
nature on a different level by being
blindfolded to heighten their senses. See
"Perspective" on pages 22-25.



HELP US CELEBRATE OUR FIRST 50 YEARS

The blue tradition continues with the celebration of Sonoma State University's 50th anniversary in 2011-2012. Look for news and events and an opportunity to share your own memories on a special 50th Anniversary website, accessible from [SSU's home page](#) in September.

To receive notification of the 50th anniversary publication that includes historical information, photos, stories, and special events, send your e-mail address to insights@sonoma.edu (write "50th" in the subject line).

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Become an advocate for the CSU and Sonoma State University . . .

We need your help in reaching out to elected officials. If you would like to sign up to receive updates on legislation in California and to be a voice for the CSU, contact Andrea Rodriguez-Jereb: (707) 664-2018 or andrea.rodriguez-jereb@sonoma.edu.



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A LEGACY

SSU Memorial: Home to One of Only Eleven Saplings from Anne Frank Tree

BY JEAN WASP

The story of a sapling taken from the horse chestnut tree that often lifted Anne Frank's spirits as she hid from the Nazis during World War II took a poignant twist last year.

In 2009, SSU was one of eleven locations nationwide that had received a sapling taken from the aging tree that resided behind the annex where Anne Frank and her family and friends spent two years in hiding.

As part of their educational efforts, the Anne Frank Center USA (AFC) together with the Anne Frank House in Amsterdam donated these eleven saplings to sites across the country.

Sadly, by August 2010, the original 150-year-old chestnut in Holland, the parent of the SSU sapling, was toppled by strong winds after battling fungus and moth infestations for several years. Yet, the legacy will live on.

Supervised by Sam Youney, the director of landscaping and an

SSU Holocaust Grove near the campus lakes area features a sculpture created by Professor Jann Nunn with a famous quote from Martin Luther King: "Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter."
(Photo by Linnea Mullins)

expert in plant diseases and pest control, the SSU sapling is currently growing in a special shade house, under lock and key, for three years. It is being protected from rain, rodents, and insects until it is strong enough to withstand the elements. According to Youney, the sapling that arrived as an 18-inch-tall cutting has now reached three feet in height.

After its three-year quarantine, the sapling will be planted at the foot of the Erna and Arthur Salm Holocaust & Genocide Memorial Grove near the campus lakes, which now features a 10-foot-tall light tower sculpture that was created by Professor of Sculpture Jann Nunn.

Signage near the tree will carry the words written by Frank in her diary, "How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world."

The grove is designed to honor genocide survivors and victims throughout the world, including Native American tribes, Armenians, Holocaust victims, Cambodians, Rwandans, and Darfurians. Another aim of the monument is to recognize educators, scholars, and activists working toward awareness, tolerance, and human rights across the globe.

"The addition of the Anne Frank tree solidifies the SSU campus as a major center on the West Coast for the study of the Holocaust and genocide," says Elaine Leeder, dean of the School of Social Sciences.

"It will eventually provide a vast canopy under which the University Holocaust Lecture Series and other academic and educational programs will continue for generations."



ABOVE: Director of Landscaping Sam Youney in December 2009 with the newly arrived sapling.
(Photo by Christopher Dinno)

TOP: Sapling in June 2011, the second year of a three-year quarantine.

CONTINUES

The ailing mother chestnut tree outside the Amsterdam annex, where Anne Frank hid from the Nazis, met its demise during a storm in 2010, but the sapling lives on. (Photo: The Anne Frank Center, USA)



Hans Angress of Santa Rosa, who went to school with Anne Frank in the fall of 1941, says, “Anne Frank has become such a symbol of the human toll of intolerance worldwide. I find it wonderful and appropriate that this living asset to SSU’s already existing Memorial Grove will be added.”

Senior Director for Capital Planning, Design, and Construction Christopher Dinno believes that it is a “perfect fit” for SSU, stating, “We live in a world-renowned region with the climate and soil characteristics that are ideal for this historical sapling.” Dinno further explains that SSU has the experience and resources—including an on-site arborist who can nurture the tree—along with a full complement of landscape specialists that have demonstrated experience to ensure that this sapling grows to full maturity.

Other saplings were sent to The White House; The Children’s Museum of Indianapolis; Southern Cayuga School District; Washington State Holocaust Resource Center; Boston Common; Central High School in Little Rock, Arkansas; the Holocaust Memorial Center; the Idaho Anne Frank Human Rights Memorial, the William J. Clinton Foundation, and the National September 11 Memorial and Museum. ■

VIDEO



Video of the Chestnut tree from Anne Frank’s hiding place.

Anne Frank found comfort in looking at the chestnut tree behind the Secret Annex. She often looked at it from the attic window, and she wrote about it in her diary. In this video, you see the chestnut tree filmed with the Secret Annex in the background and from the attic window of the Secret Annex.



A KTVU Channel 2 television crew visited the campus in the wake of the mother tree’s passing.

RESOURCES

Erna and Arthur Salm Holocaust & Genocide Memorial Grove:
sonoma.edu/holocaust/grove

Anne Frank Center USA:
annefrank.com



“Our lives
begin to
end the day
we become
silent about
things that
matter.”

- DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

A SOUND INVESTMENT

New \$12 Million Gift Gives Green Music Center an Opening Season in 2012

BY SUSAN KASHACK

Not to name drop, but recently piano superstar Lang Lang made a midnight visit to the almost-complete Donald & Maureen Green Music Center at Sonoma State University. His task: try out the hall, play on the concert Steinway, and let potential donors Joan and Sanford Weill know if the hall was as good as they thought. Lang Lang agreed. His next stop: perform with Herbie Hancock at a White House state dinner.

Sir Clive Gilenson, executive and artistic director of Carnegie Hall, was also asked by the Weills to give the hall a try. He didn't arrive at midnight, but he did show up within a few days of the Weill's request. Again, thumbs up.

A handful of other world-class artists have already commented on the hall's exceptional sound during private visits to sample the acoustics, including Fred Hersch, Ruth Ann Swenson, Chanticleer, and Lee Konitz.

Their decision made, Joan and Sanford "Sandy" Weill donated \$12 million to Sonoma State University for the \$120 million Green Music Center. This is the largest single cash gift in the University's history and makes it possible to officially open the Joan and Sanford I. Weill Hall, Lawn, and Commons for the



2012-2013 season. The gift includes a \$4 million challenge match (1:1) to complete the Weill Lawn and Weill Commons.

The Green Music Center project has been underway since the late 1990s. The heart of the 105,435-square-foot Green Music Center, a part of the Sonoma State University campus in Rohnert Park, California, is its acoustically perfect concert hall designed to showcase music and the human voice.

This year marks the unwavering journey to fruition. As Jeff Langley, the artistic director of the Green Music Center, asserts, "We, today, stand at the threshold of attaining fully—even surpassing—exactly what we set out to achieve: a magnificent, world-class music center of singular excellence and transformative potential."

For many years, Joan and Sandy Weill have been committed to education, healthcare, the arts, and other social causes—especially

those in the communities in which they reside—not only through their philanthropy but through their volunteer leadership.

As new Sonoma County residents and avid music lovers, the Weills learned of the Donald & Maureen Green Music Center from new Sonoma County friends. They were anxious to see it, which they quickly did, and were very pleased to find such a gem nearby.

"Joan and I are honored to join Donald and Maureen Green and the many other generous contributors who have stepped forward to help make this dream a reality," says Sandy Weill.

Weill has been chair of the board of trustees of Carnegie Hall since 1991 and serves as founder and chair of the National Academy Foundation, a career-themed high school education organization he started in 1982. For the past ten years, Joan Weill has served as chair of the board of the Alvin Ailey American



ABOVE: An artist's rendering of an aerial view of the completed Donald & Maureen Green Music Center.

LEFT: Joan and Sanford Weill (back) listen with Don and Maureen Green to a performance by violinist David McCarroll. (Photo by Linnea Mullins)

BELOW: The Steinway concert grand awaits world class musicians in the acoustically magnificent Joan and Sanford I. Weill Hall. (Photo by Charlie Gesell)



Dance Foundation. Under Joan Weill's leadership, Alvin Ailey has earned a reputation as one of the most acclaimed international ambassadors of American culture. Joan and Sandy Weill are recipients of the 2009 Carnegie Medal of Philanthropy Award in recognition of their philanthropic efforts.

"Where else but Sonoma County could the weather be more perfect, the scenery more striking, the local food and wine finer and more celebrated," says SSU President Ruben Armiñana.

"We hoped the community would embrace this project and it has. Donald and Maureen's leadership has been exceptional, and I am very pleased that we now have a full opening planned and that, very soon, this superb new facility will be available to all."

Helping to ensure the immediate success of Weill Hall, Robert Cole, a well-known arts presenter and conductor who led UC Berkeley's

Cal Performances for 23 years, has been appointed artistic consultant. He will work with Langley, who also serves as director of Sonoma State University's School of Performing Arts, to lead programming for the Center, focusing on the finest international performing artists in a broad range of disciplines. The acclaimed Santa Rosa Symphony will be the Center's orchestra-in-residence. ■

For more information about the Donald & Maureen Green Music Center or to join the more than 1,500 donors through the \$4 million challenge match, please visit us [online](#) or call University Development: (707) 664-3203.



See the reception honoring the Weills and other donors.

playing it cool



Comcast Newsmakers host Jack Hanson came to the Green Music Center this spring to tape a segment about Leibinger's work at SSU developing the jazz program. (Photo by Ruth Wilson)

The New Jazz Studies Director Takes Charge of the Band

BY BRYAN BELL

Recording horn sections for P. Diddy and working on soundtracks for movies is only a small part of what Doug Leibinger does. He is a musician, a composer, an educator, and the new director of the Sonoma State University jazz program.

A multitasking artist, Leibinger holds three degrees in jazz performance from the University of Miami. Though primarily a trombonist, he also performs professionally on bass, guitar, keyboards, baritone saxophone, and sometimes, accordion.

These days, you can find Leibinger in the Green Music Center coordinating the jazz program and

teaching most of its core classes, including jazz theory, jazz improvisation, jazz composition, and jazz arrangement. "Students are repeating their core jazz courses now so they can have them with Doug!" an enthusiastic Brian Wilson, a professor and the chair of the music department, remarks.

He also directs the 19-piece Jazz Orchestra and coaches the concert jazz ensembles. "I've attended several of his concerts—all with rapidly growing audiences," shares Wilson. "The Jazz Orchestra especially is building the kind of student and community audience base we all have dreamed about."

Leibinger has recorded a horn section for P. Diddy's album *The Saga Continues* and performed with Jimmy Buffett and Iko Iko on the track "Flying Purple People Eater" for the 1997 film *Contact*, starring Jodie Foster. He has also performed with Jerry Lewis, Randy Brecker, Jim Belushi, Peter Cetera, and The Drifters, to name a

few. Leibinger even arranged the theme "Futbol Café" for Columbia's national soccer team.

Recently, Leibinger was added to the roster of arrangers for Walrus Music, one of the top publishers of big band music, and four of his compositions for large jazz ensemble are now available for purchase online. "Sonoma State University, without question, has become the recipient of a great talent and resource," says Wilson. ■



Listen in to the work of jazz faculty and guests on the SSU Jazz Channel.



New Jazz Studies Director Doug Leibinger
(Photo by Ruth Wilson)

beautiful impermanence



A Sacred Sand Mandala Blesses the Campus

For four days and with a delicate touch, millions of grains of iridescent sand were painstakingly put into place to make a statement about the constantly changing nature of life. Buddhist monks from the Drepung Loseling Monastery lived on campus so they could demonstrate the ancient process of creating a beautiful and unique Green Tara sand mandala at the University Library Art Gallery in April.

During the course of the mandala's creation, which represented wisdom, a webcam captured the monks at work, allowing audiences

far and wide to enjoy the intricacy of the project. Upon completion of the mandala, a 15-minute, time-lapse video of the entire week's process was created.

As is the case with most traditional sand mandalas, the creation was destroyed and the sand was reverently strewn into nearby Copeland Creek as a gesture of planetary healing and as a metaphor of the impermanence of life.

At the end of their weeklong stay, the monks also held a special performance in the Green Music Center, featuring multi-phonetic chanting, music, and dance drawn from authentic temple ceremonies that have been performed in Tibet for thousands of years. ■

(Photos by Christine Hayes, Rebecca Olson, and Karen Pennrich)



See the time-lapse video and slideshow of the mandala at the University Library's site.



View more photos at the SSU Facebook sand mandala album.





Getting a Head Start

A Pioneering Partnership Gives the
Western Pond Turtle a Chance

BY JEAN WASP



Slow and **STEADY...**

is not winning the race for a certain California turtle. Rapidly shrinking numbers of the Western Pond Turtle, *Emys marmorata*, the state's only native aquatic turtle species, has sparked the development of a pioneering research partnership between Sonoma State University and two Bay Area zoos.

The primary goal of the research is to gather valuable data on many unknown aspects of *E. marmorata*'s biology and to preserve dwindling turtle populations in California.

But an initial "side-effect" of the incubation studies had more than 40 baby turtles enrolled in an experimental "head start" program in their first year.

"Slow and steady worked for hundreds of millions of years for turtles, but it isn't working anymore. We need to protect turtles from their deadliest enemy—us," says Biology Professor Nick Geist who developed the project.

"We know very little about many aspects of their basic biology, and our research is providing critical

information that we hope will help us preserve the species for future generations."

Turtle eggs collected from a Lake County site were incubated at five different temperatures in Darwin Hall on the Rohnert Park campus, and within three months, baby turtles began to hatch in this first-of-its-kind research program for the species in California.

These hatchlings from SSU went to the Oakland and San Francisco Zoos for care until they had grown large enough to be safely released into their home in Lake County. The San Francisco Zoo also created a public exhibit around the project at its Koret Animal Research Center.

This project saved the hatchlings, only the size of a quarter at birth, from becoming tender morsels for predators such as bullfrogs, skunks, and foxes. Predators as well as the loss of up to 90 percent of their habitat in many areas of California had contributed to a shocking decline in the species. Geist and his students have now incubated more than 100 Western Pond Turtle eggs collected from

Adult Western Pond Turtle at
SSU's Fairfield Osborn Preserve in
the hills above the campus.
(Photo by Linnea Mullins)

a Lake County location during the mid-summer nesting seasons in 2008 and 2009.

Historically, this turtle species ranged all along the Pacific Slope from northern Baja, Mexico to the Canadian border. Once estimated to have populations in the millions, it has virtually disappeared from most urban areas of southern and northern California and most of the agriculturally developed Central Valley.

The project has also resulted in important new information about the effects of temperature on development and hatching success, growth, and sex determination that will be key in managing and maintaining the species in the future. SSU is working with the California Department of Fish and Game to help revise the state's Western Pond Turtle strategy.

In 2010, Geist's team planted tiny temperature sensors into turtle nests to record the high and low

temperatures the eggs experience, and to see how these fluctuating temperatures affect the developing eggs and turtles. Excited about his group's progress, Geist says, "Our third year's eggs have hatched, and we now have a pretty nice set of data to analyze. We've been able to calculate the temperature that triggers sex determination for this species—that's a critical piece of information that has been missing. This year's information from the temperature loggers has been a real eye-opener; the eggs get much hotter than we thought—temperatures well over 100 degrees Fahrenheit. We thought that would kill them all, but many still hatched."

This data will help researchers better understand how sex is determined for wild Pond Turtles and how they will be able to cope with our changing climate. After continued success, an optimistic Geist states, "Ultimately, we think our research will help save the remaining turtles, and that's putting science to good use." ■



LEFT: A young visitor peeks into the Koret Center turtle exhibit at San Francisco Zoo, where hatchlings were housed until they were large enough to be released back into the wild.

BELOW: Biology professor Nick Geist in his lab on the SSU campus, where the pilot project to "head start" the Western Pond Turtle was hatched.



HOW THEY DID IT

Professor Geist, his graduate students, and Oakland and San Francisco Zoo staffers spent the summers monitoring a Lake County site and radio-tracking mother turtles to their upland nesting sites.

Lead SSU graduate student researcher Zannie Dallara headed up the field aspects of the project with a team of SSU undergraduates and zoo volunteers.

The crew would patrol the grassy expanses adjacent to a lake that is home to a sizable population of Pond Turtles, watching for gravid females as they made their cautious overland trips to the dry, sparsely vegetated nesting areas.

When a female was located, the team captured her to check if she was carrying eggs, then took careful data on her size, age, and condition before affixing a small waterproof radio transmitter onto her carapace and returning her to the lake. Within days, the marked turtles emerged again to nest, and the team could follow each female from a discrete distance until she settled on a piece of property to dig her nest.

Once the mother had finished laying her eggs and covering the nest, the researchers would carefully excavate the eggs and either remove them for incubation in Geist's SSU laboratory or place the sensors in with the eggs.

Dallara monitored the hatchlings' progress in Geist's lab and traveled to the zoos regularly to track their progress and monitor their growth and health. Fed a controlled nutritious diet and kept warm, they grew quickly in captivity and were successfully released back into their home waters.



See the turtles being released back into the wild in this inside look at conservation efforts to save the species.



ABOVE: Graduate student researcher Zannie Dallara spent hours each day in tree blinds waiting to spot mother turtles making their way from the underbrush to a nearby lake to nest and lay their eggs.



HISTORICAL Highlights 1961-2011

A not-to-be-missed memento of SSU's history

It is not very often Sonoma State University produces a history book. In fact, it has never been done—until now. A very brave and motivated group of retired faculty and staff spent more than four years culling through various documents about Sonoma State College/University and gathering memories of more than 60 people connected to Sonoma. The memories are, indeed, fascinating—rich with feeling and a spirit of achievement.

Written by John T. Palmer, Barbara Biebush, Janice Hitchcock, Lucy Kortum, and Sue A. Thomas, *Sonoma State University, Memories and Historical Highlights, 1961-2011* includes hundreds of photos, a plethora of historical facts and background, and intriguing recollections from the faculty, staff, students, and community who were part of Sonoma's early decades.

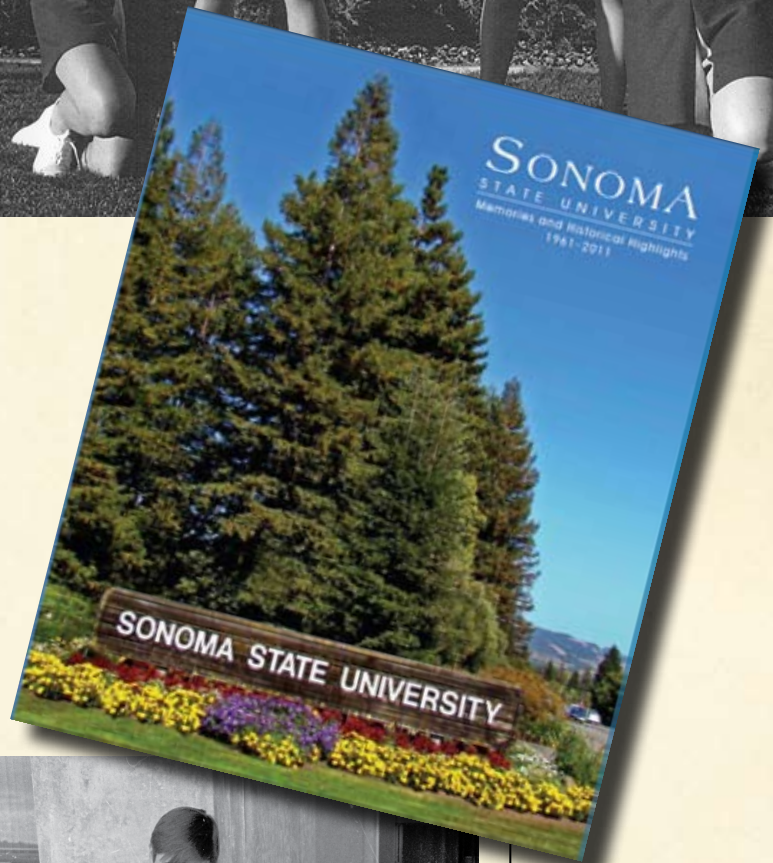
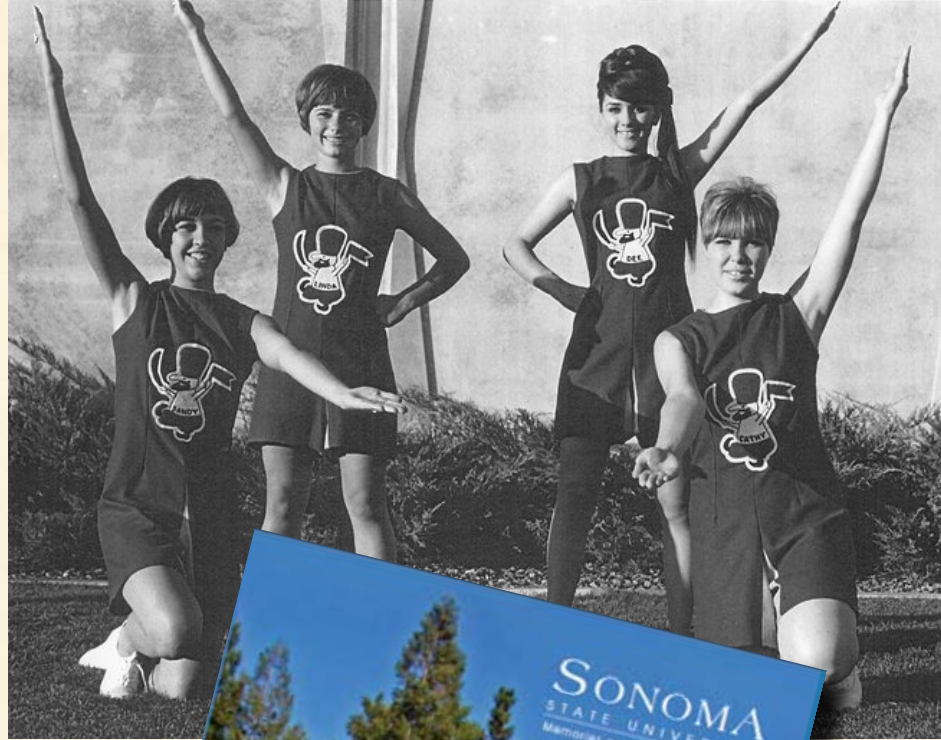
At its 50th anniversary, Sonoma State University continues its pursuit of excellence, and as the University and its friends look forward, it is fitting to revisit the University's beginnings through the accounts of many who played a significant role in its development and growth.

This is a unique commemorative book of SSU's early years, and only a limited number are available. Books may be purchased for \$29.95. Checks should be made out to Sonoma State University and sent to the following address:

Sonoma State University
University Affairs Division
1801 E. Cotati Ave.
Rohnert Park, CA 94928-3609

Questions?

Contact Sue Thomas:
sathomas3@sonic.net or (707) 664-2122
For credit card orders: (707) 664-2122



TOP: Cossack cheerleaders for football team.

MIDDLE: Bookcover of *Sonoma State University, Memories and Historical Highlights, 1961-2011*.

LEFT: Class registration, 1970s style.

WATER POLO WONDER

Coach Coralie Simmons: Building an Elite Program

BY BRANDON BRONZAN

If you are a fan of water polo, you probably already know the name Coralie Simmons. If not, it's probably time you learned.

Sure, Simmons acts as head coach of the women's water polo team, but there's a whole lot more to her story. In a playing and coaching career that has taken her to the peak of her sport, Simmons is now at SSU, working towards building an elite program from the ground up.

Following a standout high school career in which she set a California record in the 100 freestyle and 100 breaststroke, Simmons went on to play water polo at UCLA, the premier program in the country.

In the middle of a four-year playing career at UCLA, Simmons took a year off to compete for the U.S.

Olympic team at the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney, Australia. She would go on to lead the U.S. team in scoring and guide the squad to a silver medal before returning to UCLA, where she earned national player of the year honors and assisted the Bruins to a national championship.

In addition to the Olympics, Simmons participated in the Pan Am Games and other top-notch water polo competitions, securing her position as one of the nation's best water polo talents.

After assistant coaching stints at the University of Hawaii and UCLA, Simmons took over as head coach at Sonoma State prior to the 2008 season. Her imprint on the team's record has been impressive. In 2009, the team knocked off several high-profile squads, such as UC Santa Clara and UC San Diego, on their way to a best-ever fourth place finish in the competitive Western Water Polo Association (WWPA).

Following that second season, Simmons was honored as the Association of Collegiate Water Polo Coaches' (ACWPC) National Coach of the Year. She was also added to the staff of the U.S. national water polo team, a position she still holds.

This year's opponents include No. 2 California, No. 9 San Diego State, No. 13 UC Santa Barbara, No. 15 UC Davis, and No. 19 Maryland. And last year, the nation's No. 1 ranked team, UCLA, came to Rohnert Park to take on the Seawolves.

When Sonoma State competes at the NCAA Division II level in most sports, it's against schools that are funded similarly to SSU. Not so for college water polo: all teams compete in the same division. That means Sonoma State is competing for the same national championship as UCLA, USC, and the rest of the sport's heavyweights.

While Simmons is intent on steering SSU into the upper echelon of water polo, she also recognizes the importance of academics, stressing hard work in the classroom as well as in the pool. This paid off last season when six Seawolves were named to the WWPA's All-Academic Team.

This is a team that is going to make its mark. ■

Coralie Simmons talks strategy with her team during a match. (Photo by Stephen Kirschenmann)





SSU PROFILE

Why I Chose SSU

“There were a number of reasons, but here are just a few:

It was an opportunity to take my coaching journey to the next level as a head coach of a collegiate team.

I had previously coached collegiately as an assistant coach, but I was ready for my own gig.

Also, I fell in love with the Sonoma landscape as well as the people, and I’ve lived in some amazing places, including Greece and Hawaii. Sonoma County is a great place to live, work, and enjoy outdoor activities and festivals.

And lastly, the athletes and athletic department are some of the best people in the business. Working at Sonoma State is fun and invigorating, yet challenging and demanding.”

— Coralie Simmons

HEAD COACH, WOMEN’S WATER POLO

The “Inner Voyage” Is Often the Most Challenging

BY JESSICA ANDERSON

Many college professors explore the world from the podium. Not Rocky Rohwedder—he has taken his lectern on a global excursion.

Rohwedder, a professor and past chair of the Environmental Studies and Planning Department, has taught and conducted field research in more than 20 countries around the world as a faculty member on three voyages of the Semester at Sea (SAS) program. “I’ve witnessed firsthand the myriad of environmental and human challenges facing many countries as well as some promising ap-

proaches to solving these challenges,” says Rohwedder.

He, his wife Shawn, and their young son Ryder returned home in January from a 110-day voyage around the globe with SAS, which began in Nova Scotia and journeyed to Spain,



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Sea

Morocco, Ghana, South Africa, Mauritius, India, Singapore, Vietnam, China, and Japan. “Everyone, of course, takes away their own unique lessons from a voyage around the world combined with field studies in a dozen countries,” explains Rohwedder. “The most challenging aspect for me is what I’ll call the ‘inner voyage.’ You can’t travel around Ghana, India, South Africa, and Vietnam and not be impacted by the faces of poverty.”

SAS takes college students and faculty aboard the MV Explorer, a 590-foot passenger ship specially outfitted to serve as a floating university. Together, they sail from port to port around the world, coupling field assignments and service learning with rigorous coursework.

Operated by the nonprofit Institute for Shipboard Education, SAS is academically sponsored by the University of Virginia. The program has educated more than 50,000 students and has traveled to more than 60 countries since 1963.

Rohwedder, whose primary teaching and research areas are environmental science, sustain-

able development, green technologies, and digital communications, teaches courses aboard ship for the University of Virginia’s schools of architecture, education, planning, and engineering.



His first SAS experience was during the spring of 2007, during which he had the privilege of teaching alongside Nobel Laureate Archbishop Desmond Tutu. The grandfatherly Tutu formed a special relationship with then-infant Ryder J. Rohwedder, the voyage’s youngest shipmate.

Currently, Rohwedder is working on a book titled *Ecological Handprints*, which explores methods and

models for meeting basic human needs while lowering humanity’s ecological footprint. A reframing of the ecological footprint concept, *Ecological Handprints* demonstrates interrelated approaches toward sustainable living, examples of which he found during his travels with SAS.

“Through my case study research on *Ecological Handprints*, I’ve directly witnessed model programs designed to both lift humanity and lower our footprint,” says Rohwedder. In Ghana, children play on energy-generating merry-go-rounds and swings used to charge LED lanterns for nighttime studying. In Kenya, off-the-grid huts use simple solar panels to provide basic lighting.

While his sea legs are now rooted on the terra firma of Sonoma County, the “inner voyage” never truly ends for Rohwedder. “I think we all come away with the same awareness,” says Rohwedder. “Everywhere there are good people who love their families, love their country, love their land, and have much to teach us.” ■



ABOVE LEFT: Professor Rocky Rohwedder in front of an image of what will be the skyline of Shanghai during a visit to the firm designing and managing the construction of the Shanghai Tower.

ABOVE CENTER: Rohwedder with Semester at Sea students at a solar electric power plant in Spain. (Photo by Keri Oberly)

LEFT: Rohwedder traveled with Nobel Peace Laureate Desmond Tutu of South Africa.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF ROCKY ROHWEDDER

THROWNOLLOGY



An Impulse to Throw Things Leads to Unique Books

BY JESSICA ANDERSON

Matt Flores can now check “publish a book” off his bucket list. With the release of his *Thrownology* photo books, Flores’ list of accomplishments has certainly taken on a whole new dimension.

A graduation evaluator for Admissions and Records, Flores received his B.S. in civil engineering from Stanford University in 1999. He

went on to the UCLA Professional Program in Screenwriting before writing nine screenplays and producing/directing the short film *The Matrix Unloaded* in 2004. It wasn’t until just recently that his creative talents turned to “thrownology,” which Flores defines as photographing objects in mid-flight.

It began with a little inspiration and a bit of curiosity. Flores had seen Philippe Halsman’s *Jump Book*—a photographic series of famous people jumping—and wondered what surprises he might find photographing thrown items. He quickly took that idea up a notch: to throw items in ways that photographically depict puns and idioms. And thus, *Thrownology* was born.





LEFT: Time Flies
BELOW: Pumpkin Pi
BOTTOM: Throwing Punches
(*Thrownology* Photos by
Matt Flores)

OPPOSITE PAGE
ABOVE: Passing the Buck
BELOW: *Thrownology* author
Matt Flores

A clock flying through the air: “time flies.” Caution tape con-torting in the breeze becomes “caution thrown to the wind.” Marbles fall out of a woman’s hands as she “loses her marbles.” And there seems to be no end to the photographic possibilities of thrownology. Flores has a spreadsheet of dozens of ideas, tagged and categorized for the future. He’s been known to pull out the spreadsheet in mid-conversation as new ideas pop into his mind. “Some days, it’s like, ‘Let’s go throw this!’” says Flores. “But I’m into the planning aspect. For every photo, there’s a different challenge to solve.”

And when Flores has an idea, he does it—pronto. The first *Thrownology* book was pulled together and published in just five months. The second edition followed close behind.

A self-taught photographer, Flores does all of his own work with a digital camera. He says using a film camera would be too costly given the number of frames it sometimes takes to get the snapshot he’s looking for. He shoots some of the images on the SSU campus. “This project combines all the things I enjoy,” says Flores.

“Visuals, organization, and coordination. It’s really similar to film.”

With two versions of *Thrownology* now available, Flores is thinking about future projects. He has ideas for a “kickology” or “catchology” series, or even just “punology.” Always looking at the big picture, Flores adds, “I have to figure out the best way to visually represent these things, but that’s part of the fun and the challenge.” ■

Take a peek inside [Thrownology](#).





PERSPECTIVE

What's Good for
Human Well-Being
and What's Good for Nature
Are Closer Than We Think

BY MARY GOMES

The study of human evolution reveals to us that we have a long history of living on intimate terms with the land, and contemporary research and reflection reaffirm the strength of our emotional connection with nature. Some of these insights suggest the many psychological benefits associated with time spent in nature, from the development of creativity in children to the healing properties of gardening, vision quests, and views of nature outside hospital windows.

But something changed for us in contemporary life. Some major historical shifts have altered our perceptions of nature. The Industrial Revolution and the European colonization of indigenous societies cemented a fundamental shift in values that we scarcely notice today. Contemporary developments, such as the increasing power of corporations and the birth of the advertising industry, have alienated us from the land and brought us into conflict with natural processes. And the prominence of materialism and consumerism in modern life has had a considerable effect on some of these crucial areas of conflict.

Eco-psychologists place a great deal of attention on our current engagement with the ecological crisis, helping us to navigate the emotional terrain of facing a challenge of such magnitude, while accessing our creativity and long-term commitment. The central message of eco-psychology: what is good for human well-being and what is good for nature are much closer than we tend

to think. Many of the processes that lead to a satisfying and meaningful life also promote a sustainable and sensitive bond with the land. Many of the processes responsible for ecological destruction are also at the root

“Some major historical shifts have altered our perception of nature.”

of much human psychological suffering. I believe this provides a powerful perspective to motivate and guide our efforts toward healing.

One of the most important things eco-psychologists can do right now is to hold the perspective that we can actually live much more fulfilling lives by moving from a high-consumption lifestyle to one that is in balance with natural processes.

As we all know, changing ingrained patterns and habits is hard. We also experience concerns about the unknown future, such as what lies ahead in terms of climate change and other aspects of ecological disruption. It is easy, under these circumstances, to feel overwhelmed and retreat into hopelessness, or cling to familiar patterns. If we can help people see that they will actually benefit from the changes that the earth needs from us, I think the transition will be much smoother.

As we see during this economic downturn, change is already happening around us. The status quo is no longer an option. Rather than withdrawing in fear and holding on to ways of life that cannot be sustained, an eco-psychological perspective can help us to enter this time of change with our creativity engaged, alert for opportunities to live fuller lives in balance with nature. ■



Psychology Professor Mary Gomes is a pioneer in the field of eco-psychology, a branch of psychological theory and practice that seeks a deeper understanding of our relationship to the earth. Her work and teaching focus on our bond with the natural world and on the dramatically troubled state of our modern relationship to the earth. She contributed to the documentary film project Call of Life: Facing the Mass Extinction.

ELECTRONIC MEDIA FASTING

Removing the Influence of “Screen Time” Has Profound Impacts

BY MARY GOMES

One of the most impactful assignments I give is the electronic media fast. I ask students to abstain from television for a week and to only use the computer as needed for work and school. Some students choose to extend the fast to other media and technologies, such as movies, radio, cell phones, and text messaging. Why focus on electronic media in an eco-psychology class?

As many cultural observers have pointed out, we are experiencing a profound shift in how we are spending our time, with a dramatic increase in “screen time” (television, computer use, and video games) and a corresponding drop in outdoor activities as well as time with friends, family, and community. This has been particularly true for children and young adults, but it affects all age groups.

But screen time is doing more than simply taking time away from nature-based and social activities. In both form and content, it is playing a profound role in creating the alienation and disconnection so pervasive in our society. With the passive engagement that people experience when watching television, the corporate-driven values of commercial entertainment, the constant ads that promote materialism and excessive consumption, and the fast cuts that

undermine our ability to focus, electronic media can encourage profound disconnection from the natural world and from our own deeper selves. I wanted to see what would happen when students spent a week removing this influence from their lives.

As you might imagine, many students are reluctant to do this. Some of them can’t imagine a week without media. Others, who see themselves as more “alternative” in their lifestyle, expect it to be easier than it turns out to be. Each student has a unique experience, but there are some widespread patterns.



SSU’s nature preserves—Fairfield Osborn Preserve in Sonoma County and the Galbreath Wildlands Preserve in Mendocino County—offer a wide variety of landscapes that can restore the spirit by connecting with nature. (Photos by Neal Ramus)



The first couple of days tend to be the hardest. The force of habit is strong, and some students find that this change in their media habits sends ripples throughout their social lives. They become aware of the extent to which their friendships and conversations revolve around media—watching together, gossiping about shows. Without television, they feel disconnected from their peers. The students who enlist friends and roommates to join them in the fast tend to have the easiest and most satisfying experiences, bringing back tales of deepened relationships formed over cooking and eating meals together, and conversations around evening board games.

Some report initial awkwardness (what do we talk about? how do we fill the silences?), which gives way, over time, to an increased sense of ease with the company of others. Many students speak of a growing sense of intimacy with themselves. They realize that they have been using television and the Internet to distract themselves from negative feel-

“The first couple of days tend to be the hardest. The force of habit is strong, and some students find that this change in their media habits sends ripples throughout their social lives.”

ings—sadness, loneliness, anxiety. During the fast, they spend more time experiencing these feelings, exploring them, and moving through them.

They learn to be at ease with their solitude. Not surprisingly, almost all speak of a newfound abundance of time, which they spend in a variety of ways—catching up with classwork, getting much-needed sleep, taking walks, and spending time with friends and family.

Many speak of increased confidence and self-acceptance in terms of appearance, clothing, and personal qualities, as they take a break from comparing themselves to the images on the screen. Some report that their minds feel more quiet and uncluttered, and that they experience a heightened ability to think for themselves. ■





Playing Hardball

Softball Pitchers
Breaking Records
and Making History

Freshman pitcher Samantha Lipperd
(Photo by Stephen Kirschenmann)

BY TYLER LOBE



Back Row (L to R): Kayla Ledford, Megan Konieczka, Brittany Martinez, Samantha Lipperd, Ali Palermo, Ciara Becerril. Middle Row (L to R): Julianne Martinez, Rochelle Vanyi, Skylynn Myers, Brittanie Verissimo, Rachel Gaber, Tatiana Pizarro. Front Row (L to R): Vanessa Currie, Jesse Talaugon, Danielle D'Eccliss, Danielle Lowe. (Photo by Stephen Kirschenmann)

A new head coach and two freshmen pitchers: not your typical championship equation. No one knew exactly what would come of the Sonoma State softball team in the spring of 2010; there were many questions and not a lot of answers. However, as soon as those answers started to appear, the Seawolves were already on their way to unprecedented success never before

“When the dust settled, it was what the freshmen pitchers accomplished, and endured, that raised eyebrows.”

seen on the corner of Redwood Circle and Juniper Lane.

Sprinting out to one of the program's best starts in history with a 15-4 record, it was the domination of the two young arms that really started putting the team's potential into perspective. On consecutive weeks prior, freshmen Samantha

Lipperd and Julianne Martinez were both named the California Collegiate Athletic Association's (CCAA) Softball Pitcher of the Week, setting the tone for what was to become a most memorable season.

Still, with a shadow of doubt and skepticism after those first 19 games, Sonoma State headed into a weekend series with conference leader and nationally ranked

Cal State Monterey Bay in mid-March. After a narrow 1-0 loss in game one, the Seawolves, led by their phenom freshmen pitchers and some timely offensive

production, reeled off five straight wins, including wins in the final three games against the Otters. The season took off from there.

After the Seawolves compiled a 7-1 record and captured the gold bracket title in one of the west region's most prestigious regular season tournaments, Martinez was

named Most Valuable Player. The award in itself was special enough for the young pitcher from Granada Hills, but what she did to lead Sonoma State to the championship was the definition of inspiration. On the final day of the tournament, Martinez earned a save as well as the title-clinching victory. And she did it on the five-year anniversary of her mother's passing.

From then on, the Seawolves rolled to a second place finish in the CCAA's regular season standings, clinching a berth into the conference tournament in Stockton. After a loss on the first day, Lipperd and Martinez carried Sonoma State to four consecutive wins and a CCAA championship—the first CCAA title in SSU women's sports history. The dream season ended two weeks later after hosting and, ultimately, being eliminated from the NCAA West Regionals.

When the dust settled, it was what the freshmen pitchers accomplished, and endured, that raised eyebrows. As first-year players in one of the toughest conferences in the nation, Lipperd and Martinez earned 21 victories each, breaking the school record for most victories by a pitcher

in a season. The pair combined for 42 of Sonoma State's record-breaking 43 wins in 2010. Lipperd and Martinez were both All-West Region selections, voted on by the region's sports information directors.

Fast forward to the spring of 2011. As both near the end of their sophomore seasons, Lipperd has stepped up as one of the most dominating pitchers in the nation. Her 310 strikeouts are the fourth-most in Division II and she threw her fourth career no-hitter in the conference championship game to help Sonoma State defeat nationally ranked UC San Diego, capturing its second CCAA title.

After breaking the record for most wins in a season a year ago, Lipperd topped her own record and sports a 25-8 win-loss record with a 1.10 earned run average. Martinez also found success this year, helping Sonoma State qualify for the NCAA tournament for the third straight season and for the fifth time in program history.

As her freshmen-turned-sophomore pitchers continue to dominate the conference, and even the nation, second-year head coach Jennifer Bridges now has many answers with very few questions, at least for the next two years. In the pitching circle, that is. ■



Freshman pitcher
Julianne Martinez
(Photo by Stephen
Kirschenmann)

SSU Wants to Hear from YOU!

If you graduated from Sonoma State University, we would like to hear about your current activities.

Please take a few minutes to complete our [Alumni Survey](#).

Should you choose to participate, your responses will remain confidential and anonymous.

Letter from the President

New Blood Brings New Ideas

Greetings, Fellow Alumni!

It seems like just yesterday that I was walking across the lawn at Commencement before “leaving the nest.” I take great pleasure in the opportunity to serve as your president. We have had a lot of exciting things happen over the last year or so and have much more to come. In the last twelve months, we have also added many new directors to our board, and we are still looking to fill a few remaining vacant seats.

With all of this new blood also comes new ideas, and we have redirected the focus of the Alumni Association to incorporate more social networking and increase the frequency of our events. We have also looked into operating as a more economically and environmentally friendly organization.

We are replacing paper mailers with social networking sites such as [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) to complement our email list serve. Our website has also been revamped so that we can interface with these social mediums and make your online experience with us more user friendly. We, as the board, chose to do this for three reasons: to be greener, to be more cost effective, and to communicate with you instantaneously.

I invite each of you to check out our website and try to attend one of our receptions in the near future. If you are interested in serving on our board or just have some feedback for us, please contact us.

I look forward to working with you.

Vincent Cortese

BA, Communications, '00
President, SSU Alumni Association

Read about the varied and diverse backgrounds of our [board members](#).

SSU's Alumni Board of Directors



Vincent Cortese, **President** (B.A. Communications, 2000)



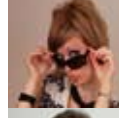
Kelly Bass, **Vice President of Committees and Planning** (B.A. Art History, 2003)



Molly Rattigan, **Vice President of Recruitment and Volunteers** (B.A. Political Science, 2002)



David Felte, **Vice President of Finance** (B.S. Business, B.A. Economics, 2001)



Sarah Scudder, **President-elect** (B.S. Business Administration, B.A. Economics, 2005)



Eric Carlson, **Director** (B.A. Liberal Studies, 2001)



Ross Goodwin, **Director** (B.S. Physics, B.S. Mathematics, 1978)



Marlina Boucher Harrison, **Director** (B.A. English, 1979)



Mark A. Heller, **Director** (B.A. Management, Spanish, 1981)



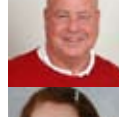
Ralph Jaeck, **Director** (B.A. Economics, 1967)



Mike Kiraly, **Director** (B.A. History, 1992; M.P.A., 1995)



Jim Manly, **Director** (M.B.A. Finance & Marketing, 1999)



Spike O'Keeffe, **Director** (B.A. Political Science, 1975)



Katie Strickland, **Vice President of Administration** (B.A. Communications, 2010)

David Gary, **Director** (B.A. Economics, 2002; M.B.A. Business Administration, 2006)

SSU Greek Alumni SCHOLARSHIP

SOMETHING SPECIAL FOR GREEK ALUMNI

The University's Alumni Association has established the SSU Greek Alumni Scholarship Fund, which identifies and rewards current undergraduate fraternity and sorority members who exhibit excellence in character, community, and academics.

Greek alumni are encouraged to show their pride in Sonoma State's Greek community by donating to the SSU Greek Alumni Scholarship Fund today.

Donors will have their names and Greek affiliations proudly displayed on our online Donor Wall and in our alumni newsletter. Help us make it happen!

You can donate [online](#) or send donations to SSU Alumni Association: 1801 East Cotati Avenue, Rohnert Park, CA 94928.

For more information:

[ssualumni.org/
GreekScholarship](http://ssualumni.org/GreekScholarship)

or

(707) 664-2426

Monet's Passion

CULTIVATING BEAUTY,



BY SARAH ROTHE

Flipping through the pages of *Monet's Passion*, one is drawn in by the exquisite colors and patterns that nature has offered author Elizabeth Murray. Both as a passion and profession, Murray has allowed the famous Claude Monet to enrich her world with the art of blooming life. Murray has been working on her 20th anniversary edition of *Monet's Passion* for the past 25 years. She began her work on Monet's Gardens in 1985 and, ever since, has visited annually in order to continually study and photograph the art, gardens, and life forms.

Murray has always been in love with beauty and nature. She finds gardens to be a form of expression, one that can be open to multiple interpretations. "Gardens can be a portal to intimacy with nature and one of the highest art forms, using light, color, texture, scent, and time," explains Murray.

At the age of 17, Murray went overseas as an exchange student to a place near Kyoto, Japan, encountering the most beautiful traditional gardens. After traveling

to Asia and Africa and dedicating six years to full time professional gardening, Murray realized what it was that she loved more than anything. "When I went to France to see Monet's Gardens in 1984, I fell in love with them and vowed to help restore them so I could get to know them intimately day by day with my hands in the soil," she recalls.

Murray has always loved Monet as a painter and gardener and hopes that her readers will appreciate him and his work as well, drawing their own passion from the pages. "I hope [readers] will get inspired to live their own dreams that include creativity and really knowing and loving a place. I hope they will get inspiration to realize gardens can be an art form that continually changes and that becomes a relationship of love, commitment, and beauty."

Monet's Passion is broken into three main sections: a history of Monet's garden, 100 photos of the gardens throughout all seasons and light, and home garden plans for the plant enthusiast. Although Murray was never enrolled in photography or horticulture classes,

CLASS NOTES

NURTURING SPIRIT



she did take classes in art, such as painting, to help develop her eye for garden design and photo composition. Her experiences while at SSU ranged from working as a scholar in a herbarium to completing her degree in environmental studies and teaching environmental education to youth. “Being at SSU helped me to develop my own ‘north star’ to guide my life—that my passions and what I believe in could be my life’s work,” says Murray.

As her time spent working on the book comes to a close, Murray looks back on an inspiration that will live on forever, “I believe that cultivating beauty nurtures spirit, which blossoms into creativity, rooted and sustained in love.” ■



We want to hear what’s happening in your life. Send updates to alumni@sonoma.edu or SSU Alumni Association, 1801 East Cotati Avenue, Rohnert Park, CA 94928.

1960s

Doris M. Dickenson, ‘66, Teaching Credential, ‘67, Specialized Reading Credential, published a biography along with Carmen Finley, Ph.D., titled *Colonel James B. Armstrong, His Family and His Legacy* to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Armstrong Redwoods State Natural Reserve in Guerneville, CA.

1970s

Ed Sayres, ‘72, Psychology, serves as chief executive of the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals in Manhattan. He dedicates his life to the protection and care of abandoned animals. He was chosen as an SSU Distinguished Alumni in 2001.

Carol Purroy, ‘73, Anthropology, was named VIP Woman of the Year by the National Association of Professional Women (NAPW). The NAPW is an exclusive network for professional women to interact, exchange ideas, educate, network, and empower.

Daniel Brock, ‘74, Music, is currently the president of Tecnospot Solar USA, a wholly owned subsidiary of Tecnospot based in Brunico, Italy. Tecnospot is the largest distributor of solar photovoltaic systems in Southern Europe. The company has been in business in Europe since 1998. As president, Daniel manages the sales force by leading negotiations with global suppliers and cultivating new business opportunities in the areas of industrial and commercial real estate.

Delores Kannas, ‘75, Nursing, went on to receive her master’s degree in nursing from UCSF in 1978. She also received her master’s in healthcare administration from the University of Washington, Seattle in 2009. Her current position is trauma research project manager at the University of

Washington Clinical Trials Center. She married David Kannas, a retired Seattle Police homicide detective; raised 5 children; and has one 2-year-old grandson.



Barnett Saltzberg, ‘77, Art, recently published his latest book, *Beautiful Oop*, an interactive book for all ages. Actress Jamie Lee Curtis wrote a blurb for the cover of the book. As a graduate of Sonoma State and having studied art, his book is a perfect tribute to his time here.

Ross Goodwin, ‘78, Physics, was elected to the board of the Sonoma State Alumni Association. He graduated in 1978 with a degree in both mathematics and physics. He is a managing partner at Bennett Valley Group in Santa Rosa, a company that develops customer feedback surveys. He also teaches business classes at College of Marin and Dominican University.

1980s

Michael Berent, ‘83, Hutchins Liberal Studies, was selected by his peers as one of the Top Doctors in San Diego in both 2009 and 2010. He is a pediatrician/partner in a large multi-specialty group (Sharp Rees-Stealy Medical Group).

CLASS NOTES



Gary Glazner, '83, Expressive Arts, is the founder and executive director of the Alzheimer's Poetry Project (APP), which has provided programming in 20 states in the U.S. for people living with Alzheimer's Disease and related dementia, performing and creating poems with them. This year the APP expanded internationally to Germany with funding from the U.S. Embassy in Berlin. In addition, the APP has published a Spanish language anthology, *Nútrema Hoy* (Nurture Me Today).

Michelle Newton, '83, Sociology, was named the behavioral services program director for Life-Works of Sonoma County, which provides mental health services.

Christopher Gerhart, '85, Management and Economics, resides in St. Simons Island, off the coast of Georgia, with his wife, Janet, and their daughter, Grace. He serves as a supervisory special agent for the U.S. Treasury and works at the Department of Homeland Security's training base where all new special agents start their careers.

Charlotte Brandt, '86, Management, celebrated her 10th anniversary with the accounting team at National Warranty Corporation in Springfield, Oregon. She is planning to retire in 2012 to a life of woodlands management, the remodeling of two homes, travel, and more time with family and volunteering.

Kevin Givens, '86, Environmental Studies, is currently the executive director of the World Flying Disc Federation (WFDF) and is completing his service to them in that capacity at the end of the year. After serving for 2 1/2 years as the executive director, he assisted the organization in several areas. Kevin was the original

intramural sports and sports club supervisor at Sonoma State, working in that capacity from 1984-1988. After that time, he moved to Santa Cruz to become the intramural sports and sports club supervisor at UC Santa Cruz, where he is still employed in that capacity. He is also a 14-time World Freestyle Frisbee champion as well as a former Masters Division Ultimate champion.

Marcus Ziemer, '89, Management, is the Sonoma State University's Men's Soccer head coach. He led the men's soccer team to a NCAA Division II national championship in 2002. He is considered a soccer guru, offering his expert analysis, breakdowns of matches, and historical insight during the FIFA World Cup on KBBF 89.1 FM, a Spanish-language radio station.

1990s

Catherine Alexander, '90, Sociology; '02, M.A. Psychology, completed a Ph.D. in clinical psychology from Pacifica Graduate Institute. She is currently completing post-doc hours towards licensure. She is working at Child Haven, Inc., a non-profit that specializes in treating children who have experienced trauma.

Anjana Utarid, '90, Psychology, was named executive director of The Children's Village of Sonoma County. Utarid has been chief operating officer of the 4-year-old Santa Rosa program and has 24 years of experience in foster care services.

Douglas Powell, '91, English, won the \$100,000 Kingsley Tufts Poetry Award from Claremont Graduate University. Powell, who now pens poetry under the name D.A. Powell, has been a teacher in the English department at the University of San Francisco since 2004. The Kingsley Tufts Poetry Award prize is awarded annually by the Los Angeles area institution to honor works by mid-career poets. His poetry collections include *Tea* (1998), *Lunch* (2000), *Cocktails* (2004), and *Chronic*, which was published last year.

Travis Hopkey, '92, Management, was promoted by Phillips Industries to the new position of global business development manager. Hopkey has been with Phillips since 2002,

serving as national accounts manager, manager, and director of marketing. His new position will be a part of a growing global organization within Phillips.

Jason Cotter, '94, Business Administration, has been named North Coast sales manager for Real Goods Solar, which has eight offices throughout California and Colorado. He will manage sales for Real Goods Solar's Santa Rosa and Ukiah offices.

Karen Domiter-Sassi, '95, Mass Communications, has been chosen for the Docent Training Program at the Legion of Honor and De Young Museums in San Francisco. Her expected graduation from the program is 2014.

Amy Besnoy, '95, Environmental Studies, is the science librarian at University of San Diego. During her recent sabbatical, she guest edited a special double issue of the *Journal of Library Administration*. The issues titled *Emerging Practices in Science and Technology Librarianship* were published as volume 50, issues 3 and 4. These issues will be published as a monograph by Routledge Press.

Shari Shamsavari, Ph.D., '95, Psychology, has dedicated the past ten years to working in Mexico with different populations of children in the schools, orphanages, and government clinics of DIF Jalisco, serving families.

Hanna Skandera, '96, Business Administration, has been elected secretary of public education for the state of New Mexico. Skandera is described by her former Florida employer, Governor Jeb Bush, as "a passionate, effective advocate for improving student achievement. Her vast academic, government and professional experience in education makes her an incredible asset to New Mexico as they work to improve student outcomes."

Ramona Faith, '97, M.A. Nursing, is currently serving as the executive director of patient care services at Queen of the Valley Hospital in Napa, and will take over as the Petaluma Health Care District's CEO. Faith has also served as a faculty member at Santa Rosa Junior College, Sonoma State University, and Dominican University teaching nursing clinical

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Chuck Fisher: For the Love of Sports

BY JESSICA ANDERSON

If you follow Bay Area sports, you've most likely heard of Chuck Fisher. Fisher (B.A. Communications Studies, '95 and B.A. Criminal Justice Administration, '95) has been a television sports anchor and reporter for more than ten years, covering everything from high school sports to the NBA, NHL, NFL, and MLB.

Born and raised in San Francisco, Fisher is a lifelong 49er fan and has been attending Giants games since he was five years old. His love of the game, teamed with his talent for broadcast journalism, has led him to employment at television networks around the country. Beginning in the small markets in 2000, Fisher did stints as a "one-man band" doing weekend sports anchoring for KNDU-TV in Kennewick, Washington and WOI-TV in Des Moines, Iowa.

He made the move to CBS-affiliate KTVT in 2006, serving the Dallas-Ft. Worth region, anchoring weekend sportscasts and Sunday night prime-time sports shows, and covering professional teams such as the Cowboys and the Mavericks. But, a Bay Area boy at heart, Fisher eventually made his way back. He joined the Comcast Sports Net Bay Area team in February 2009, becoming the "beat" reporter for the Oakland

Raiders and hosting pre- and post-game shows for the Oakland A's and Golden State Warriors.

Currently, Fisher is the sports anchor, host, and reporter for GetSportsFocus.com, covering high school sports across the Bay Area. In his newest role, Fisher finds himself responsible for planning coverage, covering games, gathering highlights, and conducting post-game interviews. Most importantly, he finds himself back at home. "I was born and raised in San Francisco, and I love the area and covering the local teams," says Fisher.

And though it seems that Fisher was destined for a career in the sports industry, it was not his original plan. His degree in criminal justice administration from SSU is a nod to his earliest career goal—to become a police officer. "Believe it or not, I never wanted to become a broadcaster, never thought of it. But, since I had a huge interest in sports, I just fell into it," he admits.

Without a doubt, Fisher's years at SSU have had a lifelong impact, whether through the education he obtained in communications and criminal justice or through the woman he met on campus in 1993, his college sweetheart turned wife, Roxanne. ■

COMING SOON



TAKE A WALK ON THE WILD SIDE . . . FOR EDUCATION

**Thursday, Aug. 11, 5:30-7pm
Safari West, Santa Rosa**

Join the SSU Alumni Association for our wildest event of the year! We'll gather at Safari West to enjoy hors d'oeuvres and beverages, meet some amazing animals, and raise funds for school field trips to Safari West.

The Safari West Wildlife Foundation exists to preserve and protect wildlife through research and education, and among their activities is to provide educational experiences for children at this unique wildlife preserve.

A portion of every ticket to this special event will go to help fund field trips for students in Sonoma County schools.

FOR SPECIAL TICKET PRICES, VISIT WWW.SSUALUMNI.ORG.

CLASS NOTES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 32

rotations, nursing leadership, and management courses to undergraduate nursing students.

Michael Hawk, '98, Communications, owns Merci Beaucoup Cakes with his wife in Los Angeles, where they specialize in wedding and specialty cakes as well as cookies. Starting with the second season, they have been a part of WE TV's reality cake show *Amazing Wedding Cakes*. Additionally, Hawk works as a writer for a number of websites dedicated to everything from comics to sports and physical fitness, serving as head writer for RealTVAddict.com. He has three different indie comic book projects currently in production and runs his own movie review/pop culture blog called *Drive In '77*.

2000s

Dallas Hartley, '00, History, has been named head coach at MCLA Division I powerhouse Chapman University in Orange, California, the most successful college lacrosse program on the West Coast. Hartley coached at La Costa Canyon for the past nine years. Under his tenure, the Mavericks won seven straight North County Conference championships and won four CIF titles. Hartley has been selected CIF Coach of the Year four times. During his time at SSU, Hartley received numerous accolades as a player and was inducted into the Sonoma State Lacrosse Hall of Fame in 2005. Hartley began his coaching career as a graduate assistant coach at SSU in 2001.

Leah Taylor, '00, Business Administration, recently received recognition for her community work. She was selected as the GMA Community Hero, received the CBS Jefferson Award, and was awarded the Bayview Community Service award. She was featured in the *Saint Ignatius Genesis* magazine and the *Dominican University Torch* magazine.

Vu Tran, '00, Psychology, has joined Sutter Pacific Medical Foundation and Sutter Medical Group of the Redwoods. He is a pulmonologist and sleep medicine specialist. Dr. Tran earned his M.D. in internal medicine from the University of Vermont,

College of Medicine, and completed his residency at St. Joseph's Medical Center in Phoenix. Before joining Sutter, Dr. Tran was a member of the Kaiser Permanente Medical Group in Santa Rosa.

Nancy Cook, '01, English, completed a law degree and is currently self-employed as a general practitioner. Her practice is located in Sonoma, California, and has an emphasis in the areas of business, trusts, and estates. She graduated from Empire College in June 2005 and was admitted to the State Bar of California in December 2005. She received a Juris Doctor degree, Cum Laude, and was the recipient of the California State Assembly and Senate Outstanding Scholastic Achievement Awards in recognition of ranking third in the graduating class. She also received a community service award for work at the Elder Law Clinic and was a founding member of the Empire Law Review.

Audrey Boggs Acheson, '01, Psychology, completed a M.A. in clinical psychology at the California School of Professional Psychology and is working on completing the final requirements for her Psy.D. in clinical psychology. She is researching a self-designed treatment for children affected by selective mutism, utilizing play and family therapy. She has presented on the topic of selective mutism at two national conferences pertaining to selective mutism and is currently relocating to the Los Angeles area to complete her pre-doctoral internship.



Lauren O'Bryon, '03, Economics, is the proud owner of two mobile dance company franchises in San Diego, California. At WEBBY Dance Company, she travels to pre-schools and elementary schools to teach dance, creative movement, and cheer. She has continued her dance career on to the professional level by dancing for the NFL as a second-year veteran on the San Diego Charger Girls.

Joseph Webb, '05, Business, is now the general manager of Londer Vineyards and co-owner/winemaker at Foursight, both located in Mendocino County's Anderson Valley. Webb transferred to Sonoma State University after meeting Kristy Charles, now his wife, at Cuesta College on the Central Coast.

Bradley Bridges, '06, Business Administration, of SAFE-BIDCO in Santa Rosa, has completed courses in the U.S. Small Business Administration Guarantee Loan Program. SAFE-BIDCO is a statewide non-traditional lender and financing source, offering loan and guarantee programs to small businesses.

Michelle Stoner, '06, French and Geography, went directly to the Peace Corps in Niger, West Africa after graduating from Sonoma State. She lived and worked in Niger for 3 years as a community youth education volunteer. Since Niger, she moved to San Francisco where she worked as a team coordinator and fundraising specialist for AIDS Walk San Francisco. She is now an internship coordinator for a cultural exchange company called Intrax Cultural Exchange, where she works to match international students from around the world to interesting and relevant internship placement opportunities in the U.S.

Nadir Vissanjy, '07, Business Administration, has been hired as staff assistant/systems administrator for Congressman Mike Honda, who represents the 15th Congressional District of California, which includes Silicon Valley. Nadir was active in student government while attending Sonoma State and was selected as the 2006 Nichols Scholar. He currently serves the University as a founding member of SSU's Alumni Campus Advisory Committee.

Noam Lemish, '07, Music, has recently been given the opportunity to become the first Western person to teach music at the Kilu School of Music in Bhutan. The school hired Noam to teach piano as well as music theory and history to children ranging from the ages of 6 to 18 and adults. After graduation, Noam went on to do myriad performances around the Bay Area. In addition to teaching music in Bhutan, Noam will occasionally be performing different

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Leading with Music

ANNE BENEDETTI

B.A. Music, 1993

School of Arts and Humanities
Emeritus Board Member, Santa Rosa
Symphony; Volunteer Fundraiser,
Green Music Center



BY JENNIFER COATE

“Music is such an important part of the human experience. I can’t imagine life without it,” says Anne Benedetti who has weaved music into all aspects of her life.

Benedetti was first introduced to music as a three-year-old sitting at her grandmother’s piano. She recalls, “I was absolutely intrigued by the sounds that the magic keys could make.” Years later, in her late thirties with three children of her own, Benedetti was given a gift—six months worth of piano lessons at Sonoma State. She turned those six months into two years of study and continued to feed her passion by earning a degree in music at Sonoma State University. She juggled kids, family schedules, and part-time school for nearly eight years while she finished her degree. When she graduated she taught beginning piano to children, just as her grandmother had done with her.

As a grandmother herself, Benedetti says, “Playing the guitar and singing little songs to all seven of my grandchildren as babies is one of my greatest pleasures.” She will be teaching her eight-year-old grandson the piano in the fall. Benedetti also had the opportunity to sing in a choir and continue her piano lessons under the direction of acclaimed pianist and Sonoma State faculty Marilyn Thompson. “It was her passion for music and the flawless execution that was so inspiring,” recalls Benedetti.

Benedetti has committed herself to teaching more than her own family the rewards of a life filled with

music. She’s worked to bring her passion to the community as well. She served on the Santa Rosa Symphony Board for more than 12 years and has been instrumental in supporting the development of the new Green Music Center at Sonoma State. “It’s a first-rate concert experience in an acoustically superb and intimate setting,” explains Benedetti.

Along with her husband Dan Benedetti, former CEO and current chair of Clover Stornetta Farms, she hosted one of the first receptions to introduce the new Green Music Center project to the community. She sang with the SSU Chamber Singers in support of the event. As president of the Symphony Board, she partnered with Sonoma State to raise funds and support for the new project.

Now, Benedetti is identifying new supporters in the community to come and experience the acoustics of the Green Music Center firsthand. In parting, Benedetti concludes, “Exposure to great music for our school children is one of the greatest roles that the Green Music Center can play—they are our future.” ■

CLASS NOTES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 34

genres of music while also becoming involved in a local project of preserving traditional Bhutanese music.

Stephanie Stone, '07, Political Science and Spanish, has made her way to Washington, D.C., where she completed her master's degree in public policy from George Washington University in May 2009. She is currently working with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development as a presidential management fellow and is on an assignment to work at an embassy in Lithuania. Stone is still active in the Sonoma State community by serving on the Alumni Campus Advisory Committee.

Daniela Bravo-Simon, '08, Sociology and Anthropology, is the prevention education manager at Verity (formerly United Against Sexual Assault of Sonoma County), and has been elected co-chairman of the Teen Health Advocacy Coalition of Sonoma County.

Jonathon Bergland, '08, Business Administration, opened up his first business in Rohnert Park, California with his brother Anthony Bergland. Their business, Escape, is an indoor paintball arena that is attracting players from all over the North Bay.

Tami Pallingston, '09, Credential, is the music director and resource specialist at Tomales High School and a professional jazz musician. Between her time at Humboldt State and Sonoma State Universities, Pallingston also picked up an education credential and her resource specialist training.



Identical twins Eric and Chris Martinez, '09, Communications, started their own business called Dynamic Duo Training, which introduces personal training online, communicat-

ing with their customers via the Internet. They plan unique diets and individualized exercise routines in a virtual world of personal training. They now live in the Santa Rosa area to stay close to their loved ones, and they opened up their own business to encourage and help others become fit and healthy.

Adrienne Turcotte, '09, Psychology and Criminal Justice, moved to New York City for graduate school. She is currently more than half way through her master's degree in forensic mental health counseling. She interns for the U.S. Probation Counseling Offenders and graduated in the spring of 2011. She plans to apply for a counseling license at that time.

2010s

Dustin Dear, '10, Business Administration, is currently working for the Walt Disney Company in Orlando, Florida, where he accepted a role as a recruiting coordinator for the Disney College Program. He is working towards a management role within Parks and Resort with Disney.



Catherine Ellis, '10, Fine Arts, graduated with a BFA in painting and was

hired by the Sonoma State University Art Department in August as the 2D instructional tech. Her first solo painting show opened at LiquidSPACES in San Francisco.

SSU ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIPS KEEP ON GIVING

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Fighting for Justice



CHARLES A. BONNER

B.A. Anthropology, 1972
School of Social Sciences
Civil Rights Trial Lawyer,
Law Offices of Bonner
and Bonner; Author of
The Bracelet

BY JENNIFER COATE

Growing up on a cotton farm outside Selma, Alabama, Charles Bonner lived the extreme injustice of segregation. In his teens, he joined the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), sitting in and peacefully marching for equal rights. Now, he's a trial lawyer and author fighting against discrimination and violence.

Bonner still remembers arriving with hundreds of students in 1965 at Brown Chapel Church on what would infamously be named "Bloody Sunday." As the students marched peacefully to the church in rows of two, they were met by state and local police who attacked them with tear gas and nightsticks. Bonner describes what ensued as "total pandemonium, it was like a war zone on that day, the most frightening experience I've had in my life."

Forever changed by the Civil Rights Movement, Bonner committed himself to working for equal rights locally and globally, including working for the rights of farmworkers. In 1972, he earned a degree in anthropology at Sonoma State University, finishing his last 12 units in a Tanzanian village where he learned to speak Swahili. Bonner returned to the U.S. to further his education, first studying philosophy at

Stanford and then obtaining his law degree from the New College School of Law in San Francisco. "I don't think I would have been a lawyer today if it hadn't been for the Civil Rights Movement, in fact, I'm sure I wouldn't have been," says Bonner.

Bonner has been practicing law for 27 years and has been the lead attorney in more than 65 jury trials involving civil rights, police misconduct, and personal injury. He started his practice first in Oakland in 1979, and then moved to Sausalito in 1989. In 2006, his son, who recently graduated from Stanford Law, joined him in his practice.

In 2010, Bonner added author to his list of accomplishments. His first novel, *The Bracelet*, is a crime thriller loosely based on the harrowing story of one of his clients who escaped from the basement of a sexual predator in upstate New York. The story follows "Macie" as she brings her captor to justice and sets out to rescue the victims of sexual trafficking around the world. Bonner dedicated his book to victims of civil and human rights violations and directs a portion of the proceeds to The Bracelet Charitable Freedom Fund, which seeks to empower victims of all forms of slavery. ■

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SSU ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Ambrose R. Nichols Jr. Scholarship



Diamante Rueda

Diamante Rueda received the Ambrose R. Nichols Jr. Scholarship for 2010-11. Rueda was selected for her tremendous compassion and perseverance. A double major in political science and accounting with a minor in Spanish, she consistently shows capability when met with challenges. An extremely hard worker and successful student, she has overcome many obstacles since moving to the U.S. from Mexico as a young girl.

Says Rueda, "I am very grateful that the Alumni Association exists. Receiving the Ambrose R. Nichols Jr. Scholarship means so much to me. It encourages me to achieve my goals and inspires me to give back to the community once I graduate."

2010-11 Outstanding Student Athlete Scholarship Recipients



Scott Gaynor
Major: Business Finance
Sport: Tennis



Jesse Talaugon
Major: Communications
Sport: Softball
Position: Outfield, Catcher

MIXING IT UP

HOST A RECEPTION NEAR YOU

SSU alumni receptions are taking place all over California, and as far as Washington D.C. and New York City. It's a great way to reconnect and network with other Sonoma State alums.

Interested in hosting an alumni reception?

Contact the Alumni Association: (707) 664-2426 or alumni@sonoma.edu

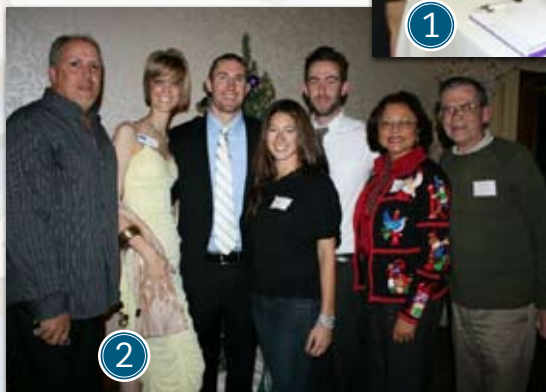
1. SIPS, BITES, AND BIDS 2010

The silent auction raised money for the University's Wine Business Program. The SSU Alumni Association-hosted event featured local artisan cheeses and SSU alumni pouring and discussing their wines.



2. HOLIDAY PARTY 2010

Life member holiday party attendees gather by the holiday tree at the December event held at the Hilton Sonoma Wine Country.



3. SPRINGTIME SOIREE 2011

Sonoma State alums had a chance to network at April's Springtime Soiree in Petaluma. La Dolce Vita Wine Lounge offered the perfect venue to share memories of their time spent at Sonoma State.



4. SAN DIEGO MIXER 2011

Close to 100 alums "hit" Rock Bottom at the San Diego-based mixer. The event gave Southern California SSU alums a chance to reconnect.



5. CSU NEW YORK/TRI-STATE ALUMNI RECEPTION

In New York last March, more than 250 alumni attended the 2nd annual Tri-State Area Mixer. Numerous campus presidents were in attendance, including Sonoma State's President Armiñana. SSU Alums representing class years from the 60s to the present were in attendance, including several SSU Distinguished Alumni.



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Top North Bay executives are choosing SSU for their MBA.

"I chose the Executive MBA at Sonoma State to accelerate my career path and further my professional growth. The program was great for me personally. It taught me about myself, what I can offer, and my strengths and weaknesses. I think it was one of the best things I've done in my life, and I think I would do it again!"

Adel Dahmani (EMBA '11)
Senior Software Engineer, Tellabs

This May, the **first graduates of Sonoma State University's Executive MBA program**—the very first program of its kind in the North Bay—celebrated their achievement. Today, cohort two is underway and preparing for their international intensive in Chile and Argentina this fall. In October, cohort three will begin their journey and tackle the dynamic challenges of the team sailing experience.

Together, these individuals are leading organizations like Medtronic, Kaiser, BioMarin Pharmaceuticals, the Nature Conservancy, JDSU, Marriott, the Carneros Company, the Sonoma County Tourism Bureau, and many others. Another outstanding example of Sonoma State's contribution to a thriving North Bay community.

To learn more about the program, visit www.sonoma.edu/emba or call 707-664-2260.



School of Business and Economics