

SUMMER 2012

insights

A MAGAZINE OF SONOMA STATE UNIVERSITY

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love, loss
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RISKING CALIFORNIA

"Upon the education of the people of this country, the fate of this country depends," said Benjamin Disraeli, 1868 Prime Minister of the United Kingdom. Even 144 years later, Disraeli's comment still rings true, and not just for the U.K.

In California this year, the 23 campus of the CSU with their 427,000 students, face an additional \$250 million 'trigger' cut if voters reject the Governor's tax initiative in November, bringing state support for the CSU to its lowest level in 17 years, while the system serves 90,000 more students.

Making your voice heard is critical to the long-term future of California. Access to

higher education is being limited. Without future doctors, nurses, biologists, and entrepreneurs and many other professionals, how will the state survive and prosper?

Get an alert when your involvement can make a critical difference by signing up at advocacy@sonoma.edu to take action.

— Andrea Rodriguez-Jereb



insights

HELP US GIVE YOU WHAT YOU WANT!

We truly value your feedback and listen closely to your opinions, both positive and negative. Won't you please help us help you by answering the 25 questions in this survey about the Summer 2012 issue of *Insights*, Sonoma State University's magazine. Go to www.surveymonkey.com/s/insights11 to start the survey. We're listening.



READ ABOUT SONOMA STATE

WWW.SONOMA.EDU/NEWSCENTER

Sonoma State University's NewsCenter contains all information about the events and happenings at SSU.



SUMMER 2012

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SSU
comes
of age



**GIANT 50TH AERIAL PHOTO
BRINGS OUT HUNDREDS**

Students, faculty, staff and alumni posed for an aerial photograph in the shape of a giant “50” on the Commencement lawn last fall.

This kickoff “fly-over” was the first in a series of activities that celebrated the University’s 50th anniversary throughout the year.

More than 500 waved wildly to the plane that flew overhead, creating a golden moment for posterity and another chapter for the history books.

The University staged a similar event ten years ago when a 40th fly-over photo was staged.

SONOMA STATE UNIVERSITY CELEBRATED its 50th anniversary this past year with a deep appreciation for the powers of transformation.

“Proud of Our Past. Focused on Our Future.” was the theme of the many events for this golden anniversary that highlighted the University’s significant achievements and explored the challenges ahead.

Once serving as a humble commuter college whose 1970s moniker was Granola U, SSU has matured into a comprehensive university that offers vigorous academic opportunities in liberal arts and the sciences, as well as a broad-based professional program curriculum.

“This is a smart and savvy campus,” says SSU President Ruben Armiñana. “Our students continue to impress us with their drive, ambitions and willingness to do whatever it takes. What lies ahead for them is a very bright future.”

Today, almost a quarter of the student body seeks participation in a Greek or other panhellenic organization, and the value of a traditional college life environment is the norm.

Founded on a seed farm in Rohnert Park, the 269-acre campus has adapted quickly through the years to become the intellectual and cultural hub of the region and a diverse seat of learning for 21st century students of all ages.

In 1961, Sonoma State College’s first graduating class numbered 261; this year 2,300 students joyfully accepted their diplomas.

Its many alliances and partnerships with businesses like Agilent, Medtronic and local school districts have allowed the campus to deepen its impact on the North Bay.

A 2010 study by the CSU showed that SSU had an overall economic impact of \$330 million and generated more than \$19 million in local tax revenue. The University’s

various disciplines, particularly nursing, education, engineering, science and wine business feed employees into important sectors of the local economy. Seventy percent of the students who graduate with a master’s degree in engineering science are offered jobs in the North Bay’s technology industry, many even before they graduate.

Within the CSU family, Sonoma State originated as a small liberal arts campus with collaborative student-faculty relationships. Over time, the campus has recruited an increasingly traditional-age student body drawn from across the state.

This new student population has driven its transition from a commuter campus to one with a strong residential character. The largest freshman class of 1,800 was admitted this fall and almost 40% of the entire student population now lives on campus.

The transformation has also come in the form of renovations of the Darwin and Salazar halls, the building of the Jean and Charles Schulz Information Center and the sustainability-driven Recreation Center.

On the horizon is the opening of the



\$120 million Green Music Center in September that will lead the campus to a world-class reputation for performing arts and music education.

Not far behind is construction of a new Student Center that will bring together important services for students.

“We will continue to impact the community and future students in the next 50 years and beyond,” says Armiñana. “It is only a matter of commitment and imagination and we have plenty of that in supply.”

— Jean Wasp

History Book Brings the Past to Light

Commemorating its 50th anniversary, Sonoma State University produced a first-ever history book, highlighting memories of more than 60 of the University's pioneering faculty, staff and community members. Some of the early years described were indicative of the times.

Dr. John Palmer, Dean of Students in 1967-1972 wrote: "Many in the greater community felt SSU was infested with 'hippie students' and 'radical professors' and there were no restraints by the administration. Many expected the president to 'control' the behavior of some students who wore no shoes and little clothing."

Read the many memories at www.sonoma.edu/50th

Taking the Plunge into "Water Works"

SONOMA STATE UNIVERSITY TAKES THE PLUNGE into "Water Works" this coming year, an innovative, cross-disciplinary series about inland water flow as a resource, image, and metaphor that weaves together a wide range of educational, performance and artistic events.

"Water Works" events will be presented in campus theaters, classrooms, art galleries and at site-specific events along lakes and waterways on the Rohnert Park campus.

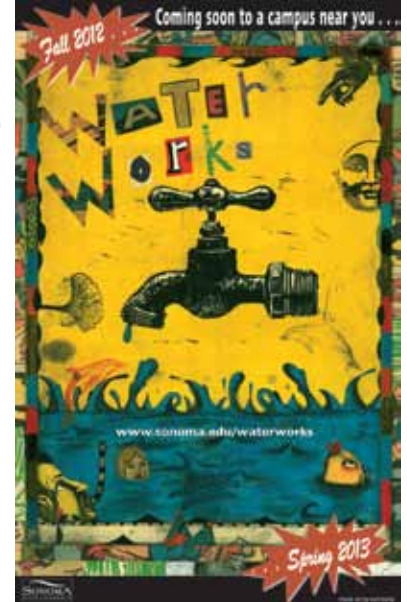
Additional "Water Works" projects include programs for local schools; a lecture series with prominent regional water experts; outdoor, indoor and online art exhibits; hikes and workshops; classes and courses; music events; and the 2012-13 performance season presented by the Department of Theatre Arts & Dance.

"Water is a fundamental need that many of us take for granted. This series of events reopens awareness and appreciation of a substance that touches every part of our lives," says Theatre Arts Professor Paul Draper.

The "Water Works" series kicks off Oct. 3-14 with an outdoor production of "Bad Penny," by Mac Wellman presented by the Department of Theatre Arts & Dance.

Presented on campus at the University Lakes near the Art Building, the production features actors interacting across the lake and in a rowboat for a rare and unusual opportunity to experience the mythic and metaphorical power of water.

For more information about the SSU "Water Works" series visit the web site at: www.sonoma.edu/waterworks.



"Water is a fundamental need that many of us take for granted."

Volt—A Small But Mighty Magazine Ranks Among Best in Country

What do The New Yorker, The Paris Review, Harpers and Sonoma State's literary magazine Volt all have in common? All were named a part of the Every Writer's Resource Top 50 Literary Magazines in the country.

Sitting at number 37 is Volt, the start-up, independent magazine begun by poet and SSU instructor Gillian Conoley that eventually became a nation-wide magazine based out of SSU.

Volt was chosen from more than 2,000 print literary magazines from all over the United States for the honor. The magazine runs content from internationally renowned writers and poets such as Pulitzer Prize-winning Rae Armantrout and Yusef Komunyakaa, while remaining committed to giving new



undiscovered authors a forum.

Volt is also no stranger to winning awards. The magazine has won three Pushcart Prizes, three Best American Poetry Selections and a National Endowment for the Arts grant.

Volt can be found at some of the top libraries in the country, including Brown University, Cornell University, UCLA and the New York Public Library.



Sonoma State's First Fraternity Continues to Inspire Young Black Men

IN THIS AGE OF TWITTER AND FACEBOOK, Kappa Alpha Psi fosters relationships the traditional way—face to face.

The local chapter of this historically black national Greek-letter organization and the first fraternity on the SSU campus is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year. With a 100% graduation rate, it's a history worth commemorating.

Rooted in American University Life Kappa Alpha Psi began in 1911 at Indiana State University, a time when young black men were barred from "white" fraternities. Recognizing the need to develop graduates who could contribute significantly to society, the founders set forth a challenge in their motto: Achievement in every field of human endeavor.

That challenge has paid off. The national organization boasts a large roster of noted black leaders including former Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley, attorney Johnny Cochran, civil rights attorney Jimmy A. Bell, and tennis star Arthur Ashe. In addition, membership includes comedian/actor Cedric the Entertainer, R&B singer Montell Jordan, former Mayor of Oakland Elihu Harris, Boys in the Hood director John Singleton, and many successful athletes.

Local Chapter Focuses on Relationships and Guidance

The local chapter began at SSU in March of 1987. Its scope has been different from many Greek-letter organizations.

For one thing, membership is small. "It's never been about numbers," explained Jason Bennett, SSU senior and President

of the fraternity. "We look for the most qualified to be Kappa men."

Traditionally, the rate of young African-American males attending four-year universities has been low. Many of them are the first in their family to attend college. They need support as undergraduates and often through graduate school or beginning a career.

"It's a grave task to support a small group of young men. Kappa can only do so much with minimal resources. These students need psychological support as well as financial support," said Andre Bailey, advisor and SSU staff member.

The support has paid off as now second and even third generation Kappas are attending universities. Jason is a second generation Kappa. "I knew I was going to be one in the 6th grade," he said with a proud smile.

Gina Geck, SSU Associate Director, Office of Admissions and Student Recruitment, substantiates how important the guidance has been to these young people. "Black Greek-letter organizations have a higher graduation rate than students who do not join Black Greek-letter organizations," she confirmed. "The faculty and staff are strongly supportive of their efforts."

Setbacks and Future Plans

"Achievement" isn't easy. For two years, the local fraternity was under sanctions for a low GPA, although three Kappas still graduated, thus maintaining the fraternity's perfect graduation rate.

Now the sanctions are lifted and



students are working hard with rigorous library and study hours. The young men are also required to participate in leadership training, cultural awareness presentations, service work and fund raising for local charities.

And, like so many Kappa alumni, they too are inspiring young people of color. When Jason addresses groups, his message is always "There are people out there to support you wherever you go."

The fraternity has a full calendar of events this month to highlight their 25 years at SSU, culminating in an Anniversary Banquet and Ball in July. But in the end, the true celebration remains the challenge of "Achievement" put to each young Kappa Alpha Psi for the past 100 years.

— Jane Bender



A Wine Whose Time Has Come



WHAT'S AN OBVIOUS PRODUCT for Sonoma State University students to produce? Given SSU's proximity to some of the more than 1,200 wineries in California and the University's successful Wine Business Institute, a new SSU wine brand was just the ticket.

For the past two years, more than a dozen Sonoma State University wine business students worked with faculty, industry experts, and the team at Kokomo Winery and Timber Crest Farms in Dry Creek Valley to create the first-ever Sonoma State wine, called Sonoma State Cellars.

The idea for the brand was first discussed by a group of four MBA students working with Dr. Armand Gilinsky, Jr., SSU professor of business. Liza Goldstein, Kendal Georgeson, Abigail Smyth and Leah McNally, who have since graduated and grown in their careers, conducted a feasibility study in summer 2010 to assess the viability of the proposed brand and the results were inspiring.

"The whole idea was to develop a sustainable hands-on experience that would get students out of the text book and into running a viable business that would offer a unique product that would support lasting ties to University alumni and the greater SSU family," explained Gilinsky.

During the following semester, a second group of MBA students worked with him to develop a business plan for the new venture. Jacob Avery, Stephanie Gremban, Sean Headden, Kendall Hoxsey, Dylan Karahalios, Marin McElhany, Brian Perkins, Andrew Pimentel and Nick Rood outlined the start-up necessities and a path to sustainability. At the end of the semester, the students delivered their final presentation to members of the wine business faculty, administration and the wine industry.

Attending the presentation that evening was Erik Miller, owner and winemaker at Kokomo Winery in Dry Creek Valley. He was impressed by the students' enthusiasm and immediately offered his support. After crush was completed, he set aside a barrel of his 2010 Red Cuvée to provide the foundation for the program and the first release of the future Sonoma State Cellars which is a blend of 49% Merlot, 26% Carignane, 17% Malbec, 4% Cabernet Sauvignon, and 4% Syrah.

During the course of the following year, he coached the students on the start-up of a winery and the building of the brand. One of the student team members went on to work with Miller and his assistant winemaker, Josh Bartels, while others contributed to the project whenever they could, squeezing in hours between study and work. In the fall of 2011, Ruth Waltenspiel, the proprietor of Timber Crest Farms, hosted a launch party where the students shared their story with a group of 60 friends and supporters.

Throughout the project, the MBA students were guided by the leaders of the Wine Business Institute Alumni Council, whose members work in key positions throughout the North Coast. The alumni will provide continuity to the nascent program over successive semesters and generations of students. With the label approval from the Tax and Trade Bureau (TTB), Sonoma State Cellars is in the bottle and ready launch. Look for more information on the SSU Wine Business Institute's website at sonoma.edu/sbe/wine-business-institute/

— Ray Johnson

If you have already responded to the SSUAA Opt-Out Mailing in the past, it is not necessary to do so again.

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You have the right to control whether we share your name, address, and electronic mail address with our affinity partners (companies that partner with us to offer products or services to our alumni). Please read the following information carefully before you make your choice below.

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1. Call toll free: 1-866-808-2554
2. E-mail: alumni.office@sonoma.edu
3. Website: www.ssualumni.org
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Class Year _____

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State _____

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Signature _____

SSU Holocaust & Genocide
Memorial Grove
near the campus lakes area
features a sculpture created by
Professor Jann Nunn with a quote
from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr:
“Our lives begin to end the day we
become silent about things that matter.”



Photo: Linnea Mullins

CHESTNUTS AND FREEDOM

SSU MEMORIAL: HOME TO ONE OF ONLY ELEVEN SAPLINGS FROM ANNE FRANK TREE

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.

In 2009, SSU was one of only 11 locations nationwide that had received a sapling taken from the aging tree that resided behind the Annex where Anne Frank, her family, and friends spent two years in hiding. As part of their educational efforts, the Anne Frank Center USA together with the Anne Frank House in Amsterdam donated these 11 saplings to sites across the country.

Unfortunately, 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. However, the legacy lives on. The sapling given to Sonoma State is currently growing in a special shade house, under lock and key, in quarantine for three years and supervised by Sam Youney, SSU's Director of Landscaping, and an expert in plant diseases and pest control. It is being protected from rain, rodents, and insects until it is strong enough to withstand the elements. The sapling that arrived as an 18-inch-tall cutting has now reached four feet in height.

In May 2013, the sapling will be officially 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 created by Sculpture Professor 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 survivors and victims of the genocides committed throughout the world, including Native American tribes, the Armenians, Holocaust victims, Cambodians, Rwandans, and Darfurians. Another aim of the monument is to recognize educators, scholars, and activists working towards 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.”

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.”

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.

— Jean Wasp



SSU Director of Landscaping Sam Youney in December 2009 with newly arrived sapling that is now in quarantine until planting scheduled in 2013.
(Photo by Christopher Dinno)



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.
(The Anne Frank Center, USA)

VIDEO: Go to this link:
tinyurl.com/annefrankmemorial
to see a video of the Chestnut tree from Anne Frank's hiding place. A KTVU television crew visited the campus in the wake of the mother tree's passing:
tinyurl.com/ktvu-annefrank



Tracing Darwin's Footsteps

MATT JAMES WAS 26 YEARS OLD when he first stepped foot on the Galapagos Islands.

So was Charles Darwin.

The SSU paleontology professor has spent most of his professional career exploring Darwin's work at the last best place on Earth that affords a look at the mechanisms of evolution even today.

A scholar of Darwin's work since the early 1980s, Dr. James spent the past six years researching and writing an exciting and significant tale about a scientific expedition to the volcanic archipelago 600 miles south of Ecuador that resulted in saving the California Academy of Sciences (CAS) in San Francisco from extinction.

Collecting Evolution is the title of his 200-page history of the 89-foot schooner Academy's voyage in 1905-1906 to the Galápagos to collect specimens for the California Academy of Sciences.

Directors of the largest natural history museum west of the Rockies were interested in elevating its prestige in the scientific community. But they could hardly have expected that this modest expedition by a 12-man crew – most under the age of 25 – would be propelled to significance by the April 18, 1906 earthquake and fire in San Francisco.

The fire, which lasted for three days, completely destroyed the existing Academy's thriving and popular museum, library, and

collection at Fourth and Market Streets. The men on the schooner Academy learned of the tragedy only two weeks after the earthquake via San Francisco newspapers carried from the mainland to the islands in an Ecuadorian gunboat.

When the schooner arrived home in San Francisco Bay in November 1906, the Galápagos specimens sitting in its hold allowed the museum to rise, literally and figuratively, out of the ashes.

The great earthquake transformed the fieldwork of the young collectors from significant to profound. The Galápagos had formed the foundation of Darwin's evolutionary work, and now the Galápagos specimens would form the foundation of the new California Academy of Science's collection now housed in Golden Gate Park. The new specimens would also serve to vindicate Darwin's theories in the eyes of the world, many times over.

"Darwin made the Galápagos Islands more than just a showcase of evolution; he made them the proof of evolution," says James. "Darwin's believers would rely on finches and tortoises and iguanas that you could walk among and touch with your bare hands. In the Galápagos, you could reach out and touch evolution."

In the 70 years between Darwin's visit on HMS Beagle in 1835 and the visit of the schooner Academy in 1905, the Galápagos had become the place to collect natural history specimens.

The 1905-1906 expedition lasted 17 months. The men spent a year and a day in the islands, the longest single scientific expedition to the Galápagos in its history. The Academy expedition visited all of the 13 major islands (several times in some cases) and many of the smaller islets in the archipelago. In comparison, Darwin was in the islands for about six weeks and visited just four islands.

The Academy expedition collected some 78,000 biological specimens – more than any Galápagos expedition before or since. "That amount is considered excessive today, but was not excessive in the context of the time they were collecting. In effect, they brought the Galápagos back to San Francisco," says James.

The collectors brought back 256 preserved specimens of giant tortoises, as well as numerous other reptiles, birds, mammals, insects, plants, land snails and fossils.

With such a huge haul of scientific specimens now at their disposal, the senior curators at the Academy had a lifetime of work.



Dr. Matt James, SSU professor of paleontology

*James' work examined the complex relationship
between the desire to possess Nature,
the desire to understand it,
and the newer idea of conserving it.*

The crew of the schooner *Academy* in June 1905 in San Francisco
(from left to right): Frederick T. Nelson (mate), Alban Stewart (botanist),
Ernest S. King (field assistant), Rollo H. Beck (chief of the expedition),
Joseph S. Hunter (mammalogist),
(seated): J.J. Parker (navigator), Joseph R. Slevin (herpetologist),
Edward W. Gifford (ornithologist), Washington Henry Ochsner (geologist
and paleontologist), and Francis Xavier Williams (entomologist).
Not pictured: James White (cook).
Photo courtesy of the California Academy of Sciences



And that work is not yet complete, according to James.

Biological materials collected during this expedition are still having an impact today on evolutionary studies of Galápagos organisms, and this material is being used in conservation efforts by researchers at the Charles Darwin Research Station and by others throughout the world.

COLLECT OR PRESERVE

James' work on the Galapagos has also focused on the political, social and cultural impact of conservation issues facing the islands today as they have evolved into a popular model for eco-tourism. More than a hundred thousand people visit the islands annually.

James' research has also examined "the complex relationship between the desire to possess Nature, the desire to understand it, and the newer idea of conserving it." The 1905-06 trip was the last big "pre-conservation thinking" scientific expedition to the Galápagos. But studying the mindset of people and institutions at a time before

the idea of conservation was in the air helps to reveal "how hard it is to step outside the cultural understandings of our own era," he says.

The unrestrained collecting shown by the 1905-06 collectors should have implications for Galápagos conservation efforts underway today, he says. With perhaps one debatable exception, a tortoise, the 1905-06 expedition did not cause any species to go extinct. They established a historical baseline for current conservation and restoration actions. The museum specimens stand as the enduring legacy of the expedition. "Darwin would be proud of their work," James says.

— Jean Wasp

COLLECTING EVOLUTION

PROFESSOR MATTHEW JAMES has researched Galapagos paleontology, conservation issues, and human history of the archipelago for 30 years.

He is a governing member of the General Assembly of the Charles Darwin Foundation for the Galápagos Islands, an international group of scientists, conservationists, and policy makers that provides scientific research and technical information and financial assistance to ensure the proper preservation of the Galápagos Islands. He is also a Fellow of the California Academy of Sciences.

James used evocative imagery to take the reader back to the world of early 20th century natural science in such a unique way that he was honored for his work producing *Collecting Evolution* by the Friends of the San Francisco Maritime Museum Library with the 2011 Karl Kortum Award for Maritime History.

To research the story, he carefully examined the lives of the sailor-scientist crew, reading everything they wrote, visiting their graves, and even meeting their living descendants all around the Bay Area.

He poured over the yellowing pages of the hand-written field notebooks of the eight young men on board, and read their correspondence on thin onionskin paper in the Archives at the California Academy of Sciences.

James chose this writing project due to the proximity of the extensive archival material in San Francisco to SSU and because it was a pristine topic, with no substantial or popular description of the expedition having been written since 1931.

He first visited the Galápagos in 1982 traveling in the footsteps of the paleontologist from the 1905-1906 expedition, who was himself traveling in Darwin's footsteps from 1835.

a case study in success

Armand Gilinsky knows the value of practical problem-solving and critical-thinking.



DR. ARMAND GILINSKY has a reputation. A reputation for being one of those tough professors who force students to think and usually makes them like it while they're at it. He also has a reputation for being one of the nation's leading writers of business case studies.

In fact, his latest case study, the "Frog's Leap Winery in 2011 – Sustainability Agenda" has just been accepted for publication in this winter's issue of the Case Research Journal. It is the first multimedia case ever to be published in the journal. It is a move toward the 21st century but most importantly a response to students who are media savvy and video hungry. "This is a top-tier journal for scholarship. That it includes the first-ever video makes it a major accomplishment and a contribution to the academy," noted School of Business & Economics Dean William Silver.

In the circle of life that is the education world, the video was created with the technical and creative talent of two School of Business and Economics' alums—and sisters, Alex (MBA, '11) and Niki Scioli (MBA, '09), as well as Ray Johnson, Director of Sonoma State's Wine Business Institute, a unique public-private partnership with the wine industry that Armand helped launch 15 years ago when he also served as its first director.

Another recent case study, co-authored with Ray Lopez, professor of finance at Pace University, "The Yellow Tail Phenomenon," was selected this spring as the winner for the prestigious 2012 John Molson MBA Case Competition that involves more than 30 leading graduate schools of business from around the world. The case asks readers to determine what strategies this well-known brand should use to successfully navigate the new market conditions that occurred in the "Great Recession" of 2008.

But it is not all about Armand. His students are winning, too. The "Sift Cupcake & Dessert Bar" case that was prepared by students in the Executive MBA's "Strategy in Practice" course will be published in the Essentials of Strategic Management, 3rd edition, a nationally used business textbook. The "Sift" case looks at challenges faced by a small business run by a Sonoma County entrepreneurial dreamer (the same one who won Food Network's Cupcake Wars) debating whether and how to grow into a more complex business.

Says Niki Scioli, who also won national

recognition while studying with Gilinsky, "He was a true mentor to me and helped nurture a case study I wrote through the many drafts and rewrites. After his great care, it was accepted to the North American Case Research Association conference. I had the pleasure of working with Dr. Gilinsky again, this time on his visionary video case study on Frog's Leap Winery, the first of its kind. He is an inspired and dedicated professor, and I was extremely lucky to have been able to have his guidance with my case work."

When asked what makes it all work, Gilinsky noted, "Students learn because they have a passion for contributing to the development of themselves and to society. What motivates students is a mentor who coaches them to ask the right questions, to do good works for the community and to pursue lifelong learning."

Student appreciation, scholarly recognition, innovative pedagogy, community impact: it all adds up to a case study in teaching success.

— Annemarie Brown



A HELPING HAND UP

FOR SOME PEOPLE THE HARDEST PART ABOUT COLLEGE IS GETTING IN.

And at times the difference between making it or not making it comes down to a gap in resources. Some very generous people knew this and wanted to help. So, in 2009, Santa Rosa couple Joe and Judy Gappa established the “Yes We Can” scholarship to help low-income Sonoma County students fund their education at Sonoma State University.

“We thought about the needs of the community and about our top priority which had been for some time the college educations of low-income youth. Since college completion had been a dominant force for both Joe and me, we decided to create and fund the Yes We Can scholarships,” says Judy Gappa.

The scholarships are designed to provide tuition support and minimize loan debt for students throughout their four-year college careers. The annual scholarships cover full tuition or unmet need, whichever is greater. The Gappas’ student recipients have just completed their third year at SSU.

And now the Gappas are in good company. In 2010, David and Ruth Wolf joined them in the Yes We Can scholarship program by establishing a scholarship for students from Roseland University Prep, a local campus that serves high-schoolers, many from low-income families. The Wolfs’ scholarship recipients have just completed their second year.

Together the two couples—the Gappas

and the Wolfs—make it possible for four young students to work toward their college degrees.

“We felt it was important to provide continuous support to these students throughout their college careers. We also stay involved with them and their needs outside of the financial aspect. It is beneficial for these students to have a system of support that extends beyond their freshman year and can be accessed outside of the classroom,” says David Wolf.

These scholarships not only help the individual students who benefit from them but also local communities.

“Helping low-income students succeed in college also helps to ensure the continuing health and well-being of our thriving communities. Many low-income students are more successful in completing their degrees if they stay physically closer to their families, homes and communities for their college years. Sonoma State University has excellent programs and services to assist these students academically as they adjust to college and progress in their studies,” says Erik Greeny, interim Vice President for University Development.

To learn more or establish your own **Yes We Can** scholarship, contact University Development, 707.664.2712 or development.office@sonoma.edu

Major Provides New Career Paths

HOW AND WHAT WE TEACH CHILDREN drives the world’s future. To help educate those who frame that future—and to respond to a strong need within the community—the School of Education has added a new Early Childhood Studies undergraduate major to its list of programs. The degree provides graduates with the knowledge, skills and dispositions needed to provide for the education and nurturing of youngsters, birth to age 8.

This major will help address the growing need many early care and education professionals face to attain a BA degree due to changes in Head Start, National Association for the Education of Young Children accreditation, and other professional requirements. Additionally, the major offers prospective elementary school teachers a way to develop a strong background in cognitive and developmental science.

Students will study multi-disciplinary theories, research and best practices in early care and education, with an emphasis on socio-cultural factors that affect learning and development. This course of study will prepare graduates for various career paths, including:

- infant, toddler and preschool teachers
- administrators of programs for young children and families
- professionals in health fields, including child life specialists
- pre-requisite work for the multiple subjects credential for elementary school teachers
- pre-requisite work for the special education teaching credential

Contact Dr. Chiara Bacigalupa (chiara.bacigalupa@sonoma.edu) for more information.



AND NOW, PRESENTING . . . THE DONALD & MAUREEN GREEN MUSIC CENTER *Sonoma State Musical Gem Opens this Fall*

WHAT DO YO-YO MA, LANG LANG, WYNTON MARSALIS and Alison Krauss have in common? They, as well as many other internationally acclaimed artists, will perform during the inaugural season of the Donald & Maureen Green Music Center beginning in September 2012.

When Sonoma State College opened its doors in 1961, the surrounding region was forever changed. Last year, as the University marked its golden anniversary, once again the North Bay was poised for transformation—through the opening of the Green Music Center and its exquisite Joan and Sanford I. Weill Hall.

The centerpiece of the complex is the 1400-seat Weill Hall, an architectural and acoustical magnum opus of world-class proportions, designed by the same visionaries responsible for Seiji Ozawa Hall at Tanglewood and the Lincoln Center Plaza Theater.

The Santa Rosa Symphony joins the Green Music Center as resident orchestra, and the globally celebrated San Francisco Symphony presents a special four-concert series during the 2012-13 season.

Additionally, partnerships are being forged to further infuse

arts and education into the surrounding communities. A new connection with New York's Carnegie Hall brings a year-long residency to SSU by young professional musicians, all alumni of The Academy, the prestigious program created by Carnegie Hall, The Juilliard School and the Weill Music Institute in partnership with the New York City Department of Education. As Visiting Artists in Residence, a small number of specially-selected Academy alumni will reside on the SSU campus for a year, fully engaging musically with the SSU community: presenting performances, offering lessons, chamber music coaching, and workshops; participating in community outreach to K-12 schools and other community partners; mentoring students; and coordinating audience development and concert preparation activities in residence performances, among many other duties. This marks the first time that Academy alumni will create such an extended residency, working in a university setting.

Complementing this new Visiting Artists in Residence program, a partnership with the Santa Rosa Symphony will bring Carnegie Hall's Link Up National program for grade school students

to Sonoma County. Link Up will join other educational programs currently offered by the Symphony—Music For Our Schools and Training Young Musicians—as the orchestra creates an El Sistema based program for local students.

For the college students of SSU, the On-Campus Presents series at the Green Music Center is sure to be a hit – bringing contemporary artists, top-40 acts, comedians, lecturers and other forms of entertainment that the entire campus community will enjoy.

In its public university setting, this complex offers a peerless venue where people of all ages and backgrounds can find cultural enrichment, a place where the next generation of musicians, vocalists and dancers will develop their artistry. This is the next chapter of Sonoma State University's history.

— Jessica Anderson

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE GREEN MUSIC CENTER:

- **Online** at gmc.sonoma.edu
- **Call** 1.866.955.6040 for tickets and information
- **E-mail** greenmusiccenter@sonoma.edu

full spread:

The acoustically superb, 1400-seat
Joan and Sanford I. Weill Hall.

Photo: Dan Stone

below:

Dr. Jenny Bent, Director of Choral
Activities, instructs students in Music
Education Hall at the Green Music Center.

Photo: Liz Lovi



excellence on two stages

DURING THE 1993 CHICAGO JAZZ FESTIVAL, a 13-month-old toddler named **Travis Newman** took her first steps. In time, jazz became her passion. Or one of them.

Another happens to be basketball. Her given name might seem more fitting for a country-music singer, but she grew up listening to jazz. In fact, she woke up every morning to it, or to swing, or whatever her music-mad dad would blast on the home sound system. It was Diana Krall or Bobby Darin or Frank Sinatra or Natalie Cole, and it quickly got in her bones.

Over the years, she studied under Los Angeles jazz artist Rich Mullin; played in regular Sunday night jam sessions with her brother Elijah, 16, and sister Isabel, 13; arranged sets for her siblings' school bands and performed at private parties.

At 19 she's a singer/pianist who may someday fly you to the moon.

She could have followed her dream to New York and studied at Columbia or New York University. Instead, she's happily strolling the rural, tree-shrouded campus of Sonoma State in Rohnert Park, where she's a promising 6-foot-1 freshman guard/forward on the basketball team.

The word versatile is often applied to an athlete who plays more than one position or maybe two college sports. Well, what about a person who can drive the baseline and also wow an audience with "Bésame Mucho?"

What about someone who in her college debut hit a game-tying basket in the final second of regulation and a game-winning three in overtime - and who also plays not only keyboards but also guitar and drums?

This is no musical dilettante. As Sonoma State jazz director Doug Leibinger sees it, "if she puts her mind to it, she can be a star. I see her like a Diana Krall or Norah Jones. She's very appealing. Her style is more contemporary that way, although I think she really



“great time feel... great sense of pitch... great style...”

sounds like Billie Holiday a lot. She’s got that sort of vibe to her.” Newman takes such praise with a smile that would light up the most dimly lit of jazz dens.

Krall has been her hero and role model ever since she saw her in a concert when she was 9 at the Thousand Oaks Civic Arts Plaza. “Travis was mesmerized,” said her father, Phillip. “After that concert it really took off. She fell in love with the lady and her music.”

She was born in Chicago when Phillip was in his first year of medical school and his wife, Siobhan, was in her third. After a difficult year of trying to raise a newborn and get through med school, they decided the best course would be for him to quit and tend to Travis.

They have lived in Simi Valley (Ventura County) since 1999. His wife, a former college volleyball star, is now an ER doctor in Hollywood, and he’s a stay-at-home dad - and the family music director. “There was no grand plan,” he said. “Our only goal was to have fun doing music.”

He got Travis an inexpensive keyboard shortly after she turned 3. Then came a piano, a guitar, an electronic drum set, a keyboard work station and a small recording studio in their home. He found a local studio that taught jazz. There she blossomed. “My dad did it the right way,” she said. “Classical music is very regimented. A lot of people I talked to say, ‘I did 10 years of lessons and then quit.’ They didn’t enjoy it. My dad, though, would bring stuff to the table that I liked. I’d try to learn them, and we incorporated theory and technical stuff with it as I was growing up.”

She describes Holiday as “a huge influence.” She loves Jones, Sarah Vaughan and Alicia Keys.

She also loves Kobe Bryant and Derek Fisher. She’s a “die-hard Lakers fan” and, when it comes to shot-making, she knows of what she speaks. Basketball wasn’t just something she did between piano practice and rehearsals.

A standout at Chaminade High in the West Hills neighborhood of Los Angeles, she helped lead the team to its best-ever record (27-5) as a senior. Despite a busy practice schedule in both music and basketball, she earned a 3.8 grade-point average. Harvard, Columbia, NYU and many other schools pursued her. She wanted a great music department with a significant jazz component. NYU fit the bill, but she was looking for a more

challenging level of basketball competition.

Sleuthing online, she found Sonoma State, which plays Division II (a step up from NYU’s Division III), and happened to have a terrific jazz program. When she learned that the school’s \$120 million Green Music Center was getting funding from a private donor to complete its long-delayed concert hall, offering world-class acoustics, she was hooked.

She contacted basketball coach Mark Rigby, who told Leibinger about her. They set up one of the most unusual double auditions a college athlete has ever had. The music part came first, and Leibinger said, “She proceeded to wow me.” He thought, “Her piano needs a lot of work, but, man, she has a great time feel. She has a great sense of pitch. She has a great style. Those are three things that generally freshmen don’t come in with.”

Later that day, she was on the court, playing 90 minutes of pickup basketball with members of the Seawolves. By NCAA rules Rigby was not allowed to watch, but the other players gave her a hearty thumbs-up. “She nailed two auditions in one day,” he said.

Her heavy load of 20 units this past semester included philosophy and five music courses, including improv, ear training and theory, plus weekly piano lessons. She somehow found time for 2 1/2 hours a day of basketball practice, often followed by weight training or film sessions, then piano practice and studying.

At times her team has been a little off-key. The Seawolves ended their season with a 70-53 loss at top-seeded UC San Diego in the California Collegiate Athletic Association tournament, finishing 11-16 overall, 9-13 in conference.

A point guard in high school, she was averaging 5.3 points per game while playing shooting guard, small forward or power forward at Sonoma.

“By the time she leaves she’s going to be a terrific player,” Rigby said. Over the next three years he hopes she gives his team a major push. He told her he’d like one other thing from her before she graduates — a performance of his favorite song, “Moonglow.”

— Tom Fitzgerald

Courtesy San Francisco Chronicle

Listen to Travis Newman perform “Bésame Mucho,” “Boy From Ipanema,” “Moonglow” and other songs on YouTube.

Leading a Small City to a Global Warming Solution



STAYING UP NIGHTS thinking about climate change, global warming and the effects of greenhouse gas emission on the planet, secretly wishing there was an environmental super team to the rescue? Happily for the state of California, such a team exists, comprised of dedicated individuals, experts and students who work tirelessly toward implementing a successful climate action plan for the city of Benicia, CA. Benicia has joined a group of cities taking action to reduce the effects of greenhouse gases, and they have engaged Sonoma State University faculty and students to help guide them.

California Assembly Bill 32, the first law of its kind in the nation, commits the State to substantial greenhouse gas reductions by 2020. We have reached the point of focusing on implementing our hard won climate change policies, according to Professor Rocky Rohwedder, chair of the department of environmental studies and planning (ENSP). The time for measurable change has come and that is exactly what the Center for Sustainable Communities is actively helping the city of Benicia create. Sonoma State and Benicia are charting new ground by collaborating on the implementation of an approved climate action plan. It is an example other cities, counties and states, will likely carefully consider.

The city of Benicia continues to show strong leadership by employing the Center to help them achieve the goal of AB32, the California Global Warming Solutions Act, and using the integrated efforts of students, faculty and professionals from SSU along with the community. This project is among an early wave of climate action plan implementation, not only in the state, but the country as well.

SSU's Center was unanimously recommended by Benicia's Community Sustainability Commission for a two-year, approximately \$175,000 contract to take more aggressive actions in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, reducing energy consumption, and increasing water conservation. The Center's project director, Alex Hinds, has won multiple awards for his work on similar initiatives in Marin County. Hinds is considered to be a leader in terms of sustainability initiatives in California and the nation.

Hinds, along with other Center staff—including former Berkeley Community Development Director Dan Marks, Alex Portershawver and ENSP students—were chosen because of their enthusiasm for the project, experience with similar work, and familiarity with greenhouse gas reduction reporting protocols. The collaborative effort by staff, students and professionals is yet another unique aspect of this project.

The Center for Sustainable Communities, located within Sonoma State's ENSP department, has focused on the implementation of climate-friendly, sustainable community strategies. With the help of state and local government officials, selected upper-division students, and faculty within the ENSP department, the Center also landed an agreement with the California Department of Water Resources.

The ultimate question: will the city of Benicia meet the targets set by AB32? The answer largely depends on the outcome of work started earlier this year leading to measurable transformation.

— *Samantha Smith*

LET HARMONY REIGN

"It is in nature that we see how we fit together, how we belong to one another. Let harmony reign," declares Janet Siela, SSU alumna (M.A. Management '80). Janet and her late husband George shared a passion for exploring how society relates symbiotically to and with the natural world. "Having learned in college how to think and see the larger picture, we wish to thank SSU and share our passion with the world by creating the Sustainable Future Fund (SFF)."

Providing a lasting legacy, the annual earnings from this endowment are awarded to students working with the Center for Sustainable Communities. This year, two students received grants from the SFF. Diedre Tubb worked to establish a successful commercial composting project at Sonoma State's own campus community. A lively and inspiring student, Diedre intends to share her passion and learnings with the deaf community nationwide. A second student, Dillon Lennebacker, was awarded funds for research along Copeland Creek on the re-growth of invasive Himalayan blackberry in previously-restored creek habitats. He will share his research as an SSU Teaching Assistant in Fall 2012.

— *Michelle Covington*

To learn more or contribute to the Sustainable Future Fund, please contact University Development, 707.664.2712, or development.office@sonoma.edu



left
Alex Hinds



right
Diedre Tubb
far right
Janet Siela

From the Alumni Association President...

Dynamic New Board of Directors... and George Clooney

WHERE DOES THE TIME GO? It is hard to believe that summer is already here. It seems like just yesterday I was preparing my 2012 bucket list. If you must know, yes, my list includes marrying George Clooney. I know, you think this is completely unrealistic. Let's just wait and see. I have lived my life striving to obtain the unattainable. I won't give up!

Until that happens, I have the honor and privilege of serving as the new president of the Sonoma State University Alumni Association (SSUAA). We have a dynamic and energetic Board with an immense passion for our University. The new leadership team is spending the summer brainstorming ways to organize new events, increase participation of our members, support our undergraduates and represent the University at important events.

Prepare yourself for an exciting, fun-filled year with the SSUAA! Take advantage of the opportunity to rekindle old friendships, better your community, support our undergraduates and further your career. Remember: "The future depends on what we do in the present." — Gandhi.

SARAH SCUDDER
President, SSUAA
sarah@goldenpacificsystems.com



2012 Alumni Association Board of Directors

Back Row, Left to Right:

Anne Biasi (Alumni Association Director)
Ralph Jaeck (B.A. Economics, 1967)
Spike O'Keeffe (B.A. Political Science, 1975)
Sarah Scudder (B.A. Economics & B.S. Business Administration, 2005)
David Felte (B.A. Economics & B.S. Business Administration, 2001)
Mike Kiraly (B.A. History, 1992; M.P. A., 1995)
Nadine Bruns (B.S. Nursing, 1982)
Judy Gantz (B.A. Theatre Arts, 1977 and 2012 Distinguished Alumna)

Front Row, Left to Right:

Mark A. Heller (B.A. Management & Spanish, 1981)
Ezrah Chaaban (B.A. Criminal Justice Studies, 2008)
Shari Shamsavari St. Martin (M.A. Psychology, 1994
 and 2012 Distinguished Alumna)
Ruben Armiñana SSU President
Vincent Cortese (B.A. Communications, 2000)
Marlina Boucher Harrison (B.A. English, 1979)

Not Pictured

Kelly Bass (B.A. Art History, 2003)
Nate Campbell (B.A. Communications, 1998; M.A. Interdisciplinary Studies, 2002)
David Gary (B.A. Business Economics, 2002; M.B.A., 2006)
Ross Goodwin (B.S. Physics, 1978)
Joe Horak (M.A. Public Administration, 2008)
Jim Manly (M.B.A., 1999)
Sonja Mansoor (LLB Business Law, 2011, Birmingham City University, UK)
Molly Rattigan (B.A. Political Science, 2002)
Katie Strickland (B.A. Communications, 2010)



PRESIDENT'S DINNER

JUDY GANTZ and SHARI SHAMSAVARI were honored as Distinguished Alumni at the 2012 President's Dinner held at the Green Music Center on campus.

Also at the 2012 President's Dinner, JOAN AND SANFORD WEILL were announced as SSU honorary degree recipients, with the awards bestowed by The California State University Board of Trustees. They received honorary degree "hoods" at Sonoma State University's Commencement on May 12, Joan Weill receiving the Doctor of Fine Arts; Sanford Weill, Doctor of Humane Letters.



upper:
Judy Gantz, President Ruben Armñana, and Shari Shamsavari
lower:
Sanford and Joan Weill

Judy Gantz - B.A. Theatre Arts, 1977

Director and Founder of the Center for Movement Education and Research

Dancing was in her blood and she knew it at an early age. Judy Gantz became a serious dancer while at Sonoma State under the artistic direction of Nancy Lyons and the SSU theatre faculty. Today she is regarded as an international movement specialist, teacher and lecturer.

When Gantz left SSU, she went directly to New York City to study dance with many great modern dance artists. She continued her education at NYU, Laban/Bartenieff Institute of Movement Studies and UCLA, where she did graduate work. Gantz was hired by UCLA and USC dance programs immediately following graduate school and specialized in dance education, dance kinesiology and Laban Movement Studies. After 23 years at UCLA, Judy founded the non-profit Center for Movement Education & Research.

"I feel the most important issue facing our children today is health and education. We must build new models for education that reflect the needs of our society and take us beyond 20th century thinking. Having an education in the arts taught me to use my imagination and to value process. As a dancer my training with creativity and bodily intelligence has given me the knowledge of how to integrate thought, feeling and action," says Gantz.

She helped develop the fitness and health industry in the 1980s. She choreographed numerous exercise videos, was the former fitness editor of Shape Magazine and Kinesiology for Dance, and has taught in the UCLA fitness certification program. Her passion for health led to the creation of "Kids Get Movin," a 45-minute DVD that builds aerobic capacity, coordination, flexibility, strength and balance.

"Judy's passion and commitment to the understanding of human movement has led her to become a highly respected expert in her field. She recently taught at SSU where the depth of her knowledge and her generosity of spirit were clearly evident. We are so proud of her accomplishments and of her continued contributions to the field," said Nancy Lyons, SSU professor of theatre arts.

New projects for Gantz include working with women in business with Embodied Leadership Training, and serving on the board of Toolbox, a social-emotional learning curriculum that integrates the expressive arts. This summer Gantz will be in Moscow, Russia teaching dance educators and dance therapy students Laban Movement.

— Kaitlin Zitelli

Scheherazade "Shari" Shamsavari St. Martin, Ph.D., ATR - M.A. Psychology, 1994

International Neuro-Biofeedback Practitioner

Scheherazade "Shari" Shamsavari St. Martin never rests on her laurels, though she has plenty of projects from which to choose. For the past 30 years she has worked tirelessly to help others, focusing mainly on children. Most recently she received the "Premio Nacional de Accion Voluntaria y Solidaria" award from Mexico—nominated by the Secretary of Education, State of Jalisco for her leadership in organizing the cultural exchange program for a symphony of children between Mexico and Sonoma State University.

Shamsavari St. Martin's work is varied and deeply beneficial to others. As the Children's Ambassador for the State of Jalisco she presented 2,000 children with their birth certificates giving them legal identification for school and future job opportunities. They had not previously possessed this proof of their existence, an unimaginable issue for most in the United States.

... continued on page 20

MIXING IT UP FROM COAST TO COAST

GET CONNECTED ALL ACROSS THE COUNTRY! The Sonoma State Alumni Association provides fun and exciting mixers from the West coast to the East! Check out our website and Facebook to view photos from our:

- San Diego Area Mixer
- New York Tri-State Mixer
- Back to College D.C.
- Sonoma County Mixer

All were a blast!

Want to host a mixer in your area? Contact the Alumni Association at 707.664.2426 or alumni@sonoma.edu.

2012 PAST EVENTS

- Golden Graduate Celebration (50th anniversary)
- President's Dinner
- Human Race, SSU Alumni Contingent
- Napa Mixer
- Senior Send-Off 2012
- Lagunitas Mixer/Tour

2012 FUTURE EVENTS

- 4th Annual San Francisco Happy Hour
September 14, 2012
- Student Athlete Alumni Mixer-
Varsity S Club Launch
October 12, 2012
- Estate Planning 101
October 3, 2012
- Sip, Bites, Bids
October 13, 2012
- Homecoming Tailgate
October 13, 2012
- Accounting Department Alumni Reunion
November 1, 2012
- Life Member Holiday Party
December 13, 2012
- State Capital Mixer
Date TBD

For information about these or other events, go to www.ssalumni.org or contact the Alumni Association at 707.664.2426 or alumni@sonoma.edu



SAN DIEGO



NURSES



NEW YORK



NEW YORK



NEW YORK



NURSES



D.C.



D.C.



NURSES

DIAGNOSIS: A ROARING SUCCESS

Nurses and friends gathered for an enthusiastic look back

Last April, almost 200 nursing department alumni, faculty, staff and friends of the program gathered at the Green Music Center for a warm and sentimental reunion in honor of the nursing department's 40th anniversary. The impressive crowd enjoyed a retrospective of the past 40 years and a look forward by department chair Liz Close. The Threshold Choir, an international group who sing to the terminally ill, provided a moving performance that brought many to tears.

NATALIE HAMBALEK ROCKS IN 2012

This year, the Sonoma State Alumni Association awarded its Ambrose R. Nichols Jr. Scholarship to Biology and Environmental Studies major **NATALIE HAMBALEK** for her involvement on the Sonoma State campus, her active participation in the community and at non-profits, her scholarly achievements, and her political efforts. Hambalek has maintained a job on campus at the Center for Community Engagement and co-presented at the Campus Compact Continuums of Service Conference in Seattle, on behalf of the Center for Community Engagement. She also participated in the annual California Higher Education Student Summit with Associated Students. Hambalek has lobbied in Sacramento for various bills that focus on providing accessibility and affordability to the California state system, including the California Dream Act. Hambalek's drive for academic excellence has earned her a spot in the Tri Beta National Biological Honor Society, where she holds the position of treasurer. She is also a member of Sigma Alpha Lambda, a National Leadership and Honor Organization.



OUTSTANDING STUDENT-ATHLETE OF THE YEAR SCHOLARSHIPS

Each year the SSU Alumni Association sponsors two scholarships specifically honoring SSU student-athletes, one male and one female, in recognition of their outstanding achievements relative to intercollegiate competition, academics and community service. The scholarship recipients were announced at the annual SSU Sports Awards Night, "The Wolfies." This year's recipients are **TRAVIS NEWMAN** (see story, page 14) women's basketball, and **PATRICK MALONEY**, men's tennis.



... from page 18 • Shari Shamsavari St. Martin

"When Shari sets her mind to something she is a powerhouse. She is an extremely caring person with great expertise. When she's on a mission, we just get out of her way knowing she always comes through in the best possible way," said Erik Greeny, SSU's Interim Vice President for University Development.

Shamsavari St. Martin was born in Syracuse, New York and was educated in England, Iran and the United States. She has served on many national boards that represent her diverse volunteer interests from establishing a runaway shelter for girls in New York City and acting as Northern California representative for the Northern California Art Therapy Association, to serving as past president of the American Association of University Women. She is the current president of the Child and Adolescent Health Section of the Association for Applied

Psychophysiology and Biofeedback (AAPB).

In her work with the Novato Youth Center in 1995, she worked successfully on art therapy with multicultural parents and children, who were referred from the probation department. In 1992 she worked at Community School in Marin County with at-risk youth who had been expelled from their schools.

In 1990 she developed an after-school program at Yulupa Elementary School, called the Sunshine Program, to help children with self esteem issues.

Shamsavari St. Martin earned her Ph.D. in philosophy at the Union Institute in Cincinnati, Ohio and is a registered art therapy practitioner.

— Kaitlin Zitelli

1960s

Charlie Bird, '65, Political Science, taught high school and college math. He also coached until 2004. In 2007 Charlie resumed teaching at Mendocino Community College. He married and had 4 children and now has 3 granddaughters and 1 great-grandson. Charlie has also recently been appointed to Howard Memorial Hospital's Board of Directors.

Josephine Hogin, '66, Psychology, is gradually approaching retirement, but still enjoys working with students in order to help them meet their learning challenges.

Richard Holly, '64, History, is now 72 years of age and retired. Richard is working on improving his golf game and says that it is looking promising. He has kept in contact with SSU friends and is about to visit Yuma, Arizona to visit SSU friend Harry Burke. Richard still lives in the Bay Area and is enjoying his life there.

Warren Hopkins, '67, Political Science, after graduation started teaching the 6th grade at Twin Hills in Sebastopol. Warren then accepted a teaching position at Rohnert Park Junior High, eventually going on to teach at Rancho Cotate. He was elected to the Rohnert Park City Council in April 1968 and served 5 terms as Mayor.

Richard Lund, '67, Mathematics '68, Credential, is retired, but still tutoring math at Chemeketa Community College at the Yamhill Valley site in McMinnville, Oregon.

Monica Morris, '68, Sociology, has been writing since her early retirement from Cal State University Los Angeles. She is most excited about the publication of the 70th anniversary of the outbreak of WW2 in Britain, of *Goodnight Children, Everywhere* and its promotional tour in Britain.

James won the National Principal of the Year in 2008. He is also the Executive Vice President of the American Federation of School Administrators.

Fernando Gomez, '73, Anthropology, travels frequently to Baja and visits his family in Florida. Fernando has been doing tech work and about just anything else he can muster.

Miriam Hall, '78, Psychology, is fully retired now and living in a lovely senior facility with all levels of care. Fortunately she and her husband are able to occupy independent living and are still attempting to transition into this type of living. She is doing some writing and recently celebrated her 80th birthday in Marin County, California with friends and family still located there.

Jonathan Michals, '75, Liberal Studies, received his Masters from Columbia University. He then went on to be a Technical Analyst for GCDS. Currently, Jonathan is working for Time Inc., which encompasses the magazines *People*, *EW*, and *InStyle*. He is married with three children and lives in Greenwich.

Dana Ross, '72, Ethnographic Film Major, works on different television shows in L.A. as a camera operator. She is starting a new show at the end of March 2013.

Valerie Dawn Smith, '75, Sociology, is working as a Home Health Nurse in San Diego.

Michael Sussna, '73, Philosophy, just completed his latest artwork, *Mosaica*, and has also been busy with his music blog at sculfmusic.com/blog, where he does covers of the best rock ever and other great music.

Kathleen Fahrner Torres, '72, English, recently retired after 39 years as an educator. She spends her time now traveling, painting, golfing, and enjoying life with her children and grandchildren.

Antoinette Boracchia, '82, Nursing, worked at Santa Rosa Memorial Hospital for 28 years. Antoinette is now married with a daughter who will be starting SSU in Fall 2012 and a son starting high school.

Terence Brownlow, '86, Liberal Studies, retired, in June of 2010, from teaching elementary education. Since then he has been studying music under the guidance of a master musician. He is constantly rekindling his fondness for form and function through music, cooking, home repair, gardening, and Zen Buddhism.

Clayton Cook, '87, Credential, retired this June after teaching at Woodland Joint Unified School District for 25 years.

William Fitzpatrick, '81, Biology, is working in California as a licensed river fishing tour guide.

Michael Fulton, '84, MA English, since receiving the Distinguished Alumni Award in 2006, Michael has been working on more space programs, including coating the primary mirror for the Kepler Mission for finding planets. Also, he is continuing to work on sustainable energy technologies that he hopes to bring up to SSU later this year.

Cindy Hetrick, '87, Chemistry, lives in Eugene, Oregon, with her husband and two children, 16 and 13. Cindy received her Masters in Accounting from University of Oregon in 2009 and is currently working on completing her CPA. She works for the University of Oregon as an accountant.

Kate Moody, '86, Music, lives in Portland, Oregon, and is director of the Creative School of Musical Arts. She has released five albums of original music -piano, instrumental, and an orchestral album, "The Seeker," which won Best Instrumental Album at the Just Plain Folks Music Awards in 2004.

Martha D. Peterson, '87, MA English, is currently editing her book about her teaching adventures after age 55. Martha also spends time playing classical piano for passersby at a local Kaiser Hospital lobby.

Gwynne Porteus, '84, Geography, is currently living in Carson City, Nevada and working as a Registered Nurse. She has a 5 year old son named Ian. Gwynne's interests include open-water swimming, skiing, hiking, and biking.

Jack Rochester, '82, English, after writing 11 non-fiction books, he published his first novel, *Wild Blue Yonder*, in 2011. In 2012, Jack is publishing a collection of short stories,



1970s

Lorna Catford, '75, MA Psychology, is still teaching at SSU, working with the Collaborative Autism Training & Support Program. The students are learning about autism and providing services to hundreds of kids on the autism spectrum and their families, and applying their skills at several schools and agencies.

James Dierke, '70, History, is retiring from San Francisco Unified School District after 40 years of service as teacher and Principal.

1980s

Michael Berent, '83, Liberal Studies, is a pediatrician and partner with Sharp-Rees-Steady medical group in San Diego, CA. Michael attended Eastern Virginia Medical School and then Stanford for his internship and residency. He has served as an expert witness for the Medical Board of California for the last 10 years and has been listed as one of the top doctors in San Diego for the last 3 years.



JENNIFER RODEHAVER

The Pieces Fit, and *Madrone*, the sequel to *WBY*. Jack became a grandfather for the second time last year and he plans on continuing to help business authors write their books.

Jennifer Rodehaver, '84, Environmental Studies and Planning, retired from teaching and is now a certified postpartum doula, helping families with their newborns in Boulder, Colorado.



LORIE & MARK BARTEEL

Joseph Schreiber, '83, Biology, recently reached his 5 year cancer free benchmark after a Kidney Cancer diagnosis in 2007.

1990s

Elham Assadi, '92, Psychology; '96, MA Psychology, established a business in the field of Organization Development and Change Management. The organization recently expanded in size by 75% which has been quite challenging, but exciting.

Lorie and Mark Barteel, '94, Geology, were married in the summer of 2000 and live in Long Beach, CA. They have 2 children. Prior to becoming a stay-at-home mom, Lorie worked as an Engineering Geologist with a private consulting firm in Signal Hill, CA. Mark is currently an Environmental Geologist.



DAVID BICKERS

David Bickers, '93, Psychology, is currently Managing Director of Client Services with Charles Schwab & Co., Inc. In addition, David is a part-time model and actor for Ford Modeling. He is currently living with his wife and three children in Scottsdale, AZ.

Tami Bowman, '96, Business, recently became engaged to her high school sweetheart and is planning their destination wedding in Puerto Vallarta. She was also promoted to Assistant Director of the Audits and Investigations Division of the California Department of Education.

Diana Braa, '91, Management, retired from Fair Isaac and has been a volunteer for Legal Aid of Marin for the last 10 years.

Susan Kashack, '96, Communication Studies, is Associate Vice President, Marketing & Communications at Sonoma State and is editor of this magazine.

Lester Lizama, '95, Theater Arts, is completing his 9th year as Executive Director of the Homestead Valley Community Association. He also designed lights for the Ross Valley Players' production of Tennessee Williams' "Night of the Iguana," which happens to be the same production he designed for the Evert B. Person Theater



LESTER LIZAMA



KATHERINE BEHRHORST



STEPHANIE CHRISTOPHER

as his senior project.

Leslie Piccioni, '97, English and Spanish, has taught middle and high school English and Spanish for the last 12 years. Leslie received her MA in clinical psychology and is working towards her MFT hours as a therapist.

Pamela Rasada, '98, Nursing, is a member of the California Research Bureau where she works with policy makers, in a non-partisan fashion, in order to identify policy options. In addition to this Pamela was recently asked to co-lead a task force for the California Interagency Council of Veterans.

Rebecca Ryan, '93, History, after completing her Bachelors at SSU Rebecca went on to receive her Masters in Library and Information Management. Rebecca has spent many years working at public libraries and is currently working on her doctorate in Transformative Studies.

Steve Wallis, '94, Sociology; '98, MA Psychology, is excited about his new book release which is being released by Emergent Publications. The book is entitled "Avoiding Policy Failure: A Workable Approach." Additionally, Steve is serving as Director for the Foundation for the Advancement of Social Theory.

Aaron Walz, '93, Music, is currently working as a composer and sound designer for social, mobile, and casual video games. In addition Aaron owns two companies: Walz Music & Sound and Game Audio Alliance, an LLC with four partners.

2000s

Aubrie Adams, '05, Psychology, is finishing her Masters in Communication Studies at Sacramento State and was married last May in Florida. She has been teaching Public Speaking courses and had a research paper accepted this year.

Nina Alejos, '06, Business, received her CPA license in 2010 and recently began working for Baldwin, McGaughy & Co., LLP assisting individuals and businesses with their tax preparations and consulting needs.

Roy Bagley, '06, Liberal Studies, started a new job with a brand-new charter school in Marysville, CA. He is serving Paragon Collegiate Academy as the 7th and 8th Grade Teacher, Vice Principal, and Special Education Lead.

Katherine Behrhorst, BA '01, MA '09, English, in addition to these two degrees Katherine also received her Single Subject Credential in English from Sonoma State University in 2010. She is currently working as a Project Coordinator at the Press Democrat and is very active with the Junior League of Napa-Sonoma, a women's volunteer organization.

Stephanie Christopher, '05, Art History, with distinction is the proud mother of Christopher Andrew "Drew" McClellan, born August 4, 2006 at Marin General Hospital.

Melanie Corona, '00, English, '02 MA English, is living in Gilroy, CA and currently coordinator for the Gilroy Downtown Association. She also is running the Make Your Mark Foundation with her husband, Matt Corona. They have three children.

Kristin Donahue, '05, Psychology, became a state licensed marriage and family therapist in September of 2011. Currently working on a Naval Base in San Diego with active duty sailors and their families as a Family Resiliency Trainer for UCLA's department of Neuroscience and Human Behavior. Kristin is completing faculty certification for the University of Phoenix.

Monique Hernandez-Evans, '06, Psychology, is currently employed as a Corps-to-Career Coordinator for Conservation Corps North Bay in Cotati. In addition, she is the Director of Media, Publicity and Promotions for Resurrection Roller Girls, a local flat track roller derby league in Sonoma County.

David Leonard, '08, MA Education, won the 2009-2010 Teacher of the Year award for Middletown Unified School District.

Jaré Longacre, '08, Sociology, was recently promoted to a Community Support Specialist position at Jay Nolan Community Services, a nonprofit that serves developmentally disabled adults. Within the next few months he will be heading the new Independent Living Services department.

Elizabeth Pope, '05, Communication, is working on attaining her Masters degree in Public Administration from San Jose State University. She is the Vice President of the Disability Students Association and was recently appointed a two and a half year term to the Disability Advisory Commission for the City of San Jose.

Denis Tensek, '03, Masters in Business Administration, decided to leave his management position at ADT Security Services following graduation from SSU.

He decided to move back to his homeland, Croatia, Europe, where he has started his own franchise concept called "San Francisco Coffee House." So far he has three locations operating in Croatia and one in Serbia with three more in the works.

Joseph Thomas, '09, Communications, is the lead tech editor for an online shopping blog, which covers consumer tech events such as Macworld, iWorld, and ad.tech.

2010s

Ashley Bell, '10, Studio Art, is working as an independent artist and illustrator in Marin County, CA.

Theresa Maraganis, '10, Psychology, is currently in the Counseling Program at Sonoma State University. She expects to graduate with her Masters Degree in Counseling (MFT) in 2013.

Jenifer Prentiss, '10, Sociology, presented to Professor Kat's Careers class at SSU in February on The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS). She has been asked to come in March and be a part of the Careers and Common Good Panel at Sonoma State University. In April Jenifer will be celebrating her two year anniversary working for LLS.

Brian Shapiro, '10, Wine Business, is currently working in the media marketing and accounting production department for Stryker Sonoma. Brian is looking forward to getting married.

Laurel Thiel, '11, Kinesiology and French, is working with non-profit organization called InterVarsity Christian Fellowship at University of California at Merced. As a part of her job, Laurel does a lot of leadership development and wants to assist with developing emotionally, academically, spiritually and mentally mature adults.

Natalie Williams-Munger, '11, MA English, began working at Golden Gate University in San Francisco as the Program Coordinator for Undergraduate Programs. She also works as a writing tutor for GGU's Online Writing Lab.

Aeroshikha Rose Wolf, '11, MS Nursing, was accepted into a Pediatric RN Residency program at Children's Hospital Los Angeles. She will be working for their Bone and Marrow Transplant Unit.



MARIA FINN

Maria Finn, an adjunct faculty member in the English department at SSU is about to become somewhat of a celebrity and she owes it all to a not-so-perfect marriage.

Her memoir "Hold Me Tight and Tango Me Home" has been optioned by Fox

Studios for a television series. Nigel Lythgoe, the creator of such shows as American Idol has signed on to produce the series, and producer and head writer of Brothers and Sisters Emily Whitesell will write the pilot episode.

Finn wrote "Hold Me Tight and Tango Me Home" after throwing her husband out for cheating—then taking tango lessons as sort of recovery therapy. The book, published in 2010, was also translated and published in Italy and Holland.

"It turns out that tango has a lot to teach about understanding love and loss, about learning how to follow and how to lead, how to live with style and flair, take risks, and sort out what it is you really want," says Finn.

Tango lessons? Unusual, but Finn's life has been unusual and somewhat eccentric and fascinating.

"Before moving to New York, I worked for several seasons as a crewmember of an all-female commercial fishing boat company, and in remote field camps for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. During the winters, I traveled extensively in Latin America," says Finn. Her novel, "Sea Legs & Fish Nets" is based on these experiences and it is currently a finalist for the 2012 Pen/Bellwether Prize, founded by Barbara Kingsolver for novels that address issues of social justice.

She now lives on a houseboat in Sausalito with a rooftop garden and, of course, a tango floor.

— Kaitlin Zitelli



KRISTIN DONAHUE



ASHLEY BELL



BRIAN SHAPIRO



AEROSHIKHA ROSE WOLF

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SSU Named Most Beautiful

WALKING ALONG ON A TREE-LINED PATH on the Sonoma State campus, you might notice the lush surroundings. If so, you're in good company.

Sonoma State has been named one of the most beautiful college campuses in the country by *thebestcolleges.org*. Ranking number 34 of 50, SSU outranked prestigious universities such as the University of San Diego, Northwestern, Bryn Mawr, Scripps, Wellesley, Duke and UC Santa Cruz in terms of campus setting.

For complete details visit, www.thebestcolleges.org/most-beautiful-campuses/.

School of Education Shines

“HITTING A HOME RUN with the bases loaded” is how Dr. Ruben Armiñana, university president, described the successful completion of SSU’s School of Education’s recent accreditation. All of the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing Program Standards and all six of the National Council of Accreditation for Teacher Education Standards were met with no areas for improvement or concern, unusual for such accreditations.

“These are a remarkable group of faculty and students,” said Gerry Giordano, education management professor at the University of North Florida and co-leader of the 13-member review panel. Giordano said that the School stood out because of the extraordinary faculty and students it had recruited, highly imaginative community-based programs and a culture in which candidates and faculty members interacted outside as well as inside university classrooms.

The re-accreditation was extensive, said Carlos Ayala, interim Dean—from an examination of the School’s assessment data, an exhaustive repository of documentation for all programs, and through an onsite visit by the reviewer team.

While at Sonoma State, the review panel interviewed 473 teachers, faculty, staff, students, mentor teachers, counselors, school principals, superintendents and community members; and visited one of many school partners, Roseland Elementary School.

— Pamela Van Halsema

Visit www.sonoma.edu/education/school/accreditation for more information.



The Annual Fund

FOR OVER 50 YEARS, students have come to Sonoma State University to pursue a liberal arts and science education built on the tradition of hands-on, faculty/student-based learning. Thank you for your partnership in leading those students to become SSU graduates and significant citizens in our communities, our nation and our world.

The Fund for Sonoma State, through annual donations from Alumni, Parents and Friends, helps students through their educational journey supporting scholarships, unique academic programming and other student priority needs. Every gift can make a difference... including yours. The Fund for Sonoma State annual appeal begins in October. We hope you will participate!



MYSTERY PHOTO PROJECT WINS REGIONAL AWARD

A “MYSTERY PHOTO” PROJECT between a local newspaper and the historic photos in Sonoma State University Library’s digital archives earned a regional Silver Award of Excellence from the Council for the Advancement of Support of Education.

The project was developed from an idea by Sonoma State University’s Marketing and Media Relations Coordinator Jean Wasp. To make it happen, she linked SSU Digital Projects Librarian Lynne Prime with Press Democrat newspaper feature writer and arts blogger Dan Taylor. The purpose: to uncover important information about the photos in the collection from the Sonoma County area that lacked important historical detail.

“We knew there were local historians and others in the community who had important information who we could reach through the newspaper’s print and online presence,” says Wasp. “Traditional outreach would have taken far longer and may not have yielded the rich results that ultimately came from this project.”

The collaboration involved the publication of approximately 20-30 historical digital images submitted to the newspaper. Many of the photographs were taken in the 1970s by Sonoma State University students enrolled in the Historic Preservation Program, part of the University’s History Department.

The “mystery photos” tapped for this project were selected from among the first 200 images digitized of homes of the 19th and early 20th centuries, including barns, water towers, railway stations, bridges and other historical sites. They illustrate the setting and background of the area up to 1970 and run the gamut from a Sebastopol water tower, to a Guerneville church, a Santa Rosa windmill and a Cotati beer garden.

Taylor published them periodically in his arts blog online for several months and asked his readers to provide any personal memories or anecdotes connected with them. Each entry listed what was known about the photo and what information might be sought. In addition, the Press Democrat published a nearly full-page feature story on the front of its Sonoma Living section about the effort.

A gratifying rush of public information started to roll in to Prime as the mystery photos were posted. The biggest impact showed itself at the North Bay Historic Preservation Digital Collections website where visits jumped from 400 in October to more than 3,000 in November.

Taylor also received unprecedented numbers of phone calls and emails that provided important and colorful historical and anecdotal information.



UPPER LEFT:
This undated photo of a school or library in Sonoma County is one of the photos about which little is known.
OPPOSITE LEFT: Hop Kiln:
This photo was taken between 1974-1976 by JoAnne Gray. The photographer indicated that it was located at West College Avenue near Highway 12 in Santa Rosa. Others have suggested the building is part of the Hop Kiln Winery in Healdsburg.
LOWER CENTER:
Sunset Line and Twine building, Petaluma: Photo was taken in 1976 by Steve Knutson. It was a silk mill that became Sunset Line and Twine in the 1930s.

Caffeine Before Cycling? *Studying the Effects*

IT LIKELY COMES AS NO SURPRISE that caffeine has global effects on the central nervous system and on hormonal, metabolic, muscular and cardiovascular functions during rest and exercise. It is clear that caffeine ingestion improves a single bout of endurance performance for cyclists, however, it is not clear what mechanism improves endurance performance.

Dr. Bülent Sökmen of the SSU Kinesiology Department is studying the effects of acute caffeine intake on cycling efficiency and performance. Sökmen’s goal is to test this phenomenon by looking at the effects of acute caffeine intake on exercise economy in trained males and females. Equipment purchased last year through a generous SSU School of Science & Technology allocation will be used to examine muscle fiber recruitment through Electromyography, substrate utilization through blood lactate and glucose measures, and performance variables through isokinetic strength testing and cycling time trials. Oxygen consumption and pain perception will also be studied.

The Kinesiology Department is close to finalizing a fee-for-service agreement that will enable the Human Performance Laboratory to perform health and fitness testing for SSU students, faculty and staff and the community. Sökmen, who heads up the program, hopes to begin the service in spring 2013. In addition to providing individuals with personalized feedback that will help them predict their athletic performance and implement a training program, the program will provide Kinesiology students with hands-on experience and critical skills that they can apply as graduates seeking a competitive career in the health and fitness industry.

For more information, contact Dr. Sökmen at sokmen@sonoma.edu or 707.664.2789.



caffeine



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Sonoma State Goes Mobile

WHAT CAN A SMALL TEAM OF ENERGETIC STUDENTS and a professor who gives them time and space to be creative do in four short semesters? The product is available free at the Apple store and is useful for both current and future students, alumni, and the community. There are plenty of reasons to come to Sonoma State and not all of them involve classes. The iPhone app gives access to event and other information to the world.



The two-year long project by Computer Science students led to the launch of a iPhone app called Sonoma State Mobile during the University's 50th anniversary year-long celebration this past year. More than 1,400 downloads have taken place since its inception.

"We have a lot of talented students who are passionate about learning inside and outside of the classroom," says Kooshesh about the effort that has proven attractive to many students on campus as they returned this year.

The latest version of the project was primarily developed by Jeff Neong who used it as his senior project under the guidance of Dr. Ali Kooshesh, Chair of the Computer

Science and the Engineering Science Departments. "The project's success is equally due to the work of the computer science faculty who are supportive of student ideas and are always willing to team with them to realize their potential." And the story continues

as a new group of computer science student inherit the endeavor.

Kooshesh notes that the work on this kind of project helps students land jobs that are on the cutting edge of technology. "Companies like mFoundry, Vertigo, Sonoma Technologies hire SSU students and come back for more since they have such confidence in our graduates," he says.

Sonoma State Mobile's current features include:

- Directory service:** provides search capability for people and departments. Once a person has been located, it displays their contact info and has the ability to call their office number or e-mail them.
- Map:** displays a map of the campus and for each building. When tapped, it displays a list of departments in that building. From there, the users can access the department directory.
- KSUN radio:** makes it possible to listen to SSU's KSUN radio and allow it to continue to play in the background.
- Calendar:** displays the student activities calendar and makes it possible to filter by event types, such as lectures, sports, meeting, etc.
- News:** displays up-to-date news items from the campus online NewsCenter and filters based on news categories.
- Favorites:** makes it possible to form a list of contacts that are accessed frequently. Students can tag their current professors so that they are able to display their contact information without performing a search each time.
- Resources:** a list of campus resources and their phone numbers and websites, such as, Student Health Center, IT, Police Services.
- Email:** provides access to student Gmail accounts only at this time.

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