

FALL 2015

# insights

THE MAGAZINE OF SONOMA STATE UNIVERSITY

**A Glimpse  
of Early Life  
on Earth** pg 12

**Day Laborers  
Organize** pg 4

**Alumni  
News** pg 21



# insights

is produced by the  
University Affairs Division

## President

Ruben Armiñana

## Vice President, University Affairs

Dan Condrón

## Vice President, University Development

Erik Greeny

## Editor

Susan Kashack

## Writers

Kayla Galloway

Joe Gargiulo

Nicolas Grizzle

Carin Jacobs

Phil Mooney

Laurie Ogg

Andrea Rodriguez-Jereb

Valery Vue

Jean Wasp

## Contributors

Anne Biasi

Bonnie Cormier

Sandy Destiny

Peter Flores

Keenan Foster

Janet Hanks

Tyler Lobe

Pam Van Halsema

Ashley Wolfe

## Art Direction and Design

Nelson Sobel Design

## Send Letters to the Editor or comments to:

Sonoma Insights

Sonoma State University

Rohnert Park, CA 94928-3609

[insights@sonoma.edu](mailto:insights@sonoma.edu)

707 664-2122

## Join the conversation



[facebook.com/sonomastateuniversity](https://facebook.com/sonomastateuniversity)

[youtube.com/CSUSonoma](https://youtube.com/CSUSonoma)



[twitter.com/ssu\\_1961](https://twitter.com/ssu_1961)

[tinyurl.com/ssu-linkedin](https://tinyurl.com/ssu-linkedin)



# insights

THE MAGAZINE OF SONOMA STATE UNIVERSITY



## FEATURES

- 6 **Parkinson's Glove**  
Using \$200 in off-the-shelf parts, four SSU students and their professor are working on a new invention to help Parkinson's patients track their hand tremors so an effective drug regime can help relieve their suffering, all without having to leave the patient's home.
- 10 **Maker Educators**  
The Maker movement is on a path to change the way K-12 students are taught. A new Maker educator certificate supports the movement as part of SSU's "Startup Classroom," a groundbreaking program that facilitates dialog between thought leaders of the education and entrepreneurial worlds.
- 12 **A Glimpse of Early Life on Earth (Cover story)**  
A group of students and their professor took a six-day field trip to the Canadian Rockies in British Columbia and Alberta to explore the world-renown Burgess Shale, a heritage site widely lauded as the most important fossil locality in the world.
- 14 **Watershed Warriors**  
With the NASA announcement last March that California could run out of water in a year if enough rain did not fall, the need to connect SSU students to regional water issues became even more critical. Several new cross-disciplinary programs are doing just that—and leading to jobs as well.

## On the cover

Geology students with their professor and a guide and his dog explore the historic Burgess Shale fossil field in British Columbia, Canada.



18



6



4

**ARTICLES**

- 4 **Day Laborers Organize**  
Thanks in part to the work of a dedicated student and backed by a professor's extensive research, the Graton Day Labor Center in Sonoma County is an example of a tremendous success in organizing day laborers, many of whom are undocumented Latino migrants.
- 8 **Osher Lifelong Learning Program (OLLI)**  
OLLI is a program for students over the age of 50, taught by faculty who are often emeriti from top regional colleges. OLLI students represent a growing population at SSU and their integration into the campus landscape has become a signature of this enduring program's identity.
- 9 **Seawolf Scholars**  
Getting to college is the biggest educational challenge for former foster youth, but it is not smooth sailing after that. Financial challenges, housing issues and newfound independence are all hurdles facing students with no parents to fall back on during tough times.
- 18 **Going with the Flow**  
A new approach to evaluating water usage by private and public construction projects has been created as an early intervention tool by Sonoma State students and staff of the Center for Sustainable Communities and the state Department of Water Resources.
- 19 **Wine Biz: Hamel Gift**  
Sonoma State University received a \$3 million gift from Pamela and George Hamel, establishing the Hamel Family Faculty Chair in Wine Business. Dr. Damien Wilson was appointed into the inaugural term of this new position.

**SPORTS**

- 20 **Women's Track & Field Returns**  
Sonoma State University welcomes the return of its women's track and field team after a seven-year hiatus. Now there are now 14 NCAA sports teams at Sonoma State (nine women's, five men's). Go Seawolves!

**ALUMNI**

- 21 **From the Alumni Association President**
- 22 **Distinguished Alumni Awards**
- 23 **Scholarships**
- 24 **Events**
- 26 **Classnotes**





## Call It Spring Break Part Deux

by Nicolas Grizzle

Sonoma State students Alex Bretow and Mary-Madison Baldo spent a week last May in France rubbing elbows with directors, actors and producers after not one, but two of their short films were selected for screening at the invitation-only Cannes Film Festival. The community rallied behind the filmmakers, as they crowdfunded the \$11,000 in travel expenses to attend the festival through online donations from local residents and businesses. “Rampage,” a 5-minute hand-held horror film and “Snake Eyes,” a 25-minute Tarantino-inspired action thriller were both selected after winning top awards in the Sonoma State Campus Movie Fest.

The Movie Fest project challenged student filmmakers to make a five-minute movie in a week. The action-thriller “Snake Eyes” was filmed in three days outside of Palmdale, and “Rampage,” a horror flick, was filmed in a day in Forestville and features fellow SSU students Anna Luna, Kayley Kemp, Charlie Baker and Jason Weiss. “We both love horror films,” says Bretow.

**“To have stories that I have written and characters I have created leap onto the screen and be seen in front of such a large audience at Cannes is both thrilling and terrifying,”** says Baldo. **“I’m over the moon about it, truly.”**

While they did not win at Cannes, they say the experience will last a lifetime.

**Rampage:** [tinyurl.com/ssu-rampage](http://tinyurl.com/ssu-rampage)

**Snake Eyes:** [tinyurl.com/ssu-snake-eyes](http://tinyurl.com/ssu-snake-eyes)



## Did you know?

The red oak Brombaugh Opus 9 organ in Schroeder Hall at SSU’s Green Music Center has 82 percent of its pipes hand-hammered. The pipes give the organ a strong “vocal” timbre and a Dutch Renaissance voicing. The hall was acoustically designed to reflect this quality, but movable curtains and ceiling panels provide flexibility to allow for everything from lectures to rock concerts.

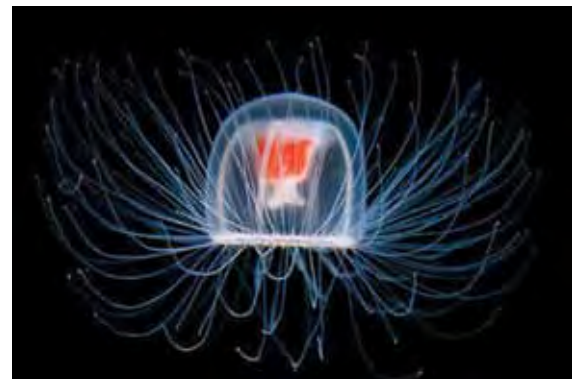
## By the Numbers...

The **3,240** square-foot Schroeder Hall, opened in **2014**, has zero **90**-degree angles. The **1,248**-pipes of its Brombaugh Opus **9** organ range in length from a few inches to more than **16** feet, and has **19** stops and **29** ranks on **2** manual divisions and pedal.

## Did you also know?

The immortal Jellyfish (*Turritopsis dohrnii*) is the only creature on Earth that can literally live forever. When threatened by natural dangers like starvation, this tiny jellyfish ages in reverse until it reaches the pre-jelly polyp stage, where it can clone itself and begin life anew as maturing jellyfish. The reversal process is called transdifferentiation. Researchers know this happens, but not exactly how—yet!

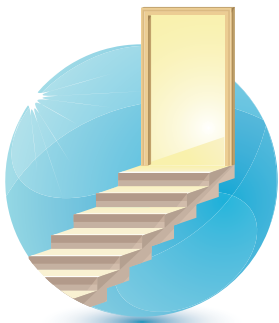
—Dr. Sean Place, SSU Professor of Biology





Sonoma State University volleyball senior Kelsey Hull has been named the 2014-15 California Collegiate Athletic Association (CCAA)

Female Athlete of the Year. A three-time American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) All-American and the 2014 CCAA Volleyball Most Valuable Player, Hull led the Seawolves to their first-ever CCAA and NCAA West Region titles last fall.



## Inside the World of SSU Faculty

Learn about the wide-ranging scholarship of Sonoma State University faculty at [www.ssufacultynews.org](http://www.ssufacultynews.org)

## Win One of five Sonoma State University Sweatshirts

Complete our quick-and-easy, 10-question survey. Go to [www.surveymonkey.com/r/insightsF15](http://www.surveymonkey.com/r/insightsF15) by **November 1** to be in the running.

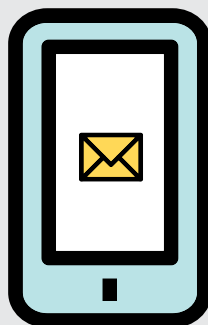


## Green Music Center Ranked Third Among Campus Arts Centers in U.S.

Sonoma State's Weill Hall at the Green Music Center was ranked third in the U.S. in a 2015 listing of the "25 Most Amazing Campus Arts Centers." The list was compiled by College Degree Search, an educational resource for prospective college students. The architectural appeal of the performance space was the largest weighted factor in this ranking, but exterior appeal and innovative design features were other factors in the final decision. SSU's Joan and Sanford I. Weill Hall at the Green Music Center was outranked only by the Performing Arts Center at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo and the Cutler Majestic Theatre at Emerson College in Boston.

See the list and photos at: <http://www.collegedegreesearch.net/campus-arts-centers/>.

Additionally, readers of the Press Democrat newspaper voted the Green Music Center Sonoma County's best Music Venue for 2015—two years in a row.



## SSU NewsCenter

Wonder what's going on at Sonoma State?

Subscribe to NewsCenter at [www.sonoma.edu/newscenter](http://www.sonoma.edu/newscenter) and we'll let you know. We won't inundate you with emails and we will never share your email address.



## Turning ‘Yes We Can’ Into ‘Here We Are’

by Nicolas Grizzle

**Day laborers have it rough.** On a given day, the job might involve wearing a 25-pound gas-powered leaf blower for 10 hours to landscape a business; the next day could bring eight hours of heavy lifting for someone moving into a third-floor apartment. Then there's the distinct possibility of no work at all. Though every day is different, each one starts the same: desire, uncertainty and a little bit of fear.

“Many day laborers are willing to work long hours and on weekends, without complaining, so that their children in the United States have a better future,” says Sonoma State

University Chicano and Latino Studies Professor Daniel Melero Malpica. “Many of them put in long hours in order to send money to relatives in Mexico.”

Malpica has studied the experience of day laborers in the informal economy for more than 10 years, compiling research from Northern and Southern California. “There are well over 100,000 day laborers nationwide,” he says, “and the number and size of hiring sites in California, and nationally, has increased dramatically in recent years.”



Jesús Guzmán at a English language class at Graton Day Labor Center.

Undocumented Latino migrants make up the bulk of the day laborer population. The most visible representation of this population are *esquineros*, groups of men gathered on street corners near home

of directors—respect for laborers in the community has grown. “It’s one of those rare solutions that works for everybody,” says Sonoma State student Jesús Guzmán, program manager and lead organizer at the Center. In fact, members pay self-imposed dues, and this summer

**“One woman said she finally felt comfortable hiring someone to**

improvement stores or other areas frequented by employers looking for temporary employees.

There is no oversight and no regulation, and no certainty that anyone will get to work—or get paid—on any particular day.

The Graton Day Labor Center in Sonoma County is an example of a solution that has shown tremendous success. Founded 15 years ago, it has brought a sense of community, stability and empowerment to workers who previously gathered at the corner just three blocks away and were spurned by the local community.

The Center is organized like a union hall, with guidelines for both employers and workers. Members receive ID cards, which are scanned when they sign in each morning. Workers have seats on the board

**help her with a one-day job she couldn’t do on her own after seeing our flier.”**

voted to raise their minimum wage from \$12 to \$15 per hour (laborers in the area previously earned \$6 an hour or less).

Those dues make up a small fraction of the Center’s budget, as it’s mostly supported by grants and contributions from local residents.

The Center has more than 600 members, and 1,600 different employers hired a worker from the center last year. “One woman said she finally felt comfortable hiring someone to help her with a one-day job she couldn’t do on her own after seeing our flier,” says



Guzmán, who notes that workers can also be hired online through [grationdaylabor.org](http://grationdaylabor.org). Having the support of an organization means employers know the workers have been vetted. For workers, it is assurance they will be treated fairly and be paid at the end of the day.



Drop-in laborers wait for work.



Professor Daniel Melero Malpica has studied the experience of day laborers for more than a decade.

**“You know why I’m speaking English today?”**

he asked

**“Because of them,”**

he answered, motioning to an English class going on behind him.

Approximately 50 members sign in each day at the Center, but there is more to it than just finding work. Members can take free English language classes, learn new job skills, and network and socialize with other workers and employers. Javier Sandoval, 44, from Mexico, has been in Sonoma County since 2004. He says he has “way more” work now that he is a member of the Center, and has learned new skills. “You know why I’m speaking English today?” he asked. “Because of them,” he answered, motioning to an English class going on behind him.

**The Graton Day Labor Center in Sonoma County is an example of a solution that has shown tremendous success.**

## Your Advocacy Efforts Make a Difference

### #StandwithCSU

Thank you to our many advocates who took the time to reach out to legislators asking them to support the California State University’s budget request. The CSU was successful in receiving an increase of \$97 million above the Governor’s January budget proposal to serve students and the state.

**An additional \$97 million to the CSU allows its campuses to:**

- Hire more tenure-track faculty and academic advisors
- Serve 12,000 more students
- Repair aging campuses

Once again, we thank you for your advocacy efforts on behalf of Sonoma State and look forward to continuing our work with you to support the ongoing success of the CSU.

Get an alert when your involvement can make a critical difference by signing up at [advocacy@sonoma.edu](mailto:advocacy@sonoma.edu) to take action. Making your voice heard is critical for the state’s decision makers to commit to improving higher education.





# A 'Godsend Idea' Tracks the Tremors of Parkinson's Disease

by Jean Wasp

**"It was such simple concept that the average doctor would never think of it,"** joked Sonoma County neurologist Dr. Allan Bernstein as he looked at the neoprene glove with its attached wires.

His months of mentoring three students from engineering science and kinesiology was leading to a prototype to help track the hand tremors that plague Parkinson's patients.

With the initial idea coming from SSU Professor Farid Farahmand, who

symptoms are the rolling hand tremors that can be controlled by dopamine supplementing medications.

Using \$200 in off-the-shelf parts, the initial project team was an interdisciplinary one from the start, comprised of Campbell Smith and Luis Reyes (electrical engineering), and Janene Grippi (kinesiology, exercise science).

Installing a gyroscope, accelerator, battery and SD card inside a neoprene

**Bernstein, who treats Parkinson's patients and researches the disease said this invention could improve the everyday lives of those coping with Parkinson's by providing the most effective dose of medication through the course of the patient's illness.**

had watched a friend suffer from the debilitating effects of the disease, the students were being ushered into the world of medical technology.

Bernstein, who treats Parkinson's patients and researches the disease, said this invention could improve the everyday lives of those coping with Parkinson's by providing the most effective dose of medication through the course of the patient's illness.

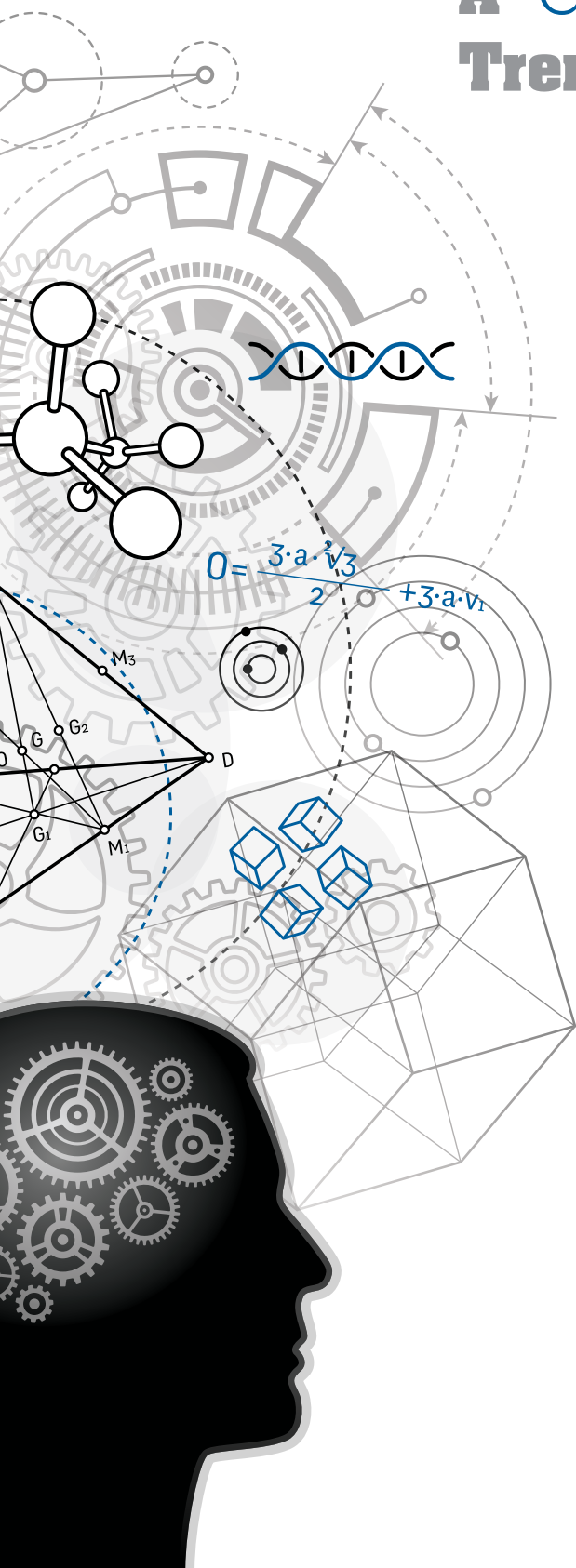
Parkinson's disease has no cure, but thanks to modern drugs, the quality of life of a Parkinson's patient has been extended significantly, said Bernstein. One of the earliest

glove, the initial student team designed the unit to be worn in the home during daily activities and the data downloadable to the doctor's office.

When they competed in the National Science Foundation I-CORPS challenge under the CSU Program for Education and Research in Biotechnology in January, student Mitchell Hickey (business administration/financial management) joined the team to develop a business plan. The project was selected for special recognition.

## A 'Godsend' Idea

"This kind of research is a Godsend," said Nan Moon, wife of Paul Selinger who was one of the







Janene Grippi (left) helps Paul Selinger with the neoprene glove invention developed by engineering science and kinesiology students to help those who suffer from Parkinson's disease. Faiza Qadri (right) shows the output of the software that allows the glove to track the tremors of patients.



first test patients. It means a great deal to Selinger to be part of a group uncovering potential solutions for the management and treatment of the disease even though he does not expect to benefit by the results.

“The ability to calibrate and individualize the dosage and delivery time of medications—like insulin pumps or pain patches—would be a game changer,” said Moon.

Patient trials showed early on that the project needed team members with sensitivity and compassion. Those needs were served primarily by re-entry student Grippi, who continually pushed for a greater test pool of patients within a local Parkinson's support group. She is also exploring ways to position and validate the product in a growing telemedicine and wearable technology market.

The final key to completing the project was the software algorithm development. Enter Faiza Qadri, originally from Kashmir and currently pursuing her master's degree in engineering science at SSU.

“Our goal is to help the doctors and patients use ‘big data’ to make intelligent data-driven decisions rather than make assumptions about their particular state of Parkinson's,” she said.

In the end, five students guided by an inspiring professor found themselves working on a project that has so much promise for so many who suffer from a debilitating condition whose cure is far off in the future.

“This has shown us how to build a bridge from engineering to healthcare,” said Farahmand.

**“The ability to calibrate and individualize the dosage and delivery time of medications—like insulin pumps or pain patches—would be a game changer.”**



Faiza Qadri displays data collected from the glove.

# Like a Fine Wine, Learning Gets Better with Age

By Carin Jacobs, Director, Lifelong Learning Programs

**It is hard to believe the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at SSU is entering its 15th year.** When

Dr. Les Adler, OLLI Advisory Board Chair and former Dean of Extended Education at SSU, first visited the Frumm Institute at the University of San Francisco with friend Ed Stolman back in 2000, he wondered whether their model of attracting

**“It’s a program for students over the age of 50 with no homework and no tests.”**

a large, educated population of urban adults to continue their education in short-term courses would work in more suburban and rural Sonoma County. With its widely-dispersed population, limited public transportation network and somewhat younger demographic, the answer was undoubtedly yes!

The program enrolls more than 1,500 students each year in classes such as “No Simple Highway: A Cultural History of the Grateful Dead” taught by Peter Richardson, author of the acclaimed book by the same name, and “Cuba: The Elusive Nation,” taught by SSU’s president Ruben Armija. It’s a program for students over the age of 50 with no homework and no tests. Taught by faculty who are often emeriti from top regional colleges, students report the caliber and scope of the



OLLI field trips enhance the classroom experience.

curriculum results in some of the best class discussions they have had. Social cohesion among its members, often lead to lasting friendships and newly created families (see sidebar on right). OLLI students represent a growing population at SSU and their integration into the campus landscape has become a signature of this enduring program’s identity.

“The meaning of lifelong learning is in the educational and personal value such programs have for a generation of individuals reaching that ‘third age’ of life in which

**After retiring from teaching after 40 years and being a widow for nine, I was ready once again to share my life and thought that taking classes on a college campus might lead me to meet interesting people. I started taking OLLI classes in 2005 and began to notice one particular student in several of my classes. Gradually, we seemed to be sitting next to each other more often than not. We began to chat during class breaks, then graduated to lunches, then dinners, and eventually drives to the coast. We began to take more and more classes together, which gave us even more to share and talk about. Eventually, we decided to spend our lives together. “Who said you cannot grow into love after 65?”**

—Linda and George Karow

continued learning has a deeper meaning than preparing for a job or a new career. OLLI has brought to SSU a new and influential alumni base who recognize the value, beauty and excellence of the campus,” said Adler.

**I lived on the East Coast for 78 years before moving to Sonoma County and joining OLLI. My wife Judy and I are now in the third year of wonderful courses covering subjects that we thought were far away from our interests. How wrong we were! We have studied opera, Russian music, the Phoenicians, the dynasties of Europe and much more. Attending OLLI classes brought us together with so many new friends. The icing on this cake was an OLLI reunion with a friend and Boston University classmate who I met in 1953. After college we had gone our separate ways until the day I read a list of OLLI donors in our newsletter and saw three lines above my name was another “M.” Robert Markowitz was my long lost classmate. Since then we have gotten together more than once and discovered we live just a few towns away from each other. This renewal of a friendship that started more than 60 years ago is a precious gift.**

— Irwin Miller

[www.sonoma.edu/exed/olli](http://www.sonoma.edu/exed/olli)



# Helping Foster Youth Navigate College

by Nicolas Grizzle

**“My mom passed away a week before my freshman year of high school** and I knew right then that continuing my education would be key to my success in life,” says Chris Villedo, a freshman sociology major at Sonoma State University and a former foster youth. “So for the next four years I really focused on my education.” He says Seawolf Scholars, a new former foster youth assistance program, has already helped guide him through financial aid, registering for classes and navigating complex paperwork. “Having programs like this on campus helped me be more confident about being in college,” says Villedo.

According to program coordinator Danielle Hansen, only 20 percent of foster youth attend college, and of that 20 percent, only 2 percent will graduate. Her goal right now is connecting students with resources available to them.

Priority registration, book vouchers and free laptop rentals make the transition to college life easier for students. There are also special scholarships available to Seawolf Scholars, and priority housing relieves the stress of looking for a place to live, which is especially helpful during winter and summer breaks when they may not have a family home in which to return.



Danielle Hansen  
Program Coordinator

“Resources should not be what keeps a foster youth from being successful,” says Hansen. “These programs work, which is why people fund them and why most campuses in California have them.”

Connecting the students with resources can be difficult because it is up to the students to identify themselves—not always an easy psychological barrier to break through in the first year of college.

There are 70 students at Sonoma State, says Hansen, and most were not aware of the

**“Only 20 percent of foster youth attend college, and of that 20 percent, only 2 percent will graduate.”**

resources available to assist them. Seawolf Scholars is not just about resources, it’s also about building a sense of community.

“Before joining Seawolf Scholars, I didn’t feel like I had much of a support system,” says Jalissa Tello, a junior marketing major at Sonoma State. “I’ve never been able to really speak about my foster youth time—about the times when I was in foster homes and the reasons why. But there are people in the program who have gone through similar situations, and you get to know them,” says Villedo. “It makes you feel good about yourself.”

Tello has been a student at Sonoma State since before the program was created and has certainly felt its positive impact. “Ever since Seawolf Scholars has been here I feel like I’m a part of something that’s personal as well

as something academic, because they want you to succeed,” she says.


“We all benefit from what we learned,” says Villedo. “Other people can help you reflect on things and let you know...” he says, pausing for a second, “that you’re not alone in that time of need.”

Hansen, who was hired as part of a national candidate search to create and run a former foster youth assistance program at Sonoma



Jalissa Tello (left)  
Chris Villedo (below)





# Making the Grade

## Learning by Doing

by Nicolas Grizzle

**“It is probably at the opposite end of what we’re doing in schools today,”**

says Dale Dougherty, architect of the Maker movement and CEO of its flagship publication, MAKE magazine. “Instead of ‘stand and deliver’ in front of a class, it should be more about coaching kids to do projects centered around their own interests, where they are driving the learning.”

Learn-by-doing has been dropped from education, says Dougherty, and he is trying to bring it back. “Reading about how to ride a bike is different than riding a bike,” he says.

“Maker education is not just about doing something as quick as you can and you’re done,” says Jessica Parker, associate professor of education and director of the Maker Educator Certificate Program at SSU. “There really is respect for the process being just as important as the product.”

Sonoma State started its Maker Educator Certificate Program in 2014 and the first cohort of Maker educators was certified this year. Dougherty was involved from the beginning as a supporter ideologically and financially. The certificate program is the fastest growing program in SSU’s education and business collaborative, The Startup Classroom ([www.thestartupclassroom.org](http://www.thestartupclassroom.org)). Anchored in a strong and growing community, The Startup Classroom encourages the exchange of ideas and supports educators as they implement new practices in their teaching. And not only does this Sonoma State University program challenge teachers to maximize their own innovation skills, it also empowers students to take an innovative approach to learning.

“This program is something that can be used as a model for training Maker educators around the country,” says Carlos Ayala, dean of the School of Education at Sonoma State.

Sonoma State hosts the Maker Leadership Institute this fall, where representatives from all 23 California

### A MAKER IS...

- ...a tinkerer
- ...an experimenter
- ...an inventor
- ...a risk taker
- ...a problem solver
- ...a creator
- ...an artist
- ...a scientist
- ...an active learner
- ...an engineer
- ...a designer







K-12 students at the Sonoma Country Day School learning carpentry skills with teacher and maker educator, Kristen Sorenson.

State Universities will learn from the experiences of SSU's cohort of Maker educators and faculty about using the Maker Educator Certificate Program as a model and a resource for other campuses.

The program was developed in partnership with the Sonoma County Office of Education, local school districts and Bay Area Maker organizations to train teachers to use the hands-on learning principals of the Maker movement in the classroom, where they've been shown to be extremely effective in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education.

"Human beings have always used their hands; it's part of human nature," says Parker.

The White House has also recognized the Maker movement as an important part of STEM education, and even hosts a toned-down version of the Maker Faire, an annual event held in several major cities around the world. Sonoma State has been in conversation with officials from the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy about expanding Maker education nationally.

When a group of fifth graders each builds and programs her or his own robot, or uses Play-Doh to complete an electrical circuit and illuminate tiny LED lights, the goal is not really to build a mechanical buddy or find an alternative to copper wire, the goal is learning the steps involved and gaining confidence that only accomplishment can bring.

"Reflection on that process is essential," says Parker. "That's what allows us to slow down. That's what allows the possibility for deep learning. You can do one quick activity, but what's revolutionary about Maker education is the ability to change how we define teaching and learning, and how we define what school looks like."

**The Maker Educator Certification Program is the fastest growing program in SSU's education and business collaborative, The Startup Classroom, a groundbreaking program facilitating dialog between thought leaders of the education and entrepreneurial worlds, empowering both sides to learn from one another.**

Dougherty is excited for SSU's certificate program and the future of Maker education. "It's a sign that the teacher takes this seriously and wants to learn from other people," he says. "Over time, best practices will emerge and education will get stronger. That aligns with the continuous improvement philosophy of the Maker movement: making something new, then finding new and better ways to do it."

In early June, Ayala along with Sonoma County Schools Superintendent Steve Herrington, were called to the White House to celebrate and kick-off the Week of Making. As a leader in the Maker education, Sonoma State also participated in the national Maker Fair in Washington, D.C.



Kids from Meadow School in Petaluma, very proud of the wind tunnel they made.

**"This is a country that imagined a railroad connecting a continent, imagined electricity powering our cities and towns, imagined skyscrapers reaching into the heavens, and an Internet that brings us closer together. So we imagined these things, then we did them. And that's in our DNA. That's who we are. We're not done yet. And I hope every company, every college, every community, every citizen joins us as we lift up makers and builders and doers across the country."**

— **President Barack Obama**, excerpt from speech at the White House Maker Faire, National Day of Making, June 18, 2014



Conrad Block, right, takes in the scenery on a glacier in the Canadian Rockies.

# A Glimpse of Early Life on Earth

by Phil Mooney

**Twelve hearty souls from the Sonoma State geology department took a six-day field trip last fall to the Canadian Rockies in British Columbia and Alberta** to explore the world-renowned Burgess Shale, a world heritage site widely lauded as the most important fossil locality in the world.

“It was amazing to experience geology in an exotic location,” said Sean Storey, a student on the trip. “We walked on the Athabasca Glacier and were able to witness geology on a much faster time frame because the ice is basically a more viscous rock mineral.”

The trip ran in conjunction with an upper level geology course taught by paleontologist and professor Matthew James.

The fossils of Burgess Shale were discovered in 1909 during construction of the Trans-Canadian Railway. These 505-million-year-old fossils, remnants of creatures that once lived in a shallow sea, are the best record of the time period after the appearance of modern hard-shelled multicellular animals and have proved pivotal to the study of paleontology. They are surrounded by stunningly beautiful mountains shaped by numerous glaciers—a geologist’s heaven!

The first full day in the field was spent traversing the massive Athabasca Glacier with a mountaineering guide. The Athabasca Glacier is a six kilometer sheet of blue-green ice that slowly cascades down a valley connected to the Columbia Icefield, transporting massive sediment loads as it travels nearly 30 meters a year. On a six-mile hike up the glacier, students learned about glaciology, saw fantastic examples of a landscape carved by glaciers

**“On a six-mile hike up the glacier, students learned about glaciology, saw fantastic examples of a landscape carved by glaciers and witnessed firsthand the effects of climate change as the ice retreats up the valley.”**



and witnessed firsthand the effects of climate change as the ice retreats up the valley.

Two days were spent exploring the Burgess Shale on guided hikes

The intrepid geologists continued up the valley to a scenic overlook and discussion of the tectonic formation of western North America. With weary legs, the group hiked

**“The Burgess Shale is also extremely important because it contains our ancestor, the worm fossil Pikaia... the first animal in the fossil record that has a backbone—the earliest vertebrate.”**

to the Walcott Quarry and the Mount Stephen Trilobite Beds. This strenuous 13-mile hike, started at a waterfall and headed uphill through lush forests and alpine scenery to the most important of fossil sites, the historic Walcott Quarry, where the Burgess Shale fossils were first discovered. Along the way students learned of exotic Cambrian animals such as the fearsome Anomalocaris, the five-eyed Opabinia, and the otherworldly Hallucigenia.

“The Burgess Shale is also extremely important because it contains our ancestor, the worm fossil Pikaia,” said Storey. “It may seem like a stretch, but this worm is the first animal in the fossil record that has a backbone—the earliest vertebrate.”

A steep five-mile hike up Mount Stephen revealed so many trilobite fossils students couldn’t avoid walking on them. At both sites, their physical effort was rewarded with amazing fossil finds and breathtaking views of the surrounding mountains.

The last full day of the trip brought students into the world of mountains, faults and glaciers with a hike around the gem of the Canadian Rockies, Lake Louise. A six-mile hike brought students to the Plain of Six Glaciers Tea Hut, a charming, historic and primitive restaurant only accessible by foot.

down and enjoyed a wonderful sendoff dinner, sampling meat from the characteristic terrestrial megafauna of North America (Buffalo, Caribou, Elk, etc.) at the Emerald Lake Lodge.

The sixth day was for travel, but along the way students were treated to a private tour of the Royal Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology in Drumheller, Alberta. With a behind the scenes tour by a resident palaeontologist, they learned about all the hard work that goes into the preservation of fossils, explored the back room archives and enjoyed a private tour of the main exhibits of the museum.

With more than 30 miles of hiking packed into four full days, students traveled back to campus tired, in markedly better shape than when they began, and with a renewed vigor to continue their geologic education at SSU. Their experience proved there is no substitute for fieldwork and hands-on learning in the natural classroom of the Earth.



Students, including Sean Storey (in foreground), observe a collection of fossils at the Royal Tyrrell Museum of Palaeontology in Alberta, Canada.



(photo left) Conrad Block, left, and Ryan Helms examine fossils at Burgess Shale, a UNESCO world heritage site.



(photo above) Jon McNair holds up a fossil at Burgess Shale.



Trilobite fossils like this one at the Burgess Shale are estimated to be more than 500 million years old.



# Watershed WARRIORS

## SSU tackles the critical water issues of its region

When NASA saw the drought's impact from their satellites and announced that California could run out of water in a year if enough rain did not fall, the need to connect SSU students to regional water issues became even more critical.

Sonoma State University engages students from disciplines across campus in understanding regional watershed challenges in several ways.

### WATERS Trains A New Breed

Three years ago, the University launched WATERS (Watershed Academics To Enhance Regional Sustainability), a collaborative funded by the Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA) through SSU's Center for Environmental Inquiry.

With \$68,000 in SCWA funding each year, WATERS supports more than 20 faculty-student projects annually to address water shortage, sediment and erosion, water quality, and riparian restoration.

Many of the class and internship projects focus on Copeland Creek, a seven-mile long waterway that flows from the Center's Fairfield Osborn Preserve and through campus. It ends at the Laguna de Santa Rosa.

**“It is critical to give students hands-on training with real-world environmental challenges,”**

said Center Director and WATERS Coordinator Claudia Luke.

**“We need a new breed of trained professionals – in the sciences as well as the arts and humanities – who work collaboratively to conserve our most precious resource.”**

*continued on page 16*



**Aquatic Species** – Student quantifies factors causing declines in local fish and amphibians.



**Erosion** – Geography students track the movement of soil into the headwaters of Copeland Creek. Too much sediment is one of the leading causes of impaired water quality.



**Water Quality** – Liberal arts, environmental studies and biology students monitor nitrogen, bacteria, pesticides and other pollutants in the creek.



## How to Study a Watershed

A watershed is an area of land that drains to one location. The Russian River watershed is the largest watershed in Sonoma County, supplying water to homes, farms and businesses, creating opportunities for recreation and providing habitat for plants and animals.

SSU students study the dimensions of a watershed with a variety of projects.

**Restoration** – Environmental studies students study how to encourage growth of native vegetation and improve habitat for native fish and wildlife.



**Rainfall** – Engineering science students develop sensor-to-screen networks to measure rainfall, tracking long-term changes in water availability and automatically notifying the City of Rohnert Park when torrential rains might cause flooding.





*continued from page 14*

### Science 120 Creates ‘A Watershed Year’

A \$1 million National Science Foundation grant aimed at cultivating and maintaining students has focused on the Russian River watershed as its outdoor classroom in a course called Science 120:A Watershed Year.

Born out of a national shortage of science majors and a joint effort from faculty across SSU’s School of Science and Technology, the yearlong course has had tremendous success.

Developed to provide freshmen with the skills to transition into a successful college life, it does so through cultivating a passion for science.

“Students in the program are three times as likely to declare a science major and 20 percent more likely to be retained as compared to similarly matched students not

### Success Story

SSU geography major Chase Takajo graduated from SSU last year and moved right into a job with the Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA) as a stream maintenance technician. Takajo was the first success story for the WATERS Collaborative, garnering a fulltime job for his senior work on creek bed erosion. The aim of WATERS is just this kind of outcome, developing a new workforce in watershed management.



in the program,” said Professor Jeremy Qualls, the coordinator for this unique and pioneering program.

The freshman-only course weaves together many general required courses into one large one. Its focus is on the regional watershed, the issues it faces, and how different disciplines in science can address those needs.

Students work closely with community partners such as the SCWA, Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District, the SSU Center for Environmental Inquiry, Sotoyome Resource Conservation District,

and the Sonoma Mountain Ranch Preservation Foundation.

“This is one of the most student-empowering programs I have ever been part of. It is changing lives, attitudes and building long-term connections with Sonoma County,” said Qualls. “The efficacy of the program and what we can do has been absolutely fantastic.”

**“This is one of the most student-empowering programs I have ever been part of. It is changing lives, attitudes and building long-term connections with Sonoma County.”**





## Campus as Living Labs

Outdoor classroom takes on a new meaning with the California State University-funded Campus as Living Labs grants to SSU.

“Coming from the CSU, these grants represent significant recognition that SSU and its faculty seek to deepen student engagement. Important real-world research experiences are designed to extend the University’s capacity as an increasingly sustainable facility.

More importantly, over the next few years these supported courses will provide the tools for hundreds of students to develop their individual capacities for contributing to sustainable solutions for environmental and social challenges presented by climate change.

SSU received two grants this year.

### 1. Restoring Copeland Creek.

Students will conduct research on Copeland Creek that results in a creek restoration program that protects biodiversity and ecological integrity while furthering human interaction with the waterway. Possible projects might include mapping native and invasive species, research on focal species, and a review of creek restoration methods. The course will provide students with a diversity of skills demanded by the workplace, including grant writing, scientific research methods, field sampling methodology, and data analysis and presentation.

### 2. Monitoring water use to change behavior.

Students will learn how to use water usage data collected from three of SSU’s residential halls to influence water conservation practices by its residents. Students will learn

...over the next few years these supported courses, will provide the tools for hundreds of students to develop their individual capacities for contributing to sustainable solutions for environmental and social challenges presented by climate change.”

computational techniques for data analysis as well as how to use this data to influence behavioral change. Data collected and analyzed will be disseminated through web dashboard and other real-time applications that target mobile devices and connect to students living on campus. As students learn to better manage utility usage, their actions translate into cost savings for the University, reduced greenhouse gas emissions and drought mitigation to help the University meet the state-mandated goal of 25 percent reduction in water consumption.

## Copeland Creek – a Vital Connection



Copeland Creek is a winter stream that runs through campus and provides important aesthetic benefits to the campus community and a vital connection between urban and natural areas adjacent to the university. SSU’s portion of the creek is home to endangered species, including steelhead and western pond turtles, along with a diversity of other wildlife species. The creek also serves as a passage for various species moving between the upper and lower watershed. As with most stream habitats, Copeland Creek is threatened by encroachment, urban runoff, invasive species and drought.

Kara Kelly crouches atop a drain that leads to a man made wetland at the Green Music Center at Sonoma State.

## Early Intervention Tool Predicts Water Use in Building Projects

By Jean Wasp

**Managing the impact of development on water resources is again an urgent challenge in California.**

A new open-source early intervention tool has been created to evaluate approaches that reduce land use impacts on water resources. It was developed by the staff of Sonoma State University's Center for Sustainable Communities (CSC) in partnership with Elizabeth Patterson, staff environmental scientist of the state Department of Water Resources.

"This tool is especially relevant to the current drought and the long-range concerns about reduced water availability and climate change," said CSC's Alex Hinds. He developed the tool along with CSC staff members Allison Lassiter and Wayne Goldberg, and eight SSU students under contract with the Department of Water Resources.

The Integrated Water and Land Management Tool is a user-friendly calculator in an Excel workbook. The tool is useful for evaluating the effectiveness of water conservation measures being considered in a project or by suggested redesigns or permit conditions. It allows users to compare construction and maintenance costs, and carbon production of different development approaches, with regards to water use.

Strategies that emerge from its use support more efficient growth with fewer environmental impacts. They can include suggestions to decrease indoor/outdoor or residential water consumption, decrease the quantity and flow rates of storm water runoff and improve its quality, and protect downstream riparian habitat.

The tool allows users to specify different residential land cover and infrastructure choices and compare development outcomes, especially at the lot and neighborhood levels.

Although existing tools are available to guide practitioners, those that are easy to use generally could not be modified to reflect local conditions, Hinds said. Calculators that could be modified possessed challenging user interfaces that required extensive background knowledge.

The project team determined that a calculator with the ability to customize and save local data would be a valuable asset. Four case studies of suburban development in Sonoma County were compared and contrasted using the new tool.

"It is strongest in finding ways to reduce hardscape use, opening the way for creative ways to recharge groundwater, also reducing erosion and pollution," he said.

Patterson said it can have the most impact with public infrastructure choices. "Most leading city planners would be very interested in knowing the tool exists, is available and is easy to use."

California's recently enacted Sustainable Groundwater Management Act requires creating



new local sustainable water agencies and sustainable ground water management plans for medium and high-priority ground water basins in California (three of these are in Sonoma and Marin counties). This tool will be sought after by these new initiatives, Patterson said.

"There are cost saving benefits by avoiding large engineered flood management structures, and avoiding storm water treatment facilities," she added. "Clearly, water supply benefits are the focus for all of us and the integrated water management strategies are sustainable, affordable and durable."

Access to the free digital copy of the tool and other resources can be found at the website for the California Water Plan Update 2013 at [www.waterplan.water.ca.gov/cwpu2013/](http://www.waterplan.water.ca.gov/cwpu2013/).

### Potential users of the tool:

- Homeowners interested in testing possible retrofits to their properties, examining costs versus benefits.
- Residential developers seeking to evaluate different design strategies.
- Local agency officials, including planning and public works appointed decision-makers, such as council members and planning commissioners.
- Regional agencies and researchers, seeking to envision cumulative impacts of development or evaluate alternative futures.





# Faculty Chair in Wine Business Compliments Programs

By Valery Vue

**A \$3 million donation from winemakers Pamela and George Hamel** has established the Hamel Family Faculty Chair in Wine Business at Sonoma State University, with Dr. Damien Wilson as the inaugural Chair.

“The Hamel Family Faculty Chair in Wine Business is a transformational gift,” said William Silver, dean of the School of Business and Economics at SSU. “It has enabled us to go out and recruit the best wine business faculty in the world, and to support the great faculty we already



Pamela and George Hamel

have here as they teach the new generation of wine business leaders and produce the research to help wine businesses deliver results.” Wilson is currently director of the Masters of Science in Wine Business programs at Dijon’s Burgundy School of Business, a post he has held since 2008.

“The wine sector is a very appealing one in which to work,” says Wilson. “However, the romantic image hides the fact that around the world most wine is grown in basic farming regions, which provide consistent wines for a growing number of new consumers in the category.”

He says his focus will be working with the leadership and faculty to

educate graduates who are both prepared for and able to enact change in business practices, and bringing the global wine sector together to learn from each other.

Originally from Australia, Wilson’s career blends both professional and academic experiences. In wine business, he has worked in the production, distribution, sales and service sectors. In his academic career, he’s recruited and taught students from 40 different countries across four academic institutions, led curricular innovation efforts, and conducted and presented research around the world. Wilson holds four degrees in wine business,

**Named faculty chair positions are prestigious in the world of academia and elevate the institution’s visibility and reputation among scholars, partners and prospective students.**

culminating in a PhD from the University of South Australia.

“Pam and I are delighted to announce our endowment of the Hamel Family Faculty Chair at the Wine Business Institute at Sonoma State University, and we are extremely pleased with the selection of Damien Wilson as the first recipient,” said George Hamel. “We were eager to invest in Dean Silver’s vision for the Wine Business Institute and support his goal of establishing the program as the preeminent



Damien Wilson

wine industry academic program in the world.”

The Hamels are familiar with SSU’s Wine Business Institute—their son, George Hamel III, is the managing director of Hamel Family Wines and recently completed his MBA at SSU with a concentration in wine business. “We look forward to an ongoing relationship with the university as it continues to attract top talent to our beloved Sonoma Valley,” said George Hamel.

Named faculty chair positions are prestigious in the world of academia and elevate the institution’s visibility and reputation among scholars, partners and prospective students. “This gift represents a substantial

commitment to our talent pool, as well as adding noteworthy global brand value,” said Ray Johnson, director of Sonoma State’s Wine Business Institute.



**The Hamel Family Chair will be based at the Wine Spectator Learning Center, the new home for SSU’s Wine Business Institute, which is set to start construction in early 2016.**

## Track Is Back

By Kayla Galloway

Sonoma State University welcomes the return of its women's track and field team after a seven-year hiatus. The team was disbanded in 2007 to make way for the more popular women's golf.

Sean Fitzpatrick, head coach of Sonoma State's women's cross country team, is now also head coach of women's track and field team. Carly McCready, former cross-country runner for Sonoma State, is assistant coach for both.

"I am so excited that SSU is strengthening our school and our athletics program with the return of women's track and field," says Fitzpatrick. "This will open the door for us to have more opportunities to recruit athletes who enjoy doing both cross country and track. With the addition of track and field, both programs will benefit since it will allow the student-athletes to compete and train year round."

There has been an increase in interest from students wanting to participate in track and field in recent years, says Bill Fusco, Sonoma State's athletic director. He credits this not only to the sport itself but also to the improvements the campus has seen since 2007, including the new student center, recreation center and residence halls.

The women's golf team, which originally replaced cross country, will remain intact. There are now 14 NCAA teams at Sonoma State (nine women's, five men's).

Sonoma State hopes to improve the condition of the track in the future, but for the time being the team will have access to Santa Rosa Junior College's facilities in Santa Rosa.



**"This will open the door for us to have more opportunities to recruit athletes who enjoy doing both cross country and track. With the addition of track and field, both programs will benefit since it will allow the student-athletes to compete and train year round."**

### SSU Athletic Teams:

Baseball	Women's Cross Country
Men's Basketball	Women's Golf
Men's Golf	Women's Soccer
Men's Soccer	Women's Tennis
Men's Tennis	Women's Track & Field
Softball	Women's Volleyball
Women's Basketball	Women's Water Polo



## Alumni Association Board of Directors 2015-16

President

**David Felte**

(BA Economics &  
BS Business Administration, 2001)

President-Elect

**Joseph Huang**

(BS Business Admin, 2002 & BA International  
Economics, 2004)

Vice President/Administration

**Molly Rattigan**

(BA Political Science, 2002)

Vice President/Finance

**James Elliott**

(BS Business Administration 2000)

Director

**Amanda Burke**

(BA Communications, 2012)

Director

**Nate Campbell**

(BA Communications, 1999;  
MA Interdisciplinary Studies, 2002)

Director

**Vincent Cortese**

(BA Communications, 2000)

Director

**Ralph Jaeck**

(BA Economics, 1967)

Director

**Vanessa Johns**

(BA Communications, 2013)

Director

**Patrick Maloney**

(BA Political Science, 2014)

Director

**Jim Manly**

(MBA Business Admin. & Management, 1999)

Director

**Annette Powell**

(BA Business Marketing/Psychology 2005)

Director

**Meg Ragan**

(BA Sociology, 2008)

Director

**Travis Saracco**

(BA Communications, 2012)

Director

**Sarah Scudder**

(BS Business Administration, 2005)

Alumni Association Director

**Laurie Ogg**

(BS Kinesiology, 1994; MA Kinesiology, 1999)

## From the Alumni Association President...

### Fellow Alums:

This is an exciting time of year for us as we welcomed 2,200 new graduates to the alumni family. That puts us at 65,000 strong. We come from many walks of life and we have careers in locations that span the world. I hope you joined the "Class of 3 Million" campaign this year, as you are part of those 3 million graduates from the California State University system.

Sonoma State has become very popular. The campus receives 15,000 applications for each fall's class. While still a liberal arts and sciences university, new young faculty bring with them the desire to continue their research, engaging students along with them. It's an exciting time at Sonoma State and you can be proud to call yourself an alum.

**This is an exciting time of year for us  
as we welcomed 2,200 new graduates to the alumni  
family. That puts us at 65,000 strong.**

The Alumni Association is in the process of making some big changes to the way we serve you. We have spent the last year taking inventory of what we do as an association and realized what we have been doing isn't enough. As our alumni numbers grow, so do the needs on campus. The Alumni Association is looking to take these needs head on. One way is to fund a full tuition annual scholarship to a student who wouldn't otherwise be able to attend SSU. This goal is in line with our updated mission statement:

***To foster, renew and enhance the relationship  
between alumni and the university.***

On a final note, we will be rolling out a new way to conveniently give back to your university at the cost of a cup of coffee a month. It will be a simple and easy way to support the school that helped so many of us to get where we are today. We welcome your feedback and suggestions at [alumni@sonoma.edu](mailto:alumni@sonoma.edu).

**Thank you for your support!**

**David Felte, President**  
Alumni Association  
2015-16



[www.facebook.com/ssualumni](http://www.facebook.com/ssualumni)

# Distinguished Alumni Awards

## 2014 Awardee: Sandra Jackson-Dumont

If “beauty is in the eye of the beholder,” then Sandra Jackson-Dumont has beheld a considerable amount of beauty during her career at some of the nation’s leading art museums.

Since May of 2014, Jackson-Dumont has been the Frederick P. and Sandra P. Rose Chairman of Education at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, the largest museum in the Western Hemisphere, where she is responsible for the vision and management of education and public programs as well as live arts performances and audience development designed for a diverse constituency.

The San Francisco native received a BA in art history from Sonoma State University (1994) and an MA in art history from Howard University in 1996. She was a Helena Rubinstein Curatorial Fellow at the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York City.

Earlier appointments include service as the Deputy Director for Education and Public Programs as well as Adjunct Curator for Modern and Contemporary Art at the Seattle Art Museum; Director

of Education & Public Programs at the Studio Museum in Harlem; and Head of School, Family and Intergenerational Programs at the Whitney Museum of American Art in New York.

Known for her ability to blur the lines between academia, popular culture and non-traditional art-going communities, Jackson-Dumont has organized numerous exhibitions, lectures, performances, symposia and education initiatives. She is also a programming consultant working across communities, disciplines and sectors, and an independent curator-writer who has contributed essays to a host of publications.

She is a recipient of numerous awards and recognitions including: the Creative Leadership Award from the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation,



2012: The Smartest People in Seattle’s Politics, 2013; the Greater Seattle Business Association, Humanitarian Award Finalist 2013; and Northwest Asian Weekly Foundation’s Women of Color Empowered Award, 2012. The Seattle Times, Pacific Northwest Magazine featured Jackson-Dumont with a 2011 cover story. Upon leaving Seattle, the mayor issued a proclamation naming April 26 Sandra Jackson-Dumont Day.

– Joe Gargiulo

---

## 2015 Awardee: Mike McGuire

Some people from small towns can’t wait to finish their education and flee to the “big city,” but for California State Senator Mike McGuire, his first priority was about making a difference in the local community.

McGuire is a third-generation Northern Californian whose family farmed Sonoma County’s Alexander Valley for nearly a half century. He was elected to the Healdsburg School Board at 19 years of age and helped rebuild decaying schools while earning a BA in political science at Sonoma State University (2002), followed by a Masters of public administration at San Francisco University.

He was elected to the Healdsburg City Council in 2004 as the youngest mayor in city history and was instrumental in creating one of the most successful economies in the region.

McGuire was a member of the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors for one term (2011- 2015) where he helped turn years of deficit into a multi-million dollar surplus.

He has represented the Second Senate District since December 2014, a political region that stretches from the Golden Gate Bridge to the Oregon border.

A tireless advocate of the environment, his efforts have protected and preserved thousands of acres of open space, watersheds and coastline while keeping regional and state parks open to the public.

He and his wife, Erika, a local high school teacher and middle school assistant principal, live in Healdsburg.

– Joe Gargiulo





## Athletic Scholarships

Each year the SSU Alumni Association sponsors two scholarships, one male and one female, honoring SSU student athletes. To be considered for this scholarship, a student athlete must have outstanding achievements relative to intercollegiate competition, academics and community service. Each received a \$750 athletic scholarship award at “The Wolfies,” the annual SSU sports awards event.



### Jourdan Weiks, Baseball

A two-year performer at shortstop, Weiks hit .297 for the Seawolves in 2015 with a team-high 15 doubles. For his efforts, Weiks was awarded Second Team All-CCAA honors. As a junior in 2014, the Olympia, Washington native led the team in batting average and stolen bases as SSU captured the league championship.



### Noelle Herrera, Water Polo

A product of Orange, CA, Herrera received First Team All-Western Water Polo Association honors in 2015 after leading the Seawolves in goals scored with 36. She also led the entire conference in ejections earned and scored a hat trick (3 goals) in SSU's game against Stanford University, the 2nd-ranked team in the country.

## 2015 Ambrose R. Nichols, Jr. Scholar

### Dolce Preciado

**“It is not peace that brings us to wholeness, but struggle and conflict, and spiritual enlightenment only occurs when a person has been through dark and disturbing trials of the soul,”** said John A. Sanford in “Dreams and Healing.”

Dulce Preciado, the 2015 Ambrose R. Nichols, Jr. Scholarship recipient, faced the immediate challenges of an elementary school student who did not speak English after immigrating to the United States at the age of 10. She struggled through high school, but the mentoring of a teacher during junior year instilled her with the confidence to attend college and parlay her core of determination and solid family values into a promising future.

Since then she has accumulated a 3.58 grade point average at Sonoma State, interned at three organizations including two humanitarian non-profits, and worked on campus helping freshmen in the Education Opportunity Program and at-risk youth.

Preciado will be applying for the Peace Corps in the fall of 2015, and would like to teach at the community college level to empower youth as well as work for the public and non-profit sectors to carry out a social justice agenda.

“Dolce’s intellectual curiosity—her humility, thirst to learn and empower others to learn—is truly admirable and very well deserving of an academic scholarship,” wrote America F. Jimenez de Lara CEO of CandleLight Global America in his reference letter to the selection committee.

– Joe Gargiulo



## Give Every Year, Make a Difference Every Day

Through the generosity of alumni, parents and friends, the Fund for Sonoma State provides unique and relevant educational experiences for Sonoma State University students. Our signature programs have granted more than 145 WolfBucks for Books awards and funded more than 50 student/faculty research teams.

It takes a collective effort from the entire SSU community to create and sustain the unique programs available to our students.



Join the Effort and Invest in Sonoma State Students.  
**Make Your Annual Gift today!**

**The Fund for Sonoma State**  
Give every year, make a difference every day.

Contact University Development at **707 664.2712** or visit [www.sonoma.edu/development/fund-for-sonoma](http://www.sonoma.edu/development/fund-for-sonoma).



# Lagunitas Mixer 2014

Last November the Alumni Association hosted its annual fundraiser at the Lagunitas Taproom in Petaluma. Tickets included food, a door prize drawing and commemorative pint glasses. Rock and roll band the HOTS, food from Velasco's restaurant in Petaluma and plenty of thirst-quenching Lagunitas brew made for an exciting alumni event.



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

**November 23, 2015**  
**Lagunitas Brewery,**  
**Petaluma**



## Regional Alumni Gathering

SSU alumni gathered together in both Southern and in Northern California to network, reminisce and have an overall good time. The mixers were hosted by the California State University Office of the Chancellor and were held in Hollywood and San Francisco to connect alumni from the 23 CSU campuses.



### And don't miss...

...the 4th annual College-Am Golf Scramble on **October 17, 2015** at the Foxtail Golf Course in Rohnert Park. [ssualumni.org](http://ssualumni.org)



### Privacy Notice

If you have already responded to the SSU Alumni Association opt-out mailing in the past, it is not necessary to do so again.

#### YOUR RIGHTS:

You have the right to restrict the sharing of your name, address and email address with our affinity partners (companies that partner with us to offer products or services to our alumni). Your wishes do not prohibit us from sharing your information if we are required to do so by law.

#### YOUR CHOICE:

Unless you decline via one of the three ways below we may judiciously share your name, address, and e-mail address with our affinity partners.

#### TIME SENSITIVITY REPLY:

You may decide at any time that you do not want us to share your information with our affinity partners. Your choice will remain in effect unless you state otherwise.

1. Call toll free: 1-866-414-8136
2. E-mail: [alumni.office@sonoma.edu](mailto:alumni.office@sonoma.edu)
3. Website: [www.ssualumni.org](http://www.ssualumni.org) (Click on privacy policy at the very bottom of the page) then download the form, fill it out, sign and return it to:

Sonoma State University  
Alumni Association  
1801 East Cotati Avenue  
Rohnert Park, CA 94928

## 1970s

**Kenneth Kimmel, '73, BA Psychology**, has a private practice in Seattle where he works as a psychoanalyst and writer. He has had multiple works published including "Eros and the Shattering Gaze: Transcending Narcissism" (Fisher King Press, 2011).

**Pierce Timberlake, '76, BA Physics, BA Philosophy**, has retired after having worked as a computer programmer, technical writer, telemetry technician and martial arts instructor. He now uses his free time to write and publish e-reader articles on Amazon.

**Edward Coletti, '78, MA Management**, launched his new poetry collection, "The Problem with Breathing," at a reading in Santa Rosa. Coletti also writes for his two blogs "Ed Coletti P3" and "No Money in Poetry."

**Dave Smeds, '79, BS International Business Management**, released a new edition of his novel, "Piper in the Night." Published in hardcover in 2002, the novel was originally written in the late 1970s as an SSU English major independent-study project with Gerald Rosen as advisor.

## 1980s

**Mike Purcell, '80, BS Geology**, was inducted to the U.S. Rugby Hall of Fame. His lengthy rugby career included



### **Kaki McLachlan, MA Education 2010; Single Subject Credential, 2012**

Each year PBS hand-selects 100 digitally-savvy K-12 educators who are effectively using digital media and technology in their schools to further student engagement and achievement.

School of Education alumna Kaki McLachlan has been named a PBS Learning Media Digital Innovator for the 2014-2015 school year. McLachlan teaches science and technology to 6th-8th graders at White Hill Middle School in Fairfax. In addition to teaching life science, this year she took on two brand new technology elective courses focusing on digital citizenship and media.

**"When students use technology in the classroom it allows them to take ownership of what they are learning,"** said McLachlan. **"It is also an engaging way for students to gather up-to-date information in a variety of ways and share what they have learned in more exciting ways than ever before!"**

stints on the Bay Area Touring Side (BATS), U.S. Eagles and the World XV team. Mike is currently the head coach of the UC Davis Men's Rugby Club Team.

**Gary Sandy, '82, BA Special Studies: Media Studies**, assumed the duties of project manager for the Office of the Chancellor at UC Davis. He was also elected as president of the Yuba Community College Board of Trustees.



Roy Redlich

**Roy Redlich, '82, MA Psychology**, retired from the County of Sonoma Human Services Department after 28

years. Roy served in a variety of positions including program development manager, civil rights coordinator, hearing officer, program planning and evaluation analyst, staff trainer, vocational counselor and vocational counselor supervisor.

## 1990s

**Dawn Lyons, '90, BA Anthropology**, released her fiction murder mystery, "The Last Four Digits" (Amber Quill Press), under the pen name Julie Leo.



**D. A. Powell, '91, BA English Creative Writing, '04, MA English**, received the Shelley Memorial Award from the Poetry Society of America. Powell has written five poetry collections including "A Guide for Boys," which received the National Book Critics Circle Award in poetry.

**Matt Markovitch, '96, BA Physical Education**, is currently Dean of Kinesiology at the Santa Rosa Junior College.



Julie Maxwell (left)

**Julie Maxwell, '97, BA History**, completed her Master's in early childhood education in the summer of 2013, and is now Early Learning Scholarship administrator for the Minnesota Department of Education.

**Tiffany Hacke O'Neil, '96, BS, Business Administration (Marketing Emphasis)** recently took on a new job with the Pulmonary

Hypertension Association as their executive director for the California Chapter. She is excited to grow their presence in California and to continue to move forward the organization's mission.

**David Wyffels, '97, BFA Fine Arts**, is an Emmy-winning digital designer at OWN, the Oprah Winfrey Network. He just launched his own personal digital design project, [www.laloveshirts.com](http://www.laloveshirts.com).

**Wendy Faust, '97, BA Communication**, relocated from Southern California to Indianapolis, Indiana, earlier this year to serve Alpha Gamma Delta as its executive director.

## 2000s

**Kevin Cody, '02, BA Liberal Studies Hutchins**, will finish his PhD in Sociology from UC Santa Cruz this year. He has accepted a new



Catharine Bramkamp

faculty position at the University of Northern Colorado in Environmental and Sustainability Studies specializing in sustainable food systems.

**Deanna Partridge, '02, BS Business Accounting**, is a partner of Allen Wine Group LLP in Santa Rosa. Aside from being a full time mother, Deanna is responsible for the accounting departments of seven companies and building relationships with a multitude of professionals.

**Catharine Bramkamp, '03, MA English**, has published two books: "Future Girls and Future Gold." She is also a writing coach who works with both fiction and non-fiction writers.

**Nick Majeski, '04, BA Political Science**, works for the city administrator of the City and County of San Francisco as the emergency response manager. Along with helping to make his hometown safer and better prepared for any man-made or natural disasters, Nick recently received his Certified Emergency

Manager designation from the International Association of Emergency Managers.

**Julia Cooper, '04, BA Chemistry**, is the quality assurance manager for La Tortilla Factory in Santa Rosa. She recently completed the EMBA program at SSU.



Justin Beck

**Justin Beck, '05, BA Communications**, lives in Germany where he recently finished a contract in public relations for a major European Union project in carbon sequestration and agriculture.

**Jennifer Woddington, '05, BA Human Development**, is the owner of her own business and works as a property and casualty insurance agent. She has worked in the insurance industry for 15 years and actively volunteers within her community through the local high school as well as Soroptimist International of Healdsburg.

**Melissa Geissinger, '07, BA Physics**, is the President and COO for Web & Interactive Media Professionals (WIMP LLC) in Santa Rosa. In addition to running an interactive global web community and connective referral program, she develops multiple events and programs throughout the year including WIMP Camp and WIMP Gives.

**Nicholas Rosen, '07, BA Political Science**, went on to complete Law School in 2011 and is still with his college sweetheart Courtney Morales, '07 BA Sociology. Nicholas now works as an associate attorney for Morse Giesler, Callister, Karlin & Hiura, LLP.

**Shannon (McCarthy) Heller, '07, BA Liberal Studies Hutchins, '09, Multiple Subjects Teaching Credential, and Andrew Heller, '07, BS Business Administration, '10, MBA Business Administration**, have married and bought their first home in the East Bay. They are expecting their first child and are continuing to enjoy the company of their first rescue dog, Gibbs.

## 2010s

**Rosemary (Mimi) Marie Amaral, '10, BA Psychology**, is a doctoral candidate in the process of completing both an internship and dissertation. Her dissertation advocates



Shannon and Andrew Heller

for a new division of psychology to be created called entertainment psychology. It's titled: "Bright Lights, Dark Shadows: An Integrative Literature Review of the Shadow Side of the Psychological Consequences of Celebrity and Fame for Entertainers."

**Sarah Ladwig (Zwerin), '10, BA Hutchins,**

launched her own business Paws & Go in 2012, dog-running and dog-hiking in Marin County. Her and her husband welcomed their first baby into the world this year and are enjoying every moment of the early childhood days.



Sarah Ladwig (Zwerin)



### **Matt Chisholm, BA Communications, 2002**

Chisholm worked as an assistant sports information director for SSU Athletics for a year, then went on to do an internship with the S.F. Giants for a full season and also worked for the Emerald Bowl, the annual college football bowl game that used to be played at AT&T Park. Matt then worked with the Colorado Rockies as their media relations coordinator.

After a few years, he returned to the San Francisco Giants as their senior coordinator of media relations and has been part of the organization for all of their three World Series championships in 2010, 2012, and 2014. His position now is director of baseball information with the Giants. "Matt is an outstanding young man and his career story is fun to tell because he is such a lifelong Giants fan," says Bill Fusco, Athletics Director.





Paul Steward

grade teacher at Sunshine Gardens Elementary School in South San Francisco.

**Jake Lattig, '13, BA Business Administration,** is working on the Software Asset Management team at Allianz Managed Operations and

Services of America LLC (AMOS) to enforce IT Asset Management best practices, strategies and services for Allianz's operating entities in North America. Jake first developed this business connection during the SSU Career Fair.

**Amber Coyne, '12, BS Biology,** is currently working on her MA in Public Health and Queer Studies Minor at Oregon State University. She interns in Bangalore working on more sustainable HIV/livelihood programming for transgender people. She was published in "Love Always: Partners of Trans People on Intimacy, Challenge, and Resilience."



Gina Villeggiante

**Gina Villeggiante, '13, BA Human Development,** recently accepted her dream position as the newest 3rd



Elena Traboulsi

**Elena Traboulsi, '14, BS Business Administration,** completed a marketing internship abroad in Madrid, Spain at Alba Languages upon graduation. When she returned, Elena took her real estate exam and is currently a licensed realtor at Bertolone Realty.



**Brianne Nelson (MA in Education, TESOL, or Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages), 2012**

Skillful communications are important in every job, but in SSU alumna Brianne Nelson's line of work, they can be a matter of life and death. Nelson is a Senior Communications Dispatcher for the Sonoma County Sheriff's Office, and she is responsible for dispatching county services in response to 9-1-1 calls—a difficult task when there is a language barrier to overcome.

Nelson's thesis in her TESOL master's degree program focused on issues that could benefit the work emergency services in the County; she conducted a qualitative research study analyzing emergency calls to a California 9-1-1 dispatch center from Spanish-speaking callers who request English interpretation.

**"My research gave me a broadened perspective on the cultural facets of 9-1-1 dispatching. Non-English speakers who need to communicate emergency situations had never really been the focus of academic research before."**

Nelson has been using her research to help develop and update training programs for her department, and has been invited to speak at conferences on the topic.



1801 EAST COTATI AVENUE  
ROHNERT PARK, CALIFORNIA 94928-3609

A CAMPUS OF THE CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

NON PROFIT ORG  
U S POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
SONOMA STATE  
UNIVERSITY

## Keeping up with Sonoma State

Sonoma State University has updated its SSU Mobile iPhone app with a fresh, modern look and new features including a directory of faculty and staff, and a news feed from SSU's NewsCenter.

**A useful feature shows the users on campus superimposed on a campus map, via GPS. Don't miss the events calendar and a link to KSUN, SSU's student-run radio station.**

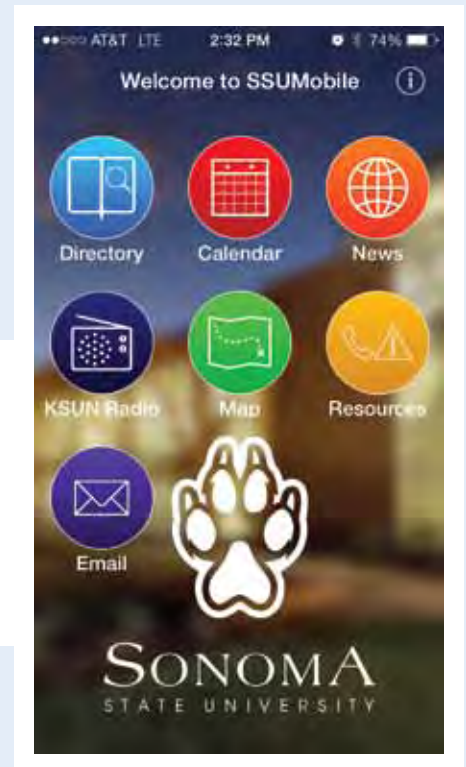
The current version of the app was developed by computer science student Eric Amorde from a class taught by Dr. Ali Kooshesh, professor and chair of the computer science department.

**"I thought it was cool that our app was made entirely by students,"**

says Amorde, who also has made an app for SSU's Dining Services.

**"I knew our campus had an official app and I really wanted to get involved and contribute."**

Unlike most free apps, SSU Mobile does not collect user data. "Absolutely not," says Kooshesh when asked about tracking users. "We do not know who you are and don't try to know who you are." With a laugh, he adds, "It's challenging enough to just give you the basics of what you need."



[www.sonoma.edu/insights](http://www.sonoma.edu/insights)