

FALL 2016

insights

THE MAGAZINE OF SONOMA STATE UNIVERSITY

Welcome President Judy K. Sakaki

pg 5

Water into Wine (and Back Again)

pg 14

Hack Time

pg 16



insights

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insights

THE MAGAZINE OF SONOMA STATE UNIVERSITY



FEATURES

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Sonoma State University's seventh president comes with a background in Student Affairs in the UC and CSU systems. She is the first Japanese American woman president of a four-year college or university in the nation, and has devoted her career to issues of inclusion and educational opportunities for all students.

8 **Hot Stuff**

Molten metal takes shape in the University's foundry, as art students clad in protective leather from head to toe realize their visions in bronze. The 200-pound sculptures require an all-hands-on-deck kind of teamwork, and safety is key in an environment with 2,000-degree furnaces.

14 **Water into Wine (and Back Again)**

It takes more than just good grapes to make Sonoma County wine. Every bottle of wine requires six times the amount of water to make. The resulting wastewater is usually too toxic to pour down the drain, but a team of students and professors are working on an affordable, compact device that cleans the water for on-site irrigation.

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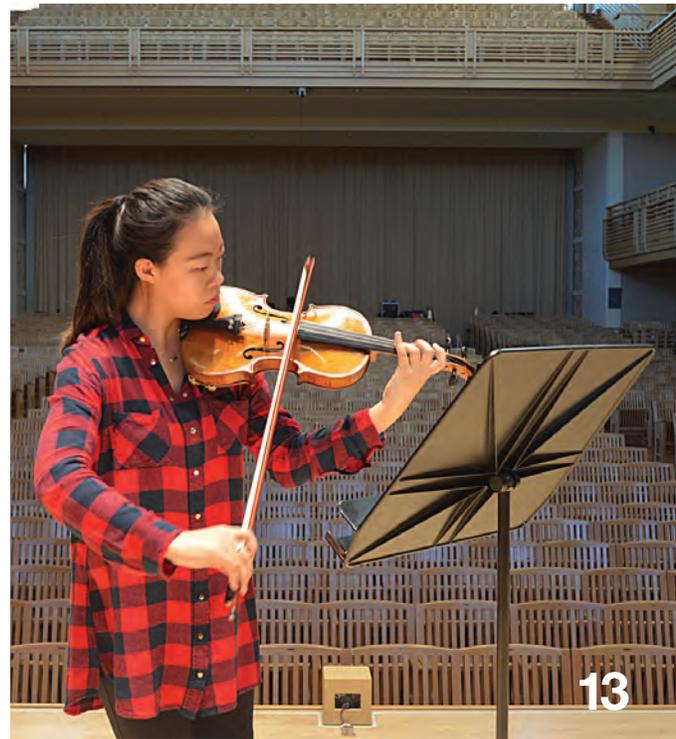
Imagery Estate wine is beautifully delicious, and their labels deliciously beautiful. Each of the 440 labels over the winery's 30-year history started as an original commissioned piece by a modern artist. That \$2 million art collection has found a new home at Sonoma State.

On the cover

Sonoma State's

7th president,

Dr. Judy K Sakaki



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EDITOR:

I enjoy reading the “Insights” magazines you send. Why are there no stories on the radio station, KSUN? It has been in operation for over 40 years. I was station manager in '74 and '75. We were a broadcast station in those days. It was all student operated and we had over 140 volunteers. I have lost touch with it, but I checked the website to see if it's still there, and it is. How about a story on it? Keep up the good work, the magazine looks great.

Jack McKay

Editor's Note: Thanks Jack. Good idea. We have several great communication programs now, including KSUN.

See story on page 12.

EDITOR:

How excellent that you featured BOTH Ruben and Marne in the last issue of “Insights!” They truly do complement each other as a team, and Marne has a lot to do with the inspiration that led to the Green Center.

It's incredible what they have accomplished in 24 years. Some of the older state campuses have some degree of individuality: Chico, San Jose, Humboldt. We were on the way toward becoming another of the big, crowded, ugly, gray ones when the Armiñanas arrived. Our campus is now a destination, worldwide. There are very few halls in the world that compare with Weill Hall and all aspects of the campus have been transformed—from the library to the Student Center.

Your article does Marne the justice she truly deserves for her share in this remarkable quarter century.

Arthur Hills
Professor Emeritus, Music



SSU senior Kaitlyn Phillips collects pumpkins for NOAH

An Apple a Day...

There's been a student-tended garden at Sonoma State for more than 20 years, but it was only this year that the vegetables started being put to the best use possible: feeding low-income families. The garden, farmed by students and volunteers, is actually part of a class on agro-ecology taught by Professor Karen Tillinghast. **In just three months, the garden generated more than 1,000 pounds of food for Neighbors Organized Against Hunger (NOAH), Rohnert Park's food bank.** Another value to the course is that students can see the food they grew be picked up by people who would not otherwise have access to high quality vegetables and fruits.

When NOAH was first approached about the prospect of receiving organic produce free of charge each week, it was met with a skeptical “what's the catch” response. But there was none.

NOAH volunteer Darlene Phillips is grateful for the donation and the dependability of a year-round source of fresh produce. “It's something we know we can count on,” she says during NOAH's Wednesday pick-up day across from Rancho Cotate High School. “It's invaluable.” The regularity of the delivery isn't taken for granted at NOAH because much of what they usually offer is canned, or is surplus from grocery stores and other sources, like the Redwood Empire Food Bank. Having a regular source of fresh produce, “helps teach our clients to eat better,” says Phillips.

— Nicolas Grizzle

Rusty to the Rescue

Katelyn Medlin, a double major in biology and business, turned tragedy into triumph this year with the release of her book "Rusty to the Rescue." During Medlin's first semester at Sonoma State, she found herself in the hospital with doctors having a tough time diagnosing her. The real-life comfort dog Rusty the Dachshund and his owner, Terry Brown, began visiting Katelyn in the hospital.

"I was so happy to have that little dog visit. It really raised my spirits," said Medlin. "I wanted to inspire people to heal, the way Rusty inspired me."

So she decided to put her thoughts and feelings into a book to help others. The book is about a little girl in the hospital named Susie, who is visited by a therapy dog, aptly



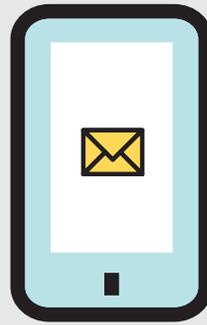
named Rusty. Medlin spent her recovery time at home writing down everything she could remember about her hospital stay. She worked with an editor in New York and an illustrator in the Philippines. After about a year of work, "Rusty to the Rescue" was born. Medlin has already started a second book in the Rusty series and hopes to continue writing. "Rusty to the Rescue" is currently available through Amazon and other bookstores. – Jessica Shipma

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10 Things You May Not Know about Bollywood

Sure, you know Bollywood films are from India, and you probably know they involve a lot of singing and dancing. But here are some things you might not know, courtesy of Sonoma State University theatre and film professor Ajay Gehlawat, whose new book, "Twenty-First Century Bollywood," correlates with his Bollywood and Globalization class.



- 1 All Bollywood films are from India, but not all Indian films are Bollywood films.**
- 2 Though they're fewer in numbers, Bollywood films are by far the most popular in India.**
- 3 Bollywood has realized itself as "Bollywood."**
- 4 Bollywood playback singer Lata Mangeshkar held the Guinness World Record for "Most Recorded Artist in History."**
- 5 Since its home is now called Mumbai, maybe the Hollywood of Bombay should be called "Mollywood" instead.**
- 6 There's a Nigerian spinoff style of Bollywood called "Nollywood."**
- 7 Bollywood movies are more about the music than the film.**
- 8 Some Bollywood songs are used in rural villages to increase literacy rates.**
- 9 Snoop Dogg and Pitbull have recorded Bollywood songs.**
- 10 Several Bollywood films are available on Netflix.**

Image from a film, *Goliyon Ki Rasleela Ram-Leela* (2013)

Motivating Millennials: Medium and Message

by Rocky Rohwedder, Professor Emeritus,
Environmental Studies and Planning

Move over Gen X. The Millennials have arrived. The Pew Research Center labeled this generation as the first true “digital natives.”



- In sub-Saharan Africa, members of a women’s business collective go door-to-door providing solar lighting alternatives that shine brighter and cost less than what

To introduce the Millennials to these powerful solutions, I published a media-rich eBook that can be read on a phone, tablet or computer. The book is entitled “Ecological Handprints: Breakthrough Innovations in

“The Millennials are poised to take the reins of the future.

They’re smart, practical, tech-savvy and ready to help change the world for the better —an awesome combination.”

Author David Burstein describes the Millennials’ approach to social change as “pragmatic idealism” — a deep and practical desire to make the world a better place.

From global climate change to poverty rates in the developing world, there is no lack of need or opportunity to improve the world. So how can we empower these digitally native pragmatic idealists—the Millennials—to address the ecological and social issues of today? One obvious approach is to connect them to the smart, affordable and sustainable solutions already occurring, especially those emerging from the most impoverished regions. Once that connection happens, they have the desire, the tools and the talents to jump right in and be part of it all.

So what are these smart, affordable and sustainable solutions benefiting both humanity and the biosphere? Here are just a few examples:

customers were previously paying for the dangerous and polluting fuel of kerosene lanterns. These solar lighting options can also charge mobile phones!

- In Bangladesh, 1,000 solar systems a day are being installed, primarily by local women, who are part of a micro-lending initiative known as Grameen Shakti. These same women build and maintain these systems, providing additional local community development benefits.
- Kenya is pioneering a phone-based mobile banking revolution. New Pay-As-You-Go (PAYG) options allow cell phone users to buy solar powered kilowatt-hours the same way they buy minutes for their cell plan. No need for approved credit or collateral to be part of a solar-powered clean energy future.

the Developing World” (www.ecologicalhandprints.org). After a foreword by Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu, pragmatic optimists will find dozens of links to real-world examples of how people in poverty are creatively achieving greater health and wellbeing with low ecological impact.

The Millennials are poised to take the reins of the future. They’re smart, practical, tech-savvy and ready to help change the world for the better—an awesome combination. In the days ahead, educators need to sharpen their digital tools and highlight practical solutions to meet the expectations of these digitally native pragmatic idealists.

Welcome

Dr. Judy K. Sakaki

SONOMA STATE'S

New

PRESIDENT

by Jonah Raskin

"It is my belief that there is a strong alignment between what Sonoma State seeks in its next president and my experience and values," Judy K. Sakaki wrote in the letter to the search committee. The trustees' selection committee agreed whole-heartedly that she was the right person at the right time and in the right place. And the sentiment on campus was unanimous.

"I was sitting in my living room in 2009 watching the election results when Barack Obama was elected for his first term. When it was announced I just leapt out of my chair with hope for what could happen for the country. When I met and spoke with Judy Sakaki, I had that same feeling of hope and opportunity for the future of Sonoma State. There are so many new possibilities when you get a new set of eyes—a different lens. I feel very hopeful for the future of SSU. And I am delighted to be part of that," said Deborah Roberts, chair of SSU's Nursing Program.

As the new president of Sonoma State University, Sakaki is the first Asian American woman to lead



“She’s a wonderful listener and collaborator, she’s a very insightful person and she’s a very inclusive person”

a four-year institution of higher education in California—and the first Japanese American woman president of a four-year college or university in the country. “She’s a wonderful listener and collaborator, she’s a very insightful person and she’s a very inclusive person,” said Frank Chong superintendent/president of Santa Rosa Junior College.

“Judy’s personal and academic experiences have inspired her to become a champion for today’s university students,” says Willie Tamayo, executive vice president at La Tortilla Factory, and a member of the presidential search committee that selected Sakaki. “The Sonoma State community asked that the new president be student-centric and focused on providing the classes and support services they need, and that he or she be keenly aware of diversity concerns and be a leader in this arena. Students also asked that the new president build new bridges to the local community including fundraising, internships and job placements for SSU graduates. Judy Sakaki has both the values and skills to accomplish all of these. We’re lucky to have such a fine president to lead Sonoma State into the future.”

Sakaki has a unique background that has influenced her leadership style. Her parents and grandparents were placed in Japanese American

Internment Camps during World War II. She was born and raised in Oakland and is a native Californian. She is a product of the Oakland Unified School District and a first generation college student. In addition, she was a single parent who worked full-time while completing her doctorate at UC Berkeley.

Sakaki has taken on challenging projects: raised millions of dollars for education; brought thousands of students from underrepresented demographic groups to campuses around the state; developed curricula and created new academic programs; helped to streamline transfers from community colleges to the University of California; balanced big budgets and practiced shared governance. Sakaki earned her Ph.D. in Education at UC Berkeley and both her M.S. in Educational Psychology and B.A. in Human Development from CSU Hayward (now East Bay). She has devoted her entire career to issues of inclusion, educational

opportunities and achievement for all students.

She has most recently been Vice President for Student Affairs at the University of California—Office of the President, 2007 to 2016; Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, UC Davis, 2002-2006; Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students, CSU Fresno, 1997-2002; and Dean of Students, CSU Fresno, 1995-1997. She has taught at several universities, was an American Council on Education Fellow, a trustee of The College Board, and a CSU Executive Fellow.



Lobo and SSU students welcome President Sakaki

Ripple Effects

Impact of Gravitational Waves Discovery Stretches to SSU and Beyond

by Nicolas Grizzle

“I have been involved in many scientific discoveries in my career,” says Physics and Astronomy Department Chair Lynn Cominsky. “But this one, I have to say, is the most exciting.”

She is referring to the discovery of gravitational waves—ripples in space-time that resulted from the collision of two supermassive black holes, proving the final part of Einstein’s 1915 general theory of relativity. But the ripples don’t stop there.

It’s rare that a scientific discovery becomes a global cultural phenomenon. But this one saw more than 70 million tweets since the announcement was made in February, and has even been the subject of a cartoon in the *New Yorker*. The film “*Interstellar*” accurately depicts some of the theoretical science involved, even though it was in production years before the discovery.

“Gravitational wave astronomy is a totally different way of studying the universe than electromagnetic astronomy, which we used to just call plain old astronomy”

“People really responded to the story of the quest for gravitational waves, stretching back 40 years,” says Cominsky. The 1974 discovery by Russell Hulse and Joseph Taylor showed the mathematical possibility of gravitational waves with an observation of a binary pulsar. That discovery was awarded a Nobel Prize in 1993, paving the way for this observation to likely follow in its Nobel footsteps.

Since 2007, Cominsky has been on the team that first heard the “chirp” of the collision on Sept. 14, 2015. The effects of this discovery are visible on her calendar, which is increasingly full with travel and speaking engagements, in addition to teaching at SSU and running the University’s NASA-funded Education and Public Outreach (E/PO) program.

Cominsky, who serves as chair of the LIGO (Laser Interferometer Gravitational-wave Observatory) team’s formal education working group, secured a \$240,000 National Science Foundation grant for Sonoma State to offer two courses through the School of Extended Education about the discovery,

geared toward community college educators. The grant includes creation of an educator’s guide for grades 6-12 about LIGO and gravitational waves, available for download free at <http://epo.sonoma.edu/ligo/>.

Sonoma State E/PO illustrator Aurore Simonnet felt the ripple effects when her depictions of the collision were printed in several magazines and saw more than 10 million views as NASA’s Astronomy Picture of the Day. A company is now designing a poster based on

Assembly Member Bill Dodd presents an Assembly Resolution to Lynn Cominsky

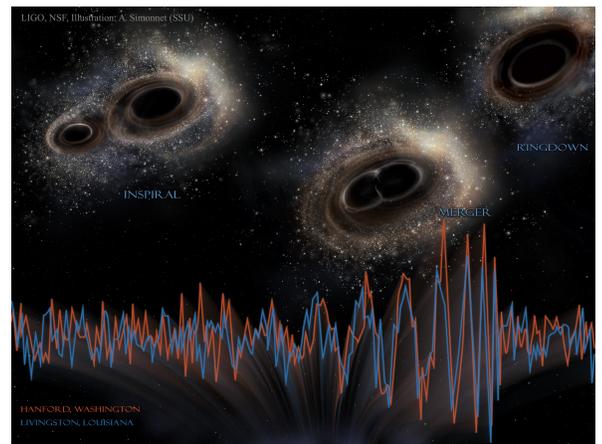


Illustration by Aurore Simonnet

Simonnet’s image that will be displayed in high school physics classes around the country.

For Sonoma State, the ripples even reach into the past. Not just Cominsky, but Sonoma State alumni Ryan Quitzow-James (’05) and Ben Owen (’93) are among the 1,004 international authors of the scientific paper about the discovery.

The effect on the scientific community is equally massive. “Gravitational wave astronomy is a totally different way of studying the universe than electromagnetic astronomy, which we used to just call plain old astronomy,” says Cominsky, who has spent most of her career studying black holes. “We now have this entire new branch of astronomy, and we don’t know where it is going to lead us.”



HOT STUFF



Foundry Allows Students to Realize Visions in Bronze

by James Fortier

In the back of the Sonoma State University art department, students anxiously await the cooling of their freshly poured bronzes from the University's foundry. They've been working all semester, and now they are only a few hours away from seeing their concepts take metallic form. "It's like Christmas morning," says Briona Hendren, a student who's been working with bronze while pursuing her Bachelor of Fine Arts in sculpture.

Hendren is the sculptor behind "Thumbs Up, Seven Up," (left) a life-sized bronze on permanent display

outside the University Library. "It's an ode to our childhood, to remind us to play more often," says Hendren. The 360-pound figure took three months to finish, and she is thrilled with the results.

Artists are often forced to turn to expensive commercial foundries to work with metals, but Sonoma State's foundry was installed when the art building was built in 1978. It provides invaluable hands-on experience as well as reduced project costs. "Bronze is my preferred medium now," says Hendren. "I wouldn't have known that without the foundry."

Preparing to Pour

Every sculpture begins with an idea. For Hendren, it came to her while surveying campus for a place to install her year-end project. “When I looked at the curved cement wall in front of the University Library, I saw an image of a girl playing ‘heads up seven up,’” she says. But before she could make that vision into a reality, she had to do a great deal of preparation.

Each pour—except in the case of Professor Missy Englehart, whose

Team Effort

Pour days only occur two or three times a semester, and can make or break a month’s work in an instant. But worse things can happen than an unsightly mold line. If any moisture makes contact with the molten bronze, a steam explosion can fling liquid metal in every direction. “Everyone involved is outfitted head to toe with protective gear,” says Nunn. Synthetic materials aren’t allowed in the foundry, as the liquid metal is so

The pouring process is a team effort. Between working the furnaces, lifting the crucibles and pouring the molten metals into ceramic shells, students and faculty have their work cut out for them. The crucibles hold between 180-220 pounds of liquid metal, and the equipment needed to handle them isn’t light either. The lifting tongs used to raise the crucible from the furnace can weigh 50 pounds themselves, and require two sets



BFA project featured a live pouring of bronze into a shell-less sand bed—is preceded by the process of mold making. “Think of Shake and Bake chicken,” says Sculpture Professor Jann Nunn. “We take wax forms and dip them in a variety of course sands to create a half-inch-thick coating.” Once the coating is formed, the mold is placed into the burnout kiln, which melts away the wax and transforms the sandy exterior into a ceramic shell. The wax is collected and reused, and the hollow ceramic shell is fit to withstand the molten bronze.

It takes an hour to melt the bronze within the crucible, a process that is quickened by a loud piece of equipment called a blower. It mixes gas and air to an ideal ratio before it reaches the metal, resulting in a more efficient heat transfer.

hot that its reaction with something like a polyester shirt would be extremely dangerous. Instead, students are equipped in industrial leather clothing, with a steel mesh screen to protect the face.

The foundry consists of three furnaces, each reaching temperatures of 2,000 degrees in order to completely liquefy the bronze. The result is a stifling hot workspace.

Artists are often forced to turn to expensive commercial foundries to work with metals, but Sonoma State’s foundry was installed when the art building was built in 1978.

“We’re doing heavy lifting, wearing a lot of leather,” says James Blake, another BFA student. “It’s taxing, and in the end you’re exhausted, but happy.”

of hands to operate. Typically six people are involved in the process, each with specific tasks that must be performed to ensure the safety and success of the pour.

Hendren’s “Thumbs Up, Seven Up” was created in eight different molds before being soldered together. “Throughout the whole process all I could think was ‘Please, please pour perfectly,’” says Hendren. “My heart sank

when I saw a crack in the torso, but fortunately I was able to fix it after the fact.”

During a previous pour, one of Blake’s projects also cracked, this

time during the cooling process. Bronze is a durable metal, but at this stage it can be quite fragile. “The reality is that it was a failed pour, and that has happened to me more than once,” says Blake. “But when it does go well, you have your vision in metal, and it’s worth all the work and stress.”

After Effects

After resting for a few hours, the works are transported a few yards to the breakout bay, a ventilated area where the ceramic shell is removed and the artists have an opportunity to re-texture.

The foundry consists of three furnaces, each reaching temperatures of 2,000 degrees in order to completely liquefy the bronze.

At this stage, the metal can still be manipulated by applying a chemical mixture called patina, or by sand blasting the exterior to achieve a smooth or polished finish.

Patinas affect the surface of the final product. Depending on their chemical composition, a specific patina will garner different results. Liver of sulfur leaves a dark black finish, while ferric gives a rusted one. Each foundry has



its own special chemical blends to work with.

Nature ultimately gives the final touch. Bronze does not rust. Instead, a prolonged exposure to oxygen and water will result in a bluish green color. On Hendren’s “Thumbs Up, Seven Up,” in the hooded pocket of the figure where rainwater collects, a green tinge has already begun to form.

“Sculpting in bronze is a slow process, but it’s so gratifying to see it on your own work,” says Hendren. “I really look forward to witnessing it transform over the years.”



Briona Hendron’s “Thumbs Up, Seven Up” sculpture

#StandWithCSU

Governor Jerry Brown again affirmed his commitment to invest in the California State University and acknowledged the CSU’s vital role as an economic driver and the state’s largest producer of bachelor’s degrees.

Our alumni, employees and friends generously did their part to assure our elected officials understood the value of higher education to California. SSU’s 9,700 students and their families thank you.

An investment in the CSU serves the public good by enabling the CSU to provide quality degree programs and social mobility to the students of California who are among the most ethnically and economically diverse in the nation. The CSU’s four- and six-year graduation rates are at a 10-year high, and they will continue to improve as we remain laser focused on increasing graduation rates by 2025. “Our investments in new faculty, practices that highly impact student success and increasing online education opportunities are paying off. With continued state support, we remain on track to bolster graduation rates and to graduate an additional 100,000 students over the next decade,” said Timothy White, Chancellor of the CSU system. An investment in the CSU is an investment in the future of California—and we appreciate your support as together we #StandWithCSU.



Going Native

Volunteers Help Maintain Serene Garden Oasis on Campus

by Carol Ingerman

Dewdrops glisten like ephemeral gems on the blades of purple needle grass, while Western scrub jays and pipevine swallowtail butterflies, seemingly cut from the same magnificent blue velvet, dig through earth and flowers to find a meal. Wind rustles through the tightly packed branches of a California black oak, its fresh leaves shaking off residual droplets after a spring rain. This isn't one of Sonoma County's numerous state and regional parks—it's the Kenneth M. Stocking Native Plant Garden at Sonoma State University.

In 1974, Biology Professor Kenneth Stocking came up with the idea for the garden in response to the lack of field trips caused by the gasoline crisis. After founding the University's Environmental Studies and Planning (ENSP) Department a few years prior, this seemed like a good way for those students to get hands-on field experience without having to leave campus.

The garden has seen some changes over the years, including the addition of butterfly-inspired wrought iron benches and a self-guided walking tour for the public (available at tinyurl.com/ssunativeplantgarden). But as the garden grows, so too does it stay the same.

The space remains, at its core, a teaching tool for a wide variety of academic areas. ENSP Professor Karen Tillinghast relies on it for her native plant propagation class, and Professor Debora Hammond incorporates it into her classes in the Hutchins School of Liberal Studies.

"The garden helps us all to remember our connection to and dependence upon the natural world," says Hammond. "Not only in terms of our physical survival, but also in relation to our emotional and spiritual well-being."

The four-acre garden located just behind the Alumni Grove at the northeast corner of campus is



The garden's plants and animals are not there by accident, as explained by four colorful and informative interpretive monument signs funded by Santa Rosa Garden Club and California Garden Clubs, Inc. These plants were native to the area before invasive species like European annual grasses and Himalayan blackberry were

“The garden helps us all to remember our connection to and dependence upon the natural world”

carefully cultivated by Sonoma State's landscaping crew. Since 1985 that crew has included California native plant expert like Jay Pedersen who has helped maintain the diverse areas of the garden with the aid of volunteers from student groups including JUMP (Join Us Making Progress), as well as off-campus groups like the Sonoma County Youth Ecology Corps and Social Advocates for Youth. The most consistent volunteer group has been the Santa Rosa Garden Club, whose members have volunteered in the garden every other week with ongoing maintenance and funding special projects since the mid-1990s.

introduced by newcomers to the Golden State. Many were chosen specifically to attract butterflies and other pollinators. It is efforts like these that have led to the garden receiving many certifications declaring its benefit to the natural world.

"Thanks to the continuing care and passion for this little-known oasis on campus, curious minds passing through Sonoma State will be able to experience the peace and beauty of a natural California habitat for years to come," says Tillinghast.

Native Plant Garden Certifications

- Butterfly Garden, North American Butterfly Association
- Monarch Garden, North American Butterfly Association
- Monarch Waystation, Monarch Watch
- Wildlife Habitat, National Wildlife Federation
- Pollinator Habitat, Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation

Voice of the Students

KSUN Gives On-Air Radio Experience to Communication Students

by Jessica Shipma

Students get experience in everything from sports broadcasting to music programming at Sonoma State's online radio station, KSUN. The class is taught by Sonoma County radio professional Nate Campbell, who says many of his students go on to work in the radio broadcast industry.

"More than a dozen of my former students, over the past five or six years, are currently working in Sonoma County radio both on and off air," says Campbell. "Several others work in large markets like San Francisco and Sacramento."



In the four-unit Communications class, each student is assigned to do a weekly two-hour radio show of their own design, either solo or with a partner. Just like professional radio programs, they also are required to line up an advertiser to sponsor their show. Because KSUN is modeled

after a professional radio station with managers and different departments, students are able to gain real-world experience that will transfer immediately to a career in radio.

KSUN started in the 1970s as a club broadcasting out of the residential halls before moving into its current home in the basement of Ives Hall, the former music building. The station embraced the digital world early on and has broadcast in an online-only format since 2002. This allows listeners to tune in anywhere they have an Internet connection, including from mobile devices, at www.SonomaStateRadio.com.

For communication majors interested in other media avenues, SSU also offers a television broadcast class (SSU-TV) and a weekly newspaper (the Star).



KSUN student DJ working on air

In the four-unit communication class, each student is assigned to do a weekly two-hour radio show of their own design, either solo or with a partner.

Tonal Clarity

From China to Sonoma, Clara Ning Shines as SSU Symphony Orchestra Concertmaster

by Nicolas Grizzle

Xinzhe (sin-chEAU) Ning is known as Clara to her American classmates and professors. But that is not the only change for the 21-year-old Sonoma State University Symphony Orchestra concertmaster. She started college in a new country last year, and since then has learned more than just the English language.

She came to Sonoma State in September 2015, enrolling in the Sonoma State American Language Institute through the School of Extended and International Education to improve her English. She did so well, she was able to study and perform

says. “My hands were freezing and the piece was very fast. I thought I had messed it up.”

her background in the universal language of music theory. The Green Music Center was part of

“She has made immeasurable contributions to the department in a very short time...”

Her violin teacher advocated for her, explaining she was more talented than her audition might have shown. After all, she had been playing violin and studying her favorite composers Bach, Tchaikovsky and Mozart since age 5.

She was first chair in her orchestra in China, but this is her first time as concertmaster. She’s a little nervous about it given the extra responsibility. She now practices twice as often because she must know each piece as well as the conductor.

“She has made immeasurable contributions to the department in a very short time, having auditioned into the concertmaster position by the end of her first semester here,” says Wilson.

Her music classes came easier than, say, anthropology, thanks to

the draw that attracted her to a university halfway across the globe. “It’s really an honor to play in Weill Hall,” she says.

A highlight of her Sonoma State experience has been participating in a master class with renowned violinist Rachel Barton Pines in February, who was at the University to perform with the Santa Rosa Symphony in Weill Hall. Ning remembers Pines telling her to pay more attention to bow speed and keep her vibrato going, tips she was thrilled to receive and immediately incorporated into her playing.

Overall, Sonoma State’s orchestra is not that different from the Beijing orchestra she played in from 2006 to 2012—except that now she has a little more responsibility, and she is not surrounded by fellow 12-year-olds.



with the SSU Symphony Orchestra in its first-ever concert at the end of the semester. Ning enrolled as a full-time student shortly thereafter and graduates in 2020.

Ning met Sonoma State Music Department Chair Brian Wilson during an open rehearsal and audition on his recruiting trip to Beijing, China in December, 2014. “December is cold in Beijing,” she

Practice makes perfect for SSU’s Symphony Orchestra concertmaster



Water into Wine

by Nicolas Grizzle

The average winery produces six gallons of wastewater for one gallon of wine. Coming out of a serious drought and with water costs still rising, that is more than just bad public relations. But a team from Sonoma State University is working to clean up the process and put that excess water to good use.

Even the ecologically conservative D'Argenzio Winery produces about 3,000 gallons of wastewater per year from racking and rinsing the wine barrels of their annual production of 3,000 cases (7,314 gallons) of wine. The water cannot be dumped because of its acidity and high level of organics, which would harm the local ecosystem. "It's really industrial waste," says owner Ray D'Argenzio, and just a whiff of the wastewater in a holding tank behind the winery quickly confirms this assertion.

Small wineries usually pay to have it trucked away to the East Bay Municipal Utility District in Oakland, which for years was the closest place this water could be treated enough to be reused for irrigation. It's expensive and those big tanker trucks leave a sizable ecological footprint, but for a small winery there are not many viable alternatives.

Enter the research team of Sonoma State Biology Professor Michael Cohen.

Cohen and his students are working with the Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology in

Japan on a pioneering wastewater treatment project. It's efficient, quick, automated and small enough to fit on a kitchen counter. For small, urban wineries like D'Argenzio, it could be a game changer.

"The advantage of having something like this, in addition to lowering waste treatment cost, is that you save on water," says Cohen. "You're cleaning the water so you can use it for irrigation."

"The practice has become more popular now, but we've always been pretty ecologically conservative," says D'Argenzio, pointing to the winery's water efficient landscape and dedicated electric vehicle charging station as examples. "If we think there's an opportunity to do

more in terms of sustainability, we jump on it."

Just as Cohen suggested, the treated water, which comes out as clean as the reclaimed "purple pipe" water pumped throughout Sonoma County, is used to irrigate an on-site garden. Naturally, that garden includes a grapevine.

One reason Cohen is working on this project is to make sure the Okinawa Institute's engineering design incorporates an understanding of biological reality, he says. On this project, Cohen and his biology students are working with Engineering Science Professor Farid Farahmand and advising instructor Ali Kujoor and their students to find that perfect blend of nature and nurture.



Professor Cohen and the wastewater treatment system

(and **back again**)

How it Works

The device's tubular, spiral design is more efficient than similar systems, which look more like a flat tray. But as brilliant as the design may be, humans are still looking for the best microbes to do the job more efficiently.

Electrogenic bacteria “eat” the organic material in the water, like juice or leftover grape skins, producing a small amount of electricity as a byproduct.

The process is based on the concept of a microbial fuel cell, which has become part of many high schools' science curricula. Electrogenic bacteria “eat” the organic material in the water, like juice or leftover grape skins, producing a small amount of electricity as a byproduct. These bacteria cooperate with other microbes that produce methane gas.

“The bacteria take food—sometimes its sugars, but in this case it includes ethanol and acetic acid—and they oxidize it, delivering the electrons to conductive surfaces,” says Cohen. “If you connect that surface to another surface via wire, you generate electric current.”

In this all-inclusive system, the internal electrode surface takes the place of oxygen, which eliminates the need for an external oxygen pump.

“The most energy intensive part of wastewater treatment is aerating it because typical microbes in a system

require oxygen to be pumped into the water,” says Cohen. “Roughly half the cost of wastewater treatment is being saved by not having to do the aeration.”

A few days after entering the device smelly and riddled with flotsam, cleaned water flows from the

device into a plastic barrel for a few more days, allowing plants to finalize the cleaning process by removing the last bits of nitrogen and phosphorus.

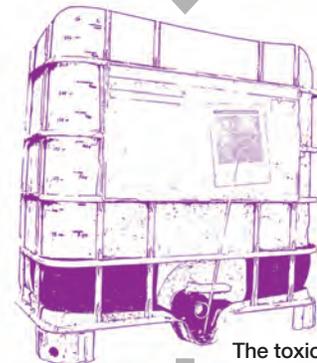
The project is in the middle of a two-year research phase. This year students are working on harvesting that self-generated electrical energy to power a monitoring device that was designed and installed by a previous student group. This will eventually allow the unit to be checked and controlled off-site.

Should the project's success continue, Cohen can see it being made up to 20 times larger in just five years. D'Argenzio says he's already thinking of adding more units to increase on-site cleaning capacity, and hopes the technology will be able to be used in other ways. “This may even become a type of thing people could use at their home,” he says. “It could even power part of their home.”



1

Wine barrels are rinsed after use



2

The toxic wastewater is stored in a holding tank



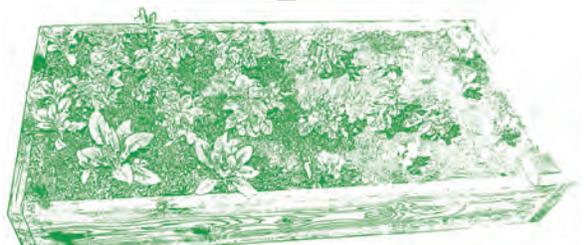
3 Water flows into the Microbial Fuel Cell for cleaning

Bacteria digest the organic matter in the water and oxidize ethanol and acetic acid, leaving byproducts of methane gas and electric energy



4

After a few days in the MFC, water flows into a plant-topped rain barrel for the final polishing step



5

When finished, the water is used to irrigate an on-site garden

Hack Time

Inaugural Make-a-Thon Combines Creativity, Technology and Problem-Solving

by Pam Van Halsema

Teams of Makers of all ages and backgrounds did not know what to expect when they came together for a 27-hour marathon of hacking, building, creating and tinkering. But in the end, a bleary-eyed group of Sonoma State alumni took first place honors at the inaugural North Bay Make-a-Thon at Rohnert Park's Sonoma Mountain Village this spring.

The event brought college-aged Makers together with professionals who volunteered their time as mentors. Sonoma State sophomore business major Clayton Taylor and SoCo Nexus Executive Director Ameer Sas had a vision of giving Makers hands-on experience with a project that was more than just a hobby—something that could be marketed and turned into a business.

"I didn't learn what I know about starting businesses until I went out and did it," says Taylor. The

premise of the Maker Movement is similar—just go out there and make something. It might not work, it might be great, but the key is to just do it. For Taylor, that is also the key to being a successful entrepreneur. "In my mind, Making and entrepreneurship go hand in hand," he says.

The premise of the Maker Movement is similar — just go out there and make something. It might not work, it might be great, but the key is to just do it.

At the kick-off, Carlos Ayala, dean of the School of Education at Sonoma State, urged all the Makers to channel their innate sense of creativity and their drive, innovation and collaboration to make something great. After 27 hours without sleep (but plenty of caffeine), the teams finally had the chance to pitch their ideas to a board of judges—Shark Tank-style. The finalists then pitched to an audience who determined the

winners. The award ceremony was held during the public Make-a-Thon Expo the following day.

The winning team, comprised of recent Sonoma State engineering science graduates Erik Zaro, Brandon Mondo and Aram Yegiazaryan, as well as recent UC Davis grad Travis Pereira, worked for 27 hours straight

in the marathon competition to make a near field communication (NFC) coffee cup. They were awarded a \$1,500 prize for their first place finish out of 28 teams. Their project applies a chip to any reusable coffee cup that is coded with your usual drink order and payment information, so a barista would only need to scan the cup and make the order. A corresponding app tracks the purchase, eliminating the need for dangerous pre-caffeine communication and keeping one more paper cup out of the landfill.

Third place was a tie between two Sonoma State student teams. One project was a bike lock unlocked via fingerprint scanner; the other a dashboard-mounted system to alert hearing-impaired drivers when emergency sirens are sounding near them.

The event was sponsored by both private and public entities, including Autodesk, Innovative Molding, Summit State Bank, SSU's School of Business and Economics and the School of Extended and International Education's Maker Educator Certificate Program, and other groups.





Imagery Winery **Art Collection** Finds New Home

by Nicolas Grizzle

The fine art gracing the labels of Imagery Estate Winery's unique wines began 30 years ago as a project between a Glen Ellen winemaker and Sonoma State University art professor. Now the highly regarded, 442-piece Imagery Estate Winery permanent collection comes full circle to Sonoma State University thanks to a generous gift from the Benziger family and a business partner, the former owners of Benziger Family Winery.

"It was always our hope that the collection would stay together and be exhibited in the years to come," says

family member and former Benziger Family Winery President Tim Wallace. "We think Sonoma State is the perfect home for the collection."

Together, the individual pieces in the collection are valued at \$2 million, but its value as a complete collection is much more, says its curator and SSU art professor emeritus Bob Nugent. The donation is the largest gift of art in the University's history and triples the size of Sonoma State's current art collection.

The collection features works by many significant artists from American contemporary art, such as Sol LeWitt, Robert Arneson, William T. Wiley, Pat Steir, Hung Liu, Nathan Oliviera, John Baldessari, Nancy Graves, Robert Hudson, Squeak Carnwath and several others. Many SSU art faculty are represented as well, including Nugent, Kurt Kemp, Mark Perlman, Stephen Galloway, Inez Storer and Shane Weare.

"The Imagery Collection is remarkable and unique because the art in it represents work from a cross-section of notable

valued at \$2 million, but its value as a complete collection is much more.

20th and 21st century contemporary artists, all of whom marry their visual aesthetic in nuanced, subtle ways with the art of wine and winemaking," says Thaine Stearns, dean of the School of Arts and Humanities.

All pieces in the collection also share another common trait: each contains an image of the Parthenon, a recreation of which stands at Benziger Winery.

Nugent and winemaker Joe Benziger hatched the idea of commissioning fine art for a special collection of Benziger wine labels in 1984. Imagery has since become its own label, with its own Glen Ellen winery and art gallery. The collection has outgrown the space, however, and it was time to find a new home where it could be appreciated on a regular basis.

"I wanted to keep the whole collection together in one place," says Benziger. "To have it so close to home at Sonoma State, which is developing such a great wine business program, that

The donation is the largest gift of art in the University's history...

is very special. Our family is very proud that it's going to be there."

Imagery Winery continues to operate at its same location with Joe Benziger as winemaker, and still commissions art for its labels. The winery remains open to the public for art viewing and wine tasting.



Alumni Association Board of Directors 2016

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(BS Kinesiology, 1994 & MA Kinesiology, 1999)

From the Alumni Association President...

Hello Alums:

It is a pleasure and honor for me to serve as the SSU Alumni Association president and represent the past, present and future alumni of Sonoma State University. I am passionate about volunteering my time because SSU has provided me with the tools and resources to attain what I have today.

A lot of exciting things are taking place at Sonoma State. We welcome our new president, Dr. Judy K. Sakaki to SSU and thank Dr. Ruben Armiñana for his 24 years of dedicated service. You may have also heard about the new Heart Of SSU Alumni Scholarship. If you haven't yet, the SSU Alumni Association is awarding a full tuition scholarship to a worthy SSU student with a strong academic record, demonstrated community service and leadership who, without the support of alumni like you, wouldn't be able to attend college. We are currently in the fundraising phase and need your support to make the scholarship a reality. All too often, social and economic hardships are the reason our youth don't reach their full potential. If we, as alumni, who've been fortunate enough to graduate from college, can start by helping one person a year, and that person helps another one or two, we can start to build momentum over time and make a material impact.

Supporting the scholarship is how I show my gratitude and appreciation for the University and its professors who have helped me grow. This is my way of paying it forward. If what I have shared resonates with you, please join me in support of SSU. I can be reached directly at josephhuang8@gmail.com or www.linkedin.com/in/josephhuang8.

I look forward to meeting many of you at one of our upcoming events: the 5th annual Golf Tournament (Oct. 15), annual Lagunitas evening (Nov. 21), alumni meetups or as our paths cross in the community. A heartfelt "thank you" from the Board to all the alumni who have supported the SSU Alumni Association and "thank you" in advance for your future support.

Warmest Regards,
Joseph Huang, '02, '04

President, Alumni Association
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2016-17
Alumni
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Directors
with SSU
former
President
Ruben
Armiñana



Commencement 2016

Approximately 2,000 students became Sonoma State University alumni as Sonoma State University awarded degrees to the Class of 2016 at its 55th annual commencement ceremonies. No one was more excited to be part of commencement day than Lobo, SSU's Seawolf mascot. He met up with grads around campus and had hugs for all. Some of the lucky graduates who got special felicitations from Lobo are below.



This year, Lobo partied like he meant it with the grads. And for the second year, SSU held a “decorate your grad cap contest” on Facebook. More than 118 artistic souls entered their creative mortar boards in the contest. Facebookers voted for the winners in three categories. Go to bit.ly/ssugradcap to see them all— and bit.ly/capwinners to see the winners!

DC Mixer

Sonoma State University alumni gathered to reminisce and bid farewell to outgoing University President Ruben Armiñana and his wife Marne Olson.



SSU Vice President Dan Condron (from left) joined Amanda Kosty, former President Ruben Armiñana, Marne Olson, Katie Havens, Alex Boyar and Cynthia Brown who shared lively conversation about the Super Tuesday Primary televised at the 201 Bar in Washington, D.C.

NYC Mixer

Two hundred CSU alumni and their guests gathered for the 6th annual New York/Tri-State Alumni Reception at the University Club in New York City. Sonoma State University Alumni Director Laurie Ogg (middle), Alyssa Frazier and Eli Cohen represented SSU. The evening ended at Elio's Restaurant on 2nd street, owned by SSU alumna Anne Isaak.



Mark your calendar to join us at alumni events this year!!



**SSU Alumni College-Am Golf Scramble
October 15, 2016**

Foxtail Golf Course, Rohnert Park



**Lagunitas Mixer and Heart of
SSU Scholarship Event
November 21, 2016**



2016 Ambrose R. Nichols Jr. Scholar

Shauna Fassino

Shauna Fassino has wanted to be a nurse since she was 12 years old. She was already attending Sonoma State, hoping she would be accepted into the University's prestigious nursing program, when her grandfather had what would be a fatal stroke in February 2015.

He had wanted her to become a nurse as much as she did, and it was difficult to recover from the emotional loss. But the 2016 Ambrose R. Nichols Jr. Scholarship recipient did not falter. Instead, she pursued her goal even harder to honor her grandfather's wishes.

"Losing my grandfather has been one of the hardest experiences I have ever encountered," she says. **"I miss him every day, but it also gave me even more drive to become a nurse and help others."** And when she was accepted into the nursing program at the end of the semester, she says she felt her grandfather celebrating with her.

The junior is now president of the Nursing Club, a member of the Student Health Advisory Committee and volunteers with student-run community service organization JUMP (Join Us Making Progress), all while maintaining a 4.0 GPA. She plans to graduate in 2017 and pursue a Master's degree in nursing and become a nurse practitioner.

"I want to help families in their most vulnerable state, and ultimately give back to the communities that have given so much to me throughout the years," she says.

—Nicolas Grizzle

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!

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Give every year, make a difference every day.

Contact University Development at **707 664.2712** or visit www.sonoma.edu/development/fund-for-sonoma.

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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
3. Website: 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

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 receives a \$750 athletic scholarship award at "The Wolfies," the annual SSU sports awards event.



Kristal Luna, Soccer

A junior from Sunnyvale, Kristal Luna has battled through countless injuries to be one of the team's leaders. This season she was named All-CCAA Second Team after tying for the team lead in goals and leading the Seawolves to their first conference championship since 1997.



Justin Shluker, Golf

Justin Shluker, a junior from Park City, Utah, was one of the Seawolves' top golfers this season. The individual medalist at the prestigious Hanny Stanislaus Invitational, Shluker helped lead SSU to its 10th NCAA Tournament in 11 seasons. He was recently named First Team All-CCAA and All-West Region.





Lyndi Brown

1970s

Lyndi Brown, '71, BA English, was selected as Petaluma's 2016 Good Egg Award Winner. The Good Egg Award is presented to a Petaluma citizen whose 'egg-ceptional' effort has helped preserve and promote Petaluma, its history and its people. Lyndi is thrilled to join the other 34 Good Eggs, selected each year of the parade.



Jack B. Rochester

Jack B. Rochester, '72, BA English, '84, MA Comparative Literature, founded Fictional Café (www.fictionalcafe.com) in March 2014 to publish fiction, poetry, art and photography from

creative people around the world. Rochester is currently working on his third novel, "White Bike," a story of hit-and-run murder, business espionage, entrepreneurship and multicultural romance.

1980s

Marco Gandasubrata, '84, BA Finance Management, was hired as the director of NPES, The Association for Suppliers of Printing, Publishing and Converting Technologies, Indonesia. Gandasubrata has over 13 years of experience in the graphic arts industry, and will be aiming to facilitate and boost exports by the printing, publishing and converting industry to Indonesia in his new role.

1990s

Nicole Hagaman, '97, BA Liberal Studies Hutchins, had a baby boy in 2014 and left the corporate world in 2015 to start a strategic marketing consulting business, Strategic Solutions.

Lisa (Abbott) Janson, '94, BA Zoology, was recently



Brett Rhodes, '00, BA, Criminal Justice and '04, MPA, Public Administration, is no stranger to the legal field. He has been a police officer, detective and sergeant in Northern California law enforcement agencies for more than a decade. Rhodes also served as the Chief of Police for a federally deputized tribal police agency in 2010, where he authored a law enforcement practices article published by the U.S. Department of Justice COPS Magazine. He graduated from the FBI leadership program and successfully collaborated on many key law enforcement programs with State and Federal agencies. Rhodes also comes from a long line of attorneys, as his father, grandfather and uncles have all have practiced law in California. While at Empire College studying law, Rhodes was presented with the prestigious Pro Bono Award by the Sonoma County Bar Association for his volunteer work with the community. During law school, Rhodes worked as a certified law clerk for Rains Lucia Stern PC, a premier full-service litigation law firm with an emphasis on the representation of peace officers in disciplinary, criminal, labor, workers' compensation, personal injury and other civil matters. After the State Bar, Rhodes intends to pursue a career in public safety law, primarily representing peace officers.



Lisa (Abbott) Janson

hired as the new events coordinator for the City of Sonoma. Janson represents

the city in the organization and management of events on the Plaza, Depot Park and Field of Dreams and will be the on-site contact person for most events.

Celeste Spencer Romo, '93, BA History, is currently at Intel Corporation as a leadership and learning consultant.

2000s

Jennifer Aras, '02, BS Business Administration, CPA, has been promoted to Director at Crowe Horwath where she was previously senior manager. Aras manages client relationships and audit engagements, primarily for employee benefit plans and location education agencies.



Jennifer Aras

Kevin Knowles, '09, BA Anthropology, '09, History minor, has graduated from the University of Buffalo with a Ph.D. in Anthropology.

Colleen Smith, '07, BS Kinesiology, went back to grad school for physical therapy shortly after her undergraduate career. Colleen is now working as an outpatient orthopedic physical therapist for ATI.

Katherine Stone, '07, BA Psychology, completed her Masters of Education in Curriculum and Instruction at George Mason University in a dual-program which also included an elementary teaching license. She moved

to South Korea in 2009 to teach English for what she thought would be a year. Katherine fell in love with the overseas teaching experience, and has since taught in Hong Kong, China, and now, Indonesia. She is currently teaching Grade 3 PYP in Bandung, West Java, Indonesia.

Meredith Trujillo, '08, BS Exercise Science, attended grad school at Samuel Merritt University. She received her RN nursing license in 2010 and completed her Masters of Science in Nursing in 2011. Since then, she has been working as an RN case manager for Kaiser Permanente.

2010s

Erica Buchko, '15, BA Creative Writing, '15 Film Studies minor, is currently working for the State of California. She creates and maintains blogs on film analysis and lifestyle and is working on a creative nonfiction/memoir. Erica is getting married this August.

Eloy Camacho, '14, BA Communications, is currently the promotions director and on-air personality at Sonoma Media Group, a local radio station conglomerate.

Jessica Gregory, '14, BA English, has been serving with City Year through AmeriCorps: working in underprivileged schools in Los Angeles. Jessica



Alumnus Ian Cauble ('03, BS International Business and Spanish)

is one of just 230 Master Sommeliers in the world, and also one of the youngest. In 2011, Cauble was named "Best Young Sommelier in the World Under 35 Years Old," and that same year he took first prize as TOP|SOMM in the United States. In 2013, he was featured in the film "SOMM," an American documentary following the attempts of four candidates to pass the extremely difficult Master Sommelier examination, a test with one of the lowest pass rates in the world.

Alumnus Brandon Carneiro ('03, BA Economics)

and Ian Cauble had met in 1999 at Sonoma State University and became fast friends during their time as undergrads. Six years later they reconnected in Las Vegas where Carneiro was working as a fine wine salesperson and Cauble was an aspiring sommelier at one of the hottest new restaurants. Both had been seduced by the complexity and richness of wine, and had a passion for sharing their wine knowledge with others. Cauble went on to earn the Master Sommelier title and Carneiro to earn his MBA.

In 2014, together, they founded SommSelect.com, a free subscription website catering to discerning wine enthusiasts who wish to discover sommelier-selected wines, as a way to give access to sommelier-selected wines to enjoy with family and friends, or to thoughtfully expand a collection.

Cauble and Carneiro give back to their alma mater in a very impactful way, by hiring SSU graduates as they transition from academia to the career world. Some of those are Carly Buck, Brandon Carman, Daniel Schuh and Christina Vizcaino.

has plans to complete her teaching credential and MA in Education this fall at UCLA.

Kristen Henderson, '13, BS Exercise Science, is completing her MS degree at Dominican University, and plans to go on to become an occupational therapist.

Kristin Hipp, '12, BA Psychology, went on to receive her Master's in Student Affairs and Higher Education in May of 2014 from Indiana State University. She spent a year working as a residence hall coordinator for Indiana State University before moving to Saint Louis to be a residential hall coordinator at Maryville University of Saint Louis. Kristin was recently selected as part of the university's Staff Leadership program for the 2016-2017 year, and is looking forward to the professional development and networking opportunities that this role will provide.

Ryan Knutson, '12, BA History, '12, Latin American Studies minor, '12, Spanish minor, participated in a study abroad program in Summer 2015 through Heidelberg Institute for Latin American studies in Santiago, Chile, where he studied international law/politics. Knutson worked with Judge Juan Guzman in writing a legal thesis concerning the development of the rule of law and democratic legal and political institutions of Latin America. He returned to Golden Gate University School of Law in San Francisco to complete his JD degree, and is

currently waiting on his bar results.

Sarra Qutob, '14, BS Business Administration, is working at Cal State East Bay in Alumni Relations. Among other things, Sarra helps facilitate alumni and constituent engagement and assists with events.

Mikki Routheau, '15, BA History, is working with Bay Area nonprofit Seneca as a family support counselor.

Cassandra Taylor, '11, BA Human Development, '11, Early Childhood Studies minor, is working as a teacher/mentor at Fusion Academy, a private high school. Cassandra plays an important role and has helped her students through emotional disorders, social anxieties and drug addictions.

Cassandra Trimnell, '12, BA Global Studies, is president and founder of the

Cell 101, which specializes in sickle cell education via social media.

Aimee Yates, '11, BS Biology, went back to school for her teaching credential, and is working as a science teacher for Brentwood Union School District.

Garret Gooch, '16, BA Business Administration

was recently dispatched on an internship by Ultimate Ears, a waterproof and shockproof Bluetooth speaker brand owned by Logitech. He took a three-month journey across the U.S. to identify members of the public who would become early users of "Ultimate Ears." Each experience and interaction along the way was documented through the company's social media channels. Gooch credits the School of Business & Economics (SBE) and the SSU community with helping to develop his interpersonal skills and business acumen which enabled him to succeed in the project. "An amazing internship. I learned more about myself in three months than I have in my entire life."

Gooch documented a variety of adventures over the course of three months, including whitewater rafting down the Chattahoochee River along the Georgia-Alabama border, a "Slow Roll" bike club ride in Detroit, Michigan, the Warrior Dash Mud Run competition in Ohio, and a 17-mile trek near Aspen, Colorado, which involved an impromptu dance party at 11,900 feet—all with Ultimate Ears in hand.

"We didn't get the address of the outdoorsman and send him or her our product, we hiked the mountain to find those people. Our approach wasn't to simply hand out speakers; we invited people to enjoy the tunes, dance with us, and visualize how they would use the product," said Gooch.

For more information regarding Garret Gooch and his internship, visit the "10,000 Mile Roll" blog at <http://ultimateears.com/blog/category/10000-mile-roll/>





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