UC SANTA CRUZ MAGAZINE

FALL 2018

FORWARD THINKING
ALUMNA **SUSAN WOJCICKI,**
CEO OF YOUTUBE, IS
BLAZING A TRAIL FOR
WOMEN IN HIGH TECH

2018 YEAR OF ALUMNI

FALL 2018 ADMISSIONS

by the numbers as of July 11, 2018

on admitted students

67,000 largest applicant pool in history

35,000 students offered admission for the upcoming year

7,072 California community college students offered a spot

5,600 Number of new undergraduates UC Santa Cruz anticipates welcoming for fall 2018

With a smaller enrollment target than the previous year, UC Santa Cruz increased its admission selectivity

California high schoolers received more than 18,000 offers of admission to UC Santa Cruz*

UC Santa Cruz saw transfer applications increase 31% from last year and 37% from 2016

on expected enrollment

73% Nearly three-quarters of admissions offers are made to California residents. Of the enrolled student body, students from other states and countries make up about 10% of the undergraduate class.

83% Percentage of the 3,700 expected freshmen who are likely to enroll from California

50% Increase over last year's transfer enrollment for an expected 1,900 new transfer students in the fall

2018 freshman admission profile

* The balance of offers were made to California community college transfer students and nonresident students.

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2018 YEAR OF ALUMNI

UC Santa Cruz has designated 2018 as the **Year of Alumni,** a time to savor, celebrate, and promote the legacy of proud Banana Slugs who have made their mark as they've gone on to successful careers and paradigm-shifting endeavors.

In this magazine and in other publications, we are sharing stories of graduates whose lives were changed by UC Santa Cruz and who embody the values and qualities that represent this campus—social justice, public service, environmental stewardship, a dedication to exploring the human condition, and a determination to change the world.

Cover photo: ART + COMMERCE

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UC SANTA CRUZ
MAGAZINE
FALL 2018

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LETTERS

Rants, raves, recommendations, and love letters from our readers. Write us at ***magazine@ucsc.edu.***

CORRECTION

The inside back cover of the spring 2018 issue describes the UCSC Retirees Association Bruce Lane Memorial Scholarship Fund as being "created in the memory of the first campus architect." Although Bruce Lane was an architect, he was not the first campus architect, and he did not hold that title. The first campus architect was Jack Wagstaff, who also holds the distinction of being UC Santa Cruz's very first employee, preceding even founding chancellor Dean McHenry.

Bruce Lane was an architect who worked first in the Office of Physical Planning and Construction and then in capital planning, where he served as director of capital planning until his retirement. I worked closely with Bruce during my time at UC Santa Cruz, first as staff architect and then as campus architect. He was devoted to the campus and well deserves being remembered in this way; I remember him fondly.

—Frank Zwart
Campus architect emeritus

PHTHALATES NOT THE ONLY PERIL

The article on Professor Rebecca Braslau's research on phthalates ["Preventing plastic's perils," page 10, spring '18] was interesting, but left out an important aspect of polymer hazards, particularly for PVC. While phthalates are a significant concern for consumers, the precursor for making polyvinyl chloride, vinyl chloride, is a well-known carcinogen that threatens workers in the PVC production process. In addition, there are a variety of other toxicity concerns, particularly around chlorine, present in the supply chain for PVC. Elimination of phthalates will not necessarily eliminate the risks associated with PVC or other polymers that involve the use of phthalates.

In this era of federal efforts to eliminate regulations protecting human health and the environment, we should be aware and vigilant about the risks of products and materials across their entire life cycle.

—Michael S. Brown, Ph.D.
Crown '74, politics

P.S. Some of us aren't as big fans of Chancellor Sinsheimer as the two letter writers in the spring issue [Letters, page 2], both of whom were in executive roles in the administration. Some of us believe that UC Santa Cruz was always a "serious" university even as it took a different path.

A LIFETIME OF COMICS

I enjoyed the "Comic relief" article [page 20, spring '18].

I particularly appreciated Jim Gunderson remembering the 1970s Graphic Stories Guild. The 8/9 annual publications are exhaustively documented in the 1982 *Official Underground and Newave Comix Price Guide* by Jay Kennedy. I ran that guild for two years with Charlie Boatner and Angela Bocage. Jerome Schiller ran it for its last two years.

Charlie Boatner (College V/ Porter '77, individual major, comics writing) moved to New York City after graduation and sold stories to DC, Marvel, JC, Eclipse, and Vertigo. Piranha Press/DC published his graphic novel. He's currently drawing the web strip **www.BureauofBeasties.com.**

Angela Bocage (Gilden) (Porter '84, art) published her first comics story, "The Worm," in the Graphic Stories Guild, and created the first comics anthology from a major publisher for diverse sexual identities. She is an immigration attorney in Boston and has taken her art and activism all over the country.

Jerome Schiller (Porter '80, art) has worked on Amnesty International's marketing and on ads for a couple of the *Star Wars* movies.

This is the 40th anniversary of my senior thesis, "Understanding Comics." After 53 years of comics reading, creation, and adventures with the ever-evolving industry, I am still fascinated with the medium and field.

—Mark Clegg (College V/ Porter '78, individual major, comics art)

ILLUSTRATION OF GRANDE BY KATHRYN RATHKE; PHOTO: LANIER BY STOCKLAND MARTEL

CALENDAR
events.ucsc.edu

Founders Celebration

October 20, 2018
6 p.m.
Porter College
Cost: $150 per person

Reyna Grande

October 2, 2018
Peace United Church
Presented by the Humanities Institute, Research Center for the Americas, and Bookshop Santa Cruz

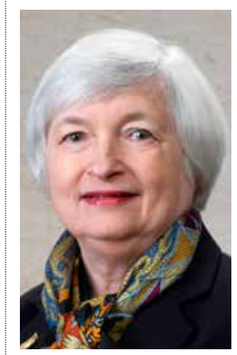
To see a full list of upcoming UC Santa Cruz events, visit **events.ucsc.edu.**

Baskin Ethics Lecture

October 29, 2018
Music Recital Hall
Featuring virtual reality pioneer Jaron Lanier
Presented by the Humanities Institute

Morton Marcus Poetry Reading

November 15, 2018
Music Recital Hall
Featuring award-winning poet Gary Snyder
Presented by the Humanities Institute



Foundation Medal

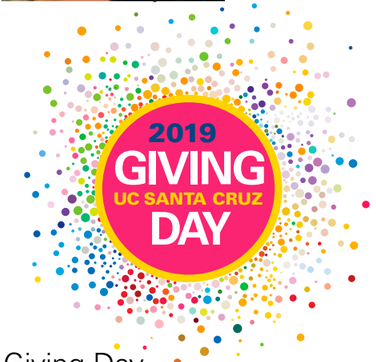
February 2, 2019
Silicon Valley
Honoring Janet Yellen, former chair of the Federal Reserve

Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Convocation

February 11, 2019
Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium
Speaker: Melissa Harris Perry, writer, professor, TV host, and political commentator

Faculty Research Lecture

February 26, 2019
Music Recital Hall
Speaker: Lise Getoor, UC Santa Cruz professor of computer science

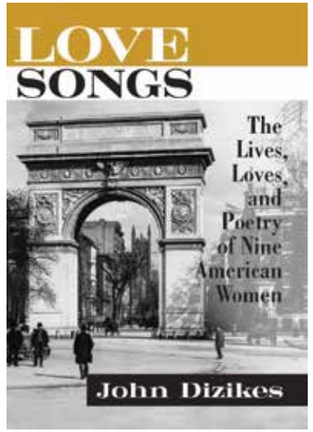


Giving Day

February 27, 2019
Join us online for a day of philanthropy

Alumni Weekend

April 26–28, 2019



A NEW BOOK BY JOHN DIZIKES

Winner of the National Book Critics Circle Award | Cowell College Professor Emeritus and Former Provost

A collective biography of the interwoven lives of nine poets, all of whom found their way to Greenwich Village in the early 1900s and were pioneers of the women's poetry movement.

"These poets rose above convention and social constraints to become powerful agents of a new poetic age. Intellectually astute, sexually adventurous, and artistically audacious, they lived lives of great courage."
— Gary Young, *Even So: New and Selected Poems*

"A master historian at his most magisterial: wide-ranging, expansive, generous." — Lawrence Weschler, *Mr. Wilson's Cabinet of Wonder*

Please order directly from the author: www.johndizikeslovesongs.wordpress.com

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Beth Shapiro, professor of ecology and evolutionary biology, was selected as a Howard Hughes Medical Institute investigator.

The Topcon team at Partners' Day, which is the culmination of the Baskin School of Engineering's Corporate Sponsored Senior Project Program.

PHOTOS: SHAPIRO BY ELENA ZHUKOVA; TOPCON BY KARYN SKEMP

Shapiro named HHMI investigator

Beth Shapiro, professor of ecology and evolutionary biology, was among 19 top scientists selected in May by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) to become HHMI investigators and receive support to move their research in creative new directions.

Each of the new investigators—selected from a pool of 675 eligible applicants—will receive roughly $8 million over a seven-year term.

Shapiro joins David Haussler, professor of biomolecular engineering at UC Santa Cruz, who has been an HHMI investigator since 2000.

Shapiro is a leader in the field of ancient DNA, using genetic material from the remains of plants and animals that lived long ago to study evolution and explore how species and ecosystems have changed over time. This research can provide valuable insights into how species and ecosystems responded to rapid global warming at the end of the last ice age.

Her findings can inform our decisions about how to use limited resources to preserve and protect species and ecosystems in the face of current climate change.

UC Santa Cruz alumna Gia Voeltz (Crown '94, biochemistry and molecular biology) was also selected as an HHMI investigator; see a profile of her on page 27.

Engineering in the real world

The Baskin School of Engineering's Corporate Sponsored Senior Project Program provides students with a unique opportunity to experience working on real-world engineering projects as part of their undergraduate education.

Participants in the 2017–18 program presented projects including a system to detect foreign objects in a produce processing line and technology to support automation in construction vehicles.

During the academic year, students in the program interact with teammates, sponsors, and faculty. Some make visits to their corporate sponsor's worksite, and all are required to solve problems along the way. By working with mentors at corporate partner companies, students

Right: Alumna Rachel Maryam Smith with her bust of Rachel Carson. Far right: KZSC and the Cantú Center welcome room to grow.

learn important skills, take on interesting challenges, and begin to understand what it means to be a professional engineer.

Corporate sponsors of student projects in 2017–18 included Atollogy, Topcon, Amazon Lab126, Kateeva, Mira Bella Energy, Nanometrics Incorporated, Nevro Corporation, Oracle Labs, and Seagate Technology PLC.

UC Santa Cruz joined forces with the Academy of Art University in San Francisco to create costumes for *The Magic Flute*.

Magic Flute enchants operagoers

The UC Santa Cruz Music Department presented a fully staged production of Mozart's comic fantasy *Die Zauberflöte (The Magic Flute)* in May and June at the Music Center Recital Hall.

Mozart's last opera, *The Magic Flute* premiered at the Theater auf der Wieden near Vienna in 1791, just two months before his death. One of the most beloved works in the operatic canon, the UC Santa Cruz production was sung in German with dialogues and supertitles in English.

The production was directed by music lecturer Sheila Willey (M.A. '06, music), with assistant professor of music Bruce Kiesling conducting the University Orchestra.

"It has been a thrill to watch how our singers respond to this glorious score in which we are constantly finding messages small and large from the composer about characterization, stage direction, and how to express some of humanity's most base and elevated emotions," said Willey.

Fading memories? Thank Instagram and Snapchat

How much do you value your memories? Enough to forgo that next amazing Instagram pic?

Research by UC Santa Cruz doctoral student Julia Soares (M.S. '16, psychology) has found evidence that the act of taking a photograph impairs people's memories of the event.

In a set of experiments, she invited people to her lab for a virtual museum tour where they looked at paintings on computer screens, knowing they would be tested on what they saw.

She compared how well participants remembered the paintings following three scenarios: when they just looked at the images; when they looked and took pictures using a camera phone; and when they took pictures using Snapchat.

The picture-takers consistently scored worse—by as much as 20 percent—on multiple-choice tests about what they had seen.

Soares thought that the result could be chalked up to the phenomenon known as "cognitive off-loading": that is, not remembering as well because you know the camera is there to remember for you.

Busting out

It's anything but silent in the trees and shrubs near a new bronze bust of Rachel Carson on campus. In fact, the birds and bugs make a lot of noise around the sculpture, which sits atop a redwood log.

Carson, a pioneering environmentalist and the inspiration for Rachel Carson College (formerly College Eight), would have been pleased to hear this racket. After all, her most famous book, *Silent Spring,* documents the devastating environmental impacts of pesticides.

The bust, unveiled during Alumni Weekend this past spring, fulfills a longstanding dream of its creator, Rachel Maryam Smith (Porter '18, art and history of art and visual culture). Smith wanted to leave a literal mark on campus, following in the footsteps of artists such as Kenny Farrell (Porter '74, art), whose untitled and endlessly photographed work is popularly known as the "Porter Squiggle."

For Smith, the piece became a physical representation of "the trials of women," she said.

Rethinking autism and social motivation

A 2018 Cambridge University Press online article is pushing back hard on the notion that people with autism are not interested in socializing.

The article, "Being vs. Appearing Socially Uninterested: Challenging Assumptions about Social Motivation in Autism," questions the widespread assumption that the primary reason for autistic people's unusual behaviors is that they are not socially motivated. Rather, the authors suggest, their social signals are misunderstood—an insight the authors believe could open the door to more effective interventions.

"We hope this research will lead to more respectful treatment of people with autism, as well as development of more effective methods of supporting them," said Nameera Akhtar, a professor of psychology at UC Santa Cruz who coauthored the paper with lead author, Vikram Jaswal, an associate professor of psychology at the University of Virginia.

PHOTOS: FLUTE BY STEVE DIBARTOLOMEO, SMITH BY C. LAGATTUTA, KZSC BY ELENA ZHUKOVA

Find more UC Santa Cruz news at news.ucsc.edu. Have news delivered straight to your inbox! Subscribe to the UC Santa Cruz e-newsletter at news.ucsc.edu/newsletter.

Focusing on what autistic people have to say about their own experiences, the authors explore four behaviors that are common among people with autism and offer alternative explanations for each behavior.

PBSci adds programs

The Division of Physical and Biological Sciences is offering three new programs beginning this fall:

Master's degree in Science Communication Program The UC Santa Cruz Science Communication Program, an internationally recognized science writing program that previously led to a graduate certificate, will now award students an M.S. degree.

Major in environmental sciences A new major in environmental sciences will lead to a B.S. degree. Jointly run by the Departments of Earth and Planetary Sciences and Ocean Sciences with an emphasis on the physical sciences, the new major will teach students how to apply fundamental concepts of chemistry, physics, and mathematics to environmental problems in areas such as climate, pollution, and water resources.

Coastal Science and Policy graduate program A new graduate program in Coastal Science and Policy is welcoming its first cohort of students. The interdisciplinary master's degree program will prepare students to design and implement solutions to the complex social, ecological, and technological problems facing the world's coastal ecosystems and communities.

Cantú, KZSC dream of new digs

The cozy, quaint homes of the Lionel Cantú Queer Resource Center and KZSC 88.1 FM are slated for transformations in coming years.

Generations of LGBTQ+ student groups and budding broadcasters have sought life-changing experiences in the two wooden buildings perched on stilts behind Merrill College. Prompted by needs for seismic renovations, the student-run radio station and the Cantú Center see an opportunity to grow.

KZSC envisions adding workstations for modern production methods and more space for its *Introduction to Broadcast Media* course and new courses in journalism and nonprofit management.

Cantú Queer Center director Travis S. Becker looks forward to more room for student groups, confidential meetings, and counseling. He also wants adequate space for its library, clothing exchange closet, and food pantry.

A student fee would fund a portion of the work. The Cantú Queer Center and KZSC have begun a campaign to seek the rest of the resources from charitable contributions and create a space that continues to cultivate transformative student and alumni experiences.

For information, visit **giving.ucsc.edu/cantu-kzsc.**

The Slugs came home

A wild and colorful group of Banana Slugs returned to campus for UC Santa Cruz's Alumni Weekend celebration in April, reveling in the renovated Quarry Amphitheater, crafting tie-dye T-shirts at a "maker's faire," and giving a "standing-O" to revered feminist studies professor Bettina Aptheker, who delivered the Faculty Keynote/Baskin Ethics Lecture.

They cooled down with frozen chocolate-covered bananas after the Campus 5K Fun Run, posed for pictures with Sammy the Slug, and took to the airwaves at KZSC FM, which celebrated 50 years of music and inspiration.

In other words, returning alumni were never at a loss for things to do, people to meet, beer glasses to drain, and topics to explore.

Listen to our audio story of the weekend and see pictures at **alumniweekend.ucsc.edu**. And mark your calendar for next year's Alumni Weekend—April 26–28, 2019.

Emeriti: Look for your survey

The Council of UC Emeriti Associations is sending out a survey to emeriti faculty in October, and the council encourages all UC emeriti to take part in the project.

The survey will provide an overall inventory of the work emeriti continue to do that contributes to the mission of the university, as well as how they have contributed to their communities.

This will be the ninth time the survey has been conducted; the last time the survey was done, in 2015, more than 1,600 people participated. Survey findings have been very helpful in advocating for the interests and the continuing support of UC emeriti.

Look for the survey in your email inbox and in your postal mailbox.

GIVING

EMPOWERING DISCOVERY THROUGH DIVERSITY

Because diversity enhances scientific success, UC Santa Cruz has established the Vera Rubin Presidential Chair for Diversity in Astronomy

Right: Vera Rubin at Vassar College Observatory

Diversity of opinion enhances the success of scientific teams, and it is essential that healthy, thriving, vibrant science broadly represents the members of the society it seeks to serve.

To advance this goal, UC Santa Cruz Astronomy has established a new kind of endowed faculty chair—one created deliberately to advance the cause of diversity, equity, and inclusive excellence in astronomy.

VERA RUBIN: AN INSPIRATION AND TRAILBLAZER

The new chair is named after one of the world's most distinguished astronomers and champions of inclusivity in science: Vera Rubin.

Rubin (1928–2016) transformed modern astrophysics by showing that galaxies and stars are immersed in the gravitational grip of vast clouds of dark matter.

In science and in life, Rubin was a guiding light for younger women, and for dozens of astronomers from varied backgrounds.

BRIGHTEST MINDS, DIVERSE PERSPECTIVES

At UC Santa Cruz Astronomy, "diversity" is synonymous with "excellence":

• Our six active women professors are the largest tenured female cohort in the nation, led by top scientists such as Sandra Faber, honored for discoveries in dark matter and galaxy formation, and by UC Observatories director Claire Max, renowned for her invention and use of adaptive optics. Two new young women have just joined: exoplanet theorist Ruth Murray-Clay and Packard Fellow Alexie Leauthaud, leader in mapping dark matter.

• We are proud to be home to eminent Latinx astronomer Enrico Ramirez-Ruiz, who studies fundamental questions in high-energy astrophysics. For more on Ramirez-Ruiz, see page 12.

• Women have composed half of UC Santa Cruz astronomy Ph.D. students for more than a decade, and 30 percent of current grad students come from underrepresented backgrounds.

• UC Santa Cruz graduates receive more coveted National Science Foundation fellowships than any other astronomy program in the nation.

USES OF CHAIR FUNDS

Chair funds will be used to:

• Sweeten recruitment offers, enabling UC Santa Cruz to compete successfully for the very best graduate students and postdocs from underrepresented groups.

• Support young scientists who have disabilities or special needs.

• Launch young scientists into the world to collaborate and to promote their work.

These activities are of special importance to the careers of young astronomers from nontraditional backgrounds.

LAUNCHING THE CAMPAIGN

Among the women astronomers Rubin influenced is Sandra Faber, who followed in Rubin's footsteps by winning the National Medal of Science and the Gruber Prize for Cosmology.

To demonstrate their deep belief in UC Santa Cruz's mission to foster inclusive excellence in astronomy, Faber and her husband, Andy, launched the Rubin Chair campaign with an initial commitment of $250,000. Additional gifts from private donors, including Barbara and John Crary, the Heising-Simons Foundation, and Vera Rubin's sons, plus a match of $500,000 from the University of California Office of the President, now round out the first $1.5 million, formally establishing the Vera Rubin Presidential Chair. We are currently pursuing our goal to build the chair endowment to $1.75 million, increasing the support we can offer for diversity, equity, and inclusive excellence.

You can contribute to a crowd-funding project for the Vera Rubin Presidential Chair at **c-fund.us/hew.**

We thank these generous donors:

The Heising-Simons Foundation
Sandra and Andy Faber
Loren Kinczel
An anonymous donor
John and Barbara Crary
Mark Headley (Stevenson '83, politics and economics) and Christina Pehl
Claudia Webster
Joanna Miller
The Rubin family
University of California Office of the President

PHOTOS: RUBIN, COURTESY VASSAR COLLEGE; WOJCICKI, COURTESY OF YOUTUBE

By Peggy Townsend

TUNED IN

Susan Wojcicki delivering the keynote at YouTube's 2017 Brandcast event in New York

Alumna Susan Wojcicki, CEO of YouTube, took a chance and joined Google as employee No. 16 in 1999—now she's working to bring more women into the world of high tech

In 1992, when Susan Wojcicki landed in an upper-division finance course taught by UC Santa Cruz Distinguished Professor of Economics Dan Friedman, she found herself near the bottom of the class.

"She was smart, but she didn't have the background, the technical chops," said Friedman of the woman who would go on to become CEO of the media giant YouTube and be ranked No. 6 on Forbes's 2017 list of "The World's 100 Most Powerful Women."

"She didn't have the math," he continued, "the economics."

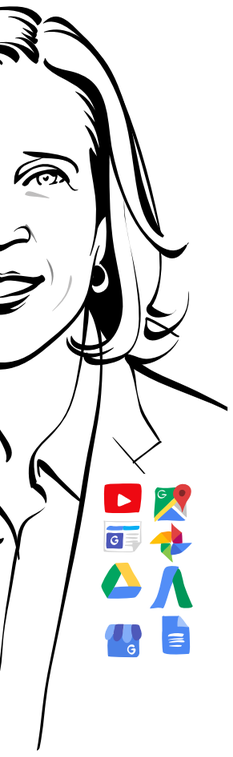
By the end of the quarter, however, Friedman remembers, Wojcicki (M.S. '93, applied economics) had moved to near the top of the group.

It's a memory that draws a quick chuckle from Wojcicki, 50, who arrived at UC Santa Cruz with a degree from Harvard University in history and literature.

"When I came to UC Santa Cruz, I didn't know much about economics, but I was able to jump in and learn the material," says Wojcicki at YouTube's San Bruno headquarters. "Running a tech company is a lot like that. You have to be willing to always be learning and asking questions and thinking critically.

"You have to be willing to accept you don't have all the answers and be learning every single day."

Relaxed and personable, Wojcicki talks about success, about what drives her, and about bringing more women into the world of high tech. She touches on the challenges facing her company, one of her most



difficult moments, and explains how her upbringing helped her and her two sisters—one sibling, Janet Wojcicki, is an associate professor of pediatrics and epidemiology at UC San Francisco, and the other, Anne Wojcicki, is cofounder and CEO of the genetics-testing company 23andMe—become strong, confident women.

Learning early to seek impact

Wojcicki grew up on the bucolic Stanford University campus, the oldest of three girls. Her father, Stanley Wojcicki, is a particle physicist and was chairman of the Stanford Physics Department. Her mother, Esther Wojcicki, is a journalism teacher and founder of the landmark Palo Alto High School Media Arts Center, which counts some 600 students working in and studying media from newspaper to video production.

"We were surrounded by a lot of talented people who were focused on their passion and how they could make a difference, and that really impacted me," Wojcicki says of those early years. "It inspired me to not be focused on some of the traditional metrics of success—fame and income—and rather focus on how do you do something that has high impact, something that is meaningful and interesting."

According to articles, the Wojcicki household was a place where putting on a jacket was preferable to turning up the heat, where the kids were taught to question assumptions, and where an advanced degree was like the sunrise: expected.

In fact, Wojcicki's sister Anne once joked to columnist Maureen Dowd that, in her family, "you're only a viable fetus once you have your Ph.D."

"Our parents encouraged us to think outside the box and to think of different solutions," Wojcicki says. "They taught us to think critically and not just follow whatever others are doing. They taught us to focus on a career of giving back and one that was in a challenging area."

It was a twist of fate that landed her in tech.

The summer after her junior year at Harvard, Wojcicki says, she got a temp job at a Silicon Valley startup. The vibe at that small office and the hint of what technology could become prompted her to take a computer science course when she got back to Harvard. She was hooked.

In 1991, she arrived at UC Santa Cruz, which was not only close to Silicon Valley but also was one of the few places at the time to offer a master's program in economics.

Not only did she earn her master's but she also met her husband, Dennis Troper (M.S. '93, applied economics; now a product director at Google), and got what she calls "a strong foundation in analytical thinking."

"What I learned (at UC Santa Cruz) was a lot of key economic principles and a lot of quantitative and analytical skills that I use every day at work," she says.

Seven years later, two Stanford computer science students, Larry Page and Sergey Brin, asked Wojcicki how much she would charge to rent the garage in her 2,000-square-foot Menlo Park house so they could start a company. She told them $1,700 a month—plus a security deposit.

Page and Brin would go on to found the search-engine giant Google in that space, and, by 1999, Wojcicki quit her job at Intel to join the two men as Google's first marketing manager and employee No. 16. She also was four months pregnant.

Some people said she was crazy, but "the idea of helping people find information and helping people to become empowered by being able to look up information in new ways resonated with me," says Wojcicki of her decision to join the fledgling company. "My grandmother (Jane Wojcicki) was a librarian at the Library of Congress, and it seemed like this was actually a continuation of some of her work."

Plus, the internet was beginning to explode.

"It was really clear to me that there was so much opportunity there and the internet was going to change everything," she says.

Wojcicki rose through the ranks at Google and, in 2006, was instrumental in the company's $1.65 billion purchase of what was then a small online video sharing service called YouTube. In 2014, she was named CEO of the company, now estimated to be worth $80 billion.

A voice for women in tech

Wojcicki has a corner office at YouTube's light-filled headquarters off busy Highway 280 in San Bruno. But any hint at the trappings of power ends there. Her desk is a simple long table with a computer monitor, a S'well water bottle, and a scattering of Post-it notes. The only thing dividing her office and any employee or visitor on their way to the free juice and coffee bar or the office's giant, one-story red slide is a trippy art piece featuring an array of YouTube stars: Lilly Singh, the Fung Bros., Anna Akana. Across the open hallway is a room for nursing mothers.

That's a lot of what you need to know about her.

Wojcicki describes herself as both practical and creative, and is a strong voice for the inclusion of women in the world of tech. Currently, only 26 percent of tech jobs in the United States are held by women, according to the National Center for Women and Information Technology.

At YouTube, the percentage of women working for the company has risen from 24 to nearly 30 percent under Wojcicki's guidance.

"One of the things we've done (to boost diversity in the workplace) is to really increase our recruiting," Wojcicki says. "We make sure we cast a wide net to find people who may not have applied but are qualified to do the work."

The company also encourages and funds employee resource groups dedicated to creating supportive communities around culture, gender, race, or sexuality, and has a generous, 18-week family leave program.

"When we extended our family leave from 12 weeks to 18, we saw the rate at which new moms left (employment at YouTube) was cut in half," says Wojcicki, who is mom to five children.

The way to get more women into the workplace is also to make sure people in power "extend their privilege," Wojcicki wrote in a highly personal 2017 op-ed in *Vanity Fair* magazine, in answer to a memo from a Google software engineer who said the low number of women in tech was due to biological differences and not discrimination.

ILLUSTRATION BY KATHRYN RATHKE

2018 YEAR OF ALUMNI

"I would say I've been really lucky because I've had good mentors and I work at a good place, but I don't want to say it's been perfect," Wojcicki says.

There were the men who interrupted her or ignored her at meetings, business leaders who addressed her male junior colleagues instead of her, and the time, not too long after she was named CEO of YouTube, that she discovered she'd been left off the guest list for an important invitation-only conference of the top people in media and tech.

"I started to question whether I even belonged at the conference," Wojcicki wrote.

But instead of accepting the snub, she called on her mentor, the late Bill Campbell, a legendary figure in Silicon Valley. The next day she received her invitation.

"Most helpful for me is to have good friends in the office so I feel like I have a support system, to have good mentors, and, lastly, to be really persistent," she says.

Wojcicki's role in the top spot at YouTube hasn't been without challenges. There was the need to respond to reports of Russian operatives exploiting Google, Facebook, and YouTube to spread disinformation in advance of the 2016 presidential election, and a Department of Labor investigation into gender-based pay gaps at YouTube's parent company, Google, which Google has denied.

There were also products Wojcicki championed that didn't go anywhere.

"One of the key lessons is that it is just as important to be honest with yourself about what's working and what's not working and to not be emotional about it," she says.

And one of her most difficult moments?

Wojcicki says it was the decision, while she was at UC Santa Cruz, to step away from the goal she'd set for herself to get a doctoral degree.

"I had grown up on a campus where everyone had Ph.D.s, and I had this moment where I realized that, as much as I liked economics, I wanted to work in the tech field, and that was a very hard moment for me," she says. "I was very emotional about it."

Right now, Wojcicki says, her top priority is expanding YouTube's educational value—videos that teach a viewer everything from how to create an Excel spreadsheet to how to tie a knot.

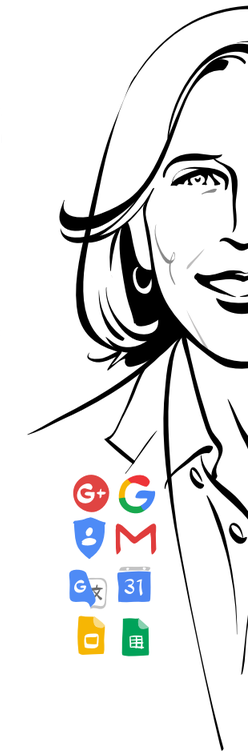
"We've got a billion views a day of learning-related materials," she says. "It's something we will continue to invest in."

And that, Wojcicki says, sums up the reason she comes to work every day. Her job allows her to create in new ways "which, for me, is something very fundamental," she says.

It's also how she measures success.

"I would define success in terms of giving back to the world and making an impact and making people's lives better, and I think the work I've done has changed and improved people's lives," Wojcicki says.

"And I don't think it's over. I think there's a lot of work still to be done." ■



To read about UC Santa Cruz's efforts to draw and keep more women in engineering and computer science, go to ***magazine.ucsc.edu.***

The bright—but previously unrecognized—young scientists of UC Santa Cruz's Lamat program have found their destiny by turning their eyes to the heavens

SHOOTING FOR THE STARS

By Dan White

Some of the brightest minds in astrophysics are like undiscovered exoplanets. They are out there, but no one knows about them just yet.

For some of these students, no one in their family has ever gone to college, let alone measured the masses of neutron stars. Fates and circumstances haven't aligned with their talents.

The trick is seeking such people out, and then mentoring and encouraging them. After all, "many talented students have had fewer opportunities than their wealthy peers," says UC Santa Cruz astronomy professor Enrico Ramirez-Ruiz, who has made it part of his life's work to recruit, nurture, and champion such students.

"Some haven't had role models in the sciences who look like them," he says. "Many have lived in a society that told them they weren't good enough."

When Ramirez-Ruiz launched the Lamat Summer Research Program on High-Performance Computing in Astrophysics in 2009, he was throwing out a wide net, hoping to snare the most talented community college students, as well as current UC Santa Cruz students, and make them part of the astrophysics community. The Lamat program also places a special emphasis on attracting Latinx students who are skilled in the sciences but want to delve more deeply into research.

Many Lamat students are transfers from community colleges; others have been at UC Santa Cruz all along but were looking for an immersive program to ramp up their astrophysics skills. And the results, so far, have been remarkable.

Consider this year's exceptional cohort of four recent Lamat grads:

Andrea Antoni, who became one of UC Santa Cruz's most celebrated astrophysics undergrads after returning to college in her mid-30s;

Martin Lopez, who went from struggling community college student to pursuing a Ph.D. at Harvard;

Monica Gallegos-Garcia, who found a second home in UC Santa Cruz's scientific community; and

Krystal Ruiz-Rocha, who discovered, in science, "a world of absolute wonder."

PHOTO BY MIRANDA POWELL

#FIRSTGEN COLLEGE GRAD

Each of these alumni is a first-generation college graduate.

Ramirez-Ruiz has an outsized pride in every one of these students, who truly live up to the program's name. "Lamat" means "star" in the Mayan language.

And the program has yielded a phenomenal statistic: Lamat-trained UC Santa Cruz alumni helped increase the number of Latinx students in top astronomy graduate programs across the country from 2 percent to 5 percent in seven years.

"Ultimately, my legacy is not the work that I do," Ramirez-Ruiz says. "It is really the students I can generate, and that is the greatest legacy you have now—being able to train students in a way of thinking that will make them into transformative scientists themselves."

Here are their stories.

A door opens

At 39, Andrea Antoni (Kresge '18, astrophysics) is more than a decade older than many of her cohorts in the astrophysics program at UC Santa Cruz, but the long deferment of her ambitions has, if anything, redoubled her focus.

"She is probably one of the best students we have seen in our program," said Ramirez-Ruiz, noting that she has had graduate school offers from Harvard, Princeton, UC Berkeley, and Caltech. She was also the recipient of a prestigious 2017 Goldwater Scholarship for undergraduates in the fields of mathematics, science, and engineering and earned a 4.0 GPA.

While attending West Valley College in Saratoga, Antoni found out about "STEM Transfer Day," in which community college students can learn about opportunities at UC Santa Cruz. That's how she first heard of Ramirez-Ruiz, her future mentor, and learned that UC Santa Cruz is one of the few remaining campuses in the UC system to offer guaranteed admission for qualified community college students.

On campus, she picked up a Lamat program flyer, applied, and was accepted into that scientific "boot camp." The experience was a revelation.

"A lot of people, according to society, don't have value, and that's not the case," she says. "Enrico especially recognizes that there are people who can be strong scientists but aren't going to come to UC Santa Cruz naturally, inevitably, because their nontraditional paths don't lead directly here. You have to go out and find those students."

In the Lamat program, Antoni came to realize that the skills she developed in her life outside of astronomy and academia "absolutely translated" to success in research. "This was incredibly empowering because the thing that I loved (physics) turned out to be something that I could do well."

She also realized that her research and classroom work reinforced each other in surprising ways.

"Banging my head against the wall and putting wildly different physics concepts together to solve real problems really primed my ears for thinking in the classroom," she noted.

Antoni was born in Cincinnati, but the family moved to the Bay Area when she was 5. Her mother was a waitress at Red Lobster. Her father hung drywall.

"The only people I knew who had a science degree were my dentist and my doctor," she says. "I didn't know anyone who had gone to college."

And yet there seems to be something innate about her drive to be a scientist. "When I was a little girl, I definitely pictured myself in a lab coat. I saw *Doogie Howser* and I thought, 'That's what you do if you like science!'"

Watching their parents working hard, Antoni says, "my sister and I just assumed that's what you did: Work hard, teach yourself the skills you need, become the boss."

But Antoni had to miss part of high school because of problems at home. After she became a single mother at 18, on her last day of high school, she went to work at Togo's, initially as a sandwich maker, but ended up a graphic designer and serving as the brand director for the company's Aqui Cal-Mex division.

With help from a supportive partner, and while her daughter was still in high school, Antoni completed the transfer requirements for a physics major before coming to UC Santa Cruz.

Though Antoni has worked very hard on campus—and she and her sister are the first in their family to go to college—the years have passed like a dream.

"I get paid to do science!" she says, referring to her grant money.

"I just can't believe people are willing to do that. I can have a job where people pay me to do physics? That is just the most beautiful thing. How lucky I was that life opened this door for me."

Antoni plans to begin at UC Berkeley this fall to pursue her Ph.D.

Leap of faith

Martin Lopez (Crown '18, astrophysics) is a quiet and humble man of faith; every time he mentions a blessing in his life, or talks about plans for the future, he quickly adds the words, "Thank God."

Clearly, Lopez has a lot to be grateful for. He has gone from failing community college to pursuing a Ph.D. in astrophysics at Harvard starting in the fall of 2019. His transformation from a struggling student to an outstanding scholar was, literally, a matter of faith.

Lopez, a New Yorker and a first-generation college student, did not give much thought to school or the sciences when he graduated from high school in 2008. He enrolled in a community college, but mostly to please his parents. After dropping out with a GPA of 1.1, he moved to San Jose to enroll at an art institute and pursue a career in video games, only to be told that he could not draw and should seek another profession.

While enrolled at another community college, he took a class called Islam 101 to satisfy his GE requirements. It ended up changing his life.

"I decided to accept Islam and become Muslim after the class ended, thank God," he says. "Islam urges us to educate ourselves and benefit and contribute to the society around us, and my perspective and attitude toward school were transformed."

In fact, excelling at school became an act of worship. After transferring to UC Santa Cruz, he was accepted into Lamat, an impressive feat in itself. In a typical year, Lamat receives hundreds of applicants for only a few positions. But for those determined few, the program came with full funding for summer research throughout their careers at UC Santa Cruz.

For Lopez, the program also led to an invitation to join a research group with Ramirez-Ruiz, who pushed the students to think critically, even while bolstering their confidence with strong support.

"Lamat was my first real exposure to astrophysics and any idea of how research worked or how to do it," Lopez said. "I didn't know how to read a paper, how to search for papers, or even know what the point of reading them was."

As for Ramirez-Ruiz, "he pushes all of his students to think critically and believes in us," Lopez said. "He believed in me as a student with no background whatsoever and no research skills and helped me and mentored me through my journey at UC Santa Cruz." Aldo Batta, a postdoctoral scholar, also guided him throughout his time at UC Santa Cruz.

"Lamat," Lopez says, "was an immeasurable blessing."

Research launchpad

For Monica Gallegos-Garcia (Oakes '18, astrophysics), the Lamat summer program was her first real exposure to astrophysics research—and posed a formidable challenge in the beginning. She was a first-generation college student, and it took a little while just to find her footing in academia.

"Many times, I would stay on campus working for late hours because I was stuck on a problem," says Gallegos-Garcia.

But all that hands-on research experience would be a boon for Gallegos-Garcia, who has decided to attend a Ph.D. program in astronomy/astrophysics at Northwestern University.

Above: Astronomy professor Enrico Ramirez-Ruiz with Lamat students (now alumni) Monica Gallegos-Garcia (at blackboard), Martin Lopez (center), Andrea Antoni (center-left), and Kyle Rocha (Oakes '18, astrophysics; left)

PHOTO BY C. LAGATTUTA

Though she enrolled at UC Santa Cruz as an astrophysics major, Lamat took her work to a whole other level. In the process of learning about astrophysics, "I got to familiarize myself with its ups and downs and many long hours of frustration, but I also got to know the wonderful community that doing research within Lamat comes with," she said. "Because of this I would say that the Lamat program launched my science research because it gave me a very raw look at what it was really like."

Now she is becoming a star in her own right, studying, among other things, "the very violent deaths of stars that are disrupted by a supermassive black hole's gravitational field."

Gallegos-Garcia is first author of a paper entitled "Tidal Disruptions of Main-sequence Stars of Varying Mass and Age: Inferences from the Composition of the Fallback Material," which was published in the *Astrophysical Journal* this year.

Understanding the workings of the universe

Krystal Ruiz-Rocha (Stevenson '16, physics) plans on continuing research in astrophysics and pursuing graduate studies. This coming year she is going to participate in the renowned Fisk-Vanderbilt Bridge Program.

A Salinas native, she is the first in her family, on her father's side, to attend college, and the first to pursue a STEM field. And yet her connection to the sciences was strong, immediate, and unbreakable even when she was a child.

"I loved the way science allowed me to understand the world around me," Ruiz-Rocha said. "The act of learning something new filled me with absolute wonder. My inquisitive nature only heightened as I grew older, and I strove to learn as much as I could."

In Lamat, "I learned a great deal more about research practices and methods, and how to explain complex topics to my peers and people with no knowledge in astronomy," she says.

In fact, it was Lamat that gave her the tools to understand the workings of the universe, and motivated her to major in physics. Lamat also exposed her to students from diverse backgrounds—something that was sorely lacking in her physics classes, she said.

After graduating from UC Santa Cruz two years ago, Ruiz-Rocha continued her work on campus; her mentor, Ramirez-Ruiz, hired her as a junior research assistant.

Changing the cycle

Ramirez-Ruiz believes in these students. He also believes in the inherent wisdom of "going out into society and trying to bring in the top students from all walks of life."

In the process, Lamat is doing more than just preparing these students for success.

"These students are the most talented in the whole department, and that is just so refreshing," he said. "And I can guarantee you that when they become professors, they will be mentors, too. And if you mentor a first-generation student, you can change the whole history of their family. Rising up to the top and coming back as mentors of others—that is the only way to change the cycle in this country." ■

For more information, visit **stemdiv.ucsc.edu/lamat.**

HOPE FOR HOUSING

With housing costs becoming a crisis both locally and statewide, an ambitious UC Santa Cruz project called No Place Like Home seeks to inform the debate —and the quest for solutions—through research

This story is adapted from a more in-depth version online. Visit **magazine.ucsc.edu** to read the full article.

In Northern California, the outrageous cost of homebuying and renting is doing more than just making cash-strapped residents sleep in sheds and cars. It's also causing an identity crisis.

How "progressive" can a city be if housing starts to become out of reach for all but its wealthiest residents? How functional can a city be when the people providing its goods and services can't afford to live there anymore, and the teachers of its children must endure long, grueling commutes to work?

The scope of this problem can induce a strong sense of helplessness. As a case in point, consider the city of Santa Cruz, which was struggling with affordable housing issues even before an influx of well-paid Silicon Valley tech workers started turning every home sale into a bidding war, with the median price of a home hitting more than $900,000 this year. Meanwhile, the mean hourly wage for renters in the city is $14.62 per hour.

A study released in May points to why the California housing crisis is so severe, particularly in the Bay Area: More people are moving in from other states than moving out. No other region in California has experienced such explosive growth of high-paying jobs. Statewide, between 2011 and 2016, California added just 171 homes for every 1,000 people, according to the *San Jose Mercury News*.

The study, by San Francisco public policy group Next 10, noted that while pay for California's low-wage earners grew by just 17 percent over the past decade, wages rose

PHOTO BY JARED RANKIN

By Dan White

Opposite page: Professor Steve McKay (rear center) and his students preparing for door-to-door surveys at the Nueva Vista Community Resources center in Santa Cruz's Beach Flats.

by 29 percent for middle-income workers and nearly 43 percent for high-wage earners. Other factors include the dramatic rise in single-family homes inhabited by renters as well as California's relatively high costs for labor, materials, and land, making residential development less profitable.

The causes are complicated but the impacts are immediate and impossible to ignore.

UC Santa Cruz students have shared stories of living in pool sheds, in tents, in cars parked in driveways of friends' houses, just to get by.

County renters are squeezed. More than 12,000 renters in Santa Cruz County paid more than half of their income for rent in 2016, and 11,000 paid more than 30 percent of income for rent, according to the Harvard University Joint Center for Housing Studies, which reported in 2017 that Santa Cruz was the third worst metro area for rent burden.

And statewide, homelessness is surging. California's homeless population jumped nearly 14 percent from 2016 to 2017—to a total of more than 134,000 people. It rose only 9 percent over the previous seven years, according to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's 2017 Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress.

No Place Like Home

But there is, at least, one positive development in the midst of this crisis; two forward-thinking UC Santa Cruz sociology professors, and more than 200 UC Santa Cruz undergraduates, have been making international headlines for an ambitious project intending to calibrate the scope, and side effects, of the housing quandary. Their research incorporates hard facts, analysis, and human stories from renters all over Santa Cruz County.

The project, No Place Like Home (**noplacelikehome.ucsc.edu**), is already starting to move the conversation forward, with data to help guide the dialogue. Researchers found that 73 percent of 1,700 interview subjects reported "rent burden," meaning they spent more than 30 percent of their income on rent and utilities. Of renters who moved in the last five years, 50 percent said the move was "forced or involuntary," most often due to eviction or a rent increase.

Such data can be painful to read about, but this information heightened awareness of an issue that has been building up for much too long, said UC Santa Cruz associate professor of sociology Steve McKay.

"Housing is becoming the new weather: Everybody is talking about it," he said.

Two years ago, he and UC Santa Cruz sociology professor Miriam Greenberg had no idea how much impact they would have when they initiated the No Place Like Home study, which they launched in collaboration with the Community Action Board of Santa Cruz County and Community Bridges, with financial support from the UC Santa Cruz Humanities Institute, the UC Santa Cruz Division of Student Success, the UC Office of the President, and others.

Now, they are just starting to get a sense of their impact.

"We are getting taken seriously by city and county planners," McKay said. "We are bringing about conversations about solutions. We want to inform the debate through research."

"What needs to be done locally and regionally about housing is not one single thing," Greenberg said. She believes the answer lies in what she calls "the Three Ps": protecting renters to increase stability, preserving existing affordable housing, and producing more affordable housing.

Essential dialogue

The initiative is also sponsoring dialogues throughout the community. In the fall of 2017, McKay and Greenberg filled the Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium during a free public event that kicked off Affordable Housing Week.

As part of the project, UC Santa Cruz students interviewed renters and homeowners anywhere they could find them, capturing their responses at laundromats, mobile homes, and flea markets. Some students rode city buses and chatted with passengers. While going out into the community to interview residents about their housing situations, they often talked about their own housing travails as a way to break the ice and establish common ground.

Such dialogue is essential, especially when some respondents complained about UC Santa Cruz's own impact on the rental and homebuying market because of its increasing student body.

"We won't deny we have an impact, but we're also the largest employer, and we want to help fix what is going on," McKay said. "Sometimes our students get doors slammed in their face. But they are renters, too. It's really about making better connections. Instead of blaming the students, why not bring them into the discussion of how do we create better housing for everyone?"

Students who participated in the field research said it gave them a vivid sense of their common cause with the wider community.

Thao Le (Oakes '19, sociology) was one of the students who interviewed residents in the Eastside area known as Live Oak, getting their stories about housing struggles.

Even during the past two years after she transferred to UC Santa Cruz from De Anza College in Cupertino, "I have seen it get worse," Le said. "So many of my really close friends are homeless, couch-surfing, or overcrowded."

She said that people in the Santa Cruz community should recognize their common cause with UC Santa Cruz students "paying ridiculous amounts" for low-quality housing.

"There is this narrative that students are the problem, when they face the same problems as the tenants," said Le.

On the positive side, Le said that the project has already increased awareness and momentum for solutions. Tenant advocates have proposed rent control and "just cause" laws giving landlords less license to evict tenants.

Thanks in part to No Place Like Home, "We are on the edge of getting into a larger conversation about housing," said Sarah Wikle (College Ten '18, community studies), who interviewed planning officials in Santa Cruz as part of the project. She hopes that Santa Cruz's newfound notoriety as an unaffordable place to live helps turn it into "the next hub for rent control" as well as just cause laws.

A rent control initiative proposed by tenant advocates for the city of Santa Cruz will appear on a ballot measure going before voters in November.

Proponents of rent control say this measure is a long-overdue response to exorbitant housing costs that are disrupting neighborhoods and pricing out Santa Cruz workers. Opponents have also mobilized, arguing that it will create an expensive new bureaucracy, reduce the number of rentals available, accelerate gentrification, and raise rental prices even faster than before.

Losing the qualities of home

No Place Like Home makes the strong case that unaffordability rips the fabric of community.

"Very high housing costs leads to displacement," Greenberg said. "It causes constant tenant turnover in the house down the street, affecting neighborhood stability. University students struggle to study and succeed when they have to live in cramped or undesirable situations. In K–12, younger students are having new teachers every year because the schools can't keep them—they can't afford to stay."

The problem must be addressed not just from a local and urban but a regional perspective because those uprootings have such a far-ranging impact, she said.

"We see people being pushed to outside the county, to Salinas, and beyond," Greenberg said. She noted the recent surge in commuters traveling to Santa Cruz from Monterey County because they can't afford Santa Cruz anymore.

The financial and emotional strain of finding housing, or being forced to live in substandard housing, is another quality-of-life issue.

"It is not unusual to spend $1,000 to share a room (off campus), so many students try to work more, or take out more loans, to stay here," McKay said.

In light of this housing crunch, both McKay and Greenberg are enthusiastic supporters of expanding affordable housing on and off campus, though Santa Cruzans and alumni are deeply divided when it comes to the locations and sizes of potential developments.

Roots of an intractable problem

Widespread grumblings about lack of affordable housing go back at least to the late 1970s and early 1980s, when measures to create rent control failed three times. Bad as it was, the problems were much more straightforward than they are now.

In 1988, when Don Lane (Merrill '78, politics) was first elected to the Santa Cruz City Council, most of the discussion about affordable housing was focused on lower-income residents living in "funky, poor-quality housing. It used to be that people at the bottom were feeling the crunch. Now it's everybody unless you are really well off."

Since then, a mess of demographic and market forces, along with local, regional, and nationwide trends, have played their part in making the city more unaffordable, ranging from the city's irresistible "beach town" appeal to the growth of the vacation rental market and the 2008 subprime mortgage meltdown, sending millions of evicted homeowners into the rental market.

Some housing proponents cast the blame on "no-growth" or

Kresge College, known for its distinctive architecture, is slated for a renewal.

A NEW CHAPTER—AND MORE HOUSING—FOR KRESGE COLLEGE

Kresge College is best known for its distinctive architecture, along with its legacy of experimental teaching and strong sense of community.

But this planned village of stucco-lined buildings nestled into the redwood forest of the UC Santa Cruz campus has long been showing its age.

The sixth college to open on campus, Kresge was built in 1973, occupying about eight acres of redwood forest. Designed by architect Charles Moore of Moore, Lyndon, Turnbull and Whitaker (MLTW) with landscape architect Dan Kiley, the college is a cluster of residential, academic, and student support buildings lining a meandering pedestrian street.

Hoping to reinvigorate the college, address deficiencies, and update it to comply with current code, the university is undertaking a two-phased project balancing new construction, renovation, and selective removal.

The project is designed to enhance, and grow, the college's living-learning environment while providing more space for much-needed student support, residential, and academic programs, embracing its history while meeting the needs of today's students, said UC Santa Cruz senior architect Jolie Kerns.

The design team, working together with the campus, has been careful to knit the new design work with the original site plan designed by MLTW, Kerns said.

The new construction will add approximately 200 new student beds, while growing the footprint of Kresge from 133,000 to 200,000 square feet. The redevelopment will also include new instructional facilities, academic offices, a student and faculty center, and new student support spaces.

One driving principle of the design is for better connectivity throughout the college, and between the college and the campus, said Kerns. She also noted that the new design makes the college easier to navigate and creates inviting outdoor gathering spaces.

The plan includes four new buildings, including an academic building, a student assembly space, and two or three residential buildings for first-year students. The majority of existing buildings are retained, as are many familiar landmarks, including the piazzetta and the famous "waterfall steps."

We are creating a multimedia special report on the Kresge renewal, and we invite alumni and the campus community to send us their Kresge stories as part of the report, which will come out later this fall.

Submit stories and memories about Kresge—and find information and updates—at **magazine.ucsc.edu/kresge-renewal.**

"slow-growth" policies that halted undesirable developments in their tracks, but also had the effect of creating an inadequate stock of affordable housing.

Seeking coinciding solutions

Deep divisions within the community can make it hard to settle on any one path forward. The trick, said Greenberg, is getting solutions from different factions to coincide.

Lane, for his part, would like to see more rental housing and smaller, more affordable units.

"For me, personally, I think the path forward has to do with saying, 'OK, we are not going to have unlimited housing (construction), but the housing we build from now on is going to be very targeted to meeting the needs of the community, and not just letting external forces, such as Silicon Valley pressures, and the tourist economy, be the drivers,'" Lane said.

Whatever the outcome, McKay, Greenberg, and participating students hope to restore a sense of home to the troubled community.

"The goal is to now help transform the housing crisis itself," said McKay. "The goal is to work collectively to transform Santa Cruz, one of the most beautiful places in the world, into one of the most just, welcoming, stable, and dignified communities in the world; into a real and loving home for all." ■

For information, visit **noplacelikehome.ucsc.edu.**

HELP FOR HOUSING ON CAMPUS: STUDENT HOUSING WEST

A rendering of the proposed new family student housing community and child-care facility near the intersection of Hagar and Coolidge drives, part of the Student Housing West project.

UC Santa Cruz is in dire need of student housing. Almost no one living on or off campus would debate that point. But the questions of where and how to build such housing, along with its size and scope, are the subject of impassioned discussion and debate.

Such is the case with Student Housing West, a proposal to build 3,000 beds on campus as part of a systemwide initiative to add 14,000 more beds across the University of California by 2020. The UC Santa Cruz project, a public-private partnership, was announced in December 2016.

The Santa Cruz project, currently proposed for two sites, would be for upper-division undergraduates, graduate students, and students with families. As imagined, the bulk of the project would go up at the current site of Family Student Housing on Heller Drive, with Family Student Housing moving to a small area at the base of the East Meadow, at Hagar and Coolidge drives. That site would also include a new child-care facility for the children of campus faculty, staff, and students.

UC Santa Cruz currently houses about 53 percent of its undergraduates on campus, a greater percentage than any other UC, but the campus would like to add more to help students forced to navigate one of the least affordable housing markets in the nation.

"This is a serious situation that will not fix itself on its own," said Chancellor George Blumenthal. "Plain and simple, we need more housing for students. They need our help. Our goal is to craft a project that is logistically and financially sensible, as well as environmentally sound. The campus has tried a number of approaches—converting double rooms to triples, lounges to quads—but those were stopgap measures. We need a long-term solution."

UC Santa Cruz had hoped to start development on the Hagar site this past summer, aiming for occupancy in fall 2019. But because of the wide range of opinions about the development and the spirited debate, campus leaders extended the comment period and held additional meetings to allow more discussion about the project and possible alternatives. The campus released a revised draft environmental impact report in mid-September for a 45-day public comment and review period.

For the latest updates and information, visit **ucsc.edu/shw**.

By Scott Rappaport

SHIFTING THE DEBATE

Above: San Quentin State Prison Warden Ronald Davis observes at an Ethics Bowl debate at the prison.

PHOTO BY JONATHAN CHIU, SAN QUENTIN NEWS

Can public philosophy teach us to think? Students and faculty at UC Santa Cruz explore that question in an unlikely place—San Quentin State Prison.

This article is adapted from a longer online special report that includes videos and more content. To see the full report, visit **reports.news.ucsc.edu/ethics-bowl.** And, for more information, visit **publicphilosophy.ucsc.edu.**

Twice a month from last September to February, UC Santa Cruz philosophy lecturer Kyle Robertson woke up early, dropped his kids off at school, drove north for one hour and fifty minutes, crossed the Richmond Bridge, and went to San Quentin State Prison.

He was there to teach a course in Ethics Bowl—a nonconfrontational alternative to the traditional competitive form of debate—in collaboration with the Prison University Project (PUP).

At the same time, he was also teaching an undergraduate course and coaching a team in Ethics Bowl at UC Santa Cruz.

He soon suggested and arranged a very unusual debate between seven philosophy students from UC Santa Cruz and a team of prison inmates from San Quentin. It took place in the prison chapel—in front of an audience of nearly 100 inmates.

"This is the first time there's been a debate inside San Quentin," says Robertson, who served as moderator. "And it's one of the first Ethics Bowls that's ever happened in a prison."

The event at San Quentin is just one of the many outreach activities of the Center for Public Philosophy (CPP) at UC Santa Cruz. Founded in 2015 by associate professor

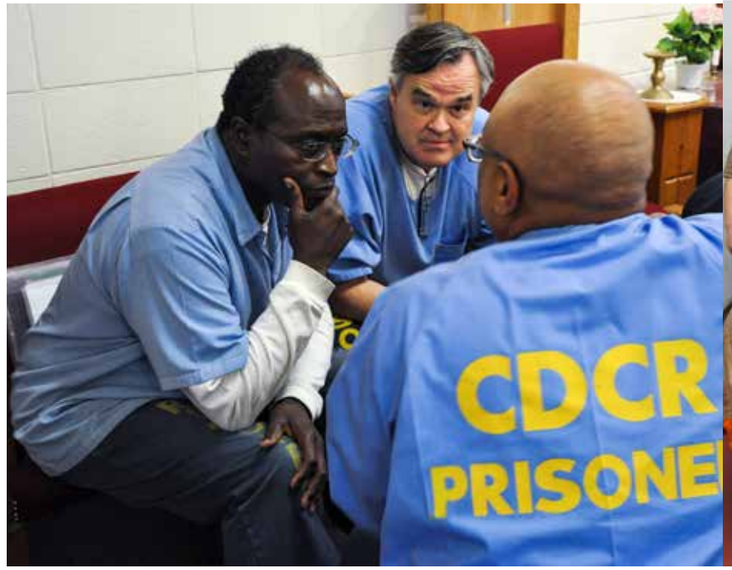
of philosophy Jon Ellis, it is supported by the Humanities Institute, an incubator for humanities research on the Santa Cruz campus.

The center is also coaching and conducting regional Ethics Bowls for high schools throughout Northern California; creating short animated videos about philosophical problems that teach reasoning skills and how to avoid biased thinking; teaching moral philosophy and ethics in Santa Cruz jails; working with biologists to study how language affects conservation efforts; and even introducing philosophy, ethics, and critical thinking to children at three elementary schools in the local community.

The idea is to move philosophy away from the stereotype of the old bearded man pondering in the mountains and instead apply its principles to crucial problems we all face in today's world. And in an era of intense partisanship, rabid fighting on social media, "fake news," and "alternative facts," the center promotes a new normal of how to talk about the really big issues confronting us today—in a civilized, rational, and much friendlier manner.

Constructive debate

Ethics Bowl is the opposite of traditional forms of debate in this country—the "win-at-all-costs," negative, whatever-it-takes debate that is typical of cable news, congressional debates, election campaigns, and our courtrooms. Both Ellis and Robertson believe that traditional debate competitions, a well-established part of the U.S. high school curriculum since early in the 20th century, ultimately strengthen and reward one-sided thinking.



Above: San Quentin State Prison inmates Forrest Lee Jones (left), Wayne Boatwright (center), and Nelson Butler talk at an Ethics Bowl debate at San Quentin.

Above: David Donley (top row, center), philosophy Ph.D. candidate, with Santa Cruz County Jail inmates.

"I think that the way we argue in courts of law, and in 'forensic' debate competitions, has undermined our ability to engage in the constructive debate that is necessary for democracy to function. Ethics Bowl, or something like it, could be a cure," says Robertson, assistant director of the CPP, who earned a law degree from UC Berkeley and practiced for two years in Silicon Valley before earning a Ph.D. in philosophy from UC Santa Cruz in 2015.

"Standard debate is reasoning with an agenda," adds Ellis. "It is also what we find so corrosive in today's politics. People have their favored view and then emphasize the information that fortifies their stance. Evidence that threatens their position is rationalized away, while problems for the opposing view are scavenged for, and then magnified.

"Not surprisingly, schools and communities around the country are pursuing alternative forms of debate, ones that switch the order of priority, and set the goal of truth and understanding over the goal of persuasion."

Excitement and anxiety

Robertson's two-hour class for the Ethics Bowl debate at San Quentin covered topics such as moral theory and how to use ethics to justify a position in a case.

"They loved it—they were really into it," says Robertson of the inmates. "They would stay after class to talk to me; they would not want to stop talking," he adds. "They read incessantly and were really well-prepared. I think also, pragmatically, they were learning moral advocacy skills for their own hearings—many have life sentences with a possibility of parole."

But for the UC Santa Cruz students, training for the debate was a mixture of anxiety and adrenaline.

As philosophy major Anna Feygin (Oakes '18) notes, "It's one thing to be forewarned about what to expect when you head inside a prison; it's another to actually experience it.

"I was nervous because I was essentially going and walking into a prison, but excited at the same time," she recalls. "I'd never been to a prison—let alone talked to a prisoner, or an ex-prisoner—so it was pretty nerve-wracking at some points."

Third-year philosophy student Pedro Enriquez (Oakes '19) also had some concerns.

"I thought it was going to be a lot more like the movies where they're locked down, and you know, they're going to be hollering or whatever," he said. "So when we walked in after we passed the security and they were just walking around, I was like, 'Wait, is anybody gonna do anything, like where are all the cops, what if they do something?'"

But their fears were soon alleviated.

"Once the prisoners started coming up and talking to us, they were really friendly," says Enriquez. "And I remember looking out into the crowd and seeing the inmates and how attentive they were, and seeing all the volunteers and just thinking, 'Wow, this is a big deal.' You know, it's easy for me to think of this as an extracurricular activity, but it means a lot more than that to a lot of people."

SAN QUENTIN PHOTO BY JONATHAN CHIU, SAN QUENTIN NEWS

Inmates' experiences

The Ethics Bowl class and subsequent debate with UC Santa Cruz philosophy undergraduates affected the inmate participants in a variety of ways. Each had a personal reason for taking part in the debate, and afterward, most expressed a desire to participate in future Ethics Bowl debates.

"I decided that it would be a great idea and learning experience to engage other students in some type of formal debate," says inmate Randy Akins. "Just to be able to interact with the public made me feel whole again.

"I'll do it again," he adds. "I learned how to incorporate other people's views into a cogent argument."

Inmate Forrest Lee Jones had a different take on the experience.

"I wanted to represent my team and demonstrate the knowledge I've been learning in the Prison University Project classes," says Jones. "I'd never participated in a debate and wanted to experience its setting.

"Coming into this Ethics Bowl class and debate, I struggled in the understanding of the concepts of ethics," Jones adds. "But doing the exercise of applying them to real-life events has helped me better understand them. They are not some abstract concepts, but relevant and applicable in solving life's problems."

Thinking and reasoning

There's no shortage of contentious topics that can be debated in an Ethics Bowl—ranging from the Trump Administration's "Muslim Ban," to the use of military drones, to political discussion on social media, to the ethics of marital infidelity.

At San Quentin, the students and prisoners grappled with just two cases: "Should we change a rule made by the American Psychiatric Association that states it is unethical for psychiatrists to give a professional opinion about public figures they have not examined in person?" (a rule that has recently generated public debate because of President Donald Trump), and "Is it ethical to boycott, divest, and sanction Israel for its actions in the West Bank and Gaza Strip?"

But perhaps the most stirring thing for UC Santa Cruz philosophy professor Jon Ellis was how genuinely excited the inmates in the audience were by the excellent job the San Quentin team was doing at this particular exercise of fair-minded reasoning and open-minded listening.

"There was an integrity there that really stood out to me, in the way that both teams—but especially the San Quentin team—engaged with the questions that were posed, showing a sincere respect for the complexities of the thinking and reasoning required by the difficulty of the issues," says Ellis.

REACHING MORE COMMUNITIES

Each winter, high school teams from Salinas to San Francisco travel to UC Santa Cruz to vie in the Northern California High School Regional Ethics Bowl.

The topics discussed are relevant and easy for a high school student to relate to: "Is it ever OK to lie for a friend?" "Is it ethical for a school to punish or fire teachers for conduct that occurs off campus?" "Should a student confront the father of a friend making homophobic and sexist remarks in his own home?"

But the process is very different from traditional debates where teams are assigned a particular side for which to argue. Instead, the Ethics Bowl teams are asked to defend whatever ethical position their sustained reasoning has led them to endorse. The emphasis is on sincere, thoughtful reflection, as opposed to simply persuasion.

Kyle Robertson, assistant director of the Center for Public Philosophy, founded the regional high school program in 2012 when he was a Ph.D. student at UC Santa Cruz, and has watched it steadily grow. But his team soon noticed that most of the growth had come from socioeconomically advantaged schools and student bodies.

"We saw a need to reach out to schools that don't have debate programs and students that don't have these sorts of opportunities," said Robertson.

As a result, in 2016, the center established an "Outreach Invitational" program for those schools. It trained undergraduate philosophy majors to coach the high school teams and brought in community leaders to serve as judges.

And by bringing the students to UC Santa Cruz for the main event, they made college a much more tangible possibility.

"A lot of our students are really not exposed to the college culture," said Luis Ruelas, a teacher at Downtown College Prep Alum Rock High School in San Jose. "So being on a college campus was super exciting for them because they haven't really seen themselves at a college before."

North Salinas High School students Denize Ignacio (center) and Aliyah Annis (left) at the 2018 Ethics Bowl high school regional.

"I was no less impressed by the UC Santa Cruz team," he adds. "What was most impressive to me was the poise and goodwill the students showed after losing the debate to the inmate team. If there was bitterness or disappointment, it didn't come through at all; rather, directly after the event, they were genuinely and eagerly debriefing with the inmates, exchanging ideas, perspectives, and appreciation."

Robertson says that he plans to co-teach a class this year with the Prison University Project at San Quentin, and that together they hope to hold future Ethics Bowls at San Quentin involving up to four new prison teams. He adds that the Center for Public Philosophy is also hoping to expand its outreach locally and host the first-ever Ethics Bowl in the Santa Cruz County jail system.

"This type of event embodies the type of activity I value at the center for a variety of reasons," says Robertson. "It reaches out to communities that are generally not included in our public deliberations about difficult ethical and political situations. The San Quentin inmates are often the objects of such deliberation, but rarely, if ever, participants.

"It also teaches students much more about what they believe, and why they believe it, than a traditional ethics classroom experience," he adds. "This pushes them, I think, to make arguments that they themselves believe in rather than trying to predict what others want to hear." ■

PHOTOS: SALINAS HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS BY STEPHEN MARINO; RECINOS BY ANASTASIIA SAPON

ALUMNI PROFILES

Ada Recinos: Council crusader College Ten '15, sociology

Ada Recinos's Salvadoran mother and grandmother were on her mind when the 26-year-old was sworn in as the city of Richmond's youngest council member in 2017.

Her grandmother raised nine children on her own, working to give them a life of freedom and education. Her mother fled her war-torn country for the U.S. at 17, looking for the same things.

"They made this (the council appointment) happen," says Recinos, her voice breaking. "It was never about my name being announced. It was about the possibility that I could make happen here all that my mother and grandmother wished could have happened in El Salvador."

Recinos says her political awakening came in 2006 when she joined thousands of L.A. high school students to protest a House bill designed to tighten immigration rules and realized that, even though her parents were citizens, she needed to work for those who weren't protected.

The tools for that engagement, however, came from UC Santa Cruz, says Recinos, where she was part of the Everett Program, which helps students learn the theory and practice of social activism.

After graduation, Recinos, who was the first in her family to go to college, worked in nonprofits, including an Oakland program that helped Latina immigrants build cooperatively owned businesses.

She moved to Richmond, where she got involved in progressive politics and, in a decision that surprised many, was appointed to fill a vacant city council seat.

Recinos says her goals around housing, immigration, and accessibility rise out of her background.

"I think I've always known that what was important to me was to advocate and create policies to help people like my family," Recinos says. "Not just immigrants but people who work 40 hours a week and yet still have a difficult time keeping their homes and paying for transportation and day care—the barriers to wealth and asset building.

"That is my calling."

—Peggy Townsend

ALUMNIPROFILES

Darrick Smith: A mission to give back

Oakes '96, sociology

In 1992, Darrick Smith graduated from high school. In that same year, his hometown of Oakland had 175 homicides.

At that time, the social problems in his city were making international headlines. The Associated Press ran a story entitled, "1992: Bloodiest Year in Oakland History."

By then, Smith had already made up his mind to do something about this grim statistic. In his sophomore year, he dedicated his attention to exploring solutions to the bloodshed and desperation that had plagued what he calls his "beautiful and powerful city."

"I was losing classmates and seeing a lot of violence," he said.

Smith made good on his promise to himself and to his hometown. After graduating from UC Santa Cruz, he moved back to Oakland, created a youth development program at his old high school, then spent more than a decade implementing and overseeing it.

Smith went on to work as the co-principal of the June Jordan School for Equity, a small public high school in San Francisco's Excelsior neighborhood.

These days, he is spending his time grooming future school administrators, immersing them in culturally responsive discipline practices, critical pedagogy, transformative school leadership skills, and social justice issues. His classes are especially designed for people studying to become school principals.

He is currently an assistant professor of educational leadership at the University of San Francisco, which hired him to help revamp a 50-year-old school leadership program and teach graduate students in the areas of transformational leadership and social justice. He wants his students to grow into leaders who will challenge social ills through their work in schools.

"We are preparing principals to address how people are humanized or dehumanized through the school experience," he said.

Smith, as a first-generation college student, felt a pressure to thrive. That pressure—much of it internal—gave him a tight focus for his time at UC Santa Cruz.

"There's a narrative that you go to college to find yourself and explore. For many of us, that's not the case," Smith said.

In his time on campus, and in the years since he graduated, Smith was determined to give back to his community.

"We're on a mission," he said. "We've got a job to do."

—Amy Ettinger

Jeremy Strick: Living artfully

Cowell '77, art history

When Jeremy Strick arrived at UC Santa Cruz, its Art History Department was tiny. Santa Cruz itself seemed far removed from any viable art scene. Strick had to travel 75 miles to San Francisco to visit a world-class art museum.

But that small department, with its strong emphasis on student independence and creativity, was fertile ground for Strick, who went on to pursue a distinguished career overseeing prestigious collections of modern and contemporary art, including the directorship of the Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA) in downtown Los Angeles. He has also been a curator at the National Gallery and the Art Institute of Chicago.

Strick has been the director of the Nasher Sculpture Center in Dallas since 2009, overseeing exhibitions featuring the work of Diana Al-Hadid, Melvin Edwards, Roni Horn, and many others. He credits his UC Santa Cruz art mentors with giving him the confidence and the critical sense he needed to find his way in the art world.

"The faculty was terrific, but beyond that, you had to almost create your own program," Strick said.

At the time he enrolled, UC Santa Cruz, which opened its doors to students in 1965, was still new. The intimate program gave him a chance to forge connections with faculty, while the interdisciplinary teachings taught him to look at a piece of art from a fresh perspective.

"It was a new model for public higher education with a kind of openness and experimentation," Strick said.

Strick met his wife, Wendy (Cowell '78, history), at Cowell College during his first day of sophomore year. He also made connections with lifelong mentors, including the late Nan Rosenthal, the first professor of art history at UC Santa Cruz.

Harry Berger Jr., now a professor emeritus in the Humanities and Arts divisions, had an enormous influence on Strick's studies, as well.

After graduating from UC Santa Cruz, Strick went on to study art history at Harvard.

He credits the education he received at UC Santa Cruz with giving him the intellectual tools he needed in graduate school and in his career.

"It felt in some ways that we were on the edge of the Western world," he said, "and it was an opportunity to look back with fresh eyes."

—Amy Ettinger

PHOTOS: SMITH BY ANASTASIIA SAPON; STRICK BY ALLISON V. SMITH; VOELTZ BY BARRY GUTIERREZ

Gia Voeltz: Cell sleuth

Crown '94, biochemistry and molecular biology

On the screen, the red blobs move, trailing green, rope-like tubes as if they'd just escaped some evil captor.

It's a stunning image that's at the heart of Gia Voeltz's work, which not only has upended the way scientists think about our cells but also has implications for the understanding of neurodegenerative diseases like Alzheimer's, ALS, and Parkinson's.

Now Voeltz is one of a select few who have been awarded an $8 million Howard Hughes Medical Institute grant, which will allow her to delve more deeply into the secrets our cells hold.

Currently a professor of molecular, cellular and developmental biology at Colorado University Boulder, Voeltz came to UC Santa Cruz from New York intending to become a medical doctor. Then, she joined Distinguished Professor of MCD Biology Manuel Ares's lab, which was focused on RNA research, and found her home.

Voeltz continued her RNA work at Yale University, where she got her Ph.D. But a funny thing happened. During a seminar lecture, a Harvard Medical School biologist mentioned that no one really had any idea how an organelle called the endoplasmic reticulum (ER) actually formed.

Voeltz thought that was a cool question. In introductory textbooks, ER is described as an interconnected system of membranes that looks like a stack of pancakes inside the cell and is involved in lipid and protein synthesis. Voeltz knew little more than these basic ideas, and she spent the next few days reading everything she could find on ER before stepping completely out of her field.

Using state-of-the-art equipment at her lab in Boulder, Voeltz discovered that instead of a stack of pancakes, the ER "had a beautiful architecture" that was more like lacy coral with other organelles hanging from it as if they were Christmas ornaments. Not only that but other organelles were communicating through the ER. This unexpected discovery spurred her forward, and she found that ER also seemed to clamp onto mitochondria and endosomes and clip them in certain spots, which is important because these organelles can play a role in human disease.

"As soon as something gets surprising, that's what I want to work on," says Voeltz.

UC Santa Cruz professor of ecology and evolutionary biology Beth Shapiro was also selected as one of this year's Howard Hughes Medical Institute investigators. See story on page 5.

—Peggy Townsend

1MORETHING

by John Laird (Stevenson '72, politics)

One of the first rules for a successful leader is to set and clearly communicate an agenda. In these tumultuous times, that is truer than ever, and it is as much about leadership and personal values as it is about policy.

In my public career I have obsessed over telling the truth. That is not always the norm right now, but the fact that others don't value the truth in the same way should not change that basic goal of honesty for the rest of us.

A key part of getting to an agreement is being able to explain someone else's opinion back to them in a way that they feel heard. As a polarizing lack of civility in public discourse increases, there is less incentive to reach agreements, and this goal is even more important.

Our democracy gives the opportunity for anyone to step up to leadership, but many talented people take a look at the current situation and think that it's not for them. Our system will not be successful unless a wide variety of people step up, set a more civil tone, and make sure that diverse views are represented in public affairs.

I speak with many young people just starting their careers. I want them to know that after I graduated from UC Santa Cruz, I was not certain of success—but I took risks, experienced achievements and setbacks as I tested these leadership premises, and have a career I am proud of.

I try to make that message to these young people just starting out, and emphasize that I was once just where they are and they will face these same challenges, and have the same opportunity for achievement.

We need to fight climate change, have accessible and effective higher education, guarantee health care to all, and ensure that everyone shares in our economic bounty. Leadership qualities of truth, inclusion, and civility will get us a significant way toward these goals. And we all have a role. I can't encourage you enough to stand up, get involved, make your voice heard, and help us set the tone and build the road to the society we want to be.

A former mayor of Santa Cruz, John Laird went on to serve three terms as a California State Assemblyman before being appointed as California's Secretary for Natural Resources in 2011. He will receive the Fiat Lux Award at UC Santa Cruz's Founders Celebration on October 20, 2018.

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LAIRD ILLUSTRATION BY KATHRYN RATHKE; PHOTOS: KZSC BY ELENA ZHUKOVA; HEAD SHOTS COURTESY OF GALLANT AND MONAHAN

'Our way of giving back'

For information about a fund-raising effort for KZSC and the Cantú Center, see page 7.

Whatever your passion, you can help it live on. Find out how to include UC Santa Cruz in your estate plan. Please contact the Office of Planned Giving at (831) 459-1045.

Denise Gallant and **Kevin Monahan** fell in love at KZSC. But the radio station, and Kresge College, also gave them the skills that built their careers. By including the college and the station in their will, they're able to make a gift well above their annual donation.

KZSC, where hundreds of students have learned broadcasting (and other life skills) has passed the half-decade mark. In 1976, when it was only a few years old, Gallant (Kresge '76, individual major) and Monahan (Kresge) had back-to-back shows on Friday nights. Their young romance grew into their decades-long marriage.

Their time at UC Santa Cruz was transformational for them. In Kresge's Town Hall, they experimented with technologies they would both use in their careers. Gallant became a video producer, Monahan an audio engineer.

Regular donors for years, they now are making an even bigger difference by including KZSC and Kresge in their will.

"We're so indebted to Kresge and the radio station.... This planned gift is our way of giving back."
—DENISE GALLANT

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UC Santa Cruz 2017 student production of *Zoot Suit* by Luis Valdez.
Photo: Steve DiBartolomeo

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