

# UC DAVIS

M A G A Z I N E

Volume 31, Number 2  
Spring 2014

## Picnic Day turns 100

A WATERSHED MOMENTUM • BANKING ON SHAN LI



## WITH OUR THANKS



Bruce Edwards



Chuck Nichols

Dear fellow Aggies, parents, faculty and friends,

You are receiving this magazine because you are among a group of UC Davis alumni and friends who have made a decision to remain connected to one of the top public universities in the country. Some of you are doing this through a membership with our Cal Aggie Alumni Association or UC Davis Parents Association, or by making a gift. Others are connected as parents of a UC Davis freshman or as faculty members who are teaching the next generation of Aggie leaders.

Sending you the print edition of *UC Davis Magazine* is our way of showing our gratitude. For other alumni and friends, we have converted the magazine to an electronic publication to better support our university's efforts to be environmentally friendly and economically conscientious. The electronic version will also be available to everyone who receives the print edition.

*UC Davis Magazine* is a highly regarded publication that has informed, entertained and inspired Aggie readers for more than 30 years. This issue is no exception. There are engaging stories that reinvigorate our Aggie Pride, among them: a tribute to the 100th Picnic Day, a uniquely UC Davis tradition; and a feature on how Center for Watershed Sciences researchers help California better manage one of its most precious resources—water.

If you know of alumni or friends who wish to continue to receive the print edition, please encourage them to contact us so they can find a way to reconnect with UC Davis in a way that matches their needs and lifestyle.

Thank you for your continued support of UC Davis, which allows us to continue to produce *UC Davis Magazine* as well as pursue our vision to be one of the best universities in the world.

Go Ags!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bruce C. Edwards".

Bruce C. Edwards '60  
Chair,  
UC Davis Foundation

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chuck Nichols".

Chuck Nichols '83, '84  
President,  
Cal Aggie Alumni Association



For more information, contact the  
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# UC DAVIS

M A G A Z I N E

Volume 31, Number 2/Spring 2014

## FEATURES

### A Watershed Momentum 16

At a center that brings together hydrologists, biologists, geologists, economists and engineers, water is for collaborating rather than for fighting.  
by Chris Bowman



### Banking on Shan Li 24

One of China's most influential financial leaders began his economics education at UC Davis.  
by Kathleen Holder



### 100 Picnic Days 26

Before joining the centuple Picnic Day, find out what happened at some of the 99 other celebrations.

## Departments

- 6 Letters
- 7 Calendar
- 8 News
- 14 Parents
- 31 Class Notes
- 39 One to One  
Alumni compare notes on KDVS
- 40 Sports

### About the cover:

The last time Schatzi, our cover model (beloved dachshund of Julie Hamilton '85, of Davis), raced in a Picnic Day Doxie Derby, she ran straight for the crowd instead of the finish line. The dachshund races are perennial crowd-pleasers, but this year's event could be monumental. This will be the 100th Picnic Day. Photo by Karin Higgins. Cover design by Russ Thebaud.





ADVANCING INNOVATION

THE  
CAMPAIGN FOR  
UCDAVIS

“Thanks  
to the  
fellowship,  
I study how universities  
translate discoveries to  
real-world innovations.”

— Peter Lee

UC Davis Chancellor's Fellow

Internationally renowned  
technology transfer expert

Professor of law, UC Davis

Gifts to the UC Davis  
Annual Fund support  
stellar faculty like  
Professor Peter Lee in  
advancing innovation for  
the greater good.

**UCDAVIS**  
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*Senior Class Challenge*

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**AS YOU FLIP THROUGH THE PAGES** of this issue, you'll notice we've been doing some remodeling. We've made some design changes in an effort to make *UC Davis Magazine* easier and, we hope, more enjoyable to read. The changes are in response to comments from our reader survey last fall—many of you loved the photos but thought some of the stories were too long and the type-face too small. We listened.

It's just the beginning of an ongoing effort to make your magazine better—not just at informing you about your university, but also in keeping you engaged with UC Davis. We see the magazine as a medium for dialogue. Please keep in touch. Let us know how we're doing and update us about what you're doing. Email us at [magazine@ucdavis.edu](mailto:magazine@ucdavis.edu) with a class note, a letter, a story idea. We'd love to hear from you.



## CONTRIBUTORS



**Cheryl Anderson**, debuting as parents columnist, is a writer and stand-up comedian. She has two daughters in college. She lives in Folsom with her husband and several animals that her girls have left behind. Her essay, "Never Can Say Goodbye," begins on page 14.



**Chris Bowman**, a veteran environmental journalist, writes in "A Watershed Momentum" (page 16) about the UC Davis Center for Watershed Sciences, where he now works. As Bowman puts it, the center found him stranded on a gravel bar in 2012 and pulled him aboard its raft to man the communications paddles. Ironically, the California drought has tripled his stroke rate.

# TOGETHER, WE ARE **ONE UC DAVIS**

As an Aggie, you know best that there is only One UC Davis. There are many inspiring stories to be told in UC Davis' new marketing campaign about how, together, we are changing our world for the better. *Tell us your story . . .*

## **More than 200,000 Aggies**

In our campaign, we tell the stories about how together, at UC Davis, we are changing our world for the better and transforming one another as well as our institution. We are celebrating humanity and nature, and inspiring innovation in California and around the world. This is the essence of the One World, One UC Davis campaign—we're innovating to make our world better; and in the process, improving and growing ourselves.

## **Engage One UC Davis**

Tell us why UC Davis is the one for you. Share a story about someone in the UC Davis community who inspires you, tell us about a unique UC Davis experience you've had or share fond memories of the past. Visit [ucdavis.edu/one](http://ucdavis.edu/one) and click "Tell us your story," or post to your favorite social media site with the tag, **#oneucdavis**. Let the world know about One UC Davis.

Your story could be featured on banners, posters, social media and elsewhere. Of course, we cannot guarantee all information will be used, but we welcome everyone's participation in continuing the campaign.



## A banner year

The One UC Davis campaign kicked off with nearly 40 banners across campus honoring some of the exceptional students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends who make UC Davis a one-of-a-kind place.

Banners have gone up on the Quad, along Hutchison Drive and along bike paths around campus. Take a banner tour—in person or online, where an interactive map shows the banners and their locations. We're already developing more banners, so check back often!



## One UC Davis in 30 seconds

Watch our new promotional video online and, after that, go behind the scenes to hear some of the Aggie stars tell why UC Davis is the one for them.

“At UC Davis, the lives that touch us, inspire us,” a veterinary student says in the opening shot of the 30-second promotional video. Other scenes include an underwater view of Lake Tahoe, a doctor’s visit via telemedicine and the stage of the Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts.



See the commercial at [ucdavis.edu/one](http://ucdavis.edu/one).

## Own it, wear it

Find One UC Davis items at the UC Davis Stores: pens, coffee mugs, apparel (coming soon), key fobs and more. Share your UC Davis spirit with family and friends.



Visit [ucdavisstores.com](http://ucdavisstores.com).



**ONE WORLD, ONE UC DAVIS IS YOU**—a global network of people connected to our university. It is the positive impact of our unsung heroes, imaginative research teams and innovative thinkers. What our people share in common is they are transforming lives, celebrating humanity and nature, and inspiring breakthroughs in California and beyond.





### ABC connections

I read with interest the [fall 2013 “Aggies Remember”] article on Ash Hall, one of three halls that we called the ABCs back in the mid-1950s. In 1955 co-eds were housed in all three dorms. One resident, Carla Garrison, was a roommate of my friend, Donna Bice. When you go to the MU, a room upstairs is named the Carl Garrison Room after Carla’s father. Carl ’33 was president of the Cal Aggie Alumni Association twice and also the general manager of the Porter Estate Co.

In 1976, Porter Estate heirs Benjamin Porter and William Sesnon Jr. donated the Paiute Meadows Ranch in Humboldt County, Nev., to UC Davis. Carl Garrison is thought to be the person who suggested the gift. The ranch was operated by the campus for a short time, then sold. A portion of the proceeds went to establishing UC Davis’ first endowed chair: the Sesnon Chair in Animal Science.

Over the years the next generation of the Porter/Sesnon family lost contact with the campus. One descendant, Jim Cartan, became a client/friend of mine, and I was able to reconnect the family with the chancellor’s office, the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, and the animal science department.

The Sesnon Chair was recently refilled by Professor Ermias Kebreab. Both Jim Cartan and I were allowed to observe the interviews with all of the applicants—of course, without a vote, but what an honor!

My lasting gratitude to Carla and her roommate Donna for this great connection, which has kept me close to the

campus long after my attending such a short time.

**Bob Dempel, Cred. ’56**

Santa Rosa

### A reader’s goodbye

I am in shock with your change in policy on sending out *UC Davis Magazine*. I loved getting it, and read it from cover to cover. You will be sorely missed here.

**Suzanne Cross ’75**

Alamo

*Editors note: We heard from a number of other longtime readers who don’t belong to the Cal Aggie Alumni Association and were disappointed that they will no longer receive the print magazine. We’ll miss you, and them too—and hope that, at the least, you’ll keep reading the magazine online.*

### The students behind inner tube water polo

My sister brought to my attention the article “Driving Innovation” in the summer 2013 issue. It credits Gary Colberg with “inventing” inner tube water polo. I think this isn’t quite correct. . . . Don’t get me wrong—Gary is a great person and certainly greased the skids of the inner tube water polo program. However, the real credit should go to Kent “Calf” Calfee ’70 and Randy “Wally” Wallstrum ’69, D.V.M. ’73—who initially acquired the inner tubes from a local tire shop and really got the greatest spectacle in intramural water sports going—and also to the members of the 1968 championship water polo team.



Modern-day inner tube water polo

Wally refereed most of the games in 1968. There were no rules then. He called the game as he saw it, and there were no appeals. . . . He also wrote the articles, which appeared in the newspaper the next day. These were always hilarious to read—he had a nickname for most everyone. His reward was a thorough dunking at the end of the season.

In the spring of 1970, Wally was studying hard for his vet school exams and I took his place refereeing many of the games and writing the articles for the Aggie.

It’s a real credit to Gary and the intramural program to have overseen the development of a new sport, but Calf and Wally certainly deserve to be recognized. Those early days were good fun!

**Galen Denio ’70**

Spokane, Wash.





**Empyrean Ensemble:**

Tribute to D. Kern Holoman, former conductor of the UC Davis Symphony Orchestra who retires this year from the music department faculty. Program includes faculty compositions. Mika Pelo and Kurt Rohde, directors.

Mondavi Center, Vanderhoef Studio Theatre

**April 28**

**Stage**

**Cameron Carpenter, organ**

Mondavi Center, Jackson Hall

**April 2**

**UC Davis Symphony Orchestra**

*Berlin, Leipzig, and Stockholm*

Christian Baldini, music director and conductor. Program includes world premiere of *Concerto for Piano and Orchestra* by Mika Pelo, assistant professor of music, with artist-in-residence Eric Zivian, piano.

Mondavi Center, Jackson Hall

**May 3**

**Guitarist Bill Frisell**

*All We Are Saying: The Songs of John Lennon*

Mondavi Center, Jackson Hall

**May 14**

**Exhibitions**

**UC Davis Film Festival**

Short films by students.

Varsity Theatre, downtown Davis

**May 21–22**



**Hollingshead Photography Exhibition**

1920s and '30s works from the archives of the late Northern California photographer Paul W. Hollingshead, courtesy of Bill '60 and Sharon Dianne '63 Hollingshead. Curated by Erin Dorn, M.A. '14.

Nelson Gallery

**April 7–May 4**

**Celebrations**

**Picnic Day**

**April 12**

*More information on page 26.*

**Asian Pacific Culture Week**

**April 7–11**

**Native American Culture Days**

**April 14–18**

**Danzantes del Alma Annual Show**

**April 26**

**La Raza Cultural Days**

**April 28–May 3**

**Black Family Day**

**May 17**

**More events**

Mondavi Center  
mondaviarts.org

Department of Music  
music.ucdavis.edu

Department of Theatre and Dance  
theatredance.ucdavis.edu

Visitor Services  
visit.ucdavis.edu

Arboretum  
arboretum.ucdavis.edu

Craft Center Gallery  
cru.ucdavis.edu, click on Recreation & Activities

Design Museum  
designmuseum.ucdavis.edu

Athletics  
ucdavisaggies.com

C.N. Gorman Museum  
gormanmuseum.ucdavis.edu

The Art Lounge  
campusunions.ucdavis.edu

Richard L. Nelson Gallery & Fine Arts Collection  
nelsongallery.ucdavis.edu

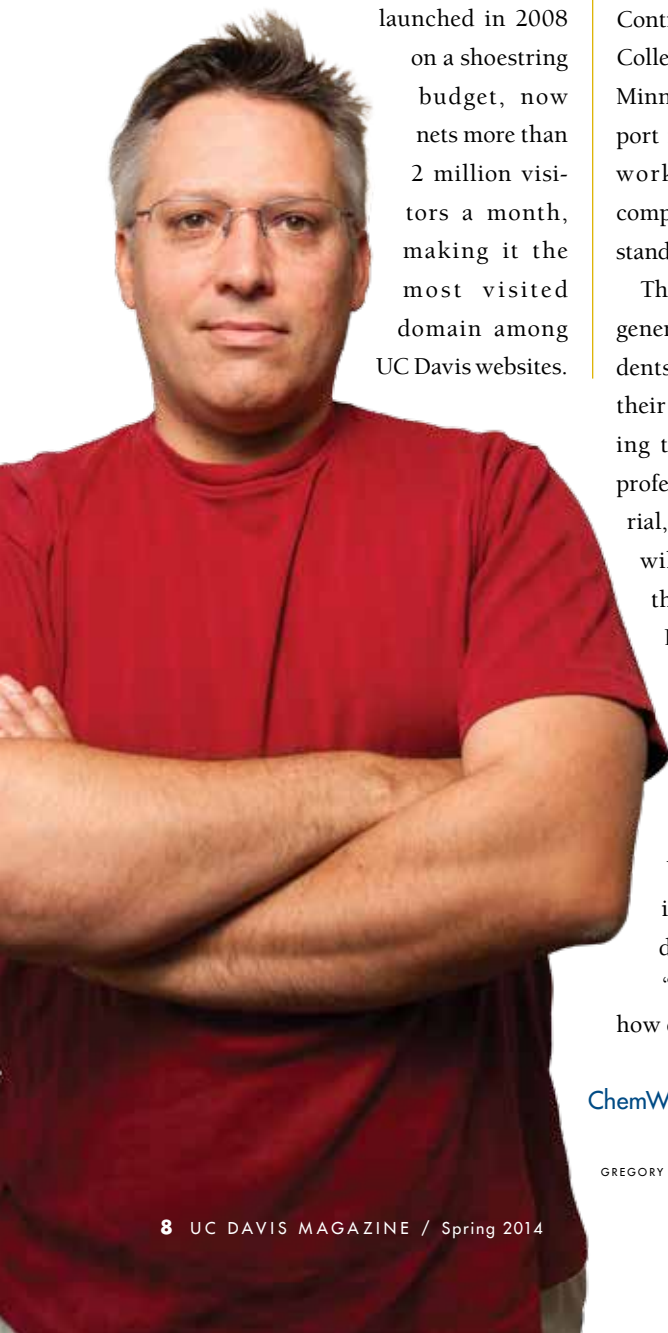


**More event information at [ucdavis.edu/calendar](http://ucdavis.edu/calendar).**

# FREEING STUDENTS FROM TEXTBOOK COSTS

**THE HEFTY COLLEGE TEXTBOOK,** weighty in both pounds and dollars, has long been a staple of student life. But chemistry professor Delmar Larsen is on a mission to replace textbooks with an online, open e-textbook network.

Larsen's ChemWiki, launched in 2008 on a shoestring budget, now nets more than 2 million visitors a month, making it the most visited domain among UC Davis websites.



"We're addressing a need out there for vetted information," Larsen said.

ChemWiki recently received its first major funding—a grant of \$250,000 from the National Science Foundation to a consortium including UC Davis, Sonoma State University, Diablo Valley College, Contra Costa Community College, Hope College (Michigan) and the University of Minnesota, Morris. The money will support further expansion of the wiki network and the first side-by-side comparison of the ChemWiki versus a standard textbook in classroom teaching.

This spring quarter, half of a UC Davis general chemistry class, about 200 students, will use the standard textbook as their principal reference. The rest, hearing the same lectures from the same professors and studying the same material, will use the ChemWiki. The results will be evaluated by researchers from the School of Education's Center for Education and Evaluation Services.

A single general chemistry textbook for undergraduates can cost hundreds of dollars, with new (and more expensive) editions appearing regularly, Larsen said. Yet the material in such textbooks is well established, in some cases for decades, if not centuries.

"The content hasn't changed, so how do we justify these costs?" he said.

ChemWiki began with entries written by students. Then Larsen realized that much of the material he needed was scattered across the Internet, in course notes, on professors' websites, and other locations.

"All the content we need for the first two years of undergraduate chemistry already exists online—so we went out and asked for it," Larsen said. When authors responded positively, Larsen and his student wiki-editors worked to adapt the material into the wiki format.

Anyone can contribute to ChemWiki: "Just email me," Larsen says.

So far, he believes, students are using ChemWiki as a reference and a supplement to, rather than a replacement for, their traditional textbooks.

ChemWiki is planning a partnership with UC Irvine's OpenChem project, a collection of free, open-access video lectures in undergraduate and graduate level chemistry.

Larsen and collaborators are also developing wikis for other fields, including math, physics, statistics and geology. He envisions an interconnected "STEM-Wiki hyperlibrary" across science, technology and engineering that meets the needs of both faculty and students.

Ultimately, Larsen hopes to transform the textbook industry. "It's a labor of love," he said.

— Andy Fell

ChemWiki creator Delmar Larsen

GREGORY URQUIAGA/UC Davis



GREGORY URQUIAGA/UC Davis

## A leader for the World Food Center

Roger Beachy, right, founding director of UC Davis' World Food Center, gets a warm welcome from state Department of Food and Agriculture Secretary Karen Ross, U.S. Rep. John Garamendi and Chancellor Linda P.B. Katehi at a news conference announcing his appointment.

An acclaimed plant biologist, Beachy joined UC Davis in January, bringing what Katehi described as the "perfect blend of scientific acumen, experience and vision" to lead the new center.

An elected member of the National Academy of Sciences and the 2001 recipient of the prestigious Wolf Prize in Agriculture, he previously served as the founding executive director and CEO of the Global Institute for Food Security in Saskatchewan, Canada. In 2009–11, he was the first director of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture. He called UC Davis "one of the very few universities in the world equipped to address global food challenges in a comprehensive manner."

## AN AGGIE DEAN

**AFTER THREE DECADES** as a faculty member and administrator at Cornell University, Helene Dillard, M.S. '79, Ph.D. '84, returned home to UC Davis in January as the new dean of the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences.

Dillard, a plant disease expert, said she was honored and humbled by her appointment as chief academic and administrative leader for UC Davis' founding college, which is ranked among the very top agricultural and environmental research institutions in the world.

"I am excited to build upon this legacy as well as foster continuing and further collaborations that develop solutions to the grand challenges and opportunities that we, as a global community, face," she said.

Upon graduating from UC Davis, she joined the faculty of the Department of Plant Pathology at Cornell University's New York State Agricultural Experiment

Station in Geneva, N.Y. She was named associate director of the Cornell Cooperative Extension in 2001 and became its director a year later. Since 2002, she also has served as associate dean of Cornell's College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and College of Human Ecology.



Helene Dillard

Dillard steps into the position formerly held by Neal Van Alfen, who served as dean from 1999 until August 2012, when he returned to his faculty position in the Department of Plant Pathology. Associate Dean Mary Delany, a distinguished avian geneticist and professor in the Department of Animal Science, has served as interim dean while a national search was conducted for a permanent dean.

— Pat Bailey



# A 'WAKE-UP CALL' FROM SPACE

**THE METEOR THAT EXPLODED** over Chelyabinsk, Russia, in February 2013 delivered a punch equivalent to about 600 thousand tons of TNT, with shockwaves that left a path of damage up to 100 miles wide, an international team of scientists report.

Qing-zhu Yin, a professor in the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences who participated in analyzing the event, called it “a wake-up call” about the threat of similar meteors in the future. “If humanity does not want to go the way of the dinosaurs, we need to study an event like this in detail,” Yin said.

Chelyabinsk was the largest meteoroid strike felt on Earth in more than a century. Its explosion was 150 times bigger than the 2012 Sutter’s Mill meteorite in California.

The dust cloud was so hot it glowed

orange. Shockwaves from the airburst broke windows, rattled buildings and even knocked people from their feet. More than 1,200 people were injured.

Based on viewing angles from videos of the fireball, the researchers calculated that the meteoroid entered Earth’s atmosphere at close to 12 miles per second.

Using modeling, the scientists determined that the rock was about 22 yards wide and that it exploded at an altitude of 18.5 miles. For nearby observers it briefly appeared brighter than the sun and caused some severe sunburns.

The team estimated that about three-quarters of the meteoroid evaporated at that point. Most of the rest converted to dust and only a small fraction fell to the ground as meteorites.

Yin’s laboratory carried out chemical and isotopic analysis of the meteorites.

Professor Ken Verosub, also of the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences (formerly the geology department), measured the magnetic properties of metallic grains in samples. Doug Rowland, project scientist in the Center for Molecular and Genomic Imaging in the Department of Biomedical Engineering, contributed X-ray computed tomography scanning of the rock.

Put together, these measurements confirmed that the Chelyabinsk object was an ordinary chondrite, 4,452 million years old, and that it last went through a significant shock event about 115 million years after the formation of the solar system 4,567 million years ago.

If a catastrophic meteorite strike were to occur in the future, it would most likely be an object of this type, Yin said.

— *Andy Fell*

## DISCOVERIES



### Frog deformities

A 10-year study shows some good news for frogs and toads on national wildlife refuges. The rate of abnormalities such as shortened or missing legs was less than 2 percent overall—indicating that the malformations first reported in the mid-1990s were rarer than feared. But much higher rates

were found in local “hotspots,” suggesting that where these problems occur they have local causes.

“We now know what the baseline is and the 2 percent level is relatively good news, but some regions need a deeper look,” said Marcel Holyoak, professor of environmental science and policy.



NIKITA PLEKHANOV/Wikimedia Commons

# CAMPUS NEWS

## \$1 billion and counting

UC Davis announced in November that it reached its goal of raising \$1 billion from more than 100,000 donors through its first comprehensive fundraising campaign, The Campaign for UC Davis.

The accomplishment was achieved more than one year ahead of the original December 2014 end date. The Campaign for UC Davis is now scheduled to conclude on May 31.

“This achievement would not have been possible without the involvement of our entire university community and the generosity of a very large network of strong supporters,” said Chancellor Linda P. B. Katehi. “I am thankful to each and every one of them for helping us reach our goal.”

## Training oceanographers

UC Davis has launched a new undergraduate major in marine and coastal science. Affiliated with a new Coastal and Marine Sciences Institute, the new major draws on expertise from across the campus, with special emphasis on the land-ocean interface, coastal issues, and human impacts on marine and coastal environments.



NASA/JPL-Caltech/Malin Space Science Systems

## Welcome, Earth and Planetary Sciences

For a department that has received national attention for its work with falling meteorites and Mars exploration, the name “geology” didn’t quite fit for a number of its students and faculty.

So, the Department of Geology has changed its name to the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences.

## Tobacco-free campus

UC Davis became a smoke- and tobacco-free campus indoors and out in January.

All other UC campuses are also going smoke- and tobacco-free, or have already done so, under a January 2012 directive from then-UC President Mark Yudof. At the time, all five UC medical centers had already gone smoke-free, everywhere.

## DISCOVERIES

### Insect cousins

Ants and bees, surprisingly, are more genetically related to each other than they are to social wasps such as yellow jackets and paper wasps, a team of UC Davis scientists has discovered.

“Despite great interest in the ecology and behavior of these insects, their evolutionary relationships have never been fully clarified,” said entomology professor Phil Ward. “In particular, it has been uncertain how ants—the world’s most successful social insects—are related to bees and wasps. We were able to resolve this question by employing next-generation sequencing technology and advances in bioinformatics.”





ROBERT DURELL

## On the front line of football's brain injury debate

Bennet Omalu, an associate clinical professor of pathology who discovered the devastating neurological disease known as chronic traumatic encephalopathy, or CTE, in the brain of Pittsburgh Steelers legend Mike Webster, appeared in a recent PBS *Frontline* documentary, *League of Denial: The NFL's Concussion Crisis*. "The inherent risk and dangers of permanent brain damage in contact sports are real, especially in children," Omalu said. "We must educate ourselves, especially parents, of this risk and the long-term effects in later life." The documentary aired last October and again in January.

—Carole Gan



Watch the *Frontline* documentary at [pbs.org](http://pbs.org).

## Bodily defense

Blood clots play an unexpected role in protecting the body from the deadly effects of bacteria by absorbing bacterial toxins, researchers have found.

"It's a significant addition to the short list of defenses that animals use to protect themselves against toxin-induced sepsis," said Peter Armstrong, professor of molecular and cellular biology.



Watch a video of a blood clot capturing a bacterial toxin at [go.ucdavis.edu/clots](http://go.ucdavis.edu/clots).

## Dining out

Despite menu changes at top chain restaurants, the overall calorie and sodium levels in their main entrées remain the same, researchers say.

"Restaurant menus did not get any healthier over time," said Helen Wu, a policy and research analyst at the Institute for Population Health Improvement at UC Davis Health System.

Wu and Roland Sturm, senior economist at the RAND Corp., evaluated the nutritional content changes of more than 26,000 regular menu entrées made over a year by 213 major chain restaurants nationwide.

They found that the average entrée in 2010 contained 670 calories and remained at 670 calories one year later. Sodium levels dropped just slightly from 1,515 milligrams per entrée to 1,500 milligrams. Nor did children's

entrées become healthier, though they averaged 40 calories lower.

## Obesity

Obese women are four times more likely than obese men to seek weight-loss surgery, a new study shows. When they do see a bariatric surgeon, male patients tend to be older, more obese and sicker than women.

"It is important for men to realize that obesity poses a serious threat to their health and life spans," said Mohamed Ali, senior author of the study and chief of bariatric surgery at UC Davis.

## Cholesterol and Alzheimer's

High levels of "good" cholesterol and low levels of "bad" cholesterol are good for more than your heart. Researchers have found that they also indicate your chances of developing Alzheimer's disease.

"Our study shows that both higher levels of HDL—good—and lower levels of LDL—bad—cholesterol in the bloodstream are associated with lower levels of amyloid plaque deposits in the brain," said Bruce Reed, lead study author and associate director of the UC Davis Alzheimer's Disease Center.

"Unhealthy patterns of cholesterol could be directly causing the higher levels of amyloid known to contribute to Alzheimer's."





GREGORY URQUIAGA/UC Davis

# THE UNSTOPPABLE BEAN

## WHEN A YOUNG PIT BULL NAMED

**BEAN** first visited UC Davis' Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital, she had so many health problems that her chances of adoption—let alone survival—were slim.

Now after groundbreaking treatment by specialists in veterinary and human medicine, as well as biomedical engineering, Bean has become a teaching assistant of sorts at the vet hospital and an ambassador of hope for people who, like her, have had their larynx removed.

Along the way, Bean so impressed her care providers with her indomitable spirit—even through eight surgeries—that a veterinary faculty couple adopted the dog.

"She loves people, and sometimes she wags her tail so hard she falls on the ground," said Karen Vernau, M.A.S. '07, chief of the veterinary hospital's Neurology and Neurosurgery Service who brought Bean home to live with her hus-

band, Associate Professor William Vernau, Ph.D. '00; their two children and two other dogs. "We didn't intend to go down this path with her, but she just sucked us in."

The Humane Society of the Silicon Valley brought the rescued dog to the veterinary hospital in the spring of 2012 for evaluation of her odd way of walking—which Vernau said looked "like an old man wearing flippers."

The diagnosis: improperly formed hip joints and neurological troubles. Corrective surgery ensued. Then, in the ensuing months, veterinarians determined that she also suffered from muscular dystrophy, a malfunctioning esophagus and a massive hiatal hernia.

Among her other corrective surgeries, Bean had her larynx removed last fall by surgeon Peter Belasky, an expert on human swallowing and airway disorders,

*Above: Veterinary gastrointestinal specialist Stan Marks, Ph.D. '96, gets a kiss from Bean.*

and veterinary surgeon Bill Culp. Bean now breathes through a small hole created in her trachea, or windpipe; she gets her nourishment via a permanent feeding tube with an adapter that was custom-designed by biomedical engineers.

"Through it all, Bean has just been an inspiration to all of us fortunate enough to care for her," Belasky said. "Her will to live, her incredibly kind disposition—considering all she's been through—it's amazing and hard to put into words. You just have to meet her."

—Jennifer Warren



See more about Bean online at [go.ucdavis.edu/bean](http://go.ucdavis.edu/bean).

# NEVER CAN

**I'VE ALWAYS HAD A PROBLEM** saying goodbye to my children. Oh, I've had plenty of practice. With two girls currently in college, there have been plenty of opportunities to send them off on their adventures with grace and dignity. But I've failed time and time again.

It started on the first day of kindergarten. We parents were instructed to fill out name tags with our students' first names and how they would get home that day. I had trouble fitting it all on one sticker, but I managed and gave my daughter her tag. Then I noticed the other children's:

Jill, bus. Eric, walk.

My daughter's:

**Nicole (Nicki)**

My mom (Cheryl) will  
drive me home  
in the family car.  
She will pick me up in the  
south parking lot.

Yikes. Had I already become a helicopter parent? In kindergarten? This didn't bode well for the future. So I tried to relax and back off a bit. I read all the parenting advice I could find. I tried to be the bow "from which your children as living arrows are sent forth,"<sup>1</sup> but I've never done really well with metaphors. After I read that there are two great things I could give my children, roots and wings, I gave them bad dye jobs and sent them to Hooters.

Then, in the blink of an eye, it was time for the oldest to go to college. Where had the time gone? I couldn't believe that she was already leaving home. As we prepared to send her off to school, I went out shopping on my own for her dorm room essentials. I had become

by Cheryl Anderson



# SAY GOODBYE

way too emotional in the bedding section, so I wandered around a bit to get control of myself. I noticed a mom who was getting impatient with her soon-to-be kindergartner who was choosing a backpack. I wanted to grab that mom and tell her to cherish this moment, that she had no idea how quickly these days would pass, and that before she knew it she would be buying dorm room furnishings for that very same little girl! For college!

Then I imagined that if I did try to talk to her, the mom would later update her Facebook status to: “OMG, I was shopping with Morgan at Target and this weird lady just grabbed me, started crying, and went on some rant about extra-long sheets!”<sup>2</sup> and her friends would all respond with, “That’s so scary! Are you OK?”

So I just cried and walked away.

I remember that my mom cried when I left for college and I didn’t understand it at the time. I was so excited for my new adventure, I didn’t understand why she was so sad. I just popped in my Eddie Money<sup>3</sup> 8-track<sup>4</sup> and, with “Two Tickets to Paradise,” I was off. I didn’t realize what a milestone I had reached. But my mom knew and I now realize how hard that was for her. She knew that from that day forward, nothing would be the same. When I went home again, I was “home for a visit,” never really home. The term, “boomerang-generation” hadn’t been invented yet.

I’ve heard extreme stories about how other parents handle the college drop-off. On one end of the spectrum are helicopter parents, like the mom who attended the first week of her daughter’s classes to take notes so her daughter could focus on her sorority rush-week activities (professors tend to frown on this level of parental

involvement). On the other extreme<sup>5</sup> is the mom whose daughter had not arranged campus housing ahead of time, so mom dropped her off at the housing office with a suitcase and a “good luck” (the student lived with a generous professor for the first weeks of school). My goal is to find a comfortable place between these extremes.

Now my youngest is away at college too, and I’m afraid that I’m not yet tear-free when we say goodbye. But, I’m finding that being an empty-nester<sup>6</sup> isn’t so bad. So, if you’re a parent who has just sent your first child off to college, know that each year seems to get a little easier. And I’m finding that I really enjoy having some extra time to myself. You might be surprised to find how much free time you have when you’re not driving carpools and wrangling backpacks.

So while I have threatened my girls that I would be the Blackhawk of helicopter parents, I think (hope) that I have found some middle ground. I’m still working on it though, so if you see me crying at Target, just give me some space. I’ll be OK.

---

1. From *On Children* by Kahlil Gibran. Do NOT read if you’re feeling empty-nesty.

2. I’m pretty sure the extra-long sheet requirement is a conspiracy between colleges and sheet-manufacturers.

3. For those under 40, Eddie Money was a singer before he was a Geico spokesman

4. Again for the youngsters, an 8-track was kind of like an old time iPod, that held an amazing 45 minutes of music!

5. Free-range parenting

6. Another metaphor!





# AWatersh Momentu

by Chris Bowman

BRIDGET BESAW for The Nature Conservancy





# ed m

The cramped field researchers' office carries the faint whiffs of fish, locker room and dog. Louie, the Labrador, snoozes on his tattered mattress under a desk alongside mud-caked wading and hiking boots, a wet bag, dusty backpack and the big sandaled feet of his owner, Carson Jeffres.

Jeffres '02, M.S. '06, parks at his computer monitors back-to-back with Ryan Peek and parallel with Drew Nichols, M.S. '08. No ➔





privacy panels separate the three cozy researchers. The fish biologist, amphibian ecologist and geologist are here to collaborate. The same goes for the entomologists down the hall and the economists, hydrologists and engineers around the corner.

They're all part of an environmental research hub at UC Davis known as the Center for Watershed Sciences, a name that reflects its holistic view of rivers, lakes and estuaries.

"If it's part of a watershed, we study it," said Jeffres, speaking unscripted for a recent documentary about the center, which is aptly located near the Arboretum Waterway at La Rue Road and California Avenue.

Many universities recognize the value of multidisciplinary research programs, particularly for investigating environmental problems. But organizational walls can thwart needed integration.

At UC Davis, some prominent professors found a way. Beginning in 1998, they built the research center across several colleges, departments and disciplines to better understand and solve California's complex and contentious water issues.

After 16 years, the Center for Watershed Sciences is California's leading academic institute on water management, providing scientific insights for policymakers wrestling with issues critical to California's health and





Carson Jeffres sets nets, left, to trap fish for measurement and identification, shown above. The center's field and lab director and colleagues are studying how fish are using a restored floodplain in the Cosumnes River Preserve south of Sacramento.

Previous spread: Jeffres snorkels in Shasta River to evaluate efforts by The Nature Conservancy to improve runs of endangered coho salmon in Northern California.

GREGORY URQUIAGA/UC Davis

prosperity. The center's work influences and informs legislation, policy and management concerning water supply, drinking water safety, flood control, agricultural production, hydroelectric power, recreation, and the survival of salmon and other native fish species.

The university recently received an emphatic endorsement of this academic engagement with a \$10 million donation to the center. The gift from S.D. Bechtel, Jr. Foundation of San Francisco will enable the center to expand its scientific research and public engagement capabilities as the climate warms and water demands increase, said Jay Lund, the center's director and a professor of civil and environmental engineering.

Jeffres, 35, is one of the rising leaders in the center, which draws dozens of researchers and students from many departments to work with experts from across the West and internationally.

"He was one of our first hires, one of those who showed that you could have fun and do research and be very productive in the process," said Jeffrey Mount, a geology professor emeritus and whitewater rafting enthusiast who co-founded the center with Peter Moyle, a professor of fish biology who continues to serve as associate director.

Tall and as sleek as his racing bicycle, Jeffres—as with many of his colleagues at the center—found a wonderful blending of avocation with vocation. ➔

# Center to lead UC Drought Summit

With California in a major drought, Chancellor Linda P. B. Katehi has tapped the Center for Watershed Sciences to organize and lead a UC Drought Summit on April 25 at the state Capitol.

Students, faculty and staff from across UC campuses will engage with other experts and policymakers on how best to manage immediate and long-term water shortages.

The topics will range widely, from agricultural production to wildfires, public health and water conservation. UC President Janet Napolitano has already called for all campuses to reduce their

water use 20 percent by 2020.

With little left of the state's normally wet season, it remains remotely possible that 2014 will not become a record-setting drought year. But California's history is punctuated by short and long droughts, and global warming portends a drier future for the state.

"Each drought reveals problems and becomes an opportunity to focus on improving water management," Jay Lund, director of the center, said in a recent *CaliforniaWaterBlog* commentary headlined "Droughts Precipitate Innovation."

"Doing research that is expected to be useful to policymakers is a daring thing for scientists to do."

—Phil Isenberg,  
Delta Stewardship Council

The key to preserving those opportunities, Jeffres said, "is finding creative solutions to deal with the competing needs of environmental water uses and human water needs."

State officials have long relied on computer models developed at the center for those solutions to assess potential effects of proposed policies. "There are rules and laws about how water moves and what it's worth, and we can represent that technically," said Lund, who

with graduate students developed California's only statewide, integrated water supply model. One finding from the model showed that the San Francisco Bay Area could continue receiving high-quality Tuolumne River water without Hetch Hetchy reservoir, albeit at a high cost. That 2003 study by Lund's then-graduate student Sarah Null, inspired *The Sacramento Bee's* 2004 Pulitzer Prize-winning series of editorials on reclaiming Hetch Hetchy Valley, Yosemite Valley's underwater twin. The Hetch Hetchy study speaks to the center's core mission of improving public understanding and discussion of California's complex water issues, which are often mired by myths and controversies. Mount delivered a wake-up call in 2005, shortly after Hurricane Katrina. He and another UC scientist, Robert Twiss, published a study concluding that over the next 50 years, there is a two-in-three chance that a major storm or earthquake will cause widespread levee failure in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, a drinking

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KARIN HIGGINS/UC DAVIS

The water level is so low in Folsom Lake, shown here in February, that the Gold Rush-era town of Mormon Island has been exposed for the first time in the reservoir's 59-year history.

water source for more than 25 million Californians.

More recently, Moyle and his team of fish biologists reported that as many as 82 percent of 121 native fish species are likely to be gone in 100 years as climate change accelerates declines of already depleted populations.

Some of the center's most influential contributions have focused on the Delta, the heart of the state's water delivery system and a perpetual battleground for competing agricultural, urban and environmental water interests. Phil Isenberg, chair of the state's Delta Stewardship Council, applauds the center for even entering the water policymaking arena, notorious for its caustic exchanges.

"Doing research that is expected to be useful to policymakers is a pretty daring thing for scientists to do," Isenberg said. "It requires them to talk to people who don't speak the same language, who don't have the same time frame and who are motivated by a host of factors—science being only one of them. You have to scratch your head hard to find success stories."

One of those success stories is the center's collabora-

tion with the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) on two reports presenting policy options for managing the Delta—including some form of a peripheral canal that would tap water further upstream to reduce environmental harm in the estuary.

The reports were pivotal in shaping the state's historic Delta Reform Act of 2009, which reorganized state management of the Delta. "Being perceived as not having a particular dog in the fight was key," said co-author Ellen Hanak, an economist and senior fellow with the PPIC.

So, too, was the center's trademark multidisciplinary approach. The Delta project brought together five faculty, 10 researchers and 28 students from four colleges on campus.

They all share Jeffres' approach to complex water problems: "When you go to look for solutions in a watershed, you have to have a team that's diverse if you want real solutions."



Watch 'Center for Watershed Sciences: Who we are, what we do' at [go.ucdavis.edu/cws](http://go.ucdavis.edu/cws).





THE BIG PICTURE





Christopher Fennell, an artist from Alabama, welds during the construction of a shovel head sculpture in the UC Davis Arboretum. The shovels were donated by the community.

Photo by Gregory Urquiaga/UC Davis





# BANKING ON SHAN LI

by Kathleen Holder

To grow its economy and raise its standard of living, China needs a modern banking system. A leading architect of financial reform in the country is a UC Davis alum.

**IT'S A LONG WAY** from Solano Park student apartments to the board rooms of China's largest banks—further still when the route leads first to Wall Street and the financial district of London.

Shan Li, M.A. '88, journeyed to the West and back to China, leaving an impoverished upbringing, gaining an education in Beijing, Davis and Cambridge, Mass., and becoming one of his country's most influential financial leaders.



For the past 16 years, Li, 50, has played a pivotal role in privatizing most of China's major government-run banks. A native of Sichuan Province, he worked on Wall Street as a foreign exchange trader at Credit Suisse First Boston, then with investment firm Goldman Sachs in New York, Hong Kong and London—rising rapidly from economist to executive director of investment banking. He walked away in 1998 from what he said were millions of dollars in stock offerings for a chance at helping his country launch an investment bank. A few years ensued before that effort succeeded, but along the way Li co-founded his own investment firm and built from scratch the world's largest Internet real estate company. Today, he is chief international business adviser of China Development Bank, a national bank that finances large government projects, and chairman of Chinastone Capital Management, a private equity firm based in Shanghai.

His education in Western economics began at UC Davis.

Part of a first wave of students sent by the People's Republic of China to study overseas—and one of the very first selected from a field other than science and engineering, Li arrived at UC Davis in 1986 with an undergraduate degree from Tsinghua University, the "MIT of China."

At Tsinghua, one of Li's professors was Zhu Rongji, who served as China's premier in 1998–2003 and would later recruit Li to help modernize China's banking system.

When he arrived at UC Davis, Li had little money and only a poor command of English—but he had the sponsorship of economics professor T.Y. Shen, who gave him money for an apartment and later helped him on his way to an MIT doctoral program.

Early on, Li obtained a teaching assistantship, granted on the condition that he pass an English competency test.

Despite his language struggles, he excelled in his studies. He received a Regents Fellowship—the first, Li said, ever granted at UC Davis to a student from China.

After marrying in China over the summer, he and his wife, Huarong Wang, lived at Solano Park.

When it came time for Li to leave for MIT, Shen again

came to his aid, giving him a car to make the cross-country trip and promising more help. "T.Y. Shen said to me, 'Don't worry. . . If you can't find money, you write to me, I'll send money to you.'"

## Driven by patriotism

After earning his doctorate from MIT in 1993, Li worked for Goldman Sachs in London. While there, former Tsinghua dean Zhu visited London as China's premier. Li presented him with a proposal to create a Chinese investment bank. "I saw that China didn't have an investment bank like Goldman Sachs for the capital deals."

Deeply patriotic, Li left Goldman Sachs, despite an upcoming stock option, and worked for China Development Bank, forgoing his salary for 18 months.

After the investment bank did not get off the ground, Li left CDB to become head of Lehman Brothers China Investment Banking. Last year, he rejoined CDB.

The bank had undergone a dramatic transformation since his first job there 16 years ago. "In 1998, this bank was very small. . . . CDB is now three times as big as the World Bank, more powerful than the World Bank. Nowadays, among the top 10 banks in the world, maybe three or four are Chinese banks."

## Right place, right time

"China is undergoing a historical transformation, institutional change, new technology, all kinds of new things, exciting things, lots of opportunities. I was probably at the right place at the right time."

With recent changes in China's leadership—Premier Li Keqian, who took the country's top office in March 2013, is an economist—Li is optimistic about his country's future.

"I feel very fortunate. I feel it's my duty to go back to my country to help the financial system," Li said. "I really want to make a bigger contribution to this historical transformation of China, not only into a modern economy but into a modern society."



1950s



2013

MARTIN WONG/UC Davis

# 100 PICNIC DAYS

This spring, one of UC Davis' longest-running traditions marks its centuple event. Will you be there?

**PACK YOUR PICNIC BASKET**—or come without sandwiches. That quintessential UC Davis celebration, Picnic Day, reaches a historic milestone on April 12—its 100th. But packing your own lunch is still optional, just like it was for the previous 99 Picnic Days.

## What's with the name?

From its very beginning, Picnic Day was never so much about the picnic as it was about the day of showing off the campus. Sure, the very first event held at the University Farm in May 1909 was a "basket picnic" affair, as in bring your own food.

## Hot dogs

The ever-popular **Doxie Derby** started in 1972 on Shields Avenue near the Quad, and moved a decade later to the Rec Hall, now called the Pavilion at the ARC (Activities and Recreation Center). The **sheepdog trials** have been a regular event since at least the 1940s.

The campus didn't have a dining commons, a Coffee House or much else in the way of dining facilities back then, though the university did pour free coffee and cream that day for visitors who brought their own cups and spoons.

The star of the show back then—as it always would continue to be over the next century-plus—was this marvelous experiment in higher education, a new-fangled farm school that would grow into this world-leading research university you know as UC Davis. By 1916, the open house was known as Picnic Day.

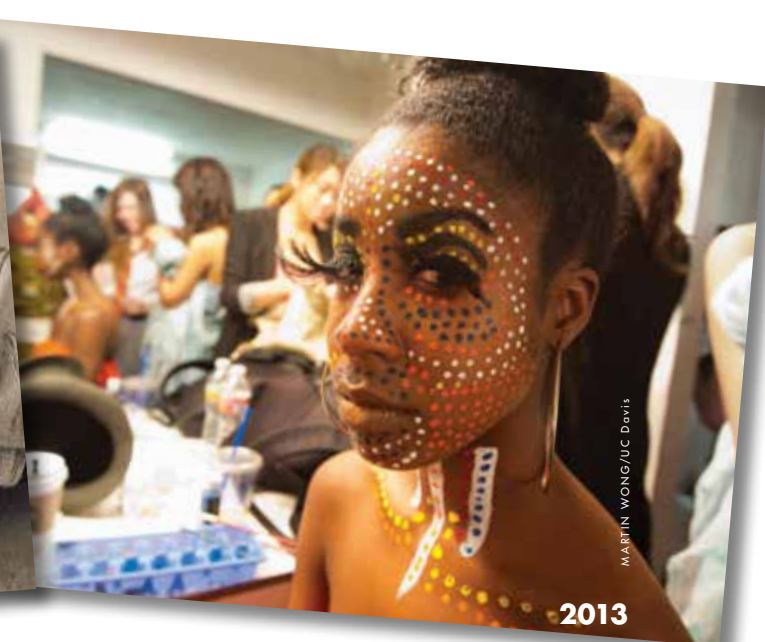
## The first open house

The *raison d'être* for the first Picnic Day was the **dedication of the campus' first dormitory**, North Hall. More than 2,000 people from around the state turned out. That may seem small compared to crowds in recent years of up to **100,000**. But consider this: Enrollment in the Farm School at that time totaled just **18 students**.

## Students at the helm

While university administrators organized the first few events, students have been running the show since 1912. Picnic Day has long been billed as the **largest student-run event** in the nation, and we haven't heard of any challenges to that claim.





## The parade

The parade dates to at least **1912**, when the main entries were **prize livestock**. Later years featured elaborate floral floats.

In **1987**, the first-place float ended up in flames. In **2007**, a KDVS entry, constructed with a small helium-filled blimp, floated away.

## Doing the math

Yes, this year marks the **100th Picnic Day**, but Picnic Day is more than a century old. The annual event skipped a few years along the way: in **1924**, to prevent the spread of a hoof-and-mouth outbreak that led to the slaughter of nearly 110,000 farm animals throughout California; in **1938**, due to

rain-delayed construction of a gymnasium needed to house some of the festivities; and during **1943–45** when the campus closed for World War II. (The 1946 event wasn't called Picnic Day but Round-up Day.)

## Famous guests

**Richard Nixon**, then a congressman, was listed on the program as an honored guest in 1952. In July of that year, he would be selected as Dwight Eisenhower's running mate; he was elected vice president the following November.

Retired Admiral **Chester Nimitz**, who commanded the U.S. Navy during World War II, was on the guest list in 1953.

**Earl Warren** attended at least twice—once in 1953 in his final year as governor of California, and again in 1970, a year after his retirement from the U.S. Supreme Court, when he was the parade marshal. Warren was the parent of two Aggies—Earl Jr. '52, a retired Sacramento County Superior Court Judge, and Bob '58, a retired Davis real estate broker.

## Gov. Edmund G. "Pat"

**Brown** was grand marshal in 1962. Other state elected leaders have appeared at Picnic Days over the years. California's 23rd governor, **Hiram Johnson**, was a speaker in 1916, just months before he won election to the U.S. Senate.



ILLUSTRATIONS BY JAN CONROY '77





2013



1910s



## Rockin' and rollin'

Strawberry Alarm Clock and the Youngbloods performed at Picnic Day in **1969**. Quicksilver Messenger and Elvin Bishop played in **1970**. Taj Mahal appeared in **1971**.

## Battle of the Bands

Legend has it that the Battle of the Bands began in the early 1970s, when the Cal Aggie Marching Band-uh discovered the Cal Band playing on the Quad after the parade and started blasting tunes back at the Bears in an effort to defend its turf. Over the years, the last-band-standing contest has pitted the Aggie Band-uh against rival bands from Stanford University, UC San Diego, UC Irvine, Humboldt State University and Oregon State University. The Band-uh claims to **never have lost**, perhaps due to a

rule dating to at least the 1980s requiring the finale to be the Aggie fight song. The 2004 battle may have set a record, ending at **2 a.m.**

## Moving, and mooing, promotions

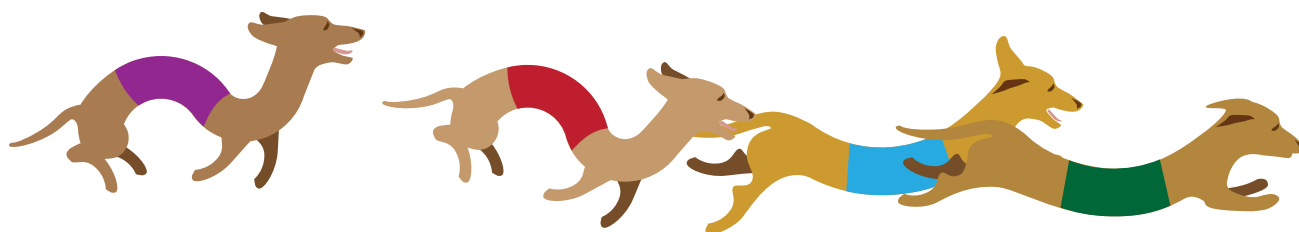
In recent years, students have challenged administrators and state lawmakers to a **cow-milking contest** on the Quad or the front steps of the state Capitol as a way of promoting Picnic Day. In older times, students—and cows—went to greater lengths to publicize the event.

In **1920**, student W.P. Wing escorted Molly the cow on a bovine “race” from Davis to Berkeley. It took five days for the “galloping Galloway,” as the *San Francisco Chronicle* called Molly, **to walk the 136-mile route** by

way of Sacramento and Stockton. The feat raised some protests from folks concerned about Molly’s welfare, but her caretakers insisted that she was no worse for the wear. Later photos of her showed her looking, well, beefy—and healthy enough to bear calves. Her son, Pete, would retrace her journey in **1921**.

In **1917**, student A.R. Kramer made a **1,000-mile trip by bicycle** “to spread Picnic Day publicity material” from Davis to his home in the Imperial Valley.

In **1923**, two students, Richard Barlow and Dave McMillan, handcuffed themselves back-to-back and set out on a **72-mile trek to Berkeley**. A “Remember When” photo published in the *Sacramento Bee* in **1976** shows the pair near South Hall as they left





campus. But no photo so far has surfaced to show whether they made it to their destination.

In **1951**, students pushed wheelbarrows to Berkeley.

In **1972**, the Picnic Day committee got some celebrity help in promoting that year's "Remember the First Time" theme. Says Dennis Packer '72, who was committee chair: "We got Gary Withem, the keyboardist and songwriter for Gary Puckett and the Union Gap, to volunteer and compose and sing a ditty that we used for radio commercials that went something like, "Remember the first time, remember the first, remember the first time."

 Find the full schedule of Picnic Day events at [picnicday.ucdavis.edu](http://picnicday.ucdavis.edu)



## Other 100s

The original **Gunrock**, namesake of the Aggie's

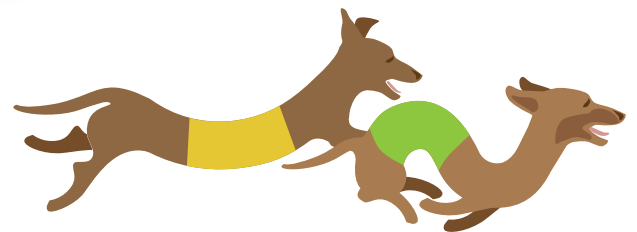


mascot, was born

100 years ago in Britain.

The pedigree Thoroughbred, after a brief racing career, became a UC Davis icon during his 1921–31 stay on campus as a breeding stud. Gunrock was part of a U.S. Cavalry program aimed at improving military and civilian horse stocks. Students later named the Aggie's blue mustang mascot Gunrock in his honor.

The **University Farm Circle**, a women's organization that has been providing financial support to students since UC Davis' earliest days, marked its centennial in February.





## ALUMNI CALENDAR

## Picnic Day

## Golden Society Reunion

Members of the Class of 1964 are invited to reunite with classmates and rediscover the campus. A weekend of activities includes the Vintage Aggies Wine Tasting and Picnic Day Breakfast.

**Friday–Saturday, April 11–12**  
**Buehler Alumni Center**

## Vintage Aggies Wine Tasting

Sample alumni wines while viewing a special display of Picnic Day memorabilia celebrating the 100th Picnic Day.

**Friday, April 11, 6:30–8:30 p.m.**  
**Shields Library**

## Pancake Breakfast

Enjoy this time honored tradition—CAA's 31st annual Picnic Day breakfast and the last to be held at Freeborn Hall, which is slated to close later this year.

**Saturday, April 12, 7:30–9:30 a.m.**  
**Freeborn Hall**

## ASUCD Reunion

The Associated Students of UC Davis will hold a Picnic Day reunion for its alumni.

RSVP to [chl@asucd.ucdavis.edu](mailto:chl@asucd.ucdavis.edu)  
**Saturday, April 12, 11 a.m.–noon**  
**Student Community Center**  
**multipurpose room**

## Parents Reception

Parents and their students are invited to join senior campus leadership for appetizers and conversation.

**Saturday, April 12,**  
**1–2 p.m.**  
**Buehler Alumni Center,**  
**Moss Patio**

## Wine Tours and Receptions

## Amador Wine Tour

Sample old vine Zinfandels and meet Aggie vintners at three Amador County wineries.

**Saturday, May 3, 11 a.m.**

## CAA Travel Fair

Learn about excursions that are planned for 2015 while enjoying wines provided by our Vintage Aggies winemakers.

**Monday, June 2, 3–5 p.m.**  
**Buehler Alumni Center**



For more CAA events, visit  
[alumni.ucdavis.edu](http://alumni.ucdavis.edu)

# CLASS NOTES

## 1960s and 1970s

Were you among UC Davis students who volunteered for National Institutes of Health clinical trials in Bethesda, Md., during the 1960s and 1970s? Laura Stark, an assistant professor of medicine, health and society at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tenn., is seeking people who served as “normal control” research subjects for oral history interviews about their experiences. Contact her at 860-759-3406 or [laura.stark@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:laura.stark@vanderbilt.edu).

## 1967

*Yosemite's Songster: One Coyote's Story*, a picture book by **Ginger (Evarts) Wadsworth** with illustrations by Daniel San Souci, was released by Yosemite Conservancy in March 2013. It is her 26th book for young readers. Visit her website at [gingerwadsworth.com](http://gingerwadsworth.com).

## 1969

Two books by **Steve Shuman** are available in paperback and digital format through Amazon: *The Great Keldorian*

## Keep in touch

Send class notes to [magazine@ucdavis.edu](mailto:magazine@ucdavis.edu)

## Contact the alumni association

**Phone:** 530-752-0286 or 800-242-4723

**Email:** [alumni@ucdavis.edu](mailto:alumni@ucdavis.edu)

**Web:** [alumni.ucdavis.edu](http://alumni.ucdavis.edu)

### President:

Chuck Nichols '83, '84

### Vice President/President-Elect:

Ramak Siadatan '99, M.B.A. '06

### Executive Director:

Richard Engel '90, Cred. '91

*Dare*, a young adult/adult science fiction story with artwork by Shuman, and *Spider in the Ark*, a children's story set in Noah's ark about a spider with an attitude problem.

## 1970

Children's author **Erin Dealey**, Cred. '72, has written a new picture book. *Deck the Walls* (Sleeping Bear Press, 2013), illustrated by Nick Ward, is a classic Christmas carol turned upside down.

## 1971

**Libby Balter Blume** was recently named editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Family Theory & Review*. She is a professor and the director of the developmental psychology undergraduate program at the University of Detroit Mercy.

## 1974

**Harry Dorn**, Ph.D., a professor of chemistry at Virginia Tech, has been reappointed as the Dr. A.C. Lilly Jr. Faculty Fellow in Nanoscience. The fellowship appointment is for three years. A world authority on nanomaterials, Dorn has published more than 160 peer-reviewed articles and holds three U.S. patents.

**Max Rothschild**, C.F. Curtiss Distinguished Professor in Agriculture at Iowa State University, this fall concluded 20 years as leader of the U.S. Pig Genome Coordination Program, part of an international effort that sequenced the swine genome. He also serves as co-chair of Iowa State's Global Food Security Consortium.

## 1975

**Doug Dodge** retired in 2012 after more



## Rita Anya Nara '00

Senior environmental scientist for the California Environmental Protection Agency, and travel writer

After struggling with a panic disorder for many years, Rita Anya (Hypnarrowski) Nara '00 confronted her travel fears head on: visiting 40 countries and all seven continents.

Her new book, *The Anxious Traveler: How to Overcome Your Fear to Travel the World* (Antareura Media 2013), chronicles her journey and the strategies she learned to manage her anxiety along the way. The book, her first, has received widespread media coverage.

“There's a natural human tendency to try to control our fears by controlling our environment,” Nara said. “But if you do that, then traveling and a lot of other activities become difficult, if not impossible. If you want to change the way you think, and overcome your fears, then you need to do it in a different environment. Travel gives you that fresh eye, that different environment, while enriching—not disrupting—your life. When you come back home, you're not the same—and it's for the better.”

— Gheed Saeed '14



## ALUMNI

than 35 years with the Bureau of Land Management and the U.S. Forest Service. He and his wife, Leslie, now travel the country, dancing and teaching ballroom dance. The couple taught ballroom dance on a cruise from Florida to Copenhagen last April. Doug is also a professional leadership coach.

### 1976

**Mary “Molly” Kretsch**, Ph.D., has retired as deputy administrator for nutrition, food safety and quality for the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Agricultural Research Service. In April 2013 she received the nation’s highest civil service award, the Presidential Rank of Distinguished Executive and Distinguished Professional.

### 1977

**Adrian Driscoll** joined the San Francisco law office of Murphy Pearson Bradley & Feeney this fall as a senior trial counsel. His practice focuses on business and commercial litigation and white collar criminal defense. He also serves as a lieutenant colonel in the Judge Advocate General’s Corps, U.S. Army Reserve, and is an adjunct professor at the University of San Francisco School of Law.

### 1978

**Dan Curran** has had his first novel published. *The Golden Gift (The Adventures of Baxter Heavytread)*. The epic fantasy fiction work is available as an e-book through Amazon or Barnes and Noble. Curran is a senior airline captain based in Miami.

**Steven Koike**, M.S. ’80, received the 2013 Excellence in Extension Award from the American Phytopathological Society for his applied research and education in plant pathology. His work focuses on diseases and other problems that affect cool season vegetables,

strawberries, ornamental plants and other coastal crops, as well as food safety. Koike has been the plant pathology farm advisor for the UC Cooperative Extension Monterey County since 1989.

### 1979

**Martha (Pultz) Amlin** retired from the U.S. State Department in October. A Foreign Service officer since 2000, she served in the Philippines, Mexico, Afghanistan and Washington, D.C., working in management, consular and refugee assistance positions. She previously worked as a meeting and event coordinator for Stanford University, UC Davis School of Medicine and California’s Administrative Office of the Courts. She lives in Arlington, Va., but misses California.

**Marilyn (Oliver Burlando) Lagier**, Cred., MA ’81, retired in May after 39 years of teaching—34 years as a high school English teacher and the last five years as a home economics teacher. She lives in Stockton with her husband, four cats and two dogs.

**David Pefley** is CFO for Adaptive Planning, a cloud corporate performance management service with more than 1,800 customers in 85 countries.

### 1980

**Jon Sommer**, M.S., M.S. ’83, celebrated his 20th year as a top real estate professional in Denver, where he is a managing broker at Your Castle Real Estate. He is also a seminar leader for Landmark Worldwide.

### 1982

**Michelle (Dencer) Scully** is the inaugural executive director of Marymount California University’s new extension Lakeside Campus in Lake County. She previously taught biology at Mendocino College. She and her husband,

**Patrick** ’89, have lived in Lake County since 1995, when he joined his family’s pear packing business.

### 1983

**John Jelesko**, an associate professor of plant pathology, physiology and weed science at Virginia Tech, has been named a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science for his contributions to the understanding of plant metabolism.

### 1985

**Ann (Holman) Grimaldi** has opened Grimaldi Law Offices in San Francisco. Her practice focuses on chemical and product law.

**Susan (Anderson) Rockwood** and her husband, Frank, have launched Rockwood Pacific, a Berkeley-based consulting firm that helps mission-based nonprofits and entities develop senior healthcare and housing projects. The Rockwoods have two teen daughters.

### 1986

**James Meuer** wrote *Damaged: A First Responder’s Experiences Handling Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder* (WestBowPress, 2013). He was a paramedic and firefighter for 26 years in California, Texas and Saudi Arabia before retiring with a physical disability and post-traumatic stress disorder. He lives in Vacaville.

### 1987

**Anne McMillin** received a Nevada Press Association 2013 award for explanatory journalism for her article about curriculum changes at the University of Nevada School of Medicine. “Training Physicians in the 21st Century” appeared in the fall 2012 issue of the medical school’s *Synapse* magazine. The school’s public relations manager, she is

the 2014 president of the Sierra Nevada Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America.

## 1989

**Jonathan Dyer**, J.D., who served as a Russian linguist at Field Station Berlin before studying law at King Hall, had the first two volumes of his Nick Temple File series published. *Switchback* and *The Heraklion Gambit* are spy thrillers set during the Cold War. Publisher Carta Studios plans to release at least two more books in the series in 2014. His website is jonathanpyder.com.

Articles by **Mick Klasson** on setback levees in the Sacramento Valley and restoration of the San Joaquin River earned a Goddard Award for Outstanding

Newsletter Contribution from the Floodplain Management Association. Klasson, a self-employed environmental planner and certified floodplain manager, served on the California Water Plan Update 2013 Flood Caucus.

**Enrico Pucci** is administrator of Community Christian School, a private K–12 school in Charlotte County, Fla. From 2008 to 2013, he served as principal of Westlake Christian School, a private K–8 school in Pinellas County, Fla., that received the 2012 National Blue Ribbon Award from the U.S. Department of Education.

NASA engineer **Adam Steltzner** was featured in the December issue of *Smithsonian* magazine as one of nine American Ingenuity Award winners. The

article is titled “The Brilliance Behind the Plan to Land Curiosity on Mars.”

A new work of fiction by **Tom Stohlgren**, Ph.D., *The Battle of the Black Hills*, is available on Amazon in paperback and digital format. A resident of Windsor, Colo., he works as a scientist by day, and a novelist/screenwriter by night. His website is tomstohlgren.com.

## 1991

**Jaime Avila**, now retired, is a volunteer docent for California State Parks and appears in living history events in the San Luis Obispo area re-enacting California’s 12th governor, Romualdo Pacheco (1831–99). The state’s first Hispanic governor, Pacheco went on to serve two terms as a congressman representing

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—Ramon Urbano '66  
Aggie Adventures Traveler



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## ALUMNI

San Luis/Santa Barbara in the 1880s. Avila and his wife, Linda, live in Arroyo Grande.

After nine years covering professional basketball for the *New York Times*, **Howard Beck** joined *Bleacher Report* this fall after the sports website was acquired by Turner Network. His transition received widespread coverage by national sports media. *USA Today's* "Big Lead" blog called Beck "one of the best NBA writers in newspapers."

**Marcia Harvey** blogs about art and other topics at wayofthedodo.org. Her paintings can be seen at her website, marcia.harvey.name.

**Jim McHargue** was recently promoted to director of solid waste and safety

programs at the Amador County Community Development Agency located in Jackson. He worked in medical/pharmaceutical sales in the Central Valley before becoming a California registered environmental health specialist in 2001.

### 1992

**James Dante's** debut novel, *The Tiger's Wedding*, a love story set in Korea, was released by Martin Sisters Publishing in March 2013. He lives in Northern California, teaches adult education classes and is writing a second novel, set in Moscow. His website is jamesdante.com.

**Matthew Kennedy**, M.A., wrote *Roadshow! The Fall of Film Musicals in the 1960s* (Oxford University Press, 2014). His web-

site is matthewkennedybooks.com.

**Kris Vardas** is an environmental planner for Pacific Gas and Electric Company on California's Central Coast and a Pismo Beach City Council member. He previously worked as a land-use consultant and as a project manager with the California Department of Water Resources and the State Lands Commission. He is a vice-chair of the San Luis Obispo Local Agency Formation Commission, and board member of the California Coastal Coalition.

### 1993

**Scott Feller**, Ph.D., a chemistry professor and natural sciences division chair at Wabash College, has been selected to

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become dean of the Indiana men's liberal arts college in July. He taught at UC Davis and Whitman College before joining the Wabash faculty in 1998.

A second edition of **Innosanto Nagara's** ABC board book, *A is for Activist*, was released in November by Triangle Square Books for Young Readers. A Spanish edition, adapted by Martha Gonzalez of the Grammy award winning band Quetzal, is due out this year. Nagara, founder of Design Action Collective, is married to **Kristi Laughlin '92**, an interfaith organizer in Oakland. They have a 3-year-old son.

**Mark Nunez, D.V.M.**, has been appointed by Gov. Jerry Brown to the California Veterinary Medical Board. Nunez is an associate veterinarian at the Veterinary Care Center in Los Angeles.

## 1994

After nearly a decade in management roles at the Cal Aggie Alumni Association, **Janice Corbett** became the new business manager for the Associated Students of UC Davis last fall. She lives in Davis with her husband and two children.

An article by **Lisa Harper, M.A.**, Ph.D. '98, defending club soccer, "The Crazy, Intense Schedule of Competitive Youth Soccer? Bring It On," appeared in the online edition of the *New York Times* in October as part of a "Taking Sides" debate with parenting blogger KJ Dell'Antonia.

**Luis Rios Jr.** was elected to the North American Academy of the Spanish Language, a branch of the Spanish Royal Academy. As a correspondent member, Rios co-chairs the California delegation overseeing the sociolinguistics of the Spanish language in the state. He also is editor of *Boletin Octavio Paz*.



GREGORY URQUIAGA/UC Davis

## WINEMAKER PROFILE:

### Eben Drucker '02

#### National sales and marketing director for Spotlight Brands, vintner at Carrier Wines

Eben Drucker '02 began learning about the wine business as a UC Davis student—from a fellow Aggie while teaching a photography class at the Experimental College.

Those informal lessons from his friend, a viticulture and enology major, led Drucker to take a job at a tasting room and to add UC Davis and Extension wine courses to his cultural anthropology and economics studies.

Soon after graduation, Drucker cofounded West Coast Wines. Within four years, the brokerage had grown into a multimillion-dollar wine distribution house.

"I was only 22 years old when I started, and I'm not quite sure how I did it, but I did," Drucker said.

In December 2008, Drucker sold his partnership and began a consulting and marketing firm, Tova Beverage Group—just as he and his wife, Page (Fairbank) '03, welcomed their first child, Ellie, into the world, and the U.S. economy entered a recession.

"I had all these small wineries tell me, 'I can't get any traction on my product and now I can't buy grapes for next

year because all my money's tied up in product,'" Drucker said. "They needed someone out there representing them. I saw that as an opportunity."

In 2011, he cofounded Spotlight Brands—a sales and marketing company for small premium wineries in California. Clients include Caraccioli Cellars, DeSante Wines, Peay Vineyards, Arietta and Vineyard 7&8.

In 2013, soon after the birth of his son, Asher, Drucker saw another opportunity to grow—this time as a vintner. Partnering with a Santa Lucia Highlands vineyard, he launched Carrier Wines.

Named in honor of the messenger pigeons used in World War I and World War II, Carrier wines currently makes Pinot Noir and Chardonnay and is looking to add a Cabernet this year.

"Our mission for Carrier is to sell good wine that everyone can enjoy," said Drucker.



For more information about the UC Davis Alumni Wine Program, visit [alumni.ucdavis.edu](http://alumni.ucdavis.edu)

## ALUMNI

### 1996

**Kim Newlin** joined the board of directors of the Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association this past fall. Newlin was inducted as a fellow in the association in 2010, and leads the California Central Valley PCNA Chapter. She practices as a cardiovascular clinical nurse specialist and adult nurse practitioner at Sutter Roseville Medical Center in Roseville.

### 1997

**Rikki (Butler) Davenport** graduated from The Citadel, The Military College of South Carolina with a Master of Education in Educational Leadership. She also holds a Master of Arts in Education, Curriculum and Instruction. Davenport is the curator of education at Drayton Hall, a National Trust for Historic Preservation historic site. She and her husband, **Scott** '94, have one child, Caleb, 7, and live in Charleston, S.C.

**Kyle Pierce**'s long-standing passions for biological sciences and art collided this year when he was selected to create a 43-foot mural for the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C. The mural leads visitors into a new 10,000 square-foot education center called Q?rius (pronounced "curious"), which opened in December. An illustrator and photographer, Pierce lives in San Francisco with his wife, Jennifer, and their sons, Henry, 8, and Auden, 6.

### 2000

**Lorrell (Kenney) Walter** is public relations manager for High West Energy, a not-for-profit electric cooperative in Pine Bluffs, Wyo. Walter recently relocated from upstate New York, where she served as the director of public relations for the Rosamond Gifford Zoo in Syracuse for nearly seven years. She and her



Aggie fans in Germany: Patrick, 8, and Peter, 5, sons of **Laura Bruhn Freudrich** '97, show off their Aggie pride while enjoying Nutella waffles at a Christmas market in Ludwigsburg, Germany. "We live here in Ludwigsburg but visit Davis often, as my parents and brother and family live in Davis," Laura says. "The boys just love Davis and the campus." Laura met her husband, Roland, a German native, while earning her master's degree at Michigan State University, but they got married at UC Davis' Buehler Alumni Center.

husband, Jim, live in Cheyenne with their daughter, Loriana.

### 2001

**David Schmale III**, an associate professor of plant pathology, physiology, and weed science at Virginia Tech, was named one of *Popular Science*'s 2013 "Brilliant Ten" in October for his research using drones to explore microbial life in the atmosphere.

### 2003

*Disneylanders*, a middle-grade/young adult novel by **Kate Abbott**, was published last year by Theme Park Press. The coming-of-age story is set in Disneyland park.

### 2004

**Jon Ruel**, M.S., has been promoted to president of Trefethen Family Vineyards in the Napa Valley.

### 2006

**David Schary** and **Lisa Ladouceur**, who met in the dorms (Castilian South) on the first day of freshman year,

married in Berkeley on New Year's Eve day. They live in Corvallis, Ore.

### 2007

**Ari Warmerdam** and **Samar Mahbouba** '10 became engaged in San Francisco in December. They never met on campus, but were brought together by a mutual friend and immediately hit it off during a discussion about A Street, the Silo, the ARC and the Davis Farmers Market. Warmerdam, who helped lead the Aggie men's basketball program during its transition to Division I and holds the single-season record for highest free throw percentage, is associate director of business development for United Way of the Bay Area. Mahbouba, a Bay Area native, works at McKesson in San Francisco and serves on the Arab Cultural and Community Center board of directors. They live together in San Francisco and are set to marry in summer 2015.

### 2008

**Tsegereda Mulugeta** developed Pal E-Cards, a website where users can

personalize a variety of digital cards with their own photos and messages, and download, print, email or share on Facebook for free. Mulugeta says developing pal-ecards.com is a hobby that lifted her spirits while looking for work.

**Marshall Roberts** has been promoted to project engineer in the Oakland office of engineering design firm Thornton Tomasetti.

## 2009

**Lizette Mata**, of Stockton, was recently appointed by Gov. Jerry Brown as deputy director of special projects at the state Department of Motor Vehicles. She previously held a number of communications positions for state lawmakers, most recently for the California Latino Legislative Caucus and for Sen. Ricardo Lara, D-Bell Gardens.

## 2011

**John Garrison**, Ph.D., teaches English literature at Carroll University in Waukesha, Wisc. In 2012–13, he received research fellowships from the Folger Shakespeare Library, American Philosophical Society and the Beinecke Library at Yale University. His first book, *Friendship and Queer Theory in the Renaissance*, was recently released by Routledge.

**Willie Fong** is serving a year as an AmeriCorps member with nonprofit College Possible Portland, helping 40 low-income high school juniors in Portland, Ore., improve their ACT scores and prepare for the college application process. He previously served a year with AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps helping to clean up after hurricanes Irene and Sandy.

## 2012

**Veronica “V” Martinez** is international program coordinator for Camp Counselors USA’s work experience program, which places young people from around the world in seasonal jobs.

## 2013

**Sarah Lamborn**, D.V.M., was featured in an article in the *Stockton Record* newspaper in October for her efforts to turn around the overwhelmed Stockton Animal Shelter.

**Gianna Zappettini**, Cred., teaches second grade at Gardner Bulls Elementary School in Los Altos Hills. She is working on a master’s degree at UC Davis.

# IN MEMORIAM

**George Nuckols** ’41, Camarillo, age 95, Nov. 28. World War II Army Air Corps veteran, retired farmer and founding director of local water districts. Son: Tom ’66; daughter-in-law: Joanne (Flicker) ’71.

**Frank Sagehorn** ’42, Cloverdale, age 93, Aug. 17. World War II Navy veteran and retired rancher.

**Glenn Wilkins** ’41, Del Rey, age 94, Sept. 13. World War II Army Air Corps veteran and retired farmer.

**John Alexander**, Cred. ’48, Woodland, age 91, Nov. 23. World War II Army veteran and retired farmer.

**Stanley Corda**, Cred. ’48, Salinas, age 92, Sept. 27. Retired farmer.

**Thomas Aldrich** ’49, Colusa, age 90, Oct. 24. A World War II Army veteran, receiving Bronze Star, and retired UC Cooperative Extension farm advisor.

**Edward “Ted” Tolman**, Cred. ’49, Nice, age 88, Oct. 15. World War II Army and retired U.S. Forest Service timber manager. Son: Russell ’79.

**Walter “Whitey” Schlabs**, Cred. ’50, Davis, age 86, Aug. 30. World War II Navy and Korean War Marine Corps veteran, retired agricultural consultant, Yolano Ag Products and Bank of America.

**Donald Martinelli** ’53, D.V.M. ’55, Sacramento, age 86, Dec. 23. Retired veterinarian, Ben Ali Veterinary Clinic.

**George Thoukis** ’53, Ph.D. ’58, Modesto, age 83, Dec. 11. Retired vice president of winemaking, E&J Gallo Winery. Son: Gerard ’97.

**Claire (Rominger) Stark** ’54, Winters, age 81, Jan. 14. Retired teacher. Brothers: Richard Rominger ’49, Donald Rominger, Cred. ’49.

**Leo Stringfellow** ’56, D.V.M. ’58, St. George, Utah, age 82, Sept. 25. Retired veterinarian, New Zealand and Southern California clinics.

**Ruth (Adams) Wingate** ’60, Redding, age 74, June 5. Husband: Len Wingate Jr. ’61.

**Deborah (Haynie) Sharp** ’74, Little Rock, Ark., age 61, July 14. Retired



## ALUMNI

Social Security Administration employee and special education teacher.

**Sheldon “Shel” Smith**, M.A. '62, Los Gatos, age 82, Nov. 27. Korean War Navy veteran and retired NASA's Ames Research Center scientist.

**Gary Wilson** '62, Bakersfield, age 73, Oct. 12. Owner of Wilson Ag farm company. Wife: Patricia (Pensar) '61.

**Gloria (Salsedo) Everett Collins** '65, Sacramento, age 70, Oct. 9. Telecommunications executive, Globalstar, AirTouch, and others. Sister: Nancy (Salsedo) Meyers '69; brother-in-law: professor emeritus James M. Meyers '68, M.E. '76.

**Robert “Rob” Smith** '66, Fairfield, age 69, Nov. 12. Former Benicia restaurateur and Concord real estate broker.

**Jack Lovell Jr.** '67, Sacramento, age 68, Sept. 14. Civil trial attorney.

**Barbara Edgeworth** '69, Mountain View, age 66, Aug. 27. Retired teacher.

**Ronald Mack** '69, San Francisco, age 65, Aug. 10. Pediatric dentist.

**Douglas Miller** '70, Carmichael, age 65, Nov. 4. Labor attorney, labor relations director for Sacramento Regional Transit District.

**Michael Broderick** '72, Sacramento, age 64, November. California Justice Department manager who helped develop state's online database of registered sex offenders.

**Carolyn Raab**, M.S. '72, Corvallis, Ore., age 63, Dec. 6, 2012. Retired Oregon State University Extension Service food and nutrition specialist.

**Margaret Saari**, D.V.M. '72, New York, age 74, Aug. 4. Retired veterinarian, American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, member of American Spaniel Club Hall of Fame.

**Thomas McCart Jr.**, '73, San Rafael, age

63, Aug. 13. Retired from a career in corporate finance.

**Michael Cocks** '75, Bluffton, S.C., age 64, Nov. 11. Vietnam War Army veteran and property manager.

**Richard Neale** '76, Sunnyvale, age 64, Dec. 4. Senior software release engineer, Palantir Technologies.

**Anne La Londe-Berge** '77, Santa Rosa, age 58, Sept. 17. Teacher, special education administrator. Sister: Therese La Londe '82.

**The Rev. Daniel Parsons** '77, Cred. '74, M.A.T. '74, North Las Vegas, Nev., age 64, Dec. 12. Retired Lutheran pastor, special education teacher.

**Matthew Yeo** '77, Roseville, age 58, Nov. 26. Retired finance director. Wife: Carol '77.

**Dane Steele**, '79, Sacramento, age 63, June 9. Middle school teacher.

**Jeremy Sommer** '80, San Francisco, age 45, Aug. 19. Founder of Zocalo furniture company. Brother: Jon, M.S. '80, M.S. '83.

**Karen Steinmetz** '80, Pacifica, age 55, Aug. 19. Toxicology director, SRI International.

**Mark Raine** '82, El Sobrante, age 54, Sept. 30. Paving contractor.

**Sandra Brown Yakel** '86, New Berlin, Ill., age 49, Jan. 1. Former Aggie basketball team captain, school teacher. Husband: Donald Yakel Jr. '86.

**Doug Weismann** '86, Monterey, age 50, July at Lake Tahoe. Network engineer, UC Santa Cruz.

**Frank Myers** '87, San José, age 59, Aug. 26.

**Lynn (Clopper) Losch** '80, Rescue, age 55, Sept. 6. Former Aggie softball player and clinical lab scientist.

**Julie Anne Escoto-Munoz** '93, Sacramento, age 43, Oct. 30. Peace Corps alum and Sacramento County social worker.

**David Magnan** '02, Sacramento, age 34, Aug. 29. Marine Corps veteran and attorney.

**Christopher Bocian** '11, Woodland, age 28, Oct. 28.

**Rebeca (Lopez) Castellucci** '12, Woodland, Aug. 21. Teacher.

**Christopher Levy** '13, Scotts Valley, age 22, June 24. Aggie's baseball relief pitcher.

## Faculty

**Donald Bath** '54, M.S. '56, Ph.D. '64, an Extension dairy nutrition specialist from 1964 to 2003, died last October. A St. Helena resident, he was 81. He authored 350 publications, including the widely used textbook *Dairy Cattle: Principles, Practices, Problems, Profits*. As an undergraduate, he quarterbacked the Aggie football team and served as president of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity, then known as the IOTA Chapter.

Professor emeritus **John Whitaker**, a world authority on food enzymes who worked to strengthen connections between UC Davis and foreign institutions, died in September at a Woodland retirement center. He was 84. A food science faculty member since 1956, he wrote more than 270 scholarly articles and edited or co-edited 12 books. In 1980, he wrote the first official agreement of cooperation between UC Davis and foreign universities. He also held several leadership positions with the UC MEXUS program, which facilitates academic exchanges and collaboration between the UC and Mexico.

# One to One

## Aggies compare notes on working at KDVS radio

Elisa Hough '08

**THE FIRST TIME I WENT** to KDVS was fall quarter of my freshman year to see my friends' band play on *Live in Studio A*. I was bowled over by the size of the station's music collection, and the studio techs running the show were really funny and cute. But the clincher was seeing a poster on the wall for a KDVS Presents show in the Coffee House: Green Day, circa 1990, for only \$5. I thought, this has to be a good place to be.

I began volunteering with no intention of hosting a radio show. I was too shy, hated public speaking. But the more time I spent there—hearing new music and meeting inspiring, outrageous, creative people—the more I wanted the whole experience. By spring quarter I had my own 2–4 a.m. show.

My junior and senior years, as well as the year after I graduated, I worked as one of two publicity directors. I often said that I had the best job on campus.

Through my explorations of the KDVS library, I got interested in traditional music from around the world. This led me to taking ethnomusicology classes, and joining the Indonesian gamelan and Brazilian samba drumming ensembles and the Hindustani vocal choir.

The station also introduced me to Smithsonian Folkways Recordings. I would play the albums on my show and read their informative liner notes during air breaks. Last summer I got to intern at Folkways in Washington, D.C., and at the end of the summer, the Smithsonian Institution offered me a job. I'm now an editor/writer for the Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage, and I know I wouldn't have gotten here without the experiences I had at KDVS.



Todd Urick '97\*

**I'VE BEEN INVOLVED** with KDVS for about 20 years. I was station manager for two years, and I also managed engineering projects there. In 1997 I worked to upgrade the station's broadcast power from 5,000 to 9,200 watts. During the last 10 years, I worked with the students to upgrade the station's coverage by moving its broadcast tower.

I have many fond memories of the place. In 1996, another student, Rick Ele, and I did long programming shifts. During one overnight on-air stint, Rick fell asleep in the record stacks. He woke up with a UPS man nudging him to sign for a package, the end of the record skipping on the air. . . . Sometimes we'd work all night at KDVS, then drive to Vallejo for an all-you-can-eat breakfast buffet at an old 24-hour dive called Rod's Hickory Pit. The waitress there thought we were locals. Rick and I used to drive down to Bay Area record stores looking for the newest punk and garage releases, bringing them back to donate for airplay on KDVS. We were at times the only station in the nation playing the stuff we were playing.

With my experience there, I moved on to start a nonprofit, Common Frequency, that is forming a new noncommercial radio network in California—public radio geared toward people in their 20s and 30s.

\* Urick finished his one remaining English class to get his degree in 2007.



'We were at times the only station in the nation playing the stuff we were playing.'



Watch a video about KDVS' longtime volunteer Ed Martin at [go.ucdavis.edu/kdvs](http://go.ucdavis.edu/kdvs).



# RACING FOR A THIRD TITLE

The women's track team is a force to be reckoned with after winning back-to-back Big West Conference championships the past two years. Junior Ashley Marshall, a sprinter who won two conference titles and captured the league's Track Athlete of the Year award in 2013, is among the team's returning student-athletes. She holds school records in the 100- and 200-meter dashes. UC Davis will host the Big West Conference championship meet for the first time on May 16-17. For more information about the team, visit [www.ucdavisaggies.com](http://www.ucdavisaggies.com) and click on "Track & Field" under the "Sports" tab.

# HALL OF FAMERS

2013 brought a series of major honors for two former coaches and an early alumnus.



**JIM HUNT**, former cross country and track and field coach, was inducted into the U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Hall of Fame in December.

Hunt coached the Aggies in 1989–93 after a legacy-creating 1967–86 tenure at Humboldt State University. Under Hunt, the Lumberjacks earned six Far Western Conference titles and the 1980 NCAA Division II men's cross country title, and produced 64 All-Americans and 11 national champions. At UC Davis, he guided the women's cross country program to a runner-up finish at the Division II championships with four All-Americans. The men's cross country team finished fourth that same season and had two All-America selections. After a 1993–2000 stint at Sierra College, Hunt returned to UC Davis as an assistant coach until his 2003 retirement.

**COLBY "BABE" SLATER '17** was inducted into the U.S. Rugby Hall of Fame last June, a year after he was named to the International Rugby Board's Hall of Fame. Slater was a member of the 1920 U.S. Olympic gold medal winning rugby team and captain of the 1924 U.S. men's gold medal winning rugby team.

Former UC Davis assistant coach **RALPH RAGO** was inducted into the American Baseball Coaches' Association Hall of Fame in Chicago in January 2013. He joined



UC Davis in 1987 after coaching high school for more than three decades. He helped lead the Aggies to their first-ever College World Series appearance in 1995 after three straight regional appearances.

## Aggie Idol



JOE NA '13/Jenography

**AGGIE STUDENT-ATHLETES** are a multitasking lot—and for a number of years, they've been using their artistic gifts to raise money for charitable causes. Senior tennis player Megan Heneghan, above, was among the performers in last year's *Aggie Idol*, a charity talent show hosted by the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee. Six shows since 2007 have raised a total of \$11,717 for groups such as Heifer International, Special Olympics Northern California, Invisible Children and Team Davis, a local nonprofit organization serving people with disabilities. Heneghan, a former contestant on TV's *American Idol*, has placed either first or second in each of the last two *Aggie Idol* shows. Details for this spring's event were in the works as the magazine went to press. Last year's was held in May in Freeborn Hall.



Learn more about hall-of-famer Babe Slater and watch a video of the 1924 Olympic gold medal winning rugby match at [go.ucdavis.edu/slater](http://go.ucdavis.edu/slater).





Associate professors  
Karl Jandrey, left, and  
Michael Kent

## MODERN FAMILY ESTATE PLANNING

by Debra Minnema-Dingman

**UC DAVIS VETERINARIANS** Karl Jandrey and Michael Kent each grew up in families that taught the concept of “giving back” as one of their core values. Now a landmark Supreme Court ruling is making it easier for same-sex couples like Jandrey and Kent to practice that principle through their estate gifts.

The nation’s high court last June struck down a key provision of the federal Defense of Marriage Act. This fall, the U.S. Department of the Treasury and the Internal Revenue Service announced that same-sex married couples will be treated the same as opposite-sex couples for federal tax purposes, including income and gift and estate taxes.

“This will make estate planning easier,” said Kent, D.V.M. ’97, M.A.S. ’07, who along with Jandrey, M.A.S. ’09, has made an estate gift to the School of Veterinary Medicine.

A couple for 21 years, Kent and Jandrey had long ago consulted legal and professional advisers on how to best ensure their futures. They said the IRS ruling—which applies to legally married same-sex couples whether or not they live in a state that recognizes same-sex marriage—adds certainty to their future plans and makes taxes fair. California is one of 14 states that recognize same-sex marriage.

Both men grew up in families that, while not wealthy, gave back to their communities. Jandrey said his family volunteered for church activities and other causes.

Kent’s Jewish family practiced *tzedakah*, which he described as a fundamental obligation to do what is right by giving to those in need as a respectful act of justice. The family had a decorated coffee can at their dinner table and each Friday the children would put a portion of their allowance into it. Kent said he remembers being excited about choosing where the money would go when the can was full.

Now, as associate professors who work in different clinical services at the UC Davis Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital, Jandrey and Kent get just as excited about the scholarship they also created with current gifts for veterinary students at UC Davis, which they named in memory of their dogs, Caesar and Lucy, and their cat, Gabbie.

At the time, Jandrey said, tuition was escalating and many people they knew were talking about what they could do—“but it was just talk. We wanted to act and do something to help,” he said.

With contributions from students, family and friends, the scholarship fund became endowed within a couple of years. It now totals more than \$25,000—which, as Jandrey exclaimed, means “it will happen forever!”



If you’d like more information on how planned giving can benefit you, visit [plannedgiving.ucdavis.edu](http://plannedgiving.ucdavis.edu).



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GREGORY URQUIAGA/UC Davis

# THE SKY'S THE LIMIT

by Sarah Colwell

**GAGANPREET KAUR '17 SAYS** she has never had a teacher who could pronounce her name correctly (Gug-in-pret) on the first try. But every time her name

**“My name reveals that my spirit stretches as high as the sky and is endless.”**

was mispronounced, Kaur made the most of the chance to share a bit about herself and her Punjabi culture with instructors.

“My first name means heavenly sky,” said the Manteca native who is known by friends on the soccer field as Gagan. “My name reveals that my spirit stretches as high as the sky and is endless.”

Kaur said that repeated act of educating authority figures on the meaning of her name strengthened her belief in gender equality, pride in her culture and faith, and passion for leadership.

In high school, she served in numerous leadership roles including in student government, on sports teams and at her temple. Now a UC Davis freshman, she is

pursuing a degree in international relations with the goal of becoming a lawyer and then a diplomat for the Indian embassy.

“Most parents in my culture want their kids to be doctors or engineers, but my parents told me I could do anything I wanted,” said Kaur, whose father emigrated to the U.S. from India with only \$21 and the clothes on his back. “The most important thing I can accomplish is to make my parents proud by being who I really am.”

In recognition of her leadership, the Cal Aggie Alumni Association awarded Kaur its 2013–14 Blue and Gold Scholarship, which totals \$10,000.

“When I found out that I got a scholarship from the alumni association for leadership, I was overwhelmed,” said Kaur, who wants to be a source of inspiration for her two younger siblings—especially her younger sister. “To think there are people out there, who I’ve never met, who are recognizing me as a leader and saying that they have faith in me—it’s just overwhelming.”



# DEBRA BAKERJIAN— IMPROVING PATIENT CARE, TOGETHER

**AS A YOUNG NURSE,** Debra Bakerjian sought better-coordinated care for her nursing home patients. Today, as a faculty member at the Betty Irene Moore School of Nursing, she brings that same team philosophy to her students. UC Davis provides the only programs in the U.S. that teach future nurse practitioners and physician assistants side by side. **“The more they are co-educated together, the better they work as a team in treating patients. When they work better as a team, patient outcomes improve.”**



**Debra Bakerjian**

ONE JOURNEY  
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(ID 2469)

# PICNIC DAY AROUND THE WORLD

## PICNIC DAY IS GLOBAL!

UC Davis alumni and friends from around the world will be joining in the Aggie tradition by hosting their own Picnic Day festivities in April and May. To find a celebration near you or to host one in your hometown, visit [alumni.ucdavis.edu/picnicday](http://alumni.ucdavis.edu/picnicday) or call 530-752-0286.

Share your Picnic Day photos in social media using **#100picnicday**.



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