

UC DAVIS

M A G A Z I N E

Volume 32, Number 2
Spring 2015

Bloody Good
Literature

PIXEL FORESTS • PANDEMIC BUSTERS



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M A G A Z I N E

Volume 32, Number 2/Spring 2015

FEATURES

Still alive

14

New courses on horror literature are breathing life into English enrollments.

by Kathleen Holder

From pines to pixels

18

A computer scientist's simulations of nature could play a key role in protecting the world's forests and balancing the global carbon budget.

by Corinna Fish

Pandemic busters

24

A UC Davis-led program, funded with \$100 million from a federal agency, is working with partners in 31 countries to detect viruses before they spread.

by Justin Cox

About the cover:

Into the woods (actually, the arboretum's redwood grove) is where student Isabel Fisher and photographers Gregory Urquiaga and Karin Higgins (wearing werewolf hand) headed to shoot this photo. See page 14 for the story about horror literature courses. Cover design by Russ Thébaud.

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Coming soon

Your magazine will be getting a new look. We're working on a redesign to change the magazine for the better. Watch for the new and improved version this fall.



UC Davis Magazine

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UC DAVIS MAGAZINE

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A life-extending story

In August 2013, my brother-in-law, David MacCool, was diagnosed with Stage IV lung cancer (a type associated with nonsmokers). He sought treatment in Louisville, Kentucky, but the regimen was failing him by mid-fall of that same year. (His oncologist's verdict: "Well, at least we got you two months.")

Around that time, I received the fall 2013 issue and read "The master of the art of the possible," featuring the work of oncologist David Gandara. I passed the article on to my sister (Nancy Urbscheit, his wife), and she passed it on to him. He contacted Dr. Gandara, who got back to

David the very same day. Because of the distance, Dr. Gandara suggested that Dave contact a colleague, Leona Horn, at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine in Nashville, Tennessee, about a three-hour drive away. Dave did, and he is now Dr. Horn's patient. The treatment she prescribed has more than kept his cancer in check—his tumors have greatly

reduced in size. He continues to get one heartening CT scan after another.

If David had not connected with Dr. Gandara, he would not be alive today. The medications Dr. Horn administers to him in Nashville are not available in Louisville. This article resulted in a who-knows-how-long extension of my brother-in-law's life—and a life of superb quality to boot (he jogs, among other activities). My gratitude is immeasurable.

Laurie Duesing, Ph.D. '98

Louisville, Kentucky

Another student mark on UC Davis map

[Re: "A guide to the Aggie-built campus," fall 2014] When I was at Davis, it was a tradition to use Feb. 29 every leap year as a student labor day. Various living groups were assigned clean-up, beautification and construction projects that day, with a whole campus barbecue following. In 1960, I was one of the

many groups assigned to plant trees and outline paths along derelict, often-dry Putah Creek to begin what is now the beautiful arboretum.

Sue Fitzharris Chelini '61

Mill Valley

More Freeborn Hall memories

'Positive vibrations'

Best show: Bob Marley [Dec. 1, 1979].

Freeborn was not known for great acoustics. The sound would bounce around, and fast-tempo guitar bands like "Big Country" would create a dense cacophony with minimal clarity.

With Bob Marley, the length of the hall was in sync with the style of music. Similar to a reverb effects unit which can be set for different "hall sizes," the length of Freeborn was perfect for the reggae pulse. The beat would echo off the back wall before the next pulse hit the wall. The packed crowd helped absorb the sound, and the smoke-filled air undoubtedly helped the "positive vibrations."

Bill Fairfield '81

Davis

The beat goes on

Whoever was responsible for the great concerts in 1969–70 did an amazing job . . . Ike & Tina Turner, the Steve Miller Band, Bobby Womack, Sons of Chaplin, Beautiful Day, just to name a few.

I can remember lining up 10 deep with pillows and blankets, no matter the weather, as the doors opened and we

claimed our square foot of floor space. . . . Nursing mothers brought their children, and [tickets were] so affordable on a student income.

Forty years later I had the pleasure of seeing the Steve Miller Band at Raley Field [in West Sacramento] with space-cowboy backdrop, joker mask and reflecting Pegasus—so different from his three-piece band at Freeborn. My son, who interned at Raley Field in 2010, was their shuttle driver. I never imagined that the next generation would be listening to the same music.

Juli (Palacio) Harris '73, Cred. '74

Courtland

Opening for RFK

The fall 2014 edition ["Freeborn Hall retrospective"] mentioned the May 16, 1968, visit of Robert Kennedy to campus and his speech in Freeborn Hall. I was "the opening act," so to speak—I sang and played the guitar.

As for rock concerts, I heard Mannheim Steamroller there, an amazing event.

Marion Froehlich, M.A. '74

San Diego

Incomprehension over a senseless act

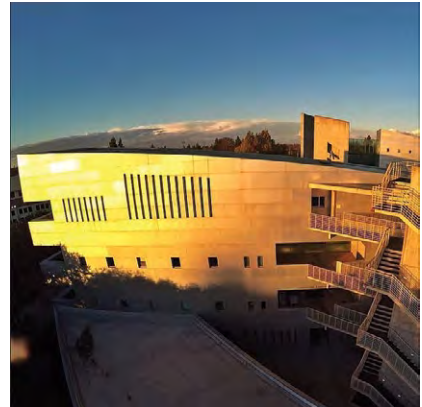
As a Jewish alumnus, I am extremely shocked and upset at the attack on the fraternity [Alpha Epsilon Pi, which was defaced with swastikas in February]. I was just graduating from Davis when the fraternity was starting. My religious faith

and heritage were never issues during my undergraduate work, my graduate work and my military service. . . .

Howard Egberman '68

Oakland

Instagram



Alex Abelsmith

Facebook

"We are the top UC period!!!!"

—Paul Beckworth, commenting on a post about UC Davis being the northern-most UC campus.

Twitter



E Perez @eaperez20

@ucdavis I show my #AggiePride by wearing my alumni pin to work!
#aggiepridefriday #GoAgs



Jon Endsley @jbendsley

@ucdavis #aggiepridefriday #goags

CALENDAR



Dance

Ballet BC

Mondavi Center, Jackson Hall

June 19

Theater

The Light And Dark Arts: A Radical Magic Show

Directed by Granada Artist-In-Residence Aaron Gach.

Wright Hall, Main Theatre

May 29-31, June 4-7

Spoken word

Farewell Reading

Masters in Creative Writing graduating students read from their works.

Arboretum, Wyatt Deck

June 10

Music

UC Davis Symphony Orchestra

Featuring the winner of concerto competition. Christian Baldini, music director and conductor.

Mondavi Center, Jackson Hall

May 31

Empyrean Ensemble

New works by graduate student composers and alumnus Ramteen Sazegari '07. Matilda Hofman, conductor. Mika Pelo and Kurt Rohde, directors.

Mondavi Center,
Vanderhoef Studio Theatre

June 1

University Chorus

Mondavi Center, Jackson Hall

June 5

Exhibition

Artworks by M.F.A. candidates

Nelson Gallery

May 30–June 21

Outdoors

Wild Family Day

Games, activities, educational displays and live animals. Sponsored by student organization Wild Campus and the UC Davis Arboretum.

Arboretum GATEway Garden

May 31



Football

Home opener vs. University of South Dakota

Sept. 12

Homecoming game vs.
Northern Arizona University

Oct. 10

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.

THE HEALING POWER OF A GENTLE SQUEEZE

Veterinary professor John Madigan uses a rope harness to mimic the pressure of the birthing process and treat an autism-like disorder in newborn horses.

JOE PROUDMAN/UC Davis

Newborn horses give clues to autism.

by Pat Bailey

JUST A FEW HOURS AFTER ITS BIRTH, the long-legged brown foal appears at first glance to be sturdy and sound. But something is very wrong.

The newborn horse seems detached, stumbles toward people and doesn't seem to recognize its mother or have any interest in nursing.

The symptoms are characteristic of neonatal maladjustment, or dummy foal syndrome, a disorder that has puzzled horse owners and veterinarians for a century and that shows intriguing similarities to autism in humans.

The common link, researchers suggest, may be abnormal levels of naturally occurring neurosteroids.

"The behavioral abnormalities in these foals seem to resemble some of the symptoms in children with autism," says John Madigan, a veterinary professor and an expert in equine neonatal health.

The maladjustment syndrome in foals also caught the attention of Isaac Pessah, a professor of molecular biosciences at School of Veterinary Medicine and a faculty member of the UC Davis MIND Institute who investigates environmental factors that may play a role in the development of autism in children.

"There are thousands of potential causes for autism, but the one thing that all autistic children have in common is that they are detached," Pessah said.

Madigan, Pessah and other researchers in veterinary and human medicine recently formed a joint research group and secured funding to investigate links between the two conditions.

In horses, dummy foal syndrome occurs in 3–5 percent of live births. With around-the-clock bottle or tube feeding plus intensive care in a veterinary clinic

See 'Foals,' next page

NEWS

Foals, continued from page 5

for up to a week or 10 days, 80 percent of the foals recover.

For years, the syndrome has been attributed to hypoxia—insufficient oxygen during birth. However, most foals survive without the long-term damage caused by oxygen deprivation. So Madigan and veterinary neurologist Monica Aleman began searching for other potential causes.

One of their prime suspects was a group of naturally occurring neurosteroids, which are key to sustaining

pregnancies in horses, especially in keeping the foal “quiet” before birth.

Madigan and Aleman suspect that, in healthy births, the physical pressure of the birth canal may send a biochemical signal for the foal to quit producing the sedative neurosteroids.

The researchers have found that they can reduce maladjustment symptoms in foals by using several loops of a soft rope to gently squeeze the foal’s upper torso and mimic the pressure normally expe-



Veterinary neurologist Monica Aleman gets a kiss from a newborn foal that survived the syndrome.

rienced during birth.

Many veterinarians and clinics are treating maladjusted foals with what is now called the “Madigan foal squeeze procedure.”

 See more photos and video at go.ucdavis.edu/foal.

“How we perceive ourselves can have a profound impact even when it is just our virtual self.”

— **Jorge Peña**, assistant professor in the Department of Communication, on his study that found women assigned an overweight avatar in a video tennis game didn’t play as hard as those assigned a slim one—regardless of the player’s actual size.

Diabetes drug

A new drug prevents and may even reverse diabetes, according to a study with obese mice.

The research involves a potent enzyme inhibitor that dramatically reduces inflammation and pain. Discovered in the laboratory of entomology professor Bruce Hammock, the compound previously was shown to reduce the symptoms of diabetes in mice.

Hammock said that new research with collaborators in Spain found that, if the mice have a genetically increased level of omega-3 fatty acids, the drug offers prevention or cure.

Scientists say the study also shines new light on health benefits of fatty acids.

Secondhand smog

Approximately 10 percent of ozone pollution in California’s San Joaquin Valley is estimated to be coming from outside of the state’s borders, particularly from Asia, researchers have found.

Scientists have long known that a portion of ozone pollution was coming

from overseas, but attempts to quantify just how much were hamstrung by coarse computer models that overlooked or broadly simplified California’s complex terrain.

Atmospheric scientist Ian Faloona presented his preliminary findings this

spring to air quality regulators and scientists. “Traditionally, air pollution has always been considered an issue to be handled locally: ‘It’s your backyard, it’s your problem,’” Faloona said. “But we’re going to have to treat air pollution to some extent how we treat greenhouse gases.”



Students James Lucas, Aaron Cohen and Yeonju Julie Song are part of a team that won an international science competition for a device that can evaluate the quality and freshness of olive oil.

KARIN HIGGINS/UC Davis

A LIQUID-GOLD-MEDAL INVENTION

EXTRA-VIRGIN OLIVE OIL is flavorful and healthy, which could explain why sales of high-quality olive oil have tripled in the U.S. in the last two decades. But when you buy a bottle of extra-virgin olive oil, can you be sure the oil inside is, indeed, extra virgin?

No, but a biosensor built by a team of undergraduates could soon change that. The biosensor is designed to quickly and easily evaluate the chemical profile of oil—helping to determine not only the grade of oil but also whether it has turned rancid.

Students Lucas Murray, Brian Tamsut, James Lucas, Sarah Ritz, Aaron Cohen and Simon Staley won the grand prize in the iGEM (International Genetically Engineered Machines) competition for

their device. Students Yeonju Song and Michaela Gobron shadowed the team.

“It’s especially rewarding knowing our project is practical and will solve a real, tangible problem,” said Tamsut, a sophomore majoring in biotechnology.

As much as two-thirds of the extra-virgin olive oil sold in the United States is actually lower-grade oil, lacking the antioxidants, omega-3 fatty acids and flavor found in true extra-virgin olive oil.

“Even good oil can go bad,” said Dan Flynn, executive director of the UC Davis Olive Center. “Extra-virgin olive oil has a shelf life.”

UC Davis has fielded an iGEM team for the last six years, consistently placing in the top 10 percent of the more than 200 entries from around the world.

Sea change

Ocean ecosystems that experience rapid upheaval because of climate change can take thousands of years to recover, according to an examination of fossilized ocean fauna on the seafloor.

The study is the first record of disturbance and recovery of seafloor ecosystem biodiversity in response to abrupt climate change.

The work, led by Sarah Moffitt, a scientist from UC Davis Bodega Marine Laboratory and Coastal and Marine Sciences Institute, shows that while climate change and the deoxygenation of seawater can alter ocean ecology very quickly, recovery can be on a 1,000-year scale, not the 100-year scale previously thought.

UC TUITION AND FEES EXPLAINED

TUITION, as UC President Janet Napolitano says, “cuts right to the heart of accessibility and affordability—two of the university’s guiding stars.”

Whether systemwide tuition and fees go up next fall will depend on the budget that the Legislature and Gov. Jerry Brown adopt for the new fiscal year that begins July 1.

UC regents last November approved a five-year plan for low, predictable tuition and fees that would allow UC campuses to enroll more California students, main-

tain strong financial aid programs and invest in educational quality.

The plan authorizes UC to increase systemwide tuition and fees by up to 5 percent per year through 2019–20, an amount that could be reduced or eliminated depending on state funding.

While the level of state funding for UC remained undecided as the magazine went to press, the debate made one thing clear: The affordability of a UC education is not widely understood. Here is a look at students’ costs.

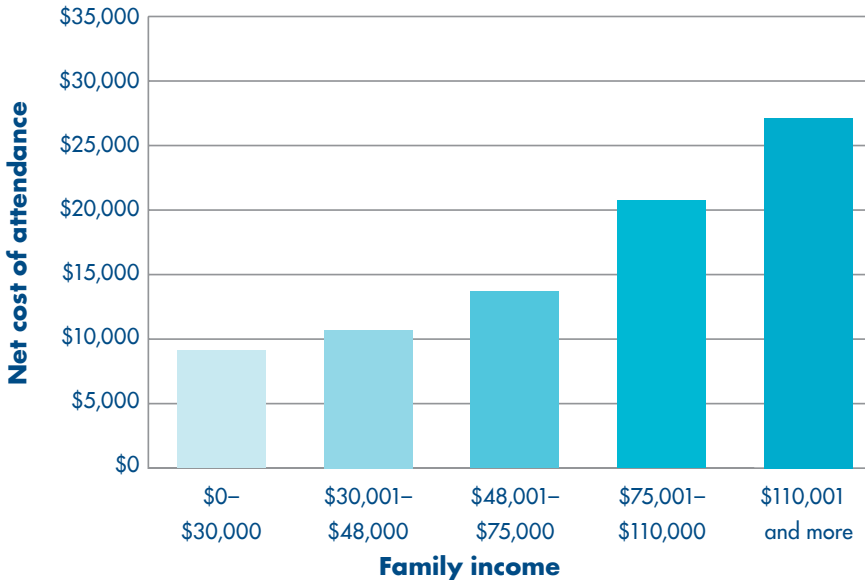


54%

of UC students pay no tuition or fees.

Family income affects net cost of attendance

2012–13 data for UC Davis



Source: IPEDS Net Cost Figures; Average net price of attendance for full-time, first-time, degree/certificate-seeking undergraduate students who paid the in-state or in-district tuition rate and were awarded Title IV aid, by income 2011–12.

The average cost of educating a UC student, adjusted for inflation, has decreased by nearly \$5,000 over a 24-year period, from \$23,050 in 1990–91 to \$18,060 in 2014–15. But as the chart shows, the state’s share of expenditures has plunged even more steeply, while the student share (after financial aid set-aside) has more than tripled.

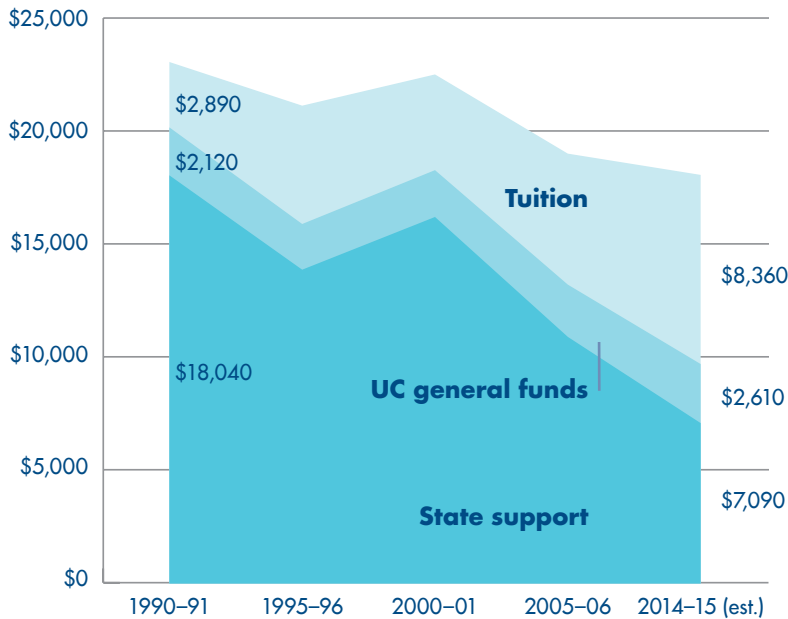
This graph illustrates differences in what UC Davis students pay to attend, depending on their family incomes. Totals here include tuition and fees, books, housing, transportation and personal expenses.



Most UC Davis students, **74%**, receive financial aid.

History of educational costs at UC

Average UC educational expense per student
(adjusted for inflation)



Source: UC Office of the President; Average inflation-adjusted resources per general campus student. Excludes financial aid.

Student debt at UC Davis



75%

of student aid is non-loan.



42%

of students accrue zero debt while at UC Davis.

For those who graduated with debt, UC Davis students are well below the national average:



National average: \$28,400

A WRONG RIGHTED

CHINESE IMMIGRANT HONG YEN CHANG was a graduate of Columbia Law School and a member of the New York bar when he was denied a license to practice law in California in 1890 because of his race.

More than a century later, Asian American law students at UC Davis took up his case and won. This spring the California Supreme Court granted Chang posthumous admission to the bar, closing what the

court called a “sordid chapter of our state and national history.”

Members of the Asian Pacific American Law Students Association petitioned the court last year on behalf of Chang, pointing out that the laws that prevented him

from practicing as an attorney have been discredited and repealed and asking the court to “right this historic wrong.”

In its March opinion, the court agreed that it was long past time to do so.

Chang first came to the United States in 1872 and attended Yale as part of the Chinese Educational Mission, a program initiated by the Chinese government, and later returned on his own to study law. He earned a degree from Columbia Law School in 1886 and sat for the New York bar exam by a special act of legislation. When he was admitted to the New York state bar, *The New York Times* reported that Chang was the first Chinese immigrant admitted to any bar in the United

“This is a historic moment for all Chinese Americans in California because a terrible wrong has been righted.”

—Rachelle Chong, a California lawyer and a grandniece of Hong Yen Chang



COURTESY OF THE AH TYE FAMILY

States. In 1890, he came to California with the intention of serving San Francisco’s Chinese community as an attorney.

At that time, the federal Chinese Exclusion Act banned Chinese immigrants from naturalizing as citizens, and a California law prohibited noncitizens from practicing law in the state. Chang petitioned the California Supreme Court, but in the decision *In re Hong Yen Chang*, he was denied admission to the bar.

“Among legal scholars, the 1890 decision was a notorious symbol of the racism of the era,” said Gabriel “Jack” Chin, a law professor and adviser to the student group.

The students’ victory delighted Rachelle Chong, a California lawyer and a grandniece of Chang: “This is a historic moment for all Chinese Americans in California because a terrible wrong has been righted.”



“They’re not bringing people back, so they don’t actually have to worry about that part of it.”

— **Dawn Sumner**, professor of earth and planetary sciences, in a Capital Public Radio report on a Dutch company’s plan to send humans to settle Mars. Alumna **Kristin (Curthoys) Richmond ’06** is one of the “Mars 100” hoping to make the projected 2024 trip.

#1

Ranking of the **School of Veterinary Medicine** by the *U.S. News & World Report Best Graduate Schools 2016* guidebook.



10.7 million+

The number of views of a YouTube video showing **Joseph Riquelme ’06**, an app developer, giving his parents a Christmas present to remember: a handwritten card saying that he had paid off the mortgage on their home.



See his video at go.ucdavis.edu/mortgage

11,232

The number of rides given to students, faculty and staff in the Safe Ride van in the first four months after the campus police department expanded the hours around the clock, added overnight service from campus to anywhere within the city of Davis, and introduced a TapRide smartphone app for booking the free trips.



“Staying inside, in the same location, is really detrimental to creative thinking.”

— **Kimberly Elsbach**, professor in the Graduate School of Management, during an interview with NPR’s *Here & Now* about the demise of the lunch hour.



3 Number of Aggies on the **California State Board of Food and Agriculture**, with College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences Dean **Helene Dillard** joining two alumni—Winters rancher and board President **Craig McNamara ’76** and Chico rice farmer **Bryce Lundberg ’83**.



Hear the interview at go.ucdavis.edu/elsbach.

PACKED WITH LOVE

Care packages come in all assortments. Parents and alumni share some of their custom contents.

WHEN WE ASKED AGGIES AND THEIR PARENTS about favorite care packages, we expected to hear about cookies. We did, and much more!

Care packages from home—remembered long after the contents are emptied—are as unique as UC Davis students and their families are:

Biology student special

“I sent my son dirt and dead leaves from three different states. I was on a trip and went from Tennessee to Ohio through Kentucky. He wanted a small amount of dirt and dead leaves for some mushroom class he was taking. [I’m] not sure what fungi he ended up with.”

—Pat Kot, Cupertino

Serial adventures

“Knowing that getting out and learning about the amazing community of Davis would be important to our daughter. . . we sent her a note each week during her first quarter and then one about every two weeks the rest of her freshman year. With each note was a \$5 to \$20 gift card to a local business. . . She knew we were thinking about her and the gift cards gave her an excuse to venture off campus and discover the town of Davis.”

—Sharon and Dan Davis, Atascadero

‘Halfway there’

“My daughter had just started her junior year at UC Davis, so I wanted to send her something creative. My idea started with ‘You’re Halfway There!’ I created a ‘diploma’ from UC Davis, cut it in half and framed it. Next I gathered a bunch of her favorite snacks, and proceeded to cut them in half. I filled the package with confetti and balloons and pasted a ‘Halfway’ sign on the box flaps. Lastly, I pasted a pair of goofy “grad” glasses to a poster and told her to “see” her future, that the end of the line was almost here. It was a hit—she loved every bit of it!”

—Andrea Auwae, Rancho Cucamonga

Treasures from the closet

“My daughter, a freshman, received many ‘care’ packages . . . mostly things she forgot.”

—Terry Kershaw, Ramona

Student staples

“My freshman year, my parents sent me a care package with a hot water boiler and a lot of ramen, and Easy Mac—the freshman essentials!”

—Ashley Khawwy '11, Chino

“A few boxes of Girl Scout cookies!”

—Casey Lough '06, North Waltham, Massachusetts



“My favorite items to go into a care package would be chocolate, peanut butter M&Ms, mixed nuts and dried fruit.”

—**Susan Schnelbach '91**,
Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania

“King-size M&Ms and a bunch of other sweets. I was living in Gilmore (Segundo) and they really helped during finals week.”

—**Russell Dawson '93**, San Francisco

Cash to the rescue

“My mother sent me a money order when financial aid ran out.”

—**Fernando Godinez '97**, Paramount

“Electronic funds transfer, hold the care package, thanks.”

—**Melissa Eaton '04**, San Ramon

Tastes of home

“I was studying in Cork, Ireland, through the Education Abroad Program. My parents sent me American processed foods, like macaroni and cheese and Top Ramen. I amazed all of my Irish friends with how great this stuff is! Cheap American food staples never tasted so good.”

—**Megan O'Mahony '98**, San José

“When I was an exchange student at UC Davis, I received a box of Yorkshire black tea from home in the U.K.—a great morale booster, especially during finals!”

—**David Dry, attended '05–06**,
London



“The best care packages came from my suitemate’s mom. She would send enough for all four of us to enjoy: good old Southern cooking like fried chicken, mac ’n’ cheese and sweet potato pie. I will never forget that pie!”

—**Lorri Rosenberg Arazi**,
attended '75–77, East Bay Area

“I moved from Germany to attend UC Davis . . . I still remember my mother putting together an incredible care package of [Bahlsen] Hit cookies (my favorite), Ritter Sport candy bars (peppermint were the best), some memorabilia from the club I played soccer for and a handful of German soccer magazines. . . Aren’t moms and dads great!”

—**Brian Groeschel '91**, Fair Oaks

Special deliveries

“Though I commuted from Woodland, the best ‘package from home’ was from my older brother, also a reed player, who lived in Sacramento. He gave me a box of clarinet reeds, tenor sax reeds and alto sax reeds.”

—**Bill Hollingshead '60**, Davis

“I lived close enough to UC Davis for my packages to be hand-delivered. Best care package? When my father would show up at my door with two bags of groceries in his arms, and offer to stay and cook for me and my roommates. Then all was right in the world again.”

—**Elizabeth Delgado '91**, Sacramento

Care package tips

If you’re shipping packages to a residence hall, here are a few suggestions from Student Housing:

- Make sure your student knows that care packages are coming. Students get busy and forget to check mail, which can be an issue if food is included in the package.
- If you send gift cards, make sure they can be used locally. Online resources like Davis Wiki can help you learn what businesses are in town.
- You do not need to spend a lot of money. Sometimes just a supportive letter from home means more than any material gift.

No time to assemble a care package? You can order one through Student Housing at housing.ucdavis.edu/carepackages.



Still

by Kathleen Holder

Photos by Karin Higgins
and Gregory Urquiaga

Alice

HOW HORROR LIT IS POPULARIZING ENGLISH

The living dead walked the basement of Wellman Hall this past winter, lurched into a lecture hall and took up residence, for at least a quarter, in the minds of 125 undergraduates.

South of the Quad in the Chemistry Building, “Cthulhu” and other alien creatures awoke from their deathlike slumber winter quarter to haunt a class of 33 juniors and seniors. This spring quarter, in a classroom down the hall, students are following closely as a young wizard plays Quidditch, battles Death Eaters and thwarts the Dark Lord’s quest for eternal life.

Zombies and other supernatural beings invaded the English curriculum this year—with popular new courses like the introductory literature class “Almost Human: Animals, Cyborgs, Zombies” and an upper-division course on the works of horror fiction legend H.P. Lovecraft.

And Harry Potter found a place among Peter Pan, Alice, Willie Wonka and other classic characters who make regular appearances in an enduring course on children’s literature.

To be sure, classics like Shakespeare, Chaucer

and Milton still form pillars of English studies at UC Davis. But the undead and other supernatural tales are breathing new life into the English program, stanching a trend that humanities lovers find truly scary: dropping enrollments.

The national decline in English studies is blamed in part on the recession and students shifting to business-related majors like economics to bolster their post-graduation chances of finding jobs. Professors also point to changes in general education requirements that allow students to get writing credit for courses taught in other departments.

UC Davis has seen a modest dip in English majors—slipping 12 percent over a five-year period from 692 in 2008–09 to 607 in 2012–13, according to English Chair Liz Miller. Last academic year saw a slight rebound to 619.

Nationwide, the number of English undergraduate degrees dropped from 55,518 in 2009 to 52,489



In addition to horror literature, new courses this year include “Video Games and Culture” and a lower-division introduction to Shakespeare.

in 2013, according to data compiled by the Modern Language Association. That is about a 5.5 percent decline over the five-year period.

The shift away from English studies may not be a wise career move for students, Miller said: “The funny thing is that recent studies have actually shown that English majors do fairly well on the job market, compared to other undergraduate majors.”

UC Davis English alumni can be found in a wide array of fields, including journalism, the tech industry, law, the nonprofit sector, teaching, marketing, counseling and medicine.

“English majors have been trained to read, write and communicate, and our classes emphasize and prioritize critical thinking,” Miller said. “As it turns out, those are useful skills for any number of possible careers, and employers know that.”

Professor Scott Shershow said the decline in English studies may reflect other societal changes as well.

A course he teaches on modern drama has room for 60 students, but for the past two years has enrolled about one-third that number. “I don’t think most of our students have a great deal of experience with live theater,” he said.

On the other hand, the course he introduced this year on Lovecraft’s horror fiction quickly filled at 30 students, with three more admitted from a wait list.

The horror and other new courses are hardly no-brainers.

In reading Lovecraft’s stories, students analyzed the author’s racist views, as well as his themes of science, antiquities and portrayal of a cold, indifferent cosmos. “The ultimate horror [in Lovecraft’s fiction] is that we live in a universe that is so big that we are utterly insignificant,” Shershow said. “In the end, the stories undercut the author’s own racism.”

In one class session of “Almost Human,” Associate Professor Hsuan Hsu asked students to compare slave narratives in Jack London’s *The Call of the Wild* and Frederick Douglass’ memoir. Turning to the graphic novel *Maus*, the class discussed why cartoonist Art Spiegelman used different animal species to tell his father’s Holocaust survival story.

As the syllabus explains, stories about monsters, aliens, animals, slaves, zombies, mice and androids are fundamentally about what it means to be human.

And, in studying texts spanning two centuries, students also got an overview of different forms of fiction as well as lessons in posing questions, analyzing and making arguments about literary fiction.

“I love it,” said Emma Askea, a first-year English major from Chico. “I like what we talk about, how the things we read are from all different time periods.”

Hsu said he has covered a number of the same texts in other courses—slavery narrative in a 19th century literature survey, a cyborg novel in litera-



ture of cities, and *The Call of the Wild* in a class on literature and the environment.

“While I was thinking about the connections between these texts, I was also brainstorming about how I could design a course that would have broad appeal for undergraduates at the lower division while still covering and connecting complex topics such as slavery, genocide and bioethics. The course really crystallized for me when I read and circled the phrase ‘almost human’ in Paolo Bacigalupi’s novel *The Windup Girl*—I remember thinking, ‘That would be a great title for a course!’”

The course proved popular with English majors and nonmajors alike (with about one-third of the students coming from other programs).

In addition to horror literature, new courses this year include “Video Games and Culture” and a lower-division introduction to Shakespeare. And the children’s literature course, offered for at least 20 years and taught by Miller this spring, includes *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone*.

A new interdisciplinary minor being developed in environmental humanities could draw more students from the environmental sciences to take literature courses.

Even in the new courses, the literary classics still get their due. While one new offering for 2015–16 is “Fantasy Literature,” others will focus on two authors’ enduring influence on popular culture: Jane Austen (whose *Pride and Prejudice* has been parodied in a zombie novel) and that playwright who centuries ago worked a few monsters and ghouls into his scripts—the Bard.



BILL BUCHANAN/DePauw

A PH.D. IN ZOMBIES

While tales of horrific creatures lure undergraduates into literature classes, a romantic literary masterpiece led alumna Sarah Juliet Lauro to the walking dead.

Lauro, Ph.D. '11, was studying Charlotte Brontë’s *Jane Eyre* for a UC Davis graduate course in English when a thought struck her—the madwoman locked in the attic was a zombie.

Encouraged by visiting professor Tricia Lootens to explore the theme, Lauro wrote a paper about the mad wife Bertha Mason’s Creole heritage and childhood in the Caribbean, Haitian voodoo and the zombie’s roots in African soul-capture myths.

Lauro had grown up in Africa—first on the west coast, where her father helped set up AIDS clinics, and later in Morocco, where she attended high school. So she was familiar with African mythology.

But zombies had never captured her imagination before. “I wasn’t a big horror film fan,” she said.

After that class, she said, she began seeing zombies everywhere. They ultimately became the subject of her dissertation and two books.

Visit ucdavismagazine.ucdavis.edu to learn more about Lauro and how zombie tales have evolved to represent society’s latest fears.

KARIN HIGGINS/UC Davis

FROM PINES T

3-D MODELING RESEARCH BY NINA AMENTA HELPS MAP
EVOLUTIONARY TREES AND THE SURFACE OF FORESTS.

FOR MANY, a forest's beauty lies in its verdant abundance. For Nina Amenta, the splendor of timberlands—and their scientific mystery—are found in their intricate shapes.

“From an airplane, forests look like a sea of green foam, unlike the flat surfaces and sharp angles of cities,” Amenta said. “They’re more complicated, shape-wise, and less studied, so they’re a fascinating challenge in a 3-D data capture.”

The chair of the Department of Computer Science and holder of the Tim Bucher Family Chair, Amenta is

that governed them.

The state of computer graphics was much too primitive at the time to make an automatic Escher program, but the concept stayed in the back of her mind through an undergraduate degree at Yale University in classical civilization and a decade-plus career in the software industry. Amenta's idea finally came to fruition during her computer science graduate studies at UC Berkeley when she wrote

"FIGURING HOW
MUCH CARBON IS
STORED IN A GIVEN
FOREST IS NOT EASY.
... UNTIL NOW, WE
HAVEN'T HAD THE
DATA TO DO SO."

PIXELS

by Corinna Fish

an internationally renowned researcher of the geometry used in making 3-D computer representations of the world. Her computer simulations of nature could play a key role in protecting the world's forests and balancing the global carbon budget.

Amenta started early with computers, which was unusual back in the days of mainframes. In high school in Pittsburgh, an art classmate told her about a local university's youth computer club. She was also interested in geometry, devising repeating patterns to create drawings in the style of artist M.C. Escher and learning about the mathematics

Kali—a drawing program that in the early 1990s was as popular with children and artists as it was with mathematicians. Kaleido Paint, a more advanced version by the mathematician Jeff Weeks, is now an iPad app.

After earning her doctorate, Amenta did postdoctoral research at the National Science Foundation's Geometry Center and at Xerox PARC, then taught and researched computer science at the University of Austin, Texas, before joining UC Davis in 2002.

Along the way, Amenta became interested in discovering how graphics could be used for the greater good. In 2005, she got the opportunity to find out.



She received a Chancellor's Fellow award, which provides \$25,000 to faculty early in their careers and is supported by annual giving from alumni and friends. The funding helped support her first major project to depart from pure graphics and delve into analysis, capturing shape data from fossilized monkey skulls and relating the skull shapes to evolutionary trees.

Her selection as a Chancellor's Fellow also opened doors for new collaborative efforts. Today, she is the UC Davis director of the multicampus UC Center for Information Technology Research in the Interest of Society (CITRIS). Her knack for connecting with diverse research partners is resulting in big-data breakthroughs across disciplines.

"Professor Amenta's 3-D modeling algorithms are having important implications in the realms of evolutionary morphology, patient imaging and telemedicine," said Enrique Lavernia, dean of the College of Engineering. "Her work with CITRIS is equally relevant to statewide efforts at water conservation and the development of an intelligent electrical grid."

More recently, Amenta has turned her attention to forests and their role in tempering climate change.

"Growing forests is one of the few ways we can pull carbon out of the atmosphere," said Amenta. "However, figuring out how much carbon is stored in a given forest

is not easy. It depends on the number of trees, what species they are, the size of their trunks, and other factors—all of which can be depicted in a good 3-D map. But, until now, we haven't had the data to do so."

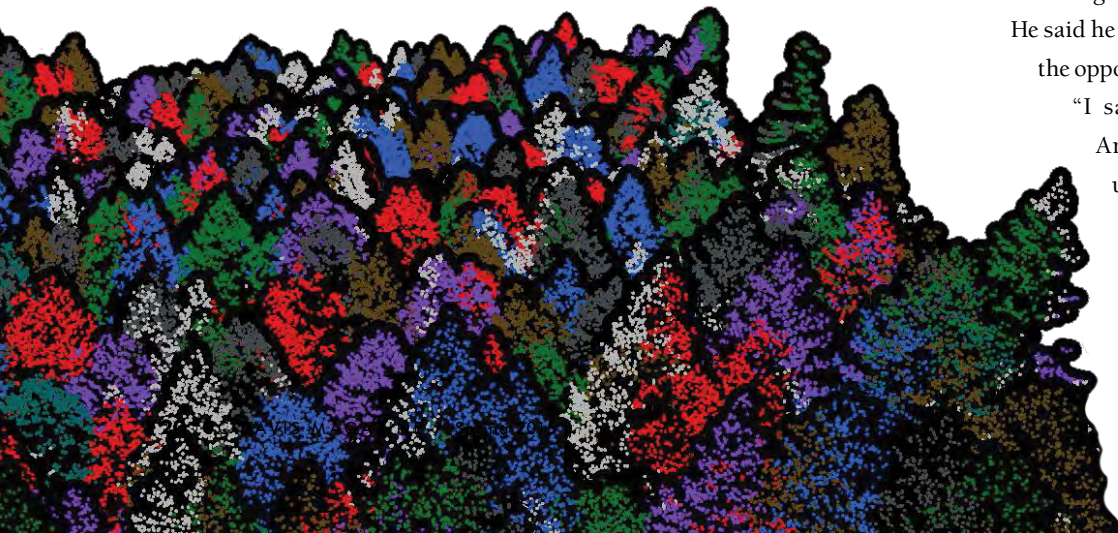
In 2013, Amenta was named chair of the computer science department and holder of the Bucher Family Chair, created by Silicon Valley entrepreneur Tim Bucher '84 and his wife, Mary Louise, to foster innovation and entrepreneurship among students and faculty in the College of Engineering.

The endowed funding has allowed Amenta to support two graduate students in developing ways to analyze LiDAR laser-light mapping data of forests. That data is collected by flying over a forest with a device that fires more than 105,000 laser pulses per second, recording a data point for every surface the laser hits.

The resulting 3-D cloud of points is difficult to visually interpret, so student Lance Simons created a sketch-like way of depicting tree silhouettes more clearly. He presented a paper on this method at a workshop on visualization in environmental sciences in England. Building upon Simons' work, student Stewart He has identified individual species of trees and classified tree structures. He shared his results at the 2014 ForestSAT conference in Italy. Amenta and her lab, ultimately, are seeking a way to quantify how much carbon a particular forest is removing from the atmosphere.

He said he came to UC Davis, in large part, for the opportunity to do research with Amenta.

"I saw some of the work Professor Amenta's lab published when I was an undergraduate at UC Berkeley. Meeting her and visiting her lab made it very easy to choose UC Davis for graduate school."





With the help of endowed funding, graduate students in Amenta's lab have been improving the clarity of images, left and bottom, created from laser-light mapping data of forests.

Amenta, in turn, said her endowed chair made it easier for her to mentor students like Simons and He—and to advance the forests research.

“When you step up to being department chair, it takes a lot of time and energy, and at the same time you want to maintain the rigor of your research program that you’ve trained all your life to conduct,” she said.

“The Bucher Family Chair enabled me to take on greater responsibilities while pursuing my passion and training the next generation of computer scientists.”

A new matching program, the UC Davis Endowed Faculty Leadership Initiative, will create 25 new professorships and chair positions for other leading faculty like Nina Amenta.

GIRL PROGRAMMING POWER

“Go Turtle! Go Turtle!” Malaysia Hilliard, right, chanted with her American Canyon Middle School teammates as their robot slowly crossed an obstacle course at the ARC Pavilion.

The girls were among competitors who built and programmed modular robots for the Roboplay Challenge, hosted each spring by the UC Davis Center for Integrated Computing and STEM Education (C-STEM).

Impressed by Hilliard’s initiative in forming a team, American Canyon math teacher Tammy Lee helped her apply for a C-STEM Girl’s Leadership Award. This award was made possible by a gift from mechanical and aerospace engineering professor Harry Cheng.

Receiving the award allowed Hilliard to learn more about programming and robotics and to connect with like-minded girls and engineering mentors. The eighth-grader planned to compete in a third Roboplay on May 31.

“My goal is to maintain my 4.0 GPA through high school so I can attend UC Davis and become an engineer,” she said. “It’s a really cool feeling knowing that when you program a robot to move, you know that you did that—that you made that robot come to life.”



KARIN HIGGINS/UC Davis

 Read more at go.ucdavis.edu/cstem.



PANDEMIC

ON THE TRAIL
OF THE NEXT EBOLA

BY JUSTIN COX



BUSTERS:

At the height of the 2014 Ebola outbreak in West Africa, the virus made a lesser-known appearance in a village thousands of miles away in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. ▶



The outbreak in the Congo claimed its first life in August in a rural region in the Equateur province after a pregnant woman butchered a dead monkey found by her husband. Ebola spread to 65 other people—killing 49 of them, including the woman—before being contained in about two months.

Contrast that with the toll in West Africa, where Ebola has killed more than 10,000 people and continues to cripple Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone.

What made the difference? Preparedness, for sure, and the help of a UC Davis-led program.

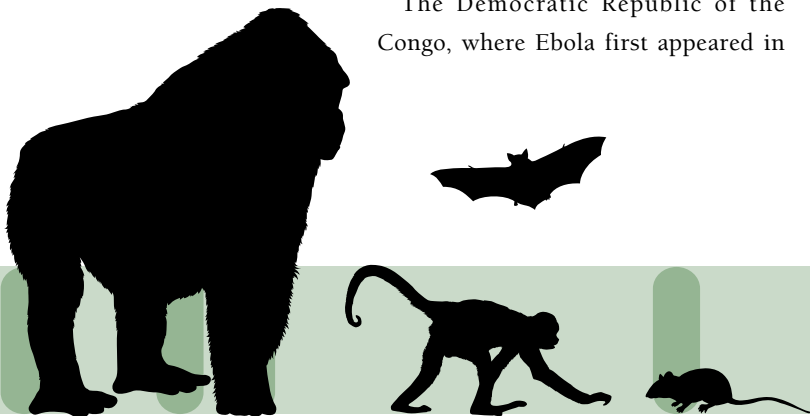
The Democratic Republic of the Congo, where Ebola first appeared in

1976, has been working for the past five years with PREDICT, a UC Davis-managed project tasked with identifying emerging infectious diseases transmitted between humans and animals before they become a threat to human health.

PREDICT is funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development as part of its Emerging Pandemic Threats program. USAID provided \$75 million in 2009 to fund the first five years of the project and committed an additional \$100 million last October for Phase 2, so the project can continue to identify and reduce risks from pandemic threats and build on its successes.

West Africa caught off guard

PREDICT couldn't be everywhere though. It had identified an Ebola-susceptible region in West Africa—the region where the outbreak ultimately emerged—but



56,000+

nonhuman primates, bats, rodents, and other wild animals (including bushmeat samples) sampled at human-wildlife interfaces with high-risk and opportunity for viral spillover from wildlife hosts to humans.

2,500

government personnel, physicians, veterinarians, resource managers, laboratory technicians, hunters, and students trained on biosafety, surveillance, lab techniques, and disease outbreak investigation.

984

unique viruses detected in humans—815 novel viruses and 169 known viruses—the most comprehensive viral detection and discovery effort to date.



The PREDICT pandemic early warning program focuses on animal species that can carry and pass viruses to humans, like bats and monkeys living in urban areas. African baboons groom, left. Macaques, above, at the Swayambhunath, or “Monkey Temple,” in Kathmandu, Nepal, are considered holy.

had not established a team there yet due to efforts to set up in other high-risk regions.

The early stages of Ebola look similar to more prevalent West African diseases like Lassa fever and malaria. Many people were hospitalized only after they had become extremely sick—increasing their chances of infecting others. The West African outbreak started in a remote area, but spread quickly after it was introduced to more densely populated urban settings.

“They had never seen Ebola in West Africa before,” said Jonna Mazet ’90, D.V.M. ’92, M.P.V.M. ’92, Ph.D. ’96, director of the UC Davis One Health Institute and PREDICT. “They weren’t ready. They had no diagnostic tests for it.”

As PREDICT embarks on its next five years, that will no longer be the case. USAID will be allocating funds to specifically address Ebola, giving the project a direct role in the region.

Active, not reactive

Through PREDICT, the UC Davis veterinary school’s One Health Institute works with a global consortium of partners to proactively sample wildlife and test for viruses that could be passed to humans. PREDICT has dozens of scientists on its team at UC Davis, and has developed capacity in 32 laboratories overseas.

“Animals harbor many viruses that humans have not experienced in their evolutionary history,” Mazet said. “When one of those viruses spills over to us, we can be susceptible to severe disease. If the virus is also transmissible from human to human, that virus can travel around the world very quickly if left unchecked.”

PREDICT’s scientific data suggest that unknown viruses in wild mammals could total about 320,000. While a daunting number, that’s lower than many had previously believed.



Field workers capture rodents in an urban settlement in Nepal. Samples are taken from the animals, which are then released. The samples are sent to a PREDICT lab for testing.

With recurrent civil war and poverty in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, many people consume bushmeat as their sole source of protein. Left, a PREDICT field coordinator discusses healthy hunting and butchering.



“Rather than spending billions of dollars reacting to deadly outbreaks, we’re creating a system that identifies disease potential and prevents pandemics before they start,” Mazet said. “This is happening in all of the countries where PREDICT is active.”



Jonna Mazet



Kirsten Gilardi

Surveillance teams have worked in 20 countries throughout Africa, Asia and Latin America, and the list of nations is expected to grow.

Researchers have collected biological samples from monkeys at temples and rodents in the urban settlements of Kathmandu, Nepal, bats in guano-mining caves in Thailand, endangered gorillas in the mountains of Uganda and Rwanda, monkeys confiscated from the illegal wildlife trade in Peru and more.

Unique expertise

When USAID sought a partner to launch a global early warning system for pandemics in 2009, it found a ready leader in Mazet, a wildlife veterinarian who specializes in disease ecology and epidemiology, the study of disease in populations.

As director of the One Health Institute, she had experience in bringing together experts in a variety of

fields as well as community members to address complex problems—among them, identifying diseases that were killing California sea otters while also putting people who eat seafood at risk. She was elected to the prestigious Institute of Medicine in 2013 for her contributions to global health.

An aspiring veterinarian from the time she was 16, Mazet planned a career in zoo medicine when she started her undergraduate studies. “Once at UC Davis, I was exposed to our rich and diverse environment and realized that I could work on wild populations and could try to save threatened populations, including our own.”

Mazet said UC Davis has a unique breadth of veterinary, human health and environmental sciences that fostered a “One Health” approach to conserving wild species by also focusing on the welfare of their human neighbors and the habitats they share

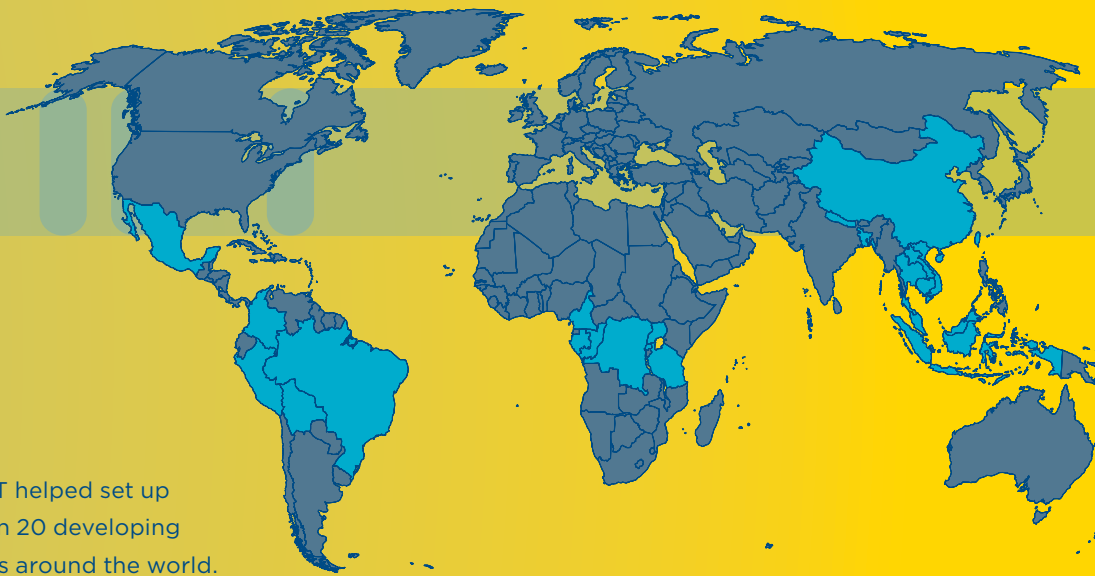
“That kind of environment, I don’t know where else in the world that exists—anywhere.”

Identifying hot spots

Traditional public health and disease surveillance systems have overlooked the link between animals, humans and the environment. PREDICT’s surveillance efforts do not.

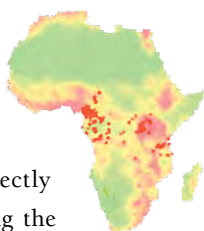
These efforts focus on identifying “reservoir” and “spillover” species that carry and spread viruses to humans.

A reservoir is a species that can carry a virus without



PREDICT helped set up 32 labs in 20 developing countries around the world.

necessarily getting sick or dying. (Bats are believed to be a reservoir for Ebola, though the evidence is not yet conclusive.) A spillover species is one that directly interacts with humans, increasing the likelihood that it may pass on disease—monkeys that are hunted as bushmeat, for instance, as well as bats and rodents that live among people.



When PREDICT started in 2009, the team compiled comprehensive data on the risks of zoonotic, or animal-to-human, diseases emerging around the world. With that data in hand, they focused on disease hot spots and identified where they would concentrate their efforts.

The work requires an understanding of a variety of geographic and sociological factors, in addition to biology.

Many human behaviors can increase the risk of disease emerging in a given location, including population growth, land use and cultural practices.

“We know a lot about what creates a likely situation for an outbreak,” said Christine Johnson, M.P.V.M ’01, Ph.D. ’03, senior biological and ecological surveillance coordinator for PREDICT. “Our surveillance strategy is very risk-based.”

The risks vary from region to region. For example, in the three affected West African countries, bushmeat hunting is common. In others, like Uganda, it is considered taboo.

But viruses do not recognize national boundaries.

“The reality is that there are a lot of people moving across borders at all times,” said Kirsten Gilardi, D.V.M. ’93, who manages activities in Uganda and Rwanda and part of the Democratic Republic of the Congo for the PREDICT Project. “They bring their behaviors and customs with them.”

Local teams

The program is not about outsiders swooping into a country for a short period of time to sample some animals and report their findings. Once hot spots are identified, building in-country capacity to track viruses becomes the driving goal.

More than 2,500 government personnel, physicians, veterinarians, resource managers, lab technicians, hunters and students have been trained since the start of the project, creating a nimble network that can respond to threats.

“Once a country is prepared to test for one kind of virus, they’re kind of prepared for any,” Johnson said. “We work together to strengthen technical capabilities and share resources needed to do this sort of work. That way they’re prepared to recognize any virus that comes through and respond quickly.”

Practical solutions

PREDICT looks for viruses at the family level. Rather than testing specifically for Ebola, the labs test for



Filovirus, the viral family to which Ebola belongs.

This family-level screening is done using consensus PCR (short for polymerase chain reaction). The molecular biology technology has been around for more than 30 years and can be done cheaply and simply—critical factors in resource-constrained regions of the world.

“We are even able to use older equipment,” said Tracey Goldstein, Ph.D. ’03, director of the One Health Institute lab at UC Davis. “In some of these countries, the equipment was just sitting around the lab unused. We’ve been able to put it to very good use with PREDICT.”

Consensus PCR allows labs to screen a large number of samples and get a sense of the diversity of viruses. From there they can decide which samples should be further examined through next-generation sequencing—a much more expensive process.

Working in remote areas also presents challenges. Many of the regions have limited refrigeration, and if samples are not properly preserved, they are of no use by the time they reach the lab.

The PREDICT team in Tanzania, for example, is equipped with a liquid nitrogen generator, which

allows surveillance teams to immediately chill samples in the field.

“People from our sites around the world are sharing ideas and working together to solve problems in practical and sustainable ways,” said Woutrina Smith, D.V.M. ’01, M.P.V.M. ’01, Ph.D. ’04, Capacity Building Team lead for PREDICT.

Ready to respond

When the bush hunter’s wife fell ill in the Democratic Republic of the Congo last summer, officials initially feared that Ebola from West Africa had crossed about 3,000 miles to the heart of the continent.

A PREDICT partner lab, Institut National de Recherche Biomédicale, tested the samples and sent the genetic sequence to PREDICT teams in the United States. They identified the virus as a separate Ebola strain.

“This all happened within a week,” Goldstein said. “If PREDICT had not helped to train the lab personnel who aided in the response, that would not have been possible. The sampling and testing were done by the country’s



PREDICT labs like this one in Nepal use an inexpensive and widely available molecular biology technology to screen samples and identify families of viruses in a region.

government lab, which had viral testing protocols in place because we were able to help them do that.”

With the virus strain identified, the DRC then adapted its response plan to quickly contain the outbreak.

Similarly, Ebola outbreaks in Uganda in 2011 and 2012 were quickly contained. Uganda now has a national task force that includes ministries of health, agriculture and environment, as well as top universities—an embodiment of the One Health approach.

“We have protocols and guidelines that are immediately implemented when there’s an outbreak,” said Benard Ssebide, PREDICT country coordinator for Uganda. “We don’t have to develop a new plan every time. We just have to communicate.”

Justin Cox is a writer and editor for UC Davis’ One Health Institute.

Photos by Karin Higgins, Matthew Lebreton, Anne Rimon, Gregory Urquiaga, Nigel Walker and the One Health Institute.

PREDICT partners

Consortium:

USAID

One Health Institute at UC Davis

EcoHealth Alliance

Metabiota

Smithsonian Institution

Wildlife Conservation Society

Technical partners:

Columbia University’s Center for Infection and Immunity

HealthMap at Boston Children’s Hospital

The International Society for Infectious Disease

UC San Francisco’s Viral Diagnostics and Discovery Center

Ministries of health, agriculture and environment, universities and nonprofit organizations in 31 countries



Big West champs

Senior Corey Hawkins shoots during the Aggies' home-court win over the UC Riverside Highlanders. In winning, the Aggies clinched their first Big West Conference title.



FAN MAKERS

WAYNE TILCOCK/Davis Enterprise

NEVER MIND MARCH MADNESS. The Aggie men's basketball craze lasted all year long, with the cheers of ecstatic fans still echoing well beyond The Pavilion.

After a 9–22 season in 2013–14, the Aggies finished 25–7 this year, winning the Big West regular-season championship for the first time and securing the top seed in the conference tournament.

Their dramatic jump surprised everyone—other than, perhaps, themselves. The turnaround was one of the best in Big West Conference history and the biggest in college basketball this year.

A semifinal loss kept UC Davis from advancing to the NCAA Tournament, but couldn't erase a 14–2 conference record and a 14–0 mark on Hamilton Court. And that brings us to some of the secrets of the team's success:

The Pavilion. Everybody loves a winner, but ESPN also loves a great game-day environment. UC Davis gave the network both during two nationally televised games. The Aggies battled back from big deficits in both matchups, edging Long Beach State and Cal Poly in front of raucous, near-sellout crowds.

Buckets. Armed with sharpshooters at nearly every position, UC Davis led Division I in three-point shooting the entire season (finishing at 44.7 percent), and achieved the fourth-best mark for overall shooting (49 percent).

Corey Hawkins. The Big West Player of the Year closed a career that will go down in Aggie annals as one of the

best, if not *the* best, in school history. He led the country in three-point shooting (48.8 percent), lit up Stanford for 34 points in the first round of the National Invitational Tournament and averaged 20.9 points per game.

The coach. For his part, Jim Les, above, was named the Big West Coach of the Year.

More successes

The women's basketball team advanced to the Big West Women's Basketball Tournament semifinals.

The women's gymnastics team won the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation championship.

— Mike Robles

New athletics leader

TERESA GOULD, an athletics administrator with more than 25 years of experience in collegiate sports, was tapped this spring to serve as UC Davis' interim athletics director. She replaces Terry Tumey, who is stepping down to pursue other opportunities.



Gould, most recently the Cal Aggie Alumni Association's associate executive director, chief revenue officer, previously served as UC Berkeley's deputy director of athletics.

Josh Flushman, associate director of athletics, assumes oversight of the football program.

WAYNE TILCOCK/Davis Enterprise



An overture to future generations

Future classroom/recital hall becomes first campus building with an alumna namesake.

by Corinna Fish



GREGORY URQUIAGA / UC Davis

THE LAST TIME Ann Pitzer '58 visited UC Davis, she took a walk through campus to see some of her favorite places and take in how the campus had changed.

As she strolled past Shields Library toward the campus Redwood Grove, she came across the site of a new, yet-to-be-built classroom and recital hall. Where others saw dirt, Pitzer saw an opportunity to help students. Just a few months

later, Pitzer decided to make a lasting gift to her alma mater and donated \$5 million to support construction and name the building.

"I don't know why you keep thanking me," Pitzer told university staff as she made the gift, "I want to do this because this is my way of thanking UC Davis for everything you have made possible for me."

Over the next five years, UC Davis must add about 2,000 seats to accommodate undergraduate students. The Ann E. Pitzer Center, scheduled to open in early 2016, will provide critically needed classroom space. The center will include a 394-seat recital hall, which

will double as a lecture hall, and necessary practice space for student and faculty musicians. The gift from Pitzer will allow for additional construction of six practice rooms and facility support.

Pitzer, who was the granddaughter of Pitzer College founder Russell Pitzer and daughter of former Stanford University and Rice University President Kenneth Pitzer, was proud of her UC Davis Bachelor of Science degree in home economics. She enjoyed a decades-long career as a software developer in La Jolla and became a well-known California philanthropist. She served on the UC Davis Foundation Board of Trustees and the Student Affairs Development Leadership Council, and supported several student scholarships during her lifetime. She passed away on Oct. 15, 2014.

"I think Davis made a tremendous change for the positive in my life," Pitzer said when she received the 2013 Aggie Service Award from the Cal Aggie Alumni Association, "and I like to think that I have an opportunity to help students of today have the same great experience at Davis that I had."



Your legacy
is our future.

UC Davis is a premier university educating the next generation of society's leaders. Support the future Aggie student and make a lasting impact on the future of our world with a planned gift.

David Ramirez,
School of Law Class of 2032

To learn more about how you can unite your legacy with the future of UC Davis, visit plannedgiving.ucdavis.edu.

ONE WORLD
One UC DAVIS

ALUMNI CALENDAR

Chapter events

Sacramento Aggie Chapter:
Republic FC Game

Kick up some soccer spirit with other Aggie fans of the local professional team.

May 30

Bonney Field, Sacramento

Aggies at Angel Stadium

Join fellow alumni for big league baseball when the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim play the Houston Astros.

June 23

Angel Stadium, Anaheim

British 10K London Run

Raise funds for scholarships and, after the race, picnic in Hyde Park

July 12

London

Big Sky Showdown

After pre-game festivities, cheer on the Aggies as they take on the University of Hawaii at Aloha Stadium.

Sept. 19

Honolulu

On campus

Champagne Toast
to New Graduates

Celebrate our newest alums.

June 4

Walter A. Buehler Alumni Center

Homecoming Weekend

Pajamarino, tailgating and football: UC Davis vs. Northern Arizona University.

Oct. 9–10

Parent and Family Weekend

Enjoy faculty lectures, tours, winetasting, tailgate barbecue and brunch.

Oct. 23–25



For more CAAA events, visit alumni.ucdavis.edu

AGGIE
ADVENTURES

2015

PORTRAIT OF ITALY

Amalfi, Rome, Umbria, Assisi, Tuscany, Venice

Sept. 1–17 • From \$5,484, including airfare

JEWELS OF THE AEGEAN

Patmos, Haifa, Limassol, Rhones, Crete, Kusadasi, Istanbul

Sept. 16–27 • From \$4,299, including airfare

CHINA CONNOISSEUR AND TIBET

Beijing, Lhasa, Chengdu, Xian, Guilin, Shanghai

Oct. 1–16 • From \$4,999, including airfare

ISLAND LIFE IN CUBA

Old Havana, Matanzas, Santa Clara, Guanabacoa, Relga, Pinar del Rio

Oct. 4–12 • From \$4,995

ISRAEL: TIMELESS WONDERS

Tel Aviv, Galilee, Jerusalem, Jordan

Oct. 6–17 • From \$6,384, including airfare

GREECE: ATHENS AND THE ISLAND
OF POROS

Nafplio, Epidaurus, Mycenae, Hydra

Oct. 7–17 • From \$2,595

MEDITERRANEAN SPAIN

Valencia, Xativa, Tarragona, Barcelona

A melting pot of diverse civilizations, Spain beckons travelers from near and far.

Sept. 14–23 • From \$2,795

TRADE ROUTES OF COASTAL IBERIA

Algarve, Granada, Spain, Ibiza, Palma de Mallorca

Oct. 23–31 • From \$5,195

For a full list of Aggie Adventure travel opportunities, trip details, deadlines and cost, visit alumni.ucdavis.edu/travel, call 530-752-4502 or email aggieadventures@ucdavis.edu.

Dates and prices are subject to minor changes.

One world, endless Aggie Adventures.



ALUMNI PROFILE FIXED FOR SUCCESS

by Cody Kitaura

WHEN HE WAS A UC DAVIS STUDENT, Ary Ashoor '12 saw tricksters showing off on fixed-gear bicycles in front of the Coffee House, and wanted to join them.

But many of the riders, astride \$800 bikes, scoffed at cheaper sets of wheels. So Ashoor, an environmental toxicology major, set out with roommate Vince Vu '12, an English major, to make their own bikes.

That was the birth of what is now City Bicycle Co., a Sacramento business that sells affordable fixed-gear bicycles—including their latest, a UC Davis-branded bike, sold at the campus Bike Barn or online at citybicycleco.com.

Ashoor and Vu started by refurbishing bicycles in their garage and selling them on Craigslist. Eventually, the pair went hunting for better parts, and connected with a Chinese manufacturer. Scraping together \$12,000, the pair commissioned 90 bicycles of their own design.

When the first bicycles arrived on a freighter during a rainy finals week, they thought the shipping container could just be “dropped off” at their Davis house. “We had no idea what we were doing,” Ashoor said.

Instead, the duo stored the bikes at the Port of Oakland until they could lug them by U-Haul truck to Davis. After assembling the bikes, they delivered 30 to Los Angeles, Irvine and San Diego, where friends over-

A Sacramento warehouse—and the Web—form the hub of an online fixed-gear bicycle company run by Will Elser, Vince Vu '12, C.J. Morello III, M.A. '13, and Ary Ashoor '12.

saw Craigslist sales. They sold the rest locally and, within six weeks, all 90 were gone.

They’ve named bicycles after cities where friends live (Brooklyn, Tokyo, Los Angeles). To market the company, they give bikes to friends who share “City Stories” online about where and how they ride.

For help with writing for their website, the pair turned to C.J. Morello III, a 2013 graduate of the Master’s in Creative Writing program, as well as Sacramento website development firm Creative California.

City Bicycle Co. incorporated in 2013, started selling bicycles on its own website and doubled its revenue. In 2014 estimated gross sales topped \$250,000.

The company is still no cash cow. The four full-time employees and a part-time photographer work in a drafty, unmarked Sacramento warehouse and store numerous bikes in Ashoor’s garage.

Vu and Ashoor hope to eventually turn over operations to technician and friend Will Elser.

After all, they have other dreams to pursue. “But for now,” Ashoor said, “we’re delighting in seeing our college endeavor bud into a national enterprise.”



KARIN HIGGINS/UC Davis

CLASS NOTES

1960

An oral history interview with longtime concert and live-event producer **Bill Hollingshead** has been posted on the National Association of Music Merchants website (namm.org). His wife, **Sharon Dianne (Fritter)** '63, Cred. '63, had an exhibition at the Buehler Alumni Center this spring of her oil painting interpretations of historical photos by Bill's father, Paul.

1972

Donald Bell is commander of The Salvation Army USA Southern Territory, headquartered in Atlanta, Georgia. He oversees all Salvation Army programs in 15 Southern states. He held a similar position in New Zealand, Fiji and Tonga the past five years.

Entomologist **Mary Louise Flint** received the UC Davis Academic Federation's 2014 James H. Meyer Distinguished Achievement Award. She retired last summer after 31 years as Cooperative Extension specialist in the Davis-based

Keep in touch

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Email: alumni@ucdavis.edu

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President:

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

Vice President/President-Elect:

Debby Stegura '79

Executive Director:

Richard Engel '90, Cred. '91

UC Statewide Integrated Pest Management Program. "Her name is synonymous with IPM, pest control alternatives and public service . . . worldwide," said Michael Parrella, professor and chair of the Department of Entomology and Nematology. Flint is married to **Stephen Meyer** '71, a Sacramento attorney and son of the late former Chancellor James Meyer, for whom the award is named.

1973

After serving eight years in the Idaho Legislature, **Les Bock** has joined nonprofit Centro de Comunidad y Justicia as an immigration attorney. The Boise Democrat spent 2006–08 in the Idaho House of Representatives and 2008–14 in the state Senate.

1974

Jim Rutledge, Ph.D., is making a second attempt at retirement. He served as CEO of Coffee Memorial Blood Center in Amarillo, Texas, for 11 years, retiring in 2011. Nine months later he became interim executive director of Harrington Regional Medical Center, also in Amarillo. He and his wife relocated to Lebanon, Oregon, to be further away from job offers and closer to grandkids and water.

1975

Gary Gilliland, an expert on cancer genetics, became president and director of Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle in January. He previously was



Neil Barker '74, **Patty Gaffney Tescher** '74, **Bert Levy** '74, **Curt Robinson** '74, M.A. '81, Ph.D. '95, and **Chris Bonfiglio** '74, held a micro-reunion in Davis last November, enjoying Aggie football and sharing memories of their UC Davis days. Barker is a Pasadena attorney. Tescher is a retired Sacramento County human resources manager. Levy is a state appellate court justice in Fresno. Robinson directs the nonprofit Floodplain Management Association in Sacramento. Bonfiglio directs San Rafael nonprofit Casa Allegra Community Services.

vice president of precision medicine at Pennsylvania's Perelman School of Medicine, an executive at Merck Research Laboratories and a professor and Howard Hughes Medical Institute investigator at Harvard Medical School.

1979

Gov. Jerry Brown appointed **Steve Montgomery**, D.V.M. '83, of Blythe, to another term on the Colorado River Fair board of directors, where he has served since 1998. Montgomery owns Circle H Veterinary Hospital in Blythe.

Debby Stegura is president of the Palos Verdes Library District board of trustees. She also is vice-president and president-elect of the Cal Aggie Alumni Association.



CAAA MEMBER PROFILE

The gratitude of an honored vet

by GERALYN BRODER MURRAY

JOHN SHIRLEY '50, D.V.M. '52 was already a “vet” when he joined UC Davis’ first veterinary class in 1948—a decorated World War II infantry veteran who fought in Italy, France and Germany and who, at 19 years old, saw his first combat at Anzio Beachhead.

Now 90 and retired from his Livermore veterinary practice, Shirley still maintains deep connections to the events and places that so strongly shaped his life—the war in Europe and his education at UC Davis.

He wrote a book, *I Remember: Stories of a Combat Infantryman in World War II* (released in March as an Amazon Kindle edition), has spoken at Veterans Day events in the San Francisco Bay Area and made numerous trips to Europe to revisit the towns he helped liberate. In 1994, he introduced President Bill Clinton at 50th anniversary ceremonies at the American Cemetery in Nettuno, Italy. In 2005, a plaza was dedicated to Shirley in Bennwihr, the French village where in 1944 he had been wounded, taken prisoner and escaped by hitting his German guard on the chin.

At UC Davis, Shirley has been involved in the Cal Aggie Alumni Association—a life member since 1972. He served as a UC Davis Foundation trustee from 1995 to 2001. And he has stayed active in the School of Veterinary

Medicine, helping to organize 50th and 60th reunions of the veterinary school’s first graduating Class of 1952.

Shirley still remembers shouting with glee when he got his letter of acceptance into UC Davis’ veterinary program. And while he has a Silver Star, two Bronze Stars and a Purple Heart from his war service, he pointed out to a visitor a UC Davis plaque on his office wall that holds a special place in his heart.

“That one’s from the vet school. We were the first class ever,” Shirley said. “UC Davis gave me a great profession, lots of friends—and a wife!”

After graduating, he went on to have a thriving veterinary practice for 30 years. He also served as mayor of Livermore, president of the local Rotary Club and president of Livermore Valley Opera. He and his wife, fellow Aggie Helen (Freeman), have five children, four grandchildren and two great-granddaughters

“I got a great education at UC Davis,” Shirley said. “I want to pay back some of that, and CAAA lets me do that. I give what I can. It’s the natural thing to do.”



Visit alumni.ucdavis.edu for more of John Shirley’s story.

ALUMNI

1985

D. Rachael Bishop is the communications director for the American Anthropological Association, based in Arlington, Virginia. She has more than 25 years of experience in science communications and public affairs, the last five years with the American Chemical Society. For the past six years, she also taught writing and literature courses at the University of Virginia.

1987

Chuck Fox, an entomology professor at the University of Kentucky, Lexington, returned to UC Davis in November to speak at an entomology seminar. He specializes in insect genetics and behavior and evolutionary ecology.

1989

A garment designed by **Juliette (Howland) Kimes**, won the Best Suited for Travel category in the 2014 Association of Sewing and Design Professionals Power Suit Challenge. Her outfit, “Going Places,” was featured in the April/May 2015 issue of *Threads* magazine. She lives with her husband, three dogs and two donkeys in the Texas Hill Country region near Austin, Texas.

1990

ShoppingScout, a grocery price comparison Web and mobile app developed by **Ken Ouimet**, was one of “three handy apps with local roots” featured in *Comstock’s* magazine last October. His company has offices in Davis, San Francisco, and Scottsdale, Arizona. He previously co-founded Khimetrics, which pioneered price optimization software for retail companies.

1991

Rare disease expert **John McKew**, Ph.D.,

is vice president for research at aTyr Pharma. Before joining the San Diego therapeutics company, he spent more than two decades in translational research positions at the National Institutes of Health, Wyeth Research and Genetics Institute.

Brian Victor was named to *Super Lawyers’* 2015 California Rising Stars list. He practices family law in San Diego.

1992

Former California Assemblyman **Jeff Gorell**, R-Camarillo, is a senior attorney at Anderson Kill law firm in Ventura and a commander and intelligence officer in the U.S. Navy Reserve. He ran for Congress last year, narrowly losing to Democratic freshman Rep. Julia Brownley. The race was so tight that it went uncalled for more than a week after the November election.

A *Sacramento Bee* dining review in November praised **Suleka Sun-Lindley’s** Thai Basil restaurant for combining sustainable practices with traditional ethnic cuisine, calling it one of the city’s “most compelling eateries of its kind.”

1993

Christina Fugazi was elected to the Stockton City Council in November. She is a high school science teacher for Venture Academy Family of Schools.

Grant Guilford, Ph.D., is the vice chancellor and chief executive for Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand’s top research university. He previously worked at two other New Zealand campuses—as dean of science at University of Auckland and a veterinary professor at Massey University.

1994

Scott Barton was recently promoted to senior vice president of branded digital

content and products in the program planning department of the Starz premium cable TV network.

Linda Callis Buckley, Ph.D., is chief planning officer for the University of the Pacific in Stockton. She spent the past eight years as associate vice president of academic affairs at San Francisco State University. She previously was a faculty member at Sacramento State.

1995

Employee benefits attorney **Alison Wright**, J.D., is a partner at the San Francisco office of Hanson Bridgett.

1997

Lindsay Harrington was recently promoted to senior trial attorney at Steve Mason Law in Davis. She specializes in personal injury and employment law.

1999

David Kesselman, J.D., and **Aimee Dudovitz**, J.D., have helped launched a new antitrust law firm, Kesselman, Brantly and Stockinger in Los Angeles—Kesselman as a partner and Dudovitz, a clinical professor at Loyola School of Law, as “of counsel.”

Beth Lorsbach, Ph.D., is one of 10 female chemists nationwide to be named a 2015 Rising Star by the American Chemical Society. A process chemistry leader with Dow AgroSciences in Indianapolis, she has authored 24 patent applications and given 15 national conference presentations.

2000

Matt and Michelle (Modrich) Westoby welcomed their third child, Emerson Marie, in November. She joined brother Tyler Davis and sister Ella Rose. They live in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, where Matt works in biotechnology.

ALUMNI WINEMAKERS

Q: What advice do you have for students or alumni interested in joining the wine industry?

Karl Antink '99

White Winemaker, J. Lohr Vineyards & Wines, San José and Monterey County

Wines: Highlands Bench Chardonnay, Estates Flume Crossing Sauvignon Blanc



“Be inquisitive. UC Davis professors and staff are a tremendous source of knowledge—talk to them as much as possible, take the time you have with them and get the most from it. I would also encourage students to fully utilize the library and other campus resources. There are a lot really good journals for viticulture and enology as well as food, plant and soil sciences. UC Davis is an amazing resource for students and industry professionals alike. Use those resources to the fullest as a student and throughout your life.”

Janis Akuna '72, Wine Executive Program '12

Owner, Andis Wines, Plymouth, Amador County

Wines: Andis Estate Zinfandel, Andis Barbera, and the Andis Semillon



“Fortunately, there are endless opportunities for people with diverse personalities. If you like people, then the front of the house—which includes the tasting room, retail sales, special events and event planning—is where you want to be. If you are more of a scientist, there is the cellar where opportunities include winemaking and chemistry. If you like farming, there’s the vineyard. And

let’s not forget the business expertise needed—there are management roles in finance and accounting, legal and compliance, and marketing and sales.”

John Bucher '84

Owner, Bucher Vineyard Wines, Healdsburg, Sonoma County

Wines: Pinot Noir, Chardonnay, Rosé of Pinot Noir



“Anyone considering taking wine-making classes should also look at taking business classes. Growing grapes and making wine are only part of the equation. You need to understand sales, marketing and running a wine business.

“Many factors determine the price of grapes, including weather, pests, and other unpredictable factors. Additionally, basic business courses such as economics, accounting, marketing, and management will allow for growth and promotion potential with their career, whether as an employee or business owner.”

The Alumni Wine Program offers an array of opportunities for alumni and friends of UC Davis to share their wines with fellow alumni, parents and friends of the university through wine events, tours and tastings, and wine education programs.



To learn how you can become involved, visit alumni.ucdavis.edu

ALUMNI

2003

Michael Chan, vice president of ComplianceEase, has been named one of Mortgage Professional America Magazine's "Hot 100 for 2015" for his efforts to improve mortgage lending oversight.

Construction attorney **Catherine Hanna-Blentzas** was named a shareholder at Sullivan Hill law firm in San Diego. She is active in the Cal Aggie Alumni Association's San Diego chapter.

Business attorney **Elizabeth Leet Jackson** has joined Sacramento law firm Delfino Madden O'Malley Coyle & Koewler as an associate.

2004

April Salomon is the executive director

of the Musical Instrument Museum in Phoenix. Before joining the museum staff in 2007, she worked at the Heard Museum, Institute for Learning Innovation and the Smithsonian Institution.

2005

Ryan Fuller completed his Ph.D. in communication at UC Santa Barbara in September 2014.

Corinne Gartner, J.D., was promoted to partner at Delfino Madden O'Malley Coyle & Koewler law firm in Sacramento. She advises nonprofit and tax-exempt organizations on business matters.

2006

Tristan Hoffmann founded the Three Villages Project (threevillagesproject.org).

Originally focused on poverty relief in Sierra Leone, the nonprofit organization is now helping health centers there confront the Ebola epidemic.

2007

Stephanie (Alford) Ogren, JD '11, is an associate at Sacramento firm Delfino Madden O'Malley Coyle & Koewler. She specializes in employment law.

2008

Intellectual property attorney **Thomas Varnum**, J.D., was named to *Super Lawyers'* 2015 Rising Star list as well as *Business North Carolina's* "Legal Elite" and "Young Guns" lists. He is a partner with Brooks, Pierce, McLendon, Humphrey & Leonard in Wilmington, North Carolina.

IN MEMORIAM

Evert Schlinger '50, Ph.D. '57, a UC Berkeley entomology professor emeritus and philanthropist, died in October in Lafayette. He was 86. As an undergraduate, he played football, ran track and belonged to Calpha fraternity. He was a charter member of the Cal Aggie Alumni Association, established an endowed chair in insect systems and received the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences' 1999 Award of Distinction.

Kenneth Tucker, Ph.D. '56, a retired entomologist/apiculturist, died in October 2014 in Santa Barbara at age 90. After working as a University of Minnesota Extension entomologist, he joined the federal Honey Bee Laboratory in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, where part of his research was on Africanized bees in Venezuela.

John Cole '79, M.S. '86, production director for Kendall-Jackson Wine

Estate in Santa Rosa, died in December of complications from multiple myeloma. He was 57. His wine career experience also included posts at Fetzer Vineyards and Trefethen Vineyards.

Redding attorney **Patrick Wallace** '88, J.D., '91, died in February of complications from Hodgkin's lymphoma. He was 62.

Faculty and Friends

Vernon Burton, a University Extension entomologist at UC Davis from 1960 to 1988, died in January in Davis. He was 90. A World War II veteran, he fought in the Battle of the Bulge.

Wyland "S" Cripe '50, D.V.M. '52, a former associate dean at the School of Veterinary Medicine and an expert on water buffalo, died of complications from

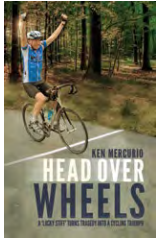
Alzheimer's disease last December in Micanopy, Florida. He was 93. He helped establish the University of Florida's College of Veterinary Medicine.

Allan McKillop, a professor emeritus of mechanical engineering who helped found the College of Engineering, died in Davis in October 2014 after battling leukemia.

Entomologist **Donald McLean** of Paradise, a retired faculty member and administrator, died in March 2014. He was 85. He was a former chair of the entomology department and dean of the Division of Biological Sciences.

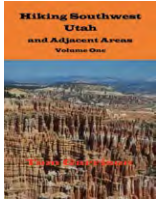
Ann Foley Scheuring, of Rumsey, a former UC Davis editor and writer who wrote *Abundant Harvest: The History of the University of California, Davis* (2001), died in October 2014 after a struggle

BOOKS AND RECORDINGS

**Cyclist Ken**

Mercurio '73 was going 28 mph on a training ride in 2007 when his bike fork snapped, catapulting him onto his head and breaking his neck and

six other bones. In *Head Over Wheels* (Sunbury Press, 2014), the retired Carnation/Nestlé USA nutrition director writes about his recovery from the near-fatal crash.

**Tom Garrison,**

M.A. '76, hiked 25 desert trails to write *Hiking Southwest Utah and Adjacent Areas, Volume One* (CreateSpace, 2014).

His 2013 book, *Challenge Authority: Memoir of a Baby Boomer*, won second place for nonfiction in the League of Utah Writers Published Book Contest last September.



A bilingual children's book by

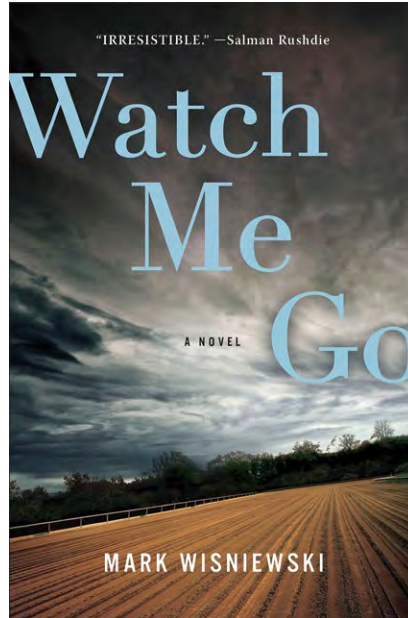
Katora Ann (Cox) Morejohn '76, *Marla and the Lost Calf*

(Portuguese Heritage Publications, 2014), tells the story of a young farm girl who gets lost searching for her favorite calf in the Marin headlands. Morejohn's husband, **Dwight Morejohn**, illustrated the book.



Sonoma County Superior Court **Judge Jim Bertoli '82** and other legal professionals in country rock band Court 'n' Disaster

released their first CD, *Guilty as Charged*. The band's website is cndband.com.



A noir thriller by Pushcart Prize-winner **Mark Wisniewski, M.A. '91**, *Watch Me Go* (Penguin Random House Putnam, 2015), intertwines narratives of a junk hauler charged in multiple murders and a young female jockey with information that could help exonerate him. *Watch Me Go*, Wisniewski's third novel, received advance praise from Salman Rushdie, Ben Fountain, Daniel Woodrell and other noted authors.

**Susan Adrian**

(Caward) Barth '92, a scientific editor at Montana Tech of the University of Montana, writes about a teen with a superpower in *Tunnel Vision* (St. Martin's Press, 2015). The young adult thriller is her debut novel.

Daniel Orenstein '92, an assistant professor in the architecture and town planning department at Technion-Israel Institute of Technology, co-edited



Between Ruin and Restoration: An Environmental History of Israel (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2013).



Africa Hands '97 offers help to library professionals in *Successfully Serving the College Bound* (ALA Editions, 2015). She also contributed two entries to *Comics through Time: A History of Icons, Idols, and*

Ideas, edited by M. Keith Booker (Greenwood, 2014).

**Annameekee**

Hesik '99, an English teacher at Los Gatos High School, writes again about the Gila High adventures of Abbey Brooks in *Driving Lessons* (Bold

Strokes Books, 2014), the second in her You Know Who Girls series. Now a sophomore, Abbey plans to get her driver's license and come out to her mom.

**Gloria Ng '00** wrote

Name Games: A Multicultural Children's Story, about a 9-year-old Nigerian American girl who comes to terms with her Yorùbá

name after a name-calling incident. The story first appeared in *Skipping Stones* literary magazine. Ng later adapted it for release as an e-book.

One to One THE ROUTE MASTERS



Jeff Pelz '86: Worked as a conductor (collecting fares on the back of a double-decker bus), driver, route supervisor and personnel manager • Spent hours in a room with student employees to line up work and class schedules pre-computers • Enjoyed the challenge of driving a full, swaying double-decker bus around dark corners in the rain

“WHAT I LOVED about it was—especially when you were driving—you had to completely put everything else out of your mind. If you were worrying about a paper or homework assignment. . . it was like a break. You had to focus completely on that job.

“The shifting was very challenging on the double-deckers. It wasn't a clutch—it was a pedal that disengaged and engaged the gears, but you had to press it and select the gear just at the moment when the engine speed matched the new gear. If you missed it, the whole bus would lurch dramatically and people would bump into the seat in front of them. It was an art. People would always complain when you didn't get it, but they didn't notice when you got it, because it was nice and smooth.

“There was something fun about driving a bus that old. It's like driving an antique car around. Even the modern buses were fun to drive around—it was a sense of responsibility.”

Pelz is a vice president of Davis civil engineering firm West Yost Associates.



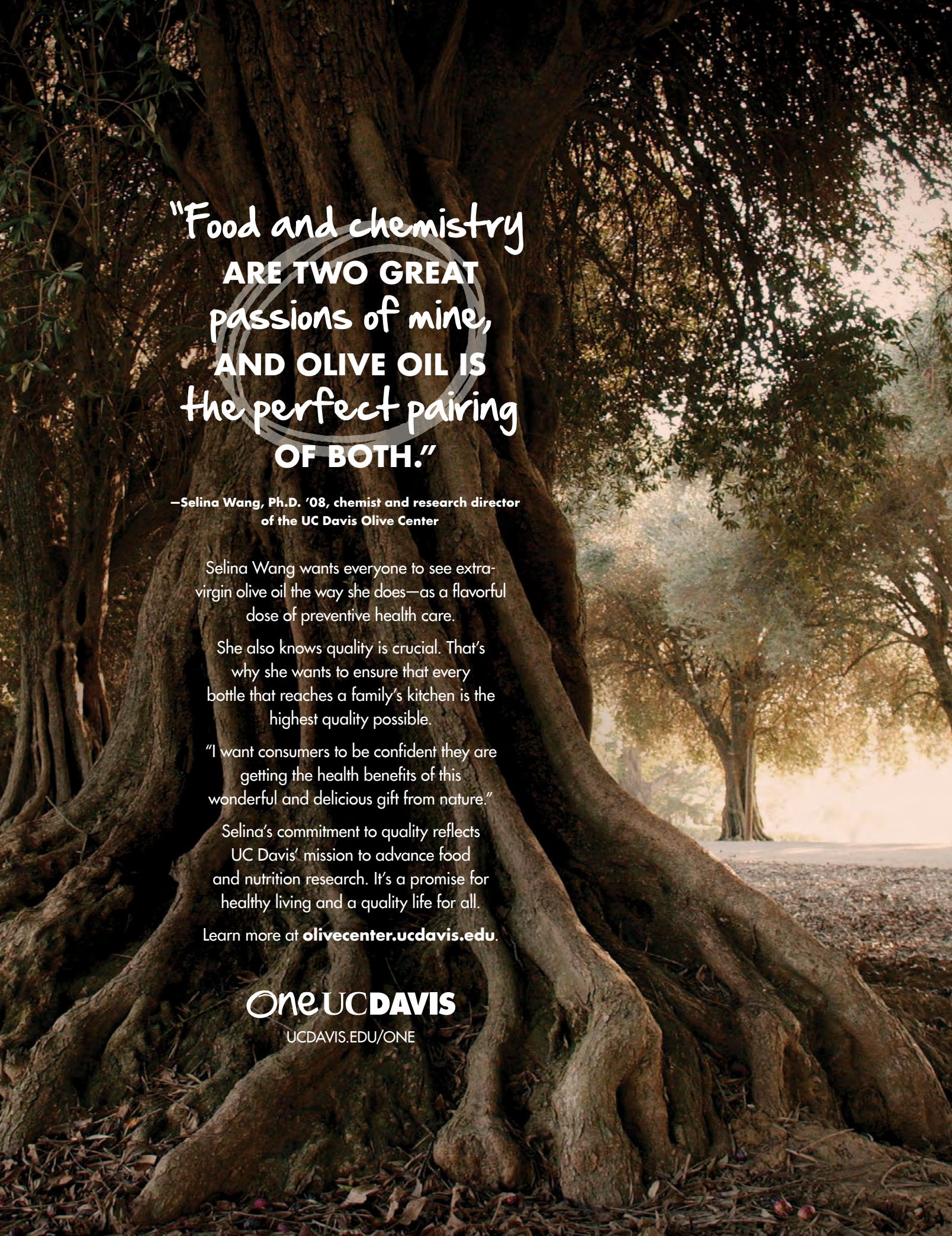
Shazib Haq '15: Worked as a driver, route supervisor and operations manager • Chose work schedule via computer, but still had to attend a meeting with every employee to cover the last few shifts • Once drove halfway back to the garage after a shift before realizing a student was curled up on a seat

“I LIKE THE ASPECT of driving . . . It was a way I could unwind and not think about class or anything else I was doing. If I had a tough class, I could take a step outside after and drive.

“When I was a lot younger I used to live in England—when I was 3 to 5 years old. One of the things I remember was the classic London double-decker bus. I saw that here and was like, ‘I want to do that.’

“Because of the fact that it's student run, it's really a sense of your community as a student. . . . We understand what's going on with students' lives. We understand if you don't want to work if you have a final tomorrow. We'll see if we can switch your shifts around.”

Haq is a senior majoring in neurobiology, physiology and behavior.



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—Selina Wang, Ph.D. '08, chemist and research director
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- Make college affordable through scholarships
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