

AlumniNotes

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COWELL COLLEGE

'68 Paul MARKOWITZ retired in 2008 after teaching in the Las Virgenes Unified School District for 34 years. He served for nine years as president of the Las Virgenes Educators Association and nine years on the Board of the California Teacher's Association. Since retiring, he has been active in the Plato Society of Los Angeles, coordinating study discussion groups on historical topics.

'69 Ann GRIFFIN Macfarlane is trying to transform the use of meeting procedure in the U.S. by taking Robert's Rules and applying the best of it for modern conditions. This quixotic endeavor, based in Seattle and entitled "Jurassic Parliament," has given her some unusual parliamentary assignments over the years. She and co-author Andrew Estep have just published *Mastering Council Meetings* and are writing *Mastering Board Meetings*. **Warren NELSON**, a partner at Fisher & Phillips LLP's Irvine, Calif. office was recognized as a top attorney in *The Best Lawyers in America* 2014. Nelson has been listed in *The Best Lawyers in America* since 2010. **Nancy (ROARK) Ruiz DePuy** lost her husband Victor to cancer in 2008, and has since reconnected with Richard L. DePuy, whom she first met in 7th grade. The two were married in May 2013. In August, her daughter Christina gave birth to her first grandchild, Sofia. In May 2014, she is retiring as adjunct art history instructor at Cabrillo College: "In this role," she says, "I have been inspired by my memories of Mary Holmes."

'70 Betsy BUCHALTER Adler, after 30 years of practicing philanthropy law with Adler & Colvin in San Francisco (the firm she co-founded), has graduated to her next set of adventures—helping to run an independent foundation, trying to move from dilettante birder to true amateur status, working on several writing projects, and enjoying the

non-billable hour. Betsy and her husband divide their time between Pacific Grove and New York City and also enjoy spending time with their grandchildren in Sacramento. **Roxanne KELLAM** is program director at SteppingStone Mission Creek Adult Day Health Care in San Francisco. She lives in Oakland with her partner of 20 years, Leslie Brandt. They were among the same sex couples that married in 2008.

'71 Peter MYERS's theatrical feature screenplay on the life of Leonardo da Vinci has been picked up by two producers, who plan an \$80 million production of the script. An investor in the project said the script breaks new ground in da Vinci scholarship.

'72 Thom DODD writes: "Pam and I are still living in New Zealand (17 years now). Hope you all are as happy as we are."

'74 Don WALLACE's new book, *The French House: An American Family, a Ruined Maison, and the Village that Restored Them All*, will be published in June 2014. The book, a memoir of his family's adventures restoring a house on a tiny French island, has received advance raves from (among others) Jane Smiley and Meryl Streep, who said, "The French House moves to a soulful, very funny rhythm all its own."

'75 Karen WCISLO recently retired after 33 years with Kaiser Permanente as a genetic counselor, supervisor, and manager.

'84 Michael BEE, a captain in the U.S. Coast Guard and deputy director of the National Maritime Intelligence-Integration Office in Washington, DC, recently returned from Saudi Arabia after serving as an advisor to the Saudi Coast Guard. He and **Jill BEE** (also Cowell '84) celebrated their 31st wedding anniversary in 2013.

'85 Martin WOLLESEN has been appointed executive director of the Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center at the University of Maryland.



Hey alums! UCSC is turning 50 next year. Help us get ready for the celebration! Check out 50years.ucsc.edu for info and events, and to contribute to a living timeline. Post your stories, share your photos, and build history.

'87 Dinah SANDERS's new book, *The Art of the Shim: Low-Alcohol Cocktails to Keep You Level*, is the first book to celebrate and clearly define less-boozy offerings that have all the serious rewards of their stronger siblings. Cheers!

'88 Diana EICHER received a Surface Design Association Personal Development Grant to learn how to sew and use her screen-printed papercut imagery to construct wearable art.

'94 Julia BERGER finally met **Martin AZEVEDO** (Crown '89) after 20 years of sharing most of the same friends, interests, and Bay Area experiences. The couple married in 2012 and welcomed their son Zane in October 2013. Both work in the health care industry by day, and by night pursue creative projects often involving costumes and accordions.

'96 Michael E. SIEVERS was recently promoted to counsel at Hunton & Williams in the firm's Richmond, Va., office.

'00 Celeste HOFFPAUIR was one of 50 U.S. teachers profiled and celebrated in the book *American Teacher: Heroes in the Classroom*

by Katrina Fried, published in October 2013.

'05 Alli WARREN's debut book of poetry, *Here Come the Warm Jets*, was released by City Lights Publishers in September 2013.

'07 Ian STEWART and Rose SULLIVAN (also Cowell '07) were married in January 2013 in San Francisco. The two first met in the Cowell College dormitories as freshmen, then re-met after grad school and started dating. Rose is a sixth grade teacher in San Francisco, and Ian is the editor of San Francisco Giants and Oakland A's magazines.

STEVENSON COLLEGE

'69 Alan DEYOUNG has been named the director of the Aga Khan University Institute for Educational Development (Pakistan). Prior to joining AKU-IED, he was as professor and chair of the Department of Educational Policy Studies and Evaluation at the University of Kentucky. **Kim JAMIESON** lives in Granbury, Texas, and is an adjunct professor in the Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies at Tarleton State University. He spends most of his time playing guitar and mandolin and is looking forward to the 45th reunion of the Pioneer Class.

'71 Gil STEIN has been named CAMERA's letter writer of the year for 2014. CAMERA (Committee for Accuracy in Middle-East Reporting in America) is a media watchdog group with over 65,000 members.

'76 Rob CLARKE is co-author (with Mark Merlin) of *Cannabis: Evolution and Ethnobotany*, published in September 2013 by University of California Press. Clarke is a cannabis researcher and projects manager for the International Hemp Association in Amsterdam, and author of *Marijuana Botany and Hashish!*

'78 Paul BERGE wrote and directed "Trying To Quit", a short

Hot Dates

narrative film exploring the morality of mandatory sentencing laws. The film is online at vimeo.com/buttercowinfinipix.

'83 Stuart LEAVENWORTH, editorial page editor of *The Sacramento Bee*, is leaving the paper to become Beijing bureau chief for McClatchy Newspapers. Leavenworth joined *The Bee* in 1999 and became editorial page editor in 2009.

'89 Annabel HERTZ's first novel, *Seeing Green*, is the story of a young woman on a mission to puncture the stasis of Reagan-Bush environmental policy.

'93 Susan E. SMITH has been elected to shareholder at the nationwide law firm Segal McCambridge Singer & Mahoney. **Rayne WATERS**'s debut novel, *The Angels' Share*, was published by Winter Goose in 2012.

'94 James E. OLIVER (TORREZ), Jr. is a founding partner of the five-attorney law firm Durflinger Oliver & Associates in Tacoma, Wash. The firm was established in 2010.

'98 Erin Lindsay MCCABE's novel, *I Shall Be Near to You*, was released in January 2014 by Crown Publishing. It was featured in the January issues of *Glamour* and *Elle* magazines and received starred reviews from Kirkus and Booklist. The novel was inspired by a research paper she wrote for Professor Lisbeth Haas's *U.S. Women's History* class about one of the at least 200 women who fought in the Civil War disguised as men.

'11 Kristina VAN CITTERS recently received a master's in bioethics from NYU and is currently working in clinical research at Cedars-Sinai in Los Angeles. She is forever grateful for her time at UCSC and credits many of her professors with motivating her to continue her education.

CROWN COLLEGE

'70 Jeffrey SUE earned his M.S. in computer science at Stanford (1972), then an M.D. at, UCLA (1978). He went on to practice radiology in Stockton, Kauai, and (for the last 20 years) Honolulu. Now retired from radiology, he is doing computer programming for the same radiology group.

'74 Rich HOGAN is still on the sociology faculty at Purdue University. He was recently elected chair of the Marxist Sociology section of the American Sociological Association and is

preparing to celebrate the 40th anniversary of Marxist Sociology in ASA (August 2014 in San Francisco).

'75 Lori JOHNS sends greetings from Brookings, Ore., where she is working as a family nurse practitioner. She retired from the California Army National Guard after 28 years of service and also enjoyed being a "Slug Mom"—her daughter **Erin STEPHENS** graduated from Kresge College in 2008.

'82 James BATEK writes: "After figuring out why I ever wanted to transgender I have returned to cisgender and expect to stay so permanently."

'89 Martin AZEVEDO finally met **Julia BERGER** (Cowell '94) after twenty years of sharing most of the same friends, interests, and Bay Area experiences. The couple married in 2012 and welcomed their son Zane in October 2013. Both work in the health care industry by day, and by night pursue creative projects often involving costumes and accordions. Martin's humor writings have appeared in numerous publications, most recently McSweeney's online.

'11 Marcelino PLASCENCIA has developed Bridgin', a free iPhone and iPad app that offers financial resources for students.

MERRILL COLLEGE

'72 Eric CAIN lives in Portland and produces history documentaries for OPB Television. Recent subjects include Rajneeshpuram, Governor Tom McCall, and author/prankster Ken Kesey.

'74 Katherine (JAYE) McHale is a doctoral candidate in art history at the University of St Andrew's, Scotland. Her dissertation focuses on the Italian painters working in 18th-century Britain. Her article "Tiepolo, Inc.: Two Madonnas and the Master's Hand" will be published in the journal *Dieciocho* (University of Virginia) in Spring 2014.

'77 Joshua PECHTHALT, president of the California Federation of Teachers, has received the 2014 United in Courage Award. The award honors "his unwavering courage as a partner and collaborator in the fight for a more progressive and just society."

'83 Michael LINICK retired in November 2013, culminating a 30-year Army career. He retired with the rank of colonel and is now

working for the RAND Corporation in Washington, D.C., as a senior defense policy researcher.

'90 Dan GLUESENKAMP celebrated his first year as Executive Director of the California Native Plant Society.

'91 Vince CHHABRIA was confirmed as a U.S. district judge for the Northern District of California in March 2014. He has served since 2005 in the San Francisco City Attorney's Office.

'99 Amber WEST successfully defended her creative dissertation for a Ph.D. in English at the University of Connecticut. She also directed and produced the third annual Puppets & Poets festival in New York City, which she created with Alphabet Arts, the artists collective she co-founded in 2009.

'02 Carlos E. ALEMAN is an assistant professor of history at Samford University in Alabama and director of the Latin American Studies Scholars Program. He specializes in the history of 20th-century Central America.

Mostafa GHOUSS has been named director of student activities and campus life at Berkeley City College.

'03 Cody JANG has worked as a youth developer in San Francisco and Oakland since graduation. He's now community manager at Vega Football Club, supporting underprivileged players and families by providing access to competitive youth soccer—with the goal of sending all the players to and through college.

'05 Justin HOFMAN recently returned from his fourth season working in Antarctica as an underwater videographer and educator with Lindblad Expeditions aboard the National Geographic fleet. This season he did a live underwater broadcast from Cape Horn, photographed Southern right whales underwater, and captured underwater footage of leopard seals in the South Orkneys.

PORTER COLLEGE

'74 Lisa JENSEN's weekly film reviews have appeared in *Good Times Santa Cruz*, since 1975. Her historical novel, *The Witch From the Sea*, was published in 2001, and her fantasy novel, *Alias Hook*, will be published by Thomas Dunne Books in July 2014.

'75 Ira HEILVEIL was given an Outstanding PBL Tutor award by the Department of Psychiatry at

Founders Celebration 2014

October 25, 2014

Founders Celebration 2014 Honorees

Foundation Medal

Toni Morrison, Nobel- and Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist

Fiat Lux Award

The Joseph M. Long family, committed volunteers and leadership donors to UC Santa Cruz

Alumni Achievement Award

Mark Headley (Stevenson '83, politics and economics)

Faculty Research Lecturer

TBD

Maitra Lecture

November 13, 2014

Wade Davis, anthropologist, explorer, and author

Faculty Research Lecture

Date TBD

Martin Luther King Jr. Convocation

Date TBD

Alumni Weekend 2015

April 24, 25, and 26, 2015

For more events, visit **events.ucsc.edu**

Brett Dennen: Blessed

by Dan White

The singer-songwriter Brett Dennen (Kresge '04, community studies) stands out like a bright-yellow banana slug on a brown leaf. He's unmistakable, with his flame-colored hair, on-stage dance moves, and reedy voice.

In the decade since graduating, he's traveled from the halls of Kresge College to Carnegie Hall, the Bonnaroo camping festival, and the *Late Show with David Letterman*. He's gotten the chance to hone his craft, traveling with musicians like Dave Matthews and Jason Mraz, but UC Santa Cruz left him with perhaps an even more important gift—something to write about.

UCSC's community studies program left an indelible stamp on the lanky, six-foot-four, bespectacled Dennen, who looks younger than his 34 years.

"I came from a sheltered environment, not a diverse town—a little cowboy town in the valley," Dennen said in a phone interview from Venice Beach, where he rested before playing a cruise-ship festival from Miami to Grand Cayman featuring the band Train.

Raised in Oakdale, California (Stanislaus County), he enjoyed



being home-schooled but had a jarring experience in high school, which he calls a "failure factory" in a new song, "When We Were Young." UCSC was a much more nurturing environment.

"Santa Cruz is where I first started making friends with people who were very different from me, and the first place where I studied social issues in school, because I had never really lived them," Dennen said.

Dennen, now touring to support his album, *Smoke and Mirrors*, spoke of "mind-blowing classes" taught by community studies lecturer Mike Rotkin, and David Wellman, now a professor emeritus in the Social Sciences Division.

Rotkin remembers Dennen as "a really good student who understands the importance of art and culture to get people to think critically. And he performed a song in one of my classes."

UCSC's influence shows up in Dennen's best-known songs, including the haunting "Ain't No Reason," in which Dennen takes on apathy and social injustice: "Keep on building prisons, gonna fill them all. Keep on building bombs, gonna drop them all."

At UCSC he also began to get more comfortable singing live and finding his voice.

"I'm still pretty shy," he said, "but being up on stage forces me to let my colors out. I have a creative side that needs to be nurtured in a protective environment, and an extroverted side, that comes out in full force. People pay a lot of freaking money to go to shows. I want to be myself and have a good time. I just want the audience to have fun."

Becoming a Slug was all but inevitable for Dennen, who divides his time between Los Angeles and Stanislaus County. His brother, sister, and three cousins all attended UCSC.

Now he wonders what might have happened if he'd gone to a different school and studied in a different program.

"Had I gone to an art school and just studied painting," said Dennen, "I don't know if I would have been able to really articulate the thoughts and feelings I was having about becoming a man and trying to make sense of my place in the world and all the injustice and beautiful and sad things happening all around."



Alejandra Vargas: A light in the darkest hours

by Peggy Townsend

For 11 months, Alejandra Vargas and her father lived in one-half of a tiny garage. The room held only a mini-fridge, a twin mattress, and an alarm clock. Her father, an electrician who often worked seven days a week, slept in a blanket on the floor.

Vargas was 17 then, and living through one of the hardest times in her life. She had been diagnosed with Ewing's Sarcoma, an aggressive cancer that generally affects young people, and it had forced the removal and reconstruction of four of her ribs. But doctors told Vargas unless she had chemotherapy, the cancer might come back.

So Vargas, who was born in Los Angeles, and her father, a naturalized U.S. citizen, left their family behind in Tijuana, Mexico, and moved to San Diego for her treatments.

The \$100-a-month garage was all they could afford.

At 25, Vargas is now cancer-free, but the lesson she learned from that time, she says, is what helped guide her into her current work. Today, Vargas is a suicide crisis line program coordinator for Suicide Prevention Services,

where 400-500 lonely, lost, or suicidal people call in for help every month.

"I am really lucky to be alive," says Vargas (Kresge '12, Latin American and Latino studies, literature), "but not everyone thinks that, or they feel their life is hopeless. I want to help them recognize a little bit of that hope."

Vargas's life has mostly been an uphill climb. She was a shy girl whose cancer made her even more introverted. In order to support herself while attending San Diego City College, she worked 20-40 hours a week at the county's animal shelter. At UCSC, she received a few grants, got loans, and held down two jobs in order to pay for her schooling.

But Vargas says there was a part of her that always wanted to give back to her community—although work and the cancer made that hard to do for a long time.

So when a job overseeing the 80 volunteers who staff Suicide Prevention's 24-hour crisis line opened, Vargas knew she had found her niche.

While the Centers for Disease Control estimates an average of 105 people a day die of suicide in

the U.S., Vargas says she had her own brush with the experience. In college, a friend called and threatened to harm himself. Vargas spent eight frightening hours trying to convince him to live.

"It wasn't until later that I found out there were things like suicide hotlines," Vargas says. "If I had known that, I wouldn't have felt so alone."

Her work now consists of supporting volunteers who, like she did, help those struggling with hard times and thoughts of self-harm. She also arranges training sessions and does outreach in order to break the stigma and secrecy around suicide so more people can get help.

"I feel like I am definitely giving back to the community that educated me," Vargas says.

Her supervisor, Assistant Program Director Rosalina Valdez, calls Vargas hard-working, resilient, and determined.

"With everything she has gone through and at her age," Valdez says, "there is a sense of responsibility, maturity, and a zest for life that is incredibly impressive to me."

UCLA Medical School. He also writes a blog at [cftblog.com](#).

'77 Barbara EDELSTEIN had a solo exhibition at the Ruth Bachofner Gallery in Santa Monica in early 2014, with another coming up at the Christian Duvernois Gallery in New York City. She is an art professor at New York University's Shanghai campus and lives between Shanghai and New York with her husband, the artist Jian-Jun Zhang.

'79 Judy SILK writes "My beloved husband and fellow proud Slug **Daniel COGAN** (Porter '83) passed away on November 5, 2013. He learned to love the mountains from his time in Santa Cruz. He will be missed by all who knew him."

'87 Heather (FICK) PAULL lives in Loomis, Calif., and works at Mercury Insurance in Folsom. Her youngest daughter Sarah is a freshman at UCSC, and her oldest daughter Kirsten attends Dickinson College in Pennsylvania. She is enjoying rural life as an empty nester and raising sheep and other miscellaneous livestock.

'97 Claire THORSON's exhibit "Desire & Inquiry: The Art of Claire Thorson," is the third show in the On View Gallery series presented by the Museo Eduardo Carrillo ([museoeduardocarrillo.org/news](#)). Eduardo Carrillo was a member of the UCSC faculty from 1972 until his death in 1997, and Claire studied with him.

'08 Bryce WINTER is a staff member with Santa Cruz-based nonprofit, Ventana Wilderness Alliance (VWA). As field manager for VWA's Youth in Wilderness program, he takes area students into the Big Sur backcountry to educate and inspire future generations of wild land stewards and advocates.

KRESGE COLLEGE

'84 Hilary CLAGGETT is senior acquisitions editor for business, economics, and finance at Praeger Publishers, and she completed her first ultra (a 50K) in November 2013. She has run 10 marathons and 20 half marathons in 15 states and is looking forward to adding more trail runs to the mix. **J. Phillip DIXON** is part of a team producing a documentary film titled *Not Forgotten*, which tells the stories of American GIs who never returned from Vietnam. The project is featured at [kickstarter.com/projects/152583007/not-forgotten](#). **Michelle GREGOR**'s solo exhibition of sculpture opened in December 2013 at the John Natsoulas Gallery in Davis, Calif. ([natsoulas.com](#)). The exhibit was accompanied by publication of a book of her work by John Natsoulas Press. **Nancy MORGAN** specializes in psychogenic polydipsia and hyponatremia in southern Oregon and northern California.

Were you involved in these clinical trials?

During the 1960s and 1970s, UC Santa Cruz sent students to the Clinical Center at NIH in Bethesda, Md., to participate as subjects of clinical trials and to work as research assistants for these trials. Dr. Laura Stark of Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tenn., is embarking on a project that will examine the experiences of the "normal control" research subjects in these NIH trials. If you are interested in contributing by speaking with Dr. Stark about your experience at NIH (or if you would like to learn more about this project), please contact her at (860) 685-3205 or laura.stark@vanderbilt.edu.

'91 Beth LISICK, writer, performer, and independent film actress, is the author of the *New York Times* bestselling comic memoir *Everybody Into the Pool* (2006). Her latest book, *Yokohama Threeway: And Other Small Shames* was released in October 2013 by City Lights Publishers. Peering into life's cringe-worthy moments, she excavates territory that most would rather ignore, including stories based on her time in Santa Cruz.

OAKES COLLEGE

'79 John MOORE (Ph.D. '91) has been a professor of linguistics at UC San Diego since 1992. He is currently provost of John Muir College at UCSD.

'84 Brad GARDNER has been nominated for ten Emmy awards for directing, producing, and audio since 2004, winning Emmys in 2004, 2005 and 2010. He lives in San Diego and is a music venue production manager and technical director.

'94 Kristine ASUNCION, after 2 1/2 years working in Haifa, Israel, as a librarian, is now living in Unalaska, Alaska, working in special education and teaching fine arts. "Love being in this special part of the world again," she says.

'95 Maria OCHOA has been appointed executive director for development and the foundation at Chabot College.

'01 Morgan ADAMSON has joined the Macalester College Media and Cultural Studies Department as a tenure-track assistant professor. Her work brings together film and media theory, documentary and avant-garde cinema, critical theory and cultural studies, critical political economy, and film and video production.

'02 Niketa CALAME appeared in two productions nominated for NAACP theater awards—*The Color Purple* and *Ain't Misbehavin'*, and *The Color Purple* won six Ovation awards. She played "Squeak" in *Color Purple* and "Charlene" in *Ain't Misbehavin'*.

COLLEGE EIGHT

'76 Jan MARQUART lives in Austin, Tex. She is a psychotherapist and has authored eleven books ([AboutTheAuthorNetwork.com](#)).

'78 Joanne FOXXE is a Realtor in Hawaii, and has been installed as Maui area director for the Aloha CRS (Certified Residential Specialists) chapter.

'82 Julie ROLLER and her husband lead small-group tours that explore the natural, historical, and cultural wonders of Turkey.

'01 Denise MCGINNIS received a M.S. in educational leadership with an emphasis on urban education from CSUEB in 2007. She currently teaches language arts, drama, and math intervention at Curtis Creek Middle School in Sonora. In June 2013 she married the love of her life, Mike Gianelli, at his family's winery in Jamestown.

'12 Dan PEARSON spent a frustrating post-grad year researching Howard Hughes' alleged secret fortune of gold and silver bullion and missing artwork from WW II for a book on the subject. He recently returned to Santa Cruz to finish a fiction book on sea otters. He's compiling notes for a non-fiction book, while staying in touch with former creative writing classmates as much as cybernetically possible.

COLLEGE NINE

'06 Brendan EDGERTON is attending the Yale School of Management and Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies pursuing a dual MBA/Master of Environmental Management. His work with Office Depot through the Environmental Defense Fund's Climate Corps program will be highlighted in the Showtime documentary series "Years of Living Dangerously" airing in April 2014.

GRADUATE STUDIES

'81 Jeremy SHONICK lives in Santa Cruz and has just completed a four-volume book about the life of a Nicaraguan/American family. Book one, *Cesar's Wars: The Rise of America's Special Forces*, is now available for purchase.

IN MEMORIAM

'68 Ruth N. (RAYMOND) Sesser (Stevenson) passed away in July 2013 in Sacramento. She returned to college after being left as the sole provider for a family of five children following the premature death of her first husband. She earned her B.A. in history at 50 and went on to become a well-known Stanislaus County community organizer.

'76 James WALLACE (Kresge) died in Seattle in August 2013 following a long battle with cancer. After graduating from UCSC, Jim attended UCLA and received a master's degree in librarianship in 1978. At the time of his death, he was the manager of library technical services for Seattle Community Colleges.

'83 Dan COGAN (Porter) passed away on November 5, 2013. He learned to love the mountains from his time in Santa Cruz.