SUMMER 2004

SONOMA INSIGHTS

THE MAN BEHIND BACON AND EGGS
SONOMA STATE UNIVERSITY
STUDENT RECREATION CENTER

GRAND OPENING AND OPEN HOUSE

Friday, August 27
Noon to 4 p.m.

The campus community is invited to witness the ribbon-cutting and to tour this exciting new facility.

Noon-1 p.m. Ribbon-cutting ceremony, SSU dance team, refreshments
1-4 p.m. Tours and sample classes

Notable alumni
Her name is Mary Lyons and she graduated from Sonoma State University in 1971 with a BA in English. She later became the first woman president of the California Maritime Academy, one of the nation’s five maritime academies, and was awarded the rank and title of rear admiral. Lyons joins dozens of other Distinguished Alumni Award recipients, an honor given by the SSU Alumni Association each October.

To learn about other Distinguished Alumni such as Michele Anna Jordan (BA 1975, Liberal Studies), prolific author and chef; William C. Davis (BA 1968, history; MA, 1969, history), Pulitzer Prize nominee, noted historian and author; and Cynthia Dusel-Bacon (BA, 1975, geology), research geologist for the U.S. Geological Survey; among others, visit the Notables Web site at http://www.sonoma.edu/uaffairs/notables

Also at the Notables site are individuals who have been awarded an honorary doctoral degree from the California State University through Sonoma State University.
FEATURES

Bacon and Eggs: Demystified
If you have ever wondered what the tall sculpture between Darwin and Stevenson halls represents, its creator Walter “Spike” Benson reveals the meaning of and the interesting history behind one of Sonoma State’s most prominent landmarks.
Page 10

Doin’ Time — In the Classroom
For many years, a strong link has existed between Sonoma State and San Quentin State Prison, and it has been transforming lives on both sides of the wall.
Page 8

DEPARTMENTS

ON CAMPUS
A new Web site by SSU students and political science assistant professor David McCuan will serve as a clearinghouse for all 14 ballot initiatives scheduled to be on ballots this fall.
Page 2

See the nuts and bolts of how the climbing wall in the new Student Recreation Center was constructed this summer.
Page 7

SONOMA FOCUS
As Darwin Hall empties in preparation for a complete interior renovation, one man is working to turn a basement full of old scientific equipment into dollars.
Page 5

CAMP literally stands for Collaborative College Assistance Migrant Program, but to the 60 students who are accepted each year into the program it means ‘opportunity.’
Page 6

ADVANCEMENT
In the not-too-distant future, Sonoma State students and faculty will be studying in a living laboratory that is the result of a gift of 3,500 acres of northern California wildlands.
Inside back cover

ALUMNOTES
The 2004 Distinguished Alumni Award recipients to be honored Oct. 14 have been announced: Jim Ford, Douglas D. Gaffin and Martin Klein.
STUDENTS

FRESHMAN SELECTED FOR REALITY SHOW — When Sonoma State freshman Michael Denevan, left, applied to participate in the TV reality show “Switched,” he was afraid he would trade his life with that of a potato farmer from Idaho. Instead, the ABC Family reality show switched him with University of Hawaii student and part-time model Erin Christie, right.

So Denevan spent a week in the Aloha state last spring experiencing canoe-surfing and deep-sea fishing, where he caught a 50-pound mahi mahi. He also got an intimate look at his alter-ego’s modeling life when he had to strut the fashion runway singing “I’m Too Sexy.”

Meanwhile, Christie got to experience the life of this Sonoma State student who likes to hang-glide. In fact, Denevan’s family owns a hang-gliding school. Christie flew off Mount Tamalpais in Marin County letting out a scream “for the cameras.” She also experienced the demands of SSU’s ultimate frisbee course and practiced stage fighting in an SSU theater class. The episode aired in June. (Photos courtesy of ABC Family)

POLITICAL SCIENCE

Web site shows politics of direct democracy

Medical marijuana. Same-sex marriage. Tribal gaming. And property tax reform. Trust that none of these hot-button cultural issues would have forced the hand of public-policy makers without the help of the ballot initiative.

An SSU political science faculty member is betting there will be more where they came from. “All substantive public policy is now happening through the ballot initiative. The legislature is becoming less relevant,” says Assistant Professor David McCuan who studies and teaches the new politics of direct democracy.

This summer McCuan put some of his political science students to work to shed some light on the 14 issues scheduled to appear on the California ballot this fall.

They created the California Initiative Project (www.californiainitiativeproject.com) as a clearinghouse of information on every upcoming ballot measure — including the history, financial backers and what each measure is structured to accomplish.

“All the polls show that there is as much support for the initiative process as there is for the death penalty here,” McCuan says. “This is where the action is. You see things being tried out on the ballot in California that trickle through the rest of the country.”

Since the passage of the property tax reform measure known as Proposition 13, the ballot initiative process has become the way that California has enacted public policy, says McCuan. The recall of Gov. Gray Davis in 2003 drove it further and gave it new life and momentum, he says. With the upcoming presidential race, the measures will attract more attention because there will be more voters out looking for information.

There is no clearinghouse like this now, says McCuan, who earned his doctorate from the University of California, Riverside, with a dissertation on the new politics of direct democracy. “So often, one or two ballot measures drive all of the media coverage.” He hopes this Web site will widen voter participation and interest in the ones left behind. McCuan, who earned a degree in political science from SSU, teaches in the fields of state and local politics, campaigns and elections, and political behavior with a specific emphasis on direct democracy.

TECHNOLOGY

Top 100 wireless campus

Sonoma State students and faculty are now free to roam, since SSU has been named to the list of the top 100 wireless schools in the country in an Intel survey.

In the past two years, Sonoma has equipped most of its buildings to work with wireless technology allowing students, faculty and staff to eliminate the need to “plug in” to a network jack in order to do their work.

“We have implemented wireless in nearly all of the teaching buildings and in key public locations,” according to Sam Scalise, SSU chief information officer. “It is easy to do it wrong, but we’ve done it right.”

The Intel survey ranked schools by the number of hot spots, number of computers on campus, percentage of the campus equipped to go wireless and the ratio of computers to students.

To see the survey results go to http://www.intel.com/products/mobiletechnology/unwiredcolleges.htm?iid=ipp_mobiletech+colleges
ON CAMPUS

2004 FACULTY EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARDS

SUSAN HERRING
Mathematics
Passion and Generosity

Susan Herring, associate professor of mathematics and statistics specialist, smiles widely as she proclaims herself the luckiest person in the world, “because I do what I love most: teach.” After finishing first grade, she emphatically told her mother she could now teach it, a goal from which she would not swerve one iota during the coming years.

At Cal State Fullerton, she discovered her interest in math, graduating with a double major in mathematics and psychology. It wasn’t until graduate school, though, that she found out her true love is statistics. After earning her doctorate from Claremont Graduate School in 1992, Herring accepted a position with SSU. With teaching courses in statistics and probability, Herring serves as mentor to her students. “I encourage them to apply to graduate school even if they hadn’t been considering the possibility,” she said. She has authored many papers with her advanced students, enhancing their graduate school applications. Several of her students have gone on to successful careers in mathematics and statistics, some of them even returning to SSU to present lectures at the Math Colloquium series.

In 1995, Herring and colleague Brian Jersky created a statistical consulting class that provides pro bono statistical analysis and consultation to non-profit organizations in the area. Clients have included the Mendocino Council of Girl Scouts and Goodwill Industries of the Redwood Empire. Not only does Herring share her knowledge and expertise with the community at large, but her students gain real-world experience in the field.

ALEXANDRA VON MEIER
Environmental Studies and Planning
Practicing What She Teaches

Alexandra von Meier, assistant professor of environmental studies and planning and director of the Environmental Technology Center, brims with curiosity from her office in Rachel Carson Hall. It’s easy to see how, as young girl in her native Germany, she occupied much of her scientist-grandfather’s time searching for answers to such questions as, “Why is the sky blue?” and “Why are the stars so bright?”

“I didn’t know the subject was called physics, but I loved it,” she says.

She decided to become an energy expert during the Three Mile Island nuclear accident. Just 14 years old, she did not like the positive press the pro-nuclear experts received.

Today, promoting a healthy environment is still her passion, and von Meier practices what she teaches. She fuels her Jetta wagon with bio-diesel — fryer-grease collected from restaurants that, in an environmentally friendly way, is converted into non-toxic, non-hazardous oil for diesel motors. Created mainly from soybeans, it is a sustainable resource.

In 1999, when von Meier joined the faculty at Sonoma State, she brought her passion to educate and inform about energy management and sustainable resources to SSU classrooms. Her enthusiasm doesn’t stop there, though. As director of the Environmental Technology Center, von Meier serves as a key spokesperson in the community about energy issues.
BUSINESS & ECONOMICS

Robertson named dean

James Robertson has been appointed dean of the School of Business and Economics. He replaces T.K. Clarke who served as interim dean since the retirement of Ahmad Hosseini.

Most recently dean of the business school at Metropolitan State College of Denver, Robertson also has headed business schools at California State University, Northridge, and the University of Portland.

He is a widely known and respected leader in the field of business higher education and within the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business.

He has been a consultant and a member of accreditation review teams for numerous schools of business across the United States, including San José State University and Santa Clara University.

Robertson successfully led schools through accreditation reviews at Northridge and Portland and recently played a leading role in the reassessment of the role of ethics in the business curriculum for AACSB schools.

He earned his Ph.D. from the University of Washington in Seattle and his research areas include health care, budgeting, human resources, marketing research, accounting and family financial planning.

Wang Family Award

Susan McKillop, professor of art history, has been named the 2004 recipient of the California State University Wang Family Excellence Award in the Visual and Performing Arts and Letters.

She will receive a $20,000 award, as well as three other CSU faculty members and one administrator. The annual award is designed to “celebrate those CSU faculty and administrators who through extraordinary commitment and dedication have distinguished themselves in their academic disciplines and areas of assignment.”

This is the sixth year the awards have been given.

The 27-year veteran of Sonoma State received the University’s Excellence in Teaching Award in 1999 and its Faculty Research Award in 1992. McKillop has been described as “passionate in the pursuit of excellence,” and

PRINCETON REVIEW

SSU a “best value”

Sonoma State University is among the best value colleges in the country, according to the Princeton Review’s 2004 edition of “America’s Best Value Colleges.”

The list profiles the top 77 schools chosen for outstanding academics, low-to-moderate tuition and fees, and generous financial aid packages.

The Princeton Review compiled the list based on quantitative and qualitative data it obtained from more than 500 colleges, and from surveys of students attending them.

HONORARY DEGREE — Belva Davis, the first female African-American television reporter on the West Coast, was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters during SSU’s 2004 Commencement ceremonies in May.

The recipient of six regional Emmy Awards and a Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences was honored by President Ruben Armiñana, left, before addressing the graduates, whom she challenged to not only have faith in themselves but “be daring, be first and above all be just. “Don’t be afraid of the space between your dreams and reality. If you can dream it, you can make it so,” Davis said.
EBAY

Turning garbage into gizmos

John Collins is making sure one person’s junk is another’s gizmo.

With Darwin Hall set for renovation (see separate story), out-dated science equipment from the School of Science and Technology is now on the sales block at eBay, the online public auction house.

The SSU physics graduate has until January 2005 to transform the scientific boneyard of Darwin Hall into dollars for the University. Otherwise, he says, the University may have to spend up to $50,000 delivering it to a landfill.

He estimates he has more than 20,000 pounds of equipment and “new old” supplies that could be sold to willing buyers if he can find them. Spectrometers, switches, oscilloscopes, microscopes, radio tubes and early models of computers are only a few of the kinds of equipment once used to show students the principles of light, gravity, electricity, molecular structure, motherboards and motors.

The 111,821-square-foot building is home to six of the nine departments and programs of the School of Science and Technology, which includes biology, chemistry, computer science, geology, mathematics, and physics and astronomy.

As Collins has found out from his recent eBay sales, there is no shortage of connoisseurs of lab glass, testing and measuring equipment, and switches.

RENOVATION

Darwin set to join 21st Century

At the time it opened in 1967, Charles Darwin Hall housed impressive new technologies. While the equipment has been updated over the years, the building has not.

The University now is receiving $29 million from two state bond measures to completely remodel the interior of Darwin Hall.

A major challenge for SSU administrators has been locating space outside the building for the 18-month project. Rental laboratories and other on- and off-campus locations will be used.

Construction begins in December. Students, faculty and staff return to Darwin Hall in fall 2006.

Go to the Web for more information, maps and photos of the renovation: www.sonoma.edu/pubs/darwinhall.html

BS IN ENGINEERING SCIENCE

New degree program to launch fall 2005

Three years of hard work came to fruition this summer when the School of Science and Technology received final approval from CSU trustees for a bachelor of science in engineering science.

The degree will be offered by the newly created engineering science department, which also houses the master’s program in computer and engineering science. The BS-ES program is projected to start in September 2005 with about 20 students and is expected to grow to more than 150.

The program will be more interdisciplinary than many departments of its kind, MS-CES director Jagan Agrawal says.”It will take more into account the latest developments in the industry and borrow significantly from computer science, math and physics.”
Starting a new tradition

“I feel like I can finally be somebody and have a great career I enjoy,” said Anna Deharo, who recently completed her first year in college. Unlike many of Deharo’s freshman classmates, her unique achievement comes from the fact that she is the first in her family to pursue higher education. Growing up with a father working long hours in the fields and older siblings who never completed high school, Deharo had no role models of academic success.

Like Deharo, many students of seasonal- and farm-working parents now receive educational opportunities, academic support and financial scholarships through the Sonoma State University Collaborative College Assistance Migrant Program.

The CAMP program began with a five-year grant for more than $1.5 million that was awarded to Francisco H. Vázquez, professor in the Hutchins School of Liberal Studies and director of the Hutchins Institute for Public Policy Studies and Communication Action. The funds are used to financially and academically support first-year college students of farming and seasonal-working families.

“There is a need in Sonoma and Napa counties,” Vázquez said of the numerous descendants of migrant families desiring higher education. For 2004-2005 recruitment efforts, CAMP has a list of 166 potential candidates, but only 60 candidates are able to participate.

Vázquez’s CAMP grant is the only one nationwide to utilize three institutes of higher education: Sonoma State University, Santa Rosa Junior College and Napa Valley College. Incorporating the three institutions is the “best way to respond to academic needs of the students in relation to their geographic areas,” Vázquez stated.

This unique model is not the only contribution to CAMP’s success. According to Eloisa Colin, SRJC outreach advisor, picking the right students can be a challenge. “We make sure we reach the students who need the most support and who traditionally wouldn’t be going to college,” Colin said.

Creating a community of support is essential to the program’s success. “Students are comforted by the fact they know that they are a part of a large established support group of mentors who understand their struggles,” said Colin.

One of the unique things about the CAMP grant is the amount of financial support provided. Students also receive financial advising. “Before I even got into college, CAMP helped me fill out my FAFSA forms and advised me on which scholarship programs I could apply to,” said Oliver Martinez, SRJC student and recent CAMP graduate.

In addition to financial support, the outreach advisors monitor the CAMP students’ academic progress. “We try to put the students in contact with as many student services as we possibly can so they can maintain good academic standing,” said Colin.

To conclude the first-college-year experience for this year’s 58 CAMP students, a ceremony with family and friends was held in their honor, to congratulate and recognize their significant achievements. “My dad told me he was proud of me that I finished my first year [of college] and he hopes to see me continue my education,” said Martinez. Each CAMP student received a CAMP diploma, sarape-styled sash and letters of recognition from the U.S. Congress and California State Senate. “I told them the expectation is that the CAMP diploma will be replaced by their bachelor’s degree, their master’s degree and their doctor’s degree,” said Vázquez.

—I [tell] them the expectation is that the CAMP diploma will be replaced by their bachelor’s degree, their master’s degree and their doctor’s degree.

—Francisco Vásquez Hutchins School about the CAMP recognition ceremony


“It Matters! Engage. Participate. Vote.” The fall 2004 Arts and Lectures Program coordinated through the University Library is designed to provide students and community members an opportunity to explore voting, civic engagement and what it means to live in a democratic society.

The “It Matters!” series begins Sept. 8 with a brown bag discussion titled “Why It Matters,” featuring SSU President Ruben Armiñana, Professor of Political Science Catherine Nelson and Associated Students President Jason Spencer, with SSU Provost Eduardo Ochoa as moderator.

On Sept. 10 a reception for artist Lowell Darling in the University Library will be held. Darling’s exhibit “Lowell Darling: Artist or Politician?” will be on display through Oct. 13 in the University Library Art Gallery.

Two keynote addresses are planned. On Sept. 23, Glen Browder, former U.S. Congressman, scholar and author, will present “The Future of American Democracy: A Former Congressman’s Unconventional Analysis.” Later in the election season, prominent journalists, including Belva Davis and Pete Golis, will collaborate on “From the Front Lines: Stories of Political Reporting.”

For a schedule of other events, performances, discussions and more information, visit the Web site: http://library.sonoma.edu/itmatters/
\textbf{REC CENTER}

\textbf{GOING UP} — A highlight of the new Student Recreation Center is the climbing wall, far right. Construction of the wall took place during six weeks this summer, and consisted of three phases. The steel frame was constructed during the first phase, top right. Second, construction crews attached plywood to the steel beams, below. Finally, the plywood was covered with plaster and painted, below right. “Holds,” pegs that climbers grab, are inserted into holes in the wall and will be changed regularly.

\textbf{SPORTS}

\textbf{Four SSU prospects drafted}

Colleges with players taken at the top of the annual Major League Baseball draft are the usual Division I baseball powerhouses: Stanford, Texas, Rice, Clemson. This year, there was another school joining the party. It’s a school scouts have come to know as small in size but big in baseball talent. The place? Sonoma State.

Sonoma State had four players selected in the first 11 rounds of the draft, more than all but seven schools, at any level, in the country. In fact, the Seawolves had twice as many players taken in the first 11 rounds as Cal State Fullerton, the NCAA Division I 2004 College World Series champion.

The first Seawolf to be drafted was Sebastopol native Brandon Burgess. Burgess’ selection by the Arizona Diamondbacks is the second-highest draft pick since Coach John Goelz took over the program in 1986. After batting .357 with 20 home runs (the second highest in school history) in 2004, Burgess was named CCAA and NCAA West Region Player of the Year.

Not long after Burgess heard his name called, Seawolf slugger Tom Everidge was selected in the tenth round by the Oakland Athletics. From Sonoma, the first baseman rode a .357 average and 19 home runs to First Team All-CCAA and All-West Region nods. He was also named a Second Team All-American and has inched close to many all-time records at Sonoma State.

In the eleventh round, the Seawolves accomplished something to which not many other schools can lay claim. Half of the pitching rotation was taken in the span of three picks. Midway through Round 11, the Florida Marlins took Daniel Barone before the San Francisco Giants selected Darren Sack. Barone, who spent just one year at Sonoma State was a Second Team All-West Region pick after going 5-4 with a 4.50 ERA. Sack, a three-year performer for SSU went 9-3 in 2004 with a 3.14 ERA and a school-record 93 strikeouts. He also joined Barone on the Second Team All-West Region squad.

Seawolves drafted in the 2004 Major League Baseball draft were, top row, from left, pitcher Daniel Barone (Florida Marlins), first baseman Tom Everidge (Oakland Athletics), pitcher Darren Sack (San Francisco Giants), batting and inset, second baseman and outfielder Brandon Burgess (Arizona Diamondbacks).
The Sonoma State - San Quentin Connection is transforming lives on both sides of the prison wall

By Jean Wasp
University Affairs

The bleak and barren human warehouse that is San Quentin Prison allows for moments of hope and faith in the future when an inmate can learn about the French Revolution or master a remedial English class.

Sonoma State University professors and student interns witness this often when they travel down the Highway 101 corridor during the year to the only state prison in California that offers an opportunity to earn a college degree.

With California’s prison system having one of the highest inmate return rates of any in the country, the new head of the state’s Department of Corrections, SSU alumna Jeanne Woodford, left a unique legacy when she departed this year as warden of San Quentin to her new job in Sacramento. (See separate story.)

At San Quentin Prison, Woodford showed she believed people could change, so she created and supported a system that allowed inmates to change if they wanted. That included offering college and pre-college programs that allowed inmates to work towards a degree, as well as other courses and classes that helped them have tools to deal with life outside prison walls.

Woodford plans to bring this approach to the statewide system. She has said in interviews that “true public protection is making sure we send inmates out of our prisons in better shape than when they come in.” She also means raising the bar on the inmates themselves, and expecting them to do more with their time.

Sonoma State’s link to San Quentin has existed for many years since students from the Criminal Justice Department have worked there as interns. Several years ago, Elaine Leeder, dean of the School of Social Sciences, sought to continue her involvement in prisoner education begun at New York’s Ithaca College by encouraging the SSU faculty to participate too.

SSU faculty now volunteer their time in the evenings and weekends teaching college and college-prep courses offered through Patten University in Oakland. Some began an experience that they describe as transforming.

Out of an inmate population of 6,000 at San Quentin, about 150-200 are enrolled in Patten’s program at any time — seeking an associate of arts degree, pre-college training or vocational certificates. Inmates apply for the program and they consider it a privilege to be accepted.

Patten University is an independent school in Oakland which runs the San Quentin extension with 60 volunteers that include faculty, guest lecturers, tutors and teaching assistants. No state or federal funds are involved. It offers 12 classes a semester, three semesters per year. Thanks to these volunteers, San Quentin can offer the only higher education program in the state prison system while other programs have withered away from lack of funding or support.

“Patten’s program allows inmates to realize they are intellectually capable of going on to college,” says Jody Lewen, director of Patten’s prison education program. “It gets them heading in a completely different direction than what they came in on.”

“Many of the younger guys with the shorter sentences are there because some of the longer-term inmates, who are doing the recruiting. They grab them by the scruff of the neck and get them into the classroom,” Lewen says.

“I feel privileged to do this,” says Leeder who has done prison work for many years and teaches sociology to the inmates, exploring ideas of racism and socio-economic theory with her class. Leeder’s goal is to help put higher education — even a bachelor’s degree program — into
DOIN’ TIME
in the classroom
SONOMA FEATURE
prison is how much education he does or does not have. “If you want to make a difference in society, there is hardly a better way to do it,” he says. “The single greatest factor of when an inmate is going to wind up back in prison is how much education he does or does not have.”

“Mind is a terrible thing to waste and these inmates are bright and highly motivated people,” she says. “Some of them are better than some graduate students I have taught. Everyone who teaches inside feels the same way. “The classroom discussion is so remarkable,” says Leeder whose students can include felons convicted of everything from rape and robbery, to murder and drug trafficking. “You teach them basic concepts and then they apply them right there to their own lives in the prison. We have these deep and significant conversations.”

Math professor Rick Luttmann started tutoring in the spring and summer — helping with everything from math problems in astronomy to philosophy essays. He was later accepted to volunteer to teach a class in algebra. “If you want to make a difference in society, there is hardly a better way to do it,” he says.

“The single greatest factor of when an inmate is going to wind up back in prison is how much education he does or does not have.”

“Nothing prepares you for San Quentin,” says history professor Mary Halavais who began teaching with a course in Latin American history that included death row inmates. “When you are confined, as the inmates are every day, you tend to live a great deal in your mind. We provide more mental furniture and more work.”

Leeder agrees the class work goes beyond the curriculum choices. “They get to talk with someone outside of the prison. It normalizes their lives,” she says. “Even the death row inmates or lifers have an impact on other people in prison and on their families on the outside.”

Luttmann agrees. “It helps them stay in touch with their own humanity. If all they have to talk with are other prisoners and guards, it stays a very dehumanizing environment.”

Rhea Cook was a student who first participated as a mediator in the prison’s Squires program that matches lifers with juvenile offenders hoping to “scare them straight.” She says she was nervous at first with her head full of the usual hard-core stereotypes of convicts derived from TV and film.

After her internship was over she stayed on to volunteer the next semester and now goes regularly ever Saturday from 7:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Why does she stay? “I feel appreciated,” she says. “They really are glad to have someone to talk with. Many of them just messed up one time — and got caught for it.”

Halavais has found the inmates “pretty impressive people” in their thirst for an education, and seriousness of purpose. “I try to think of them as people and not their crimes,” she says. “I am more interested in where they are going than where they have been.”

“The major part of the value is intangible,” says Luttmann, not in the algebra mastered or the English language skills transformed. “This is a way of saying somebody knows you are here. If we did not go there, it would be like society stuffed them in a hole and does not want to deal with them. This is a way of saying someone out there is aware you are here and wants to help you.”

Alumna named to top Corrections post
Jeanne Woodford (BA, 1978, criminal justice) earned a reputation for tempering strict discipline with a healthy dose of reality during 26 years at San Quentin — the last five as warden. A strong advocate of education, Woodford maintains earning a high school diploma or college degree serves the inmate’s family and in the long run, the State of California.

Apparently Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger agrees. He appointed Woodford to head up the California Department of Corrections.

Woodford assumed her post as director of the CDC and its $5 billion budget in March. She oversees the 33 prisons in California and their more than 160,000 inmates.

Sonoma State professor of criminal justice administration Barbara Bloom said, “Jeanne has proven herself to be a competent leader in terms of managing the human, financial and political aspects of running San Quentin. The governor made a wise choice in appointing her to this important position as she is eminently qualified.”

—Susan Kashack
Urban legends stand tall and they weather the test of time, much like the structure called Bacon and Eggs at Sonoma State University. The story goes that Bacon and Eggs represents the United States flag. The front is painted red and white, representing the flag in peace time; the back is black and white, representing the flag at war. The blue piece on the ground symbolizes a star that has fallen from the flag. This story has been told on campus for many years. Tour guides recount the tale to potential students and their parents. New employees hear the story sometime in their first few weeks when they ask, “What is that?”

But surprisingly, when its creator, 78-year-old Walter “Spike” Benson visited campus and heard the story, he said “That’s not what it is. It’s nothing. Just a structure that I designed and built with the help of a class I took here. As far as I’m concerned it was never named. You guys named it and I think that’s quite a compliment. And then when you accompany it with Toast, that is performance art, progressive art and it is super. I’m very proud of that fact. I’m very pleased.”

Toast (aptly named since it sits next to Bacon and Eggs) is the small hut where drinks and sandwiches are sold.

Walter has many names. His wife (whom he calls Madame Lu Lu and whose real name is Luella Clair) refers to him as Wally, a name that he shyly utters. More formally he’s known as Walter, but those who knew him back in the early 1970s when Bacon and Eggs was built just called him Spike.

Spike was not your average student. He didn’t take classes toward a degree. In fact, he didn’t take more than one class at Sonoma State.

Back in 1969, he would

The man behind Bacon and Eggs — Walter Benson, right, in spring 1970 installing the “Monument Sculpture,” far right, and Benson today, center.
pass by SSU on his daily trek from his home in Mill Valley to a development he was creating which became Bennett Ridge in Santa Rosa. Looking for a creative outlet, Spike decided to sign up for a course in sculpture. Performance sculpture might benefit his career as a developer, he thought.

“I am a land developer and builder, starting in 1950 in Sausalito. Working with construction crews 12 hours a day, 7 days a week, you’ve got to have a creative outlet.”

So he registered for a course in the fall of 1969 with Professor Bill Morehouse called Monument Sculpture.

“There were only two buildings at the time. Stevenson and Darwin. The library was supposed to be up, but for some reason it wasn’t
finished. There were a whole flock of boards to walk on around campus. That was about it.”

During the class, each student created an outdoor monument somewhere in the country. Spike created a 30 ft. structure out at Bennett Ridge.

“We all looked at each other’s work. Somehow or other somebody decided that a monument project could be built on campus. The students who suggested it didn’t have the money, but being a successful land developer I did, and there it is.”

The class and some volunteers came together to design, build and erect the structure. The whole process took about a year.

To erect a 60-foot structure on Sonoma’s public university campus involved making a presentation to the California State University Board of Trustees in Long Beach. The whole class, headed by Spike Benson, drove to Southern California to address the board.

“They had two basic questions: was it a phallic symbol of some kind and was it vandal-proof. We met with then-chairman of the Board of Trustees, Gov. Ronald Reagan and Willie Brown who was Speaker of the House at that time. After those two fiddled around for hours and hours, I was asked to describe this thing that was proposed for the Sonoma State campus. I said the base was blue and the front was red and white and the back is back and white.They approved the silly thing and next year we had a class in monument sculpture. There were 10 or 12 students who came out and built it. I financed it. My CPA said ‘What are you doing?’ I told him, you’ll never get it, but. . .”

Spike had two requirements for the monument. He wanted it to be taller than the surrounding buildings. (“I don’t know if it is or not. I don’t know and I don’t want to know.”) And he wanted the blue piece on the bottom to encroach on the concrete. The original plans for “that blue piece” — or the eggs as it is now known — refer to the project as Spike Benson’s Horizontal Plate Sculpture, above. Benson said the whole project cost about $6,800.

Benson had two requirements for the sculpture: that it be taller than the surrounding buildings and that the blue piece on the bottom, left, encroach on the concrete. The original plans for “that blue piece” — or the eggs as it is now known — refer to the project as Spike Benson’s Horizontal Plate Sculpture, above. Benson said the whole project cost about $6,800.

“Sonoma State taught me about how to develop land intelligently, as a performance art. . . . [and] how to do that in my profession, which is land development.”

— Walter “Spike” Benson

Although Spike spent only a couple of years at Sonoma State, he feels the faculty and students taught him something, as did his work on Bacon and Eggs.

“I came to Sonoma State and learned something about sculpture in the Art Department. I built that thing because I had the money and none of the other students did. I’m sure their work was equally as handsome.

“But what I learned from Sonoma State, working with the environmental people here, was how to do a form of progressive, performance art. I built that into my developments. The B.A. I earned at Amherst where I spent four years didn’t teach me anything about land development or building and really little about sculpture. But I do think Sonoma State taught me about how to develop land intelligently, as a performance art. That’s what this thing is. It encroaches on the concrete so you’ve got to walk around it or you can sit on it, so it’s performance. It is a compliment that people talk about it, and Toast is there now. It’s not a stable thing. That’s what I learned at Sonoma State: how to do that in my profession, which is land development. So I thank Sonoma State.”
Fellow Alumni,

It is with sadness that I write this final column for AlumNotes. It has been a real pleasure being president of this great organization for two years. Someone once said, “the happiest day was the day I became president, the second happiest day was the last day of my term.” This could not be further from the truth, I am very proud to state that I had this unique opportunity to represent the alumni of Sonoma State University.

One of the most interesting experiences I had during my tenure was the opportunity to serve on the provost search committee. It gave me a wonderful opportunity to hear from applicants about the national reputation of SSU. It filled me with great pride to hear scholars from the other parts of the United States speak so highly of Sonoma State University. It is truly California’s public liberal arts college. They spoke of the many programs and grants received by the University, and the quality of our graduates and how many have excelled in graduate studies at the country’s finest institutions.

Thank you for all your support during my term as board president.

Lou Steinberg
BA Economics, 1968

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Distinguished Alumni Award

Three Sonoma State alumni have been selected to receive this year’s Distinguished Alumni Award. Established in 1987 to recognize the outstanding professional and personal achievements of graduates or former students, the Distinguished Alumni Award is given to individuals who have made significant contributions to their community, state or nation; humanitarian service to society; service to Sonoma State University; and excelled in their careers. This award is the highest honor bestowed upon SSU alumni by the Alumni Association.

JIM FORD
M.A. Management, 1979
School of Business and Economics
Principal, The Fifth Resource, Inc.

Jim Ford began his career in the semiconductor industry in Southern California, where he worked as a corporate facility director for more than 20 years. In that capacity he applied industrial engineering, construction and project management techniques to the design, planning and management of facilities for corporations such as Honeywell, General Dynamics and Sony Corporation.

DOUGLAS D. GAFFIN
Credential, 1982
School of Education
Dean, University College, University of Oklahoma

When he was an introductory zoology instructor, teaching more than 1,700 students per year at the University of Oklahoma, Douglas D. Gaffin consistently received top marks from his students. Their evaluations ranked the SSU alumnus’ class as one of the most challenging and enjoyable on campus, which makes it easy to understand how he won nearly every campuswide teaching.

MARTIN KLEIN
B.A. Psychology, Sociology, 1982
School of Social Sciences
Associate Dean, Student Services and Administrative Operations
Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, Yale University

Throughout his career, Martin Klein has advanced strong links between education and community involvement through research, special projects, curricular innovations, policy change and practice implementation. Currently, as associate dean for student services and administrative operations at Yale University, he contributes to...
1960s
Don Vachini, BA, physical education, ’66, is currently the chair of the physical education department and athletic director at Hill Middle School, Novato, Calif. He recently concluded his 38th year in education in addition to wrapping up his 13th year as boys and girls track and field and cross country coach. Honored by the Marin County Office of Education and the area coaches association, Vachini was named the 2004 recipient of the Bob Thompson Award in recognition of his outstanding contributions in the area of track and field.

1970s
Tim Bromage, BA, interdisciplinary studies, ’77, is an SSU Distinguished Alumnus. After obtaining his undergraduate degree, he developed a doctoral specialty in evolutionary anthropology. He later received a Ph.D. in biological anthropology from the University of Toronto. In 1989, after postdoctoral training in London, he took an appointment at Hunter College, City University of New York, where he established the Hard Tissue Research Unit. This technology development laboratory is one of the nation’s first fully digital light- and electron photo-micrographic facilities that is complemented by a hard-tissue-preparation environment. After 15 years at Hunter College, Bromage and the Hard Tissue Research Unit moved to the Department of Biomaterials and Biomimetics, New York University College of Dentistry.

Lauren Coodley, MA, psychology, ’75, and MA, history, ’97, will have Land of Orange Groves and Jails: Upton Sinclair’s California published by Heyday Books in November. The book depicts California through Upton Sinclair’s eyes, through examination of his unpublished and out-of-print works. The introduction projects Sinclair as a citizen for our era. The cover features a Depression-era mural by Thomas Hart Benton.

David Madrigal, teaching credential, ’74, is currently the principal of a K-5 year-round elementary school in Antioch, Calif. He recently finished his 30th year in education as a teacher, coach and site administrator. Madrigal is serving his third year as co-chair of the committee on Accreditation for the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing, and as secretary on the Antioch Schools Education Foundation Board. He is a member of the Association of California School Administrators School Emergency Response Team. In 2002, Madrigal was the recipient of the ACSA 2002 Outstanding Administrator Award, Regional VI, Contra Costa Charter.

Steve Moore, BA, German, ’71, started his career as a private consultant in city planning for the State of California. Since the early ’80s, Moore has worked as a computer consultant with his firm Vista Consulting, Santa Rosa, Calif. He created and managed two private computer training programs including one at ComputerLand of Santa Rosa, where he also served as general manager. He founded and directs a vocal ensemble called Mostly Motets that sings sacred music from the Renaissance.

Chris Morrison, BA, history, ’75, was named the 2003 Tiburon Peninsula Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year. Morrison is the owner of The Attic on Lower Ark Row, which he opened in 1976. He founded the Children’s Christmas Cruise for Big Brothers/Big Sisters and the Tiburon Sunset Rotary Club, serving as the president. He is currently the president of the Phillips Morrison Institute of California and the Phillips Library, which sponsors an annual writing contest for Marin County’s middle school students.

1980s
Richard Bunch, teaching credential in social science, ’88, has a new collection of poetry called Running for Daybreak. He was also recently included in Who’s Who in the World. He resides with his family in Davis, Calif.

Gary Glazner, BA, expressive arts, ’82, recently appeared on NBC’s “Today Show.” The segment featured Glazner reading to residents of Sierra Vista Assisted Living Center, in Santa Fe, N.M., as part of his Alzheimer’s Poetry Project. National Public Radio’s “Weekend Edition” also did a segment on the project. Glazner makes a living as a poet. His first book, Ears on Fire: Snapshot Essays in a World of Poets, chronicles a year abroad traveling through Asia and Europe meeting poets, working on translations and writing poems.

Kathleen Simmons, BA, business administration, ’85, received her MBA from Dominican University in 2001. Simmons works as the senior sales executive with Kaiser Permanente in Oakland, Calif.

Lisa A. Petrides, MBA, business administration, ’91, is an SSU Distinguished Alumnus and the president and founder of the Institute for the Study of Knowledge Management in Education, a non-profit educational research think tank located in Half Moon Bay, Calif. ISKME conducts research that seeks to help educational institutions advance their capacities to use data and information to improve student and institutional success. ISKME also conducts organizational impact studies on information technology implementations and evaluations of the overall impact of knowledge management on education programs. A former professor in the Department of Organization and Leadership at Columbia University, Teachers College, her research and teaching interests are in the areas of information technology, knowledge management, information and decision-making, and issues of access and equity in education. Her publications include “The Squeeze of Accountability in Higher Education: The Challenges of Using External Mandates to Create Internal Change.”

1990s
Adam Hervey, BA, economics and interdisciplinary studies, ’99, is the guitarist and vocalist for the LA-based band Timonium. Their latest album “Until He Finds Us” was recorded last summer in Cotati, Calif., at Prairie Sun Studios. The band was formed in 1994 by high school friends Hervey, drummer Adam Garcia and...
Alumni Notes

Class Notes

Bassist and vocalist Tracy Uba. While at SSU, Hervey took the money he made from acting in a Pizza Hut commercial and started a small record label, Pehr. Nearly all of Pehr’s bands (many of which are European or South American) fall into a special musical niche.

Bart King, MA, history, ’95, has published his second book, The Big Book of Boy Stuff. His first book, An Architectural Guidebook to Portland 2001, received favorable reviews. King has been teaching for 14 years and lives in Portland, Ore.

Julie Maxwell, BA, history, ’97, recently relocated from Gustine, Calif., to Rochester, Minn., with her two-year-old daughter Isabella. Maxwell taught high school history at Independence High School and Starlight High School for five years. She is now a lead teacher with KinderCare Learning Center in Rochester.

Jenny Gargiulo (Patten), BA, art history, ’99, recently married and moved to Italy. This past summer she taught two art history courses in Rome through the Oregon State University summer abroad program. She continues to work on her Ph.D. in the history of art and religion through the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley.

Steven Wallis, BA, sociology, ’94, MA, psychology, ’98, has co-authored and published Easy Genius: Awakening Your Whole Brain to Build a More Powerful Memory. Designed with an innovative and easily readable layout, readers use this book to improve test scores in high school and college while spending less time studying. For information visit www.EasyGenius.net. Wallis is currently working on his Ph.D. in human and organizational development at Fielding Graduate Institute.

2000s

Jennifer Clover, BA, liberal studies, ’03, joined the Peace Corps right after graduation in the spring of 2003. She is living in a small town outside of Bukhara, Uzbekistan, and teaches at a secondary school, a boarding school and the State University in Bukhara. Using the internet, Jennifer is hoping to make connections between her students and students at SSU.

Dawniela Hightower, BA, business administration, ’01, was appointed alumni marketing and membership development director at Sacramento State University. Hightower previously served as the director of membership for the Northern California Engineering Contractors Association, and as an account executive and marketing coordinator for Creative Marketing Arts, Santa Rosa, Calif.

Colleen Hiner, BA, liberal studies and political science, ’03, and her husband Christian Hiner, BA, music, ’03, joined the Peace Corps in September 2003. Since October they have been living in Tanzania, East Africa. The classmates were married on the SSU campus.

2004 Ambrose R. Nichols Jr. Scholar: Amy Pitchforth

Described by one of her professors as “a remarkable achiever,” Amy Pitchforth’s dedication to her studies and determination to succeed is evidenced by her numerous accomplishments at SSU.

Born legally blind, Amy has faced many challenges in her life. When entering college, she found that her goals and ambitions were often questioned. Addressing stereotypes and educating others about what a person with a disability can do and achieve has been a big part of Amy’s life. Her scholastic excellence is supported by her 4.0 grade point average and the comments of the faculty members who describe her as thoughtful, insightful and creative. With a major in multi-subject education and psychology, her career goals are in the area of bilingual education, preferably in an elementary school setting. Psychology has also influenced her professional goals, and she has considered applying to Harvard or Yale to complete a Ph.D. in educational psychology.

Amy’s on-campus activities include active membership in Alpha Gamma Delta where she holds the position of vice president for scholarship. In this capacity she proctors and tutors several hours each week. She also serves on the SSU Student Union Board of Directors. Off campus, Amy spends time in a second grade classroom at Gold Ridge Elementary School.

Amy has recently taken up scuba diving and designed a project that helped other students feel rather than see the objects of the sea. And, with a great sense of adventure, she participates in field exploration trips such as cave exploration and has helped to rebuild a hiking trail for one of her classes.

New Membership Benefits

Sign up for an Office Depot account through the Alumni Association and enjoy up to 60 percent savings on the purchase of office supplies nationwide. Individuals and businesses of any size are eligible to shop in the store or online.

Alumni Association members receive merchandise discounts at the Napa and Petaluma Premium Outlets. Just show your alumni membership card at the outlet business office or information center to receive your VIP discount book.

If you join COSTCO at the Rohnert Park, Calif., store, present your Alumni Association membership card to receive a $10 cash card.

For more information on any of these programs, contact the Alumni Office.

Kaplan offers free new SAT prep test

Kaplan Education Services will offer the new SAT prep test to alumni, students and friends Saturday, Nov. 13, at SSU. The new SAT will be compared to the old version and Kaplan representatives will explain the differences between the two versions. Space is limited, please reserve early by calling the Alumni Office at (707) 664-2426.

SSU Alumni Association

SSU Alumni Association
Sonoma State University
1801 East Cotati Ave.
Stevenson Hall 1027
Rohnert Park, CA 94928-3609
Phone: (707) 664-2426
Fax: (707) 664-2952
Email: alumni.office@sonoma.edu
Web site: www.ssualumni.org
of America, and locally, OCLI and Tegal/Motorola. He designed environments that increase productivity and organizational effectiveness by making the facilities more responsive to user needs.

In 1993, he became a principal of The Fifth Resource, Inc., a Cotati-based firm committed to assisting businesses grow in Sonoma and Napa counties. The company promotes sustainable economic development through good business practices and employment advocacy, and utilizes industrial engineering tools to develop business and facilities plans. Ford earned a B.S. in industrial engineering from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona, in 1972. Realizing the need to humanize his engineering training, he completed a master’s degree in management at Sonoma State University in 1979.

Ford has been an active community volunteer and supports many causes. As board chair of the Rancho Adobe Fire District, he was instrumental in the development of a $300,000 FEMA grant to replace essential life-support equipment. He also has been an advocate for a close partnership between the fire district and Sonoma State University. Ford served as president for the Sonoma State University Alumni Association from 2000 to 2001 and is currently the chair of the association’s campus enhancement committee. He also conceived and dedicated the Alumni Grove, Alumni Amphitheater and Alumni Brick Path on campus.

Gaffin

From Page 13

award during his early years at OU.

His teaching experience began at Oregon State University, where he earned a Ph.D. in zoology and neurophysiology in 1994. Not only was Gaffin one of the first to use computer technology in the classroom, but he also applied for and received grants that modernized the human anatomy and physiology teaching laboratories at OSU.

It didn’t take long for Gaffin’s teaching accomplishments to gain the attention of textbook-publishing-giant McGraw-Hill, which invited him to participate in some of its focus groups. Gaffin’s contributions led to him co-authoring a biology textbook, *Life*, which spawned a related project called “Active Art.” It is an innovative tool that allows instructors to use a textbook’s electronic art files much more flexibly, making it easier to customize the concepts of a lecture. “Active Art” started with *Life*, but McGraw-Hill now ties it to each of its major science textbooks.

Gaffin has won numerous honors and awards, presented speeches and papers throughout the United States, and has published a significant number of works related to his field. In 1999 he won the Outstanding First-Year-Advocate Award, a national award administered by the National Resource Center for the First-Year Experience and Students in Transition. He earned a teaching credential from Sonoma State University in 1982, and a B.S. from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1979. He currently serves as the dean of University College at Sonoma State University.

Klein

From Page 13

medical education and practice. After earning a master’s degree in public health, Klein began work on a doctorate in sociomedical sciences. He was awarded a fellowship in Medical Informatics through the National Library of Medicine, and after receiving his Ph.D., he was selected as a Harvard Macy Scholar at the Harvard Macy Institute Program for Physician Educators in 2002.

Before joining Yale University, Klein was associate dean for primary care and associate director with the Center for Primary Care Education at New York Medical College. He was involved in medical education and developed interdisciplinary programs aimed to broaden the views of medical students and health professionals. He taught courses on clinical skills, community and preventive medicine, and health care in the United States. At NYMC, he served as co-principal investigator for the project “Medical School Participation in Ambulatory Care and School-Based Health Centers,” funded by the New York State Department of Health.

During his undergraduate years at Sonoma State University, Klein sought to improve care for psychiatric patients. Upon graduation, he worked with local communities to integrate education with meaningful local participation, to enhance medical and graduate curricula, and to improve national health and educational policies and practices.

Klein received a Ph.D. from Columbia University, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences in 2000, an M.P.H. from Yale University, School of Medicine, in 1986, and a B.A. from Sonoma State University in 1982.

He has received more than $4.5 million in grants, published articles in a number of medical journals, and participated in panel and workshop presentations throughout the United States.
3,500 acres of Northern California nature preserve donated as living laboratory

Once a working sheep ranch, the Fred B. Galbreath Wildlands Preserve is now only home to an abundant range of wildlife, from species such as black bears, mountain lions, coyotes and bald eagles to numerous varieties of native birds, reptiles and amphibians.

But, in the not-too-distant future, the land and its wildlife will see students and faculty from Sonoma State hiking through these northern California backwoods on a regular basis. The 3,500-acre wildlands preserve in Mendocino County has been donated to Sonoma State University by the family of a prominent San Francisco marine insurance executive who once served as lead underwriter for the construction of the Golden Gate Bridge.

The Fred B. Galbreath Trust donated the land, which is located about 20 miles northwest of Cloverdale, for use as a nature preserve by the University. Galbreath died in 2000 at the age of 98.

A $1 million endowment comes with the donation that will support operation of the property and allow it to be self-sustaining. The last appraisal of the property valued it at approximately $8 million. It is the largest single donation in the history of the University.

Ranging in elevation from 900-2,200 feet, the property is comprised of a rich diversity of native species.

"One of the truly outstanding qualities of this gift is the important resource it will provide students and faculty to conduct in-depth field research," Vice President for Development Stuart Jones said.

The operation of the Fred B. Galbreath Wildlands Preserve will be managed by the School of Science and Technology. Saeid Rahimi, dean of the school, said the gift will benefit students from biology, geography and environmental studies to geology and astronomy.

"It is a stunning piece of property," says Galbreath’s daughter Nancy, "and my father would have loved the idea that it will be used by people who can study it the way he did."

"This is a magnificent donation to serve future generations."

— Saeid Rahimi
Dean, School of Science & Technology
MAKIN’ BACON

“We watched them from our third floor offices screwing and bolting the structure together and the crane working with the ‘bacon.’ They dug a hole and brought the thing in on a flatbed. There weren’t as many buildings as there are now. The Field House and Ives Hall were here, and the first floor of Salazar. But the gym hadn’t been built, and mud was all over where the Student Union stands now. Yet through it all, the [Walter] Benson sculpture went up.”

Les Brooks,
Professor of Chemistry

See story on Page 10.