Farewell Letter from Dean Elaine Leader

Alas, this will be my last note to all of you. As of the end of June I will become Dean Emerita of the School of Social Sciences. It has been a remarkable twelve years; years of growth, learning, challenges and success. As I reflect on my time as dean I marvel at how naïve and green I was when I arrived at SSU in 2001. I had been a chair of a department, a long time faculty member and a trustee at another university. I thought I knew university life, having attended four, as well as working at a few. But SSU was a steep learning curve. My first few years were hard, learning how to manage a $6.5 million dollar budget, 2000 students, 75 full time faculty members and quite a number of part timers. There were also staff to become familiar with, and departments I had to learn about. What did I know of environmental studies or geography, or even anthropology? But learn I did, fast and hard. Now I feel completely comfortable here and with the demands placed on a dean in a budget-cutting time.

My predecessor, Bob Karlsrud, saw a period of growth and increase in programs and faculty. My job was to CUT! Stanley Fish, public intellectual, once said it is easy to be a dean in a time of deficit. All one had to do was to say NO to whomever came your way. That is what I had to do. But I was also lucky enough to discover that I could raise funds from generous donors who took the mission of the School of Social Sciences seriously. And I am so grateful to all of them for their kindness in helping us keep the school functioning. We were able to send students and faculty to conferences, fund research, travel grants for student outings, lab remodels and upgrades all through the generosity of our fine donors. We could not have done it without them.

During it all I developed warm and sustaining relationships here. As a dean I got to know people throughout the campus and feel blessed to have formed incredibly meaningful friendships far and wide. I know who does painting, maintenance, moving, student affairs, housing, catering and so much more. I appreciate all of the people who reached out to me and made me feel like I could make this place work! Thanks.

I will now be moving into a new phase of a long and rich career in academia. I will be leaving for Semester at Sea in August; traveling to England, Russia, Germany, Ireland, France, Belgium, Spain, Portugal, Morocco, Ghana, South Africa, Argentina and Brazil while teaching Sociology of Gender, Race and Ethnicity and the Family. When I return I will be entering the faculty early retirement program and will teach part time for up to five years. I look forward to returning to the faculty, and am eager to begin work on a new book. I also hope to find out what I want to be when I grow up, now that I am graduating!

I am pleased that the incoming interim dean is Dr. John Wingard, former chair of the Anthropology Department. John is well-liked by the faculty in the School and I am hopeful that all of you will develop a close and comfortable working relationship. I sure wish him well in this newest endeavor.

Thanks again so much for a wonderful twelve years and please do be in touch with me, even when I am no longer in a position of authority.

Elaine Leader, Dean School of Social Sciences

Social Sciences Pilots Program to Improve the Sophomore Year Experience for Sonoma State Students — By Michelle Jolly

I think it definitely needs to be different from freshman year . . . They are not going to want to do what they did their freshman year. Once that year is over, most students are ready to not be freshmen anymore . . . No one wants to repeat freshman year (SSU student).

Starting your second year at SSU or beginning as a new transfer student is challenging. Sophomores, for instance, may experience a loss of excitement after the first year, harder coursework, larger GE classes, less direct contact with professors than during freshman year, and increased anxiety about the future (including choice of major and career). New transfer students share many of these experiences, compounded by the challenges of adapting to a new university. At the same time, there is less institutional support for students than during freshman year.

The School of Social Sciences is pleased to announce the pilot year of the Sophomore Year Experience (S YE) in 2013-2014. This program, directed to second-year SSU students and incoming transfer students, is designed to help bridge the gap between the first year (or previous institution) and what comes next.

Why Sophomore Year?
As SSU has moved toward creating more Freshman Learning Communities, faculty in the School of Social Sciences became aware of the particular needs of sophomores and transfer students, many of whom take Social Sciences GE courses or introductory major courses during these years. The faculty members conducted a series of focus groups with SSU students (freshmen to seniors from a variety of departments and schools) in spring 2012 to learn what these students thought about the social sciences and about the needs of sophomores.

(Continued on page 2)
SOPHOMORE YEAR EXPERIENCE (CONTINUED)

What students say about Sophomore Year

“There’s the gap between finally getting your classes together and what are you going to apply them to. We spend all this time on tests, papers, and flashcards, but what is the point? My roommate and I kind of sit and sometimes think, what is this for?”

“My sophomore year I wasn’t prepared for, I wish it would have been more challenging but in a gradual way.”

“I feel like there is a huge jump between freshman and sophomore year, and it’s in the classroom.”

“Sophomore year you start to think about what you want to do.”

The SYE Pilot Program at Sonoma State

We connected the focus group results with national studies about sophomores and sophomore programming. The Pilot SYE Program includes:

- Summer letter and Welcome Back Event will outline appropriate goals for the year and providing resources for students to address these goals and offer students a chance to reconnect with faculty, peers, and the campus.
- Sophomore Seminar: How to Think Like a Social Scientist—In this course, students and faculty explore the disciplinary ways of knowing specific to the social sciences. More information available at www.sonoma.edu/socsci/news/.
- MAP (My Academic Plan)—Advisors and students will work together develop a coherent, meaningful story of the student’s learning in both academic and non-academic realms.

In addition to these classroom and advising components of the program, there will be an opportunity for students to turn their interest in the social sciences toward the community outside the classroom through the Undergraduate Project Initiative. In this program, students who complete the sophomore seminar will be eligible to apply for funding to engage in research or community projects under the sponsorship of a faculty member. The results of their work will be presented in a public forum each year.

Outgoing Dean Elaine Leeder, Interim Dean John Wingard, and the many faculty members who have been involved in the development of this program are tremendously excited to see SYE begin this fall and look forward to its future growth.

How you can help

Because this is a new initiative, there is little funding available for such an undertaking. Any help you might choose to give us would be greatly appreciated. Please contact the dean if you are interested in helping us with this exciting project.

ANTHROPOLOGY PROFESSOR TO CURATE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY EXHIBIT

“FROM DEATH TO LIFE IN ANCIENT BAHRAIN” - BY ALEXIS BOUTIN

Peter B. Cornwall’s team excavating a burial mound in Bahrain

From August 15 to October 15, visitors to the University Library will be greeted by an exhibit entitled “From Death to Life in Ancient Bahrain.” Curated by Anthropology faculty Alexis Boutin (Assistant Professor) and Jennifer Jacobs (Lecturer), the exhibit will feature research on human skeletons and artifacts from an ancient polity known as Dilmun (located in present-day Bahrain from the late 3rd-mid-2nd millennium BCE). These remains were excavated by Peter B. Cornwall in the 1940s and are currently stored at the Phoebe A. Hearst Museum of Anthropology at UC Berkeley.

With the help of undergraduate student assistants from Sonoma State and UC Berkeley, we have conducted extensive analyses on human skeletal remains, used descriptive and interpretive techniques to analyze artifacts and animal bones, and employed cutting-edge technology to visualize and reconstruct ancient human faces. Now, we are bringing this research to the broader public. Visitors to the exhibit will be introduced to ancient societies of the Arabian Gulf; uncover the story of Cornwall, an archaeologist who not only surmounted the challenge of fieldwork during World War II, but also his own deafness; and learn how bioarchaeologists reconstruct past lives from bones and teeth of the dead.

Highlights of the exhibit will include reproductions of ancient pottery made by SSU ceramics students; a life-size replica of the contents of a burial mound, hundreds of which still dot the Bahraini landscape; and facial reconstructions of two ancient Dilmunites, created by 3D scanning and forensic science. Our hope is that a face-to-face encounter with ancient Bahrain will help demystify faraway places and narrow the 4000 years that separate our lives, allowing a student or member of the public to see people not so different from him- or herself.

This research project is highly collaborative. In addition to Boutin and Jacobs, participating SSU faculty include Karen Brodsky (Library; exhibit coordination) and Gregory Roberts (Art and Art History; ceramics). Inter-institutionally, the team includes Benjamin W. Porter and Sabrina B. Sholts (UC Berkeley) and Gloria L. Nusse (San Francisco State).

"From Death to Life in Ancient Bahrain" will run from August 15-October 15, 2013 in the SSU Library Gallery. A welcome reception with lectures will be held in early September. The exhibit is funded by a SSU Faculty Mini-Grant, with research supported by Dean Leeder’s summer research funds.

Please contact us for more information: Alexis Boutin, alexis.boutin@sonoma.edu
Karen Brodsky, karen.brodsky@sonoma.edu
**GEOGRAPHY PROFESSOR TO CONDUCT RESEARCH IN ARGENTINA**

Professor Matthew (Mateo) Clark, recently received a grant from the Fulbright Specialist Program to collaborate with researchers at the Regional Ecology Institute (Instituto de Ecología Regional) in Tucumán, Argentina for five weeks in Summer 2013.

While Professor Clark is in Tucumán, the research team will investigate two land-cover change topics that will culminate in peer-reviewed scientific papers: 1) what is the current area and past change of forests in protected and unprotected areas of across all of Latin America, and 2) how does projected climate change affect agricultural expansion, deforestation rates and ecosystem services in the Chaco dry forests of Argentina, Bolivia and Paraguay. As base data for these analyses, they will use high-resolution (30-m pixels) land-cover maps of Latin America derived from >8,000 Landsat satellite images. Mateo produced these maps during his Fall 2012 sabbatical by feeding roughly 10 terabytes of data through 20 computer processors in the Center for Interdisciplinary Geospatial Analysis (CIGA) -- a process that took roughly four months!

Professor Clark’s last research grant in NSF’s Dynamics of Coupled Natural and Human Systems program, addressed what happened to the forests of Latin America and the Caribbean between 2001 and 2010. The Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) region has the earth’s greatest amount of biodiversity, a large share of its aboveground carbon stock, and extensive protected areas. But the region is also a major food producer for a growing, and more affluent, regional and global population. Documenting the patterns and socio-economic drivers of LAC deforestation has been an important scientific priority for more than 30 years, especially in its tropical forests which contain a disproportionate amount of the region’s species and carbon. However, there has been considerably less attention dedicated to tracking the recovery of forests, woodlands and scrublands in the region. To address this, Dr. Mitchell Aide, a professor at the University of Puerto Rico with Dr. Matthew Clark, devised a collaborative, five-year Dynamics of Coupled Natural and Human Systems (CNH) project to address this challenge.

**SOCIAL SCIENCES FACULTY IN THE NEWS**

**PRESS DEMOCRAT ARTICLE FEATURES ANTHROPOLOGY PROFESSOR KARIN JAFFE**

From left: Natalie Hambalek (BA, Biology), Karin Jaffe, and Gillian King-Bailey (BS, Biology) at Santa Clara University 40th Annual Western Undergraduate Research Conference where Natalie gave a presentation, entitled “Aggression and dominance behaviors of an all-male troop of captive squirrel monkeys”.

Recently, Professor Karin Enstam Jaffe and the Sonoma State University Primate Ethology Research Lab was the subject of an extensive profile in the local newspaper. Called “Karin Jaffe’s window into primates’ world,” the article was published in The Press Democrat on Friday, May 17 2013 and can be found on the Press Democrat’s website at [http://rohnertpark.towns.pressdemocrat.com/2013/05/news/experiencing-the-ssuper-lab-at-ssu/](http://rohnertpark.towns.pressdemocrat.com/2013/05/news/experiencing-the-ssuper-lab-at-ssu/).

The article focuses on Professor Jaffe’s groundbreaking collaborative work at the Sonoma State University Primate Ethology Research (SSUPER) Lab. Projects through the SSUPER lab connect Sonoma State University students with local zoos to conduct collaborative research. In the article, Professor Jaffe says, “I think it is a valuable opportunity for students to work with zoos. Zookeepers already have a full time job, and it can be difficult for them to spend the necessary time to observe and collect data to answer some questions.”

The SSUPER Lab has been open since 2007 and focuses on ethological (i.e., behavioral) research of human and non-human primates and strives to involve Sonoma State graduate and undergraduate students in a variety of primate behavior (i.e., ethology) research projects. According to Jaffe, SSUPER gives graduate and undergraduate students “a lower cost research experience without having to travel in the field like to South America, which has a very high cost.”

SSUPER Research Assistants engage in a variety of activities including collecting data as part of their own, independent research or Applied Primatology project, others help with data collection and entry for master’s projects, and others collect data for larger projects being conducted by Dr. Jaffe. Students can get 1-3 units worth of credit for participating. SSUPER Research Assistants must commit to a minimum of 1 semester (or 15 weeks in the summer), but are strongly encouraged to consider participating for longer than 1 semester.

Currently SSUPER is engaged in several projects including one on aggression, affiliation and enclosure use in an all-male group of squirrel monkeys at the San Francisco Zoo; The Primate Faces Project which uses SSU students to examine the individuality and ease of recognition of non-human primate faces; and observations of male-male aggression of patas monkeys at Safari West.
Dr. Stephen Bittner - History
Whites and Reds: Wine in the Lands of the Tsar and Commisssar

Professor Bittner will use his summer research grant to travel to Tbilisi, Georgia and St. Petersburg, Russia. In Georgia he will be able to consult tsarist-era collections containing materials on the history of winemaking in the valleys of the south Caucasus after Russian annexation at the end of the 18th century. In Russia he will be able to consult material that will illuminate the cultural and legislative events leading up to the passage of Russia’s wine-purity law in 1903. The research Professor Bittner will be able to conduct in Georgia and Russia is central to his book-length study on the history of tsarist and Soviet winemaking.

Dr. Cynthia Boaz - Political Science
Depictions of War and Peace in Media Coverage of Palestinian Crisis

Professor Cynthia Boaz is using frame analysis to examine the competing narratives used by conventional media to discuss the ongoing conflict in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. Her research considers the two dominant sets of frames on the conflict: one that emphasizes violence, repression, and terrorism, and the other that emphasizes civil resistance, people power, and the quest for unity across borders.

Dr. Maureen Buckley - Counseling
The Impact of Parental Involvement on the Academic Achievement of Latino Students

Professor Maureen Buckley will use her summer research grant to conduct a literature review on the impact of parental involvement on the academic achievement of Latino students. Latino students are particularly at risk for problematic academic outcomes such as low grades, absenteeism, lower test scores, and high school drop-out. Professor Buckley hopes that through this research she can devise concrete suggestions to help our local school committees address this issue.

Dr. James J. Dean - Sociology

Professor James Dean’s research asks the question: how do straight residents of the Castro District enact their straight identities in their interactions with LGBT persons who still compose the majority of the neighborhood’s residents, visitors, and patrons? And which neighborhood characteristics, resources, and cultural values do straight residents define as central in their decisions to live in a historically famous gay ghetto? Professor Dean will use his summer research grant to conduct 30 in-depth interviews with straight residents of the Castro District.

Dr. Steve Estes - History
Too Proud to Whitewash: Charleston Since the Civil Rights Era

Professor Steve Estes will be using his summer research grant to travel to Charleston South Carolina to complete the research and revisions of his book manuscript: “Too Proud to Whitewash: Charleston, since the Civil Rights Era.” In Charleston Professor Estes will have access to several archives including Charleston Post & Courier and the Avery Research Center and may be able to conduct some final oral history interviews.

Dr. Diana Grant - Criminology and Criminal Justice Studies
In the Shadow of the Jury

Professor Diana Grant plans to examine how the political role of petit juries manifests in this era of massive pretrial publicity and media creation of ‘moral crises’ relating to crime. Her research will focus on contemporary cases which appear to illustrate this phenomenon.

Dr. Mary Halavais - History
Seafaring in the Spanish Empire

Professor Mary Halavais will use her summer research grant to travel to Simancas, Spain to access the Archivo General de Simancas. Her research will focus on several aspects of seafaring in Spain in the early 17th century. The research will encompass the Spanish Empire as well as outside of Spain with the Morisco pirates.

Dr. Patrick Jackson - Criminology and Criminal Justice Studies
Foster Children Involved in Animal Assisted Therapy

Professor Patrick Jackson will use his summer research grant to continue his work with foster children at Forget Me Not Farms, a non-profit where children learn how to care for and manage abused and abandoned animals. His research uses photo elicitation procedures to interview the foster children involved in animal assisted therapy and mentoring programs about their relationship with animals as well as their human mentors, and exploring how these relate to breaking the cycle of criminality.

Dr. Thomas Jacobson - Environmental Studies and Planning
The Basics of California Land Use Planning

This summer, Professor Thomas Jacobson will use his research grant to work on researching and completing the basic text of a new book called “The Basics of California Land Use Planning.” The book, inspired by a course taught by Professor Jacobson called Planning for Non-Planners, focuses on providing the basic structure of the planning process and land use regulation in California to a broad non-professional audience.

Professor Lena McQuade - Women’s and Gender Studies
Conceiving Comprehensive Reproductive Health Care: The Santa Fe Maternal Health Center, 1937

Professor Lena McQuade will use her summer research grant to continue her work that traces the development of the first free birth control clinic established in Santa Fe, New Mexico during the late 1930’s. Her research helps provide historical context for contemporary questions about reproductive freedoms and the role of birth control in comprehensive health care reform.

Professor Melinda Milligan – Sociology
In the Interest of the Past: Organizational Identities and the Historic House

Professor Melinda Milligan will use her summer research grant to continue her research on historical preservation issues. Professor Milligan will be conducting fieldwork (observation and interviews) on historic house museums and historic house tours. With this additional data she will be able to continue her analysis of preservation ideology as presented by preservation advocacy organizations as a means to continue assessment of these groups as social movement organizations.

Professor Kathleen Noonan – History
Gasoline and Unrest: The 1915-1916 Bayonne Refinery Strikes and the Balm of Employee Housing

Kathleen Noonan will use her grant to travel to Bayonne, New Jersey. She will conduct research into the Standard Oil refinery strikes in there and the development of the first “garden apartments” for the standard oil employees as part of an experiment in urban planning written under the direction of John D. Rockefeller.

Professor Gerryann Olson – Psychology
Diaries, Letters, Scrapbooks and Journals: Crafting a Visual Autobiographical Self

Professor Gerryann Olson will use her summer research grant to study a variety of approaches to documenting one’s life through scrapbooks, diaries, letters, individual and group journals, and the more recent use of online blogs and confessional sites such as Postsecret. She hopes to propose some reasons why scrapbooks and
diaries remain enduring and compelling as private hobbies, and to collect data on the increase of their use as a therapeutic method.

**Professor Napoleon Reyes - Criminology and Criminal Justice**

Professor Napoleon Reyes will use his summer research grant to continue his research into the correlation between transparency and integrity in government organizations. His work will specifically focus on social networking’s role in the public’s participation in governance.

**Professor Julie Shulman – Counseling**
Women’s Self Objectification

Professor Julie Shulman will use her summer research grant to continue her work on women’s body surveillance which is the tendency to view one’s own body as though one is an outsider rather than from the subjective, phenomenological experience of self. Body surveillance predicts several interrelated clinical symptoms among women including body shame, body consciousness during sexual activity, sexual dissatisfaction, and sexual dysfunction.

**Professor Cindy Stearns – Sociology**
Breastfeeding Professionals Study

Professor Cindy Stearns will use her summer research grant to continue her research into interviewing lactation professionals in order to develop our understanding of their work and its consequences for mothers. Her orientation questions include: How do lactation consultants talk about the embodied practices of breastfeeding in the U.S.? What are the prevailing ideologies concerning proper motherhood and breastfeeding practices shared by breastfeeding professionals and how are these enacted in their work routines and practices? What social and economic resources do these professionals believe are necessary to make breastfeeding successful?

**RECENTLY PUBLISHED WORK**

**Professor Theresa Alfaro-Velcamp, Department of History**


**Professor Mathew Clark, Department of Geography & Global Studies**


**Professor James Dean, Department of Sociology**


**Professor Michelle Goman, Department of Geography & Global Studies**


**Professor Patrick Jackson, Department of Criminology & Criminal Justice Studies**


**Professor Adrian Praetzellis, Department of Anthropology**


**Professor Heather Smith, Department of Psychology**

- McKee, S., Smith, H.J, Koch, A., Balzarini, R., Georges, M. & Callahan, M.P. (in press). Looking up and seeing green: women’s everyday experiences with physical appearance comparisons. Psychology of Women Quarterly. (This publication is a collaboration Between SSU Professors and Psychology Alumni)

**Professor Laura A. Watt, Department of Environmental Studies & Planning**

- “Reimagining Joshua Tree: Applying Environmental History to National Park Interpretation” Journal of the West.

**Professor John Wingard, Department of Anthropology**

ANNE FRANK SAPLING FINDS HOME AT SONOMA STATE UNIVERSITY
"HOW WONDERFUL IT IS THAT NOBODY NEED WAIT A SINGLE MOMENT BEFORE STARTING TO IMPROVE THE WORLD (ANNE FRANK)."

The courage and inspiration of Anne Frank was honored on April 14th with the planting of a sapling grown from a cutting from the mother chestnut tree that often gave Frank hope as she hid from the Nazis in World War II. The tree planting ceremony also honored Helena Foster, a Holocaust survivor who has donated to SSU for a circle of 18 trees to be planted near the sapling.

The Anne Frank Sapling Project came to life in 2009, when The Anne Frank Center USA awarded 11 sites a sapling derived from the nearly 200 year-old horse chestnut tree that towered behind the Secret Annex, where Anne Frank and her family hid from the Nazis from 1942-44. As Anne gazed out the attic window, the tree not only comforted her through their seasons in hiding, but stood as a symbol of all that she was missing in the outside world. Despite efforts to shore it up, the aged, diseased tree toppled in a windstorm in 2010. "The addition of the Anne Frank tree will solidify the SSU campus as a major center on the West Coast for the study of the Holocaust and genocide," says Leeder. "It will provide eventually a vast canopy under which the University Holocaust Lecture Series and the academic and educational programs throughout Northern California will continue for generations."

SSU is one of the 11 recipients of the Anne Frank tree saplings in the United States. For almost three years, SSU has nurtured the quarantined sapling that arrived from the Netherlands in late 2009. It has been growing in a special shade house on campus outside of the public eye for the last three years.

Today, the Sonoma State sapling can be visited at its permanent home at the Erna and Arthur Salm Holocaust & Genocide Memorial Grove near the campus lakes.

The grove features a ten-foot tall light tower sculpture created by Professor Jann Nunn. Railroad tracks, symbolic of the Nazi deportations, radiate from the tower. Engraved in the glass tower’s base are the words of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.: "Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter." Bricks laid between the rails are inscribed with names and places of those who endured the horrors of genocide including Native American, Armenian, Cambodian, Rwanda and Darfur. Signage near the tree will carry the words written by Frank in her diary: "How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world."

Reservations for tours of the Grove and the sapling can be made with Andrea Rodriguez-Jereb, andrea.rodriguez-jereb@sonoma.edu, (707) 664-2018.

A video of the mother chestnut tree outside the Secret Annex is available on YouTube.