Digging up the Past

Page 4

SONOMA STATE UNIVERSITY
Fall 2008

2 President’s Message
3 Sonoma “Green”
4 Archeology and Artifacts
7 Blowing in the Wind
8 Green Music Center Teaches
10 Seawolf Champs
12 Mapping Sonoma
14 Dark World of Computer Security
17 Surfing Lawyer
18 Outdoor Pursuits
20 Distinguished Alumni
22 Classnotes
25 It Could Have Been Elsewhere…
Students stroll from the main campus to the north parking lots. The Alumni Grove sits along the path. At the base of the Alumni post is buried a time capsule, placed during the University’s 40th anniversary in 2001. It will be opened in 2061, the University’s 100th anniversary.

Volunteer Anna Much shifts through dirt excavated from the Heinlenville site in San Jose, California. The dig revealed a history of both Chinese and Japanese cultures that inhabited the site in the late 1800s and early 1900s.
EACH FALL when students return, I am reminded of the breadth of information, research, study and knowledge that is part of Sonoma State University. The faculty each and every day inspire their students to think logically, dream freely and take part in solving the ethical, scientific, moral and practical issues of their generation.

I am proud of the work in which our students toil. As you can see through the cover story on our Anthropological Studies Center, students—working with professional staff and faculty—are looking back at the past as they shape the future. Technology now plays a critical role in everything we do, from cataloging the artifacts found on the Heinlenville dig to researching the history of those early inhabitants.

The story on page 14 has been—in the eyes of some—a somewhat controversial one for Sonoma State University. Professor George Ledin is teaching students how to create computer viruses. He feels that we must teach our students how viruses are written before they can conquer the work of cyber-felons. With a strong dose of ethical studies by Professor John Sullins, the students are readying to become the computer security professionals of the future.

And if we begin to lose sight of the day-to-day enjoyments amid studies and exams, our athletic teams continue to give us reason to cheer and be proud. Not only do student-athletes excel in their chosen sports, they excel academically as well. Our excellent golf team, featured on page 10, is an example of dedication and commitment. I believe Sonoma and its faculty, staff and students possess these same values.

Sincerely,

Ruben Armiñana, President
Sonoma State Rated as Top “Green” Campus

by Jean Wasp

FROM MINI-BINS to solar arrays to student greenhouse gas research, Sonoma State University was making moves over the years toward a more sustainable campus when it finally became obvious.

The campus earned a major “green” rating in a new category developed this year by the Princeton Review in its annual 2009 Best 368 Colleges issue. Rising interest among students in attending schools that practice, teach and support environmentally-responsible choices is being noticed by educators across the country.

“The green movement on college campuses is far more than an Earth Day recycling project or a dining hall menu of organic food,” says Robert Franek, Vice President and Publisher at the Princeton Review. “The commitment that many colleges and their student bodies have made to environmental issues — indeed, to the environment — in their practices, use of resources, and academic and research programs is truly compelling. It is the students of today who will face and hopefully find solutions for the enormous environmental challenges confronting our planet’s future.”

Sonoma State’s efforts toward sustainability include a public commitment in its strategic plan and myriad opportunities for students to participate in sustainability research as part of the Green Campus Pilot Program. It also has a highly-regarded Environmental Studies and Planning program and employs a dedicated full-time sustainability officer.

A pioneer in the development of sustainable building projects — both retrofitted and new construction — the Rohnert Park campus is a leader in the California State University system. Campus architects and engineers now regularly develop new projects according to a LEED silver standard.


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One person’s trash became another’s treasure as the campus increased its recyclable office waste by almost 100 tons by turning the handling of office garbage on its head. The answer came in the shape of a 5 1/2-inch tall black plastic mini-bin, held above by staff member Barbara Danelia. The mini-bin is the depository of garbage, such as food wastes, in campus offices. Recyclable material such as paper and plastic bottles are routed into large blue trash cans at desks. Final destination is the campus recycling center. Photo by Jean Wasp.
THE DAY BEFORE ARCHEOLOGISTS uncovered the Ng Shing Gung Temple foundation, one of the Sonoma State graduate students working on the San José dig asked a local historian how to make an offering at the temple. Connie Young Yu, a Chinese-American historian whose grandfather owned a general store there long ago, explained that fruit and incense would be placed on an altar of the Five Gods Temple.

Student Chelsea Rose then placed two tangerines on the ground where old insurance maps had indicated they would find the temple.

“The next day Chelsea said ‘Guess what, we found the foundation!’”

SSU’s Anthropological Studies Center (ASC), under contract with the City of San José, is studying the archeology and history of what once was Heinlenville (a Chinese community) and Nihonmachi (Japantown). The study will pave the way for a residential-commercial development on the city’s former corporation yard. Asian communities lived and did business there between 1887 and 1931. Most buildings were torn down after the residents moved away; the temple was demolished in 1949.

ASC’s exploratory 10-day excavation of the site last March included a well-attended public open house aimed at showcasing the dig and some of the findings. Digging resumes this fall, according to ASC Director Adrian Praetzellis.

Praetzellis said he hopes backyard artifacts from the Heinlenville-Nihonmachi site will reveal how people living in the area at the end of the 19th century and beginning of the 20th century adapted to American life. He also expects this dig will lead to at least a couple of master’s theses. Artifacts, he said, can answer questions such as: What did residents do with their backyard spaces? How did the Chinese adapt ready-made homes to their lifestyle? Did they add structures? How did the Japanese build? What were their lives like?

Yu says almost 20 years ago when she began work on her book, “Chinatown, San Jose, USA,” she spoke with people whose families had lived in Heinlenville and adjacent Nihonmachi. She has numerous photographs and family treasures. The Heinlenville dig is exciting, she says, as the archeology gives proof that the community was really there.

“It was really something to see the backhoe take up a piece of earth and in that earth would be a crock that belonged to my grandmother,” Yu said.

According to Yu, most of the excavated artifacts are small because Heinlenville residents moved away and took their belongings. The only big item left was a beautiful stone probably used for grinding beans for rice cakes – too heavy to be moved, she noted.

Although she had already researched San Jose’s Chinese communities extensively, she heard additional anecdotes at the open house. Vince Chin, an elderly man told her how he used to peek through the slats of the wall separating his family’s store from her grandfather’s. When she inquired what her grandmother was doing, he answered, ‘Making whisky!’
Yu told Chin that her grandmother had fought an enormous fine for her bootlegging. Vince’s explanation was that people across the street with a house of prostitution and gambling thought that turning someone in for bootlegging would keep the cops away.

Erin Davenport, who is taking time from her archeological technician job at Yosemite National Park to earn a master’s degree at Sonoma State University in cultural resource management, said the open house was the highlight of working on the ASC job. She also noted that it was SSU’s focus on cultural resources management that attracted her to the anthropology program in the first place.

Davenport said her 92-year-old grandmother, whose parents had emigrated from Japan, attended the Heinlenville open house. The visit sparked memories of Chinese-Americans she knew as a child in Oakland.

Before the ASC team is finished at the site, plans may also be set in motion for other public outreach projects – oral history interviews, videos, exhibits or even an Asian garden, according to Praetzellis. Yu hopes part of the brick foundation of the temple can be incorporated into a lobby or community area. “It was the heart of the community,” she noted.

Pottery shards, medicinal vials, grinding stones, bones and other artifacts from the site will eventually go to the City of San Top: Student Erin Davenport carefully shovels dirt in an exposed excavation on the Heinlenville site. Bottom: The Sonoma State University ASC crew. Director Adrian Praetzellis is second row from the front on the far right.
Japanese ceramic art is like a Picasso, according to Spanish anthropology student Rut Ballesteros. “There’s a mix of colors,” she explains, “and you can see something if you look hard, but it’s not as well defined as drawings on Chinese pieces.”

Ballesteros uncovered Chinese pottery shards at the Heinlenville dig last spring. Now back at the Anthropological Studies Center lab, she says she delights in cleaning and labeling Japanese pieces as well. She looks forward to the next steps — fitting pieces together and figuring out meaning for the artifacts from Heinlenville and the adjacent Japantown Nihonmachi.

One of her favorite pieces is a Chinese teacup lid. “It’s perfect — no scratches, nice shiny colors,” she said. She would be thrilled if she could piece together its cup.

Just as Chinese and Japanese ceramic styles differ, so too do their respective cultures. It’s unusual to find them intertwined in one archaeological dig. However, there’s a logical reason the two diverse Asian cultures rest side-by-side in San Jose, according to Connie Young Yu, a historian whose grandfather owned a Heinlenville general store.

Anti-Chinese sentiment was high in the late 1880s. Five years after Congress passed the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, arsonists torched the Chinese community along San Jose’s Market Street. Ten days later, a German immigrant businessman leased five acres of pastureland to the dispossessed Chinese. John Heinlen fenced his property to protect the community that became known as Heinlenville. The Asians said the name with respect; Caucasians used it to mock the landowner.

Although Japanese could immigrate to the U.S. legally after the Chinese Exclusion Act specifically barred Chinese laborers, Yu explained that the Japanese still felt the sting of anti-Asian discrimination. Unwelcome elsewhere, Japanese men who came to work on San Jose farms found refuge in Heinlenville where established merchants offered them credit.

They eventually built Japantown next to the Chinese enclave.

Congress extended the Chinese Exclusion Act twice, finally repealing it in 1943 when the United States and China were World War II allies. One year earlier, the United States government had forced more than 100,000 people of Japanese descent from Pacific Coast states.

Yu said that although the Heinlenville community no longer existed at that time, many Chinese-Americans in the area helped the Japanese-Americans protect their property.

Yu, a Chinese-American who sits on Japantown community committees, is proud that people from different Asian backgrounds have come together more than once in San Jose’s history. She said she admires Heinlen because the German immigrant took a huge risk leasing land to dispossessed Chinese so they could rebuild after the Market Street fire.

“Along come people can’t quite grasp that Heinlen was so courageous,” she stated.

ASC Director Adrian Praetzellis agrees. “Perhaps the Heinlenville-Nihonmachi dig should be considered a site of conscience,” he said. “It shows how Asian immigrants faced and overcome discrimination with the help of a German immigrant.”

— Lindajoy Fenley
WITH OIL PRICES and climate change consistently in the news, there can be no doubt: we are facing an energy problem to be reckoned with for the long run. Experts agree that both energy efficiency and carbon-free, renewable resources must form the basis of any sustainable energy strategy for the future. A big part of this solution is indeed blowing in the wind.

The idea of wind power isn’t new. Mechanical wind and watermills have been used to grind grains between large, rotating millstones for many centuries, with the earliest machines dating back to around 200 BC in Persia and to ancient Greece. Thus, when electricity arrived in the early 1900s, it was only natural to look to wind and water for the power to rotate electric generators.

Since that time, hydroelectricity has had a steady presence throughout the world. Because water running downhill carries much weight at high speed, the mechanical energy is very concentrated. Consequently, hydropower is inexpensive—assuming a convenient location can be found for capturing the fast-moving water, and for storing it behind a dam. Dams offer the convenience of getting our energy whenever we want it, not just after the rains. But because such sites are limited, and due to the serious environmental impacts of creating reservoirs, hydropower cannot be exploited in arbitrary amounts.

A variation on this theme is tidal power, where underwater turbines are driven not by a river but the flow of ocean water into and out of tidal basins. Again, the key constraint is location. In the San Francisco Bay, for example, there seems to be a considerable tidal flow, but it is mostly near the surface, and the energy that is practical to extract turns out to be less than one might hope.

Unlike water, wind is accessible in many places. To be sure, microclimates vary, and Sonoma County, for example, has only a few local pockets of the consistent wind speeds needed to produce electricity economically. Throughout California, though, the energy from high wind areas such as the Altamont, Tehachapi and San Gorgonio Passes adds up to a respectable amount—about 2.3 percent of the State’s electricity in 2007 came from wind, and the number is growing with new installations nearly every day. Across the United States, last year there was a record of 46% growth in wind energy, with 5,329 new megawatts installed and $9 billion of investment.

Because air is less dense than water, wind turbines are bigger and take up more acreage. Moreover, you can’t store the wind for when the power is needed, and many of the technical challenges in turbine and power system design have to do with the wind’s variability over time—how to adapt the machine to most efficiently extract power under different conditions, and not break apart in a storm. But engineers have been improving upon these designs for many years.

Indeed, the first wind turbines went online in the early 1900s, and local wind power competed with the federally subsidized grid for rural electrification in the 1930s. With fossil fuels abundant and cheap—and their inherent problems not yet obvious—renewable resources were easy to ignore. Yet today, wind is being rediscovered as the least-cost energy source in many locations—second only to reducing energy demand through efficiency. In California, at least, we’ve shown that we can do both!

The Answer, My Friend is Blowing in the Wind…

by Alexandra von Meier, Professor of Environmental Studies & Planning

Left: A researcher entering the hub of the 1.5-MW turbine reveals the impressive scale. Photo by Sandia National Laboratory. Top: Professor Alexandra von Meier is an avid rock climber. The photo shows her 600 feet up the face of El Capitan in Yosemite. Though she regularly lectures about wind turbines, she has yet to scale a turbine tower herself. Photo by Steve Schneider. Above: Professor von Meier stands in front of SSU’s Environmental Technology Center, often called “a building that teaches.”
THE WARM MONTHS of this past summer found faculty in the Department of Music sorting through their offices in Charles Ives Hall, packing what they would take to the brand new Music Education Hall in the Donald & Maureen Green Music Center. Last month the first students took classes in Music Education Hall. As the finishing touches were being put on the hall in July, Jeff Langley, professor of music and artistic director of the Green Music Center said, “Look at these classrooms. They are beautiful and have the latest technologies for teaching—and the windows provide such light and wonderful views. I can’t wait to get my students in here.” And that’s what he and other faculty have done. Music Education Hall has numerous practice and ensemble rooms, large and small, as well as the two 60-student classrooms in which Langley and other faculty are teaching.

Melodic notes from pianos, concertos and jazz music from music appreciation courses, and other music fill the air. Small student groups practice together in ensemble rooms while others gather in the student lounge or the music library. All around them construction continues on the rest of the Green Music Center.

The GMC is comprised of four buildings: Music Education Hall, the Concert Hall, Schroeder’s Recital Hall (named for Charles Schulz’s Peanuts character), and a hospitality center that includes dining and meeting spaces and is expected to open this spring. Music Education Hall is fenced for safety at this time, although most of the construction work is on the inside of the other buildings. Still, students and faculty can perhaps imagine the Center on a warm Sonoma County night in a few years as guests arrive to enjoy a concert in the main hall or in Schroeder’s. They might envision sitting within the great hall in one of the 1,400 seats to enjoy a Santa Rosa Symphony (orchestra-in-residence) performance or one of the many other events being planned.
The GMC will be a bustling center for creativity, the interchange of teaching and learning, and myriad performance experiences such as Wynton Marsalis, the Emerson String Quartet, or Bonnie Raitt. The Green Music Center will host a wide mix of community and campus-related events such as classical, jazz, folk/country, Reggae, pop/rock or lectures, readings and classes.

The GMC is a dream moving toward reality. Donald & Maureen Green, the founding philanthropists, envisioned the complex to be one supporting students of all ages and being a place where the community can come together for enjoyment and their love of music.

The Green Music Center has attracted unprecedented public and private support and has provided an entrée for the community to get involved with SSU’s academic, intellectual and cultural activities. The University is now transforming those buildings into a world-class experience with contributions for interior furnishings and amenities, as well as grounds landscaping.

An anonymous donor has come forward with a $2.5 million challenge and is matching Green Music Center donations. To date, more than $2 million has been donated to meet the challenge.

Weekly public hardhat tours (“Tuesday Tours”) have seen hundreds of visitors wanting to see the complex.

For more information about the Green Music Center or to take a tour, go to the website at http://gmc.sonoma.edu or contact University Development at (707) 664-2712.

Left page top: Freshman Voice major Daniel Corpus of Gilroy, CA chose Sonoma State University in part because of the Green Music Center. “It struck the right vibe and the support of music education is strong.”

Left page bottom: View of the Concert Hall and wall that opens to the outdoors. Above, middle: Students in a keyboarding class taken instruction from Professor Marilyn Thompson. Above: Schroeder’s Recital Hall is named for the Beethoven-loving Peanuts character. Left: Laying the Douglas Fir wood floor of the Concert Hall.

Assistant Professor Andy Collinsworth works in his office in the new Music Education Hall with music major Austin Prince. All photos by Linnea Mullins
THE SONOMA STATE MEN’S GOLF TEAM took another huge step forward in 2008. Already a competitive, nationally-ranked team with a pair of All-Americans, the ’08 version of the Seawolves surpassed just about any expectations for such a young program.

To fully understand the Seawolves’ incredible ascent to the top of Division II golf, one must take a quick look back. In 2003, there was no SSU golf team. In 2004, a first-year team took their lumps, finishing seventh in the conference tournament.

Fast forward to 2008. Just four years after that first team hit the links, the Seawolves are conference (CCAA) champions, west region champions, and one of just two teams to have been ranked No. 1 in the nation this year.

As usual, team success has gone hand-in-hand with individual honors.

A year ago, as a sophomore, Jarin Todd (above) became the first student-athlete in Sonoma State history to earn national Player of the Year honors. This year, he became the first to do it in back-to-back years as he continued his utter dominance of collegiate golf. In fact, only one other golfer in the 20-year history of the Jack Nicklaus Award (golf’s national player of the year award) has won it more than once—Phil Mickelson, one of the top golfers in the world today.

Todd sported an average round of 70.3 and carded individual round scores of 62 and 63 during the season. A junior from Redmond, Washington, Todd has brought immeasurable exposure to the campus as he has appeared in countless newspapers and national magazines.

“Having one great golfer is nice, but it is not enough to win a championship. To bring home a trophy, you need depth. And the
2008 Seawolves were deeper than any squad in the country as all five members of the starting lineup earned All-West Region honors,” says Brandon Bronzan, SSU’s Assistant Athletics Director.

Freshman Patrick Bauer was named CCAA Freshman of the Year and became just the second student-athlete in school history to earn All-America honors in his first year. A trio of seniors—Kyle Hopkins, Chris Galvin, and Jacob O’Keefe, were impressive as well, as every starting golfer had at least one tournament in which he finished in the top five.

For his efforts in guiding the Seawolves, head coach Val Verhunce was named the CCAA and West Region Coach of the Year.

In addition to their conference and regional crowns, the Seawolves won three other events and finished in the top two in nine of their first eleven events.

As great a season as the Seawolves had, they know there is one thing missing from their résumé, a national championship. That will be the goal in 2009 as the Seawolves hit the links again with the ultimate prize in mind.

“Having one great golfer is nice, but it is not enough to win a championship. To bring home a trophy, you need depth.”
Have you seen Sonoma State University lately?

CURRENT FACULTY, staff and students know the physical changes that have taken place over the past decade or so, but for those who have not scan the campus recently, when you finally do, your comments may be like alumnus Trevor Howe (B.S., 2003, Business Administration), “The Schulz Information Center (#28) is truly a new type of building and the renovated Salazar Hall (#26, which used to house the library) is a place where students can go to get all their business done—it’s attractive and functional. And one fewer concrete buildings can only be a good thing (Salazar Hall was painted a beige color).”

Sonoma has become a residential campus with 2,400 of its 8,500 students living in one of the villages on campus. The newest village, currently under construction, is called Tuscany (#33) and will provide housing for 700 more students. The Environmental Technology Center (#13) remains a “building that teaches.” The Green Music Center (#16) is currently under construction and will be a world-class musical venue when it opens in the next few years. The education wing welcomed students this fall.

The campus has come together very well as can be seen in the map on the left, created by artist Eric Martin. Plan to walk the campus when in the area. Try entering through the new "north" entrance (#22), parking in Lot L, M, N or O and walk the 269-acre site. Be sure not to miss the Alumni Grove (#1) where a time capsule was buried in 2001 and will be re-opened at Sonoma State University’s 100th anniversary in 2061. Calendar that!

Or if you would prefer a guided tour, book a tour at http://www.sonoma.edu/ar/tours.shtml and also learn about the programs, faculty and students that make Sonoma a premier California institution.
From fork bombs to worms to viruses called Cookie Monster, computer-science students at Sonoma State University are exploring the world of “malicious software” as part of the computer security curriculum. By cautiously confining a single computer network on campus to a small mobile cart with four computers running on different operating systems, Professor George Ledin is teaching students about the dark world of computer viruses.

In a course about “malware,” students are learning the intricacies of how computer viruses are constructed in much the same way biology students learn about the intricacies of bacterial organisms and other life forms that cause disease.
Ledin hopes to create a new career path for computer science students who can join the ranks of computer security professionals to protect from the perils of cyber attacks.

In the brightly lit CS lab in Darwin 25, one of Ledin’s students, Dan Fogle, shows how a not-so-cuddly Cookie Monster works, persisting in its demands for a cookie (an imaginary digital biscuit) and, if denied the treat, activating hidden commands that cause the machine to be crippled. Thomas Fynan demonstrates the power of his “forum flooder,” where phony commentary manifests in a forum or blog giving an indication there is a groundswell of opinion on a particular issue where none really exists.

Although the concepts are not new, students such as Fogle and Fynan have been able to write the malware themselves and lead the class to a better understanding of how some viruses can alter or destroy the machine’s operating system registry or do other damage while the user is unaware there is anything unusual going on.

The viruses written by the students work undetected by all antivirus software. Some crash not only all previous operating systems, such as Windows 98, Windows 2000, and Windows XP, but also the newest one, Vista. Others lay hidden as an “unwanted tenant” logging the keystrokes of the unwary user.

That same day another student, Lincoln Peters, demonstrates the workings of his “fork bomb,” an utterly simple but extremely annoying and potentially deadly code segment that fills up the computer screen with a never-ending proliferation of windows.

The goal is for students to use their knowledge of the “dark side” of programming to build future computer systems that are better equipped to guard against and even combat these malicious programs. Other student projects have been produced by Brian Tietz, Grant Joy, Chris Mefford, Ben Corr, Travis Kool and Mike Drew.

“Learning about viruses and malware is like learning a martial art. One has to learn how to attack in order to develop an effective defense,” says John Sullins, a philosophy professor who is working with Ledin on the ethics of the course.

“Ledin’s class provides students with an uncommon opportunity to learn not only how to react and defend against malicious computer programs, but also how they are used and the logic behind their construction.”

See the story and video featured in the Aug. 11, 2008 issue of Newsweek entitled “The Bug Man is a Pest” at http://www.newsweek.com/id/150465.
Ethan Miller-Bazemore (B.A. Political Science, ’96) is what you might call an overachiever.

He was an all-star soccer player in high school, was named University Athlete of the Year at Sonoma State University, and was a regular on the Dean’s List before graduating with a law degree from Southwestern University.

Last month, at age 33, he also became the youngest president in the history of the Long Beach Bar Association.

“Overachiever,” he admits, “is probably a fair assessment.”

“I wasn’t the most athletic person,” he says. “But I was always the best on every team because I tried the hardest.”

Miller-Bazemore says he hopes to tap into that work ethic once again during his yearlong tenure as president of the Long Beach Bar Association.

In addition to providing a local network of attorneys, the 91-year-old Association provides weekly pro-bono work at the Long Beach Courthouse, operates a referral service through its Web site and gives out college scholarships to local students.

Miller-Bazemore’s first order of business? Infusing the Bar with new, young attorneys.

“I think the Bar is in need of fresh blood, so to speak,” he says, adding, “I would guess the average member is 50 (years old) with 15 years’ experience.”

Miller-Bazemore could be his own poster child for the kind of attorney he’s hoping to attract.

He’s both a devoted attorney and Gen-Xer. He practices estate planning and drives a Harley Davidson motorcycle. He spends several evenings a month giving his time to a variety of law-related boards and committees, then spends his weekends surfing.

But growing membership is never easy.

Miller-Bazemore acknowledges that, like so many worthy causes, the Long Beach Bar is competing with a litany of other obligations. Getting the existing members to come to monthly meetings is difficult enough.

“I sort of want to make it fun again,” he says.

A Huntington Beach native, Miller-Bazemore has been heavily influenced by his mother, Sandra Miller, a family law attorney and, incidentally, his biggest fan.

In 1968, she became the youngest woman elected to public office in California when she earned a seat on the city council of Signal Hill, a town near Long Beach. Her husband died when Ethan was 8 years old, and Sandra persevered as a single, working mother.

“Some nights, when she couldn’t get a babysitter, she took me to the Long Beach Bar Association meetings,” Miller-Bazemore recalls. “So I’ve been going to them since I was 10 years old.”

Out of high school and Sonoma State University, where he excelled in soccer, Miller-Bazemore earned his Juris Doctor degree and joined his mother’s law office in Seal Beach. He ultimately chose estate planning over family law, however.

“It’s a great little niche for younger lawyers,” he says of estate litigation, adding that the baby boom generation is at retirement age and driving plenty of new business his way.

Miller-Bazemore acknowledges that he may have reached his height of involvement in membership organizations. He’s unmarried and has no children, which affords him more free time than many attorneys.

Enough time to travel, invest in real estate and, of course, to surf.

And, for the record, there’s a group in Malibu consisting entirely of lawyers who surf as a hobby. It’s called the Association of Surfing Lawyers.

And, yes, Miller-Bazemore is a member of that, too. Ethan Miller-Bazemore played for Sonoma State’s mens soccer team from 1993-1996, and had an outstanding career.

Story courtesy of Long Beach Press Telegram
THE RECREATION CENTER is a fully-sustainable hub of activity on campus. There is a basketball court, cardio machines, and a rock climbing wall located in the center. What many people do not know is that there is also a thriving Outdoor Pursuits program, run by a dedicated group of students. The program was established in the 90s with just a few students organizing five trips or so a year. It has grown significantly and today is a professional operation with 12 student volunteers planning and leading up to 22 trips a year. From yoga and backpacking trips to white water rafting and skydiving, the program aims to strike a balance between relaxing and adventurous trips. Participation is open to students, faculty and staff and the public.

If someone has never rock climbed or gone backpacking before, can they still sign up for a trip? “Absolutely,” says Ryan Hammes, Outdoor Recreation and Sports Clubs Coordinator at SSU. “We welcome novices and encourage people to try something new and go beyond their self-imposed boundaries,” he says. The program has organized trips to Point Reyes, Sierra Hot Springs, Big Sur and the King Range Wilderness area, just to name a few. The trips are educational, and the skills and self-discoveries people make while on them translate into life beyond the trail. Bob Blaine and Adam Williams, who are student trip coordinators and leaders for the program, believe it is important for students to “unplug” from their computers, turn off their cell phones and go outside for an adventure. The best part about leading trips, says Bob, is “bringing people of different ages and from different backgrounds together in nature. The outdoors can be very therapeutic and healing.”

“It is important for students to unplug from their computers, turn off their cell phones and go outside for an adventure.”

Adventure 101: Unplugged and Connected to Nature

by Bonnie Cormier
Professionalism and safety are a priority for the program, and every trip is led by a student leader who is trained in first aid and CPR. Five out of six of the leaders are Wilderness First Responder certified, which is the highest level of national certification in wilderness emergency management. To make sure that the participants are well prepared, every trip has a mandatory pre-trip meeting to discuss details such as safety and gear logistics. Don’t have a backpack or sleeping bag? Those items can be rented, along with other technical gear, from the Outdoor Resource Center for a nominal fee.

In many ways, the SSU program is comparable to a national program, the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS). Like NOLS, the Outdoor Pursuits program practices minimal impact and sustainability and emphasizes education. However, the Outdoor Pursuits participant fees cost considerably less and some trips are even free. Also, the Outdoor Pursuits program dovetails with the newly established Outdoor Leadership study plan within Sonoma State’s Environmental Studies and Planning Department.

To those who believe going outdoors and trying something new is not for them, Adam responds, “If you have never tried something before, how do you know that you won’t like it? The trips will be an experience you will never forget.”

To sign up for a trip, go to the Outdoor Resource Center located on the 1st floor of the Recreation Center, or call the Outdoor Pursuits program office at: (707) 664-DIRT. Trip participant numbers are limited, so be sure to sign up early.

For more information about the Outdoor Pursuits program, including the schedule of 2008-2009 trips, visit the website at: http://www.sonoma.edu/campusrec/adventure/odp/.

“The trips will be an experience you will never forget.”
ALUMNI COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Maureen and Donald Green
Founder of Telecom Valley in the North Bay
Music Lovers, Advocates for Children and Animals, Philanthropists and Community Supporters

In 1956, Donald and Maureen Green moved from their homeland of England to start a new life in Canada. Four years later, the couple and their children moved south and eventually settled in Sonoma County. During those years, Mr. Green left the profession of engineering to become an entrepreneur. He founded three very successful telecommunications companies and was instrumental in the creation of what today is known as the North Bay’s Telecom Valley.

In addition to caring for a growing family, Mrs. Green found time to manage and sing with the San Francisco Bach Choir where she spearheaded a variety of successful classical music fundraising events throughout the Bay Area. Music has always played an important part of their lives and inspired the couple to establish the Bach Choir at Sonoma State University. Over the past ten years, they have dedicated themselves to enhancing the quality of music instruction and local performing arts venues. Mr. and Mrs. Green provided the foundational grant for the world-class Green Music Center now under construction on the Sonoma State University campus.

Known throughout the community for their philanthropy and community service, their love of children led to the creation of the Carriage Trade Group, a community organization that works closely with the California Department of Social Services to promote the adoption of children. Together they have also participated in numerous social service organizations, including the Animal Rights Movement, the National Audubon Society, the Nature Conservancy, the United Way, the Santa Rosa and Marin County Humane Societies, and many other charities that focus on the prevention of cruelty to animals.

Mrs. Green is an alumna of Sonoma State University. Mr. Green was educated at the Institution of Electrical Engineers in London, England. Both hold honorary degrees from Sonoma State University—Mr. Green an Honorary Doctor of Fine Arts and Mrs. Green an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

Duane Hill
B.A. Psychology, 1978
School of Social Sciences
Retired Chief Executive Officer, Rural Communities Housing Development Corporation

Through visionary leadership, technical expertise and quiet persuasion, Duane Hill has invented, built and sustained the community development movement in rural Northern California. Born and raised in Red Bluff, California, Mr. Hill has spent the last four decades in the local nonprofit sector. In 1969 he left his job at a lumber products firm to work in the Lassen-Modoc-Plumas-Tehama Community Action Agency. In that capacity he launched a career in activism and nonprofit administration by establishing a welfare-rights organization and lobbying cities and counties to create a housing authority. Despite severe opposition, Mr. Hill expanded the service menu of the community action agency to include a variety of essential services, including Tehama County’s first senior center. Recognizing that he needed to pursue higher education to better serve his community, he left Red Bluff to attend junior college in Mendocino County, and later earned his bachelor’s degree from Sonoma State University.

At that time, Mr. Hill also assumed a series of increasingly responsible positions at Mendocino County’s largest nonprofit human service agency, North Coast Opportunities. Included in these were the responsibilities of Housing Specialist, which led to the formation of a new nonprofit corporation—the Rural Housing Development Corporation. Mr. Hill recognized the overwhelming need for affordable housing in rural areas before this need came to national attention. At that time, cities were receiving substantial housing subsidies, but few resources were being distributed in rural areas. Mr. Hill assembled a board of influential volunteers and, with those individuals, embarked on a campaign of community awareness and public education that led to the strategic expansion of Rural Communities Housing Development Corporation. Under his leadership for the past 33 years, the agency grew to become the largest nonprofit affordable housing developer in rural Northern California.
DISTINGUISHED TEACHING AWARD

Myrna Goodman
B.A. Sociology, 1988
School of Social Sciences
Director, SSU Center for the Study of the Holocaust and Genocide, and Sociology Department Chair

As an undergraduate student at Sonoma State University, Myrna Goodman was a Presidential Scholar and the recipient of the Ambrose R. Nichols, Jr. Scholarship. After completing her bachelor’s degree at SSU, she received her master’s and doctorate degrees in sociology from the University of California, Davis.

She returned to Sonoma State in 1993 to teach in the Sociology and Women and Gender Studies Departments and for the Holocaust Lecture Series, which she now directs. As the Center’s director, Dr. Goodman coordinates the Holocaust Lecture Series, which attracts distinguished speakers from around the world representing disciplines that range from history to philosophy to biology to political science and others. The series has been offered for academic credit since 1983 and more than 100 students enroll each spring semester. In addition to the lecture series, Dr. Goodman plans Center programs and activities, archives media, maintains a reference collection, and oversees the Center’s grants and operational funds.

Dr. Goodman teaches an upper-division course called the Sociology of Genocide, and serves as the faculty advisor to the SSU Human Rights Club. She is also involved in the development of the Holocaust and Genocide Memorial Grove Sculpture to be installed on the University campus in 2008.

OUTSTANDING STAFF AWARD

Julie Dinkins
B.A. Anthropology, 1985
School of Social Sciences
Access Services Manager
SSU University Library

Julie Dinkins has worked in a variety of capacities at Sonoma State University Library for more than 25 years. She started as a student assistant while earning her bachelor’s degree in anthropology, and over time has been employed in almost every capacity of library operations. Ms. Dinkins served as a manager in the public service areas at Circulation and Multi-Media departments, and as an administrative manager for numerous staff. Her contributions to the University Library, in both official and unofficial capacities are innumerable, as such taking on additional responsibilities and making the workplace a more efficient operation and pleasurable environment. From her early days in Book Mending and Technical Services through her years of involvement in helping faculty and students find and obtain research articles, she has contributed to many successful and groundbreaking projects, such as the startup of electronic document delivery and instruction to students on the “new” World Wide Web. Described by colleagues as “the perfect manager” and possessing a “wonderful down-to-earth nature,” Ms. Dinkins has earned the respect and admiration of students, faculty and co-workers.

The Sonoma State University Alumni Association cordially invites you to the

2008 Distinguished Alumni Awards Banquet

Thursday, October 23
DoubleTree Hotel
One DoubleTree Drive, Rohnert Park

Reception 5:30 p.m. Dinner and Awards Presentation 6:30 p.m.
Individual Tickets $100 per person • Table sponsorships: Benefactor $10,000 • Patron $5,000 • Supporter $2,000 • Sponsor $1,000

707.664.2426
alumni.office@sonoma.edu
R.S.V.P. by October 10

Cocktail Attire or 18th Century Masquerade Costume or Mask
Malia Rivera-Rodriguez, B.A. Business Economics, ’02, and her retired major league baseball player husband, Richard Rodriguez, have teamed up to develop and promote District 81-3, a firm that markets Japanese art-inspired men’s apparel. All apparel pieces are decorated with original and freehand drawings created by Japanese artists. Items such as t-shirts, thermals and jackets feature images from Japanese folklore, Kabuki theatre, nature and other unique subjects. A women’s line will be in stores this November. Rivera-Rodriguez also teaches marketing strategies at the Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising in Los Angeles, CA. During his 13 year MLB career, Rodriguez played for the San Francisco Giants, New York Mets, San Diego Padres, Anaheim Angels and other teams.

Dakota Decker, B.S. Physics, ’08, is only 18 years old and already on his way to UCLA to pursue his master’s degree in mechanical engineering. A math protégé, Decker moved quickly through Tech High School (located on SSU campus) and on to Sonoma State at the age of 15. His focus is research in the robotics field, specifically, brain interfacing; however he would not mind a job building space stations or other NASA objectives.

Angie Grainger, B.S. Accounting, ’02, is working as a certified personal financial specialist for individuals and companies in the construction and real estate industries. Grainger provides financial literacy education and helps to organize the annual Youth Business Week. She switched her career goals from truck driver to certified public accountant in junior high when she was told she was good at math.

Ryan Wycoff, B.S. Business Administration, ’07, has been using “Facebook” as an innovative way to promote wine businesses. After graduating, he was hired by Inertia, a winery consulting company. He used the online phenomenon to create Wine 2.0, a site where people interested in fusing the latest technologies with wineries can interact. He also helps manage the SSU WineBiz Alumni Group to keep in contact with others in the industry.

Jedediah D. Ayres, B.S. Business Management Information Systems, ’95, is the general partner of MacCallum House Inn and Properties in Mendocino, CA. Ayres is also the vice president for partner management and marketing of MTM Technologies, a national provider of innovative IT solutions and services to Global 2000 and mid-size companies. He earned an MBA from San Francisco State in 2002. With his wife Megan, he has been active in raising funds for local causes, including the music program at Mendocino High School.

Kevin Honea, B.A. Communications, ’90, is a public information and education officer for the southern command of the Nevada Department of Public Safety-Highway Patrol Division. He loves his job and lives in Las Vegas, Nevada with his wife, Janis, who also graduated from SSU with a bachelor’s degree in English in ’89.

Craig Nordby, B.A. Management, ’94, is president of Nordby Wine Caves and Nordby Signature Homes, and vice president of Nordby Construction in Santa Rosa. He started as a general laborer during his summer vacations, and now his company is the third largest general contractor in the North Bay with more than $50 million in annual revenue.

Jennifer Ramstad, B.S. Business Administration, ’98, has risen from marketing assistant to marketing manager in her seven years working for Weetabix North America, a natural foods company. In 2002, she married her husband Chris, and they were blessed with a daughter, Naomi Aliyah, in 2005.

J. David Siembieda, B.A. Management, ’92, is president and chief executive officer of CrossCheck, Inc. Since he took the reigns at age 29, the company has grown to become the third-largest check provider in the U.S. and a major Sonoma County employer.

Marla Tellez, B.A. Political Science, ‘98, has joined the KOB-TV Eyewitness News team in Albuquerque, NM as a news anchor. She began her career as a writer and producer at KFY-TV Channel 50 in Sonoma County. In 2000, her producing talents took her to KPIX CBS 5 in San Francisco, CA where she worked on the station’s Evening Magazine. In 2002, Tellez moved to station KION News 46 in Salinas, CA and moved back to CBS 5 in 2004 as a news reporter and a correspondent for “Eye on the Bay.” Naturally a morning person, Tellez begins her workday at 2:00 a.m.

Steven Wallis, M.A. Psychology, ’98 and B.A. Sociology, ’94 received his Ph.D. in human and organizational systems at Fielding Graduate University, and has just published his first academic work – a chapter in “Intelligent Complex Adaptive Systems,” in which he demonstrates new methods for analyzing bodies of theory.
When you were an SBE student, did you ever need help finding the right internship? Wish for more help with your job search? Long for a mentor in the business community?

The Center for Advising and Placement (CAP) was created to address not only the needs of our students but also the increasing needs of North Bay employers for SBE interns.

Developing stronger connections with our highly accomplished and experienced alumni is a key focus. An Alumni Speaker Series will showcase the achievements of alumni to current students. An Alumni Mentoring Program will be a valuable opportunity for students to learn the ropes from successful graduates.

The Santa Rosa Chamber of Commerce is partnering with CAP to host the first Career and Internship Expo for SBE students in October. Freshmen and sophomore students will be able to begin career searches, juniors can seek internships, and seniors can look for career positions. Consider representing your employers at this event so that our students see firsthand your success in the business community.

CAP will actively develop more relationships like the longstanding one with Target Corporation. Says Melissa Chu, Target Campus Recruiter, “The partnership with CAP has contributed to the increasing success of bringing top-caliber students to the company.”

A new CAP website is in early development. Check it soon for opportunities to get involved. Post an internship or job. Volunteer to review student resumes or deliver a workshop on interviewing skills.

Join us in developing our array of programs. Your experience, ideas, and involvement are crucial to our success. Establishing a strong link with you will enhance the value of the SBE student experience, assisting students to prepare effectively for a productive career after graduation.

To get on board, contact CAP Coordinator, Sarah Dove at sarah.dove@sonoma.edu or (707) 664-2548.

1980s
Dawn Marie Carlson, B.A. Management, ’85, is in the process of obtaining her second bachelor’s degree from Sonoma State University in Environmental Planning. Carlson is a development officer at the Easter Seal Society of Northern California.

1970s
David Dierke, B.A. Management, ’77, is the president and CEO of Accountmate Software Corporation. His background in sales models and program development earned him recognition on numerous occasions by the SBT Business Partners for Outstanding Achievement within channel program development. Dierke previously worked as the director of dealer sales for the Americas at AutoDesk, Inc.

Author! Author!

Molly Dwyer, M.A. English, ’88, has been involved in the education of students for 15 years, teaching English composition, creative writing, and literature classes in community colleges. In 2002, she received her Ph.D., and was co-author of “Divine Duality: The Power of Reconciliation between Women and Men.” She has focused much of her writing on the Romantics, and is currently working on a book titled “The Appassionata.” She resides in Mendocino, CA. For details visit: http://mollydwyer.com

Richard Satterlie, B.A. Biology, ’73, has been recognized as the Frank Hawkins Kenan Distinguished Professor of Marine Biology at the University of North Carolina, Wilmington. He has also had success in the literary world. His most recent novel, “Phoenix” was published in July
FREE E-MAIL FOR SSU ALUMNI
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Free and permanent e-mail accounts are now available for all alumni of Sonoma State University. To create an @alumni.sonoma.edu account, go to www.ssualumni.org and click Sign Up on the banner at the top of the page.

New grads, take SSU with you. Alumni e-mail accounts are available immediately after graduation. This free e-mail service is provided through a partnership with Microsoft Windows Live and includes advertising displays.

The Alumni Association is excited to offer this new alumni service. Questions about alumni e-mail should be directed to 707.664.2426 or e-mail: alumni.office@sonoma.edu.

Roger Trott, B.A. Economics, ’81, has recently published his first novel, a work of musical fiction entitled “Getting in Tune.” After graduating from Sonoma State, Trott went on to earn a master’s degree from UC Davis, and played in several rock bands over the years. He lives in Lincoln, CA and is working on his second novel. For details visit: www.rogertrrott.com

In Memoriam
Holly Hayden, B.S. Nursing, ’84, passed away in May 2008. Her daughter shared Hayden’s pride of the nursing program at Sonoma State and that she particularly enjoyed guest lecturing and teaching classes.

BUILDING BETTER CONNECTIONS
Alumni Association Launches Online Community

The Alumni Online Community provides a new way for SSU alums to connect with each other and the University. The community includes several social networking features, and by year-end users will be able to create blogs with live content from other sites. The program and events information will keep alumni informed about activities at SSU and instantly connect them to areas of interest. The Online Directory will be enhanced to include photo albums, profile pages, class notes, friends list, and much more.

Feedback is appreciated. The Alumni Association will be adding more networking tools in the future. Please visit the site often.

WWW.SSUALUMNI.ORG
It Could Have Been Elsewhere...

Story of how a Cotati seed farm became a college site

A HIGHLY-MOTIVATED and active group of retired faculty and staff is collaborating on a history of the early days of Sonoma State University. As part of that history, the group asked for memories and recollections from retired faculty and staff as well as alumni and community members.

The memories will be included in a book to be ready for Founders’ Day on the 50th anniversary of the University, April 18, 2011. Some of the memories are from taped interviews between professor and historian Daniel Markwyn as he spoke with those who personally experienced the beginnings of the institution. The words of the early higher education pioneers clearly demonstrate the strong spirit of those faculty, staff, and students. It is no accident that SSU is the fine institution it is today. Please enjoy then-Senator Joseph Rattigan’s contribution to the history project (below).

From (1991) taped interviews with Joseph Rattigan, former judge and California State senator

“We had all these sites in the four counties as possible locations for the new state college, and in the summer of 1959 there suddenly blossomed the Benson seed farm in Cotati, CA brought forward by Dr. William Kortum, a local veterinarian.

Everything happened at once in the 1960 Legislative session. By the time the 1960 First Extraordinary Session convened, contemporaneous with the budget session, the state college site in the North Bay counties still had not been chosen.

As Senator, I was waiting for the Public Works Board to act which they did at a meeting in Sacramento on March 2, 1960. They selected the so-called Benson Tract as the site for the college. The site selection was a major step forward but the principal importance of it was that only then could I move with the bill to actually establish the college.

I still did nothing in the Legislature immediately because I was waiting for the Master Plan for Higher Education, which had not yet been introduced. Senator Miller introduced Senate Bill 33 on March 8, 1960. That was what came to be known as the “Master Plan.” One week later, on March 15, I introduced Senate Bill 43, stating that in Sonoma County there be a state college known as Sonoma State College.

Senate Bill 33, the Master Plan, was signed by Governor Edmund G. Brown on April 27, 1960. He signed Senate Bill 43 two days later, on April 29. Sonoma State College had thus been established by law.

There were many disappointed people in Sonoma County – people from Petaluma who were disenchanted because the site was not selected in Petaluma. People from Santa Rosa were in the same situation as were other people who were interested in other sites. Some controversy developed in connection with the Santa Rosa center of San Francisco State College, which had been functioning for some years. Many people in Sonoma County became insistent that the San Francisco State Center be integrated into Sonoma State College, which, in a manner of speaking, finally happened.

I don’t remember the groundbreaking ceremony very well. As I recall, there were no speeches or invocations. We all went out, put on our hard hats and broke ground. It was July 14, 1963, Bastille Day. There was a billboard on the property that said “Site of Sonoma State College. Senate Bill 43. Cotati, Calif.”

I’ve followed the activities of the college closely from the very beginning. I think the place is just great.”

Joseph Rattigan passed away in 2007 at the age of 87.
Alek Taylor of Healdsburg explored the fluorescent properties of a mushroom in a rare summer science research project in chemistry this year that exposed 12 high school juniors to college-level research. The Sonoma County Office of Education and SSU’s School of Science and Technology collaborated in a strategic partnership aimed at preparing more students for careers in the science and technology sectors. The Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Program also included a $1,000 paid summer internship and the opportunity to enroll in SSU classes while in 12th grade. The initiative was designed to underscore the importance of a rigorous high school course of study as preparation for the demands of the global workforce and address the critical shortage of highly-skilled workers with degrees in science, mathematics, and engineering. The internships were directed by SSU faculty and included coursework, data gathering and analysis, job shadowing, field studies and observations, and visits to work sites employing science and technology professionals. The program was so successful that the School is looking for similar partnerships. Photo by Jean Wasp.