Prof. Catherine Gautier —
MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Joining the Department in 1990, Catherine Gautier, who has a PhD in physics and meteorology, has been making strong contributions to both research and education. For instance, she led a research team in the development of satellite instruments to detect low clouds and algorithms to factor the clouds into temperature readings. Thus, she is helping to improve the accuracy of atmospheric temperature mapping.

**AIRS/Vis Near IR Instrument**

Infrared (IR) instruments, like those that fly on NASA’s earth-orbiting satellites, don’t detect low-level clouds well. The clouds’ temperatures are close to that of the earth’s surface below them. They can introduce significant errors in the IR-measured atmospheric temperature readings, because they impact the top-of-atmosphere IR radiance. Prof. Gautier and her team have developed a Visible Near InfraRed instrument (Vis/NIR) that works in tandem with the IR instrument on the satellite. Both the IR instrument (named AIRS for Atmospheric Infrared Sounder) and Vis/NIR instrument fly on the Aqua satellite that NASA launched in May 2002.

Aqua is expected to run six years. It has been providing massive amounts of data — approximately 89 GB per day. The Aqua mission is a part of NASA’s Earth Observing System (EOS), an international partnership between the United States, Japan, and Brazil. Scientists hope that with the data Aqua provides they can better understand how global ecosystems change, and how they respond to and affect global environmental change.

This last May, Prof. Gautier and fellow researcher Shiren Yang were given a Goddard Space Flight Center Teamwork Award for their contributions to Aqua. NASA describes the teamwork award as being for “Evidence that the team made a significant, extraordinary contribution to the Center’s mission while maximizing the use of its resources and the capabilities of all team members in achieving its goals.”

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Note from the Chair:

With the extraordinary political circus of the recall election now behind us, one thing remains clear, that the incoming Governor of California faces the same daunting budget crisis that we faced a year ago. Last year, the Department fared well in hard times. This year we are beginning to feel the impact, not through our state funding, but in the economic downturn's impact on funding from federal agencies, especially NASA. Many more of our proposals are going unfunded this year, and those essential graduate student research assistantships are becoming more and more precious.

I mention this not to complain about hard times — we anticipate and often thrive during these — but to show that funds procured from sources other than our grants (usually from our alumni and friends) can help the Department in many ways. An excellent illustration of this is the generous donations from Mr. Mike McComsey and his wife, Vilma, which have allowed us to refurbish a new Geography Department Conference room. Now complete and ready for use, we will officially "open" the room with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on October 24th, when the McComseys will be present. From those of us who can now teach, confer, and be lectured to in this beautiful room, we send a heart-felt thanks.

This fall we welcome 18 new graduate students to the program, giving us a total of 84 in residence. With the arrival of two, and potentially three, new faculty in July of 2004 (Kostas Goulias and David Carr), as a Department we are continuing our trend of solid growth. Again, in these hard times, this is a remarkable vote of faith in what the Department has accomplished over the last 30 years. And speaking of those 30 years, check out the new departmental history timeline and article on the history of the Department by Susanna Baumgart (at www.geog.ucsb.edu/more/history_articles/history_saga_chapter01.htm). There are some interesting facts and figures there, and a clear picture of our first 30 years. May the next 30 be as fruitful, recalled Governor and budget crisis besides!

Finally, yet again we congratulate Mike Goodchild, who has been awarded the Royal Geographical Society's founders medal. This places Mike into a 171 year sequence of geographical greats. History, indeed.

Best regards,
Keith Clarke

Mock Environmental Summit

One example of the creative contribution Prof. Gautier is making to quality education is her Mock Environmental Summit, a class for undergraduates. The students act as representatives from different countries as they participate in environmental treaty negotiations. They work in teams of four or five to prepare presentations and to discuss environmental issues of concern to the world (e.g., energy, greenhouse gasses, etc.). The class is a “total immersion” in both the process and the experience of a real environmental summit.

The mock summit was a novel experiment that drew the interest of educational researchers. They studied the class, making a detailed assessment of students’ dialogue that they transcribed from video and audio tapes. They found that the nature of the student dialogue matured rapidly as the students were given multiple opportunities to present, negotiate and argue a specific topic. The dialogue progressed from hypothetical (what-if) scenarios to action-oriented scenarios and implementation plans. The progression of the students’ dialogue showed increased comfort with the communities’ discourse as they took ownership of the point-of-view associated with their assumed roles. In other words, through the class, the students were developing abilities that the whole world strongly needs.
**GEOGRAPHERS ASSIST IN REGIONAL PLANNING**

An unprecedented gathering of local government officials, plus over 100 people from the Santa Barbara area, met September 25, 2003, to hear a summary of the Regional Impacts of Growth Study (RIGS) — a study to which UCSB geographers contributed. Professor Keith Clarke and graduate students Ryan Aubry and Jeff Onsted created analytic methods and models, geographic information system databases, and maps of the South Coast region for 1960, 2000, and six potential scenarios in 2040.

RIGS was sponsored by the Santa Barbara Region Economic Community project (ECP), a non-profit organization founded in the early 1990s that has been concerned with building a healthy economy (high wages, low-impact jobs) while maintaining quality in the environment and living conditions. ECP feels strongly that the only way we can create a positive future for the community is through regional cooperation of governments and agencies. The growth study, RIGS, was begun approximately three years ago to provide information about what might happen if governmental planning rules remained as they are today and if they were changed to five different scenarios. ECP's goal was not to tell planners and citizens what to do, but to show the options and the likely results so that better choices and more cooperation were possible.

The six scenarios were Existing Policies, Widespread Growth, No Growth, New Neighborhoods, Infill, and All Affordable. Existing Policies assumed full build-out, maintaining the current Urban Limit Line, and letting new development be driven primarily by market forces. Widespread Growth doubled the number of units from that in Existing Policies, eliminated the Urban Limit Line, and allowed market forces to drive development unchecked. No Growth assumed no additional development except one new home on every vacant residential lot and a small commercial building on every vacant commercial lot. Preservation of open space would be maximized. New Neighborhoods doubled the houses from Existing Policies, expanding the Urban Limit Line to allow the new neighborhoods. Infill retained the Urban Limit Line while allowing denser development in existing urban areas (including urban agricultural parcels). All Affordable limited residential development to restricted affordable housing only.

Surprisingly, population is expected to increase, then decrease in all six scenarios. This is because the price of housing is expected to continue outpacing wages. More and more, wealthy adults rather than working families are predicted to populate the area. That means fewer people per acre, which translates into diminished population.

The meeting at the Arts Center launched the report of the study to the community. The Mayor and all the Santa Barbara City Council members were present, as were a quorum of the Santa Barbara county Board of Supervisors, City Council members for Carpinteria, the Mayor and at least one other representative from the City of Goleta, plus one person from the City of Santa Maria. This was the first time all these City and County government officials had ever met together. (Website of the Santa Barbara Economic Community Project: www.sbecp.org)

**MICHAEL GOODCHILD AWARDED RGS MEDAL**

The Royal Geographical Society (RGS), which is in London, England, selected Michael Goodchild for the 2003 Founder's Medal. RGS has been bestowing these medals since 1832 “for the encouragement and promotion of geographical science and discovery,” according to their website (http://www.rgs.org/). The awards were originally a gift of fifty guineas from King William IV "to constitute a premium for the encouragement and promotion of geographical science and discovery." In 1839 the Society decided that this sum should be converted into a gold medal of the same value. The medal has always been approved by the reigning monarch, and Prof. Goodchild's medal was approved by Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II.

The list of recipients published on a page in the RGS website is a who's who of British and world explorers. David Livingstone was the recipient in 1855; Captain Jacques-Yves Cousteau was selected in 1963; David Attenborough was honored in 1985. Mike received the medal "for contributions to geographical information science."

**Geographers Assist in Regional Planning, continued**

...
GET YOUR GEOGRAPHY T-SHIRT!

We have designed a special T-shirt to celebrate our upcoming thirtieth anniversary in 2004. It includes our first-ever logo. Color: navy blue. There are two designs from which to choose: a celebratory Pacific wave upon which our logo surfs high or a calmer burst of enthusiasm in a sparkling font. Organic cotton is optional.

Print out an order form from the Department site (www.geog.ucsb.edu/more/t_shirt_order_form.pdf). Fill it in and mail it with your check or money order BEFORE DECEMBER 15, 2003, following the instructions on the form.

THANK YOU, DONORS!

The following people and institutions donated funds to the Geography Department this year through October 2003.

BOURDAKIS FUND
Mr. Robert G. Bortfeld
Mr. Anthony Bourdakis
Mrs. Patricia Bourdakis
Mr. Lawrence A. Kenyon
Mrs. Patricia Kenyon
Ms. Judith A. Lockhart
Mr. Ralph Makar
Mrs. Lucia Miller
Ms. Patricia A. Murphy
Mr. and Mrs. James L. Pickering, IL

DANGERMOND FUND
Dr. Dawn J. Wright

ESTES FUND
Mr. Jordan Bilbeisi
Ms. Carol M. Jensen
Mrs. Judith A. Smith

SIMONETT FUND
Dr. Robert E. Crippen

DEPARTMENT RESEARCH
Mr. Jack Dangermond
Mrs. Laura Dangermond

REMOTE SENSING
Mr. James V. Hastie

DEPARTMENT SUPPORT
Mr. Michael T. McComsey
Mrs. Vilma McComsey
Mr. John C. Shute

On Friday, October 24, Michael McComsey, an alumnus from 1971, visited the Department from his home in Washington State to officially open the newly repaired and refurbished conference room. Mr. and Mrs. McComsey’s generous donation allowed Geography to create, from the run-down room granted the Department as its first real conference room, a meeting space that is esthetically appealing, physically comfortable, and equipped for modern, computer-projected presentations. Thank you very much, Mike and Vilma McComsey!
WOULD YOU LIKE TO DONATE?

Would you like to help the Department provide top-notch educational experiences and conduct state-of-the-art research that makes a difference in the world? You can give an unrestricted gift or direct how the money is used. If you’d like to help, please fill out the donation form and mail it with a check. Thank you very much!

The following funds have been established:

**The Nicholas Bourdakis Memorial Fund** – undergraduate majors

The Bourdakis Fund was established after the tragic death of Nicholas, who died in February 2001 when struck by a car in Isla Vista. He had just declared Geography his major.

**The Jack Estes Memorial Fund** – graduate students in remote sensing

Jack Estes was a Geography faculty member for over thirty years. He built a thriving remote sensing research unit and mentored many students. The fund was established to support students who are continuing his field of research.

**The Reginald G. and Allison L. Golledge Distinguished Lecture Fund** – travel expenses and honoraria for annual speaker

Twenty years ago, the Golledge Distinguished Lecture was instituted to bring highly respected speakers to campus to share their research.

**The Simonett Memorial Fund** – graduate students

David Simonett was the first Chair of the Geography Department. He came from Australia in 1975 and provided the vision and energy to build what has become one of the nation’s finest Geography Departments.

**Jack and Laura Dangermond Fund** – graduate and undergraduate students in GIScience

Jack Dangermond is the founder of ESRI (1969), a GIS and mapping software company, and considered one of the most influential people in GIS, worldwide.
Alumni News and Change-of-Address Form

We would love to hear news of your life and appreciate your taking the time to update us with addresses and phone numbers. If you prefer, submit the information on-line at: www.geog.ucsb.edu/people/alumnus_update_form.htm.

NAME: First __________________ Middle initial _____ Last name ____________________________  

Last name when graduated, if different from above ________________________________

DEGREE(S): Please circle the degree(s) you earned in Geography at UCSB and write the year received.

BA Year ______ BS Year ______ MA Year ______ PhD Year ______

CONTACT NUMBERS: Do we have your current contact information? If we need to update our records or if you're not sure whether we have your latest numbers, please fill in the information.

Street address or P.O. box ________________________________________________________

City _____________________________________________________________

State or Province ____________________________________________________________

Zip code (or postal code) ______________________________

Country, if not United States ___________________________________________________

Phone number ______________________________

Email address __________________________________________________________

NEWS: Please share brief news of a personal or professional nature—marriage, births, jobs, further education, career changes, publications, awards, etc.

Mail to:

Newsletter Editor  
Geography Department 4060  
University of California  
Santa Barbara, CA 93106-9630

Thank you very much!
Alumni: WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Featured Alumnus:
BRYAN CONANT (BA 1997)

Bryan Conant has just published a hiker and biker’s map to the San Rafael Wilderness in Santa Barbara County. He researched whether there were already any maps similar to his idea and whether the project was financially feasible. To make time for the project, he quit his several-year job managing the Cartography Department at Maps.com. He spent three months hiking the trails, collecting information. He’d be in the field six to seven days, carrying a pack that weighed 70 pounds at the start, then take a few days off to regroup and resupply. He hiked approximately 460 miles, pushing a wheel that measured trail distances. Certain canyons were too narrow to get a consistent GPS link from the satellites, so he built the trundle wheel as an alternative. Sometimes he’d find discrepancies between existing old maps and ground truth — like a campsite on the opposite side of the creek, which could confound weary hikers at the end of their day. His Australian shepherd, Bean, accompanied him.

He drew the map on a laptop Macintosh G3, using mostly Freehand, but also Natural Scene Designer, MacDEM, Photoshop, and ArcView. This took a couple months.

The map is printed on tear-resistant, waterproof paper, called Yupo, in full color. It has shaded relief, contour lines, accurate trail mileages, camp locations, and it designates trail conditions and quality. It costs $8.55, including shipping. For more information, go to the website where he is selling it: www.bryanconant.com. Bryan would like to tell current students of geography that “there are opportunities for map makers, and you can do fun and exciting things with a geography degree.”

Jeffrey W. Smith (BA 1970)
Married to the most beautiful Jan (UCSB BA 1969) for 33 years, with three boys (Cam, Josh, Jamie); still loving life and trying to make a difference; still love old cars, swimming, and old friends.

Bruce Davis (BA 1971)
PhD in Geography from UCLA 1980. Various positions nationally and overseas. Currently Chair, Department of Geography, Eastern Kentucky University.

Timothy L. O’Connell (BA 1972)
Geography degree was invaluable in getting my first job, as an Environmental Analyst with City of San Diego, and with later promotions through Planning Department. Did not assist in graduate school admission, where the social planners who ran the San Diego State University program insisted they didn’t want any “physical science types.” Degree was key to being appointed City of San Diego’s Coordinator on joint City-County GIS during design phases (now known as SANGIS). Later law degree from USD complemented geography degree in working with complex issues of growth management and land use regulation. Now representing nonprofit housing and community development entity in Los Angeles area.

Stephen C. Irwin (BA 1973)
I moved to Mammoth Lakes in 1975. In 1978 and 1979 I lived in Hawaii and attended the University of Hawaii in the Masters program in Geography. I returned to Mammoth Lakes in 1980 and have been here ever since. I began teaching in the local community college in 1993. I teach introductory Geography courses in Mammoth and Bishop. I love it! I think there is no better place to teach Geography, because there are so many examples of nearly all the things we talk about in class.

Michael N. Arnold (BA 1974)
Been a professional appraiser (valuation, evaluation, consultation, expert witness, etc.) for almost 30 years. While in my last year at UCSB, an Assistant Professor, Peter Mason, pointed me in the direction of real property. I began as an appraisal-intern and progressed to MAI (a professional designation not unlike CPA in Accounting), awarded in 1983. My geography work was a wonderful background for my profession.

Bill H. Reynolds (BA 1974)
Since graduating, I’ve been playing and coaching tennis. After traveling and playing tournaments, I spent five years teaching at a resort in Kauai, five years at a private club in Palos Verdes, five years as Tennis Director at the Manhattan Beach Country Club, three years as Assistant Men’s Coach at UC Irvine, and currently Head Women’s Coach at Cal State Fullerton. UCS and CSF are both conference rivals of UCSB, and so I consequently visit UCSB periodically.
Also, a little trivia you might be interested in: my father, Lyle Reynolds, spent over 20 years at UCSB. He originally started

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there as the men’s tennis coach and eventually retired as Dean of Students in 1976.

Ken Stanton (BA 1975)

I always joke that the Geography Department began its transformation to world-class status the year I left! For 23 years, I have been part of premium wine grape production at Stanton Vineyards in Napa Valley. I married Susan Schaeffer, who was also involved in the wine industry, in 1996. We own a home in the charming hamlet of Angwin, in the eastern hills of Napa. I have published three books on regional history, hiking, and the outdoors. My wife and I are avid hikers, mountainers, and travelers. As good as life is here, I still miss the special ambiance of Santa Barbara — to me, one of the world’s most beautiful cities.

Jeffrey L. Breakstone (BA 1976)


Nyna C. Cunningham (BA 1976)

I entered UCSB in Fall 1972 and graduated with a double BA in Environmental Studies and Geography in Summer 1976. When Dr. Simonett became Chair, he hired me to organize his slides of Australia and to document his soils class by taking and transcribing notes from his class. I worked for the Remote Sensing Unit, drawing maps and sorting imagery for projects on Central Valley crop production and water use and on offshore kelp bed growth. In Fall 1976, Dr. Simonett suggested I interview for a position with the SB County Water Agency, which was doing research on alternate water supplies for the County, rather than importing State water. I left the Geography Department for that County job. Subsequently, I worked for the California Coastal Commission.

In 1984, after the birth of my second child, I moved to Washington State, leaving Geography as well. However, when I taught science to kindergartners at a private school in Bellevue, Washington, I incorporated environmental and geographic topics. Perhaps the students I taught — now in college themselves — are geography majors!

Just thought you might enjoy news from one of the “oldies” who really didn’t continue to work in the field, yet never lost her love of geographic study!

Mark J. Koch (BA 1976)

My geography education at UCSB helped me as a navigator for the U.S. Navy P-3 Orions (long-range maritime patrol aircraft) from 1980 to 1989. After leaving active duty, I returned to school, attending Evergreen State College and the University of Washington. I received a Master of Social Work degree in 1991. I am currently employed by the State of California as an Adoptions Specialist.

Peter T. Schuyler (BA 1976)

Married to Lisa Stratton, with two children (Dylan, born 1995, and Jaime, born 1999). Currently, Director of Ecological Restoration, Santa Catalina Island Conservancy. Previous jobs were with State of Hawaii as Natural Areas Reserve Manager (for six years) and The Nature Conservancy as Santa Cruz Island Preserve Director (for nine years). Earned a masters from the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies in 1991.

Judith A. (Jennings) Smith (BA 1976)

I was an elementary teacher (K-2) for 16 years. I began this year teaching Grade 7 Language Arts. I have completed certificates in Multiple Intelligences (UCR), Reading Recovery (CSUSB), and am finishing Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) at UCR as well. I’ve never grown out of my student years! My love for geography has been continued with my husband, Steve, who flies cross-country in his sailplane. I drive the crew van and follow him, with my maps and compass, to the boondocks, where he lands. I love co-piloting, too — I get an aerial view of the landscape and practice remote sensing.

Paul A. Larango (BA 1977)

After graduating from UCSB, I worked for several years with a geophysical company doing seismic studies in the western U.S. I currently live in the San Francisco Bay area and have worked on several specialized GIS applications. I’m married and have an 8-year-old son who is very interested in maps and geography.

Noel R. Langle (BA 1980)

I’m in my 24th year with the Santa Barbara County Planning & Development Department — the first job that I got after graduating, which my Geography degree helped me get!
Ed M. Irvin (BA 1980, MA 1982)
After graduating, I spent a year in Germany on an academic fellowship. I then went to work in 1983 at Lockheed Martin Space Co., where I developed image processing algorithms and was System Engineering Manager on the IKONOS system — the world’s first commercial 1-meter resolution satellite imaging system. I am now Director of Remote Sensing Systems at Lockheed, including IKONOS satellite derivatives.

G. Donald Richardson (PhD 1982)
I have been working on national security issues for the past 20 years at the Institute for Defense Analyses.

Robert Vallera (BA 1982, MA 1984)
I am Senior Vice President at IPC Commercial Real Estate in San Diego. The San Diego County Apartment Association recently awarded me with their highest honor, the Industry Achievement Award. This award is given to one person each year, “Whose service, contributions, and advocacy efforts have had a positive and lasting impact on the apartment industry and its customers.”

I was the Association’s President in 1996, have been Director of the California Apartment Association, and am currently serving on the San Diego Area Government Regional Housing Task Force. I have been a consistent champion of smart growth principles as a vital component in fulfilling San Diego’s future housing needs. My volunteer efforts were recognized last year with honorary resolutions from the San Diego City Council, County Board of Supervisors, and California State Assembly.

I live in La Jolla with my wife and two daughters, and enjoy rock climbing at Tahquitz, Joshua Tree, and in the High Sierra.

Robert F. Prohaska (BA 1984)
After an 18-year career working for large environmental consulting firms, I have started my own consulting practice. The firm is called Palomar Environmental Management and provides environmental planning and permitting services to government and private clients. The current focus is on providing compliance services related to the California Environmental Quality Act, National Environmental Policy Act, and related laws and regulations. As the firm grows, other services will be provided. My depth and breadth of undergraduate training at UCSB helped provide me with a solid foundation on which to build a rewarding career in the environmental consulting industry.

Charles K. Thompson (BA 1985)
I have been working at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory since 1990. (I also worked at JPL in 1986.) Most of my work involves development of visualization and analysis software in support of various Earth-orbiting satellites. The nearby hills provide plenty of mountain biking to keep me sane.
through government agencies. My education at UCSB was extremely valuable, and I apply concepts I learned in the Geography Department on a daily basis.

Mark R. Leipnik (PhD 1995)
Married Chiuwen Ray (now Joanne Leipnik), who earned an MS in Geography at UCSB in 1989 and who is now Manager, Montgomery County Texas GIS. Daughter Michelle born March 24, 1995 in Las Vegas. Awarded PhD March 25, 1995!
Started as Assistant Professor and GIS Lab Director, Sam Houston State University, Huntsville, Texas in June 1996. Now Associate Professor, GIS Lab Director and author of GIS in Law Enforcement (Taylor and Francis, 2003). Research focused on law enforcement, marketing and environmental applications of GIS.

Kathryn A. Thomas (PhD 1996)
Since late 1995, I’ve been an ecologist/geographer with the U.S. Geological Survey. I lead studies on vegetation dynamics and distribution at landscape scale in the southwest. This includes vegetation mapping in national parks, tracking non-native invasive plants, predicting future distributions of plants and being the lead in Arizona for SWReGAP. True to my wandering nature, I’m stationed in both Flagstaff and Tucson. Deserts are great, but I miss kayaking off Goleta Beach!

Darin W. Tietgen (BA 1996)
Upon graduating from UCSB, I dabbled in public planning (County of Santa Barbara), got a great deal of experience working for a consultant to a homebuilder/developer, and have bounced back and forth between the Bay Area and Orange County. My most recent experience is in entitlements processing for architecture firms. I am presently working for a small firm with projects both in Northern and Southern California, which is nice because I have good friends and family in both locations. I’m also bartending on Saturday nights!

Chris Harris (BA 1997)
Since graduating from UCSB, my business partner and I started our own company. We actually developed the business plan while finishing our last two quarters at UCSB. The name of the Company is ShredEx Secure Document Destruction. We shred paper. UCSB is one of our clients.
I am very fortunate to have married my college sweetheart, Michele Kunkel. She is a UCSB alum in Environmental Studies. We recently bought a house in Ventura.
I have used the information learned about spatial geography to better serve our clients in the Tri-Counties. I am probably one of the few business owners who have an 8-foot-by-5-foot map of our territory in the warehouse. I am very proud of the education that I received from the Geography Department and the advancements the Department continues to achieve.

Jeffrey L. Klinkefus (BA 1999)
I started a company called Wild Rugs in 2000 (www.wildrugs.com). We sell a product called the Drum Rug, which we plan to market through music stores around the world.

Ronald M. Valenzuela (BA 1999)
I began service in the U.S. Peace Corps last June in the country of Romania. I am working as an urban and regional planner.

Ryan D. Ashker (BA 2000)
I married another UCSB grad, Megan Martinez, September 6, 2003.

Kimmy (Kyng-Mee) Kim (BA 2000)
After graduating, I got a job as an ESRI User Assistant. My current job is at Tele Atlas (formerly ETAK). Starting as a local data collector, I recently became the Project Coordinator for the Western Section at the corporate office in Menlo Park.

Chad H. Wilcomb (BS 2000)
I am the Technical Support Manager for Earth Resource Mapping, the makers of the ER Mapper image processing software.

Steve Hochart (BA 2001)
Current position: HI-GAP GIS Analyst for the Hawaii Natural Heritage Program (HINHP), Center for Conservation Research and Training, University of Hawaii.

Max Tyler (BA 2001)
I have begun a career in real estate, working with Century 21, located on upper State Street in Santa Barbara.

Steve M. Demers (BA 2002)
Daughter Hope Victoria Demers was born 8 pounds, 14 ounces on Saturday, November 9, 2002.

Ethan Sundilson (BA 2002)
I’m working at Rand McNally in Irvine, where it is going well.

SOME STAFF UPDATES FOR “OLD-TIMERS”

Joe Scepan (RSRU) married Kathleen McCarthy (very happy together, and they have their own house). Joe retired last year.

Ed Gustafson is a computer graphics artist in the San Francisco Bay area. Earl Hajic is still in Santa Barbara. His son Greg Hajik graduated from Geography and works in the Map & Imagery Library that is inside UCSB’s Davidson library.

Flora Furlong’s daughter just graduated from UCSB. Doug Stow dropped in on us — he teaches at San Diego State University and participates in sending their students up here in a joint PhD program. Teresa Everett, who worked in Geography for 25 years, left October 2002 to work in the College of Letters & Science in UCSB’s administrative building, Cheadle Hall. Meryl Wieder, who has been with UCSB for 35 years and been Geography’s top administrative staff person for 25 years, is retiring January 2004.
Upon returning to Ohio State University, Golledge decided to ac-

have convinced UCSB’s Administration to fund a trip to Australia

had directed. And, now, Simonett was strong in computational human behavioral and urban geography for building a department was to carve out portions of Geography, both human and physical, that were connected by the common use of measurement and analysis. He’d seek accomplished people for each area, then, over the years, infill with junior faculty. Golledge was strong in computational human behavioral and urban geography, and Simonett saw him as key to one of the areas that would become UCSB’s strength.

To this day, Golledge has no idea how Simonett tracked him down in Australia. The intense, wiry man had been getting pretty aggressive. He repeatedly phoned Golledge at 2:00 A.M. (11:00 P.M. Pacific time), until Golledge called him at 3:00 A.M. Pacific time. Simonett routed Terry Smith, a young professorial recruit, to stop off in Ohio, as he was moving from New York to Santa Barbara, to persuade Golledge. Between planes, carrying his bicycle wheel, Smith pitched Golledge as Simonett had directed. And, now, Simonett had convinced UCSB’s Administration to fund a trip to Australia "to finish the recruitment process." Golledge listened, but made no promises.

Upon returning to Ohio State University, Golledge decided to accept Simonett’s offer. He was undergoing a divorce and wanted a fresh start. Golledge phoned a colleague from the University of Michigan, Waldo Tobler, whom Simonett had also been pressur- ing. Golledge had been working cooperatively with Tobler for ten years, applying and extending Tobler’s ideas on trilateration, multi-dimensional scaling, and use of grids to depict layout distortions, and wanted to know whether he was going to come to UCSB, too.

A professor at the University of Michigan, Tobler was a pioneer in mathematical cartography. In 1975 he casually mentioned to Jack Estes, who taught air photo interpretation at UCSB, that he’d like to return to the West coast. He’d grown up in Seattle and did not care for the Midwest. Estes passed this information on to Simonett, and Simonett began phoning him in Ann Arbor - often late at night, causing Tobler’s wife to wonder "Who is that nut?!"

Tobler visited UCSB in Winter 1976 while attending a GIS confer-

ence in Santa Barbara. The University of Michigan seemed a much better school than UCSB at that time, but Tobler did prefer the region - in spite of experiencing a rare, small hurricane while staying in an oceanfront motel for the conference. He decided to come by the time Golledge phoned him. Tobler’s wife, however, did not want to come. (Soon afterwards, they divorced.)

Tobler crammed a trailer full of books and hooked it up to his VW van, which was also packed with books - up to just inches from the roof. The day Tobler pulled out of the driveway at Ann Arbor, the van broke down. Repair took three days. He set off again, sleeping in the van at night in the space between the books and the ceiling. Engine problems in Nebraska caused another delay. Tobler spent two or three days in Grand Island, a small town along Interstate 80 that, today, advertises itself as a good place from which to watch the Spring migration of waterfowl. He arrived in Santa Barbara in July 1977, a few weeks before Golledge.

Although Tobler knew nothing of it at the time, Simonett had put $2,000 down on a house in Estes’ neighborhood to hold it for him. (Real estate in Santa Barbara has been a tight and expensive market since the Bradbury Dam was built in the 1950s, because water became plentiful from the resultant Lake Cachuma. The water was originally intended to help ranchers survive drought years, but actually killed ranching with residential development.) Tobler, when shown the house Simonett had selected, wasn’t interested. He rented a condo. Simonett lost the money without saying a word. The Department managing staff officer, Meryl Wieder, told Tobler about it after Simonett died in 1990. To enable Tobler to buy the house he did want, Simonett personally loaned him $10,000 for a down payment. They drew up a contract, and Tobler paid off the loan as scheduled.

Those early days were exciting times. Geography was brand new. The man at the helm, Simonett, had the vision, firepower, persis- tence, and generosity of spirit to alchemize talented individuals into one of the most prestigious Geography departments of the United States. In recent years, UCSB Geography has received more extra mural research funds than any other department on campus and more faculty awards than any other Geography department nationwide. However, just before Simonett was hired, there was question whether Geography would have a presence at UCSB at all. In spite of the bloom of activity in the late sixties, key people on campus viewed Geography with disdain.
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The Study of Geography and Our Department

Geography’s roots lie in our desire to describe and understand our home, Earth. Early efforts included explorers recording observations of their trek and traders drawing maps essential to profit and survival. Today, geographers use science and technology to map the earth with pinpoint accuracy and discover processes of change that increasingly affect the planet.

Over the last thirty years, Geography at UCSB has become one of the leading U.S. departments. There are twenty-three faculty, 84 graduate students, and close to 200 majors. While known internationally for its emphasis on advanced technologies such as satellite remote sensing, geographic information systems, and computer-based modeling, the department’s research also covers a broad range of academic approaches, such as cultural geography, urban studies, and environmental science. The faculty, researchers, students, and graduate students come from a wide range of backgrounds.

Geography student David Pluth and Professor Norman Sanders conducting a noise study on Highway 101, January 1969. Scan of a photocopy from UCSB’s Public Affairs office.