Welcome to the first edition of the newsletter for the Division of Social Sciences at UC Santa Cruz! The newsletter is intended to be a window readers can look through to find out what is going on in the Social Sciences. We hope you will find it to be a useful vehicle to keep informed about what is happening in the Division.

The campus was founded in 1965 and based on a dream – that a group of faculty and students could join together to create a new type of research university. It would be a sanctuary for expansive thought that benefited both the individual and the planet. The founders started with an idyllic setting in a redwood forest overlooking the Pacific Ocean. They attracted world-class faculty, many seeking respite from the traditional, more restrictive halls of the Ivy League and various elite institutions around the country. They instituted an experimental college system and a revolutionary curriculum where undergraduate students and award-winning professors work side-by-side and across disciplines to tackle the most challenging and controversial issues of the day. Risk taking was not only encouraged, it was rewarded.

Although the campus has significantly grown over the past few decades, the Social Sciences continue to embody the values, ethos, and experimental approaches to research and education on which the campus was founded nearly 50 years ago. Faculty and students continue to think outside the box and push the limits of their disciplines in their work on critical issues. This is evident in the work being conducted in the eight departments and various research initiatives and centers in the Division—and this is why so many consider the Social Sciences to be the heart of the campus.
and soul of the campus.

Our goal is to adhere to the campus’s founding principles while we expand trailblazing research and education programs in the Social Sciences. In the face of unyielding budget pressure of the last several years and the relentless push for academic conformity, UCSC’s founding vision is more than intact. It is thriving. I invite you to take a moment to explore the groundbreaking work being done in the Division of Social Sciences today.

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**UCSC student connects with faculty member, wins academic award**

UC Santa Cruz students have the unique opportunity to work alongside professors to conduct research and, even have authorship on research papers and articles. The Weiss Family Scholarship Award was created to make it easier for students to do just that. Willy Diaz, chosen for his academic merit, has worked closely with Professor Hector Perla through the Chicano Latino Research Center (CLRC) on two research projects: the national literacy campaign in El Salvador through the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador (CISPES), and media content analysis and public opinion. Willy is majoring in economics and environmental studies.

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**One family’s philanthropy: restoring the past, preparing the future**

At UCSC’s main entrance, the history of the ranchlands and industry that preceded this campus stand before you. Stone buildings stolidly persevere. Wooden barns and sheds stand in various states of repair. They are all a part of what is now the nationally registered Cowell Limeworks Historic District.

Alec (College Eight ’02) and Claudia Webster saw more than wooden shells and stone ruins here. They saw future generations of faculty, students, and community members gathered to learn, share ideas, and create community. With a $5 million gift from the Helen and Will Webster Foundation, they are helping to renovate the historic Hay Barn at the main entrance to campus,

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creating a focal point for UCSC’s pioneering work in sustainable agriculture and the environment. Read more about the goals of this innovative project and help us expand it by making a donation here.

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Social Sciences Fall Breakfast highlights

The Division of Social Sciences kicked off the academic year by sharing a meal as colleagues and friends were applauded for their accomplishments.

This year’s faculty and staff award recipients were:

- Mariana Santana, Outstanding Staff Award
- Gregory Gilbert, Golden Apple Award
- Carl Walsh, Martin M. Chemers Award for Outstanding Research

Undergraduate and graduate student recipients were:

- Carson Watts, Gabriel Zimmerman Scholarship Award
- Willy Diaz, Weiss Family Scholarship
- Thomas Gelder, Walsh Family Scholarship
- Karina Cervantez, Christopher Limnios, and Christian Palmer each received the Milam-McGinty-Kaun Awards for Excellence in Teaching

This year’s breakfast featured two new videos about UC Santa Cruz. The first highlighted what the Division of Social Sciences means to students and faculty; the second, which was presented by Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi, celebrated Carson Watts, this year’s recipient of the Gabriel Zimmerman Memorial Award. Gabe Zimmerman was shot and killed in Tucson, Arizona, in January 2011, where he was serving as an aid to Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords. You can view the “Social Sciences” and “Nancy Pelosi” videos by clicking this link. You will find more information about the scholarship and award recipients on here.
Social Sciences' Research Frontiers conference a success

Leaders are looking for answers to questions that are prevalent today. How does health insurance affect access to health care and financial well-being? In what ways does technology change how we think and feel? How do genomics intersect with justice? Faculty from economics, psychology and politics, as well as other disciplines addressed these and other questions at the Social Sciences’ first-annual Research Frontiers Day on October 25, 2013. Presentations covered a full spectrum of topics and ideas throughout the day. Alessandro Duranti, anthropologist and Dean of the Division of Social Sciences at UCLA, was the keynote speaker at lunch, and he presented his own conception of the future of the social sciences. The day ended with students presenting their own research in a poster session.

There are many times when ideas come from faculty and staff that Dean Kamieniecki would like to support, such as the Research Frontiers Day, and the Dean's Opportunity Fund makes it possible. This fund gives the Dean the flexibility to be responsive to initiatives and ideas that would further the mission and vision of the university through the work conducted in the Social Sciences Division. Please join other alumni and friends of the Social Sciences Division and make a gift to the Dean's Opportunity Fund today.

US-India relations forum brings Indian Consul General to campus

On November 14, 2013, the Division of Social Sciences hosted a forum on India-US Future: Innovation and Development. The event featured a discussion between Ambassador N. Parthasarathi, Indian Consul General in San Francisco, and US Board member of the US-India Science and Technology Research Endowment Fund, Gunjan Sinha, Executive Chairman of MetricStream. Moderated by Dean Sheldon Kamieniecki, the discussion pointed to ways the future of an India-U.S. relationship will shape innovation and economic development within each nation directly. UCSC leadership, faculty, graduate students, and community members learned about the contours
of one of the most important global driving forces of the next decade.

### Who are the students choosing social sciences?

Students attending UCSC make it a diverse community, and the incoming class of 2014 is continuing that trend. Statistically speaking, the freshman class breaks down in the following way:

- Almost 40 percent of the freshman class comes from traditionally underrepresented ethnic groups - African American/Black, American Indian/Alaskan Native, Hispanic, and Asian ethnicities
- Thirty-four percent of the class has Hispanic or Latino backgrounds
- Approximately 31 percent see themselves as white/Caucasian
- Asian Americans make up 28 percent of the class
- Students as first-generation attendees – where neither parent has a 4-year degree – make up 44 percent of the 2013 class

And nearly half of all UCSC students choose the Social Sciences. Undergraduates in the division make up nearly 45 percent of the majors on campus, with Economics and Psychology boasting the largest numbers. For new freshmen, nearly 23 percent are in the Social Sciences. Ninety percent of our incoming frosh come from California, as do the majority of our transfer students, who originate in 95 of the state's 112 community colleges. Take a look at the other Social Sciences Departments and revisit what inspired you to come to UC Santa Cruz.

### The Heller family's legacy reaches UCSC and far beyond

For decades, environmental visionary and philanthropist Alfred E. Heller has served as a catalyst for generations of Californians, orienting us all toward a healthy and productive future. His broad reach has included UCSC’s Farm & Garden and its Environmental Studies Department. Heller recognized that the environmental
and social aspects of agriculture were of equal importance, and in 1982 he created UCSC's first endowed chair: the Alfred E. Heller Chair in Agroecology.

Dr. Stacy Philpott now holds the Ruth and Alfred Heller Chair in Agroecology, renamed in 2008. Her research and teaching interests focus on the ecology, conservation, and sustainability of agricultural systems—including their human components—in both tropical and temperate areas. Her prolific authorship and extensive research have been noted with awards, honors, and invitations to present around the world. Dr. Philpott is also passionate about training the next generation of scholars in the field, and she is directing a new three-year program at the UCSC Farm & Garden to recruit regional high school and community college students into four-year sustainable agriculture programs.

The Heller family legacy continues today, with a recent gift from the Clarence E. Heller Foundation that will fund new courses and expanded internship opportunities in agroecology through UCSC's Environmental Studies Department. Clarence was Alfred's brother; Alfred and other family members continue to serve on the UCSC foundation's board of directors.

Like Alfred Heller, you, too, may have a passion for the teaching and research taking place in the Social Sciences. To explore how to make a difference now or in the future, please contact the Social Sciences Development office.