Alumni Notes

expertise include Chican@/a art and media, Latino/a visual culture, and avant-garde art practices in North America after 1960. He received his Ph.D. in visual and cultural studies from the University of Rochester in 2002.

96 Emilie CATE and Frederic Charliebois are to be married on September 14 at Lake Tahoe; she is working on a Ph.D. in counseling psychology at the University of Oregon and welcomes e-mails from old friends and water polo alumni at ecate@uoregon.edu.

PORTER COLLEGE

72 After 10 years at Clackamas Community College in Oregon, City, Ore., Baldwin Van DER BUL is retiring as vice president of instruction.

75 Lori HIGA has an M.B.A. and is principal of her own public interest consultancy, dedicated to socially responsible, strategic communications for social and environmental justice.

76 Joan JUSTER is a documentary film Alaska Far Away. The New Deal Pioneers of the Matanuska Colony (www.alkafaronaway.com) was released in June; it showed at the Fargo Film Festival and the Muskegon Film Festival, where it won Best Documentary, and it has been awarded the Jury Prize at the Wisconsin Film Festival.

80 Jennifer COLBY is a lecturer in liberal studies at CIU Monterey Bay and director of Galeria Toranzon in San Juan Bautista; her article, "Artist as Scholar: Scholars as Artist," was published in the book Blazer: Discourse on Art, Women, and Feminism (2007).

81 John PETERSON has taught in the Program in Writing and Rhetoric at Stanford University since 2004; he lives in Palo Alto with his wife and daughter.

83 Jesse SHANE has been Mr. Santa Cruz for the past 17 1/2 years, working for the city in the most visited place in all Santa Cruz: the Lighthouse and Surfing Museum; he was planning to sail a 23-foot Etchelon in the summer.

84 Gayll PHIFER-Houseman is one of 32 women who have contributed to a book of sermons published in 2008 under the title Those Preaching Women.

A Multicultural Collection

86 Jasmine LYESKOA has her own business in which she combines her love of jewelry design with travel; she lives in a small town in the mountains in British Columbia.

82 Mazey (Amy) MILLIGAN is working on her master's degree in occupational therapy and doing an internship in early intervention services in rural New Mexico with La Vida Fria Ranch, a program that provides family-centered intervention for individuais with special needs.

KRESGE COLLEGE

75 After many years publishing his poetry, Brent PARTIDGE is photographing wind-carved Eocene metamorphic sandstone on California’s coast and in the Diablo Range; he’s had shows at


76 Don MCCORMICK is now on the faculty at California State University, Northridge, where he teaches organizational behavior and conducts research on mindfulness in the workplace.

78 Vicki SMITH has published a new book, The Good Temp (2008), with coauthor Esther N. Neuhwirth, which examines temporary employment today—how it has become so widespread and normalized and how it has affected permanent employment; Smith is chair of the Sociology Department at UC Davis.

80 Don HARWELL sold his 10-year-old business, Bluewater Pool, Spa, Fountain & Pond Company, in northern San Diego County in April, and he has started an online travel agency, bluewatertravelstore.com.

Jay SCHAEFER has been elected vice president of finance and treasurer at Alaska Airlines.

81 Shannon LAWDER has been promoted to director of the Civil Society Program at the Charles Stewart Mott Foundation. Humorist and spoken-word artist Beth LISICK has a new book, Helping Me Help Myself: One Sketche, Ten Self-Help Gurus, and a Year on the Bank of the Comfort Zone (2008), which records her yearlong plunge into the realms of popular self-help gurus.

82 Gail GRANT Schull and her husband, Clay, are the proud parents of Ethan, born in March 2008; Gail is the registrar at the College of Southern Idaho in Twin Falls.

85 Mary VAN NOTE is a San Francisco–based stand-up comedienne who has opened for Todd Barry, Maria Bamford, and Patton Oswalt; her 10-episode web series, "The Mary Van Note Show: Gavin Really Wants Me," about her attempts to get a date with the hot mayor of San Francisco, Gavin Newsom, premiered on The Independent Film Channel in July.

OAKES COLLEGE

75 Ruth WILSON, an associate professor in African American studies at San Jose State University, received a 2007 U.S. Department of Education Fulbright-Hays award to attend a summer seminar for educators in South Africa.

78 Mark MURPHY manages New Mexico’s Canadian River Basin for the State Engineer’s Office.

82 Lorraine HOFFMAN has been appointed vice president for business and finance at California State University, Chico; prior to taking this position, she was chief finance and administrative officer at the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine.

84 Barbara GARCIA is deputy director of health for the San Francisco Health Department; she will be receiving an honorary doctorsate from the California Institute of Integral Studies.

90 Todd TELANDER is a freelance artist painting oils of landscapes and wildlife whose work is collected and published across the U.S.; he resides in Walla Walla, Wash., with his wife, Kirsten, and two sons, Miles and Oliver. See his work at www. toddtelander.com.

82 Sharon ANOUK Shakked has been promoted to senior director of corporate compliance and ethics and chief privacy official at Blue Shield of California; she lives in Mill Valley, Calif., with her husband and two little boys.

95 Teresa CENDOZA Suarez received a Ph.D. in ethnic studies from UC San Diego and is an assistant professor in the field of critical race studies in the Department of Sociology at Cal State University, San Marcos.

82 Christine OH worked for U.S. Representative Xavier Becerra (D–Los Angeles) for almost four years; three of them on Capitol Hill as a legislative aide; she plans to start an M.P.A. program in fall 2008.

83 Paul HAMLEY has completed his first feature film, Corked, a humorous tale about four distinctly different wineries and their intertwined fate in Northern California’s wine country. The film premiered at the Sonoma Valley Film Festival in April; Paul is assistant winemaker at his family’s business—Havens Winery—in Sonoma County.

84 Marisa LOUIE is residing in Chile as a WorldTeach volunteer, living with a Chilean host family and teaching English along with other subjects at the Antofagasta Varas DuocUC in Providencia, a technical and professional institute that plays a role in Chile's education system.

Alumni Notes looks to expand support for innovative program dedicated to helping students who are foster youth Victoria Wilder Eisenberg (left, with her children) lived in more than 20 foster homes while she was growing up. Despite that formidable obstacle, last year Eisenberg reached a goal that only about 28 percent of Americans have attained: getting a bachelor’s degree.

Eisenberg got help in achieving that milestone from the Smith Renaissance Society, a grassroots, alumni-initiated effort that provides financial, academic, and emotional support to UCSC students who are orphans, veterans of the foster-care or juvenile-justice systems, or others who have experienced to life on their own.

“As you can imagine, trying to fit into the college experience was hard,” says Eisenberg, “because I knew I wasn’t like everyone else, especially those who had families.”

The Smith Society was founded in 1999 by Bill Dickinson (cowell@alum.ucsc.edu, pictured below), who, like Eisenberg, had been on his own when he arrived on the newly opened UCSC campus in 1965.

Since graduating, Dickinson has had several successful careers as an educator, speechwriter, business entrepreneur, and legislator. But he says the accomplishment that makes him most proud is his enduring legacy of helping students in need.

When Eisenberg arrived at UCSC, she had been homeless for months, having been “emancipated” from the foster care system.

Getting support from the Smith Society was transformative.

“I became a part of the Smith Society, and my life changed dramatically,” Eisenberg says. “I have been cared for, nurtured, and, like a little seed, have grown into a beautiful spring blossom.”

While completing a double major in community studies and theater arts, she served as a Smith Society student leader, was involved in student drama productions, got married, and had two children.

Since its inception, nearly 150 students like Eisenberg have been served by the Smith Society program. All but a handful have graduated or are on track to graduate—a remarkable record.

Dickinson credits his years at UCSC—the creative, interesting education and supportive community he presided over with Cowell College founding provost Paige Smith and his wife, Eloise—with his success.

The Smith Renaissance Society was named in their honor.

“Page and Eloise treated me with real respect, an uplifting first for me,” Dickinson says. “We aim to provide that sort of lift for our students, which helps account for our awesome retention and graduation rates. The Smith Society needs more funding. Two hundred new donors giving at least $100 a year would keep our noble little boat afloat,” says Dickinson.

As the society moves toward its 10th year of operation, increased financial support will provide scholarships for students; ultimately, supporters aim to establish an endowment to ensure the program’s smooth operation into the future.

Donations can be made at giving.ucsc.edu; for more information, contact Development Director Kathleen Rose Hughes at (831) 459-4552 or khughes@ucsc.edu.

“I became a part of the Smith Society, and my life changed dramatically.”