

upcoming events

March 27

UCSB Arts & Lectures presents
Award-winning Food Journalist

Ruth Reichl

3 p.m., Granada Theater

April 9

UCSB Admissions presents

Spring Insight

Open House for Admitted
and Prospective Students

April 30

UCSB Alumni Association

presents the

All Gaucho Reunion

www.ucsbalum.com

*Arts & Lectures tickets may be
purchased by calling
(805) 893-3535 or at
www.artsandlectures.ucsb.edu.*

important dates

February 25

**Last day to change winter
quarter grading options**

March 1

**Deadline for 2011-2012
Financial Aid Applications**

March 7-11

Dead Week

March 14-19

Winter Quarter Final Exams

March 20-27

Spring Break

Students must be out of residence
halls by 10 a.m. on March 20.
Students may return to residence
halls after 1 p.m. on March 27.

March 28

First day of spring quarter

April 11

**Last day to declare spring
graduation**

April 15

Tax Day

Helping Your Student Choose a Major

"Mom, Dad...I've decided to major in psychology." Or sociology. Or English. Or art history. What parents wouldn't secretly experience a sinking heart and have nightmares of supporting this child well into middle age? The answer: a parent who understands the relationship between a college major and the world of work. Unlike institutions of higher education, the world of work is not categorized by college major. There are people with degrees in English selling computers, people with degrees in geology doing social work and people with degrees in Chicano studies managing a marketing territory. There are jobs that do require a specific undergraduate major: if your student wants to be an electrical engineer, he or she will need to major in electrical engineering. But, for the most part, employers are open to hiring students from all majors.

So what criteria can students use to determine what major will fit them best?

Interests. Students should choose majors that interest them. They should explore their interests then find a subject matter that matches.

Ability. Students should choose a major in which they feel they can do well. Graduate schools (and, to a much smaller degree, employers) do care about how well a student did in school.

Graduating from UCSB will provide your son or daughter with a nationally respected degree in higher education. It will provide him or her with a solid base from which to apply for graduate schools and jobs. For job training, UC students need to look to extra-curricular activities: part time jobs, internships (send them to Career Services for help with these), and club or campus government participation. Employers may not care what a student majored in, but they look deeply and critically at the kinds of out-of-class experience students have to offer.

Parents are the most significant influences in their son's or daughter's life. You can help your student by explaining the tenuous relationship between the major and employment. Then send him or her to Career Services to find workshops, handouts, and computer programs all designed to help choose a major and subsequently, a career. And breathe a bit easier when you hear "Mom, Dad...I've decided to major in _____."

Micael Kemp is the director of Career Services. Her undergraduate degree was in psychology. She is making a comfortable living as an administrator and hasn't needed money from her parents in decades.



Looking for More Major or Career Advice?

Parents are encouraged to sign up to receive *Career Alliance*, an email newsletter distributed monthly by Career Services. The newsletter provides information about career-related events on campus, helpful tips for students to improve their major selection and job search experiences, and discussion topics for parents and students. Visit <http://career.ucsb.edu/parents/careeralliance.html> to subscribe to *Career Alliance*.



Commencement 2011

Congratulations to the graduating seniors from the Class of 2011! Be sure to check with your student to confirm which commencement ceremony he or she has registered for before making plans. We encourage you to make hotel reservations in advance for maximum availability.

Commencement 2011 Schedule

Sunday, June 5

College of Creative Studies
11 a.m., Campbell Hall

Saturday, June 11

Sciences and Social Sciences
9 a.m., Faculty Club Green

Biopsychology, Communication, Environmental Studies, Geological Sciences, Geophysics, Hydrological Sciences, Psychology

Engineering and Sciences, 1 p.m.
Faculty Club Green

Aquatic Biology, Biochemistry, Biological Sciences, Cell and Developmental Biology, Chemical Engineering, Chemistry, Computer Engineering, Computer Science, Ecology and Evolution, Electrical Engineering, Financial Mathematics and Statistics, Geography, Mathematical Sciences, Mathematics, Mechanical Engineering, Microbiology, Pharmacology, Physical Geography, Physics, Physiology, Physiology and Cell Biology, Statistical Science, Zoology

Social Sciences I
4 p.m., Faculty Club Green

Anthropology, Business Economics, Economics, Economics-Mathematics, Political Science

Sunday, June 12

Social Sciences II
9 a.m., Faculty Club Green

Asian American Studies, Black Studies, Chicana and Chicano Studies, Feminist Studies, Global Studies, Law and Society, Middle East Studies, Sociology

Humanities and Fine Arts
1 p.m., Faculty Club Green

Art, Art History, Asian Studies, Chinese, Classics, Comparative Literature, Dance, English, Film and Media Studies, French, German, History, Interdisciplinary Studies, Italian Studies, Japanese, Latin American and Iberian Studies, Linguistics, Medieval Studies, Music, Philosophy, Portuguese, Religious Studies, Renaissance Studies, Slavic Languages and Literatures, Spanish, Theater

For more commencement information, please visit www.ia.ucsb.edu/commencement.



Office of Student Life

The Office of Student Life provides a centralized location for students to access multiple services related to student leadership, activities, and Greek Life.

Services include:

- Advice and support to all class levels through student resource teams and first-year programs. Your student receives monthly emails from the resource team leaders for his or her class level. More information about each student resource team is available at www.sa.ucsb.edu/srt.
- General assistance with problem solving and referrals, and administrative support for students experiencing emergencies. Depending on the nature of the emergency, the office will process necessary paperwork or contact professors or appropriate offices on behalf of the student, allowing him or her to focus primarily on resolving the crisis situation.
- Disciplinary clearance letters (also known as "letters of recommendation") for students applying to graduate, military, or government service programs.
- Leadership education, training, and opportunities. Encourage your students to visit <http://leadership.sa.ucsb.edu> to learn more about leadership development opportunities.
- Assistance in planning and scheduling co-curricular activities and educational programs.
- Support for approximately 300 campus organizations and maintaining the student organization directory, located on-line at www.sa.ucsb.edu/orgs/. The directory lists the purpose and contact for each organization, including national, regional, and local Greek chapters. If your student is unable to find an organization that interests him or her, Office of Student Life staff can help your student start a new group!
- Community life efforts and special projects focusing on a broad spectrum of issues affecting students, their parents, and other campus and community constituencies. These include student life issues in UCSB's neighboring community of Isla Vista, voter registration, support for alternative social and entertainment programming, and special events such as UCSB's annual New Student Convocation.

For more information about services or ways to get involved with the campus community, encourage your student to visit the Office of Student Life on the 2nd floor of the Student Resource Building, or call (805) 893-4569.

The Office of Student Life hopes to expand their program to serve even more students. If you wish to support their mission or any other service provided by UCSB Student Affairs, please contact Student Affairs Grants and Development at (805) 893-7713 or visit www.sa.ucsb.edu/giving.

Giving to Student Affairs

Donations from parents are vitally important in sustaining and enhancing critical student support services. These include highly rated and frequently used resources such as Campus Learning Assistance Services (CLAS, which offers tutoring) and Career Services. Please consider giving to one of these important services today! Your contributions to student affairs help all students to:

- Develop skills—like leadership skills—that will serve them throughout their lives.
- Make life-long friends and strengthen social connections through responsible engagement in student clubs, organizations, and community service projects.
- Extend their in-class experiences with extracurricular opportunities such as professional internships facilitated by Career Services and workshops, lectures and presentations offered by the MultiCultural Center.
- Serve as peer educators in areas such as alcohol and drug prevention programming and mental health/suicide prevention.
- Access special resources such as the adapted technology computer lab for students who are differently abled.
- Gain much-needed financial support and crucial financial relief through scholarships and emergency grants and loans (like the Umfundi Endowment).

Thank you for your support!

What is the KIOSK?

The *Kiosk*, UCSB's official student handbook, is a great resource for information about campus services, involvement opportunities on campus and in the surrounding community, and tips on how to succeed at UCSB. All students can benefit from the wealth of information in the *Kiosk*. You and your student are invited to read more at www.kiosk.ucsb.edu.



Another type of "kiosk" of interest to students are the wooden information kiosks located around campus. The kiosks provide information about upcoming campus activities, special events, and fundraising activities sponsored by campus organizations and departments. Kiosks are located near Campbell Hall, the Theater and Dance building, and the Music building. Encourage your student to stop by a kiosk today to learn more about getting involved at UCSB.



Spotlight on UCSB

Professor Mark Juergensmeyer

Title: Professor, Global and International Studies, Sociology
Director, Orfalea Center for Global and International Studies

What are your personal interests?

I love the ocean, the beach, the mountains, the forests, and coffeehouses and seedy bars. Fortunately, Santa Barbara has all of those things close at hand, and a lot of good friends as well. Who could want more?

What are your research interests?

I've always been interested in religion and politics and how they intersect around the world. So when people started killing other people in acts of religious violence, I interviewed those people who are regarded as terrorists—Muslims, Jews, Christians, Buddhists, Hindus, and Sikhs—to understand why this moment of global history is so violent. Increasingly, I am trying to understand the positive and non-violent role that religion can play in the emerging global human community.

How would you describe your teaching style?

When I first began to teach, I was under the illusion that my job was to hand out facts and information, but I abandoned that stupid idea long ago. Students can go to Wikipedia for that. Instead, I think our job as teachers is to share our intellectual excitement, to infuse the fun of learning, and to get people to think critically. If we do that, it will last a lifetime.

What is your idea of a good time?

I get excited when wars come to an end, when positive social change comes to society, and when progressive political decisions are made by governments. My heart races wildly when I see a really interesting piece of art, discover a genuinely original work of architecture, witness a well-played sporting event, and hear complex and inspiring works of music. And if I can experience any of these things with old friends and a glass of interesting but inexpensive wine, so much the better.

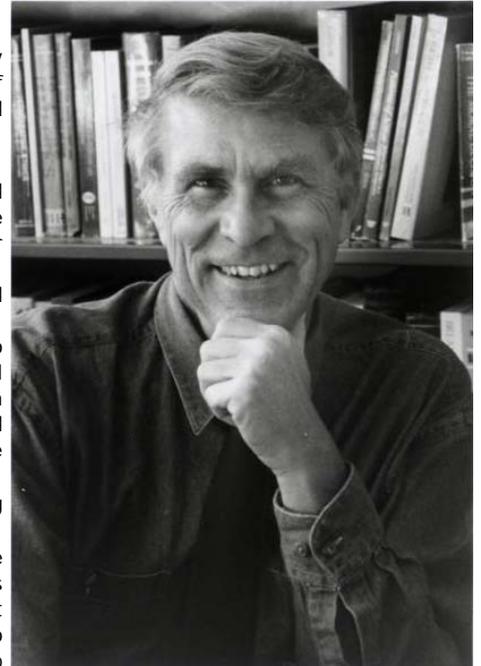
What do you think is the most important thing for a student to learn in college?

I think the most important things that students learn are not facts. Rather, the most important thing is how to get interesting ideas and insights from other people, including professors and other students. The second most important thing to learn is how to present yourself to other people in an interesting way so that they will want to learn from you. You learn these things both inside and outside the classroom. So take your classes and your sports and your partying seriously—you can learn a lot from each of them.

What is your advice for new students at UCSB?

Expect to be dazzled, delighted, intrigued, inspired, challenged, and changed by all aspects of your college experience. And you will be.

UCSB students and parents are invited to learn about Mark Juergensmeyer and other "Primo Profs" through the Kiosk, the UCSB Student Handbook. Visit the Kiosk Web site at www.kiosk.ucsb.edu. More of UCSB's fantastic faculty members will be spotlighted in future issues of The Gaucho Parents Gazette.



The Gaucho Parents Gazette is published by the Division of Student Affairs and UCSB Parent Services.

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