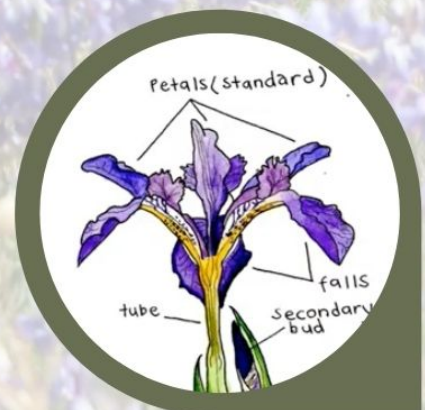


ANNUAL REPORT 2020-21

CREATIVITY PERSEVERANCE COMMUNITY

When reflecting back on this past year, our seventh as a natural history center on campus, these three words come to mind: creativity, perseverance, and community. With the abrupt transition to remote learning brought on by the Covid-19 pandemic, we found creative ways to engage with our students. We modified our popular classes to be on-line and even expanded our course offerings. Despite being remote, we maintained hands-on opportunities such as our Art-Science residency program, and developed numerous new internships where students conducted work independently or in teams and checked in online. And we mastered the new zoom format for public events. Amidst many unforeseen challenges, we persevered to make progress on several of our goals, including safely offering some small in-person classes in the spring, opening an in-person exhibit in the San Lorenzo Valley, making significant progress renovating our collections and classroom space, and hiring a new assistant director. And despite the isolation imposed by a pandemic, we continued to strengthen our community connections. Whether through partnering with new organizations and naturalists in our county or providing financial support and mentoring to diverse young student researchers, we continued to expand natural history education and research opportunities to our growing community.



THE NUMBERS

1,357

UNDERGRADUATES

36

INTERNSHIPS

10

**GRADUATE
STUDENTS**

16

CLASSES

20

**PAID QUARTERLY
POSITIONS**

16

**AWARDS &
SCHOLARSHIPS**

209

**FACULTY
& STAFF**

528

**COMMUNITY
MEMBERS**

7,075

USER DAYS

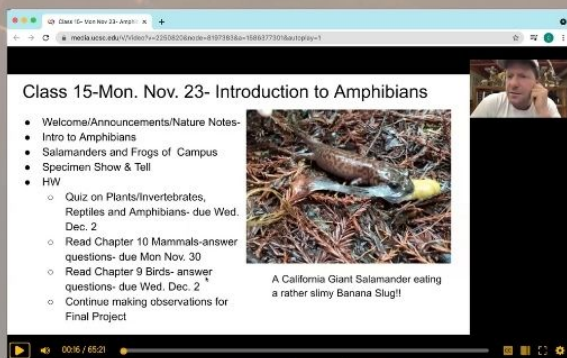


COURSES

Our remote teaching team, which was comprised of six instructors, taught a terrific diversity of classes. This included a new “Careers in Conservation” course focused on the complex effort to save the endangered California Condor, and an “Introduction to Community Science” course that trained students to use new citizen science tools. In partnership with the UCSC campus natural reserve, we engaged with over 700 first-year students using our newly developed online video-based introduction to field inquiry. And, through heroic efforts from our campus environmental health and safety department, we developed a safe in-person covid protocol which allowed us to teach one of our big field courses in-person during the spring.

Courses Sponsored by the Norris Center

- Natural History of UCSC, Chris Lay
- Natural History Illustration (4 offerings!), Emily Underwood, Juniper Harrower
- Natural History of Fungi, Christian Schwarz
- Careers in Conservation, Zeka Glucs
- Introduction to Community Science, Christian Schwarz
- Natural History Field Quarter, Chris Lay & Ryan Carle



Other Courses Supported by the Norris Center

- Biodiversity in the Anthropocene
- General Ecology
- Entomology
- Freshwater Ecology
- Ornithology
- Merrill Core Course
- Rachel Carson Core Course

I NOTICE

FIELD INQUIRY NATURE EXPLORATION ASSIGNMENT #1

Find a site to explore (backyard, sidewalk, local park, greenspace, wildland, etc.)-- somewhere you feel safe and comfortable, with some natural features, and with room to explore. Use Field Journal template#1 to document your observations and questions. Take at least an hour to do this; if you get into it, the time will fly by. And...have fun!

- 1 Watch FINE plenary lecture prior to beginning assignment
- 2 Fill out the heading (metadata) section of Field Journal template #1

PAID SUMMER RESEARCH

A research team of four undergraduates led by Dr. Andy Kulikowski spent the summer re-surveying the pollinator communities in dune and bluff habitats along the Santa Cruz coast. Like local naturalist Randy Morgan did nearly thirty years ago, these undergraduates and their mentors collected data on native pollinators and their associated plants and compared their results with Morgan's data from the 1990s. The results from their work were presented at the Doris Duke summer symposium and will also be presented at the Ecology and Evolutionary Biology Research Event in Fall 2021. In Fall 2021, their data set will be further analyzed and written-up for submission to a peer-reviewed journal. We are especially grateful to the more than 100 donors who contributed funds to help us support this project!



EVENTS

Our online events offered opportunities to continue to engage with our community as well as reach new audiences. This included our Director, Chris Lay, teaching a UC-wide sponsored online field safety workshop entitled “Tools for Improving Communication and Outcomes in the Field”, which was attended by nearly 200 staff and faculty from many universities and agencies across the country. Many of our events were part of our “Look Act Inspire” exhibit showcasing the community of naturalists in Santa Cruz County, which we began in summer 2020. After a several month delay due to the pandemic, we were thrilled to open our in-person exhibit at the new San Lorenzo Valley Museum in Felton, which stayed open to the public for six months. During this time, we co-sponsored eight public events in partnership with both the San Lorenzo Valley Museum and the Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History. These events ranged from public talks about redwood fire ecology to new videos produced using past footage from renowned local naturalist Fred McPherson.



COLLECTIONS CLOSE-UP
THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF
RANDALL MORGAN

Kathleen Aston | Collections Manager
Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History

Chris Lay | Administrative Director
Kenneth S. Norris Center for Natural History

- The program will begin shortly
- Use the Chat to communicate with us and each other
- This program is being recorded

PRESENTED IN PARTNERSHIP BY
SANTA CRUZ MUSEUM
of natural history

Look. Act. Inspire.

Sustaining & Expanding the Community of Naturalists in Santa Cruz County

Kenneth S. Norris Center for Natural History

Santa Cruz Museum of Natural History

January 31 - June 30, 2021

A Virtual & Public Exhibition Celebrating the work of many past and present local naturalists.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
SANTA CRUZ



ART & NATURAL HISTORY

Our Art-Science programming continued mostly uninterrupted from the pandemic. With quarantine restrictions easing in the spring, we organized a community watercolor art workshop held outside at the arboretum. We doubled our nature illustration classes, taught by Emily Underwood and Juniper Harrower, to four sections in both winter and summer. With the anticipation of students returning to campus in the Fall 2021, we created a new exhibit, The Norris Center Archives, on display in the foyer of the Science and Engineering Library. And our Art-Science Residency program continued to blossom. This program supported 6 student artists, including 3 graduate students and 3 undergraduates, who worked with UCSC's Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration), and the UC Natural Reserves.



"Our residency project focused on following Green Sturgeon, Acipenser medirostris, as they move from the sea to their spawning grounds in the upper Sacramento river. The animations and soundscapes within this project express the sense of the calm Sacramento Delta and the busy San Francisco Bay. As a scientist, I was very impressed at how evocative the resulting collaboration was; I interact with these fish primarily through their tagging data points, and through watching the final videos I felt immediately more connected to my rare study species. Through this art collaboration I was better able to center the whole animal."



DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION

Under the leadership of our new faculty director Dr. Rita Mehta, we formed a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion committee of students and alumni and drafted a DEI statement with input from our community. A big aim of this committee was to help remove or substantially lessen the obstacles and challenges underrepresented students face when applying for research opportunities and foster an inclusive and transparent natural history community. As a step toward our goal, we hosted a DEI online discussion with students and alumni in fall 2020 that focused on decolonial approaches to interpreting natural history collections. Our graduate fellow Justin Luong also supported several internships focused on the history of structural racism in museums. A big focus of our “Look Act Inspire” exhibit emphasized the evolving cultural conception of a naturalist as well as actions we can take to promote more inclusion in the natural history community. As one of the barriers to attaining research experiences for people of color is the lack of financial support, our primary fundraising efforts led to supporting 4 students of color in our first summer field ecology research project.

THE NORRIS CENTER FOR NATURAL HISTORY
PRESENTS A DISCUSSION OF:

**PAST INJUSTICES IN MUSEUM
SCIENCE AND PATHWAYS FOR
BROADENING PARTICIPATION IN THE
FUTURE.**

**Monday, October
26th
7PM - 8PM**

- Discuss recent article on decolonial approaches to interpreting Natural History
- Hear from alumna Desiree Loggins about her diversity and inclusion work at conservation organizations



Equal participation across genders, races, ethnicities, and socio-economic backgrounds.

Imagine a Naturalist...

**Emerging
Conceptions**



Enjoys learning about surrounding environment and might use online identification (e.g. iNaturalist)

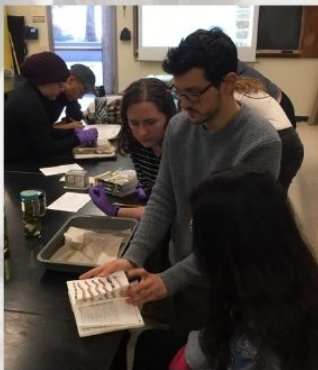


Has outdoor clothing and maybe only disposable water bottles



BIG CHANGES

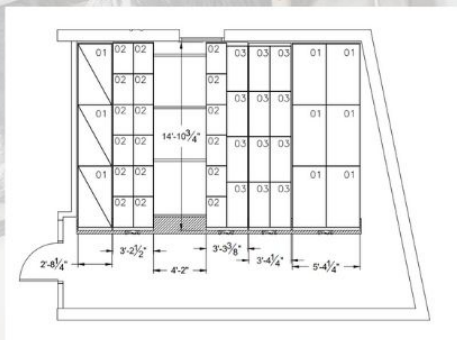
Our first assistant director Dr. Alex Krohn moved on after three years of fostering dramatic growth in our programs. Before leaving, he was immensely helpful in preparing for the transition and advertising the position widely. With a large qualified pool from across the country, we formed a committee to interview our top candidates. Our committee consisted of our administrative staff, a DEI committee member, a past teaching assistant, a representative from a collaborating local organization, and an active community member. Together, we were thrilled to welcome Dr. Gizelle Hurtado to the Norris Center. Born and raised in California, Gizelle has studied wildlife, natural history, and ecology in many parts of Northern California and in Southern New Mexico. For her Ph.D. she studied the impacts of urbanization on kangaroo rats. She has also taught undergraduate courses in Wildlife Ecology, Biology and Environmental Science. Gizelle will work as both our assistant director and instructor of mammalogy starting in Fall 2021!



Outgoing and incoming assistant directors, Alex Krohn (left) and Gizelle Hurtado (right).



In addition to big staffing changes, we made significant progress on improving and expanding our facility. We updated our teaching classrooms, began a major renovation of our collections room, and solidified a plan to acquire an additional adjacent room for the Norris Center in the near future.



A plan for new cabinets in our collections room (left) and installing new whiteboards in our classrooms (right).

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

We are so grateful to our generous supporters who helped us reach our goal of fully supporting an undergraduate research team to continue local pollinator research started by Randy Morgan in the 1990s. Beginning with a hugely successful Giving Day campaign in Fall 2020, we raised over \$40,000 to support 3 students in UCSC's CAMINO program and 1 student from the Doris Duke Conservation Scholars Program in a 10 week summer research project. Nearly \$30,000 in additional donations helped us fund our new Assistant Director position, our *Look Act Inspire* exhibit, and increase our scholarship funds for Natural History Field Quarter. Thanks to everyone for their continued support!

\$10,000+

March Conservation Fund
Tamia Marg and Tom Anderson
Mike Temerin and Galina Pomotalkina

\$1,000 - \$9,999

Anonymous
John, Peggy, and Karen Holl
Rita Mehta and Jack Redwine
Joanna Miller
Robert Stephens
Beatrice Van Horn
Valley Women's Club
Robert Weiner and Karen Rhodes

\$200 - \$999

Anonymous
James Berkey
Dennis Brown
Ted Cranford & Kathleen Langan
Abigail Faulkner & Hobart Guion
David Hart
Ann Harvey
Lorraine & Ted Kinnamon
Michael Lay & Sally Ryan
Phyllis Norris
Jane Orbuch & Bryan Cockel
Lise Peterson & Donald Peattie
Linda Wilshusen & Rock Pfothenauer

Up to \$200

Jenny and John Anderson
Jean & Frank Andrews
American Online Giving Foundation
Anonymous (*3)
Rozy Bathrick
Barbara Banfield
Bruce Bannerman
Emily Barnett
Zerina Berovic
Hannah Braun
Nicole Britton
Martha Brown & Breck Tyler
Michael & Frances Bolte
Marican Caculba
Ryan Carle
Marissa Castillo
Justin Chan
Katherine Chen
Merry Colony and J. Tampi
Kevin Condon
Kyle Donohoe
Diane Donham
Michael Drob
Eric Engles and Lisa Frankel
Carleton Eyster
Marcia & Michael Fein
Darrow Feldstein
Larry Ford and Susan Merritt
Brook Gamble

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Up to \$200 continued

Judy Glass
Frank Gravier and Catherine Carlestroem
Rebecca Hendricks
Franciso Hernandez
Elizabeth M. Hubert
Jenna Hurley
Maria Geluz
Greg Gilbert & Ingrid Parker
Megan J. Gnekow
Kaleb Goff
Jessica and Matthew Hallisey
Graham Hamley
Karen Holl & Michael Loik
Alicia Fennell
Bartley Fong and Carolyn Kernkamp
Kristine Karnos
Chelsea Kintz
Lori & Gregory Kintz
Jeannine Koshear
Neal Kramer
Alex Krohn
Meaghan Krohn
Monique Krohn
Douglas Krohn
Chis Lay and Elizabeth Andrews
Josephine Lesage
Allison Lieber
Allison Lin
Ernest and Oggi Lin
Alison Lindberg

Christopher May
Roy Dev Mehta
Katie and Forest Monsen
Kendra Morgenrath
Dan Ness
Veronica Ness
Todd Newberry
Caroline Niblett
Jeannette & Peter Onorati
Kristin and Ricardo Palma
Amy Patten
Julian Perez
Erika Perloff and Paul Keel
Stacy Philpott
Sarah Rabkin & Charles Atkinson
Shoo Shoo Salasky
Frank Sapa
Dustin Smucker & Katherine Oates
Misha Shambayati
Carol Shennan
Guadalupe Solano
Allegra Stahl
Georgia Stigall
Paul Sweeney & Joann Deutch
Lynne Tan
Charles Tralka
Sara Tralka
Eric Vigilia & Suzanne Lee-Vigilia
Jerry and Robynn Walters
Laurel Wee
Sarah Wheatley
Bryanna Whitney

"You showed me that the world, which was the one thing that I loved most in life, is more amazing and interconnected and beautiful and overwhelming than I ever could have imagined."

Natural History Field Quarter Student

WHAT WE DO BEST

With the return of students to UCSC in fall 2021, we are thrilled to once again resume what we do best: working directly with our students to teach them about the natural world and helping them develop the skills to become the environmental leaders of the future. While a year ago we were hastily protecting the collections when the campus was evacuated due to the CZU forest fire, this fall we will complete significant renovations to both our collections room and classrooms. Last September we began a year full of mostly remote teaching; this coming quarter we will welcome back a full set of classes and a new cohort of student interns to our workspace. Last year nearly all of our events were online. Now we can hardly wait to help many first-year students explore the natural lands of their new homes on campus. And we're excitedly making plans for a big in-person event in spring 2022 to celebrate fifty years of natural history education and research at UC Santa Cruz.



Our summer "Pollinator Pals" research team