

Dear Cowell Company of Friends,

It might be an exaggeration to say that there is never a dull moment at Cowell College. But, with no exaggeration we can say that dull moments are few and far between.

On August 14, we dedicated the Coeleen Kiebert Patio outside the Eloise Pickard Smith Gallery with great panache. Over 125 members of the arts community came to cheer and honor the local icon of the arts: Coeleen Kiebert.

September 17 saw the arrival of 420 new freshmen. They are packed in like sardines, but they seem very cheerful and very smart. House by house, the students have come in droves to the annual PJs at the PH events in which alumni and other community members help the students mingle, sing songs, do crafts, and feel entirely at home at the Provost's House (PH).

From Sept 19 to Oct 25, a show called Uncommon Place, about the development of the UCSC campus, delighted visitors to the Eloise Pickard Smith Gallery. The show was guest-curated by Jim Clifford, Michael Warren, Virginia Jansen, and Frank Zwart, with the help of Shelby Graham. A fantastic book about the origins of the campus and its architecture, produced by Jim Clifford, is available at the gallery and from us for a small donation.

September 26th marked the 50th anniversary of the arrival of the first classes of eager students to UCSC. Over 200 pioneers and guests were back for a weekend of celebration and to remember what it was like to be dropped off on the new campus in 1965. Many of the pioneers also attended the knock-out Founders' dinner that occurred in a tent on the east field, where Pioneer Faculty were honored. John Dizikes, Jean Langenheim, and Hal Hyde accepted the Fiat Lux Award on behalf of their colleagues. Those pioneers who did not attend the Founders' dinner had a riotous time at the home of Jim Klug, local alumnus. Then on Sunday, pioneer alumni, faculty and staff enjoyed a brunch on the Provost's lawn. Many stayed for a panel discussion involving Bruce Larkin, Stanley Williamson, Rich Randolph, and John Dizikes. For those of you who like to reminisce, there is an excellent video featuring many of the founding faculty and staff reflecting on the beginnings of the campus. [Click here](#) for a link to the video.

Interviewing alumni and Friends continues to be rewarding for students and interviewees alike. Our freshmen students turned out en masse to interview pioneer alumni on Sat., September 26. The students found the interviews to be incredibly interesting, and they were also touched when the alumni took an interest in them — as was almost always the case. A student intern is working on archiving the interviews. Not archived, but still important, are the interviews conducted last spring of about 40 alumni. Students used information they gained in those interviews to address the question: how might the university re-create today the kind of special educational environment that students knew 40 or 50 years ago? One idea was to bring in artists and performers to interact with students in informal settings.

Another "town-gown" activity, *Ears in Action*, continues to have strong support. *Ears in Action* supports students in writing by providing adults who listen as students read drafts

of their papers. Anecdotal evidence shows that the students who have the experience of reading aloud to another then tend to continue the practice. A local *Ears in Action* group met with students on October 22. Older listeners were available to listen for several “drop-in” hours in the afternoon and evening.

Events to Come

Mark your calendars now for **Alumni Weekend -- Fri., April 29 through Sunday, May 1st**. During Alumni Weekend we will offer a full program as we have done for the last five or so years. The annual Saturday morning gathering in the Page Smith Library on April 30 will focus on the Cowell Press. Events of Sunday, May 1st, begin at 10AM with the Annual Brunch for alumni and fellows on the Provost’s lawn, followed by a brief ceremony of remembrance and then the fabulous Dizikes Concert. Alumnus Marco Martinez Galarce is putting together a show of American music including blue grass, jazz, and folk. The show should be the best yet!

Many of you have sat for interviews over past alumni weekends. Some have asked: Will we be doing interviews this spring? That depends on whether or not Cowell again offers the course called *The Role of Higher Education in the Democratic Society* which in turn depends on donations. For the last five years Faye Crosby has taught the course as an overload. Now would be the time to transition to a regular staff member, but for the moment Cowell lacks the \$6,000 or so to make such a plan possible.

Of course these Cowell events will be embedded within the larger calendar of campus-wide events throughout the weekend. Check back at the UCSC website [REUNION WEEKEND page](#) for developing details. If you have ideas for engaging fellow alums, please contact Faye at fjcroby@ucsc.edu. Perhaps you would like to join the corps of “postcard writers” who reach out to fellow alumni and encourage them to attend.

Know that you are always welcome at Cowell events. Those of you who live within striking distance of campus or are passing through might want to join us for these:

Mon., Dec 7th, 4 – 7 PM. Winter Gathering at the Provost’s House. Come for a convivial time.

Thurs., Jan 21st, 2016, place TBA. 7 PM. Visit and talk from Hedy Rose, Holocaust survivor.

Fri., Jan 22nd, 5 – 7PM.

Opening reception at the Eloise Pickard Smith Gallery. **5 – 7** PM. The show will be called PRESSING ON.

Sat., Jan 23rd, Celebrations of the Cowell Press.

Felicia Rice, Tom Killian, and Gary Young will participate in a symposium in the Page Smith Library 10:00AM – Noon. Informal luncheon to follow at the Provost’s House.

Florence Nelson 10/19/2015 4:30 PM

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Sat., Jan 30th, Family Day.

Fri., Apr 8th, Opening reception of the spring show at the gallery: *Early UCSC faculty*. This show will be up only until May 6.

Developments

Our Associate Provost, Lora Barlett, is on the job, heading up core and dealing with cases of misconduct. Fortunately, the rules and regulations concerning misconduct have recently been revised.

This year among the large class of freshmen is a record number of honors students. Prescott House is home to 95 members of the First Year Honors Program (FYHP). This year students in the program are also housed at Crown. Next year Merrill will join the ranks. Not only are the honors students more and more in evidence; so are the international students. Nearly 50 of the 420 freshmen come from countries in Europe, Latin America and Asia.

So impressive to alumni is the FYHP that a generous alumnus, David Kadish, has now established an endowment for the FYHP. David is the same donor who brought us the Dizikes Lecture and the Dizikes Teaching Fellowship. The new endowment for the FYHP has \$55,000 in it. If you know of anyone who might wish to contribute, please let Faye know.

There are many ways to be engaged with Cowell and UCSC.

- Planning for reunion, reaching out to alumni friends.
- Attending any event and engaging with students.
- Being interviewed.
- Helping as a writing mentor through *Ears in Action*.

If you live nearby, you can volunteer to help on campus. You can be a gallery-sitter or book-shelver at the Page Smith Library. You can join Mary Carvalho's *Ears in Action* group. You can help catalogue items in our Cowell Archives. To get involved with any of these projects, please email Faye Crosby at fjcrosby@ucsc.edu. The gallery has run out of money, and so any help there is especially appreciated.

Money continues to flow in, thank goodness, to help our endowments and to pay for our enhancement courses. Endowments have been the life-blood of Cowell's special programs. Payouts from a bequest have allowed us to fund three scholars each year (each for a three-year term) who serve as a Gary D. Licker Memorial Chair. Their courses are a blessing to our students. Consider, for example, Kimberly Jannarone's course on Crowds in the Theatre or Angela Elsey's course "La Francophonie." Students benefit from all the small enhancement courses, whether they are or are not part of the Licker program. This

fall we are offering a service learning class and a course on trust, both supported by private donations. In the winter and spring many additional courses will be offered.

One special magnet for money seems to be the Cowell Press where award-winning Gary Young serves as Director. The very generous gift from Pat and Rowland Rebele (announced last summer to you) has inspired others to open their coffers. Right now, we have enough of an endowment and enough good prospects for more donations that we can sigh the sigh of relief and know the Cowell Press will continue to function.

The same cannot be said of the Eloise Pickard Smith Gallery. Right now we are blessed to have amassed \$100,000 in the Endowment for the Arts, but that pays only \$4,000 a year, leaving \$30-some thousand dollars to be found each year for operating expenses. As one means of generating money, we have plans for the deaccession of certain works from the gallery's holdings. Our ultimate aim is to have a collection of mid-coast art, not just a hodge-podge of random works. In January, a consultant will help us move some pieces to auction. Let's hope we have the same good fortune as Stevenson College where the sale of some art brought in \$100,000. If you have any feelings about any particular piece, please contact Faye at fjcroby@ucsc.edu before Nov 22, 2015.

We would welcome any other ideas for securing the future of the gallery. Some of the former provosts are seeking ways to help. Perhaps there are some angels out there who might like to give us a donation or to put the gallery their wills. We would hope to delay the collection of any planned gift, but just knowing of the planned gift might allow us to keep the doors open.

The Company of Friends has grown to 104 members now – alumni, parents, community members, and people who enjoy the intellectual and cultural opportunities offered by Cowell College. If you have fresh ideas and how to be engaged, from near or far, please contact me at cowell72girl@hotmail.com.

This is the last year for Cowell's leadership under Faye Crosby. Those of us who have witnessed Faye's efforts to energize the cultural and social life of the college and to promote the residential college concept know that she will be a hard act to follow. Fortunately the pool of applicants has been described as "robust." It will be a blessing for Cowell to have a new provost coming in, full of energy and enthusiasm. And Faye says, "assuming that the next provost derives as much joy as I have from the job, it will be a great blessing for the one who is, sooner or later, selected to be my successor."

On behalf of the Company of Friends,

Florence Nelson