

January 22, 2026, Humboldt-ERFSA Executive Meeting

Present: Marshelle Thobaben, President & Cal Poly Humboldt University Senate Representative; Jeffry Borgeld, Membership Chair; Susan Dobie, Program Chair & Kumi Watanabe-Schock, Communications Chair

President Report (Marshelle)

- Dec. 15th Met with Rees Hughes regarding VP Foundation Search Com responsibilities.
- Dec. 14th, Jan. 5th & Jan. 13th emailed Paula regarding the ERFSA Luncheon Program Schedule & Septentrio Winery reception dates in case President Richard A. Carvajal can attend.
- Jan. 3rd emailed notice: Applications for Emeritus Status for Tenured Faculty, Lecturers, Staff and Administrators Are Due to the Senate Office by Feb. 1, 2026. Notified the Provost Office to send to the campus community.
- Jan. 14th Attended Provost Capps Farewell & Welcome for Interim Provost Shawna Young.
- Jan. 14th and 15th Email communication with Guido Setton, Director of Development, Major Gifts. *Our team works with gifts of \$25,000 or more, and the scope of our work includes, among other areas, endowed and current-use scholarships, Charitable Gift Annuities, and the creation of funds for specific purposes such as experiential learning. The meetings we offer are one-on-one conversations. During these visits, we share information about giving options, answer questions, and—when there is interest—provide guidance on how to establish a giving fund. We are not organizing large meetings or group presentations, and I apologize if my earlier message suggested otherwise. I am also aware that our work is represented by Vice President Steve Karp, and I appreciate the opportunity to clarify our role.*
- Jan 20th will attend University Senate Meeting--President Richard A. Carvajal introduced himself.
- Junior Faculty and Staff grants – Applications are due by Thursday March 26, 2026, at 3 p.m. PST. Date for Exc Com review—**Thurs: April 2nd Zoom meeting**. Kumi will send the applications after the deadline and Jeff will notify the applications if they are awarded a grant. Lou Ann will notify HAF.
- Jan. 14th Telephone conversation with Tynel after multiple emails and winery visit: Emeritus status reception at the Septentrio Winery on Wed., **April 22nd, 4:30-7ish**. VP Karp *not* attending; Angie will pay for the drinks on behalf of the “Foundation” Kumi will take photos to use with future press release.
- Celebration of 1984 -2026 Humboldt-ERFSA 42 years? Welcome for President Richard A. Carvajal?

Program Chair (Susan)

Spring Program

Feb 12, 2026: Meet at Baywood Golf and Country Club

12:00 Oscar M. Vargas: Associate Professor Biological Sciences (2021 Grant Recipient)

Project: The evolutionary origin and conservation genetics of rare plants in California.

Portions of the tree of life, the evolutionary origin of rare plants and genetic diversity can be inferred from the use of next generation DNA sequencing. My research team examines this data for conservation purposes.

Introduction by Susan Dobie, Program Chair

12:30 Catalina Cuellar-Gempeler: Associate Professor Biological Science (2020 Grant Recipient): Baywood Golf and Country Club

Project: Revealing biodiversity–ecosystem function relationships through microbial nitrogen metabolism. Studying the relationship between Biodiversity–ecosystem function helps us understand how the variety of life in a system affects how well that system works. However, we still have major gaps in knowledge, especially about how the movement of organisms between habitats affect ecosystem health. Our findings highlight how complex and dynamic microbial roles can be in shaping the natural world and proposes novel frameworks to manage and predict microbial function in natural and constructed systems.

Introduction by Susan Dobie, Program Chair

March 12, 2026

Kyle Weis: Acting Captain of the research vessel, R/V North Wind, Woodley Island Marina
A visit from 12:00 to 1:00pm at CalPoly Humboldt's new research vessel, R/V North Wind, meeting at Dock A at the Woodley Island Marina in Eureka. We will remain at the dock, and Kyle Weis will be available to answer questions during your informal tour. There are many opportunities for lunch in Eureka, including the on-site Café Marina. Dock A is located at the south end of the marina.

Introduction by Jeffry Borgeld

April 9, 2026

Brandon L. Browne: Professor, Department of Geology,

Project: Probing the subvolcanic magma plumbing systems of continental and oceanic basaltic volcanoes, examples from Medicine Lake volcano and the Axial Seamount.

Results of new geological research on the magma systems that underly two very different basaltic volcanoes located in the Pacific Northwest, including Medicine Lake Volcano in the California Cascades and the Axial Seamount submarine volcano on the Juan de Fuca Ridge. New evidence from geochemical and geophysical observations is advancing our ability to monitor and forecast volcanic eruptions, driving volcanologists to reimagine classical models of subvolcanic magma systems from simple, long-lived, and melt-dominated systems to complex, ephemeral, and crystal-rich systems.

Introduction by Kumi Watanabe-Schock

May 14, 2026

Jose Marin Jarrin: Fisheries Biology (2020 Grant Recipient)

Project: Using genetic barcoding and otolith analysis to train a diverse workforce in Fisheries Ecology. Genetic barcoding and otolith analysis allow ecologists to identify fisheries species, and estimate fish growth and survival rates. In our lab, we have been training students and local partners to use these techniques basic parameters for fisheries management and stewardship to study octopus in the Galapagos Islands, and smelt and surfperch in Northern California. Our work will allow students and local partners to use the techniques critical to small-scale fisheries in small underserved communities.

Introduction by Lou Ann Wieand

Membership Chair (Jeff)

Number of ERFSA members: sum=54 2semesters=38

Update on Ship Tour: Kyle Weis, Captain of the R/V North Wind. Jeff will ask for any edits for our promotion material and whether a press release is necessary or not

Treasurer Lou Ann

The Cal Poly Humboldt ERFSA Account TV012-HSU_ERFA_Fund: \$8,342.10

HAF & WRCF Account: \$69,214.24

Baywood updates: Bills not paid for Sept (\$274), Oct (\$296), and Nov (\$295) Dec (?)

Communications Chair (Kumi)

Press releases & UNotices had gone out through the regular channels including the Northcoast
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calendar section for Spring Speaker Series.

Continue providing information to retiring and retired CPH staff re. ERFSA, membership, and Emeritus
application. Kumi will table for ERFSA at Authors Celebration @ the Library on 2/13 (F) @ 3pm.
For more publicity, I will try HumboldtNOW and Redwood News.

Next Meeting Feb. 12th after the lecture at Baywood Golf & Country Club