I am a third-year international relations student at UC Davis. I have been given a wonderful opportunity to do research in Hashmi, Shamali, a densely populated neighborhood of primarily Iraqi refugees in Amman, Jordan. I spend my time visiting the homes of refugees and hearing their stories as well as talking with workers in institutions who are trying to help the refugees (see my blog, jkrubaii.wordpress.com).

As an American, I cannot ignore the fact that Iraqis are here as refugees because of the 2003 U.S.-led invasion of Iraq. As I speak with the refugees, there is a lot of blame directed towards me, as an American, for their plight. In building intimate relationships with refugees I work with, I am able to join them in a process of reconciliation.

Being a refugee means not having a home. It means waiting in lines, for jobs, for a place to go. It means lacking a sense of purpose, time or power. These are subtle forces that gnaw at a person’s sense of humanity and dignity. I want to restore human dignity for people who have recently become my neighbors, both literally here in Jordan and figuratively when I return to the United States this summer with the stories they have entrusted to me.

When I return to UC Davis this fall to finish my education and hopefully to get my Ph.D. in cultural anthropology, I hope to have helped to illustrate the mosaic of experiences lived by Iraqi refugees, and some insight into how the organizations who are helping the refugees can become more effective in serving them.

**I AM KALI JESSICA RUBAIII. THIS IS WHAT MATTERS TO ME.**
Features

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On the Cover: From left to right, top to bottom: Kristin Lagattuta, assistant professor of psychology and researcher at the Center for Mind and Brain, with a young subject in a study; George R. Mangun, dean of the Division of Social Sciences and researcher at the Center for Mind and Brain; Steve Luck, professor of psychology and interim director of the Center for Mind and Brain; Cliff Saron, researcher at the Center for Mind and Brain, with His Holiness the Dalai Lama; and a brain scan from the lab of Petr Janata summarizing the results from an fMRI experiment of music-evoked autobiographical memories.

CORRECTIONS
“The Next 100 Years,” Fall 2008, page 13
In the discussion of the Large Hadron Collider, which is a project that many UC Davis physicists have been working on, we neglected to list the entire team. They are: Richard Breedon, Maxwell Chertok, John Conway, Timothy Cox, Robin Erbacher, Winston Ko, Richard Lander, David Pellett, John Smith and Mani Tripathi.

“Day in the Life of a Dinosaur,” Fall 2008, page 7
The web address for the 3-D museum of fossils was listed incorrectly. The correct address is: http://3dmuseum.geology.ucdavis.edu.

COMMENTS?
Comments and questions about this issue of College Currents can be sent to the editor at currentseditor@ucdavis.edu. If you would like to remove your name from the mailing list, please email lsdevelopment@ucdavis.edu.

UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION
You can now update your information online at the new College of Letters and Science website: www.ls.ucdavis.edu. Click on “Alumni and Friends.”

PARENTS
If your Letters and Science graduate has moved, please give us his or her new address so we can stay in touch! Please send email to lsdevelopment@ucdavis.edu.

WANT TO FIND SOMEONE AT UC DAVIS?
Many of our readers have contacted us to try to get in touch with the individuals that are written about in the magazine. To find someone at UC Davis, you can go to: http://www.ucdavis.edu/search/directory_results.shtml?filter=.

The University of California does not discriminate in any of its policies, procedures or practices. The university is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer.
Strength in hard times
At the time of this publication, the country is still in economic flux, which has greatly impacted the University of California. However, a smaller budget does not mean that the mission of the College of Letters and Science is somehow changed. We will be operating in a leaner time, but we are working hard to make sure that the impact of research and teaching continues to excel. Furthermore, we look forward to new possibilities as federal stimulus investment in science and higher education provides opportunities for UC Davis and the College of Letters and Science.

Farewell
We want to take this time to say farewell to Larry Vanderhoef, who is stepping down as Chancellor of UC Davis. He has a deep and abiding passion for the university, which shows through the work he has accomplished in his years as Chancellor. We will miss his leadership. We also bid farewell one of our former deans, Steven M. Sheffrin, who headed the Division of Social Sciences for ten years. He has accepted a position as the director of the Murphy Institute at Tulane University. Best wishes to him and as they say in Louisiana, “laissez les bon temps roulez.”

Welcome
As we say so long to some, we also welcome two new leaders. George R. Mangun, who served last year as Interim Dean of the Division of Social Sciences, has accepted the position of Dean. We also look forward to welcoming Linda Katehi this fall as the sixth chancellor, and we hope many of you have the opportunity to meet and hear from her.

In this issue
With a vibrant and active college, there is no end to the topics we can cover in our magazine. This issue of College Currents contains a feature story on a center that is re-defining how we look at the mind and brain. We cover debates on the U.S. federal government’s economic stimulus package. It provides insights into a number of discoveries in physics, geology, anthropology and psychology. It also covers a new focus in the humanities—the study of California. We hope you enjoy this issue and that you continue to keep UC Davis and the College of Letters and Science in your minds and in your hearts.

Until spring,
Winston Ko, Dean, Division of Mathematical and Physical Sciences
George R. Mangun, Dean, Division of Social Sciences
Jessie Ann Owens, Dean, Division of Humanities, Arts and Cultural Studies
MOUNTAIN LION ATTACKS: STAND OR RUN?

Hikers and outdoor enthusiasts know the conventional wisdom if confronted by a mountain lion: Stand your ground. But a new UC Davis study examining 110 years’ worth of mountain-lion attacks suggests that might not always be the right course. The study’s lead author, psychology professor Richard Coss—an expert on the evolution of predator-prey relations—says that running may be the smartest move, provided that you’re in flat or open terrain where you can run easily.

“Immobility may be interpreted by the mountain lion as a sign that you are vulnerable prey, either because you are unaware of its presence, or because you are disabled and not capable of escaping,” Coss says. “Even though we found evidence that pumas will indeed chase, and capture, people who run, we also found that people who stand still are possibly more endangered.”

The study, published in the journal Anthrozoos: A Multidisciplinary Journal of the Interactions of People & Animals, examined personal accounts, news reports and wildlife-agency accounts of attacks in the U.S. and Canada, from 1890 to 2000. Coss and his co-authors sought to identify people’s activities during attacks and find whether there was a link between the activities and the severity of their injuries.

LIGHTING THE WAY

Greener, more energy-efficient lighting is a hot topic these days, and the California Lighting and Technology Center (CLTC) at UC Davis has been in the spotlight. In addition to garnering notice from such major media outlets as the New York Times and CNBC, the center recently received a $3.2 million research award for lighting efficiency as well as several patents for daylighting technology, that have been licensed by industry. And undergrads are getting hands-on lighting design experience, too: students in CLTC director and professor of design Michael Siminovitch’s winter-quarter Designing With Light course were tasked with designing LED luminaires, and the top designs were displayed at LIGHTFAIR International 2009 in New York City.

DNA SHOWS NATIVE AMERICANS DESCENDED FROM ONE GROUP

From the Inuit to the Inca, the cultural diversity of Native Americans is stunning—but a new study, whose lead author is UC Davis lecturer Kari Britt Schroeder, uses DNA evidence to show that Native Americans are more closely related to each other than to any other existing Asian populations, with the exception of those who live at the very edge of the Bering Strait.
The study, published in the journal *Molecular Biology and Evolution*, adds to a growing volume of genetic research that has investigated the question of whether the forebears of Native Americans emigrated to the Americas as one ancestral Asian population or in successive waves. The new evidence strongly supports a theory of a single ancestral population. “What’s different about our work is that it provides the first solid data that simply cannot be reconciled with multiple ancestral populations,” said Schroeder, who was a Ph.D. student in anthropology when she did the research.

**How the Young and the Old Handle—or Hide—Emotions**

Two recent studies from UC Davis psychology professors examine different ends of the age spectrum, with findings that may help us all relate better with both younger and older people. A study that appeared in the journal *Child Development*, co-authored by assistant professor of psychology and Center for Mind and Brain researcher Kristin Lagattuta, found that children’s understanding of the importance of positive emotions and attitude was age-dependent. Although 5-, 6-, and 7-year-olds all understood that negative emotions and poor physical habits (like skipping meals or not getting enough sleep) could have a negative effect on school performance, only the 7-year-olds understood that the opposite—cultivating positive emotions, such as optimism and confidence—could be beneficial. The study suggests that parents may want to emphasize such emotional links with their kids.

A different study, co-authored by psychology professor Jeffrey Sherman, looks at the sensitive topic of racial bias among the elderly and concludes that older people are not more biased than younger ones—but that they are less able to hide it. In it, researchers asked more than 15,000 white subjects, aged 11 to 94, to provide rapid assessments of black and white faces, finding that the older subjects paired black faces with negative words more frequently than younger ones. “One possible explanation for this is that older people, because they grew up in less tolerant times, have more negative associations with black faces than do younger people,” said Sherman. “By analyzing the errors people made on this face-word test, we were able to determine that older people indeed do not have more negative associations, but are, in fact, less able to overcome them.” The associations persisted when the researchers corrected for other factors, such as education and gender. Said Sherman: “Our study points to an important social challenge. As the population ages, biased behavior may become an increasingly common social problem.”

**Paper Airplanes: Not Just for Goofing Off**

In the classroom, it’s not usually a cause for celebration when students throw paper airplanes. But for junior Ryan Naccarato, a linguistics major, paper airplanes have been more than just fun. He won a trip to Austria to compete in a paper-airplane competition sponsored by Red Bull. Naccarato qualified in the aerobatics discipline—the goal of which is get the gliders to dip, sweep, twist and twirl; there are also categories for distance and flight time—and placed third in the competition in Austria. Naccarato says he “got a trophy and a lot of Red Bull” for placing at the international competition, among hundreds of competitors from around the world, and would love to compete again; the next competition will take place in three years.
WHEN SHORT-TERM MEMORIES SHUT DOWN

Quick, where did you last see your keys? If you can’t summon an image of them, you might be tempted to assume your short-term memory gradually faded away, the same assumption that scientists have made for decades. But short-term visual memories don’t work that way, according to a new study from UC Davis psychology professor Steve Luck and postdoctoral fellow Weiwei Zhang, both at the Center for Mind and Brain. Their research, published in the journal Psychological Science, indicates instead that subjects retained temporary visual memories of a color or shape rapidly flashed on a screen for a few seconds, after which memories abruptly disappeared.

“The memories are not like flashlights that get progressively weaker as the battery runs low,” Luck said. “They are more like a laptop computer that continues working at the same speed until it suddenly shuts down.” The study’s finding offers insight into the mechanisms that shape memory formation and retention.

SHRINKING THE SUPERSIZED CAR MARKET

Sure, consumers were eyeing tiny, fuel-efficient vehicles while pump prices were in the stratosphere—but as gas sticker shock has faded, so has the desire for small cars. “Consumers are losing the incentive to invest in fuel economy,” commented UC Davis economist Christopher Knittel recently in the New York Times. Knittel was one of six experts whom the newspaper asked to comment on the question of whether government should provide incentives for consumers to drive less and use fuel-efficient cars. Knittel’s piece, titled “Don’t Say a Tax Is Impossible,” argued in favor of a higher national gas tax, saying that the benefits of such a tax “include reducing our dependence on foreign oil and generating revenue that could be used to reduce other taxes or the deficit.”

HIGH HONORS FOR COLLEGE PROFS

Two emeritus faculty from the College of Letters and Science were recently honored with the UC Davis Medal, the highest honor granted by UC Davis. Poet and Professor Emeritus of English Gary Snyder and painter and Professor Emeritus of Art Wayne Thiebaud were each awarded the medal. “Gary Snyder and Wayne Thiebaud are luminaries, arguably UC Davis’ two most famous people,” said Chancellor Larry Vanderhoef. “Yet they have remained devoted to classroom teaching throughout their careers, thrilling hundreds upon hundreds of students and elevating the campus by their presence.”

Frances Dolan, professor of English, has won a Guggenheim Fellowship, a prestigious award granted annually to only 180 artists, scientists and scholars in the United States and Canada. Dolan’s research focuses on 16th and 17th century English literature; she plans to spend her fellowship year researching and writing a book on how contemporary research methods have been influenced by England’s scholarly debates of the 17th century.

The Division of Humanities, Arts and Cultural Studies is now home to three Ryskamp Fellows, a research fellowship bestowed upon a select few from the American Council of Learned Societies and funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. The fellowships support advanced assistant professors in the humanities and related social sciences. The 2009 fellows are: Flagg Miller, associate professor of Religious Studies, and Elizabeth Miller, assistant professor of English. The division also welcomes this winter Christina Cogdell, a 2008 recipient who will be an associate professor of art history and design.
**PREDICTING THE NEXT BIG QUAKE**

Worried about the big one? You’re not alone. Recently, a swarm of small earthquakes in southern California, adjacent to the San Andreas Fault, sparked concerns that a major earthquake may hit California sooner rather than later. In a televised interview with Bay Area station KTVU, UC Davis physics professor John Rundle predicted a 67 percent chance of a major earthquake—that is, one with a magnitude of 6 or above—in northern California within the next year. Rundle is affiliated with the QuakeSim project, a collaborative effort sponsored by NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory and other California universities. QuakeSim hopes to have real-time earthquake forecasting available online at www.jpl.nasa.gov by the end of 2009.

**BEST FOOT FORWARD**

From slippers to stilettos, shoes seem like such common objects that it’s all too easy to overlook their importance and the intricacy of their design. "Stepping Out," an exhibit that ran at the UC Davis Design Museum from May 11 to July 12, offered an insightful global survey of more than 70 pairs of shoes taken from the Design Museum’s extensive collections. The footwear on display ranged from faraway Iran to Davis, from practical pumps to minuscule shoes that are a reminder of the now-obsolete practice of footbinding. The show gave students in the design program an exciting opportunity to plan and design an exhibit; it was curated by faculty member Adele Zhang and student Nora Cary. The exhibit enjoyed national media popularity: it was featured on ABC News.com, and in the Associated Press. Posters for the exhibit are also available (see back of magazine for details).

**THINKING SMALL TO THINK BIG**

Nanotechnology is such a hot buzzword these days that you’ll even find the term applied to iPods—but real nanomaterials are even cooler. A team of physicists from UC Davis has discovered a new nanomaterial, just six atoms thick, in which electrons appear to be guided by conflicting laws of physics—an effect produced by sandwiching a layer of vanadium dioxide with sheets of titanium dioxide. The material—which has one set of properties when moving forward and backward, another set when moving left to right—could have exciting potential in the new field of spintronics technology. “We think that some of the transport properties we’re seeing in the material—electrical conduction and conduction in a magnetic field—will be different than anything seen before,” says Warren Pickett, physics department professor and chair who co-authored the publication on the material. The findings were published in *Physical Review Letters* and were spotlighted on the home page of the American Physical Society.

The physics department recently received other good news: another professor, James Crutchfield, recently received a prestigious Keck Futures Initiative grant, a “seed” grant to fill a critical gap for research on new ideas; Crutchfield will share $50,000 with 10 other recipients, including Nobel laureate Murray Gell-Mann.

**THE LOWDOWN ON LOVE**

At first blush, romance might seem too elusive for academic study. But UC Davis researchers are positing new understandings of love, from teen crushes to some of the most famous marriages in history.
In research published in the *American Sociological Review*, sociology professor Bill McCarthy and graduate student Teresa Casey showed that teens in romantic sexual relationships had low rates of criminal behavior and substance abuse—as low as those of their celibate peers. On the other hand, teens having casual sex were much more likely to have engaged in substance abuse and more likely to have been involved in criminal behavior. “Romantic love might discourage offending by strengthening adolescents’ social bond,” McCarthy and Casey write.

Communication professor Michael Motley, on the other hand, looks at unrequited love and friendship in a new book, *Studies in Applied Interpersonal Communication*, which he edited. His analysis of hundreds of interviews with college undergraduates revealed strategies for staying friends after one friend discloses unreciprocated romantic feelings, among them affirming that the friendship can handle the issue—and then dropping the subject—and toning down any flirtatious element in the friendship.

Perhaps clear communication strategies could have helped the subjects of English professor Frances Dolan’s book *Marriage and Violence*, which looks at disastrous love matches in history and popular culture, from Henry VIII’s marriage to Anne Boleyn to the 1991 movie “Sleeping With the Enemy.” She argues that in becoming one, there has been conflict as to which one will dominate. Dolan argues that marriage can be a relationship of equals: “As a society, I think we are only on the brink of really imagining the erotic and emotional possibilities of equality in marriage.”

**NEW DEGREES AND DEPARTMENTS**

Starting this year, UC Davis students will have an even wider choice of fields of study, thanks to the advent of several new degrees and degree-granting programs. Among the new options: The Department of Chemistry has introduced an integrated, research-based B.S./M.S. in pharmaceutical chemistry, a program that is one of the first of its kind in the nation and that allows undergraduates to enter and complete an M.S. degree more quickly. Physics has also introduced a new integrated degree program that incorporates a B.S. in applied physics with a fifth year in the M.S. program in electrical engineering. The Department of Communication now offers a Ph.D. Additionally, an undergraduate major in Middle East and South Asia Studies began last year, and the University Writing Program now offers a 20-unit minor in expository writing.

Two interdisciplinary programs have also become departments: the Department of Chicana/o Studies and the Department of Asian American Studies. Jessie Ann Owens, dean of the Division of Humanities, Arts and Cultural Studies, acknowledged their important place in the division and at UC Davis. “I am very proud of Chicana/o Studies and Asian American Studies. With their impressive records of educating generations of undergraduates and transforming our understanding of culture and history through scholarship, they merit recognition for this achievement with departmental status.”

**RED QUASARS LIGHT UP SPACE DUST**

You thought your living room was dusty? Try intergalactic space. A team of astronomers from the Sloan Digital Sky Survey (SDSS-II), including astronomer Ryan Scranton of UC Davis, has found that vast expanses of space appear to be filled with tiny, smoke-like “dust” particles that dim light from distant objects and change their colors. The team reported its findings—gleaned using a 2.5-meter telescope, a 12-megapixel camera and two spectrographs from a New Mexico observatory—in a paper, “Measuring the galaxy-mass and galaxy-dust correlations through magnification and redden-
ing,” in the journal *Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society*. Scranton, assistant research physicist and consulting scientist for Google Sky, noted that dust blocks blue light more effectively than red light—an effect commonly seen in vivid red sunsets. “We find similar reddening of quasars from intergalactic dust, and this reddening extends up to 10 times beyond the apparent edges of the galaxies themselves,” Scranton explained.

**NEW AND NOTEWORTHY BOOKS**

UC Davis professors have been making waves with new books. Among them, history professor Kathryn Olmsted’s *Real Enemies: Conspiracy Theories and American Democracy, World War I to 9/11* asserts that secrets and conspiracies cooked up by the U.S. government have undermined Americans’ trust in their leaders; among the strange-but-true conspiracies she documents is a government study that randomly dropped hallucinogenic drugs into unsuspecting drinkers’ cocktails in bars.

African American and African Studies professor Patricia Turner has recently published *Crafted Lives: Stories and Studies of African American Quilters*, which profiles nine black quilters and explores the stories they tell through their art. Turner, who researched the book for two decades, argues that quilts should be placed alongside folk tales, blues and spirituals: “Quilts and quilters can be used to tell the most important stories about African American history and culture.”

Religious studies lecturer Alon Raab takes on a very different subject as co-editor of *The Global Game: Writers on Soccer*. The book portrays the sport as a “global language”—and Raab says his own understanding of soccer is intertwined with religion: “Like religion, the game has the ability to unite people and foster a sense of community, but also to create fundamentalists who establish borders and fences,” he said.

**AWARDS FOR OUTSTANDING STUDENTS**

A number of graduating seniors in the College of Letters and Science were honored with prestigious UC Davis awards in 2009. Winners were: the Lawrence J. Andrews Prize, geology major Katrina Arredondo; the Herbert A. Young Award, psychology major Corey Ziemba; the University Medal, art history and classical civilizations double major Tracy Cosgriff; the Leon Mayhew Award, English and Spanish double major Olivia Siegel; the Veloyce Glenn Winslow Jr. Award, sociology major Ivan Carillo; the Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Research, physics major Helen Craig and economics and French major Michael Dean; and the Ronald and Lydia Baskin Research Award, chemistry major Alexander Sutherland.

**BRAIN WAVES REVEAL A WANDERING MIND**

Dull, repetitive tasks will cause almost anyone’s attention to wander—but new research from the Center for Mind and Brain indicates that brain-wave patterns can pinpoint precisely when the brain will make an error due to lack of attention. Working in collaboration with colleagues at the Donders Institute in the Netherlands, UC Davis research fellow Ali Mazaheri used a brain-wave recording technique to detect brain waves that were stronger in two key brain areas—alpha waves in the occipital region and mu waves in the sensorimotor cortex—about a second before a mistake caused by a lapse of attention.

The discovery could have numerous practical applications, from monitoring people in key attention-demanding jobs (such as air traffic controllers) to developing therapies for children with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), says Mazaheri.
I t’s not every day you see a cognitive neuroscientist sitting down with His Holiness, the Dalai Lama. But that’s what happened this April. Research scientist Clifford Saron, of the Center for Mind and Brain (CMB) at UC Davis, presented results from the Shamatha Project—a study of how intensive meditation affects attention, emotion and mood—to the Dalai Lama and others in Dharamsala, India, as part of a special Mind and Life Institute conference on the latest findings in attention and memory research.

For the Shamatha Project (the name means “calm abiding”), 60 study participants spent three months at retreats held at the Shambhala Mountain Center in Colorado in 2007, meditating for 8 to 10 hours daily and receiving instruction from Buddhist scholar Alan Wallace in shamatha practice and the “four immeasurables:” loving kindness, compassion, empathetic joy and equanimity.

While those qualities might be immeasurable, the study participants’ reactions were not. Indeed, Saron and his research team meticulously observed their reactions before, during and after the retreat through biochemical measurements, questionnaires, interviews, behavioral assessments, coded facial expressions and brain-wave analyses taken during attention-related and emotion-related tasks and meditation. The team built two state-of-the-art labs at the Shambhala Center and hooked up participants with soft white caps, bristling with wires that measure brain-wave activity; the meditators’ heads looked a little like space-age hedgehogs.

The result? “These tasks generate a lot of data,” Saron said. Indeed, since the 2007 retreats, that data has been sifted, quantified and intently examined. The study’s results have not yet been published—but Saron’s summary indicates that they will be striking: Early results from the Shamatha Project indicate that intensive meditation training affects both attention and emotional functioning in positive ways. Performance on laboratory tasks showed training-related enhancements in perceptual sensitivity and the ability to sustain attentional focus and withhold habitual responses when instructed to do so. Analyses of facial expressions in response to film clips revealed increased emotional resonance with human suffering and reductions in emotions that distance people from others. Also, overall psychological functioning improved across the duration of the retreat, and these psychological benefits corresponded to improvements in performance on some cognitive tasks and biological indicators of physical health related to cellular aging. In short, repeated practice in focusing the mind and opening the heart appears to stabilize attention, promote health and well-being and lead to more compassionate emotional responses. These results and others are being submitted for publication; they were also presented this summer at the meeting of the International Society for Psychoneuroimmunology and will be presented at the upcoming meeting of the Society for Neuroscience this fall.

Exploring the Last Great Frontier
UC Davis’ Unique Center for Mind and Brain
By Kate Washington

Measuring the seemingly immeasurable: That paradox, whether it takes the form of studying an age-old Buddhist practice or gauging how babies understand the world, is at the heart of the Center for Mind and Brain. Founded in 2002, the CMB brings together cognitive neu-
roscientists, psychologists, linguists, biologists and engineers doing cutting-edge research to try to understand the very nature of the human mind—“the last great frontier,” in the words of Ron Mangun, the center’s founding director and now dean of the Division of Social Sciences in the College of Letters and Science.

BUILDING THE CENTER

The center’s distinctively broad, interdisciplinary viewpoint stems from an equally interdisciplinary origin, a 1990s campus initiative in which then-provost Robert Grey asked the campus community how the university should grow: “He sent out a note to the entire faculty, inviting proposals for new initiatives,” says Mangun.

Out of some 100 proposals, eight were selected, and four were fast-tracked for development. “One of those led to the Center for Mind and Brain,” says Mangun.

From the beginning, the center’s mandate was ambitious: “The mission, really, is to understand the human mind—a very lofty goal,” says Mangun. An important part of that mission was studying, in basic-science terms, the normally functioning mind and brain. But what, then, is the mind? “Most modern neuroscientists and psychologists will say that the mind is what the brain does,” says Mangun. “The brain is a bunch of cells and nerves interconnected to create different processing capacities. And when these processes go on, they’re creating the mind. The mind arises from the functioning of the brain.” Assembling a group of researchers to study these basic yet important questions was no easy feat—and to undertake it, the university turned to Mangun.

Mangun had been a faculty member at Davis, but had left to found a center for cognitive neuroscience at Duke University; when the CMB was in its early stages, however, Davis asked him to return as its founding director. “The sense of loyalty to Davis and the challenge of slightly larger initiative brought us back,” he says. (His wife, psychology professor Tamara Swaab, is also a CMB scientist who played a big role in founding the CMB.)

With a strong mandate from the administration to build cutting-edge facilities and hire top faculty, the center quickly grew. Saron, who had experience in building and development at another university, was brought on board and was instrumental in designing the quiet yet powerfully equipped labs in the CMB’s two buildings. In one, close to train tracks, a silent black box of a room used for attention-demanding tasks rests on airbags; otherwise, Saron explains, when a train passes “the second floor vibrates so much that a person paying careful attention to a stimulus might think there is an earthquake. And what would that do to their concentration?” (The technology is similar to that used for the Mondavi Performing Arts Center on campus.)

In other rooms, monitors and high-tech equipment stretch to the ceiling; coils of cables snake in enormous piles on the floor. Shelves of videos—Beatrix Potter, “This Bug’s Life”—and walls adorned with friendly Thomas the Train posters and colorful animal prints indicate that the rooms are used for research on children. The center’s offices, with carefully calibrated light and double-thick walls, share the labs’ hushed calm. This environment is exceptionally important for studies of children, especially those with developmental disorders.
RECRUITING THE BEST

Putting facilities in place was only part of building a world-class center. “My philosophy for a center is to hire the very best people in the world,” says Mangun. “And we have been very successful in doing that in partnership with departments in several colleges on campus. Many like to claim that their faculty is exceptional, but in the case of the CMB it is a simple fact backed up by numerous awards and accolades to our faculty and trainees in just a few short years.”

Selecting a range of faculty has also been crucial. CMB faculty work in the broad field of cognitive neuroscience, but some take classic behavioral approaches, whereas others focus on brain imaging such as fMRI or ERP (event-related potential) recordings, or transcranial magnetic stimulation, which uses powerful magnetic fields to very precisely stimulate the human brain. Moreover, the center’s original mandate has widened: The CMB was established to pursue basic science studies of the normal mind and brain, but over time its faculty members have developed research projects with faculty campuswide, including the medical school, to develop translational research—that is, work that translates basic science findings into clinical research on diagnosis and treatment.

Such fruitful collaborations have only amplified the original hopes for the center: “The goal for the CMB was not to build an isolated tower separate from everything else on campus,” says Mangun. “The research was intended to be interdisciplinary. One thing that’s surprising, but gratifying, is that it’s become even more multidisciplinary than anybody envisioned.” The research is undertaken in four major clusters of interrelated research areas: attention, perception and awareness; cognition and language; development; and memory.

ATTENDING TO ATTENTION

Mangun’s own research, like much of Saron’s and several other labs, falls into the first of these categories. Mangun seeks “to understand what brain systems are involved in paying attention and how these change with different aspects of attention,” he says.

In recent decades, one of the fundamental questions driving the field, and Mangun’s work, has been that of whether and at what point attention influences the information that is entering the brain: Is the brain like a camera, taking everything in, with attention sorting it afterwards, or is attention filtering out images from the very beginning?

The question sounds simple, but its implications are profound—and contentious. “It was a decades-long fight,” Mangun says. “But we now know that powerful brain mechanisms reach down and actually tweak the activity of brain cells very early in perceptual processing. You’re not like a camera; you’re actually partly involved in creating the world you perceive, because the things that you’re paying attention to or ignoring are influencing the processing of that information.”
That discovery, in turn, goes to the source of the mind’s individuality: “Two people looking at the same thing really can take away very different information,” Mangun says. “And it implies something about what it means to be neighbors, what it means to be you, and why we all have our own sense of awareness.”

In the CMB’s interdisciplinary context, such findings have led to further innovations—and to translational research as well. “In the imaging research center we can record brain electrical activity at the same time that we do brain imaging. Not many places in the country can do that,” says Mangun. “Our research uses those tools to understand what brain systems are involved in paying attention.” Working with researchers at the M.I.N.D. Institute in the medical school, CMB researchers have begun to investigate how these processes are altered in attention disorders, such as attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).

Another example comes in the work of Interim CMB Director Steve Luck, whose research looks at attention and working memory. One major strand focuses on dysfunction of attention in schizophrenics. “In schizophrenia research, no place in the country has a better integration of basic science and clinical research than Davis,” he says. Psychiatrist and cognitive neuroscientist Cameron Carter, the director of the Imaging Research Center, is leading that effort with a team that include scientists from the CMB and across the country. Luck has teamed up with a clinical researcher in Baltimore, Jim Gold, to look at cognitive dysfunctions underlying schizophrenia: “Medications are effective at treating delusions, but not cognitive impairments,” Luck notes. “So we need to find exactly what is wrong with cognition in schizophrenia. Our main finding is, remarkably, that many aspects of attention are completely intact—the patients do just as well as the control subjects. In other tasks, the patients have a major impairment. Our hypothesis is that the problem is controlling attention. Once they’ve directed attention, it functions effectively, but the problem is getting attention to the right sources.”

**LANGUAGE AND COGNITION**

Linguistics professor David Corina’s work on language processing in deaf populations also crosses traditional disciplinary boundaries and has expanded since he joined the CMB. Corina’s lab is one of several in the broad field of language and cognition, a powerful group at Davis; other researchers work on music and the mind, for instance, and how people integrate seeing and hearing to comprehend speech.

“What makes my research a little different is that I am interested in the neural representation of sign languages,” Corina says. “The question is: For deaf individuals who have grown up profoundly deaf and whose first language is a true sign language such as American Sign Language [ASL], how does that affect brain representation and neural organization for language?”

Corina’s lab compares hearing individuals using spoken languages to deaf people who use signs. “That also lets you investigate plasticity, because deaf people, by definition, have auditory deprivation,” he says. “What happens to the auditory cortex in these individuals? Is it not used, or does it get remapped for other purposes?” Corina uses a range of techniques to investigate these questions, including behavioral studies, fMRI and ERP.
Researchers have confirmed that the deaf process sign languages very similarly to how the hearing process auditory language, and that left-hemisphere processing is fundamental to both, a finding with important implications for patients suffering from left-hemisphere strokes that result in aphasia (disordered language ability). “That said,” Corina notes, “sign users do use the right hemisphere for certain grammatical constructions, called classifiers. Say this is the sign for car,” he says, moving his hand to produce the sign. “It can wind up and go down, flip over, crash—it has flexibility that we may not see in some spoken languages. It seems as if the use and perhaps comprehension of those forms may require more right-hemisphere resources than might have otherwise been expected.” This finding may have broader implications for patients with language disorders: “One implication may be that you could use those preserved right-hemisphere resources to help bootstrap the recovery of linguistic ability in patients whose left hemisphere has been damaged,” he says. “We have not taken that to clinical practice yet, but that’s the implication.”

Others at the CMB investigate the early development of the mind, in both typical and atypically developing populations. From the acquisition of language and the development of social knowledge to how infants remember and perceive, the developmental group at the CMB is one of the most active in the U.S. Psychology professor Lisa Oakes, for instance, uses sophisticated eye-tracking technology to discover how infants see the world.

One of the lines of research she’s most excited about involves looking at how babies’ experience helps them understand stimuli encountered in the lab, even in infants as young as four months. “We ask parents if they have a cat or dog, and we show babies pictures of a cat or dog,” she says. “We want to know if babies who have a cat at home process the photos in the lab differently, and they do—the experience really changes how they look at and remember things, at a very young age.”

Babies who have a pet in the home look at the animal’s head in the photo, rather than scanning the whole picture. “They have figured out from watching their own pet that the head is where the most important information is,” Oakes explains. “Even though a cat is pretty stationary, the nose might twitch, ears might twitch, and the baby learns that the action is in the head area. They know where they should look.”
Determining babies’ eye movements with such precision takes sophisticated equipment. “The eye tracker allows us to tell with pretty good resolution precisely where the infant is looking,” Oakes says. “It uses infrared light, and you calibrate the relationship between the pupil and cornea. When we test infants, parents are amazed because the babies aren’t blankly staring, but systematically scanning. It’s exciting to parents and to us as researchers.”

Another researcher studying the neurocognitive development of children, Susan Rivera, has also found that the environment of the CMB has moved her research forward in exciting ways. Rivera compares typical and atypical neural development, with a particular specialty in the genetic disorder fragile X syndrome as well as autism-spectrum disorders. Her autism work, on which she collaborates with Cliff Saron, looks at low-level sensory processing and intersensory integration. Rivera says that her immersion in the CMB’s interdisciplinary life has led her research in translational directions. “I was never aiming to be a translational researcher—that has really blossomed at Davis,” she says. “I don’t think I could be the same kind of researcher I am if I didn’t have this environment. And I don’t care how basic a scientist you are, once you know these children you can’t help wanting to do something to help them.”

UC Davis is a major research and clinical center for fragile X, Rivera notes, meaning that she has access to a large population of subjects. She also works closely with clinicians doing drug trials and treatments, and further works to develop other types of treatments. One promising avenue is so new they haven’t collected much data yet, she says: “Based on some of the low-level visual processing findings we’ve published on fragile X, we’re working with some researchers at Berkeley to develop what we think might be a therapeutic object-tracking game for children with fragile X to play. We think it might strengthen the affected neural pathways.”

Rivera also looks at low-level sensory processing and visual development in autistic children. “A lot of people look at autism as a social disorder,” she explains. “But I think that the way their brains are connected makes them experience the world in a different way. The ability to process multiple sources of information and how you combine the senses to make sense of the world is really different in autism.”

**EXPLORING MEMORY**

Like Oakes, Rivera, and others such as Kristin Lagattuta (see above), Simona Ghetti also looks at childhood development, but with a specific interest in the formation of memory. “I’m interested in processes that allow us to consciously go back in time and remember events from the past,” says Simona Ghetti.

**A young subject in Kristin Lagattuta’s early childhood development lab (left) and some of the storyboards displayed in her studies (right). Lagattuta’s work centers on the development of young children’s knowledge about people in terms of their inner, mental lives.**
that allow us to consciously go back in time and remember events from the past,” she says.

Ghetti uses both behavioral questions and neuroimaging techniques to look at how the contribution of different areas of the brain known to be connected to memory in adults changes over the course of childhood. “This work’s findings challenge traditional notions of how memory works,” she says. “One of the traditional ideas is that core processes that allow us to bind events to their context are already in place, but what is changing is what children can do with memories, how they use strategies, and how they can reflect on them.”

Ghetti is particularly interested in metamemory, the ability to reflect on memory, and on the strategies children use to think about their memories. For instance, she looks at when and how children can determine whether they have a particular memory or not. “For major events, we have this sense, ‘If this happened, I would remember,’” she says. “That’s called the memorability strategy. Starting around age 9, children use this to infer whether an event happened to them—but what do younger children do? They also reason about their memory states, but do not rely as much on ‘mental evidence’—for instance, there might be photos of an event in the family album or other kinds of tangible consequences—and we’re trying to figure out if they use these other strategies.”

While Ghetti’s work focuses on long-term memories, Steve Luck’s memory-related research looks at short-term and working memory as it relates to attention. “If you want to ask how the brain responds to something they’re supposed to ignore, you can’t ask the subject because they were supposed to be not attending,” Luck explains. “But we can ask which ERP responses are suppressed for stimuli you’re ignoring. When the stimulus is presented, first we see activity from the sensory system, and over time we see higher and higher levels, as the brain stores them in memory and plans responses. So we can ask: when you’re ignoring something, do you not even have a sensory response, or do you perceive it but not store it in memory?”

Using ERP, in other words, Luck can determine at what stage of processing attention has its effect. It turns out that depends on the stimuli and task: in simple tasks, everything may be perceived but short-term memory (which functions more slowly) may be overloaded, whereas in more complex situations, you may filter things out at a perceptual level—a phenomenon that goes back full circle to the profound question of how we all shape our world through our attention.

From attention to memory and meditation to sign language, these research programs represent only a fraction of those taking place at the CMB. But while the questions that the researchers investigate are deep, not everything at the center is a matter for weighty consideration. The center’s members cite its collegiality, from hallway discussions about how best to use state-of-the-art equipment to an active lecture series. “We’re all really trying to build this community and bring everybody together,” says Oakes. “The great thing is that we’re all in real physical space and can foster those relationships.”

Luck concurs, and adds that the center’s quick rise to prominence has been distinctive. “The rate at which the center has gone from an idea to 17 core faculty who are all exceptionally talented researchers is amazing,” he says. “Part of the credit goes to Ron Mangun, who did a great job of putting it together, and part to the university, which really supported the center and did it right. Their investment is paying off.”

It should continue to pay off in knowledge gleaned about the mind: “The next five years will see the CMB develop from a promising center that has piqued national interest to a leading international center for research and training,” says Mangun. “We can all expect even greater things to come.” Those great expectations ultimately apply to humankind’s desire to learn more about itself, he says: “The reality is that what goes on inside the human brain is the greatest mystery, and therefore the greatest challenge, ever faced by humans.”
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GLOBAL WARMING RESEARCH GETS BOOST

A new award was created by Ernest E. Hill, with an area of support critical to our environmental future. Five students were awarded fellowships in 2009–10. The fellowship gives funds for graduate students to study global warming and carbon-neutral energy alternatives. One student from the College of Letters and Science, geology graduate student Jessica Oster, received a $3,000 fellowship. (She also received the MPS graduate student prize.)

Oster’s work focuses on tracing regional climate transitions in the Sierra Nevada from widespread glaciations (about 20,000 years ago) to the current warming.

“The Ernest E. Hill Fellowship will allow me to continue my research. In particular, the fellowship will make it possible for me to purchase equipment that will allow me to monitor the way the caves I work in respond to seasonal changes in rainfall, temperature, and humidity. This will allow me to more accurately interpret the paleoclimate records I develop from samples I am getting from the caves in the Sierra Nevada,” says Oster.

Ernest E. Hill attended UC Berkeley with a major in mechanical engineering. He worked for Lawrence Livermore Nuclear Laboratory. In the early 1960s, he participated in the establishment of the Department of Applied Science at the laboratory, which was a branch campus for UC Davis.

NEW FACULTY POSITION FUNDED THROUGH DONATIONS

As the University of California tightens its budget for new incoming faculty, the needs of students and the mission of the university are still seen top priorities. That mission was furthered in one area of the college thanks to donors who created an opportunity for students to enrich their education in the area of Jewish Studies. Through gifts of more than $250,000, the UC Davis Jewish Studies program was able to create seed funding for a tenure-track assistant professor in the history of premodern Judaism. The funding is for three years, after which the university will take over the position as part of its permanent faculty.

Diane Wolf, the director of the Jewish Studies Program and professor of sociology, emphasized the power that such a gift can have for education. “The Jewish Studies Program has been dependent on fundraising from foundations in order to hire lecturers who can teach many of our courses. We clearly needed a faculty position focused on Judaism in the Religious Studies department so that our program did not depend on the annual uncertainty of soft money and qualified lecturers. Our donors know that their tangible contribution helps maintain the long-term stability of our program.”

The position will be part of the Religious Studies program as well as the program in Jewish Studies, both of which are growing rapidly due to the interests of students for majors and minors. The donors who funded the position were: the Taube Foundation for Jewish Life and Culture, the Koret Foundation, the Jewish Community Endowment Fund, Ruthellen Toole and Joseph and Ega Pell.

Soon after the funding was announced, the program launched a national search and hired Moulie Vidas.

Vidas is looking forward to his arrival. “What makes joining these programs particularly rewarding, is that on the one hand they are already well-established, with a world-famous faculty, and on the other hand they are at the cutting edge both in terms of research and teaching.”

A GIFT TO THE GORMAN MUSEUM

The C.N. Gorman Museum received a gift-in-kind from an anonymous donor. Four lithographs and six bas reliefs and sculptures were given to the C.N. Gorman Museum in October/November 2008. The gifts are valued at $141,600.
**DONORS**

Making a difference

**A RARE VIEW OF CALIFORNIA’S CORE**

The new Earth and Physical Sciences Building will be dedicated this fall (see On the Scene for details). One feature of the new building is a geology garden. Mining cores and rocks from across California provide a rare view of California’s mining history and the solid rock that is on a good part of its land. The garden is a collaboration with the Department of Geology, the Arboretum, and various donors.

Donors of nearly a dozen mining cores and fossils include: Emgold Mining Corporation, Granite Construction, Homestake Mining Company, Idaho-Maryland Mining Corporation, the McLaughlin Reserve, Donn Ristau and Skyler Phelps.

“Serpentine is the official state rock, and gold is the official state mineral. It seemed appropriate to pay homage to our state by surrounding the new building with these treasures from California’s mining heritage,” said Peter Schiffman, the chair of the Department of Geology.

**COLLEGE DEANS’ ADVISORY COUNCIL GETS NEW MEMBER**

The College of Letters and Science Deans’ Advisory Council welcomed a new member to its nearly 15-member panel: alumnus Darryl Goss, who graduated from UC Davis in 1983 with a major in African American Studies.

Goss traveled extensively, getting an M.B.A. at the University of Chicago and then doing postgraduate work at Oxford University.

UC Davis holds a special place for him and his wife Lois (B.A., Sociology, ’85), whom he met in Davis while they were both undergraduates. Goss also played football, and his experience is likely similar to many who are undergraduates at UC Davis even today: fond memories and a lot of hard work. “You tend to grow up, deciding which of the things your parents taught you will stick with you. And the Davis campus, with its open environment, was a great place to grow up.”

Goss joined the College of Letters and Science Deans’ Advisory Council and hopes to bring the skills he feels he excels at—bringing teams together while gathering support for the College of Letters and Science. “When you have a diverse group of people together, culturally and professionally, you get a better solution,” he said. “I just hope to bring the experiences that I have to the table.”

Another part of the UC Davis experience that helped to shape Goss was participation in the Special Transitional Enrichment Program (STEP), a summer program targeting low-income and historically-disadvantaged students to prepare them emotionally and academically for their first year at UC Davis. (The program still exists today.) “Once you’re at UC Davis, you earn your degree like everyone else,” said Goss. “Anyone who has achieved anything has received help from someone.”

It’s this philosophy that served as the catalyst for Darryl and Lois Goss to make a generous donation to the African and African American Studies program. “I’d heard a lot of professional schools looked to admit people with fine arts or humanities majors, and to me, my major in African American studies prepared me, to be able to deal with some of the things I was confronted with. Learning the history behind my race and culture led me to a career and job that I enjoy.”

The Goss’ gift was made to help others, to truly pay it forward. “Lois and I have lifelong friends as a result of attending Davis,” Goss said. “And for us, in a university like Davis, there are a lot of cultural challenges that young adults go through. We want to support some of the students that come to the African and African American Studies program.”
Marjorie Grene
PROFESSOR EMERITUS, PHILOSOPHY
After a distinguished career, professor emeritus of philosophy Marjorie Grene passed away at 98 years old. Receiving her doctorate from Wellesley College, Grene held positions at the University of Chicago, the University of Manchester, the University of Leeds and Queens University before rising to chair of the department of philosophy at the University of California, Davis. After her time at UC Davis, she went to Virginia Tech in 1988.

Grene in 2002 had her work, The Philosophy of Marjorie Grene, included in a volume in the Library of Living Professors, one of the highest honors possible for a professional philosopher. Previous editions have been devoted to Albert Einstein and John Dewey. Grene was the first woman to be included in the volume. Her last major work, The Philosophy of Biology: An Episodic History, was published in 2005. In addition to her daughter Ruth, Grene is survived by her son Nicholas and his wife Eleanor, six grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

Lincoln D. Hurst
PROFESSOR EMERITUS, RELIGIOUS STUDIES
Lincoln D. Hurst, a member of the religious studies department at UC Davis since 1983 and an American Bible scholar and religious and film historian, passed away at 62. He taught generations of UC Davis students the New Testament. Hurst was born on May 6, 1946 in Chicago. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree in history in 1969 from Trinity College in Illinois. He was later granted a Master of Divinity in 1973 and Master of Theology in 1976 from Princeton Theological Seminary. In 1982, Hurst received a doctorate in philosophy from Oxford University.

Hurst was an internationally recognized scholar and historian who published extensively on a wide variety of topics, including the Bible, the Dead Sea Scrolls and film. His hobbies included baseball (he was a lifelong Chicago Cubs fan), football, classical music, taking care of abandoned animals, gardening and travel.

Clyde Jacobs
PROFESSOR EMERITUS, POLITICAL SCIENCE
Clyde E. Jacobs passed away at age 84. Dr. Jacobs was born in 1925, in Herington, Kan. He was a Summerfield Scholar at the University of Kansas, where he majored in French. In 1946–1947 he was a Franco-American Fellow at the University of Paris. Upon returning to the United States, he attended the University of Michigan, where he received M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in Political Science. After completing his academic work, Dr. Jacobs was appointed an instructor in Political Science at UC Davis in 1960. He was the founding faculty member of the department, as well as the department’s first chair. He specialized in the fields of American constitutional law and American government. He was author of six books and various articles and was active in teaching and university governance. He also participated in civic affairs, being elected to the Davis City Council and appointed to numerous city boards and commissions. Jacobs retired from the University of California in 1985.

Memorial donations may be made to the Clyde Jacobs and Larry Peterman Distinguished Scholar Award, UC Davis Department of Political Science, One Shields Ave., Davis, CA 95616.

Raymond Keefer
PROFESSOR EMERITUS, CHEMISTRY
Raymond Keefer, an emeritus professor of chemistry with a long and distinguished career in research, teaching and service at UC Davis, died after a brief illness at 95. The first student to obtain a Ph.D. in chemistry at UC Davis, Keefer went on to spend 40 years on the campus’ faculty. During his time as chemistry department chair, the unit experienced its greatest period of growth. When he was appointed chair in 1962, the department was home to 13 faculty members and some 20 graduate students. By the time he stepped down 12 years later, those numbers had soared to 35 faculty members and close to 70 graduate students.

Born on April 29, 1913, in Twin Falls, Idaho, Raymond Marsh Keefer grew up in California, where he graduated from Tranquility High School in Fresno County. He received a B.S. in chemistry from UC Berkeley in 1934 and a Ph.D. in chemistry in 1840. Keefer is survived by his wife of 66 years, Hilda Keefer, of Davis, and their daughter Katherine Keefer, who is currently living in India, son James Keefer and wife Kathie of Grass Valley, five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

The Department of Chemistry has established the Raymond Keefer Memorial Fund to support graduate students. Contributions payable to “UC Regents/Keefer Fund,” can be mailed to Professor and Chair Carlito Lebrilla, UC Davis Department of Chemistry, One Shields Ave., Davis, CA, 95616.

August “Gus” Maki
PROFESSOR EMERITUS, CHEMISTRY

August (Gus) Maki, professor emeritus of chemistry, has passed away. He was born in Brooklyn, NY, in 1930. He received his A.B. degree in chemistry in 1952 from Columbia University. He then received his Ph.D. in chemistry at the University of California, Berkeley in 1957. He became an instructor, then assistant professor of chemistry at Harvard University.

One of the chemical directions Maki pursued at Harvard was to generate solution radicals electrochemically inside the EPR cavity. This opened a rich area of research, with new highly resolved radical spectra to measure and interpret.

Maki came to UC Davis in 1974. At Davis, he trained several generations of students, both undergraduate and graduate, and was part of a very strong UC Davis magnetic resonance group. His presence later brought Matt Augustine and David Britt to the department.

Maki formally retired in 1994, but maintained an active NIH-funded ODMR focused laboratory for a number of years after his retirement. He is survived by his wife Judy Maki in Davis, his children Paul Maki and Linda Maki (Menlo Park, CA), Jeff Maki and Ian Maki (Seattle, WA), and stepchildren Michael Schulman (Sacramento, CA) and Apryl Murray (Las Vegas, NV), along with six, soon to be seven, grandchildren.

The Department of Chemistry has established the Gus Maki Memorial Fund to support graduate students in physical chemistry. Contributions, payable to “UC Regents/Maki Fund,” should be mailed to professor and chair Carlito Lebrilla, UC Davis Department of Chemistry, One Shields Ave., Davis, CA, 95616.

Eunice Y. Park
STUDENT

Eunice Park, a junior majoring in communications, passed away in a car accident on May 11 at 21 years of age. Her organs were donated across several states, giving life to others who were suffering. Friends described Park as a fun-loving, popular and social person with a bubbly personality. “She was one of the most popular people I had the honor of knowing in my whole life,” said Lilly Mohanna, junior international relations major. “She put a smile on everyone’s face and would turn the gloomiest of situations into something positive.”

Robert Károly Sarlós
PROFESSOR EMERITUS, DRAMATIC ARTS

Robert Károly Sarlós, professor emeritus of dramatic arts, has passed away. Born in Budapest, Hungary, he later moved to the United States and attended Occidental College, receiving his B.A. in 1959. A Woodrow Wilson Fellowship enabled him to study Theatre History with A. M. Nagler at Yale, where he received his Ph.D. in 1965. In 1962 he married Charlotte Harris in April, and they had two children: Lilian Margit, born in 1962, and Tibor Thomas in 1965; they were divorced in 1986. Sarlós taught Theatre History at UC Davis from 1963 until retirement in January 1993. He contributed to 15 books in America and Europe and published more than 40 articles and reviews in scholarly journals.

At the Department of Dramatic Art in Davis, Professor Sarlós took a leading role in creating the doctoral program, of which he served
as director for more than 20 years. He was chiefly responsible for the development of the Shields Library’s Performing Arts holdings, and for the assembly of a significant body of source materials in Special Collections. Sarlós organized, or contributed to, several exhibitions (one at the S.F. Palace of the Legion of Honor); he was also instrumental in saving the Woodland Opera House and in its eventual restoration.

G. William Skinner

PROFESSOR EMERITUS, ANTHROPOLOGY

G. William (Bill) Skinner, distinguished professor emeritus of anthropology, has passed away. He was the world’s most influential anthropologist of China. He was a graduate of Deep Springs College and Cornell University, where he received his Ph.D. in 1954. He taught sociology at Columbia, then anthropology at Cornell and Stanford, before moving to UC Davis in 1990. Aside from holding distinguished professorships at Stanford and UC Davis, he was elected to the National Academy of Sciences in 1980.

Skinner contributed to knowledge not just in anthropology, but also in demography, geography, history and sociology. His central contribution, one that anthropology has yet to absorb fully, was concerned with method—the systematic integration of space and time into social analysis. His intellectual eclecticism fed his interdisciplinary influence had a strong effect on his students, many of whom carried his message into other fields.

After he was diagnosed with cancer in June 2008, Skinner organized his unpublished materials, placing them into two university collections for future scholars to consult. He is survived by his wife, UC Davis Professor of History Susan Mann, and their daughter, Alison, as well as by his first wife, Carol B. Skinner, three of their four sons (James, Mark and Jeremy; the eldest, Geoffrey, died in 1989), and four grandchildren.

Takayuki Tamura

PROFESSOR EMERITUS, MATHEMATICS

Takayuki Tamura, professor emeritus of mathematics, passed away at the age of 90. He came to UC Davis in 1960 and was on the faculty until his retirement. Born in Tokushima City, Japan, he was encouraged by his parents early in life to pursue his interest in mathematics. He met his future wife, Kimie, when she was 5 years old in 1928, and they married on December 31, 1945. Their daughter Hiroko was born on October 31, 1946.

Takayuki received his degree from Tokyo Science College, and then Osaka Imperial University. He received an academic appointment at Tokushima Youth Normal College as a professor from 1946 to 1960. When the UC Davis Department of Mathematics began to offer a Ph.D. degree, Takayuki came to Davis, where he would teach for more than 40 years. Over his career, Tamura published 166 papers, as well as a book on semigroups.

At his 90th birthday brunch, Tamura was asked what he had learned in his 90 years. He replied, “A miracle is my life.”

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UC Davis

Takayuki Tamura

G. William Skinner

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UC Davis
A debate about one of the most pressing issues to Americans was moderated by UC Davis economics professor Gregory Clark and sponsored by the UC Davis Institute of Government Affairs and the Levine Family Fund in Economics this spring. The event drew a crowd of about 150 people into the University Club, where they witnessed a two-hour debate about the stimulus package.

The main question of the night was: Will the economic stimulus package work as expected? Two top economics scholars with different answers to this question squared off in a public forum, “Stimulus Smackdown—Can Deficit Spending Save the Economy?”

“Dangerous nonsense” was how Michele Boldrin, the Joseph Gibson Hoyt Distinguished professor of Arts and Sciences at Washington University, described the Obama Administration’s $787 billion economic stimulus package that passed in February. He believes it is disingenuous for the American government to act as if there is a “quick and painless fix” to the unfolding economic crisis. Instead, he says, the main focus should be on fixing the banking system and using tax cuts and monetary policy to boost consumer spending.

On the other hand, J. Bradford DeLong, professor of economics at UC Berkeley said, “Spending works to spur the economy, and government spending works just as well as anyone else’s money.” With the economy seizing up and the jobless rate surging to 8.1 percent in February, he said there is little choice but to use deficit spending on roads, bridges, public buildings, tax breaks, state and unemployment aid and educational spending.

DeLong, an expert on business cycle dynamics, formerly worked in the Clinton administration as a U.S. Treasury deputy assistant secretary. Boldrin has held advisory positions with various governments, international organizations, central banks and private companies. He was a signatory to the libertarian Cato Institute’s recent full-page New York Times ad decrying the stimulus package.

Boldrin and others in his camp say that the stimulus would require massive new borrowing and add to a national debt that grew from $5.7 trillion to $10.6 trillion in the Bush years. Americans, Boldrin says, have subscribed for too long to the “absolutely insane myth that masters of the universe like (former Federal Reserve chairman) Alan Greenspan” could do no wrong. The reality is that many mistakes were made, and the government should “clean house” in the banking industry and use money supply and interest rate adjustments to move the economy forward.

DeLong accused critics of the stimulus package like Boldrin of using “Orwellian” arguments and engaging in hypocrisy on the issue. He pointed out that the Bush White House used deficit spending to its advantage to build up the military and homeland security and launch wars overseas. “Deficit spending suited the Republicans in the Bush budget years,” he said. “But now it does not… Boldrin is of the ‘we must suffer’ caucus.” He said the stimulus will “put people back to work” and combat the fast-rising unemployment rate, the most profound threat facing America today. Finally,
the Obama White House has acknowledged that the stimulus package is not the sole cure-all for the ailing economy, and that much more will need to be done, he said.

On the jobs issue, Boldrin challenged the assertion that people easily shift occupations. Under deficit spending, the government will spend borrowed money on projects with the goal of boosting employment—but not perhaps in one’s chosen field. “You will not turn people who are pounding nails in Nevada into nurses overnight,” said Boldrin, referring to homebuilders.

But DeLong disagreed. “American workers are much more flexible than you imagine,” he said, citing instances of surprising employment shifts. The spreading crisis has gone “well beyond the housing bubble, and we face something more serious and significant.” People will think creatively about new jobs and careers, he asserted.

The debate itself has proven to live beyond one evening in March; it was videotaped and then posted to the UC Davis iTunes U site, where it has been one of the top downloads for months. To view the debate, search your iTunes Store for UC Davis.

NEW CONDUCTOR NAMED FOR SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

Following a national search, Christian Baldini, conductor and music director of the Symphony Orchestra of the State University of New York at Buffalo, has been named the new conductor of the UC Davis Symphony Orchestra.

The Argentinean-born conductor and composer will join the faculty of the UC Davis Department of Music as an assistant professor. Baldini succeeds D. Kern Holoman, who is stepping down after 30 years as symphony conductor.

“I am truly honored to be offered this position and delighted to continue the wonderful work that Professor Holoman has done during his greatly successful tenure,” Baldini said. “The UC Davis Symphony Orchestra has a very rich tradition, and I am looking forward to sharing all my passion and love for music with such a vibrant community.”

Holoman, who continues as a professor of music at UC Davis, hailed Baldini’s record of accomplishments as “exceptional.” “I am delighted that Professor Baldini will become the fifth conductor of the UC Davis Symphony Orchestra,” Holoman said.

Baldini holds a master’s degree in orchestral conducting from Pennsylvania State University and a bachelor’s degree in conducting and composition from the Catholic University of Argentina. At SUNY Buffalo, Baldini has also served as music director of the Buffalo Contemporary Ensemble, Christian Baldini, conducting the UC Davis Symphony Orchestra in a performance of “The Barber of Seville.”
conducted the Sfe Sinfonietta, a professional chamber orchestra in residence, and taught orchestral conducting.

**MUSIC, MEDICINE AND GENOMICS**

The College of Letters and Science continued its Deans' Speaker Series this past spring, welcoming Assad Meymandi, adjunct professor of psychiatry at the University of North Carolina School of Medicine at Chapel Hill. During his talk, which packed a room of more than 100 at the Davis campus, Meymandi spoke about music, medicine and genomics and their relation in healing ailments for thousands of years.

Of his talk, Dean of the Division of Social Sciences George R. Mangun said, “The campus was extremely lucky to welcome such a respected and lively lecturer, with a talk that ranged from the humanities to medicine.”

During his lecture, Meymandi asserted that “Music is part of the cycle of natural life . . . we inhale and exhale, our hearts beat in systole (contraction) and diastole (expansion and relaxation) . . . Discoveries in the past 60 years show us the promise of music in healing.” Adding the power of the Genome Project to his assertion, Meymandi cited geneticist and musician Susumu Ohno, who found that music is like DNA in repetition and development.

**ALWAYS KEEP YOUR CAMERA WITH YOU**

UC Davis economics senior Marilyn Murray (left) and Natasha Sandor of UC Santa Barbara happened to be in the Five Guys burger restaurant in Washington, D.C., in the spring, when President Obama dropped in for a cheeseburger with jalapeños. Murray and Sandor were both interns at UC’s Washington, D.C., Center; Murray was taking Professor Larry Berman’s seminar on the presidency during the spring quarter. “I carry my camera with me everywhere because you never know who you will meet or what you will see while living in Washington, D.C.,” Murray says.

It might be hard to top this, though. The President’s burger run was also captured by CSPAN; http://www.politico.com/blogs/anneschroeder/0509/Video_of_POTUS_at_Five_Guys.html. You can see Murray and Sandor talking to Obama at about 4:25.

**THE DAY YO-YO MA DROPPED BY**

by Stephen Hudson, a freshman majoring in music and mathematics

As a music major here at UC Davis, the most spectacular activity that I’ve had the privilege to participate in recently was a master class at the Mondavi Center with Yo-Yo Ma, the extensively recorded, world-famous cellist. The program began with three young cellists from the San Francisco Conservatory and winners of the Mondavi Center Young Artists Competition, ages 11, 12 and 13; each played a solo piece, followed by some intensive work with Ma.

Ma has a fantastic feel for teaching, and a very warm, comfortable and yet persistent way of getting students to adjust their playing without feeling intimidated in the slightest way. I learned quite a lot about expression and grace on the cello just by watching him work with little technical problems the first three students were having, enough to make the experience incredibly educational, aside from the excitement and good music.
However, not only did I get to see Yo-Yo Ma work with others: I got to play for him myself. An octet of students from UC Davis Applied Music Professor Susan Lamb Cook, myself included, went on stage as the last item on the program. We played a beautiful piece by Brazilian composer Heitor Villa-Lobos, which went wonderfully (or at least it seemed so to me).

One thing that struck me about Ma was how generous and selfless he was; he took the time to shake hands with each of us and chat with us a little after our piece, even finding out which of us were music majors and what the rest of us were studying. He was even helping out with moving a piano and getting music stands in the right arrangement, which is unheard-of for someone as famous as he is. Another part of the experience that stands out was how inspiring Ma was in person. I was impressed by how he was so unassuming and laid-back, yet completely passionate about what he did and why he did it.

One of my favorite comments from the whole afternoon, something that will stay with me for quite a while, was when Ma explained earnestly that although sometimes we practice because others expect us to do well, that shouldn’t be our primary motivation. “You should play not because you want to be good, but because you need to make a sound,” the great cellist told us.

Reprinted, in edited form, from UC Davis’ website spotlight “Class with the master.”
UPCOMING EVENTS

ALGEBRA AND TOPOLOGY IN INTERACTION: A CONFERENCE
SEPTEMBER 11–13, 2009

CHICANA/O AND LATINA/O BIENVENIDA (FALL WELCOME)
SEPTEMBER 22, 2009, 1 PM–4 PM
Freeborn Hall

ARTIST EPHEMERA:
A NELSON GALLERY EXHIBITION
SEPTEMBER 24–DECEMBER 13, 2009
Project Room

AFRICAN AMERICAN QUILTS: A NELSON GALLERY EXHIBITION
SEPTEMBER 24–DECEMBER 13, 2009
Nelson Gallery

DIVERSITY IN THE C.N. GORMAN MUSEUM COLLECTIONS FEATURING SALVADOR DALÍ & FLORENTINO LAIME MANTILLA
OCTOBER 2–DECEMBER 6, 2009
C.N. Gorman Museum

TYPOGRAPHIC EXPLORATION IN HANGUL
OCTOBER 4–DECEMBER 6, 2009
Design Museum
Presenting work of two designers with roots in Hangul.

PUBLIC INTELLECTUALS FORUM: ANDREW DELBANCO
OCTOBER 22, 2009, 5 PM
Bistro 33, Davis

SIDESHOW PHYSICAL THEATRE:
ELEPHANT’S GRAVEYARD
OCTOBER 23–NOVEMBER 1, 2009, 8 PM
Studio Theater, Mondavi Center

PUBLIC INTELLECTUALS FORUM:
LEO CHAVEZ
NOVEMBER 5, 2009, 5 PM
Bistro 33, Davis

EMPYREAN ENSEMBLE
NOVEMBER 15, 2009
Studio Theatre, Mondavi Center
Season Opener. World premieres by Ross Bauer, Steve Blumberg and Ed Jacobs. Also music by Aaron Copland and Seung-Ah Oh. Mika Pelo and Kurt Rohde, directors.

TRIBES: the unified field
By Garada Artist-in-Residence Sara Shelton Maan.
NOVEMBER 22, 2009, 2 PM
Main Theatre, Department of Theatre and Dance

CARPO/ILCITO: THE POST-HUMAN SOCIETY 6.9
By Granada Artist-in-Residence Guillermo Gómez-Peña.
NOVEMBER 22, 2009, 2 PM
Main Theatre, Department of Theatre and Dance

UC DAVIS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
NOVEMBER 22, 2009, 8 PM
Jackson Hall, Mondavi Center

COLLEGE OF LETTERS AND SCIENCE WINTER COMMENCEMENT
DECEMBER 12, 2009
ARC Pavilion
Please see www.ls.ucdavis.edu for details.

VIOLIN FESTIVAL
JANUARY 22 AND 23, 2010, 7 PM
Studio Theatre, Mondavi Center
Dan Flanagan and Michael Sand, directors.
The study of California—its history and cultures—is woven deeply into the fabric of UC Davis’ academic mission. In the Division of Humanities, Arts and Cultural Studies, the UC Davis Humanities Institute (DHI) oversees the California Cultures Initiative, a multi-faceted project that supports faculty and graduate research as well as programs that connect the university with communities around our region. The California Cultures Initiative was created to study, discuss and tell the stories of the many diverse cultures in California, including their issues, as well as past and future. The state’s geography, populace and economy are large, and its products have a global impact.

The California Cultures Initiative provides substantial funding for the Art of Regional Change, a multimedia community documentary initiative directed by jesikah maria ross. “Universities are uniquely positioned to do community cultural development work, and UC Davis, with its land-grant mission, has the mandate to do this. There are so many talented faculty and students who share a passion and interest in all of the cultures that make up California.” (See sidebars.)

**California: Land**

jesikah maria ross, the director of the Art of Regional Change initiative, a collaboration between the UC Davis Humanities Institute and the Center for Regional Change, has coordinated a new project that is a stellar example of digital storytelling and its impact to California: “Passion for the Land.” The project was designed to help Sierra Valley residents communicate with policy makers, community leaders, and educators about the challenges of sustaining working landscapes, wildlife habitat and the rural way of life. It brought together Cooperative Extension workers, ranchers, farmers, artists, UC Davis scholars and students.

“This is a great example of using place-based storytelling to address community concerns” said ross. “It helps communities tell their stories, using new media tools in a way that reaches wider audiences that need to be involved in resolving regional issues and preserving local assets.”
What does it mean to be California?

The other area created by the California Cultures Initiative is a yearly faculty research seminar. Meeting weekly for a quarter, the seminar serves as an incubator for faculty members’ works in progress, bringing together a handful of faculty to share research, offering feedback from a variety of disciplinary perspectives. In the inaugural seminar last spring, the scholars, shown in the photo, brought a wide range of approaches and questions to their research on the history and culture of California.

“Despite this diversity, there were connections in so many interesting ways,” said Jennifer Langdon, associate director of the DHI. “The ethnographer of Asian American youth politics offered new perspectives for the historian working on race in early 20th-century California reform schools, and the musicologist studying the Ramona pageant engaged with the documentary filmmaker exploring the history and politics of country music in the Central Valley, and so on, and so on. Together they raised fascinating and important questions about what it means to be California—a geographical region, a political state, a state of mind, a disciplinary field, a culture.”

The winter 2010 seminar, convened by noted Western historian and W. Turrentine Jackson Chair in U.S. Western History Louis Warren, will focus on the convergence of people, places and products in California cultures. Warren has also received funding for a follow-up conference in the spring on “California as America’s Avant-Garde.”

“One of the hallmarks of research on California at UC Davis is its interdisciplinarity, and the work funded through the California Cultures Initiative is a perfect example of this,” said Langdon. “The dialogue amongst the social scientists, humanists and scientists working on California’s economic, political, cultural and environmental issues finds a new way forward in this initiative.”

California: Environment

A master’s thesis about environmental issues in the Central Valley brought an aspect of California to vivid life in a project called “25 Stories.” The campus-community project used photos, theater, stories and sound to paint a picture of the environmental problems faced by Central Valley communities, as told by the women leading the movement struggling to solve the issues. The exhibit and stories can be viewed online at http://twentyfive.ucdavis.edu/.

“The storytellers are from a Central Valley movement, made up largely of women from politically disenfranchised communities, that is fighting to protect themselves from pesticide poisoning, contaminated drinking water, toxic waste and heavy air pollution,” said Julie Sze, associate professor of American studies and director of the Environmental Justice Project at the John Muir Institute of the Environment. Sze advised the project and brought additional support and collaboration from the John Muir Institute for the Environment and the Davis Humanities Institute. By connecting this project to other scholarly work on campus and nationwide, she hopes to inspire action and break down boundaries between communities and academic researchers.
In a year of great economic change, the College of Letters and Science received $5 million in charitable contributions for the fiscal year 2008-09, which ended June 30. These gifts provide students and faculty a variety of support ranging from student scholarships and fellowships to research programs and capital projects. The total in contributions is less than last year’s historic high of $7.8 million, but is above the $4.7 million average over the last five years.

What is significant about this year is that the number of donors, and number of gifts, increased. All told, 2,367 donors gave 1,794 gifts, which is up from last year’s 2,173 donors giving 1,649 gifts.

“The economy had an effect on levels of giving, but we ended the year in a strong position overall because more donors participated in giving,” said Maureen Miller, assistant dean for College Relations and Development. “We are grateful that donors understand that their support has a very high impact.”

Kevin Bacon (’72), chair of the volunteer Deans’ Advisory Council, said, “Ultimately, the alumni, parents and friends of the College of Letters and Science have shown that higher education remains a strong philanthropic priority for them. There’s no doubt that gifts at all levels matter, and are essential to keeping UC Davis strong in these times.”

The college received several large gifts, including a $880,000 gift of 20 hand-worked prints by the renowned painter and emeritus professor Wayne Thiebaud, a gift from Wayne and his wife Betty Jean Thiebaud. One of the prints was published as a commemorative UC Davis Centennial poster, which can be purchased online (see back of this magazine for details). Other gifts included $101,450 from Deans’ Advisory Council member Sundeep Dugar for chemistry instrumentation equipment and $158,000 estate gift from the Charles R. Bishop Endowed Fund to create student scholarships.

The Herbert A. Young Society, a giving club for donors who give $1,000 or more in critical unrestricted funds to the college’s three deans to use in the areas most needed, had 78 members this year and raised more than $120,000. The funds will be directed to the deans this summer, and a report to members will be mailed in the fall.

The College of Letters and Science Annual Fund, a fund that provides unrestricted support to areas needing assistance, mostly towards student and faculty programs, raised nearly $59,000. This total is down from the previous year’s $75,000, but hopes are high for the upcoming year.

“Despite a financially trying year, nearly 450 gifts came from first-time donors, and the Senior Class Challenge raised more than $2,000 from our graduating seniors,” said Colleen Schulman, associate director of development. “We are thankful for this support, and hope the trend continues next year.”

To learn more about the ways your gifts, no matter the size, can impact the college, please visit http://www.ls.ucdavis.edu/friends/supportthecollege.aspx.
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An ROTC student in a training exercise

A Unique Leadership Department for Complex Times

The Division of Social Sciences is home to the department of Military Science, which has faculty appointments like the other departments and programs on campus. But these faculty are also leaders in the U.S. Army. The students who are part of the Military Science program are also able to join the Army when they graduate from UC Davis. Through the program known as the Army’s ROTC (Reserve Officers Training Corps), students elect to take courses in leadership through the Military Science program. About 80 percent of those students are majors from the College of Letters and Science. After a year of classes to determine if an Army career is something they’d like to pursue, students can enroll as a cadet and apply to have 60 percent of their tuition, room and board paid for if they continue in the program.

When they graduate from UC Davis, these students have the opportunity to commission and serve either full- or part-time in the National Guard, the Army, or the Army Reserve. With the country in its sixth year of war, most participants in the program choose to go to active duty after about 18 months of additional training in leadership and military skill development.

Lieutenant Colonel Aaron Metz, who gave an interview to College Currents shortly before he was deployed to Afghanistan, said, “There has been a surge in students who sign up for the ROTC program since 9/11, even as the U.S. decided to enter into two different wars.”

Major Steve Heringer (Engineering, ’98), who spent the past year working with students in ROTC, has seen the program change and grow since he was part of it as a student. “The key to the success of this program is that students want to be part of the organization. And the program at UC Davis is particularly strong, with the second highest rating of excellence in a national assessment.”

With times as complex as they are—a faltering global economy, wars being fought on two fronts, instant communications across the world that broadcast everything happening at any moment in time—the Army’s ROTC program prepares its students not only to be leaders, but to be part of that world. “There is a bigger push from the Army to do even more cultural immersion,” said Colonel Metz. “There is additional funding and incentive for students to go abroad, and to learn new languages.”

Along with learning leadership skills and going through rigorous training while in the program, students are able to travel abroad during their summers for enhanced leadership training. This year, 25 UC Davis ROTC students participated. Students in summer training went to Army bases across the world to “mirror” active Army platoon leaders, did Special Forces training, took cultural immersion programs abroad, learned cold weather training, and went to airborne school. What’s more, Major Heringer added, the UC Davis students met students from other nations and other parts of the U.S. And thanks to the immense network of communications available to the Army, they learn what can help make them, and the Army they serve, more successful ambassadors of the U.S. in every corner of the world.
TWO GENERATIONS OF AGGIE PRIDE

Young Society members see their daughter graduate from UC Davis

In 1977, Paul Ko and Anna Hom walked across the stage set up on Toomey Field, accepting their baccalaureate degrees, and earning the distinction of officially becoming alumni of the University of California, Davis. Their Aggie pride continues to be strong to this day, and on June 14th, 2009, they returned to Davis, along with their parents, to celebrate their daughter’s commencement. Shannon Ko plans to return to Davis this fall, and will begin her graduate work in mathematics.

With two generations of graduates in the family, how does it feel to have a child attending your alma matter more than 30 years later? It is a “chance to relive my youth,” says Paul, fondly recalling his memories of campus. He says he recognizes the places Shannon mentions when she calls home, although some of the buildings have different names these days. For the most part, they are able to bond over stories centered on campus. As undergraduates, Paul and Anna remember living in the Tercero residence halls, which is exactly where Shannon was assigned when she arrived on campus.

Thinking back on their experience, Paul and Anna pause for a moment to reflect on the opportunities afforded them as undergraduates. For Anna, supportive faculty made all the difference. She notes that “Sometimes, you need a few good people.” One of those people was Dr. Paul Baumann, professor emeritus of microbiology. Anna arrived at Davis as a math major, but realized in her sophomore year that this was not a path she wanted to continue. She recalls going around to various departments, trying to find a major that she could complete within her last two years. “[Dr. Baumann] sat down with me and worked it out so that I could change my major to bacteriology” (now microbiology). After that change, UC Davis became the “stepping stone to the next opportunity—my career.” Today, Anna works as a pharmacist, having earned her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from UC San Francisco.

Paul, who now works as an attorney in the Bay Area (he received his J.D. from UC Hastings College of Law), tells a similar story about his experience with a good person, former Dean of the College of Letters and Science Lawrence J. Andrews. “I didn’t have an appointment, I came in unannounced, and he took the time to help me change my major from chemistry to economics. He opened up a new path for me; I am very grateful for the people and the compassion at Davis.”

As both parents and alumni, Ko and Hom have some thoughts to share with parents of incoming freshman. Paul says: “Listen to your kids. Let them express themselves without interfering. You need to let them grow up, because one day they will be your peers and your friends. You always hear about Americana—Davis is the quintessential college town. It is a good environment for students to study and learn without the distractions of a big city.” Shannon agrees: “The students are very nice; people are really nice and relaxed. It helps with studying.”

In the spirit of true Aggie pride, Anna and Paul firmly believe in supporting UC Davis, joining the College of Letters and Science’s leadership annual giving circle, the Herbert A. Young Society, in 2006. They know that their philanthropy has a direct and lasting impact on students in the college, especially on their daughter. Anna says it gives Shannon “a sense of school pride; [it] encourages her to study and do more.” Paul adds, “In tough economic times, every little bit helps. We are fortunate to be in a position to give back.” Expressing excitement over the growth of the campus over the years, all three agree that it is important to give back, and to keep UC Davis strong for future generations.

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HERBERT A. YOUNG SOCIETY

For more information on the Herbert A. Young Society, or to make a gift to the college, please call (530) 752-3429 or email Colleen Schulman at ccschulman@ucdavis.edu.
NEW CENTENNIAL POSTERS FOR SALE

New posters commemorating the centennial year for UC Davis are now on sale. The new images, which represent the works in the C.N. Gorman and Design Museums as well as the Center for Mind and Brain, are as varied and interesting as the previous posters from the Richard L. Nelson Collection. All posters can be found at the following link:

http://repro-ecommerce.ucdavis.edu/centennial/posters.html