WHAT IS DIFFERENT ABOUT TEACHING TODAY?
NASA astronaut and alumna is the college’s 60th anniversary Deans’ Distinguished Speaker

The College of Letters and Science hosted NASA Astronaut and UC Davis alumna Tracy Caldwell Dyson as a special Deans’ Distinguished Speaker for its 60th anniversary.

Tracy Caldwell Dyson received a Ph.D. in chemistry from UC Davis in 1997. She joined NASA’s astronaut program in June 1998, launching a successful career that has included logging 188 days in space. Caldwell Dyson’s first mission into space was on STS-118 from August 8–21, 2007, on the Space Shuttle Endeavor. During the mission, Caldwell Dyson assisted in flight deck operations on ascent and in docking operations with the International Space Station.

Caldwell Dyson’s second mission in space lasted six months (174 days). In April 2010, she launched aboard a Soyuz TMA-18 crew capsule in Kazakhstan, docking at the International Space Station to join the Expedition 23 crew. For the next six months, Caldwell Dyson lived and worked aboard the station as a flight engineer on Expedition 23/24, performing three successful contingency spacewalks to remove and replace a failed pump module. She and the rest of the Expedition 24 crew returned to a safe landing in central Kazakhstan in September, 2010.

“Seeing the Earth with so little between you and it . . . it changes your life,” she said. “Not just the experience of seeing Earth in a whole new way, but also the contributions to science, to international cooperation, that comes from having the space station and ongoing space exploration.”

Sharing what living in space was like has been important, Caldwell Dyson said. “What we’re doing in space, we’re doing the right thing. I don’t care where you’re from, everyone feels the same way.”

After her talk, Dean Winston Ko presented her with the College of Letters and Science Award of Excellence on behalf of the college’s three deans. The event was co-sponsored by the Cal Aggie Alumni Association and the Herbert A. Young Society.

View the webcast of her talk: http://webcast.ucdavis.edu/lnd/22308163
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On the cover: Associate Professor Colin Milburn studies the history of nanotechnology in the online world of Second Life. This image features the region of Second Life called “Nanotechnology Island,” sponsored by the UK National Physical Laboratory. Milburn’s avatar is using a script for making molecular models.

Cover photo credit: Colin Milburn

Paper certified by the Rainforest Alliance to Forest Stewardship Council standards.
As the weather begins to cool a little more in the evenings here in Davis and as the trees around campus just start to change into their fall colors, we welcome our new class of freshmen and transfer students into the College of Letters and Science. In total, we have more than 3,000 incoming students, and are hopeful that they enjoy their experience at UC Davis for the next few years. With the rising cost of tuition, the pursuit of a college degree is seemingly insurmountable for many, but our students continue to amaze us as they work part- or full-time jobs and excel in their classes.

This issue focuses on teaching today. We thought for our alumni readers, it may be interesting to reflect on your experience with your professors, programs and educational adventures. For the parents reading this issue, it is a view into what your student might experience at the College of Letters and Science. And for all of us, it’s a reminder that we don’t take for granted what happens every day at the college — high-quality education, scientific inquiry, critical thinking and creative expression.

We hope you enjoy the issue, and look forward to sending you more news this spring.

Sincerely,

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
AN EMOTIONAL MATCH
Despite life’s ups and downs, couples whose feelings are in sync consistently over time are more likely to stay together, says a recent study headed by Emilio Ferrer, a professor of psychology. The study surveyed couples of various ages and marital status, asking them daily questionnaires about their emotions for two to three months. The researchers followed up after one to two years to inquire about each test pair’s status as a couple. They found that, of the couples who responded, 76 percent reported still being together.

“Our emotions fluctuate every day and throughout the day . . . and there is substantial variation in the way individuals react to different things that happen,” said Ferrer. He added that even if people in a pair react differently, they can still be in the same place emotionally—and have a better chance of staying together.

THE HUNT IS ON
When a meteorite plummeted to Earth on April 22 in El Dorado County, fascinated onlookers witnessed—and photographed—its fall. As soon as it landed at Sutter’s Mill, the hunt for the fragments of the minivan-size meteorite began. The Sutter’s Mill meteorite is the rarest type to hit the earth—a “carbonaceous chondrite” of dust and grains ejected by the nearby stars that went on to form the planets of our solar system billions of years ago.

For Qing-Zhu Yin, professor of geology, the meteorite has become the center of his research. Yin hopes to study fragments of it to learn more about exactly how the Earth, Mars and other planets formed. His lab is one of the few in the country equipped to make the most accurate measurements of the age and composition of meteorites. Studying the meteorite could also give insight into the origins of life on Earth, as this type is known to contain amino acids, sugars and other organic molecules that are the basic building blocks of life.

Yin would like to find or receive donations of meteorites that are found at Sutter’s Mill as soon as possible. Philanthropic support to help UC Davis house the largest collection of this important meteorite fall would benefit generations of future students and scientists.

3-D CAVES
Geologists have a new tool to study how earthquakes can change the landscape down to a few inches, providing new insight into how earthquake faults behave. A team of scientists (including UC Davis’ Michael Oskin, professor of geology), reports the most comprehensive before-and-after picture yet of an earthquake zone, using data from the 7.2 event that struck near Mexicali, Mexico in April 2010.

“We can learn so much about how earthquakes work by studying fresh fault ruptures,” said Oskin.

The team, working with the National Center for Airborne Laser Mapping (NCALM), flew over the area and made a detailed scan. They also did a ground survey of the fault rupture. Team members then used the “virtual reality” facility at the UC Davis W. M. Keck Center for Active Visualization in Earth Sciences (KeckCABLE) to handle and view the data.

The CAVES technology was also part of a National Geographic special on visualizing earthquakes and the Earth’s interior, featuring geologist Magali Billen’s work.
NEW CHAIRS, PROFESSORSHIPS
Three college faculty members have been named to professorships and endowed chairs. Michael Siminovitch, director of the California Lighting Technology center and professor of design, is now the first Arthur H. Rosenfeld Chair in Energy Efficiency. The designation honors both Siminovitch, whose work is revolutionizing lighting throughout the U.S., and Rosenfeld, considered the “father of energy efficiency.”

Pablo Ortiz, a composer and professor of music, has been named the first Jan and Beta Popper Professor in Opera, an honor that will enable him to write more opera and expand public access to singing theatre. The endowed professorship is a gift to UC Davis from the estate of mezzo-soprano Elizabeth “Beta” Popper in memory of her husband, Jan Popper.

Associate Professor of English Colin Milburn has been named the first Gary Snyder Chair for Science and Humanities for his work at the intersection of the disciplines. The designation honors both Milburn, whose research on the cultural relations between literature, science and technology have consistently pushed the boundaries of all of these fields, and Snyder, the Pulitzer prize-winning poet, essayist, environmental activist and professor emeritus of English whose work has long been at the forefront of ecological thought.

SMART LIGHTS
UC Davis unveiled one of the most advanced outdoor lighting systems in the country this spring, a $1 million network of “smart” lights that talk to each other and adapt to their environment. The project is part of the university’s smart lighting initiative, established to reduce campus electrical use by 30 million kilowatt hours by 2015. The system is being put in place by the California Lighting Technology Center, which is directed by Michael Siminovitch, the Arthur H. Rosenfeld Chair in Energy Efficiency. “The face of the campus is changing, and the face of California is changing,” he said. “Exterior lighting is going to be smart, safe and adaptive. What we’ve done at UC Davis is massively replicable, and it will have to be.”

SLEUTHING DISEASE
Using some of the most powerful nuclear magnetic resonance equipment available, researchers are making discoveries about the shape and structure of biological molecules, potentially leading to new ways to treat or prevent diseases such as breast cancer and Alzheimer’s.

Two recently published studies show what the equipment can do: In one, chemistry professor James Ames and colleagues at two other universities offer insight into calcium channels, which are linked to Parkinson’s and Alzheimer’s. They describe the workings of two protein channels that are similar in structure and function. The views show that although the sequences of the proteins are different, their structures at the “receptor end” are similar. They hope that understanding how the protein structure triggers calcium flows, and how the process might be boosted or blocked, will lead to new ways to treat neurodegenerative diseases.

In the other study, Ames and a colleague at the National Institutes of Health show how a molecule called calmodulin, which is sensitive to calcium, interacts with an estrogen receptor. In some cases the interaction could cause a buildup of estrogen receptors, associated with tumor formation.
NEW DIRECTOR FOR MUSEUM OF ART
UC Davis has hired Dr. Rachel Teagle to be the first director of the Jan Shrem and Maria Manetti Shrem Museum of Art. Teagle brings more than 15 years of experience as a director and a curator. Most recently, she served as the executive director of The New Children’s Museum in San Diego where she designed the innovative educational program for this one-of-a-kind contemporary art museum for families, while also completing a $27 million capital campaign. Known for her work in arts education and in building new audiences for contemporary art, she has held curatorial positions at the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art and the Bay Area’s Anderson Collection. Teagle has a Ph.D. and M.A. in art history from Stanford University.

“I am thrilled to join UC Davis and humbled by the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to launch an art museum,” said Teagle. “UC Davis’ illustrious arts alumni and its legacy in the arts are key components of the university’s history of achievement, and I look forward to working with members of the entire university to create a world-class museum.”

Jessie Ann Owens, dean of the Division of Humanities, Arts and Cultural Studies, affirmed the momentum that Teagle will bring to the museum project. “We are very fortunate to have attracted a museum professional of Rachel’s caliber to campus,” she said, noting that she has an excellent track record of leading two other capital projects and completing a major capital campaign. “She will lead the development of museum programming, the architectural planning and construction of the new museum, and the campaign to create an endowment for the museum. Rachel is just the right person to help us envision a university museum that can both build on the important history of the visual arts at UC Davis and become a center for collaboration and innovation.”

MODELING PLATELETS
Alex Mogilner, professor of mathematics, and neurobiology, physiology and behavior at UC Davis, is the co-author of a paper describing how platelets’ size and shape are determined. Because platelets—the cells that form blood clots—are important both for healing wounds and other conditions, a better understanding of how they form and behave could have wide implications. Mogilner and postdoctoral scholars Jie Zhu and Kun-Chun Lee developed a mathematical model of the forces inside the cells that turn into platelets, accurately predicting their final sizes and shapes. “It’s a longstanding puzzle in platelet formation, and this is the first quantitative solution,” said Mogilner.

SUSTAINABILITY IN SCULPTURE
Robin Hill, professor of art, has received a small grant to introduce sustainability in sculpture practice and materials to students. The focus was on earth plaster as a green alternative to plaster and cement. She invited author Michael Smith, who works in a wide range of natural building techniques, to join her class. The students created life-size figurative sculptures using earth plaster.

POWER PLANS
Renewable energy sources such as wind and solar power help to diversify the nation’s energy mix, but they also bring new uncertainty to the power supply. Roger Wets, a distinguished professor emeritus in the Department of Mathematics, and David Woodruff, a professor at the Graduate School of Management, are working with a national team of experts to help power
utilities make sound plans in the face of that uncertainty. Both are leading experts in the field of optimization under uncertainty.

Wind and solar power bring big advantages in reducing carbon emissions, but power generation can drop suddenly as clouds form or wind dies down. To compensate, power system managers keep extra capacity from coal- and gas-fired plants in reserve. Coal-fired electricity is relatively cheap, but slow to come online. Gas plants can ramp up fast, but are more expensive. That means the cost of power can fluctuate over a few hours or even minutes. Wets and Woodruff are pursuing an option using large-scale computational models to find optimal strategies to hedge against fluctuations in regional power supply.

CLUES FROM THE DARK SKY
A UC Davis graduate student in physics and lead researcher on a study of the collision of galaxy clusters five billion light years away has released the team’s findings. William Dawson, a Ph.D. candidate in physics, has nicknamed the “little universe” Perry’s Cluster after Perry Gee, the UC Davis research physicist who discovered it. “A galaxy cluster is like a little universe, because it has the same matter composition as the whole universe,” he said. “By studying this little universe, we can learn more about our own.” Perry’s Cluster comprises about 86 percent dark matter (the invisible substance that makes up much of our universe), 12 percent superheated gas, and 2 percent actual stars.

Their study has shown that the two galaxy clusters within Perry’s Cluster had passed through each other—the spaces between galaxies within clusters are so vast that actual collisions are unlikely—and that most of the dark matter also had passed through without collision.

A faint “satellite galaxy” 10 billion light years from Earth is the lowest-mass object ever detected at such a distance, says Chris Fassnacht, a physics professor, who aided in the satellite’s discovery. The find could help astronomers identify similar objects and confirm or reject theories about the structure of the cosmos. Theory predicts that galaxies should be surrounded by halos of smaller, satellite blobs of mass, according to Fassnacht. Because most of the mass of galaxies is made up of dark matter, these distant objects may be very faint or completely dark. The team looked for faint or dark satellites of distant galaxies using a method called gravitational lensing, using the Keck II telescope at the W. M. Keck Observatory on Mauna Kea, Hawaii. With “adaptive optics,” they found two galaxies aligned with each other, as viewed from Earth.

New results from NASA’s Hubble Space Telescope confirm that, contrary to predictions, dark matter and galaxies parted ways in the collision of two galaxy clusters two- to four-billion light years away. Now astronomers are left trying to explain dark matter’s seemingly oddball behavior in the Abell 520 merging galaxy cluster. During the collision of galaxy clusters that formed Abell 520, the dark matter collected into a “dark core” containing far fewer galaxies than would be expected if the dark matter and galaxies hung together. Most of the galaxies apparently have sailed far away from the collision.

“The result is a puzzle,” said astronomer James Jee, the project scientist in the Department of Physics who led the Hubble study. “Dark matter is not behaving as predicted, and it’s not obviously clear what is going on. Theories of galaxy formation and dark matter must explain what we are seeing.”

GREEN SCIENCE
As science moves toward measuring climate change and developing technologies to enhance clean energy, researchers from departments across the college are actively engaged in making advancements to help.

Microscopic “fractal trees” grown from silver could be the basis of a new type of solar cell, says chemist Frank Osterloh, whose lab fabricated the new solar cells. Fractals are patterns that repeat over multiple length scales. In this case, branches of silver $\frac{1}{50}$ the width of a human hair are themselves branched, and smaller branches grow on them, forming a treelike pattern. In solar cell application, the silver trees are coated with light-absorbing polymers to eventually create an electrical potential. Osterloh compared the structures to real trees, which use a fractal structure of branches to twigs to spread a wide canopy of leaves for sunlight collection.
Researchers aboard the drilling vessel JOIDES Resolution finished their voyage to unearth thousands of centuries of climate data from the ocean floor in the Mediterranean. “The climate change recovered at one of the drill sites was dedicated to providing the most complete marine record of climate change over the past two million years of Earth’s history,” said geologist Gary Acton, who was among a team of scientists on the voyage. The sediments record subtle measurable changes in environmental conditions.

Researchers in chemistry have proposed a radical new way of thinking about chemical reactions between water and metal oxides, the most common minerals on Earth. The new paradigm could lead to a better understanding of corrosion and how toxic minerals leach from rocks and soil. It could also help in the development of green technology: new types of batteries, for example, or catalysts for splitting water to produce hydrogen fuel. “This is a global change in how people should view these processes,” said William Casey, professor of chemistry and co-author of the paper with James Rustad, a former geology professor at UC Davis who now works as a scientist at Corning, Inc. Their work appeared in Nature Materials.

**GOOD READS**

A number of college faculty and alumni have published books recently. Here are some of our favorites:

*Time’s Shadow: Remembering a Family Farm in Kansas*, by Arnold J. Bauer. In chapters with titles such as “Houses,” “Depression and Drought” and “Having Company,” Bauer examines a way of life that has disappeared. Bauer is an emeritus professor of history.

*California: On-the-Road Histories*, by Laurie Glover and Victor Silverman. California has a tumultuous history, from the European conquest to today’s economic woes, and this book presents its sometimes bitter, often triumphant history. It also includes recommendations for tourist destinations. Glover is a lecturer in the University Writing Program.

*German History in Modern Times: Four Lives of the Nation*, by William W. Hagen. This history of German-speaking central Europe offers a very wide perspective, emphasizing a succession of many-layered communal identities. It highlights the interplay of individual, society, culture and political power, contrasting German with Western patterns. Hagen is an emeritus professor of history.

*Contents May Have Shifted*, by Pam Houston. In her latest novel, bestselling author Houston, a professor of English and director of the Creative Writing Program, takes her readers on a spiritual journey—and a trip around the world. A key theme of the book: we all have baggage, so we might as well get used to traveling with it.

*Charles Munch*, by D. Kern Holoman. This first full biography of violinist and conductor Munch traces the giant of 20th-century music from his dramatic survival in Nazi-occupied Paris to his triumphant arrival at the Boston Symphony Orchestra and through his later years, when he was admired by presidents Truman, Eisenhower and Kennedy. Holoman is a distinguished professor of music and conductor emeritus of the UC Davis Symphony Orchestra.

*Frontier Figures: American Music and the Mythology of the American West*, by Beth E. Levy. Examining the works of such composers as Aaron Copland, Roy Harris and Virgil Thomson, Levy, an associate professor of music, looks at how western Americana was woven into our national culture by way of sheet music, radio, lecture recitals, the concert hall and film.

*Certain Uncollected Poems*, by Sandra McPherson. McPherson, an emerita professor of English, gathers some of her previously published poems into her latest book. “Certain Uncollected Poems is meant to extend the life of writings that I never found chance or occasion to weave into other books,” said the author.

*As If: Modern Enchantment and the Literary Prehistory of Virtual Reality*, by Michael Saler. Saler, an associate professor of history, traces the world’s fascination with virtual reality back hundreds of years.

*Hotels, Hospitals, and Jails*, by Anthony Swofford. This second memoir by Swofford, a UC Davis alumnus and Gulf War veteran, explores his relationship with his father, also a veteran and Marine. “My father and I lived with the wickedly exciting and doggedly exhausting knowledge that we had once, for a short period of time,
flirted with death and won,” he writes. Swofford earned his bachelor’s degree in English from UC Davis in 1999.

Hand Me Down by Melanie Thorne. In her first novel, Thorne, a graduate of the English master’s degree program at UC Davis, tells the story of a girl who travels between California and Utah in search of her true family. The book, based on the author’s own life, has been selected by the School Library Journal for its “Adult Books 4 Teens” list.

STUDENT STORIES
• Sam Mahood, who graduated this spring with a degree in political science and communication, was elected to be a district delegate to September’s Democratic National Convention.

• UC Davis undergraduates have published a new human rights journal, Making the Case. It is edited, managed and published completely by students. The journal includes scholarly essays from across disciplines as well as poetry, fiction and photography. “The journal is an outgrowth of tremendous student interest in the question of human rights and is an example of the creativity, ingenuity, research excellence and professionalism of our students,” said Professor Keith David Watenpaugh, creator and director of the Human Rights initiative and advisor to the new interdisciplinary minor in human rights.

• UC Davis design students created stunning gowns in sync with the national Red Dress project last winter, reminding women to protect their heart health. The dresses were unveiled during the Women’s Heart Care Education and Awareness Forum for Community Leaders. “As design shapes our daily lives and social experiences, we encourage the integration of social issues and other life factors in creative practice,” said lecturer Adele Zhang, who mentors the Red Dress designers.

• Henry “Hoby” Wedler, a graduate student in chemistry, was one of 14 individuals honored at the White House as a Champion of Change for pioneering opportunities for people with disabilities in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). Wedler, who is blind, is working to mentor the next generation of scientists by founding and teaching at an annual chemistry camp for blind and low-vision high school students. “You don’t need vision to succeed,” Wedler told The Aggie’s Sara Islas, “However, you do need equal access to opportunities.”

• Athletes took main stage at the summer Olympics, but this year the Cultural Olympiad and London 2012 Festival also held a series of events. Shawyon Makek, a music major and concert master for the UC Davis Symphony Orchestra, played violin as part of the Aldeburgh World Orchestra.

• UC Davis students Corey La Rue (majoring in philosophy) and Evan White (majoring in English) have created an independent press, Absurd Publications. It is Davis’ first-ever student-run press. The students aim to publish literature that has an “artistic quality.”

ALUMNI UPDATES
Olympic Effort
Scott Weltz
(B.A., Economics, ’10) made the U.S. Men’s Swimming Team this summer, participating in the London games in July. He upset the two favorites in the men’s 200-meter breaststroke to win a spot on the team. Once in London, Weltz made it all the way to the finals, placing fifth in the 200-meter breaststroke.

“I feel like a part of history,” Weltz told the Los Angeles Times, “I’m just happy with this whole Olympic experience. I don’t have any regrets.” Weltz wore a UC Davis t-shirt during the medal ceremony at the US swimming trials, a show of pride for the university he came from despite the fact that UC Davis had to cut its swimming program in 2010 due to budget issues. “The UC Davis shirt was for all the people who had helped me,” he said.

As for his future, Weltz is even more inspired to continue swimming, he told the Los Angeles Times. “I want to keep going until I start getting...
certainly worse. I never want to say, what if I could be the next guy who gets a world record? I’m going to keep working at it until I start going backwards.”

Currency in Bikes?
Nicholas Barry (B.A., Economics, ’07) launched a new currency for the city of Davis in 2010: Davis dollars. A growing number of communities are adopting their own currencies. It is a way to encourage residents to shop at local businesses, and keep their money in town. “From an economics point of view, we thought it made a lot of sense as far as keeping spending local,” Barry told the Sacramento Bee.

Legislation Abroad
Brian Ebbert (B.A., Political Science, ’92) was recently selected to represent the United States at an international conference on legislative processes, hosted by the Canadian Parliament. Ebbert, who is an assistant chief clerk and assistant parliamentarian for the California State Assembly, participated in a two-week program covering administrative, technical and procedural aspects of legislative bodies. “This program proved to me that no matter where you live . . . we all share similar issues related to legislative governance. It is clear that in many developing nations, progressive legislative reforms are well under way,” Ebbert said.

Alumni Successes
• Brad Hicks (B.A., ’86, M.A., ’88, Geography), a news anchor at WITI-TV in Milwaukee, won five Emmy awards for his work as news anchor, news reporter and newswriter. He also won Emmys for his feature work on two stories. • Steven Mackey (B.A., Music, ’78) won a Grammy award for best small ensemble performance, for his album Lonely Motel. • Christine Shoemaker (B.S., Mathematics, ’66), was elected to the National Academy of Engineering. She is currently the Joseph P. Ripley Professor of Engineering at Cornell University. • Michael Gottfredson (B.A., Psychology, ’73) was named the 17th president of the University of Oregon.

END NOTES
• Professor of Chicana/o Studies Adela de la Torre has been inspiring UC Davis students working to improve the health of Chicano and Latino communities for many years. This spring, de la Torre’s protégé Dr. Emily Prieto honored her mentor by establishing the Adela de la Torre Honor Society for Latino students at Northern Illinois University, where Prieto is director of the Latino Resource Center. • Scott Simmon, professor of English, wrote an essay to accompany the web premiere of the new restoration of John Huston’s long-suppressed World War II documentary about psychologically wounded soldiers, Let There Be Light (1946). • Associate Professor of English Lucy Corin has been awarded a prestigious Rome Prize, which includes a one-year residency in Rome for “young writers of promise” from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. • Henry Spiller, an associate professor of music, received a Fulbright Senior Scholar Award, and will spend five months in Indonesia to research the unique Sudanese music and dance of West Java. • Julie Wyman, an associate professor of cinema and technocultural studies, has released her documentary STRONG! About three-time Olympian Cheryl Haworth. The film was broadcast nationally on PBS’s series Independent Lens in July, just prior to the start of the summer Olympic games. • Robin Erbacher, a professor of physics, was appointed to the U.S. Department of Energy’s Physics Advisory Panel. • The Alfred P. Sloan Foundation awarded research fellowships to two assistant professors at UC Davis: Louise Berben, a chemist, and James Bremer, a mathematician. • Nancy McTygue, the executive director of the California History-Social Science Project, was appointed to the Instructional Quality Commission by the California State Board of Education. • The New York City–based Joan Mitchell Foundation named Robert Arneson Chair of Ceramic Art Professor Annabeth Rosen among the 25 recipients of the Painters and Sculptors Grant Program.

A photo still from Let There Be Light

UC Davis physicist Marusa Bradac took this time lapse photo of the May 20 solar eclipse from Tahoe City. Partial views of the eclipse could be seen across the world, but the full eclipse could be viewed in Northern California, amongst other areas. The UC Davis Geology Club sold out of their solar eclipse viewing glasses, which were sold as a fundraiser for the club.
If there were a contest for the best catch-all to describe classes in College of Letters and Science today, interaction, connection, and even gaming all might be candidates. One thing is certain: lecture wouldn’t make the cut.

Certainly, professors still impart their knowledge to students through leading regular meeting sessions. But the interplay between teacher and class has become so complex that UC Davis students are learning using increasingly varied—and powerful—methods.

At the same time, professors are reporting a new surge of energy from the undergraduates on campus, whom, they say, are more passionate, engaged and altruistic than in previous decades.

According to Professor Alexandra Navrotsky, the Edward Roessler Chair in Mathematical and Physical Sciences, “Today’s students want to solve problems that are broader than themselves, especially in energy and sustainability. They are looking to effect change through technology.”

Moreover, tech forums for professors abound. At a SmartSite faculty group meeting in June, professors debated the value of having students rate each other’s work using Google Docs and posting to SmartSite, a campuswide intranet site where classes share syllabi and assignments. Andy Jones, director of Academic Technology Services, says that more such opportunities will be available to classes in the 2012–13 academic year, as SmartSite’s summer overhaul is rolled out with new features.

So what do class hours across campus look like today? And how do professors choose the myriad options for engaging their students with high-tech teaching?

Lecturing Avatars
Associate Professor of English Colin Milburn has a simple teaching philosophy: Lecture where they live.

“Many students play video games,” says Milburn, who is also the director of the UC Davis Humanities Innovation Lab and holder of the Gary Snyder Chair for Science and the Humanities. “The games have a central role in our culture and our political discourse. Teaching about them really taps into students’ passion, both critically and academically.”

Milburn’s course “Video Games and Culture” explores the interplay of games with canonized high-culture disciplines such as literature, cinema and the fine arts.

The class also discusses political behavior online, such as the new wave of computer hacking as a form of social protest—“hacktivism,” Milburn calls it. For example, many of his students hadn’t realized that an extremely popular horror game series, BioShock, actually involves heavy political interplay between libertarian and leftist groups.

“Video games have been underanalyzed, but they are today’s cultural medium,” he says.

In addition to assigning multimedia projects to his students using YouTube and Twitter, Milburn has taught in the virtual-reality computer game Second Life. There, he established a password-protected online classroom. He and each of his students built an avatar, and often met in Second Life instead of on campus. Milburn even brought in guest lecturers from Harvard and UNC Chapel Hill to the Second Life classroom at no travel cost to the university.

Milburn knows that this focus on technology is what students want to learn. “A significant number of students plan to go into the video game industry,” he says, “whether in game design, programming, or writing. And these aren’t necessarily computer science majors—they are coming from different disciplines.”

Gaming with the Stars
According to Professor Lloyd Knox, old-school lectures are a great way to learn—for the teacher, that is.

“There’s something really attractive about putting together a clear lecture,” the astrophysicist says. “I’ve learned a lot doing
that, but I was really surprised how ineffective my very clear lectures were. I’ve gradually moved away from them.”

So, for the introductory course Astronomy 10, Knox has adopted a game-show format pioneered by his colleague Assistant Professor David Wittman. “David started using a low-tech version of ‘clickers.’ The students have color-coded cards with A, B, C, D for answering multiple choice questions, then they can hold up these letters, and I can see the colors and immediately know how everyone’s doing,” Knox says.

Wittman says interactive practices like this are a central part of his teaching philosophy—using visual aids and participatory activities to engage the whole class. He started using color-coded flash cards after reading a scientific study about the best way to teach physics.

“I find it interesting that scientists, who are so committed to following a systematic process like the scientific method, neglected such an approach in the classroom until relatively recently,” explains Wittman. “In the past few decades physicists have led the way in rigorously testing gains in student understanding in their courses, and they found that by making instruction more interactive you could dramatically increase gains in understanding.”

In his astrophysical applications class for upper-level physics majors, Knox now runs lecture like a lab. He presents the students with problems that are a little less well-defined than a typical homework question, lets them puzzle it out with pencil and paper, and then teaches by providing assistance as they talk through solving it.

Knox adds that he thinks face-to-face interaction is superior to online learning. “I think it’s really important for us to be articulating that what we offer is invaluable, something you can’t get from distance learning. If students can interact with us and each other in person, it’s easier and better than what can currently be achieved with an online-only course.”

“There is a lot of intellectual growth that happens for students through having their ideas exposed in a group setting, talking through things. Those conversations are difficult to reproduce online. There’s a reason people travel in person to meetings.”

**Emergent Websites**

In winter 2012, Navrotsky co-designed and taught a seminar with Professor David Pines about the concept of emergence, in which scientists study the basic principles that can describe larger scientific and social phenomena.

“We wanted to teach students to let their observations guide you, then look at whole systems and describe commonalities in emergent principles,” Navrotsky says. For example, in defining the electronic state of a material, one might start by studying and describing how its electrons move.

Throughout the fall, the seminar hosted a series of distinguished guest speakers, including Ralph Cicerone, president of the National Academy of Sciences. Other lecturers spoke about climate change, the origin of life and solar energy.

There were no exams. The culminating project was a website describing a phenomenon through the concept of emergence, with class presentations at the end of the quarter.

“It went stupendously well,” Navrotsky says, “beyond our wildest expectations. The students’ high level of enthusiasm was a...
Overall, Biale says that today’s top undergraduates are exceptionally strong.

“Twenty to thirty percent of my students—the A students—could be studying anywhere, anything,” he says. “They are very engaged with issues in the news, such as the history of the state of Israel, and are really interested in learning how to analyze the issues beyond the headlines.”

As the chair of the history department, Biale says he often hears concerns from his colleagues regarding plagiarism.

“Students cheat when there is too much pressure, they get overwhelmed and need an easy way out,” he says.

Biale thinks professors would benefit from training to spot struggling students before a crisis emerges. “One thing I try to do as a teacher is encourage students to come to me when they are in trouble, whether in class or personally. This is part of our role as teachers—we are often students’ first line for help in a crisis.”

He believes all students are generally motivated, but the ones who struggle do so because their reading ability is not as strong as it could be. “This is the result of the collapse of California’s public education system,” Biale says. “Some students are entering college who cannot read a historical article and understand its argument.”
By the end of the course, Jones summarizes, “All my students became more autonomous learners; all of them improved their ability to analyze texts, and share insights verbally and in written form; and all of them saw how the extra work they chose to do with their peers improved their grades and heightened their commitment to our course objectives."

Writing in his article “How Twitter Saved My Literature Class,” serialized on the ATS blog The Wheel (see Related Links), Jones adds: “I also felt that the class validated the way in which Millennials live and learn, but without sacrificing the sort of deep and sustained thinking that was necessary for students to excel in the class. Our students are ubiquitously connected, and wise use of Twitter can help a faculty member harness the opportunities provided by this reality, rather than lament or try to ask students to suspend those connections while doing academic work.”

Since then, others have followed suit. Sarah Juliet Lauro, a lecturer in the Department of English, recently used Twitter to facilitate class discussion of Toni Morrison’s Sula, in a story featured on the The Wheel.

Lauro says that the students in her mid-size literature class were “headed for the mid-quarter slump,” and she wanted to do something different. She found that using Twitter not only “re-energized” the students’ interest in the material, but also provided a “written record of their observations,” and the students got to know each other better.

“I would definitely do this again,” Lauro says, “perhaps even earlier in the quarter!”

Art Walks

Veronica Passalacqua, curator of the UC Davis C.N. Gorman Museum, says students are the most frequent visitors to the exhibits. Established by the Department of Native American Studies (NAS), the museum showcases work by contemporary indigenous artists from around the world.

It is also a key teaching tool for many NAS courses. “Every quarter, 200 NAS 10 students come through here with their sections,” Passalacqua says. “Our exhibits rotate each quarter, so there is always something new to see.”

Smaller groups study the museum’s 800-piece permanent collection, which is currently being digitized for the museum’s website. Passalacqua says digitization will offer further educational opportunities to NAS and art students.

Passalacqua adds that students help the museum thrive. “Students are our greatest assets,” she says. “They are really vested in the museum and pass out postcards for it all sorts of places—in their classes and across campus.”

Tim McNeil, director of the UC Davis Design Museum, associate professor of design and chair of the Department of Design, says the same about his department’s exhibition space, which showcases the work of professional designers, undergraduate and graduate students. “Undergraduates visit for inspiration and to engage in questions about current issues in design, such as sustainability.”

Related Links

What would an article on new teaching methods be without a list of sites where you can learn more?

http://designmuseum.ucdavis.edu/
http://emergence.ucdavis.edu/PHY150/index.html
http://gormanmuseum.ucdavis.edu/
http://modlab.ucdavis.edu/about/
http://wheel.ucdavis.edu/

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Two new undergraduate degrees are being offered as of this fall, focusing on chemistry. One degree, chemical physics, provides students with an in-depth understanding of the fundamentals of chemistry, at the interface of chemistry and physics. The other, pharmaceutical chemistry, gives students an understanding of processes and societal issues surrounding the design and development of modern pharmaceuticals.

Students can also minor in professional writing, previously called expository writing. The minor has a new name and expanded list of course options. Since it began three years ago, more than 100 have graduated with the minor. A large number have selected it because they feel that it strengthens their writing skills, which are crucial to achieving their academic and professional goals.
IN MEMORIAM

DELLA DAVIDSON  
Professor, Department of Theatre and Dance

Della Davidson, 60, passed away in March after a long battle with cancer. Davidson, a central figure in the Bay Area dance world, was a vital creative force for the Department of Theatre and Dance for more than ten years. She has been described as one of the West Coast's most fluent writers for the body, a dance maker of works that ruminate with poignancy and beauty on topics ranging from a woman's anger to disease, death and the fragility of human existence. She created more than 40 works and received many awards including the Isadora Duncan Award for Outstanding Achievement in Choreography and the 1990 North American Award for Choreography.

Born in Texas and raised in Michigan, Davidson moved to New York City to start her career in dance in 1972. Ballet-trained, she discovered that being taller than six feet on pointe made classical partnering impossible. At Michigan State she discovered modern dance, and at the University of Utah she apprenticed as a choreographer. After earning an M.A. in 1983 at the University of Arizona, Tucson, she began co-directing the San Francisco Moving Company with Ellen Bromberg.

Davidson arrived at UC Davis in 2001 just as the Departments of Theatre and Dance merged. Here she helped articulate what an interdisciplinary M.F.A. in theatre and dance might become. She was the founding artistic director of the department's Sideshow Physical Theatre. A survivor of Hodgkin's disease that she conquered at the age of 28, she created darkly toned yet beautiful movement that faced tragedy with hope. Driven by an urge to get away from the "roles" she and other women had been brought up to inhabit, she often created dance that evoked the raw energy of forceful women, their strength, physicality and sensuality.

A recipient of the UC Davis Chancellor's Fellowship here at UC Davis, much of her new work was involved in multidisciplinary choreography. Working again with Ellen Bromberg, she co-created The Weight of Memory and, with the Keck CAVES Institute in the Department of Geology, Collapse (suddenly falling down). Davidson's final work, and the snow fell softly on all the living and the dead, premiered in May 2012.

A Sacramento resident, Davidson is survived by her husband, Mark Rieff. A memorial fund has been established in her honor. To contribute, visit: http://giving.ucdavis.edu/.

ROLLEI E. POPPINO  
Professor Emeritus, History

Rollie E. Poppino, a longtime chair of the History Department at UC Davis and a respected scholar of Brazilian history, died in December 2010 at the age of 88. He was born Oct. 4, 1922, in Portland, OR, to Rollie B. and Greta Poppino. There seems to be no account of Poppino in his youth that does not include the word “book.” His lifelong interest in foreign languages and cultures was fueled first by voracious reading, then by his experiences in World War II.

After the war, Poppino returned to college on the GI Bill, riding his Harley-Davidson from Oregon to California to study at Stanford University, where he earned three history degrees. It was at Stanford that he met the love of his life, Lois Lamber-son, a diettian with the Stanford food service. They married in 1950. Their union lasted until her death in 2009. Within weeks of the wedding, the couple left by freighter for Bahia, Brazil, where Poppino researched his doctoral dissertation. The social, political and economic history of Brazil would remain his principal interest throughout his professional life. After earning his doctorate in Latin American history in 1953, he and Lois moved their family to Washington, D.C., where he worked for the U.S. State Department as a Latin American intelligence analyst. In 1961, UC Davis hired Poppino to teach Latin American history. He remained at UC Davis for 30 years, serving as chair-man of the history department for much of that time. Poppino has been remembered as a fair-minded, thoughtful, supportive, kind and humorous department head. During his career, he was an active researcher, producing two full-length studies as well as numerous articles.

Poppino is survived by his children, Richard, Meg McDonald and Stephen; his brother John Poppino; his sister Doris Houlette; and six grandchildren.

RODERICK V. REID  
Professor Emeritus, Physics

Roderick V. Reid, emeritus professor of physics, passed away in December 2011. Reid was born in Charlotte, NC. He received a B.S. and M.S. from the University of Denver and studied at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology. He earned his Ph.D. in physics from Cornell University, working under distinguished physicist and Nobel laureate Hans Bethe. After a post-doctoral fellowship at MIT, Reid joined the physics department at UC Davis. In his research he was best known for his development of the Reid Potential, one of the first and best-known descriptions of the forces between nucleons. He was also considered an outstanding teacher by both students and faculty. His meticulous and enthusiastic lectures deeply impacted undergraduate and graduate students.

An avid mountaineer, Reid spent his free time hiking in remote, windswept mountains wherever the bristlecone pine flourished. Reid is survived by his wife, Virginia; daughter Katherine Reid; daughter Valerie Jordan, her husband, John, and grandson, Henry; son Rod Reid; brother Charles M. Reid and his wife, Nancy; nieces Allison Grigg and Suzanne Phillips.
The Roderick V. Reid Memorial Fund in Physics has been established in his memory. Contributions may be directed to the Reid Memorial Fund/UC Davis Foundation, c/o UC Davis Physics Department, One Shields Avenue, Davis, CA 95616.

MARYA WELCH, PH.D.

Marya Welch, who guided UC Davis toward gender equity in athletics a quarter-century before Title IX, died June 24. She was 95. She had lived in Davis for 65 years, through 40 years as a physical education instructor, coach and administrator at the university, and all through retirement. She supported campus arts as well as athletics—she never missed a symphony concert and was a season ticket holder for Aggie football.

Welch was inducted into the Cal Aggie Athletics Hall of Fame in 1991 and served as a grand marshal of the Picnic Day Parade eight years later. She received further honors in the naming of the Marya Welch Tennis Center and a section of The Colleges at La Rue, where Marya Welch Court comprises four apartment buildings.

Upon her hiring in 1947, Welch became the ninth female faculty member on the Davis campus and the first in the Department of Physical Education. She was tasked with setting up a women’s athletics program, with scarce resources and few precedents to guide her. Welch established teams and clubs in volleyball, archery, tennis, basketball, swimming, track and field, softball, equestrian and rifle—and coached them all.

In the P.E. department, Welch organized all of the classes and taught many of them herself. She founded intramural and extramural sports programs for women, and established the Women’s Athletic Association. She was a founding member of the Extramural League of Northern California and the Western Society of Women in Physical Education, and held several committee assignments with the Division of Girls and Women’s Sports, a national organization that set standards and rules. She retired in 1987 and in 2005 she received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the National Association of Collegiate Women Athletics Administrators.

Welch was born Sept. 25, 1916, and raised in Guthrie, OK. At an early age, she learned to ride a horse, hunt with a rifle and drive a car. She left home at the age of 15 to attend William Woods University in Fulton, MO, where she earned an Associate of Arts degree.

She followed that up with a Bachelor of Science degree in physical education from the University of Oklahoma in 1937, a master’s degree from UC Berkeley in 1949 and a doctorate in education from Columbia University in 1952. She received a Fulbright Fellowship for study abroad in 1960.

Welch also served as the dean of women (1952–54) and founded the UC Davis chapter of the Prytanean Women’s Honor Society, a chapter that still exists today.

Her philanthropy extended to athletics (including the tennis center that bears her name), the UC Davis Symphony Orchestra (she was a founding member of the Symphony Endowment), and the campaign that led to the construction of the Robert and Margrit Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts.

Friends remembered Welch for her kindness and loyalty, sense of humor and generous heart—and for standing up for what she believed. Survivors include a brother, many nieces and nephews, and her friend Mrs. Clairelee Leiser Bulkley.

PAUL ZINNER

Professor Emeritus, Political Science

Paul E. Zinner, a former UC Davis political science professor who was a leading scholar on the Cold War and its aftermath, died in March. He was 90.

Born in 1922 in Kosice, Czechoslovakia, Zinner spoke no English when he arrived in New York in 1940. He graduated magna cum laude from Tufts College in Massachusetts and served in the Army as an intelligence analyst for the Office of Strategic Services during World War II. He worked as an analyst for the U.S. State Department and earned a master’s degree in regional studies and a doctorate in political science at Harvard University.

Zinner, who taught at UC Davis for 30 years, was a widely recognized expert on Soviet and Eastern European affairs. He advised U.S. and European government officials and was quoted often in news stories on major events in east-west relations, including the collapse of the Soviet Union. Fluent in German, French, Czech, Hungarian and Russian, he lectured in many countries and wrote extensively on international relations, foreign policy and democratic and communist political systems.

Zinner retired in 1991 from UC Davis, where he was director of the International Relations Program from 1979 to 1985 and spent two years as political science chairman. He was a past chairman of the Academic Senate and Academic Council for the University of California.

He is survived by his wife, Joan Zinner of San Francisco, and four children from a previous marriage to the late Myra Stone: daughters Judith Zinner and Victoria Rochester, and sons William and John. He is also survived by two grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.
Gifts to College at Historic High

The College of Letters and Science received $24,616,733 in charitable contributions for the fiscal year 2011–12, which ended June 30. The total contributions far exceeded the previous record of $8.2 million in the 2010–11 year. This year saw the largest gift made to the college in its 60-year history: a $10 million gift from Jan Shrem and Maria Manetti Shrem to name a planned museum of art.

“We are so grateful for the gifts that the college received this year,” said Maureen Miller, assistant dean for College Relations and Development. “These are gifts that truly make a difference for students at UC Davis, and ultimately the people of California.”

Three foundations contributed generously to outstanding research at the college in this fiscal year, with the combined gift totals from just those three foundations at $8.1 million. A brief summary of these gifts are detailed below.

In total, 3,002 donors made 2,407 gifts, compared to the previous year in which 2,630 donors made 2,140 gifts. The College of Letters and Science Annual Fund, which raises money to support areas needing immediate support during the year, such as student scholarships and fellowships, faculty and research support, saw contributions of almost $109,846. 1,626 donors gave to the college’s annual fund, 600 more than the previous year.

Membership Increases for Herbert A. Young Society

The Herbert A. Young Society was established in 2000 to recognize generous donors of $1,000 or more to the College of Letters and Science Annual Fund. This year, 90 members made gifts of $1,000 or more, totaling $128,000. Gifts to the Herbert A. Young Society are used by the deans to enrich the student experience throughout the year. Among other areas of support this past year, Young Society gifts were combined to purchase new lab equipment for students, underwrite conferences and symposiums that brought together students and scholars on a topic of mutual interest, bring visiting scholars to support this past year, Young Society gifts were combined to purchase new lab equipment for students, underwrite conferences and symposiums that brought together students and scholars on a topic of mutual interest, bring visiting scholars to

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**ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2011–12**

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Young Society Deans’ Fellows Announced

The college’s annual Deans’ Fellowship Awards honor the achievements of outstanding faculty within the three divisions of the College of Letters and Science. The awards are funded by gifts to the College of Letters and Science Annual Fund and the members of the Herbert A. Young Society. The fellowship awards are used for teaching, research and public service activities. Congratulations to the 2012–13 Deans’ Fellows:

**WILLIAM CASEY**
Professor of Chemistry and Geology

*Area of Research:* Water chemistry, studying the reactions between water, rock and minerals.

*How will you use your award?* I hope to use a portion of this award to complete a book I am writing to make chemistry more accessible to lower-division students. I plan to use the remainder to further my research.

**ROBERT MKEE IRWIN**
Chair, Graduate Group in Cultural Studies and Professor, Department of Spanish and Portuguese

*Area of Research:* Latin American cultural history, with special attention to Mexico and to Latino California.

*How will you use your award?* This award will allow me to pursue transnational research projects. While common in the sciences, it’s not easy to obtain funding supporting collaborative humanities projects; however, these collaborations permit an intellectual breadth that would be impossible for a lone scholar to achieve. They also help to strengthen UC Davis’ connections in the humanities with foreign universities, especially in the interdisciplinary realm of cultural studies.

**KATHRYN OLMSTED**
Professor of History

*Area of Research:* The political and cultural history of twentieth-century America.

*How will you use your award?* The award makes it possible for me to travel to archives to look at documents that are essential for my research on the 1930s origins of our current political discourse. The research will inform my teaching and help Americans understand the history that shaped our current political debates.

**DAVID SIMPSON**
Distinguished Professor of English and G.B. Needham Chair


*How will you use your award?* I plan to use a portion of the award to directly support graduate students. Additionally, I now have the means to travel to important conferences and to fund visiting speakers for the benefit of our students and community.

Other noteworthy gifts in the past year include:

- $5.6 million pledged from the John Templeton Foundation to professor of psychology Robert Emmons, the leader of a multi-university project that studies the science and practice of gratitude.
- $1.5 million pledged from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation to Giulia Galli, professor of chemistry and physics, who will study the behavior of carbon held deep within the Earth.
- $1 million from the W. M. Keck Foundation to Professor Gang-Yu Liu in the Department of Chemistry, and Professor Ian Kennedy, in the Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering, to develop a new instrument for measuring the mechanics of single cells and study the toxicity of certain nanoparticles.
- $50,000 from Margrit Mondavi to support the Margrit Mondavi Graduate Student Fellows awards in the Division of Humanities, Arts and Cultural Studies.

Artworks with a total value of $110,325 were given to the UC Davis Fine Arts Collection by the E. Mark Adams and Beth Van Hoesen Adams Trust. The collection received 25 pieces, including seven drawings and 18 prints.

The Levin Family donated $212,000 to support undergraduate scholarships in the College of Letters and Science. The scholarships will be directed to students with financial need and will guarantee them four years of support.

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CHEM 194 TO BECOME ROCK HALL

The building known by thousands of alumni and students as Chemistry 194 will be getting a new name this fall. The lecture hall, which seats more than 400 and sees thousands of students pass through its doors on a daily basis, will become the Peter A. Rock Hall in honor of the founding dean of the Division of Mathematical and Physical Sciences who passed away in 2006. A thermodynamic chemist, Rock authored a book on general chemistry with professor Donald McQuarrie (who passed away in 2009); the book is still used as a text in engineering and geosciences.

The naming of the building comes at a distinct time for the College of Letters and Science. The college just finished celebrating its 60th anniversary, and naming the building in honor of one of its deans is a lasting tribute to the fundamental education that impacts the entire university.

“Peter was very passionate about the quality of teaching done at UC Davis. He made a great contribution to the campus in terms of both teaching and research, and increasing the prominence of mathematical and physical sciences at UC Davis. It is a fitting tribute to honor his memory in this way,” said Winston Ko, dean of the Division of Mathematical and Physical Sciences.

The building sign will get a new name this fall, and the 2012 fall registration for courses will have “ROCK” as the location. There will be a dedication ceremony on September 24, from 2 to 4 p.m. If you are interested in attending, please contact ldevel-opment@ucdavis.edu, or (530) 752-3429.

SYMPHONY IN SPAIN

In the early spring, the UC Davis Symphony Orchestra toured four Spanish cities, performing one concert in each. Led by conductor Christian Baldini, this unique and talented group of music majors, graduate students, undergraduate students from across UC Davis, and members of the community played to enthusiastic audiences in each city. At the final concert in Barcelona, the orchestra sold out the famous Palau de la Música Catalana, which seats 2,100 and is considered to be one of the world’s best and most beautiful halls.

What: Firebaugh Community Celebration
When: September 13, 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Where: Casa Sana, 1625 Allard Drive Firebaugh, CA

A celebration of the official opening of Casa Sana, the Center for Transnational Health’s regional site for ongoing collaborations among the community of Firebaugh, UC Davis, and UC Agriculture and Natural Resources. This event marks the official kick-off of a USDA-sponsored program, Niños Sanos/Familia Sana (Healthy Children/Healthy Families).

What: “Making Sense of the American Civil War,” discussion and lectures.
When: September 15, 1–3:30 p.m.
Where: Berkeley Public Library
More information: http://chssp.ucdavis.edu/

The California History–Social Science Project, in partnership with Cal Humanities, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the American Library Association will host “Making Sense of the American Civil War” book discussion and lecture at the Berkeley Public Library. Historian Ari Kelman will deliver the lecture.

What: Dedication of Community Mural
When: September 16, 1:00 p.m.
Where: Leo Cantu Community Learning Center, 22058 Railroad Ave., San Joaquin, CA

In celebration of Mexican Independence Day, the community of San Joaquin, the UC Davis Center for Transnational Health and UC Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) will hold an unveiling of the Community Center mural in San Joaquin. The mural is effort is led by Carlos Francisco Jackson, assistant professor of Chicana/o Studies. The artistic direction is provided by Jaime Montiel and Gilda Posada with guidance and collaboration of San Joaquin residents. The mural celebrates the launch of this community-academic partnership.

What: Out of Line: A Show of Extended Drawing Practices
When: September 27–December 16
Where: Nelson Gallery
More information: http://nelson.ucdavis.edu

Drawing is one of the oldest forms of art, yet artists continue to find ways to evolve the tradition. This exhibition will showcase artists who are extending drawing into a very large scale, and examining “the line.”

What: Salt - Bitter - Edge - Red Streak into the = Water Girl: Works of Melanie Yazzie
When: October 2–December 7
Where: C.N. Gorman Museum
More information: http://gormanmuseum.ucdavis.edu/

The Gorman Museum, which celebrates its 40th
anniversary this year, features a new series: Melanie Yazzie (Navajo) utilizes printmaking to explore her journey since being diagnosed with type 2 diabetes.

**PICNIC DAY FASHION SHOW**

Always a hit, the annual Picnic Day Fashion Show featured fashions by more than 10 design students. The sold-out event supports students in the Department of Design. Design is one of the 20 most popular majors at UC Davis.

**Dolores**

**What:** Serigrafía
**When:** October 8–December 7
**Where:** Design Museum
**More information:** [www.design.ucdavis.edu](http://www.design.ucdavis.edu)

A talented panel of printmaking experts have teamed up to collaboratively curate an exhibition that surveys the powerful tradition of information design in California's Latino culture.

**What:** The Haunt at Wright Hall
**When:** October 25–28 & October 30–31
**Where:** Wright Hall
**More information:** [thetheatredance.ucdavis.edu/](http://thetheatredance.ucdavis.edu/)

A performance-based haunted house and costume dance party; PG-13; Tickets: $15 (or $10 for dance only).

All tickets sold only at Main Theatre, Wright Hall box office before the show.

**What:** The Bacchae by Euripides
**When:** November 29–December 1 & December 6–8
**Where:** Main Theatre
**More information:** [thetheatredance.ucdavis.edu/](http://thetheatredance.ucdavis.edu/)

Directed by Granada Artist-in-Residence Barry McGovern, the famous Greek tragedy depicts a mortal struggle between the forces of control and freedom as Dionysus locks horns with King Pentheus of Thebes in a power struggle of great confusion and madness.

**2012 UC Davis Fine Art Scarves Are Here**

The UC Davis Scarf Collection introduces new styles and artwork in its 2012 line. The collection continues the tradition of producing exceptional, eye-catching pieces of wearable style that are inspired by art from UC Davis faculty, students and UC Davis’ fine art and design collections. Learn more, or buy online at: [scarves_2012](http://goodlife.ucdavis.edu/scarves_2012)

**STANDING-ROOM-ONLY FOR ANGELA DAVIS**

More than a thousand UC Davis students, faculty and staff packed the ARC Pavilion in early spring to discuss “How does change happen?” with UC Santa Cruz professor, feminist, civil rights and prison rights activist Angela Davis. Organized by the Hart Hall Social Justice Initiative, which consists of faculty members from African American and African Studies, American Studies, Chicano/a Studies, Cultural Studies, Native American Studies, and Women and Gender Studies, the teach-in was intended to provoke meaningful dialogue about the chaotic events surrounding November 18, 2011, when student protesters were pepper-sprayed by police.

**Seminar with Dr. Sheldon Danziger, Distinguished Professor of Public Policy, Gerald Ford School of Public Policy, University of Michigan**

**When:** November 30, 12:10–1:30 p.m.
**Where:** Andrews Conference Room, 2203 Social Sciences & Humanities
**More information:** [poverty.ucdavis.edu/](http://poverty.ucdavis.edu/)

Sheldon Danziger discusses poverty and inequality, and the effects of economic and demographic changes and government social programs on disadvantaged groups.

**What:** Fall Commencement
**When:** December 15, 10 a.m.
**Where:** Activities and Recreation Center
**More information:** [www.ls.ucdavis.edu/commencement/index.html](http://www.ls.ucdavis.edu/commencement/index.html)

**What:** Jim Campbell: Exploded Views
**When:** January 12–March 11
**Where:** Nelson Gallery
**More information:** [nelson.ucdavis.edu](http://nelson.ucdavis.edu)

This new work was originally conceived for SFMOMA’s Atrium, and features hundreds of flickering LED lights creating the illusion of figurative images that explore and reflect human movement.

**What:** MFA Thesis Choreographies
**When:** February 21–23 & February 28–March 3
**Where:** Vanderhoef Studio Theatre, Mondavi Center
**More information:** [thetheatredance.ucdavis.edu/](http://thetheatredance.ucdavis.edu/)

Sheldon Danziger discusses poverty and inequality, and the effects of economic and demographic changes and government social programs on disadvantaged groups.
IN ORBIT

Astronaut and alumna Tracy Caldwell Dyson graciously let us know when she would be heading to the International Space Station for her six-month stay in 2010. To commemorate her trip, we sent a College of Letters and Science medal to take with her as she orbited the earth every 92 minutes while aboard the space station. Caldwell Dyson returned the medal to us, along with this photo, when she visited campus to be the College of Letters and Science’s 60th anniversary Deans’ Distinguished Speaker. Read more about her voyage on page 2.