Understanding Our World
College expands international focus

Also Inside

- Journeys of Discovery
- Rare Whistler Prints
- The Scientist and the Dalai Lama
- Wayne Thiebaud on Teaching
Corporate Leadership Panel

Featuring L&S alumni who are CFOs and/or COOs

Darryl L. Goss (B.A., African-American Studies, 1983)

Blair W. Lambert (B.A., Economics, 1979)


WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18, 2007, 4:10 P.M.
Walter A. Buehler Alumni and Visitors Center, AGR Hall
Reception Immediately Following

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

The College of Letters and Science presents a panel featuring prominent alumni who have many years of experience as Chief Financial Officers and Chief Operating Officers for major, complex companies. They will speak about current issues in corporate leadership and finance, and will provide personal advice to students who are considering challenging management careers.

Darryl L. Goss has spent over 20 years in clinical and laboratory services specializing in strategic planning, business acquisition and turn-around plans. He is currently Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of Esoterix, Inc., a leading laboratory company with annual revenues in excess of $100 million.

Blair W. Lambert, C.P.A., has had a long career as a CFO of major retail companies. He is currently Chief Operating Officer and Chief Financial Officer for Gymboree, Corp., a leading retailer of children's clothing and merchandise. Previously, he was CFO for Illuminations.com and for Bebe Stores, Inc., and was Corporate Vice President of Finance for Esprit de Corp.

Stephen C. Richards, C.P.A., is currently a private investor. Previously he served as Chief Operating Officer and Chief Financial Officer for McAfee Inc. (formerly Network Associates). From 1996 to 2000 he held a number of senior positions at E*TRADE Group, Inc., including Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer. Prior to that he spent 12 years with Bear Stearns, and has held management positions with A. G. Becker Paribas, Jefferies Group, Inc. and Coopers & Lybrand.
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Undergraduate students in UC Davis chemistry labs number over 3,300 each quarter – the largest quantity of students in an undergraduate core laboratory course in the nation. Students partake in three hours of lecture, three hours of laboratory and one hour of discussion each week, working with chemicals and learning fundamental laboratory and safety techniques that are applicable to a wide variety of classes open to them after this chemistry series. The chemistry department is able to manage this large program thanks to state-of-the-art equipment, new laboratory facilities and teaching assistants to help manage their work.
A letter from the deans

We want to thank you for your readership of our new magazine. We are happy that so many of our alumni, faculty and friends took the time to read our inaugural issue and to send us comments and feedback. We will continue to deliver the newest and latest from the College of Letters and Science.

The feature article of this issue focuses on the rapidly growing efforts of our students, faculty and research teams to move beyond the typical borderlands that bound the college. By delving into just a few of the programs and trends that we see across the college, we hope to show you a new world – one that our students and faculty are pioneering with tremendous enthusiasm.

We have a great many new research activities to report on, which can be found in our feature on new discoveries, and in our Faculty Notes and College Updates sections. These findings truly open the doors to new possibilities, and we are proud of the work that is done by our faculty, researchers and students.

Thank you again for your support and contributions. We will look forward to updating you again in the fall.

Best regards,

Dean Winston Ko, Dean Jessie Ann Owens, Dean Steven M. Sheffrin

CORRECTIONS

Annual Report: We regret that two donors, Meg and Tom Stallard, were inadvertently left off the list of Young Society members in 2005–06. Faculty Notes: Scott Simmon was listed as a visiting professor, when he is in fact a full-time professor at UC Davis. Alumni Updates: Elyssa Lee is currently at InStyle Magazine, not Rob Turner, as reported in the article on Sactown Magazine.

THANK YOU

Thank you to the many individuals who submitted their memories for the Flashbacks section. Unfortunately we could only choose one for the magazine, but we appreciate all of your submissions. Please continue to send your memories of your time at UC Davis to: currentseditor@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.”

The University of California does not discriminate in any of its policies, procedures or practices. The university is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer.
The Dalai Lama has endorsed a revolutionary new research project headed by Center for Mind and Brain scientist Cliff Saron.


An exciting new research project co-led by a UC Davis scientist at the Center for Mind and Brain has been endorsed by no lesser authority than the Dalai Lama.

Recent studies have shown that meditation has significant effects on management of stress and may enhance emotional stability. However, most of these studies have been short-term, and have not looked at intensively trained meditation practitioners. Moreover, they have focused only on stress reduction, not on attentional stability and prosocial emotions, such as compassion. In a deeper exploration, the Shamatha Project, named after the meditative state of quiescence, will take 62 volunteers on an intensive three-month retreat to the Shambhala Mountain Center (a project co-sponsor, located in the Rockies about 50 miles west of Fort Collins, Colorado) where they will engage in eight or more hours a day of intensive meditation. Researchers, using two well-equipped, on-site psychophysiology laboratories, will study changes in their mental, physical and emotional reactions.

“This research project is unlike any other investigation of meditation practice,” says Clifford Saron, assistant research scientist at the Center for Mind and Brain. Saron, who earned his Ph.D. in neuroscience from the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, is the scientific director and principal investigator of the project. His research partner, B. Alan Wallace, Ph.D., founder and president of the Santa Barbara Institute for Consciousness Studies, serves as contemplative director and retreat leader. A number of other UC Davis professors, postdoctoral fellows, and doctoral students are also collaborating on the project, supported by several full- and part-time research assistants.

The volunteers will be split into two groups. Each group will be tested before, during and after the first retreat, with hours of assessments including tests of electrical brain activity, heart rate, stress-related hormone levels, ability to focus attention, response to emotionally-charged words and images, and measures of prosocial inclinations and behaviors.

“We are not so much interested in exactly what happens when you meditate as in what happens to your mind and brain that continues to serve you and society well beyond the retreat setting,” explains Saron. “The biggest issue for us is the extent to which attentional training, combined with training in virtuous qualities like compassion, loving kindness, empathetic joy, and equanimity changes the mind and brain in ways that improve emotional regulation and increase prosocial behavior.”

The scope and significance of the project has led to its endorsement by the Dalai Lama and funding by The Fetzer Institute and Hershey Family Foundation and other foundations and private donors. Thus far, more than $650,000 has been raised for the project, although additional funding is still needed. For more information, contact Clifford Saron at cdsaron@ucdavis.edu.
ECONOMIC HISTORY SHEDS LIGHT ON PAST AND FUTURE

What would you give to trade places with Louis XIV or Henry VIII? Economist Alan Olmstead, director of the Institute of Governmental Affairs, wouldn’t give a dime.

“Just think about going to the dentist with high speed drills and Novocain. The richest person in the world from 1400 or 1500 didn’t have that,” he said. And even the most powerful people in ancient history couldn’t inoculate their children against smallpox, provide pasteurized milk or offer aspirin to bring down a fever.

Such intangible assets as improved health and life expectancy are often overlooked when people compare current standards of living with times past, says Olmstead. But without a historical perspective on the true meaning of wealth, including tangible and intangible benefits, it’s difficult to draw accurate comparisons. Fortunately, Olmstead and his colleagues, professors Gregory Clark, Peter Lindert and Alan M. Taylor, are helping students and economists better understand economic history.

UC Davis has consistently ranked among the top universities in the world in the field of economic history, based on the number of articles faculty members have published. Understanding economic history is critical to grasping events and trends in the modern world. “Why are some countries rich and others poor?” Olmstead asked. “That’s a pretty interesting question. If you could understand more about that, you might be able to prevent a lot of damage being done in development policies, and maybe even do some good.”

FIELD CLASS TO BISHOP CAPS GEOLOGY STUDENTS’ EXPERIENCE

For six weeks every summer, students finishing their geology majors at UC Davis converge on the White Mountain Research Station in Bishop, Calif., operated by the University of California. There they master field mapping and the use of instruments while studying volcanoes and earthquake faults with several UC Davis professors, each of whom works with the students for one to two weeks. “I enjoy the opportunity to get to know students better than one can in a normal class environment,” says James McClain, professor of geology and interim associate dean of the College of Letters and Science. “The teaching environment of the class is exhausting, but a great deal of fun.” We asked geology lecturer David Osleger, who helps teach the class, to tell us more about it.

What do you study?

The course consists of four components: field mapping, geophysics, volcanology, and neotectonics.

A different faculty member teaches each of the four sections….it keeps the material fresh for the students and gives them a taste of a variety of geologic and geophysical disciplines.

How does Bishop’s environment lend itself to teaching?

The region around Bishop is a geologic wonderland, with the gorgeous eastern escarpment of the Sierra Nevada forming the western boundary and the open basins and ranges to the east. There are active earthquake faults, an enormous active volcanic complex near Mammoth Lakes, hot springs, glacial features, ancient rocks and a host of other geologic features beautifully exposed in the arid climate. Very few other places offer the diversity of geology that the region around Bishop provides.

What do students get out of the experience?

Suddenly the rocks and their architecture are no longer locked into the two-dimensionality of a textbook, but
rather the students are forced to visualize the three-dimensional relationships as well as the fourth dimension of change through time. Our students gain an initial understanding of this through the various field trips that they take throughout their geologic studies, but only during the summer field class does it all come together in one prolonged period of time. In addition, they are forced to write extensive reports and produce results on a short time frame. They leave the course better able to cope with comparable conditions in industry or graduate school.

**INITIATIVE SEeks TO INCREASE NUMBER OF MATH AND SCIENCE EDUCATORS**

Concerned about the potential erosion of U.S. leadership in scientific and technological innovation, the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources recently requested recommendations from the National Academies. Above all, their report, entitled *Rising Above the Gathering Storm*, called for improved education in science and math from K-12 education through post-graduate work.

The Division of Mathematical and Physical Sciences has partnered with the School of Education to respond to that request. The new Science and Math Initiative will produce students well-versed both in science and in the teaching of science.

"Courses start in the freshman year and involve internships and teaching in classrooms to motivate students and show them that teaching is fun," said Winston Ko, dean of the Division of Mathematical and Physical Sciences. "We are pleased that we can partner with the School of Education and develop such a program."

The Division is well-poised to tackle such an initiative, having already pioneered a natural science major, which is unique in the UC system and provides students with a strong grounding across the sciences, including biology, chemistry, and physics. This makes the major appropriate for both potential teachers and pre-med students. There is also an education track in the undergraduate math program.

By preparing students early in their education for a teaching career, the program seeks not only to boost the number of math and science educators in California, but also to prepare them to stay in the classroom for the long-term. Currently, teachers often change careers after just a few years.

"People well-trained in the mathematical and physical sciences are key to the science innovations that will change life in America and the world," said Ko. "It is of vital importance to shore up the educational pipelines all the way from K-12 to post-graduate work."

**AN UPDATE FOR EGGHEADS**

More than a decade ago, the first of Robert Arneson’s Eggheads appeared on campus. The huge and humorous heads, sculpted from bronze by the internationally acclaimed artist, quickly became a beloved institution. Now, the Eggheads look fresher than ever thanks to a one-to-one matching grant of $20,000 from the National Endowment for the Arts. Last August, the original manufacturers, Walla Walla Foundry, sent a team to work with Collections Manager Robin Bernhard to resurface the eggs, which are coated with many layers of latex paint and wax.

"Although we had a conservator come from San Francisco annually to touch them up, she advised us last year that it was time to resurface them completely," said Renny Pritikin, director of the Nelson Gallery. "They now look as good as when they were delivered, if not better."

The Nelson is still soliciting donations to complete the funding for the project. In the meantime, says Pritikin, "We want to ask the campus community not to love these things to death. Getting the money to keep them looking fresh and beautiful is not a given, so it would be nice if this facelift could last a while."
CHEMISTRY GRAD STUDENT IDENTIFIES IMPOSSIBLE “BUCKYEgg”

Until recently, scientists believed that fullerenes—spherical molecules of carbon—were always circular. Made of a combination of carbon atoms shaped like hexagons and pentagons, fullerenes seemed to follow an inviolable rule: no two pentagons can touch, but must be surrounded by hexagons, producing a sphere. This soccer-ball shaped sphere is often called a “buckyball,” after Buckminster Fuller, inventor of the geodesic dome.

In October, however, Christine Beavers, a chemistry grad student working with Distinguished Professor Alan Balch and Professor Marilyn Olmstead, was lead author on a study showing that fullerenes can be egg-shaped as well. The study was published in the Journal of the American Chemical Society.

“It was a total surprise,” Beavers said.

Scientists at Virginia Tech developed a carbon compound under special conditions, creating a mixture of fullerenes then shipped to UC Davis. When Beavers started to map the structure of the fullerenes, she found two pentagons next to each other, creating a pointy oval egg shape. Thinking she’d made a mistake, she showed her results to Olmstead, who helped determine the veracity of the results.

The experiment was part of a project to find new ways to make fullerenes with metal molecules trapped inside. An egg-shaped fullerene could help create compounds that can be useful in safely delivering metals into the body for medical scanning procedures.

LEARNING FROM THE APES

In October, Time Magazine turned to the work of Katherine Pollard, assistant professor at the UC Davis Genome Center and the Department of Statistics, to help explain how and why humans differ from apes.

The story points out that genetically, apes and humans are nearly identical—closer than rats and mice. Pollard and colleagues at UC Santa Cruz published an article in Nature recently describing a gene that seems to contribute to that difference. The gene is active only in fetal brain tissue between the seventh and 19th week of gestation: the time when the human cerebral cortex is developing its six-layer structure.

Pollard’s work also suggests that “non-coding” regions of the genome—areas that don’t contain genes likely to encode protein—are responsible for much of the human/ape difference. Pollard and her colleagues used computers to analyze human, chimp and other genes, looking for areas that have undergone a great deal of change over time.

“The difference between chimps and humans is not in our proteins,” Pollard said, “but in how we use them.”

SNAKES ON THE BRAIN

Why are primates, including humans, able to see the world in three-dimension living color, unlike many other creatures? UC Davis anthropologist Lynne A. Isbell’s proposed answer was published in the New York Times in September.

“New anthropological evidence suggests that snakes, as predators, may have figured prominently in the evolution of primate vision,” she wrote. She argued that monkeys who live in regions infested with venomous snakes have far better eyesight than primates who live in snake-free areas.

“No wonder the movie Snakes on a Plane hit a nerve (not to mention the story of Eve and the Serpent),”
she wrote. “There’s a deep connection between snakes and primates, one that may have shaped who we are – and how we see – today.”

FEENSTRA APPOINTED TO DISTINGUISHED CHAIR IN INTERNATIONAL ECONOMICS

Professor Robert Feenstra has been appointed to the C. Bryan Cameron Distinguished Chair in International Economics. The chair was established to support teaching, research or outreach in trade, international finance and related topics. Feenstra is an award-winning economist known internationally for his work in global trade. He directs UC Davis’ Center for International Data and the Pacific Rim Business and Development Program.

“The C. Bryan Cameron Chair will allow me to expand the horizons of my research, creating more opportunities for students in the Department of Economics at Davis and beyond,” said Feenstra.

The chair, he said, will particularly benefit the activities of the Center for International Data at UC Davis, which will continue to be the leading site for international trade data in the United States and worldwide.

“Many rely on this center for international trade data that is unique in its level of commodity and country detail, greatly contributing to research across the social sciences,” said Feenstra.

ART DEPARTMENT WINS ACCOLADES FROM YALE

UC Davis’ art department enjoyed international praise this fall, when art critic and curator Robert Storr, new dean of the Yale School of Art, sang its praises in a leading European art magazine. While lecturing at Davis, Storr wrote, he was struck by the university’s “lively art department” and its “small but active museum.”

He was particularly taken with the Nelson’s collection of art by Davis alumni. In addition to works by the renowned Wayne Thiebaud and Robert Arneson, Storr also came across early, unfired works by artist Bruce Nauman (one pictured here), who was then a teaching assistant for Thiebaud. These works, he wrote, presaged key elements of Nauman’s later art. “It’s a pity that there are so few collections of this kind around,” he wrote.

GRADUATE STUDENTS WIN HONORS IN ECONOMICS, MATHEMATICS AND CHEMISTRY

Graduate students in several disciplines have recently won prestigious grants and honors, underscoring the importance of graduate education in the College of Letters and Science.

The National Science Foundation selected Adriana Leticia Arroyo Abad, a graduate student in economics, to attend the prestigious Lindau Meeting in Economic Sciences in Lindau, Germany. The meeting, which took place in August, brought 50 outstanding young researchers together with winners of the Nobel Prize in economics.

In the sciences, two Letters and Science graduate students have received University of California Systemwide Biotechnology Research and Education Program grants of $500,000: Jennifer Cash and Roy Wollman.

Such high achievements highlight the importance of support for graduate students in the College of Letters and Science. “Support for graduate students is vital to the education not only for graduate students, but for our future,” said Winston Ko, Dean of the Division of Mathematical and Physical Sciences. “Graduate students are the end of the pipeline in education— they are ready to innovate. They are the lifeblood of research, and are important to training and inspiring UC Davis undergraduates as well.”
Faculty in the College of Letters and Science are constantly receiving prestigious awards, grants and fellowships. They publish books, participate in exhibits, perform, and are invited to become members of international academic societies. The next few pages list just a sample of their recent books, publications, honors, awards, research grants, performances and exhibits.

**RECENT BOOKS PUBLISHED**

Don Donham, professor of anthropology, edited 2006 States of Violence: Politics, Youth and Memory in Contemporary Africa, University of Virginia Press, 2006. He was also appointed to be the next editor of the American Ethnologist, beginning in the summer of 2007.


Suad Joseph, professor of anthropology and director of Middle East/ South Asia studies, edited Encyclopedia of Women and Islamic Cultures, Volume IV, Economics, Education, Mobility, Space, Brill, 2007.


**HONORS AND AWARDS**

Spanish lecturer Francisco Alarcón’s book, Poems to Dream Together-Poemas para soñar juntos, has been named an honor book in the Books for Younger Children category. In 19 poems in Spanish and English, Alarcón inspires his readers to dream alone and to work together as families and communities. On Oct. 20, he accepted the honor at the 53rd Jane Addams Children’s Book Awards at the United Nations in New York City. The work was illustrated by Paula Barragán and published by Lee & Low Books.

Communication professor Charles Berger received a “top paper” award from the National Communication Association for his work, “Narrative processing in rational and experiential modes: The role of story emotion in potentiating cognitive and affective responses to threat.” The paper was presented at the annual conference in November, the same conference that awarded communication assistant professor Eun-Ju Lee a “top paper” award in the Human Communication and Technology Division. Lee’s paper was “Why do we treat computers as if they were real people? The mindlessness explanation for the computers are social actors (CASA) paradigm.”

Anna Maria Busse Berger, professor and chair in music, won the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers Deems Taylor Award for her book, Medieval Music and the Art of Memory. She was the only musicologist to receive the award this year. She also won the Wallace Berry Award for best book, given each year by the Society for Music Theory.

Native American studies professor Steven Crum was recently a guest lecturer at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of the American Indian in Washington, D.C., where he presented topics on Native American history to members of the education staff. The lecture series is the beginning of ongoing training to bring Native American scholars to meet with the Smithsonian staff.
Joseph Dumit, associate professor of anthropology, received the Rachel Carson Prize for his book Picturing Personhood: Brain Scans and Biomedical Identity.

Frances Dyson, associate professor in technocultural studies, recently published her research results as an interactive web-based essay entitled “And then it was now” on the Daniel Langlois Foundation website. As a researcher in residence at the Foundation, she worked with the Experiments in Art and Technology archives in order to analyze the discourse on art and technology and the social utopias surrounding experiments in art and technology between 1966 and 1972.

Mathematics professor Roland Freund received a $25,000 IBM Faculty Award in recognition of his achievements in the field.

Emily Goldman, political science professor and director of the UC Davis Washington Center Program, went on leave to work for the principal deputy assistant secretary of defense for international security affairs. She has been asked to help transform the Department of Defense’s regional security studies centers to more effectively address the challenges of the post-9/11 world. While Goldman is on leave, Larry Berman, political science professor and former director of the UC Washington Program, will serve as interim director.

Simona Ghetti, associate professor of psychology, won the Society for Research in Child Development Early Scientific Achievement Award for young researchers (those who received their Ph.D. within the past six years).

Psychology professor Gail Goodman was invited to address the American Psychological Association at their symposium in August on developmental psychology, children and law.

Benjamin Lawrance, associate professor of history, has won a postdoctoral fellowship on slavery, abolition and resistance, at Yale University’s Gilder Lehrman Center.

Lori Lubin, associate professor in physics, was selected to be the 2006–07 Chancellor’s Fellow. The honor comes with a $25,000 award to be used in support of research, teaching, and service activities.

The Campus Arts Brochure, designed by Kristina Lewis and art directed by Timothy McNeil, assistant professor of the design program, and Peter Lichtenfels, professor of theater, took a silver award in the University & College Designers Association award. The competition received some 1,600 print entries this year.

Geology professor emeritus Eldridge Moores’ book, Bedrock, published in 2006, was chosen by The Wall Street Journal as one of the five all-time best science books. The book follows the earth’s past.

Jeffrey Mount, the Roy J. Shlemom Chair in Applied Geosciences, received the Weider Award for Leadership in Pursuit of Southern California’s Water Future, an award given by the California Water Committee.

Psychology professor and Center for Mind and Brain researcher Lisa Oakes was selected a fellow in Division Seven of the American Psychological Association.

An invention by Ning Pan, professor of textiles and clothing, has been selected for the second annual “Nano 50” list by Nanotech Briefs magazine. Pan developed carbon nanotubes into a supercapacitor, a device to store and rapidly release electrical power.

A national study identified two UC Davis general physics courses and their instructors, Wendell Potter and David Webb, for “exemplary” practices. The Center for Educational Policy Research reviewed 139 courses for the study, which “sought to identify best practices college courses that could inform the redesign” of Advanced Placement courses, according to David Conley, a University of Oregon professor who serves as director of the Center for Educational Policy Research. “This is the highest distinction awarded,” Conley said, “and only a very few courses in our study met this standard of distinction and excellence.”

Assistant professor in mathematics Benjamin Schlein was named one of twelve recipients of the third Sofja Kovalevskaja Award from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation of Germany. The research award comes with a grant of 1.2 million Euros. Schlein is the only “pure” mathematician to receive the award this year.

Psychology professor Philip Shaver was recently elected to be president of the International Society for Relationship Research.

Jeffrey Sherman, professor of psychology, won the 2006 Society for Personality and Social Psychology Theoretical Innovation Prize for best paper, the only award given by the society each year.
Department of Geology Faculty Win Several Prestigious Awards

Four nationally and internationally recognized awards were given to individuals in the Department of Geology throughout the 2006 year. The awards, listed below, demonstrate the breadth of achievements that the faculty recipients have made and translate into the education and research of undergraduate and graduate students in geology.

Louise Kellogg, department chair, underscored the importance of the awards; “These awards recognize the enormous impact that each of these faculty are making through their scholarship, teaching, and service.”

The four awards are:

• Gerat Vermeij, distinguished professor of geology, is the 2006 recipient of the Paleontological Society Medal, which is the most prestigious honor bestowed by the Paleontological Society. The medal was awarded for Vermeij’s advancement of knowledge in paleontology.

• Eldridge Moores, distinguished professor emeritus of geology, received the international division of the Geological Society of America’s Distinguished Career Award.

• John Dewey, distinguished professor of geology, received the Career Contribution Award in structural geology and tectonics division from the Geological Society of America.

• Alexandra Navrotsky, the Edward Roessler Chair in Mathematical and Physical Sciences, was awarded the Hess Medal from the American Geophysical Union for her outstanding achievement in researching the constitution and evolution of the Earth and other planets.

L A T E S T  G R A N T S  A N D  R E S E A R C H

Jennifer Beer in the Center for Mind and Brain received a $10,000 grant from the American Psychological Association Science Directorate Conference.

Assistant professor of chemistry Xi Chen received $264,000 from the Arnold and Mabel Beckman Foundation.

The U.S. Department of Energy has awarded a grant worth $1.2 million per year for five years to a project in advanced computing led by researchers at UC Davis. The department’s SciDAC (Scientific Discovery through Advanced Computing) program awarded the grant to Giulia Galli, a professor in the Department of Chemistry. Galli’s project will study ways to simulate the behavior of atoms using the fundamental laws of quantum mechanics and working up to simulate materials and chemical reactions.

Psychology professor Gail Goodman and Dr. Yoojin Chae received $10,000 for research on attachment and memory and children. Goodman and Michael Lawler, the director of the Center for Human Services at UC Extension, received an additional $300,000 from the California Department of Social Services for the Center for Public Policy Research.

Lori Lubin, associate professor in physics, was awarded two grants totaling over $130,000 for her work on superclusters, specifically in gas, stars, starbirth, and active galaxy population.

Mathematics professor Alexander Mogilner has received a subcontract from the National Institutes of Health worth over $540,000 for work on producing mathematical models related to cell migration.

Sociology professor Vicki Smith received a $28,500 Spencer Foundation grant for her study of high school counselors. The research examines how public high school counselors’ jobs are shaped by the socio-economic and demographic status of the students they work with, by differential school resources, parental involvement, and changing norms of the counseling profession.

Psychology professor Ross Thompson was awarded a $50,000 grant from the California Department of Education for the California Preschool Learning Standards and Benchmarks Project, which develops a broad-based set of developmental benchmarks for California three- and four-year-olds.
Physics professor Xiangdong Zhu and distinguished chemistry professor Alan Balch each received $80,000 awards from the American Chemical Society.

**LATEST PERFORMANCES, EXHIBITS AND WORKS**

Working with the Davis Arts Commission and its staff leader, Esther Polito, the Nelson Gallery, headed by director Renny Pritiken, has been commissioned by the City of Davis to organize a public art series, with a budget of $20,000. Five site-specific temporary installation pieces and a parallel series of three, one-day events will take place. Participating artists will be selected from the Bay Area and the Davis/Sacramento region. The festival will take place in the spring of 2007 in downtown Davis; public sites are yet to be determined.

Robin Hill, associate professor of art, exhibited at the University Gallery at California State University, Stanislaus. The show, titled New Works: Multiplying the Variations, features sculptures, installations and cyanotypes, and reflects the artist’s engagement with elements that flow, divide, accumulate and dissipate.

In October, Jade McCutcheon, assistant professor in theatre and dance, directed Myth, Propaganda and Disaster in Nazi Germany and Contemporary America by award-winning Australian playwright Stephen Sewell, which played to sold-out houses in the Mondavi Center Studio Theatre. Set in the humanities department of a New York university, the play presents a compelling and disturbing view of the creeping erosion of democratic rights in the U.S. “In Australia, Stephen Sewell is on the political edge,” said McCutcheon. “This play represents only one view – an extreme one perhaps – of the events of 9/11 and subsequent

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**Geologist Appointed Senior Fellow**

Ray J. Shlemon was appointed Senior Fellow of the Division of Mathematical and Physical Sciences. Shlemon, a former UC Davis professor, is a self-employed applied geologist, doing environmental consulting for clients in Southern California, the nation and across the globe. Shlemon has been highly influential in looking out for the future of geological sciences by promoting and supporting the applications of geology to societal problems.

Shlemon was a major force in helping communities and government agencies throughout the west reduce the impact from landslides, floods and earthquakes. He has already demonstrated the important link between education and real-world issues in geology by creating the Roy J. Shlemon Endowed Chair in Applied Geosciences roughly ten years ago. When he endowed that chair, he emphasized that he hoped it would strengthen the important link between the university and various constituencies who need more knowledge about the effects of geological processes such as farmers, groundwater hydrologists, geological consultants and civil engineers. Shlemon’s appointment will further strengthen this effort by making his expertise more readily available to our faculty and students.

Winston Ko, dean of the Division of Mathematical and Physical Sciences, praised the appointment.

“I am pleased to have Ray Shlemon join us as a senior fellow,” he said. “He has an established record of innovation and transformational impact in applied geosciences. I look forward to his continuing interactions with the geology program leading to further advances and innovations.”

Shlemon is already a research associate for the geology department. His new role will allow him to have even stronger ties to the department – interacting with faculty and students, and enhancing connections between the department and the environmental geology community.
History Professor Wins Top Scholarly Prize

Louis Warren, the W. Turrentine Jackson Professor of Western U.S. History, has been awarded the 2006 Beveridge Prize from the American Historical Association for his 2005 book, *Buffalo Bill’s America: William Cody and the Wild West Show*. The association, which is the nation’s largest and oldest historical society, gives the prize to promote and honor the best book on the history of the United States, Latin America or Canada, from 1492 to the present. The prize is considered to be the nation’s top scholarly prize for writing the history of the Americas. This year, over 200 books were submitted for the prize.

“The Beveridge Prize is a great honor,” said Warren. “My path has been made much easier by the trailblazing work of people like the late W. Turrentine ‘Turpie’ Jackson, who taught for many years at UC Davis; Mike Harrison, the independent scholar and collector who recently left the UC Davis library his enormous collection of western Americana; and many others. The fact that the history of the American West is now one of the premier areas of historical inquiry in the world owes much to the efforts of such scholars, and I see this prize as a reflection on all of them as much as it honors my work.”

With Warren’s prize, the history department now houses two Beveridge Prize winners, a rarity for a history department anywhere in the country. The first Beveridge Prize winner in the department was Alan Taylor, who won in 1996 (and subsequently won a Pulitzer Prize) for his work *William Cooper’s Town: Power and Persuasion on the Frontier of the Early American Republic*.

Earlier in the fall, the book won the Western History Association Caughey Prize. The Caughey Western Association Book Prize is given annually for the most distinguished book on the history of the American West.
For today's undergraduate and graduate students, it is no longer enough to study the economics or politics of a single region. A variety of forces, including the events of 9/11, the growing urgency of climate-change issues, and the proliferation of the internet, have led to an unprecedented demand for courses, majors and research that emphasize a multinational view of the world. Today's UC Davis students expect an education that will make them culturally literate global citizens.

Steven Sheffrin, dean of the Division of Social Sciences, says the college recognized this new shift and responded quickly through new programs and refocusing faculty on a multilateral approach to their research and education.

“Our faculty have infused internationalization through all aspects of their teaching and research,” he said. “This mirrors global trends. At some point, everything we do will have an international dimension.”

BEYOND BORDERS

The growing student interest in global issues is perhaps most evident in the phenomenal growth in popularity of the international relations major, which has nearly doubled in enrollment in the past decade. The major focuses on the political, cultural, health and welfare, environmental and linguistic aspects of nations and nationalities, and even includes a track that requires students to study abroad in order to graduate. Five years ago, this major, which now includes more than 700 students, didn’t make the top 10 list of most popular undergraduate majors. Today, it ranks as number eight.

“Students are more attuned to the global problems that characterize modern international relations,” said Zeev Maoz, the director of the international relations program and professor of political science. As interest in the major has grown, he says, “Our faculty members are responding to this, creating more opportunities to learn this field and diversify their expertise. And, we are building bridges across international campuses.”

Among those bridges are new partnerships with universities around the world. International relations, the Humanities Institute and the design department have all teamed up with international counterparts, offering exchange programs as well as online courses with students from other countries all over the world.

Pablo Ortiz, director of the Humanities Institute and professor of music composition, has observed the shift in student interest and responded. He and another professor take students abroad for a quarter to Cuba and Argentina.

“It’s a matter of survival. We really need to emphasize cultural fluency and global...
awareness in our education here,” he said. “Unless we emphasize cultural sensitivity, we will not be able to widen our international scope. The study of other cultures opens up so many worlds and ways of perceiving and understanding. It helps to understand our own country.”

And, such programs are preparing undergraduates for careers in countless fields, says Zeev Maoz.

“After graduating, our students are pursuing academic tracks at other universities, they are going to public policy programs that have international aspects, and even getting their Ph.D.s in related fields such as anthropology, sociology and economics,” he said. “Their understanding of how the world works moves them into policy jobs with international implications, even local government with foreign contracts.”

FROM EARTHQUAKES TO ENVIRONMENTAL FOOTPRINTS

As student demand for a widened global outlook increases, faculty members and researchers in the College of Letters and Science have responded quickly in all areas of the college. From groundbreaking research on global warming and earthquake/tsunami prediction in the Division of Mathematical and Physical Sciences, to new programs in regional areas of study in the Division of Social Sciences, students can gain new cultural fluency within traditional programs.

Many faculty members are helping to create new strengths in their departments. For instance, Robert Feenstra, the C. Bryan Cameron Distinguished Chair in International Economics, and Wing Thye Woo of UC Davis and the Brookings Institute, have helped boost the international economics program to national renown.

In the design program, now housed in the Division of Humanities, Arts and Cultural Studies, associate professor Ann Savageau is emphasizing sustainable design, a relatively new field with global implications.

“As our environmental footprint continues to grow, and global warming is more and more apparent, using our resources in a sustainable manner is what will save our world,” she said. “If we don’t work on becoming more environmentally friendly in areas such as design, we will perish.”

Even study in domestic areas has seen the ripple effect of globalization, says Susan Mann, chair of the history department.

“We are opening a view into the wider world through student programs and study abroad, but the second avenue for this is through the changing scope of our own faculty’s scholarship,” she said. “Many of our U.S historians, for example, are interested in borderlands and the diverse cultures within the U.S., and these interests come through in their teaching and in their research. Students studying the colonial U.S., for example, now have a multicultural education, thanks to the perspectives of scholars like Alan Taylor and John Smolenski.”

In order to expand their international focus, says Mann, many faculty travel abroad for research in archives, libraries and field sites. They participate in scholarly conferences outside the United States, increasingly in Asia, Africa, Latin American and Europe. And Mann, who studies women and gender relations in 18th and 19th century China, also urges her students to study abroad, learn foreign language, and work in another country in the summer or after graduation.
“For me, the most important reason to study another culture is to enrich your understanding of your own culture, and with it, to stretch your mind to see a fuller range of human possibilities,” she said.

NEW PROGRAMS ABOUND

Some of the new global offerings are in fact university-wide programs housed at the college, such as the Second Language Acquisition Institute, which researches how people learn language and how to effectively teach foreign languages. Interdisciplinary in nature, the institute brings together students and researchers in African American and African studies, psychology, linguistics and the many languages taught at the university.

The college is also teaching a growing number of languages to undergraduates. Thanks to a grant from the federal department of education, the Middle East/South Asia studies program started teaching Arabic and Hindi/Urdu this year.

Another new program, which incorporates language as well as other disciplines in culture, economics and politics, is a new graduate designated emphasis in the African American and African Studies program. With its emphasis on a comparative study of black communities around the world, the African American and African Studies Program seeks to design classes that encourage students to engage the world at large. And students who take courses in the program quickly gain a sense of the complexity of the world and of the people who inhabit it, says Moradewun Adejunmobi, the program’s director.

“Students learn to confront the complexity of our world, and of different cultures in the world, without being frightened or threatened by it,” she said. “In my teaching, I’m most interested in the moments of cultural encounter. I encourage students to think about those moments of encounter in their lives, and about their own reactions to such experiences. There is a dynamism about all cultural interactions. Interacting with people of different cultures changes us, even as the cultures themselves are changing.”

A major goal in African American and African studies is offering students more opportunity to travel. Students from across campus are able to take advantage of many opportunities through the department, taking summer classes in Ghana, Africa as well as Trinidad and Tobago. Graduate students from both the sciences and humanities can also apply for summer travel grants awarded by the committee of Africanists on campus, working in collaboration with the African American and African Studies Program.

“The current generation of students has a thirst and desire to understand the whole world,” said Adejunmobi. “The information is there, thanks to the internet, and students have an expectation to learn more. And they aren’t satisfied with television sound bites. They want to go see the places themselves.”

GROWING SUPPORT

The need for an expanded global focus has created a need for more student funding to take advantage of new programs. While the internet and remote learning advance global understanding for students and faculty, travel is still the number one way for

“For me, the most important reason to study another culture is to enrich your understanding of your own culture, and with it, to stretch your mind to see a fuller range of human possibilities,” she said.

Susan Mann, Department Chair and Professor of History
Grants and private donations have contributed tremendously to the ability of departments to provide critical international opportunities to students and faculty. Meanwhile, some donors are taking the initiative and creating new scholarships specifically for students studying abroad.

One scholarship was established by former university administrator Carolyn F. Wall, who created it as a seed fund for additional donors to contribute to, supporting students in need who are interested in travel outside the United States. These scholarships offer immeasurable benefits for students, many of whom cannot afford to travel without these extra funds.

Alumni, too, support this new focus in different ways. Many return to campus to talk with students about their experiences post-graduation and the applications that an international focus can have on their careers. Others find a cause to champion, and work with programs to make that happen, such as the Friends of Middle East/South Asia Studies and the Friends of Jewish Studies.

One fact is certain. The growing cultural fluency that students seek will only expand in importance. In response, the university boundaries no longer end in Davis, or California, or even the nation. They move constantly across the globe, creating new connections with cultures and people that will last for generations.
DONORS
Making a difference

Every day, donors to the College of Letters and Science make a difference in the college’s students, programs, research and instruction. The stories in these pages are just a few of the many ways that donors are truly impacting the college and UC Davis.

ALUMNUS CREATES TWO ECONOMICS SCHOLARSHIPS

Tim Sweetland, (B.A., Economics, ’82) knows that success in business isn’t just about the numbers.

“The ability to communicate is vital,” says Sweetland, president and CEO of Forbes Industries, the country’s leading manufacturer of hotel and restaurant equipment and audio-visual furniture.

For that reason, Sweetland has made a gift of $40,000 to create two scholarships for economics students. One is earmarked for a student with financial need. The other is designated specifically for a student who has taken both economics and communications courses.

Sweetland has seen firsthand the importance of communication skills. While his work in economics helped him build analytical abilities as an undergraduate, it was the communications courses he took, particularly those taught by Senior Lecturer Emeritus John Vohs, that continue to help him on a daily basis as he runs his family’s businesses.

“My education contributed mightily to my success,” he says.

Sweetland’s career path took him from UC Davis to the University of Washington, where he earned his M.B.A., and then to First Interstate Bank of California. These experiences prepared him to join his family’s business, in the position of controller of Forbes Industries. Eventually he rose to the top job, and also became president and CEO of Winsford Corp., the holding company which owns Forbes Industries.

In 2004, Sweetland’s path led back to the university, where he joined the Young Society.

“I’m at a place in my life where I can do it. I’m at a time in my life where I want to do it. There is a structure at Davis where my Young Society contributions and scholarship gift can be administered in a fashion where I’ll feel good about it and a lot of people will benefit in a lot of ways.”

RARE WHISTLER PRINTS DONATED

Most UC Davis art students are already familiar with the painting commonly known as “Whistler’s Mother” (actually titled “Arrangement in Gray and Black: Portrait of the Artist’s Mother”). Now, they’ll have the first-hand opportunity to view and study many of the famed James A. McNeill Whistler’s other works. Jeffrey Ruesch (B.A., Art and History, ’69), who died in 2003, has bequeathed his important collection of 60 Whistler lithographs to UC Davis.

After graduating from Davis, Ruesch earned a master’s at the University of Pennsylvania and a Ph.D. at Columbia. His academic training prepared him for a career as a distinguished art dealer in New York. He began to collect the Whistler
lithographs shortly after he graduated from UC Davis. His parents had given him a print by Toulouse Lautrec when he graduated, and he subsequently sold it to purchase a Whistler lithograph. He spent the next 30 years of his life assembling his collection.

“UC Davis – and Richard Nelson, to some significant degree – were fundamental in Jeff’s career and in cultivating his passion for art,” said his friend Dennis Carlton [B.A., Political Science, ’69]. “This gift of his collection of Whistler lithographs is pursuant to a decision made by Jeffrey before he became ill. It was what he wanted. Jeffrey would say that it is ‘good.’”

Ruesch’s wish was to have his Whistler collection become a permanent part of the UC Davis art collection, so it could be used as a resource for students and faculty, said Ruesch’s counsel, Monique Luchetti, who worked on finalizing Ruesch’s gift to the university after his death.

“A collection of any kind is a testament to the collector and for me this collection of Whistlers discloses much about Jeffrey Ruesch,” Luchetti said. “The same grace and elegance that emanates from these works could be found in him. For those of us who knew and loved Jeffrey, this collection is his most personal legacy, evoking Jeffrey’s spirit and honoring his memory.”

An exhibition of the etchings opened at the Nelson Gallery in January. For more information, visit http://nelson-gallery.ucdavis.edu/.


The new Peter A. Rock Graduate Fellowship in Chemistry honors the memory of Peter Rock, founding dean of the Division of Mathematical and Physical Sciences. Rock, who died in June, joined the faculty in 1964 and made many important contributions to the university community. His wife, M. Elaine Rock, along with family, friends and colleagues, have contributed nearly $35,000 to endow a new fellowship to support one or more chemistry graduate students, based on academic merit and research promise in the area of physical chemistry.

**M U S I C T O T H E I R E A R S**

All students majoring in music are required to take private music lessons, an expense which adds to the financial strain of college. The new Marta Belen Music Fund will assist these students by helping to pay for private lessons. Donated by David Hutchinson of UC Davis Health System, the $14,000 gift honors Hutchinson’s wife, Marta Belen, a major opera singer.

**G I F T H E L P S F U N D C U R R E N T N E E D S**

Through the generosity of Carolyn and Timothy Ferris and the Swig Foundation, the Benjamin H. Swig College Excellence Fund will continue to fund outstanding programs in the College of Letters and Science. Over the next two years, $30,000 will be allocated to the Young Society, providing the deans funds for high priority programs and opportunities, and to specific areas in the Department of History, the cosmology program in physics and the M.F.A. program in art to support students and faculty.
A History of Giving

By Jo Shroyer

Emilio Bejel and Greg Gibbs have a history of quiet, generous giving. From adopting families during the holidays to refurbishing the bedroom of an elderly woman who lost everything in a fire, the two men have always found a way to secretly share their own good fortune, without asking for any thanks in return.

So, it is hardly surprising that they now have decided to establish a trust that will fund graduate fellowships and undergraduate scholarships for UC Davis students who are interested in diversity, multiculturalism and ethnic studies.

Bejel, chair of the Spanish department at UC Davis, and Gibbs, Director of Development for the UC Davis College of Engineering, hope that their gift will contribute to the integration of diverse and marginalized groups into American culture. The graduate fellowship is for the Department of Spanish, while the undergraduate scholarships will support students from a range of disciplines. “We wanted it to be broad enough that someone in pre-med, agriculture, education, literature or engineering, for example, could use it to good purpose,” Gibbs said.

Bejel and Gibbs will never know the recipients of their generosity, there will be no opportunities for thanks. But, of course, that’s not the point.

Bejel would like to help students in the way that American programs helped him as an 18-year-old Cuban immigrant in 1962. It was an act of faith and an investment in his future that he has worked hard to honor and repay through a productive career as an educator, writer and scholar.

“He came here with nothing but what he was wearing and literally a dime in his pocket,” Gibbs explained. Bejel left his family behind in Cuba and wouldn’t see them again for 16 years. “He came here alone; he didn’t speak English,” Gibbs added.

Nevertheless, in eight years, Bejel managed to learn English, graduate from high school, earn a Ph.D. and begin his first job as an assistant professor. “My mother had set the example,” Bejel said. When he was six years old, his mother went to Columbia University in New York City to get a master’s degree in English, specializing in Shakespeare. “In the 1950s, for a woman from a small town in Cuba to do this – that’s a big deal.”

For Bejel, whose family were all teachers, studying hard was second nature. In Florida, he went to school year-round to expedite his dream of becoming a professor, doing various jobs, like picking tomatoes in South Florida, to make ends meet.

Gibbs’ motivation to establish the trust was likewise influenced by his family’s values. “My parents made sure all five of us children got through college,” noted Gibbs, who graduated from the U.S. Air Force Academy. He served seven years in the Air Force before leaving to work in the corporate world. “My parents made sure we wouldn’t have to work during college, so that we could concentrate on our studies and graduate in four years,” Gibbs explained. “Not everyone has the same advantage, so we would like to provide it.” Like Bejel, he is passionately interested in diversity, multiculturalism and equal opportunity.

Both men are deeply grateful for the warm welcome they have received from UC Davis and for the sense of community that is the hallmark of the town and university. “We were embraced by this place and felt at home right away,” Gibbs said.

So, the couple has decided to leave their entire estate to UC Davis with the hope that their legacy will be the preparation of future generations working for a more inclusive society. “In this way,” Bejel said, “We won’t ever really die.”
L&S Researchers Break Ground in Studies of Ice Age, Global Warming, Ovarian Cancer

BY CHRISTINE LARSON

A growing awareness of the outstanding research accomplishments of UC Davis faculty has led to a record-breaking level of research support for two years in a row. At the Division of Mathematical and Physical Sciences, research funding has grown 20 percent since last year, reaching more than $21 million for the fiscal year of 2005-2006.

The journeys of discovery made possible by these funds are improving our understanding of medicine, geology and many other disciplines. What follows is a look at important recent discoveries by members of the College of Letters and Science.

Early Detection of Ovarian Cancer

Some 20,000 women in the U.S. are diagnosed with ovarian cancer every year. Although the disease can be successfully treated in its early stages, the cancer often remains undetected until too late. Almost 75 percent of women with ovarian cancer die from the disease.

Researchers in the division of Mathematical and Physical Sciences are striving to improve the odds. Led by Carlito Lebrilla, professor in the Departments of Chemistry and Biochemistry and Molecular Medicine, and Suzanne Miyamoto from the Division of Hematology and Oncology at UC Davis Cancer Center, a team of UC Davis scientists have found 15 biological markers that could help diagnose the disease at a much earlier stage.

In their study published this summer by the Journal of Proteome Research, the researchers wrote that they had analyzed the blood of women both with and without ovarian cancer, looking at chains of sugar, or “oligosaccharides,” attached to proteins secreted by cancer cells. They found 15 unique markers produced by cancer cells in the blood of patients with ovarian cancer. The researchers now plan to conduct larger clinical studies to test their findings.

Tiny Prehistoric Animals Offer Clues to Climate Change

Microscopic fossils of plankton-like animals are helping researchers at UC Davis make ground-breaking discoveries about the mechanics of climate change.
In October, the journal *Nature* published a paper by lead author Matthew Schmidt, who completed work as a graduate student at UC Davis, writing with Maryline Vautravers of Cambridge University and Howard Spero, professor of geology at UC Davis. The three reconstructed a record of ocean temperature and salinity from 45,000–60,000 years ago by testing the chemical makeup of fossilized shells from planktonic animals found in deep sea sediment cores. This chemical analysis provided a record of how salty oceans were in the north Atlantic during the last ice age.

Their research showed that the Atlantic got saltier during cold periods and fresher during several intervals of sudden warming, when temperatures in Greenland rose by five to 10 degrees Celsius over a few decades. The warmer freshening periods seem to be linked to rainfall patterns in the tropics.

“Suddenly, we’re looking at a record that links moisture balance in the tropics to climate change,” Spero said. “The most striking thing is that a measurable transition is happening over decades.”

The research suggests that currents in the North Atlantic, which help keep Europe temperate, are very sensitive, and that warmer temperatures, higher rainfall and fresher conditions can alter the circulation. The research also suggests that ocean salinity is very sensitive to climate change and could change rapidly.

“The salinity of the north Atlantic is the canary of the climate system,” Spero said.

**Ocean Methane Linked to Global Warming**

UC Davis geologist Tessa Hill recently discovered a link between global temperature peaks and methane released from the ocean 16,000 and 10,000 years ago. In August, Hill and other researchers published the results of their study of ocean tar in the online version of the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the U.S.A.*

In oceans around the world, natural petroleum seeps from the ocean floor, releasing oil and methane gas into the ocean. Some of the methane bubbles up and out of the sea, adding to the greenhouse gasses in the earth’s atmosphere. The oil breaks down into tar and sinks into the marine sediment layer. Hill’s research shows a link between methane seepage and increased temperatures in the Earth’s atmosphere.

Hill was part of a research team that sampled ocean sediments off California. By measuring the amount of tar in sediments from the past 30,000 years, they were able to track the amount of methane released into the environment.

“Tar deposition lines up with significant periods of warming,” Hill said. Her research has implications for today’s climate changes. Although methane seepage from the oceans has remained stable for the past several thousand years, an increase in global temperatures could accelerate methane release. That, in turn, could contribute to a cycle that would speed climate change.

While more research remains to be done, Hill told *ScienceNow*, a publication of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, “This is a source of methane that we might have assumed in the past was stable. As it turns out, it’s very sensitive to climate change. I would anticipate that it would be sensitive to climate change in the future as well.”
Kwang-Ching Liu
Professor Emeritus, History

Kwang-Ching Liu, a UC Davis professor emeritus of history considered by many to be the foremost historian of 19th century China, died of a heart attack in his Davis home Sept. 28 at the age of 84.

Best known for his work on 19th century Chinese social and political history, Professor Liu was a pioneer in the study of foreign business interests in China when unequal treaty rights ruled.

Liu’s interests included Sino-American relations, the history of Christian missions, power relations within the late dynastic governmental order, the intellectual and political dimensions of statecraft and modernization, and the historiography of peasant rebellions.

He contributed three chapters to the authoritative “Cambridge History of China,” and together with John K. Fairbank, one of the most prominent American scholars of East Asia in the 20th century, co-edited Vol. 11. Fairbank, a Harvard professor, considered Liu to be “the foremost historian of 19th century China.”

His efforts in 1972-73 as negotiator and intermediary were instrumental in arranging financial support from the American Council of Learned Societies for the photographing and publication of voluminous historical archives in the National Palace Museum, Taiwan. These have become an indispensable resource for students of the Qing dynasty throughout the world.

Liu served as a member of the Joint Committee on Sino-American Cooperation in Humanities and Social Sciences of the American Council of Learned Societies and the Social Science Research Council. He was associate editor of the Journal of Asian Studies, member of the editorial board of the Tsinghua Journal of Chinese Studies, and served on the editorial committee of the University of California Press.

Born in Beijing, China, to Juen-yeh Liu and Ik-hwa Chen, on Nov. 14, 1921, Liu came from a distinguished family. One of his grandfathers, Chen Baozhen, served as imperial tutor, among other important posts.

He was raised in Foochow, where his father sent him to a Methodist missionary school and saw to it that he learned English early under an American tutor.

A flight over the Himalayas and a troop ship voyage brought him to California and then to Harvard, in 1943. Graduating magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa in 1945, he continued in the History Department’s doctoral program. He was interested in Western history, and published his first article, originally a seminar paper for Sidney Fay, in the 1946 Journal of Modern History, on “German Fear of a Quadruple Alliance.”

Then, heeding his adviser, he switched to Chinese history, under the direction of his mentor and later colleague, Fairbank. He received his doctorate in 1956, shortly after completing a six-year stint as Chinese translator for the United Nations Secretariat. He remained at Harvard as research fellow and instructor until 1962, when he went to Yale as visiting associate professor.

In 1963, he came to UC Davis, his academic home for the next 30 years. At Davis, he took the lead in building up Chinese and East Asian studies, developing the faculty in Chinese and Japanese history as well as in language programs and other disciplines, raising funds for research and faculty expansion, and training more than a score of graduate students.

UC Davis history professor Don Price remembered Liu as unparalleled as a mentor in directing his students to rich resources for dissertation research, in arranging support for their study, in providing them with exposure in the academic world, and in furthering their subsequent careers.

As one of those students wrote recently, Liu was “a wise, patient, generous, and kind man,” altogether unstinting with his time as adviser, critic and friend. Scholarship was pursued inside and outside his classroom, and discussion in many evening seminars was continued over beers in one of the local pubs, or in frequent social gatherings at his house.

EXHIBIT BRINGS CONTROVERSIAL THEMES TO LIGHT

An exhibit at the C.N. Gorman Museum this fall questioned America’s continuous pursuit of natural resources, specifically land, gold and oil. The exhibition came together as a collaborative curatorial project with the C.N. Gorman Museum and the McMaster Museum of Art. Featuring four bodies of work that narrate the past and present, the participating artists shared a common goal: to communicate meaning through an array of materials and objects.

In the exhibit, artist Frank Shebageget considered the role of the deHavilland Beaver floatplane as the first means for colonial access to the interior regions of Canada by hand-carving 87 of the planes to swarm the space. L. Frank Manriquez also looked at colonial occupation in her installation, filled with beautiful Native California natural and cultural objects, all of which are blanketed in plastic cockroaches each bearing their own US flag. Tanis Maria S’eltin confronted past and present U.S. aggression in the pursuit of oil in Alaska and Iraq through her multi-media installation. Nadia Myre focused upon the Canadian Indian Act; the 56-page document was covered in beads through group beading sessions, in Native tradition. Each of the artists challenges historical moments to present a contemporary indigenous political perspective.

NEW YEAR OF VISITING ARTIST LECTURERS

Each year, the art department invites lecturers to come to campus to discuss their work in the world of art. Open to the public and free of charge, the lecture series provides students with an opportunity to engage with practicing studio artists, critics or curators first hand. It provides faculty with a forum for exchange on current research topics, and builds bridges with colleagues at other institutions and geographical areas. And, alumni and art patrons enjoy hearing a unique perspective in art.

Previous years have included sculptor Robert Irwin, painter Terry Winters, New York Times critic Ken Johnson, painter William Wiley, and curator Rob Storr. The spring lineup of lecturers are also from a variety of career backgrounds, from a painter who is also an associate dean at Yale University, to another painter who is a feminist art critic, as well as a UC Davis art alumnus who is now a sculptor.

To receive information about upcoming artists, please send an email to rhill@ucdavis.edu with the words “subscribe to art lecture series listserv” in the subject line.

MUSICAL COMPOSITION CREATED FOR PROFESSOR EMERITUS WAYNE THIEBAUD

Famed artist and art professor emeritus Wayne Thiebaud was honored on October 15 at the Mondavi Center with a composition by conductor André Previn. Commissioned by the Sacramento Philharmonic, Previn crafted a work, _Night Thoughts_, exclusively to honor Thiebaud. The tribute concert featured the new composition, with the Sacramento Philharmonic led by conductor Michael Morgan performing the piece for Thiebaud.

Thiebaud is best known for his paintings of gumballs, cream cakes, pies, candy apples and California landscapes. The reception after the concert, hosted by Chancellor Larry Vanderhoef, featured cakes created in the likeness of Thiebaud’s own works, including a hamburger, a hot dog, cakes and pies.
ALUMNUS ADDRESSES STUDENTS ON INHERITING TOMORROW’S WORLD

Angel Martinez (B.A., Rhetoric, ’77) was the first speaker in the new College of Letters and Science Speaker Series this fall. But the current CEO of Deckers Outdoor Corporation, who made his mark at Reebok in the 1980s when he saw the business opportunity in designing athletic footwear for women, didn’t talk about his many accomplishments in business.

Addressing a 100+ audience consisting of students, alumni, and the general public, the speaker chose to talk about how it is within anyone’s power to make a difference in the world. While he was at Reebok, he worked with the company to launch the Reebok Human Rights Award, an award to an outstanding individual under the age of 30 who makes a significant impact on human rights throughout the world. In fact, Reebok was the first of any United States company to do a third party assessment of the work conditions in their factories – and change the conditions that were rated poorly.

Stressing the importance of the impact that anyone can make, Martinez described his current work at Deckers, which oversees the shoe brands Simple, Teva and Ugg.

“Beyond the business of making and selling footwear, what are we here to do?” Martinez asked his staff.

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 1-4, 8-11
Man of La Mancha
By Dale Wasserman
Main Theatre

March 9
R. Bryan Miller Symposium
ARC Ballroom

March 11
UC Davis Symphony Orchestra, D. Kern Holoman, conducting, with the University Chorus and Alumni Chorus, Suzanne Elder Wallace, guest conductor
Beethoven: Symphony no 9;
Handel: Organ Concerto in B-flat Major, op. 4, no. 2, with Martin Neary, artist-in-residence
Jackson Hall, Mondavi Center

March 29 – May 20
Majestic Tapestries of Magnolia Editions
Richard L. Nelson Gallery

April 3 – June 14, 2007
Understandably Connected:
Melanie Yazzie, Noelle Jakeman, Julie Tipene
C.N. Gorman Museum

April 12
Mira Schor, Visiting Artist Lecturer
University Club

April 14
Letters and Science Picnic Day Luncheon
Andrews Conference Room, Social Sciences & Humanities Building

April 18
Letters and Science Speakers Series
Corporate Leadership Panel
Buehler Alumni Visitors Center, AGR Hall

May 3
College Celebration
ARC Ballroom
By invitation

May 6
San Francisco Opera Adler Fellows and UC Davis Symphony Orchestra and University Chorus, D. Kern Holoman, conducting
Bizet: Carmen
Jackson Hall, Mondavi Center

May 23-26; May 31-June 3
Stories Through Needle and Thread
Design Museum

May 30
Empyrean Ensemble: New Music from Davis
Main Theatre

June 5-6
7th Annual UC Davis Film Festival
Main Theatre

Karin Higgins/UC Davis

Alumnus Angel Martinez, speaking to a crowd of students, alumni and the general public, on October 16 as the first of the Letters and Science Speaker Series.
That constant question has launched major programs with their shoe brands: Teva with the Waterkeeper Alliance, Ugg with St. Jude’s Hospital, and Simple to create a sustainable shoe product.

“My guardian, who raised me, always told me to do what comes easily to me,” Martinez said to the audience. “Everyone in this room has gifts. At times, we ignore these gifts and replace our efforts with something else. That’s not a good idea.”

When asked about the most valuable courses he took at UC Davis, along with his rhetoric and communications courses, Martinez cited his psychology and history courses – psychology to help him manage and history to be analytical in a non-linear way.

DELVING INTO THE DRAMATIC ART OF PUPPETS

Dale Wasserman’s musical Man of La Mancha will be recreated this spring at UC Davis’ Main Theatre. But the actors are joined by some unusual visitors – life-size puppets representing the characters in Don Quixote’s fantasy world. The musical features Don Miguel de Cervantes, author of the novel Don Quixote, and his manservant being thrown into a 17th century Seville prison to await trial by the Spanish Inquisition. It shows prisoners who hold a trial of their own to determine if Cervantes’ possessions will be confiscated and distributed amongst themselves. Cervantes presents his defense in the form of a play, using prisoners as part of the performance.

In the puppet version of Man of La Mancha, alumnus Art Grueneberger (M.F.A., Dramatic Arts, ’06) has Cervantes equipping the prisoners with life-size puppets to represent the characters in his story. “For many years I’ve dreamed of mounting a full-scale production of Man of La Mancha,” he said. “In March, my dream becomes a reality at UC Davis.”

Grueneberger, who owns Puppet Art Theater Company, a puppetry business that does 400 shows per year, had been thinking for many years that Man of La Mancha would lend itself to puppetry.

“Puppetry is a very old way of performing the dramatic arts,” he said. “During my master’s study, I went to London to study Shakespeare. At the time Shakespeare and Cervantes were writing, puppets were used in traveling shows, and Cervantes was a traveling actor. It’s very plausible that Cervantes actually used puppets to represent the characters in Don Quixote.”

While Grueneberger’s company makes its money through introducing the world of puppets to children, he is challenged and excited to have the chance to transform an adult audience with his team’s performance. He enlisted students, both undergraduate and graduate, to work with the puppets during the performance as well. Working with the students has been inspiring, Grueneberger said. He tested a small version of the musical with the puppets operated by UC Davis students in the spring to great success, and looks forward to working with the students again.

“The best part about preparing for the spring performance was to see the progression of the talent,” he said. “I could see the students’ frustration to move one puppet with three people, but by the last week, the puppetry teams were walking around in sync without the puppets, intuitively in contact with each other. The puppets come to life so much better by the end of their work.”

Man of La Mancha will be performed at the Main Theatre on March 1–4 and 8–11. Tickets can be purchased through the Mondavi Center Ticket Office, (530) 754-2787 or 1-866-754-ARTS.
Sculpture Garden Commissions Art Alumnus

The country’s oldest sculpture garden, the 9,100 acre Brookgreen Gardens of South Carolina, is now home to four important new works by award-winning sculptor Babette Bloch, (B.A., Art Studio, ’77).

The works invoke South Carolina’s slave-driven agricultural heritage, with nine foot high figures depicting an enslaved African man and woman, an overseer, and plantation owner Joshua John Ward. Ward owned the land that Brookgreen Gardens now occupies.

“For the first six months, I did nothing but research,” says Bloch. Bloch studied the people who lived on the plantation as well as clothing, tools and other artifacts of the period.

Commissioned specifically for the site, the works are made of laser-cut stainless steel, allowing visitors to see through the figures to the landscape beyond.

“There’s an ethereal quality to them, so you walk the land and feel what happened there,” she says. “They’re ghosts of the land and reminders of times past.”

Bloch started her undergraduate work at the University of Wisconsin, but her strong interest in ceramics soon led her to UC Davis, where influential teachers like Robert Arneson, Manuel Neri and Wayne Thiebaud were creating a stir.

“Thiebaud had a huge effect on me in learning how to see and draw, and really pushing us to develop the fundamentals,” Bloch says. “He taught by example and by showing us what excited him. He was a very honest teacher.”

Bloch later studied at the San Francisco Art Institute and New York’s School of Visual Arts.

Today, Bloch lives with her husband, sculptor Marc Mellon, and their two daughters in Redding, Connecticut. Her work has been exhibited in many galleries across the country.

Although she has not returned to Davis in many years, she remembers it fondly. “It was an exciting time to be a student at Davis in the art department. The undergraduate students, graduate students and faculty communicated well and we all learned from each other. It wasn’t high tech, but we were all enjoying making art.”

Alumnus Stars on Survivor

This fall, Cecilia Mansilla, who graduated from UC Davis in 2000 with a major in international relations and minors in Japanese and Spanish literature, found herself living in a hut with a group of total strangers. Cast in the most recent season of Survivor, this technology risk consultant at Ernst and Young spent three weeks in the Cook Islands. Initially, the players were divided by race, with Cecilia, a Peruvian native who moved to California at the age of 16, joining the Latino tribe. Although voted off the island in episode three, Cecilia says she’ll never forget the lessons she learned during her time there.

How did you end up on the show?

I had auditioned for the Amazing Race, but didn’t make the final rounds. Then one night, I got a call from the casting director for Survivor, who asked if I wanted to do it. I was on a plane the next day to L.A. for interviews. I didn’t watch the show, so it was something I never strived or planned for, but I’m so happy that it happened.

How did you persuade your office to let you take time off?

I was not allowed to tell anybody I was going to be on the show, so I told my work that I was participating in a program where I would be traveling abroad, living in a community and learning new skills. They took that to mean it was some Peace Corps-type work. They were very surprised and happy for me when I was able to tell them it was for the show.

How did it feel to be living on a desert island?

It was interesting to see how easily people adjust
This season, the tribes were initially divided by race. What did you think of that?

I was excited about it. It gave households a chance to see more diversity on TV and realize that people are people. Regardless of people’s color, you’re going to become close and form alliances. It added pressure to be careful and respect people’s opinions and differences, but I think casting did a good job finding people who were open-minded and diverse.

How did it feel to be voted off?

It was disappointing, but overall I had an amazing experience. I was able to be on reality TV and not make a fool of myself. I think I came off with some dignity and class, and I made some really close friends.

Did your time at Davis prepare you for Survivor?

Definitely. My major was in international relations and how fitting that is for a game where people were coming from so many different backgrounds. In my political science classes, I learned that people are people and will make decisions based on their feelings of the moment. This game really needed people who embraced diversity and differences in culture, and in fact, there were a couple of other people with international studies in their backgrounds as well.

My time at Davis was one of the happiest times of my life. To the students there now, I would say, really enjoy it, because once you’re out of school, you’ll cherish the memories.

Do you think your experiences on Survivor will stay with you?

Absolutely. I’m a completely different person. I realize that, yes, we need food and shelter, but what’s really important is having a life that is full and fulfilling and sharing experiences with people who are close to you. I’m trying to take what I learned about myself and people in general and make that part of my life every day.

Alumnus Rex Hime Receives Jerry W. Fielder Memorial Award

Rex Hime (B.A., Political Science, ’69; J.D., ’72) is this year’s recipient of the Jerry W. Fielder Memorial Award, which recognizes service to the Cal Aggie Alumni Association (CAAA), the UC Davis Foundation and the University. A long-time supporter of UC Davis, Hime has served as chair of the CAAA and on the Foundation Board. He is a member of the Davis Chancellor’s Club, the Law School Founder’s Club and the Herbert A. Young Society.

“I’m very flattered and honored,” he said of the award. “I’ve seen the kind of folks who have received this award over the years, and I’m surprised and honored to be among them.”

Hime entered UC Davis intending to become a veterinarian, but as an active participant in student government, he discovered a passion for politics. During law school, he worked on Governor Reagan’s education policy staff, arranging meetings for the governor with college students around the state.

“The seven years I spent at Davis, as an undergraduate and at law school, afforded me the opportunity to be where I am today and who I am today,” he said. “The fact that I could work in the capital while going to law school played an important role, and my involvement in student government, the underground newspaper, and the radio program helped in my career by teaching me how to communicate and analyze issues and convince people to share my views.”

Today, Hime is president and CEO of the California Business Properties Association in Sacramento, a statewide legislative advocacy organization for the commercial-industrial real estate industry. Among his many community service activities, Hime serves as chair for the California Exposition and State Fair Board and the Sacramento Leukemia Society.

Physics Alum at Stanford’s New Online High School

Gary Oas, who earned his Ph.D. in Physics in 1995, is part of an exciting new educational venture at Stanford. As head of physics for Stanford’s Education Program for Gifted Youth, Oas helped launched the country’s first online high school for the gifted this fall.
“It is a pleasure—actually, it is easy—to teach students who have an enormous appetite to learn,” he says.

The online high school is an outgrowth of Stanford’s online enrichment program, where Oas has worked since 1995. Students and teachers link to an online classroom, which allows them to interact via voice and text, and teachers can use visuals like slides, graphs and a virtual chalkboard to lead lessons. Exams and demonstrations allow teachers to gauge how well students grasp the material, although Oas admits there’s one drawback to the virtual classroom. “Getting a sense of a student’s reaction to an explanation,” he says, can be challenging. “Was I the epitome of clarity, or are they staring at the screen thinking, ‘Was he speaking English just then?’ Sometimes you need to see the expression on the face.”

Despite the drawbacks, Oas has found it exciting to develop the online high school and reach a new group of students. He’s currently developing an at-home laboratory that will allow students to complete experiments, such as measuring acceleration due to gravity. Meanwhile, online high school students will come to Stanford in the summer, and enjoy hands-on lab time.

Oas says his Davis professors, especially Steven Carlip and Rod Reid, helped shape him as a teacher. Thanks to them, he said, “I learned to get inside of a student’s head and try to envision what she was thinking in going through a problem.”

Poet Alumnus Published

Hans Ostrom, who studied creative writing as an undergraduate and went on to finish both his master’s and doctorate in English at Davis, has published a collection of poetry entitled The Coast Starlight: Collected Poems 1976-2006 (Dog Ear Publishing, 2006). The author’s 12th book, the collection includes more than 150 poems, some set in northern California. One award-winning poem, “Emily Dickinson and Elvis Presley in Heaven,” was published in the Washington Post. Ostrom is currently chair of the English department at the University of Puget Sound.

Alumnus and City Councilman Remembers Peter Rock

Among the many friends, faculty and students who honored Peter A. Rock, founding dean of the division of Mathematical and Physical Sciences this fall, was Jeff Flowers, who earned his Ph.D. in Chemistry in 1980.

“Peter always was tough, but fair and good humored,” he says. “I can’t help but recall his smile when I think of him.”

A Florida native, Flowers came west for college and graduated from San Jose State with degrees in math and chemistry before coming to Davis.

After college, Flowers returned to Florida, where he is now president and technical director of Flowers Chemical Laboratories, an environmental testing firm. In addition, he serves as a city councilman for the city of Maitland, where he lives with his wife, June. Flowers, who was principal violist in the UC Davis Symphony Orchestra during his time on campus, continues his musical interests, playing in his local community orchestra. The father of three adult children, Flowers has been an active committee member of the National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Conference for nine years.

Schwarzenegger Appoints Sociology Major to Key Community College Position

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger has appointed Angelo Williams, a ’97 sociology graduate, as state director of government relations and external affairs for the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office.

“Community colleges are California’s Ellis Island, especially for those in urban California,” Williams said. “Advocating on behalf of community colleges is a noble cause that I enjoy immensely and take very seriously.”

Williams has a long history of improving education. He has served as acting vice chancellor for the office, where he helped pass education legislation and supervised the governmental relations and external affairs division. He has advocated for the passage of measures that have helped students in disadvantaged areas gain access to education, and worked on concurrent enrollment, student access to health care, and other important bills. Previously, he served as economic development and education consultant to Senate Majority Leader Gloria Romero and has held other staff positions in state government.

Of his long list of accomplishments, Williams calls his new appointment “truly the high point within my ten years of public service to the state of California.”
LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

Catherine T. (Katie) Hunt, Ph.D., Chemistry, 1981

Chemist Catherine Hunt, or as she likes to be called, Katie Hunt, is taking an exciting step in her career this year. Along with being the leader of technology partnerships for specialty materials company Rohm and Haas, she is the new president of the American Chemical Society (ACS), the largest scientific society in the world. Amongst its more than 158,000 members are Nobel Laureates, science teachers, CEOs, small business owners, and of course, scientists, working on everything from food to medicine to national security. She was also recently awarded the distinction of American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Fellow. Election as a fellow is an honor bestowed upon AAAS members by their peers. But it is not her career she’s thinking about. It’s the short time that she has to help further the science education of legislators, the public, and most importantly, the next generation, that concerns her.

“As president of the ACS, I see myself as a catalyst. I hope to take this year and talk to anyone and everyone about the importance of filling our pipeline with science-literate students, for future generations of innovation in this country.”

The “anyone and everyone” she is referring to? The general public, students in grades K-12, and legislators on Capitol Hill, whom she meets with frequently. Educating legislators about science gets things done, she says.

Katie Hunt has channeled this same energy and passion to her work throughout her career. As one of seven children, she found a singular way to bond with one of her parents – through a love of chemistry. Her father, who passed away in 1987, was a chemist, and she shared his scientific curiosity.

By the time she got to high school, she was encouraged by her chemistry teacher, Mickey Saltman, to continue a career in science. After studying chemistry as an undergraduate at Smith College, she came to UC Davis for her Ph.D. Alan Balch, a professor in chemistry at UC Davis, was, and continues to be, a valued mentor. Her time at Davis was very important in her career, as much for the science as it was for what it allowed her to be.

“At Davis, I loved the outdoors, the bicycling, the recycling,” she said. “I found a space where I could be me. I loved working in the lab. At night when the NMR lab was free, I ran every experiment I could think of. There was such freedom, to try things and explore.”

After graduating from Davis, Balch recommended that she move to another university to see where she could explore her interests even more thoroughly. So she did her post-doctoral work at Yale University. From there, she moved into a full-time career in chemistry at Rohm and Haas.

To make an impact on the lives of as many future scientists as possible, and help further innovative scientific legislation in the government are lofty goals for a single person to accomplish in a few short years. But Hunt approaches the challenge with a collaborative spirit.

“Innovation in science, and in anything, involves an idea,” she said. “But it’s the collaboration and reactions from those collaborations that further the invention. Today, and in the future, it’s vital to collaborate across disciplines, across languages, and across countries. With chemistry, my dad gave me something to remember him by.”
Karen Joy Fowler, M.A.,
Political Science, 1974

A WIDER PERSPECTIVE

Karen Joy Fowler, author of the bestseller The Jane Austen Book Club, is not an autobiographical writer, a characteristic that many mainstream authors possess. It is this trait that sets her and her work apart from the rest.

“I like the theory of a story, giving you the big picture of how the world works,” said Fowler. “I like the big perspective.”

Her training in political science, first at UC Berkeley, and then at UC Davis, gave her just that. While studying political science, she was interested in the theory and history of a country’s politics. She enjoyed the stories behind the political incidents that her professors told in lectures. And when she writes, she draws from that education.

“I like to think about the characters in the story—their personal lives and the larger outlook of the world,” she said. “This is different than some literary writers, who focus on the very small details of a character’s thoughts or personality. I tend to pull out more, thanks to my political science education.”

Fowler, who has published four novels and countless short stories and poetry, began seriously writing when she was thirty years old, when her children were in grammar school. After she received her master’s in political science at UC Davis, she and her husband, who earned his Ph.D. from UC Davis, stayed in Davis to raise their children. Even with her success, she admits that her biggest accomplishment is raising two children, who are now grown.

She is a fixture in the Davis writing community—frequently doing readings in libraries in Davis and Sacramento, lecturing for the University Writing Program, and doing some new writing in the back of Bogey’s Bookstore. She was also a judge for the first UC Davis Maurice Prize in Fiction, an award given to the best novelist in the creative writing program.

While all of Fowler’s novels have been treated well by book reviewers (her third novel, Sister Noon, was short-listed for the Pen Faulkner Award), it was The Jane Austen Book Club, published in 2004, that made her a bestselling author. The book has had a lasting effect—it is currently being made into a movie.

“I am pretty removed from the making of the movie, although I did visit the set one day,” she said. “It is much like when I heard the audio version of the book, which was very well done. It was a bizarre feeling to hear my words being read by another person. It’s not really mine anymore.”

The challenge for Fowler these days? A familiar frustration for almost anyone—discipline.

“It has been my cherished goal to be the sort of person who writes every day,” said Fowler. “When my kids went to college, I imagined that I’d be more productive in my writing. But what I’ve realized is the opposite is true—I put aside my writing for almost everything.”

Inspiration for her work comes by being in the place she writes about. For instance, she is now traveling frequently to Santa Cruz researching her new book, set in that town.

“I spend a lot of time researching when I write a new book,” she said. “Part of the fun for me is to be someone else and somewhere else.”
Wayne Thiebaud, Professor Emeritus, Art

REFLECTIONS ON TEACHING

ARTIST WAYNE THIEBAUD TAUGHT IN THE ART DEPARTMENT FOR OVER 30 YEARS, BEFORE RETIRING IN 1991. HE STILL TEACHES AT LEAST ONCE A YEAR, VOLUNTARILY.

College Currents: You’ve been teaching at UC Davis for a long time. What keeps you coming back?

Thiebaud: I don’t know how to teach! It’s a continuing learning experience. I suppose the best teaching always maintains itself as a one-on-one relationship between one person and another.

Thinking back over the years, I’d like to think that everyone is self-taught; that is to say, a person must decide to be taught. Then it’s a matter of the person seeing examples of another, getting introductions into realms of experience which they were not aware of, so that examples and experiences become a kind of inspiration. The idea of teaching is to point people toward those first-rate examples and interesting minds as often and intimately as might be possible.

As a teacher, I try to introduce people to the tools of learning, how to be skeptical. It is important to have a systematic skepticism where we all know that there is no bottom-line or finite level of awareness – we are continually aware of our ignorance. But delightfully, we can develop ways to deal with these contradictions and vicissitudes.

For me, there are two primary things missing in public education today. One is thought and what that is – what ideas really are as opposed to notions and hunches. And how to critically examine those in order to understand that any kind of awareness is temporary. A truth is a presumption. But certainly there are hierarchies of awareness which we try to make into a canonical bundle of awareness. That’s why canons exist. That’s why disciplines are always in evidence. Disciplines represent steps to a kind of individual awareness. And the other is art.

College Currents: Do you find new inspirations by teaching and interacting with students?

Thiebaud: For me, I’m inspired by people who to me are intellectual or aesthetic heroes. These special examples are available to all of us in textbooks, libraries and museums and are for our contemplation and pleasure that enrich our lives.

College Currents: You are teaching a course in drawing in the winter quarter. How do you use drawing to teach students to be skeptical, critical thinkers? How does drawing educate them in this broader sense?

Thiebaud: Drawing is just a way of introducing all of us to seeing more clearly and more specifically and with more discrimination. We think we see just because we’re looking. But seeing is quite different.

In the winter quarter class, what we will be doing is enough to scare the pants off the students. Students will be asked to look at a white cup on a white background, and with only a #2 yellow
pencil, they will try to replicate on paper the cup and the light determining the form of that cup. It’s a kind of concentration that has a great fatigue factor. Many people can’t do it. Students will drop out because it gets boring or it’s intimidating. In this exercise, you have to make yourself totally vulnerable to your perceptions. You are trying to distinguish between what you think you see and what is actually there. Hopefully from this kind of dedication and developed self awareness it might then be possible to achieve some kind of art.

The exercise has applications in other aspects of life – everyone should do this kind of exercise. Unfortunately we haven’t taken that on in terms of general education. Somewhere along the road we’ve lost something very important.

Michael Kimmelman, the chief critic at the New York Times, wrote an article called “When Amateurs Roamed the Earth.” In it, he argues that we used to teach things like penmanship or accounting. A high percentage of people who framed the constitution could draw or paint, which enabled them to make good inventions, laws, and shape what this country is presumably trying to do, which is to create a society of enlightened individuals.

*College Currents: Has teaching changed over the time you’ve been teaching?*

**Thiebaud:** Not so much in the area in which we’re speaking – in painting and drawing. We are trying to get people to reduce a three-dimensional world onto a two-dimensional surface. Drawing is a highly difficult thing to do. It is complex and a great part of human history and the human spirit. What has changed between that and present circumstances? Not a lot is different.

The idea that we’re teaching art is a naïve concept. We are hooked on the idea that we are teaching art, but art cannot be taught because we don’t know what it is. Art is what people refer to when they see extraordinary achievements of insight and what people are trying to find out about it. Something like drawing or painting is totally different – it is very concrete, very specific, and very available.

But we’re way off the mark when we call art courses “art.” What we should be calling them is simply drawing, painting or sculpture. We should not pretend that we produce art in these classes. When I teach drawing, it is teaching how to transfer what you see in a three-dimensional world onto a two-dimensional surface. And that may not always result in art.

*College Currents: If you could name one thing you enjoy most about teaching, what would it be?*

**Thiebaud:** I think it would be the reminder of how much there is to learn, and what a privilege it is to see people change in front of your eyes.
A New Partnership With The San Francisco Opera

The UC Davis Music Department has created a new collaboration with the San Francisco Opera Adler Fellows, the name given to advanced singers and stage directors who take a performance-oriented residency with the San Francisco Opera. The alliance will result in a semi-staged performance of George Bizet’s Carmen on May 6 at the Mondavi Center. This new partnership, established in part from a gift from longtime music patron Barbara K. Jackson, launches a creative dynamic that few music departments in the country can enjoy.

“We’re delighted that this partnership is coming into focus, uniting the historical strengths of our departments and the new avenues now being forged at the Mondavi Center, in San Francisco, and in our own Division of Humanities, Arts and Cultural Studies,” said UC Davis Symphony Orchestra conductor D. Kern Holoman. “I can’t overstate how welcome the Opera Center/Adler Fellows program has been to our folks thus far.”

Paul Corujo is a vocal performance major planning to graduate in 2007. As an undergraduate, he is one of the fortunate few who will have an individual role in the opera, playing Zuniga, a part that has a good deal of musical dialogue.

“My involvement in this production of Carmen is a tremendous opportunity,” said Corujo. “For an aspiring singer like me, the experience of working with professionals in an opera production is invaluable. I am truly grateful to be part of the partnership between the Adler Fellows and UC Davis.”

Tickets to this special performance of Carmen on May 6 are available by visiting this website: http://www.mondaviarts.org/tickets/.

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