“Beautiful . . . and Unsettling”
How the Arts at UC Davis Stay Vital

ALSO INSIDE | MONDAVI GIFT LAUNCHES MUSEUM PROJECT |
ADHD DISCOVERY | DEDICATIONS HONOR THE PAST AND FUTURE | MOD LAB
I think mathematics has the elegance and beauty of an art. It is precise, truthful and logical, and it can be useful in so many situations of our daily lives, from credit card transactions to UPS deliveries to Google searches. As a professor of mathematics at UC Davis, I enjoy teaching it enormously. Mathematics can be frustrating, and I feel that my role as a teacher is sometimes that of a psychologist, helping students lose their fear of a problem they cannot solve, arriving at a resolution where they have better understanding of the math as well as themselves.

I feel my service to youth is to inspire them to learn math. Something I pursue strongly is supporting programs like VIGRE, MURRPS, and Explore Math which, in various ways, aim to bring together mathematics professors, graduate and undergraduate students, and K-12 youth to help them learn about the joy of math through mathematical modeling of real-life problems, fun competitions and problem-solving challenges. As a U.S. citizen who was born in Mexico, I very much want to encourage new students from all walks of life, including children in minorities and low-income families, to see the potential in math.

When I work through mathematical problems in my research in discrete computational mathematics, I don’t feel that I am more remarkable at math than others. But I’m not afraid of making mistakes. It has made all the difference in the success of my career in this field. I hope that I can inspire future generations of youth to lose their fear and enjoy math just as much as I do. Our future depends on it, as math is undeniably the language of science and critical analysis.

**I AM JESUS DE LOERA. THIS IS WHAT MATTERS TO ME.**
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ON THE COVER: Michael Neff, an assistant professor of technocultural studies and computer science, and political science major Marcus Tang capture human motion in order to create computational algorithms, translating that motion into animation.
Photo: Paul Estabrook

This magazine was printed on paper from a well-managed forest, manufactured by an environmentally-friendly company that is certified by the Forest Stewardship Council.
CORRECTIONS: FALL 2009 ISSUE

In Memoriam, page 22, Eunice Y. Park
The obituary about student Eunice Y. Park featured a passage and quote from Park’s friend that was originally from a piece in the California Aggie by reporter Angela Ruggiero, but we did not properly credit the section to Ruggiero’s work.

On the Scene, page 24, Stimulus Smackdown: Event Draws Crowds, Downloads
This article was attributed to UC Davis Dateline writer Dave Jones, but was in fact written by Dateline writer and editor Clifton Parker.

Annual Report, pages 32 and 34, Donors to the College of Letters and Science
In the listing of all donors to the College of Letters and Science in the fiscal year 2008-09, we accidentally omitted Frank Corsetti, who gave $500, and Huy-Ngoc T. Truong, who gave $100.

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.

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THANKS
Many of you use the enclosed envelope to donate funds to the College of Letters and Science, its departments, programs and funds. Thank you for making a difference.
We are happy to bring you another issue of *College Currents*, a publication that gives news and views on all aspects of the College of Letters and Science at UC Davis. Reflecting the breadth and depth of the college’s nearly 50 departments and programs, it includes a variety of stories on the faculty, students, alumni and programs that make the college such a dynamic place.

We would be remiss in our coverage of the recent months without addressing the “elephant in the room” at UC Davis — the serious challenges of deep budget cuts to this growing and distinguished research university. As deans of UC Davis’ largest college, serving almost all of its 30,000 undergraduate and graduate students, we face tough decisions in each of our divisions. In the current year alone we have made some very difficult reductions in administrative functions, services, programs, research support and last-resort cuts in instruction hours, even in light of the increase in student fees that the University of California has proposed.

We just learned that the number of applications from transfer students for next year has increased by 25 percent. UC Davis was listed recently as one of the top 50 best values for a public education (Kiplinger’s Personal Finance “100 Best Values in Public Colleges for 2009–10”). With this increase in demand, we have to find a way to keep this university strong, and serve the students who want to pursue higher education. As deans, our main goal is to provide an excellent education for this generation and the next. We hope that you, as alumni, friends, parents, and community, will help in this effort. Thank you for your continued support of the College of Letters and Science.

Until fall,

Winston Ko, Dean, Division of Mathematical and Physical Sciences
George R. Mangun, Dean, Division of Social Sciences
Jessie Ann Owens, Dean, Division of Humanities, Arts and Cultural Studies
**BOOM TIMES**

Two UC Davis professors are launching a new journal that’s sure to make noise. Titled *Boom: A Journal of California*, it will be the first journal to focus on California’s cultures, politics and histories. The editors will be Louis Warren, W. Turrentine Jackson Professor of Western U.S. History, and Carolyn de la Peña, associate professor of American Studies and director of the UC Davis Humanities Institute. Funded by a grant from the Mellon Foundation that will also underwrite an annual conference on California at UC Davis, the journal will be published with the University of California Press. The first issue is slated for February 2011.

**VALUABLE ECONOMIC INSIGHTS**

Research by two economics faculty members, Oscar Jorda and Alan Taylor, was recently featured in *The Economist*’s Economics Focus section. The research suggests a way to make steady profits from the carry trade, reducing risk by using a richer model than has traditionally been employed.

Also in economics news, professors Scott Carrell and Marianne Page were part of a team of researchers that found that the sex of students’ professors influenced whether female students graduate with a science, technology, engineering or math degree; the research, published by the National Bureau of Economic Research, suggests that it would be desirable to hire more women faculty in these fields.

**SERIAL MONOGAMISTS AND SILVER SPOONS**

A pair of studies from anthropology professor Monique Borgerhoff Mulder have revealed complexities in ancient and non-Western family structures that have sometimes been overlooked. First, many assume that serial monogamy is a man’s game. But research by Borgerhoff Mulder recently found evidence that in some non-Western cultures, women are just as likely as men to benefit from multiple marriages and mates. Borgerhoff Mulder analyzed evidence from the Pimbwe people of Tanzania, whose living conditions are harsh and where mothers have to struggle to keep children alive. “My data suggest that Pimbwe women are strategically choosing men, abandoning men and remarrying men as their economic situation goes up and down,” she says. The research was discussed in a New York Times article and was first published in the summer 2009 issue of *Human Nature*.

Borgerhoff Mulder also recently led a team of social scientists that has expanded the traditional notion of the “silver spoon” effect—the notion that wealth is passed down through generations—by looking at a broad range of wealth types in various societies, from hunter-gatherers to historical European farmers. The research, undertaken by a large team that also included three other UC Davis faculty—economics professor Gregory...
Clark, anthropologist Richard McElreath, and ecology doctoral candidate Adrian Bell—was published in the October 30, 2009 issue of Science.

Professor Confute Language Stereotypes

Assistant Communications Professor Nicholas Palomares’ new work aims to debunk the stereotype that women are more likely than men to hedge, issue disclaimers and undermine their assertions when communicating. Palomares’ paper “Women Are Sort of More Tentative than Men, Aren’t They?,” published in Communication Research last August, shows that men and women were both tentative when writing about subjects they did not know well. Also, two studies published by Robert Blake, professor of Spanish and director of the UC Consortium for Language Learning and Teaching, contend that online foreign-language instruction can be just as effective as classroom instruction. “Distance learning and hybrid formats have tremendous potential to address increasing societal pressures to help second-language learners reach advanced proficiency, especially in less commonly taught languages where access is a key issue,” Blake said.

Memory, Mindfulness and Monsters

Several studies from UC Davis psychologists shed new light on memory and brain function. Charan Ranganath, associate professor of psychology, and Debbie Hannual, a postdoctoral researcher, addressed the controversial question of whether the hippocampus can support memories even when people are unaware of them; using a sophisticated eye tracker, their work showed that the elements of a memory are in place even when the subject cannot consciously recall it. The findings were published in the journal Neuron in September 2009.

Simona Ghetti, professor of psychology and researcher in the UC Davis Center for Mind and Brain, with several co-authors, recently published a study online in the Journal of Pediatrics showing that kids who have had an episode of diabetic ketoacidosis (a common complication of diabetes) may suffer persistent memory problems.

Also from the Center for Mind and Brain, more findings are emerging from the groundbreaking Shamatha Project, a study of the effects of meditation on the mind, of which researcher Cliff Saron is a part. The latest results indicate that meditation can improve visual perception and sustained attention.

Research led by psychologists Liat Sayfan and Kristin Lagattuta was published in a study on how kids cope with common fears like the “boogie monster” in a recent issue of Child Development; the finding may help parents offer their little ones relief from fears. Managing such fears, the researchers found, is tied to development: younger kids were more likely to cope by pretending an imaginary monster was nice, whereas older kids could remind themselves that the monster was not real.
**WATER AND THE CLIMATE**

Is next season going to bring rain or drought in California? Looking back in time may reveal clues about possible climate change. Geology professor Isabel Montañez and doctoral student Jessica Oster analyzed stalagmites in Moaning Cavern in the Sierra Nevada to show that the area experienced centuries-long droughts in the past 20,000 years that coincided with the thawing of ice caps in the Arctic. The research was published in November in *Planetary Science Letters*.

California’s current water issues are the subject of fierce debate, but UC Davis scientists may help the state assess the problems and solutions. In a discussion of California’s water crisis, U.S. Representative Grace Napolitano referenced a study conducted at UC Davis that found that water reductions have led to a revenue loss of over $2 billion and 80,000 lost jobs in the Central Valley. And geologist Jeffrey Mount has been on *60 Minutes* as well as in the *San Francisco Chronicle*, in which he says that 150 years of water diversions from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta have caused environmental damage, including the subsidence of land behind miles of antiquated levees put the area at risk.

Water and the climate are at issue worldwide, and economists are entering that debate as well: economist Wing Thye Woo was recently quoted in a *Forbes* magazine story regarding the Copenhagen climate talks. Woo stated, “The important issue is to decrease CO₂ emissions, not to determine who bears ultimate moral responsibility.” Woo recommended that countries impose a carbon tax on domestically produced goods and a carbon tariff on imported goods.

**ALUMNI AND STUDENTS ON SCREEN**

Kevin Wu, a sophomore communication major, has been making waves on YouTube under the username KevJumba; in fact, he’s making money with his popular comedy videos. He’s hoping the experience will prepare him for a moviemaking career after graduation.

Art Studio M.F.A. candidate Robert Machoian and Rodrigo Ojeda-Beck (whose father, Almerindo Ojeda, is a linguistics professor at UC Davis) created a short film, “Charlie and the Rabbit,” which was selected to be part of the prestigious Sundance Film Festival. The film is about Charlie, a four-year-old who loves Bugs Bunny and decides to hunt a rabbit of his own.

On the small screen, alumnus Russell Kairouz (B.A., Communication, ’07) made it close to the end of popular CBS reality show *Big Brother*, but was voted off after making enemies; recent alumni Stirling Freeman (B.A., Design, ’09) and Denell Nawrocki (B.A., History, ’09) hit the road participating in *Road Trip Nation* after receiving a $1,000 grant from the organization. Footage shot by participants will be edited into a documentary that will air on PBS.

**TOP TWIRLER**

Economics major Aryn Bigler competed recently at the World Baton Twirling Federation’s International Cup in Sydney, Australia, winning gold medals at her level in adult women’s freestyle, adult solo and adult 3-baton at the games. A video of her medal-winning routine, which was covered by the Sacramento Bee’s Manny Crisostomo, can be found at: http://manny.viewbook.com/portfolio/videos.
GEOLOGY’S COOL (OR COLD) BLOG AND MORE

Geology professor Dawn Sumner and postdoctoral student Bekah Shepard spent last fall in chilly Antarctica, studying the continent’s unique dry valley lakes, which contain bacterial communities similar to those on Earth billions of years ago. The researchers hope to gain a better understanding of the processes that shaped ancient rocks. Sumner blogged about the journey at http://dawninantarctica.blogspot.com

Other geology news comes from the other side of the world: geology professors Peter Schiffman and Robert Zierenberg were part of a team that hit magma at a depth of 6,900 feet as they were drilling a borehole into Iceland’s rocky crust to explore new methods of using geothermal energy. The team initially planned to drill 2.2 miles into the earth, but has had to shift its drilling site.

Two geochemists have produced the first picture of how different isotopes of iron were initially distributed in the solid Earth. Chancellor’s Fellow and Professor of Geology James Rustad and co-author Qing-Zhu Yin, associate professor of geology, used a super-computer to virtually squeeze and heat iron-bearing minerals under conditions that would have existed when the Earth crystallized from an ocean of magma to its solid form 4.5 billion years ago. Their work was posted online by the journal Nature Geoscience in 2009.

NEW CHEMISTRY OF ETHYLENE AND TIN

New work by Philip Power, a professor of chemistry, and a group of other authors shows that ethylene, a gas that is important both as a hormone that controls fruit ripening and as a raw material in industrial chemistry, can bind reversibly to tin atoms. The research could have implications for understanding important catalytic processes; it was published last fall in the journal Science.

THE RECESSION, PAST AND FUTURE

New research on 19th-century silver prospectors from recent anthropology research associate Susan Glover was published in Human Ecology. She has been quoted in worldwide news discussing the relevance of that boom to the recent boom-bust cycle in the housing market. She looked at newspaper reporting and prospectors, and how inflated reporting of payoffs (and underplaying risks) tended to aggravate the cycle.

Providing insight into the future effects of the housing bust and the current Great Recession is a paper from economics professors Ann Huff Stevens and Jessamyn Schaller, which found that a parent’s job loss increases the probability that a child will repeat a grade in school by roughly 15 percent. They write: “If we view grade repetition as a signal of academic difficulties, these short-run effects may be consistent with findings of longer-term negative outcomes in education and earnings.”
FOUNd IN SPACE

Those who want to understand the early universe are getting sneak peeks these days: after more than a year of repairs, the Large Hadron Collider (LHC), which simulates post–Big Bang conditions, is now circulating beams and colliding protons. The LHC has taken years to build, and UC Davis has played an important role in the project through its work on the Compact Muon Solenoid, one of the major detectors in the collider.

For a look at what happened a short time after the Big Bang—a short time in galactic reckoning—the Planck space telescope has returned its first images of the sky. The mission, with the U.S. team led by Lloyd Knox, professor of physics, will allow scientists to get a better picture of the structure of the universe when it was young. “The primary science driver is understanding cosmic inflation, the very early period when the seeds of the structure of the Universe were created,” says Knox.

For another view, the Large Synoptic Survey Telescope (LSST)—the world’s largest sky-survey telescope—may offer real-time image processing that would deliver the project’s photos to the web within minutes when it launches in 2014. Physicist and LSST Project Director J. Anthony Tyson, who built the first CCD camera for scientific application in the late 1970s, confirmed that processing power in an article for Wired Science, stating that the amount of pixels that cameras have has been increasing at roughly the same rate as computer power.

Mathematician Blake Temple is meanwhile offering a fresh explanation for why the universe is accelerating as it expands, a phenomenon typically attributed to dark energy. Temple says that an expanding wave flowing throughout space-time may be causing galaxies to appear to be accelerating away from us. “We’re saying that maybe these expanding waves are actually causing the anomalous acceleration,” Temple says. “We’re saying dark energy is not really the correct explanation.”

PUT A HOOD ON IT

Susan Kaiser, professor of textiles and clothing and women and gender studies, was recently featured in a Sacramento Bee article on the controversial move by management at a popular Sacramento mall to ban shoppers from wearing hoodies. Kaiser noted that dress codes emerge in response to fashion. “The hoodie has to do with an identity that is sort of threatening,” Kaiser said. “Cultural anxiety is still the underlying issue. We search for a quick fix with uniforms and dress codes, but it’s what it symbolizes that’s the problem.”
GREAT GRANTS

The College of Letters and Science has received several notable recent grants, fueling new studies and groundbreaking research. The search for more efficient fuels for nuclear reactors, with a research team helmed by physics professor Sergey Savrasov, received a nearly $1.2 million grant from the U.S. Department of Energy. As part of $32.6 million in stimulus-package funding awarded to UC Davis, physics professor Kai Liu received $330,000 from the National Science Foundation for fabricating nanowires studded with tiny magnets to explore a new method of controlling magnetic states. A consortium led by a third physics professor, Robert Svoboda, was recently awarded a $4.4 million contract from the National Science Foundation to design the world’s largest neutrino detector.

Altogether, the college received nearly $35 million in research funding for the fiscal year ending in July 2009. This is a new high for the college (the university also had a record high, receiving $622 million). Breakdown of the funds by division are as follows: Division of Humanities, Arts and Cultural Studies: $5,519,972; Division of Mathematical and Physical Sciences: $21,439,681; Division of Social Sciences: $7,474,820.

HIGH HONORS

Numerous college faculty and staff have recently been honored with awards. In a January White House ceremony, chemist Susan Kauzlarich was one of just 18 professors from around the nation to receive the 2009 Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring from President Obama. Kauzlarich was also recently elected a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Also on the national scene, the State Department has tapped distinguished professor of geology Ken Verosub as a Jefferson Science Fellow; he is charged with advising officials on scientific and technical issues.
Chemistry professor Jacquelyn Gervay-Hague was inducted into the inaugural class of Fellows of the American Chemical Society for her excellence in chemistry and service to society.

Jack D. Forbes, professor emeritus and former chair of Native American Studies, received the 2009 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Native Writers’ Circle of the Americas.

Internationally, distinguished professor of physics Charles Fadley has been elected into the prestigious Royal Society of Sciences at Uppsala, Sweden, a body founded in 1710 that has included such luminaries as Charles Darwin and Johann Gauss.

Closer to home, University Writing Program lecturer Gary Sue Goodman has earned the 2009 James H. Meyer Distinguished Achievement Award, presented by the Academic Federation. The Woodland Concilio has honored Davis staff member Joaquin Galvan with the Rick Gonzales, Sr. Award; the Concilio grants 50 scholarships a year to students for higher education, and 20 of those students are at UC Davis this year.

**LET’S GET PHYSICAL**

One of UC Davis’ most popular Physical Education teachers, Andrea Khoo, is inspiring students to become more fit. Lecturer Khoo is also an alumna in design; she began teaching her classes as a hobby some 18 years ago. Khoo teaches various fitness classes as well as self-defense to classes that are invariably full, and also competes as a “natural bodybuilder” and works as a model—all in addition to her job as a freelance apparel designer. “The entire goal of my P.E. lectures is for UC Davis kids to regard working out as fun,” Khoo has said. “That way, we are more prone to exercise because it doesn’t feel like a chore.”

**A YOUTUBE RECORD**

A partnership between UCTV and the UC Davis University Chorus has resulted in greater visibility for the group: the Chorus’ 2006 performance of Carl Orff’s most famous work, “Carmina Burana,” recently surpassed 1 million hits on YouTube. (That’s by far the most views that any performance of that choral work has garnered on the popular online video site.) Check it out at: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QEllLeCo4OM

**SEX AND NUDITY IN MOVIES = NO SALES?**

After crunching data from 914 films released between 2001 and 2005, Dean Keith Simonton, a professor of psychology, and Vancouver-based researcher Anemone Ceridwen say that sex and nudity have a negligible impact at the box office. They used box-office sales, critical response, and Motion Picture Association of America Ratings as core data.

In their study, published in the journal Psychology of Aesthetics, Creativity, and the Arts, the authors write, “All in all, it appears that sex may neither sell nor impress. This null effect might suggest most cinematic sex is in fact gratuitous.”
Several new books from College of Letters and Science faculty have earned strong reviews and great notices. Among them, English professor Yiyun Li’s novel *The Vagrants* has been highlighted in the *New York Times Book Review* and *Newsweek*. Emeritus English professor and Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Gary Snyder’s collaboration with artist and historian Tom Killion, *Tamalpais Walking: Poetry, History and Prints*, pays homage to the famed, beautiful Marin mountain; Snyder’s first book of poems, *Riprap and Cold Mountain Poems*, has also been newly reissued in a 50th-anniversary edition.

With *Chicana and Chicano Art: ProtestArte* (University of Arizona Press, 2009), Carlos Francisco Jackson, associate professor of Chicana/o studies, debuted the first book solely dedicated to the history, development, and present-day flowering of Chicana and Chicano visual artists. American Studies Professor Ari Kelman explores the relationship between an immigrant population and mass media in radio’s golden age with his new book *Station Identification: A Cultural History of Yiddish Radio in the United States*.

Two new books—by Joshua Clover, an associate professor of English, and Bob Ostertag, a professor of technocultural studies—take novel looks at music and politics. In 1989: *Bob Dylan Didn’t Have This to Sing About* (University of California Press, 2009), Clover explores pop music during the year the Berlin Wall fell; in *Creative Life: Music, Politics, People, and Machines* (University of Illinois Press, 2009), Ostertag undertakes a wide-ranging exploration of common ground and points of friction among music, creativity, culture and technology. Anthropology Professor Lynne A. Isabell has published *The Fruit, the Tree and the Serpent* (Harvard UP, 2009), which argues that evolutionary pressure from snakes played a key role in shaping the primate brain.

A pair of books look at our president: University Writing Program lecturer and freelance journalist Sasha Abramsky published *Inside Obama’s Brain* (Portfolio, 2009); and History Professor Clarence E. Walker is the co-author of *The Preacher and the Politician: Jeremiah Wright, Barack Obama, and Race in America* (with Gregory Smithers of the University of Aberdeen; University of Virginia Press, 2009).
MODDING THE ARTS AND HUMANITIES

Although online resources have long been available to humanities scholars, most of them have been static, such as repositories of texts. A trio of UC Davis professors—Colin Milburn, of the English department and the science and technology studies (STS) program; Joseph Dumit, of anthropology and STS; and Caren Kaplan, of women and gender studies, cultural studies, and STS—as well as grad students Josef Nguyen (English) and Ingrid Lagos (cultural studies) seek to liven things up with a new initiative called the Mod Lab, an open-source, modifiable software platform enabling researchers to stage humanities and arts exhibitions and move through arguments spatially. For prototyping, they’ve staked out a space in Second Life; eventually, they hope to set up an independent space that’s open to anyone. At present, the group is working on three projects: one on film audiences and movie theaters in 1930’s Paris, one on the history of modding (whereby users change video games) and one on 3-D modeling in the molecular sciences. “We really imagine it as a new medium for the digital humanities,” says Milburn. The group hopes to open the project to the public by the end of the academic year; a portal will be available on the UC Davis Humanities Institute website (dhi.ucdavis.edu).

Dean of Mathematical and Physical Sciences Winston Ko traveled to Japan last August, leading a UC Davis delegation to visit the Nara Institute of Science and Technology. Pictured from UC Davis, from left to right: John Voss, Biochemistry and Molecular Medicine; Winston Ko; Saif Islam, Electrical and Computer Engineering.
Quick: When you think of UC Davis, what field of study jumps to mind as an historic strength, where its faculty has boasted some of the biggest international stars of the last half-century? If you said agriculture or neuroscience, you’re not wrong—but you should also be thinking of the arts.


From such auspicious beginnings have followed more recent developments like the creation of the Robert and Margrit Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts and the establishment of the California Lighting Technology Center. Indeed, the arts programs, which include visual, performing and applied arts and boast a wealth of highly talented faculty and students, have long been at the heart of the College of Letters and Science.

“The arts and the humanities have such an important role for us as human beings dealing with questions about our humanity, about the values of our society,” says Dean Owens. “That’s as it should be,” said Jessie Ann Owens, dean of the Division of Humanities, Arts and Cultural Studies, whose own field of research is music history. “The arts and the humanities have such an important role for us as human beings, dealing with questions about our humanity, about the values of our society. If we were just to have courses in science and math, our students would not be able to frame foundational questions that drive their research,” she said. “Some people make the mistake of equating the arts simply with entertainment—and surely that is a valid role. But the arts should evoke the unsettling...as well as the beautiful.”

RETHINKING THE ARTS
Despite the rich legacy and thriving presence of the arts at UC Davis, these disciplines are facing tough times in the current budget situation. “We are certainly in a time of unprecedented crisis,” said Owens. “Business as usual is just not an option. So the question is, ‘How can we rethink what we do and preserve our values and our mission?’”

The faculty in the arts assembled in September 2009 to review the mission, curriculum and structure of its offerings. Owens invited the very strong turnout “to rethink our majors, to rethink our curriculum, to help shape the future and match our resources to student needs.”

Annabeth Rosen, sculptor and the Robert Arneson Endowed Chair in Ceramic Sculpture, was pleased by “our access to each other for an extended period of time, and how we got a sense of...”
“What are the best ways to take advantage of the moment to reconfigure ourselves and to share resources in both creative and practical ways?” asks Annabeth Rosen.

the breadth and depth of our enterprise. We talked about who we are as a group and about our shared commitment to our creative work and to teaching.

There were ideas aplenty. One recurring theme was that of the arts as community, socially and intellectually—an institute along the lines of the UC Davis Humanities Institute, perhaps a café. Owens liked both ideas: “I’m asking members of the faculty to work with Carolyn de la Peña, associate professor of American Studies and director of the UC Davis Humanities Institute, to develop an arts wing. “And,” Owens smiled, “there’s no reason we can’t have a coffee cart.”

Others involved collaborations of all kinds. Faculty members brainstormed courses for the new general education curriculum such as “Arts 10,” an introduction to the visual and performing arts for undergraduate students.

BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE
Sustained and at times phenomenal growth in the arts programs over the past half century has resulted in a hodge-podge of makeshift space arrangements for studio and classroom instruction, laboratories, and media services. The core arts buildings are now nearly half a century old. Faculty studios are found in rental spaces in downtown Davis and elsewhere in Yolo County (some alongside a dentist’s office, above a bank, and over the infamous Fluffy Donuts). Major works of art that are part of the university’s valuable fine art collection are in long-term storage.

“...and Unsettling”: How the Arts at UC Davis Stay Vital

“The needs that the arts have are no different in kind from the laboratories the science students need,” Owens said. The challenge is complicated by the different and ever-changing space needs of the various arts: “What a painter needs is very different from what someone in theater or music needs. And then the digital revolution has also brought huge changes that we need to acknowledge and be clever about dealing with.”

Owens and her colleagues have been able to rethink programs and adjacencies as long-range development plans for the campus have advanced. For instance, the design, technocultural studies, and film studies programs will move to the renovated building vacated by the College of Agricultural and Environmental Science’s Viticulture and Enology department when it moved to the new Robert Mondavi Institute.

Other high-visibility projects include an art museum and a recital hall to be completed within the decade. Better space can help elevate the quality of an entire program, an effect that the music department has seen before, said Christopher Reynolds, professor and chair of the Department of Music.
“I credit the Mondavi Center with helping raise the quality of undergraduates that we get,” said Reynolds. “It’s clearly a superb facility, and students are thrilled to be able to go to concerts there. But in addition, because our students get to perform in Mondavi, they benefit enormously. Whatever they would have sounded like with the same students in Freeborn Hall, where the departmental ensembles used to perform, they sound far, far better in Mondavi, where they can hear each other. The students are better coming in, and with such a good facility the quality of what they can do is enhanced.”

Reynolds hopes that the construction of a recital hall will have a similar impact for the department’s smaller ensembles. “What we get [at Mondavi] for the large ensembles—orchestra and choir and band—we still lack for our chamber groups, who are stuck performing in a classroom with terrible acoustics. One factor in excellent musical performances is obviously talent, both of students and conductors; the other crucial element is the facility.”

The planned construction of an art museum will similarly enhance the visibility of the visual arts at UC Davis, says Renny Pritikin, director of the Richard L. Nelson Gallery and Fine Art Collection. “The Nelson Gallery is small and 30 years old, with virtually no space to exhibit the permanent collection. When we have a true museum we will have a dedicated gallery that will have rotating exhibits from the collection: works of Wayne Thiebaud, Robert Arneson, Roy de Forest, and others. It’s very unfortunate that one of Arneson’s masterpieces, The Palace at 9 a.m., is not on view. The Deborah Butterfield Horse deserves to be seen in a museum context.” The museum will occupy space adjacent to the Mondavi Center, just south of the Vanderhoef Quadrangle. (See page 21 for information on Margrit Mondavi’s $2 million gift to launch the planning phase of the museum.)

LUCY PULS

Recently the recipient of a prestigious Yaddo Art Colony residency, Lucy Puls, professor of studio art has been at UC Davis since 1985; prior to her Yaddo residency, Puls was invited to be an Artist-in-Residence at the highly selective Pilchuck Glass School in Seattle. For several years, her work has focused on the things we discard: “What I’ve been interested in for a long time is how people get rid of stuff, when and what they decide to offload, and how they do that,” she said. A series that focused on discounted items from thrift stores—“They’re really things you don’t want, like microwave cookbooks, or Barbies with their hair cut off”—morphed when she realized that “the ecosystem of thrift shops was being skewed” by people buying items for resale on eBay.

Her most recent series, instead, looked at items discarded on the street, often with “Free” signs. She photographed the items, printed the photographs on fabric, and used them to make meticulously draped and crafted, large-scale sculptures with other discarded items—“things that don’t seem to make sense, but suddenly do,” she said, such as a photograph of a couch where people would have once relaxed with a broken television antenna. A new series will focus on the inside of foreclosed, abandoned homes—so-called trashouts.

Puls, who has seen tough times come and go during her years at UC Davis, thinks the future of the arts is bright. “I’m optimistic,” she said. “We have a really strong and visionary dean, and we’re going to become more organized as a group of all the arts, and that will make us stronger.” And the best part of being at UC Davis? “The students are really fabulous,” Puls said. “Working with them is really rewarding.”

Sed Etiam (06-D-07), 6” x 4” area on 10” x 8” mount, photograph, lacquer, enamel, and paper, 2006.
In an innovative, highly visible setting, the segment of the UC Davis Arboretum closest to downtown Davis will be transformed into the CityArts GATEway, a public natural museum for performances and installations. The planning is still in the early stages, and the planners will soon turn to fundraising for the project, but, said Pritikin, “the thinking is to have sites for performing arts events, both formal and informal, as well as temporary and permanent public arts events. We want a lively combination of faculty, student, and visiting-artist work out there. It will be a living kind of thing.”

These new spaces will raise the visibility of UC Davis’ arts community for the rest of campus and the region. At the same time, by changing how faculty, staff, and students interact and work together, they will also create change within the arts themselves—a process of creative ferment that is already happening.

FRESH COLLABORATIONS

Faculty conversations in the arts and humanities continue to reveal the potential for new majors and new fields of collaborative research. One such field is film studies, “a perfect example of faculty collaboration,” according to Owens. “This major was created by faculty in various departments from all across the division—English and the foreign languages, the ethnic studies programs, music, technocultural studies, theater and dance—as an interdepartmental major.”

Serendipitously, the digital revolution has enabled film studies majors to pursue an applied emphasis, in which they can actually make new work. Sarah Pia Anderson, professor of theatre and
“The museum is a project that has the potential to make a permanent and visible change for the campus plan. It’s a chance for the arts to be represented outside of the buildings, where the public and the Davis community as well as students, faculty and staff and visiting artists can interact,” said Renny Pritikin.

dance, is one of the faculty striving to meet the intellectual needs of an evolving student population. “We now have a talented and energetic group of students wanting to make film,” she explained. “This particular rethinking of the curriculum brings together students and faculty interested in the practical aspects of film with those in theory, criticism and history.”

Anderson feels that faculty in the arts have readily responded to changing student needs. “We have a thriving short film festival, the UC Davis Film Festival, which provides a forum for showing and discussing films produced by students. It’s another opportunity for us to help students enhance their educational experience.” (See page 8 for a story on a student and colleague whose work was selected in the Sundance Film Festival this year.)

In addition, Anderson and Jesse Drew, associate professor and director of the technocultural studies program, have developed a film production course that will produce a film to be shown at this year’s UC Davis Film Festival. “This course will mirror the activities of a typical production company from director to producer,” Drew said. “It will give students a complete idea of what it takes to produce a film.”

Digital animation has become an integral part of film and television production, and Michael Neff, assistant professor in technocultural studies and computer science, is helping address this new technology (see his lab in action on the cover of this magazine). “Michael works on motion capture, which is the leading edge in this type of animation,” said Drew. “Avatar is a perfect example of this technology and the way actors are being integrated into many of these films.” And, he believes there may be a time when animation will be a part of every type of film production.

Another group drawn together by shared research interests brings together faculty members whose work touches on urban design. According to Simon Sadler, professor of art history, this new research cluster sprang from shared interests in architecture and cities among faculty in design, art history, American studies and a number of other fields. It was sparked in part by the appointment of Christina Cogdell, an associate professor of art history and design.

“We’re asking how you can bring together art historians, cultural studies, landscape, anthropology, and history around the theme of design, broadly conceived, and to think about the role of design in everyday life, from cities to product design,” said Sadler. “The direction I’d love to see us go at UC Davis is to think about design at the highest possible level. That’s called design thinking and you’re starting to hear that in policy and management. Schools of thought emerge in institutions through historical accidents—there is a critical mass of faculty here who really have something to talk about.”

Owens agrees. “Adding a designated emphasis in urban design is a way of creating a curricular identity for this group of scholars who looked around and discovered that they had this strength. That’s the kind of organic growth of curriculum from existing faculty that makes the most sense.”
“Beautiful . . . and Unsettling”: How the Arts at UC Davis Stay Vital

MICHAEL SIMINOVITCH

Under the leadership of Michael Siminovitch, professor of design and director of the California Lighting and Technology Center (CLTC) has been a leader in partnering with industry to develop energy-efficient, people-centered lighting solutions that really match the way people work. It has won a major, $3.2 million grant for lighting efficiency research, as well as a contract from the Department of Labor to develop training programs for contractors on using new technologies.

Siminovitch says that the CLTC’s ties to the arts help it meet its goal of developing energy-efficient and sustainable buildings: “We’re a collaboration to solve design problems, and we come at our work in partnership with diverse perspectives—interior design, contractors, architecture and manufacturers,” he said. “The design program, and the Division of Humanities, Arts and Cultural Studies, was a really natural fit, because these problems of efficiency, energy and pollution are broadly cultural problems, problems of behavior. To solve the problems, we have to change the behavior.”

Being part of the division, working in collaboration with designers, interior architects and many others is key to the center’s mission, says Siminovitch. “Our diversity is our strength,” he said. “When we approach problems, it’s not from a very narrow lab-oriented view—we have very good labs, but also multiple facets to the way we solve problems. It allows us to be successful at solving these problems. Isolated lab units typically can’t solve problems well, because they’re not human-centric.”

Siminovitch points out that CLTC’s success has attracted grants which will enable the center to ride out the current budget crisis, and also may make it a model for other university centers. “Money and support will always follow good ideas. If you look at trying to solve problems, you’re more effective with a center that lives and breathes a diverse process. We’re just going to keep growing.”

IMAGINING THE FUTURE

Times of crisis can spark creativity, the province of the arts.
“A crisis is a terrible thing to waste,” said Sadler. “It does tend to make you look at the map of the university differently.” As the arts faculty reviews its mission with a fresh eye and a new outlook, it continues a process that’s been at work from the beginning. Returning alumni routinely marvel at the growth and change in this area. “I’d like people to understand how much richness there is here,” said Owens.

From haunting performances at the Mondavi Center to sculptures outdoors and indoors, to paintings in galleries and digital video, the arts at UC Davis touch and comment on every aspect of our lives. “They are a vital, essential, inevitable part of the university,” said Annabeth Rosen. “And it’s in the natural course of things that they evolve. Creativity flows like seeping water, perpetual and unstoppable. There is never a scarcity of invention at UC Davis.”
GIFT FROM MARGRIT MONDAVI LAUNCHES MUSEUM PROJECT

Philanthropist Margrit Biever Mondavi has pledged $2 million to help UC Davis plan and build a new art museum that will house and display some 4,000 works that the university has collected over the past 40 years.

The pledge marks the start of a $30 million fundraising initiative for the project. The new museum will serve as a teaching and cultural resource for the university and the public.

Mondavi is an artist and avid supporter of the arts. She and her husband, the late Robert Mondavi, in 2001 gave UC Davis the largest single gift it had received to that date, $35 million to support the Robert Mondavi Institute for Wine and Food Science and the Robert & Margrit Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts.

“It was a pleasure indeed to tell Chancellor Linda Katehi that I would like to initiate the fundraising for a new museum at UC Davis with a pledge of $2 million,” Mondavi said.

“The excellent teaching artists of the past and the prominent faculty at UC Davis today deserve a great home for art, which is an ongoing love affair of my life.”

Katehi hailed Mondavi as a “visionary leader who has been instrumental in shaping the university as one of the world’s finest.”

“By supporting our internationally renowned programs in the science of wine and food, as well as the performing and visual arts, Margrit aims to nurture the very body and soul of both the university and society as a whole,” Katehi said.

Jessie Ann Owens, dean of the Division of Humanities, Arts and Cultural Studies, also applauded the generous philanthropist.

“Margrit Mondavi is an inspiration to me and to UC Davis – her passion and commitment to the arts, and her generosity of spirit have lifted us all,” Owens said.

The art museum will be constructed on a site between the Mondavi Center and Maurice J. Gallagher Jr. Hall, the new home of the university’s Graduate School of Management. When it opens, the museum will complete the campus’s new “front door,” easily accessible from Interstate 80, the main corridor between San Francisco and the state capital in Sacramento.

The new museum will display and hold most of the university’s fine art collection, much of which has been carefully stored for years in the Art Building. In addition, the museum will be used to carry out the university’s teaching and research mission.

“Margrit Mondavi’s continued altruism is surpassed only by her great personal zeal and spirit of life,” said Wayne Thiebaud, a UC Davis professor emeritus of art and one of the most important contemporary American artists. “Once again she helps to advance the university’s ongoing progress toward creating a rich environment for us all.”

Thiebaud, who recently donated 20 hand-worked prints valued at nearly $900,000 to UC Davis, is among a prominent group of art department alumni and emeriti that includes Roland Petersen, the late Robert Arneson, the late Roy De Forest, Malaquias Montoya, Deborah Butterfield and Bruce Nauman.

UC Davis has a long history of excellence in the arts. In the 1960s, faculty artists such as Thiebaud, Arneson, De Forest and William T. Wiley broke down barriers and asked new questions about making art. With the help of founding chairman and professor Richard L. Nelson, the art department became one of the highest ranked in the country. The founding artists and many alumni are represented in major museums, galleries and private collections around the world.
Planning for the art museum began in 2006. The university hired Museum Management Consultants of San Francisco and gathered university representatives and regional arts supporters to develop a strategic plan and mission for the project.

Margrit Mondavi’s pledge provides the first $2 million toward the $30 million fundraising goal. The university also is seeking a lead donor for whom the museum would be named and will soon launch a broader, public fundraising effort.

With $30 million in hand, the university would be able to move forward with the design phase of the project.

The museum will display the university’s extensive art collection for a much wider audience. The approximately 4,000 works range from Asian prints, drawings and ceramics to European works dating to the Renaissance.

Areas of particular strength include Northern California post-war art by distinguished artists associated with the UC Davis art department, including the founding faculty, former faculty such as Manuel Neri, and alumni such as Butterfield, Nauman and John Buck. The collection also contains a set of lithographs by James McNeill Whistler.

ESTATE GIFT ESTABLISHES PROFESSORSHIP IN OPERA

The Department of Music has received a sizable estate gift valued at nearly $500,000, which will be used to establish an endowment to support the Jan and Beta Popper Professorship in Opera. It will be held by a professor whose teaching and research or creative work includes opera and other fields of music.

D. Kern Holoman, professor of music and interim chair of the Department of Art and Art Studio, discussed the impact that the Poppers and their gifts have made to the department. “Beta and Jan Papper, both individually and as a couple, spent their lives championing art music in live performance,” he said. “Whether introducing Mozart opera, live, to theatres along the Pacific Rim or energizing campus music-making at California’s great universities, they never failed to leave indelible memories behind. Jan’s library has long supported our students in their study of the great operas. Beta’s moving gift in memory of her husband is certain to foster significant new ventures at the intersection of music performance and research—precisely where our program has achieved one of its signature strengths.”

Elizabeth “Beta” Popper died in 2008 as a result of an automobile accident. She was 95 years old. She had been a mezzo-soprano early in her career and performed with the San Francisco Opera. In Davis, Beta was involved in the music department as well as the Davis Costume Guild. Her husband Jan, a composer, was a visiting professor in the music department for a short time, and he passed away in 1987. His books and papers have been donated to the music library as part of Beta’s bequest to UC Davis.

FUNDING EXCELLENCE

When Fred Corson (B.S., Chemistry, ’64, Ph.D., Chemistry, ’67) retired as a board member from the Dow Chemical Company, the company offered $60,000 to be donated to a charity of his choice, a tradition offered to all senior executives at the company. Corson chose the Department of Chemistry at UC Davis, and added $60,000 of his own funds to create the Corson/Dow Graduate Fellowship, to recruit top graduate students in chemistry. Corson/Dow Scholars are chosen based on academic excellence and professional potential.

The fellowship has been in place for 12 years, with Corson, who is a member of the College of Letters and Science Deans’ Advisory Council and is serving his third term as trustee of the UC Davis Foundation Board, adding to the fund frequently. And at the end of this past year, he and his wife Mary Jane donated their largest gift to the university – $100,000 – adding even more funds available to chemistry graduate students.

“My hope in creating and building the fellowship endowment is really to give something back to the university and the department...
that gave me what I think is really an excellent education. It’s one of the reasons I had such a successful career with Dow.”

Corson has also kept in close contact with the Department of Chemistry and is in touch with the graduate students who receive the fellowship funds. “I think getting the best graduate students has really helped the department recruit and retain the best faculty, which in turn continues the excellence of the entire department. In the years since I received my Ph.D., I’ve been so pleased to see the department improve its national rankings year over year.”

As of the end of the fiscal year 2008–09, 12 students had received the Corson/Dow fellowship, with an average award of about $4,000. 2009–10 fellows will be announced soon.

A UNIQUE GIFT HELPS STUDENTS TAKE THE NEXT STEP

A solid undergraduate education at UC Davis often includes more than just coursework. Each year, more than 6,000 (or nearly 30% of) undergraduates at UC Davis participate in internships that provide practical experience that complements their undergraduate curriculum. Unfortunately, some students are unable to participate in internships because of the “opportunity cost” of taking an unpaid internship for a quarter. Even for those not receiving financial aid but who must work during the school year to supplement their income, it is difficult to give up a paid job in order to take an unpaid internship.

The March Family Foundation has given a $100,000 gift to establish the March Family Internship endowment, which will provide annual awards to students in the Department of Economics. The fund is the first of its kind for UC Davis, and will pave the way to success for many students as they prepare to enter the job market after graduation.

The March family wanted to provide support for students majoring in economics so that they could participate in business-related internships that would provide practical, real-world experience to complete their coursework. The fund supports students who would normally be unable to participate in internships.

Roy March (B.A., Economics, ’78), one of the officers of the foundation, reiterated the importance of internships to undergraduate education. “The intern program was probably the most important opportunity in determining my career path. I wanted to give back specifically to an area that had that kind of impact on me.”

Dean of the Division of Social Sciences Ron Mangun reiterated the importance of the gift to economics students. “This fund will play a critical role in helping our economics majors add an experiential component to their curriculum. We are grateful to the March Family Foundation for their generosity and for establishing such a unique and forward-thinking endowment.”

DEANS’ ADVISORY COUNCIL WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

The Deans’ Advisory Council functions as the main advisory body for the College of Letters and Science, focusing on advancement efforts and outreach. Members serve as community ambassadors, helping to plan and implement strategies for philanthropic priorities, improve donor relations, and increase visibility for the college’s programs and initiatives. The volunteer board welcomed four new members this past fall, bringing the group’s total to 15.

To be able to round out the council with alumni, active community members and business professionals brings a great balance to this accomplished team,” said chair Kevin Bacon (B.A., Political Science, ’72.) “We’ve been very impressed by the passion that these individuals have for higher education, and we look forward to working with them.” The new members, photographed above, are: Joan Sallee, Robert Rotstan, Jr., Renee Child (B.A., Psychology and German, ’76) and Nancy Roe.
Marc Blanchard
DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR,
COMPARATIVE LITERATURE

Marc Blanchard, a distinguished professor of comparative literature who taught at UC Davis for 39 years, died in November 2009 at the age of 67. UC Davis faculty, staff and students paid tribute to him in a service on campus in January. Blanchard came to UC Davis in 1971. He became a world-renowned scholar in critical theory in the 1970s and 1980s, and later pursued specializations in Latin American literature and culture and Caribbean studies. He published many books and close to 100 scholarly articles; he will also be remembered for charting new ground in relations with Cuba, establishing a study-abroad program in 2001 that made UC Davis one of a handful of US institutions to offer a program in Cuba. He founded the Critical Theory program, helped to build the Comparative Literature program, and also taught French, Spanish, Cultural Studies, and Community Development during his time at UC Davis. Blanchard received numerous awards throughout his teaching career, including a prestigious Guggenheim Fellowship and, in 2009, UC Davis’s Distinguished Teaching Award for Graduate and Professional Teaching. He is survived by his wife, Raquel Salgado Scherr, and his daughter, Lauren Blanchard.

Contributions in his memory can be made payable to “UC Davis Foundation” to: Marc Blanchard Comparative Literature Travel Award, UC Davis, One Shields Ave., Davis, CA 95616-8601.

Robert W. Jackman
DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR, POLITICAL SCIENCE

Robert W. (Bob) Jackman, a distinguished professor of political science, died in October 2009, after a long struggle with pancreatic cancer. Jackman was the author of four books and many scholarly articles, published in leading journals in political science and sociology, and known internationally as a leading scholar in comparative politics, comparative institutions and political behavior.

Jackman earned his Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin in 1972 and taught at Michigan State before being recruited by UC Davis in 1989. His work garnered numerous awards, including fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation and the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford University. He is survived by his wife Mary Jackman, professor of sociology at UC Davis, and by his daughter Rachael and son Saul.

The Department of Political Science has established a memorial fund to support graduate student research. Contributions may be made payable to “UC Regents” and sent to The Robert Jackman Memorial Fund, UC Davis, Department of Political Science, One Shields Ave., Davis, CA 95616.

Carol Tomlinson-Keasey
FOUNDING CHANCELLOR, UC MERCED
FORMER DEAN, UC DAVIS COLLEGE OF LETTERS AND SCIENCE

Carol Tomlinson-Keasey passed away in October 2009 at the age of 66. She began her academic career as a developmental psychologist, earning her doctorate at UC Berkeley and completing postdoctoral studies at the Institute of Behavioral Genetics at the University of Colorado. She joined the University of California, Riverside, in the psychology department in 1977; in 1992, she was named Vice Provost and Professor at UC Davis. In 1994, she became Dean of the College of Letters and Science. During her tenure as dean, she oversaw the reorganization of the college into its present divisions of Humanities, Arts and Cultural Studies, Mathematical and Physical Sciences, and Social Sciences.

In 1995, she became Vice Provost for Academic Planning and personnel, moving to the UC Office of the President in 1997 and shortly thereafter taking on responsibility for planning the opening of UC Merced. She was the founding Chancellor of UC Merced, having been named to the post in 1999 and overseeing the institution’s opening in 2005. She retired from the university in 2007. Tomlinson-Keasey is survived by her husband, their grown children, Amber and Kai, and several grandchildren.

Memorial donations may be made to the Carol Tomlinson-Keasey Fund at UC Merced; mail contributions, payable to “UC Regents,” to UC Merced, Gift Administration Office, Attn: Carol Tomlinson-Keasey Fund, UC Merced Foundation, 5200 North Lake Rd., Merced, CA 95343.
California Indian song, bustling tours and quiet, personal moments were all part of the dedication in November of a new outdoor reflective space honoring the Patwin who once lived on the land that would become UC Davis.

The Native American Contemplative Garden is part of a larger UC Davis project—believed to be the first at any public university in the nation—to honor the land’s original inhabitants and to educate the campus and its visitors about them.

Inés Hernández-Avila, a professor of Native American studies and person of Nez Perce and Chicana heritage who collaborated on the garden, calls it “a work of spirit.” Under the guidance of Patwin Elder Bill Wright, she said, work on the garden is fostering healing after campus construction projects disturbed native remains. “The land that UC Davis sits on is ancestrally Patwin land,” said Hernández-Avila. “This contemplative garden is a reminder that the connection still exists for the Patwin people, who themselves are a living presence in California.”

“This recognition is a gift to the campus, to the native community and to everyone,” she added. “It’s a gift that a lot of people had a part in.”

The garden sits on the bank of the historic Putah Creek channel and within the UC Davis Arboretum, a living museum with 100 acres of gardens and plant collections known internationally as scientific and horticultural resources. The garden includes about 34 varieties of plants—many identified by their Patwin names—that were used by the inhabitants for food, medicine, basketry and much more.

UC Davis enrolled its first students in 1908. The Department of Native American Studies, one of only two in the nation to offer a Ph.D. in Native American studies, is celebrating its 40th anniversary as an academic program and the 10th anniversary of the arrival of its first graduate students.

Editor’s note: Article shortened from its original format. To read the entire article, please go to: http://www.news.ucdavis.edu/search/news_detail.lasso?id=9277.
UC DAVIS ART, COMMUNITY CENTER FOR LOCAL YOUTHS OPENS

By Jim Sweeney

UC Davis faculty and students, local residents and government officials gathered to celebrate the opening of a community art center dedicated to inspiring local youth and reinforcing culture through silk-screening, mural painting and other classes. The TANA center, conceived and operated by the UC Davis Department of Chicana/o Studies, represents the culmination of a six-year quest to establish the type of community art workshop that existed in many urban settings decades ago. TANA stands for Taller Arte del Nuevo Amanecer, or Art Workshop of the New Dawn. The center will operate out of a former Yolo County Housing warehouse that has been renovated with $342,000 in federal grants. It is located across the street from a large subsidized housing neighborhood and is designed to appeal to teenagers and other youth who live there and throughout the community. Supporters say that through silk-screen printing and mural painting, the center will attempt to cultivate the cultural and artistic life of the community, while encouraging participants to seek higher education and self-determination.

“The idea is to bring people in to work together,” said Malaquias Montoya, professor emeritus of art and Chicana/o studies, who along with Carlos Francisco Jackson, assistant professor of Chicana/o studies, made TANA a reality. “Have young kids work with older kids. Those who have advanced can actually do work for the community, if some organization needs a poster.”

Editor's note: Article shortened from its original format. To read the entire article, please go to http://www.news.ucdavis.edu/search/news_detail.lasso?id=9216.
“RELIGION, LITERATURE AND THE ARTS: A CONFERENCE”
When: Friday, March 5, 9am – 5pm
Where: Voorhies Hall
Broadly conceived and focusing on multiple art forms, the conference will feature Professor Guiseppe Mazzotta from Yale University as the keynote speaker and several Division of HArCS faculty and graduate students will speak on various aspects of the intersection of religion and the arts.

SUAD JOSEPH LECTURE SERIES IN IRANIAN STUDIES FEATURING DR. HOUCHANG CHEHABI, PROFESSOR OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND HISTORY, BOSTON UNIVERSITY, “NAMING IRANIANS: THE INTRODUCTION OF FAMILY NAMES IN IRAN”
When: March 9, 6pm – 9pm
Where: Activities and Recreation Center, Ballroom A
The Suad Joseph Lecture Series in Iranian Studies is made possible through generous donations by Bijan and Forozan Bijan, Masud and Tahereh Monfared, and Javad and Shirin Rahimian. The series launches the development of Iranian Studies within the Middle East/South Asia Studies Program. It is co-sponsored by the Middle East/South Asia Studies Program, Cultural Studies, History and Women and Gender Studies.

VISITING ARTISTS LECTURE SERIES: RON BARON, NEW YORK SCULPTOR OF INSTALLATIONS IN AIRPORTS AND TRANSIT CENTERS
When: March 11, 4:30pm
Where: Technocultural Studies Hall, 17 Art Annex Building

WORKSHOP ON “MODELING DYNAMICAL SYSTEMS”
When: March 13
Where: TBD
A daylong workshop titled “Modeling Dynamic Systems” will be sponsored by the Department of Statistics. A number of distinguished speakers will deliver keynote lectures during the workshop, focusing on the potential role of statistics in modeling and analyzing dynamical systems.

SHEFFRIN LECTURES IN PUBLIC POLICY FEATURING SPEAKER JONATHAN GRUBER, DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS, MIT: “HEALTH REFORM IN THE U.S.: HOW WE GOT HERE AND WHERE WE ARE GOING”
When: March 30, 6:00pm – 7:30pm
Where: Walter A. Buehler Alumni and Visitors Center, AGR Room
The Sheffrin Lectures in Public Policy are possible thanks to a gift from former dean of the Division of Social Sciences, Steven M. Sheffrin, and his wife, Anjali Sheffrin.

DESIGN BY DESIGN: JURIED STUDENT DESIGN COMPETITION
When: April 5 – 17
Where: Design Museum, Walker Hall
This annual installation, timed to coincide with the university’s Picnic Day (April 17), is a lively survey of student talent and creativity that reflects the multidisciplinary breadth of the Design Program.


NIU PASIFIK – URBAN ART FROM THE PACIFIC RIM
When: April 6 – June 13
Where: C.N. Gorman Museum
Niu Pasifik is an exhibition of contemporary art from New Zealand and the Pacific Rim from the personal collection of curator and educator Giles Peterson, including artwork from Aotearoa, the Cook Islands, Samoa, Tonga, Niue, Hawaii, Papua New Guinea and Australia.

MAIN STAGE DANCE/THEATRE FESTIVAL
When: April 9, 10, 16, 17, 18
Where: Main Theatre, Wright Hall
New choreographies by undergraduate students, graduate students, and UC Davis dance instructors, sponsored by the Department of Theatre and Dance.

SYMPOSIUM FOR STATISTICAL SCIENCES / SHUMWAY LECTURES
When: April 15
Where: See http://www.stat.ucdavis.edu/symposium/ for details
This half-day symposium aims at facilitating and enhancing communication and collaboration between the Department of Statistics and other scientists applying, developing and ana-
Analyzing statistical techniques. The Shumway Lectures honor the career of Robert Shumway, professor emeritus of statistics, and his lasting impact on the research and education in statistical science.

**PICNIC DAY**
*When*: April 17  
*Where*: UC Davis  

**EMPYREAN ENSEMBLE, DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC**
*When*: April 18, 7pm – 9pm  
*Where*: Vanderhoef Studio Theatre, Mondavi Center


**PUBLIC INTELLECTUALS FORUM: DON RANDEL, CHAIR, THE MELLON FOUNDATION ON “THE VALUES OF THE UNIVERSITY”**
*When*: Tuesday, April 27, 5:30pm  
*Where*: Vanderhoef Studio Theater, Mondavi Center

In “The Values of the University,” Dr. Don Randel draws on four decades of distinguished scholarship and leadership in higher education as well as his current position as head of the Mellon Foundation, one of the nation’s leading supporters of research in the humanities and arts.

More information on the Public Intellectuals Forum can be found at [http://publicforum.ucdavis.edu/](http://publicforum.ucdavis.edu/)

**VISITING ARTISTS LECTURE SERIES: MARIE THIBEAULT, CELEBRATED CALIFORNIA PAINTER, THOUGHT “ONE OF THE STRONGEST PAINTERS IN THE SOUTHLAND”**
*When*: May 6, 4:30pm  
*Where*: Technocultural Studies Hall, 17 Art Annex Building

**FINANCIAL SHOCKS AND THE REAL ECONOMY: 4TH ANNUAL CENTER FOR THE EVOLUTION OF THE GLOBAL ECONOMY CONFERENCE**
*When*: Friday, May 7, 8am – 5pm  
*Where*: L.J. Andrews Conference Room, SS&H 2203

**FASHION TECHNOLOGY AND EXPERIMENTAL TEXTILES BY DR. KINOR JIANG**
*When*: May 10 – July 9  
*Where*: Design Museum, Walker Hall

Capturing the new technology in textile application, Dr. Kinor Jiang from Hong Kong Polytechnic University explores metallic fiber transformation and metal plating of fabrics for innovative textile designs.

**UC DAVIS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA: SHOSTAKOVICH & BEETHOVEN**
*When*: May 16  
*Where*: Jackson Hall, Mondavi Center

Owen Smith and Nayland Blake
When: Nelson Gallery: Owen Smith in Main Gallery, Nayland Blake in Project Room
Where: May 18 – 23
Owen Smith’s illustration clients include Sports Illustrated, Time, Rolling Stone, and the New Yorker, for which he has created 15 cover illustrations. His paintings have been featured in exhibitions in New York, Rome and Milan, as well as solo shows in Los Angeles. Nayland Blake is an artist, writer and educator. His work is included in the collections of The Museum of Modern Art, The Whitney Museum, The Studio Museum of Harlem, LA MoCa, The Museum of Fine Arts Boston, The San Francisco Museum of Modern Art and the DeYoung Museum, amongst others.

A Matter of Taste
(A Performance and Food Event)
When: May 19 – 22, 8pm
Performers and spectators will eat together through this intimate, immersive and interactive event and together will attempt to address both the subjective and highly individual experience of “taste” and the social redefining of what might be considered “good” and “bad” taste.
More details can be found at: http://theatredance.ucdavis.edu/

Suad Joseph Lecture Series in Iranian Studies
Featuring Dr. Ahmad Karimi-HakcaK, Professor and Director for Persian Studies, University of Maryland “Interplay of Image and Idea in Persian Poetry”
When: May 19, 6pm – 9pm
Where: Activities and Recreation Center, Ballroom A

Race, Region and De Segregation in the United States
When: May 20, 5pm
Where: Mondavi Studio Theatre
The Center for History, Society and Culture presents three eminent scholars of desegregation in America for a discussion of how the process of dismantling Jim Crow varied by region, covering the North, South, and West, and explaining how those differences affect the politics of race in the U.S. today.

Economic and Social Mobility: Historical and Contemporary
When: May 20 – 21
Where: Walter A. Buehler Alumni and Visitors Center, Founders Room
Conference sponsored by Economy, Justice and Society and the All-UC Group in Economic History

UC Davis Film Festival
When: May 26, 27, 8:30pm
Where: The Davis Varsity Theatre, 616 Second Street, Davis
The 10th annual UC Davis Film Festival is produced by the Department of Theatre and Dance and presented by the Davis Varsity Theatre in association with UC Davis Technocultural Studies and co-sponsored by Film Studies and Art Studio.

University Chorus, Department of Music
When: May 28, 8pm – 10pm
Where: Jackson Hall, Mondavi Center
Jeffrey Thomas, conductor.
More details: http://music.ucdavis.edu

College of Letters and Science Commencement
When: Saturday, June 12, 9am and 2pm
Where: Activities and Recreation Center Pavilion
More details: http://www.ls.ucdavis.edu/commencement/

Flatlanders III
When: Nelson Gallery
Where: July 8 – August 15
More details: http://nelsongallery.ucdavis.edu/
NEW RESEARCH FROM UC DAVIS’ CENTER FOR MIND AND BRAIN AND M.I.N.D. INSTITUTE

Two brain areas fail to connect when children with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) attempt a task that measures attention, according to researchers at the UC Davis Center for Mind and Brain and M.I.N.D. Institute.

“This is the first time that we have direct evidence that this connectivity is missing in ADHD,” said Ali Mazaheri, postdoctoral researcher at the Center for Mind and Brain, part of the Division of Social Sciences. Mazaheri and his colleagues made the discovery by analyzing the brain activity in children with ADHD. The paper appears in the current online issue of the journal Biological Psychiatry.

The researchers measured electrical rhythms from the brains of volunteers, especially the alpha rhythm. When part of the brain is emitting alpha rhythms, it shows that it is disengaged from the rest of the brain and not receiving or processing information optimally, Mazaheri said.

In the experiments, children with diagnosed ADHD and normal children were given a simple attention test while their brain waves were measured. The test consisted of being shown a red or blue image, or hearing a high or low sound, and having to react by pressing a button. Immediately before the test, the children were shown either a letter “V” to alert them that the test would involve a picture (visual), or an inverted “V” representing the letter “A” to alert them that they would hear a sound (auditory).

The experiments were conducted by researchers in the laboratories of Ron Mangun, professor of psychology and neurology and dean of the Division of Social Sciences, and Blythe Corbett, associate clinical professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences. According to current models of how the brain allocates attention, signals from the frontal cortex — such as the “V” and “A” cues — should alert other parts of the brain, such as the visual processing area at the back of the head, to prepare to pay attention to something. That should be reflected in a drop in alpha wave activity in the visual area, Mazaheri said.

And that is what the researchers found in the brain waves of children without ADHD. But children with the disorder showed no such drop in activity, indicating a disconnection between the center of the brain that allocates attention and the visual processing regions, Mazaheri said.

“The brains of the children with ADHD apparently prepare to attend to upcoming stimuli differently than do typically developing children,” he said.

Children with ADHD did improve their reaction times when properly cued, but they don’t seem to allocate resources as efficiently, Mazaheri said.

This is the first evidence from brain electrical patterns for a functional disconnection in cortical attention systems in ADHD, he said. Current definitions of ADHD are based only on behavior.

The research was originally inspired by a desire to combine laboratory and clinical research to go beyond existing measures of ADHD and get a better understanding of the condition, Corbett said.

“Clearly the crosstalk from bedside to bench has been fruitful,” she said.

Other co-authors on the paper are staff research associate Sharon Corina, postdoctoral fellow Evelijn Bekker and research assistant Anne Berry. The study was funded by the grants from the National Institutes of Health, the Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research, the Perry Family Foundation, the Debber Family Foundation and the Aristos Academy.
Donor Support Makes Debate Possible

Debate program enables students to develop critical thinking and public speaking skills, thanks in part to donations to a UC Davis program that is permanently funded in other universities.

Tensions run high as the debate topic is announced: The United States should pass legislation to significantly increase the rate of tissue and organ donation. The UC Davis Debate Team works quickly to formulate arguments for and against the issue at hand, knowing they have a mere 20 minutes to plan and will not be able to use their notes. They must draw on their breadth of knowledge about the topic. But the highly motivated team is ready for the challenge.

One of over 200 member schools in the National Parliamentary Debate Association, the UC Davis team finished its 2008–09 season in the top 20 percent, ahead of UC Berkeley and UCLA. Founded in the 1960s by Dr. James J. (Jerry) Murphy, professor emeritus of English, the program is one of the oldest in the UC system. Today, the team is led by Don Abbott, professor of English, who has been guiding the group on a volunteer basis since 1982. While many schools have the funding for a dedicated, full-time faculty member, Abbott makes time for his students in addition to his quarterly course-load and is assisted by a graduate student.

The debate program offers participating students academic credit in addition to the intensive opportunity to train and excel in public speaking, argumentation and research. The team meets weekly to discuss current events and to engage in practice debates. In addition, Abbott strongly encourages his team to read The Economist regularly. From these meetings, students learn to build up specific sets of arguments and create a portfolio to draw on in tournaments. With topics ranging from health care and military operations, to economic sanctions and carbon emissions caps, students must be well-prepared to address a myriad of issues. To remain competitive, these students must be able to speak clearly and formulate cohesive arguments. In a typical tournament setting, the students form two person teams to compete in 6–8 preliminary rounds, which lead up to elimination debates. Each speaker gives an introductory speech and has an opportunity for rebuttal. Teams are then rated by a judge, who will determine the winner.

The team competes primarily in California, given the cost of traveling out of state. All competitions require an entry fee, paid out of the program's budget. With modest funding, the entire team will not be able to attend the National Tournament in Texas this March, but will try to send as many as possible.

Abbott and his team are grateful for the support they have, but are hoping that in the future, they will be able to afford to travel to more out-of-state debates.

The program welcomes all interested undergraduate students without regard to prior experience, skill level or major. The current team of 17 is relatively young, comprised primarily of first- and second-year students from a variety of majors such as international relations, communication, political science, economics, history and some unexpected areas, like sociology, anthropology, electrical engineering and drama. Debate is a great activity, and “prepares you for life” says Abbott. “It’s an intense way [for students] to learn what they can’t get from the classroom.”

“The UC Davis Debate Program is supported in part with funding from the College of Letters and Science's Deans' Circle: The Herbert A. Young Society. For more information on the Young Society, or to make a gift to the college, please call (530) 754-9313.
Anne Schilling, professor of mathematics, and colleague Philip Sternberg created an example of a crystal base, or an object arising in the representation theory of quantum groups. Crystal bases have been used to prove formulas for the statistical behavior of systems of particles.