It's a beautiful Wednesday evening during spring quarter. For the most part, the hallways of the Chemistry Building are fairly empty. One exception lies in room 179. The “classroom” for tonight transcends the boundaries of the chemistry building.

Tonight, Chemistry 130B (Pharmaceutical Chemistry 2) is hosting an international event with guest lecturer and UC Davis alumnus Sundeep Dugar (Ph.D., Chemistry, ‘84). The lecture is held in conjunction with UC Davis Quarter Abroad students at Academia Sinica, Taiwan. Dugar is the president and CEO of Sphaera Pharma and the co-inventor of the popular anti-cholesterol drugs ZETIA® and VYTORIN® (he has worked for Schering-Plough, Bristol-Meyers Squibb, Scios, and Johnson & Johnson). He has also played an integral role in the creation and future of the pharmaceutical chemistry major at UC Davis.

Originally the brainchild of Professor of Chemistry Jacquelyn Gervay-Hague, the pharmaceutical chemistry series is a product of the combined efforts of Gervay-Hague as well as chemistry professors Dean Tantillo, Sheila David, Peter Beal and Xi Chen. The class is structured around guest lecturers in the pharmaceutical and business industries to give students an eye-opening account of how they can use their degrees in the “real world.”

“These lecturers know things that we, as professors, don’t,” says Sheila David, professor of chemistry. “When guest lecturers from the industry come in, they give students a different perspective that isn’t rooted so much in scientific theory. We’re especially lucky to have a lecturer like Dr. Dugar, who gives so much back to the program.”

Inside the classroom, students start trickling in as time gets closer to 6pm. A large white screen hangs at the base of the lecture hall; a technician fiddles with a camera and adjusts the setup for the upcoming conference call. David welcomes Dean Winston Ko and a delegation of chemists from Peking University, China. The camera sparks to life and gives viewers a live feed of UC Davis students in Taiwan, along with Dean Tantillo, associate professor of chemistry, all eagerly assembled for Dugar’s lecture. Turning to the delegation of students and scholars, David introduces Dugar and greets the students watching from Taiwan. Dugar smiles as he is introduced, acknowledging the applause only briefly. Eager to move into his lecture, he launches into a discussion of the practice of medicinal chemistry.

“Medicinal chemistry involves looking at multiple sets of data to design new molecules for specific targets and create new pharmacological agents designed for these targets and hopefully to treat associated disease(s),” explains Dugar.

Dugar describes the relationship that certain enzymes like kinase have with disease pathways and how chemists alter the chemical structure of molecules in specific ways to target these enzymes and create new drugs for the pharmaceutical industry. He provides a description of the process of creating drugs like ZETIA® and VYTORIN®. He emphasizes the innovative capabilities and opportunities available to students hoping to enter the pharmaceutical industry.

“Dugar’s first-hand experience with creating drugs and his considerable exposure to the pharmaceutical industry is invaluable information for our students,” says David in response to Dugar’s lecture. “Whether or not they decide to work in a pharmaceutical company, they’ll need this experience as doctors or pharmacists interacting with pharmaceutical companies or in other pharmaceutical-related jobs engaged in the marketing and selling of drugs.”

“The UC Davis Quarter Abroad program in Taiwan is certainly a special component of our department,” says David. “There are sixteen students that went to Taiwan this quarter. I think it makes the students realize the global endeavors available to them in their major, all while receiving a wonderful experience abroad.”

The sense of community that surrounds both student and staff in the pharmaceutical chemistry major is apparent inside the classroom tonight. Students and faculty in Taiwan and Davis span a fifteen hour time difference to discuss chemistry, forge relationships and create networks between future and present pharmaceutical chemists.
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COMMENTS?
Comments and questions about this issue of College Currents can be sent to the editor at currentseditor@ucdavis.edu.

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CORRECTIONS: FALL 2011 ISSUE

L&S Turns 60, page 12
The quote at the bottom of page 12 was incorrectly attributed to Roy Bishop. That comment was made by John Jungerman, professor emeritus of physics. We apologize for the error.

College Corner, Page 6
The word “Guantanamo” was spelled incorrectly in the article on page 6 of the fall issue. Thanks to J. M. Avila (M.A., Geography, ’91) for catching our mistake.

Letter from the Deans

We hope you enjoy this issue of College Currents, the UC Davis College of Letters and Science magazine. We are very excited to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the College of Letters and Science this year. Although certainly much has changed since 1951, when the college was founded, the core values of the college remain strong—values of scholarly inquiry and debate, cross-disciplinary teaching and collaboration, and dedicated public service. As students and faculty address the complex issues of the present day, there is a distinct awareness that UC Davis is stronger than ever before. A key factor in our success today is the partnership of committed alumni, parents and community members who support the college. It is fitting that this year we received the largest gift in the college’s 60-year history: a $10 million gift from vintner Jan Shrem to name a new museum of art. You can read more about this transformational gift in our feature story.

Also in this issue, be sure to look for the latest in research, and take a look at the “On the Scene” section for the spring’s upcoming events. We hope you enjoy reading this issue, and wish you a wonderful spring and summer.

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
LIGHTNING STRIKES MORE THAN TWICE

MONIQUE BORGERHOF MULDER, a professor of anthropology at UC Davis, has done research in East Africa for many years, studying behavioral ecology. While her research is often centered around marriage, health, household economics, and other behavioral ecology, she and TIM CARO (professor of wildlife, conservation and fisheries biology) made a startling discovery while on sabbatical in Africa. They were visiting a mission site on the western shore of Lake Malawi and noted extremely high rates of mortality and injury by lightning. Working with a local research assistant LAMEK MSALU and ecology graduate student JONATHAN SALERNO, they conducted a comprehensive study of victims and their relatives in Nkhata Bay District, Malawi. Their findings demonstrated an annual rate of death from lightning that is 5.4 times greater than the highest ever recorded anywhere in the world (see the attached graph).

Mulder noted that this remarkable figure reveals that lightning constitutes a significant stochastic source of mortality, and is linked to prevalent beliefs in witchcraft and sorcery as causes of death in rural Malawian communities. But she urges that the data not let attention be deflected from the more prominent causes of mortality in rural Africa—infant and childhood morbidity, HIV infection, TB and malaria.

GEOLOGIST ADVISES ON MARS LANDING SITE

Based partly on the advice of DAWN SUMNER, a professor of geology, the next Mars rover, Curiosity, will land in Gale crater near the Martian equator. The site was selected based on the “reachable science” nearby, said Sumner, who is also the co-chair of the landing site working group for the Mars Science Laboratory mission. The goal of the laboratory is to evaluate whether the Martian environment could have, or could now, support life.

Gale crater was selected based on data from probes in orbit around Mars. The crater has evidence of the past presence of water and a three-mile high series of sedimentary rock layers that likely represent tens of millions of years of Martian history. At the bottom of the crater are signs of both clay and sulfate salts. Both form in the presence of water, but under quite different conditions, Sumner said.

“We will learn a huge amount about the Martian environment,” said Sumner. The mission lifted off in November and will arrive on Mars in August.

SPEED LIMIT ON BABIES’ VISION

Babies have far less ability to recognize rapidly changing images than adults, according to research from the UC Davis Center for Mind and Brain. The results show that while infants can perceive flicker or movement, they may not be able to identify the individual elements within a moving or changing scene as well as an adult.

“Their visual experience of changes around them is definitely different from that of an adult,” said FARAZ FARZIN, who conducted the work as a graduate student at UC Davis and is now a postdoctoral fellow at Stanford University. The study, conducted with SUSAN RIVERA, an associate professor of psychology, and DAVID WHITNEY, an associate professor of psychology at UC Berkeley, was published online by the journal Psychological Science.

Babies are not born with all the visual abilities they need in life. Their brains gradually develop the ability to use visual information to discover their world. Even in adults, the brain is limited in the rate at which it can keep up with changing information in a scene, Farzin said. An adult can’t recognize individual moment-to-moment changes that occur faster than every 50–70 milliseconds. For infants, Farzin and her colleagues found that the speed limit is about half a second—about 10 times slower than for adults.

“It was surprising how coarse their resolution was,” Farzin said. A TV show or movie in which scenes change faster than two frames per second is probably a blur to an infant under 15 months, Farzin said.
GRADUATE STUDENTS IN MIDDLE EAST GAIN CRITICAL SKILLS

Over the next two years, some Middle Eastern graduate students will learn how to advocate for change through research and public policy. SUAD JOSEPH, a professor of anthropology and women and gender studies, will lead a team of international scholars from six countries to train approximately 25 students a year during a two-year period to write proposals and learn scientific research methods. The training will draw students from Egypt, Lebanon and Palestine, and will take place in Cairo and Beirut.

“This is truly an international effort. It’s very important, especially at this time in world events, to train these young people how to identify researchable questions, thoroughly formulate the plan for data gathering, then carry out the research and data analysis and finally to publish, disseminate and engage in policymaking,” said Joseph. “We need to bring these scholar-activists together to help them develop the skills for evidence-based analysis, which can inform public policy and change. This will help them have an informed impact on their countries and the world.”

The project is a continuation of the work of 16 interdisciplinary scholars from six countries who make up The Arab Families Working Group, which focuses on expanding knowledge and research of the Arab world by working with families and youth, which are core institutions of the Arab world.

PARTICLE PURSUIT

Physicists are closing in on the Higgs boson, the missing piece of the Standard Model of particle physics — but they aren’t quite there yet. The ATLAS and CMS experiments at the Large Hadron Collider have made progress in narrowing the energy range at which the Higgs could exist, but have yet to pin it down with enough statistical precision, or “five sigma” in mathematical jargon.

MANI TRIPATHI, professor of physics, said that although not yet conclusive, the results (announced in December) were a “shot in the arm” for the thousands of scientists working on the project. “The students and postdocs have been working very hard and such positive developments keep the enthusiasm level high,” he said.

“The fact that the results from two different experiments, CMS and ATLAS, have an excess at basically the same mass . . . is very exciting,” said physicist JOHN CONWAY, who is a collaborator on the CMS experiment.

In recent years physicists and astronomers have discovered that most of the universe is made up of “dark matter” and “dark energy” that does not appear to be made of the same matter and energy as our visible universe. There is also a long-standing problem of reconciling the Standard Model, which deals with extremely small particles, with General Relativity, which describes the behavior of gravity on an extremely large scale.

Conclusively identifying—or ruling out—the Higgs boson would help physicists confirm or reject the various theories that aim to unify the Standard Model and Relativity or attempt to address dark matter and dark energy.

ROUTING BRAIN TRAFFIC

A new study shows how the brain reconfigures its functional connections to take advantage of our knowledge of situations and minimize distractions.

“In order to behave efficiently, you want to process relevant sensory information as fast as possible, but relevance is determined by your current behavioral goals,” said JOY GENG, assistant professor of psychology at the Center for Mind and Brain. For example, a flashing road sign alerts us to traffic merging ahead; or a startled animal might cue you to look out for a hidden predator.

When concentrating on a specific task, it’s helpful to reconfigure brain networks so that task-relevant information is processed most efficiently.
efficiently and external distractions are reduced, Geng said. Geng and coauthor NICHOLAS DIQUATTRO, graduate student at UC Davis, used functional
magnetic resonance imaging to study brain activity in volunteers carrying out simple tests. The new work shows that the brain doesn’t always “ramp up” to deal with the more salient situation, Geng said. Instead, it changes how traffic moves through the existing hard-wired network—rather like changing water flow through a network of pipes or information flow over a computer network in order to maximize efficiency.

A NEW LOOK BELOW SURFACE OF NANOMATERIALS
Scientists can now look deeper into new materials to study their structure and behavior, thanks to work by an international group of researchers led by UC Davis and the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL). The technique will enable more detailed study of new types of materials for use in electronics, energy production, chemistry and other applications.

The technique, called angle-resolved photoemission, has been used since the 1970s to study materials, especially properties such as semiconductivity, superconductivity and magnetism. But the technique allows probing to a depth of only about a nanometer beneath the surface of a material, a limit imposed by the strong inelastic scattering of the emitted electrons. The breakthrough work of the UC Davis/LBNL team made use of the high-intensity X-ray source operated by the Japanese National

HAPPINESS CAN DETER JUVENILE CRIME
Happy adolescents report less involvement in crime and drug use than other youth, a new study finds.

“Our results suggest that the emphasis placed on happiness and well-being by positive psychologists and others is warranted,” said BILL MCCARTHY, professor of sociology. “In addition to their other benefits, programs and policies that increase childhood and adolescent happiness may have a notable effect on deterring nonviolent crime and drug use.”

Consequences of happiness are rarely examined by sociologists, and no previous studies have investigated its association with juvenile crime, the authors said. McCarthy and postdoctoral researcher TERESA CASEY argue that positive emotions also have a role. “We hypothesize that the benefits of happiness—from strong bonds with others, a positive self-image and the development of socially valued cognitive and behavioral skills—reinforce a decision-making approach that is informed by positive emotions,” they write in their study.

Their research finds that happier adolescents were less likely to report involvement in crime or drug use, and the study also found that changes in emotions over time matter. Most adolescents experience both happiness and depression, and the study finds that the relative intensity of these emotions is also important. The odds of drug use were notably lower for youth who reported that they were more often happy than depressed, and were substantially higher for those who indicated that they were more depressed than happy.
PROFESSOR INTERPRETS DIFFERENT ROLE OF BIN LADEN IN AL-QAIDA

After listening to audiocassettes from Osama bin Laden’s personal library, FLAGG MILLER, an associate professor of religious studies, casts doubt on the common belief that the 9/11 attacks resulted from a two-decades-long conspiracy against the United States by bin Laden and the organization he led. In fact, al-Qaida did not emerge in its ultimate form with bin Laden at the helm until the late 1990s, according to Miller. He argues that bin Laden maneuvered himself into becoming the leader of al-Qaida more through self-marketing than as a recognized militant leader, particularly after 9/11.

Miller delivered his research at the National Defense University in Washington, D.C. He called into question a widespread assumption that 9/11 and other terrorist attacks originated during a series of meetings in 1988 in which bin Laden and others purportedly pledged allegiance to al-Qaida and approved a series of terrorist activities.

Miller’s primary sources include tapes that he has translated from the original Arabic, in addition to military and court documents related to the U.S. government’s prosecutions of bin Laden and one of his associates, Enaam Arnaout.

An al-Qaida propaganda tape produced in October 2000 is the only source Miller has found so far that refers to “al-Qaida” as a militant organization or base associated with bin Laden. Al-Qaida means “base” in Arabic, but has different meanings in different contexts, according to Miller. “Al-Qaida can refer, of course, to bin Laden’s worldwide terrorist organization, but so too can it simply mean a ‘base’ of operations, as was the case for a host of training camps from the 1980s–2000s in Afghanistan, Pakistan and beyond that had no significant connection to bin Laden or his ideology,” he said.

Miller said that U.S. Department of Defense translations, as well as documents produced by prosecutors in American court proceedings, repeatedly leave this single word in its Arabic original. “But by doing so, they give the impression that discussions of ‘the base’ are, in fact, about the organization that we have come to know since September 11 as bin Laden’s brainchild.”

In the months and years following 9/11, many experts spoke of bin Laden’s “intimate involve-
artificial synthetic pathways and put them into living cells. “We can use genes as building blocks to create these new functions,” Atsumi said.

**ASSESSING CALIFORNIA EARTHQUAKE FORECASTS**

Earthquake prediction remains an imperfect science, but the best forecasts are about 10 times more accurate than a random prediction, according to a study published in the journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. In the study, UC Davis researchers compare seven different earthquake forecasts (including their own) that were submitted to a competition organized by the Southern California Earthquake Center. The findings should help researchers both develop better earthquake forecasts and improve their tools for assessing those forecasts, said DONALD TURCOTTE, a distinguished professor of geology at UC Davis and co-author of the paper.

The center launched the competition in 2005 based on a previous forecast published by the UC Davis group in 2001. The forecast submitted by the UC Davis group was the most accurate in picking the locations of the earthquakes, correctly labeling 17 of 22 grids and giving the highest probability of an earthquake in eight of these 17.

“Just as there are alternative ways to forecast earthquakes, there are also alternative ways to evaluate the success of the forecasts,” Turcotte said, noting that other publications evaluating the forecasts are expected.

**ANCIENT ARTIFACT DISCOVERED BY UC DAVIS GRADUATE STUDENT**

Jeremy Foin, a doctoral student in anthropology, made a unique discovery while on an excavation with researchers from the University of Colorado, Boulder. While sifting through three feet of sediment near an entryway to an ancient house at Cape Espenberg, Alaska, he found a prehistoric bronze artifact. It is made from a cast, and appears to have originated in East Asia. What makes this artifact unique is that it is the first prehistoric bronze artifact made from a cast ever found in Alaska.

“The shape of the object immediately caught my eye,” Foin told Physorg.com. He found the soil-covered artifact in an archaeological sifting screen. “After I saw that it clearly had been cast in a mold, my first thought was disbelief, quickly followed by the realization that I had found something of potentially great significance.”

The excavation was funded by the National Science Foundation to look at human response to climate change on the Seward Peninsula in Alaska some 1,000 years ago. The object itself is two inches by one inch and less than one inch thick.

**GRANT PROPELS POVERTY RESEARCH**

UC Davis received $4 million from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to establish a Center for Poverty Research, one of only three such centers nationwide designated to study the causes and effects of and policies aimed at addressing poverty in the United States. The interdisciplinary center, led by UC Davis economics professors ANN HUFF STEVENS and MARIANNE PAGE, will promote research and education on poverty, with an emphasis on labor markets and poverty; health and education programs; the transmission of poverty from one generation to another; and immigration’s role in poverty.

The center’s research will draw on the expertise of scholars across campus and involve faculty, and graduate and undergraduate students. In addition to funding research and outreach, the grant will help establish a freshman seminar in poverty to encourage students early in their college careers to consider poverty as a field of study.

“UC Davis is home to an incredibly productive group of researchers working on poverty. The center will build connections across campus that further strengthen this research, support the training of students to continue this research agenda and provide an improved structure for sharing our critical findings with other researchers, policymakers and the public,” said Stevens, who chairs the Department of Economics and will direct the new center.
UC Davis was chosen because of its strength in research on poverty and related issues. The research of the center can help identify which anti-poverty programs work and what the long-term effects of high poverty are likely to be for future generations, Stevens said. The research will also help to inform policymakers, she added.

“It is critical that we study the ramifications of this country’s increasing poverty so that we, as a nation, can create change for a healthier and more prosperous society,” said George R. Mangun, dean of the Division of Social Sciences. “This new center will provide the knowledge and understanding we need to put the next generation ahead, as our parents did for us.”

12/21/12: A SCHOLAR’S INTERPRETATION

There has been speculation about the date of December 21, 2012 for years. Some believe that the date, which signifies the end of the ancient Mayan calendar, will hold an ending for the world as it exists today. John Hall, a professor of sociology, has done research about apocalyptic movements for many years. He believes the apocalyptic “frenzy” will grow over the next few months, until December 21. “There are real crises in the world,” he told the Corvallis Gazette-Times. “There’s the environmental crisis. There’s the threat of terrorism. There’s the economic crisis. There are political upheavals. And in a way, this 2012 phenomenon is a great distraction for people. And how odd it is that real events that we might be able to do something about are having disastrous effects, and people focus their attention on an event that isn’t going to happen.”

QUICK AT VISUAL QUEUES

Deaf people who use sign language are quicker at recognizing both signs and other gestures than hearing non-signers, according to a new study from David Corina, professor of linguistics and researcher at the Center for Mind and Brain, and UC Irvine postdoctoral researcher Michael Grosvald. The researchers measured the response times of both deaf and hearing people to a series of video clips showing people making American Sign Language signs or “non-language” gestures, such as stroking the chin.

“We expected that deaf people would recognize sign language faster than hearing people, as the deaf people know and use sign language daily, but the real surprise was that deaf people also were about 100 milliseconds faster at recognizing non-language gestures than were hearing people,” Corina said.

“This work is important because it suggests that the human ability for communication is modifiable and is not limited to speech,” Corina said. “Deaf people show us that language can be expressed by the hands and be perceived through the visual system. When this happens, deaf signers get the added benefit of being able to recognize non-language actions better than hearing people who do not know a sign language.”

The study supports the idea that sign language is based on a modification of the system that all humans use to recognize gestures and “body language,” rather than working through a completely different system, Corina said. One implication is that deaf persons may be quite adept at picking up on subtle visual traits in the actions of others—which may be useful for some sensitive jobs, such as airport screening.

HISTORY PROJECT RECOGNITION

The California History-Social Science Project (CHSSP) provides professional development in history and social sciences for K–12 teachers. The program is state-wide, but is headquartered at UC Davis. Recently, it was featured on the Library of Congress’ website when the project became a Teaching with Primary Sources Consortium member and were awarded a grant from the Library of Congress. To read more about the project, visit: http://www.loc.gov/teachers/tps/consortium/showcase/index.html.
COOPER FIGHTS BACK WITH SOCIOLOGISTS’ HELP

After reporting startling findings on bullying in adolescents and youth that drew international attention last summer, sociologists ROBERT FARIS and DIANE FELMLEE were featured on CNN’s Anderson Cooper 360 in October. Cooper took up the subject of bullying in schools in a special episode, and Faris was part of a panel discussion with Cooper and Dr. Phil. To see the video, search the 360 website for Robert Faris.

ARTIST AND PROFESSOR FEATURED IN BIOGRAPHY

A new biography honors the life and work of a pioneering artist and a professor emeritus of Chicana/o studies. MALAQUIAS MONTOYA retired in 2008 after twenty years at UC Davis. Penned by Terezita Romo, the biography emphasizes Montoya’s seamless blend of art, activism, and education as well as his contributions to the Chicano art movement. As co-founder in 1968 of the Mexican-American Liberation Art Front, an influential artists’ collective working out of Berkeley, and as a professor, Montoya has inspired artists, activists, and students for over 40 years. Published as part of the “A Ver: Revisioning Art History” series produced by the UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center and distributed by the University of Minnesota press, the book provides a comprehensive account of Montoya’s development as an artist and founder of the Chicano art movement. Romo intertwines first-person narratives in many voices—including Montoya’s own—with analysis of his works and a study of the Chicano art movement. Romo traces Montoya’s life, including his childhood in California’s San Joaquin Valley, his work as an artist, professor, and activist in Berkeley, Oakland and the Bay Area, and his nearly two decades as a professor at UC Davis.

STUDENTS SHINE

STUDENTS WIN NATIONAL COMPETITION

A virtual reality model of a patch of New Mexico has won a team of UC Davis students first place in a national competition, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy, to develop skills and knowledge in geothermal energy. The team includes graduate and undergraduate students.

“The competition was very strong,” said PETER SCHIFFMAN, the geology professor who advised the team. “They worked very hard and came up with some interesting results.”

Geothermal energy draws on water heated deep underground to drive turbines and generate power. Relatively untapped as a source of power in the U.S., it has a small environmental footprint, generates power consistently around the clock and produces no greenhouse gases. Using the UC Davis KeckCAVES (a three-dimensional laboratory housed in the Department of Geology), the students could visualize geological structures, fluid-flow pathways and subsurface temperature profiles beneath the ground in a single immersive 3-D model.

Taking part in the competition is part of a push to develop geothermal energy research and teaching on campus. Schiffman and ROBERT ZIERENBERG, professor of geology, are collaborators on a deep drilling project in Iceland, which gets half of its electrical power from geothermal energy.

TOP SPOTS

BRIAN BUSEMEYER, an undergraduate student in physics, received the American Physical Society Steven Chu Award (best research) for his theoretical work, “Exploring Half Metals in Li-Based Half Heusler Alloys.”

And also of note, WILL DAWSON, a graduate student in physics, gave a press briefing at the
American Astronomical Society meeting. His discussion was on the studies of a merging galaxy cluster.

ANDREA FOURCHY, a senior studio art student, attended the Yale Norfolk summer program fellowship, only the third UC Davis student to receive it in its 30 years of existence. The fellowship takes only 20 students from over 400 applicants. “It was amazing to live like a spoiled artist!” Fourchy said. “I was able to paint all day and night and work with students and faculty who share my enthusiasm for art. The program is based around discussion, studio visits, and critiques with professors who are themselves wonderful artists. Meals are cooked and housing is provided, allowing students to focus intensely on their work, and to make lasting friendships.”

YUJU NAKATSUKASA, a graduate student in mathematics, has won a major international award, first place in the Leslie Fox Prize. It is the 15th year that the prize has been in existence.

FINAL NOTES
LARRY BOGAD, an associate professor of theatre, has been selected as the founding director for the new west coast branch of the Center for Artistic Activism. The center’s expansion continues its focus on performance and playful theatrics for social movement organization. Bogad himself is a 20-year veteran of guerilla theatre and performance art. He is also a successful playwright.

For the past three years, faculty and students in the Department of Chemistry have developed the CHEMWIKI, which extends education in chemistry beyond UC Davis. The project is a collaborative approach toward chemistry education where an open access textbook environment is constantly being written and re-written partly by students and partly by faculty members. The result is a free chemistry textbook to supplement conventional paper-based books. Since the fall of 2008, the ChemWiki has had more than 4 million page views, more than 2 million visits and more than 50,000 hours of online student reading and writing. Its success is translating into more “dynamic textbooks” in all areas of teaching science and mathematics. To visit the chemistry site, go to: http://ChemWiki.ucdavis.edu.

Geologist HOWARD SPERO and colleagues were featured in two videos filmed by the International Council for Science’s Scientific Committee on Oceanic Research. The videos show how Spero and colleagues are using tiny marine animals to study the climate of the distant past. Sediments from the bottom of the ocean are thick with the shells of planktonic animals called foraminifera or “forams.” These shells contain chemical traces that reflect the state of the ocean when they lived, and that can tell researchers about the climate millions of years ago. See the videos at: http://blogs.ucdavis.edu/egghead/2011/10/18/video-diving-into-past-climate/.

PAM HOUSTON, director of creative writing and professor of English, is the author of many best-selling books. Her latest book, Contents May Have Shifted, was recently released. It is widely available at bookstores and online vendors. She will be making appearances across the country in the spring. For more information, go to: http://pamhouston.wordpress.com.

Those who read the Herald-Sun newspaper based in Durham, NC may have enjoyed columnist PHILLIP BARRON’s articles on bicycling. Now Barron, who is a digital history developer in the History Project at UC Davis, has published a book, which is available in bookstores and online. The book, Outspokin’ Cyclist, holds insights into cold-weather bike commuting, urban design, and offers a glimpse into the life of a cyclist and a small city’s biking community.
Just adjacent to the Robert and Margrit Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts sits a large fenced lot. It has been the university’s plan to build a museum on this site, and that dream took a giant step closer to becoming a reality in December. UC Davis received a $10 million gift to name a new art museum that will serve as a teaching and cultural resource for the region and provide opportunities to share the university’s artistic legacy, enhance its fine arts collection, and create new partnerships and collaborations.

Slated for completion in 2015, the museum will be named for donor Jan Shrem, proprietor of Clos Pegase winery in Napa Valley, and his wife and arts patron Maria Manetti Shrem.

The Jan Shrem and Maria Manetti Shrem Museum of Art will provide approximately 40,000 square feet of contemporary space for galleries, seminars, research and public gatherings. It will also house the university’s fine arts collection, which contains more than 4,000 works of art including works by former art department faculty such as Wayne Thiebaud, Robert Arneson, Roy De Forest and William T. Wiley.

“The museum will build upon the university’s long tradition of excellence in the arts, serve as a source of rich learning opportunities for our students, and provide inspiration to generations of artists,” said Chancellor Linda P.B. Katehi. “We are very grateful for this extraordinary commitment and for Jan and Maria’s vision and partnership in the creation of a museum of art at UC Davis.”

Jan Shrem has always held a deep passion for making great art widely accessible, which is reflected in his famous Clos Pegase winery. The signature building, designed by renowned architect Michael Graves, features a collection of nearly 1,000 works by Henry Moore, Richard Serra, Mark Di Suvero and others.

Born in Colombia of Jewish-Lebanese heritage, Jan Shrem grew up in Jerusalem and moved to the U.S. as a teenager. After studying at UCLA, he built a successful publishing business in Japan, studied enology at the University of Bordeaux and later created the 450-acre wine estate, Clos Pegase.

“After our dear friend, Margrit Mondavi, introduced the idea of the new museum, we decided it would be an honor to join
her in supporting this extraordinary university and in sharing its vision for the future,” Jan Shrem said. “Our philosophy of giving rests on simple concepts: We believe that education and the arts should be accessible to all people. And we believe that a curious and open mind should be nurtured and supported. Fortunately, the project at UC Davis has introduced us to people who profoundly share this philosophy. It is with deepest pleasure that we are able to help bring this new museum to life.”

Maria Manetti Shrem was born in Italy and moved to the U.S. in 1973, making her home in Northern California. In the 1980s, Maria Manetti Shrem revolutionized the high-end accessory market by creating and managing U.S. and Canadian distribution for premium leather goods by designers such as Gucci, Fendi and Mark Cross. She is a grower and collector of fine wines and produces premium balsamic vinegar and award-winning olive oils served at some of the finest restaurants in the country.

“Both Jan and I came to this country as young people, more or less the same age as the students at UC Davis,” Maria Manetti Shrem said. “And we both remember what it was like to begin life all over again in a new world where education was our salvation and the arts were our greatest joy. Everything that is being planned for the new museum of art suggests it will become an integral part of the university, the curriculum and the community. We also believe it will become the heart of the campus, a place where people can come to study, to learn, to look and to be moved by the beauty and strength of the arts.”

Margrit Mondavi has been a champion of the art museum project at UC Davis. “The excellent teaching artists of the past, the prominent faculty at UC Davis today, and the impressive collection of renowned California artists deserve a great home for art, which is an ongoing love affair of my life,” Mondavi said. “I’m thrilled that my friends Jan and Maria are joining me in fulfilling the dream of a new art museum for this great university.”

**ABOUT JAN SHREM**

**JAN SHREM** is the proprietor of Clos Pegase Winery in California’s Napa Valley. Born of Jewish-Lebanese heritage in Colombia, he grew up in Jerusalem from the age of two; he moved to the United States at age 16 to finish high school and attend college. While studying for his master’s degree at UCLA, he made a visit to Japan and ended up staying there for 13 years, creating a successful publishing business which he continued in Europe. He eventually sold the business there to pursue his passion for wine and art, studying enology at the University of Bordeaux before returning to California to create his 450-acre wine estate, Clos Pegase.

An avid art collector, Shrem has placed his art collection on display inside Clos Pegase and in the vineyard. The collection contains nearly 1,000 works, including paintings and sculptures of twentieth century masters, wine-related antiques and wine vessels spanning 4,000 years. Shrem is a member of the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art’s director’s circle; a member of the board for the Family Winemakers of California; and founding member of “Festival del Sole.”
FACTS ABOUT THE NEW MUSEUM

• UC Davis is shaping the mission and purpose of an art museum that will articulate the educational values at the heart of the university – values of inquiry, teaching, collaboration, and public service.

• The museum will provide approximately 40,000 square feet of vibrant and contemporary space for galleries, seminars, teaching, research, conservation, and public gatherings.

• Museum design will be distinctive yet complementary to adjacent buildings, offering highly flexible and adaptable spaces.

• Located at the regional front door to UC Davis, easily accessible and visible from Interstate 80, one of California’s most traveled corridors.

• Facing a one-acre piazza, the museum will be adjacent to the Robert and Margrit Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts, the Robert Mondavi Institute for Wine and Food Science, the Buehler Alumni and Visitors Center, and Gallagher Hall, which houses the UC Davis Graduate School of Management.

• Other neighboring facilities include a Hyatt Place hotel, the UC Davis Conference Center and the UC Davis Arboretum.

ABOUT MARIA MANETTI SHREM

MARIA MANETTI SHREM is an international businesswoman and patron of the arts. She was born in Italy and moved to the United States in 1973, making her home in Northern California. In the 1980s, she revolutionized the high-end designer accessory market by creating and managing United States and Canadian distribution lines for premium leather goods, including legendary producers Gucci, Fendi and Mark Cross. She left the retail industry to “return to the earth.” She now owns and manages Villa Mille Rose, a 60-acre estate in Napa Valley. She moved into the production of upscale balsamic vinegar and Tuscan style extra virgin olive oil. Her olive oil is now served at some of the country’s top restaurants.

She is involved in numerous philanthropic, civic and performing arts in cities such as San Francisco, New York, Washington D.C., Los Angeles, Florence, London, Paris and St. Petersburg. She is dedicated to supporting all forms of classical and contemporary music, the visual arts and architectural preservation.

1. South India Wooden Elephant; Unknown artist; Sculpture; Wood red and black pigment; 22" x 23 3/4" x 10"; 17th century
2. Henri Matisse, Femme nue debout, 1946; Lithograph on paper; 23 1/8" x 19 1/8"; edition of 500
3. San Francisco City Hall Ruined by Earthquake; Unknown artist; 1906
4. Wayne Thiebaud, Kitchen Sink; 1966; Print; Handworked etching with watercolor; 10" x 12" (image); 22 1/2" x 22"; 1966–1993
5. Shell on Rocks at Point Lobos; Edward Weston; Gelatin silver print; 1931
According to Jessie Ann Owens, dean of UC Davis’ Division of Humanities, Arts and Cultural Studies, the museum could fuel new academic programs for students such as museum, curatorial and preservation studies, and also house a scholarly archive of artists’ papers and materials that would be invaluable in the study of art and artists.

Dean Owens added, “Both Jan and Maria have demonstrated a love for the arts throughout their lives. They understand what a university art museum can do and will do at UC Davis, to be a living educational resource, and a place for the public to enjoy.”

Wayne Thiebaud, painter and professor emeritus of art at UC Davis, emphasized the value of the museum for students. “A university museum will allow students to experience works of art first-hand in a way that is not possible with reproductions,” he said. “It is this kind of experience that is essential to the university’s teaching mission. As a teacher, I am delighted to know that this gift will make the museum a reality.”

The contribution allows the university to begin the design phase of the $30 million construction project and spurs fundraising efforts for the museum. Half of the total construction costs, $15 million, will be funded by private philanthropic gifts. Including the Shrem gift, $12.1 million has been raised to date. The university will use tax-exempt bond financing for the remaining $15 million, which will be paid from campus funds such as short-term interest earnings. The university will not use student tuition, student fees or state funds for construction of the museum. UC Davis plans a campaign to raise between $5 million and $20 million in additional private gifts for the museum, including an endowment to support museum programs.

Shrem’s gift will be counted as part of The Campaign for UC Davis, a universitywide initiative launched in 2006 to inspire 100,000 donors to contribute $1 billion in support of the university’s mission and vision. The gift is one of the largest ever received for the arts at UC Davis, and is the largest gift received to date by the College of Letters and Science. It is the fourth largest cumulative gift from an individual donor to The Campaign for UC Davis, and the sixth largest gift from any donor to the campaign.

A UC Davis Legacy

The visual arts have a vibrant presence and a strong legacy at UC Davis. Undergraduates can earn degrees in art studio, art history, design, and cinema and technocultural studies. Students may also elect to take arts courses in departments such as Native American studies and Chicana/o studies. Graduate programs include the M.A. in art history, the newly re-established M.F.A. in design and the nationally ranked and highly competitive M.F.A. in art studio. So fundamental is the study of the visual at UC Davis that the new general education requirements include “visual literacy” among the core competencies expected of all students.

UC Davis is home to several resources for the study of the arts. These resources form a strong foundation of study and service for the new museum. The C.N. Gorman Museum, in the Department of Native American Studies, exhibits works by living indigenous artists. The Design Museum and Design Collection enhance the teaching and research activities of the Design Program. Chicana/o studies sponsors TANA (Taller Arte del Nuevo Amanecer), a community-based art program in Woodland dedicated to inspiring local youth and reinforcing culture through silk-screening, mural painting and other classes. The Richard L. Nelson Gallery, named for the founding chair of the Department of Art, presents exhibitions of contemporary art and talks by visiting artists, as well as the annual exhibition of work by students completing their M.F.A.

The university’s fine arts collection will have a new home in the Jan Shrem and Maria Manetti Shrem Museum of Art. The collection has grown in size and stature over the past 40 years and is highly valued as a teaching collection representative of many styles and historical periods. The collection houses approximately 4,000 objects including Asian prints, drawings, antiquities and ceramics, as well as European works on paper dating from the Renaissance to the present. The collection is strongest in its holdings of Northern California post-WWII art by artists connected to the UC Davis Department of Art, including former faculty including Robert Arneson, Roy De Forest, Wayne Thiebaud, William T. Wiley and Manuel Neri, and alumni such as Bruce Nauman, John Buck and Deborah Butterfield. The collection also holds a comprehensive set of lithographs by James McNeill Whistler. Selected works from the collection are currently exhibited in the Nelson Gallery in Richard L. Nelson Hall.
Ruby Cohn, a professor of comparative drama, passed away in October. For 30 years at UC Davis, Cohn was a member of the comparative literature and theater departments and affiliated with the English and French departments. She taught courses on modern and experimental drama, Shakespeare's legacies in modern drama, dramatic genres, and Samuel Beckett and his contemporaries.

Earlier in her career, Cohn was a professor of language arts at San Francisco State University, where she launched a comparative literature program and also joined a student strike to bring ethnic studies to the curriculum. Refusing to teach her courses on campus, Cohn resigned in protest in 1968.

In 1969, she joined the faculty of the theater school of the California Institute of the Arts. She joined UC Davis in 1972. A recipient of Fulbright and Guggenheim fellowships, Cohn was also selected the 1978 UC Davis "Faculty Research Lecturer," the highest honor bestowed by the Davis Division of the Academic Senate. She retired from UC Davis in 1992, yet continued to teach and write.

Cohn's lifelong effort to join the immediacy of theater performance to the careful analysis of dramatic texts made her an eager if exacting theater-goer. She is survived by her goddaughter, Polly Richards, and her family.

Alan A. Stambusky, one-time chair of the dramatic arts department and a prominent figure in area drama circles for several decades, passed away in August. He was born in Niagara Falls, N.Y. and attended Niagara University before earning a master's degree in theatre at Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. and then a Ph.D. in the same subject at the University of Wisconsin. During this time he also served two years in the U.S. Army, from 1951 to 1953. In 1961 he came to Davis to what was then the department of dramatic art and speech, serving 30 years until his retirement in 1991.

Stambusky directed many plays and musical comedies at UC Davis. One of his greatest contributions to UC Davis came after his retirement in 1991: his leadership in a long-range effort to produce a video-tape history of the campus through interviews with faculty and administrators. Working with Verne Mendel, professor emeritus of neurobiology, and others, he and a small team of volunteers produced more than 250 hours of videotapes recording accounts of UC Davis events going back to the 1950s. These are now part of the Shields Library Special Collections, and the project continues.

His acting credits include 15 summers in the Music Circus in Sacramento and cooler seasons in the old Globe theater in San Diego. Radio and TV commercials also claimed his attention, as did numerous readings of poetry and prose for Davis audiences of 25 or 200. He is survived by his wife (Rita) Mary, three children, three grandchildren, and four stepgrandchildren.

Robert W. Stringall, a professor emeritus of mathematics and civil rights advocate who believed math held the power to change the lives of disadvantaged children, passed away in December.

Professor Stringall promoted the teaching of advanced mathematics in elementary schools and spearheaded the establishment of a UC Davis graduate program to train math teachers. A popular instructor, he also worked to increase minority student enrollment at UC campuses, visiting primarily black colleges in segregated Birmingham, AL and enduring threats of visits from the Klu Klux Klan.

Stringall joined the mathematics faculty in fall 1965, after completing his master's and doctoral degrees in mathematics at the University of Washington in Seattle.
Soon after his arrival at UC Davis, Stringall learned of efforts to determine why so few African American students were enrolled at UC campuses. UC Berkeley statistics professor Ed Barankin had obtained a Field Foundation grant and was seeking a researcher to go to Birmingham, AL. “No one answered the flier but me,” Stringall recalled in an oral history interview conducted by his daughter, Cheryl, in 2000.

In the end, he said, he found just one student of color there who met UC admission requirements. He decided to focus his efforts closer to home, launching a Project SEED program to teach college-level math to children in schools in Sacramento’s Del Paso Heights neighborhood. Project SEED (Special Elementary Education for the Disadvantaged) was a nationwide, federally-funded program, started a few years earlier at Berkeley High School that used Socratic question-and-answer methods to teach math. Stringall went on to establish similar programs in other schools, ultimately eschewing uncertain federal funding and creating internships for UC Davis math students to teach schoolchildren advanced algebra and geometry.

To raise the caliber of math teachers, Stringall helped develop a Masters of Arts in Teaching program, which graduated about 250 students from its start in 1975 until the program was suspended in 2006.

Stringall retired from UC Davis in 1989. An Air Force veteran, Stringall was married for 16 years to Charlotte Farley and later to Donna Tobin. Survivors include daughters Cheryl and Pam; three grandchildren; two sisters; a brother; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Benjamin Emil Wallacker, professor emeritus of East Asian Languages and Cultures, passed away in September.

Benjamin Emil Wallacker was born in San Francisco in 1926. He served in the U.S. Army during WW II, and through his assignments as a reporter for the army newspaper developed what would be a lifelong interest in Asian culture, language and history. After his release from the army he attended UC Berkeley where he received his undergraduate degree in anthropology in 1950. He did graduate work at the University of Hawaii, then returned to Berkeley where he received his M.A. (1954) and Ph.D. (1960) degrees in Oriental languages. His first teaching position was at the University of Kansas in (1959–1964) where he met his former wife, Carol.

In 1964, Wallacker took a position as a visiting professor at UC Davis and then became a full professor in 1970. He wrote on a great variety of subjects, from Chinese philosophy and literature to law and military affairs, and he brought to all of his studies not only a deep knowledge of both classical Chinese and Japanese and the specialized skills of a translator, but also the sensibilities of a historian, and the insights of an anthropologist. He published in major journals in the field of Asian Studies, including the Journal of Asian Studies and the Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies. His first book, titled The Huai-nan-tzu, Book Eleven: Behavior, Culture and the Cosmos (New Haven: American Oriental Society, 1962), helped to provoke a significant and sustained scholarly interest in one of the most important thinkers in early Chinese history, and his book chapter titled “Han Confucianism and Confucianism in the Han,” which appeared in David Roy and Tsuen-hsün Tsien, eds. Ancient China: Studies in Early Civilization (Hong Kong: Chinese University Press 1978), remains one of the most insightful and influential treatments of the problematical nature of “Confucianism.”

In addition to his numerous publications, Wallacker was the director of the UC Davis Education Abroad Program at Chinese University of Hong Kong. He was also the associate dean for the UC Davis College of Letters and Science Interdepartmental Programs and Program Development. Wallacker retired in 1991, but remained active in research and publishing in his field, and in his world travels.

Surviving family include daughters Gretchen and Cynthia, sons-in-law Tom (Gretchen) and Ken (Cynthia), and grandchildren, Meredith, Maxwell, Kalina and Benjamin.
CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Foundations Fund Groundbreaking Research

Three foundations have given researchers in the College of Letters and Science large grants to further their cutting-edge, unique research.

The John Templeton Foundation gave $5.6 million to professor of psychology Robert Emmons, the head of a multi-university project that studies the science and practice of gratitude. The grant is for three years and incorporates research at UC Davis, UC Berkeley, Hofstra University, and CSU Dominguez Hills. The grant will expand the scientific database of gratitude in key areas of human health, personal and relational well-being, and developmental science,” said Emmons.

The Alfred P. Sloan Foundation committed $1.5 million over the next two years to Giulia Galli, professor of chemistry and physics. Galli, who is the co-director of the initiative, will study the behavior of carbon—the essential element in oil and natural gas—deep within the Earth.

“We don’t know how much carbon is stored in the deep Earth, and we don’t know how it affects fluxes of carbon towards the Earth’s crust or the carbon cycle at the surface,” said Galli.

Geologists believe that commercially produced crude oil and natural gas, or hydrocarbons, are formed by the decomposition of the remains of living organisms buried under layers of sediments in the Earth’s crust, a region that extends five to 10 miles below the Earth’s surface. But there is increasing interest in “abiogenic” hydrocarbons from much deeper in the Earth, which might make their way to the surface in some places. A fundamental understanding of “deep carbon” could therefore affect both our thinking about energy supplies, and about how carbon moves through the air, soil and water at the surface—a key factor in climate change.

The W. M. Keck Foundation has given $1 million to Professor Gang-Yu Liu, Department of Chemistry, and Professor Ian Kennedy, Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering. The grant is to develop a new instrument for measuring the mechanics of single cells and study the toxicity of nanoparticles. UC Davis is one of only six institutions to receive grants from the foundation’s science and engineering research program. Liu and Kennedy will use their grant to develop a microscope that can measure the stiffness and other mechanical properties of individual cells, as well as see activity inside them. The new instrument will combine a confocal microscope, which can focus on layers within a living cell, with an atomic force microscope, which can study surfaces in exquisite detail as well as press a tiny bead against a cell and measure its resistance.

Liu’s laboratory has already demonstrated the potential of the microscope concept in experiments with nerve cells, which become stiffer when they are affected by the prion proteins related to Alzheimer’s disease. The new instrument will be able to test a wider range of cell types and incorporate other features that make it easier to use with live cells, Liu said. Liu and Kennedy now plan to use the microscope to test whether early signs of damage to endothelial cells—which line the blood vessels and airways, for example—show up as changes in the cells’ mechanical properties.

College Welcomes New Members to Deans’ Advisory Council

The Deans’ Advisory Council functions as the main advisory body for the College of Letters and Science, focusing on advancement efforts and outreach. Mem-
Charles M. (“Chuck”) Louderback is a trial lawyer and partner at Ongaro Burtt & Louderback LLP, specializing in all areas of employment law and business litigation. He received his B.A. in European History in 1976 and his J.D. from the University of Maryland, College Park.

Annual Lecture Gets Boost

When Michael Tennefoss (B.A., Political Science and Economics, ’80) was a student at UC Davis, the impassioned teaching of one professor in the history department ignited his life-long love for European history and philosophy. Eugene Lunn, a professor of modern European intellectual history who died in 1990, was renowned for his teaching and his impact on the lives of many students. His career was cut short when he passed away at an early age, and the Department of History established the Eugene Lunn Memorial Lecture in his memory. The Lunn Lecture is an annual event that brings some of the foremost scholars in history to the UC Davis campus.

Tennefoss recently made a gift of $20,000 to bring speakers to campus for the Lunn Lecture over the next four years, and to enable the department to videotape and publish the lectures on its website. Thanks to Tennefoss’ gift, the Lunn Lecture will be assured of stable funding, and will be made widely available to viewers across the world.

Of his gift, Tennefoss expressed his gratitude for the quality of teaching at UC Davis. “My years at UC Davis were filled with inspirational, world-class teachers: Gene Lunn in history, Randy Siverson in political science, Frank Child in economics, Vernon Singleton in enology. The Lunn Lectures ensure that the memory of Gene’s work lives on, inspiring future generations of students through the voices of today’s most renowned researchers.”

The 20th annual lecture Lunn Lecture will be given on May 2, 2012, by Robert Darnton, the Carl H. Pforzheimer University Professor and Director of the Harvard University Library. For more information on the lecture, please visit the history department’s website at http://history.ucdavis.edu.

Matching Gift Triples Impact of Donor’s Contribution

Lori Summa, a senior technical consultant at ExxonMobil’s Upstream Research Company, was grateful for her education at UC Davis, and wanted to give back to the department that helped her launch her career. A graduate from the Department of Geology (Ph.D., Geology, ’86), she gave $5,000 to the Cordell and Helen Durrell Memorial Fund. The fund was created by an estate gift from the first chair of the geology department Professor Cordell Durrell and his wife Helen. The scholarship provides support to students (both undergraduate and graduate) pursuing field research, as well as helps the department purchase equipment and supplies for student research.

Summa also secured a matching gift from ExxonMobil, an important employee benefit. Many participating companies will double or triple contributions given by their employees annually. Summa wanted to inspire other UC Davis alumni to take advantage of such programs. In her case, ExxonMobil tripled her gift, making Summa’s total contribution to the Durrell Scholarship Fund $20,000.

Summa recalled, “When I was a graduate student, I felt so fortunate to have been one of the students who benefitted from the Durrell Fund, as well as the grants that supported my work. This kind of funding is so important to graduate students—it is readily available for them to take advantage of educational and research opportunities that can arise during their graduate work.”

“We are incredibly grateful for the donations that Lori and other alumni have given to geology. These funds help maintain the vision of Cordell Durrell, and remind us of the importance of field research in both the geological sciences curriculum and the study opportunities available to our students,” said Howard Spero, chair of the Department of Geology.
ON THE SCENE

CIVILITY PROJECT DEBUTS

The Civility Project debuted this fall as part of UC Davis’ 2011–12 “Building a More Inclusive Community” campaign. The opening of the project occurred over a week, with a launch event in October that showcased the results of a year and a half of academic inquiry under the auspices of the UC Davis Humanities Institute. The following week featured three performances of “Miracle in Rwanda,” about a woman who survived the 1994 genocide in her country.

“It’s so inspiring to see students, faculty and community members come together to address some of the most controversial aspects of our history as a campus,” said Beth Levy, an associate professor of musicology who is filling in this year for Carolyn de la Peña as director of the humanities institute.

De la Peña, an American studies professor, is on sabbatical — but she returned from Spain to participate in the Civility Project’s launch. She helped get the project off the ground last year. “By approaching recent acts of incivility on campus as research opportunities, our fantastic student investigators in the humanities and social sciences have produced a website (http://civilityproject.ucdavis.edu/), exhibition and performance that illuminate the causes and impacts of intolerance and invite us to consider what is required to create the dynamic, divergent and respectful community we crave,” de la Peña said.

The website explores the history of incivility on UC campuses, where the environment is characterized by goals that are often in tension: free expression and the exchange of ideas, and facilitating inclusion and tolerance in an increasingly diverse population.

UPCOMING EVENTS SPRING–SUMMER 2012

DREAMS OF THE DARKEST NIGHT: WORKS BY VANESSA MARSH AND SEAN MCFARLAND

When: March 29–May 20
Where: Nelson Gallery

Two Northern California photographers are featured in the spring exhibition, with work by Vanessa Marsh and Sean McFarland. Marsh makes photograms, which are images made on photo paper without the use of a lens. He has reinvigorated the genre with large narrative images that have the illusion of depth, and employ grays as well as blacks and whites. McFarland’s most recent body of work features large black and white images from nature that are very dark, almost all black, giving the viewer the feeling the he or she is glimpsing a dream in the depths of the darkest night.

More information: http://nelsongallery.ucdavis.edu/

WHERE THEY OVERLAP: SONYA KELLIHER-COMBS

When: April 3–June 8
Where: C.N. Gorman Museum

Through mixed media painting and sculpture, Sonya Kelliher-Combs (Inupiaq/Athabascan) chronicles the ongoing struggle for self-definition and identity in the Alaskan context. Through the combination of shared iconography with intensely personal imagery, the artist demonstrates the generative power that each vocabulary has over the other. The artistic process dialogues the relationship of the work to skin, the surface by which an individual is mediated in culture.

More information: http://gormanmuseum.ucdavis.edu/

DESIGN-BY-DESIGN, JURIED STUDENT DESIGN COMPETITION

When: April 4–May 5
Where: Design Museum

This annual installation, timed to coincide with the university’s Picnic Day, is a lively survey of student talent and creativity that reflects the multi-disciplinary breadth of the Design Program.

More information: http://designmuseum.ucdavis.edu/

THE EDGE PERFORMANCE FESTIVAL

When: April 12–15 & 19–22 (times TBA)
Where: Wright Hall, UC Davis

The annual festival includes Main Stage Dance; stagings of new Undergraduate One Acts; sing-along late night showings of “The Rocky Horror Picture Show;” Extreme Play Blitz; and An Hour of 5-Minute Plays.

More information: http://threatedance.ucdavis.edu/
EMPYREAN ENSEMBLE: SONGS, WHISPERs, TALES AND UTTERANCES—NEW WORKS FOR VOICE
When: April 22, 7:00 pm
Where: Vanderhoef Studio Theatre, Mondavi Center
Haleh Abghari, soprano, Chris Froh, percussion; Gee: Mouthpiece; Nichols: Three Songs
(Text includes writings by Emily Brontë, Diego Hurtado de Mendoza, and a riddle from the Exeter Book); San Martin: Conference of Birds Unfeathered
[Pre-Concert lecture and discussion at 6:15 pm with guest composers.] More information: http://music.ucdavis.edu/

UC DAVIS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
When: May 6, 7:00 pm
Where: Jackson Hall, Mondavi Center
Christian Baldini, music director and conductor; Fauré: Prelude to Pénelope; Bauer: Concerto for Flute, Clarinet, Violin, Cello, and Orchestra (world premiere); Mahler: Lieder eines fahrenden Gesellen (Songs of a Wayfarer); Wolfgang Brendel, baritone; Kodály: Dances of Galánta
More information: http://music.ucdavis.edu/

2012 SHEFFRIN LECTURE IN PUBLIC POLICY
When: May 16, 5:00pm
Where: Buehler Alumni and Visitors Center, AGR Room
The 2012 Sheffrin Lecture in Public Policy will be given by Douglas S. Massey, the Henry G. Bryant Professor of Sociology and Public Affairs at Princeton University’s Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs. He will present “The Paradoxical Origins of America’s War on Immigrants.” The lecture is made possible by a gift from Anjali and Steven M. Sheffrin.

2012 MASTER OF FINE ARTS EXHIBITION
When: June 1–June 22
Where: Nelson Gallery
Works by Daniel Brickman, Kyle Dunn, Danielle Galietti, Katherine Nulicek, Terry Peterson, Erika Romero, and Jared Theis.
More information: http://nelsongallery.ucdavis.edu/

WORKSHOP ON ANALYSIS OF HIGH-DIMENSIONAL AND FUNCTIONAL DATA IN HONOR OF PETER HALL, DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS
When: May 19–20
Where: Mathematical Sciences
Building or nearby
The Department of Statistics will host a workshop in honor of Peter Hall, professor of statistics, to celebrate his 60th birthday. Distinguished speakers from around the country will be providing presentations throughout the workshop.

COLLEGE OF LETTERS AND SCIENCE COMMENCEMENT
When: June 16
Where: Activities and Recreation Center

FLATLANDERS 4—50TH ANNIVERSARY SLANT STEP EXHIBITION
When: July 12 – August 19
Where: Nelson Gallery
More information: http://nelsongallery.ucdavis.edu/

DESIGN M.F.A. GRADUATION EXHIBITION
When: May 21–June 8
Where: Design Museum
Working with renowned design faculty, M.F.A. students explore the broader topic of “Design” through a specific design discipline, drawing on collaborations with the arts, humanities, social sciences and sciences.
More information: http://designmuseum.ucdavis.edu/

UC DAVIS FILM FESTIVAL
When: May 23–24, 8:30pm
Where: The Davis Varsity Theatre, 616 Second Street in Davis
The annual festival features a wide array of student films including animation, comedy, drama, commercials, documentaries, music videos and other art films.
More information: http://theatredance.ucdavis.edu/

RITES OF SPRING
When: May 31–June 2, 8:00pm and June 3, 2:00pm
Where: Main Theatre, UC Davis
Two back-to-back choreographies by Spring 2012 Granada Artists-in-Residence Rennie Harris and Ellen Bromberg. Choreographer and hip-hop artist Rennie Harris creates a new work; video artist Ellen Bromberg and choreographer Della Davidson devise a new mediated piece.
More information: http://theatredance.ucdavis.edu/
THE BACK STORY

Program Spotlight:
Herbert A. Young Society Deans’ Fellowship Awards

Now in its second year, the goal of the Herbert A. Young Society Deans’ Fellowship program is to honor the achievements of outstanding faculty members in the college. The award is funded with contributions to the College of Letters and Science Annual Fund and the Herbert A. Young Society, and is intended to be used for research, teaching and service activities. We congratulate the following faculty members as our second-year Deans’ Fellows. Each will receive an award of $15,000 ($5,000 per year over three years).

Anna Maria Busse Berger
Professor of Music

Busse Berger, professor of medieval and renaissance music history and theory, is researching one of the most vibrant musical traditions of the 18th century—the Moravian Church. As she explains, “not only would the entire congregation meet several times a day to sing four part chorales, but they also performed large choral compositions and chamber music. At the same time, Moravians were concerned with converting people all over the world to Christianity: the first missionaries went to the Virgin Islands in the 1720s to work among slaves, then to Greenland, Surinam and Africa.” With her award, Busse Berger was able to visit the mission stations in Tanzania where church missionaries have been active since the 19th century. She recorded music and interviewed choral directors and singers. Using her recordings, interviews and letters written by the missionaries, her goal is to find out what happened to local music traditions when missionaries introduced hymns, Western instruments, and polyphonic music.

James Griesemer
Professor of Philosophy

A philosopher of science, Griesemer’s research focuses on evolution, inheritance, ecology and development. He analyzes concepts, methods and practices of the sciences in an effort to understand how knowledge is made and passed on to the next generation. More specifically, Griesemer identifies and challenges assumptions that are inherent to scientific reasoning to uncover possible misapplications or overgeneralizations of findings and to develop better understanding of science.

Unlike many other types of research which take place in traditional laboratories, philosophers rely on archives, libraries and face-to-face discourse with colleagues located around the world. Since extramural research funding isn’t readily available in philosophy, this award is particularly meaningful. Griesemer will use his award to support his and graduate students’ research travel to access these important resources, which in turn will further their own and Griesemer’s research.

Louise Kellogg
Professor of Geophysics

Researching what happens deep within the Earth’s interior immediately before, during and after one of nature’s most destructive forces, the earthquake, may help to save lives and prepare society for these inevitable and sometimes catastrophic geologic events. This is the ambition, at least, of Kellogg and the interdisciplinary team of students and colleagues who study the slow flow of rock far below the Earth’s surface to learn how it affects surface activities such as plate tectonics and earthquakes.

With her award, Kellogg will purchase new equipment and will support a student to advance her research in geophysics. When talking about what it means to her to receive such an honor that’s funded solely by private gifts to the College of Letters and Science Annual Fund and Herbert A. Young Society, Kellogg responded, “Thank you! It is a real privilege to work at a university that has such strong support and engagement from our friends and alumni. I really appreciate the support and encouragement represented by this award, especially with so many talented faculty in the college.”
Alex Boyd, Deputy President of Lishi International, was a guest lecturer in a theatre and dance class this past November. His work and research delves into the link between the mind and body, as well as movement. During class, he taught students to channel their energy, thus putting them in tune with their work in performance.