Initiatives funded by the Young Society in 2008-09

An annual report distributed to all Young Society members.

Gifts to the Herbert A. Young Society enhance the variety and increase the quality of activities and initiatives that the College of Letters and Science puts forward each year. Every July, after the last fiscal year closes, the funds raised for the Young Society are distributed to the deans. In the past year, the funds raised in 2008-09 were utilized in a number of ways. The funds helped important research make strides in discovery, opened new doors for graduate and undergraduate students, and they provided opportunities for the campus community to hear from experts on a range of topics. A sampling of funded projects follows:

Division of Humanities, Arts and Cultural Studies

African American and African Studies Summer Fellowship Awards

Departmental support for graduate students whose work requires travel to Africa. International travel can be integral to research, providing access to primary source material and the opportunity for first-hand learning experience through cultural interaction. [http://aas.ucdavis.edu/](http://aas.ucdavis.edu/)

Support for the Davis Humanities Institute’s Public Intellectuals Forums

An ongoing speaker series presented by the UC Davis Humanities Institute and the Center for History, Society, and Culture, the Public Intellectuals Forum seeks to bring compelling, challenging ideas out of the university and into the community. In choosing speakers we look for dynamic and socially engaged scholars whose intellectual work addresses the issues of the day and speaks to broad, diverse audiences. And in holding some of the events in downtown Davis, rather than on the university campus, we hope to spark conversations, encourage public engagement and build bridges between the academy and the public. Talks are free and open to all. To join the DHI community listserv, please visit [http://publicforum.ucdavis.edu/](http://publicforum.ucdavis.edu/)

Studies of Food and the Body Multi-Campus Research Group

Hosted at the Davis Humanities Institute at UC Davis, and coordinated with the Robert Mondavi Institute for Food and Wine Science, this group brings together faculty and graduate-student scholars in the humanities and social sciences from UC Davis, UC Berkeley, and UC Santa Cruz who are exploring the relationship between food, the body and culture. This collaboration strengthens the work of individual members through work in progress seminars, draws attention to the critical mass of food scholars on the three northern California campuses, provides focused mentoring to graduate students in this area, and fosters dialogue between humanities and science scholars, and the public, on food and body concerns. [http://foodandbody.ucdavis.edu/](http://foodandbody.ucdavis.edu/)
Support to Julie Wyman for Beijing project

Julie Wyman, Assistant Professor of Technocultural Studies, is an award-winning and internationally recognized filmmaker, performer and scholar whose work investigates the body: locating, exploring, and inventing various situations in which the codes, conditions, and visceral experiences of physicality defy expectation. Professor Wyman traveled to Beijing to film a documentary about Olympic weightlifter Cheryl Haworth. Her blog documenting Ms. Haworth is online: http://thepullofgravity.blogspot.com. For more information about the project, visit: http://www.ucdavis.edu/spotlight/0308/documentary.html.

Purchase of additional holdings in Peter J. Shields Library

New resources relating to Humanities, Arts and Cultural Studies were purchased for the library. The addition of these materials increases accessibility to resources that benefit both the campus and the greater community.

Support for multi-campus conference on Performance: Reading, Writing, Technology

Hosted by the Departments of Theatre and Dance, Technocultural Studies and Cultural Studies, and the Davis Humanities Institute. Electronic media is rapidly changing the relationship of artists, scholars and producers to audiences, readers and writers. As part of a year-long series on electronic media and writing being held UC campus wide, the conference explores how new media are affecting the interaction between producers and audiences. Featured speakers included Adriene Jenick, creator of SPECFLIC, Desktop Theatre and Mauve Desert; Praba Pilar, minister of the Church of Nano Bio Info Cogno; video artist Jesus Aguilar, and multi-media artist Rene Garcia, creator of Requiem for the Book. http://theatredance.ucdavis.edu/events/news_detail.aspx?p=48.

Division of Mathematical and Physical Sciences

Department of Statistics Visitor’s Program

The Department of Statistics invited several speakers to present their research and methodologies for analyzing data and its applications in real-world issues and problems we face today. http://anson.ucdavis.edu/seminars/recent-seminar-abstracts#9

Seminars included:

- **Xuanlong Nguyen**, Duke University
  Nonparametric and distributed decision-making models with applications to functional and spatial data analysis

- **Guenther Walther**, Stanford University
  Inference and Modeling with Log-Concave Distributions

- **Rui Castro**, Columbia University
  Active Learning and Inference: Sampling and Sensing Using Feedback

- **Winfried Stute**, Giesen University, Germany
  Statistical inference for self-exciting point processes

- **Jiashun Jin**, Carnegie Mellon University
  Higher Criticism Thresholding: Optimal Feature Selection when Useful Features are Rare and Weak
2009 Physics Centennial Celebration Speaker Series

This series of lectures was highlighted by distinguished physicists in celebration of the UC Davis Centennial. They were also recorded and made available online for students and the general public to view and enjoy. The lectures can be found at: http://www.physics.ucdavis.edu/news.html

- **Because of Science: Advances in Life.** Douglas Osheroff, Nobel Laureate in Physics, MacArthur Fellow; Professor of Physics and Applied Physics, Stanford University.

- **The Individual or the Group?** Freeman Dyson, Professor Emeritus, Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton University.

- **Mysteries of the Dark Universe.** Edward W. “Rocky” Kolb, Arthur Holly Compton Distinguished Service Professor of Astronomy & Astrophysics and Chair of the Department at the University of Chicago.

13th International IUPAC Conference on High Temperature Materials Chemistry

Organized by Professor Alexandra Navrotsky, the conference united people from the fields of chemistry, geology and materials science who are working in the area of high temperature phenomena in solid and liquid materials. Part of a series of conferences held every three years, the last occurred in Vienna, Austria. [http://neat.ucdavis.edu/HTMC-13/](http://neat.ucdavis.edu/HTMC-13/). The work done in this area has many applications including creating new materials that are more energy efficient.

Divisional Research Award

Presented to Mathematics Professor Benjamin Morris in recognition of his contributions to the department, the division, and the UC Davis campus. [http://www.math.ucdavis.edu/research/profiles/morris](http://www.math.ucdavis.edu/research/profiles/morris)

Algebra and Topology in Interaction Conference

In honor of Professor Dmitry Fuchs, the main theme of the conference is the interplay of algebra and topology over the past 40 years, since the birth of Gelfand-Fuchs cohomology. Topics included current developments in symplectic field theory, representations of infinite dimensional Lie algebras, topological quantum field theory, characteristic classes of foliations, contact homology, Chekanov-Eliashberg differential graded algebra, and Legendrian knot theory.


Held at UC Davis this year, the conference is the premier international meeting on the statistical analysis of time series data and attracts leading researchers from around the world. It has been held annually since the late 1970s at universities in the United States, Asia and Europe, once before at UC Davis in 1984. This year marked the 25th anniversary of that meeting during which Robert Engle and Clive Granger and James Stock presented their seminal research on cointegration. Granger was awarded the 2003 Nobel Prize for his work on this topic. [http://nber-nsf09.ucdavis.edu/](http://nber-nsf09.ucdavis.edu/)
Division of Social Sciences

**Economic History Conference Support**


**W. Turrentine Jackson Graduate Fellowship Support**

Supplemental funding was added to the W. Turrentine Jackson Graduate Fellowship, which is awarded to a graduate student concentrating in the history of the United States West.

**Hemispheric Institute on the Americas (HIA) Graduate Student Travel Grants**

Support for graduate students whose research requires international travel. International travel is especially important for the work of many disciplines in this area, and students who take a quarter to travel for research explore not just important works inaccessible here in the United States but they also discover a great deal about the area they cover just by living there. [http://hia.ucdavis.edu](http://hia.ucdavis.edu)

2009 recipients:

- **Fernando Villalba** (Native American Studies – Mexico), “Potential Guidelines Sensitive to Intellectual Rights in the Use of Native Ecological Knowledge by Conservation Agencies”.
- **Daniela Torres Torretti** (Education – Chile), “Being a ‘Whole Person’ by ‘Being With’: The Incorporation of Performance as a Way to Work Towards a Transformative Education”.
- **Sharada Balachandran-Orihuela** (English – Cuba), “Bleeding at the Border: War and Hemispheric Nation Formation in Cuba, Mexico and the United States”.
- **Magali Rabasa** (Cultural Studies), “Grassroots Intellectuals and the Theorization of ‘Other Politics’”.
- **Nelson Martinez-Berrios** (Geography – Chile), “The Politics of Knowledge in Chile: Historical Patterns of Use of Indigenous Knowledge – the Case of the Mapuche People”.
- **Nathaniel Freiburger** (Sociology – Bolivia), “Cultures of Engineering and the Engineering of Politics: Materiality and Metaphysics in the Making of a Political Object”.
- **Lily Balloffet** (History – Argentina, Brazil), “If we cut all the cedars in Lebanon’: The Role of the Fourth Estate for Arab Immigrants in Argentina and Brazil, 1900-1930”.
- **Emily Davidson** (Spanish and Portuguese – Panama), “‘La rosa de los vientos’: Navigating Contradictory Representations of the Panama Canal”.
- **Stefanie Graeter** (Anthropology – Mexico), “Risk Communication of Lead Toxicity in Oaxaca, Mexico”.

***Add under HArCS***
Social Sciences Faculty Research Support for the UC Davis Humanities Institute Seminars

Conceived as collaborative incubators for work-in-progress, faculty research seminars bring together mixed disciplinary groups across the humanities and social sciences to explore timely issues. The seminar participants meet for a single quarter each year to think in community, challenge each other, and generate new insights into individual research trajectories. http://dhi.ucdavis.edu

**Fall 2008:** “Science and the Sacred”, exploring the relationships between religion and science, faith and reason, and the spiritual and technological in various cultural and historical contexts.

**Participants:** Daniel Stolzenberg (History), Emily Albu (Classics), Allison Coudert (Religious Studies), Mark Elmore (Religious Studies), Ari Y. Kelman (American Studies), Kari Lokke (Comparative Literature), and Blake Stimson (Art History).

**Spring 2009:** “California Cultures – Past, Present and Future”, exploring diverse issues such as migration, immigration and transnational flows, changing notions of community and citizenship, especially in the context of class and race, youth culture and juvenile delinquency, and popular culture formations, including music and film.

**Participants:** Beth Levy (Music), Miroslava Chavez-Garcia (Chicana/o Studies), Jesse Drew (Technocultural Studies), Robert Irwin (Spanish and Classics), Martha Macri (Native American Studies), and Sunaina Maira (Asian American Studies).

**Speech and Debate Program**

The Speech and Debate Program at UC Davis is a co-curricular, intercollegiate activity which provides students with intensive training in oral and written expression. The program provides UC Davis students with the opportunity to improve their persuasive and argumentative skills by participating in tournaments with students from other California and U.S. universities. Events offered by these tournaments typically include parliamentary debate, dramatic interpretation, extemporaneous speaking, impromptu speaking, and persuasive speaking. http://debateteam.ucdavis.edu

**Publication Assistance**


**Divisional Research Award**

This award, funded in part by funds from the Herbert A. Young Society, was presented to Assistant Professor of Anthropology Andrew Marshall in support of his research of primate ecology in West Kalimantan. http://anthropology.ucdavis.edu/people/andrew-j-marshall-1