Initiatives funded by the Young Society in 2009-10

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 2009-10 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

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. Dynamic and socially engaged scholars were invited last year, 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, the series sparked conversations, encouraged public engagement and built bridges between the academy and the public. Talks are free and open to all. To join the DHI community listserv to attend this year's talks, please visit http://publicforum.ucdavis.edu/

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 the University Writing Program’s 20th Anniversary of Writing on the Edge

Writing on the Edge, an interdisciplinary journal focusing on writing and the teaching of writing, is aimed primarily at college-level composition teachers and others interested in writing and writing instruction. It is published twice yearly, in spring and fall. http://woe.ucdavis.edu/

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 to real-world issues and the problems we
face today. Guest speakers came from Pennsylvania State, Intel Corporation, North Carolina State, Stanford University, University of Duisburg-Essen (Germany), Florida State, Harvard University, Carnegie Mellon University, Simon Fraser University, UC Berkeley, UC Riverside and UC San Francisco. [http://www.stat.ucdavis.edu/seminars/recent-seminar-abstracts](http://www.stat.ucdavis.edu/seminars/recent-seminar-abstracts)

**Divisional Research Award**

Presented to Physics Professor Robin Erbacher in recognition of her contributions to the department, the division and the UC Davis campus. [http://www.physics.ucdavis.edu/~erbacher/](http://www.physics.ucdavis.edu/~erbacher/)

**SYLICCO 2009 Symposium**

The Chemistry Department hosted the Symposium on Learning and Industry targeting Computational Chemistry Opportunities (SYLICCO) on July 23, 2009. The free symposium invited faculty, post-doctorate students, graduate and undergraduate students, and high school students interested in research and career opportunities in theoretical and computational chemistry and biophysics. [http://blueline.ucdavis.edu/sylicco09.html](http://blueline.ucdavis.edu/sylicco09.html)

**3D Printer**

The Chemistry Department purchased a color printer used to implement three-dimensional printing technology intended to make organic chemistry research more accessible to researchers and students, especially for those who are visually impaired or blind. Senior chemistry and history major Henry Wedler is one of those students, and was profiled on page 7 in the Spring 2009 issue of *College Currents* magazine. [http://www.ls.ucdavis.edu/friends/collegecurrents/issues/CollegeCurrentsSpring2009.pdf](http://www.ls.ucdavis.edu/friends/collegecurrents/issues/CollegeCurrentsSpring2009.pdf)

**Geology Conference Room**


**Academic Collaboration Agreement with NAIST**

Representatives from the Nara Institute of Technology (NAIST) from Japan visited in order to deepen their existing relationship with UC Davis. The delegation explored the possibility of research collaborations between faculty, and signed a Memorandum of Understanding between the two institutions. NAIST's Materials Science program covers topics that fall within the UC Davis departments of Physics, Chemistry, Electrical Engineering, Applied Science, Textiles and Clothing, Chemical Engineering and Materials Science. [http://www.naist.jp/index_e.html](http://www.naist.jp/index_e.html)

**Division of Social Sciences**

**Public Intellectuals Forum**

Mellon Foundation president Dr. Don Randel visited campus, presenting a talk on “The Values of the University.” A musicologist by training, Dr. Randel suggests that during economic crisis, the values of a university are utilitarian – contributing primarily to gross domestic product and the salaries of graduates. An advocate for excellence, innovation and collaboration in the
humanities and the arts, Dr. Randel argued that the university should hold firmly to its values; otherwise, it will fail to function, when our society needs it to succeed. [publicforum.ucdavis.edu/randel.html](http://publicforum.ucdavis.edu/randel.html)

**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 western United States.

**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. [debateteam.ucdavis.edu](http://debateteam.ucdavis.edu)

**Publication Assistance**

Thanks in part to funds from the Herbert A. Young Society, associate professor of history and religious studies Baki Tezcan was able to publish his upcoming book, *The Second Ottoman Empire: Political and Social Transformations in the Early Modern World*. [history.ucdavis.edu/professor/baki_tezcan](http://history.ucdavis.edu/professor/baki_tezcan)

**2010 Faculty Research Lecture**

Political science professor Larry Berman was named the 2010 Faculty Research Lecturer, and presented “The Past Has Another Pattern: Lessons Learned, Lessons Lost From Vietnam to Iraq and Afghanistan.” [news.ucdavis.edu/search/news_detail.lasso?id=9462](http://news.ucdavis.edu/search/news_detail.lasso?id=9462)

**Workshop on Neuroeconomics and Endocrinological Economics**

Organized by assistant professor of economics Burkhard C. Schipper, this interdisciplinary workshop brought together researchers in economics, neuroscience, endocrinology, genetics, anthropology and psychology. [www.econ.ucdavis.edu/faculty/schipper/neuroworkshop.htm](http://www.econ.ucdavis.edu/faculty/schipper/neuroworkshop.htm)

**College of Letters and Science Spring Deans' Speaker Series: Assad Meymandi**


**University of California Humanities Research Institute Seminar**

Financial support from the Herbert A. Young Society supported a colloquium in honor of retiring professor of history Susan Mann, entitled “Moving Forward: Gender and Chinese History.”
Health Care Reform Series

Support for a policy watch seminar presented by the Institute of Governmental Affairs. Richard L. Kravitz, MD, MSPH, professor and co-vice chair of research in the department of internal medicine at the UC Davis Medical Center gave a talk entitled “The Realities of Health Care Reform: Good News for Primary Care?” [http://www.iga.ucdavis.edu](http://www.iga.ucdavis.edu)

History Dissertation Consortium

Support for a consortium co-hosted by the UC Davis Department of History and the Hemispheric Institute on the Americas (HIA). This year’s consortium consisted of faculty from UCLA, USC, Stanford, Yale and UC Davis, who met to workshop dissertation chapters of five graduate students who were selected from a national competition.

Divisional Awards for Innovative Faculty

James Adams, professor of political science
Lynne Isbell, professor of anthropology
Lisa Materson, associate professor of history
Jeff Sherman, professor of psychology
Baki Tezcan, associate professor of history and religious studies

Doctoral Fellowships for Excellence

Faraz Farzin, psychology
Jason Haberman, psychology
Kristina Lyons, anthropology
Oanh Meyer, psychology
Elizabeth Simas, political science

Post Doctoral Fellowship for Excellence

Weiwei Zhang, postdoctoral scholar, Luck Lab, UC Davis Center for Mind and Brain

Divisional Leadership Award

James Griesemer, professor and chair, Department of Philosophy