Initiatives funded by the Young Society in 2010-11
An annual report distributed to all Young Society members

Gifts to the Herbert A. Young Society provide the deans with the flexibility to fund innovative ideas, novel research, important lectures, new technologies and other projects that might remain unfunded without these gifts. Your support helps the College of Letters and Science keep courses and research relevant, and the students engaged. Young Society funds raised in 2010-11 were put to work in a number of ways. Your combined gifts furthered important research, opened new doors for graduate and undergraduate students, and 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

Young Society gifts supported conferences that brought together faculty, researchers, students and community members to discuss topics of interest:

The third annual Native American and Indigenous Studies Association (NAISA) conference was hosted by the Department of Native American Studies. The conference brought together researchers, scholars and a multitude of others who work in the academic field of Native American and indigenous studies with the goal of sharing knowledge that serves the Indigenous peoples around the world.

The Spanish Department hosted the 23rd annual conference on Spanish in the U.S. and 8th annual conference on Spanish in Contact with Other Languages. The joint conferences welcomed a cross section of speakers from anthropology, sociology, cultural studies, applied linguistics and literature, among others, to explore Spanish in the public sphere.

Funding for several Davis Humanities Institute academic events designed to showcase great research and performance across the arts and humanities through symposia, guest lectures and conferences.

Young Society funds supplemented the Jan and Beta Popper Endowed Professorship in Opera to honor the late Beta Popper and her estate gift in memory of her husband. The professorship will be held by a professor whose teaching and research or creative work includes opera and other fields of music.
Division of Mathematics and Physical Sciences

The Department of Physics purchased 12 new oscilloscopes for the Physics 116 lab, which are used in experiments in the lab related to studying the effects of voltage.

The Division of Mathematics and Physical Sciences honored Physics Professor Manuel Calderon de la Barca Sanchez with a research award to recognize his contributions to the department, the division and the campus.

Support for the 29th International Symposium on Lattice Field Theory, which provides researchers from around the world with an annual forum at which to discuss a wide variety of aspects generally concerning the study of relativistic quantum fields regulated on a spacetime lattice.

The division purchased a mathematics placement-exam backup server, which ultimately supports the dean’s effort to improve orientation programs and the ability to direct students to classes that best fit their abilities and interests.

Dean’s Speaker Series lecture by Mark Ellsworth, Ph.D., senior director for the Polymers, Ceramics and Technical Services Laboratories at Tyco Electronics, spoke on the topic “From Invention to Innovation: Practical Examples of Academic Discovery Leading to Commercial Viability.”

Division of Social Sciences

A portion of Young Society gifts were used for Social Sciences Dean’s Awards to honor the contributions of faculty and students within the division:

Innovation Awards to recognize the outstanding work of Professor Ali Annoshahr, history; Professor Cheryl Boudreau, political science; Professor Robert Faris, sociology; Professor Amanda Guyer, Center for Mind and Brain; and Professor William McCarthy, sociology.

Doctoral Fellowships for Excellence to recognize the impressive scholarship of Matt Buttice, political science; Nicholas D’Avella, anthropology; Emily Kappenman, Center for Mind and Brain; Lena Meari, anthropology; and David Orzechowicz, sociology.

Leadership Award to honor the work of Professor Walter Stone, political science.

Post Doctoral Fellowship for Excellence awarded to Luis Pacheco-Cobos, anthropology.

Additional funds supplemented the W. Turrentine Jackson Graduate Fellowship awarded to a graduate student concentrating in the history of the United States West.

Young Society gifts were used to co-sponsor the 2011 Sheffrin Lecture in Public Policy with guest speaker Peter Galison, the Pellegrino University Professor of the History of Science and of Physics at Harvard University. Using WikiLeaks as his focus, Galison’s lecture explored the history of political secrecy.
Young Society gifts also were used to help faculty members publish their research:

Professor Robert Taylor (political science) for his forthcoming book *Reconstructing Rawls: The Kantian Foundations of Justice as Fairness*

Professor Michael Motley (communication) for his forthcoming book *Forensic Communication: Application of Communication Research to Courtroom Litigation*

2010-11 Deans’ Fellowship Awards

The goal of the new Deans’ Fellowship Awards is to honor the achievements of our outstanding faculty throughout the three divisions of the College of Letters and Science. The awards are solely funded by gifts to the College of Letters and Science Annual Fund and the Young Society and are intended to be used for teaching, research and public service activities. We congratulate the inaugural winners from each division listed below. To learn more about the Deans’ Fellowship Awards and the winners, check out “The Back Story” on page 23 of our spring 2011 edition of *College Currents*.

- For the Division of Humanities, Arts and Cultural Studies, Professor Frances E. Dolan, English
- For the Division of Mathematics and Physical Sciences, Professor Isabel P. Montañez, geology
- For the Division of Social Science, Professor Robert C. Feenstra, the C. Bryan Cameron Distinguished Chair in International Economics