Greetings from UC Davis,

As we begin a new academic year, we look forward to seeing the faces of the freshmen and transfer students entering the classroom hallways, ready to pursue their courses of study at the College of Letters and Science. New majors such as the marine and coastal science major give students even more options as they look into what they might want to study.

As you read this issue of the magazine, we hope you will pay special attention to the Gifts at Work section, which announces that The Campaign for UC Davis has just ended to a resounding success. The College of Letters and Science raised more than $92 million during the campaign. The original goal was $70 million and thanks to you, we achieved our goal by 132 percent! We are grateful to all of you who helped to make this possible—transforming the college, its faculty and students with each gift.

Until spring,

Susan B. Kaiser
Interim Dean, Division of Humanities, Arts and Cultural Studies

George R. Mangun
Dean, Division of Social Sciences

Alexandra Navrotsky
Interim Dean, Division of Mathematical and Physical Sciences

From the Deans

On the cover:

A view of the universe

The Large Synoptic Survey Telescope (LSST), which will be completed in the coming few years, will revolutionize our understanding of the universe. The project’s chief scientist is Distinguished Professor of Physics Tony Tyson, who is photographed for our fall cover in his LSST beam simulator laboratory at UC Davis.

The telescope, which is being built in the mountains of northern Chile, is a large aperture, wide field survey telescope with a 3200 megapixel camera that will image faint astronomical objects across the sky. As it scans, the telescope will chart objects that change or move. The images from the LSST will trace billions of remote galaxies, providing multiple probes of the mysterious dark matter and dark energy that cosmologists work with as they seek to answer some of humankind’s most elusive questions about our universe and how we began.

The LSST plans to share data with the public as it becomes available, so anyone with a computer can fly throughout the universe. The project will also supply tools for analysis and database access to help students, astrophysicists and the general public participate in the process of discovery. The LSST has been identified by the National Academy of Sciences as a scientific priority and is supported by the National Science Foundation and the Department of Energy. The National Science Foundation recently agreed to support the Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy to manage the construction with a budget of up to $473 million. Private funding from Charles Simonyi and Bill Gates helped build the LSST’s mirror, and other donors to the LSST have helped the project as it progresses.

Cover Photo Credit: TJ Ushing/UC Davis

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Cover Photo Credit: TJ Ushing/UC Davis
This beam simulator for LSST is housed in the Physics Building at UC Davis. The laboratory tests the CCD imagers and data as the project readies for the “go live” date in 2019. The simulator was funded by the National Science Foundation and from private donors including Wayne Rosing and Dorothy Largay, Eric Schmidt, and Bob and Joyce Wisner.

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COLLEGE OF LETTERS AND SCIENCE

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Cover Photo Credit: TJ Ushing/UC Davis
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New Major
The Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences has partnered with the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences and the College of Biological Sciences to launch a new major, Marine and Coastal Science. This unique major incorporates courses, fieldwork and research opportunities that highlight the terrestrial-marine interface, coastal issues and human impacts on the marine environment.

marinescience.ucdavis.edu

New Faculty in MPS Investigate Planetary Evolution and Processes in Earth’s Past
The Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences, which is part of the Division of Mathematical and Physical Sciences (MPS), has recently hired two new faculty who look at planetary bodies, as well as processes in deep Earth. Sarah Stewart-Mukhopadhyay and Sujoy Mukhopadhyay come to UC Davis from Harvard University. A new state-of-the-art shockwave lab to study impact processes and other planetary phenomena is being constructed for Stewart-Mukhopadhyay’s research.

Sarah Stewart-Mukhopadhyay’s work focuses on the formation and evolution of planetary bodies, particularly collisions, which link the history of all planetary bodies from the giant planets to grains of dust. In her lab, she does shock wave experiments and numerical simulations of collisions. Read her commentary on the formation of the moon in Nature.

bit.ly/I1InE0N

A geochemist, Sujoy Mukhopadhyay’s work focuses on the links between processes operating within the deep Earth and those operating on the Earth’s surface. Noble gases, in particular, are unique geochemical tracers for studying these processes. His latest research, which was presented at the Sacramento-based Goldschmidt Conference, is an investigation into how ancient gases trapped within the Earth’s mantle reveal clues about the planet’s earliest days. When a large object slammed into the Earth 4.5 billion years ago, the impact may not have affected the whole planet in the same way. Mukhopadhyay’s research shows that perhaps the Earth did not melt into a large ocean of magma across the planet, but only across part of the planet.

lat.ms/I1nMOvGe

In commenting about their move to UC Davis, they said, “Recently, we have started working together on the origin of the Earth and Moon. At Davis, we will set up new laboratories to study samples from the deep Earth and processes during Earth’s accretion.”

In Memoriam: John A. Jungerman
John A. Jungerman, professor emeritus of physics and founding director of the university’s Crocker Nuclear Laboratory, has passed away at the age of 92.

As a graduate student at UC Berkeley and Los Alamos during World War II, he worked on the Manhattan Project, witnessing the first atomic bomb test, “Trinity,” at White Sands, N.M., in 1945. Jungerman joined the fledgling Department of Physics at UC Davis in 1951, the same year that the College of Letters and Science was established. He officially retired in 1991, but was recalled on several occasions for research or teaching.

In the 1960s, Jungerman sought to build a research particle accelerator for the UC Davis campus to support the graduate program in physics. Ernest Lawrence, director of the Berkeley Radiation Laboratory (now the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory) offered two giant magnets from a surplus cyclotron that could be used to build a new accelerator.

The magnets were transported from Berkeley to a site near to the UC Davis hog barn on what was then the western edge of campus, and the building housing the Crocker Nuclear Laboratory was built around the new machine.

In 2011, the campus gave a name to the building: John A. Jungerman Hall. He was there for the ceremony, in his trademark purple socks and sandals.

Since the Crocker Nuclear Laboratory opened in 1966, the cyclotron has been used not only in nuclear research, but in measuring air quality in national parks, testing the authenticity of historic artifacts, making radioisotopes and treating eye cancer.

Jungerman earned an associate’s degree from Modesto Junior College (1941) and a B.S. in physics from UC Berkeley (1943). He received his Ph.D. in physics from UC Berkeley in 1949 and worked at the Berkeley Radiation Laboratory with Lawrence and at Cornell University with Hans Bethe before joining UC Davis.

bit.ly/I1meNWqM
New Interim Dean for Division of HArCS

Chancellor Linda P.B. Katehi has named Professor Susan B. Kaiser as the interim dean of the Division of Humanities, Arts and Cultural Studies (HArCS), replacing Jessie Ann Owens, who stepped down in June after serving as dean for eight years.

Kaiser joined the UC Davis Division of Textiles and Clothing in 1980, and over the years her interdisciplinary approach to scholarship has enabled her to foster bridges across the campus. She has been a member of the Women and Gender Studies Program for two decades (director in 2008-09 and 2013-14) and is also affiliated with the Department of Sociology. She spearheaded the establishment of the Science and Society Program and cofounded the Cultural Studies Graduate Group.

“I am absolutely thrilled that Susan has agreed to assume the interim dean position,” the chancellor said. “Susan is a respected scholar, skilled educator, dedicated mentor, strong leader and overall wonderful individual. I am looking forward to working with her in this position and am confident she will help us further advance the excellence of both HArCS and the university as a whole.”

Kaiser has been honored as an outstanding mentor (by the UC Davis Women and Research Consortium) and has held administrative roles, as an associate dean in the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences (home of textiles and clothing) from 1991 to 1996, and as the Division of Textiles and Clothing chair from 2000 to 2006.

“It will be an honor to serve the faculty, staff and students in Humanities, Arts and Cultural Studies,” Kaiser said. “The scholarship and teaching in HArCS are superb, as are the faculty, students and staff I have gotten to know over the years. I especially appreciate how, at UC Davis, there is such a strong tradition of interdisciplinary research and program building; it will be exciting to work on furthering collegial collaborations within and beyond HArCS.”

Kaiser earned a B.S. in textiles and clothing at the University of Texas at Austin; and a Ph.D. in textiles and clothing, with a minor in sociology, at Texas Woman’s University. She was an assistant professor at California State University, Los Angeles, before coming to UC Davis. She is a fellow and past president of the International Textile and Apparel Association, and serves on the editorial board of Fashion Theory.

Her current research focuses on themes of place and space, with particular interest in (a) those (e.g., rural areas, small towns) that are neglected as sites of fashion interest and (b) their interplay with intersecting identities: gender, sexuality, ethnicity, age, social class and national identity.

She is the author of The Social Psychology of Clothing: Symbolic Appearances in Context, first published in 1985 and republished in 1990 and 1997, and translated into Japanese, Chinese and Korean; and Fashion and Cultural Studies (2012), and has written or co-written nearly 100 articles and book chapters in the fields of textile and fashion studies, gender studies, consumer studies, cultural studies and sociology.

Award for Education

The American Physical Society has awarded the Department of Physics the “Award for Improving Undergraduate Education,” one of only three such awards given this year. In giving the award, the society cited that the department has “created curriculum opportunities involving specializations and multidisciplinary degrees coupled with vibrant research options for a diverse student population.”

A Green Award

The Department of Chemistry received a “Greenovation Award” from Kimberly-Clark for their success in reducing glove waste. UC Davis diverted 6 tons of glove waste from landfill in 2013 through the RightCycle recycling program.
The latest Research discoveries

The Lottery of Your Lineage

Inequality of income and wealth has risen in America since the 1970s, yet a large-scale research study recently found that social mobility has not changed much during that time. Gregory Clark, professor of economics and author of The Son Also Rises: Surnames and the History of Social Mobility, suggests that your overall life chances can be predicted not just from your parents’ status but also from your great-great-great grandparents.’

Clark estimates that 50 to 60 percent of variation in overall status is determined by your lineage. The fortunes of high-status families inexorably fall, and those of low-status families rise, toward the average—what social scientists call “regression to the mean”—but the process can take 10 to 15 generations (300 to 450 years), much longer than most social scientists have estimated in the past. “Our findings suggest that the compulsion to strive, the talent to prosper and the ability to overcome failure are strongly inherited,” noted Clark. The idea that low-status ancestors might keep someone down many generations later runs against most people’s notions of fairness, but at the same time, the large investments made by the super-elite in their kids are of no avail in preventing long-run downward mobility.

Gregory Clark, professor of economics
The Son Also Rises: Surnames and the History of Social Mobility

What Happened When?

New research from Professor Charan Ranganath in the Department of Psychology and the Center for Neuroscience, and graduate student Liang-Tien Hsieh shows how the hippocampus part of the brain stores memories, providing much-needed help for patients with memory problems. Their research showed that part of the brain, called the hippocampus, stores memories by their “temporal context”—what happened before, and what came after—meaning that the coding of the memory in the hippocampus is dependent on its context, not just on content.

“We need to remember not just what happened, but when,” noted Hsieh. “For the hippocampus, context is critical, not content, and it’s fairly unique in how it pulls things together,” commented Ranganath. “For patients with memory problems, this is a big deal,” he added. “It’s not just something that’s useful in understanding healthy memory, but allows us to understand and intervene in memory problems.”

Where Does “Free Will” Come From?

Our ability to make choices—and sometime mistakes—could arise from random fluctuations in the brain’s background electrical noise, according to Jesse Bengson, postdoctoral researcher at the Center for Mind and Brain. A study using electroencephalography (EEG) to record the brain’s electrical activity just before a decision shows that decisions can be predicted based on the pattern of brain activity immediately before a decision is made.

“The brain has a normal level of ‘background noise’ as electrical activity patterns fluctuate across the brain,” noted Bengson. “The state of the brain right before presentation of the cue determines whether (the volunteer) will attend to the left or to the right,” he added. This experiment builds on a famous 1970s experiment which measured brain electrical activity immediately before a volunteer made a decision to press a switch in response to a visual signal. “The new work shows how ‘brain noise’ might actually create an opening for free will,” commented Bengson. “It inserts a random effect that allows us to be freed from simple cause and effect.”

Gregory Clark
The Son Also Rises: Surnames and the History of Social Mobility

Credit: TJ Ushing/UC Davis

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youtu.be/ln-FL3lkFW8
Dramatic Discovery in Cosmology

On March 17, 2014, astronomers reported what many consider to be the “smoking gun” of a theorized stage in the very early evolution of the universe called “inflation,” revealed in data they gathered using the BICEP-2 telescope at the South Pole. The recent data shows that slow-roll inflation, first theorized in 1982 by Andreas Albrecht, now chair of the UC Davis physics department, and Paul Steinhardt of Princeton University, is correct. “It is amazing to learn that nature has been incredibly generous with us, and chosen a path where the gravitational wave signal is about as strong as it could be,” Albrecht commented. “The strength of the signal opens up a whole new field of gravitational wave astronomy.” Physics Professor Nemanja Kaloper noted, “[This result] cuts like a hot knife through the proverbial butter of hundreds, if not thousands, of different scenarios, and tweaks of scenarios, of inflationary dynamics (and non-inflationary alternatives).”

“Designer Enzymes” Recognized with Sloan Fellowship

Justin Siegel, assistant professor in the Department of Chemistry, along with researchers in the School of Medicine’s Department of Biochemistry and the UC Davis Genome Center, have earned a prestigious Sloan Research Fellowship for using computers to develop new “designer enzymes” with properties not found in nature. According to Siegel, everything around us in nature is created by enzymes. “We’re trying to harness the power of nature to re-engineer enzymes to fill our own needs,” he added. Siegel’s research looks at natural enzymes, models their behavior with computers and introduces tweaks to give them new properties. He uses DNA technology to introduce the new enzymes into microorganisms so they can be grown, purified and tested.

More Men, More Violence?

Conventional wisdom and scientific arguments have long claimed that societies with more men than women will become more violent, but a UC Davis study has found that a male-biased sex ratio does not lead to more crime. The study, “Too many men: the violence problem?” which appeared in Trends in Ecology & Evolution, discovered that rates of rape, sexual assault and homicide are actually lower in societies with more men than women. Co-authors Monique Borgerhoff Mulder, professor of anthropology, and Ryan Schacht, doctoral researcher, commented, “It isn’t surprising that arguments of more men leading to more violence dominate discussions … but the evidence does not support a relationship between violence and a short supply of women.” Kristin Liv Rauch, post-doctoral research and co-author, noted, “When men are abundant, rather than rare, they often switch their strategy to compete in non-violent rather than violent ways.” This study has important policy implications for theories like “tough on crime” that incarcerate increasing numbers of men, but might actually be contributing to higher rates of violence, rather than alleviating them.

“When men are abundant, rather than rare, they often switch their strategy to compete in non-violent rather than violent ways.”

Charles F. Walker, professor of history, Director of the Hemispheric Institute on the Americas, The Tupac Amaru Rebellion

“Tupac Amaru Rebellion”

Credit: Robert Schwarz, University of Minnesota
Research

Severely Depressed Have New Treatment Option

Led by Dr. Guohua Xia, the Center for Mind and Brain’s (CMB) unique combination of basic science and clinical-translational research has led to an important new treatment for severe depression. The treatment uses a new variety of transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS) in which a coil outside the head delivers magnetic pulses that stimulate the underlying brain tissue. The TMS system (Brainsway) uses a special stimulator that can reach more deeply into the brain than previous systems, effectively treating depression even in patients who do not respond to conventional antidepressant medications. This is a real breakthrough for millions of people worldwide who suffer from depression but do not get relief from medications. Now that this treatment has received FDA approval, Dr. Xia has opened a clinic to provide this treatment as a part of regular care for depression patients in the Davis/Sacramento area.

Picture This

People respond to images of junk food versus healthy food as a function of their eating habits and food knowledge, according to Assistant Professor of Communication Narine Yegiyan. Her research showed that unhealthy eaters compared to healthy eaters with the same degree of food knowledge responded more positively to all food items. These findings are critical because they suggest that it is important to apply different message production techniques when addressing healthy versus unhealthy eaters with a high degree of food knowledge. Unhealthy eaters produce stronger emotional response to images of junk food and are more likely to process information associated with junk food with more cognitive effort and scrutiny. When targeting this group, the images of junk food need to be combined with strong message claims and relevant arguments or the motivational activation associated with junk food itself may transfer into an increased desire to consume the unhealthy product.

brainefit.com

[Left to right]

Maceo Montoya, assistant professor of Chicana and Chicano studies, Letters to the Poet from His Brother and The Deportation of Wopper Barraza

Scott C. Shershow, professor of English, Deconstructing Dignity: A Critique of the Right-to-Die Debate

Clarence Major, professor emeritus of English, Down and Up: Poems

Wendell Berry and Gary Snyder; edited by Chad Wriglesworth, Distant Neighbors: The Selected Letters of Wendell Berry and Gary Snyder
From Plant Waste to “Biogasoline”

A new process for making gasoline-like fuels from cellulosic materials such as farm and forestry waste has been invented by chemists at UC Davis, potentially opening new markets for plant-based fuels beyond existing substitutes. “What’s exciting is that there are lots of processes to make linear hydrocarbons, but until nobody has been able to make branched hydrocarbons with volatility in the gasoline range,” said Mark Mascal, associate professor of chemistry and lead author on the paper published in the journal Angewandte Chemie. Biodiesel, refined from plant-based oils, is already commercially available to run modified diesel engines. A plant-based gasoline replacement would open up a much bigger market for renewable fuels. “The feedstock for the new process is levulinic acid, which can be produced by chemical processing of materials such as straw, corn stalks or even municipal green waste,” said Mascal. “It’s a cheap and practical starting point that can be produced from raw biomass with high yield.”

The Smell of Sustainability

Shota Atsumi, assistant professor of chemistry, and his team are engineering bacteria to make esters—molecules widely used as scents and flavoring, and also as basic feedstock for chemical processes from paints to fuels. “Nearly all industrial chemicals, from artificial flavorings to paint, are derived from oil or gas,” noted Atsumi. “Our motivation is to make chemicals from renewable sources instead.” Esters are molecules in which two chains of carbon atoms are linked through an oxygen atom. They are made chemically by reacting an alcohol with an organic acid. But the thermodynamics of this reaction mean that it is easier to break up an ester than to make it. Living cells can also make esters: Yeasts produce small amounts of esters that give flavors to wine and beer, without requiring high temperature or special conditions. “The reaction is chemically difficult but biologically easy,” added Atsumi. The technique, which has been patented, opens up possibilities for producing many different esters in biological systems. Atsumi hopes to engineer these chemical pathways into cyanobacteria (blue-green algae), single-celled organisms that can draw energy directly from sunlight and carbon from the atmosphere.

Popular Teens Are Bullied Too

A new study suggests that for most adolescents, becoming more popular both increases their risk of getting bullied and worsens the negative consequences of being victimized. “In contrast to stereotypes of wallflowers as the sole targets of peer aggression, adolescents who are relatively popular are also at high risk of harassment,” said Robert Faris, associate professor of sociology. According to the study, females and physically or socially vulnerable youth are also victimized at particularly high rates, but most striking was the prevalence of relatively popular youth among the ranks of the victims. The study found victims of harassment suffered psychological, social and academic consequences, and they experienced high levels of anxiety, anger and depression.

www.ls.ucdavis.edu l FALL 2014

Growth of Brain Structures Related to Memory

Our ability to store memories improves during childhood, associated with structural changes in the hippocampus and its connections with prefrontal and parietal cortices. New research from UC Davis is exploring how these brain regions develop at this crucial time, leading to possible insights into disorders that typically emerge in the transition into and during adolescence and affect memory, such as schizophrenia and depression. “For a long time it was assumed that the hippocampus didn’t develop at all after the first couple years of life,” noted Joshua Lee, graduate student in psychology and researcher at the Center for Mind and Brain. Improvements in memory were thought to be due entirely to changes in the brain’s outer layers, or cortex, that manage attention and strategies. Lee, Professor Simona Ghetti at the Center for Mind and Brain, and Arne Ekstrom, assistant professor in the Center for Neuroscience, used magnetic resonance imaging to map the hippocampus in 39 children ages eight to 14 years. “This is really important because it allows us to understand the heterogeneity along the hippocampus, which has been examined in human adults and other species,” said Ghetti.

“For a long time it was assumed that the hippocampus didn’t develop at all after the first couple years of life.”
Snubbing Lion Hunters

For hundreds of years, young men from some ethnic groups in Tanzania were richly rewarded for killing lions that preyed on livestock and people. After killing a predatory lion using only a spear and shield, the hunter would travel from village to village, perform a dance and be showered with gifts. Today, villagers are snubbing the lion killers because they are killing lions that are not a threat to people or livestock and live in a national park. According to Professor of Anthropology Monique Borgerhoff Mulder, lead author of the study, this surprisingly rapid change in a long-standing cultural practice has positive implications for efforts to save lions. “This change in behavior offers an intriguing solution to the problem of illegal hunting insofar as the community is policing itself,” commented Borgerhoff Mulder. “This is a rare instance of wildlife conservation and community actions working in tandem.”

Low-Wage Workers Trapped, Unable to Advance

Low-wage workers know they have to enhance their skills to escape low-wage jobs, but long hours and multiple jobs make skill-building and education nearly impossible, according to a new policy brief released by the Center for Poverty Research. “The very conditions of low-wage work necessitate that workers hold multiple jobs, and that they have to put in long hours,” commented Victoria Smith, professor of sociology and faculty affiliate of the Center for Poverty Research. Smith and co-author Brian Halpin, a graduate student in sociology, conducted in-depth interviews with 25 low-wage workers in the Napa/Sonoma area and found that workers patch together multiple full- and part-time jobs to maximize their paid hours. Most low-wage jobs are part-time with no guaranteed hours, making it difficult for individuals to manage their work and non-work time effectively. Smith and Halpin argue that introducing living wages and other work protections could create more possibilities for workers to support themselves and their families while freeing up time to develop their human capital.

Planck Sheds Light on Big Bang

How humanity and Earth came to be has long been a source of intrigue and scientific inquiry. According to Professor of Physics Lloyd Knox, a member of the team that is studying data from the Planck satellite, the Big Bang is “a confirmed truth.” Last year the satellite captured an image of the universe when it was about 380,000 years old—a baby photo as far as cosmologists are concerned. “The universe used to be hotter, denser, smoother and expanding more rapidly,” Knox told The Columbus Dispatch. “It’s extraordinary that we can talk about events 14 billion years ago with this kind of confidence.” Knox concludes that many mysteries about the universe remain, including questions about how the Big Bang got its start and uncertainty about so-called “dark matter” and “dark energy.”

“This change in behavior offers an intriguing solution to the problem of illegal hunting insofar as the community is policing itself.”

bit.ly/1kGhWln
Ancient Reptiles Gave Birth to Live Young

A fossilized Chaohusaurus, an animal that lived 248 million years ago and is the earliest of the marine reptiles from the Mesozoic Era, was discovered in central China’s Anhui Province and includes the remains of three babies. Biologists noted that the preserved reptile’s babies were born head first, which is unusual given that the majority of marine live births are tail first, possibly to avoid suffocation. In land-based animals, giving birth head first is the norm. “Being reptiles, their ancestors lived on land. What happened during the transition from land to the sea is not well understood, and Chaohusaurus holds a key to unlock the mystery,” said Ryosuke Motani, a professor in the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences. “We always assumed that live-bearing in marine reptiles evolved after they invaded the sea, partly because of this difference. The new fossil shows that the most primitive marine reptile gave birth head first,” added Motani. “This strongly suggests that they inherited live-bearing from their land ancestors.”

The Biological Impact of Stress in Kids

Parents’ actions and the home environment they create are crucial for their children’s development, impacting not just intellectual and emotional development, but also their child’s biological development. Psychology Professor Ross A. Thompson and Brookings Institute Senior Fellow Ron Haskins note that developmental problems caused by stress are widespread. Despite decades of efforts to give poor children a leg up through preschool and other early-childhood initiatives, most are still coming into kindergarten far behind children from wealthier families. “One reason these poor outcomes occur is that the stress associated with poverty and associated conditions gets under the skin—it becomes biologically embedded in the physical systems that develop so rapidly in the early years,” commented the authors. “In much the same way that the brain is shaped by experiences early in life, whether positive or negative, we now know that early experiences shape other biological systems, as well.”

Banks Could Learn from Monkeys

Primate social networks provide valuable lessons that could help predict and prevent catastrophes like the global financial crisis of 2008, according to Fushing Hsieh, statistics professor, and Oscar Jorda, economics professor and research adviser to the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco. The behaviors of captive rhesus macaque monkeys and the banking industry both comprise complex networks, and crises are sometimes caused by breakdowns in these internal networks rather than by disabling external forces. “It’s possible to detect when a crisis is likely to set in—whether in a primate social group or an industry like banking—by modeling the evolution of the breakdowns across the system’s networks,” noted Jorda.

Hsieh and Jorda joined Brenda McCowan and project scientist Brianne Beisner, both of UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine and California National Primate Research Center, to examine the power structure and significant points, or nodes, that comprise the networks in the monkey social group and apply them to comparable points and networks in the banking industry. They determined that the most significant activities within each system are those that influence other relationships. By examining change in the connectivity patterns within a network, as well as the dependence patterns between each keystone network and its subsidiary networks, it is possible to measure growing disturbances within the system, detect a mounting problem and intervene before it reaches a catastrophic tipping point.

Forecasting Volcano Eruptions

For a volcanic eruption to occur, the magma or molten rock under the volcano must be sufficiently mobile. “The question is, what percentage of time is the magma in an eruptible state?” remarked Kari Cooper, associate professor in the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences. The mobility of the magma depends on the amount of crystallization: When it is more than about 50 percent crystalline, it becomes immobile. Crystallization, in turn, depends on the temperature of the rock. Until now, volcanologists have not known how common it is for magma to be crystalline compared to being mobile and eruptible. Cooper’s study shows that at least for Mount Hood, Oregon, the magma is mobile less than 10 percent, and perhaps as little as one percent of the time. “The results mean that volcanologists might be able to better assess when a volcano is ready to erupt by using seismic or other remote imaging to look for mostly liquid magma,” noted Cooper. “If eruptible magma is indeed relatively rare, then when it does appear, the risks of an eruption are higher.”
So while I’ve accepted that I am a writer, I am still challenged by writing books that are good. I don’t want to repeat myself, especially now that I’ve published roughly two dozen books. I’m always trying to come up with new ideas, to be creative and fresh. Writing a book a year, I tap the bottom of the well each time. When I write, which is every day from 10:00am–5:00pm, I spend a lot of time agonizing over the next scene. I want my books to be readable and fun; I want each page to advance the story. So for instance, here today at my desk, I have a stack of 225 pages of a manuscript that I need to finish in a month. I can’t tell you what I’ll write today, but I can tell...
“Good grammar has rules and they must be followed when you write. You may not always obey the rules, but if you choose not to obey them, you have to have good reasons for why not.”

By John Lescroart
From the International Thriller Writers Conference, Master Craftiest
July 8, 2014, New York City

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July 8, 2014, New York City

you I will be writing at least 10 pages, and I will be making sure it’s as good as I can make it.

Since I’ve been a resident in Davis, I’ve become involved in some of the creative writing education that is done at UC Davis. I created a prize that is given to a few good writers each year, the Maurice Prize, and am so proud that so many of the young writers who have won that prize have been published. I started believing I was a writer when I won an award. To be able to give that feeling to other writers is hugely satisfying.

I want to help young writers. I’m in favor of teaching the building blocks. When I go to writer’s conferences and workshops, I marvel at how the simple written word is not used correctly in many manuscripts. The publishing business is in such flux as it is, I hope it’s still possible for new writers to make a living. When writers ask me for advice, I tell them, “Look at your work honestly. Rewrite it, and then rewrite it again.” (See sidebar for tips from Lescroart.)

When I am asked to give career advice to the many students that I work with, whether they are writers or not, I offer the simple phrase, “Follow your bliss.” You’ve got to pick your moments to do good stuff. Whether your job is to be a checker at a grocery store, or a singer, or a lawyer—be happy with what you’re doing and try to do things that make you happy. I’m so fortunate that I’m allowed to write, and that I have the time to do it. I’m one of the most fortunate people in the world—with a good family, health and career. I like to be aware of that. Life is a tenuous thing. And so, I continue to challenge myself every day, at my desk, 10 (good) pages at a time.

John Lescroart was invited to host a master class in writing at this summer’s International Thriller Writers Conference in New York City. As he reviewed the manuscripts that his conference participants sent him, he realized that a great many writers fall into making similar mistakes when crafting their stories.

Are you a writer? Apply Lescroart’s proofreading key to your writing and see how you fare. How much red ink is on your paper when you’re done?

THE MATRIX
A – Adverb/Adjective
B – Awkward Phraseology
C – Cliché/Jargon
E – Echo
F – False or Negative Descriptor
G – Grammar
I – Introduce Earlier
K – Continuity
N – Narrative Voice
P – Passive Voice
R – Redundancy
T – Exposition; Telling Not Showing
U – Unclear Antecedent
W – Wrong Word
X – Contradiction
Y – Yuck Factor
? – Sense/Believability

THE PARTS OF SPEECH
Noun
Verb
Pronoun
Adjective
Adverb
Preposition
Conjunction
Interjection
I remember the morning of June 17 as humid. The heat was even more noticeable in our black caps and gowns as the UC Davis College of Letters and Science class of 1953 took our seats in the Sunken Garden behind the Administration Building. When a handful of students rose to receive their diplomas as the first graduating class of the fledgling college, I’m sure none of us realized the significance of the event. As students at UC Davis we all were “Aggies” in spirit—even if ag was not our chosen course of study. That the College of Letters and Science in future years would eclipse the College of Agriculture, transforming the campus into a diverse, world-class university was unfathomable at the time.

Back in that era, overall enrollment totaled about 1,500. Men outnumbered women approximately five to one. Most of the undergraduate students came from a farm or rural background, and most called California home. Except for a small contingent of international students, we were all fairly similar. The “university farm,” with its animals, barns and on-campus housing, was truly a home away from home for many.

Campus activities and clubs covered a range of interests. From agricultural groups to student publications and governing councils, sports, music and more, there was something for every student. Looking back six decades, it was the activities, rather than classroom lectures and assignments, that evoke the most lasting memories of my years at UC Davis.

By October of my first semester at UC Davis, I had thoroughly embraced the Aggie experience. Along with Shirley Neuerburg, Carol Vieira, and my roommate Jeanne Benner, we four South Hall residents made up the Rally Committee’s new songleader team. It was a do-it-yourself undertaking. Besides planning dance routines and making our own pompons, we also made our outfits—blue gabardine jumpers worn with long-sleeved white blouses. The highlight that fall was All Cal weekend in Berkeley. Imagine our excitement—performing before an audience of thousands in Berkeley’s big stadium, even though the Aggies lost to the Santa Barbara Gauchos.

Picnic Day was more than the annual open house to showcase the campus. It was the event of the year. It seemed that almost every student was involved in some aspect of its planning and presentation. In the immediate days leading up to the big day, Picnic Day preparation prevailed over academics.

Living groups, both on and off campus, and many of the clubs built floats for the parade which officially opened the festivities. Picnic Day in 1952 was a day to remember. Prior to the start of the parade, an early morning windstorm wreaked havoc on some of the crepe paper-decked floats—but the show went on, ruined floats and all! Two popular co-ed events were the Aquacade, a water ballet choreographed by the 40 or so swimmers, and a fashion show featuring attire from casual to formal, with all garments made by the student models.

In my senior year, I signed up for a women’s sports program offering instruction rotating through a sampling of sports. The list included archery, swimming, volleyball, badminton—and marksmanship! There was an indoor rifle range on campus supervised by the ROTC staff. (These were the years of the Korean War; the military had a significant presence on campus.)

Joining the Rifle Team was neither my goal nor intention. It came about more by chance, helped by a high score on my first visit to the rifle range. By this time, the Rifle Team had evolved from strictly ROTC membership to recognition as a Cal Aggie minor sport, although it was still coached by a US Army sergeant. I became the third woman on the Rifle Team roster. We competed in the Pacific Division of the National Intercollegiate Match, and we all earned Circle CA letters and sweaters. The men were invited to receive their letters at a Circle CA awards banquet—a male-only event. The girls were given their sweaters a few days later.

Those first graduating classes in the College of Letters and Science were small, usually less than a dozen students. I remember attending a political science class on Constitutional Law with an enrollment of three. Most, like myself, had changed majors, transferring from the College of Agriculture, a decision that I do not regret. The scope and foundation offered by my major in American Civilization has served me well, in subsequent studies and professional endeavors.
During The Campaign for UC Davis, which celebrated a successful closure in May 2014, Ling-Lie Chau, professor emerita of physics, has made a planned giving bequest agreement with UC Davis, generously providing $1M to endow a chair in physics through her estate, and will plan to increase the amount as her good health and fortune continue. The endowed chair will be for an outstanding female professor in theoretical physics (particle, condensed matter, cosmology) until the faculty gender ratio 1:1 is reached in theoretical physics, a field where women’s participation has been very low, both historically and at present in the U.S. and worldwide. Professor Chau hopes that the endowed chair will bring about the awareness of the importance and advantages of gender diversity in furthering progress and at the same time encourage more women to enter this exciting field of research.

In addition to her estate plan, Professor Chau has made an endowment of $50K, equally matched by the UC Davis Foundation and Division of Mathematical and Physical Sciences, thereby creating a $100K endowment graduate student fellowship for research in the Department of Physics. She has also made an endowment of $25K, equally matched by the UC Davis Center for Neuroscience, thus creating a $50K endowment graduate student award for brain research in the UC Davis Center for Neuroscience. The agreements have the statement that additional gifts to the fund from the donor, colleagues, friends and UC Davis are encouraged and will be graciously accepted.

Professor Chau received her Ph.D. from UC Berkeley in 1966; she then was recruited by and became a visiting member of the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ, from 1967-1969. In 1969 she was recruited by the Theory Group, Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL), Long Island, NY. From 1969-1986 she advanced from assistant to senior physicist and for a few years during that period was the group leader of the Theory Group. She was recruited by UC Davis and became the first female professor in the Department of Physics in 1986 (and the only one until 1994). She was also invited to join the Graduate Group in Applied Mathematics (GGAM) at UC Davis. She retired in 2006 to concentrate on research in theoretical and mathematical physics, and has mentored Ph.D. students even after her retirement.

In 1984 she was elected a Fellow of the American Physical Society “for contributions to a broad range of elementary particle physics theory including Regge phenomenology, weak decays, W production, and Yang-Mills Theory.” In 2004 she was given the ASUCD Excellence in Education Award from the Associated Students UC Davis (ASUCD), which recognized her as “a Distinguished UC Davis Educator.”

On her gifts and bequest to UC Davis, Chau said, “These gifts are tokens to express my appreciation to UC Davis for the excellent intellectual environment that I have enjoyed ever since my arrival in 1986, and to express my belief that excellence and diversity in education and research are important and deserve to be encouraged and supported.”

“Professor Chau’s gift in support of so many areas in the physical sciences is beyond measure,” said Alexandra Navrotsky, interim dean of the Division of Mathematical and Physical Sciences. “Her gifts will advance our understanding of the brain, create bright futures for many graduate students and support a succession of strong female physicists in the years to come.”
Gift of Telescope Has Link to Past

Miki Tsubota has donated a telescope to the Department of Physics recently, one that has an unusual history. The telescope’s “name” is George Michio Tsubota after Miki’s late father. George Michio Tsubota grew up in various internment camps during World War II. During his childhood years at the camps, while he was not able to roam freely, he enjoyed the freedom of looking up at the stars. As an adult, Tsubota became a cabinet maker and carpenter. He purchased one of the most expensive telescopes he could afford when his son Miki had aspirations to be an astronomer or astronaut.

Miki Tsubota gave the telescope to the Department of Physics, hoping that it would help others who aspire to be astronomers. He and his wife are both UC Davis alumni and both worked at the UC Davis Craft Center. “You may still find some remnants of my work at the UC Davis Craft Center,” Miki Tsubota said. There “might still be a wood geode-like structure hanging over the counter, or time capsules in envelopes hidden under some of the tables.” The telescope was in near-mint condition when it was donated, and Miki Tsubota hopes that it will be used by UC Davis students for many years to come.

Pat Boeshaar in the Department of Physics is following Miki Tsubota’s wishes that the telescope will really be used. “We have one similar telescope, so it has doubled the available equipment for us to use. The Astronomy Club can take the telescope on their observing trips to the Sierras or the Mono Lakes, and we can use it for introductory observing classes.”

A Symphony of Shovels

The sound of shovels marked the groundbreaking for the new UC Davis Classroom and Recital Hall, a project spearheaded with a $1.5 million gift from arts patrons Grace and Grant Noda. The $15 million facility, the centerpiece of which is a 394-seat recital hall, is scheduled to open in the fall of 2015. “UC Davis has enjoyed a world-class tradition of music performance and education for decades,” remarked Chancellor Linda P.B. Katehi. “This magnificent new hall will be a fitting home for our dedicated faculty and students to showcase their talents.” Jessie Ann Owens, former dean of the Division of Humanities, Arts and Cultural Studies and professor of music, added, “Along with providing much-needed classroom space for the university, this building will be all about performance—ensembles, rehearsals, practice rooms and music instruction.” The recital hall will host concerts of all kinds and the 17,000-square foot building will also provide space, rehearsal studios, a recording control room and production office.

recitalhall.ucdavis.edu

The annual Sheffrin Lecture in Public Policy was held last spring, featuring Harvard economist Sendhil Mullainathan. Photographed here are: George R. Mangun, dean of the Division of Social Sciences, Anjali Sheffrin, Sendhil Mullainathan and Steven Sheffrin, former dean of the Division of Social Sciences and current director of the Murphy Institute at Tulane University. Sheffrin and his wife endowed this lecture series when he stepped down as dean in 2008.

Watch the webcast of Mullainathan’s talk, “Scarcity: A Talk for People Too Busy to Attend Talks.”

bit.ly/1nD8ndC
Mellon Foundation Awards $1.725M for Humanities Research

UC Davis has been awarded $1.725 million from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to support research in the humanities during the next seven years. The grant is a renewal of the largest single award to UC Davis from the 45-year-old foundation, which is dedicated to supporting the humanities and the arts in higher education.

“We are honored that the Mellon Foundation is renewing their generous support of the humanities at UC Davis,” said Ralph Hexter, UC Davis executive vice chancellor and provost. “Their support, which has already had such a profound impact on our campus, will allow us to continue enhancing our distinctive brand of humanities that responds to UC Davis’ land-grant mission and addresses questions about the public good.”

The funding will allow UC Davis to create four new research initiatives, each lasting three years. These Mellon Research Initiatives make it possible for faculty to work collaboratively in exploring key issues in the humanities. The funding supports programming such as colloquia, workshops and conferences. It also strengthens graduate education by providing funds both for recruiting outstanding students and supporting the work of continuing students. A third component of the grant enables UC Davis to hire recent doctoral graduates in the humanities as Mellon visiting assistant professors.

With the initial grant from the Mellon Foundation, UC Davis established four initiatives: Early Modern Studies; Environments and Societies; Digital Cultures; and Social Justice, Culture and (In)Security. The new initiatives will be chosen through a campus-based competition.

“This investment by the Mellon Foundation represents a vote of confidence in the kinds of collaborative and cross-disciplinary humanities research that we do here at UC Davis,” said Jessie Ann Owens, former dean of the Division of Humanities, Arts and Cultural Studies. “We are especially grateful for their renewed support at a time when our humanities programs are developing critical collaborative projects.” The foundation makes grants principally in four areas—higher education and scholarship, scholarly communications, arts and cultural heritage, and diversity initiatives.

Campaign Ends with Fundraising Success

On May 31, UC Davis announced the successful conclusion of its first-ever comprehensive fundraising campaign by raising $1.1 billion from nearly 110,000 donors. The campaign began in 2006 with an ambitious goal to raise $1 billion from 100,000 donors. Thanks to so many generous supporters, this goal was achieved nearly a year earlier than anticipated.

The College of Letters and Science set a goal of $70 million as part of the campaign, and raised a total of $92.5 million, exceeding the goal by 132 percent.

“The gifts given to the college during The Campaign for UC Davis have already made a significant impact on students, faculty and programs,” said Shari Kawelo, interim assistant dean for College Relations and Development.

Of the $92.5 million in gifts, 51 percent received were from individuals, 27.6 percent from foundations, 10.6 percent from corporations, and 6.5 percent from other organizations.

Along with the successful completion of the campaign, the college also celebrated the end of a banner year in fundraising for departments, programs, faculty and students. In total, $22 million was raised in the fiscal year 2013-14, the second highest total in fundraising history for the college.

The college’s Annual Fund, which supports the areas of greatest need in the college, received over $75,000 in contributions from 845 donors. The Herbert A. Young Society, whose 69 members give $1,000 or more in unrestricted gifts to the college each year, contributed a total of $100,668.

“We are grateful for every dollar received, as it represents the trust and confidence of more than 2,000 people who care enough to help sustain and strengthen the college, and make the very best education accessible to our next generation of leaders,” said Kawelo. “It is a commitment we don’t take lightly and inspires us to do better every day.”

Gift Promotes Evidence-Based Policy

The UC Center Sacramento has created a public lectureship and white paper competition focused on evidence-based public policy, thanks to a gift from Kevin Bacon (B.A., Political Science, ’72) and his wife, Kim (T.C., ’79). The lectureship is designed to encourage UC faculty to synthesize evidence and stimulate creative thinking around a pressing public policy issue. UCCS will be presenting a lecture on this topic in the fall.

www.ls.ucdavis.edu | FALL 2014

Seminar on Surveillance

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation has given $175,000 to support the Sawyer Seminar, co-directed by Kriss Ravetto-Biagioli, an associate professor in cinema and technocultural studies and Anupam Chander, a professor of law. The seminar will be called “Surveillance Democracies.”
Science Café
Monthly
DeVere’s Pub, Davis
https://www.facebook.com/groups/davissciencecafe/

Natalie Robertson: Home Fires Burning (Ahi Kaa Roa)
September 30–December 12
C.N. Gorman Museum, Hart Hall
gormanmuseum.ucdavis.edu

If a Tree Fell, Sustainable Wood Design
October 9–December 19
Design Museum, Cruess Hall
arts.ucdavis.edu/design-museum

Geology Major “Meet, Greet and Eat”
October 10, 3:00–5:00 p.m.
Earth and Physical Sciences Building #1309

Rising Stars of Opera, arias by Bellini, Mozart and Poulenc
October 10, 8:00 p.m.
Jackson Hall, Mondavi Center
Julia Bullock, soprano; UC Davis Symphony Orchestra, Christian Baldini, music director and conductor; San Francisco Opera Adler Fellows; Mark Morash, music director
arts.ucdavis.edu/music

Harvest: A gathering for food, wine, beer and the arts
October 12
UC Davis, Gateway District

Chancellor’s Colloquium Series Featuing Dr. Hamid Dabashi, Hagop Kervorkian, professor of Iranian studies and comparative literature at Columbia University
October 27
dhi.ucdavis.edu/

American Women’s & Gender History Conference
November 8-9
AGR Hall in the Alumni & Visitor Center
uswomenandgenderhistory.wordpress.com/

Poverty and Place Conference
November 13-14
Memorial Union, MUII
poverty.ucdavis.edu/event/poverty-and-place-conference

Love, Death and Pranks, featuring Mozart, Mahler and Wagner
November 22, 7:00 p.m.
Jackson Hall, Mondavi Center
UC Davis Symphony Orchestra, Christian Baldini, music director and conductor
arts.ucdavis.edu/music

Listening to the Stone: Original Inuit Art, Axangaya Shaa, Cape Dorset, ca. 1997
Serpentine, caribou antler, hide


Andrew Grant Wood, Ph.D., History, ’97, Agustín Lara, A Cultural Biography

Peter Chase, B.A., History, ’67, The Integrated Dental Medical System

Joseph Taxiera, B.A., Mass Communication, ‘93, A Unique Look At Big League Baseball

Sara H. Beeby, B.A., Fine Art, ’63, Marriage Portraits

Jerry Coker, B.A., English, ’77, First Among Men

Alan Parris Archuleta, B.A., Religious Studies, ’93, The Gospel of Hemp
Causeway Youth Band Festival
November 23, 7:00 p.m.
Jackson Hall, Mondavi Center
John Maltester, director,
Timothy Mahr, guest conductor and clinician
arts.ucdavis.edu/music

Chancellor’s Colloquium Series Featuring Russell Berman, Walter A. Haas Professor in the Humanities, Stanford University
December 2
dhi.ucdavis.edu/

University Chorus and the UC Davis Symphony Orchestra
Saturday, December 6, 7:00 p.m.
Jackson Hall, Mondavi Center
Jeffrey Thomas, conductor
arts.ucdavis.edu/music

Fall Commencement
UC Davis Pavilion
December 20, 10:00 a.m.
www.ls.ucdavis.edu/commencement/index.html

Listening to the Stone: Original Inuit Art
January 6–March 16, 2015
C.N. Gorman Museum,
Hart Hall
gormanmuseum.ucdavis.edu

Red Dress: Design Stories for Heart Health
January 13, 2015
Design Museum
arts.ucdavis.edu

The Frontiers of Immigration Research and Immigration Policy
January 22–23, 2015
ARC Ballroom
migrationcluster.ucdavis.edu/events/pages_conferences/immigration%20conference.html

Chancellor’s Colloquium Series Featuring Nigil Thrift, Vice Chancellor of the University of Warwick
February 23, 2015
dhi.ucdavis.edu/

UCCS Bacon Public Lectureship with Professor Michael Gottfried
February 26, 2015
uccs.ucdavis.edu

(Clockwise from the top)


Matthew Kennedy, M.A., Anthropology, ’92, Roadshow! The Fall of Film Musicals in the 1960s


Nancy Ellen Hird (Macauley), B.A., Dramatic Art, ’71, I Get a Clue

Cecilia Menjivar, Ph.D., Sociology, ’92, Constructing Immigrant “Illegality”: Critiques, Experiences, and Responses

Tom Garrison, M.A., Political Science, ’78, Challenge Authority: Memoir of a Baby Boomer

Be a Student Again.

ADVANCE YOUR CAREER
CAAA members save 10 percent on most professional education courses at UC Davis Extension. Build your job skills and save money.
extension.ucdavis.edu/discounts

BEER UNDER THE MICROSCOPE
Learn the science behind the art of beer-making in this brand new short course on the microbial world of brewing. Receive microscope training and explore hands-on, practical exercises for identifying beer microorganisms. If you are located in the Sacramento/Davis region, sign up soon—this course will fill quickly.
extension.ucdavis.edu/brewing

BECOME A POLICY INNOVATOR
Learn the ins and outs of successful policy making from an A-list of seasoned veterans, including insiders from the state legislative analyst's office. Gain practical knowledge and insight that can immediately improve your ability to craft and implement public policy.
extension.ucdavis.edu/publicpolicy

THRIVE IN THE FACE OF CHANGE
The UC Davis Executive Leadership Program provides an exceptional, highly interactive and energizing learning experience that helps senior managers and executives explore their personal strengths and take their organizations to higher levels of performance.
extension.ucdavis.edu/leadership

“YOU HAVE TO CHASE YOUR DREAM!”
Switching careers isn’t for the faint of heart, but with determination, planning and a little education, it’s definitely possible. UC Davis Extension alumna Debbie Grose talks about her journey in leaving a great job to pursue a more fulfilling career as a personal financial planner.
youtube.com/ucdavisextension

EXPLORE NATURE. BUILD COMMUNITY. TAKE ACTION.
From “citizen scientists” to certified naturalists, the UC California Naturalist program introduces state residents to the wonders of our unique ecology. Programs combine classroom work, assigned reading and field-based exploration and are offered throughout the state. Participants can earn academic credit for their efforts through UC Davis Extension.
calnat.ucanr.edu


What’s new on iTunes U
Looking to expand your knowledge about a certain topic? Take a look at iTunes U’s UC Davis page. College of Letters and Science faculty present:

Middle East/South Asia Studies Lecture Series: Women’s poetry in Qajar Iran

The Principles of Macroeconomics: Taught by Ann Stevens, chair of the Department of Economics and director of the Center for Poverty Research.

The Principles of Microeconomics: Taught by Hilary Haynes, professor of economics.

Soft Active Materials, From Granular Rods to Flocks, Cells and Tissues: A workshop that brought together researchers working on the emergent properties of soft active matter.

Introduction to Cognitive Psychology: Taught by Victoria Cross, a lecturer in psychology.

Computers and Writing: Taught by Carl Whithaus, director of the University Writing Program.


War on Poverty Conference: A conference held last January with poverty experts from across the country.
Karen Joy Fowler (M.A., Political Science, ’74), has received the 2014 Pen/Faulkner award for fiction. Her book, *We Are All Completely Beside Ourselves*, was one of the 430 novels and short story collections by American authors published in the 2013 calendar year that made the list for consideration.

Kyle Pierce (B.A., Art Studio and B.S., Biology, ’97), was selected to create a 43-foot mural for the Smithsonian’s National Museum of Natural History in Washington D.C. The mural leads visitors into a new 10,000-square-foot education center called Q?rius.

Timothy Orr (M.F.A., Dramatic Art, ’09), is the new producing artistic director of the Colorado Shakespeare Festival.

Courtney Price (B.A., International Relations, ’11), was recently featured for her work in Kenya, where she is attempting to raise $20,000 for her project, the Rita Rose Garden and Sustainable Farm, a sustainable food and water source and clinic that serves more than 700 Kenyan orphans.

Francisco Rodriguez (B.A., Chicano Studies, ’85 and M.S., Community Development, ’97), was appointed chancellor for the Los Angeles Community College District.

Ben Rosenthal (M.F.A., Art Studio, ’11), was the collaborator on a groundbreaking dance work “human, next,” which was on show in New York City.

Stephen T. Webb (B.A., Political Science, ’75), was selected as the new president for the NAACP in Sacramento.

Bruce Nauman (M.A., Art, ’66), is the subject of a new monograph, *Bruce Nauman: The True Artist*. The monograph and the artist were featured in the *Wall Street Journal*.

Fang Yao (Ph.D., Statistics, ’03), has received the Statistical Society of Canada’s CRM Prize for 2014.
Myha Do, a graduate student in comparative literature, was selected as the 2014 Kore Press Short Fiction Award Winner.

Ben Fogelson, a Ph.D. student in mathematics, wrote a blog for Scientific American last spring about “How the Body’s Cells Hold on Tight.” The American Academy of Arts and Sciences also awarded him a mass media fellowship.

Axana Rodriguez-Torres, who is majoring in psychology and neurobiology, physiology, and behavior, received the University of California President’s Award for Outstanding Student Leadership. (She is one of two recipients.) Rodriguez-Torres was recognized for coordinating the UC Davis Pre-Medical and Pre-Health Professional National Conference, the largest such conference in the nation.

Brinton Parker, who received her degrees this spring in English and textiles and clothing, received some media attention for her non-academic experiment with wearing different levels of makeup.

The de Young Museum selected design sophomore Lillian Liu’s submission for its annual New Generations Student Showcase in the postcard competition.

Physical education faculty member Janna Peng and three of her Tai Chi students, Yanan Hu, Finaian Sun and Andrew Smith, medaled in the 22nd annual Chinese Martial Arts Tournament held at UC Berkeley.

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Students

Faculty

Professor Charles S. Fadley, a professor of physics, received an honorary degree from Uppsala University. He specializes in condensed matter, materials and surface/interface physics, as well as molecular physics. His work, especially synchrotron-light-based spectroscopic studies of surfaces, magnetic materials and nanostructures, has inspired researchers around the world and at Uppsala.

Two college faculty members working in diverse fields have been elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Margaret W. Ferguson, distinguished professor of English, and Robert Huckfeldt, distinguished professor of political science, were elected this past spring. Ferguson has published extensively in the areas of Renaissance literature, literacy studies and feminist theory and is president of the Modern Language Association. Huckfeldt focuses on political participation and decision-making among citizens within networks of social and political communication. UC Davis is now represented in the American Academy by 27 current and emeritus faculty.

Sarah Blaffer Hrdy, professor emerita of anthropology and a member of the National Academy of Sciences, has been selected to receive the academy’s 2014 Award for Scientific Reviewing, this year recognizing achievement in the category of human-biosocial interactions. The award, to be presented with a $10,000 prize in April at the academy’s 151st annual meeting, “recognizes authors whose reviews have synthesized extensive and difficult material, rendering a significant service to science and influencing the course of scientific thought.” Hrdy has published a series of books and scholarly reviews that have drawn together data and concepts from across the social and biological sciences to synthesize a new understanding of the ways in which natural selection has shaped women’s lives, mother-infant interactions, and the foundations of human sociality.
Ari Kelman, professor of history and currently associate vice provost of Undergraduate Education for Honors, authored one of two works honored with the prestigious Bancroft Prize, given each year by the trustees of Columbia University for a book in history or diplomacy. “I’m thrilled to receive such a prestigious award, particularly in a year in which Ira Katznelson, a giant in the profession, is also being honored,” Kelman said. “I’m very grateful to my colleagues, without whose help I couldn’t have written this book.”

Gerd LaMar, professor emeritus of chemistry, received a lifetime achievement award from the International Conference on Porphyrins and Phthalocyanines (ICPP).

Yiyun Li, professor of English and author of the recent book Kinder Than Solitude, was featured in The New York Times twice this past spring. Li was also honored by the American Academy of Arts and Letters with the Benjamin H. Danks Award, given every three years to an exceptional young writer. The prize is $30,000. “It is a great honor to be recognized by the American Academy of Arts and Letters,” said Li. “The award also provides generous financial support, which will give me some space to start the next project.”

Michael Siminovitch, professor of design and director of UC Davis’s California Lighting Technology Center (CLTC), has been selected by UC President Janet Napolitano to serve on the newly formed University of California Global Climate Leadership Council, which includes UC officials, students and outside experts. President Napolitano formed the council to guide UC efforts aimed at achieving carbon neutrality by 2025.

Ann Huff Stevens, professor of economics and director of the Center for Poverty Research, was cited in The Washington Post’s discussion of the long-term unemployed finding jobs—and keeping them.

Maceo Montoya, assistant professor of Chicana/o studies, and Malaquias Montoya, professor emeritus of Chicana/o studies, have created a mural at the Yolo County Juvenile Detention Center. The painting began in September 2013 and was completed in December.

Joan Cadden, professor emerita history, Nothing Natural Is Shameful: Sodomy and Science in Late Medieval Europe

Maxine Leeds Craig, associate professor, women and gender studies program, Sorry I Don’t Dance: Why Men Refuse to Move
The Social Sciences & Humanities Building got a makeover for two weeks last spring as its walls were covered with 400 large black and white portraits of UC Davis students and community members. The project, run by UC Davis students who were working on the annual TEDx UC Davis seminar, was modeled after French artist JR’s “Inside Out.” The “Davis Inside Out” exhibit aimed to create face-to-face experiences with Davis, showcasing diversity and celebrating the community.

Design major Lucian Novosel was the project’s design lead. “We thought it would be a fantastic opportunity to actually present our character and turn ourselves inside out, as the title goes,” Novosel told The Aggie last spring.