

# UC DAVIS DISTINCTIONS

## COLLEGE OF LETTERS AND SCIENCE

**THE COLLEGE OF LETTERS AND SCIENCE** is made up of three divisions: the Division of Humanities, Arts and Cultural Studies, the Division of Mathematical and Physical Sciences, and the Division of Social Sciences. As the largest of the four colleges at UC Davis, it has the most alumni, most current students, most departments and the most faculty. But while it is large in size, it is true to the interdisciplinary mission of UC Davis: students, faculty and even friends of the college are all involved in collaborative work furthering the causes of research initiatives, exceptional education and new programs.

### SOCIETAL IMPACTS

- Chemist Carlito Lebrilla and a team of scientists have discovered 15 biological markers that could help an early diagnosis of ovarian, breast and prostate cancer.
- Physicist J. Anthony Tyson is the director of the largest sky survey program in the world (the Large Synoptic Survey Telescope). This facility, set to go live in 2014, will chart dark matter and dark energy in the universe - an important piece that tells us how the universe was created and how it will end.
- Countless studies and world-class research has impacted our understanding of the mind and brain, thanks to renowned psychologists and researchers in the Department of Psychology and the Center for Mind and Brain. Current research involves how music impacts the mind, meditation and the mind, endorsed by the Dalai Lama, and numerous studies on children and how they understand, speak, and remember are occurring every day.
- The California Lighting Technology Center is one of the few design centers in the nation to look at energy efficiency through lighting. Professors Michael Siminovitch and Kostantinos Papamichael have created a research lab that has helped to create more energy efficient lighting, with many of the designs winning awards and gaining patents for their technologies.
- The college houses energy research at the molecular level. The Photosynthesis and Redox Systems Energy Center (PARSEC), led by R. David Britt, researches one of the most basic chemical reactions on the planet earth – photosynthesis – to create sustainable solutions for our energy future. The Peter A. Rock Thermochemistry Lab, led by Alexandra Navrotsky, researches the fundamental aspects of thermodynamics on materials, which have applications to energy.
- Professors and students from the Center for the Study of Human Rights in the Americas have put together the most comprehensive database on testimonials from prisoners in Guantánamo, known as the Guantánamo Testimonials Project.
- UC Davis physicists are playing a pioneering role in a major experiment at the Large Hadron Collider (LHC), the world's largest collider set to go live in the fall of 2008.
- Economist Greg Clark challenges today's modern society in how to think about our economy and well-being through his chart-topping book, *A Farewell to Alms*.
- California's watershed will be vitally important to its prosperity, both economically and socially. Geologist Jeff Mount and his team have founded the Center for Watershed Sciences to research and monitor the health of California's waters.
- Native American cultures across the west are being preserved thanks to the Harrington Project, directed by Native American Studies Professor Martha Macri.
- The Center for International Data, which contains the largest amount of information on global trade in the world, is housed in the Department of Economics. Ari Kelman, professor of history, is the nation's leading historian of New Orleans and its

### FACTS

Established in 1951 as a college

**Winston Ko**, Dean, Division of Mathematical and Physical Sciences

**George R. Mangun**, Interim Dean, Division of Social Sciences

**Jessie Ann Owens**, Dean, Division of Humanities, Arts, and Cultural Studies

11,299 enrolled students (fall 2008)

70,902 alumni

51 undergraduate majors

31 graduate programs

### FACULTY

1,077 faculty, including:

- 580 Professors and Acting Professors
- 302 Lecturers
- 14 Visiting and Adjunct Professors
- 181 Professors Emeriti

• Five National Academy of Science members: **Alexandra Navrotsky, John Dewey, Donald Turcotte, David Pines, and J. Anthony Tyson**

• Nine American Academy of Arts & Sciences members: **Sandra Gilbert, Sarah Hrdy, Jessie Ann Owens, Gary Snyder, Wayne Thiebaud, Craig Tracy and Donald Turcotte, J. Anthony Tyson, and Charles Young**

• Two Fellows of the Royal Society: **Philip Power, John Dewey**

• Two MacArthur "Genius" Awards: **Geerat Vermeij** (Geology), **Leah Krubitzer** (Psychology)

• One recipient of the National Medal of Arts (emeritus): **Wayne Thiebaud**

• One Carnegie Foundation Teacher of the Year: **Ken Verosub**

• Two Pulitzer Prize winners: **Alan Taylor, Gary Snyder**

• One winner of the Bollingen Prize in Poetry (emeritus): **Gary Snyder**

• Three members of the American Philosophical Society: **Alexandra Navrotsky, David Pines and J. Anthony Tyson**

• One recipient of the Harry Hess Medal, the highest medal of the American Geophysical Union: **Donald Turcotte**

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national environment, and is a prominent voice in public debates following Hurricane Katrina's destruction of much of the city.

### RANKING

- *U.S. News & World Report* Rankings
  - Art (21)
  - English (26)
  - Mathematics (36)
  - Psychology (47)
  - University Writing Program (in top 15)
  - Chemistry (34)
  - Geology/Earth Science (21)
  - Physics (29)
  - Spanish (14)
  - Economics (28)
  - History (26)
  - Political Science (29)
  - Sociology (29)
- Econphd.net ranked the Economic History program 6th in the nation
- The statistics program was ranked 4th out of 202 institutions by the *Canadian Journal of Statistics*
- *Academic Analytics Faculty Scholarly Production Index*
  - Spanish Language and Literature (1)
  - Mathematics (4)
  - Germanic Languages and Literatures (5)

### IMPACTS OF PHILANTHROPY

- The Large Synoptic Survey Telescope will produce a radically new “wide” view of our universe and make it available to the public. It will help answer questions of the new physics of dark matter and energy, and will locate Earth threatening asteroids. In the past few years, director and physics professor J. Anthony Tyson has raised over \$33 million in gifts from organizations such as the TABASGO Foundation, the W.M. Keck Foundation, Bill Gates, and the Charles Simonyi Fund for Arts and Sciences towards the creation of this massive facility.
- The UC Davis fine arts collection has received three important gifts to enhance its robust collection recently: a gift of 60 rare prints by James Whistler from the estate of Jeffrey Ruesch, original photographs by Andy Warhol from the Andy Warhol Foundation, and 19 handworked prints by Wayne Thiebaud, a gift from the artist and his wife Betty Jean.
- The Department of Art, whose faculty helped launch Northern California's post-modernist art movement, received \$1 million from the estate of Freemond E. “Pete” Gadberry, a 1967 alumnus of the program. Gadberry only asked that his gift support art students. The department is using the new endowment to recruit and support the most promising student artists who cannot afford the tuition fees.
- The college has been able to recruit some of the best scholars in the world, thanks to a large donation by Barbara Jackson to create endowed chairs in history and music. The endowments have helped these teachers enhance their teaching and research programs, which in turn benefit all students who come to those programs.
- Thanks to the many gifts recently received towards building a new Music Recital Hall, a larger space will be available in the future for music students at UC Davis. Grace and Grant Noda kicked off the campaign for a new hall by donating over \$1 million, and many others have now followed suit.
- The W. M. Keck Foundation's \$1 million gift to establish one of the world's only 3-D visualization centers (known as the KeckCAVES) continues to be invaluable to research in geology, as well as physics, mathematics, medicine, and more.

### FACULTY (CONT'D.)

- One recipient of Norbert Wiener Prize in Applied Mathematics: **Craig Tracy**
- One recipient of the Benjamin Franklin Medal of Earth Sciences: **Alexandra Navrotsky**
- Bestselling author **Pam Houston** is the director of the Creative Writing Program and professor of English
- Statistician **Peter Hall** is one of the cited statisticians in the world
- Geologist **Jeff Mount** is one of the world's most renowned experts in the watershed sciences

### NOTABLE ALUMNI

- **Artists John Buck** (M.F.A., Art, '72) and **Bruce Nauman** (M.A., Art, '66)
- **Ann Veneman** (B.A., '70, Political Science), Executive Director, UNICEF
- **Deborah Butterfield** (B.A., '71, M.F.A., '73, Art), artist
- **Angel Martinez** (B.A., '77, Rhetoric), co-founder, Reebok USA; current CEO, Deckers Outdoor Corporation
- **Tony DeRose** (B.S. Physics, '81), Senior Scientist, Pixar Animation Studios
- **Stephen Law** (B.A., Music, '83), chief legal officer and general counsel, U.S. Chamber of Commerce, former Deputy Secretary of Labor
- **Carol Flint** (M.F.A., '87, Dramatic Arts), *ER* producer
- **Christopher Markus** (M.A., English, '96), **Stephen McFeely** (M.A., English, '96), Emmy award winners
- **Tracy Caldwell** (Ph.D., Chemistry, '97), NASA astronaut
- **Catherine T. (Katie) Hunt** (Ph.D., Chemistry, '81), president of the world's largest scientific society, the American Chemical Society
- Bestselling authors **Karen Joy Fowler** (M.A., Political Science, '74) and **Anthony Swofford** (B.A., English, '99)