Inside:

Extend your education

Participate in a groundbreaking project for the arts

New books

Latest research
When the college was started in 1952, it had about five departments. Now, the college has more than 55 departments and programs, all with news to share. As of this issue, we have changed the face and the content of the magazine to try to include as much as we can in each issue.

We hope you find a connection: Maybe you have that “I didn’t know” moment of your day, or maybe you decide to attend an event or course in person or online. We hope you enjoy this new approach. Please send feedback of any kind so we can continue to make adjustments: lettersandscience@ucdavis.edu.

As fall is upon us, we look forward to all that is new: new students, new faculty, new classes. We said farewell to 2,600 seniors in June, so we are looking forward to our new freshmen class this fall. We welcome the new faculty members who will teach them and will seek feedback on new classes that we try to introduce each quarter.

We hope you enjoy this journey through the fall issue of our magazine.

Sincerely,
Alexandra Navrotsky
Interim Dean, Division of Mathematical and Physical Sciences

George R. Mangun
Dean, Division of Social Sciences

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

From the Deans

On the cover:

UC Center Sacramento
Two UC Davis student interns were photographed at the California State Capitol building last spring. Anthropology major Alfredo Arredondo interns for Mark Stone of the California State Assembly, and public service major Erika Menjivar interns with Tom Berryhill, a California State senator in the 14th district. The interns are part of the UC Center Sacramento (UCCS), which is part of the Division of Social Sciences. UCCS advances the university’s mission of teaching, research and public service with an integrated program to train future state leaders, address challenging public-policy issues confronted by the nation and state, and carry out the university’s mandate to assist state government. UCCS offers distinctive academic programs in public policy and journalism to students from throughout the university’s 10-campus system. Since its founding in 2004, UCCS has enrolled more than 650 students, many of whom now are engaged in policy careers with all levels of government or with organizations, associations and firms that work closely with government.

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In the spring magazine, you make a very big statement of the discrimination against women in science. Then you amend this by saying there is a scarcity of women speakers. Then you try to prove all of this with a look at 21 annual meetings. Seems like the hard evidence is missing. Looks like a lot more work needs to be done.

As a follow up, you state that it’s happening in a field dominated by women—so who’s to blame?

Thanks, Spencer Harris

Editor’s Note: We briefly covered this study in our last issue of the magazine. You can find the full study (including a video interview with researcher Lynne Isbell) at: http://news.ucdavis.edu/search/news_detail.lasso?id=10419
New Interim Dean for MPS

Professor Alexandra Navrotsky, distinguished professor of ceramic, Earth, and environmental materials chemistry and holder of the Edward Roessler Chair in Mathematical and Physical Sciences, has been appointed interim dean of the Division of Mathematical and Physical Sciences (MPS) after former Dean Emeritus Winston Ko retired.

Navrotsky will serve in this capacity for two years. A comprehensive international search will be launched early in the 2014-15 academic year. A member of the National Academy of Sciences since 1993 and former president of the Mineralogical Society of America (1992-93), Navrotsky has received many professional honors during her career.

Of her appointment, Navrotsky said, “I am honored at the trust the faculty and administration have placed on me and approach the task with enthusiasm and commitment. It is time to energetically and optimistically pursue our hopes and goals. I look forward to working with the broad and diverse university community and thank you for the support and encouragement you have already given me. Without it, I would not have considered the deanship. ‘Interim’ is a wonderful word—it focuses me and the university on goals and issues that can be addressed on a two-year time scale. It is a step in the progression to ‘2020.’”

New Chair for DAC

Darryl Goss, an alumnus from the African American and African studies program (’83) and vice president at BioReliance, has been selected to head the college’s Deans’ Advisory Council, a volunteer board that works with the college’s deans.

Goss, a donor to UC Davis, commented, “I’m very excited to lead this council with such talented and dedicated volunteers; I hope we can continue a successful path for the college.”
In Memoriam

David Van Leer, former professor of English at UC Davis, passed away this spring. Van Leer joined the UC Davis faculty as an assistant professor in 1986. Before coming to Davis, he taught at Cornell and Princeton Universities. His primary research was in cultural studies, with special emphases in lesbian and gay studies, film studies, and multi-ethnic discourse. He held fellowships from the American Council of Learned Societies, the California Council of the Arts, and three from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Van Leer was a tenured faculty until his retirement and then continued his great love of the theater and arts from his residence in New York City.
Research

**Watch This!**

New research shows for the first time how visual attention affects communication between specific brain cells. Researchers have discovered that attention increases the efficiency of signaling into the brain’s cerebral cortex and boosts the ratio of signal over noise, as reported in the journal *Nature*. The researchers were postdoctoral fellow Farran Briggs, and professors George R. Mangun and W. Marty Usrey. Mangun, dean of the Division of Social Sciences and researcher at the Center for Mind and Brain, noted that “it’s the first time neuroscientists have been able to look at the behavior of synaptic circuits at such a fine-grained level of resolution while measuring the effects of attention.”

http://bit.ly/1bIMn85

**Energy Savers**

The argument that those who have fuel-efficient cars drive them more and hence use more energy is overplayed and inaccurate, according to David S. Rapson, assistant professor of economics who did a study along with three others from Yale University and the Environmental Defense Fund in New York. Critics of energy efficiency programs have cited the “rebound effect” as a reason that hybrid cars and plug-in electric vehicles do not really save energy in the long run, but Rapson and his colleagues state that even though increased efficiency may prompt changes in behavior, energy is still saved overall.

http://bit.ly/1bIMn85

**More Power for Solar**

Researchers have determined that an exotic form of silicon could substantially improve the efficiency of solar cells, according to computer simulations. Solar cells are based on the photoelectric effect: a photon, or particle of light, hits a silicon crystal and generates a negatively charged electron and a positively charged hole. Electric current is generated by collecting those electron-hole pairs. Professor of Chemistry Giulia Galli and postdoctoral researcher Stefan Wippermann note that, by generating more than one electron-hole pair per photon, the maximum efficiency could be increased from 33 percent to 42 percent, beyond any solar cell available today. Wippermann added that “there is reason to believe that if parabolic mirrors are used to focus the sunlight on such a new-paradigm solar cell, its efficiency could reach as high as 70 percent.” The computer simulations demonstrated that nanoparticles of silicon BC8 indeed generate multiple electron-hole pairs per photon even when exposed to visible light.

http://bit.ly/10N43Rx

Computer simulations show that when a light particle (blue wave on left) hits a crystal of a high-pressure form of silicon, it releases two electron-hole pairs (red circles/green rings), which generate electric current.

**Latest Discoveries**

Jesús A. De Loera, Matthias Köppe (professors of mathematics), Raymond Hemmecke, *Algebraic and Geometric Ideas in the Theory of Discrete Optimization*

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Quantum Theory

Physicists use quantum theory to explain and understand the nature of waves and particles, but Andreas Albrecht, professor and chair of the physics department, and graduate student Dan Phillips make the case that these quantum fluctuations actually are responsible for the probability of all actions, with far-reaching implications for theories of the universe. Quantum theory is a branch of theoretical physics that strives to understand and predict the properties and behavior of atoms and particles. Without it, we would not be able to build transistors and computers. The theory states that the precise properties of a particle are not determined until you observe them and “collapse the wave function.” A consequence of quantum fluctuations is that every collapsing wave function spits out different realities, affecting how we think about our theories of the universe. Reality as we experience it is not determined until you observe them and “collapse the wave function.”

A Surprise Benefit for Newborns

The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is known to reduce poverty, but it is also linked to reduced rates of low birth weight and increased average birth weight—key factors in measuring infant health, according to a new study from the Center for Poverty Research at UC Davis. Pregnant mothers who received the credit also showed lower smoking and drinking rates, possibly because they were more able to pay for doctor visits where they received prenatal care. According to Hilary Hoynes, professor of economics, “The EITC reduces poverty, it increases the number of women in the workforce, and it may generate health benefits we have not quantified before.” Hoynes and co-authors Douglas L. Miller, associate professor of economics, and David Simon, a doctoral candidate in economics, found that $1,000 of federal tax credit income resulted in reduced rate of low birth weight by seven percent overall.

In Sync

Emilio Ferrer, a psychology professor, and psychology doctoral student Jonathon Helm found that couples connected to monitors measuring heart rates and respiration synchronize their heart rates, and they breathe in and out at the same intervals. “We’ve seen a lot of research that one person in a relationship can experience what the other person is experiencing emotionally, but this study shows they also share experiences at a physiological level,” noted Ferrer. Both partners showed similar patterns of heart rate and respiration, but women tended to adjust theirs to their partners more, both in physiological situations but also in day-to-day emotional experiences.

UC Davis Scarves and Ties

UC Davis has grown its collection of wearable “art” this year to extend from scarves to ties. Art from the C.N. Gorman Museum, in celebration of its 40th anniversary, and from the Fine Arts Collection at UC Davis, is featured in this year’s line.

Frances Dolan, professor of English, True Relations: Reading, Literature, and Evidence in Seventeenth-Century England
Mapping the Universe

A map of the universe based on its oldest light is giving astronomers hope that they may be able to answer some of the deepest questions of the cosmos, including how it got started. Scientists met at UC Davis to analyze a wealth of data published from the European Planck spacecraft that measures the cosmic microwave background—light spread across the sky that dates from soon after the Big Bang that kick-started the universe. "Rarely in the history of science has there been such triumphant transformation from really complete ignorance to really deep insight in just a few decades," noted Andreas Albrecht, professor and chair of the physics department.

http://bit.ly/1aZD2QE

Proof of Earliest Tobacco Use in the Pacific Northwest

Native American hunter-gatherers from 860 A.D., in what is now northwestern California, ate salmon, acorns and other foods, and also smoked tobacco—the earliest known usage in the Pacific Northwest. Researchers from the Department of Anthropology and the Genome Center showed that "tobacco smoking was part of the northwestern California culture very early—shortly after the earliest documented Pacific Northwest Coast plank house villages." Testing residues extracted from pipes, the researchers confirmed that tobacco was smoked and likely grown in the region.

I Don’t Want to Pick!

Children as young as three years old know when they are not sure about a decision and can use that uncertainty to guide decision-making, according to new research from the Center for Mind and Brain. Simona Ghetti, professor of psychology and co-author of the study with Kristen Lyons, now an assistant professor at the Metropolitan State University of Denver, discovered that children are aware of when they are making a mistake, and then they can use that introspection to drive their decision-making. The researchers hope to extend their studies to examine the emergence of introspection and reasoning.

Rethinking Light

Today’s research labs, executive offices and investor conferences are fundamentally rethinking lighting. Energy efficiency is only the beginning. Michael Siminovitch, director of the California Lighting Technology Center, commented that, with new technology, “we’re going to be able to create a variety of control features in terms of how we introduce points of light in space, but we’re also going to be able to do it with planes and areas of light.” Engineers are imagining cities that light their streets as needed, without benefits of lampposts. Health applications are focusing on the physiological and psychological impacts of light. “The promise is going to be on well-being, wellness, biology—lighting starts doing something for us that is inherently different,” adds Siminovitch.

http://nyti.ms/14IYbts

The earliest known usage of tobacco in the Pacific Northwest was smoked using a pipe similar to this one.

John Marx, professor of English, Geopolitics and the Anglophone Novel, 1890-2011
Dissolved Carbon

Computer simulations of water under extreme pressure are helping geochemists understand how carbon might be recycled from hundreds of miles below the Earth’s surface, according to a new study. Giulia Galli, professor of chemistry and physics, and Dimitri Sverjensky, professor of earth and planetary sciences at John Hopkins University, are collaborators in the Deep Carbon Observatory, supported by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, which seeks to understand the role of carbon in chemistry and biology deep in the Earth. The team used computer simulations of water to predict how it behaves under extreme pressure and temperature. The simulations enabled the researchers to predict that magnesium carbonate, which is insoluble at the Earth’s surface, would at least partially dissolve in water at that depth.

http://bit.ly/1boiVdr

MORE ONLINE

This rendering shows a carbonate ion (red/grey) dissolved in water (pink/white) against a backdrop of a cross section of the Earth.

(Credit: Ding Pan and Yubo Zhang/UC Davis)

The message display on the Smart Sidewalks’ design covers a storm water feature—a place that gathers runoff, which can then seep into the ground. The communications stand functions as a Wi-Fi hub and includes a charging station, credit card swipe and other features. The user interface includes touch screen, camera and sound inputs. The screen display is on a vertical scroll to accommodate a range of user heights, and the curved stand allows people in wheelchairs to get close to the interface.

Reinventing the Payphone

Brett Snyder, assistant professor of design, and N. Claire Napawan, assistant professor of landscape architecture and environmental design, and teammates from Syracuse University, were finalists in a New York City competition to make the payphone new again. Their design, “Smart Sidewalks: Thinfrastucture for the 21st Century,” was judged the best in functionality due to its slim, sustainable, digital installation with billboard-like messages on an innovative LED display embedded in the sidewalk.

The team established a goal of packing as much function into a single device as possible while reducing the phone booth’s footprint. “Everything—communication, sustainability and way finding, is squeezed into nothing—only six inches of sidewalk space for the stand...You can use Smart Sidewalks to access the Internet, make calls, and send texts and email,” added Snyder. “It’s a location-tethered smartphone.”

http://bit.ly/1aZIxE8

MORE ONLINE
Present Attention
Research from the Shamatha Project at UC Davis, a comprehensive long-term, control-group study of the effects of meditation training on mind and body, suggests that focusing on the present rather than letting the mind drift may help to lower levels of the stress hormone cortisol. “This is the first study to show a direct relation between resting cortisol and scores on any type of mindfulness scale,” said Tonya Jacobs, a postdoctoral researcher at the Center for Mind and Brain. High levels of cortisol, a hormone produced by the adrenal gland, are associated with physical or emotional stress. Prolonged release of cortisol contributes to wide-ranging, adverse effects on a number of physiological systems. This finding is the latest in the study by Clifford Saron, associate research scientist at the Center for Mind and Brain and MIND Institute. The Shamatha Project has drawn the attention of both scientists and Buddhist scholars including the Dalai Lama, who has endorsed the project.

Heal Faster
Whole living cells and cell fragments orient and move in response to electric fields—but in opposite directions. These results ultimately lead to new ways to heal wounds and deliver stem cell therapies. When cells crawl into wounded flesh to heal it, they follow an electric field. In healthy tissue, there is a flux of charged particles between layers. Damage to tissue sets up a “short circuit,” changing the flux direction and creating an electrical field that leads cells into the wound. Min Zhao, professor of dermatology and ophthalmology and co-author of the study, said, “If we can understand the process better, we can make wound healing and tissue regeneration more effective.” “This is the first time that such basic cell fragments have been shown to orient and move in an electric field,” added Alex Mogilner, professor of mathematics and of neurobiology, physiology and behavior and co-senior author.

Nano Scale
Meeting the demand for more data storage in smaller volumes means using materials made up of ever-smaller magnets or nanomagnets. One promising material for a potential new generation of recording media is an alloy of iron and platinum with an ordered crystal structure. A team of researchers led by Kai Liu, professor of physics, and graduate student Dustin Gilbert, have found a useful way to make these alloys and tailor their properties. “The relatively convenient synthesis conditions, along with the tunable magnetic properties, make these materials highly desirable for future magnetic recording technologies,” noted Liu. The iron-platinum alloy has the ability to retain information even at extremely small nanomagnet sizes, and it is resistant to heat effects.

Research
Tasting Home: Coming of Age in the Kitchen
Judith Newton, professor emerita of women and gender studies, Tasting Home: Coming of Age in the Kitchen

Nano Scale
These atomic force microscope images show how adding copper to an alloy of iron and platinum changes the crystal structure and magnetic properties, important for data storage.
Design student Ken Wong adjusts the prototype of his LED kitchen lighting system. Energy-efficient amber LEDs are used to reduce interference with sleep cycles.

It is not enough to be energy efficient; LED lighting also must be consistently high quality and reliable to win over consumers. The California Lighting Technology Center (CLTC) helped prompt the California Energy Commission to include quality criteria for LED replacement lamps in its first-in-the-nation energy efficiency directive in 2012. Now the CLTC is urging the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s ENERGY STAR program to create similar criteria for LEDs on a national scale. “Manufacturers need to create higher quality products before the market is flooded with products that fall short of consumer expectations,” wrote CLTC’s Michael Siminovitch, Konstantinos Papamichael and James Benya. “Adopting a quality standard could help ensure that consumers’ first impressions of LED technology are positive. For LEDs to really gain long-term acceptance, they have to deliver the kind of color quality and reliability that consumers have come to expect from incandescent (light).”

From Algae to Oil

Chemists have found several compounds that can boost oil production by green microscopic algae, a potential source of biodiesel and other “green” fuels. Annaliese Franz, an assistant professor of chemistry, with a team of graduate and undergraduate students, screened 83 compounds for their effects on growth and oil production in four strains of microalgae, identifying several that could boost oil production up to 85 percent without decreasing growth. See the video: http://bit.ly/152Yden

Elizabeth Miller, associate professor of English, Slow Print: Literary Radicalism and Late Victorian Print Culture
Next for Higgs

The high energy physics team from UC Davis is working on the Compact Muon Solenoid (CMS) experiment at the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) at CERN. They have contributed for two decades to the design and construction of the detector and are actively analyzing data from the recent run of the LHC. John Conway and Maxwell Chertok, professors of physics, and Michael Mulhearn, assistant professor of physics, work directly on Higgs boson-related physics: Conway co-leads the team that just announced the first evidence for the Higgs boson decaying to pairs of tau particles (the heaviest cousin of the electron); Chertok is searching for evidence of other Higgs bosons predicted in new physics theories; and Mulhearn is developing new electronics for selecting Higgs events from among the billions of proton collisions at the LHC.

http://home.web.cern.ch/about

MORE ONLINE

Jesse Drew, associate professor, cinema and technocultural studies, A Social History of Contemporary Democratic Media

Real Deal

According to Burkhard C. Schipper, associate professor of economics, “In many social situations, a sophisticated innovator cannot sustain his advantage against an imitator.” Schipper, along with researchers from the University of Heidelberg, published a paper in the International Journal of Game Theory and characterized mathematically the class of social situations in which “tit-for-tat” is unbeatable by any other strategy. This class contained many examples of market competition, public goods provision, common property resource competition and coordination problems. “Firms do not necessarily maximize profits. They are often just concerned that no competitors become more successful than themselves,” explained Schipper. “It is counter-intuitive that a strategy that entails nothing more than imitation and mimicry does so well in many social situations.” He concluded that imitation is not necessarily a bad thing for society because it allows us to spread skills and knowledge.

MORE ONLINE

Jodi Angel, M.F.A, Creative Writing, ‘06, You Only Get Letters From Jail

Total Recall

For the first time researchers have shown that areas of the brain work together at the same time to recall memories. Described in the journal Nature Neuroscience, this unique approach using patients with electrodes implanted in their brains promises new insights into how we remember details of time and place. “Previous work has focused on one region of the brain at a time,” commented Arne Ekstrom, assistant professor of psychology and researcher at the Center for Neuroscience. “Correct memory recall was associated with increased activity across multiple connected brain regions at the same time, rather than activity in one region followed by another.”

http://bit.ly/13MPdXg

MORE ONLINE
Campaign Update

The College of Letters and Science had a near-record year in giving totals in the 2012–2013 fiscal year, receiving $8.6 million in philanthropic gifts and grants. **Thanks to all of you who helped make this possible.**

The gifts reflected in this year’s total supported some of the college’s greatest needs: scholarships, teaching and student support, and capital projects such as the new museum and the Classroom and Recital Hall.

Looking ahead to the next fiscal year, the college would like to bolster some of the targeted campaign areas in faculty support, student support and capital projects. Philanthropic gifts, large and small, have a tremendous impact on the quality of teaching and student success.

**Giving Totals** *(as of July 1, 2013)*

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To make a gift to the College of Letters and Science go to: [http://giving.ucdavis.edu/ls](http://giving.ucdavis.edu/ls)

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Teaching the Holocaust

For the past two years, 10th grade world history and English teachers from Northern California have been engaged in rigorous academic study of the history of the Holocaust and the way it has been remembered. Through faculty talks, films, reading and discussion with scholars from the Departments of History, Art History, German, Sociology and Religious Studies, these teachers gained the tools and resources needed to enhance their students’ study and understanding of history. Thanks to the generosity of the Claims Conference, the project has been renewed for a third year. Grants from the Pell Family Foundation, the Tauber Family Foundation and community members have ensured the continuation of the training for at least one more year. This training is part of the History Project, which is dedicated to improving the teaching and learning of history in K-12 schools through grant-funded training programs for teachers.

“We are the only educational program in Northern California funded by the Claims Conference,” stated Diane Wolf, professor of sociology and director of the Jewish studies program. “We are unique in that our program is academically-based. Participants have felt that they gained important knowledge that makes them better teachers and gives them more confidence in teaching about the Holocaust. Part of the training includes creating and teaching a new lesson and then presenting it to the workshop, sharing new topics, techniques and ideas with colleagues. Both programs have been extremely meaningful to the participants and will affect hundreds if not thousands of students in California.”

[holocaust.historyproject.ucdavis.edu](http://holocaust.historyproject.ucdavis.edu)
Through the generosity of donors, the Department of Physics has dedicated one of its laboratories to Richard Lander, distinguished professor emeritus of physics and pioneer in the area of high energy physics. With the expansion of the energy frontier at the CERN Large Hadron Collider, the high energy physics group has grown and members reside at UC Davis, as well as at Fermilab and in France and Switzerland. The Richard L. Lander Data Analysis and Visualization Laboratory gives them space to network laptops around a table and work face-to-face with collaborators around the world via high definition video.
Young Society Fellows

The new 2013-14 Herbert A. Young Society Deans’ Fellows were recently selected. Funds from the Young Society, a group who have given $1,000 or more in unrestricted funds to the college, have been used to help the fellows, who receive $5,000 per year for three years towards teaching and research.

Andreas Albrecht, Professor and Chair, Department of Physics

“I am truly honored to be a recipient of the Herbert A. Young Society Deans’ Fellowship. This award gives me cause to reflect on how fortunate I am to be researching at the forefront of the physics of the universe or ‘cosmology.’ This field is in a period of rapid ferment as the interplay between bold new theoretical ideas and ambitious new telescopes transforms our understanding of the cosmos. My role in this exhilarating process is a source of great personal joy, as is the process of involving and inspiring students at all levels.”

Joseph Dumit, Professor, Department of Anthropology and Director, Science and Technology Studies

“I’m honored to be named a Herbert A. Young Society Deans’ Fellow. My research is primarily in the anthropology of science and technology, including the early connections between computers and brains, pharmaceutical clinical trials, and visualization technologies like the KeckCAVES (a center for visualization at UC Davis). This award will make it possible for me to hire a graduate student to help my current research into mid-century flowcharts in artificial personality research and contemporary gaming cultures. I will also be able to fund travel to interdisciplinary conferences.”

Gail Finney, Professor, Departments of Comparative Literature and German

“During the tenure of the Young Society Fellowship, I will continue working on a book entitled The Dark Side of the Screen: Family Trauma in American Cinema at the Millennium. I believe that the cinema today, as an organ of popular culture of mass proportions, plays a role in our culture analogous to that which the theater played for the ancient Greeks: both media possess enormous cathartic power, especially when dealing with family trauma. My book explores strategies of displacement in paradigmatic films appearing around 2000. Because the violently traumatic family serves as a means for exploring issues such as class, race and religion, this study also seeks to investigate the ambiguity in these films between potentially sensationalist violence and social critique.”

UC Davis honors the extraordinary life and legacy of the late Robert Mondavi.

The College of Letters and Science celebrates the 100th birthday of this innovative vintner, entrepreneur and philanthropist whose lifelong passion for wine, food and the arts transformed the California wine industry and UC Davis.

Born: June 18, 1913
WHAT TO DO

Events

Smart Schools Symposium: Energy Retrofits and New Funding Options
Helps school leaders improve the energy efficiency and performance of California’s K–12 facilities.
September 5, 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
UC Davis Conference Center (550 Alumni Lane)
More information: greenwisejv.org/smart-schools2013

Foundations—Contemporary Native American Art
September 24–December 6
C.N. Gorman Museum
More information: gormanmuseum.ucdavis.edu

Receptions: Reading the Past Across Time and Space
September 27–29
UC Davis Conference Center and 126 Voorhies
More information: receptionstudiesconference 2013.ucdavis.edu

Department of Statistics Fall Welcome
September 30, 3:00 p.m.
Mathematical Sciences Building, Room 4110
More information: agaribay@ucdavis.edu

Another California
October 10–May 4
Nelson Gallery, Nelson Hall
More information: nelsongallery.ucdavis.edu

Connected by a Thread
October 17–December 6
Design Museum, Cruess Hall
More information: designmuseum.ucdavis.edu

3rd Annual University of California Writing Programs Conference, hosted by the University Writing Program
October 18, 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.
Student Community Center
More information: writing.ucdavis.edu/uwpwritingconference2013/index.htm

Enchanted Cellar Decade Costume Sale and Rentals, Department of Theatre and Dance
October 24–29
Wright Hall, Room 17, walk-ins welcome; appointments preferred
More information: rsfemling@ucdavis.edu or theatredance.ucdavis.edu; Facebook: UCDtheatredance

UC Davis Symphony Orchestra:
The Sea and Heaven
Christian Baldini, music director and conductor; Britten: Four Sea Interludes from Peter Grimes, Bartók: Piano Concerto No. 3, with Michael Seth Orland, piano, Brahms: Symphony No. 2
November 23, 7:00 p.m.
Jackson Hall, Mondavi Center
More information: music.ucdavis.edu

University Chorus
Jeffrey Thomas, conductor; UC Davis Symphony Orchestra, Christian Baldini, music director and conductor; Britten’s Saint Nicolas and selected holiday carols.
December 6, 7:00 p.m.
Jackson Hall, Mondavi Center
More information: music.ucdavis.edu

College of Letters and Science Commencement
December 14
ARC Pavilion
More information: www.ls.ucdavis.edu/commencement.html

RECEIVER, by Marie Watt
January 7–March 14
C.N. Gorman Museum
More information: gormanmuseum.ucdavis.edu
The Arts Break New Ground

UC Davis’ world-renowned arts education programs will be celebrated in 2014 as the campus breaks ground on two major projects: the Jan Shrem and Maria Manetti Shrem Museum of Art and the Classroom and Recital Hall. The designs for both buildings were selected and announced last spring.

If you took a class in the arts that enhanced your education, or if you graduated with a degree in the arts, or you were a faculty member whose participation was even more involved, we want your memories! Please submit photos, emails, memories... your interpretation of art...

Send to: shremmuseum@ucdavis.edu.

Winter 2014: Jan Shrem and Maria Manetti Shrem Museum of Art groundbreaking.

Spring 2014: Classroom and Recital Hall groundbreaking.

Floor plan for the Jan Shrem and Maria Manetti Shrem Museum of Art

(Credit: SO — IL and Bohlin Cywinski Jackson, Associated Architects)
LEARN
CHANGE,
EXTEND
Be a student again.

What Do You Work Towards?
Some of the college’s faculty and researchers spoke at the recent TEDx UC Davis. http://bit.ly/14UhRL0

Take a Course!

Professional Education Showcase
Learn how UC Davis Extension’s professional education opportunities in 18 growing industries—including Green Building and Health Informatics—can advance your career. ucdavis.edu/showcase

Advance Your Career
CAAA members save 10% on most professional education courses at UC Davis Extension. extension.ucdavis.edu/discounts

See Mars
Dawn Sumner, professor of geology and principal scientist on the Mars Curiosity Rover project, gave a brief update about what Curiosity is finding on Mars. Take a look at some of the discoveries they have made and how the rover can take a “selfie” on Mars! http://bit.ly/10RpSOY

Using Data to Improve Healthcare
The availability of electronic health data is creating a huge opportunity to use large-scale analytics to improve healthcare outcomes. Explore this high-demand career through a new Certificate Program in Health Analytics, designed specifically for both tech and medical professionals. extension.ucdavis.edu/healthcaranealytics

Photo Tour of Sustainable Europe
Looking for a travel blog with an entirely new point of view? Check out Sustainable Design, a blog by students in Dr. Jeff Loux’s “Sustainable Cities of Northern Europe” course. ucdesustainability.blogspot.com

The Art of the Swirl
Do I really need to decant wine? What sort of glass should I use? Check out these two-minute wine tasting tips from John B., the instructor for UC Davis Extension’s popular Sensory Evaluation of Wine course. youtube.com/ucdavisextension

Nature is the Classroom
The Sierra Institute gives UC Davis students a quarter-long “study abroad” experience in the Sierra Nevada Mountains taking classes in philosophy, religion, environmental science and literature. Check out what the summer Sierra Institute students are up to in their blog, sierra-institute.blogspot.com

The College on iTunes U!
Go back to school with some of your favorite professors! College of Letters and Science faculty teach courses across the disciplines.

FAVES:
• World Economic History Before the Industrial Revolution, taught by economic historian Gregory Clark

• Macroeconomics, taught by economics professor Hilary Hoynes

• An introduction to the Slide Brothers, a lecture given by Milmon Harrison, senior lecturer in African American and African studies

• A series of lectures on Middle East and South Asia Studies

• Particle physics seminars with physics professor John Terning

• The 11th annual UC Davis Film Festival, with the Department of Theatre and Dance

• Art histories, a series of graduate student presentations covering topics from Andy Warhol to Chicano murals to ancient Greek sculpture

• The power of design and sustainability with design professor Ann Savageau

• Listen: the UC Davis Symphony Orchestra and University Chorus have free recordings of their performances, 31 and counting
Alumni

Anthony Farrington (B.A., International Relations, ‘94) is running for California’s Assembly District Four. Farrington is a fourth-term Lake County Board of Supervisors member and holds a law degree from Concord Law School.

Alexander Hall (B.A., Philosophy, ‘92) was recently named the fourth director of Clayton State University’s Honors Program. Hall is a specialist in medieval and ancient philosophy.

Chris Johnson (B.A., Communication, ‘02) has invented the Rapid Ramen Cooker, which uses a microwave, cutting the cooking time in half. Johnson’s encouragement to students: “Forget about any fears. If you have an idea, go out there and do it.”

Students

Sarah K. Brown, a Ph.D. student in anthropology and veterinary genetics, published a story in the Journal of Archaeological Science confirming that Arctic sled dogs are the only native (indigenous) dogs remaining in North America.

Brandon Dutra, a graduate student in applied mathematics, has been awarded the highly competitive National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship, one of five awarded in mathematics at a UC campus.

Cultural studies graduate student Andrew Ventimiglia received a Charlotte W. Newcomb Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship from the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship Foundation and will be one of 22 fellows.

Hoby Wedler, an organic chemistry graduate student who is blind, has received the HSC Foundation Advocates in Disability Award for his work founding and organizing a chemistry camp for blind high school students. The camp teaches participants that, despite the seemingly visual nature of STEM subjects, eyesight is not necessary to succeed in the field.

Pablo Whipple, (Ph.D., History, ‘07) received an excellence in teaching award from the Catholic University in Santiago, recognizing both research and dedication to students.

Aimee Bryan, a doctoral student in inorganic fundamental chemistry at UC Davis, was among the 600 young researchers selected to meet with 35 Nobel laureates in Germany this summer.

William C. Marks, B.A., Economics, ‘88, Rhyme


Karen Levy, B.A., Comparative Literature, ‘89, My Father’s Gardens

Christine Gulbranson (B.S., Physics, ‘94; B.S., M.A., Ph.D., Chemical Engineering and Materials Science; M.B.A.) has been selected as a judge on the new reality TV show, Big Brain Theory: Pure Genius, on the Discovery Channel.

Students take part in a Homecoming rally at UC Davis in 1961. (Photograph uap-01566, Special Collections, University of California Library, Davis)
Faculty

Amina Mama, professor in African American and African studies, gave an address at the 50th anniversary of the African Union. She also addressed Africa’s 54 presidents at the Heads of State Summit to articulate the feminist agenda for Africa’s millions of women.

Dawn Sumner, geology professor and co-investigator for NASA’s Mars Science Laboratory team and the Curiosity Rover mission, has helped to discover the first on-site evidence of sustained water flow on Mars. She will be taking a sabbatical this year to work on the Curiosity project and continue her research in Antarctica.

Giovanni Peri, professor of economics, has published an article in the Los Angeles Times on the benefits of immigration reform for all U.S. residents and the potential of foreign workers to make significant, long-lasting and positive impacts on the U.S. economy. http://lat.ms/18kPObm

Distinguished Professor of Statistics Peter Hall has been named an officer of the Order of the Australia for his contributions to the field of statistics worldwide. The honor is among the highest awarded by the Australian government.

Louise Kellogg, professor of geology and director of the W. M. Keck Center for Active Visualization in Earth Sciences, and Susan Mann, professor emerita of history, were elected into the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Howard Spero, professor of geology, has received a Alexander von Humboldt Foundation research award for his work on past and future climate change.

Jeffrey W. Sherman, professor of psychology, has been awarded the Annaliese Maier Research Award from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation for his work in the field of social cognition.

Professor of Music Christopher Reynolds received the 2013 UC Davis Prize for Undergraduate Teaching and Scholarly Achievement. The $45,000 prize is voted on by other professors, research peers, representatives from the UC Davis Foundation Board of Trustees and students. He donated part of his prize to the Classroom and Recital Hall. http://bit.ly/12rveBU

John Iacovelli, a professor in theatre and dance, won the 44th Annual Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Award in March. His set for “Waiting for Godot” at the Mark Taper Forum surpassed over 3,000 productions in the competition. http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0406241/

Faculty in psychology and the Center for Mind and Brain have received some outstanding awards: Charan Ranganath received a fellowship from the Guggenheim Foundation; Steve Luck, the center’s director, was elected Fellow in the American Association for the Advancement of Science; Susan Rivera and Matt Traxler are new appointees to two national Institutes of Health Study Sections; Rivera also received a grant from the National Institute of Health for her study in Fragile X; and Tamara Swaab and Cam Carter (Imaging Research Center and Center for Neuroscience) received a grant from the National Institute of Health to study cognitive control and language impairments in people with schizophrenia.

Professor of Music Christopher Reynolds receives the Teaching Prize.
The work of Annabeth Rosen, professor of art and the Robert Arneson Endowed Chair of Ceramic Art, was featured in a solo exhibition called “Nature-Morphic” at Humboldt State University.

Mario Biagioli, distinguished professor of science and technology studies and law and director of the Center for Science and Innovation Studies, has received a $3.1 million grant from the Russian Federation through the European University at St. Petersburg. The bulk of the grant will go to the production of a book-length study of contemporary Russian computer scientists, their IP strategies and the business models they are developing.

James P. Crutchfield’s graduate course, Natural Computation and Self-Organization, won the 2013 SIAM Teaching Dynamical Systems Contest. Crutchfield is a professor of physics and director of the Complexity Sciences Center. He also received a Department of Defense grant in support of complex systems research: “Information Engines: Nanoscale Control, Computing, and Communication out of Equilibrium” is a collaboration between UC Davis, UC Berkeley, University of Maryland and Columbia.

Ethan B. Anderes, an assistant professor in statistics, received the National Science Foundation Division of Mathematical Sciences award.

Keith David Watenpaugh, an associate professor in religious studies, published an essay about the Human Right’s Initiative’s joint research project on Syria’s refugee university students in the Chronicle of Higher Education. It has been widely quoted in the media due to the current crisis in Syria. He was interviewed on Capital Public Radio in Sacramento: http://bit.ly/17pYXCX

Larry Berman, professoremeritus, political science, Zumwalt: The Life and Times of Admiral Elmo Russell “Bud” Zumwalt, Jr.

Scott Simmon, professor of English, curated the National Film Preservation Foundation’s Lost and Found: American Treasures from the New Zealand Film Archive.
When I moved into Agrarian Effort (Ag), one of the three houses that compose the Tri-Cooperatives (known on campus as the Tri-Co-Ops), I knew that I was moving into a community, but I did not know how strong that community was until I started spending time on our porch.

Our porch has two couches on it, and a rocking chair. I don’t know where they came from, but that’s part of what I love about living here. The enigmatic appearance of things in our home, like a jug of blackberries sitting on the counter that someone around here must have picked, or the cheddar cheese in our refrigerator, and the long list of mysterious items that have been at the house for so long that they have taken on a story of their own. These stories, like the furniture on the porch, are a part of the experience of living here that I did not expect, but continue to be surprised by.

It seems as though there are always people on our porch; in fact, it is unusual when no is around. The open atmosphere on our porch makes people feel comfortable discussing a vast range of topics including, but in no way limited to, music festivals, novels, video games, feminism, politics. These conversations are my favorite part of living in Ag; I get to learn about things that I had never known, or teach people things, and most importantly, I get to communicate with great people in my community.

Usually those who sit on the porch currently live at the Tri-Co-Ops, or at the Domes, the other cooperative living community on campus. We are also almost always joined by people who have gravitated to our home—people who used to live here, people who want to live here, friends of people who live here, or people who do not live here but we have accepted into our community. The people who I have met on my porch have taught me so much—both factual knowledge and an understanding about how people interact and how they interact with me.

I began coming to the co-ops in spring quarter of my freshman year. A friend had told me about the co-ops, so I went to a community dinner one night to check it out. I decided right then that I wanted to live at here. To live at the Tri-Co-Ops, I had to apply to the house and then be accepted by a unanimous vote. The fact that I knew going into the co-ops that everyone in the house had approved of me before I started living here made me feel welcome in our community.

As open and kind everyone as is, living here is daunting. The members of my community can only be described as movers and shakers. My neighbors and housemates are extremely active; they host KDVS shows, are members of the planning committee for the Whole Earth Festival, are leaders at the Student Farm and so much more. Because of this, I am inspired to do more to help the greater Davis community.

Living at Ag has made me grateful to be with such great people and has caused me to look for ways to help others.

About the Tri-Cooperatives:
As a basketball reporter for The New York Times, I spend a lot of my working hours courtside at NBA games. I pick up so much more there: the players’ physicality, emotions, every smile, every wince, every curse. Sometimes, you’ll catch a funny exchange between players, or between a player and a referee. And you hear a lot of heckling from the fans closest to the action as they berate opponents (or occasionally, the home team). It all enhances your sense of the game and helps provide a more vivid account for your readers.

The beautiful chaos at a game can feel oddly familiar to my first journalism work environment, The Aggie offices at UC Davis. I earned my degree in English, but I also majored in The Aggie (I’m sure my English professors would agree). It was the greatest training ground I could have had. Lower Freeborn was filled with energetic, creative people. And with no journalism department and no advisor to peer over our shoulders—we were truly independent. We celebrated our successes and owned our mistakes. We had a blast. We learned a lot from each other. I’m proud that so many of us are working in the news business and have remained friends for the last 20 years.

I also got my first big break in the business from a UC Davis graduate: Michael Anastasi, who hired me to cover the Lakers at the L.A. Daily News in 1997. In the 16 years since, I’ve covered more than 1,400 games—seven seasons on the Lakers, eight on the Knicks and this past season, I split coverage between the Nets and Knicks. It’s been a pretty vivid contrast. The Lakers won three championships, played some of the most memorable playoff series ever and were mostly enjoyable to cover. By contrast, the Knicks were mostly terrible, frequently unwatchable and consistently dysfunctional during my first six years on the beat. They have been a bit more respectable recently, making the playoffs the last three years. Every beat brings its own challenges and intrigue. It was fascinating to cover the Nets’ debut in Brooklyn (after 35 years in New Jersey), just to see the evolution of the relationship between the team and its new fans. I’ve been fortunate to have a steady stream of great storylines, which is all you can ask for as a reporter.

I began my Aggie career as a sportswriter, then moved into news as my interests broadened. Though I ultimately found my way back into sports, the years I spent covering Davis politics (first at The Aggie, later at The Davis Enterprise) were invaluable. My first beat at The Aggie was cross country. I still remember how nervous I was conducting my first interviews. I wrote out every question on a legal pad the night before speaking to the coach. I also covered track, swimming, football, basketball and baseball during my first two years at UC Davis.

By far the most memorable figure I met during that time was Jim Sochor, UC Davis’ legendary football coach. He was a thoughtful interview and always had something interesting to say. He was the first person I ever covered who invoked Zen as part of his coaching philosophy.

In an odd way, that sort of prepared me for the next Zen-practicing legend I covered: Phil Jackson.
History on Rails!

K-12 teachers from around the country spent a week this summer in Davis and Sacramento, learning about the Transcontinental Railroad from its conceptual origins, through feats of labor and engineering, and on to its social, political and economic impact during and after the Gilded Age. The program was made possible through a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities and was hosted by the History Project at UC Davis.

The program had applicants from across the country. This photograph was taken when the attendees spent a morning at the Crocker Art Museum learning about the railroad and the west in American memory and imagination with history professors Ari Kelman and Eric Rauchway.

http://railroad.historyproject.ucdavis.edu/

Katharine Kipp, graduate student researcher and Ph.D. candidate, and Eric Rauchway, professor of history, with Scott A. Shields, associate director and chief curator of the Crocker Museum of Art.