Greetings from UC Davis,

We hope that you will enjoy this latest issue of the College of Letters and Science Magazine. It contains stories, news and lists of recently-published books from some of our faculty, students and alumni. And if you are in town this spring, watch for the upcoming events that some of our departments and programs will be hosting; see page 18 for more information.

Take a look at our website (www.ls.ucdavis.edu). We recently published our first annual report of philanthropy, and we have also created a new brochure about the college for students who may wish to attend UC Davis. If you are an alumnus reading this magazine, you know well how your education helped chart your future. We feel that the college’s mission, at its core, is to provide a fundamental education that can be applied to any number of future careers.

Lastly, thank you to all alumni who have contacted us with your latest news and information. We hope that you will continue to keep us posted.

Until fall,

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:
Native American Studies

The cover of this issue of the College of Letters and Science Magazine features Jessica Bissett Perea (Dena’ina), assistant professor, and Angel Hinzo (Winnebago/Ho-Chunk), a graduate student in Native American studies (NAS).

The department was originally created as a program in 1969. In 1973, the C. N. Gorman Museum was established in honor of Carl Nelson Gorman, artist, WWII code talker, cultural historian, and advocate for Native peoples. By 1975, the major in Native American studies had been created (the NAS minor went into effect in the 1980s). Native American Studies received departmental status in 1993.

Since its inception, Native American Studies has offered a hemispheric approach to the study of indigenous peoples of the Americas. The undergraduate and graduate programs offer a formal comparative and interdisciplinary approach to the study of indigenous cultures of the Americas. This includes faculty specialized in a variety of disciplines, including art, literature, religion, linguistics, history, anthropology, political science, ethnomusicology, performance and dance studies, and women and gender studies.

Students can receive a major (B.A.), a minor, an M.A., a Ph.D. or a designated emphasis in Native American studies. UC Davis was the second university in the nation to create such a program.

http://nas.ucdavis.edu
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Editor: Amanda Price

Contributing writers: Kerry Cody, Andy Fell, Dave Jones, Katherine Kerlin, Karen Nikos-Rose

Designer: Morissa Rubin

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Comments?
Comments and questions about this issue can be sent to the editor at lettersandscience@ucdavis.edu.

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UC Davis College of Letters and Science

#UCDavis_LandS

www.ls.ucdavis.edu

UC Davis has launched a new campaign honoring our alumni, students, faculty, staff and donors who are changing lives and improving the world. Check out the website at: http://www.ucdavis.edu/one and share your “One UC Davis” story!
It's happening
College News

**Award for Physics**
The Committee on Education (COE) of the American Physical Society has awarded UC Davis an Improving Undergraduate Physics Education Award. The award recognizes physics departments and/or undergraduate-serving programs in physics that support best practices in education at the undergraduate level.

**In Memoriam**
Samuel Gordon Armistead, one of the world's leading scholars of Spanish literature and language, passed away last summer. Armistead was a Distinguished Professor of Spanish from 1982 until his retirement in 2010, serving as co-chair of Spanish and Classics from 2000 to 2002. Armistead specialized in Spanish medieval literature and folklore, publishing some 30 books and over 500 articles. His work on Spanish Romancero (oral tradition and ballads), especially Sephardic folklore, is considered his crowning achievement. Among his numerous academic awards, Armistead received an honorary doctorate in 2010 from the Universidad de Alcala (Madrid); he was named a corresponding member of the Real Academia Española in 2009; and in 1999 he received the highly prestigious Antonio Nebrija award from the University of Salamanca.

**Name-Changer**
The Department of Geology is evolving its name. It will now be known as the **Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences**. “This new name reflects the extraordinary breadth of intellectual activity in the department,” said Louise Kellogg, department chair.

Dave Osleger, vice chair, added: “There’s a misperception out there about what it is we do. With this name change, we hope students and colleagues perceive the department in a different, more modern and sophisticated way.”

Some things will stay the same: The department will continue to offer degrees in geology, which will be the formal designation on diplomas. And the prefix “GEL” will also continue to be listed in the course catalog for classes within the department.

Kellogg said the department is also developing new interdisciplinary major programs.

**Yiyun Li**, associate professor of English, MacArthur Prize winner
*Kinder than Solitude*
Condensed Matter Physics the Topic of a Workshop in China

A joint UC Davis-Nanjing University (NJU) workshop on condensed matter physics was held in Nanjing, China, partially supported by the University Outreach and International Programs (UOIP) office, the Division of Mathematical and Physical Sciences (MPS), and the Office of Research. Reciprocating last year’s inaugural event at UC Davis, this second workshop was organized by Professor Kai Liu in physics and Professor Mu Wang, director of the National Laboratory of Solid State Microstructures (NLSSM) at NJU. The UC Davis delegation was headed by outgoing MPS Dean Winston Ko and incoming Interim Dean Alexandra Navrotsky and included several UC Davis faculty. The workshop featured talks on state-of-the-art research, covering diverse topics ranging from multiferroics, thermodynamics, surface physics and superconductivity, to nanomagnetism, spintronics and energy research. Over 50 participants attended, including faculty, students, postdoctoral fellows and other researchers. The workshop also facilitated new joint projects, collaborative work and exchange grants.

The workshop featured some historical moments as well. Former dean Winston Ko had initiated a Working Agreement with Professor Mu Wang in 2007, establishing a formal tie between the division and the NLSSM at NJU. This was followed by a university-level agreement of cooperation signed in 2008 and renewed earlier this year. Ko opened the workshop as the dean, then passed on the “deanship baton” to Navrotsky, who made the concluding remarks. Navrotsky also celebrated her 70th birthday during the workshop and showed some dexterity with chopsticks as she fished out long noodles from soup to symbolize long life.

“The meeting provided an opportunity to explore wonderful physics with worldwide experts and establish exciting partnerships for continued study,” noted Navrotsky. “In addition, I could not have picked a better venue to celebrate a landmark birthday!”

After the meeting, informal discussions continued in the Yellow Mountain (Huang Shan) region.

Groundbreakings for Two New Buildings

This spring, UC Davis holds ceremonial groundbreakings for two projects in the arts: the Jan Shrem and Maria Manetti Shrem Museum of Art was held on March 1, and the Classroom and Recital Hall building will be held on May 2.

Jan Shrem and Maria Manetti Shrem Museum of Art

Classroom and Recital Hall
Jessie Ann Owens, dean of the Division of Humanities, Arts and Cultural Studies, announced that she is stepping down on June 30, at the end of her eighth year of service as dean. She is the longest-serving dean in the nearly 20-year history of the division. A musicologist and professor of music, she will join the faculty following a year of research leave.

“I came to UC Davis in 2006, a lifelong resident of the East Coast, with no previous experience in public higher education,” Owens said. “I could never have imagined how compelling I would find the remarkable commitment to access. My favorite moment each year is commencement—knowing that so many of those graduates were the first in their family to go to college.”

Her tenure as dean is marked by many successes, of which the foremost is the recruitment of a diverse and talented cohort of faculty. Approximately 30 percent of the current faculty have been hired since Owens arrived, 40 percent of them from underrepresented groups and nearly 60 percent women. Particularly noteworthy initiatives included hires in design, English, music, Native American studies, religious studies and the University Writing Program. The success of the faculty is evident in the large numbers of prestigious national fellowships, including the Guggenheim and the American Council of Learned Societies.

“I am pleased that the distinctive nature of the kinds of humanities, broadly speaking, that we do at UC Davis is attracting national attention,” Owens noted. UC Davis was invited to join the ACLS Research University Consortium and since 2011 has also received three grants from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. The Mellon Research Initiatives in the Humanities fund four collaborative projects in early modern studies, environments and societies, digital cultures, and social justice.

Owens also undertook a major initiative to increase the commitment to and funding for graduate education, including advocacy that led to the establishment of the Provost’s Fellowships—25 new, fully-funded recruitment and dissertation fellowships for humanities Ph.D. programs. The new graduate group in the study of religion was also established, and this year has admitted its first class of doctoral students.

Perhaps her most tangible achievement lies in the much-needed enhancements to arts facilities on campus. Building on the historic legacy of excellence in the arts as well as on the current programs with very strong student demand, Owens developed a campus arts space plan that has led to renovations in Everson Hall, Cruess Hall and the Art Building. She also furthered the visibility of the arts by attracting significant private gifts to the division.

Two major buildings will soon be completed—the Jan Shrem and Maria Manetti Shrem Museum of Art and the Classroom and Recital Hall. Both projects are made possible by private gifts as well as campus support.

“I am deeply grateful for Jessie Ann’s service as dean. She has led the division through years that were very difficult, yet despite severe resource constraints, she kept her eye steadfastly on the highest standards of excellence, enabling our departments to hire a cohort of remarkable new faculty,” Ralph Hexter, provost, said. “She has always put the education of students—both undergraduate and graduate—first, in the true spirit of the College of Letters and Science. The Classroom and Recital Hall and the Jan Shrem and Maria Manetti Shrem Museum of Art will stand as twin testimonies to her vision for the arts at UC Davis and her prowess as a fundraiser.”

“It has been a special privilege for me to serve as dean,” Owens said. “I am proud of how the faculty and students are inventing a new kind of humanities. There is unusual richness in the combination of humanities, arts and cultural studies, in a setting where the land-grant mission is paramount. Our faculty is collaborating with faculty across campus on issues that matter to California and to the world.”
Gene Therapy for Disease

Dean Tantillo, professor of chemistry, and Peter Beal, professor of chemical biology, have been published in the Chemical and Engineering News for their research on modifying siRNAs (short interfering RNAs) in a new way—by using Argonaute’s crystal structures for the first time as a jumping-off point for structure-based siRNA redesign. This research was originally published in the Journal of the American Chemical Society. siRNAs could possibly be used therapeutically to turn off problematic genes related to various diseases.


Scared of Tigers? So Are These Animals.

Elephants are more scared of tigers than leopards, according to a study by Professor of Psychology Richard Coss and his colleague, Vivek Thuppil, who is in neurophysiology and behavior at UC Davis. The researchers studied the elephants’ behavior to prevent conflicts between human farmers and the elephant herds that raid their fields at night. This is the first study of nighttime anti-predator behavior in elephants.

Their discovery could help Indian farmers protect their crops from marauding elephants and save the lives of both people and animals. Crop raiding by elephants is a serious problem in India. Each year about 400 people and some hundred elephants are killed during these encounters.

http://bit.ly/1avJYQj

Army Grants $12.5M for Key Research

Two new projects led by researchers Raissa D’Souza and Jim Crutchfield from the UC Davis Complexity Sciences Center seek to understand complex networked systems, from nanomachines to nation-states, and learn how to control them. Each project is funded with $6.25 million over five years from the U.S. Department of Defense’s Multidisciplinary University Research Initiative.

D’Souza, a professor of mechanical and aerospace engineering and computer science, is researching how collections of networks interact to create new, stable functions and is seeking ways to intervene in networks to better control them or to prevent a catastrophic cascading breakdown. Crutchfield, a professor of physics and director of the Complexity Sciences Center, is studying how networks can manipulate both information and energy, and is developing a new “physics of information” with future applications ranging from microscopic computers to directing molecule-sized machines.


“GoldieBlox” Sparks Controversy

According to Elizabeth Sweet, a doctoral candidate in sociology, gender marketing of toys is more extreme today than it has been since the 1950s. Sweet researched the gendered marketing of toys in 20th century Sears catalogs and found that, although the 1970s showed an increase in gender-neutral marketing of toys, this trend reversed in the 1990s and has been on the rise. Her research was cited in a recent article about “GoldieBlox” in the LA Times.

http://lat.ms/1avJYQj

http://youtu.be/2PZNirkssh8
Snakes on the Brain

The high-quality vision of our ancestors was driven by the threat of snakes, says Lynne Isbell, a professor of anthropology. Neuroscientists in Japan and Brazil are supporting her theory. Isbell, along with researchers from Toyma University, Japan, and the University of Brasilia, Brazil, discovered specific nerve cells in the brains of rhesus macaque monkeys that respond to images of snakes. “We’re finding results consistent with the idea that snakes have exerted strong selective pressure on primates,” noted Isbell. She originally published her hypothesis in 2006, following with the book, The Fruit, the Tree and the Serpent, in which she argued that our primate ancestors evolved good, close-range vision primarily to spot and avoid dangerous snakes. The work has provided a unique perspective and brings new insights for evolution.

Radical New Chemistry

One avenue to sustainable energy is to make hydrogen, but to make it efficiently and easily. Bacteria have been doing this for billions of years, and Professor of Chemistry David Britt, along with postdoctoral researchers John Kuchenreuther, William Myers and Troy Stich, project scientist Simon George and graduate student Yaser Nejaty-Jahromy, have discovered how nature builds these catalysts so they can imitate the process. The bacterial catalysts are based on precisely organized clusters of iron and sulfur atoms, with side groups of cyanide and carbon monoxide, highly toxic molecules unless properly controlled. Using electron paramagnetic resonance to study the structure of the intermediate steps, the researchers found a series of chemical reactions involving a type of highly reactive enzyme called a radical SAM.

“One people think of radicals as dangerous, but this enzyme directs the radical chemistry, along with the production of normally poisonous CO and CN, along safe and product pathways,” noted Britt. “This is unique, new chemistry.” Britt’s laboratory houses the California Electron Paramagnetic Resonance Center (CalEPR), the largest center of its kind on the west coast.


Sasha Abramsky, lecturer, University Writing Program, and research affiliate, Center for Poverty Research
The American Way of Poverty: How the Other Half Still Lives

Peter Hays, professor emeritus, English
Fifty Years of Hemingway Criticism

Peter Lichtenfels, professor of theatre and dance
Performance, Politics and Activism
Detecting Dark Matter

Dark matter is the most abundant form of matter in the universe but has so far been inferred only by its gravitational effects on light from distant galaxies and clusters of galaxies. LUX, the Large Underground Xenon experiment proposed in 2006 by Professor of Physics Mani Tripathi and six other founding principal investigators, was designed to have the greatest sensitivity to detect “WIMPs” or “weakly interactive massive particles” which are the leading theoretical candidates for a dark matter particle.

“LUX is already producing the world’s best results and excluding parameter space for a dark matter particle,” noted Matthew Szydagis, a postdoctoral researcher in the Department of Physics and coordinator of the data analysis among the LUX team members.

Collisions between WIMPs and normal matter are rare and extremely difficult to detect. LUX is searching for WIMPs 4,850 feet underground in the Sanford Lab in South Dakota, where few cosmic ray particles can penetrate. The detector is further protected from background radiation from the surrounding rock by immersion in a tank of ultra-pure water, which was designed and instrumented by the UC Davis team. UC Davis physicists have contributed to all aspects of LUX.


Meteorites: Discovering, Preserving

In February 2013 in Chelyabinsk, Russia, an exploding meteor delivered “a wake-up call,” according to Qing-zhu Yin, professor of geology. “If humanity does not want to go the way of the dinosaurs, we need to study an event like this in detail.” Chelyabinsk was the largest meteoroid strike since the Tunguska even of 1908. Shock-waves from the airburst broke windows, rattled buildings and even knocked people from their feet in a radius of about 50 miles on either side of the trajectory. Yin’s laboratory analyzed chemical and isotopic characteristics of the meteorites. Ken Verosub, professor of geology, measured the magnetic properties of metallic grains in the meteorite.

The meteor that exploded over the Sierra foothills in 2012 has continued to be researched as well. Thanks to the collaborative efforts of five U.S. academic institutions, including UC Davis; the Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C.; American Museum of Natural History in New York City; The Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago; and Arizona State University in Tempe, the main mass of the rare meteorite will be preserved for current and future scientific discoveries. After being x-rayed by CT scan at the Center for Molecular and Genomic Imaging, the meteorite was cut into five portions and delivered to each of the institutions.

“LUX is already producing the world’s best results and excluding parameter space for a dark matter particle.”

Social Justice Initiative Launched

Amina Mama, a professor in women and gender studies, Inés Hernández-Avila, a professor in Native American studies, and Yvette Flores, a professor in Chicana and Chicano studies, are co-directing a new initiative committed to working collaboratively across borders of sexuality, gender, ethnicity and nation, as well as across diversely racialized communities. The three-year Mellon Foundation-funded project, known as the Social Justice Initiative, will build an intellectual community of practice that stimulates new thinking and research that bridges the disconnection of the globalizing university from local communities. The first year will focus on topics such as global feminism and transnational activism, and the contested intersections of science, sexuality, race and medicine. The following years will focus on indigenous issues globally, critically addressing themes such as land claims, territory and expressions, and indigenous knowledge. The team will then study citizenship and identity through a local and global focus.
Research

Augmented-reality sandboxes offer an entirely different high-tech educational engagement tool. These sandboxes allow users to mold the contents into miniature mountains, lakes and rivers—and then, with a little high-tech magic, bring that terrain to life before their eyes. Researchers at the W. M. Keck Center for Active Visualization in the Earth Sciences (KeckCAVES) created the augmented-reality sandbox as part of a National Science Foundation-funded program focused on water system education. These 3-D sandboxes consist of a Kinect camera mounted above the sandbox, which tracks the physical activity below. A projector throws a dynamic topographic map on top of it, updating contour lines and elevation colors in real time. Then, a virtual rainstorm, also supplied by the projector, sends a torrent of blue water cascading down the peaks, showing runoff and watershed on the landscape created moments before.

According to Oliver Kreylos, one of the lead researchers, “There’s just no better way to teach how topographic contour lines work or how water flows over a landscape than building whatever terrain you can imagine and then seeing the contours and the water react in real time to any changes you make.”

Social Media Team Presents New App at National Labor Convention

Students and faculty presented their research, “Social Media, Insecure Work and New Solidarities,” to the national convention of the American Federation of Labor-Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO) in Los Angeles. Glenda Drew, an associate professor in design, Jesse Drew, an associate professor of cinema and technocultural studies, and Chris Benner, a professor in human and community development, organized the original “hack-a-thon” group that brought together computer science and design skills to craft a new mobile app for organizing sectors of workers that suffer from low wages, poor healthcare, immigration problems and other aspects of the new economy.

http://bit.ly/12vskhA

Biochemists Uphold Law of Physics

Experiments by biochemists show for the first time that a law of physics, the ergodic theorem, can be demonstrated by a collection of individual protein molecules—specifically, a protein that unwinds DNA. Using technology invented at UC Davis for watching single enzymes at work, professor Steve Kowalczykowski of the Department of Microbiology and Molecular Genetics and the Cancer Center and Bian Liu, a graduate student in the Biophysics Graduate Group, discovered that when they paused and restarted a single molecule of the DNA-unwinding enzyme RecBCD, it would restart at any speed achieved by the whole population of enzymes. The results, published in the journal Nature, have implications for understanding how proteins fold into their correct shape, for exploring interactions between drugs and their targets, and for engineering enzymes for new functions.

Facilitating Oil Discovery

A tool used to precisely pinpoint where petroleum and gas reserves have accumulated has been created by an international team of scientists, including Qing-zhu Yin, a professor of geology. This new index provides a better understanding of how oil travels from where it was formed to where it has collected. It could aid in the discovery of new oil resources, while reducing the environmental impact of accessing those resources. “The index should result in fewer incidents of failed drilling, which should reduce unnecessary environmental disturbance,” noted Yin. It can also be used to trace pollutants caused by oil spills and guide environmental mitigation.
New Neandertal Discovery

When undergraduate student Naomi Martisius was sorting through tiny bone remnants in the paleoanthropology lab, she stumbled across a bone fragment from a French archaeological site that turned out to be part of an early, specialized bone tool used by the Neandertal before the first modern humans appeared in Europe.

“At the time, I had no idea about the impact of my discovery,” said Martisius, who is now pursuing her doctoral degree in anthropology. Her discovery was the result of a decade of excavation and research by two international teams. “Previously these types of bone tools have only been associated with modern humans,” noted Teresa E. Steele, an associate professor of anthropology who is Martisius’ advisor and who served as co-author on the article which appeared in the journal Proceedings for the National Academy of Science.

“The identification of these pieces in secure Neandertal contexts leave open the possibility that we have found, for the first time, evidence that Neandertals may have influenced the technology of modern humans.”

Infant Cognition

Lisa Oakes, a professor of psychology and researcher at the Center for Mind and Brain, studies the origins and early development of mental abilities in infancy. She discussed the research from her Infant Cognition Lab in Popular Science’s blog late last year; her ongoing research examines the relation between daily experience (such as having a pet at home) and infants’ learning.

Developing Efficient Lighting Practices in Singapore

UC Davis is collaborating with the Singapore Green Building Council (SGBC) and Singapore’s Building and Construction Authority (BCA) to develop a lighting efficiency demonstration and training center in Singapore. Professor and California Lighting Technology Center (CLTC) Director Michael Siminovitch explains, “This close collaboration will help build new ideas and advance best practices for efficient lighting … and it will be mutually beneficial in addressing our carbon reduction goals.” The new center will follow CLTC’s collaborative model, bringing academic researchers, manufacturers and government representatives together to achieve common goals. The new center will also help reduce energy demand for lighting by promoting awareness of best practices and energy-efficient lighting design principles.

Wiki for Textbooks

Chemistry Professor Delmar Larsen is on a mission to replace costly, heavy chemistry textbooks with an online, e-textbook network. “ChemWiki,” launched in 2008, nets over two million visitors a month, making it the most visited domain among the university’s websites. A $250,000 grant from the National Science Foundation will further expansion of the Wiki network.

“The identification of these pieces … leave open the possibility that we have found, for the first time, evidence that Neandertals may have influenced the technology of modern humans.”
I have been in awe of space, of our universe, for as long as I can remember. When I was a little girl, my family would go camping in the deserts of California. At night, I would lie on top of my dad’s dune buggy trailer and gaze up at the night sky, captivated by the stars.

When I was in high school, I began to think about what to do with my future. I would be the first person in my family to go to college, and I felt overwhelmed by the many things I loved to do. My parents simplified it for me. They asked me, “What do you want to do?” My first response was to list a bunch of interesting-sounding occupations. They clarified the question. “Not what you want to be, but what you want to do?” They suggested I make a list. They said, “Keep it, add to it, take away from it, but make sure it is 100% YOU!”

At the time, the first U.S. Space Shuttle missions were launching. I had just started to look into the astronaut program when the Challenger accident occurred. The tragedy, with the news of Astronaut Christa McAuliffe and the rest of the crew perishing in the accident, did not deter me. It only solidified my wish to be part of NASA—to help rebuild.

In college, I found chemistry—something that I loved, something that seemed to answer questions for me. As I was getting my Ph.D. at UC Davis, I really began to look at the NASA program. I saw how the list that I had created when I was 16 so perfectly matched what NASA does. Working with international teams, building the International Space Station, people from different cultures and backgrounds coming together—all of these were things I knew I could do, and most importantly, things I would enjoy doing.

I was so fortunate to work in Chemistry Professor Don Land’s lab. He knew I had aspirations to go into the astronaut program with NASA. He not only supported my dream, but really believed in me. He did that for all of his students—he put us in charge of our work and our projects.

I remember so clearly one day when something went wrong with our instrumentation, and I couldn’t figure out the glitch. I called him and asked him to come to the lab to help fix it. His response: “V = IR, Tracy, you can figure it out.” He knew to sit back and let me go, even when many professors would have run to figure out what was wrong. I fixed the instrumentation that day and grew more confident with each day that I could do even more.

It was that kind of training that helped me as I moved into the NASA astronaut program, and eventually into space, fixing instrumentation on the International Space Station for six months.

When I was in space, I drew upon another important experience I had at Davis. I reported from the International Space Station and sent a message in sign language for all
of those who are hearing impaired. As a graduate student, I tutored an undergraduate chemistry student who was hearing impaired. She was struggling but never complained. I went to a lecture with her to see how she was learning and realized what an incredible challenge she faced. While the transparencies projected in the lecture hall were well-lit, the professor explaining the slides was down stage and her interpreter was in a far corner out of the way. I watched her overcome these kinds of challenges every day with poise, enthusiasm and never an ounce of complaint. I often draw upon her inspiration, and when I was in space, I wanted to send a message to her and the millions of others who endure a life more challenging than I could ever imagine.

It is a privilege and honor to be part of NASA and to have traveled, and lived, at the edge of this frontier beyond Earth. I am proud to be one of a handful of human beings on Earth to have done an EVA (Extra-Vehicular Activity) and to have lived in space for a long period of time. Now, I feel lucky to call this place home. As I drive down Highway 29 through Napa, making my way through lush vineyards, I feel lucky to call this place home. While a student at UC Davis, I used to take jaunts over to Napa occasionally to shop the outlet malls and make my first clumsy attempts at wine tasting. I’d always felt compelled to visit, and was happy when my path eventually led to a job opportunity in Napa five years ago. Now, I put my English degree and years of experience as a student writer for the California Aggie newspaper to work in my role as director of communications at the Napa Chamber of Commerce. I make use of my history degree on the board of the Napa County Historical Society. Often, the hauntingly beautiful vineyards trigger memories of adventures inspired by books read and deciphered in those UC Davis classrooms.

In 1998, during the summer following graduation, I embarked upon a two-week adventure through London and the British countryside, chasing the ghosts of literary legends. My path ultimately led to the fabled inspiration for Emily Bronte’s Wuthering Heights in the misty Yorkshire moors deep in Northern England. The sky there felt like an extension of the earth, almost as if I had to duck down to avoid hitting my head on the clouds. With the abandoned stone farmhouse in view, I was sure I could hear Heathcliff’s tortured pleas on the wind. Words first read during late-night study sessions came alive, as if I was now the one directing the characters to act out their roles.

That summer, I soaked up the atmosphere and inhaled their legacy. Ever since then, I have been determined to follow in the footsteps of great writers, many of whom formed the basis of my UC Davis English degree. Four years of dedicated guidance and instruction from professors like Jack Hicks sparked a life-long interest in the stories behind the words. His “Literature of California” course brought my love for literary history home. At the time, I was a bright-eyed Aggie reporter. I remember distinctly the April 1997 memorial that Professor Hicks held for poet Allen Ginsberg. Aware of my interest in the Beat genre, he invited me to meet writer Gary Snyder following the memorial. Both intimidating and inspiring, it was a moment that cemented my desire to build upon introductions made in the classroom and shake hands with the great figures of literature.

Eleven years after graduating from UC Davis, I found myself back in the Bay Area, embarking upon a masters’ thesis project focused on California writers. I often thought back to Professor Hicks’ classroom, where we delved into the poetry of Robinson Jeffers, the tales of Jack London, and the words of John Muir and Mark Twain. Studying the life stories of the writers—exploring that intersection of literature and history—often interested me as much as the words themselves. These explorations have formed the basis of my “Literary Legacies” blog, a growing collection of stories about my literary ghost hunts.

The tattered, college-issued novels remain on my bookshelf. These books serve as reminders of long nights spent devouring language and days in the classroom searching for the meaning behind it. These books have inspired journeys. Isn’t that what education is all about?

Follow Julie’s literary explorations at: literarylegacies.wordpress.com
When I look at where I am today—as one of the hosts of FOX News Channel’s The Five as well as being a regular commentator on The O’Reilly Factor and Hannity—I can trace my career path directly back to what I learned at UC Davis. The importance of good communication is something that captured my attention when I was studying at Davis, and it stayed with me through law school and especially helped as I argued cases as a District Attorney of San Francisco and Los Angeles. It has played a significant role in my work in broadcast news.

When I was an undergraduate student in rhetoric and communication at UC Davis, I remember that one of the assigned readings was You Are The Message: Secrets of the Master Communicators by Roger Ailes (now the chairman and CEO of FOX News Channel). The book made so much sense to me that I carried it with me after graduating from UC Davis and throughout my career, right up to the day I interviewed with FOX News. I remember meeting Mr. Ailes that day and showed him my copy of his book to autograph, which was underlined and highlighted. He loved that I had kept it all these years and signed it, “You are already a great communicator.” I started my career at FOX soon after that.

I feel so fortunate to have had incredible professors at UC Davis—they shaped who I was to become and what I wanted to do. My career paths as a prosecutor and in politics as the former First Lady of San Francisco can be traced back to my studies at Davis. My professors helped shape my approach to communication as I spent countless occasions in their office hours to get ideas for rewriting papers, tackling issues in class, and studying speeches by presidents and leaders to understand the qualities of great orators.

When I think back to the work I have done as a broadcaster on television, from working with victims of violent crime and their families, to communicating effectively with a judge and jury, to making an impassioned plea to follow the law in the name of justice, so much of my success is due to my education at UC Davis.

I have experienced a lot of success in my profession, but I have earned it through very hard work and sacrifice. My success has come from taking chances and making decisions that aren’t always easy. When I was in the District Attorney’s office in San Francisco, I tried a landmark second degree murder case that was affirmed by the California Supreme Court (People v. Noel and Knoller), and established a precedent for future cases of applied malice murder. That case opened up new doors for me, resulting in six job offers with me ultimately landing in New York City, something I never dreamed I would do as a true San Francisco native.

It was scary—my path had always been to be a lawyer, and broadcasting was different in many ways. To move across the country felt daunting. But I thought, “Kimberly, take a chance. With risk there is potentially great reward.” I had to believe in myself, my education and my experience to know that I could meet the challenge. It was one of the most crucial and best decisions that I’ve made in my life. UC Davis prepared me to do that—to be an independent thinker and most importantly, to have confidence and self-esteem.

When I wake up in the morning, I want to do my job better than I did the day before. I want to move a story forward, ask the right questions. My work is fast-paced and interesting; no news cycle is the same as the day before.

If I could give advice to future graduates, I would tell them: Pursue your passions and interests. Follow that opportunity. Put yourself out there. To anyone looking for their path, I would ask, “What drives you and fires you up?” You can achieve anything with hard work and perseverance. Get out there.
Although I attended UC Davis in the 1950s, college memories remain vivid. The university provided professional preparation, wonderful friendships and vastly expanded horizons for this farm kid.

With only 1,500 students on the whole campus, professors knew us by name. Dr. W. Turrentine Jackson was my adviser and Richard Nelson was my art professor. Their “pioneering” work on campus lives on as examples of the world-class educators that were brought to the Davis campus then and since.

In the ’50s three dormitories ringed the quad—North, South and West Halls. West Hall, with the reputation of housing the “rowdy” guys, was torn down to make space for Freeborn Hall. South Hall, with nearly 100 girl residents (all dorms were segregated then), had only ONE outside phone line which everyone had to share. We had no clothes dryers, only lines to hang washing out behind the building, which led to some pranks.

The far west end of class buildings was Haring Hall. Brand new men’s dorms opened adjacent to Russell Boulevard. They have since been torn down and replaced with student apartments, unheard of in my day.

The small building now housing the Student Cultural Center was our student union “coop.” It housed a coffee counter and rudimentary bookstore inside and open student mail boxes on the porch. Aggies living on campus shared one box for each surname letter! Eventually delivery to dorms was instituted.

Some traditions remain the same. We rode bicycles and attended the bonfire rallies. The Aggie spirit remains strong, even with the huge increase in student body size.

When I graduated, the College of Letters and Science was only two years old. Eleven of us qualified for bachelor’s degrees. We shared the one all-campus commencement ceremony held in the Sunken Garden, which gave way to library construction sometime later.

Professional preparation toward my teaching credential, wonderful friendships and meeting my husband are lasting outcomes of my Aggie experience, for which I am extremely grateful. While we enjoyed the UC Davis of our day, today’s students have more classes and majors available with world-class opportunities. I am delighted the Aggie spirit (and excellence) lives on!
UC Davis Announces $1 Billion Goal Reached in Campaign

Last November, UC Davis announced that it successfully reached its goal to raise $1 billion from more than 100,000 donors through its first comprehensive campaign, The Campaign for UC Davis. Funds from the campaign benefited the entire university, but especially UC Davis students by providing them with access to a top-quality education. The goal was achieved more than one year ahead of the original December 2014 end date.

The College of Letters and Science, which announced that it had reached its campaign goal last fall, continues to raise funds in key areas, including raising funds for two capital projects (the Classroom and Recital Hall and the Jan Shrem and Maria Manetti Shrem Museum of Art). Since the campaign began in 2006, the college has been able to create new endowments and scholarships, thanks to the support of many donors.

As fundraising continues, the college extends a thanks to all who supported UC Davis and the College of Letters and Science during this campaign.

Grant Supports Cutting-Edge 3-D Nanolithography Research

The Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation recently provided a $699,000 grant to support the research by Chemistry Professor Gang-Yu Liu and Biochemistry and Molecular Medicine Professor Su Hao Lo. The Moore Foundation’s Science Program invests in the world’s top research scientists and brings together new—often groundbreaking—scientific partnerships to unleash the potential of inquiry and discovery for the benefit of society.

“UC Davis’ emphasis on interdisciplinary research and strong support at all levels are key to the success of this grant application,” said Liu. “We are very excited to be able to finally develop this technology into three dimensional (3-D) nanolithography, which opens countless opportunities in nanotechnology research, as well as in photonics, electronics, catalysis, biochemistry and biomedical research.”

Liu’s and Lo’s goal is to develop advanced 3-D nanolithography to enable construction of 3-D nanostructures by design. Liu and Lo hope to demonstrate the concept that scanning probe microscopy, in conjunction with advanced chemistry under spatial confinement, can enable true 3-D nanofabrication of functional materials. This pursuit represents a strong effort to extend Moore’s law (the miniaturization of 3-D printing to a nanometer scale).

“Function and behavior of cells are heavily influenced by their microenvironments,” said Lo. “With this new technology, we may develop a ‘lab-on-a-chip’ for various purposes, such as well-defined nanoconditions for cellular processes or high throughput drug screening in the future.”

The project builds on Liu’s invention of nanografting, a 2-D nanolithography method, patented and currently licensed by Agilent Technology. Support by the Moore Foundation allows the team to make significant progress in producing 3-D nanostructures with high spatial precision.

To ensure the success of the proposed research, UC Davis added matching support to create a total research fund of nearly $1M. In addition to UC Davis and UC Davis Health System support, the research team is collaborating with Dr. Ramsey Stevens at CDI and Dr. Jane Frommer at IBM Almaden Research Center.

A Boost for Interdisciplinary Scholarship in Social Sciences

James and Laura Malley recently donated funds in support of the new UC Davis Institute for Social Sciences. The funds will bolster interdisciplinary scholarship that will occur within the institute.

iss.dss.ucdavis.edu
A First Gift for New Building in Chemistry

Interim Dean of the Division of Mathematical and Physical Sciences Alexandra Navrotsky launched the fundraising effort for a new chemical sciences research building with a pledge of $210,000. The new building is in the planning stages, and Navrotsky’s gift is the first of many gifts to come in support of a new building for chemistry. The building will provide modern laboratory facilities for research in chemistry, chemical engineering, materials science and biochemistry with emphasis on interdisciplinary interactions.

“As dean and a faculty member in both chemistry and chemical engineering and materials science, I believe a new building for chemical research is critical for our advancement in excellence,” Navrotsky said. “I hope my gift at the very beginning of fund-raising for the building inspires others to give so we can reach our goal quickly and start construction.”

Current-Use Gift Supports Students in Anthropology

Robert Kautz (B.A., ’69, Ph.D., ’76, Anthropology) and his wife, Sandra, have pledged $50,000 to the Department of Anthropology. Over the next five years, their gift will provide approximately $10,000 annually to support graduate students selected by the department. Kautz is the founder of Kautz Environmental Consultants, a Nevada-based firm providing cultural resource management throughout the western U.S.

Fine Arts Collection Gains Unique New Treasures

The Fine Arts Collection at UC Davis, which comprises more than 5,000 works from the antiquities to modern times, has seen a growth in the number of donations to the collection.

One gift from the Pirkle Jones Foundation is a collection of 61 gelatin silver prints. The foundation is a non-profit honoring the Mill Valley resident, who died in 2009. In 1946, Jones studied in photography in the first class offered by the California School of Fine Arts. There he met Ansel Adams, Minor White, Edward Weston and Dorothea Lange, who helped him develop his photographic talents. Jones worked as Ansel Adams’ assistant for six years, and the two photographers forged a lifelong friendship.

Dorothea Lange came to him in 1956 with an idea to collaborate on a photographic essay entitled “Death of a Valley.” The essay chronicled the death of the town of Monticello in the Berryessa Valley, which disappeared when the Monticello Dam was completed. The photographs were taken in the last year of the valley. Jones later described the project with Lange as “one of the most meaningful photographic experiences of my life.”

Pirkle Jones chronicled the people, politics and landscapes of Northern California for over 60 years. He produced a wide body of work, showing us the world in which we live. Photography historian Nancy Newhall wrote, “There are a handful of photographers who have achieved the stature of poets, and Pirkle Jones is one of them.”

Other recent gifts to the Fine Arts Collection include a new donation from the Andy Warhol Foundation and a gift from artist Irv Marcus and his wife Liz Marcus.

Alumni Darryl and Lois Goss have created three endowments that benefit African American and African studies and athletics. They chose to name the endowments after people who had a major impact on their lives while they were at UC Davis. A reception was held in their honor, and the first recipients of the scholarships from these endowments received their awards. The awards are: the Goss Family Endowment award, in the African American and African studies program; the Joe Singleton Athletic Award, named after former athletic director Joe Singleton; and the Gary Perkins Academic Achievement Student Award in African American and African Studies, named after Gary Perkins, who worked in the Office of Student Affairs.

Thank you to all who submitted your photos and memories for the two time capsules to be placed in the grounds of the new Jan Shrem and Maria Manetti Shrem Museum of Art and the Classroom and Recital Hall. Your memories will be a part of the new buildings and will hold an important place in the arts for many years to come.
C.N. Gorman Museum
Wendy Red Star
April 3–June 12
C.N. Gorman Museum, Hart Hall
http://gormanmuseum.ucdavis.edu

Hollingshead Photography Exhibition: 1920s and ’30s Photography as Art
April 7–May 4
Nelson Gallery, Nelson Hall
http://nelsongallery.ucdavis.edu/

Visiting Artist Lecture, presented by the program in Art Studio: Bill Arning, director of the Contemporary Arts Museum in Houston
April 10, 4:30pm
Art Annex
http://arts.ucdavis.edu/art-studio-events

M.F.A. Interdisciplinary Thesis Projects: Exploratory Showcase/Performance
Featuring Lindsay Beamish, Mary Ann Brooks, Peet Cocke, Andrea Del Moral, Deirdre Morris and Amanda Vitiello-Jensen
April 8–13
Wyatt Pavilion Theatre
http://theatredance.ucdavis.edu

DEX2 (Davis Philosophy Extravaganza 2), sponsored by the Department of Philosophy
April 14–15, 10:00am–6:15pm
Andrews Conference Room, Social Sciences & Humanities Building
http://philosophy.ucdavis.edu/events-1/DEX22014.pdf/view

14th Annual UC Davis Film Festival
May 21–22, 10:00pm
Davis Varsity Theatre, 616 Second Street, Davis
http://theatredance.ucdavis.edu
The Mathematics of Quantum Theory:
A conference in honor of Professor Albert Schwarz
May 23–26
AGR Hall, Walter A. Buehler Alumni and Visitors Center
https://www.math.ucdavis.edu/static/conferences/math-phys2004/

Main Stage Dance, choreographies by undergraduate students
May 29–31, June 1, June 5–7
Main Theatre, Wright Hall
http://theatredance.ucdavis.edu

2014 Masters of Fine Arts Exhibition
May 31–June 22
Nelson Gallery, Nelson Hall
http://nelsongallery.ucdavis.edu/

Design By Design
Annual Juried Student Design Exhibition
April 14–June 8
Design Museum
Cruess Hall
http://arts.ucdavis.edu/design-museum

Project Barca,
by Granada Artist-in-Residence
Henry Daniel
May 22–23
Location, time TBD
http://theatredance.ucdavis.edu

College of Letters and Science Commencement
June 14
http://www.ls.ucdavis.edu

Athena Kashyap, M.A., English, ’00, Crossing Black Waters
Robert (Bob) Owens, B.A., Anthropology, ’69, Pointman
Molly Ringle, M.A., Linguistics, ’03, Persephone’s Orchard
Michelle Tuson, B.A., History, ’93, Smyrna’s Ashes: Humanitarianism, Genocide and the Birth of the Middle East
Amy Gutierrez, B.A., Rhetoric and Communication, ’95, Smarty Marty’s Got Game
Charlotte Bileckoff, assistant professor of American studies, Eating Right in America: The Cultural Politics of Food and Health
Amber Boydstun, assistant professor of political science, Making the News: Politics, The Media and Agenda Setting
Dolph Gotelli, professor emeritus environmental design, Wonder and Delight: A Dolph Gotelli Christmas

(Left to right)
Horsepacking Programs Offer an Unforgettable Summer Experience

With UC Davis Extension’s summer horsepacking programs, students learn from the back of a horse, with the Sierra Nevada mountain range serving as the classroom for a once-in-a-lifetime experience. The programs combine outdoor adventure with a rare opportunity to learn about wild horses, livestock management and hands-on veterinary medicine. Students spend “class time” immersed in either the rugged High Sierra country or the Inyo National Forest of California. This summer, UC Davis Extension will be offering two classes—Mustangs: A Living Legacy (June 7-10) and Mountain Horsemanship: Veterinary Care and Horsepacking in the Wilderness (July 13-19).

Learn to Manage and Grow Your Portfolio

Financial planning isn’t just for professionals. Improve your knowledge of financial analysis and portfolio development with Personal Financial Planning courses. Learn to better define and meet your financial goals through smart financial resources management. Courses are open to anyone and may be taken individually or as part of UC Davis Extension’s Personal Financial Planning Certificate Program.

Emirini Professors Continue Teaching (and Learning)

An active mind never stops learning. That’s the mantra for OLLI—a high-quality, low-cost educational program for adult and senior learners. Administered through UC Davis Extension, the UC Davis Emeriti Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) offers an extraordinary variety of courses and special events—everything from film study to memoir writing to lively discussions on politics, religion and current events. Many of the program’s instructors (and students) are retired professors and other professionals.

How’s Your Emotional Intelligence?

UC Davis Executive Leadership Program instructor Mitchel Adler (Psy.D., CGP) delivers a TED Talk-style presentation on emotional intelligence and how good leaders use it to make themselves and their organizations great.

Host a Summer Start Student—Have a Cultural Experience Without Leaving Home

Looking for a new way to learn about the world? Those who live near Davis can host an incoming international UC Davis freshman during her or his six-week intensive academic, language and orientation program (early August—mid-September 2014). Helping students adjust to their new environment can be as full of discovery for you as for them. For more information, contact: summerstart@ucdavis.edu

Tour the UC Davis Brewing Facilities with Charlie Bamforth

Join Dr. Charlie Bamforth, Anheuser-Busch Endowed Professor of Malting and Brewing Sciences (and instructor in the UC Davis Extension Master Brewers Program), for a tour of UC Davis’ state-of-the-art brewery.
• Thursday, March 27
  August A. Busch III Brewing and Food Science Laboratory
• Space is limited (2 tours, max of 25 people each)

www.namelessmagazine.com
latest from…
Alumni, Students, Faculty

Alumni

Carolina Tavarez [B.A., Spanish and Education, ’13] recently established the Ann Prepare Lavni Foundation, Haitian Creole for “Let us prepare the future,” which provides multilingual education to Haitians. Tavarez also received three graduation awards: the Mary Jeanne Gilhooly Award as the top graduating woman, the Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Research, and Outstanding Senior in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese.

Chris Johnson [B.A., Communication, ’02] appeared on the television show “Shark Tank,” successfully convincing panelist Mark Cuban to invest $300,000 in his new company, Rapid Ramen Inc. Johnson created the Rapid Ramen Cooker, a tray for cooking ramen noodles in the microwave in half the time of making them on the stove.

Matt Rosenberg [B.S., Geography, ’96], has been selected as campus rabbi and executive director to Texas A&M Hillel Foundation, a chapter of the nationwide networks and organization for Jewish students.

Colton Schmidt, [B.A., Psychology, ’13] was selected in July by the San Francisco 49ers as an undrafted free agent punter. He was later claimed off waivers by the Cleveland Browns. He finished his collegiate career with 235 punts for 9,664 yards and a school record 41.1 gross punting average.

Alumni Authors!
Find alumni authors throughout the pages of this magazine. Publish a book? Let us know: lettersandscience@ucdavis.edu.

Students

Lindsay Beamish, an M.F.A. candidate, received high marks for her acting in a New York Times review of the psychological thriller film, “Forgetting the Girl.”

Seven Theatre and Dance alumni, students and faculty are serving on the production team of the Broadway musical Soul Doctor. Associate Professor Maggie Morgan is a costume designer; Mindy Cooper, a former Granada Artist-in-Residence, is a creative consultant; doctoral candidate in performance studies Chris McCoy is an assistant director; Maggie Chan, M.F.A., ’12, is a costume assistant; Kara Branch, M.F.A., ’11, is a costume intern; Emily Cates, B.A., ’13, is a stage management intern; and Matthew Dunivan, B.A., ’11, is an assistant to the director and photographer.

Design student Chaitra Bangalore was selected as a student artist for a Golden Gala benefit to raise money for the Boys and Girls Club of Stockton.

Karl Frost, M.F.A., Choreography, ’11, has received a Fulbright Scholarship for the 2013-2014 academic year for his work on “Ritual, Group Formation, and Cooperation” and is studying at the University of British Columbia.

Faculty

Ethan Anderes, an assistant professor in the Department of Statistics, and Tessa Hill, an associate professor in the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences, have earned prestigious National Science Foundation Early Career Development Awards. Anderes was awarded $400,000 to study statistical tools called smooth invertible deformations for statistics, image analysis and gravitational lensing problems in cosmology. Hill received $613,000 to study how marine ecosystems have responded to abrupt climate change during the past 20,000 years.

Shota Atsumi, assistant professor of chemistry, along with colleagues Justin Siegel and Michael Toney, have received a $1.5 million grant from the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy (ARPA-E). The ARPA-E is part of the U.S. Department of Energy. The award is for their work in engineering E. coli bacteria to turn ethylene into liquid fuel. Atsumi is already applying this technique to make fuels from photosynthetic blue-green algae.

John Capitania, research psychologist in the Department of Psychology and the Primate Center, has been named a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) for his distinguished contributions to understanding the causes and consequences of individual variation in temperament and personality in non-human primates, particularly in how behavior and social processes shape and constrain physiological processes as they relate to a number of significant health outcomes.

Stephen P. Cramer, professor of chemistry, has been named a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) for his research using powerful beams of X-rays to study molecules vital for life, especially “bioinorganic” enzymes that contain metal atoms in their structure. He has a joint appointment with Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and works with machines such as the Advanced Light Source at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and the Spring-8 facility in Japan.

Glenda Drew, associate professor of design, was featured in the magazine Bitch: Feminist Response to Pop Culture. She is among nine artists featured in the “food” issue.

Margaret Ferguson, professor of English, is serving as president of the Modern Language Association, the world’s largest professional organization for language and literature education.

http://bit.ly/18KVMwN

Professor of Psychology Emilio Ferrer has been awarded the 2013 Cattell Early Career Research Award for his work, not only in his methodology, but also in how he has integrated these contributions to inform the study of trajectories in cognitive abilities, dynamic processes and dyadic interactions.

John Iacovelli, professor of theatre and dance, has been nominated for a NAACP Theatre Award for Set Design. This nomination recognizes his Pasadena Playhouse design for “Intimate Apparel” by Lynn Nottage. This is the fourth such nomination for Iacovelli, who won the NAACP Theatre Award for Set Design for “Blues for An Alabama Sky” by Pearl Cledge.

Lucy Corin, associate professor of English, One Hundred Apocalypses and Other Apocalypses

Beverly Bossler, professor of history, Courtesans, Concubines and the Cult of Female Fidelity

Carol A. Hess, professor of music, Representing the Good Neighbor: Music, Difference, and the Pan American Dream
Mark Kurth, professor of chemistry, and Makhluf Haddadin, professor, American University of Beirut, discovered a reaction with an end product that has considerable potential for medicinal applications. Instead of attaching their names to the chemical reaction, Kurth and Haddadin chose to name it after the cities of Davis and Beirut in recognition of the merits of international collaboration (they named it the “Davis-Beirut Reaction”). The Davis City Council thanked the scientists with a proclamation, acknowledging “with gratitude the honor and recognition bestowed on the entire Davis community.”

Beth Levy, associate professor of music musicology, has received the Music in American Culture Award from the American Musicological Society for her book, Frontier Figures: American Music and the Mythology of the American West.

Konstantinos Papamichael, the co-director of the California Lighting Technology Center and professor of design, has received a 2013 Illuminating Engineering Society (IES) Presidential Award for his outstanding service and leadership. The society cited his role in creating the new IES publication, “Recommended Practice for Daylighting Buildings” (RP-5-13), the authoritative reference guide for architects, engineers and lighting designers.

Kurt Rohde, professor of music, composition, theory, analysis, has received a commission from The Barlow Endowment for Music Composition at Brigham Young University for his work on a cello concerto for Michelle Kesler. Rohde was also awarded a commission from the Fromm Music Foundation at Harvard University.

Francisco Samaniego, a distinguished professor of statistics, presented his research on “Comparative Statistical Inference” at the International Statistical Institute’s World Statistics Conference in Hong Kong.

Brenda Deen Schildgen, a distinguished professor of comparative literature, has been selected to lead the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) 2014 Summer Institute in Florence on “Dante’s Divine Comedy: Poetry, Philosophy, and the City of Florence.”

Alan Taylor, a distinguished professor of history and winner of the Pulitzer Prize in history, is author of the book Civil War of 1812: American Citizens, British Subjects, Irish Rebels, & Indian Allies. The book was placed on the short list for the National Book Award. His work describes a complicated civil war with many parties, including immigrants, Indians, soldiers and settlers, struggling over the legacy of the American Revolution.

To help train the next generation of early musicians, Jeffrey Thomas, professor of music and the Barbara K. Jackson Chair in Choral Conducting, led his American Bach Soloists (ABS) at the fourth Summer Festival and Academy at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music. Sixty-two students of early music joined a faculty of 12 of the group’s most experienced performers for two weeks of intense coaching and rehearsals, lecture-demonstrations, master classes and concerts open to the public.

Keith David Watenpaugh, associate professor of religious studies, was published in The Huffington Post with his article, “Mr. President: Share The Armenian Orphan Carpet With The American People,” which asks President Obama to display a carpet made by the orphaned children of the World War One-era genocide in Armenia. Watenpaugh, known for his work in human rights and his work with the Institute of International Education’s Scholar Rescue Fund, has also been elected as the president of the Syrian Studies Association.
Center for Poverty Research
The Center for Poverty Research was founded in 2011 with core funding from the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Part of the Division of Social Sciences, it is one of three federally designated poverty research centers whose mission is to facilitate non-partisan academic research in the United States. The center focuses on facilitating research using a diverse set of approaches across academic disciplines to answer critical questions about poverty and its solutions. It engages faculty research affiliates in the following schools, colleges, departments and programs: Economics, Sociology, Psychology, Political Science, Agricultural Economics, Human and Community Development, Chicano/o Studies, the School of Education, the College of Engineering, and the School of Law.

These photographs were taken last fall at an event sponsored by the center which discussed the Affordable Care Act and its impacts on low-income populations. Right: Keynote speaker Mitchell Katz, M.D., director, Los Angeles County Department of Health Services. Above: Ann Huff Stevens, professor of economics and director of the Center for Poverty Research.

http://poverty.ucdavis.edu/