

COLLEGE of LETTERS and SCIENCE

SPRING 2015

Inside:

Classroom and Recital Hall To Be
Named Ann E. Pitzer Center

New Major Tackles Big Data

New Institute for Social Sciences

UCDAVIS





Credit: TJ Ushing/UC Davis

From the Deans

Greetings,

As the season shows signs of changing to spring, we are preparing for a busy quarter. Summer sessions are also being planned. Take a look at the events section if your travels take you to Davis to learn more about events, performances and exhibits.

In each of our divisions in the college, we have news to report throughout this issue of the *College of Letters and Science Magazine*. We have a new major in the Department of Mathematics, a new naming gift for the classroom and recital hall building, which will house the Department of Music and its activities as well as provide some of the additional classroom space for campus, and have launched a new Institute for Social Sciences, which will host its inaugural event in April.

In June, we will witness about 2,000 of the college's students graduate—a momentous occasion for every one of them who have worked so hard during their careers at UC Davis. We wish our graduates all the best!

Until fall,

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

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

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

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On the cover: The Center for Poverty Research

The causes and consequences of poverty—and its possible solutions—are complex. The Center for Poverty Research, founded in 2011, is one of three national poverty centers funded federally to conduct and support academic research on U.S. poverty.

The center's research spans from the impacts of safety net programs to how poverty reaches across generations. One recent study found that the conditions of low-wage jobs can keep workers from investing in education or training to improve their lives. Another found that growing up in poverty can impact health well into adulthood. These findings are stark, but also suggest ways to improve the lives of society's most vulnerable.

Steve Williamson (B.A. economics, '81) has generously helped support the center's core activities. "The center promotes evidence-based research on people's actual behavior in response to conditions and policy efforts. It is exciting to see students understanding the importance of learning research techniques and statistical analysis to first understand a complex issue. Faculty-led research on poverty is a great way to attract students to learn about research methods and to start formulating based on behavior, not just idealism," said Williamson.

Funding like this is critical. In addition to supporting affiliated faculty research, the center has trained and supported 45 graduate students from across campus. Each fall quarter the center hosts graduate students from top universities to work with UC Davis faculty. Programming for undergraduates makes students part of the center's research and communications with thousands of policymakers and stakeholders each year.

The center is funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, with matching funds from the Office of Research, the Division of Social Sciences, and several schools and colleges on campus.

 poverty.ucdavis.edu

On the cover: Chloe East, a graduate student in economics, studies the impacts of low-wage/minimum-wage workers on the economy. Above: Marianne Page and Ann Stevens, professors of economics and directors of the Center for Poverty Research.

Credit: TJ Ushing/UC Davis.

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UC Davis College of Letters and Science



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www.ls.ucdavis.edu



Qing-Zhu Yin, a professor in the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences, used his iPhone 4 pointed to the view finder of a telescope on October 24 to capture these images of the solar eclipse.



Credits: Qing-Zhu Yin/UC Davis.



Paper certified by the Rainforest Alliance to Forest Stewardship Council® standards.



Credit: TJ Ushing/UC Davis

what's happening


College News

BIG DATA

UC Davis is tackling the issue of big data with a new Data Science Initiative, focused on preparing students for jobs related to big data, and working with scholars on data studies. Stay tuned for more in the coming issues of the *College of Letters and Science Magazine*.

New Math Major

The Department of Mathematics has added a new major, Mathematical Analytics and Operations Research, specifically geared toward students who seek to enter business and economics after graduation. The major is designed to help them analyze big data and forecast market trends. Coursework requirements include mathematics and computer science, statistics and economics, and analytical methods.

 bit.ly/1xTDsCv

IN MEMORIAM

William M. Bowsky

William M. Bowsky, professor emeritus of medieval history, passed away in early 2013. Bowsky was raised in New York City, a few blocks from the Cloisters, which he always said explained his initial interest in medieval studies. Educated at the Bronx High School of Science and New York University, he earned his Ph.D. in 1957 at Princeton University. After earning his degree, he taught for a year at the University of Oregon before moving to the University of Nebraska, Lincoln, in 1958. In 1967, he left Nebraska for UC Davis, where he remained until his retirement in 1994.

Bowsky was recognized with numerous awards and citations. A Fulbright Fellowship supported his dissertation research, and he later won fellowships from the Guggenheim Foundation, the American Council of Learned Societies, the American Philosophical Society, and the Social Science Research Council. In Siena, Italy, he accepted the Mangia d'Oro, as well as an honorary doctorate and membership in the Accademia degli Intronati, and he was made an honorary citizen of the city. He also became a Fellow of the Medieval

Academy of America and a Fellow of the Deputazione di Storia Patria per la Toscana. Bowsky taught the first women's history course at UC Davis, and proudly described himself as a charter member of the National Organization for Women (NOW).

 bit.ly/1FsqliS

William Eric Gustafson

William Eric Gustafson, an award-winning teacher of introductory economics at UC Davis for almost three decades, passed away in late 2013. He was educated at Phillips Exeter Academy, Williams College and Harvard University, where he earned a Ph.D. in economics. His interest in development economics led to four residential years in Pakistan and India, primarily with the Institute of Development Economics, between 1963 and 1974.

 bit.ly/1vk6MjB

Sydney R. Charles

Sydney R. Charles, professor emerita, joined the faculty of the Department of Music in 1961 and retired in 1985. Her major fields of research included musical practice and theory, 14th- and 15th-century English music, and musical iconography. Charles was active in building the music collection at Shields Library, and she served as chair of the department from 1977 to 1980.

She published the books *Josquin des Prez: A Guide to Research*, *The Music of the Pepys MS 1236*, and *A Handbook of Music and Music Literature in Sets and Series*, and she published many articles in the *New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians*. She also was an editor of the journal *Notes*. Charles received her bachelor's and master's degrees from the Eastman School of Music at the University of Rochester and her Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1959.





Prized Writing Turns 25

The University Writing Project recently published its 25th edition of *Prized Writing*, an annual collection of outstanding essays and technical writing by undergraduates. This edition featured writings on activist photographers in Japan, ecological damage in the coral reefs, and the rhetoric of the word “hella,” among other topics.

bit.ly/1FssNiJ

Writing Program Ranked in the Top 10

U.S. News and World Report chose the University Writing Program as a top 10 “stellar example of writing in the disciplines.” UC Davis was only one of three public institutions recognized on the list, and the only located in California. Programs on the list were the most-nominated by administrators from more than 1,500 campuses.

bit.ly/1rkXa9n

“10”



Credit: Gregory Urquiaga / UC Davis

Open Access Textbook Is Most Visited Chemistry Site in The World

ChemWiki, a UC Davis Hyperlibrary project, receives over 5.5 million page views monthly. Chemistry courses at UC Davis and at least three other universities have eschewed traditional textbooks in favor of ChemWiki, which is estimated to have saved approximately \$500,000. Professor of Chemistry Delmar Larsen, director of ChemWiki, was recently featured in a *Los Angeles Times* article on alternatives to traditional textbooks.

lat.ms/1yhCBeY



Institute Seeks New Solutions to Society's Problems

UC Davis has created a new Institute for Social Sciences to promote interdisciplinary approaches to social challenges. Joe Dumit, professor of anthropology and science and technology studies, has been appointed director of the institute. Among other support and outreach efforts, the institute will provide research funding, graduate seminars and student programs. A launch conference will be held in spring—see the events section of the magazine for details.

bit.ly/1xGFRwB



The LSST camera has 63-cm diameter focal plane and 3.2 billion pixels of 0.2 arcseconds per pixel.

National Science Foundation (NSF) Funds Telescope Up To \$473 Million

The NSF will fund the Association of Universities for Research in Astronomy to manage the Large Synoptic Survey Telescope (LSST) construction project. Distinguished Professor of Physics J. Anthony Tyson is the chief scientist of the LSST, which aims to begin imaging the entire sky every three nights for 10 years in 2022.

bit.ly/1zvKX5D

Credit: Todd Mason, Mason Productions Inc. / LSST Corporation


Latest discoveries

Research




New Ways to Fuel the Future

Carbon dioxide is usually the bad guy—the waste product belched out by cars is a contributor to climate change. But three chemists at UC Davis are hoping to give this gas a better reputation. Shota Atsumi, an assistant professor of chemistry, creates synthetic organisms that can convert CO² into biofuels. Normally, blue-green algae turns carbon dioxide into sugars, but it also produces chemicals like butanediol, which can be used to make fuel, rubbers and plastics. In his lab, Atsumi feeds the algae DNA from other bacteria, causing them to make less sugar and more of the products that the researchers want. Meanwhile, Professor R. David Britt is working on ways to make photosynthesis more efficient. Associate Professor Louise Berben takes a different approach: She develops new molecular catalysts that use electricity and carbon dioxide to create formic acid, a fuel similar to gasoline (it's also what makes ant and bee bites sting). The next stage for both Berben and Atsumi is to scale up production; currently, their novel approaches result in only small amounts of fuel.

 bit.ly/11V3KIK

A “Lost Generation”

According to new research from the UC Davis Human Rights Initiative, out of the approximately 70,000 Syrian university-age students in Lebanon, only 6,500-10,000 have been able to pursue higher education. Another 130,000 are refugees in Jordan or Turkey, where they often lack opportunities and face discrimination. Keith David Watenpugh, an associate professor in religious studies and lead author of the report, noted that the 18- to 24-year-old Syrians show remarkable resilience: “As an educator, I was deeply moved seeing young people willing to work so hard, but we don’t need the smartest young Syrians to be waiters and house painters—we need them to go back to Syria and rebuild their country.” The report called for extended educational outreach from nongovernmental organizations as well as coalition-building between American and European universities with those in the Syrian region. “All of these policies are within reach and UC Davis is uniquely positioned to show global leadership in this field,” Watenpugh said.


 bit.ly/warfollowsthem



Credit: TJ Ushing/UC Davis.

Immigrants and Native Workers in Wealthy Economies

The results of a recent study on the economic impact of immigration may surprise you. Co-authored by Professor of Economics Giovanni Peri, the study evaluated immigration in 20 wealthy countries, accounting for skill differences between native-born and immigrant workers, imperfect labor markets, and the extent of each country’s welfare state. In 19 out of the 20 countries, closing the doors to foreign workers would make native-born workers less prosperous; in fact, the authors found that many of the countries would benefit from even more immigration. However, for countries where the welfare state was too generous—like Belgium, where state benefits can make up two-thirds of an immigrant worker’s salary—increasing immigration would slightly harm native workers. According to Peri, this study should help debunk the idea that immigrants “steal” jobs from native workers; rather, he said, they take jobs that native workers do not want, which ultimately creates more jobs for locals.

 bit.ly/1y2wKeS

“As an educator, I was deeply moved seeing young people willing to work so hard, but we don’t need the smartest young Syrians to be waiters and house painters—we need them to go back to Syria and rebuild their country.”



Credit: Steffen Richter, Harvard University

Making Oxygen Before There Was Life: Just Add Lasers

For 40 years, scientists have speculated that a small amount of oxygen existed on Earth before the “Great Oxidation Event,” the arrival of photosynthesizing plants, about 2.4 billion years ago. But where did this abiotic oxygen come from in an atmosphere of mostly carbon dioxide? Zhou Lu, a graduate student in chemistry, has now shown that light from the sun can turn carbon dioxide into oxygen in a one-step process. Lu excited the carbon dioxide with a high-energy vacuum ultraviolet laser, using a unique ion imaging device developed at UC Davis. The discovery has implications for models of planetary evolution. “The same process can be applied in other carbon dioxide-dominated atmospheres such as Mars and Venus,” said Lu. Co-authors on the paper are postdoctoral researcher Yih Chung Chang, Distinguished Professor Cheuk-Yiu Ng and Distinguished Professor Emeritus William M. Jackson in chemistry; and Professor Qing-Zhu Yin in the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences.

“The project has taught me that obtaining research funding and chewing peccary knee ligaments require a similar virtue: persistence.”

Interstellar Dust

Last year, a BICEP2 (Background Imaging of Cosmic Extragalactic Polarization) experiment reportedly made history by finding evidence of primordial gravitational waves: tremors from the inflation stage of the Big Bang. However, new findings from the Planck space telescope indicate that the BICEP2, located in the South Pole, may have instead found interstellar dust in our own galaxy. At the time of the BICEP2 result, Lloyd Knox, professor of physics, noted his concerns about interstellar dust contamination. Professor of Physics Andreas Albrecht, a well-known theorist on cosmic inflation, recently reflected on the implications of the Planck results in his blog. The BICEP2 story “has given people a wonderful window on the emotional energy that goes into doing science,” he wrote. “This is certainly a story about the passion that goes into doing science, but it is also a success story for science ... The relentless march of progress is clearing up these [BICEP2] misconceptions, and progress was in fact stimulated by the excitement surrounding the original announcement.”

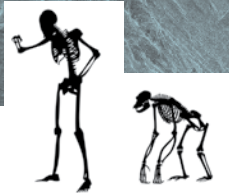
 bit.ly/1vORHcY

A Ph.D.'s New Path

When John Bunce wanted to study culture change, he had to find his own way. The recent Ph.D. in primatology received a grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to create his own postdoctoral position within the Department of Anthropology. Bunce is currently conducting 19 months of fieldwork in the Manu National Park (Peru), where he studies inter-ethnic relations between the Matsigenka (an indigineous Amazonian tribe) and Virácocha (Mestizos). In addition to sharing his research, Bunce wants “to show other recent Ph.D.s how NSF makes it possible to pursue one’s own research ideas very early in a career.” After months of interviewing and living with each group, Bunce will return to UC Davis to develop his research with Professor Richard McElreath (evolutionary anthropology). “The project has taught me that obtaining research funding and chewing peccary knee ligaments require a similar virtue: persistence.”

 bit.ly/1poEDlp

Latest Research discoveries



Missing Link Found in Fossil

Until recently, it was an important gap in the fossil record: How did the ichthyosaur transition from land reptile to dolphinlike “sea monster?” Now, researchers have discovered the first fossil of an amphibious ichthyosaur in China’s Anhui Province. The fossil is about 248 million years old, and has thicker bones, flexible wrists, and a shorter snout than its marine descendants. “There’s nothing that prevents it from coming to land,” explained lead author Ryosuke Motani, professor of Earth and Planetary Sciences. According to Motani, this discovery also has implications for climate change. This ichthyosaur lived about four million years after the worst mass extinction in Earth’s history, which was associated with global warming. “This was analogous to what might happen if the world gets warmer and warmer,” Motani said. “How long did it take before the globe was good enough for predators like this to reappear? In that world, many things became extinct, but they started something new. These reptiles came out during this recovery.”

“In that world, many things became extinct, but it started something new. These reptiles came out during this recovery.”



Julie Sze, associate professor and director, American Studies, *Fantasy Islands: Chinese Dreams and Ecological Fears in an Age of Climate Crisis*



Kathleen Frederickson, assistant professor, English, *The Ploy of Instinct: Victorian Sciences of Nature and Sexuality in Liberal Governance*



Impacts of Economic Inequalities

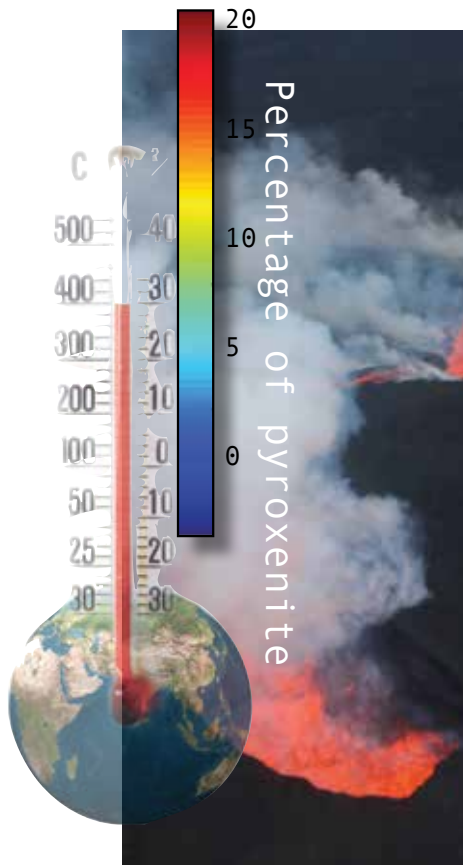
UC Davis scholars presented at the 109th annual meeting of the American Sociological Association that tackled “Hard Times: The Impact of Economic Inequality on Individuals and Families.” Doctoral student Carmen Fortes focused on a group of gay men who “feel they are invisible” in young and gentrified San Francisco, while assistant professor Ester Carolina Apeso-Varano examined the “painful” experiences of aging women who feel that “they are no longer useful.” Other presentations focused on rhetoric within communities, such as graduate student Zachary Psick’s analysis of an evangelical Christian program that frames drug addiction not as a “disease” but as a forgivable sin.

Political Science Tech

It’s a familiar problem for scholars: the publications that lead to tenure (jargon-heavy research articles) are little read, while the publications with a wider readership (like shareable blogs) aren’t rewarded by the profession. In the social sciences, this rift between academia and the public has meant decreasing government support for research. But while the problem itself isn’t new, the solutions are. At this year’s annual conference of the American Political Science Association, an APSA task force shared a proposal for expanding public outreach. The task force, which included Associate Professor of Political Science Cheryl Boudreau, recommended that the association pursue solutions like hiring an outreach director, training political scientists to communicate to the public and establishing awards for scholars who are effective at outreach. Boudreau noted that it isn’t just younger or more tech-savvy professors who are driving these changes: “A lot of the momentum is at the top.”



bit.ly/11V0oFx



Nature's Hot Spot in Iceland

The Bárðarbunga volcanic system in Iceland began erupting at the end of August and, even as late as October, was still undergoing significant seismic activity. Such volcanic eruptions can cause dramatic changes to landscapes and climate—Iceland's air quality is already suffering—but they also offer key scientific opportunities. "From time to time, the Earth's mantle belches out huge quantities of magma on a scale unlike anything witnessed in historic times," Professor of Earth and Planetary Sciences Charles Leshner said. "These events provide unique windows into the internal working of our planet." Leshner, along with visiting professor Eric Brown (Aarhus University), has found that the Bárðarbunga is situated above the hottest portion of the North Atlantic mantle plume (an upwelling of extremely hot rock). Their research shows that high mantle temperatures are responsible for producing large igneous provinces containing volcanos. "There's little doubt that the mantle is composed of different types of chemical compounds, but this is not the dominant factor," Brown said of their findings. "Rather, locally high mantle temperatures are the key ingredient."

bit.ly/1213FIP

"These events provide unique windows into the internal working of our planet."



Language Matters

The new Davis Language Center is hosting a year-long conversation across UC Davis about the present and future of language on campus. Titled "Language Matters," the series gathers faculty from across the university in a series of discussions about how language is impacted in an increasingly globalized world, about how and why we study and research language, and how multilingualism and globalization are related. "We want to rethink how we treat language," said Eric Russell, the center's director and associate professor of French and Italian. "By inciting dialogue about language itself, we delve into its impact on our culture and learn more about ourselves, our communities and our interactions." The fall workshop welcomed Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor Ralph J. Hexter as part of the discussion, and the spring workshop will feature Chancellor Linda P.B. Katehi.

ucdlc.ucdavis.edu/home

Energy-Efficient Smart Lighting Installed at Hospital

A "networked adaptive" lighting system has been installed in the outdoor areas of the NorthBay VacaValley Hospital in partnership with the UC Davis California Lighting Technology Center. The new lights employ occupancy sensors to deliver light only where it's needed, reducing energy use by 66 percent. Facility managers are also now able to better monitor and control energy use. UC Davis inaugurated the system as part of its Smart Lighting Initiative retrofit in 2012, which cut 86 percent of exterior lighting use and saved over \$120,000 annually.

bit.ly/1po1x2D



Credit: Kathreen Fontecha/UC Davis

Latest discoveries

Research

83 Million Hours of ... Supercomputer

Sometimes time is the best gift of all. Eighty-three million core-hours on one of the world's fastest supercomputers will be accessible to a group of scientists led by UCLA in collaboration with the Computational Infrastructure for Geodynamics, or CIG, based in UC Davis. Project lead Jonathan Aurnou, a UCLA professor of planetary sciences and geophysics, and the multidisciplinary team will use the Mira supercomputer at Argonne National Laboratory to simulate the origins and evolution of the Earth's magnetic field at an unprecedented scale, using code developed and released by CIG. The computing time was awarded to the team to use over three years through the Innovative and Novel Computational Impact on Theory and Experiment, or INCITE, program. Mira is an energy-efficient, 10-petaflop IBM Blue Gene/Q system capable of 10 quadrillion calculations per second. It can do in one day 20 years' work for an average personal computer. "This research is now possible because geophysicists and computer scientists in the Computational Infrastructure for Geodynamics collaborated to create and share software capable of using the largest computers for geosciences research," said CIG director Louise Kellogg, a professor in the UC Davis Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences.



5 adult female chimpanzees
275 nights in the
Tai National Park

Early Chimp Gets the Fig

A new study co-authored by Leo Polansky, an associate researcher in the Department of Anthropology, shows that primates can flexibly plan ahead to acquire better breakfasts. Polansky tracked five adult female chimpanzees over 275 nights in the Tai National Park at the Cote d'Ivoire with researchers from the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology (Leipzig, Germany). They found that when fruit was scarce, the chimps made decisions about where they slept and how early they rose in order to beat their competitors to the most desirable food. The chimps even risked traveling in the dark to set up nests nearer to fruits like figs. "As humans, we are familiar with the race against birds for our cherries, or against squirrels for our walnuts and pecans," Polansky said, "but this race is carried out amongst competitors of all kinds of species in locations all over the world. Being able to reveal the role of environmental complexity in shaping cognitive-based behavior is especially exciting."

bit.ly/1HGlw2J




Frances Dyson, professor emerita, cinema and technocultural studies, *The Tone of Our Times: Sound, Sense, Economy, and Ecology*

Order Matters

Crystallographers have shown that whether materials are ordered or disordered at the atomic level can make a big difference in how they function. But until recently, scientists had a much easier time classifying ordered materials. Now, scholars at the UC Davis Complexity Sciences Center (CSC) are working to change that. The CSC is a multidisciplinary community that researches the science of networks and emergence. James P. Crutchfield, the center's director and a professor of physics, and visiting scholar Dowman P. Varn have developed what they call "chaotic crystallography," a measure for characterizing complex materials structures. This framework would "seamlessly bridge the gap between perfectly ordered materials, those materials with some disorder, and finally those that have no discernable underlying crystal structure." Their algorithmic method, drawing from computational and information theory, may lead to technological advancements in manufacturing such disparate items as batteries and solar panels.

Parallel Worlds

It may sound like science fiction, but a new "Many-Interacting Worlds" theory posits that an enormous number of parallel universes (or "worlds") that subtly influence one another really do exist. According to the researchers, including Dirk-André Deckert, professor of mathematics, these worlds exert a universal force of repulsion to maintain the differences among them. This repulsion is what causes quantum phenomena. The study introduces new algorithms to simulate and test quantum phenomena, which has practical implications for molecular dynamics and the health sciences.

 bit.ly/1FsR5sX



Dirk-André Deckert,
professor of mathematics



Alan L. Olmstead,
distinguished professor,
economics, and Paul W. Rhode,
*Arresting Contagion: Science,
Policy, and Conflicts over
Animal Disease Control*



Charan Ranganath is exploring
the basis of memory.

Curious About How We Learn?

Everyone knows it's easier to remember something when you're really curious about it, but researchers at the Center of Neuroscience want to know why. Postdoctoral researcher Matthias Gruber, research scientist Bernard D. Gelman, and Charan Ranganath, a researcher and professor of psychology, used fMRI scans to test subjects' learning of trivia. They found that when subjects were highly curious about a topic, there was increased activity in the hippocampus (a region of the brain important for forming new memories) as well as increased interactions between the hippocampus and the dopamine reward circuit. More surprisingly, subjects were better able to recall images of faces they associated with initially learning the trivia. "Curiosity may put the brain in a state that allows it to learn and retain any kind of information, like a vortex that sucks in what you are motivated to learn, and also everything around it," Gruber said. The study has implications for teaching, as well as for older adults and people with memory disorders.

"Curiosity may put the brain in a state that allows it to learn and retain any kind of information, like a vortex that sucks in what you are motivated to learn, and also everything around it."

Divya Nag



In January of this year, I was humbled, and honored, to be selected for the **Forbes “Top 30 Under 30”** list. Soon after that, I got an email from Apple, Inc. inviting me to join them. I am fortunate for the chain of events that has led me to this unexpected and amazingly exciting new journey.

As a child growing up in Sacramento, California, I wanted to be a doctor. My parents were against the idea because they wanted me to have a more balanced work/family life when I became an adult. That probably made me want to go into medicine even more. My parents made sure that I was exposed to art, science and math, and I participated in Girl Scouts, mathletes, and competitive science clubs. Then, in high school, I went to Mira Loma High School’s International Baccalaureate program, which encouraged students to become global citizens and gain a deep cultural and intellectual understanding in diverse areas of study. From this foundation, I learned to love the idea of research, of diving into a topic with a singular focus.

In my sophomore year of high school, I approached some faculty at UC Davis to inquire about doing research at the university. Dr. Alexandra

Navrotsky (presently the interim dean of the Division of Mathematical and Physical Sciences) emailed me back in a leap of faith that I truly appreciate to this day. I met with her to discuss possible projects, and within an hour of meeting her, she had sent an email with project options, saying, “Pick one that is interesting to you.” One of my proudest moments was when she gave me the key to her lab. It was a validation for what I knew would be a path that I could follow.

I started working on projects for her lab once or twice a week, and by my senior year, I was at her lab after school every day until 10:00pm and on weekends. I know how lucky I am to have been given the opportunity to go into the sciences. If Dr. Navrotsky hadn’t let me join her lab, I probably wouldn’t have gotten the exposure to science that I did. I feel strongly that as a nation, we must empower young

women and girls to understand there are viable career options in science. If we close them off from considering those options early on, there won’t be a chance for them to excel.

The work that I did with Dr. Navrotsky and with her researchers led to great success, including winning second place at the Intel International Science Fair. This external validation helped me think, “Maybe I’m semi-good at this.” I charged ahead, seeking a research position at Stanford University the first quarter I arrived. I joined a stem cell laboratory at the School of Medicine, a field that at the time had many unknown opportunities and diverse paths. I tackled research with as much enthusiasm as I had when I worked in the lab at UC Davis. By my sophomore year, I had published 14 papers. Soon, I wasn’t really attending my “real classes” anymore.

When my team of three other stem cell biologists and I

(continued on page 14)



“You have a few choices to make,” my brother said. “You know what it’s like at home, but I want to give you an opportunity to get away. If you want this, it’s yours.”

Six years ago, I was midway through my senior year of high school, on a visit to California to see my older brother. I come from a small town in West Virginia, where most of the jobs are back-breaking work in coal mines, chemical plants or manual union labor. The men in my family have been with the contractor’s union for generations; my father would leave before the dawn, sick or healthy, and wouldn’t get back until the sun went down. There are few other opportunities in Parkersburg, especially for women. My brother got out by joining the Marine Corps. When he graduated from UC Davis, he was the first person in our whole family to go to college.

I remember sitting on my porch back home, knowing my dad was at a bar and not knowing

where my mom or my four siblings were. I felt hopeless and alone, like all the cards were stacked against me. That feeling became my motivation. I knew I didn’t want to end up like everybody else around me; I had to make it. I had to do something. And so I decided that I would come to California.

None of it would have been possible without the love and support of my brother and his wife. They paid for my one-way ticket to California, and I lived with them while I finished high school. I worked two jobs to pay my way through junior college. When I was accepted into UC Davis, it wasn’t just a stepping stone. For me, it meant giving myself control over my own life.

UC Davis helped me understand the real value of education, something that wasn’t seen as practical where I came from. Here, I learned how to think analytically, and to speak and to write—important skills no matter what you do. On a different level, coming here

let me see through an outside lens and adapt to new ways of thinking, and I enjoyed living in a more diverse area. That immersion in a new culture was in part what made me choose Cultural Anthropology as my major.

I’m inspired by the faculty at Davis who are leading many different fields in their research. And I’m inspired by my room-mates, who are all graduate students. They see their academic work as their passion. At our house on Duke Drive, we support each other. We have chickens in the backyard and a garden, and potluck dinners every week. We’ll come home and ask each other, “What did you learn today?” That push to pursue what I’m genuinely interested in is something I never got growing up, and it has been an empowering experience.

Soon, I will be the first woman in my family to graduate from college. My diploma signifies more than five years of studying

(continued on page 14)

“You have a few choices to make,” my brother said. “You know what it’s like at home, but I want to give you an opportunity to get away. **If you want this, it’s yours.”**

From Where I Sit:



“I’m very lucky. Every day, I get to ask, what are the biggest challenges we face and problems we can solve? What can I do to make tomorrow better? From where I sit, this is something that I can try to tackle every day.”

Divya Nag (continued from page 12)

developed a technology that could be commercialized, we decided to start a company: Stem Cell Theranostics. I left Stanford, and we dove into raising funds for the company. Stanford has an “accelerator” program for startups, and ours was the first medical technology company they accepted. It was much harder than any of us expected, but I finally knew what it meant to feel something in your bones. I couldn’t think about anything else.

One aspect that I love about Silicon Valley is its “pay it forward mentality”—everyone helps each other out. As our company launched and became successful, our founding team of four felt really strongly that we wanted to give back—especially in the medical space. Scientists are so good at what they do, but they don’t always think about the business side of things. We went out of our way to talk to people we knew who had technology that could help humankind. We shared our resources and what we have learned. By the time I stopped working for the company, our technology was fully developed and we were hiring a seasoned management team and knew how to scale the company up for future growth.

So here I am, amazingly, at Apple. I want to be part of the solutions that make healthcare so accessible, simple and affordable that it’s not given another thought for most people—they just have it. I’m very lucky. Every day, I get to ask, what are the biggest challenges we face and problems we can solve? What can I do to make tomorrow better? From where I sit, this is something that I can try to tackle every day.

Alys Berry (continued from previous page)

and hard work: it is the sacrifice I made in leaving my small town to create a better life for myself. If I could go back to my high school, I would tell them that it doesn’t matter what your situation is—if you want something bad enough, go get it. I work 30 hours a week, take a full course load, and practice Judo six days a week. But even with that schedule, I never give up. In the 2014 National Collegiate Judo Championship, I placed second with the UC Davis women’s team and first in my individual trials, and last quarter I got straight A’s.

At UC Davis, we all come from different backgrounds, and we’re all here for our own reasons. My wish for students, currently and in the future at UC Davis, is that all of us value this place and are thankful for our school. We are so lucky to be learning things that people all across the world want to learn. To have this opportunity is huge. All you have to do is want it.

“My wish for students, currently and in the future at UC Davis, is that all of us value this place and are thankful for our school.”



learn, change, extend **Be a Student Again.**

Tell Your Story

Sacramento's Poet Laureate, Jeff Knorr, reveals techniques for tapping into the fascinating parts of your work. Go beyond the tedious, task-oriented job description and engage others in your story. What are the exciting parts of your job? What passion do you have for it? What interesting things happen to you? Discover how to create a compelling narrative that not only lets people know what you do, but tells people who you are.

extension.ucdavis.edu/section/telling-your-story

Let Nature be the Classroom

The Sierra Institute lets students take their passion for the natural environment into the field with unique programs in the Patagonian Cordillera, Kenya, and the California wilderness areas, including Death Valley, Yolla Bolly Mountains and the Domelands. Summer programs include California Wilderness: Nature Philosophy, Literature and Ecopsychology and more.

extension.ucdavis.edu/sierrainstitute



The Joy of Learning ... at any Age

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 Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) offers a variety of courses and special events, from film study to memoir writing to lively discussions on politics, science and current events. Many of the program's instructors and students are retired UC Davis faculty and alumni as well as other professionals from the Davis community. Coming this spring: Excursion to the Tao House (Danville home of playwright Eugene O'Neill), Hitchcock movie series, tour of Shilling Robotics Lab, Reading *The New Yorker* and dozens of other offerings.

extension.ucdavis.edu/olli



Leading with Strengths

Stop dwelling on your weaknesses and learn to maximize what you do well. Explore your individual, unique talents with Sharon Huntsman, M.S., director of the UC Davis Executive Leadership Program. Using the Clifton StrengthFinder assessment, determine what your strengths are and learn to accelerate their development in yourself. You will also discover how to unleash the strength-based potential of the individuals and teams you manage.

extension.ucdavis.edu/subject-areas/executive-leadership-program

Advance Your Career (And Save \$50)!

CAAA members save \$50 on most professional education courses at UC Davis Extension. extension.ucdavis.edu/student-services/discounts

What Tech Skills Are Employers Looking for?

Download a copy of the 2014 *National IT Jobs Report* to see who's hiring, what skills are in demand, and learn how UC Davis Extension's online Web Development program can advance your career.

extensioninfo.ucdavis.edu/jobsreport/



Sacramento Poet Laureate Jeff Knorr helps leaders create a compelling narrative about their careers.

BLOGS

Chicana/Chicano Studies:

<https://chistudies.wordpress.com>

What Are You Going to Do With That?

Perspectives on life after a degree in physics: degreeofsatisfaction.blogspot.com

Chuck Walker, Professor of History:

charleswalker.com/blog/

Egghead, the latest in science discovery at UC Davis:

blogs.ucdavis.edu/egghead/

Cropped: Image, Art and Tech

News from the Visual Arts Library at UC Davis: ucdvrf.wordpress.com

TANA (Taller Arte del Nuevo Amancer):

tallerartedelnuevoamancer.com



Do you blog? Email lettersandscience@ucdavis.edu with your blog address.



gifts at work

Philanthropy



“The PwC Charitable Foundation ... supports the people of PwC when in need, and invests in emerging solutions to society’s greatest challenges in education and humanitarianism.”

Credit: Debbie Aldridge/UC Davis

Studio Named After Dancer-Choreographer Della Davidson

UC Davis honored the late Professor Della Davidson by putting the acclaimed dancer-choreographer’s name on the studio that was “her creative home on campus.”

The studio in Nelson Hall was named the Della Davidson Performance Studio. Davidson was a faculty member in the Department of Theatre and Dance from 2001 until her death in March 2012.

“She loved the space and it was her creative home on campus,” said Jon Rossini, associate professor and chair of the Department of Theatre and Dance.

Davidson established the department’s Sideshow Physical Theatre and played an important role in developing the interdisciplinary Master of Fine Arts program in theater and dance. She started her career as a ballet dancer in New York, then moved into modern dance and choreography, earning a Master of Arts degree from the University of Arizona. She became associate director of the San Francisco Moving Company in 1983 and started the Della Davidson Dance Company in 1986. She won the Isadora Duncan Award for Outstanding Achievement in Choreography and the North American Award for Choreography.

Besides naming the studio after Davidson, the Department of Theatre and Dance is creating, in her name, an endowment to foster the development of student choreographers through artist residences, travel and training. About \$16,000 has been raised toward a \$25,000 goal.

Memorial Fund Benefits Disadvantaged Students

The PwC Charitable Foundation, Inc. has given \$150,000 to create an endowed scholarship in memory of Bruce Daigh, partner at PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC). The Bruce Daigh Scholarship Fund in Economics and Political Science will benefit students in the Department of Political Science and the Department of Economics, considering Daigh’s interest in these fields. The scholarship benefits students with lower incomes and who demonstrate financial need. Bruce Daigh attended and taught at UC Davis’ Summer Tax Institute. He was a partner at PwC, and was 57 when he passed away in 2013.

The PwC Charitable Foundation is a section 501c3 organization that supports the people of PwC when in need and invests in emerging solutions to society’s greatest challenges in education and humanitarianism. Supporting the people of PwC in times of financial hardship is a unique aspect of the foundation’s focus, and the creation of scholarships to honor the legacy of those who pass away while they are an active partner or on an approved medical leave “Partner Remembrance Scholarships”—are an extension of that focus. Since the program launched in 2012, nine scholarships have been created or are in process totaling more than \$1 million.

“Bruce was very well known and highly respected across the U.S. within the State and Local Tax community. He was deeply committed to the students of University of California, Davis, as one of the key instructors and promoters of the Summer Tax Institute—a week long seminar on multistate taxation. I cannot think of a better way to honor his memory than through this scholarship for students in need,” said Matt Stolte, asset management tax partner at PwC and one of Bruce Daigh’s friends.



These photos were taken outside the College of Letters and Science Deans’ Office in the Social Sciences and Humanities building as students ride into campus.



Alumna Makes Major Donation to Music Building

The new classroom and recital hall building will be named the Ann E. Pitzer Center to honor the alumna who donated \$5 million toward the building. Pitzer, a well-known California philanthropist, graduated from UC Davis in 1958 with a degree in home economics and was a longtime and active supporter of the university. She died in October 2014.

“Ann was a tremendous alumna and friend of UC Davis who always said her motivation for giving to UC Davis was to ensure our students would have the same great experience at UC Davis that she had,” Chancellor Linda P.B. Katehi said. “This building, which will provide important classroom space to all UC Davis students, is a shining example of Ann’s lasting legacy, her commitment to her alma mater and to all Aggie students, and her love of music.”

The Ann E. Pitzer Center is scheduled to open in early 2016 and will include a recital hall, classrooms and practice rooms. The gift from Pitzer will allow for the construction of practice rooms and facility enhancements and support.

A former member of the UC Davis Foundation Board of Trustees, Pitzer has a long history of giving to her alma mater. She created the Ann E. Pitzer scholarship and donated \$1 million to the UC Davis Education Abroad Center to create a study abroad award endowment. This challenge gift in turn has inspired other donors to give \$475,000 to date to support UC Davis students in studying abroad. Additionally, along with fellow UC Davis classmates, Pitzer established the Class of '58 Scholarship, an endowed fund supported through gifts from the class of 1958. She was a 2013 recipient of the Cal Aggie Alumni Association's Aggie Service Award, which honors a UC Davis graduate who has demonstrated pride and dedication to the university through sustained volunteerism and leadership.

“I wanted to give back because going to UC Davis made a big, positive difference in my life,” Pitzer said in a 2013 interview. “The breadth of knowledge I received and the self-confidence I gained at UC Davis served me well in a number of career changes in my life.”

“Ms. Pitzer’s gift will provide beautiful and functional spaces for the entire gamut of music students’ activities—from lonely hours in the practice rooms, through rehearsals and coaching in the studios, to breathtaking performances on first-rate instruments in an acoustically superb recital hall,” said Henry Spiller, associate professor and chair of the Department of Music.

The **17,000**-square foot classroom and recital hall will contribute much-needed classroom space as well as rehearsal studios, a recording control room and a production office. The centerpiece is a **399**-seat recital hall, which will host about **100** concerts a year and serve as a lecture hall as well. The building is adjacent to current music, theatre, dance and art facilities, and close to the Robert and Margrit Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts, and the future home of the Jan Shrem and Maria Manetti Shrem Museum of Art.



Photo: Ann Pitzer with Chancellor Linda P.B. Katehi. Photo taken in February 2013. Credit: Gregory Urquiaga/UC Davis.



gifts at work

Philanthropy

Credit: TJ Ushing/UC Davis

Technology for the True Final Frontier

Millions of Americans suffer from or care for someone with a neurological or psychiatric disorder, terms that comprises a diverse array of maladies, from Alzheimer's Disease to post-traumatic stress disorder. UC Davis is leading the charge to prepare early career scientists to address this growing public health challenge.

"When you talk about disorders, those that cause the most suffering are the ones that affect who you are as person," said cognitive neuroscientist George R. Mangun, dean of the Division of Social Sciences and founding director of the Center for Mind and Brain. "And who you are as a person is determined by your brain. Understanding the brain requires interdisciplinary collaboration across the sciences, and the nation has now embarked on a new effort to accelerate such work."

In 2013, President Obama announced the Brain Research through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies (BRAIN) Initiative to accelerate the development of a new array of tools for neuroscience research. Mangun wants to bring scientists from across the spectrum together to build a new brain science as part of the President's challenge, where the goal is to both develop the new tools, but also to create the neuroscientists of the future. With a recent grant from The Kavli Foundation, the Center for Mind and Brain will present a Kavli Futures Symposium in summer 2015. This symposium will build cross-disciplinary collaboration by convening early-career cognitive neuroscientists from around the world with experts in engineering, the physical sciences, data science and other disciplines.

"Understanding the brain at all levels of explanation is critical," said Mangun. "Take Parkinson's disease: The problem starts at a cellular level, the treatment happens at the molecular level, and the effects are seen at the behavioral level. Being able to see the whole picture is critical for biomedical research that will ultimately result in eased suffering, improved quality of life, and reduced public health costs. Building a new brain science will speed us on our way to these important goals, and I know UC Davis will provide leadership to get the job done."

"This innovative workshop promises to inspire new directions in brain research of the future," said Miyoung Chun, executive vice president of science programs at the foundation.

Scholarship Created for Students in Letters and Science

Patrick and Tracey Sherwood have pledged \$25,000 to create an endowed scholarship supporting students in the College of Letters and Science. The donation was matched by Patrick Sherwood's employer, Wells Fargo, eventually bringing the total funding for students to \$50,000. The Sherwood L&S Scholarship awards students on academic merit and is open to all L&S students. Patrick Sherwood, who graduated in 1986 with a B.A. in economics, wanted to support students in a broad area of disciplines. He established a similar scholarship with the Cal Aggie Alumni Association a few years ago.

"I look at the advantages that going to UC Davis provided for me both as a student and as a person, and I want to be sure that others have that opportunity as well," Patrick Sherwood said. "Through my work at CAAA, I have had the chance to meet many students. Ultimately, I want students to feel that they can study where their interests lie, and where they'll feel most successful."

To see if your company participates in UC Davis' matching program, go to:

 www.matchinggifts.com/ucdavis/

Support for Cosmology and Astrophysics



Michael and Ester Vaida have created a \$1.7 million bequest to create an endowed faculty chair and graduate student fellowship in cosmology and astrophysics. Their gift will also establish two undergraduate scholarships in physics, one to support women and one to support underrepresented students.

"Cosmology has made tremendous advances in the last decade, but there is so much more to learn. I wanted UC Davis to be well-positioned in what amounts to the quest for the ultimate knowledge."

Dr. Vaida is a 1973 Ph.D. alumnus in computational physics and computer science.

what to do

Events



Judas Ullulaq (Ooololah), Gjoa Haven. *Shaman Transforming*, c.1997, pyroxene, antler and bone, 20x11x12in.

Listening to Stone: Original Inuit Art Exhibition ends June 11

C.N. Gorman Museum, Hart Hall
gormanmuseum.ucdavis.edu
Reception welcoming Tanya Tagaq, in association with Mondavi Center performances March 13–14. Reception is March 13, 3:00–5:00p.m., at the C.N. Gorman Museum.

Woyzeck, by Georg Buchner, adapted by Neil LaBute, directed by Granada Artist-in-Residence Bob McGrath

February 26–March 1, March 5–8

Main Theatre, Wright Hall
arts.ucdavis.edu/theatre-dance

R. Bryan Miller Symposium (15th Annual)

March 5–6
UC Davis Conference Center
conferences.ucdavis.edu/miller2015

University and Alumni Choruses, with the UC Davis Symphony Orchestra

March 8, 7:00 p.m.
Jackson Hall, Mondavi Center
arts.ucdavis.edu/music

Topping Out Celebration: Shrem Museum

Friday, March 13
shremmuseum.ucdavis.edu

Edward Witten Colloquium

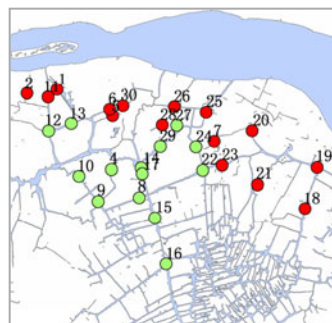
Hosted by the Department of Physics
March 16, 3:00 p.m.
66 Roessler
physics.ucdavis.edu

DEX3—Davis Extravaganza of Philosophy Conference

March 29–30
L.J. Andrews Conference Room #2203, SS&H Building
philosophy.ucdavis.edu

Statistical Sciences

Symposium: Network Data Information and Sciences
April 10–11
Walter A. Buehler Alumni Center, AGR Hall
stat.ucdavis.edu



Design by Design:

Juried Student Competition
April 9–May 1
Design Museum, Cruess Hall
arts.ucdavis.edu/design-museum

Picnic Day (101st Annual)

April 18
UC Davis Campus
picnicday.ucdavis.edu

Institute for Social Sciences Launch Conference

April 24 at the UC Davis Conference Center
May 1 and May 8 at the Walter A. Buehler Alumni Center, AGR Hall
socialscience.ucdavis.edu

Empyrean Ensemble: Young and Restless I

April 26, 7:00–9:00p.m.
Vanderhoef Studio Theatre, Mondavi Center
arts.ucdavis.edu/music

UC Davis Symphony Orchestra:

Ariadne's Thread, Ecstasy and Classicism
May 2, 7:00–9:00p.m.
Vanderhoef Studio Theatre, Mondavi Center
arts.ucdavis.edu/music

Main Stage Dance Program,

Department of Theatre and Dance
May 7–10, May 14–17
Main Theatre, Wright Hall
arts.ucdavis.edu/theatre-dance

Visiting Artist Lecture Series:

Annie Lapin
May 14, 4:30–6:00p.m.
Art Annex, Main Room (107)
arts.ucdavis.edu/art-studio

Spring Gathering,

Department of Physics
May 21, 4:30p.m.
Putah Lodge,
UC Davis Arboretum
physics.ucdavis.edu

Design M.F.A. Graduate Exhibition

May 22–June 11
Design Museum, Cruess Hall
arts.ucdavis.edu/design-museum

The Light and Dark Arts: A Radical Magic Show,

directed by Granada Artist-in-Residence Aaron Gach
May 28–31, June 4–7
arts.ucdavis.edu/theatre-dance

M.F.A. Exhibition

May 30–June 21
Nelson Gallery, Nelson Hall
arts.ucdavis.edu/art-studio

Spring Commencement

College of Letters and Science
June 13
Activities and Recreation Center
www.ls.ucdavis.edu/commencement



latest from...

Alumni, Students, Faculty

Alumni



The UC Davis Cal Aggie Alumni Association (CAAA) honored three Letters and Science alumni at their 42nd annual Awards Gala:

Kevin Bacon (B.A., Political Science, '72) received the Jerry W. Fielder Memorial Award (CAAA's highest honor); **René Gonzales Mejia** ('86) received the Emil M. Mrak International Award; and **Gita Sai Ram** (B.A., Political Science, '07), was given the Young Alumna Award.

bit.ly/1vO1LTF

Christopher Johnson

(B.A., Communications and Organizational Management, '02) has been featured in multiple press outlets for his Rapid Ramen Cooker. His company was funded by ABC's Shark Tank, an entrepreneurial competition show, and has since grown to a multi-billion dollar enterprise.

on.news10.net/1pnLAth

Robin Walz

(Ph.D., History, '94) gave an Evening at Egan lecture at the University of Alaska Southeast. His talk was entitled, "Who's Afraid of the Big Bad Borg? The Ecological Imperative in the Age of Cybernetic Organisms."

bit.ly/1ttsJbV

Sara Margulis

(B.A., Music and English, '97) received \$400,000 from ABC's Shark Tank to expand her online registry site, Honeyfund.

bit.ly/1ttsJbV

Irving Lubliner

(M.A.T., Mathematics, '88) delivered the keynote closing presentation, "License to Thrill," at the 2014 Northwest Mathematics Conference in Portland.

Robert Ortbal

(M.F.A., Art, '89) and Kurt Edward Fishback (M.F.A., Art, '70) received the 2014 Leff-Davis Fund for Visual Artists from the Sacramento Region Community Foundation. Fishback's photographs have previously been displayed at the UC Davis Medical Education building.

bit.ly/1FshGpR and bit.ly/11UzdLa

Cirian Villavicencio

(B.A., History and Political Science, '02) has been appointed to the California Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs.

We Are All Completely Beside

Ourselves, a novel by **Karen**

Jay Fowler (B.A., '72, M.A., '74, Political Science), was shortlisted for the 2014 Man Booker Prize.

nyti.ms/1yXQRli

Martin Hoshino

(M.A., Public Administration and Political Science, '90) was appointed administrative director of the staff of the California Judicial Council.

bit.ly/1vLLWl

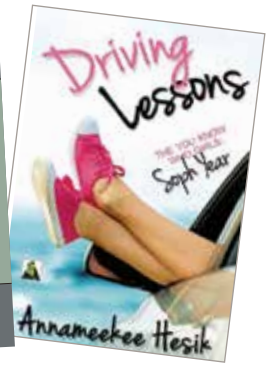
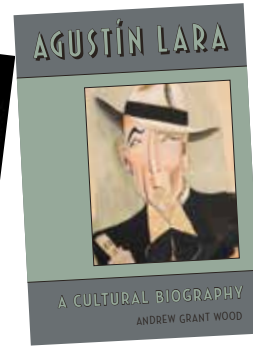
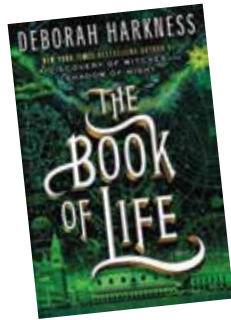


Elizabeth Dutton, B.A., English, '97, *Driftwood*

Charles Perrault, illustrated by **Camille Rose Garcia**, M.F.A., Art, '94, *Cinderella, or The Little Glass Slipper*

Stephen Arroyo, B.A., English & Departmental Citation Winner, '68, *Person-to-Person Astrology*

Mike Maden, M.A., Political Science, '85, Ph.D., Political Science, '90, *Drone*



Lena Finkle's *Magic Barrel*, a graphic novel by **Anya Ulinich** (M.F.A., Art, '00), was positively reviewed in the Sunday Book Review of *The New York Times*.

nyti.ms/1xGoVGz

Deborah Harkness (Ph.D., History, '94) was interviewed in the *Times of Northwest Indiana* for her novel, *The Book of Life*, the third in her *All Souls* trilogy.

bit.ly/1vO4a07

Sweetness #9, the debut novel by **Stephen Eirik Clark** (M.A., English, '05), was featured on *The Colbert Report*. The initial print run subsequently increased from 12,000 to 60,000 copies.

nyti.ms/1vO4ewM

Kurt Ochida (B.A., English, Psychology, and Rhetoric and Communications, '89) was interviewed in the *Las Vegas Review-Journal Business Press*. He is the co-owner of BRAINtrust Marketing + Communications.

bit.ly/1xGpct2

Elena Mauli Shapiro, M.A., Comparative Literature, '10, *In the Red: A Novel*

James Dante, B.A., '92, International Relations, *The Tiger's Wedding*

Andrew Grant Wood, Ph.D., '97 History, *Agustín Lara*

Elana K. Arnold, M.A., Creative Writing, '98, *The Question of Miracles*

Annameekee Hesik B.A., English, '99, *Driving Lessons: Sophomore Year*

Hasan Minhaj (B.A., Political Science, '08) joined *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart* as a correspondent.



Students



Members of the UC Davis Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC) attended the commissioning of the USS America (LHA 6) and toured a destroyer in San Francisco during its Fleet Week. Student officers **Sarah Bell** and **Jasmine Valencia** were quoted in media coverage.

1.usa.gov/1poNt9a

Eduardo Delgadillo, a senior in history, was featured in a *Los Angeles Times* article about Governor Jerry Brown's performance in a pre-election poll. Delgadillo praised Brown's frugality and demeanor.

lat.ms/1ttSlzI

The National Science Foundation has awarded **Jeremy Mikecz**, graduate student in the history department, a Doctoral Dissertation Award for his Latin American history project: "Creating a Spatial History Methodology to Assess Past and Current Settlement and Governance."

Alumni

www.ls.ucdavis.edu | SPRING 2015

latest from... Faculty



Faculty in the Department of Philosophy visited philosophers at the Federal University of Manaus, Brazil, to present work and establish collegial contact. Pictured are Distinguished Professor **David Copp** (orange shirt), Professor **Marina Oshana** (left of the middle), and Associate Professor **Adam Sennet** (right).



Gary Snyder, professor emeritus, English, and Julia Martin, *Nobody Home: Writing, Buddhism, and Living in Places*

Grace Wang, associate professor, American Studies, *Soundtracks of Asian America*

The Norton Anthology of World Religions, by various authors and editors, Judaism section was edited by **David Biale**, the Emanuel Ringelblum Distinguished Professor of Jewish History

Sandra M. Gilbert, distinguished professor, emerita, English, *The Culinary Imagination: From Myth to Modernity*

Gregory Dobbins, associate professor of English and researcher of Irish modernism, was quoted in multiple news features about a crowd-funded video game of James Joyce's *Ulysses*.

bit.ly/1vOnj2p

Stephen Carlip, professor of physics, was quoted in a *Wired* article commenting on a new theory that gravity is what determines the forward arrow of time.

wrd.cm/1vOnieY

Professor Mariel Vazquez of the Department of Mathematics and Microbiology and Molecular Genetics was chosen as a CAMPOS scholar. The CAMPOS program is a UC Davis initiative to increase Latina faculty and mentorship for young women in the STEM and social sciences.

Distinguished Professor **Arthur Krener** and Professor **Jesus De Loera** in the Department of Mathematics have been named Fellows of the American Mathematical Society (AMS) for 2015 for their excellence in the field.

bit.ly/1ycirlp

The American Anthropological Association has chosen professor of anthropology **Lynne Isbell's** book *The Fruit, the Tree, and the Serpent: Why We See So Well* as the 2014 winner of the W. W. Howells Prize for Biological Anthropology.

Professor of economics **Alan M. Taylor** was quoted in a *New York Times* article on new mortgage regulations and Wall Street.

nyti.ms/1p6l1j5

Charan Ranganath, professor of psychology and researcher at the Center for Neuroscience, has been selected as a National Security Science and Engineering Faculty Fellow by the U.S. Department of Defense. The five-year, \$2.6 million fellowship will support his Dynamic Memory Laboratory.

Assistant Professor of Chemistry **Kirill Kovnir** was selected as an emerging investigator for the ACS Select Collection on Solid-State Chemistry. The collection highlights leading researchers whose work was published in 2013-2014 *American Chemical Society* journals.

Elizabeth Miller, professor and chair of the English Department, has received two major awards for *Slow Print: Literary Radicalism and Late Victorian Print Culture*. Her book was given the Best Book of the Year award from the North American Victorian Studies Association and a Book Prize honorable mention from the Modernist Studies Association.

The Templeton Science of Prospection Award was given to **Simona Ghetti**, professor of psychology. Ghetti received \$135,000 to study the age-related development of prospection.

The National Film Preservation Foundation recognized **Scott Simmon**, professor of English, for his reconstruction and study of the long-lost Orson Welles film *Too Much Johnson* (1938).

bit.ly/1vITZ1a



Endowed Professorships Announced

The Division of Humanities, Arts and Cultural Studies announced that three professors will hold endowed chairs, with one of the chairs being a re-appointment. Elisabeth Middleton will hold the Yocha Dehe Endowed Chair in California Indian Study (Department of Native American Studies), Christian Baldini will hold the Barbara Jackson Endowed Chair in Orchestral Conducting (Department of Music), and Annabeth Rosen will continue her appointment as the Robert Arneson Chair of Ceramics (Department of Art and Art History). Endowed chairs and professorships help the university recruit and retain top faculty and support the advancement and dissemination of knowledge.

Charles Walker, professor of history, was awarded an Honorary Professorship by the Universidad Nacional de San Antonio Abad del Cuzco (Peru). Having taught at UNSAAC in 1989-1990, Walker returns to lead the UC Davis Summer Session International program. Also, his book, *The Tupac Amaru Rebellion*, was listed in the *Financial Times'* best books of the year survey.

Howard J. Spero, professor in the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences, has been elected a 2014 Fellow of the American Geophysical Union for his exceptional contributions to the field.

Andy Jones, continuing lecturer in the University Writing Program and English, has been named Poet Laureate of Davis for his works and advocacy.

bit.ly/1ChrXJp

Stephen P. Cramer, professor of chemistry, received a Humboldt Research Award for synchrotron research in Berlin from 2014-2015.

Professor **Marilyn Olmstead** and safety manager **Debbie Decker** have been selected as 2014 American Chemical Society Fellows for their outstanding achievements.

bit.ly/1ycjrpF

Anna Maria Busse Berger, a professor of music, received the Colin Slim Award for best article by a senior scholar at the annual meeting of the American Musicological Society. She also received the Bruno Nettl Prize for an outstanding publication at the annual meeting of the Society of Ethnomusicology.

Susan L. Mann, professor emeritus of history, received an American Historical Association Award for Scholarly Distinction (2014). The award honors the lifetime achievements of senior historians.

bit.ly/11Vbpa6



Tim McNeil, professor of design, founded and co-organized an international summit that was dedicated to re-envisioning exhibition design, the first of its kind in the exhibition design field. The event had nearly 200 attendees, with the summit including the first Ph.D. colloquium specifically dedicated to exhibition design. The next summit will be held in Buenos Aires in April.

www.re-xd.org

Exhibition Features Work by the UC Davis Department of Art

The inaugural Art Silicon Valley/San Francisco fair last fall had booths by 75 galleries and art institutions, featuring 750 artists from 42 countries. UC Davis was the only college or university art department represented. UC Davis' contributions include "The Invitation," a series of collaborative photographs, and "Hexagon/Pentagon," a modular sculpture intended to facilitate interactions among visitors.

bit.ly/1tjCw4V

Hearne Pardee (professor of art) in conversation with Tim Hyde (assistant professor of art)
Regarding Floor Space, No.2, 8x10"
pigment print on aluminum panel, 2014

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Up Close: COSMOS

A merit-based residential outreach program for high school students interested in the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) fields, the California State Summer School for Mathematics and Science (COSMOS) has been in session for four weeks every summer at UC



Davis since 2001, directed by Professor **Abigail Thompson** in the Division of Mathematical and Physical Sciences. The UC Davis activities are part of a statewide COSMOS program of four campuses that is now managed from UC Davis. COSMOS

engages high-achieving science and mathematics students through focused cluster activities in mathematics, physical sciences, engineering, biotechnology and other STEM-related fields. Each topical cluster is developed and instructed by research-active faculty, who closely interact with the students throughout the duration of program. "Through COSMOS, the students will have an opportunity to make new connections between the topics they are studying in high-school. They will be able to apply their mathematics and science training to address problems in scientific and technical areas of their interest, all while experiencing the residential camaraderie of fellow STEM-minded students from around the state," said



Niels Grønbech-Jensen, the interim director of the statewide program and professor of mathematics and mechanical and aerospace engineering.

 cosmos.ucdavis.edu/

Photograph: Melissa Ong, a student in COSMOS, and Dr. Ali A. Dad-del, lecturer in the Department of Mathematics.

