

# UC DAVIS

## COLLEGE OF LETTERS & SCIENCE

A SEMI-ANNUAL PUBLICATION FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF THE COLLEGE VOLUME 4, NUMBER 2 ▶ SPRING 2000

### Herbert A. Young Society will help L&S to meet the new century's challenges

The new millennium has arrived and with it the onset of "Tidal Wave II," which refers to the record-breaking number of students expected to attend the university in the next ten years. This dramatic increase in student enrollments is the result of two important demographic changes in California: the offspring of the "baby boom" generation reaching college age and the extensive immigration of people into California from other states and countries. As a result, the university expects enrollments on its general campuses to grow by over 60,000 full-time-equivalent students to a level of 210,000 by 2010.



HERBERT A. YOUNG

"This is the *real* Y2K problem we've been preparing for," states Elizabeth Langland, dean of the Division of Humanities, Arts and Cultural Studies. "The UC Davis campus will grow from an enrollment of 25,000 today to close to 30,000 by 2010. This will have an enormous impact on the College of Letters and Science. No matter what these students choose to study, our college will provide the bulk of their general education."

The issues presented by this challenge are numerous. Chief among these concerns is recruiting faculty, upgrading technology, developing courses, expanding majors and maintaining a safe environment.

As part of a major long-range planning effort, the L&S deans have undertaken a new annual giving program to bring alumni and friends of Letters and Science into partnership with the College. Gifts directed to the Herbert A. Young Society,

named for the founding dean of the College, will be used to address the most pressing needs.

The current challenges are reminiscent of the period during which Herbert A. Young became dean of the college. In 1951, The College of Letters and Science offered undergraduate and graduate degrees in only five majors. By the end of Young's 13-year tenure in 1964, Letters and Science was the largest college at UC Davis encompassing 23 majors, a 275-member faculty, and more than 3,000 students.

Dean Young's proactive leadership was the key to the college's successful transition. To keep up with its rapid growth, he sometimes filled in as interim head of departments, and to facilitate its development, he recruited faculty to start new departments and visited area junior colleges to promote Letters and Science at UC Davis. Without Young's efforts, UC Davis might not have been designated a comprehensive general campus in 1959, and the College might not have evolved to become the largest educational unit on campus, currently supporting 11,000 students, over 600 faculty members, and 40 degree programs—involving the leadership of three divisional deans.

#### Funding Priorities

Gifts to the Herbert A. Young Society will make a substantial difference in the quality of the college's teaching programs and the scope of its research efforts. Through the Herbert A. Young Society, college supporters make annual unrestricted gifts that will help the college meet priorities to:

- Enhance faculty recruitment or retention
- Provide research awards
- Encourage new academic initiatives
- Increase student scholarships

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**“We need men who can dream of things that never were.”**

**—John F. Kennedy  
speech in Dublin, Ireland  
June 28, 1963**

## A Message from the Deans

The question is not a new one, but it has taken on a renewed sense of urgency with the advent of the new century—how can we continue to provide a top-quality education to the ever-increasing number of students? This issue of *Letters and Science* explores how we are preparing for the upcoming decade. Our cover story about the college's new annual giving club—the Herbert A. Young Society—notes the challenges ahead. Over the next 10 years, UC Davis' enrollment is targeted to increase by nearly 6,000 students. Over half of these students will matriculate in the College of Letters and Science, fulfilling their core general education requirements and many of those will continue as majors or minors in our programs. The Young Society will help ensure the College's ability to offer the same level of educational excellence that our students receive today.

The major increase in UC students is primarily a result of California's population boom. Consequently, uses for limited natural resources and land will continue to be at the forefront of our state's concerns. On page 7, you will read about UC Davis' involvement in a new

partnership, the Cosumnes Research Group, which will influence river management and restoration nationwide. And page 10 highlights alumnus Seth Merewitz '93, J.D. '97, an attorney specializing in redevelopment, public law and land use, who talks about his work, the preparation he received here for a career in law, and the importance of alumni support.

As it increasingly did throughout the last decade, new technology will play a leading role in teaching our students during the new millennium. Alumna Darlene Yaplee '82 advanced the college's capacity in this regard by partnering with Sun Microsystems, where she is a vice president, to make a gift of computer equipment to the Division of Social Sciences. The story is on page 3.

Another important area in preparing students for the future in an ever-shrinking world is interdisciplinary studies. On page 6, you will read about one professor's success in integrating scientific study and teaching among four departments within three colleges.

As always, one of UC Davis' key functions is outreach. Recent graduate and track star Jamila Demby exemplified this branch of the campus's mission as a student through her participation in the Aggie Pack Outreach Program,



ELIZABETH LANGLAND, DEAN  
HUMANITIES, ARTS, AND CULTURAL STUDIES

PETER A. ROCK, DEAN  
MATHEMATICAL AND PHYSICAL SCIENCES

STEVEN M. SHEFFRIN, DEAN  
SOCIAL SCIENCES

where she encouraged children to excel in both school and sports. By living up to her own expectations, the scholar and nine-time All American was named the 1999 Woman of the Year by the National Collegiate Athletic Association. Her story is on page 8.

We hope you enjoy this issue of *Letters and Science*, and we look forward to bringing you many more. We invite you to send your questions or comments to us at the address listed on page 12.

## From college dean to university chancellor

Former Letters and Science dean Carol Tomlinson-Keasey has been appointed the chancellor of the new UC Merced campus, which is scheduled to open in 2005. Serving as dean of the college from 1994-95, she was instrumental in restructuring the growing college into three divisions. Tomlinson-Keasey

became vice provost for academic planning and personnel at UC Davis in 1995 and two years later was named the university's first systemwide vice provost for academic initiatives. She concurrently directed the planning efforts for UC's 10th campus and was selected as chancellor from a field of 100 candidates.



CAROL TOMLINSON-KEASEY

## Sun Microsystems executive says 'thanks' to her UC Davis mentors

When Darlene Yaplee '82, Sun Microsystems vice president of worldwide field marketing, returned to campus bearing a \$60,000 gift of equipment from the company, she paused to say a special word of thanks to the economics professors who changed her direction in life.

"I remember spirited debates in Dr. (Peter) Lindert's classes over topics like 'Is the South producing too much cotton?' and insightful comments by Dr. (John) Scott like 'The reason people don't take public transportation is because you don't get to pick who you sit next to.' They and my other economics professors taught me to think critically and how to argue an issue from both sides," she said.

Yaplee, whose mother owns a restaurant, had come to campus with plans to major in dietetics, with a focus on hotel and restaurant management, until her first UC Davis macroeconomics class "converted" her to economics.

Ironically, she adds, she never used a

computer while she was a student.

"Of course, if I were in school today," Yaplee said, "there's no doubt that I'd be using a computer now. I think that computers will soon be fully integrated into every aspect of campus life, including the arts and music."

Instead, Yaplee did a summer internship at Hewlett-Packard, arranged by the campus Internship and Career Center. The experience led to a marketing position with the company upon graduating—an offer she accepted rather than pursuing an MBA.

After six years at HP, Yaplee moved to Sun, where she manages 18 regional marketing directors for the company's international marketing strategy in Asia, Europe, and the Americas.

Sun Microsystems' gift of computer equipment will help formalize a new web-based program created at UC Davis that allows users at all skill levels to view and analyze huge sets of economic data in ways not possible before.

"With this program, students are transported from spectators to active participants, learning by doing," said Steven M. Sheffrin, dean of the division of social sciences and an economics professor. "In macroeconomics, for example, instead of listening to a lecture on the relationship between investment and the Index of Consumer Confidence, students can use the data in our program to explore that relationship. The Sun equipment will be providing the power and hardware for this program that will be used by an estimated 60 faculty and 2,000 students each year when fully implemented."



DARLENE YAPLEE '82

## Scholarship honors scholar of African arts and culture

A new scholarship has been created in memory of Daniel J. Crowley, UC Davis professor emeritus of art history and anthropology. During World War II Dr. Crowley suffered spinal damages that left him with limited use of his arms and legs and required him to use a wheelchair. This determined scientist traveled the world conducting fieldwork specializing in the arts and culture of Africa and the Diaspora. An award-winning



DANIEL J. CROWLEY

and inspirational teacher, he produced several books and over 350 reviews and articles. His family established the scholarship to recognize humanities students with

physical disabilities who are pursuing their dreams, as Dr. Crowley did.

## UC seeks lost alumni

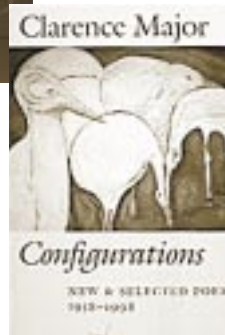
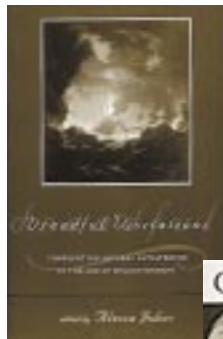
In order to update its all-UC database, the university is searching for 238,000 missing alumni. UC graduates who want to reconnect with their campuses are urged to call (510) 987-9161 or e-mail their names and addresses to [www.ucalumni.net](http://www.ucalumni.net).

## College authors garner awards and headlines

This past fall, three books by UC Davis English professors received accolades and publicity.

An article in *The Chronicle of Higher Education* (December 17, 1999) celebrated the 20th anniversary of *Madwoman in the Attic*. Described as “the classic argument for a women’s literary tradition,” the book was co-authored by UC Davis’ Sandra

M. Gilbert and Susan Gubar, professor of English and women’s studies at Indiana University. Its publisher, Yale University Press, released a



special commemorative edition with a new introduction by the authors. The original book published in 1979 placed Gilbert and Gubar on the leading edge of feminist criticism. The book has sold more than 70,000 copies and was a finalist for both the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Award.

Another National Book Award finalist was Clarence Major for his book of poetry, *Configurations: New and Selected Poems 1958-1998*. One of five finalists for the 1999 award, the book was recommended by *Publisher’s Weekly* as “the work of a master of everyday language and textual fine-tuning.”

And a new book received fine-tuning under the editorial pen of Alessa Johns. The book, *Dreadful Visitations: Confronting Natural Catastrophe in the Age of Enlightenment*, includes essays by two UC Davis history professors: Charles Walker, who discusses earthquakes in South America, and Alan S. Taylor, who writes about famine on the American frontier.

## Retrospective to celebrate Wayne Thiebaud’s birthday

The first full retrospective of Wayne Thiebaud’s work in 15 years will be exhibited this summer in San Francisco. The exhibition marks the 80th birthday of the acclaimed artist and UC Davis professor emeritus and will include approximately 80



major paintings, watercolors, and pastels, chronicling his four-decade career. The retrospective will be at the California Palace of the Legion of Honor from June 10 through September 3, 2000, and then will travel to the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth and the Phillips Collection in Washington, D.C. For more information telephone (415) 750-3600.

## New Cultural Studies Masters’ and Doctoral Program

A new cultural studies masters’ and doctoral cross-disciplinary program has been developed with more than 60 faculty, 25 programs, and two colleges (Letters and Science and Agricultural and Environmental Sciences). The program creates a structure to bring together scholars who have been doing cultural studies work on similar topics but in different departments and includes the study of such things as family values, globalization, and the interplay of television and popular understandings. The program will accept about five students per year and begins in fall 2000.



D. KERN HOLOMAN

## Rank of officer bestowed on Kern Holoman

Many titles have been given to D. Kern Holoman: professor of music, Berlioz expert, conductor of the UCD Symphony Orchestra, founding dean of the Division of Humanities, Arts and Cultural Studies, recipient of the 1995 UC Davis Prize for Teaching and Scholarly Achievement—and now officer of France's Order of Arts and Letters. One of the world's authorities on nineteenth century French composer Hector Berlioz, Holoman has been a chevalier of the Order since 1990 and was elevated to the rank of officer in honor of his contribution to the expansion of French culture.

## Divisional faculty loses beloved members



CELESTE TURNER WRIGHT

September 1999 saw the passing of **Celeste Turner Wright**, 93 years of age, professor emerita of English and the campus's first tenured woman faculty member. Memorial contributions may be sent to the Celeste Turner Wright Memorial Fund, Department of English, UC Davis, One Shields Ave., Davis, CA 95616.

**L. Price Amerson**, 58 years of age, art lecturer and artist, and creator and director of the Richard L. Nelson Gallery & The Fine Arts Collection. Memorial contributions may be made to the Vesta Endowment Fund, Nelson Gallery, One Shields Ave., UC Davis, Davis, CA 95616.



PRICE AMERSON

**Peter Leung**, 59 years of age, senior lecturer in Asian American Studies.



PETER LEUNG

**Roland W. Hoermann**, emeritus professor of German and Comparative Literature.

**Maurine "Fay" Nelson**, widow of Richard Nelson, former chair of the art department, on January 24, 2000, at the age of 94.

# Faculty Notes

## Honors and Awards

Works by art professor **Conrad Atkinson** are on exhibit at Bluecoat Gallery in Liverpool, England for a show called *Mining Culture*. *Gone with the Wind*...art professor **Lynn Hershman** was awarded the Golden Nica award in Linz, Austria, for her interactive work titled *The Difference Engine 3 Made* (in collaboration with San Francisco's Construct Internet Design Company)...associate professor of Native American Studies **Victor Montego** earned first honorable mention for Best Column at the 1999 Native American Journalists Association's annual awards this summer with a column entitled "Becoming Maya? Appropriation of the White Shaman"... **Jay Mechling**, professor of American studies, was elected as a Fellow to the American Folklore Society... the Modern Language Association of America awarded the Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prize for studies in the Slavic languages and literatures to **Harriet Murav**, professor of Russian and comparative literature, for her book *Russia's Legal Fictions*... associate professor of music **Pablo Ortiz** has been awarded a commission jointly by The Serge Koussevitzky Music Foundation in the Library of Congress and the San Francisco Contemporary Music Players.

## Newsmakers

**Annabeth Rosen**, who for the past two years has been the beneficiary of the Robert Arneson Chair in Ceramic Sculpture, was officially appointed to the chair.

## Faculty Book Shelf

**Elizabeth Constable**, (assistant professor of French and Italian), *Perennial Decay: On the Aesthetics and Politics of Decadence*... **Wendy Ho** (associate professor of Asian American and women and gender studies) *In Her Mother's House: The Politics of Asian American Mother-Daughter Writing*... **Lynn Roller** (classics professor), *In Search of God the Mother: the Cult of Anatolian Cybele*... **Brenda Deen Schildgen** (lecturer in comparative literature), *Power and Prejudice: The Reception of the Gospel of Mark*... **Gary Snyder** (professor of English), *The Gary Snyder Reader: Prose, Poetry, and Translations 1952-1998*.

## New Faculty

**Gayatri Gopinath**, assistant professor of women & gender studies; **Ana Peluffo**, acting assistant professor of Spanish and classics; **Steffi San Buenaventura**, acting associate professor of Asian American studies; **Sergio de la Mora**, acting assistant professor of Chicana/o studies.

## Convocation address describes NEAT opportunity

Since her arrival at UC Davis almost three years ago, Alexandra Navrotsky, who studies the forces that shape atoms into structures, has helped reshape materials science research at UC Davis. Navrotsky, who was recruited from Princeton University, is the first UC Davis professor to hold appointments in four departments that encompass three colleges—chemistry and geology in Letters and Science; chemical engineering and materials science in the College of Engineering; and land, air and water resources in the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences. Her multiple appointments have enabled her to effectively build a cross-disciplinary team within the Nanophases in the Environment, Agriculture and Technology (NEAT) research program that she devised for UC Davis. The research focuses on nanomaterials, that is, very small particles.

Last September, the National Academy of Sciences member was the special guest speaker at the Chancellor's Convocation. In her speech, "Interdisciplinary Education: A NEAT Opportunity," she described the "ubiquitous" nature of the nanomaterials she studies: "They occur as dust in the air, as small suspended colloids that make river water slightly murky, in soil, in volcanic ash, in our bodies and in technological applications ranging from ultra-tough ceramics to microelectronics. They both pollute our environment and help keep it clean."

Navrotsky's speech also addressed a central question: "How should the university educate all students, but especially the scientifically trained, to thrive in an uncertain and rapidly changing future?"

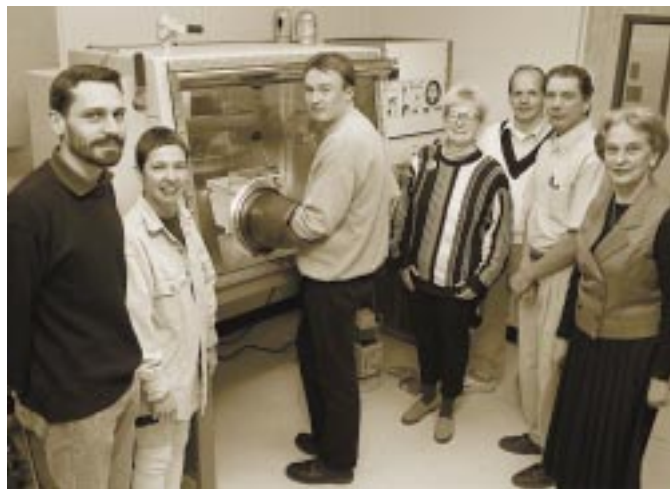
"The globalization of markets makes the technological workforce mobile worldwide," she said. "All that is certain is change itself. A linear path from commencement to retirement is highly unlikely. Students graduating now can anticipate many jobs, several careers."

The NEAT program will help prepare them. Navrotsky was attracted to Davis because of its "fertile soil for interdisciplinary collaborations" that gave her the opportunity to develop link-

create opportunities for undergraduate research.

"How is a program like NEAT a paradigm for education for the future?" she asked. "It will teach students to be flexible but at the same time provide a rigorous education in one or more disciplines."

Navrotsky ended by inviting students to approach the new academic year with "a sense of dedication and preparedness, but most of all, with a sense of joy and adventure."



ALEXANDRA NAVROTSKY (FOURTH FROM LEFT) IN THE LABORATORY EXPLORING THE MULTIFACETED WORLD OF NANOMATERIALS WITH (LEFT TO RIGHT) DOMINIQUE DELIGNY, CAROL MOSS, FRANCK TESSIER, NAVROTSKY, DOUG VAN CAMP, CHARLES BENNETT, AND LETITIA TOPOR.

ages between environmental and materials science. She explained that NEAT is one of 10 interdisciplinary initiatives being developed as a strategy for new faculty appointments. The program will bring 12 new professors with multiple appointments to campus over the next six years. It has garnered a \$2.6 million grant from the National Science Foundation's Integrative Graduate Education, Research and Training (IGERT), which involves 14 faculty members spanning eight departments in four colleges, and supports 14 doctoral students. NEAT-IGERT will create new interdisciplinary courses, recruit graduate students and

## New river research partnership

The Cosumnes Research Group has been established with \$1.5 million from the CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Program and \$500,000 from the David and Lucile

Packard Foundation Conservation Program and will likely become a model for future river management and restoration across the nation.

Participants include the state, federal and private partners in the Cosumnes River Preserve, the East Bay Metropolitan Utility District and local landowners. The group evolved from a long-standing collaborative relationship between The Nature Conservancy, which operates the Cosumnes River Preserve, and UC Davis scientists, such as Jeff Mount, former chair of geology and director of the UC Davis Watershed Center. The Cosumnes River is the only remaining waterway flowing unchecked from the Sierra Nevada to the Sacramento River Delta.



JEFF MOUNT

## Mathematics outreach program honored

The College Preparatory Mathematics program, developed by mathematics professor Tom Sallee, was honored last October by the U.S. Department of Education as an Exemplary Program in Teaching Mathematics. Used for 10 years by more than 2 million 8th- to 12th-graders in California high schools, the program has improved SAT scores and students' understanding of mathematics. It now operates as a non-profit organization dedicated to improving student learning and supporting math teachers, and a component for 6th- and 7th-graders will soon be added.

## Snow place like home

Geology professor Ken Verosub, upon returning from his third trip to Antarctica, reported that he was a "happy camper." While conducting research for the Cape Roberts Drilling Program, Verosub participated in the Snow Survival Course—or Happy Camper School—where they had good weather, special clothing and boots, down sleeping bags and "a dozen other conveniences." But he couldn't imagine how early explorers faced life day after day "in terrible weather with wool clothes, leather boots, reindeer-hide sleeping bags and balky stoves with which they cooked seal blubber and penguin steaks."



KEN VEROSUB

# FacultyNotes

## Honors and Awards

Mathematics emeritus professor **Donald Benson** was selected as the winner of the Association of American Publishers Publishing Division 1999 annual award for excellence in the mathematical sciences for his book *The Moment of Proof*...

**Ching Fong**, professor of physics, has been elected a Fellow and Chartered Physicist by the Institute of Physics of Great Britain... The College Preparatory Mathematics program, created partially under the leadership of **Tom Sallee**, professor of mathematics, was recently recognized as an Exemplary Program in Teaching Mathematics by the U.S. Department of Education... the 1999 Prize of the Moscow Mathematical Society for young mathematicians under 30 was awarded to **Alexander Soshnikov**, assistant professor of mathematics... *The Porphyrin Handbook* co-written by **Kevin Smith**, professor of chemistry and vice chancellor for research, received a 1999 Excellence in Professional/Scholarly Publishing awards from the Association of American Publishers, Professional and Scholarly Publishing Division... **Geerat Vermeij**, geology professor, will receive the Daniel Giraud Elliot Medal from the National Academy of Sciences for his outstanding contributions to science.

## Faculty Book Shelf

**Philip Jessop**, (assistant chemistry professor), *Chemical Synthesis Using Supercritical Fluids*.

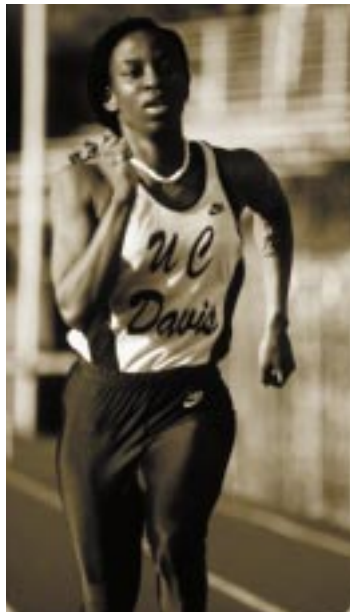
## New Faculty 1999–2000

**Daniel Ferenc**, assistant professor of physics; **Ting Guo**, assistant professor of chemistry; **Mikhail Khovanov**, assistant professor of mathematics; **Wolfgang Polonik**, assistant professor of statistics; **Steve Shkoller**, assistant professor of mathematics; **Alexander Soshnikov**, assistant professor of mathematics; **Michael Toney**, assistant professor of chemistry; **James Wells**, assistant professor of physics.

## Social Sciences alumna top woman athlete

The final year of the nineties went out with a bang for track and field athlete Jamila Demby. Not only did she graduate from UC Davis with a degree in rhetoric and communications, she also was named the 1999 Woman of the Year by the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA). The award recognizes academic and athletic excellence as well as leadership and community service.

Looking back at Demby's four years on campus, it is easy to see why she was selected from more than 300 nominations. Education came first, Demby said, and she knew she would have to balance her academics with her athletics and other activities. She maintained a 3.06 grade-point average, which earned her a place on the Intercollegiate Athletics Honor Roll from 1995 to 1999 and a Bloss Scholarship in 1995–96. Her impressive list of athletics honors include nine All-America awards, and UC Davis' 1999 Hubert Heitman award for female athlete of the



JAMILA DEMBY

year and in 1996 and 1999 women's track and field Most Inspirational award.

Demby volunteered at local elementary and junior high schools through the Aggie Pack (UC Davis' student booster

organization) Outreach Program, where she encouraged young students to excel in class as well as in sports. She also coached Special Olympics athletes and physically challenged children, and organized food and clothing drives and an event at Shriner's Hospital. Not surprisingly, the team captain for Aggie women's track and field was awarded UC Davis' 1999 Outstanding Senior Leadership award.

Following the NCAA Woman of the Year award banquet in Indianapolis last October, Demby said, "This award means a lot to me because it's about everything I love to do, I love to run track, I love school, and I love working with kids. They are giving me an award for going about my everyday life."

As for Demby's future, education again comes first and she hopes to work in outreach helping minority students prepare for college.

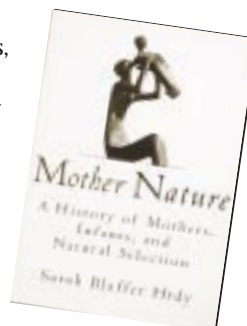
## Linguistics graduate research award established

Honoring the memory of Steven G. Lapointe, former professor of linguistics and director of the linguistics program, a new fund created by family and friends of Lapointe will provide an annual award of up to \$500 to support graduate student research in connection with thesis or dissertation projects.

## Are mothers naturally nurturing?

A new book by Sarah Hrdy, professor emerita of anthropology, challenges the belief that mothers instinctively and automatically nurture their babies. In *Mother Nature: A History of Mothers, Infants, and Natural Selection* the primatologist, scientist and mother concludes that while women do have innate maternal responses, they do not necessarily nurture each baby born—nor do other mammals.

"Nurturing has to be teased out, reinforced, maintained," she writes. "Nurturing itself needs to be nurtured."



## Ringelblum Professorship filled

The Department of History welcomes David Biale as the chairholder of the Emmanuel Ringelblum Chair in Jewish History. Prior to coming to UC Davis, Biale served as Koret Professor of Jewish History and director of the Center for Jewish Studies at the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley. He was also an adjunct professor in the Departments of Near Eastern Studies and History at UC Berkeley. Biale is the author of three books, *Gershom Scholem: Kabbalah and Counter-History*, *Power and Powerlessness in Jewish History*, and *Eros and the Jews: From Biblical Israel to Contemporary America*. The first two won the National Jewish Book Award and *Gershom Scholem* was listed by the New York Times as one of the best books in 1979. He has also written some fifty articles and over thirty book reviews, and is a contributing editor of *Tikkun Magazine*.



DAVID BIALE

Biale received a Guggenheim Fellowship for his current project—editing a three volume study of the symbolism of blood in Jewish and Christian traditions. He is also working on a book on modern Jewish thought.

## Stellar rankings

The “Philosophical Gourmet” ties UC Davis’ department of philosophy with UC San Diego at 19th-20th and ahead of University of Chicago, Yale, Northwestern and Johns Hopkins.

*The Journal of Applied Econometrics* ranks UC Davis economics 19th out of 150 ranked programs which were based on publications of 5,991 authors in 15 top journals that publish applied econometrics research. As well as ranking programs, the top 150 applied econometricians were also ranked. Kevin Hoover, chair and economics professor, was ranked 38th and Robert Feenstra, economics professor, was ranked 30th. Kevin Hoover also ranked 2nd for publications in the *Journal of Monetary Economics*.

## Faculty Notes

### Honors and Awards

Psychology professor **Dean Keith Simonton’s** recent book *Origins of Genius: Darwinian Perspectives on Creativity* will receive the William James Book Award at the convention of the American Psychological Association...psychology professor, **Neal Kroll**, has been named a fellow by the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)...**Bob Sommer**, professor of psychology, received an honorary doctorate from the Tallinn Pedagogical University in Estonia in recognition of his research and writing in environmental psychology.

### Faculty Book Shelf

**Gerald Dworkin**, philosophy professor, *Euthanasia and Physician-Assisted Suicide...*  
**Lyn Lofland**, professor of sociology, *The Public Realm: Exploring the City’s Quintessential Social Territory...*  
**Jeannette Money**, assistant professor of political science, *Fences and Neighbors: The Political Geography of Immigration Control*;  
**Michael Saler**, associate professor of history, *The Avant-Garde in Interwar England: Medieval Modernism and the London Underground...*  
**Charles Walker**, associate professor of history, *Smoldering Ashes: Cuzco and the Creation of Republican Peru*.

### New faculty

**Steven Athanases**, assistant professor of education; **David Biale**, professor of history and chairholder of the Emmanuel Ringelblum Chair in Jewish History; **Gregory Herek**, professor of psychology; **Benjamin Highton**, assistant professor of political science; **Seán O’Riain**, assistant professor of sociology; **James Prieger**, assistant professor of economics; **Vai Ramanathan**, associate professor of linguistics; **Connie Rosati**, assistant professor of philosophy; **Alan M. Taylor**, associate professor of economics; **Louis Warren**, associate professor of history; **Keith Widaman**, professor of psychology.

# Seth Merewitz

B.A. '93, J.D. '97

## College built strong foundation for alumnus

After he graduated, Seth Merewitz, B.A. '93, J.D. '97, could have chosen to pursue any number of career paths. He decided to attend King Hall law school and credits the multidisciplinary education he received as an undergraduate with preparing him for a career world in which boundaries overlap and lines blur.

The former ASUCD president majored in political science and minored in philosophy. He credits this mix of fields, and some interesting work experience, with laying the foundation for his interest in law.

"Many courses instilled a curiosity about public policy, and provided the tools to examine and research specific issues," Merewitz says.

Those courses involved some practical experience. One course, Orientation to Urban Community Resources, included a four-day field seminar in the Tenderloin area of San Francisco.

"That seminar opened my eyes to urban policy issues and the need for community and regional solutions," he says. "It inspired my interest in local government which has continued into my law practice."

Merewitz joined the Sacramento firm of McDonough, Holland & Allen in 1997. As an associate, he provides advisory and transactional services to public agencies and private entities in the areas of land use, redevelopment, and municipal law.

While an undergraduate, Merewitz gained experience working in the House of Representatives for Congressman Ron Wyden of Oregon, and in the Davis City Manager's Office. In law school, he was a research assistant for a professor and a member of the editorial board of the UC Davis Law Review, and he published in UC Davis' *Environmental Law and Policy Journal*. Merewitz also served as Yolo

County Planning Commissioner from 1996 to 1998.

He also developed relationships with his professors, which gave him an added perspective into his future career.

"I spent many an afternoon with Professor Al Sokolow [former political science, now human and community development] in the Coffee House discussing state and local politics, specifically land use development, growth management and land conservation issues," he says. "These discussions lasted through law school and have added greatly to my appreciation of issues facing our state and local communities. The cookies were good too!"

As active and involved today as he was while a student, Merewitz serves on the Sacramento Jewish Federation Leadership Institute Steering Committee, the People Helping People Care Advisory Board, and the Sacramento Neighborhood Housing Services Business and Finance Committee. His campus affiliations include lifetime membership in the Cal Aggie Alumni Association and service on the Center for the Arts Campaign Steering Committee. The committee is charged with assisting UC Davis in raising \$30 million for a new 1800-seat performance hall.

"My grandparents gave me an appreciation of the arts," he says. "I believe the Center for the Arts will provide our campus a resource that will benefit students, faculty, and the entire community and region for many generations."

He also notes the benefits of alumni giving back to the university and feels that students must learn the importance of this before commencement. "Students and alumni must remember that the generosity of others makes a significant difference to the campus environment, both in facilities and programs for both students and faculty," he says. "My advice to students and alumni is to give small, at first, and to target your gift to some aspect of campus that you feel is important. Then keep giving and allow the amount of your gifts to increase as your capacity increases."

Following his own advice, the Davis resident continues to give to the university from which he has reaped rich and diverse rewards.



SETH MEREWITZ,  
B.A. '93, J.D. '97

**“ I believe  
the Center for the Arts  
will provide our  
campus a resource that  
will benefit students,  
faculty, and the entire  
community and region  
for many  
generations. ”**

I/we would like to join the Herbert A. Young Society at the following level (please check one):

- Deans' Circle**  
\$1,000/year
- Leon Mayhew Circle**  
\$2,500/year
- Lawrence J. Andrews Circle**  
\$5,000 or more/year

If you choose to take advantage of the faculty book club discount, your contribution will be partially tax-deductible. Please see the *Fair Market Value* statement below.

**Please detach, fold and return this membership form, along with your contribution, in the enclosed envelope to:**

College Relations and Development Office  
Office of the Deans  
College of Letters and Science  
University of California  
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THE YOUNG SOCIETY



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**FAIR MARKET VALUE** If you choose to take advantage of the faculty book club discount, your contribution will be partially tax-deductible. You may deduct the amount of your gift minus the Fair Market Value of the faculty book club discount as follows: \$50 for Deans' Circle, \$75 for Leon Mayhew Circle, \$100 for Lawrence J. Andrews Circle.

**Herbert A. Young Society...continued**

- Support teaching efforts
- Improve college communications

**Ways to join**

Alumni and friends can join the Young Society at three levels: the Deans' Circle with an annual gift of \$1,000; the Leon Mayhew Circle with an annual gift of \$2,500; and the Lawrence J. Andrews Circle with an annual gift of \$5,000. (The latter two levels are named for the college's second and third deans.) Membership in the Young Society offers benefits that include the *Letters and Science* newsletter; early college news releases; invitations to selected campus events, such as the College Celebration, Chancellor's Convocation and the Chancellor's Picnic Day Ice

Cream Social; and a discount on books by Letters and Science authors. The Young Society has a reciprocal relationship with the Davis Chancellor's Club. Should a person join the Davis Chancellor's Club at the Mrak Associates level (\$2,500) an amount of \$1,500 may be designated to the College of Letters and Science, thereby making the donor a member of both annual clubs with one donation.

The Herbert A. Young Society will help advance the college in the new century by building on its past foundation to meet the challenges of the future. For more information on joining the Young Society see membership form above.



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Office of the Deans  
University of California  
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Davis CA 95616-8572  
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## UC DAVIS Calendar

Paul DeMarinis:  
Electronic/Acoustic  
Multimedia Works  
**April 9–May 19**  
Richard L. Nelson Gallery  
124 Art Building

Picnic Day  
**Saturday, April 15**  
All day, on campus

Meet the Deans Booth  
**Saturday, April 15**  
**(Picnic Day)**  
Come meet the deans of the  
College of Letters & Science  
8:00 a.m.–9:30 a.m.  
near parade grandstand

Letters & Science  
College Celebration  
**Friday, April 28**  
5:30 p.m. social  
6:30 p.m. dinner  
Walter A. Buehler Alumni  
and Visitors Center  
For more information,  
call the College Relations  
& Development Office at  
530.754.9313

UCD Symphony Orchestra  
and University Chorus  
**Sunday, May 7**  
8:00 p.m., Freeborn Hall  
Beethoven: Fantasy for Piano,  
Chorus, and Orchestra in C Minor  
Mahler: *Das Lied von der Erde*  
for alto, tenor and orchestra  
Tickets available through the  
Campus Box Office at  
530.752.1915

Whole Earth Festival  
**May 12–14, on campus**

Cabaret  
**May 18–21, 24–25**  
**and June 1–4**  
8:00 p.m., except 2:00 p.m.  
on Sundays, Main Theatre  
Tickets available through the  
Campus Box Office at  
530.752.1915

Letters & Science  
Commencement Ceremonies  
**Saturday, June 17**  
9:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.  
Recreation Hall