Winter 2010 Volume Thirteen

UCLA COLLEGE

REPORT

UCLA COLLEGE OF LETTERS AND SCIENCE

A showcase of the people and progress in the UCLA College of Letters and Science

On the cover:

The new Life Sciences building, a milestone structure for UCLA now under construction on the east border of the campus. Scheduled to open in 2010, the 176,000-square-foot Life Sciences building will bring together scientific disciplines in a flexible workspace that can be shaped to serve the constantly-changing needs of research and teaching.

Photo by Reed Hutchinson

Snapshots

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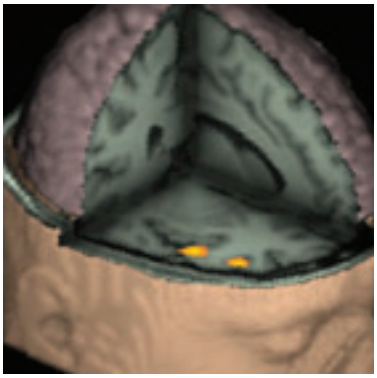
UCLA COLLEGE REPORT



Please address comments to hlebo@support.ucla.edu

Unless otherwise indicated, all photos by Reed Hutchinson.

A Close-up View of the Economy and the College

Dear Friends:

We face the 2009-10 academic year with a full complement of five deans and with collective enthusiasm to ensure that the College continues its role as the heart of UCLA. *The College Report* reflects the broad scope and vibrant energy of the College.

But we face challenges.

As the national economy deteriorated last year and California's budget fared even worse, you've seen media coverage of the impact of cuts on state funding—especially for higher education.

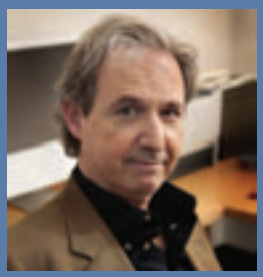
The broad discussion in the media and in Sacramento about the budget of the University of California tells only part of the story.

In the ongoing debate over the state's funding of higher education, what can be missed in the discussion is how reduced public budgets have much larger impact than one might expect on units like the College of Letters and Science that are paying the bills to teach undergraduates and train graduate students.

For the detailed story about how the state budget affects teaching and research in the College, we encourage you to see page 4 of this issue of *College Report*.

We will continue to explore these subjects in these letters as we partner with you to offer the finest education for our state. We welcome your views.

Sincerely,



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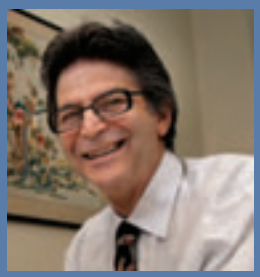

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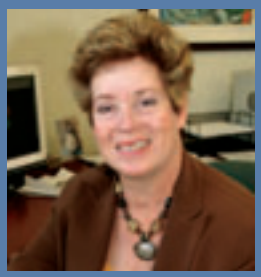

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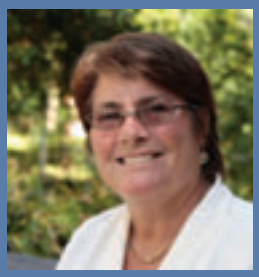

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College News

An update of events and progress in the UCLA College of Letters and Science.

Three New Deans Complete College Cabinet

Victoria Sork, Joseph Rudnick, and Alessandro Duranti fill the leadership team for the College.

The cabinet of academic administrators that leads the College of Letters and Science has been completed with the appointments of Victoria Sork, Alessandro "Sandro" Duranti, and Joseph Rudnick as deans of the College.

The three new deans join Tim Stowell, dean of humanities, and Judith Smith, vice provost and dean for undergraduate education, in the College Cabinet.

In addition to managing their respective divisions, the deans of the College act together as a cabinet for planning, budgeting, and decision-making.

"I am very excited to have the College leadership solidified by these outstanding appointments," said Scott Waugh, executive vice chancellor and provost.

"Not only will Victoria Sork, Joe Rudnick, and Sandro Duranti provide energetic leadership for their divisions, but along with Tim Stowell and Judi Smith they also demonstrate the continuing strength of the College. I am especially pleased by the level of collaboration among the deans, who are working together to address budgetary challenges and academic opportunities."

Alessandro "Sandro" Duranti
Social Sciences

A member of UCLA's anthropology faculty for more than two decades, Duranti served for the past two years as the department's chair and for the past decade as director of the UCLA Center for Language, Interaction, and Culture. He is a recipient of the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship, the UCLA Alumni Distinguished Teaching Award, and was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2008.

Duranti replaced Reynaldo F. Macías, who had served as acting dean since January 2007.

Credited with more than 100 publications, including five books and several edited volumes, Duranti has been president of the Society for Linguistic Anthropology, a member of the executive committee of the American Anthropological Association, and the editor of two journals. His research interests include political discourse, language as a non-neutral medium, and the role of improvisation in jazz, speech making, and everyday interaction.

Joseph Rudnick
Physical Sciences

Rudnick, who has served as acting dean of the Division of Physical Sciences since 2006, has been appointed as dean.

Rudnick took classes at UCLA as a senior in high school, and has served as a member of UCLA's physics faculty since 1984. His father, Isadore, was also a faculty member in physics.

Rudnick has served in several leadership positions within the College and in university-wide administration. He was chair of the Department of Physics from 1986 to 1989, and chair of the Department of Physics and Astronomy from 2004 to 2006. He has also been a member of several UCLA academic committees, including the Committee on Academic Personnel from 1994-97.

"I am very excited to have the College leadership solidified by these outstanding appointments. Not only will Victoria Sork, Joe Rudnick, and Sandro Duranti provide energetic leadership for their divisions, but along with Tim Stowell and Judi Smith they also demonstrate the continuing strength of the College."

Rudnick has lectured internationally and has held appointments at a number of institutions, including the University of Washington, Tel Aviv University, Case Western Reserve University, Tufts University, and UC Santa Cruz.

A theoretical condensed matter physicist, Rudnick has many research interests in statistical mechanics.

Rudnick's recent research has ranged from the purely physical—critical phenomena and exotic forms of magnetism—to the interface with biology in studies of the structure of viruses and the mechanical properties of DNA.

Victoria Sork
Life Sciences

As a high school student, Sork conducted her honors project at UCLA. Now, she is the first woman to become dean of a UCLA science division.

An environmental biologist, Sork is a professor in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology. A pioneer in the field of landscape genetics, an area that integrates genomics, evolutionary biology and conservation, Sork is former chair of her department.

"The life sciences represent the essential science of the 21st century," Sork said. "The life sciences provide the foundations for understanding biomedical innovations, applied human health problems, and environmental problems facing our planet."

Sork succeeds Emil Reisler as dean, who stepped down after a five-year term of service.

Sork came to UCLA in 2000 and served as a special assistant to the chancellor for academic initiatives after serving as an American Council for Education fellow-in-residence on campus. Her faculty appointments began in January 2002.

The College's Fiscal Status:

A Conversation with the Deans

When budget watchers consider the impact of the state's economy and its effects on public higher education, one issue would seem to be clear: the oft-stated statistic that "only 17 percent of the budget for the University of California comes from the state."

But that percentage vastly underestimates the role of state funding in paying for education at UCLA and in the College of Letters and Science.

The fiscal reality is that 17 percent represents a portion of *all* spending by the UC system, which includes every dollar that passes through the campus budgets, such as student housing, medical fees, athletics, and parking.

"More than half of the College's total budget is paid by the state, including almost all of the funds we spend for paying faculty and educating our students," said Judith L. Smith, vice provost and dean for undergraduate education.

Specifically for the College, "54 percent of our total budget is state funds," explained Joe Rudnick, dean of physical sciences, "and 46% comes from non-state funds, with most of this amount coming from research contracts and grants" *(see graph one)*.

State Funds Critical for the College's Education Mission

Simply, for the College, most of the cost of educating students—86 percent—is paid by state funds. Only 14 percent of the education budget comes from non-state sources *(see graph two)*.

Of the $265 million spent by the College specifically on education last year, $225 million came from state funds. This amount includes salaries and staff support for faculty, and other expenses directly used to educate undergraduate and graduate students.

"What this means is that the College relies almost entirely on the state to ensure that we can provide top quality education for our undergraduate and graduate students," said Tim Stowell, dean of humanities.

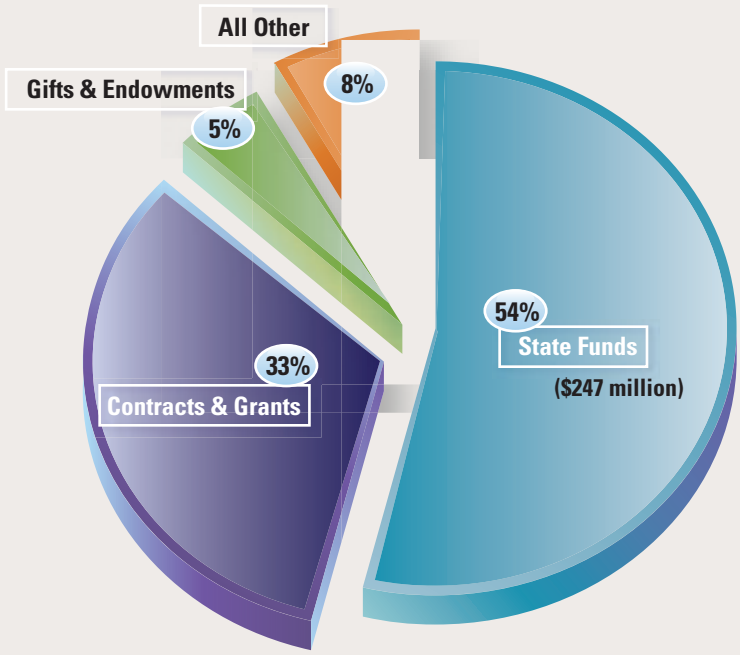
"And because such a large amount of the College's funds for education come from the state," Stowell said, "it is our educational mission that is hardest hit when state funds are reduced."

On the other hand, most of the faculty's research funds—92%—come from non-state sources, including foundations and federal agencies such as the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health *(see graph two)*.

"When state funds are cut, the College's research mission in the sciences is much less jeopardized than its teaching mission because research is supported largely by non-state sources," said Victoria Sork, dean of life sciences, adding that "these research grants, secured

"We are faced with a major challenge: to provide quality education with declining state support. The deans of the College and the faculty are committed to this—no matter how the economic environment changes."

Graph One
UCLA College of Letters and Science
Source of Funds 2008–09
(All expenses: $457 million)



directly by the faculty, provide valuable support for the campus, but they cannot be used to teach classes."

Reductions in State Funds Hurt Education

The funds that UCLA received from the state have been reduced by $130 million for 2009-10; how does this affect the College, the largest academic unit in the UC System?

The College's share of UCLA's reduction is $11 million, and further shortfalls in state funding for health and retirement benefits, utilities, and maintenance costs have added another $14 million in state reductions, for a total effective cut of about 10 percent of the College's state budget.

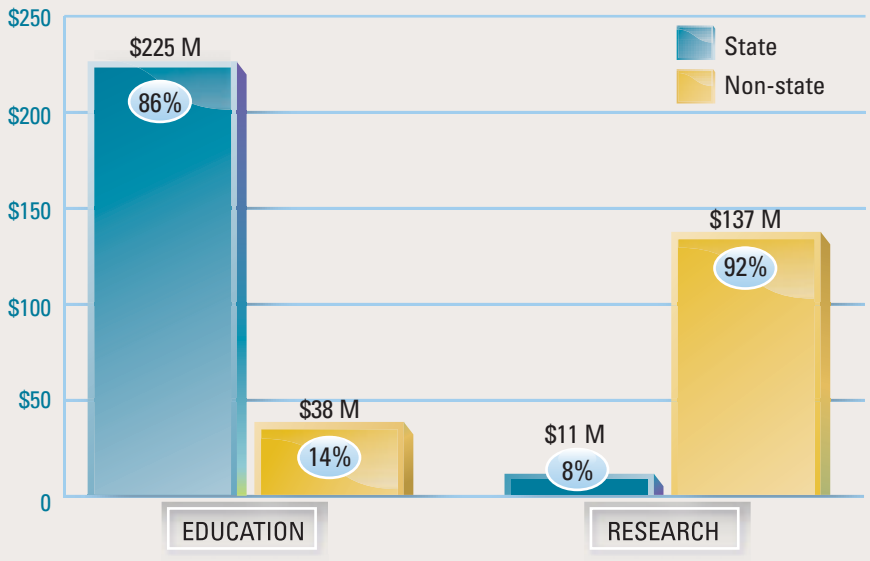
Because almost all of these funds are used for instruction, "the departments in the College will have to decrease their instructional costs" said Sandro Duranti, dean of social sciences, "but they must do this without sacrificing the quality of education offered. This presents a challenge for all departments."

Departments will reduce the cost of instruction by:

- Holding faculty positions unfilled as faculty retire or resign;
- Reducing the costs of temporary instructors, in some cases, by having permanent faculty teach more core undergraduate courses;
- Implementing modest reductions in departmental course requirements;
- Modestly increasing the size of lecture classes and discussion sections; and
- Increasing the fees to offset the increased costs in course materials and technology.

"None of these solutions are ideal and all involve painful choices," said Rudnick. "But we hope these cuts are only temporary measures as the state's economy begins to improve."

Graph Two
UCLA College of Letters and Science
Education and Research Expenses for 2008–09



College Priorities: Quality Instruction and Increased Student Support

A small but very important portion of the College's budget—5 percent—is supported by gifts and endowments *(see graph one)*. These funds are used largely to support Faculty Chairs *(see page 28)*, research, graduate fellowships, and undergraduate scholarships.

"We need to greatly expand the College's sources of funds for these areas," said Sork, who is currently developing a strategy to fund the new Life Sciences building *(see cover)*. Said Stowell, "More private funds to support faculty research, particularly in the humanities, where other types of funds are rare, will be critical to faculty advancement."

Currently, the College spends $22.5 million a year for student scholarships and fellowships. Most of these funds come from gifts and endowments.

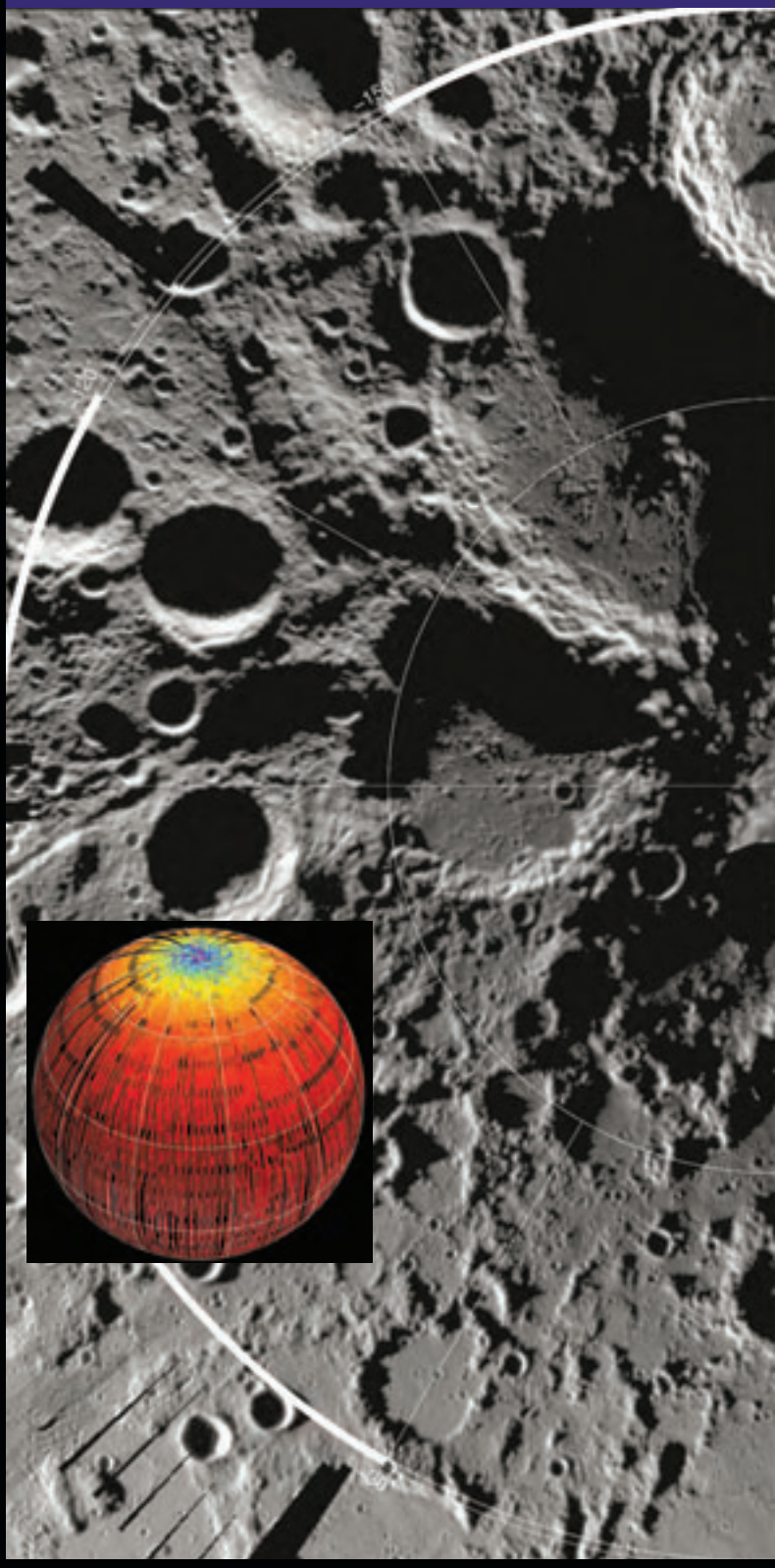
"Our goal is to significantly grow our base of support for scholarships and fellowships to provide more than double our current funding level to $50 million by 2019—the year of UCLA's centennial," said Smith. "This funding is a major priority of the Bruin Scholars Initiative."

"And regardless of the economy," said Duranti, "we are making changes with a goal of ensuring that we maintain access, quality, and the ability of students to graduate in a timely manner."

Said Smith, "We face a major challenge: to provide quality education with declining state support. The deans of the College and the faculty are committed to this—no matter how the economic environment changes."

A Whole New Way of

NASA's first-ever moon temperature-mapping effort, led by
first data—including the surprising finding that the



The moon, wrote author D.H. Lawrence, "is a white strange world, great, white, soft-seeming globe in the night sky." For as long as humans have looked to the sky, the moon has been an object of fascination. But even after six centuries of scientific observation, unmanned probes, and manned missions in the 1960s and '70s, in large measure the moon remains that "white strange world" about which much needs to be learned.

Of particular interest to lunar researchers are full-scale mapping of the moon's surface and learning fundamental information about the existence of water and other substances that would aid in human return for extended periods—all primary goals of the Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter, an unmanned NASA mission launched June 18, 2009.

Onboard the Orbiter is the Diviner Lunar Radiometer Experiment, a UCLA-managed instrument that is making the first global survey ever conducted of the temperature on the lunar surface.

The Diviner team is led by David Paige, a UCLA professor of planetary science and principal investigator for the experiment. In addition to UCLA scientists, the Diviner team includes members from NASA, the United States Geological Survey, and six other universities.

Paige's team is exploring, among several issues, the temperatures on the surface of the moon that represent some of the most extreme in our solar system. On the moon, daytime temperatures can be hotter than boiling water while nights can be as cold as liquid oxygen, but precise temperatures in specific regions were unknown. In particular, the Diviner team is looking at temperatures in the moon's relatively unexplored polar regions, including extremely cold areas that do not receive direct sunlight.

"We are excited about this mission because fully mapping the temperature of the moon has never been done before," said Paige. "The more we learn about the moon helps refine the scientific problems we can pose and increases our understanding of the locations we can identify for lunar landing sites for robotic and human explorers."

Now circling 31 miles above the moon's surface, the Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter is sending back a flood of data and images, including the Diviner's data on temperature measurements in the moon's polar regions.

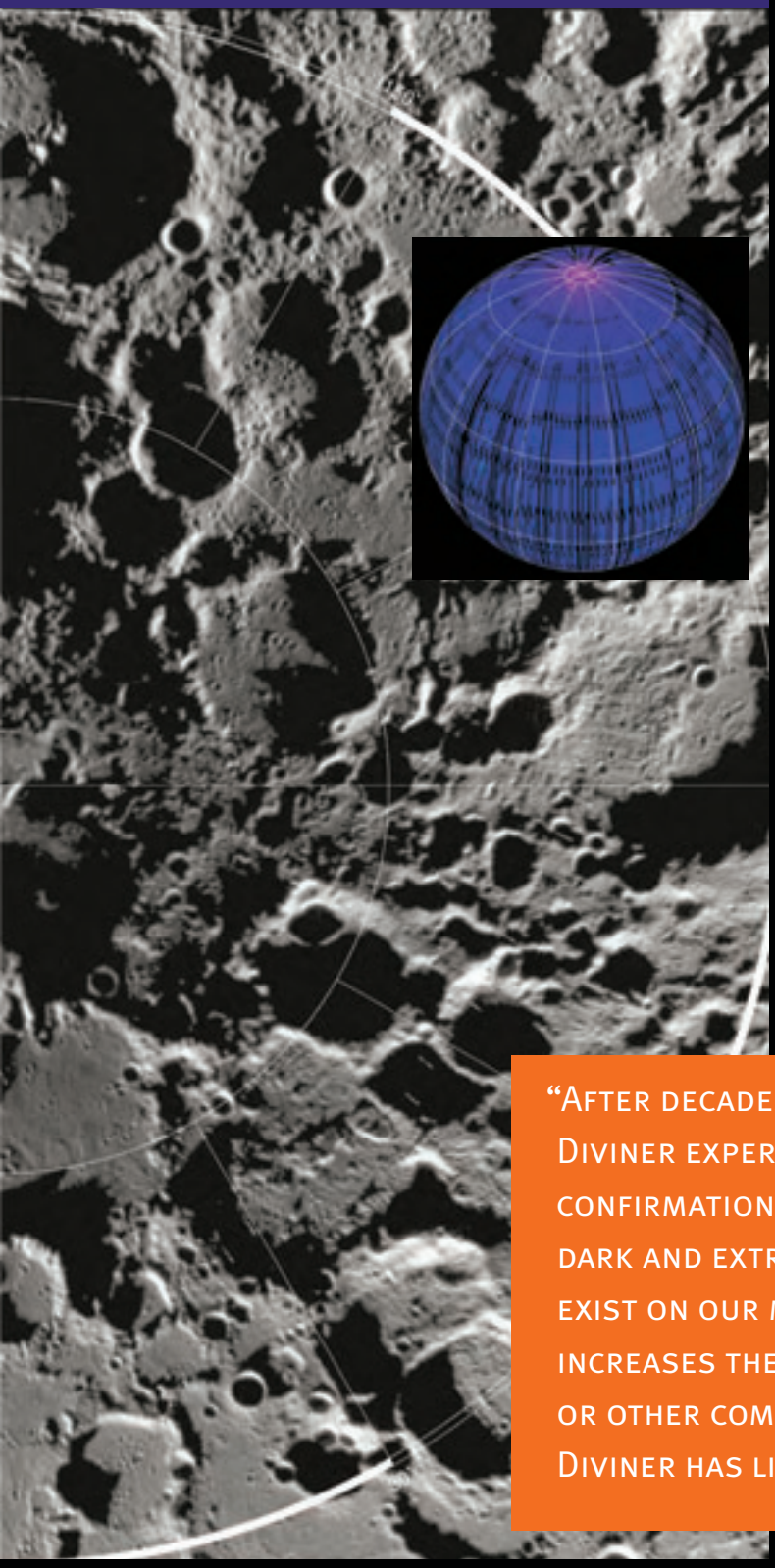
"We knew we would find extreme temperatures," said Paige, "but we didn't know how extreme they would be."

Examining the areas inside craters that are permanently in shadow in the southern region of the moon, Paige's team has identified temperatures that are among the coldest in the solar system—colder than even the most distant bodies, such as Pluto, which is 40 times farther from the sun.

The Diviner recorded low daytime temperatures in the

Seeing the Moon

UCLA planetary scientist David Paige, has returned its moon harbors some of the coldest places in our solar system.



southern polar region that reached 397 degrees Fahrenheit below zero—only 62 degrees higher than the lowest temperature possible of absolute zero.

"After decades of speculation, the Diviner experiment has given us the first confirmation that strange, permanently dark and extremely cold places actually exist on our moon," said science team member Ashwin Vasavada of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. "Their presence greatly increases the likelihood that water or other compounds are frozen there. Diviner has lived up to its name."

Diviner also found extremes in temperature in other regions of the lunar surface that can vary by more than 600 degrees. While temperatures in the shadows near the south pole approach minus 400 degrees, the instrument found daytime temperatures near the lunar equator that reached 224 degrees above zero.

Identifying those ultra-cold areas on the Moon are important because they can trap volatile chemicals, such as water and methane, that could give astronauts resources to use for extended stays, and could also help scientists understand more about the origin of the solar system.

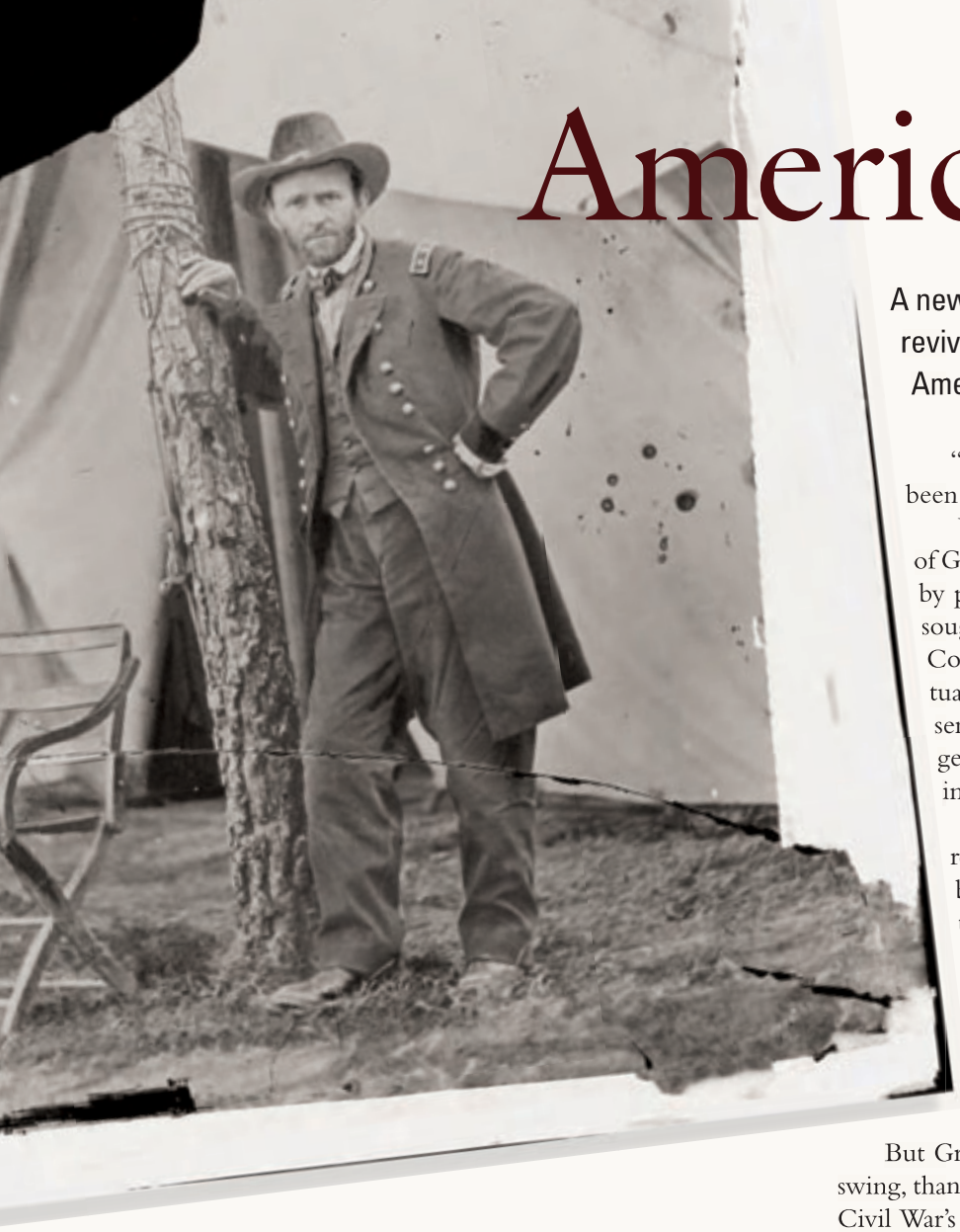
"It is safe to conclude that the temperatures in these super-cold regions are low enough to cold-trap water ice, as well as other more volatile compounds, for extended periods," Paige said. "These cold traps have been predicted theoretically for almost 50 years. Diviner is now providing detailed information regarding their spatial distribution and temperatures."

"Getting a look at the first global thermal maps of the lunar surface," said Paige, "is giving us a whole new way of seeing the moon."

Center: A high-resolution thermal map of the north polar region of the moon, taken by the Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter. Insets: maps of lunar temperatures during the day (far left) and at night (above left).

"After decades of speculation, the Diviner experiment has given us the first confirmation that strange, permanently dark and extremely cold places actually exist on our moon. Their presence greatly increases the likelihood that water or other compounds are frozen there. Diviner has lived up to its name."

For findings from the Diviner Lunar Radiometer Experiment, visit www.moon.ucla.edu



American Hero,

A new book by historian Joan Waugh is reviving the legacy of Ulysses S. Grant, one of America's most misunderstood presidents.

By Meg Sullivan

At the time of his death in 1885, Ulysses S. Grant was easily the most famous man in the United States—if not the world.

Yet, if Americans today remember this Civil War general and two-term American President, they think of him as a drunken, cigar-smoking military butcher who lacked integrity as chief executive.

But if one UCLA historian has her way, Ulysses S. Grant will rise again. In a new book that combines a biography of Grant with an assessment of his legacy, Joan Waugh argues that the mastermind behind the Union victory and a driving force behind Reconstruction deserves to be remembered with as much reverence and gratitude as Abraham Lincoln.

"What Grant did with Lincoln was incredible," said Waugh, author of *U.S. Grant: American Hero, American Myth*. "In 1860, four million people were enslaved. But by 1863, emancipation had occurred and by 1870 all male former slaves had the vote. Grant oversaw a social revolution that was unprecedented."

Waugh shows how the reputation of the general who came to personify the Union cause has mostly waned over the years.

"He was a tremendously important figure who has been treated unfairly," she said.

Waugh believes the seeds for today's low estimation of Grant were planted immediately after Reconstruction by proponents of "The Lost Cause," a movement that sought moral equivalency between the Union and the Confederacy. Waugh maintains the Lost Cause eventually infected popular culture with sanitized representations of slave-ownership, the Confederacy, and general Robert E. Lee, while simultaneously caricaturing Union leadership.

Although other maligned Union figures were rehabilitated during a reevaluation of the Civil War by scholars in the 1960s, Grant enjoyed no reprieve then, largely because he has been credited with introducing modern warfare to the U.S. military.

"Recent scholars generally tend to be anti-war, especially after Vietnam," Waugh said. "And here is the man who presided over the Union army at Shiloh, Tennessee, which saw more deaths in a single day than all American wars to that point."

But Grant's reputation among scholars is now on the upswing, thanks largely to a publishing project initiated during the Civil War's centennial and just now drawing to a conclusion.

Waugh remembers first being captivated by the Civil War when she picked up *Gone with the Wind* as an eleven-year-old. But as a scholar, she didn't originally focus on the war, gravitating instead to the history of women and social reformers. Waugh's first book explored Josephine Shaw Lowell, a late 19th-century New York reformer. Yet while conducting her research, Grant repeatedly tugged at her attention.

"I was really struck by what a remarkable life he led," Waugh said.

To do justice to his story, she educated herself about military history, partly by fashioning an award-winning summer study program for UCLA undergraduates at Gettysburg and other Civil War sites. To this day, Grant figures prominently in her undergraduate courses on the Civil War and Reconstruction.

The son of an Ohio tanner and abolitionist, Grant first endeared himself to the nation as a war hero in the Mexican-American War of 1846 and seemed destined for a bright future in the army. Eight years later, however, he was discharged under a cloud, possibly due to a drinking problem.

Although Grant's detractors have seized on the incident, Waugh says that scholarly investigations of the affair remain inconclusive. But there is no doubt that Grant suffered great loneliness, stationed for two years away from his family.

American Myth

His military career seemed forgotten until the war broke out in 1861, when his Illinois townsmen begged him to train them to answer a call from Lincoln for volunteers.

Through a combination of what Waugh describes as "steely determination, fortitude and calm," Grant steadily rose in the ranks of the Union Army to appointment as Lincoln's general-in-chief, racking up a long list of victories and eventually dealing the fatal blow to Confederate forces.

Grant's detractors have minimized his achievements by pointing out that the Union consistently outnumbered and outspent its rival, but Waugh insists that the disparities belie significant advantages enjoyed by the Confederates.

"Most of the time, the Confederate forces defended a smaller geographic position, which meant they could use fewer men and resources than the forces surrounding it," she said. "The North had to win a total victory, while the South just had to wear down the Union will to fight. That is why it took the United States four terrible years to win the war. Before Grant, no other northern military leader figured out a strategy to use those extra resources to the Union's advantage."

While Lee today is remembered as courtly and gentlemanly, it is Grant's character that shines the most brightly in Waugh's book. She details the magnanimous way in which the general accepted Confederate surrenders. He called off a 100-gun salute planned by his men to celebrate their victory.

"The rebels are our countrymen again, and the best sign of rejoicing after the victory will be to abstain from all demonstrations in the field," Waugh quotes Grant as saying.

Waugh said Grant had no political ambitions, and agreed reluctantly to run for president to complete Lincoln's goals for reconciliation, following Lincoln's assassination and the impeachment of his disastrous successor Andrew Johnson.

"I am afraid I am elected," Grant told wife Julia after winning his first election.

While Grant's administration was marked by scandal, frequently owing to cronyism, Waugh insists his stumbles stemmed from political innocence not malice or greed. She laments the fact that the trials of Reconstruction as well as Grant's achievements during the period have been consistently minimized. Dispatching troops to the south to take on the Ku Klux Klan and guarantee African-American suffrage, Grant strove to enact civil rights goals not even envisioned by Lincoln. During Grant's presidency, the 15th Amendment, which guarantees the right to vote regardless of race, was ratified.

"I don't think he was a great president, but I do think he was an essential president," said Waugh. "I can't think of anybody else who could have brought the stability to the country that he did. The importance of that contribution in the aftermath of this devastating civil war just can't be overestimated."

"I don't think he was a great president, but I do think he was an essential president. I can't think of anybody else who could have brought the stability to the country that he did. The importance of that contribution in the aftermath of this devastating civil war just can't be overestimated."

Ulysses S. Grant, at the height of his influence in 1864 as commanding general of the Union Army in the Civil War (left) and a decade later (below) at the family home during his much-maligned presidency. "He was a tremendously important figure who has been treated unfairly," said historian Joan Waugh (above).

The Honors Collegium offers a renowned series of seminar courses that brings together UCLA's finest faculty and undergraduates in challenging interdisciplinary experiences.

Remarkable Teaching Moments

Lecturer Dario Nardi (top center) leads an Honors Collegium course titled "Artificial Intelligence: Machines as People, People as Machines."

By Alison Hewitt

It's not every day that curators at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art grant special permission for a blind student to caress a statue during a UCLA class field trip.

That's part of why Robert Gurval, associate professor of classics, enjoys devising and teaching honors classes for the Honors Collegium at UCLA. With just 20 undergraduate students in each Collegium class, Gurval almost always plans a museum visit, as he did for his class on representations of Cleopatra a few years ago, when the tour guide allowed Gurval's blind student to run her hands along a sculpture of the Egyptian queen and share her unique observations with the class.

"My most memorable teaching moments have been in my Honors Collegium seminars," Gurval said. "The students have often been the most interesting and brightest students I've had."

The Honors Collegium is a series of small undergraduate seminars offered as part of the Honors Program in the College. The Honors Collegium recruits teachers from all over campus, asking them to branch out of their home departments and invent classes that unite several disciplines under one umbrella class.

The resulting interdisciplinary Collegium classes—about 60 classes each year on topics such as artificial intelligence, genetic engineering, or the literature and poetry of India—tempt students into subjects they would never explore within their major.

Pulitzer Prize-winning UCLA scholar Jared Diamond has taught in the Honors Collegium; former secretary of state Warren Christopher developed the seminar "International Flashpoints;" another Collegium class focused on the history of childbirth and how the invention of forceps at a time when women were not allowed to use "machines" allowed male doctors to usurp the role of midwives.

The Collegium courses represent a cornerstone of the Honors Program. Since the Honors Program began at UCLA in 1979, it has become a model for colleges nationwide because of its quality and size, said G. Jennifer Wilson, the assistant vice provost for Honors and director of the College Honors Program.

"Administrators from across the country contact me to find out how we run an Honors Program on such a large scale," she said. "Most honors programs elsewhere are a very small, elite group of perhaps 100. But we're a huge public university. We have about 4,000 students in the program."

"We have to consider: what happens to students in a large university who don't quite fit the mold, and who are on the high end academically?" Wilson said. "So we have an honors program that includes as many people as possible while still maintaining very high academic goals."

To qualify for graduating with College Honors—one of the highest undergraduate academic achievements at UCLA—students must maintain a high grade point average and take a minimum of 44 honors class units for students who enrolled as freshman or 28 for transfers. Graduating with College Honors typically requires taking two of those honors classes in the Collegium.

"These classes are like a breath of fresh air," said Kevin Longa, a 19-year-old sophomore majoring in business economics. Longa is taking his second Collegium class: lecturer Dario Nardi's class, "Artificial Intelligence: Machines as People, People as Machines."

Nick Valluri, a 20-year-old junior majoring in economics, is also enrolled in Nardi's artificial intelligence seminar as his second Collegium class.

"I've really cultivated a relationship with the professors in my Honors classes," Valluri said. "The students are here because they're into the topic, so they really have something interesting to say."

One Wednesday morning early in the fall quarter, Nardi began the day's artificial intelligence lecture with the question, "What is intelligence?" The students—among whom were a neurology major, a linguistics and philosophy major, a math major, and a political science major—received a sweeping overview of how our understanding of artificial intelligence has evolved over the decades. Nardi brought clarity to unfamiliar formulas, and raised the question of how people can help machines interpret plausibility and possibility, which set the class chuckling when that discussion led to an example about the impossibility of vampires attending USC or UCLA.

"Our students really love the Collegium courses. They are small classes with professors deeply devoted to teaching them, on topics that really excite them."

Eventually, the students will customize their own interactive virtual character.

"These topics are a really refreshing change of pace from econ-accounting," said another of Nardi's students, Anna Pione, a 21-year-old senior majoring in business economics and accounting.

Nardi still keeps in touch with students he taught in his first Honors Collegium class 10 years ago, and said the seminars appeal to faculty as much as students.

"All faculty members like to create their own classes and have small seminars," Nardi said. He is actually part of the Department of Anthropology, but his artificial intelligence class would have to be less technical to fit into the anthro curriculum, he said. "This way, I can strike a balance between north and south campus."

Bob Goldberg, a professor of Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology who taught a groundbreaking Collegium class on genetic engineering even before the human genome was sequenced, described the Honors Program as almost a college within a college.

"It's one of the most prestigious honors programs in the country," Goldberg said. "Students get the experiences they would get at an elite, small liberal arts college."

But for Goldberg, a huge draw is the opportunity to create a Collegium class with such a wide-ranging interdisciplinary approach.

"The appeal is to design a class that's different—something very different," he said.

"That enthusiasm is part of what makes the Collegium experience so powerful," said Wilson.

"Our students really love the Collegium courses," she said. "They are small classes with professors who are deeply devoted to teaching them, on topics that really excite them."

Slavic scholar David MacFadyen's interest in Russian poetry and song led him to create an online showcase for Russian popular music that is helping struggling musicians find their audience and each other.

Creating a Haven for Russian Music Far from Moscow

By Robin Heffler

While growing up in Avebury, England, the largest prehistoric village in Europe, David MacFadyen heard his father's tales about being a British Army soldier in Germany just before the Berlin Wall was erected.

"He was full of James Bond-like stories about East Berlin," said MacFadyen, professor and chair of the UCLA Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, "and there were books, maps, military badges, and border passes around the house related to that area of the world. Later, in the early '80s, when the collapse of the Soviet Union was beginning, there was a sad romance to Eastern Europe in the air that I found fascinating."

MacFadyen developed an interest in Russian poetry and song that led to a bachelor's and master's degree in Russian language and literature at the University of London, and later a doctorate in Slavic languages and literature from UCLA. Initially, he examined the poetry of Joseph Brodsky, a Nobel Prize-winner who was imprisoned by Soviet authorities and later expelled from the country. But since joining the UCLA faculty in 2001, MacFadyen has forged new paths in what he studies and how he teaches and conducts his research.

Although MacFadyen teaches traditional Russian literature—the works of Tolstoy, Dostoevsky, Chekov, and others—he is more focused on tracking and analyzing Russian popular songs. Of the 11 books he has written, three are critically-acclaimed volumes about Russian popular song.

"The distance between poetry and song is very small," he said. "The most important forms of poetry are written by the people who are on TV every day singing songs across the largest country in the world—Russia. As far as I'm concerned, cultural significance is something that can be counted—who and what gets the attention of the most number of people."

MacFadyen has a huge collection of Russian songs—more than 450,000 examples on CD, on vinyl records, or downloaded from the Internet. Dating to before the Russian Revolution in 1917, it is arguably the largest collection of its kind

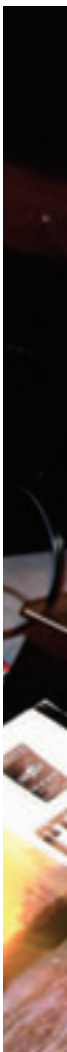
Now, though, he said, "hard media (CDs, DVDs, vinyl) and media stores in Russia are basically dead, because 80 to 90 percent of all material—songs, movies, comedy, audio books—is pirated. It's all because of the economy."

MacFadyen said most of this material has moved online to social networks, which Russians frequent more than any other people in the world. He noted that the Russian equivalent of Facebook is *V Kontakte*, which means "in touch," and features some 200 million videos. This huge Russian-speaking presence online has been dubbed the "Runet," reflecting the domain name ending in ".ru."

"For cultural, financial, and criminal reasons, social networks are where communities of caring are found—communities of enthusiasms," he said. "This is especially important in Russia because of low incomes and massive distances. I'm interested in how people demonstrate online what they care about, how that communication shapes the culture and politics of the entire Russian nation."

To better understand and share new Russian music, MacFadyen built a massive Web site hosted by his department. The site, www.farfrommoscow.com, showcases a wide variety

www.farfrommoscow.com



of popular music and music videos from Russia and beyond.

"Rock music in Russia has high cultural prestige because it was considered the best form of literate cultural protest at the end of the Soviet Union. Yet, the most democratic, affordable, and prevalent types of music today are experimental electronic and dance music." Among the other styles of music included on his Web site are easy listening, jazz, and folk.

Besides giving a sense of the vastness and variety of popular Russian music, MacFadyen sees both the site and other Internet tools as a way to help struggling musicians more easily find each other and an audience in real, not just virtual, space.

"The idea of a major Russian artist in music and film is declining," he said. "There are now millions of minor ones. With everything being pirated, musicians can't make any money trying to sell copies of their music. So they need to tour all the time. But because they are connected to each other and their audience online rather than geographically, they have a hard time developing a local music scene, which—paradoxically—*reduces* the possibility of working and touring together!"

To help remedy the situation, MacFadyen started a Google Maps project, superimposing musicians' social networking connections on top of Google's geographic maps of Russia.

"For the first time, we'll see how shared enthusiasms and passions are shared geographically," MacFadyen said. "It's the idea of embedding web-based tools in physical reality."

He also sees such online tools as very useful for his students, as well as for UCLA's Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures. The department was recently designated as a Russian Language Flagship Program, which seeks to train graduates with superior fluency in one of many languages critical to U.S. competitiveness and security.

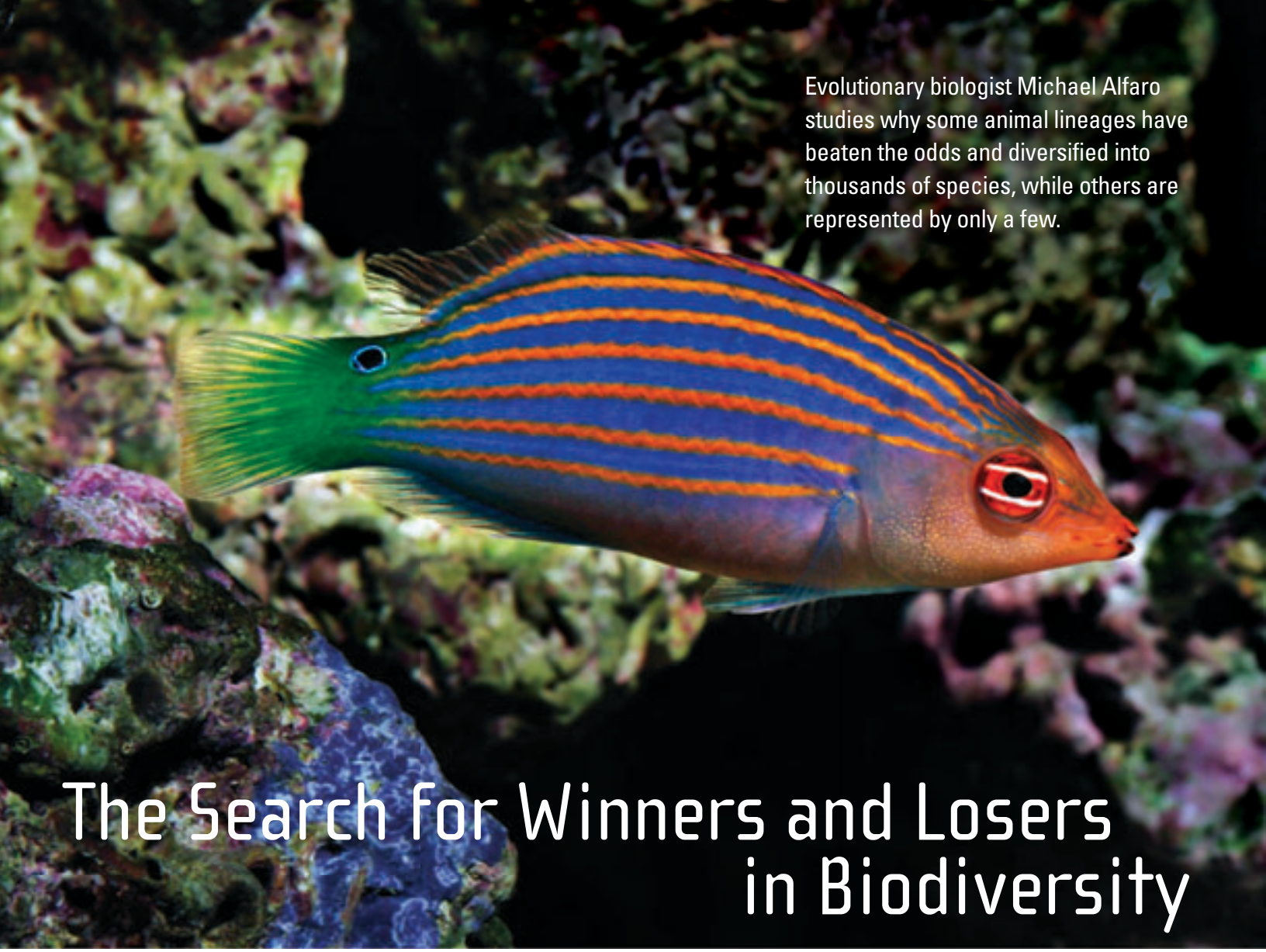
Reflecting his interest in a variety of Russian cultural media, MacFadyen also teaches Russian film at UCLA, including courses on film history, animation, literature and world cinema, and post-Soviet cinema. Last spring, he worked with the City of West Hollywood to present the first local celebration of Russian graphic arts, animation, and documentary and feature films, as well as Russia's biggest rock band.

MacFadyen's next project holds promise for benefiting students and faculty in his own department as well as others at UCLA.

"I'm working now on developing online, visually delivered courses," he said. "They are almost like little documentaries for the language departments at UCLA."

"The distance between poetry and song is very small. The most important forms of poetry are written by the people who are on TV every day singing songs across the largest country in the world—Russia."

David MacFadyen (above), professor and chair of the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, created a massive Web site to showcase the music of Russian musicians, such as Samoe Bol'shoe Prostoe Chislo from St Petersburg (far left), and Flu GI (left) from Moscow..



Evolutionary biologist Michael Alfaro studies why some animal lineages have beaten the odds and diversified into thousands of species, while others are represented by only a few.

The Search for Winners and Losers in Biodiversity

Over the 600-million year history of animal life, some of the early lineages have diversified in spectacular ways, while most others have become extinct. These "pulses" of diversification and extinction have shaped the patterns of biodiversity that we see today.

"A striking patterns of animal diversity is that it is unevenly spread across the major animal groups," said Michael Alfaro, assistant professor of ecology and evolutionary biology.

"This pattern can be observed at many scales," said Alfaro. "Most of the animals on earth are arthopods (animals with hard external skeletons like ants and lobsters. Most vertebrates (animals with backbones) are fish, and most of the land-dwelling animals are birds."

This uneven distribution poses a fundamental question for evolutionary biologists.

"Why," asks Alfaro, "on a planet with millions of species of animals, are many animal groups unequally represented in biodiversity on Earth? Is this explained by bursts of diversification that have occurred over their history? Or did some animal lineages with only a small number of species today—such as crocodiles—once have much greater diversity which has been eroded by extinction?"

Alfaro's laboratory works to understand the fundamental patterns of diversity among vertebrates.

"Animals aren't actively trying to diversify; they're only in the business of making more babies," said Alfaro. "But in spite of this, some animal lineages appear to have diversified extensively into many different species, while others have fizzled and produced far fewer than we would expect."

In his current study, funded by the National Science Foundation, Alfaro and his colleagues analyzed DNA and fossils from 47 major vertebrate groups to calculate whether the "species richness" of each group was particularly high or low. The research allows scientists to calculate for the first time which animal lineages have exceptional rates of success.

"Our lab has found strong evidence that among vertebrates, these changes are explained by an explosion of diversification at key places on the vertebrate tree of life—an explosion in some animal lines that is contrasted by high turnover in the other species of animals that are caused by extinctions," Alfaro said.

"The richest groups, including most birds and fish, experienced significant, relatively recent bursts of diversification," said Alfaro. "Most other vertebrate groups have about the number of species we would expect, even when we consider high rates of extinction.

"In other words, even if an animal lineage lasts for an incredibly long time, it doesn't grow into billions of species, because extinction is always acting to knock back diversity. However, our lab has also found that some lineages have managed to beat these high extinction odds and persist."

Among the groups of evolutionary winners are most modern birds, most mammals, and most coral reef fish. Modern birds have diversified nine times faster than expected, and coral reef fish diversified about eight times faster than expected.

Which animal lineages are losers at diversification?

Even though crocodiles and alligators have successfully survived for more than 250 million years, there are only 23 living species. And, they are diversifying a staggering 1,000 times slower than would have been expected.

"This type of slow evolution is a big mystery about biodiversity," Alfaro said. "How can any crocodile species remain, given their low diversification? These animals must have something working for them that has allowed them to persist."

Alfaro also studies the diversity of animal shapes, sizes, and colors to learn more about the effects of physical diversity on the success of animal evolution.

"Consider the fish that live on coral reefs," said Alfaro. "More than 500 species of wrasse (a family of reef fish) exist. They are spectacularly diverse in their color, shape, and feeding habits. Wrasse have evolved to eat almost anything on a reef.

"Yet wrasse live side-by-side with many groups of fish that show much less diversity in color and shape and have a far more restricted diet. Both lineages have survived to the present, but why are the wrasses so much more diverse?"

Alfaro's research team includes Francesco Santini, a UCLA postdoctoral scholar, and Alex Dornburg, a former undergraduate in the lab who is now a graduate student at Yale.

Looking through evolutionary history, Alfaro also explores broad questions about how and when species diversified.

"Our studies are just beginning to consider the fossil record of animal groups," said Alfaro. "The diversity of current-day crocodiles is extremely limited, but the fossil record shows periods of higher species richness. So it's possible that crocodiles may have diversified at some point in history, and high rates of extinction left us with the species we have today.

Michael Alfaro seeks to clarify why some animals, like wrasse (left), diversify, while others, like crocodiles (below) do not. Photo: Jessica Lynch

"Our next step is to increase our analysis of fossils to get a more complete picture of the historical record of diversity."

Alfaro also works to clarify how the timing of diversification relates to evolution of key features of an animal lineage.

"It is sometimes thought that the evolution of key traits, like flight in birds, or hair in mammals, explains the species richness we see in those groups. However, our work suggests that the timing of when vertebrates diversified often does not correspond to the appearance of those traits. This means we may need new explanations for the diversity around us.

"We are extending our ideas to test the entire tree of life," Alfaro said. "We want to use large databases of genetic information and the fossil record to develop a comprehensive picture of how the biodiversity of life has accumulated, and how some animals have persisted against all odds to deepen the biodiversity of the planet."

"Some animal lineages appear to have diversified extensively into many different species, while others have fizzled and produced far fewer than we would expect."

All the News That's Art

By Judy Lin

The talks, held in Geneva, defused some of the tensions.

Scientists identified five tiny craters.

The precision display of military bravado was designed for a domestic audience.

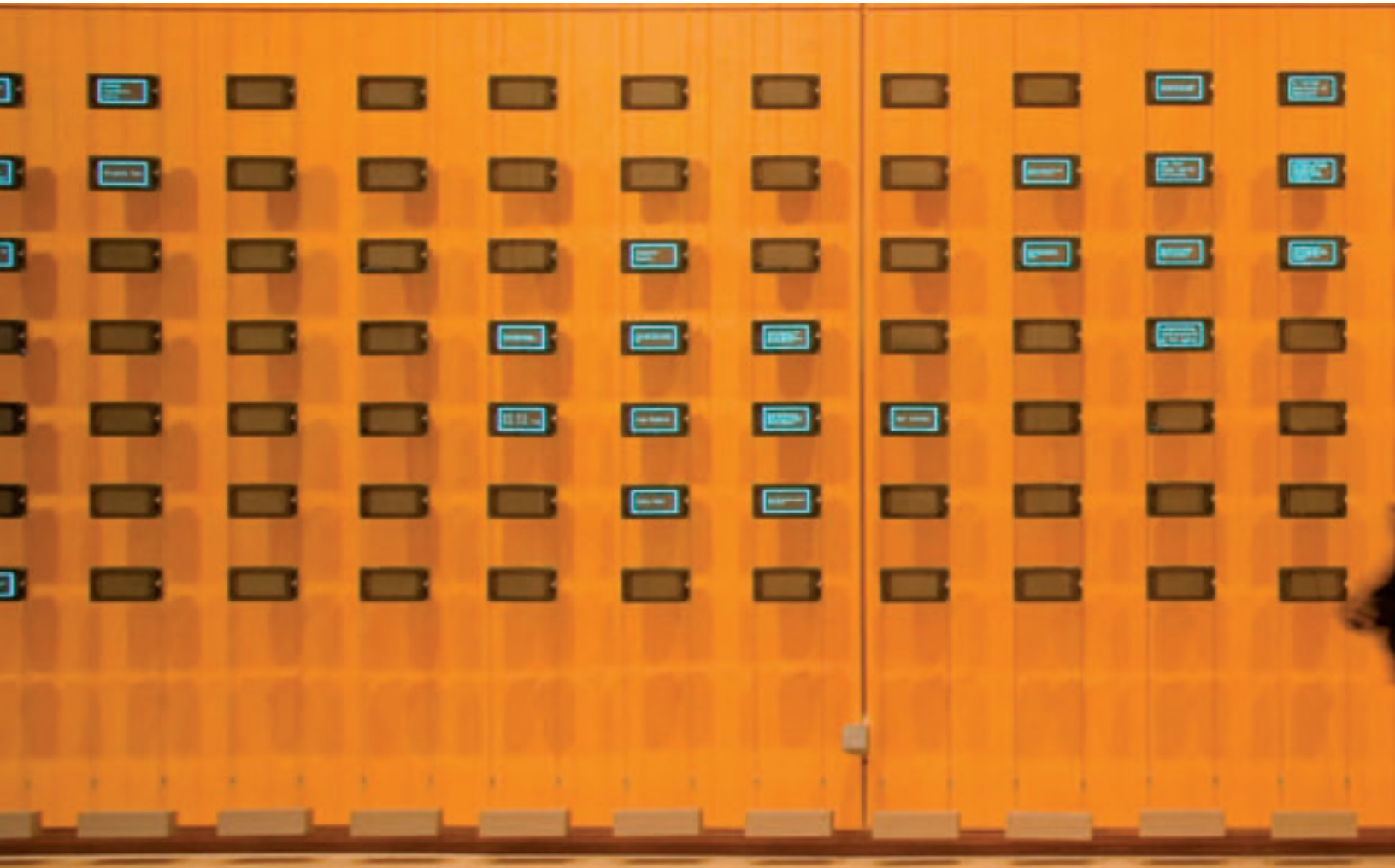
Twenty-five years to life.

Millions of words ebb and flow in an endless stream, creating an ever-evolving work of art.

The content of 158 years of *The New York Times* assumes new form in "Moveable Type," a multimedia sculpture created by UCLA professor of statistics Mark Hansen and media artist Ben Rubin.

Commissioned by the *Times* for the lobby of its 52-story building in Manhattan, "Moveable Type" makes the old printer's term literal. Letters and words march, dance, and sweep across 560 paperback book-size video screens installed along two walls of the lobby's 65-foot-long central corridor.

Drawing on Hansen's research background on complex data flow and Rubin's digital media expertise, "We began a series of studies that used information as material to make art," said Hansen, who is also vice chair of graduate studies in the Department of Statistics. Before "Moveable Type" was created, the groundbreaking installation by Hansen and Rubin



"Moveable Type" is located in the main lobby of *The New York Times* Building, 620 8th Avenue, between 40th and 41st Street. It is open to the public during business hours.

Professor of Statistics Mark Hansen collaborated with artist Ben Rubin to create "Moveable Type," a constantly-changing sculpture that uses the words of *The New York Times* as its medium.

titled "Listening Post" drew on data from Internet chat rooms and bulletin boards. "Listening Post" won the 2004 Prix Ars Electronica Golden Nica for Interactive Art.

In "Moveable Type," the individual screens—similar to the fluorescent displays used in digital clocks and microwave ovens—are networked to produce an elegant architecture, both physical and digital.

"The content in a newspaper is framed in a very particular format," said Hansen. "This exhibit breaks down the information into individual pieces that might encourage you to see something in a different way."

Hansen and Rubin created algorithms that identify patterns of language use from the *Times'* coverage, presenting material in a series of short "movements," much like movements of a symphony.

Most of the movements also include sound, which is intended, the artists noted, "to provide a warm energy as a counterpoint to the cool electronic quality of the visual displays." For instance, one movement presents 560 letters to the editor typing out one clacking typewriter keystroke at a time.

Last summer, Hansen and Rubin completed their annual visit to "Moveable Type" (the sculpture celebrated its second anniversary in November) to modify the stream of information and program in more material.

"They are like dynamic portraits," Hansen said of "Moveable Type" and "Listening Post." "We design a basic structure, we design the algorithms, and then the data sift through, telling and retelling the underlying stories."

Professor of Statistics Mark Hansen (seated) and media artist Ben Rubin developed "Moveable Type" to present an innovative artistic expression of text on 560 screens (detail left).

www.stat.ucla.edu/~cocteau

What Happens When We Put Feelings into Words?

New brain imaging studies by psychologist Matthew Lieberman and colleagues are revealing why verbalizing our feelings makes our sadness, anger, and pain less intense.

Why does putting our feelings into words—such as talking with a therapist or friend, or writing in a journal—help us to feel better?

New brain imaging studies by psychologist Matthew Lieberman and colleagues are revealing why speaking our feelings makes sadness, anger and pain less intense.

"We want to understand how the brain works, and we are learning that the brain is a fundamentally social entity in so many ways," Lieberman said. "We are social creatures; to understand the brain, you need to understand social behavior."

Lieberman, whose research is supported by the National Science Foundation and the National Institute of Mental Health, is one of the founders of the field of Social Cognitive Neuroscience. By using Functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging at the UCLA Ahmanson-Lovelace Brain Mapping Center to examine brain activity, Lieberman explores how the human brain processes social information, and how the brain supports social experience.

For example, when people see a photograph of an angry or fearful face, they have increased activity in a region of the brain called the amygdala, which serves as an alarm to activate a cascade of biological systems that protect the body in times of danger.

Researchers in Lieberman's Social Cognitive Neuroscience Laboratory see a robust response in the amygdala even when people are shown emotional photographs so quickly that the image doesn't register in the conscious mind.

But beyond that response to the photo itself, does seeing an angry face and *saying* it is an angry face produce a different brain response? The answer is yes, said Lieberman.

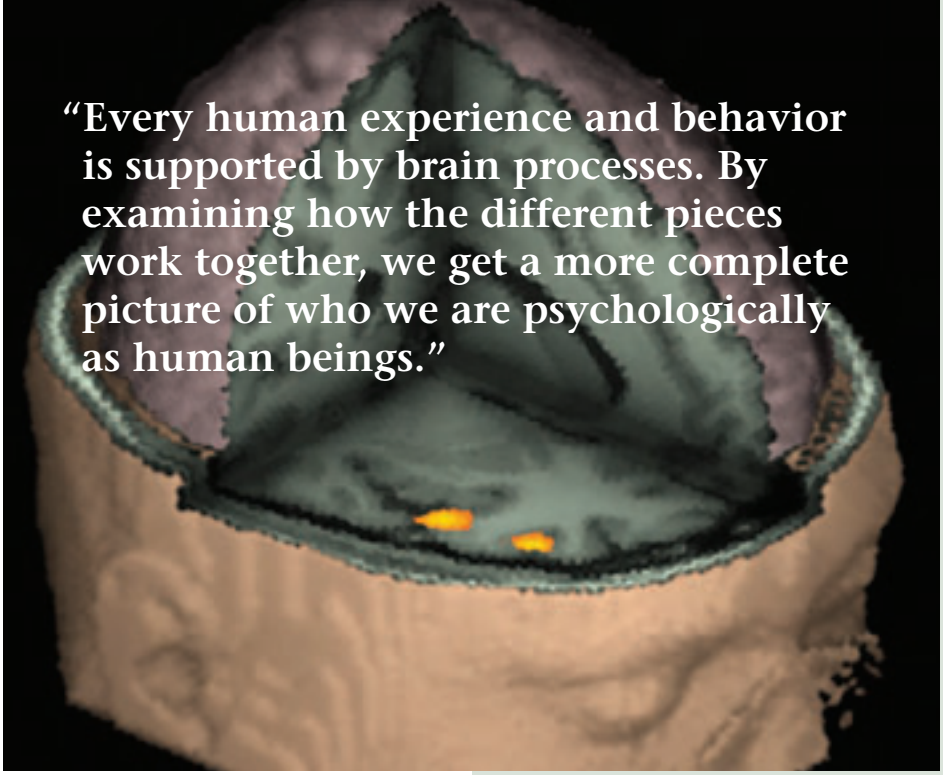
"When you attach the word 'angry,' you see a decreased response in the amygdala," said Lieberman.

The study showed that while the amygdala was less active when an individual labeled the feeling, another region of the brain—the right ventrolateral prefrontal cortex—was more active. This region, located behind the forehead and eyes, has been associated with thinking in words about emotional experiences. It has also been implicated in inhibiting behavior and processing emotions, but exactly what it contributes has not been known.

"We're suggesting that when we think in words about our emotions—in other words, when we label our emotions by talking about them—that may be part of what the right ventrolateral region is responsible for," Lieberman said.

Most people may not realize why putting their feelings into words is helpful.

"If you ask people who are really sad why they are writing in a journal, they are not likely to say it's because they think this is a way to make themselves feel better," Lieberman said. "People don't typically do this to intentionally overcome their negative feelings; it just seems to have that effect.



"Popular psychology says 'when you're feeling down, just pick yourself up.' But the world doesn't work that way. If you know you're trying to pick yourself up, it usually doesn't work—self-deception is difficult. However, because labeling our feelings doesn't require us to want to feel better, it doesn't have this problem."

Lieberman's current findings are based on his study of 30 people who viewed images of individuals making different emotional expressions. Below the picture of the face they either saw two words, such as "angry" and "fearful," and chose which emotion described the face, or they saw two names, such as "Harry" and "Sally," and chose the gender-appropriate name that matched the face.

"When you attach the word 'angry' to an image, you see a decreased response in the amygdala," Lieberman said. "When you attach the name 'Harry,' you don't see the reduction in the amygdala response. So it's not about using words per se; it's about putting feelings into words.

"When you put feelings into words, you're activating this prefrontal region and seeing a reduced response in the amygdala," he said. "In the same way you hit the brake when you're driving when you see a yellow light, when you put feelings into words, you seem to be hitting the brakes on your emotional responses.

"This is ancient wisdom, but now we can verify it with brain mapping," Lieberman said. "Putting our feelings into words helps us heal better. If a friend is sad and we can get them to talk about it, that probably will make them feel better."

Psychologists have long pondered the effects of therapy on the physical structure of the brain. Does therapy lead to physiological changes in the right ventrolateral prefrontal cortex? Lieberman, UCLA psychology professor Michelle Craske, and their colleagues, are studying this and other questions.

For instance, Lieberman and colleagues looked at how the brain responds the same way to positive emotional treatment as it does to more tangible rewards, such as winning money or eating chocolate. The research, conducted with Golnaz Tabibnia, showed that being treated fairly turns on the brain's reward circuitry.

"Getting a fair offer activates the same brain circuitry as when we eat craved food," said Tabibnia.

In collaboration with David Creswell and Lisa Burklund, Lieberman is showing that mindfulness meditation training increases the strength of the prefrontal response during emotion labeling. And he explores the neural basis of persuasion—such as encouraging people to use sunscreen, or how they view anti-smoking ads—to see if looking at the responses of the brain explains more about a person's future behavior than they themselves know or can say.

"Every human experience and behavior is supported by brain processes," Lieberman said. "By examining how the different pieces work together, we get a more complete picture of who we are psychologically as human beings." CR

Matthew Lieberman's exploration of brain functions includes studies of the region in the brain called the amygdala (above in yellow). One of Lieberman's tests looks at how the brain responds to pictures of emotional faces (left) compared to words that describe the faces.

The economic catastrophe that began with the stock market crash in October 1929 may have been sparked initially by misguided business and banking practices. However economist Lee Ohanian found that the 1930s downturn escalated into the worst depression in American history largely because policies implemented by Presidents Herbert Hoover and Franklin Roosevelt that were intended to cure the nation's financial ills instead failed with disastrous consequences.

A study by Ohanian shows that pro-labor policies pushed by Hoover after the 1929 crash caused what might otherwise have been a recession to collapse into the Great Depression.

And earlier work by Ohanian and colleague Harold Cole showed that the National Industrial Recovery Act, put forth by Roosevelt at the height of the Depression as a lifesaver for the economy, may have dragged out the Depression for seven years longer than a more market-based response would have.

The Depression, according to Ohanian's research, was not a failure of capitalism, as is often assumed.

"The main culprit," said Ohanian, "was ineffective government intervention that prevented the normal forces of supply and demand from efficiently working."

Who was Responsible for the Great Depression?

Hoover: wage supports led to decline in work hours

Hoover's policies, which included propping up wages and encouraging job-sharing, accounted for two-thirds of the steep decline in hours worked in manufacturing, which was much harder hit initially than agriculture, Ohanian found.

"By keeping industrial wages too high, Hoover sharply depressed employment beyond where it otherwise would have been, which drove down the overall gross national product," Ohanian said. "His policy was the single most important event in precipitating the Great Depression.

"These findings suggest that the recession was three times worse—at a minimum—than it would otherwise have been, because of Hoover's actions."

While economists have long debated the factors that led to the Great Depression, Ohanian's findings are novel because they don't simply pinpoint—they also quantify—the considerable impact of such labor-market distortions.

"This was a conservative president, yet many of the mistakes he made were remarkably similar to those later made by Franklin D. Roosevelt, whose reputation is much less market-based and more pro-labor," Ohanian said.

To isolate the culprit of the Depression, Ohanian explored historical wage data from the Conference Board, information from Hoover's memoirs, and press accounts of the Hoover administration. Ohanian also conducted economic modeling that allowed him to see how the economy would have progressed had Hoover's policies not been enacted.

At the time, Hoover was concerned about two potential crises. He was afraid the stock market collapse would result in a recession with deflation, leading to dramatic wage cuts. And because legislative and court decisions had expanded the power of organized labor, Hoover also worried about the possibility of crippling strikes if wage cuts occurred.

"Hoover thought that if wages were kept high and workers shared jobs instead of being laid off, they would buy more, which would help the economy improve," Ohanian said.

After the crash, Hoover met with major leaders of industry and negotiated an agreement with them to either maintain or raise wages and institute job-sharing to help keep workers employed. In response, General Motors, Ford, U.S. Steel, Dupont, and many other large firms agreed, even publicly underscoring their compliance with Hoover's program.

Designed to placate labor and safeguard workers' buying power, the step had an unintended effect: as deflation eventually did set in, the inflation-adjusted value of these wages rose over time, effectively giving workers a raise precisely at the time when companies were least in a position to afford such increases and when productivity was beginning to fall.

Reluctant to lower wages due to Hoover's entreaties, employers in the manufacturing sector responded by reducing the work week and laying off workers. By September 1931, the manufacturing sector was hurting; hours clocked by workers fell by 20 percent and employment by 35 percent.

Roosevelt: did New Deal policies stall a recovery?

Ohanian's research on Hoover follows his earlier work that answered key questions about the length and depth of the Depression after Franklin Roosevelt assumed the Presidency in 1933. Analyzing Roosevelt's policies, Ohanian and Cole concluded that New Deal legislation signed into law in 1933 slowed economic recovery for almost a decade.

Ohanian and Cole blame the anti-competition and pro-labor measures in the National Industrial Recovery Act (NIRA) that Roosevelt promoted before signing into law three months after taking office. The NIRA exempted industries from antitrust prosecution if they agreed to enter into

Eighty years after the stock market crash of 1929, economist Lee Ohanian found that policies created by President Herbert Hoover may have been responsible for the Depression, and the administration of Franklin Roosevelt may have extended it by at least seven years.

> "By keeping industrial wages too high, Hoover sharply depressed employment beyond where it otherwise would have been, which drove down the overall gross national product. His policy was the single most important event in precipitating the Great Depression."

Herbert Hoover (left) with Franklin Roosevelt—presidents whose well-meaning policies deepened, and then extended, the Great Depression.

collective bargaining agreements that significantly raised wages.

Because protection from antitrust prosecution all but ensured higher prices, more than 500 industries accounting for nearly 80 percent of private, non-agricultural employment, had entered into bargaining agreements under NIRA.

Ohanian and Cole found that in the three years following the implementation of Roosevelt's policies, wages in 11 key industries averaged 25 percent higher than they otherwise would have done. But unemployment was also 25 percent higher than it should have been, after gains in productivity.

Meanwhile, prices in key industries rose an average of 23 percent above expected levels, given the state of the economy. With goods and services that much harder for consumers to afford, demand slowed and the gross national product floundered at 27 percent below where it otherwise might have been.

"High wages and prices in an economic slump run contrary to everything we know about market forces in downturns," Ohanian said. "By artificially inflating both, the New Deal policies short-circuited the market's self-correcting forces."

Cole and Ohanian calculate that without the NIRA and its aftermath, the Depression would have ended in 1936 instead of when they believe the slump actually ended: 1943. Recovery came after the Justice Department increased its antitrust cases and organized labor suffered a string of setbacks.

Ohanian's research has been discussed widely in the media, especially as the current economy stagnated and sank into a recession. An advisor to the Federal Reserve and to foreign central banks, Ohanian has also given testimony on his research and its implications for today's economy to the U.S. Senate Banking Committee and the California State Assembly.

"The fact that the Depression dragged on for years convinced generations of economists and policy-makers that capitalism could not be trusted to recover from depressions, and that major government intervention was required," Cole said. "Ironically, our work shows that the recovery would have been very rapid had the government not intervened."

Interwoven Threads and

By Aaron Dalton

"Literature has the ability and power to allow you to see the experience of people who are completely different from you and to see the world from their perspective. I am trying to get students outside of themselves through literature."

When Jenny Sharpe came from her native India to America, her first stop was Princeton, New Jersey. But Sharpe did not come to Princeton to study, but rather to work as a cashier for minimum wage in the stationery department of the Woolworth's store across from the university. As she stocked the shelves with paper, envelopes, and notebooks for the students across the street, Sharpe never dreamed that she would someday get her Ph.D. and go on to become a professor of English, comparative literature, and women's studies at UCLA.

Sharpe had little reason to envision a career in academia for herself. She was raised in Bombay by a mother who did not even finish high school. None of Sharpe's siblings went to college. When Sharpe herself obtained a high school diploma in 1973, she became a flight attendant for Beirut-based Middle East Airlines.

In her life with the airlines, Sharpe flew primarily throughout the Arab world, but also to Europe and Africa. She still remembers her first through-the-looking-glass encounter with American culture in the West African nation of Liberia. There in a country founded by freed American slaves, she found an African replica of American culture with police uniforms that looked like those she had seen in American movies and money that looked like U.S. dollars—except for the African portraits on the bills.

Sharpe eventually made it out from behind the Woolworth's stationery counter and enrolled at the University of Texas, Austin in 1978.

"The reason I went there is that it was one of the few places where I could afford to pay for my own education," she said. The experience of working and paying her own way through school turned Sharpe into a passionate lifelong defender of affordable and accessible higher education.

Sharpe graduated *summa cum laude* with a B.A. from the Humanities Honor Program, and then continued to earn her Ph.D. in comparative literature. This was a heady time in her field, when groups of doctoral students gathered to hash out new theories from theorists and critics including Edward Said, Michel Foucault, and Jacques Derrida.

It was at U.T. that Sharpe crossed paths with Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, one of the founders of postcolonial studies. Spivak soon moved on to other universities, but not before inspiring Sharpe to delve into the burgeoning field of Anglophone literature that had emerged from all the places on the globe where the British Empire once held sway.

For American schoolchildren, classical literature may mean Shakespeare and Chaucer, but for centuries, the classics taught in English schools were based on ancient Greek and Latin texts. As Gauri Viswanathan points out in her influential work *Masks of Conquest*, English literature was taught in the colonies as part of Britain's self-appointed "civilizing mission" long before it was taught in England itself.

Although English literature was once so narrowly defined in its origins that even authors from the so-called Celtic Fringes (Ireland, Scotland, and Wales) were shut out of the game, the discipline has expanded radically in just the last two decades to encompass literature from Hong Kong to Jamaica, from Australia to Canada, from England itself to the United States.

"The discipline of English literature no longer uses the word 'English' to designate a nation, but rather to designate a language," said Sharpe.

As English literature has come to mean the study of literature written in (or translated into) English, the discipline has shifted from organizing around nations and moved

Connections

English scholar Jenny Sharpe focuses on the writings of the Caribbean to expose the creative and imaginative force of literature.

Professor of of English Jenny Sharpe: "The discipline of English literature no longer uses the word 'English' to designate a nation, but rather to designate a language."

toward looking at transnational or transoceanic connections. The Humanities at UCLA has been a major participant in shaping this evolution. Sharpe points out that the university has the most postcolonial literature scholars in the United States and is currently using funding from the Mellon Foundation to build an interdisciplinary Web site for Postcolonial Theory and Literary Studies (www.english.ucla.edu/academics/fields/postcolonial) that serves as a gathering point for these scholars spread across various language departments.

Although Sharpe hails from India, which certainly has its share of postcolonial Anglophone literature, she chose to avoid the identity politics that emerged in the 1980s by focusing on Caribbean literature. When her students ask her which island she is from, she likes to joke that she is from the big island in the Indian Ocean.

Today, Sharpe teaches a wide range of classes including Caribbean literature, postmodernism in postcolonial fiction, and introduction to feminist theories in the humanities. In each of these fields, she seeks to expose the creative and imaginative force of literature.

"On a basic level, literature has the ability and power to allow you to see the experience of people who are completely different from you and to see the world from their perspective," Sharpe said. "I am trying to get students outside of themselves through literature."

But Sharpe is quick to note that literature is capable of much more than simply showing students that the Caribbean has a culture that extends beyond all-inclusive beach resorts. History and sociology can reflect the world, but literature, freed from the constraints of reality, has the capacity to imagine a better world. This is particularly true of the magical-realist authors like Salman Rushdie, who Sharpe likes to quote as having said, "If writers leave the business of making pictures of the world to politicians, it will be one of history's great and most abject abdications."

And what about all those happy readers who like to think of literature simply as a great pleasure, the verbal equivalent of a hot-fudge sundae? Sharpe acknowledges that literature derives great power from its aesthetic qualities and she tries not to diminish these pleasures through scholarly inquiry, but she makes a convincing point that literature is never just purely aesthetic.

Consider one of Sharpe's favorite books of poetry—*The Arrivants* by Edward Kamau Brathwaite. Sharpe describes Brathwaite's poetry as incorporating the rhythm of Black music—blues, reggae, and steel band calypso—along with heavy doses of T.S. Eliot-style modernism. Eliot in turn had incorporated African-American musical forms, particularly jazz, into his poetry. Bringing history and meaning into a discussion of aesthetics can get a little messy, but for Sharpe it is this messiness—all the interwoven threads and connections—that makes the study of literature so interesting and important.

Recommended Reading

For a selection of postcolonial literature, Jenny Sharpe recommends these works:

The Arrival of Brighteye and Other Poems, Jean "Binta" Breeze (Caribbean poetry)

Louisiana, Erna Brodber (Caribbean novel)

The Hungry Tide, Amitav Ghosh (South Asian novel)

The Madonna of Excelsior, Zakes Mda (African novel)

Shell, Olive Senior (Caribbean poetry)

Los Angeles Times Collection, UCLA Library Department of Special Collections".

A Chronicle of Black Life in Los Angeles

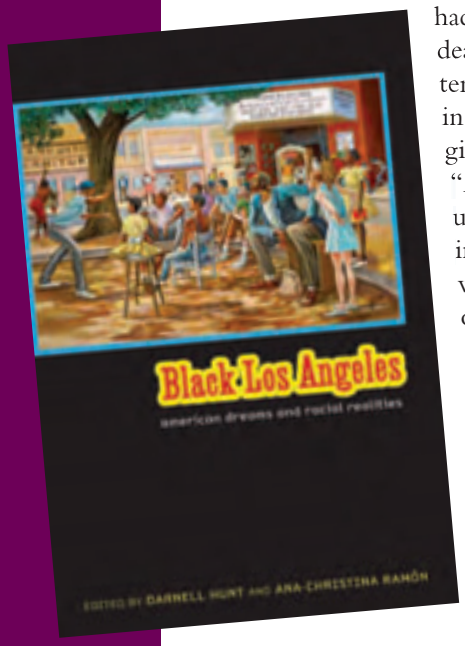
A new book by Darnell Hunt and Ana-Christina Ramón fills a major gap in documenting the history of the black community in Los Angeles.

By Mona Gable

When Darnell Hunt arrived at UCLA in 2001, he had some pressing questions. What research had been done on the history of the black community in Los Angeles? And how did the community evolve into what it is today?

As a professor of sociology and the new director of the Ralph J. Bunche Center for African American Studies, Hunt assumed there would be an embarrassment of riches on the subject. Volumes upon volumes exploring the deep heritage of African American life in Los Angeles.

But then he began digging around.



"I was surprised to see that there hadn't been one major volume that dealt comprehensively with the contemporary complexities of black life in the city, connecting them to the region's interesting history," said Hunt. "As the most prominent research unit focused on African Americans in the region, we knew that we would have to take up the challenge of producing such a volume."

Eight years later, Hunt and his colleagues have done exactly that with *Black Los Angeles: American Dreams and Racial Realities*, to be published in 2010. Co-edited by Hunt and Ana-Christina Ramón, assistant director for research at the Bunche Center for African American Studies, the book spans the period from 1781,

when the city of Los Angeles was founded by a group of settlers with African roots, to the rise of Karen Bass to Speaker of the California Assembly—a resident of Los Angeles and the first black woman in America to lead a state legislature.

"The tip of the iceberg conceals so much," said Hunt of the material. "There was so much we discovered once we started to look beneath the waters. You take a place like Leimert Park, which most people would describe as the cultural center of black Los Angeles. Trying to figure out how it came to be that place gave me a respect for the city's history and how history is made. And how it's relevant to the present."

Although the book won't be published until next spring, the center recently released "Black Los Angeles: A Preview," a research report exploring some of the issues covered in the book.

Before a word was even written, Hunt put together a series of working groups at UCLA. He didn't just bring in the usual collection of scholars, graduate students and academics to weigh in on the book's content. He also invited people from the community who had their own memorable experiences and history to share.

"We didn't want to do this as an ivory tower exercise," said Hunt. "The goal was to do something we felt would have an impact on the community that would be empowering, to gain a better understanding of where it is and where it needs to go. It seemed presumptuous for us to sit here in Westwood and make those decisions ourselves. So very early on we decided to reach out."

Early on they also decided to build the book around five major themes: communities and neighborhoods, religious life, political participation, cultural production, and social justice. To illustrate the themes, Hunt did something else unconventional. He asked a range of scholars to contribute essays on those themes.

"We felt that dealing with something as complex as black Los Angeles requires a variety of different insights and perspectives," he said. "You need psychologists, you need people in political science, you need people in popular culture."

After eight years of working on the book, Hunt, a native of Washington, D.C., has his own stories to tell now about the city he calls home.

"L.A. is relatively new. Yet there's so much we don't know about. So being able to uncover that and explore that from a number of viewpoints was eye-opening to me. I have a much better appreciation for what's going on in Los Angeles."

www.soc.ucla.edu
www.bunche.ucla.edu

"The tip of the iceberg conceals so much. There was so much we discovered once we started to look beneath the waters."

An upcoming book co-edited by Darnell Hunt (above) and Ana-Christina Ramón highlights milestones in African-American life in Los Angeles. Left: Coretta Scott King dedicates Martin Luther King Jr. Hospital in 1972. Below: Karen Bass, speaker of the California State Assembly.

Combining Passions for Community Service and Research

An innovative new scholarship named for two renowned UCLA scholars is encouraging students to link civic engagement with high-level research.

By Sean Brenner

For Alexis Austin, it was serendipity.

A professor handed her an application for a new UCLA scholarship, the Helen S. and Alexander W. Astin Civic Engagement Scholars Program, and told her she *had* to apply. When Austin read the details, she agreed. The program sounded tailor-made for her.

Inspired by her coursework and internships with Los Angeles Poverty Department and the Lamp Community—local nonprofits that serve Los Angeles' homeless population—Austin had become keenly interested in the use of arts programs to connect with homeless people and heal those with mental illnesses.

At Lamp, for example, she interviewed men and women about their participation in the organization's art studio.

"Most of them said that it made them feel safe, at peace, secure or grounded," Austin said. "Some told me it had given them purpose—a reason to live. The arts give them a voice."

So before she had ever heard of the Astin scholarship, Austin had decided to devote some of her senior year to assembling an art exhibition of works by the denizens of L.A.'s Skid Row.

That goal made the Astin program a perfect fit. The Astin Scholars Program—named for Helen ("Lena") and Alexander ("Sandy") Astin, two renowned UCLA faculty who have devoted their careers to studying higher education issues—provides financial support for undergraduates who combine volunteer work with scholarly research to advance social justice and other goals.

Created with the backing of chancellor Gene Block and financial support from the UCLA Foundation, the program funds the work of six Astin scholars in its inaugural year, providing up to $6,000 for each scholar.

"Being involved in the Astin program sounded like an extension of what I was already working on," said Austin, a Phoenix native majoring in world arts and cultures. "And the fact that it was going to be the program's first year—it all lined up. I know this work is what I'm *supposed* to be doing, and it's so great that the Astin program exists."

Given the scholarship's research requirement, the exhibit itself is just half of Austin's mission. Working with her faculty mentor, Janna Shadduck-Hernandez, Austin also will study how and why arts programs make a difference to homeless men and women.

Alexis Austin (left) and Elena Salazar (above), two of the first class of six undergraduate researchers in the Astin Scholars Program.

"The Astin Scholars Program is an important step in recognizing and supporting students who combine their passion for scholarship with commitment to public service."

"I want to show that we need more of these programs, that this can be one of the ways we start to transform Skid Row and help the people who really need it," Austin said.

Elena Salazar is studying municipal ID card programs as a means for helping cities better connect with their undocumented immigrant populations. She was inspired to apply for an Astin scholarship both by her coursework in Chicana and Chicano studies and by a conference on the subject she attended with Professor Raul Hinojosa-Ojeda—now her faculty mentor for her scholarship project.

New Haven and San Francisco recently started municipal ID programs. Salazar's research will shed light on how those cities' efforts are faring and frame the prospects for possible implementation in Los Angeles.

"We have over a million undocumented immigrants here, so I'm hoping to find out whether this type of program can help integrate them into society, and how it might benefit them and the city," Salazar said. "This is an opportunity to use my education to make a difference."

The namesakes of the Astin Scholars Program are widely recognized for their research on the role of civic engagement and service in the higher education experience. Lena Astin is a psychologist recognized for her research and teaching on leadership, social change, and women in higher education. Sandy Astin is founding director of the UCLA Higher Education Research Institute, which has long studied how undergraduates are affected by their college experience.

"The scholars funded in our new program are a fitting tribute to Sandy and Lena Astin, who have done so much to focus on the value of engaged scholarship and to support the College's commitment to capstone experiences for undergraduate students," said Judith L. Smith, vice provost and dean for undergraduate education.

"The Astin Scholars Program is an important step in recognizing and supporting students who combine their passion for scholarship with a commitment to public service."

In part because of the Astins' work, college campuses across the country have more closely integrated community service, teaching, and research.

"Higher education's responsibility to provide these kinds of programs has changed over the decades," said Kathy O'Byrne, director of the UCLA Center for Community Learning, who oversees the Astin program. "Years ago, students had to pursue these passions outside of their learning activities. Now, the programs are moving into undergraduate education."

At UCLA, the evolution accelerated in 2005, when the campus established an academic minor in civic engagement—the only one of its kind at an American university.

"The Astin program is an outgrowth of that," O'Byrne said. "It came out of asking, 'What more can we do to promote civic engagement connected to the curriculum and undergraduate education?'"

Homelessness and municipal ID programs are two of a range of subjects being investigated by the inaugural class of six Astin scholars. In addition to Austin and Salazar, the 2009-10 scholars include:

Li-Tsung Chen (sponsor Susanne Lohmann) will research alternative service delivery for Self-Help Legal Access Centers; Cailin Crockett (sponsor Patricia Gandara) will evaluate the effectiveness of programs at shelters and transitional living centers; Teresa Melendez (sponsor Grace Hong) will study sex education programs at local high schools; and Freddy Yusuf (sponsor Sarosh Motivala) will assess the benefits of Tai-Chi for older adults.

The Astin program complements a campuswide effort led by Chancellor Gene Block to inspire students to make a lifelong commitment to public service. The connection isn't lost on the scholars themselves.

"Civic engagement is really becoming ingrained in everything we see at UCLA," Austin said. "It emphasizes that we're about service, just as much as we are about research and education. It's something we do as Bruins, and something we'll continue even after we leave UCLA."

www.civicengagement.ucla.edu/astinscholars

A Trio of Chairs for Chemistry

Three superb scientists have been named to fill prestigious endowed chairs in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry.

In an unprecedented step for the College of Letters and Science, three internationally-renowned chemists have been appointed to endowed chairs in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry.

Kendall N. Houk is the new Saul Winstein Chair in Organic Chemistry, Omar M. Yaghi becomes the Irving and Jean Stone Chair in Physical Sciences, and Shimon Weiss is the Dean M. Willard Chair in Chemistry.

"UCLA is fortunate to have on its faculty some of the most distinguished scholars in the world, including our new chairholders in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry," said Joseph Rudnick, UCLA's dean of physical sciences.

Endowed chairs play a critical role in attracting and retaining scholars, as well as recognizing academic excellence, by providing funding in perpetuity for teaching, research, graduate students, and other expenses.

"Being able to provide endowed chairs for these three outstanding scientists is a wonderful opportunity to anchor their programs here," said Rudnick. "These endowed chairs help ensure that we will be able to maintain the strength that has been the hallmark of our Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry and thus guarantee that its programs continue to rank among the world's finest."

Kendall N. Houk: Saul Winstein Chair in Organic Chemistry

Houk, one of the world's most prolific chemists with more than 750 publications to his name, has pioneered the use of computer calculations and simulations to study organic chemistry and predict chemical reactivity—proving that computation is one of the central tools for exploring mechanisms in this field. Houk's research group has made predictions of new phenomena that have been verified experimentally.

"Ken Houk is one of the world's leading physical organic chemists," said Albert Courey, professor and chair of the department. "He has made many groundbreaking contributions to our understanding of chemical reactivity, explaining why some chemical reactions occur and others do not, allowing us to predict reactivity by applying the most fundamental principals."

Houk's chair is named for Saul Winstein, a professor at UCLA from 1941 until his death in 1969 who was one of the leading physical organic chemists of his time. In 1971, he was posthumously awarded the National Medal of Science.

"Saul Winstein was the most prominent physical organic chemist during the period when I began my career," Houk said. "He is one of my heroes in chemistry, and he developed many of the concepts that we use today. We now do computationally things that Saul Winstein used to do experimentally."

Houk and colleagues recently used computer methods to create "designer enzymes" and to predict structures of proteins that can catalyze reactions that do not occur naturally. They are now working on computational methods to predict catalysts for reactions that will have important applications in industry and in fighting disease.

Omar M. Yaghi: Irving and Jean Stone Chair in Physical Sciences

Yaghi, who conducts research at the interface of chemistry, materials science, and engineering, is credited with revolutionizing inorganic chemistry. Yaghi is known for developing a new field that he named reticular chemistry.

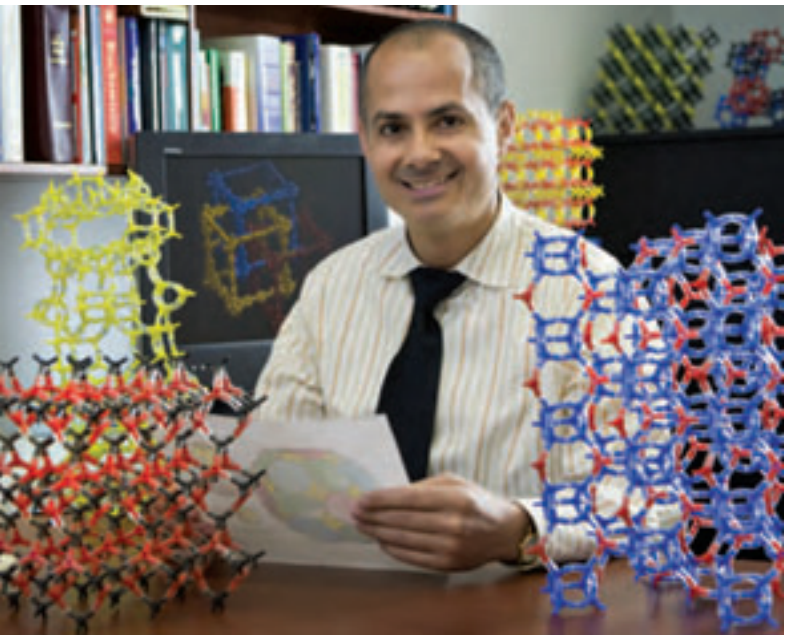
"Omar uses what we know about organic and inorganic reactivity to build up large compounds—macromolecules—but not ones that nature ever thought of," Courey said. "They are macromolecules conceived in the mind of Omar Yaghi."

Because these compounds are porous, and because Yaghi is able to control their synthesis in such detail, these macromolecules have important properties with implications in medicine, energy, and other fields.

Kendall N. Houk

Yaghi's chair was funded by literary figures Jean and Irving Stone, who collaborated on best-selling biographical novels such as *The Agony and the Ecstasy*, *The Passions of the Mind,* and *Lust for Life*. Although they often traveled to Europe to research their books, when at home in Beverly Hills, the Stones relied on the UCLA Library for their work. They came to love the UCLA campus and became generous supporters of the university, including funds for four endowed faculty chairs.

In 2008, Yaghi and colleagues reported a major advance toward reducing heat-trapping emissions. They demonstrated that they could successfully isolate and capture carbon dioxide using a new class of materials that Yaghi and his group designed called zeolitic imidazolate frameworks, or ZIFs. The findings could lead to power plants capturing carbon dioxide —which contributes to global warming, rising sea levels, and increased ocean acidity—without using toxic materials.



Omar M. Yaghi

"The technical challenge of selectively removing carbon dioxide has been overcome," Yaghi said. "Now we have structures that can be tailored precisely to capture carbon dioxide and store it like a reservoir, as we have demonstrated. We believe this to be a turning point in capturing carbon dioxide before it reaches the atmosphere."

"These endowed chairs help ensure that we will be able to maintain the strength that has been the hallmark of our Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry and thus guarantee that its programs continue to rank among the world's finest."

Shimon Weiss: Dean M. Willard Chair in Chemistry

Weiss and his research group are enhancing our understanding of life's most important class of molecules—proteins —using the techniques of fluorescence spectroscopy, fluorescence microscopy, and biological imaging.

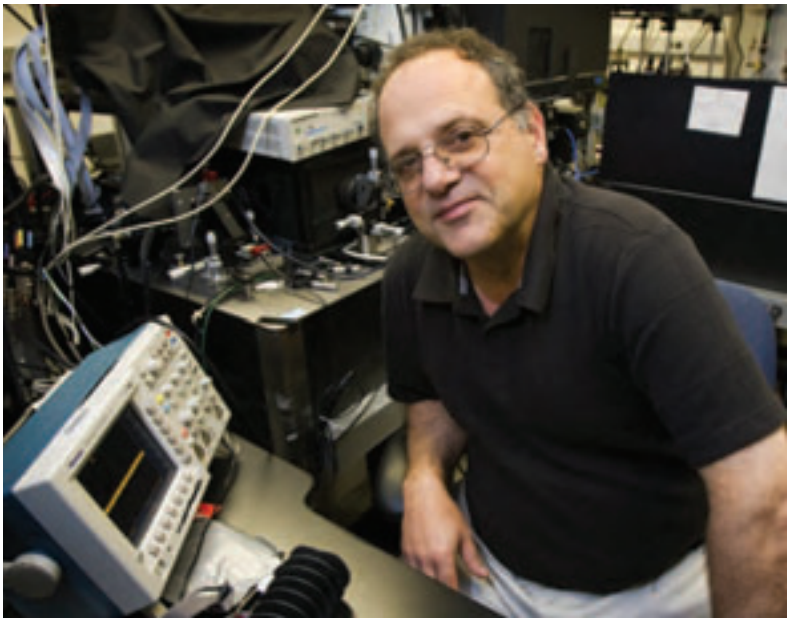
Weiss' chair was endowed by business executive and longtime UCLA supporter, Dean M. Willard, who from 1972 to 1989 was president and CEO of Products Research and Chemical Corp. Willard has also served as a top executive for numerous corporations, including Courtaulds Aerospace (Products Research and Chemical Corp.'s successor company), Permatex, HAAS TCM, Reinhold Industries, and Advanced Chemistry and Technology.

When scientists shine electromagnetic radiation on a compound, its electrons get excited into a higher energy level. When those electrons return to their original, lower-energy state, they emit light, a process called fluorescence. By measuring how compounds absorb light and emit energy as fluorescence, chemists can learn about the structure of the compounds.

Weiss has developed highly sensitive fluorescing probes called quantum dots that can enter cells and label their proteins and nucleic acids, and he can detect and measure the properties and locations of large molecules inside cells. Determining the intricate network of protein interactions that take place within the cell of an organism enables the understanding of the mechanisms that control its growth, maintenance, and disease.

"Shimon is one of the world's leading chemists in the use of single-molecule techniques, especially to study biological molecules," Courey said of the biophysical chemist, who is also a member of the California NanoSystems Institute. "He has made important contributions to our understanding of an enzyme called RNA polymerase, which does the first step in decoding the genetic code. He has been able to learn in unprecedented detail how RNA polymerase brings about this decoding process."

Shimon Weiss



Ensuring the Future of Graduate Education

Talented graduate students describe how their studies were made possible by strong private support.

For Zachary Moran, a Ph.D. candidate in clinical psychology, the meaning of the financial support he has received at UCLA can be summed up in a single word.

"More than anything else: freedom," says Moran of his Edwin W. Pauley Fellowship, a program that funds entering graduate students with outstanding academic records.

Moran, who got his undergraduate education at UW-Madison, had his pick from among the nation's top programs after graduating as a member of the Phi Beta Kappa and Psi Chi National Psychology honors societies. He was attracted to UCLA by its nationally-renowned clinical psychology program and has relished the opportunity the Pauley Fellowship afforded him to place greater focus on his research and clinical training—but without overextending himself through additional employment.

"Many grad students face the decision of either stretching themselves too thin in order to make ends meet, or simply going further into debt," Moran said. "I feel incredibly fortunate not to be as cornered by the pressures of that decision."

The need to ensure that top graduate students such as Moran continue to be attracted to UCLA—and can focus on their studies while here—has fueled a major fund-raising drive announced by Chancellor Gene Block last January. The Bruin Scholars initiative aims to generate $500 million for graduate student fellowships and undergraduate scholarships by 2013.

About $300 million of the $500 million goal for Bruin Scholars would go toward support to enable UCLA to remain competitive in drawing the best graduate students—students like Moran, who is mining data on electroencephalographs (EEG) to determine how they correlate with schizophrenia.

Or Mellissa Betts, currently in her final year of the Department of History's Ph.D. program in African Studies.

Betts, the first in her family to attend college, chose UCLA because "it is one of the best universities in the country for African history," she said. But without financial support, she concedes, it is unlikely she could have gotten this far.

A recipient of the Meyer and Renee Luskin Graduate Endowed Fellowship, Betts is nearing completion of her dissertation on the history of the mixed-race community in Namibia, a former apartheid country in southern Africa, from 1948 to 1990 under the racist apartheid regime.

Betts started at UCLA with a Cota-Robles Diversity Fellowship and received several fellowships along the way, as well as a Fulbright grant, that enabled her to complete her research in Namibia.

"The support I have received throughout my time at UCLA has been extremely helpful," she said. "I have come so far in my Ph.D. studies and I'm ready to begin writing my dissertation. I could not have completed my work in such a timely manner without this funding."

"Graduate students represent the linchpin between the undergraduate experience and the faculty research. Our ability to attract not only the best faculty but the best undergraduates is inextricably tied to the quality of graduate students we have."

"The ability to attract the most talented graduate students through fellowship support is vital not just to the graduate programs but to the university as a whole," said Stephen Jennings, executive director of development for the College.

"Graduate students represent the linchpin between the undergraduate experience and faculty research," Jennings said. "Because graduate students play such a vital role in faculty research, they are a key element in the recruitment and retention of top professors. They also significantly enrich undergraduate education by engaging with students on research initiatives and classroom instruction. Our ability to attract not only the best faculty but also the best undergraduates is inextricably tied to the quality of graduate students we have."

Although UCLA's graduate programs consistently rank among the nation's best, the need to raise more funds for fellowship support is driven by the growing challenges of competing with top private institutions, which are often able to provide more substantial support packages.

"In my discussions with the faculty in the economics department, I asked them to identify the best way that my support could be used, and they told me it was for graduate students," said Robert Ettinger, a 1980 honors graduate in economics from UCLA and president of Flaherty & Crumrine, a Pasadena-based investment counseling firm.

Ettinger's gift provides fellowships for entering students in the department's graduate program as well as prizes for graduate student research.

"Until my discussions with the faculty, I didn't appreciate how crucial it is for the entire academic program to support graduate students," Ettinger said. "It is compelling to see the effectiveness of each dollar when it is given to fund the work of UCLA's talented graduate students."

For Sabah Bux, a fourth-year Ph.D. candidate in chemistry, fellowship support has enabled her to focus on her dissertation research rather than having to work long hours to support her education. Bux has developed novel methods of producing nanoscale materials.

After earning her degree, Bux plans to apply her research in an industrial setting. But Bux has shared her enthusiasm with younger students. To entice young minds to follow her path, she is involved in several outreach projects through the California NanoSystems Institute.

Bux has taught high school teachers about nanoscience so they can better convey the concepts to their students. Bux has also worked with high school students on energy-related research.

After completing her undergraduate work at Yale, Emily Runde, a fourth-year Ph.D. candidate in English, was drawn to UCLA by the vibrant community of medievalists at the Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies, the strong graduate program in the Department of English, and the rich variety of cultural offerings in Los Angeles. But an opportunity afforded by fellowship support to leave Los Angeles in the midst of her research has made all the difference.

Runde studies medieval English language and literature with a focus on the literature of the 13th and early 14th centuries—a period during which literary material in England increasingly began to appear in English rather than Latin or Anglo-Norman. Runde is using manuscripts from this period to learn more about how the literature was read and the people who were reading it. Through the Harry and Yvonne Lenart Graduate Travel Fellowship, she spent last summer in England getting a firsthand look at what she was studying.

"So much of my work depends on physical evidence furnished by the books that people were reading during that period," said Runde, who aspires to a career as a university professor. "Without the time and funding provided by the Lenart fellowship, I would not have been able to travel to England to work directly with these manuscripts when it was critical to the success of my dissertation project."

An Edwin W. Pauley Fellowship is supporting the research of Ph.D. candidate Zachary Moran (left), while work abroad by Emily Runde (below) was made possible by a Harry and Yvonne Lenart Graduate Travel Fellowship.

For information about supporting the UCLA College of Letters and Science, call Stephen Jennings, executive director of development, at (310)825-2558.

A Nobel Prize for a Triple UCLA Alumna

Elinor Ostrom, the 2009 Nobel Laureate for Economics.

UCLA graduate Elinor Ostrom, who has "challenged conventional wisdom" in her multi-faceted studies, has received the 2009 Nobel Prize for Economics.

Elinor Ostrom, who earned all three of her academic degrees from UCLA, received the 2009 Nobel Prize in Economics—the first woman to win the prize in her field.

Ostrom, who earned her B.A. ('54), her master's ('62) and her doctorate ('65) in the Department of Political Science at UCLA, is the fifth UCLA graduate to win a Nobel Prize, and the first alumna. In addition, five UCLA faculty have won Nobel prizes in physics, chemistry, and medicine.

Currently a professor of political science at Indiana University, Ostrom received the Nobel Prize for, according to the Nobel committee, her analysis of economic governance, "especially the commons" (common property).

Ostrom's groundbreaking studies of economic decision-making, governance, and cooperation outside traditional markets have applications for such critical issues as climate change and the behavior of financial institutions. She shared the award with Oliver E. Williamson, a professor at UC Berkeley.

"Elinor Ostrom has challenged the conventional wisdom that common property is poorly managed and should be either regulated by central authorities or privatized," the Nobel selection committee said in announcing the prize. "Based on numerous studies of user-managed fish stocks, pastures, woods, lakes, and groundwater basins, Ostrom concludes that the outcomes are, more often than not, better than predicted by standard theories."

Ostrom said she was "flabbergasted" to get the news that she received the prize. "It was a fantastic surprise and a thrilling one," she said. "I'm very appreciative."

Michael F. Lofchie, a professor in the UCLA political science department, was a faculty member in 1965 when Ostrom received her doctorate. "It's a great honor for this department," he said.

After graduating with her bachelor's degree in 1954, Ostrom worked in the private sector in Boston for three years before returning to Los Angeles, and a job in personnel administration at UCLA.

"I decided to take one course at a time and get my master's in public administration," she said, "and I got 'trapped.' My courses were so fascinating that I decided to quit my full-time job and go back to graduate school, at a time when women didn't go to graduate school."

Although Ostrom is a political scientist by training, she "trained heavily" in economics at UCLA, and her fieldwork and research also combine elements of anthropology and behavior. Her Ph.D. dissertation at UCLA explored institutional entrepreneurship and the intrusion of saltwater into a groundwater basin under Los Angeles.

"I've attended economic sessions where I've been the only woman in the room, but that is slowly changing and I think there's a greater respect now that women can make a major contribution. And I would hope that the recognition here is helping that along."

For her dissertation, Ostrom explored an issue that still resonates in California: water management.

"I've crossed disciplines, there's just no question about it," Ostrom said of her work. "I consider it to be political economy or the study of social dilemmas."

For Ostrom, the award is as much a validation of the role of women in economics as it is an acknowledgement of her scholarly contributions to the field.

"It's slowly changed," Ostrom said of the involvement of women in economics. "I've attended economic sessions where I've been the only woman in the room, but that is slowly changing and I think there's a greater respect now that women can make a major contribution. And I would hope that the recognition here is helping that along." CR

In olden times, a few giant mainframe computers ruled the planet.

They were clever brutes but highly territorial and socially deficient.

They wouldn't, couldn't, didn't know how to talk to one another.

Then came the Internet.

The first message was supposed to begin with "LOG / IN," but after the first two letters—an L and an O—the system crashed.

The system was restored in a few hours, and the rest is history.

AND BEHOLD!

The first Internet message.
From the UCLA School of Engineering to the Stanford Research Institute.

October 29, 1969.

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Circling 31 miles above the surface of the moon, the Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter is sending back a flood of findings, including data from the Diviner Lunar Radiometer Experiment, a UCLA-managed instrument that is making the first global survey ever conducted of temperatures on the lunar surface.

The Diviner team, led by David Paige, a UCLA professor of planetary science and principal investigator for the experiment, is exploring the temperatures on the surface of the moon that represent some of the most extreme in our solar system.

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UCLA