Creating Historical Knowledge

Leading the charge is a solid core of senior faculty and some outstanding new faculty members whose recent appointments were made possible by the 1997 University Provost Initiative, which emphasizes the importance of history in a well-rounded education. Today, the department has more than 30 faculty members with pronounced strengths in medieval, colonial American, modern American and East Asian history, to name a few. Recent faculty publications span topics from the history of household government in America to the study of medieval women.

“The momentum of the history department is being fueled by some outstanding new faculty members, a growing list of external collaborations and the smart use of technology,” says College Dean Joseph Aoun. “We are positioned to do some great things in the 21st century.”

Tales of the West

The College boasts a strong configuration of late 19th- and early 20th-century American historians, and is a pre-eminent center for examining the American West. At the forefront is University Professor and California State Librarian Kevin Starr, whose book series chronicling California history and the American dream has gained worldwide popularity.

Other historians, such as Sanchez and Lon Kurashige, study Latino and Asian immigration patterns to better understand how American society has organized and changed through time.

Indeed, the College’s prime urban locale creates countless opportunities for cultural historians to conduct research. Ross and Vanessa Schwartz partner with the USC School of Cinema and Television and the Annenberg Entertainment Studies program to study urban culture through a full range of visual media. Richard Fox, a distinguished cultural historian, who previously taught at Yale University, researches how ideas, continued on page 5

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USC College's history department is studying the old with the tools of the new. Modern technology, including digital encyclopedias and online databases, has given historians innovative ways to measure the march of time. Read all about it in this issue.
A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

The Glue That Binds

With the world’s focus on science and technology, the social sciences don’t get talked about much. At USC College we are very focused on the social sciences, at the practical and research levels. I think of the social sciences as the glue that holds society together, providing perspective on who we are and how we fit into the global scheme of things.

We teach and study the full array of the social sciences, an array much broader than in times past. The field is changing in scope and dimension, in tune with changing times.

Social scientists describe and predict the human behavior of individuals and groups. All three of our strategic academic initiatives involve participation from the social sciences.

For example, in the life sciences, we have psychological and sociological expertise that provides an understanding of the human contexts in which biological and physical processes occur.

For our urbanization and internationalization initiative, our social scientists capitalize on our location here in Los Angeles. Our truly global city, situated on the Pacific Rim and bustling with a diverse population, provides a unique window on the world through which to conduct research.

Our focus on language, mind and culture includes social scientists studying cultural systems of the past and the present, as well as the social aspects of language and cognition.

History—the theme of this issue of USC College Magazine—wasn’t always thought of as a social science. But even a cursory glance at the stories in the magazine show faculty and students deeply involved in society’s problems and hopes. History is also representative of the increasing importance of interdisciplinary scholarship, bridging as it does the work of researchers in both the humanities and the social sciences.

We are fortunate to have outstanding faculty throughout the social sciences in the College, including leaders in the fields of American studies, anthropology, economics, gender studies, geography, history, international relations, political science, psychology and sociology.

Social scientists in the College explain the past, predict the future and drive current thinking about contemporary society. What better place from which to do it than Los Angeles—and USC?

Joseph Aoun
Dean of the College
Anna H. Bing Dean’s Chair

Supporting a Family Tradition

When Dr. David Y. Lee joined the USC College Board of Councilors in October 2002, he was hardly a stranger to USC. Through the years, the father of four has spent countless hours on campus, attending siblings’ graduations and Parents Weekend. His family boasts a long line of graduates and Parents Weekend.

“I’ve been associated with USC for as long as I can remember,” says Lee, founding president of Jamison Properties, a real-estate investment company that owns 7 million square feet of space partially occupied by businesses serving the Korean-American community of Los Angeles. “I’ve seen some great things happening in the College recently and decided it was time to contribute.”

After graduating from an accelerator bachelor’s/M.D. program at Northwestern University, Lee earned master’s degrees in public health and business administration from UCLA. He completed his residency in internal medicine and maintains a medical practice in Van Nuys.

Today, Lee is involved with USC College on two fronts: as a member of the Board of Councilors and as the father of freshman Jamie Lee, an English major who takes courses in the Thematic Option honors program.

“We were thrilled when Jamie decided to attend USC,” says Lee. “In the past 10 years, I’ve watched the College position itself as a highly ranked school that delivers an outstanding education.”

The most evident improvements, Lee says, are in the College’s diverse international programs, its commitment to life-science research and the growing number of impressive faculty appointments. “It won’t surprise me if the College earns a place among the top 10 colleges in the nation very soon, maybe even before Jamie graduates,” he says, smiling.

One way to earn that distinction, says the South Korea native, is to recognize the rich learning opportunities that exist in a Pacific Rim city such as Los Angeles. His position on the Board of Councilors includes membership on the newly formed board of the USC Korean Studies Institute. In this capacity, he is committed to establishing robust programs in the economic and political studies of North and South Korea. His vision falls in lock step with the College’s strategic plan, which targets urban and international studies as a priority initiative.

Strong Korean Studies Institute

A strong Korean Studies Institute will be a valuable resource to enhance the College’s international focus,” he says, pointing to the many language training and study-abroad programs that already exist.

Lee’s father-in-law, Andrew Nam, who passed away last fall, was one of the original donors to the Korean Heritage Library. Lee’s wife, Miki Nam, earned a B.A. in chemistry at USC College in 1979.

“My family was a motivating factor in my decision to join the board. I think you get to a stage in your life when you want to do more than make money,” says Lee.

—Nicole St. Pierre

Quest for the Best

The USC College senior faculty initiative announced last fall has resulted in more than 100 applications from faculty around the world, according to Dean of Faculty Beth Meyerowitz. Internally, departments have nominated about 10 candidates for consideration by the dean’s office.

“Our departments have been very active in identifying the top candidates to bring to campus,” says Meyerowitz. “Faculty are very enthusiastic in seeking top scholars that fit with our key initiatives.”

Meyerowitz says last fall’s half-page ad in the Chronicle of Higher Education went a long way in spreading the word of the College’s hiring effort. Her office has received responses from across the nation and around the globe. “There is a sense both internally and internationally that this has seen a tremendously positive response,” she adds.

College Dean Joseph Aoun last September unveiled the bold new plan to add 100 additional new faculty over the next three years. He pointed to existing top faculty and the College’s robust financial picture as the carrots to lure highly ranked researchers to campus—a move that will raise the visibility and stature of the College’s current academic programs.

Traditionally, new faculty are hired on a department-by-department basis. Under the new initiative, new hires will not be targeted by department. The goal is to bring in the best people from three strategic areas: life sciences; internationalization and urban studies; and language, mind and culture. Also of critical concern is whether appointments enhance the diversity of the faculty and support interdisciplinary objectives.

Meyerowitz says she expects an even bigger response early this year as many candidates wait until after the holidays to make career moves.
Scholars’ Paradise

Huntington archives enhance USC’s early modern program

It’s a sunny weekday morning at the Huntington Library in San Marino. In a wood-paneled reading room, professors pore over antique texts, 200-year-old newspapers and illuminated manuscripts from medieval times. At 11:45 sharp, the texts are returned to their shelves to protect them from sloppy lunches, and the scholars wander the gardens and chat about their research.

The Huntington’s archives and gardens serve as a powerful magnet for researchers, and represent the kind of symbiotic relationship that results when museums, nonprofit organizations and libraries join forces with scholars from research institutions. The Huntington gains exposure and prestige when professors are plentiful; researchers are rewarded with access to some of the best archives in the world. These relationships are not new at the Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens. The library and USC have been research partners for years—the Huntington’s vast resources have drawn university faculty, who have in turn participated in its many seminars and conferences.

Now a new collaboration, the USC-Huntington Institute for Early Modern Studies, will formalize this exchange. It will bring together researchers to share discoveries and scholarship on human societies between 1492 and 1800, a period richly captured by the Huntington’s huge collection of rare books, manuscripts and newspapers.

“This interdisciplinary collaboration will wed our early modern program to a world-class archive,” says College Dean Joseph Aoun. “It will give the College prominence as an organizer of seminars and make us a focal point of a huge interdisciplinary group of scholars.”

The library already serves as a nurture ground for intellectual activity, according to its research director, Robert C. Ritchie. USC’s involvement will attract even more scholarship. “We always like having exciting scholars here who are on the cutting edge of their fields,” says Ritchie. Huntington President Steven Koblik agrees. “This is obviously a significant development for both institutions, given the commonality of our missions in the areas of research and education,” he says. “We are extremely pleased.”

As for USC, the creation of a joint program with the library will provide a focus for College faculty specializing in the early modern period, and will help attract prominent faculty and talented graduate students to USC.

Peter Mancall, professor of history and acting director of the institute, says the Huntington’s collections are among the best in the world. “They draw great scholars from all over the globe, and exposing our students to them is important. And it’s a beautiful place to study. In such a sublime environment, people really do open up and forge intellectual ties.”

Although Southern California has several top research universities, collaborating with USC is particularly attractive to the Huntington because its scholarship runs along similar lines. Ritchie, Mancall and USC History Department Chair Carole Shammas have been studying the early modern period from a perspective different from their traditionalist counterparts. They look at how specific groups have been impacted by the European expansion, rather than focusing on discovery, colonization and empire building by the British.

“We are breaking out of established paradigms in that the old history was centered on imperial aspects,” says Ritchie. “The new perspective looks at the periphery groups—people outside of the expansionists—and how colonized people have dealt with the facts of colonisation. This is one of the exciting aspects of the collaboration,” he adds. “USC is one of the few institutions looking at this part of history from this point of view.”

The collaboration will feature several aspects, including the joint appointments of visiting professors and post-doctoral researchers who would teach a course at USC; but primarily work on research in early modern studies; the offering of graduate courses at the library to expose students to the Huntington holdings; and the sponsorship of lectures and conferences.

Among the ideas being explored as themes for conferences or seminars are the coordination of a computer project on the population registers of the California Indians based on records from the missions, and a visual culture event on 18th-century metropolitan and colonial landscapes.

Mancall says that visual resources are becoming more and more important to graduate students, and providing the Huntington’s resources will benefit students’ publishing and job-seeking efforts.

“The Huntington has phenomenal resources that are so appealing to scholars,” he adds. “It’s like having a vast museum at your fingertips.” —Karen Nevold Young
Wealth of visual library, is the hallmark of the site (http://matrix.bc.edu). It includes hundreds of illuminated gold and silver manuscripts and unusual artwork. In a very beautiful way, they document how women worked, prayed and formed communities,” says Bitel, who collaborates with scholars in Europe and around the globe to obtain such hard-to-find pieces.

The Monastery is the focus of the Matrix project. It features 2,600 community profiles of the ecclesiastical and lay institutions women built and ran, such as hospitals, congregations, asylums and house churches. Another section of the site, the Cartularium, contains age-old documents including foundation charters, testaments, contracts, papal letters and other records from medieval religious communities. The databases are a powerful draw for Medievalists, who up until a few years ago had no centralized digital resource to supplement gender-focused research.

“Most people have a very narrow view of women’s role in the Middle Ages,” says Bitel. “We hope to help scholars and students to a more complex understanding of women in the past.”

Bitel spends hours in the College’s multimedia history lab translating research about women’s religious communities, using resources ranging from dusty 1960s-era punch cards to easily searchable Web archives.

Bettel, a self-proclaimed feminist since high school, developed an affinity for early Irish history while studying at Smith College and taking classes at the University of Massachusetts in the 1970s. “Smith girls took classes at UMass to meet men. I didn’t get a date, but I found another passion,” she says. For three years at Smith, Bettel participated in a Rockefeller Foundation project as an undergraduate research assistant, working alongside major feminist thinkers.

Today, Bettel devotes her career to researching Irish saints, dreams, cursing rituals, sex and sexuality, women and gender ideologies.

“But what I really love to do is teach,” admits the suburban Michigan native. This uninhibited enthusiasm explains why her undergraduate course From Goddesses to Witches fueling the study of East Asian history in the College.

“Scholars who study China, Japan and Korea are finding that understanding the traditions of the area promote a sharper insight into the cultural influences, artistic expression, politics, religion and philosophic thought that shape modern East Asia,” says Berger, who specializes in the political history of Japan.

The latest East Asian historian to join the College is Joan Piggott, a premier Japan historian from Cornell University. Her specialty includes the development of kingship and church-state relations in ancient Japan.

Piggott’s seminal study, “The Emergence of Japanese Kingship,” combined written records with archaeological evidence to illuminate the reigns of seven ancient Japanese monarchs between the third and eighth centuries. While at Cornell, she organized a series of summer workshops on reading kambun, a pre-modern Sino-Japanese script and a must-have research skill for studying pre-1600 Japanese history, literature, Buddhism and linguistics.

The Department of East Asian

Medieval Goes Modern

W

ith her short spiky hair and modern clothes, USC College history professor Lisa Bitel is a sharp contrast to the medieval women she studies. Her style is also revealed in her office, which holds an eclectic mix of knickknacks. On one bookshelf sits her beloved nun collection, complete with a salt-and-pepper shaker set. On the wall hangs an ornate map of early Ireland that her husband recently gave to her. A collection of Barbie dolls is scattered around the office.

“Barbie inspired my feminism,” jokes the historian who studies the role women played in medieval Europe. “Some people have problems with Barbie-style feminism, with all the emphasis on makeup and fashion. To me, she also represents a unique kind of empowerment.”

Since this Harvard-trained historian and mother of two joined USC College two years ago, her presence has inspired students, while raising the department’s prominence in medieval research and gender studies—a subject Bitel has studied for more than 20 years. Her innovative collaborations and focused use of multimedia have raised the bar in the history department.

In USC College corridors, the word “matrix” often follows her name. It means inspiration in Latin. But Matrix is also the name of Bitel’s prize research project—an intricately designed Web site that features hundreds of illuminated manuscripts, vibrantly colored images and ancient documents dating from 400 to 1600.

Matrix is among the first Web sites to document the participation of Christian women in the religious society of medieval Europe. “These women lived extraordinary lives for their time,” Bitel says. “They were literate, participated in the community, worked alongside men and were part of major religious endeavors.”

Bitel has collaborated on Matrix since 1994 with historians at Yale University, Boston College, Hartwick College and the University of Kansas, where she directed the women’s studies program before joining USC. The project is funded by the Hill Monastic Manuscript Library, Yale University, Mount Holyoke College, Boston College, the University of Kansas and USC. Katherine Gill at the Hill Manuscript Library co-edits the site with Bitel.

The Figure, which is a collection of images that comprise an intricate visual library, is the hallmark of the site (http://matrix.bc.edu). It includes hundreds of illuminated gold and silver manuscripts and unusual artwork. In a very beautiful way, they document how women worked, prayed and formed communities,” says Bitel, who collaborates with scholars in Europe and around the globe to obtain such hard-to-find pieces.

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East Asian Experts Expand Minds

T

he accelerating power of the Pacific Rim countries makes it vital to understand where the Far East has been and where it is heading. That is a common understanding among East Asian historians, and one of the reasons why the College is strengthening its undergraduate and graduate programs in East Asian history. Leading this effort are a growing number of faculty engaged in a wide range of research topics related to Eastern cultures.

Gordon Berger is researching male anxiety in 19th-century Japan through a unique psychoanalytic study of Japanese society. Roger Dingman studies 20th-century trans-Pacific international relations, and is the author of two prize-winning books on the military history of World War II.

Charlotte Furth uses Ming dynasty historical records to understand gender, science and the body in late Imperial China. And Jack Wills’ writings take a long-view look at the development of kingship in Japan.

The expertise of this core group of East Asian historians, coupled with the College’s Pacific Rim location, has resulted in a new energy

Women in Premodern Europe fills up fast each semester. Colleagues are equally quick to define Bitel’s passion as the reason for her success. One of those colleagues is her husband, Peter Mancall, a USC colonial American history professor who heads up an important new collaboration between USC and the Huntington Library.

“I tell Lisa we could write a book together if she would come 500 years forward and I would go back in time 500 years,” says Mancall, who counted Bitel while they were getting their Ph.Ds at Harvard. “When we married, we promised to love, honor and edit one another,” he laughs.

The couple taught at the University of Kansas for 12 years before being recruited by USC. “I love the civilization of Los Angeles as opposed to rural Kansas,” she says. “It didn’t take me long to become a complete Trojan convert.”

Bettel is currently working on a project with the USC School of Architecture to document a 1500s-era convent in Ferrara, Italy, and is collaborating with the USC Center for Religion and Civic Culture to share digital photographs of religious orders.

—Nicole St. Pierre

Joan Piggott

History: The Past Meets the Future

USC College of Letters, Arts & Sciences

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VOLUME 4 NUMBER 1
A Golden Starr Shines

California State Librarian Kevin Starr has made it his life's work to pin down the elusive history of California.

More than 30 years in the making, his six-volume book series titled "Americans and the California Dream" captures the enigmatic blend of dreams and hardscrabble reality that loosely defines California. To date, Starr's books uncover how the Golden State emerged from the Gold Rush, absorbed the shocks of the Great Depression, and was transformed by World War II.

In mid-2003, Starr's series leaps forward with the release of "Coast of Dreams: California on the Edge, the 1960s." The book delivers a series of snappy chapters and lively present-tense reporting that reveals Starr's skill as a contemporary journalist, covering timely issues such as immigration, urban growth and the dot-com debacle.

"This was the fast-forward decade that began with the collapse of the Cold War economy, saw us recover and then saw us move into an uncertain future," says the University Professor who teaches history.

Starr's quest to understand California's influence on the American experience began in 1967, when the then-Harvard Ph.D. student found himself at loss for a thesis topic.

"I went to the fourth floor of Widener Library to browse through the American collection. A section was taken up with books on California because Horace Davis had left money to the library, resulting in a tremendous collection," says Starr. "The juxtaposition of New England, that sense of national purpose and those books on California set me on a course so that, 35 years later, I'm still struggling with explanations."

Since receiving his Ph.D. from Harvard and his Master's of Library Science from U.C. Berkeley, Starr has penned more than a million words about California. A contributing editor to the Los Angeles Times, he has earned a Guggenheim Fellowship, membership in the Society of American Historians, the Gold Medal of the Commonwealth Club of California and a Pulitzer Prize nomination.

"What's next on Starr's plate?" Once again, the historian is stepping back in time. He currently is writing "Finding the Dream: California in the 1950s." With catchy chapter titles like Kids on Bikes and Baghdad by the Bay, Starr's book will capture the suburbanization of California, the evolution of public works, youth in the 1950s, the beginnings of the civil rights movement, and how music like that of the Rat Pack helped California swing into the 1960s.

But the '60s will be where Starr waves goodbye to California. His next venture: "I'm going to write about the history of Roman Catholic laity and Americans in the Asia/Pacific Basin," he says. "I'll leave the 1960s and beyond for another California historian."

Certainly, his will be tough shoes to fill.

—Nicole St. Pierre
Digital City

Information technology, interdisciplinary approach help shed light on elusive L.A.

When USC College urban historian Philip Ethington first arrived in Los Angeles a year after the 1992 riots, the city was exploding—not with violence but with a contemplation of itself that was deeper and more rooted in scholarly tradition than ever before. In the wake of the riots, he says, the city developed an urgent need to know itself outside of the mythical image (supplied by early city developers and the film industry) that had long shrouded its true nature.

“Los Angeles is a young city,” says Ethington, associate professor of history. “It is more amorphous and fragmented than New York or Chicago, and so it has taken scholars longer to study and understand it.”

“The challenge of making sense of such a vast and complex thing as a big city is what initially got me interested in exploring digital technologies,” continues Ethington, whose career has been marked by his cross-disciplinary forays into sociology, geography, political science and urban planning, as well as his use of technology to organize, archive and, in doing so, study the historical city.


In Los Angeles, he encountered a city ripe for scholars. “The amount of untapped original documentary material available for researchers of Los Angeles is truly staggering,” he says. Beginning in 1994, Ethington began a close collaboration with the Information Services Division (ISD), to build a virtual archive of these documents. Eventually, the archival database would be made available online, creating an electronic outpost for studies of Los Angeles and the region.

At a time when most people still did not use e-mail regularly, his team began to digitize historical photos, papers, manuscripts, newspapers, data, dissertations, maps and paintings from USC and, later, from the collections of partner institutions.

Most dramatically, Ethington and his students rescued some 400,000 recipe-sized survey cards from pigeon droppings and the ravages of time. Almost forgotten, the cards contained valuable data about 1.5 million residents collected during the 1939 Household Survey of Los Angeles. Cleaned and organized, the data became a key part of the database.

Along with other key Los Angeles databases that Ethington helped to create, his latest collection of data is now part of ISD’s Digital Archive, a growing meta-database housed within the USC Archival Research Center (ARC) of Doheny Library. Now considered the most comprehensive collection of Los Angeles past and present, ARC allows investigators from all over the world to search, view and download digitized primary historical sources.

“Our goal has been to make USC the major portal for studying the region,” he says. That role is a natural, he adds, pointing to USC’s long record of excellence in information sciences and technology, and the College’s critical mass of outstanding faculty who make Southern California the focus of their work.

“Phil has created a resource that pulls every kind of information about Los Angeles and the region into a central data bank. This will allow scholars in any field to access a range of materials that provide a multidimensional vision of the city at any given time,” says Steve Ross, professor of history at the College, who dubs the Digital Archive “a major intellectual project.”

Ethington has proposed a new project that will take him a step closer to greater public understanding of Los Angeles. In collaboration with colleagues at USC, UCLA and other leading area institutions, he plans to publish an online encyclopedia focused on the city. Though still in negotiations, the ambitious project would be the first comprehensive Internet encyclopedia about the city, revealing the relationships between Los Angeles’ geography, history and culture.

“The College has long played a leading role in regional scholarship,” says Joseph Aoun, dean of the College and Anna H. Bing Professor. “Phil’s work on the digital archives has helped cement USC’s position as the center for research on Los Angeles.”

Greg Hise, an urban historian at USC’s School of Policy, Planning and Development, says that the majority of archives are now moving toward digitizing collections. “Phil recognized that trend very early and pushed the university to become a leader in those efforts,” he says.

Ethington’s interest in technology is balanced by his drive to create new knowledge about the city.

His work has helped to raise awareness of the diverse history of Los Angeles, including evidence that Latin Americans with African ancestry were among the city’s founders, and the influential role that Los Angeles’ small but prosperous African-American community of the 1930s and ’40s played in creating the city of today.

In another study, he has linked the emergence of a conservative political movement in Southern California (think Richard Nixon, Ronald Reagan and Pete Wilson) to...
Historian in the Making

Nechtman finds personal, intellectual freedom in the study of history

UCSC graduate student Tillman Nechtman remembers the exact moment he decided to become a historian.

His research project on the 1898 Spanish-American War as portrayed by the Spanish press led him to the Seville archives, where he leafed through century-old newspapers. “There was something mystical about touching these old papers,” says Nechtman, a doctoral candidate in the USC College history department who hails from Georgia. “The pages were so fragile, it felt like they might break in my hands.”

It was then that he decided to change course from a plan to be a diplomat to a goal of becoming a historian. He has never looked back. “This route has given me much greater personal and intellectual freedom than the foreign service ever could have.”

For his Ph.D. work, Nechtman will focus on Britain and the British Empire between 1750 and 1801, and how the development of the empire impacts British national identity. He recently left for London to begin his dissertation research in the archives of the British East India Company, where he will review the records and personal papers of employees who returned to Britain for retirement.

“The striking thing is the deepening division between a blue-collar, non-white population living at the core of the county, and a white-collar, white population living on the periphery,” says Ethington, who serves as an editor of the journal Urban History. That trend, Ethington points out, does not bode well for a city on the mend. “The isolation of wealth and whiteness outside of downtown, along with the city’s extreme socioeconomic contrasts between the wealthy and the working poor—the majority of whom are minorities—is grist for the mill of social conflict and civil disorder.”

In 2002, Ethington’s involvement in USC information sciences and technology became official with his appointment to associate dean for regional initiatives in ISD.

He believes that scholarly attention and digital resources like ARC and, in the future, the online encyclopedias will help Los Angeles build a greater sense of community. “In a city where neighborhoods are regularly leveled or dramatically changed, it’s especially important for people to hang on to their history,” Ethington says.

—Eva Emerson
Watts studies how the brain overrides our innate need to eat

The rats in Alan Watts’ lab will not eat. Containers of dry kibble sit largely untouched in their cages. Something is happening in these rats’ brains, something that makes them ignore the body’s pangs of hunger.

Watts, an associate professor of biological sciences at USC College, studies these rats in hopes of finding that something—a biological switch that controls eating and drinking behavior. His search was recently boosted by the award of a $1.5 million grant from the National Institute of Mental Health to support his studies of anorexia.

The experimental model that Watts has developed takes advantage of the fact that rats become anorexic when they are dehydrated. Given fresh water to drink, the rats regain their normal appetites within minutes.

“Our model offers a window into the mechanisms that control eating behaviors in the brain, where in the brain these are located, and how the complex behaviors involved in finding and ingesting food emerge,” Watts says. “It gives us clues about why and how appetite is suppressed in certain instances.”

While many details of the process remain a mystery—Watts is still unsure of the exact mechanism that inhibits appetite in the anorexic rats—his work holds promise for those who suffer from anorexia as well as for those who battle what he considers an even greater health problem—obesity.

One day, Watts believes his research may be relevant to the treatment of the most well-known type of anorexia, anorexia nervosa (which is complicated by a large psychological component). But for now, his model more closely mirrors other forms of anorexia, such as those common in the elderly and patients with cancer, AIDS or end-stage renal disease, says Dawna Salter, a graduate student in Watts’ lab and a key collaborator on the anorexia studies. For those already ill with another disease, losing even 10 percent of body weight doubles the risk of death, she says.

The Hunger Trigger

Before entering graduate school, Salter experienced the frustration of anorexia firsthand when she worked as a clinical dietician in a hospital. She recalls bringing trays of food to sick patients who were quickly becoming malnourished, only to be told things like, “I’m so sorry, honey, but I’m just not hungry.”

“The problem with anorexia is that these people really don’t feel hunger, even when their body needs more calories to function,” she says. “Our hunger is turned off in the brain. In anorexics, there seems to be something inhibiting the normal signal from getting through.”

Watts earned his doctorate at Oxford University. He did his postdoctoral work at the Salk Institute in the lab of neurobiologist Larry Swanson, now a professor at USC College, investigating neural circuits, hormones and the neural architecture of the brain’s circadian clock. Since joining USC in 1990, Watts has focused his research on the neural circuits and molecules involved in initiating the body’s stress response.

Last September, Watts was honored for his work on stress when the International Congress of Neuroendocrinology named him the 14th Mortyn Jones Memorial Lecturer and medalist, one of the professional society’s top awards.

Watts’ current interest in feeding and anorexia came when he and his close collaborator (and wife), researcher Graciela Sanchez-Watts, developed a simplified animal model of stress, in which they dehydrated rats by giving them saline water for a few days and studied the physiological changes in their brains. The rats also turned out to offer a way to study the control of food intake: Compared to rats given access to fresh water, the dehydrated rats slowed down their eating by as much as 80 percent in an attempt to conserve their fluid balance. Allowed to drink fresh water after three to five days, the dehydrated rats’ appetites returned surprisingly quickly and with gusto. Intrigued, Watts began to look at hunger and anorexia.

The hunger that drives people and animals to eat is the result of a complex series of communications between body and brain. Inside the brain, messages are carried by neurotransmitters and neuropeptides, which travel from brain cell to brain cell to relay signals such as “blood sugar dropping,” for example, or to...
Eating Signals

Watts and Sanchez-Watts searched for water.

A group of normal rats, which were elevated levels of NPY gene expression when compared to a control group showed that the brains of the anorexic rats look similar in size to the hypothalamus, a brain structure that also controls body temperature, thirst, circadian rhythms, and other key functions and behaviors.
Norman Arnheim has revealed much about the molecular basis of these diseases. Arnheim uses molecular biology to track disease-causing genes. He has studied sperm from normal individuals, and patients with HD and similar neurodegenerative genetic diseases. His work contradicts a 40-year-old theory that cumulative sperm cell divisions over a man’s lifetime explained the increase in achondroplasia mutations seen in the sperm of older men. They are now testing a number of new hypotheses about the origins of the mutations that underlie this genetic condition. Arnheim’s work to understand the fundamental mechanisms of mutation has been supported for the last decade by a prestigious MERIT award from the National Institutes of Health. This award also supported his work on genetic recombination.

“Understanding this is a critical step in the search for the genetic basis of diseases thought to be influenced by multiple genes.”

To study these recombination patterns, however, required the development of a new technique that would allow Arnheim to investigate genes in greater detail. His team developed a new method of PCR that can detect even rare recombined genes with precision.

“We believe that the technique will greatly speed the identification of the sites of recombination, with direct applications for understanding genetically based human disease, including those caused by chromosome abnormalities,” he says.

Using Bioinformatics

Although Arnheim categorizes himself as an experimental mammalian geneticist, his close collaborations with computational biologists have taught him to value the power that bioinformatics can bring to genetics. “We now have methods for rapidly collecting large amounts of data. We’re all running into the same problem. Once you’ve collected the data, how can you analyze it?” says Arnheim.

That is where bioinformatics and computational biology come in. “The future of genetics lies in training people in both experimental and computational approaches. That way, they can make use of the mass of genetic data that has piled up,” he says.

—Ella Emerson
Mapping Genes

Similarities in DNA unite people all over the world

Human populations from different parts of the world are genetically more similar to each other than previously thought, according to research by a USC scientist and his colleagues. The genetic study, one of the largest of its kind, demonstrates that individuals' geographic ancestry can be accurately inferred from DNA. The results also provide implications for an ongoing debate about the usefulness of ancestry information in medical research.

The findings appeared in the December 20 issue of the journal Science.

“It was surprising to see just how similar different populations were,” says Noah Rosenberg, a research scientist in the molecular and computational biology program of USC College and one of the study’s contributing researchers.

“The easiest groups to identify as distinctive were those that were either extremely small in number (several thousand or less) or those that had been extremely isolated for long periods of time,” he says.

In contrast, “individuals from intermediate regions—such as Central Asia and North Africa—tended to have intermediate genes between those of neighboring regions,” he adds.

The group, led by Marcus Feldman of Stanford University, examined nearly 1,100 DNA samples from 32 populations in Africa, Europe, Asia, the Middle East, America and Oceania. Populations were defined by geography, language and culture. Participating individuals were also well rooted in their region, with several generations of ancestors known to have lived in the same locale.

The team focused on 377 segments of the human genome—the same DNA sections commonly used as inheritance markers in medical and evolutionary studies. Each of the 377 sections contained 4-32 distinct genotypes (types of DNA sequence).

Most of the genotypes were found in people from several continents,” says Rosenberg. “This suggests that only a small fraction of genetic traits are unique to specific groups.

“By sampling genotypes from people from all parts of the world, geneticists have reconstructed the major features of our history: our ancient African origin, migrations out of Africa, movements and settlements throughout Eurasia and Oceania, and the peopling of the Americas,” wrote Mary-Claire King and Amo Morulkey, both of the University of Washington, in a commentary accompanying the Science paper.

Uncovering humans’ genetic history is anything but a small task. Diversified DNA samples take years to assemble, and the human genome varies only slightly.

“The challenging aspect of trying to infer history of migration is that there is so little to work with in the human genome,” says Rosenberg.

“Because people are so similar, there’s only a small amount of information you can use to determine how different groups are related.” The genomes of all humans are more than 99 percent identical. In the less than 1 percent of the genome where genetic differences do exist, it would seem likely that two people from different regions would have many more differences than two people from the same region.

On the contrary. Rosenberg and his colleagues found that 94 percent of genetic differences were among individuals from the same populations, an estimate considerably exceeding previous ones of about 85 percent, based on studies with less data.

Despite humans’ genetic similarities, DNA can play a vital role in identifying the geographic region from which one’s ancestors came.

“While most genetic types are widely distributed geographically, the frequencies of these types vary around the world,” Rosenberg explains. “Combinations of types across many parts of the genome may be frequent in one group but rare in most others.” To demonstrate this, Rosenberg applied a powerful statistical technique that uses many independent genes to detect geographical patterns of ancestry in samples from any species. In this approach, the geographic labels of the individuals are removed, and individuals are assigned ancestries. “This is most likely due to a complex history of migrations, conquests and trade over the past few thousand years,” says Rosenberg.

Because different populations experience varying disease rates, recent studies have begun to question how ancestry information might be useful in disease research.

The question at hand: Is information obtained by grouping subjects by their responses to ancestry questions more useful than information obtained by grouping them according to genetic similarities?

The researchers suggest that self-reported and genetic ancestry are equally sound gauges, but Rosenberg points out the importance of both sets of information. “On the one hand,” he says, “grouping patients by genetic similarities will benefit forthcoming studies that will scan the entire human genome for potential genetic causes of disease.

“On the other hand, when you ask someone about his ancestry, you also get information about cultural differences and behaviors, which may be associated with risk factors for certain diseases,” he says. “They’re both important.”

Meanwhile, the debate continues, the research moves forward and the complete tale of humans’ genetic history remains to be told, says Rosenberg.

Scientists can read the DNA sequence of a gene from images like this one. Each color represents one of the four chemical bases that make up DNA, indicated by the letters of the genetic alphabet A, G, T and C. In their study of human genetic variation, Noah Rosenberg and his colleagues sequenced some 377 inherited genetic markers from the genomes of 1,056 people. Today’s automated sequence machines and–of most interest to Rosenberg–sophisticated computer algorithms allowed the team to collect more data and analyze it in much finer detail than in past studies.
Alternative Spring Break Trips Offer Rich Experience

A number of students left North America to take part in alternative Spring Break activities last year. Twenty students traveled to Uruguay in March 2002 to spend 10 days in El Cerro, a small community just outside the capital of Montevideo. Other USC groups worked in the desert, in homeless shelters, at the Navajo Nation and on Catalina Island. In all, there were five volunteer trips with distinct agendas. A majority of the participants were students from the USC College of Letters, Arts & Sciences.

Eleven USC College students participated in the Uruguay trip: Benjamin Alayev, Jessica Baxter, Jesus Camarena, Eneca Graham, Tiffany Holm, Hazrva Kohl, Sylvia Lammrechts, Jeffrey Lasker, Michael Lloyd, Akta Patel and Tammy Tran. An adviser, USC Hillel’s Rabbi Jonathan Klein, and a Hillel staff member accompanied the group.

Klein says the idea for an international destination came to him at a Hillel conference in the Poconos, where he met Jewish students from Montevideo’s Hillel. “It was blown away by their incredible perspective.”

The program was a partnership between Hillel and USC’s Volunteer Center, with an emphasis on the Jewish notion of tzedakah, Klein says. “Tzedakah means charity, but more than that, translates as righteousness.” Each day while in Uruguay, Klein’s group studied Jewish texts, learning about giving honor and dignity to the poor.

The students helped to build a medical distribution site and an afterschool children’s center, and they renovated a clothing distribution center. Materials were donated by Uruguayans.

Senior Jennifer Medina, who speaks Spanish, was affected by the despair she saw in many of the villagers. Yet, she says, women who had not been able to continue their education because of lack of funds for books or clothing were hoping for a better life for their children. What the students saw and learned in Uruguay ignited discussions on poverty, freedom, opportunities and hope for the future, says Medina.

Students stayed with families in the Montevideo Jewish community. Most of the student volunteers were Jewish, but the team included a Hindu and a Buddhist as well, Klein says, and they celebrated the Sabbath with a side trip to Argentina after finishing their work.

USC College students who studied environmentalism in the living lab of Catalina Island were Melanie Cheng, Molly Garvey, Jestyka Harris, Linda Ho, Rivka Katz, Jacq Lam, Chia-Hsien Lin, Kristen Moore (student coordinator), Blushel Obina, Kamila Sikora and Rona Smith.

They stayed at the Emerald Bay Boy Scout Camp and worked nearby removing non-native fennel and cassia bean plants. They also replanted blue oaks, which are native to Emerald Bay.

“The trip was challenging to plan, especially because it was a new program,” says Moore, a psychology major. “It was a pretty big undertaking, but at the end of the week we could see the results.”

The trip had a strong emphasis on discussion and reflection, she says. “Some of the discussions were on what to do about the L.A. River, how we as USC students can educate others on the problems surrounding it, and how politics and the environment are interrelated,” she adds.

Moore’s goal as coordinator was to inspire participants to become more involved in environmental work.

Apparently she succeeded. Since returning home, Moore says, “The group e-mails each other about each and every environment-related service event that they are involved in, and they’re getting involved with causes here in Los Angeles.”

USC volunteers have gone to Death Valley since 1992. Last year, 14 USC College students participated: Jeanne Chuman, Mat Domaradzki, Patrick Fisher, Pushkar Joshi (student coordinator), Edmund Lee Pak Kuen, Kristen Lerch, Alexis Prindle, Nitin Sharma, Julie Steker, Kara Strubel, Esther Teo, Nilay Vora, Wong Chong Wei and Carl Yu.

The students took part in the six-day environmental service-learning experience, camping five nights at Breakfast Canyon. It was student coordinator Pushkar Joshi’s third trip; he also went in his freshman and junior years.

The group helped National Park Rangers move cattails and burros from an existing wetland and planted them at the Texas Springs campground, which had suffered from water runoff and erosion. They removed invasive weeds—London rocket and salt cedar—from the campground.

The students also restored terrain made into an illegal road in the ecologically unstable region next to the Stovepipe Wells sand dunes. “Illegal roads destroy the slowly regenerating outer crust of the desert soil,” says Joshi. Using shovels and hacksaws, they removed exotic plants, such as water-depleting non-native palm trees.

“We got to see a lot more of Death Valley than we normally do, since we were always on time and finished projects ahead of schedule,” says Joshi. “It was an educational exercise for me, and a life-changing experience for most of the participants.”

The effects of homelessness and spiritualism were the subject of the Salinas and Los Angeles excursions, which included USC College students Nazia Baig, Deepika Bains, Elizabeth Carley, Jeffrey Hill, Judith Hong, Rahul Kasukurthi, Monie Okhade, Leah Ramiro (student coordinator), Joanna Schochet and Sydney Wilbur.

Two dozen students in all spent their first day at the Sunshine Mission near USC and the downtown Midnight Mission. They then traveled to Dorothy’s Place, a shelter in Salinas, accompanied by Michelle Blanchette, director of the Volunteer Center, and Rabbi Susan Laemmle, dean of religious life.

USC College students Maria Cauldillo, Charisse Chin, Angelica Eun-Yul, Graciela Felix, April Fernandes (student coordinator), Maricela Garcia, Isabel Hong, Ana Morales, Donald Nadalin, Sara Nakasone, Rana Ram, Linda Serret, Suzanne Taylor, Sasha Villacis and Neil Vora were among the 26 students who traveled to Navajo Nation in Bluff, Utah. Along with four advisers, they painted homes and made repairs as in past years. Their evenings were spent learning about Native American culture.

Students pay a fee to take part in all the programs. Although some trips are more expensive than others, a portion of the cost is covered by a campus philanthropic fund and private donations. Still, most of the students return to campus each spring feeling that they have received much more than they gave. Blanchette says—and they’re eager to go back again.

—Christine E. Shadle, USC Publications
Man on the Moon
Professor who brought law to space continues to explore

Carl Q. Christol was thinking about the legal dilemmas outer space could pose for the world long before the U.S. government sent satellites into the sky or the United Nations began drafting treaties about claiming territory on the moon. Today, he is one of the foremost authorities in the complex field of international space law.

Throughout his career, Christol helped negotiate five major U.N. space treaties on issues such as the basic principles of exploration, and the exploitation of outer space and its natural resources. He has served as an international consultant on issues such as the rescue and return of astronauts in distress and space objects.

Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Christol was designated as a USC College alumna Joyce Neu (M.A. ’80, Ph.D. ’85) understands the power of language. In her career as a peacekeeper and international mediator, she uses that power to try to find ways to resolve conflicts and end violence.

Neu, now the executive director of the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice (IPJ) at the University of San Diego, began to organize and lead global peace-making efforts while at The Carter Center in Atlanta. In her job as senior associate director of the conflict resolution program there, Neu had close contact with former President Jimmy Carter, the 2002 winner of the Nobel Peace Prize.

Under the auspices of the center, Neu helped to negotiate a four-month ceasefire between Bosnian Muslims and Serbs in 1994. Her negotiations with leaders in the Sudan and Uganda built the foundation for the Nairobi Agreement of 1999, which restored bilateral relations between the nations. She was part of an innovative conflict prevention program in Estonia and has worked in the former Soviet states of Georgia, Latvia and Moldova to assess how conflicts could be resolved.

In 2000, the National Peace Foundation presented a Peacemaker/Peacebuilder Award to Neu, citing her “pioneering, multifaceted work in Africa.” Neu has facilitated high-level mediations between parties in conflict in Congo-Brazzaville, Ethiopia and Mali. In Rwanda, she has trained African women in conflict resolution. She has served on numerous institutional boards, been named a senior Fulbright professor, and traveled the world lecturing, training and mediating.

Neu learned much about the art of mediation from Carter, who she calls “a naturally gifted negotiator.” Yet she also traces many of her skills in conflict resolution back to her academic training in linguistics at the College.

Beginning when she was a doctoral student, Neu focused her research on the ways that language is used during negotiations. Although her dissertation looked specifically at the language of buyers and sellers in sales negotiations, she has since broadened her scope to include the dynamics of political and intercultural negotiations.

“I’ve looked very carefully at the ways people develop and maintain relationships” in negotiations, she says. “It’s those relationships that are so essential in maintaining a peace once it’s negotiated.”

When Neu first arrived at USC, she had studied how people learn a second language. In fact, throughout her time at USC she taught English as a second language (ESL) classes at the College’s American Language Institute (ALI).

“My experiences at ALI have been tremendously helpful,” Neu says. “I give a lot of credit for that to Dave Eskey,” the director of ALI in the late ’70s and early ’80s.

Eskey, a linguist and professor of education until his recent death (see Eskey obit, page 23), introduced innovative teaching methods at ALI, training instructors to work with small groups. “We were heads and tails ahead of everyone else,” says Neu, who has called upon these same small-group techniques many times during mediations with presidents, opposition leaders, diplomats and citizens.

Looking back, she says she values the rigor of the linguistics training she received at USC. “It helps to have been trained in statistics, in analyzing data for patterns and thinking critically. I find it helpful to look across the different conflicts I’ve worked on for patterns—while all conflicts are different, there are some shared characteristics.”

“My career has taken a circuitous path,” says Neu, who left USC for a position in ESL at Pennsylvania State University before going to The Carter Center. But she believes she has found her calling in her present position at IPJ, which she expects to build into a major peace-making center in the western U.S.

“If anyone had told me 15 years ago that I’d be doing what I’m doing now, I would never have believed it,” she says.

—Nicole St. Pierre

Making Peace
Neu uses language and the art of mediation to create a safer world

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—Nicole St. Pierre
Gifts and Grants

Faith Fosters Community

Pew grant helps researchers explore religion’s role in demographic shifts

Social scientists at USC College who study the intersection of religion and society have identified religion as one of the most important axes around which immigrants arrange their lives.

To plant seeds for future research, USC College’s Center for Religion and Civic Culture (CRCC) recently received a $2.4 million grant from The Pew Charitable Trusts. The funding enables USC to lead interdisciplinary research surrounding timely issues such as how immigrants alter the religious tapestry of contemporary America and how faith-based community development alleviates social ills.

USC joins Princeton, Yale, Notre Dame, Emory, the University of Pennsylvania, the University of Virginia and Boston University as Pew-named Centers of Excellence. The centers create a forum for religion scholars to collaborate on projects of importance to mainstream scholarship, while reaching out to students, policymakers, journalists and the public. USC is the first West Coast recipient of the Pew grant.

Examples of religious institutions’ changing role abound in Los Angeles, a city in the midst of an amazing demographic shift, and as a result ripe with religious research opportunities.

“The traditional view was that religion helps immigrants assimilate. The great melting pot subsumed cultures of origins and created an American identity that was tied to either Protestant, Catholic or Jewish,” says Donald Miller, a sociologist of religion at USC College who researches immigrant religion. “But there’s a new paradigm.”

According to Miller’s Los Angeles-focused research, more than 60 percent of the 4 million members of the Catholic archdiocese are Latinos, with an increasing number of Vietnamese and other Asian niche congregations. One of the largest congregations in downtown Los Angeles is the Universal Church, an import from Brazil. In a Presbyterian church near USC, Arabic, Filipino, Spanish, Korean and English congregations all meet on the same campus. As the population of Los Angeles grows, so does the number of Buddhists, Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs and Mayans.

“These things simply did not happen 30 years ago,” says the professor, who recently co-authored the study, “Immigrant Religion in the City of Angels,” with Jon Miller, a USC College sociology professor, and Grace Dynness, associate director of CRCC.

Miller says a more apt description of religion’s influence in the 21st century is segmented assimilation, where religious institutions serve the dual function of preserving national identity and aiding assimilation. Certainly, this trend can be easily spotted in Los Angeles, were many religious services are no longer spoken in one language, but often three or four.

“To accommodate immigrants, religious institutions are altering their worship styles, creating multiple congregations inside the walls of a single church building and seeking new ways to build solidarity,” says Miller.

The new Pew grant will build on the research like Miller’s. As part of the grant, the CRCC will establish three multidisciplinary working groups, each composed of 15-20 USC faculty and graduate students, and led by a senior College faculty member.

The topics include: religion and immigration, led by Pierrette Hondagneu-Sotelo, associate sociology professor; faith-based community development and organizing, led by Donald Miller and Dynness; and the interaction of religion and culture, convened by Jon Miller, a 34-year veteran of USC.

“At a time when the role of faith-based initiatives in addressing the deep-seated social problems has become a subject of intense national debate, university research is needed to shed light on these often heated discussions,” says Luis Lugo, director of the Religion Program at Pew.

Researchers in the religion and immigration group work to further understand the impact immigration has on the religious tapestry of contemporary America, the effect religious institutions have on community problems and how new congregations in urban America serve the personal needs of immigrants.

“Immigration is perhaps the most significant source of social change in contemporary America,” says Hondagneu-Sotelo, who studies undocumented Mexican immigration to the United States, Latino labor in Los Angeles, and women, gender and immigration.

“So much can be learned about our current culture by understanding how religion is woven into the experiences of immigrants. What we learn through our studies here in Los Angeles can be applied throughout the world.”

To better understand the role religion plays in urban society, the faith-based community development and organizing group collaborates with researchers from sociology, anthropology, religion, the School of Policy, Planning and Development, and the School of Social Work. Through projects and discussions, scholars study how faith-based involvement in communities can overcome the complex challenges that confront cities throughout the world. For instance, the group researches how religion alleviates problems — health care and housing, for example — that arise from the constraints of poverty.

The Pew grant also provides funding for guest lectures, conferences and publications, as well as funding to support graduate- and undergraduate-level research projects. This is the first time grants have been made available for undergraduate students pursuing religious studies research in the College.

“The College is committed to providing students with a broadly based education that prepares them to be wise and effective citizens,” says College Dean of Academic Programs Sarah Pratt. “Our students are not only well prepared, but eager to reach beyond the classroom in their understanding of the world. Undergraduate research and a close connection with faculty play a key role in this kind of education.”

The students funded by the Pew grant for 2002-2003 include:

• Deepika Bains, who works with professor Jane Naomi Iwamura to assess the institutions and practices that shape the religious beliefs of South Asian American Hindus;

• Rigoberto Garcia, who collaborates with professor Donna Spruijt-Metz to research religion and health-seeking behaviors among adolescents in Los Angeles public schools;

• Stephen Hood, who — along with professors Bruce Zuckerman and Lynn Swartz Dodd — explores the cultural background of biblical text inscriptions;

• Yeigh Keshishian, who — with professor Martin Krieger — photographs Armenian churches in the Los Angeles region;

• Billie Christine Ortiz, Maeve St. Leger and Klealy Pineda, who work with professor Hondagneu-Sotelo to study the Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights;

• Brian Stewart, who works with professor Lee Ceiling to design a survey that examines attitudes toward religiosity in American universities;

• Maria Izuel Siegrist, who — with professor Maria Elena Martinez — researches the role of women in the Mexican Inquisition;

• Nilay Vora, who works with professor Iwamura to study South Asian American students and the ideas of Gandhi; and

• Rebecca Zak, who — along with professor Richard Wightman Fox — examines the cultural image of Jesus in American culture following the publication of “Uncle Tom’s Cabin.”

For more information, visit the CRCC Web site at www.usc.edu/crcc.

—Nicole St. Pierre
Science by the Sea

NSF supports using the ocean as a classroom

The National Science Foundation (NSF) has awarded USC and UCLA a $2.5 million grant to improve marine science education in grades K-12 in the Los Angeles area. Each will receive $250,000 a year for five years, and join forces with other institutions including the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, the Aquarium of the Pacific, the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium, the California Science Center and the UCLA Ocean Discovery Center.

The program will be administered at USC College by Linda Duguy, director of USC Sea Grant, and Anthony Michaels, director of USC’s Wrigley Institute for Environmental Studies.

The generous grant will fund the Center for Ocean Sciences Education Excellence-West (COSEE-West), one of seven such centers throughout the United States. The local center’s goals include: training teachers in the Los Angeles Unified School District and countywide to successfully teach ocean science; encouraging K-12 students to pursue careers in science; developing a public lecture series; and creating a Web site that will be a free resource for students and teachers everywhere.

“We'll bring ocean science researchers together with local educators to hook students on science and increase overall science literacy,” says Duguy, who is also deputy director of USC Wrigley. “This program is unique in promoting a long-term relationship among the scientists out exploring the ocean world, and the educators who bring the scientific knowledge to the students and the general public,” she adds. “Teachers and students will be exposed to the excitement of discovery and the newest scientific findings from the very scientists involved in the discoveries.”

Bill Hamner, director of the UCLA Marine Science Center and the program’s principal investigator at UCLA, says Southern California and the greater Los Angeles area, perhaps more than any other location in the United States, have intimate connections to the beaches and the sea.

“We have found that when science examples from the sea permeate the classroom, students who were previously indifferent to science class become highly motivated to learn more,” he says. Susan Cook, program officer in the NSF’s Division of Ocean Sciences, says the creation of the national network is an important milestone in the foundation’s efforts to involve the ocean science research community in all levels of education. “These innovative partnerships will clearly enrich what teachers teach and students learn,” Cook says. “The work of the COSEE network as a whole will promote better public understanding of the key role that the ocean plays in global environmental cycles and processes,” she adds.

Phylis Griffman, associate director of USC Sea Grant, says the center will use the master-teacher approach. Teachers will be trained as part of their continuing education and will pass on their knowledge to other teachers. “It’s important that the teachers have a good understanding of the science in order to be able to teach it,” says Griffman. “Our experience has been that the teachers really like it when they can talk directly to the scientists. It allows them to go into the classroom with a degree of knowledge and enthusiasm that is then passed on to the kids.”

The center hopes to reach 50,000 teachers in a five-year period, she says. A series of 10 public lectures will focus on themes ranging from life in extreme environments to open ocean habitats. The Web site will have real-time links to weather and monitoring stations, and include free curricula that can be downloaded and applied in the classroom.

“We can’t take everyone to the beach, but we can bring the beach to the classroom,” Griffman says.

—Usha Stdilff, USC News Service
A new book by USC professor of sociology and gender studies Michael Messner says that forms of exclusion still exist for women athletes 30 years after the passage of Title IX. It’s been 30 years since the federal civil-rights legislation Title IX passed, but many women athletes continue to grapple with how little things have changed. While more women and girls are participating in sports, forms of exclusion still exist, Messner points out in his book “Taking the Field: Women, Men and Sports” (University of Minnesota Press).

In the book, Messner looks at a variety of challenges in the sports community, including gender inequities, men’s violence, financial interests and the cultural imagery in televised sports. He also explores the current paradoxes in sports by looking at how females and males are treated on fields ranging from Little League to professional sports. Although Title IX was created to expand opportunities for high-school and college female athletes in the name of sex equity, the world of sport largely retains its longtime conservative role of favoring male athletes, says Messner, chair of the sociology department in USC College.

Everyone has tacitly agreed, it seems, to view men’s sports as the standard to which women should strive to have equal access. Missing from the debate is any recognition that men’s sports have become sources of major problems on campuses: academic cheating, sexual violence, alcohol abuse, steroid use, serious injuries and other health issues, to name just a few, he says.

To the extent that women’s sports advocates are successful in pressing for equal opportunities for women, the traditionally masculine sport culture will change in significant ways. In a more equitable system, women will enjoy a greater share of opportunities, and resources; salaries and corporate-endorsement contracts of high-profile female athletes and coaches will be closer to those of their male counterparts; and we will see a more diverse imagery of female athletes in popular culture. Legal tools like Title IX are still essential in moving toward fairness and equity, he adds.

Messner believes we should encourage the most widespread and equitable system of athletics opportunities for all children and young adults. He says that equality helps both boys and girls. “Boys are growing up in a world where they will have women co-workers and bosses,” he says. “They need, as boys, to experience girls and women as physically capable, strong and assertive. When they see women play sports, and especially when they play alongside girls on their athletic teams, boys experience girls in a way that will foster a wider and deeper respect for women.”

On Dec. 10, 2002, USC College Dean Joseph Aoun talked about how the College is preparing to train the next generation of top-notch scholars in the annual State of the College address. “Our goal is to be—by the end of this decade—one of the top colleges in any private research university,” he told an audience of more than 150 USC faculty members. One of the areas Aoun stressed was the need to increase focus on interdisciplinary research. “New knowledge is arising unpredictably from the intersections of disciplines,” he said, referring to the human genome project, and disciplines such as computational biology and visual culture.

The advisors, Cody explains, also work in close coordination with departmental staff to enhance the registration process, which previously had been handled by faculty, staff or both. In the past, each department in the College advised students, placing the responsibility on department faculty or staff. The faculty and staff were only available to advise students for a few hours each week, which made it difficult for students seeking counsel, particularly during registration.

The particulars of course requirements, referrals, class clearance and other specific academic advising, says Cody, are issues most effectively handled by trained academic advisors. Relieved of the responsibility, faculty can now concentrate on teaching and working directly with students on purely academic matters. “We are hoping faculty will play an active role in mentoring students,” says Cody. “Only faculty can give students a full perspective on a particular field. We want to capitalize on faculty knowledge.”

—Shamia Kali Holloway
NAS Values Sandler’s Game Theory

A USC College researcher who uses game theory to gauge counter-terrorism measures has been recognized by the prestigious National Academy of Sciences (NAS).

Todd Sandler, the Robert and Katheryn Dockson Chair in International Relations and Economics in USC’s College of Letters, Arts & Sciences, has received a $20,000 NAS award for behavioral research relevant to the prevention of nuclear war.

The prize—to be shared with Walter Enders, the Lee Bidgood Chair of Economics and Finance at the University of Alabama—is awarded approximately every three years for basic research in any field of cognitive or behavioral science that advances understanding of issues relating to the risk of nuclear war.

Sandler and Enders were chosen “for their joint work on transnational terrorism using game theory and time-series analysis to document the cyclic and shifting nature of terrorist attacks in response to defensive counteractions.”

Their work, which involves years of data collection, theory and analysis, has been used to evaluate various strategies in dealing with terrorism.

“The award will continue to help bring our novel procedures and insights with respect to fighting terrorism to the attention of the policy-making community,” Sandler says.

“The use of behavioral and statistical models, as we have applied in our research, has much to offer a world confronted with one of the most challenging and deadly threats ever to its security. Our research demonstrates that even the “best” counters to terrorism have unintended negative consequences. More effective policy can be accomplished with such insights.”

USC College Dean Joseph Aoun says, “The nations of the world have been stymied by the spectre of terrorism, its random nature, its terrifying consequences. Now Todd Sandler and his colleagues have shined a light on this problem, and may help guide our nation toward a rational and sane solution—if only they will be heard.”

Sandler’s research has appeared in leading journals in economics and political science, including the American Political Science Review, the American Economic Review, and the Journal of Law and Economics. Enders and Sandler co-authored the lead article in the June 2002 International Studies Quarterly on forecasting terrorist events, and have been planning a book on the study of terrorism.

Their work has been used by the Central Intelligence Agency, the U.S. State Department, the Canadian Mounties and many other organizations.

The award—one of 18 announced by the NAS on Jan. 10—will be presented April 28 at a ceremony in Washington, D.C., during the Academy’s 140th annual meeting. The award was established by a gift of William and Katherine Estes, and has been presented since 1990.

USC has been selected as a leading partner in an effort to improve doctoral education at American universities.

The mathematics department of USC College and USC’s Rossier School of Education will join a handful of other university departments to examine doctoral programs through the Carnegie Initiative on the Doctorate.

This three-year project, co-sponsored by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Atlantic Philanthropies, will include analyses of doctoral programs in chemistry, education, English, history, mathematics and neuroscience, as well as departmental experiments and research.

“Doctoral programs have changed very little in the past 50 years, but the world around us has been transformed completely,” says Francis Bonahon, acting chairman of the College’s math department. “This initiative is an excellent opportunity to exchange ideas with other universities and review how we do things here at USC.”

Calling doctoral education a way “to educate and prepare those to whom we can entrust the vigor, quality and integrity of the field,” the initiative’s sponsors designed the project to allow for candid discussion and reflection.

Researchers hope it may lead to new approaches in graduate programs.

“Oftentimes, as professors, we want to clone ourselves through our students,” Bonahon says. “But we aren’t where we were 20 years ago. This is a push to think more openly and move away from that model.”

Improvements to doctoral programs, says Carnegie President Lee S. Shulman, can lead to positive changes on all other levels of education.

“If we wish to influence the course of elementary and secondary school,” says Shulman, “the Ph.D. is critical, for those who hold the doctorate also educate those who teach our nation’s schoolchildren.”
Bickers and Armstrong win service awards

Professors Gene N. Bickers and Lloyd Armstrong Jr. from physics and astronomy were named as the recipients of this year’s Distinguished Faculty Service Award by the USC Academic Senate.

In recognizing Bickers, the Senate said he has demonstrated “that service can complement and benefit from excellence in teaching and research. In fact, accomplishments as a teacher and researcher have helped this recipient. Since joining the faculty in 1988, Professor Bickers has served in numerous capacities within the Department of Physics and Astronomy, the College and the university. From 1998 to 2000, he chaired one of the Senate’s most important committees—the Committee on Undergraduate Education.

“It is not by coincidence that USC has an undergraduate program that has achieved a national mark of excellence. Gene Bickers has participated actively in the Renaissance Scholars program and on the university’s Diversity Committee, among many other committees.

“Bickers exemplifies the citizen-scholar. In a world where too often we hear someone say, ‘What’s in it for me?’ Bickers asks, ‘What can I do for the good of the university?’ He personifies integrity and service, while at the same time has amassed numerous awards for excellence in teaching and research.”

Recognition for his research includes A.D. White Fellowships, a National Science Foundation Graduate Fellowship, an Alfred P. Sloan Research Fellowship and a Raubenheimer Outstanding Junior Faculty Award. Recognition of his excellence in teaching includes being named a Faculty Fellow by USC’s Center for Excellence in Teaching, and being awarded a Mortarboard Excellence in Teaching Award, an Associates Award for Excellence in Teaching and a College General Education Teaching Award.

In recognizing Armstrong, the Senate said: “As provost of the university and a professor of physics, Lloyd Armstrong has served the faculty well. He listens, he acts and he carries out what he says he will do. Undergraduate education has improved because of his leadership, the tenure clock has been made more flexible because he listened to the Senate, an interdisciplinary center has been started, and initiatives in library and information services have been launched because he knew how to work well with faculty. Lloyd Armstrong is an academic’s academic—he is thoughtful, canter necker and demands excellence from his faculty, his lieutenants and, most importantly, himself.”

Meeting of Minds

Delegation sent to Chinese Advanced Forum on Visual Arts

A USC delegation, whose members included Shaoyi Sun, lecturer of Chinese literature and film, and four Ph.D. students of the School of Cinema-Television, participated in the Second Chinese Advanced Forum on Visual Arts held at Shanghai’s Fudan University last fall. Headed by Stanley Rosen, professor of political science, the group was sponsored by USC’s East Asian Studies Center. Rosen delivered a one-hour keynote speech titled “Hollywood Global Strategy and Responses and Countermeasures of Domestic Film Markets in Asia” on the first day of the forum. He also chaired the second-day USC panel “Interrogating Transnationality: Image Traveling and Re-Orientation in a Transforming Market.”

The Chinese Advanced Forum on Visual Arts is an annual event attended by top-level university professors and artists of film, television and new media across the nation. With China’s entry to the World Trade Organization, the organizing committee of this year’s forum specifically encouraged overseas involvement. The international look of the forum was enhanced not only by the USC delegation, but also by the co-sponsorship from Germany’s Konrad-Adenauer Foundation, Shanghai Project Office. This enabled the forum to bring several German scholars and industry leaders to.

Fashion Forward

Exhibit features women and style over time

Fashion and Transgression, on view at the Fisher Gallery through April 12, is an exhibition of representations of the fashionable woman in Europe and the United States between 1900 and 1950. Identity, taste, style, glamour, the new woman, spectacle, Orientalism and the body are among the themes revealed in a variety of materials taken from several Los Angeles collections.

“In today’s image-conscious culture, we cannot avoid dealing with clothing as means of communicating diverse information about identities, including the social construction and bodily performance of gender and class,” says Nancy Troy, art history professor and chair, and curator of the show.

“This exhibition explores the ways in which these issues were visualized in a wide range of materials dating from the first half of the 20th century, when it was becoming increasingly clear that fashion and good taste were only one aspect of bodily performance through clothing, transgressive challenges to acceptable sartorial norms could be equally expressive of changing fashions—and of changing attitudes about gender—in the modern period,” she adds.

The exhibition explores tensions between personal and social identity, as well as the tensions between the liberation and regulation of the body. It is through this exploration that fashion and transgression emerge as complementary rather than mutually exclusive terms. Further, the woman is shown not only as the creator and object of spectacle, but as a spectator who consciously interprets what is presented as fashion. Finally, the exhibition demonstrates how mass media democratizes fashion, allowing a broad female audience to become participants in the process of defining it.

“Graduate students in art history have played a significant role in selecting the objects included in the exhibition and they have written all the essays in the accompanying published catalogue,” says Troy. “Three students in particular, all of whom are enrolled in the Museum Studies Program of the Department of Art History in USC College, have collaborated to organize the exhibition as part of their coursework in that program.”

Admission to “Fashion and Transgression” is free, and the exhibit is open to the public from noon to 5 p.m., Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. For more information, please call (213) 740-4561.
Talkin’ About My Gen-er-a-tion

External factors have mild effects on teens

From slackers, Generation Xers are more ambitious, principled, and grounded than their Baby Boomer parents were 30 years ago. Although they’ve been described as the lost generation, a USC study has found that image may not be accurate or fair.

The study, which appears in the book “How Families Still Matter: A Longitudinal Study of Youth in Two Generations” (Cambridge University Press), draws from the 30-year study of generations conducted at USC. The researchers, sociology professors Vern L. Bengtson and Timothy Biblarz, and Robert Roberts, a professor at Cal State San Marcos, compared achievements and family influences on Gen Xers, born in the 1970s and 1980s, with those of their Baby Boomer parents, born in the 1940s and 1950s.

Using survey data collected from as early as 1971, they assessed self-confidence, values and goals from approximately 1,000 19-year-olds from two Southern California generations. The discovery: Gen Xers were more ambitious at 19 than their Baby Boomer parents were at the same age, and had higher self-esteem and greater social values.

“The strength of parents’ influence on life choices and achievements is significant—and at about the same level—for the two generations. ‘These findings indicate the resilience of intergenerational family bonds in the context of massive social changes since the 1960s,’ Bengtson says. ‘They suggest that in the 21st century, families and cross-generational connections will still be vitally important in influencing youths’ values, choices and life course.’

‘To the researchers’ surprise, parental divorce had a small impact on Gen Xers’ achievement. ‘It’s certainly much lower than the ‘divorce is disaster’ literature would predict,’ says Bengtson.

‘Children who grew up in families where mothers worked outside the home were no less well adjusted than children with stay-at-home moms. ‘The conventional wisdom that single motherhood and divorce are robbing their children in some way,’ Biblarz says. ‘Our study shows that single motherhood and working moms have not produced any dire consequences.’

‘To sum up their findings, the authors offer three new hypotheses. Extended kin—particularly grandparents—are more important than ever. ‘Grandparents are living longer and are sharing their time and financial resources with grandchildren, particularly those affected by divorce,’ Bengtson says.

‘In addition, today’s two-parent families may be more successful than ever before. ‘We may be seeing a ‘survival of the fittest’ in marriages today,’ says Biblarz. ‘For example, in previous generations, many parents stayed in unhappy marriages that resulted in negative consequences for children. Our research suggests that those parents who stay together by choice, not necessity, may have more achievement-oriented children.’

‘Finally, through ups and downs, most parents—particularly mothers—seem to continue to find ways to take good care of their children. ‘While 40 percent of Generation X teens experienced their parents’ divorce, they felt as close to their mothers as Baby Boomer youth did 26 years earlier,’ Biblarz says. ‘And that is extremely hopeful, and perhaps one of the best outcomes of the study.’”

—Gilien Silsby, USC News Service

Eugene Bickers (physics and astronomy) and Viet Nguyen (English) were two of the four Raubenheimer Award recipients honored at a special reception in December 2002. Laurie Brand (international relations) and Donald Miller (religion) were also recognized for their achievements but were not able to attend the event. Joining the Raubenheimer awardees in accolades were the General Education Award winners: graduate assistants Helge Alsløben (earth sciences), Erin Dufault-Hunter (religion), Marcella Marlowe (political science) and Erin Toth (writing program, English); faculty members Timothy Biblarz (sociology), John Bowlt (Slavic languages and literature), James Dolan (earth sciences), Alice Gambrell (English), Paul Lerner (history), Steven Lund (earth sciences), David Roman (English) and Edward Slingerland (religion and East Asian languages and cultures); and David A. Samuelson for advanced writing. The College Doctoral Research Prize winners—Sarah Warren (art history), Nicole Fraser (earth sciences) and Julie Wetherell (psychology)—were also acknowledged.

New minor program offers hands-on experience

In its ongoing effort to develop innovative community-based learning experiences for students, the College’s Joint Educational Project (JEP) has partnered with faculty from the School of Architecture, School of Policy, Planning and Development, School of Social Work and the Rossier School of Education to develop the new interdisciplinary Urban Neighborhood Studies program.

The new minor program examines urban life at the scale of the neighborhood, considering the impact of various social, economic, cultural, physical and institutional forces. Students in the two core courses for the program participate in one of several service-learning assignments developed by JEP to help students apply and integrate the multiple disciplinary perspectives about which they learn in class.

During the spring 2003 semester, students will work with Canaan Housing Corporation, the Los Angeles Leadership Academy and the Los Angeles Department of Neighborhood Empowerment to develop projects that support agency staff members and neighborhood residents engaged in the process of improving community life.

“Working at the Department of Neighborhood Empowerment has been a great experience,” summarizes one student who participated in the program during the fall 2002 semester. “I learned both about how city government operates and how the neighborhood responds to it. My understanding of the community I was working with was heightened tremendously.”

For more information about these and other community-based service-learning projects at JEP, please contact Susan Corban Harris, JEP’s director of academic development, at (213) 740-1830.
Governor Davis appoints Kamieniecki to IMRC

Gov. Gray Davis appointed Sheldon Kamieniecki, chair of the political science department, as one of seven members of the state’s Inspection and Maintenance Review Committee (IMRC), which was created to analyze the effect of the improved inspection and maintenance programs on motor vehicle emissions and air quality. Kamieniecki is founding director of USC’s environmental studies program and a member of the American Political Science Association and the Coalition for Clean Air.

Troy examines culture of couture

Nancy J. Troy, professor and chair of art history, has written a new book titled “Couture Culture: A Study in Modern Art and Fashion” (MIT Press). The book focuses on the relationship between art and fashion in early 20th-century France and America, and explores the contradictory issues of originality and reproduction in modern fashion. Instead of dismissing fashion as superficial, Troy demonstrates the parallels between modern art and fashion.

Wong awarded grant to study Asian-American voters

Janelle Wong, assistant professor of political science, has been awarded a research grant from the Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement (CIRCLE) for her project Getting Our the Vote: Among Asian Pacific American Young People and Adults in Los Angeles County: A Field Experiment. The purpose of the study is to examine the effectiveness of different mobilization strategies, such as phone canvassing and direct mail, on voter turnout among Asian Americans.

Kaplan reveals Hurston through letters

In October 2002, Carla Kaplan, professor of English and literary theory of her new book, “Zora Neale Hurston: A Life in Letters.” Through the edited collection of previously unpublished letters by Hurston—an anthropologist, novelist and icon of the Harlem Renaissance, and author of “Their Eyes Were Watching God”—Kaplan explores the life of one of the most enigmatic literary figures of the 20th century. Readers experience the exacerbation and trials of Hurston’s life through letters she wrote to Harlem Renaissance friends Langston Hughes, Alain Locke, Dorothy West and Carl Van Vechten, as well as to best-selling authors Marjorie Kinnan Rawlings and Fannie Flagg, the award is presented by the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the American Political Science Association. As a result, he will automatically assume the position of president of the association in two years. One of his responsibilities will be organizing and hosting the association’s 2005 conference. It will be the first time in the organization's 45-year history that the conference will be held in Southern California.

Hamilton receives notable awards for authoring book

Nora Hamilton, professor of political science, has been awarded the prize for Best Book Published in the Area of Race/Ethnicity and Foreign Policy/Globalization by the Section on Race, Ethnicity and Politics of the American Political Science Association. She also has received the Historian of the Lion Award from the Center for the Study of Political Graphics for her recent book “Seeking Community in a Global City: Guatemalans and Salvadorans in Los Angeles,” co-authored by Norma Chinchilla.

Cartier explores Chinese diaspora

Carolyn Cartier, assistant professor of geography, co-edited the newly released book “The Chinese Diaspora: Space, Place, Mobility, Identity,” along with Elizabeth J. C. Zung. It is the first book to explore the Chinese diaspora from geographical perspectives, where contributors analyze the sharp differences between the “Chinese” Chinese prior to the 1960s and the transnational Chinese of the current era, especially in terms of spatial distribution, mobility, economic status, occupational structure and identity formation. The book was published by Rowman & Littlefield of Lanham, Md.

Anheim team study featured in Nature

A news article in the Nov. 28, 2002 issue of the journal Nature focused on recent work by USC College’s Norman Anheim—holder of the Eater Dornsife Chair in Biological Sciences and Distinguished Professor of Biological Sciences, Molecular Biology and Biophysics—and graduate student Irene Tiemann-Boege. The USC study into why older fathers are more likely to produce offspring with a genetic mutation associated with dwarfism contradicts the prevailing explanation,posing new questions in understanding the origins of many human genetic mutations. Describing the USC team’s study, the Nature article discussed the finding in the broader context of human genetics and disease, emphasizing the remaining mystery of the “male age effect.”

What’s News With You?

Have you recently won the Nobel Peace Prize or been elected to Congress? If so, tell us about it. If not, tell us what you’ve been up to anyway. We’re interested in learning what members of our USC College family are doing and sharing it with our readers. Whether you’re changing the world or just your community, we want to know. Please send announcements to collegemag@usc.edu. You can also mail them to Karen Newell Young, USC College Public Relations, University of Southern California, ADN 140, Los Angeles, CA 90089-5014.
**Alumni News**

**New ‘Early Show’ stars Julie Chen**

Last October, Julie Chen (B.A., ’93) joined Harry Smith, Hannah Storm and Rene Syler in debuting a revamped “The Early Show.” CBS News’ weekday morning broadcast. Chen, a graduate of USC with degrees in broadcast journalism and English, is one of four anchors. She has been the news anchor of “The Early Show” and anchor of “CBS Morning News” since November 1999, when “The Early Show” first aired. She has hosted “Big Brother,” the CBS reality series, since its debut three years ago. Prior to joining CBS News in June 1999, Chen was a reporter and anchor for WCBS-TV, the CBS-owned station in New York (1997-1999); was a reporter for WFTV-TV (1995-1997); served as a producer for ABC News One, that network’s affiliate news service (1991-1995), and was a production assistant in the ABC News Los Angeles bureau (1990-1991).

**Black fights terrorism**

J. Cofer Black (B.A., ’73, M.A., ’74) was sworn in on Dec. 3, 2002 as the State Department coordinator for counterterrorism with the rank of ambassador-at-large. Originally from Stanford, Conn., Black received his undergraduate and graduate degrees from USC College. Ambassador Black’s office has the primary responsibility for developing, coordinating and implementing U.S. counterterrorism policy. Prior to this appointment, he served as a CIA official for 28 years, where he was director of the CIA’s Counterterrorism Center and deputy chief of the Latin American division.

**Chartrand is first Metis pro female golfer**

Leila Chartrand (B.A., ’02), a 22-year-old Metis woman from Victoria, B.C., made her debut as a professional golfer at the Whirlpool PGA Women’s Championship at the St. Catharines Golf and Country Club in St. Catharines, July 16-17, 2002. The tournament made her the first Metis pro female golfer. Chartrand’s debut on the pro tour follows a history of success as a junior and amateur golfer. She twice won the Manitoba Girls High School Champion and a B.C. Amateur Championship in 1999 and ‘02, won numerous tournaments during her four years, and some of her former teammates are now on the LPGA.

**Raidy joins law firm as partner**

Business lawyer Cherie Raidy (B.A., ’78) recently joined the Los Angeles office of Chicago-based Lord, Bissell & Brook as a partner. A graduate of USC, she will work in banking and real estate, as well as continue with her practice of construction lending, commercial lending, finance, real estate and business transactions. She says her hire was part of Lord, Bissell & Brook’s plan to expand its transaction practice and its office generally in the West. Raidy holds an undergraduate degree in political science from USC and a law degree from Southwestern University School of Law. She chairs the real-estate finance section of the Los Angeles County Bar Association and is a member of the Boards of Directors of LACRIN’s Real Estate Executive Committee, the state bar association’s Real Property Section Executive Committee and the Pasadena YMCA.

**Chen joins CBS**

Julie Chen is a co-host of the daytime talk show “The Early Show” on CBS News since 2002. She is known for her ability to handle high-pressure situations and her passion for storytelling. Chen’s career began in broadcast journalism, and she has worked for various news organizations throughout her career.

**Williams re-elected in Texas**

Michael L. Williams (B.A., ’75), the first African-American in Texas history to serve in a nonjudicial statewide office, was re-elected as chairman of the Texas Railroad Commission last November. He was appointed to the commission by then-Gov. George W. Bush in 1995, and was elected by his fellow commissioners to chair the commission one year later. Williams earned his bachelor’s degree in political science from USC College, and later returned to USC to earn his M.A. in public administration and a law degree. Previously, Commissioner Williams served as special assistant to Attorney General Richard Thornburgh in the U.S. Department of Justice. He is a former assistant district attorney in his hometown of Midland and a former federal prosecutor.

**Pao wins prize for study of cell components**

Agata Smogorzewska (B.S., ’95) was the first runner-up for the Prize for Promise awarded by the national organization Student Achievement and Recognition Services. The award recognizes young women of exceptional ability, ambition, boldness, brilliance and dedication within their field of expertise. Smogorzewska, who emigrated from Poland and studied biology and chemistry at USC, where she graduated magna cum laude with a degree in molecular biology and biochemistry, was cited by the awards committee for her extraordinary work in the study of cell components known as telomeres, in an effort to understand why older cells fail to reproduce. Her work has been published in prestigious journals including Nature Genetics and Cell and has been cited in the lab of Ticla de Lange at Rockefeller University, where she will continue to work as an associate professor. She will receive $10,000.

**Allen to oversee development of $16.4M Biosciences Center**

Susan Davis Allen (Ph.D., ’71), a researcher at USC’s Institute for laser technology, has been selected as Arkansas State University’s vice chancellor for research and academic affairs. Allen, who earned her doctorate in chemical physics from USC and was the associate director of USC’s Center for Laser Studies from 1984 to 1997, has been a professor of chemistry at Florida State University.
Illustrating the interplay and mutual influence of French and American poetry, beginning in the 19th century with the discovery of Edgar Allan Poe and Walt Whitman by French writers, “Charting the Here of There: A French and American Dialogue in Poetry” will be on display at the Doheny Treasure Room through May 9.


In connection with the Doheny show, USC will host a conference co-sponsored by Doheny Memorial Library, the Graduate Writing Program at Otis College of Art and Design, and the Cultural Services of the French Embassy, with the support of the Florence Gould Foundation. Scheduled for April, the conference will bring together French and American translators, magazine editors and poets, who will discuss the connections and exchanges between French and American poetry within the context of their work.

Charles Baudelaire (left) and Edgar Allan Poe (right) are among the poets featured in “Charting the Here of There,” an exhibition at the Doheny Treasure Room.
Hollywood Hills home on Nov. 27, 2002. An offensive lineman at USC from 1939 to 1941, deLauer was a member of the Trojan team that won the 1940 Rose Bowl under legendary coach Howard Jones, and was captain of the 1941 team. He also played for the NFL champion Cleveland Browns in 1946. After the team moved to California, deLauer kicked a field goal to beat the Washington Redskins in the first NFL game ever played. He is survived by his wife, Lois, and daughters Diane and Danie.

Martin D. Kamen, professor emeritus, 89

Martin D. Kamen, a professor emeritus of biological sciences at USC whose discovery of radioactive carbon-14 helped revolutionize biochemistry, died Aug. 31, 2002. A member of the National Academy of Sciences, Kamen came to USC in the fall of 1974 as a professor of biological sciences. He held joint appointments in chemistry and biochemistry, and headed the USC program in molecular biology. Born in Toronto, Kamen started his career as a biochemist at UC Berkeley’s Lawrence Radiation Laboratory in 1937 and worked on the Manhattan Project. But his friendship with a Russian consul—along with a request from the Russian consulate in Seattle for radioactive phosphorous to treat a cancerous tumor who had leukemia—led to Kamen’s removal from the project on the groundless charge of giving atomic secrets to the Soviet Union. Despite these problems, Kamen won the 1955 Enrico Fermi Award, the U.S. government’s oldest science and technology honor, for his achievements in the field of nuclear energy. He also helped develop the chemistry department at UC San Diego, and the molecular biology and biochemistry programs at USC. Aside from his wide-ranging interests in science, Kamen was also a talented violinist who often played chamber music with friends such as Isaac Stern. He is survived by his son, David; his sister, Lillian Smith; and a grandson.

George R. Richter Jr., partner of Martin D. Kamen

George R. Richter Jr., partner of Martin D. Kamen and a homemaker. His family included his wife, Ruth Weg; and two sisters.

Ruth Weg

Ruth Weg, professor emerita, 82

Ruth Weg (M.A. ’54, Ph.D. ’58), professor emerita of gerontology at USC’s Leonard Davis School of Gerontology, died Oct. 25, 2002. Weg earned her master’s in biology and physiology, and her doctorate in zoology from USC. An authority on older workers, she stressed the importance of adults remaining independent for as long as possible. From 1960 to 1970, Weg served as a research associate and lecturer in biology and physiology at USC College. In 1970, she became an associate professor of gerontology, attaining a full professorship in 1984. She served as associate director for training at USC’s Andrus Gerontology Center from 1968 to 1974, co-directing, and later directing, the center’s Summer Institute for Advanced Study in Gerontology from 1969 to 1974. From 1974 to 1976 she was dean of students at the Davis School. USC’s gerontology school was founded in 1975 with a gift from philanthropist Leonhard Davis, co-founder of the American Association of Retired Persons. Weg was one of the school’s first faculty members and a co-founder of its current nursing program. Her last year teaching at USC was 1990. A native of New York City, Weg took pleasure in traveling, writing and spending time with family and friends. She is survived by her husband, Martin S. Weg; her children, Hanna Weg, Robert Bass and Andrea Bass De Cosmos; her stepdaughter, Lisa Weg; her granddaughter, Sara Zoe Weg; and two sisters.

David E. Eskey, ESL expert, 69

David E. Eskey, a professor of education, planned and served as director of administrative support in the USC Rosier School of Education, died of a heart attack on Oct. 19, 2002. An expert on the administration of multi-lingual and multicultural programs, Eskey had worked at USC in various positions since the mid-1970s, including director of USC College’s American Language Institute. At the time of his death, he was director of the Rosier School’s Master of Science Program for the teaching of English as a second language. Eskey served as a consultant on second-language teaching for the Educational Testing Service and other organizations, and was a national consultant on the subject for the National Association for Foreign Student Affairs. He also taught at Carnegie-Mellon University and the University of Pittsburgh. Abroad he taught at the American Institute of Languages in Baghdad, Iraq, the American University of Beirut in Lebanon and the Thammasart University in Bangkok. Born in Pittsburgh, Eskey earned his B.A. in English from Pennsylvania State University, his M.A. in English from Columbia University, and a second M.A. in linguistics and a Ph.D. in English from the University of Pittsburgh. He is survived by his wife, Gertrude; his son, Michael, and grandchildren in New York and Seattle.

Earle T. Audet, former NFL player, 81

Earle T. Audet (B.A. ’52) of Marina del Rey died Dec. 18, 2002 at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center. Born in Providence, R.I., Audet was a national shot put champion and played pro football with the Washington Redskins, the Los Angeles Rams and the Calgary Stampeders. A member of the NFL Players Union and the NFL Retired Players, he was with the Los Angeles Rams when they joined the NFL, and finished his football career in Canada. Audet worked for the Los Angeles County Probation Department from 1953 to 1983, where he retired. He was also a Marine Corps veteran. He leaves his wife, DeDe Audet, and brother, Ernest W. Audet.

Oscar M. Hechter, scientist, 86

Oscar M. Hechter (Ph.D. ’44), who had been a scientist with the Worcester Foundation for Experimental Biology in Shrewsbury, died Dec. 20, 2002 in Seattle. Hechter was an expert on the physiology of endocrine glands and other organs. He was a recipient of the Gregory Pincus Medal and Award, and the Ciba Award. Along with other Worcester Foundation scientists, Hechter contributed to research leading to the first oral contraceptive. He was later chairmain of the Physiology Department at Northwestern University Medical School from 1970 to 1978. The son of Romanian immigrants, Hechter started his career in science with a job cleaning rat cages in a metabolism and endocrinology laboratory at Michael Reese Hospital in Chicago. He took college courses at night and eventually received a scholarship to the University of Chicago, from which he graduated in 1948. He received his doctorate in biochemistry from USC. Hechter was living in Seattle at the time of his death. He leaves his wife, Gertrude; his son, Michael, and grandchildren in New York and Seattle.
Discussions of Los Angeles' intellectual community always seem to beg comparisons to New York’s scene: the Algonquin, the Bohemian bookstores, the Dorothy Parker. But where is Los Angeles’ intelligentsia? Despite Woody Allen’s contention that the only cultural advantage to living on the West Coast is right turn on red, Los Angeles has intellectual heavyweights—they’re just spread out a bit more and, like cats, harder to herd. How could an area that boasts UCLA, USC, Caltech, the Huntington Library, the J. Paul Getty Museum, MOCA, LACMA and countless film studios not have high wattage?

Among several new groups proving that Los Angeles intellectual life is not an oxymoron is the Los Angeles Institute for the Humanities, which meets the first and third Friday of each month at the Faculty Center. Four years ago, USC College history professor Steven J. Ross and Los Angeles Times Book Review editor Steve Wasserman attended a book awards reception. As Wasserman looked around the room, he said to Ross: “Wouldn’t it be great to bring these kinds of people together for conversations? All of these people are intellectuals who have interesting things to say but never get together because they have been Balkanized by geography.”

That day, they decided to do something about it.

Ross and Wasserman formed the idea of launching bimonthly discussions with people from a diverse background to create an intellectual center for the Los Angeles area. In 1998, they brought the notion to Provost Lloyd Armstrong Jr., who recognized the idea’s value to the university: bringing great minds to engage with people with ideas.

The group plans a yearly event that reflects cultural, artistic or academic issues involving Los Angeles. Last year’s conference, dubbed “Los Angeles at the Millennium: Identity and Community in the 21st Century,” attracted the media and a crowd of more than 500 to its opening night. The next day drew an equal number to hear speakers James Ellroy, Walter Mosley, D.J. Waldie, Harold Meyerson and George Sanchez.

Los Angeles Times writer Reed Johnson commented that the conference was hardly the first symposium dedicated to a metropolis whose civic motto could be: “We introspect, therefore we are.” But the event was praised for its eclectic guests and diverse perspectives.

This year’s conference, set for March 28-29, is titled “From Sunset Boulevard to Mulholland Drive: Los Angeles and the Cinematic Imagination.” The theme is how movies—and movie-making—reflect and shape our very imagination of ourselves and the city around us, says Ross. “It’s about a tale of two cities, both called Los Angeles. The first is a real city, a megalopolis of millions. The second is a mythic city, so rich in memory and association and sense of place that to people everywhere it has come to seem real.”

—Karen Novell Young