actively seek to get ahead of the curve — we must lead the search for excellence. We must rethink the way we attend to our core missions of teaching and research.”

The explosive growth of knowledge and rapid changes in industries and the workforce that have accompanied it call for a more dynamic approach to education. “We must prepare students for a lifetime of continued on page 3

A couple of years ago, I celebrated my 50th birthday with family and a group of longtime friends. My daughter — a graduate of Georgetown University — pointed out that most of the people at the party were USC alumni. She told me that even though her college experience was a good one, it was clear that she would never have the same type of relationship with her alma mater.

There was something about that moment that solidified my understanding of the special connection that USC graduates share. This so-called Trojan Family is a living, breathing entity that bonds alumni from all over the world to this great institution. It is important for today’s students to build a lifelong connection with USC College, and our job as alumni, friends, parents and supporters is to ensure that this happens.

USC College formally launched the Tradition & Innovation fundraising initiative on September 13, 2005, with a celebration at the new Molecular & Computational Biology Building. I am chair of the steering committee, which is made up of some of the College’s most distinguished leaders. We mean to raise $400 million over five years to support outstanding students and faculty, research for the future, innovative academic programs and institutional partnerships.

Our goal is to continue the tremendous ascent that has defined USC in continued on page 2
A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

Maintaining Momentum

be very wary speak for themselves: Tradition. A sense of the past, such as a university with deep roots in the 19th century. Innovation. This is a university on the cutting edge of contemporary culture. And then, Initiative. Let’s begin something anew. All of these terms together evoke a sense that the College is now reaching a new plateau.”

—USC University Professor Kevin Starr

Historian Kevin Starr’s observation aptly captures what makes USC College unique in comparison to peer academic institutions. The College has been the intellectual core of USC since its inception 125 years ago, and today we are shaping the most innovative teaching and research paradigms on the globe. We have charted our own path, undeterred by the confines of previous academic conventions. Today, we must embark on a new course to further the momentum we’ve been building over the last few years.

The Tradition & Innovation fund-raising initiative — the feature of this special edition of the USC College magazine — will allow us to continue to offer our students an outstanding education, attract and retain excellent faculty, and lead the pioneering changes that drive modern society. The realization of partnerships with renowned institutions like the Huntington Library and Getty Museum is one of the ways that the College will remain on the cutting edge.

You might have read by now about the Survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation becoming a part of USC College in January. This partnership between the College, with its deep commitment to fostering research for the common good, and the Shoah Foundation, which holds the most extensive visual history archive in the world, is unique in higher education.

Steven Spielberg established the Shoah Foundation to preserve testimonies of survivors and other witnesses to the Holocaust. USC is committed to the preservation of this collection, the largest of its kind, which is comprised of 52,000 audio-visual testimonies in 32 languages. When the Shoah Foundation becomes part of the College, it will continue to pursue its mission of overcoming intolerance. These profound visual testimonies have a tremendous educational purpose for this generation and for future generations who must learn about the atrocities of the Holocaust and genocide.

Our partnership with the Shoah Foundation will provide the building blocks on which to develop groundbreaking approaches to the study of history and culture, while preserving one of the most important collections of testimonial’s of our time. The new USC Shoah Foundation Institute for Visual History and Education will

Haden on Giving

continued from page 1

the last decade. We need to educate students in novel ways, to create new research paradigms and to attract top-notch students and faculty. We can never be satisfied to rest on our laurels. We must always be looking for the next big thing in order to create a distinct signature for ourselves.

In my role as chair, I frequently tell fellow alumni and colleagues that at the core the Tradition & Innovation initiative seeks to raise consciousness about USC College. The key is to continue the climb to new heights without losing the magical quality that makes USC College one of a kind — the Trojan Family spirit.

Every great academic institution must have an exceptional liberal arts college. USC College’s uniqueness lies in the fact that it offers both the advantages of a major research institution and, with its dedication to education, the benefits of a smaller college. Everyone from President Steven B. Sample to National Academy of Sciences members and Pulitzer Prize-winning authors spend time teaching and interacting with students. This allows USC College to give our stu-
dents the skills they need to be successful throughout a life that may include multiple careers.

USC is now a seven-day-a-week campus. Students today need more resources and access to new technology than those 20 years ago. Access to multimedia and other technologies demand innovation in faculty teaching methods. The new challenges and opportunities have energized our faculty members, who have shown true creativity in designing new advanced and general education courses.

USC College’s connection to the Southern California community has always made us distinctive. We have the responsibility of remaining a constant influence to the people surrounding our campuses. Our research programs will directly affect the betterment of humankind.

As supporters of USC College, the participation of every friend and supporter is integral to the success of this very important fund-raising initiative that will have an enormous impact on the next generation of Trojans.

Best wishes,

Patrick C. Haden (’75)

LEADING THE WAY

Initiative Set in Motion

Gala honors inaugural recipients of Dean’s Medallion

On Sept. 13, USC President Steven B. Sample, USC College Dean Joseph Aoun and USC Trustee Patrick C. Haden formally launched USC College’s largest-ever fund-raising initiative, Tradition & Innovation, at a gala banquet on the University Park campus.

In its quest to become one of the best colleges within a private research university, USC College plans to raise $400 million by 2010.

“We are launching the Tradition & Innovation initiative at a time when the role of a successful college within a research university is rapidly evolving,” said Aoun. “The initiative will elevate USC College — the core of USC — so that it can attain the highest level of accomplishment.”

A highlight of the evening was the inauguration of the USC College Dean’s Medallion, which recognizes alumni, parents and benefactors who have helped propel the College to excellence. The 2005 awards went to MaryLou and George Boone, Lois and Robert Erburu, and Dana and David Dornsife.

“The inaugural recipients of the Dean’s Medallion have exhibited altruism and leadership that has given USC College new energy,” said Aoun. “Their generosity has enabled us to elevate the quality of our educational and research programs, and create exciting, innovative pathways for both students and faculty.”

Photography by Phil Channing

From left: Patrick Haden, USC President Steven B. Sample, Dana Dornsife, David Dornsife and Dana Joseph Aoun at the Sept. 13 Tradition & Innovation kick-off celebration. The Dornsifes received the inaugural Dean’s Medallion for Commitment to Innovation.
Tradition & Innovation Initiative
continued from page 1

multiple careers — including some that do not exist today," Aoun said.

In addition, “many new discoveries and new fields are being made outside the boundaries of traditional fields and disciplines, often at their intersections,” he said.

“We also see that the complexity of modern life and the issues at the forefront of public concern demand insights available only through the varied tools and methodologies of multiple disciplines,” Aoun continued. “A case in point: genomics. There are numerous scientific, social, policy — and ethical — dimensions that must be taken into account for a rounded approach to some of its fundamental issues.”

When he assumed the deanship in 2000, Aoun mapped out a plan for the College’s growth and advancement. It was a bold plan that would separate USC College from its competitors. “We seek not to emulate our competitors, but to chart a bold, new course,” Aoun said. “Doing what others have already done leaves you behind.”

USC College has already made substantial progress on the priority areas identified in the plan. These include:

Faculty — Important changes were made to the research and teaching environment to facilitate multidisciplinary research that examines issues of practical societal importance. This effort was embedded in a faculty hiring initiative to bring 100 outstanding senior scholars and younger “rising stars” to the relatively small USC College faculty. To date, nearly 80 new professors and 90 promising junior faculty have been hired, dramatically upgrading an already outstanding faculty, while increasing its size and scope.

Undergraduate Education — Determined to strengthen the core mission of the College, general education courses were redesigned and a host of innovative new majors and minors were added. Opportunities for service learning, undergraduate research and overseas study were enhanced. The increased focus, many believe, has led to the notable rise in the entering freshman class’ average SAT score, which rivals that of peer institutions.

Graduate Education — To improve on already noteworthy graduate programs, College faculty orchestrated an effort to build and reorganize programs, working with College leadership to strengthen partnerships both inside and outside the university. These partnerships, such as ones with the Getty Research Institute and the Huntington Library, leverage resources, enhance recruitment, create new graduate programs and promote interdisciplinary teaching and research. Formal partnerships and collaborations that cut across all boundaries — from department and school to university and nation — were created.

Research — Sponsored research in the College doubled by 2005, reaching $56 million annually, making the College the top grant-getting school on the University Park campus. Leaders began to build prominence in emerging fields of study that promise to pay huge dividends to society, such as computational biology, geology and American studies and ethnicity. Existing fields such as religion, classics and art history were recast with creative approaches. At the same time, leaders assured that the core disciplines that undergird dynamic, interdisciplinary scholarship were nurtured and strengthened.

Partnerships — Leaders stimulated the launching of innovative infrastructure — Among more than 200 renovation and modernization projects, the College has completed construction on two state-of-the-art buildings: the cutting-edge Molecular & Computational Biology Building and the Dana and David Dornsife Cognitive Neuroscience Imaging Center. Both are designed to facilitate scholarship and training at the frontiers of knowledge.

“The success of the Tradition & Innovation initiative will fulfill many aspirations,” Aoun said. “Many universities can’t keep up with the current pace of change. We can’t let that happen here. We are counting on our friends to support us in our quest for an even better USC College. We believe that, with their help, our strategy of maintaining traditions that work while embracing change will make USC College one of the top American research colleges.”

“We seek not to emulate our competitors, but to chart a bold, new course...”

— Dean Joseph Aoun

be offered in fields such as visual studies, religion and urban studies. These changes have enabled the College to better compete for top students and enhance students’ professional prospects.

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The Region — The College recognized that it has a social contract with Southern California and a duty to ensure it remains economically competitive and culturally vibrant. New opportunities for service learning were created and research institutes began to focus on understanding issues that impact the region, such as coastal pollution, fisheries management and immigration. Innovative outreach programs, such as the one created in partnership with Quiksilver, Inc. that promotes science education, targets school children from kindergarten through high school.

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The Undergraduate Mission

College prepares students for lifetime of learning

Freshmen entering USC College are like adventurers discovering a hidden treasure chest. The treasure? A philosophy that encourages them to dig deep to expand their minds and futures, backed by a choice of 80 majors and 50 minors and an array of programs designed to enrich the undergraduate experience.

Dean Joseph Aoun sees this philosophy as one firmly grounded in the role and mission of the university: “As our mission statement says, we are ‘committed to the creation, preservation and communication of fundamental knowledge in all its forms. College faculty endeavor to awaken in each student an appreciation for critical thinking, and a profound understanding of the problems and aspirations of human societies, past and present, as well as a lifelong passion for learning and a commitment to the betterment of humanity and science.’”

The College’s teaching philosophy also reflects the changing realities of the job market. Today’s students will likely engage in multiple careers, some that haven’t yet been invented — or even imagined.

“We aren’t just preparing our students for their first job, but rather for a lifetime of learning,” said Peter Starr, professor of French and comparative literature and dean for undergraduate programs in the College.

That shift required some real changes in the College’s approach to education. The College represents the foundation of the university’s liberal arts education from which all undergraduates launch their collegiate careers and the majority graduate. Over the past decade, the College has led the revision of the general education curriculum, expanded and created programs based on experiential learning, and strongly encouraged students to pursue both a major and a minor. The College has expanded student choice with the introduction of interdisciplinary majors, such as health and humanity and neurosciences, and minors such as critical approaches to leadership, American popular culture, global communication, and forensics and criminality.

“We urge our students to explore the full range of academic work in the College, to choose majors and minors from fundamentally different areas of inquiry — art history and geography, for instance, or East Asian languages and physics. Pursuing breadth with depth allows USC College students to develop the methodological sophistication and inventiveness that will allow them to create forms of knowledge none of us can yet imagine,” said Starr.

To further inspire them toward that end and help attract the nation’s finest students to USC College, Starr recently instituted a College Honors Society. The Society joins a range of programs meant to encourage students to pursue academic excellence, integrating existing honors programs such as Thematic Option and Freshman Science Honors with departmental honors curricula.

As word has gotten out about the rising quality of an education at USC College, enrollment and average SAT scores have spiraled up. In 2005, more than 16,500 students applied for 1,200 slots. The class of 2009 has an average SAT score of 1372 and an average GPA of 4.08.

The enlightened undergraduate experience has elevated the entire university into the ranks of just 16 national “Leadership Institutions” designated by the Association of American Colleges and Universities, a recognition based on USC’s “visionary campus-wide innovations in undergraduate education.”

The ways students take advantage of College offerings differs from person to person.

Kenneth Basin, an international relations major who minors in natural science and critical approaches to leadership, wanted a deeper understanding of international security issues. A Gold Family Scholarship enabled him to spend a semester studying at King’s College in London, living and learning with students from around the world.

Heizenrader’s host “mother” taught her how to wear a kimono. The family knew no English, so Heizenrader, who spoke some Japanese, became fluent. Her appreciation for the language and culture continues to grow.

“Everything here is beautiful,” the 23-year-old said from Japan. “I find it an interesting mix of very old and traditional and very new and modern. When I go to Tokyo, I feel at home.”

—Pamela J. Johnson

Winning Gold

Scholarship supports life-changing overseas studies

Cherry blossom petals covered a glassy lake. Skyscrapers towered over 16th century Buddhist temples. Neon lights blazed across the night sky.

Shortly after Courtney Heizenrader’s arrival in Japan in the fall of 2003, she had fallen under its spell.

Thanks to a Gold Family Scholarship, Heizenrader was able to study at Tokyo International University, where she became smitten by more than Japanese aesthetics. At the campus in Saitama, she met her future fiancé, fellow student, Yui Haraguchi. The pair might have met a year earlier, when he studied abroad at a college near Portland, Oregon — her hometown. Heizenrader was one of a few students that year to receive the annual award, named for Stanley and Ilene Gold, who were newlyweds when Stanley entered USC Law School in 1964. A USC trustee since 1993 and now the board’s chairman, Stanley Gold also serves as a law school councilor. He is chief executive officer of Shamrock Holdings, Inc., an international investment company. Ilene Gold serves as a councilor of USC College.

Recently, the Golds announced a generous leadership commitment to the Tradition & Innovation initiative, which will further support the College’s educational mission and priorities.

After Heizenrader graduated in 2004 with majors in history and East Asian languages and cultures, she returned to Japan and began teaching high school English. After a spring wedding, the couple plans to return to the Pacific coast, where Heizenrader wants to attend law school.

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The Graduate Mission
Training the scholars and scientists of tomorrow

What will tomorrow be like? See the future clearly through the graduate programs in USC College:

Graduate students must do it all — learn, teach, mentor and create new knowledge. As USC College is the heart and soul of the university, so graduate students can claim a similar role in the College.

A measure of their value is the fact that all great universities seek to entice the best graduating seniors to their Ph.D. graduate programs. USC College is in the thick of the scramble to get the crème de la crème. Competing toe-to-toe with peers such as Stanford, Harvard, NYU, UCLA, UCSD and UC Berkeley means subsidizing the graduate education with grants and stipends to cover such things as tuition, living costs, research expenses and even health insurance.

“Because the overall goal is to be among the best colleges in a private research university setting, we are using our endowment funds to accomplish this,” according to College Dean Joseph Aoun.

One benchmark is where students go when they finish their graduate education. A cross section of anthropologists, neurobiologists, molecular biologists, chemists, historians, international relations specialists, mathematicians and psychologists have gone on to serve postdoctoral fellowships at Harvard, Yale, Georgetown, Dartmouth, Stanford, NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory, the Smithsonian, UC Berkeley, Brown and Oxford.

Some recent graduates of USC doctoral programs already have found tenure-track professorships: anthropologist Caroline Rousse at Princeton; geographer Andreas C.W. Baas at King’s College in London; linguistics scholar Elena Herburger at Georgetown; mathematician Haiyan Huang at UC Berkeley; mathematician Matei Stroila at the Univ. of Virginia; and Slavic linguist Mikhail Gonas at Dartmouth, to mention a few.

Graduate students such as molecular biologist Ronda Branstetter work at the cutting edge of knowledge. She was recently honored for helping solve a problem that had stumped scientists for years: how one enzyme vital to immunity works.

The enzyme, called AID, is crucial to mounting an immune response to disease. Children without the enzyme die at a very young age of infections. Her work may lead to the ability to counter this while opening an entire area of immune studies for molecular biochemical analysis.

When Dean Aoun first announced his intention to transform the College into one of the top ten-ranked schools in the nation, graduate programs quickly emerged as one of his top priorities. They got an additional boost this fall with the appointment of Jennifer Wolch as the first dean to focus solely on graduate programs in the College.

“Excellence in graduate education and training is a core value in the College,” said Wolch, a professor of geography and director of the USC Center for Sustainable Cities. “We are committed to attracting top-flight graduate students here and to give them the best possible scholarly experience.”

Aoun concurred. “Strong graduate continued on page 20

A Gift of Time
Annenberg Fellowship supports study of unique church and its AIDS program

Pamela Leong was in a tricky situation. The USC doctoral candidate had decided to do her dissertation research about an African-American church that offers AIDS prevention and intervention services to women and children. Her plan relied on the willingness of affected parishioners to share their stories. At first, few volunteered.

The innovative church, Unity Fellowship, on Jefferson Boulevard near the Crenshaw District, was founded primarily for non-traditional African-Americans in 1982, when the AIDS epidemic was emerging in the United States. A large portion of Unity’s congregation is low-income and AIDS-affected.

“I’m Asian-American. I have no religious affiliations, I’m not HIV-positive and, as a graduate student, I’m technically not economically at the margins,” said Leong, who hopes to have her Ph.D. in sociology by the end of 2006. “As an outsider in a research setting, it was a challenge.” It took old-fashioned persistence. As the outset, Leong told research church members she was there to do research. Although some members were forthcoming, most were not. Only after attending the church regularly for three years did reluctant members begin to open up.

It would have been extremely difficult to dedicate that amount of time and effort without the support of a Wallis Annenberg Fellowship, Leong said. She was among several graduate students who received the fellowship last year.

Since 2001, Annenberg has awarded an annual fellowship to outstanding graduate students whose research deals with potentially life-threatening issues facing women and children. The fellowship provides tuition — $17,160 for 2005-06 recipients — and health and dental insurance for one year. Students in the College’s humanities and social sciences departments are eligible. Leong’s dissertation explores how this congregation meets the needs of its parishioners without compromising its religious and moral traditions. She said she was deeply moved by what the church was doing for a largely ignored segment of society. She recalled one woman, a former crack-cocaine addict, who told her the church was the only place that accepted her.

“There’s an authenticity about the people at Unity, which I also find to be true for many marginalized groups, that is lacking among the more privileged individuals and groups,” said Leong, who aims to eventually find a position at a liberal arts college or research university. She hopes her work helps “take away the stigma, the shame and the pain from people.”

“My hope is that it opens up the dialogue about some of the controversial issues in the mainstream religious institutions and empowers those affected.”

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VOLUME 6 NUMBER 2
Fall 2005

Pamela Leong

A Gift of Time
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Pamela Leong

Biologist Michelle Arbeitman, seated, discusses an experiment with graduate students in her lab.

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Dean Appoints New Administration

Chosen for their leadership, energy, creativity and commitment

USC College
Dean
Joseph
Aoun has appointed his new administration, and in an innovative move, expanded the dean of academic programs into two posts — one dean for undergraduate programs and another for graduate programs.

A new dean of faculty and dean of research were also selected. The four new deans began five-year terms in July.

The appointments were made after an exhaustive internal search by members of the College Deans Search Committee. After broad consultation, there was a clear consensus that the undergraduate and graduate components might be better served if split apart and overseen by separate deans, said Aoun.

“Order to stay competitive for the best and brightest students, we needed to rethink many of our earlier paradigms,” he said.

Under this new structure, graduate and undergraduate programs will now benefit from the clear and undivided attention of a single dean’s focus.

“The portfolio of the dean of academic programs has been growing over the years, and that office has been doing a stellar job on many fronts,” Aoun said. “We have added a variety of innovative approaches to our undergraduate program, and at the same time, we have dramatically increased our investment in graduate programs. Many of our programs have been updated and we have bolstered university-wide programs in neuroscience, economics and history.”

Peter Starr, professor of French and comparative literature, serves as the new dean of undergraduate academic programs, while Jennifer Wolch, professor of geography and director of the Center for Sustainable Cities, is dean of the graduate programs.

Starr and Wolch are thrilled about their new roles.

“Undergraduate education is, in many ways, the heart and soul of what we do in USC College,” Starr said.

“The College offers exciting interdisciplinary majors and minors, significant research and mentoring opportunities, time-tested honors programs, experiential learning — with much more to come.”

Wolch vowed to pursue excellence in College graduate education programs. “I’m excited about the opportunity to work collaboratively with my colleagues to recruit top-flight graduate students,” she said. “I want to help make their experience here intellectually rich and productive, and help them forge rewarding scholarly and professional career paths.”

The remaining two new deans were appointed to oversee the critical areas of faculty recruitment and retention, and the expansion of the College research enterprises. Wayne Raskind, professor of mathematics, was appointed dean of faculty, while Michael Quick, professor of biological sciences, was selected dean of research.

Of his new post, Raskind said: “Following the fine work of my two predecessors as dean of faculty [Beth Meyerowitz and Dean Aoun], I will continue to build and maintain the world-class College faculty, while making it better reflect the diversity of the students and the community it serves.”

Quick wants to help both junior and senior faculty members improve their research programs. “I look forward to partnering with all my faculty colleagues, and with the other deans, to continue the College’s forward momentum and upward trajectory,” he said. “My office is committed to doing whatever it takes to assist our junior faculty in establishing their research programs and our senior faculty in maintaining and expanding their scholarship in new and creative ways.

Although the College is number one on the University Park campus in the amount of external grant funding received, we have only scratched the surface of our research potential in the natural sciences, social sciences and humanities,” Quick said.

In August, Aoun announced the appointment of David Román, professor of English and American studies and ethnicity, as director of faculty development for the College, a new position created this year. Working with Raskind, Román will focus on strengthening junior faculty mentoring, minority faculty recruitment and the development of a lively intellectual community that will benefit the careers of all scholars.

“This appointment reflects our serious commitment to boost mentoring and to improving ethnic and gender diversity in the College,” Aoun said.

—Kristen Holguin

The Undergraduate Mission
continued from page 4

around the world. The College offers more than 40 study abroad programs on six continents for students to gain firsthand knowledge of other lands, cultures and traditions.

His classmate, psychology major Yizhou Du spent the summer studying gene expression in brain cells with University Professor Caleb Finch, a leading expert on aging.

They are searching for ways to protect the brain from Alzheimer’s disease. Additional funding has led to more undergraduates engaging in original research than ever before, said Michael Quick, professor of biological sciences and the College’s dean of research.

Religion and biology student Anita Nageswaran, who volunteered at a local foster care agency, is one of more than 2,000 USC students who have enriched their education through service learning programs offered by the College Joint Educational Project (JEP). The same programs enable USC and its partners to enhance the quality of life in the neighborhood.

“USC College believes that community-based service learning should benefit not only the community, but also our students who participate in it,” said Aoun. “Many colleges promote community-based learning as part of the standard curriculum. At USC, we are famous for it.”

“We give students every opportunity to acquire useful skills and to develop a sense of responsibility to their communities and to each other,” Starr said. “We expose them to ideas, perspectives and cultures other than their own, which helps them grow into resourceful, fully engaged citizens of our 21st century world.”

That’s something anyone would treasure.

Dean’s Prize

Dean Joseph Aoun (left) and College Councilor Debra Reed (2nd from right) honored undergraduates (from left) Nathan Go, Jennifer Rogla and Joshua Homstein, recipients of the inaugural College Dean’s Prize for the Enrichment of Student Academic Life, in April. Go’s proposal for a “USC Writer’s House” won first place; Rogla and Kristine Quinio’s “Interdisciplinary Thematic Courses” and Homstein’s “Becoming a Physician” proposals were selected as runners up from nearly 50 submissions.

Priority: Educational Mission
Seeing the World

The Ross N. Berkes Scholarship

R ox Berkes was the director of the school of international relations from 1949 to 1976 — the longest serving director of an academic discipline in the history of USC College.

Hundreds of his students became ambassadors, political advisers to presidents and legislators in different countries. Berkes’ legacy is continued through the Ross N. Berkes Scholarship Fund.

“Our family has been involved in the school of international relations for the better part of 60 years,” his son Bob said. “It was important for us to continue supporting the program, and giving students the opportunity to study abroad.”

Berkes said his father was heavily involved in the establishment of the overseas programs to Germany and England. “It’s a natural interest that has been worth perpetuating,” he said.

This year, Guilherme de Araujo Silva, a fifth-year Ph.D. student from Brazil, was awarded the Berkes Fellowship. Silva used the scholarship as a pre-dissertation award to conduct a feasibility test in Brazil to narrow down his area of research.

The award allowed him to travel to São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro to conduct a preliminary investigation into the foreign investment relationship between Brazil and Angola. After his trip, Silva “decided to focus instead on the power, economic and social structural relations underlying the overall process of globalization — what I call global relations.”

His dissertation will now map the concepts and terms that form the grammar of global relations that is recognized by such global players as multinational corporations, state officials and non-governmental organizations, which he said, “ultimately justifies their behavior and policy-making.”

—Katherine Yungmee Kim

Helping Out

The Arnold W. Bramlett Scholarship

When Arnold Bramlett was an undergraduate at USC, he had to work part-time to pay his own way. “I didn’t even inquire about scholarships,” he said. At the time he thought funds were only available for athletes.

But his collegiate experience — he graduated with a B.S. in accounting in 1953 — was the impetus for the establishment of the Arnold W. Bramlett Scholarship. Bramlett and his wife, Camilla, created the fund in 1986, initially to provide resources to low-income students. The fund now benefits middle-income students with financial need.

“I wanted to help someone that might need assistance pursuing their education,” he said.

This year’s recipients included Helena Geejay, a sophomore from Cupertino, Calif., majoring in psychology and creative writing, and Shaheen Munir, a junior from San Francisco. When Munir and Bramlett met at the Scholarship Recognition Lunch on April, they discussed her background — her mother is from Fiji and her father from Pakistan — and her studies of psychology, her major, and her research project on bilingual education.

Munir will use the scholarship for tuition and textbooks.

“It is a great honor to be selected. I greatly appreciate the support and generosity of the Bramletts,” she said.

Geejay is also using the money for tuition. She plans to pursue a doctorate in counseling psychology and to work with families and teenagers.

Bramlett has enjoyed meeting the students. “I am interested in their fields of study and their careers,” he said, reiterating, “We did it to help people out.”

—Katherine Yungmee Kim

The Cycle of Generosity

George H. Mayr Foundation Scholarship

Roberto Gonzales has been named a Mayr Scholar — not once but twice. A senior from Fremont, Calif., majoring in political science, with a minor in news media and society, Gonzales said that he has used both scholarships to help his parents pay for the cost of college.

“I feel honored to be a recipient of this scholarship multiple times,” Gonzales said. “When I met the administrators of the scholarship, I was told about Mr. Mayr and his wonderful contributions. I became amazed at how this man could overcome sickness and other obstacles.”

George Henry Mayr, born in 1868 in Illinois, was a self-made entrepreneur and real estate developer. As a child, he wanted to be a doctor, but it was an impossible dream due to the prohibitively expensive educational costs. In his late 30s, he contracted typhoid fever, which led to a chronic stomach disorder. He discovered a French remedy that worked for him, bottled it, and prescribed it to others — creating Mayr’s Wonderful Remedy, a $9,000-a-month business. Eventually, he moved to Southern California, where he pursued real estate.

As someone who never earned a college degree, Mayr believed in the opportunities of education and helped several students financially pursue their academic dreams. In 1949, he formally established the George H. Mayr Foundation. He asked that support be available to California students, who have at least finished the eighth grade, and who would not use the funds to study medicine. (Apparently, Mayr had a bone to pick with doctors, as no one had ever properly diagnosed his ailment.)

Alexandra McElroy, another 2004-5 recipient, will use her scholarship to travel to Spain. “I hope that studying abroad will broaden my perspective on international affairs and aid me in my studies of foreign relations,” said the sophomore international relations major.

USC Trustee Pat Haden (’75), who is on the College’s Board of Councilors, chairs the Mayr Foundation. Although he never met Mayr, he credited the philanthropist with having great foresight. “All he was trying to do was help people chase their dreams,” he said.

Haden said that the $25 million trust uses its proceeds to help students from some 67 schools in California. He said the Mayr Foundation also supports many inner-city high school students. “Kids tend to underdream,” he said. “We want them to have legitimate, big-term dreams.”

The message Haden wants to deliver to recipients is to pass on the generosity. “I tell them, ‘You’ve never met George Mayr and he did something nice for you. Do something nice for someone who comes after you.’”

—Katherine Yungmee Kim
Joining Forces
From casual collaborations to independent institutes, USC College partnerships foster innovative scholarship and expand educational opportunity

B
esides bringing the best faculty to campus, USC College has found another way to amplify its intellectual resources while zeroing in on particular issues and opportunities: partnerships.

Joining forces with others, both within and outside of the university, bolsters interdisciplinary teaching and research, enriches the student experience and makes valuable contributions to the Southern California region. As the fall 2005 semester began, a total of 50 such centers were anchored in the College, linking the College with other USC schools and institutions throughout Southern California, the nation and the globe.

The partnerships range from simple collaborations among a few professors in a USC department to partnerships among dozens of professors in several USC schools and comprehensive regional and national centers involving scores of universities and institutions. Some of these partnerships bring distinguished new graduate and undergraduate programs and create new interdisciplinary centers and institutes.

“We recognized early in the formation of our strategic plan that partnerships represent opportunities” said USC College Dean Joseph Aoun. “They enable us to leverage our resources, introduce innovative approaches into traditional fields and to bring together dissimilar components that can generate exciting new fields. We were right on all scores.”

Two new partnerships were formed with the Huntington Library in San Marino. The Huntington-USC Institute on California and the West and the USC-Huntington Early Modern Studies Institute have attracted widespread notice and independent funding. They give USC historians unparalleled access to Huntington’s world-class archives, an arrangement that has attracted an influx of curious scholars and yielded an outpouring of original research.

“The Huntington’s phenomenal archive is tantalizing to scholars,” said William Deverell, director of the Institute on California and the West who joined the USC faculty as a professor of history following eight years as a Caltech faculty member. “The rare material, ranging from personal and business papers to photographs, maps and government documents, is invaluable to people who really want to understand the history of the western United States in the last 250 years. With this partnership in place, my colleagues and I believe we will be able to recruit the best and brightest graduate students from around the country.”

Another innovative center is the new USC Institute for the Neurological Study of Emotion and Creativity. Founded this fall by neuroscientists Antonio and Hanna Damasio, the institute includes economists, psychologists, teachers, doctors, musicians and film producers.

“The Damasios were world famous and widely sought after,” said Aoun. “They came here because we were able to present them with a diverse interdisciplinary platform bringing neurosciences, the humanities, social sciences, education, communication and cinema together as partners.”

An entire new field has grown up in USC College over the past few years and now, working with the Getty Research Institute, a graduate program in the emerging area of the history and display of art collecting has been established, led by art historian Malcolm Baker. Selma Holo, professor of art history, leads the College’s new museum studies program, which she has taken transnational, training museum directors and curators from throughout the world in a program that also benefits USC students.

“These are examples of many people from many parts of our faculty sharing visions and then rolling up their sleeves to make them happen,” said Aoun. “This will spawn similar ventures in areas both related and unrelated, I predict.”

Within USC, the College has worked to overcome longstanding divisions between fundamental and applied research, developing rich alliances with USC’s professional schools, such as the Interdisciplinary Drug Design Program, where graduate students from the College and the pharmacy school work with chemists and pharmacologists to better understand the interdisciplinary model of rational drug discovery that is quickly becoming the norm in both industry and academia. Within USC, joint centers have also been established to study the multidisciplinary fields of high performance computing, international public diplomacy, law and philosophy, and genomics, to name a few.

These inside-USC programs follow the examples set by two major university-wide partnerships in the life sciences that have thrived over the years, the Program in Biomedical and Biological Sciences (PBBBS) and the USC Neurosciences Graduate Program, which is led by College faculty. College scholars are instrumental in both interdisciplinary training programs.

And then there’s the biggest of them all, the Southern California Earthquake Center, a consortium of 15 core institutions with scientists participating from an additional 34 institutions that is headquartered in USC College. Federally funded, SCEC scientists study earthquakes in Southern California, integrate new findings into a comprehensive and predictive understanding of earthquake phenomena and communicate results from their work to increase earthquake awareness, reduce economic losses and save lives.

Plans for new centers are on the horizon. A few of the stand-outs are an interdisciplinary center for the study of vision and an emerging center, to be run by the Wrigley Institute for Environmental Studies, to study complexity and the simulation of microbial systems. Funds raised through the Tradition & Innovation initiative will be critical to the creation of new centers like these and the continued success of existing partnerships, Aoun said.
From the Inside Looking In
Center for Public Diplomacy starts new master's degree program

A former U.S. ambassador to NATO discussed the merits of “Sesame Street” with 50 USC faculty, students and guests — including representatives from the consulates of Canada, Turkey, Israel and Romania recently.

Ambassador David Abshire used “Sesame Street,” currently aired in more than 120 countries, as a successful example of American public diplomacy. Despite widespread antagonism towards the United States, he said, much of the world still loves American culture.

The talk exemplified the intellectual exchanges taking place at the USC Center on Public Diplomacy, a joint academic research, teaching and training center created by USC College and the USC Annenberg School for Communication.

The center, studies “government-sponsored cultural, educational and informational programs, citizen exchanges and broadcasts used to promote the national interest of a country through understanding, informing and influencing foreign audiences.”

How “soft power” — promoting U.S. values, culture, ideas and policy successes through pop culture, fashion, trade, tourism and sports — impacts foreign policy and national security is also studied at the center, launched in 2004 by deans Joseph Aoun of the College and Geoffrey Cowan of the Annenberg School.

A new master’s program in public diplomacy offered jointly by the two schools — the only program of its kind in the U.S. — will train diplomats for public service and for non-governmental and private sector posts.

“The Master of Public Diplomacy brings together the resources and expertise of two of USC’s premier academic programs, making us uniquely suited to provide the highest quality of graduate training in this interdisciplinary field,” said Aoun. “This program is another example of our successful strategy to position ourselves as leaders in emerging fields, while remaining relevant in a globalized society.”

Cowan added, “There is a pressing need for a cadre of well-trained graduates who will understand diverse cultures, new forms of communication technology and a wide range of communication tools, ranging from cultural diplomacy to exchange programs, to international broadcasting.”

The curriculum will include graduate-level classes on topics such as international broadcasting, cultural diplomacy, corporate citizenship and images, and historical approaches to public diplomacy.

“Students in the program will be able to emphasize public diplomacy training specific to their career interests,” said Steven Lamy, professor and director of USC College’s school of international relations, who will teach courses in the program. “The master’s program will prepare students for diverse opportunities in the field around the world.”

Fouts added, “This degree program is the first step in creating substantive dialogue among students, scholars and practitioners at a critical period in global and political communication.”

—Katherine Yangmee Kim

Museomorphosis
International Museum Institute launched

T he March gala opening of “Inscriptable Desires,” the capstone museum studies exhibition at the Fisher Gallery, could have been a sentimental affair. After all, it was the final student-curated show after 25 years of the museum studies program at USC College.

Instead, program director Selma Holo hosted a festive evening that celebrated the successes of the old program, while heralding in a new era with the launch of the International Museum Institute (IMI).

“Museum studies as we knew it is over at USC,” Holo declared. “But studying museums at USC has only just begun.”

IMI is already collaborating with museum directors in Mexico, and has its sights set on partnerships across the Pacific Rim, to establish relationships with Los Angeles museum leaders and USC scholars to explore the most pressing issues facing museums worldwide.

While the old program focused on graduate training in the curatorial, educational and administration of art museums, the new institute will target mid-career museum directors and will address such issues as the essential relationships of museums and society, legal and ethical matters, exhibition strategies, the challenges and opportunities of technology, and the relationships among business, the global economy and local culture.

Holo, who is also a noted scholar, professor of art history and director of the Fisher Gallery, recently published a book, *Outsou at the Crossroads* (see page 23) that touches on some of those issues.

In a letter read by former USC Provost Lloyd Armstrong, USC President Steven B. Sample praised Holo for her stewardship and lauded the ongoing museum studies program for being “one of our nation’s leading educators of art historians and museum curators.”

Phil Nowlen, director of the Getty’s Museum Leadership Institute who will be involved in the institute, acknowledged that alumni of the College program were not only “deeply trained, but broadly educated.” He added that he believed that Holo had imparted a “wonderfully broad and flexible way about thinking and solving problems” that made her “extraordinarily important to the field of museum studies.”

USC College Dean Joseph Aoun attributed to Holo the “reinvention” of the field of museum studies. “She wanted me to understand that we have as much to learn from Mexico and the Mexican directors as they do from us.”

“The International Museum Institute brings together the theoreticians and the practitioners from around the globe,” Aoun said. “We are going to form a common vision, not a one-way collaboration.”

IMI already has partnered with a number of local museums and institutions, including the Skirball Cultural Center, the L.A. Country Museum of Art and the Japanese American National Museum.

—Katherine Yangmee Kim
Cutting-edge discoveries require state-of-the-art tools and equipment. Pre-eminent faculty members expect first-rate facilities. The best and brightest students demand access to current technologies and modern learning spaces.

In response to USC College’s rapid growth in size, stature and complexity — and its ambitions for more of the same — College leaders have moved to transform the academic environment of the College.

“It’s clear that we face a dire need for more space, especially with a growing faculty and an expanding research enterprise. We’re responding to those needs while working to upgrade facilities across the board,” said USC College Dean Joseph Aoun.

The College has marked a number of key milestones in this effort, with more than half of current College space having been built new or substantially remodeled in the last five years. Chief among these was the completion of two major capital projects expected to help propel USC to the front ranks of life science research:

- The Dana and David Dornsife building.
- The Dornsife Center, in addition to the USC Molecular & Computational Biology Building.

Priority: Academic Environment

The Tools, and Space, for Success

With an eye toward the future, USC College expands and transforms its facilities

George Boone was a security guard on the graveyard shift at a newly dedicated Allan Hancock Foundation Building when a charismatic, Renaissance man befriended him.

It was the 1940s and the man was the legendary Capt. G. Allan Hancock, whose philanthropy and great love of the ocean left a lasting impression on the young Boone.

“Captain Hancock changed my whole life by being a mentor,” recalled Boone, who used to sail aboard Hancock’s ship, often with his then girlfriend, now wife, MaryLou, a sorority sister of Hancock’s daughter.

“He couldn’t help but inspire you.”

More than 60 years later, Boone demonstrates that tutelage with his substantial contributions to USC and the College. Most recently, the USC Lifetime Trustee and College councilor donated funds toward a new $12 million addition and renovation at the Wrigley Institute for Environmental Studies facility in Catalina.

At the Wrigley complex, Boone swept an arm toward the land where new Tuscany-style cottages will be built, across from where the dining hall will be renovated.

“We’re going to make it homey, yet we don’t want it to be the Four Seasons,” Boone said. “And look at this view.”

He turned to face a mountain terrain and a clear, teal-blue ocean, dotted with boats, kayakers and snorkelers.

Target groundbreaking is fall 2006, Wrigley Director Tony Michaels said.

“George Boone has led the way,” Michaels said. “He has an excellent sense of style. And he’s constantly pushing to ratchet up the quality.”

Boone earned his D.D.S. degree in 1946, his bachelor’s in dentistry in 1947 and master’s in orthodontics in 1951 from USC. He practiced in San Marino until 1969. After that, he made a fortune in real estate.

But Boone likes to contribute more than money. “It’s easy to write a check,” he said. “The other way to do it is to also get involved.”

—Pamela J. Johnson
Genomics Rising
USC College celebrates life sciences — and music — at building dedication

Everyone knew their skills with pipettes, centrifuges and algorithms, but few guessed at the hidden musical talents of the occupants of USC College’s brand new life sciences facility.

When College leaders first drew up plans for the USC Molecular & Computational Biology Building, they envisioned shared laboratories, linked office suites, student lounges and common rooms designed to foster interdisciplinary interaction and speed progress on efforts to reveal and apply secrets of the genome.

But those involved in the building’s creation, it seemed, delighted at speed progress on efforts to reveal and common rooms designed to foster interdisciplinary interaction and speed progress on efforts to reveal and apply secrets of the genome.

“This state-of-the-art building,” said University Professor Michael Waterman, “will give USC’s life scientists a world-class infrastructure to engage in the most forward-thinking and competitive research, ensuring USC remains a major academic center for molecular and computational biology.”

At the gala, Bransteitter’s request for a piano led Sample to launch an impromptu auction. He offered bidders a choice of breakfast with himself or football coach Pete Carroll for a pledge to buy a piano for the musically inclined scientists.

The evening’s emcee, College Councilor Patrick Haden did not hesitate to take up the challenge. Asked who he’d like to dine with, Haden said he’d prefer to breakfast with Bransteitter, a rising scientific star who studies the biochemistry of the immune system with Professor Myron Goodman.

The auction captured the spirit of the evening, which at times felt downright giddy as scientists greeted guests in empty rooms that since have been filled with furniture, books, computers, pipettes, centrifuges, autolocaves, high-throughput gene sequencers, students, faculty, staff — and one upright piano.

—Eva Emerson

A Home for a Hero
Korean Studies finds “perfect venue” in Dosan Ahn House

USC College’s Korean Studies Institute moved this fall into its first physical home — the newly restored Dosan Ahn Chang Ho Family House — and appointed a new director.

Once the residence of the family of esteemed Korean independence leader Dosan Ahn Chang Ho (1878-1958), the historic home serves as an enduring tribute to the Korean national hero, said Joseph Aoun, dean of USC College. It also highlights the strong ties that have long linked the College to Korea and the Korean community in Los Angeles.

“As the new home to the Korean Studies Institute, the Dosan Ahn House provides common ground, and a new intensity, for USC scholars studying issues crucial to the future of the Korean peninsula and the Korean-American experience,” Aoun said.

The interdisciplinary Korean Studies Institute has served for 10 years as the university’s principal organization for the promotion of Korean education and research, drawing on faculty and students from international relations, political science, comparative literature, economics and many other departments.

Completely renovated, the two-story, 2,000-square-foot bungalow was relocated from a site on Downey Way to its current location at 809 West 34th Street on the University Park campus, next to USC’s East Asian Library, which houses the Korean Heritage Library and its collection of more than 50,000 items.

Though Dosan Ahn himself did not live at the house, it retains great historical significance. Helen Ahn, Dosan’s wife, raised the couple’s five children in the house from the 1930s to the 1950s, and the Ahn home served as an important gathering place for many Korean-Americans backing the Korean independence movement.

Later, Philip Ahn, Dosan’s son, studied foreign commerce and speech at USC and then went on to enjoy an illustrious acting career.

“With a vibrant economy and a ramifications of democracy, South Korea is playing an increasingly important role in the Asia Pacific region and the world as a whole,” Hahm said. “North Korea, for its part, continues to grab the world’s attention with its ongoing efforts to develop nuclear capability.”

New Leadership
Chaibong Hahm, a political theorist and an expert on Korean politics and culture, was named the institute’s new director in August.

“The appointment of Professor Hahm brings experience and strong leadership to one of the world’s few programs that studies the Korean peninsula in a comprehensive manner,” Aoun said.

Hahm, formerly the director of social sciences, research and policy for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in Paris and a professor at Yonsei University, is a professor of international relations and political science in the College.

Hahm said that a primary objective is to promote greater understanding of the history, culture and dynamics of South and North Korea.

“With a vibrant economy and a ramifications of democracy, South Korea is playing an increasingly important role in the Asia Pacific region and the world as a whole,” Hahm said. “North Korea, for its part, continues to grab the world’s attention with its ongoing efforts to develop nuclear capability.”

—Eva Emerson
Fall 2005

USC College’s bold search for the best and brightest expands faculty and diversity

I n large part, it is faculty members who shape and drive academia. “Our faculty not only teach and conduct research, they envision where future discoveries could be made,” said Joseph Aoun, dean of USC College.

The College has had a strong faculty, albeit a small one, for decades. In 2000, Dean Aoun and his faculty colleagues set out to enlarge the faculty — and make it extraordinarily richer, in quality, diversity and relevance — in an unusual way.

Building on a reputation for giving professors the freedom and resources to introduce innovations into their teaching and research, the College launched the Senior Faculty Hiring Initiative, a bold plan to bring 100 new faculty to campus, both senior professors of global renown and younger “rising stars” who had demonstrably out-paced their peers.

In keeping with a forward-looking strategy to prepare students for a rapidly changing world, the initiative focused on scholars expert in more than one discipline, leaders in emerging fields and those intent on changing established fields.

To date, the initiative has brought nearly 80 leading faculty to campus, joining senior professors who, in many cases, were already at the top of their fields. The College also has continued to recruit promising junior faculty, with 90 hired over the last five years.

“In terms of our overall growth, the College faculty size is now at a historical high point with approximately 480 tenure-track members,” Aoun said. “Thanks in large part to the tremendous efforts of Beth Meyerowitz during her tenure as dean of faculty, we have made amazing progress toward our goal. We do not plan to rest on our laurels, however. We will capitalize on this momentum and continue to search in all disciplines for the most outstanding and innovative scholars.”

In the same time period, the College reported that underrepresented minorities in tenured or tenure-track positions have increased by 53 percent and the number of women has increased by 40 percent. “We are proud of this track record, but we want to do even better,” said Aoun.

Wayne Raskind, professor of mathematics, concurred. Since assuming the post of dean of faculty in USC College over the summer, much of the responsibility for overseeing the hiring of new faculty, as well as the career development and progress of all faculty members, has become his. Raskind said that even with the recent growth, the College faculty remains small compared to peer institutions.

“But,” he said, “the time is ripe to get even more aggressive in recruiting prize scholars and providing them with the resources required to keep them at the leading edge of their disciplines.”

Faculty endowments have often played key roles in attracting senior scholars to the College, according to Raskind.

Endowed chairs fund a portion of a professor’s salary and help provide equipment, laboratory space and support personnel. The support also enables faculty to launch new projects and embark on new, risky avenues of research without the restrictions of typical grants.

An endowment gift from avid conservationist Paxson W. Offield enticed marine geneticist Dennis Hedgecock to come to the Wrigley Institute for Environmental Studies from a 25-year career at UC Davis. He pursues genomics research on endangered wild fisheries and the aquaculture industry, as well as more esoteric studies of evolution.

“I thought it would be a real shame if we put together an entire marine sciences research center only to find there are no more fish in the ocean. And that’s the direction we’re headed,” said Offield. “I was happy to endow the professorship. The Wrigley needed someone who could train the future leaders of fisheries biology and policy.”

A gift from USC alumnus Ray R. Irani, who earned a Ph.D. in chemistry at USC College, endowed the Ray R. Irani, Chairman of Occidental Petroleum, Chair in Chemistry and played a critical role in recruiting award-winning hydrocarbon chemist Jim Haw from Texas A&M University to USC.

Haw’s work has led to the creation of new catalysts widely used in the oil and pharmaceutical industries.

“The chair was essential in drawing me to USC,” Haw said. “It’s a distinct honor and a privilege to hold the Irani Chair, and to be working at USC College in my field.”

“Endowed chairs are one measure of the prominence of a university. Great universities have great chairs,” Haw said.

Endowed chairs have helped the College recruit a number of sterling faculty from prestigious universities. James Higginbotham, the Linda MacDonald Huf Chair in Philosophy, came from Oxford University. Thomas Jordan, the W.M. Keck Foundation Chair in Geological Sciences, left a post at MIT.

Younger faculty can get a much-needed boost from endowed chairs as well. Amy Barrios, who joined the College in 2003 as the Gabilan Assistant Professor of Chemistry, received one of three endowed Gabilan five-year, rotating professorships designed to assist junior faculty in setting up their labs and launching their scientific careers. Barrios, whose expertise is in medicinal chemistry, studies the chemical activities of metals and metal-containing therapies within the body.

This year, an endowed chair helped to lure septuagenarian the Rev. Cecil “Chip” Murray out of retirement. Murray, who joined the College faculty this fall as the Tanzy Chair in Christian Ethics, served as senior pastor of the First African Methodist Episcopal Church (FAME) for 27 years and remains a prominent leader in the Los Angeles community. Murray, who is also a senior fellow at the College’s Center for Religion and Civic Culture, lectures on spiritual and societal issues and serves as a liaison between USC and its surrounding community.

“Rev. Murray is a distinguished civic leader who brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the USC campus and our surrounding community,” Aoun said.

To continue to recruit and retain preeminent researchers and teachers, the Tradition & Innovation initiative includes increasing endowed chairs and professorships among its top aims.

“The drive to continue building our faculty will benefit the entire university,” Raskind said.
Earthquakes along a set of fault lines in the Pacific Ocean emit small “foreshocks” that can be used to forecast the main tremor, according to findings published in the journal Nature.

It is the first demonstration that some types of large imminent earthquakes may be systematically predictable on time scales of hours or less.

“This is the first demonstration of good short-term predictability for big earthquakes,” said co-author Thomas Jordan, director of the Southern California Earthquake Center headquartered in USC College. “Some scientists believe that earthquakes come on suddenly with no warning signs, and the big ones are therefore unpredictable. In other parts of the oceans, they may be.”

Jordan stressed that quakes on land generally do not show many foreshocks and cannot be predicted with the methods outlined in the Nature paper published last March. Jordan, a USC University Professor, holds the W. M. Keck Foundation Chair in Geological Sciences and is a professor of earth sciences.

The research team, led by Jeffrey McGuire of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, studied past earthquakes along two so-called transform faults on the East Pacific Rise, an area on the ocean floor where tectonic plates are spreading apart. Sensor data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration pinpointed the time and location of foreshocks and earthquakes.

For the study, researchers defined a foreshock as any tremor of at least 2.5 magnitude on the Richter scale. Earthquakes were tremors of no less than 5.4 magnitude.

Researchers then declared a hypothetical “alarm” for an hour within a 15-kilometer radius of the epicenter of every foreshock.

The researchers’ system predicted six out of nine earthquakes, performing 300 to 1,000 times better than random guessing, Jordan said.

The finding suggests that short-term prediction — the ability to forecast an earthquake in the hours or minutes before it hits — may be feasible under certain circumstances.

The researchers believe they can improve the accuracy and the lead-time of their forecasts. They hypothesize that foreshocks and main tremors are caused by an earlier trigger event — possibly a slow, smooth sliding along the fault line that fails to generate seismic waves.

Such an event — called an aseismic slow slip transient — may be detectable with the proper instruments, said Jordan, who pointed out that movement along the San Andreas fault is recorded by an array of sensors.

“If you could do the same thing on the sea floor then you would probably see this thing coming,” he said.

Next year an expedition led by McGuire will drop sensors along the East Pacific Rise to begin testing the researchers’ hypothesis.

When Jordan joined USC College in 2000, he left Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he had held an endowed chair since 1988. The opportunity to direct SCEC, comprised of 15 core and more than 50 participating institutions, was key to his decision to choose USC over competing offers from UC Santa Barbara and Stanford. Being named the W.M. Keck Foundation Chair in Geological Sciences also proved critical.

“The Keck Chair and director’s post have given me a lot of flexibility to explore new projects as well as the resources to do scholarly activity. In my case, that has been research on earthquakes and earthquake-related phenomena,” Jordan said.

— Carl Marszalek

Junior Faculty Named Sloan Fellows

Fifth in math, third in biology in the last six years

USC College evolutionary geneticist Jeffrey Wall and mathematician Tobias Ekholm have been named 2005 Sloan Research Fellows.

Established in 1955 by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, the Sloan Fellowships provide young scientists and scholars the financial support and recognition necessary to jump-start their research careers. Each year, 116 Sloan Fellows are selected from a pool of nearly 500.

“Many of the best scientists around the country were nominated for this very competitive award,” said Joseph Aoun, dean of USC College. “We are proud, but not surprised, that two of our faculty were recognized in the same year. After all, during the last six years math faculty have received five Sloan fellowships. Jeffrey and Tobias have very bright futures, and this most recent accomplishment is to be commended.”

Wall, an assistant professor of biological sciences, analyzes DNA sequences to better understand the origins and evolution of life on Earth as well as the history of human migration. His work in human genetics may help determine the genetic basis for complex diseases such as asthma or hypertension.

“The Sloan fellowships give young researchers the resources and flexibility needed to establish their research programs,” said Wall. “I hope that the research I do will help us acquire a clearer understanding of our own history as a species, and that this knowledge will eventually be useful for the development of treatments or cures for common diseases.”

An assistant professor of mathematics, Ekholm studies a wide array of problems in topology and geometry. He is best known for his work on knots, surfaces and higher dimensional manifolds, some of which has found uses in theoretical physics.

Ekholm said he intends to use the funding to spend more time on his research, including a collaborative project with physical chemists.

—Kaitlin Solimine
From Whence They Came
USC College welcomes new scholars

This fall USC College welcomed 37 new professors — 17 full professors, six associate professors and 14 assistant professors — to its ranks. Some of the new faculty arrived from across town, coming from UCLA and Caltech, while others hailed from farther afield, including Duke, Columbia and the University of Chicago.

**Antonio Damasio**
Professor of Psychology and Neuroscience
Director, Institute for the Neurological Study of Emotion and Creativity
Interests: Cognitive Neuroscience, Emotion, Decision Making
From: University of Iowa

**Judith Bennett**
Professor of History and Law
Interests: Medieval England, Women’s History
From: University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

**John Ham**
Professor of Economics
Interests: Economics of Labor, Health and Experimental Science
From: Ohio State University

**Hanna Damasio**
Professor of Psychology and Neuroscience
Director, Dornsife Cognitive Neuroscience Imaging Center
Interests: Brain Imaging, Cognitive Neuroscience, Neuroanatomy
From: University of Iowa

**Chaibong Hahm**
Professor of International Relations and Political Science
Director, Korean Studies Institute
Interests: Political Theory, Korean Studies
From: Yonsei University, Korea and UNESCO, France

**Sharon Hays**
Professor of Sociology and Gender Studies
Holden, Barbara Streisand Professorship in Contemporary Gender Studies
Interests: Social Inequality, Family Life, Gender
From: University of Virginia

**Cynthia Herrup**
Professor of History and Law
Interests: 17th century England, Crime and Punishment
From: Duke University

**Akira Mizuta Lippit**
Professor of Comparative Literature, East Asian Languages and Cultures and Critical Studies, Cinema-TV
Interests: World Literature, Japanese Film and Culture, Visual Culture, History of Cinema
From: University of California, Irvine

**Jack McArdle**
Professor of Psychology
Interests: Behavioral Genetics, Alcoholism
From: University of Virginia

**Carol Prescott**
Professor of Psychology
Interests: Behavioral Genetics, Alcoholism
From: University of Virginia, Virginia Commonwealth University

**James Van Cleve**
Professor of International Relations and Political Science
Director, Korean Studies Institute
Interests: Political Theory, Korean Studies
From: Yonsei University, Korea and UNESCO, France

**Geoffrey Garrett**
Professor of International Relations
President, Pacific Council on International Policy
Interests: Globalization
From: University of California, Los Angeles

**Patrick James**
Professor of International Relations
Interests: International Conflict and Crisis
From: University of Missouri

**Akihiko Nishio**
Professor of East Asian Languages and Cultures
Interests: Japanese Literature, Fine Arts and Intellectual History
From: University of Chicago

**Xiaobing Tang**
Professor of East Asian Languages and Cultures
Interests: Chinese Literature, Fine Arts and Intellectual History
From: University of Virginia

**Chaibong Hahm**
Professor of International Relations and Political Science
Director, Korean Studies Institute
Interests: Political Theory, Korean Studies
From: Yonsei University, Korea and UNESCO, France

**Dana Villa**
Professor of Political Science
Interests: Political Theory, History of Political Thought
From: University of California, Santa Barbara

**Marianne Wiggins**
Professor of English
Interests: Creative Writing
ASSOCIATE PROFESSORS

ANTOINE BECHARA
Associate Professor of Psychology
Interests: Cognitive Neuroscience, Decision Making
From: University of Iowa

MIHAI DUCEA
Associate Professor of Earth Sciences
Interests: Tectonics, Petroleum
From: University of Arizona (Arrives Fall 2006)

KYUNG WOON JUNG
Associate Professor of Chemistry
Interests: Organic Synthesis, Medicinal Chemistry
From: University of South Florida (Arrives Fall 2006)

SUSAN LAPE
Associate Professor of Classics
Interests: Ancient Athens
From: University of California, Irvine

DANIELA BLEICHMAR
Assistant Professor of Art History and Spanish and Portuguese

AMON EMeka
Assistant Professor of Sociology
Interests: Race and Poverty in the U.S.
From: USC

ANDREW GRACET
Assistant Professor of Biological Sciences
Interests: Marine Environmental Biology, Physiology
From: Stanford University Hopkins Marine Lab

SARAH GUALTIERI
Assistant Professor of History and American Studies and Ethnicity
Interests: History of the Middle East, Arab Identity and Migration
From: Loyola University New Orleans

RICHARD ROBERTS
Associate Professor of Chemistry and Engineering
Interests: Peptide Design, mRNA Display
From: California Institute of Technology

ELSI KAISER
Assistant Professor of Linguistics
Interests: Psycholinguistics
From: University of Rochester

DAVID MANLEY
Assistant Professor of Philosophy
Interests: Epistemology, Philosophy of Mind and Language
From: Rutgers University

MEGAN O’NEIL
Assistant Professor of Art History
Interests: Mesoamerican Arts and Archaeology
From: Yale University

DANIEL RICHTER
Assistant Professor of Classics
Interests: Classical Languages, Early Roman Empire
From: Northwestern University

RAMZI ROUGHI
Assistant Professor of History
Interests: Medieval Mediterranean History
From: Columbia University

KAREN TONGSON
Assistant Professor of English and Gender Studies
Interests: Gender in Aesthetics, Literature and Culture
From: University of California, San Diego

ANN MARIE YASIN
Assistant Professor of Classics and Art History
Interests: Roman Art and Architecture
From: Northwestern University
The Meaning of Rising

Philosophy department scales ranks

USC College’s philosophy department is continuing on its upward trajectory. A recent Philosophical Gourmet Report—a widely read, online rating system that charts English-speaking graduate programs in philosophy—moved the USC department up 22 spots from 46th to 24th overall in its 2004-6 rankings. It also listed USC as one of the two best departments in the world in the field of philosophy of language.

And with this year’s senior faculty hires—George Wilson, from the University of California at Davis, and James Van Cleve, from Brown University—USC will cement its reputation as a world-class department.

Wilson, who also has made important contributions to the philosophy of language and action, is also a specialist in the aesthetics of film—an area in which he is regarded to have no peer. Excited to join the ranks at USC, Wilson said that he was attracted to the university because “it is hard to think of any university anywhere where my interests in film would be better supported.” He adds, “There is a lot of buzz in the philosophical community about the USC department.” Van Cleve is an epistemologist. Epistemologists study the nature of knowledge, its foundations, extent and validity. This fall, he is teaching “Studies in Modern Philosophy,” with an emphasis on British empiricism, and a seminar on Scottish philosopher David Hume. He also is devising a metaphysics course on time and time travel.

“The new appointments lead me to think that when 2006 rolls around, USC will almost certainly move towards the top 10 to 15 overall,” said Brian Leiter, the professor of law and philosophy at the University of Texas at Austin, who founded the Philosophical Gourmet Report in 1989.

“These latter-day appointments are “not objects of chance, but came about through the diligent efforts of myself and my colleagues,” said James Higginbotham, the Linda MacDonald Hilf Chair in Philosophy.

“From the beginning it was understood that we would be in the course of rebuilding the school of philosophy. I was appointed at USC precisely in order that I could serve as the catalyst,” said Higginbotham, who is also a professor of linguistics. He came to USC in 2000 from Oxford University, where he was the Professor of General Linguistics.

Several decades ago, the department of philosophy had a considerable nationwide reputation. But the departure of four of its best-known scholars, followed by a recession that slowed hiring, left the department diminished. In fact, Higginbotham was the first outside appointment at the senior level in many years. With the support of the Senior Faculty Hiring Initiative—a campaign to recruit 100 distinguished scholars to the College—Higginbotham has expanded the faculty from 12 to 18. The new faculty include last year’s breakthrough hires of leading philosophers of language Scott Soames from Princeton University and Jeffrey King from UC Davis, as well as Andrei Marmor, a philosopher of law with a joint appointment in the law school. Assistant professors include Stephen Finlay, an ethicist appointed in 2002, and David Manley, a specialist in the philosophy of mind who began in fall.

“The quality of a Ph.D. program is entirely a function of the quality of the faculty,” said Leiter. He attributed USC’s dramatic rise to the appointments of Soames, King and Higginbotham—“three distinguished philosophers of language in one department,” as well as the “increasingly high profile” of others in the department.

Among these are Sharon Lloyd and Gideon Yaffe. Yaffe’s reputation has been boosted by his emergence as a leading scholar of the Scottish philosopher Thomas Reid. The imminent release of Lloyd’s book on Thomas Hobbes’ moral philosophy from Cambridge Press, which complements her earlier work on Hobbes’ political philosophy, has been much anticipated by her peers.

“This is now probably one of the best departments in the country for the history of modern philosophy. With recent additions, it will become even stronger,” Lloyd said.

To build the department further, Higginbotham’s plan calls for hiring scholars from all the major areas of contemporary philosophy, and reaching a total of 22 faculty.

A distinguished ethicist is his next recruitment goal. “Anecdotally,” he said, “when I’ve asked around, people go, ‘Well, everyone would like to make a senior appointment in ethics.’ It’s very hard to find the people and still harder to find those that are moveable.”

But if any department were to attract faculty candidates, it would likely be USC, which is on the rise in rankings and reputation.

“It certainly is our ambition to become the best philosophy department on the West Coast and one of the very best in the country,” said Wilson.

—Katherine Yungmee Kim

New Chair Honors Civic Leader

International policy expert installed as first holder of Erburu Chair

Recognizing two of the architects and founders of the Pacific Council on International Policy, USC College has named Abraham Lowenthal, professor of international relations, as the inaugural holder of the Robert F. Erburu Chair in Ethics, Globalization and Development.

The announcement and installation of Lowenthal, the Pacific Council’s first director, to the newly created endowed chair, named in honor of the council’s first board chairman, took place Aug. 4 at the 10th Anniversary Gala Dinner for the Pacific Council.

Endowed by USC College and the Skirball Foundation, the new chair recognizes Erburu’s distinguished record of service to the Los Angeles and global communities. It’s also a gesture of thanks to Erburu, who was instrumental in the creation of the USC College Board of Councilors, which he chairs. He serves on the board of the Skirball Cultural Center.

On hand to celebrate were, from left: USC Provost C.L. Max Nikias; Erburu Chair holder Abe Lowenthal; honoree Robert Erburu; and College Dean Joseph Aoun.

Erburu was chairman, president and CEO of the Times Mirror Company for many years and has chaired the boards of the J. Paul Getty Trust, the Huntington Library, the Federal Reserve Bank in San Francisco and, currently, the National Gallery of Art.

“As we mark the 10th anniversary of the Pacific Council, it is fitting that the chair is awarded to Professor Lowenthal,” said USC College Dean Joseph Aoun.

“In addition to his institutional leadership with the Council, Lowenthal is an outstanding scholar, illuminating Latin American realities, U.S. foreign policy, and the role of international influences on prospects for democratic governance around the world.”

“I am greatly honored,” said Lowenthal, a member and former vice president of the Council on Foreign Relations, based in New York. “Bob Erburu, as a business and civic leader, personifies the best of USC’s traditions and he is keenly aware of Southern California’s global connections and interests.”

—Kirsten Holgaren

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—Kirsten Holgaren
Exploring the Biological Unknown

College geneticist studies yeast for insight into cell growth and cancer

Like Hamlet, eventually all cells must make a fateful decision: To divide or not to divide. And like the melancholy Prince of Denmark, their choice to act, or in the cells’ case to grow and divide, may expose them to grave dangers.

And yet, many human cells make that choice daily — skin cells divide every 12 to 24 hours; bone marrow cells divide continuously to create red blood cells; a skinned knee heals as cells multiply to close the wound.

Figuring out exactly how cells make that decision drives the research of USC College geneticist (and theater aficionado) Susan Forsburg. So does the question of how disruptions in the cell’s carefully orchestrated cycle of growth can lead to cancer and birth defects.

Forsburg is one of a small cadre of College molecular biologists whose basic research is shedding light on the underpinnings of cancer. Ultimately, their work may lead to the development of new ways to diagnose and treat malignant disease.

Forsburg studies a key step in cell division — the beginning of the replication of DNA in the parent cell and how it affects the packaging and divvying up of the DNA, tightly packed into chromosomes, to the two daughter cells. The cell’s survival depends on the successful completion of both steps.

As a cell prepares to divide, it must copy all 3 billion chemical “letters” of DNA in its genetic code. Danger comes from the very real possibility of mistakes in the copying of DNA. In most cases, the cell’s own surveillance system will find and fix mistakes or damage. But the surveillance system is not perfect. If severe, changes in the DNA code can lead to cell death, or set the stage for cancer.

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“What we know happens in cancer is that cells have lost the ability to not only maintain the integrity of their genome — the accuracy of the genetic information — but also they’ve lost the ability to monitor themselves and say, ‘Oh, I’ve got a problem,’ and then to fix the problem or destroy the cell,” said Forsburg, an associate professor of biological sciences who joined the College last year from the Salk Institute of Biological Studies.

A Model Yeast

Many genes important in human cancers, which often encode cell machinery for cell division and repair of damaged DNA, were first identified in yeast.

Forsburg uses the fission yeast Schizosaccharomyces pombe — a simple, single-celled fungus. S. pombe long has been used by the people of east Africa to brew millet beer. Thanks in part to her extensive, award-winning Web site, Forsburg’s lab has become almost synonymous with S. pombe. She admits to “relentless proselytizing” about the advantages of this yeast model, particularly the ease of creating precise gene mutations that can reveal a gene’s function. She is no less enthusiastic talking about her research, issues facing women in science (about which she authored another much-lauded Web site), or even the nature of scientific inquiry:

Risky Business

Forsburg sees science as a creative endeavor, fraught with risks. “You can work five years on a project and have it go away. If there were guarantees, it wouldn’t be science,” she said.

In her case, many of the risks have paid off. Forsburg made one of her most important discoveries while studying a mutant strain of S. pombe, in which the cells could grow but not divide. She cloned the damaged gene and showed its product was part of the MCM family of proteins. Scientists already knew that MCM proteins play an essential role in normal DNA replication and cell division in a wide range of organisms, from bacteria to mammalian cells.

She went on to reveal new details about how MCM proteins switch on DNA replication. Called helicases for their ability to unzip and unwind the double helix structure of a DNA molecule, MCM proteins go to work soon after the cell makes its decision to divide. Her team’s work on the MCM proteins and the molecules that regulate them expanded from there.

“We are interested in how the MCM helicase maintains genomic stability and influences the structure of chromatin,” she said. In cells, DNA wraps around proteins to form the condensed chromatin, which coils up further to form chromosomes.

In the December 2003 Nature Cell Biology, Forsburg and colleagues reported that an enzyme that controls MCM proteins also regulates the separation and movement of chromosomes into the daughter cells. The study was the first to link the two processes.

“Both these processes are important for normal cells, and both can go away in cancer,” said Forsburg, who notes that cancer research moves forward on two fronts.

“One is about how we take the knowledge we have now to make treatments for the clinic. The other is recognizing that we still don’t know enough. The cancer research we do is the ‘Let’s find out more, let’s find out how the system works part.’ We are building knowledge for the treatments that will come to fruition 10 to 20 years from now.”

She likens fundamental research to exploring an unmapped cave system with torches, searching for veins of rare minerals.

“We can say, ‘Look we found something,’ and the clinicians can come in and set up the big arc lights and find ways to make use of [the discovery], while we keep going ahead,” she said. “We’re the people with the torches at the front of the cave.”

—Evie Emerson
The work of USC College faculty leads to new knowledge, understandings and creative expression. But the impact of College research does not stop there.

“Here at the College, we constantly seek new ways to create an intellectual environment that fosters innovation, cross-pollination between disciplines and helps to forge links between the fundamental work that advances knowledge and the applied work that directly improves human lives,” said USC College Dean Joseph Aoun.

Take, for example, College marine biologist Jed Fuhrman, who has discovered new species in his explorations of the biodiversity of the open ocean. Using many of the same techniques, he helped identify sources of pollution in Catalina’s Avalon Bay.

Or political scientist and anthropologist Alison Dundes Renteln, whose studies of unusual court cases have challenged the concept of “When in Rome, do as the Romans do.” An acknowledged expert on the “cultural defense,” her work has brought attention to what happens when local laws and immigrants’ cultural customs and religious beliefs collide.

In his 17 books of fiction, author T.C. Boyle consistently breaks new artistic ground, engaging countless readers with inventive storytelling and unique insights into human nature, American culture and the mysteries of existence.

These are just a few examples of the types of high profile, high-impact work that is driving the growth and stature of the USC College research enterprise.

The College is home to more than 40 research centers and institutes, many of which have an interdisciplinary focus. External research support has risen for five consecutive years. Boosted by successful faculty recruiting that topped $56 million in 2005. The increase mirrors the university’s — and USC now ranks ninth amongst all private research universities in attracting federal grant money.

Michael Quick, dean of research, has started work to sustain and expand that growth. “We are working to become more pro-active in identifying new sources of funding,” Quick said. That will be especially critical this year, with no increase in the budgets of the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health, which fund as much as 80 percent of College research.

“The humanities and the social sciences are two areas that we’ve targeted to increase external funding,” Quick said. “We must come up with novel, creative ways of looking at our endeavors in these areas.”

He pointed to interdisciplinary efforts like the Center for Religious and Civic Culture (CRCC) as a successful approach. Headed by Donald Miller, the Leonard K. Firestone Professor in Religion, the CRCC has sponsored talks on the visual representation of religions, studies of L.A.’s homeless and investigations of the impact of spirituality on the staff of non-governmental organizations confronting poverty in Tanzania.

College research emphases also are shifting. This year, the College embraced USC’s revised strategic plan — and the philosophy of new USC Provost C.L. Max Nikias — to concentrate on areas that can have significant effects globally. These include the futuristic sounding “info-bio-nano”; energy; and arts, culture and society.

Provost Nikias’ recently unveiled Arts & Humanities Initiative offers College humanities faculty a chance to widen their sphere of influence through public lectures and events.

Research at the confluence of information technology, life sciences and nanotechnology promises to bring about major changes in personal and public health, economics, social and political systems, and business and commerce.

Innovations in information technology have given researchers the ability to ask new kinds of questions and investigate ever-more complex systems. College researchers from chemistry, physics, astronomy, sociolgy, political science and earth sciences take advantage of USC computing prowess, which ranks among the academic world’s most powerful. Earth scientists use the supercomputers to produce detailed models of the internal movements of the planet — and gain new insights into the causes and potential consequences of an earthquake in the southland.

In the life sciences, College biologists are paving the way for new discoveries that could lead to new understandings of complex disease, fundamental biological processes and evolution. Neuroscientists are using advanced technology to examine the workings of the brain in a living individual — studies that will shed light on learning, memory, vision and brain-based disorders. Marine scientists study the causes of harmful algae blooms and how to revive the depleted wild fisheries that have fed humans for generations.

In less than a century, a computer has shrunk from the size of a house to a chip that can fit in a cell phone. This miniaturization trend has advanced into the realm where tiny is king — nanotechnology will enable the creation of devices small enough to fit inside a vein, a human cell or even a virus. Using supercomputers, College scientists are optimizing designs for nanoscale semiconduc-tors and other mini-devices. Another team simulates the behavior of atoms and molecules to better understand materials and build faster electronics.

Oil and natural gas are finite resources. To help meet the world’s future energy demands, scientists at the Loker Hydrocarbon Research Institute, directed by Nobel Laureate George Olah, are pioneering research into alternative fuels and processes, and have developed a non-polluting fuel cell.

College scholarship in the arts, culture and society help us understand who we are, where we have come from and where we might be headed. For example, faculty in the program in American studies and ethnicity explore the diversity that shapes U.S. society and popular culture. They also create new understandings of the American identity, analyzing how it has changed over time and place.
Interdisciplinary team develops biosensor to track alcohol use

Blood, Sweat and Beers — and Math

The device looks like a runner’s digital watch. Black, plastic and oversized, it dominates mathematician Gary Rosen’s wrist. But what Rosen has strapped on is no simple timespiece. It’s one of the very few prototypes of a computer designed to record, in minute detail and real time, its wearer’s sobriety or drunkenness.

Rosen, professor and chair of mathematics, leads the USC portion of a federally funded effort to improve the wristwatch-like device, the so-called transdermal alcohol biosensor created by Giner, Inc. of Newton, Mass.

While the device can monitor whether someone has been drinking over days and weeks — substantially longer than tests of blood, breath or urine and much more sensitively than biochemical measures — some problems remain.

“As is, the device measures the alcohol content in sweat, but we want to know what’s going on with alcohol levels in the blood,” said Rosen.

“What our group is trying to understand, mathematically, is how does what you see in sweat relate to what’s in the blood?”

Quantifying that relationship is key to being able to compare alcohol levels measured by the device to blood alcohol concentration, the “gold standard” for law enforcement and research, Rosen said.

Rosen’s team has been working on a math-based computer model of how the body processes alcohol that will be used in a data analysis software system for the biosensor. The USC team includes Chunming Wang, professor of mathematics, and Miguel Dumett, assistant professor of mathematics, as well as doctoral students Ting Wang and Asher Shamam and undergraduate Joseph Sabat, class of 2004. In addition, Jack Feinberg, professor of physics, has been looking into an alternative technology that could be used to detect alcohol in a future biosensor.

The USC work is part of a larger interdisciplinary project headed by psychiatrist Robert Swift of Brown University Medical School and supported by the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism. Swift, an authority on alcohol addiction, abuse and treatment, said the project was initiated because of an urgent need for better ways to collect more reliable field data on drinking. Such a monitoring device also has great commercial potential, especially in the criminal justice arena.

“A more accurate monitor is key for relating alcohol use to pathology, and for the kind of population study that would ask, ‘How much can pregnant women safely drink?’” Swift said. It’s also important for studies comparing different alcohol treatments.

“If Gary’s work is successful, and so far everything has been going well, he may be able to go back [to the data] and say ‘this person consumed three standard doses of alcohol on this evening,’” said Linda Tempelman, a co-investigator on the project and director of biochemical R&D at Giner.

Building a Model

The biosensor project fits in well with Rosen’s previous interdisciplinary work on the control of complex systems. Collaborating with engineers and scientists, Rosen has studied system control in the manufacture of semiconductors and a variety of other applications in the aerospace, automotive and computer industries.

The simplest example of system control is the thermostat on a heater, which switches itself on or off depending on two parameters — the temperature the thermostat has been set to and measurement of the actual air temperature.

Rosen has worked with a number of undergraduates on the alcohol biosensor project, including Joseph Sabat, shown here wearing the wrist monitor.

“Imagine designing a similar feedback system with 50 or even thousands of parameters,” Rosen said. “The complexity explodes.”

And that’s where Rosen comes in. For Rosen, one of the central tasks in building a rigorous model of alcohol metabolism is to define the parameters — from sex, weight and age to how fast alcohol diffuses through skin. Based on biological data, the team has already added more than two dozen parameters into the model.

“Numerical weather modeling requires hundreds of parameters, but even 25 can be computationally challenging,” said Rosen. From a mathematical perspective, the problem involves “visualizing a surface in a 25-dimensional space.”

Dealing with Complexity

Some of the parameters are difficult to define. For example, the device measures a mix of two kinds of sweat, each with a different alcohol level: Clinical studies show that insensible perspiration (the constant, unnoticed evaporation of water from the skin) contains about five times less alcohol than what’s found in blood.

But in active sweat — what happens when you exercise or sweat in response to heat — the concentration is similar to blood levels.

The huge variation in how individuals metabolize alcohol adds another wrinkle. Clinical data “gives you the parameters for one person,” Rosen said. But to use the monitor in practical applications in the field, researchers need to calibrate the device not to a specific individual but to general group parameters.

The team has made substantial headway in the last two years. “We’ve got a model that mathematically describes alcohol’s movement through the body,” Rosen said. The trick now, he said, is to invert the model, go backwards — something that you can do only by using the powers of math.

The next phase brings new challenges: “The nature of mathematics is that [doing an inversion] will amplify any error, however small,” Rosen said. “Conceivably, as you calculate backwards, the noise could hide the signal. So we have to make sure the model doesn’t do that.”

“The kind of math that theoreticians deal with is exact. But in applied math, you have to deal with real data,” he said.

Working on interdisciplinary projects has shifted the way Rosen approaches research. “In the old days, I was only interested in doing pure math. Now, I look for problems driven work — math, but math that will help other scientists do something useful,” he said.

— Eva Emerson
A new study of dementia in identical twins suggests that exposure to inflammation early in life quadruples one’s risk of developing Alzheimer’s disease.

Margaret Gatz, lead author and professor of psychology in USC College, presented her findings at the first Alzheimer’s Association International Conference on Prevention of Dementia in Washington, D.C.

If confirmed, the link would add inflammatory burden to the short list of preventable risk factors for Alzheimer’s.

Previous studies by Gatz and others have shown that Alzheimer’s is strongly genetic: If one twin has the disease, his or her identical twin has a 60 percent chance of developing it.

Stroke and a shorter period of formal education both increase the odds of dementia, but not of Alzheimer’s specifically, the new study found. Dementia is an umbrella term for many conditions, including Alzheimer’s.

“People can plan a life span that will alter dementia risk,” Gatz said. “And these aren’t risk factors that are unique to dementia. Many of these are also risk factors for other disorders. This is good news.”

Gatz’s team, which included researchers from the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, Sweden, sifted the 20,000 participants in the Swedish Twin Registry for the 109 “discordant” pairs where only one twin had been diagnosed with dementia.

Information about participants’ education, activities and health history came from surveys they completed in the 1960s, when the registry was created, and from hospital discharge records.

The surveys included questions about loose or missing teeth. Gatz and colleagues used the answers to build a crude indicator of periodontal disease, which involves inflammation of the gums.

“We’re talking about gum disease, but it was measured by teeth lost or loose,” Gatz said. “It’s not perfect. Given it’s not perfect, it’s even more striking that it’s such a solid risk factor.”

The conclusion is not that good oral health can prevent Alzheimer’s, but that an inflammatory burden early in life, as represented by chronic gum disease, may have severe consequences later.

Gatz was inspired to focus on inflammation by the work of her USC colleagues Caleb Finch and Eileen Crimmins, who published a paper in the journal Science linking today’s record life spans to lower rates of childhood infectious diseases, such as gum disease, rheumatic fever, tuberculous and other illnesses.

Such diseases are often preventable, raising hope for prevention of Alzheimer’s.

“If what we’re indexing with periodontal disease is some kind of inflammatory burden, then it is probably speaking to general health conditions,” Gatz said. “There was in our twins quite a lot of periodontal disease, and at that time in Sweden there was a lot of poverty.”

The study, titled “Potentially Modifiable Risk Factors From Dementia: Evidence From Identical Twins,” also found that mental activities at age 40, such as reading or attending cultural events, did not seem to lower the risk of developing Alzheimer’s.

Participants who had more education than their twins were at slightly lower risk of developing dementia, but the influence of education on Alzheimer’s risk was statistically negligible.

“One once controls for genes, the level of education is not a huge risk factor,” said Gatz, who questioned popular attitudes linking Alzheimer’s or dementia to mental inactivity.

“We go around saying, ‘Well, it can’t hurt to do crossword puzzles.’ There is a way it can hurt,” she said.

“The way it can hurt is if we start blaming the people who are demented for not exercising their brains enough, or overselling activities that could make a difference where it’s really unsubstantiated. I think we have got to be real careful in our messages about risk reduction.”

The research for this study was supported by grants from the Alzheimer’s Association and the National Institute on Aging.

—Carl Marziali

The Graduate Mission

continued from page 5

programs attract better graduate students who, in turn, help bring top faculty to campus. These top faculty then attract better graduate — and undergraduate — students, he said.

“Attracting the most promising students is key to building excellence, but the competition is intense.”

To stay competitive, USC College offers its most stellar students full scholarship support and research subsidies.

But doctoral candidate Tillman Nechtman, who received a number of good offers from history Ph.D. programs in California, chose to attend USC College only in part because of the generous support, he said. He also liked the intimate feel of the history department, the quality of faculty in his area of interest (19th century British Empire) and the individualized attention he received from senior historians beginning with his first visit to campus.

“At USC, I have found a faculty adviser who cares. That makes all the difference,” he said.

“We can already point to gains that show we are on the right course in terms of graduate education,” Aoun said. “Our graduate students enjoy richer educational experiences, with programs better tailored to their professional aims. Applicants have told us they were attracted by our initiative to hire more high-quality faculty. More than ever, our faculty are committed to creating innovative training programs.”

The College has been the driving force behind university-wide, interdisciplinary Ph.D. programs that cover the natural sciences, humanities and social sciences. For instance, the long-standing doctoral program in neuroscience draws upon the expertise of faculty and students from many USC schools. Newer interdisciplinary Ph.D. programs in history and economics pool the resources of the College with those in the schools of law and business. Another combines chemistry and pharmaceutical sciences to provide better training for those pursing careers in drug development.

Living proof that a USC College Ph.D. degree leads to success is Ray R. Irani, who received his Ph.D. in chemistry in 1957. Over the years, Irani has published more than 50 scientific papers and secured more than 150 patents. Today, besides being a trustee of USC, Irani is chairman and chief executive officer of Occidental Petroleum Corporation.
Long Ignored, Brain’s Glial Cells Get Their Due

Studies reveal critical role of “support” cells in brain and nervous system

If the old saying, “We only use ten percent of our brain,” is true, then what are we doing with the other 90 percent?

That’s the question that drives the work of neuroscientist Chien-Ping Ko, professor of biological sciences at USC College. Figuring out the answer could bring scientists closer to understanding how to restore brain and nervous system functions destroyed by disease and injury.

“Ninety percent of the cells in your brain are glial cells, not neurons,” said Ko, who was initially drawn to neuroscience by his fascination with how neurons communicate. Scientists long thought that glial cells were nothing more than a support network for neurons, which do the real work of the brain. But Ko and others have turned this idea on its head, showing that glial cells play vitally important roles in the brain and body.

Historically, glial cells were difficult to study because there was no easy way to investigate them in living animals. This changed about 10 years ago when Ko, whose shy demeanor is suddenly replaced by an enthusiastic smile when he speaks about his research, stumbled across a specific marker for the type of glial cell that surrounds the synapses, or connections, between motor neurons and muscles. This fortuitous discovery led him to shift the focus of his investigations and allowed him to start answering the question, “What are all these glial cells for, anyway?”

Glial cells are located all over the nervous system, but the ones of most interest to neuroscientists like Ko are those that surround the synapses between neurons and their targets — critical junctures in the neuron-to-neuron communication network that underlies brain activity.

Ko focuses on a specific type of glial cell that surrounds the synapse between motor neurons and the muscles they control. Like the more complicated synapses of the brain, the so-called neuromuscular junction has several glial cells wrapped around it, but its large size and simpler structure have made it a favorite in the lab.

“For many years, we totally ignored glial cells,” said Ko. “If you looked in a textbook, you would see the neuromuscular junction as just a nerve making contact with muscle.” Because the glial cell’s function was not clear, researchers assumed it had no active role at the synapse.

But, as Ko went on to show using the highly specific glial cell probe he had developed, that assumption was wrong. With the probe, Ko viewed the synapses under a microscope and, for the first time, clearly saw what the glial cells were doing in living animals.

Ko, working with his students and collaborators, Yoshie Sugiuра, research assistant professor, and Albert Herrera, professor of biological sciences in the College, found that glial cells play a number of critical roles at synapses. They help guide young or damaged nerves to the correct spots to form synapses, and once they get there, they help maintain that connection.

“Normally, after a neuron makes contact with a muscle, it stops growing,” said Ko. However, when nerves in the body are damaged, they begin to grow again, often returning to exactly the same spot where the synapse had been. The signals that neurons use to return to this spot are a mystery, but Ko’s findings suggested an answer. Images of the glial cells showed them growing in front of the damaged nerve end, apparently guiding its growth. Further experiments suggested that glial cells similarly guide neural growth in the developing nervous system, leading the nerve to the right spot.

Ko’s team made another break-through when M.D./Ph.D. student Vinay Reddy, now completing his residency in neurology at the Medical College of Wisconsin, suggested using an immunological method common in medical research to remove the glial cells from around the synapse, allowing the team to study what happens to the synapse without the glial cell.

“One week later, we found that nerve function was decreased, and that some of the nerve terminals had retracted,” said Ko. “This suggests that glial cells play a long-term maintenance role for the structure and function of the synapse.”

These experiments showed that glial cells affect neurons in a variety of ways — acting on the development and maintenance of synaptic connections as well as mending damaged synapses. “Glia cells act like parents. They nurture the young neurons and step back as they grow up. But if the neurons get into trouble, get damaged, they’ll step in to help,” Ko said.

University Professor Caleb Finch, the ARCO/William F. Kieschnick Chair in the Neurobiology of Aging and a leading expert on aging and Alzheimer’s disease at USC, points out that Ko’s research has established a new role for glial cells in the adult nervous system. “We knew that glial cells were fundamental to establish migration of developing neurons, but this research shows that they have an active role in the mature nervous system as well,” said Finch, a professor of gerontology, biological sciences and psychology.

The realization that glial cells can guide the regeneration of adult nerves in the peripheral nervous system has prompted a surge of scientific interest in the cells. Ko believes it might just hold the key to finding a way to restore the connections between damaged neurons.

“We know that glial cells make synapses bigger, stronger and more stable,” said Ko. “Many diseases, including Alzheimer’s, may be partially due to a failure of the synapse. If we can identify these factors, it’s bound to have clinical implications.”

Currently, Ko and his students are working to find the molecular signals that the cells use to guide neural growth and maintain the critical synaptic connections between neurons. Identifying the molecules glia use to guide and protect neurons could prove important in the understanding and treatment of neurodegenerative diseases like Alzheimer’s as well as conditions such as paralysis.

—Katherine Leitzell

Editor’s note: A student in the USC Neuroscience Graduate Program, Katherine Leitzell recently completed a master’s in biological sciences and is on leave, pursuing her interest in writing about science.
Growth in women’s sports still not reflected on TV

Despite a sea change in women’s athletics over the past three decades, men’s sports still receive more than 90 percent of the coverage on television news and sports highlights shows, according to a study co-authored by Michael Messner of USC College.

Messner, who teaches sociology and gender studies, did the research with Margaret Carlisle Duncan, professor of human movement sciences at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. The study began in 1989 and has been updated every five years since.

The most recent version, “Gender in Televised Sports: News and Highlights Shows, 1989-2004,” was released in July by the Amateur Athletic Foundation of Los Angeles, which funded the study.

“The proportion [of TV coverage] is pretty much the same as it was in 1989,” said Messner, who chairs the sociology department in the College. “It’s really an almost continuous cacophony of men’s voices telling us about men’s sports.”

The researchers analyzed six weeks of TV sports news on three Los Angeles network affiliates — KCBS, KNBC and KABC — from March 14-27, July 11-24 and Nov. 7-20. They examined 236 sports news broadcasts, totaling nearly 17 hours of airtime.

The duo also analyzed three weeks — 21 broadcasts — of ESPN’s “SportsCenter” programming that ran March 14-20, July 11-17 and Nov. 7-13, totaling nearly 16 hours. Three weeks — 21 broadcasts — of the Fox “Southern California Sports Report” were viewed on those same dates, totaling seven hours.

They found that:

- on the three network affiliates, men’s sports received 91 percent of the airtime, compared to 6 percent for women’s sports;
- on the ESPN and Fox shows, women’s sports got 2 percent and 3 percent of the airtime, respectively; and
- many of the broadcasts in the sample contained no women’s sports coverage.

Messner said that while reporting of women’s sports was more respectful than in past studies, the sexualization of female athletes was still an element of the coverage.

Sports media are “much more likely to focus on someone like [Maria Sharapova] because she fits that ideal model of heterosexual attractiveness,” he said.

“Male viewers can pigeonhole her as a sexual object, even as she’s kick-}

When Good Metals Go Bad
USC scientists explore corrosion in metals

Air travel could become safer as a result of USC interdisciplinary research into corrosion-induced failure in high-performance metals used in aerospace, marine and other demanding applications.

Supercomputing specialists Priya Vashishta, Aiichiro Nakano and Rajiv K. Kalia, who hold joint appointments in USC College and the Viterbi School of Engineering, have modeled the behavior of countless individual atoms in order to learn more about the origins of stress-corrosion cracking on titanium and other metals. Such damage starts when ordinary strain on the metal produces tiny cracks that allow the entrance of moisture and oxygen. It can lead to catastrophic failures.

In addition, airliners deliberately keep the air inside planes dry to avoid corrosion cracking, which worsens with moisture. The team’s research could help alleviate this uncomfortable situation.

“If we can understand more precisely how corrosion takes place, we may be able to find ways that will deal with the problem with less discomfort for travelers,” said Vashishta, the project’s principal investigator and a professor of materials science, biomedical engineering, computer science and physics and astronomy.

The Information Technology Research project is being funded by the National Science Foundation.
ing somebody’s butt on the tennis court,” Mesner said. “Whereas women... who are really engaged in [tennis] sports involve a lot of physical contact and masculinity... don’t get covered as much.”

The researchers’ recommendations included: TV shows include women in programming decisions and on the anchor desk; and that producers and commentators of those shows educate themselves about the ways that humorous sexualization of women contributes to a “climate of disrespect” for female athletes.

“I really think that the boys and men who are out there watching this stuff... are moving into a world where they’re working side by side with women,” Messner said. “They have to learn early on to respect the full range of women’s potential and capabilities. Sports are an important part of that.”

— Usha Sutliff


Art historian’s book explores intersection of politics and art

A Separate Art, Oaxacan Style

Art historian’s book explores intersection of politics and art

The state of Oaxaca always had a separate identity from the rest of Mexico.

Oaxaca and its vital cultural life of museums, architectural sites and artisans thrived no matter what political forces were shaping the nation, according to USC College art historian Selma Holo.

Oaxaca at the Crossroads (Smithsonian Books, 2004), Professor Holo’s latest book, examines how the region shaped its cultural existence in the arts — from the contemporary and the colonial to the urban and archaeological.

“The private activism of the artists, artisans and private businesses came together and made a change in Oaxaca which, on the scale that it energized the community, hadn’t been seen before,” Holo said. “I thought it was really worth memorializing and critiquing.”

In 1994, Holo spent a year as a Fulbright senior researcher in Spain, examining to spend more time on her area of expertise, the Spanish artists Goya, Picasso and Ribera.

Instead, she found herself interested in the nation’s transition from a dictatorship to a democracy and its effect on museums. Her book, Beyond the Prado (Smithsonian, 1999), was an examination of how museums colored the nation’s sense of self.

The book also reflected Holo’s shift from her study of art history toward the study of museology — the study of museums themselves and their impact on our cultures.

Science, materials science and physics. “The principles involved in our work can be applied to everything because all things are composed of atoms.”

In the current project, the team is using large-scale computer simulations and techniques of nanoscience to supplement the traditional structural engineering methods.

“Traditional analysis provides reliable forecasts of how material will behave when new, Vishishta said. But it offers little insight about how materials fail due to the build-up of stress.

Nanoscientific analysis can supply such insight, Vishishta said. The idea is to create the basic atomic structure of the material and simulate the behavior of individual atoms at the point where cracks appear in the surface.

“By understanding exactly what is going on, in detail, at the point where the material is failing,” Vishishta said, “we can find better ways to prevent damage and create more corrosion-resistant materials.”

— Eric Mankin, Viterbi School of Engineering

Generations of Support

David and Dana Dornsife continue family tradition of support

Thanks to an $8 million gift from Dana and David Dornsife, the College opened the Dornsife Cognitive Neuroscience Imaging Center last fall. Dedicated to research, the center houses a powerful brain-imaging scanner.

“We wanted to provide a catalyst for new discoveries,” said David Dornsife (65). “We’re optimistic about what might be accomplished here. But, part of the fun of supporting research is that we don’t really know where scientists will take us.”

The Dornsifes continue a tradition of giving to USC, especially in the neurosciences, begun by his late parents. “Dad felt that USC basketball gave him a chance to do something other than be a farm boy from Indiana. He was very grateful,” Dornsife said. The focus on science came from his mother, who was a pre-medical student at USC.

The family has forged close connections with faculty, who alerted them to the need for an imaging center.

“We think magical things are going to happen there, and look forward to being part of them,” he said.
Priority: Shaping Southern California

USC College Connections

USC College links scholars to community, campus to Southern California region

 Trojan Connections

USC College long been an integral part of the Southern California region.

The College has long embraced the notion of finding the ways to help shape and ensure the region’s future.

“The actions of USC College to help shape Southern California serve the interests of the school and university, as well as the local community,” said USC College Dean Joseph Aoun. “And, since Los Angeles and the Southern California region are influential members of the world community, what USC College does locally reverberates across the globe, particularly within the Pacific Rim.

“The university’s new strategic plan calls for renewed impetus to help shape the Southern California community,” Aoun continued. “The College is uniquely qualified to lead the effort. At the heart of the plan is the goal of making it easier to cross the boundaries of academic disciplines to bring the true, collective intellectual strengths of the university to bear on significant social problems.”

The strategic plan recognizes that “societal problems rarely fall within the domain of a single discipline or school, [and therefore] collaboration... may be the best means of addressing such problems.” The plan further states that “disciplinary and school boundaries... often impede effective collaboration...” and calls for removing “structural disincentives” to collaboration.

“As a college within the university, we began putting strong emphasis on cross-disciplinary collaborations five years ago and we have continued to do that ever since,” said Aoun. “Our faculty hiring initiative particularly focused on finding highly qualified scholars whose work is not constrained by disciplinary boundaries.

“USC has long been an integral part of the Southern California region.

It’s not the University “at” Southern California, it’s “of.” And it’s been that way since day one, 125 years ago.

This early recognition by USC’s founders planted the university squarely in the middle of a community that is still growing and thriving more than a century later. That community has shaped the identity of the Trojan Family as surely as generations of the Trojan Family have shaped the development of the region itself.

Of course, being “of” rather than “at” carries with it responsibilities. As a responsible member of the Southern California community, USC College has long embraced the notion of finding the ways to help shape and ensure the region’s future.

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In this we have been remarkably successful.

“We have also stressed the importance of forming partnerships, both within and outside the university, to tap into a wider pool of talent and expertise and to leverage our resources,” Aoun said.

The desire to serve the community is further amplified by a number of centers and institutes that have been created to serve specific needs. Among them, the Casden Institute for the Study of the Jewish Role in American Life, the Korean Studies Institute and the Institute of Armenian Studies. These three focus on working with related organizations in the community to add academic rigor to discussions of local, national and global issues germane to those communities.

At the heart of the College’s community-based programs is the Joint Educational Project, JEP. Currently some 2,000 USC students are volunteering through JEP in the Southern California community, in schools, hospitals and other organizations that target people in need.

In addition, among many other educational outreach programs offered or now in development, the College is home to the QuikScience Challenge for K-12 Science Education Outreach, run by the staff of the Wingley Institute for Environmental Studies. The program, designed in partnership with QuikSilver, Inc. to use marine science to inspire and change the attitudes of youth about science, addresses a specific societal need: a looming shortage of U.S. scientists.

“‘For the U.S. to maintain leadership in a knowledge economy, the next generation of Americans must be well educated. We have a shortage of scientists and mathematicians and too often students lose interest in these subjects before they even enter college. QuikScience provides students with a view of science as exciting and relevant to their lives,’” Aoun said.

The College also connects to the K-12 educational community through the Center for Active Learning in International Studies, which, among other activities, sends College students into area schools to lead explorations of international issues.

With support from Edison International, the College will soon launch a new K-12 outreach program called the Edison Challenge. USC students benefit from USC’s connections to the region, Sempra Energy, for example, supports the College scholarship programs. Likewise, Los Angeles businesswoman and USC College Councilor Janice B. Howroyd has chosen to help shape the Southern California community, in part, through her support of College students. In January 2005, her gift of $10 million established a scholarship fund designed to increase access to higher education for students who might not otherwise be able to afford to attend university.

“I very much value the diversity of ethnicity, thought, goals and opportunity that has been fostered in the College,” said Howroyd.

Aoun observed that all of these College programs not only benefit the Southern California community, but also the students, faculty and others who participate in this scholarly work.

“The fate of USC has always been intrinsically linked to the Southern California region,” Aoun said. “It’s central to the continued success of the College to play a stewardship role in the region. We can do this by strengthening connections, sharing our vision and finding areas of overlapping interests with government, business, non-profit and other academic leaders in Southern California.”

Star Service for Peace

Actor-student America Ferrera volunteers

America Ferrera had been volunteering inside the Norwood Street Elementary School classroom for months before a third-grader timidly approached her, “You’re that girl, aren’t you?”

All along, many of the third-graders had recognized the raven-haired actress with a megawatt smile, who in 2002 starred in the hit independent film, “Real Women Have Curves.” “The kids were very intuitive,” said Ferrera, a USC College junior called the Edison Challenge.

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FERRERA PHOTO BY DIYAH PERA/COURTESY OF ALCON ENTERTAINMENT
Partners in Peace

USC student volunteers play key role in teaching peace to elementary students

At the playground at Norwood Street Elementary School, third second-graders began squabbling, each certain he was the rightful owner of a Yu-Gi-Oh! trading card.

As the shouting escalated to shoveling, one of the boys snatched the prized card out of another one’s hand.

“Hey, you guys!” yelled Naya Bloom, marching up.

The children snapped to attention when they saw Bloom, who oversees Norwood’s Peace Games, a program relying on USC College student volunteers and teaching children conflict-resolution skills. The nationwide program is in its fifth year at the 1,200-student campus, one of USC’s Family of Schools.

Children who understand empathy, respect and cross-cultural sensitivity, advocates say, are less likely to commit an act of violence.

“How could you have handled that differently?” Bloom asked the now-chagrined boys.

“By talking it out!” offered one.

“By sharing it?” asked another.

“By tearing it into three pieces!” asked the third boy with a laugh.

A Challenge Ahead

Bloom was pleased. The boys remembered there are alternatives to fighting. And humor helps. But Bloom knows that getting students to bring Peace Games lessons to the playground and ultimately to their homes can be a challenge.

That is why Bloom is grateful for the USC students, who teach Peace Games at Norwood through the College’s Joint Educational Project (JEP). Many earn course credit.

Peace Games officials hope to expand the program.

“USC is a critical part of our continued growth,” said Alice Green, the group’s Los Angeles regional director.

“The university and JEP have been very aggressive in supporting community outreach. We’re a recipient of that support.”

A Good Marriage

Now 33, JEP is among the nation’s oldest service-learning programs. The program connects students and their academic courses with area schools, hospitals and organizations. Through volunteer work, USC students learn what it takes to create a community.

Largely as a result of JEP, The Princeton Review named USC one of 81 nationwide “Colleges With a Conscience” from a pool of 900 institutions.

Green praised the partnership between JEP and Peace Games.

“It’s been a good marriage,” Green said inside her office, donated space in a building overlooking downtown Los Angeles.

Bloom recalled the disturbing trend that prompted the program.

“There were a lot of racial slurs on the playground,” recounted Bloom, director of Norwood’s Healthy Start, which connects students and families with community resources. “There were a lot of punching and fighting. Then there were cases of bird mutilation. That was the culminating thing that made us ask, ‘What can we do?’”

That year, Norwood used funds from a $316,000 state grant to implement Peace Games.

Last year, Norwood began looking at ways to continue to fund the program. Again, JEP stepped up.

The Nuances of Peace

JEP and Norwood obtained a $10,800 grant through USC Neighborhood Outreach. A grant of $11,000 was secured for this year, said Susan Harris, JEP director of academic development.

Carmen Antoun, 21, an international relations senior, teaches Peace Games at Norwood.

“One game meant to instill teamwork has a group form a circle holding hands. Two students clasp hands through a Hula Hoop. They all pass the Hula Hoop around without breaking the circle.

Another teaching the power of body language and voice tone asks a student to imagine being hungry. The student communicates silently, without moving, before using gestures and speech.

Antoun understood her impact after asking students to list their favorite peacekeepers. Her name appeared just below their mothers, fathers and Martin Luther King Jr.

“I don’t expect this program to wipe out gang violence or anything like that,” she said. “But it raises their awareness and gives them an alternative to violence.”

Children Inspired

At Norwood, the message was clear. A colorful mural outside the Oak Street campus depicted children under a rainbow. Students painted it on a wall usually scarred by graffiti.

Inside the school, walls were blanketed with messages such as, “Peace is as good as ice cream.” Inside classrooms, students posted hand-scrawled advice such as, “Never leave someone out.”

Such notes hung on the walls inside a fifth-grade classroom, where student Manny Tamayo shared his lessons.

“When someone cuts me down now,” Manny said, “I just walk away.”

—Pamela J. Johnson
An Institute with Ambitions

USC College launches Institute of Armenian Studies

Ever since USC College established the USC Institute of Armenian Studies last February, its director, Richard Hrair Dekmejian, has had his hands full. "We have awakened a sleeping giant," said Dekmejian, a professor of political science in the College. "We've had call after call — one group is interested in hosting a symposium on economic development in Armenia, one's interested in Armenian classical music and another in the music of the Armenian church."

With a broad mission to increase understanding of modern Armenia and Armenians, the Institute of Armenian Studies has been envisioned as a multidisciplinary center of research and learning that responds to the needs of the Armenian community, Dekmejian said. "It will be a think tank, a venue of creativity, a resource center and much more."

Southern California is home to an estimated 350,000 people of Armenian descent — the largest Armenian community outside of the Republic of Armenia itself. But, according to Charles Ghailian, chair of the institute's advisory board, his was a community "looking for leadership and identity."

The College-based institute, Ghailian said, will help create that. "This is a great, great opportunity for the Armenian community in Southern California."

The institute aims to promote Armenian-related scholarship and activities in a wide range of fields, from dance, music and the arts to politics, religion and community affairs. Addressing concerns of the community will be a top priority.

The approach makes the institute the first academic center of its kind, said College Dean Joseph Aoun.

"The impact of this institute will extend far beyond USC," said Aoun, a key architect of the institute. "It will help the world to understand the many contributions of Armenians to society, as well as to remind them of the tragic history of the Armenian people."

At the gala celebrating the institute's launch earlier this year, the enthusiasm of the Armenian American community was evident. Scores of guests crowded outside of Town & Gown a full quarter of an hour before the party began. Among the 575 guests attending was a virtual "Who's Who?" of the community, including USC Trustee Edward P. Roski and Paul Ignatius, former U.S. Secretary of the Navy.

"The first Armenian came to study at USC over 100 years ago," Dekmejian said. "Literally, generations of Armenians have rallied together to support the institute."

In June, the institute and the school of religion co-hosted a well-attended symposium and lunch in conjunction with a visit by the Armenian Apostolic Church leader Vehapar Karekin II. Event speakers explored the impact of globalization on the Armenian church and related themes. More events are planned.

"Six years ago, we had only a vision," Aoun said. "We have succeeded in creating the institute because of the full participation of the Armenian community. And it's that level of commitment that will help the institute thrive in the coming years."

— Eva Emerson

Ocean Adventure

USC Wrigley’s QuikScience Challenge rewards learning

When 15-year-old Scott Friedlander quizzed the fifth-grade class about salinity, he didn’t expect a sea of arms to shoot into the air. He hadn’t counted on the ocean-savvy boy in the front row to rattle off the correct answer.

"It really threw me," Scott recounted. "I had a whole speech ready."

Scott was part of the high school team that won first place in this year’s QuikScience Challenge. A trainchild of the USC Wrigley Institute for Environmental Studies and Quiksilver, Inc., a surfwear company based in Huntington Beach, the annual contest is meant to get middle and high school students fired up about science and the environment.

Students from five Southern California counties competed in the Challenge, which requires teams to audit their grade level’s ocean science curriculum and develop a lesson plan based on the findings. They also must perform community service and create an artistic presentation of their efforts.

Winners in both age groups spent a week in Baja California, traveling to Cabo San Lucas, La Paz and Todos Santos, and cruising aboard Quiksilver’s 72-foot Indies Trader.

"Not all that many students asked to be in the contest," said Brigitte Steinmetz, a USC alumna and science teacher at Santa Monica’s John Adams Middle School. She mentored the younger team that placed first.

"But once everyone heard we won and got to spend a week in Mexico, swimming with whale sharks, watching nesting sea turtles and snorkeling, I suddenly had a drove of students asking me, ‘Can I be on the team next year?’ I don’t think people believed we would actually win."

For the public service portion, Scott and five of his classmates at Mira Costa High School in Manhattan Beach visited neighboring Pacific Elementary School. In addition to discussing salinity, the six students talked about pollution and sea animals.

"This is Terrence the Turtle," Robbie McCracken, 15, said to the group. A videotape showed him waving in one hand a preserved sea turtle and in the other a plastic grocery bag.

"Terrence has had a rough life. He ate three plastic bags thinking they were jellyfish. Well, Terrence couldn’t digest this. And thinking he was always full, he starved himself to death."

Later, at Roundhouse Aquarium on the Manhattan Beach pier, some of the Mira Costa winners explained to a visitor why they entered the contest.

"We all had a passion for the ocean," said Matt Richards, 18, who began attending USC this fall. "This was a chance to explore the ocean even more. And a chance to go for a
Wrigley Institute Turns 10 & 40
Board Chair calls progress ‘astounding’

In May, Delta Murphy, chair of the Wrigley Institute for Environmental Studies Advisory Board, addressed the USC College Board of Councilors. An edited version of her remarks appears below.

I am delighted to be here today to speak to you about a subject I feel very passionate about — the USC Wrigley Institute.

This has been a wonderful year for the Wrigley. Forty years ago, in 1965, Phil and Dorothy W. Offield and the Wrigley family dedicated land to USC, allowing the establishment of the Philip K. Wrigley Marine Science Center on Catalina.

Ten years ago, William and Julie Wrigley built on the family tradition with the founding of the USC Wrigley Institute. In late August, we will celebrate both of these anniversaries with an open house at the Catalina facility.

The Wrigley family and USC College have together created a vision for Catalina island and its value to science and society that is truly ahead of its time. Four generations of this generous and thoughtful family have committed themselves to this common goal. We are grateful for their efforts. It has been a joy and privilege to get to know them through the institute that bears their name.

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In 1993, the Wrigley family established the Philip K. Wrigley Chair for Environmental Studies. The Wrigley Board’s Packy Offield, a USC alumnus and much-respected scientist and an ardent advocate for environmental science and education, accepted the role of institute’s first director. He later became chair.

The road ahead is full of wonder and infinite possibilities. I sense that the Wrigley is only at the beginning of what will surely prove a rewarding journey for USC and the world.

Delta Murphy
I first became involved with the Wrigley many years ago when Morty Shapiro, then dean of the College, asked if I would join the Wrigley Board. As an alums of USC, an enthusiastic supporter of the university and, through my work as chair of the Los Angeles County Planning Commission, someone involved and enamored with Catalina and its citizens, I thought it was a perfect fit and later became chair.

It has been a wonderful experience. In that time, there has been astounding progress at the Wrigley; it’s been explosive. The institute’s research has gained international prominence, and its outreach and educational programs have attracted tremendous attention.

The Wrigley has attracted top scientists, such as Ken Nealson, a pioneer of the interdisciplinary field of geobiology, whose studies may lead to the use of microbes to remove elements in water that are harmful to people.

Nealson’s presence also has been critical to the development a one-of-a-kind, advanced geobiology seminar, now in its fourth year. The seminar has helped the Wrigley cement its role as a leader in geobiology, attracting renowned scientists and talented graduate students from across the globe.

Recent recruit Dennis Hedgecock leads a new fisheries program at the institute, established by a gift from the Wrigley Board’s Packy Offield. The scientists use genetics and other tools to study the sustainability and restoration of sea bass, sea urchin and marlin fisheries and oyster aquaculture. Early results are exciting — they have bred an oyster that promises to triple aquacultural oyster production.

Wrigley faculty study an array of coastal problems. Dave Caron researches the causes and impacts of red tides. Doug Capone’s work on the marine nitrogen cycle sheds light on processes of climate change.

In K-12 education, one of the institute’s most promising new partnerships was created by Wrigley Board member and USC alumnus Bob McKnight with his company Quiksilver, Inc. The QuikScience Challenge is a contest that promotes marine science-based education across the region. Reaction from teachers and students has been overwhelming.

George Boone, a member of the Wrigley Board and USC trustee, has had an important impact on the growth of the Catalina campus. Our “visionary,” he led the push to build the “Italian Village” — housing for visiting scientists that opened in 2003. With his encouragement, we are considering a second addition that would further case the housing shortage on the island.

The Wrigley would not have been able to make such tremendous strides in the past decade without Tony Michaels, director of the institute, who is a charismatic leader, a much-respected scientist and an ardent advocate for environmental science and education.

Likewise, Joseph Aoun, dean of the College, is an invaluable supporter of the institute’s mission, and a beacon for us followers.

Also deserving recognition are members of the Wrigley Board, faculty and staff — notably Ann Close — who have played key roles in the institute’s continuing transformation.

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ed Nora Hedgecock, daughter of USC’s Dennis Hedgecock, a professor of biological sciences.

Steinmetz’s students are continuing their service project, making beach cleanups a monthly routine. After spending time with Mexican students in Baja, they’re also working to create an exchange program. One of Steinmetz’s students, Dylan Braun, said he now wants to become a marine scientist.

That’s exactly the point, said Judy Lemus, Wrigley’s director of education: “The more they learn, the more they’ll want to protect the ocean.”

Second-place winners, Animo Leadership Charter High School in Inglewood and St. Mary’s Middle School in Fullerton, spent a weekend at Wrigley’s marine lab in Catalina. Registration for this year’s contest begins in October and is open to students throughout the state.

---Pamela J. Johnson

Students from John Adams Middle School in Santa Monica, first-place winners in their age group, build a sand sea turtle at the beach in Baja California with children from Todos Santos. Third from left is Dylan Braun, fifth from left is Joanna Martin and far right is Nora Hedgecock.

Really great prize: Cabo.”

“For personal growth,” said Ashley Okada, 18, who is attending UC Santa Cruz. “We developed knowledge about the ocean. Then as volunteers, we got to reach out and share our

The Indies Trader
knowledge.”

During their trip, Steinmetz’s group of seventh-graders enjoyed swimming with a 40-foot whale shark. But they were disturbed to see that a steel rod had pierced the creature’s thick grey skin. Even worse, when it was removed, it appeared that the rod had been sharpened.

“They were so saddened that someone would do that,” said Steinmetz of the group, which includ-
A Gift for Science, International Style

Broidy Fellowships fund Israeli scientists at USC College

Three life sciences graduate students and two top professors or postdoctoral fellows from The Technion – Israel Institute for Technology will be recruited for graduate fellowships and visiting professorships at USC College. A $500,000 gift established the Robin and Elliott Broidy Program for Graduate Fellowships, which will provide two years of full tuition and reasonable living and travel expenses for students wishing to pursue studies in computational biology at USC College. The fellowships will be awarded to Israeli students who have demonstrated exemplary academic achievement and whose courses of study are grounded in the life sciences.

USC College is home to one of the leading groups of molecular and computational biologists in the world. Trailblazing professors such as Michael Waterman, Simon Tavaré and Norman Arnheim have made key contributions to genomic sciences, including work crucial to the success of the Human Genome Project.

Nearly 25 years ago, Waterman helped develop the algorithms for comparing and analyzing nucleic acid and protein sequences essential to genome mapping. Tavaré conducted research leading to the development of BLAST, the most commonly used sequence-analysis software in gene research. Arnheim co-led the team that discovered the polymerase chain reaction technology that makes it possible for scientists to amplify a very small amount of DNA to a quantity large enough for laboratory study.

Graduate fellows will be given the opportunity to work with and learn from these life science pioneers and other senior researchers who are poised to pave the way toward novel strategies for understanding, treating and preventing complex diseases.

In May, USC College opened the Molecular & Computational Biology Building, which houses researchers focused on computational and experimental genomics. Their work is vital to understanding the causes of and finding cures for some of the most common and devastating diseases with complex genetic components, such as heart disease, cancer and Alzheimer’s disease.

Robin and Elliott Broidy have a long-standing commitment to strengthening USC’s educational offerings. They are also dedicated to causes that support Israel. Elliott Broidy (B.S., Business Administration, ’79) has served on the USC Associates Board of Directors and the Board of Councilors for the USC Marshall School of Business’ Center for Investment Studies, and is a trustee of the USC Hillel Foundation, a member of the Hebrew Union College Board of Governors and its Board of Overseers.

Robin Broidy serves on the USC College Board of Councilors and on the board for the Wilshire Boulevard Temple Elementary School. She is also the Vice Chair of the Aviva Family and Children’s Services, a residential treatment center for abused teenage girls.

“Graduate fellows recruited through the Robin and Elliott Broidy Program will not only strengthen the life sciences at USC,” said USC College Dean Joseph Aoun, “but also will open the College to the world’s next generation of scientists. This is truly a world-class educational experience.”

—Katherine Yangmee Kim

Correction: “A Virtual World of Languages” (Vol. 6, No. 1) incorrectly describes an online virtual museum that allows students of Spanish department lecturer Galina Bakhtiarova to explore poetry, arts and culture of the Spanish-speaking world. The Virtual Museum is a Web site of the National Institute for Technology and Liberal Education.
Alums Launch eBay Rival

The bonds students create at USC extend far beyond the classroom, campus and even graduation — as proof, take the four USC alumni who have launched an online business that they say will “provide a better way than eBay.”

Alumni Jeff Grant (USC College, ’02), Casey Cosgrove (Marshall, ’99), Kelsey Durkin (Annenberg, ’04) and Mike Willman (Viterbi, ’02) opened ClassifiedBuyers (www.classifiedbuyers.com), an auction-based buy/sell Web site, up for business in early January of this year.

The group established the online service as an alternative to fee-based Internet e-commerce sites, offering such free features as a built-in payment service, secure transaction process, no fees for ad placement and shipment tracking.

“Collaboration is key to developing a great Web site,” said Grant, who holds a bachelor’s degree in psychology and met Durkin, Cosgrove and Willman through the USC Greek system. “More than just universities, the USC student community provides a lasting opportunity for people to network. That’s one reason why ClassifiedBuyers continues to recruit from the Trojan Family.”

“My education at USC gave me the confidence to dream big and also showed us all the value of a strong work ethic. By doing so, USC prepared us for the reality of today’s business environment,” he said. The prominent feature of ClassifiedBuyers is its “buyer approval” process: once offers are formalized with a purchase order, funds are held for safekeeping and both buyer and seller are notified. The buyer has seven days in which to authorize the seller to be paid. This process protects both parties from fraud, according to Grant.

50 Years of Devotion

Joseph Aoun, dean of USC College, presented Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion (HUC-JIR) with a commendation Feb. 7 to celebrate its 50th anniversary. For USC students from either school can work with USC and/or HUC-JIR faculty.

“A USC offers students an education in Jewish studies that most universities cannot hope to match, thanks in large measure to our strong bonds with Hebrew Union College,” said Aoun, who presented the commendation on behalf of USC President Steven B. Sample. “This fruitful partnership has strengthened and enhanced both institutions as well as our community.”

From left: Burton Lehman, chair of the board of governors of HUC-JIR; Dean Joseph Aoun; Rabbi David Ellenson, president of HUC-JIR; and Lewis M. Barth, dean of the HUC-JIR L.A. campus.

Alumni News

Travelling Inside Out

Gary S. Felton (Ph.D., Psychology, ’70) has written a unique practical travel manual entitled Travelling Inside Out (Book Guild Publishing, 2005). The book is “for anyone who is not getting enough out of international travel, but can’t quite work out why.” Felton is a licensed clinical psychologist in private practice in Los Angeles.

Presidential Appointment

Theodore R. Smith (B.A., International Relations, ’60, M.A., Economics, ’74) has been named President of the Moroccan American Trade & Investment Council by King Hassan VI of Morocco. Smith has previously served as financial advisor to Sultan Hassel Bokli of Brunei.

Wall Street Journal


Dentist Honored

May C. Louie (B.S., Biological Sciences, ’78), a practicing dentist in Arcadia, Calif., was awarded the prestigious Fellowship Award by the Academy of General Dentistry (AGD) during its Annual Meeting in Anaheim. The fellowship recognizes excellence in the dental profession and a commitment to providing exceptional patient care.

Thai Minister

USC College alumni (from left) Walter Ladwig (B.A., Economics, ’96), Kantathi Suphamongkhon (’74), D.C. Alumni Club President Bob Kurkjian (B.A., Political Science, ’95; M.Acc. ’00) and Sue Anne Tay (B.A., International Relations, ’03).

Thailand’s Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra appointed Kantathi Suphamongkhon (Ph.D., International Relations, ’84) as the nation’s Minister of Foreign Affairs. On May 13, the USC Alumni Club of Washington D.C. held a reception to honor Suphamongkhon during his first official visit to the nation’s capital.

Olympian Memoirs

Mark Crear (B.A., Sociology, ’92), a two-time Olympic medalist in track and field, has written an autobiography entitled Why My Silver is Gold (Aurthothune, 2005). Crear, who won a silver medal at the 1996 Olympics and a bronze medal at the 2000 Olympics, wrote about the struggles he overcome on his Olympic journey.

Top Honors

Alexandra Campbell (B.S., Political Science, ’02; B.A., Creative Writing, ’02) took top honors at the USC Law School 2005 Hale Moot Court Honors Competition. Campbell will serve next year as advocacy chair of the Moot Court Board and captain of the USC Law School National Moot Court Team. She also received a California Bar/BRII Bar Review scholarship that will pay half the cost of a bar review course.

Doctoral Scholarship

Nmerici Ummennachi (B.A., East Asian Languages, ’94) received the Japanese Ministry of Education Research Scholarship. The scholarship is the high- est awarded by the Japanese government. It will allow Ummennachi to work toward a Ph.D. in media science.

New President

Susan Marie Maloney (Ph.D., Social Ethics and Religion, ’93) was elected president of the Western Region of the American Academy of Religion. The region includes scholars of religion from colleges, universities and seminaries in California, Nevada, Arizona, Hawaii and Guam. Maloney is a member of the Sisters of the Holy Names and teaches at the University of Redlands.

Good Therapy

Heather Barnes (B.A., Sociology, ’05) is working as a therapist for children recently diagnosed with autism at the Lovvaas Institute For Early Intervention.

Life of Service

On June 18, Carl R. Terzian (B.A., History, ’57) was honored by the League for Children, an auxiliary group of Children’s Bureau, for his civic, philanthropic and professional leadership on behalf of children. Terzian graduated magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa and was student body president.

Student News

Luce Scholar

Sam Bazzi, a senior majoring in international relations and economics, received a Henry Luce Foundation Scholarship. The highly competitive awards support 15 students doing internships in Asia. Bazzi, interested in economic development, hoped to go to Southeast Asia.

continued on page 30
Introducing Medical Ethics
Student launches speaker series

It was standing-room only at the first symposium last spring in the College’s speaker series, “Becoming a Physician,” which examined issues in medical ethics. Over 350 pre-health students — pre-medicine, pre-nursing and pre-pharmacy — attended the discussion entitled “What Are the Ends of Medical Practice? Do the Ends Justify the Means?”

A total of 11 speakers were invited to present ideas and information on the field of bioethics. To kick off the series, Rabbi Eli Edel Dorff, dean of the University of Judaism, introduced the concept of being a good physician for the patient and the community.

Faculty News
Chemistry Honors
The 2005 Priestley Medal, the American Chemical Society’s highest honor, was awarded to George Olah, USC, Distinguished Professor and Donald P. and Katherine B. Loker Chair in Organic Chemistry. In recognition of the Nobel Prize-winning chemist, a cover story and feature article appeared in the March 14 issue of Chemical & Engineering News, the weekly news magazine of ACS.

Sociology and Feminism
Michael Messner, professor of sociology and gender studies, serves as the 2006 chair of the National Science Foundation Advisory Committee on Environmental Research and Education.

Collaborative Success
The U.S. Office of Naval Research awarded a five-year, $5-million multidisciplinary grant to USC scholars Dani Byrd, associate professor of linguistics, and Shri Nayarayan, associate professor of electrical engineering, linguistics and computer science, and their collaborators at Stanford and the University of Washington. The funding will support the project “Human-like Speech Processing.”

Triple Crown
Heather James, associate professor of English and comparative literature, has scored a triple crown win — she is the recipient of a senior American Council of Learned Societies Fellowship, a National Endowment of the Humanities Folger Shakespeare Library Fellowship, and a Huntington Library Research Fellowship.

Lehmann Medal
The American Geophysical Union awarded University Professor Tom Jordan, W. M. Keck Foundation Chair in Geological Sciences and professor of earth sciences, the Inge Lehmann Medal in recognition of outstanding contributions to the understanding of the structure, composition and dynamics of the Earth’s mantle and core.

LA’s Environmental History
As part of a new series on the environmental history of U.S. cities, history Professor Bill Deverell and Greg Hise, associate professor of urban planning and history, have co-authored Land of Sunshine: An Environmental History of Metropolitan Los Angeles (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2005).

Book Review
Political scientist John Barnes’ book Occurred? (Stanford University Press, 2004) was reviewed in Perspectives on Politics. It was called a “great example of persuasive social science research” by the flagship journal for reviews in political science.

English Honors
Carol Muske-Dukes, professor of English, was named one of four finalists for the California Poet Laureate.

Paleo Pop
Paleontologist David Botterj wrote an account of he and his colleagues’ remarkable 2004 discovery of the oldest fossils of a bilateral animal — animals that display bilateral symmetry and lived some 580 to 600 million years ago — in the August Scientific American magazine. The find pushed back the genesis of complex animal life by as many as 50 million years.

Anthropologist Sings on Chinese TV
Earlier this year, Eugene Cooper, a professor of anthropology who studies Chinese folk customs and trade fairs, plucked his guitar and sang two Chinese folk songs at Beijing television’s “Arts of Our Land” competition — a talent show featuring non-Chinese people performing Chinese skills. With over 100 million viewers tuned in, Cooper captured the audience’s imagination and earned him a special performance at the end of the show.
tured second place overall and the “audience favorite” awards.

### Obituaries

**Keilii Aki, earth sciences professor emeritus, 75**

Keilii Aki, leading seismologist of his era, died May 17 in La Réunion island in the Indian Ocean. In a career spanning a half-century, Aki published more than 200 papers and books and researched the important text, *Quantitative Seismology*. Among many honors, he was a member of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences and a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Aki was best known for his concept of the “seismic moment,” which he developed as a way to measure the size of earthquakes. Sometimes called an Aki moment, the seismic moment is a measure of the energy released during an earthquake.

In 1984, Aki came to USC College, where he was the W.M. Keck Foundation Chair of Geosciences until his retirement in 2000. In 1991, Aki led the creation of the Southern California Earthquake Center and served as its director until 1996.

**Ward Edwards, 77**, professor of psychology emeritus, who pioneered the field of behavioral decision research and received USC’s Distinguished Emeritus Award, died Feb. 1. Edwards was an authority on statistical decision analysis and behavioral decision research. He retired from USC in 1995 after a career that also included serving as director of the Social Science Research Institute from 1973 to 1995 and teaching at Harvard, Johns Hopkins and the University of Michigan.

**Dorothy Fisher Soura, 81**, research professor of marine biology emeritus, died March 5. She was actively researching the phylum Bryozoa until one week before her death. Although retired, she remained curator of Bryozoa at USC and served as director of the Harbors Environmental Projects.


**Henry A. Antosiewicz**, 79, professor of mathematics emeritus died Dec. 3, 2004. Antosiewicz was chair of the College mathematics department for many years during the 1970s. He was selected as the USC Outstanding Educator of 1973 in recognition of his distinguished service to education and the community.

**Allan Perham Casson**, 72, professor of English emeritus, was known nationally for his work to improve the quality of education for high school students and teachers. Casson specialized in English literature from the 19th century and the Renaissance. At USC from 1960 to 1987, he taught 35 different courses.

**Laurence “Larry” G. Thompson**, 80, professor of East Asian languages and cultures emeritus, died July 10 in Ventura. Born in China, Thompson pioneered the study of Chinese religion and wrote many of the texts fundamental to the field. A USC faculty member from 1965 to 1986, he was twice chair of East Asian languages and cultures and the first director of the College’s East Asian Studies Center.

**Gibson Reaves**, 81, an emeritus professor of physics and astronomy, died April 8. Reaves specialized in extragalactic research, focusing for the frst time that dwarf (underluminous) galaxies are the most abundant kind of galaxy in the universe. For the past decade, Reaves studied the Higuraiya families of asteroids and the history of astronomy, including Leonardo da Vinci’s drawings of the surface of the moon. He received the USC Associates Award for Excellence in Teaching in 1974.

**Robert T. Bobilin** (Ph.D., Philosophy, ’60), 80, founding director of the Institute for Peace at the University of Hawai‘i at Manoa and chair of that university’s department of religion, died Dec. 22, 2004. He was an ordained Methodist minister and authored the book *Resolution from Below: Buddhist and Christian Movement for Economic Justice*.


**Chester Clarence Chang**, 26, son of alumni Chester Chang Sr. (M.S., ’87), was shot and killed by an unknown assailant in Los Angeles on May 7. Chang Sr., a longtime USC supporter, is credited with his distinguished service to education and the community.

**Martin L. Gecht** (B.A., Zoology, ’41), 84, died Jan. 4. Gecht practiced medicine for more than 50 years, was a real-estate developer who built hotels in downtown Chicago, headed the boards of three banks in Chicago, and was an art collector.

of linguistics, for his seminal work on contrastive rhetoric and his 40 years of contributions to language education, policy and planning, academic writing and mentoring.

**USC College Hails Its Best**

USC College faculty members and students were honored at USC’s 24th annual Academic Convocation in March.

**2005 Presidential Medallion**

Kevin O. Starr, University Professor, professor of history and California State Librarian Emeritus, was awarded the university’s highest honor.

**2005 Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award**

Mathew Curtis, department of psychology. Curtis, a doctoral student in social psychology from Britain, has taught classes in statistics, research methods, social psychology, and drugs and human behavior.

**USC Associates Awards for Excellence in Teaching**

Alison Dundes Renteln, professor of political science, for the range of courses she teaches, her use of innovative teaching techniques and her supervision of independent student projects.

**USC Associates Awards for Creativity in Research and Scholarship**

Larry W. Swanson, the Milo Don and Lucille Appleman Professor of Biological Sciences and professor of biological sciences, psychology and neurology, for his pioneering work in the field of neuropsychiatry.

**Phi Kappa Phi Faculty Recognition Awards**


Paul F. Lerner, associate professor of history, for his book, *Hysteric Men: War, Psychiatry and the Politics of Trauma in Germany, 1890-1933*.

**USC Faculty Lifetime Achievement Award**

Robert B. Kaplan, emeritus professor of linguistics, for his seminal work on contrastive rhetoric and his 40 years of contributions to language education, policy and planning, academic writing and mentoring.

**Awards for Student Achievement**

**Wan Sonya Tang**, Spanish, and **Katherine Trefz**, history and political science, Emma Josephine Bradley Boyard Awards.

**Aarthy Kannappan and Rahul Kasukurthi**, biological sciences, Phi Beta Kappa Undergraduate Awards.

**Kenneth Baslin**, international relations, University Trustee Award.

**Phi Kappa Phi Student Recognition Awards**

**Rahul Kasukurthi**, biological sciences, for a research paper, “The ‘Great Game’ Revisited: The Afghan Pipeline Battles of the 1990s.”


**Melissa Rosen**, professional writing, for a screenplay, “The Hidden Equation.”

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Leitria Franklin, Administrator
Kathy Yoshitaka, Designer

USC College Magazine is published three times a year by the USC College of Letters, Arts & Sciences at the University of Southern California. Permission to quote or republish is given freely. Attribution to “USC College Magazine” is appreciated.

**Please send all correspondence to:**

USC College Magazine
P.O. Box 1491
Los Angeles, CA 90099-1491
pc@college.usc.edu
Straight to the Top
Goldman Sachs’ Suzanne Nora Johnson (’79) recalls Trojan days and the lessons that have helped her reach the top-rung in business

For Suzanne Nora Johnson, choosing USC over other first-rate universities was all about location, location, location.

Filled with hope and a desire to change the world, the then-18-year-old decided that the inner-city of Los Angeles was the place to be if she wanted to make a difference.

“It’s the seminal reason I went to USC,” recalled Johnson, who was born and reared in Chicago. “It was located in a vibrant community in the inner-city. The university had the geographic proximity and opportunity to be a partner in resolving issues such as economic development, improving educational opportunities and relations among different cultures.”

The 1979 graduate went on to become vice chair of one of the world’s largest investment banking firms, The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. Based in New York, the company has offices in 24 countries and 50 cities, and roughly 21,000 employees. Johnson, also director of the firm’s Global Investment Research Division, is among a handful of women who hold the very highest posts on Wall Street.

But Johnson has kept strong ties with her alma mater. She is a current USC trustee and College councilor. While a student, Johnson was involved with the College’s Joint Educational Project, a service-learning program that connects students and their families to create real change was to help families learn to support themselves financially.

“The thing that became very clear to me was the importance of developing an economic opportunity for parents,” Johnson said. “That’s the only way to really get results and provide stability within a community.”

These lessons can start young. One program Johnson developed entailed taking a group of Pico-Union children on a trip to Sacramento. The children who participated were responsible for raising the money to cover the costs.

“We taught them how to develop a simple financial statement,” she said. “It was pretty basic. We talked about a budget and how to stick to your budget with so little cash.”

The group was able to take the trip inexpensively by camping out and learned they could succeed with proper planning.

While a student, Johnson was involved with the College’s Joint Educational Project, a service-learning program that connects students and their academic courses with area schools, hospitals and organizations.

Student mentoring and volunteer work is crucial, Johnson said, but she hopes to see the program expand.

“Besides being mentors to the kids, I’d love to see JEP become an economic development resource for the community,” Johnson said. “Around the university.”

—Suzanne Nora Johnson, USC Trustee and USC College Councilor

After Johnson’s arrival at USC, she became acquainted with a priest in the Pico-Union neighborhood. Together, they developed programs that worked with low-income children and their families. She said she figured out early on that the only way to create real change was to help families learn to support themselves financially.

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