College offered its twelfth language—Hindi—through the linguistics department this fall. Language training fosters not only breadth of understanding, but also the ability to learn in unfamiliar cultural contexts.

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**Creativity in Action**

When it comes to creativity, USC College has the market cornered. In fall 2005, Antonio and Hanna Damasio, two eminent neuroscientists, will join USC as professors of psychology and neuroscience where they will lead a new institute devoted to the study of the brain and human creativity. Scholars have long researched how creativity can be taught and nurtured, but the Damascos have expanded the definition of “creative” to include some unexpected concepts.

“Creativity is not just about the creation of an art object, or a piece of music, or a film, or the creation of a scientific project, but also about the creation of social relations and of cultural institutions,” says Antonio Damasio. “People rarely associate these latter areas with creativity, but anytime we produce something new, be it an architectural drawing, classroom curriculum or a new approach to a business problem, the creative process is at work.”

Studying things like economics, education and governance from a neurobiological perspective has rarely been done. But pioneering something new, be it a concept, a research finding, or another best-seller, is what the Damascos are known for. Their professional careers have been steeped in creative moments. A distinguished physician, Antonio Damasio’s research on the neurobiology of the mind has had a major influence on our current understanding of the neural systems that underlie emotion, memory, language, decision-making and consciousness.

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**A Virtual World of Languages**

It’s noontime at the Language Center during finals week. Andrew Pick, a USC College junior majoring in East Asian Languages and Cultures, is typing a paper in Pinyin—a system for Romanizing Chinese ideographs—at one of the Center’s 55 computer workstations. He has been visiting the Center for a few years—first, to do his Spanish homework online and now, for the use of the Chinese language software.

The Center, housed on the third floor of the Mark Taper Hall of Humanities, offers facilities such as small group conversation rooms and interactive multimedia resources. One large room holds circular carrels of computers, with walls declaring “Hello” in several different languages. Above the computers, a plasma TV is showing a Korean soap opera, facing another flatscreen broadcasting CNN in Spanish. Outside in the hallway, two women wait on a couch to take their orals in French III, lazily watching a talk show on TV5, a global French-language television network.

There are currently eight languages in the College that can be taken as majors and minors—Spanish, French, Italian, Chinese, Japanese, German, Russian and Korean (in order of popularity). There are also courses available in Arabic, Hebrew and Portuguese. Due to student demand, USC College offered its twelfth language—Hindi—through the linguistics department this fall. Language training fosters not only breadth, of understanding, but also the ability to learn in unfamiliar cultural contexts.
Globalization Starts Here

I t used to be that students in search of an international perspective had one obvious choice: spend time abroad and experience another culture. With 40-somethings-abroad programs in 25 countries around the globe, the College certainly encourages overseas study. But that is only part of our strategy to provide students with the tools they need to excel in an interdependent world.

Because of our innovative programs and Pacific Rim location, students don’t have to travel far to learn how to thrive in the global marketplace of ideas and innovation. The surrounding city of Los Angeles is a microcosm of the entire planet—ethnically, politically, culturally, and architecturally. To gain an informed worldview, our students pursue research projects and participate in service learning outside of campus. For 80 years, our School of International Relations has helped students to thrive in foreign affairs, even creating programs to teach local high school students about international relations.

In October 2004, the USC Board of Trustees adopted a new strategic plan, a flexible road map to guide the university as it evolves over the next decade. The plan recognizes that our students and faculty need new skills to succeed in a world where cultures intermingle. ‘Take almost any department in the College today, examine its curriculum, and you will likely find a very international flavor. Why? Research that focuses on society’s problems is of necessity increasingly global. We can no longer choose among issues local or international; in most cases they are one and the same. That is why, an international perspective pervades every College department and program, where faculty and students converge to study issues that affect the entire world—global warming, terrorism, human health, ethnic and religious conflict, immigration, homelessness or urban planning.

At USC College, international learning doesn’t end in the classroom. One defining characteristic of our campus is a highly diverse cultural milieu. With the largest international enrollment of any U.S. university, our classrooms have become dynamic, interactive laboratories, where students truly have the world at their fingertips. They learn from conversations with their peers about different cultures, political systems and economic spheres.

Our outstanding academic and research programs, wonderfully diverse student body and Pacific Rim location enable us to deliver much more than a superb college education. These synergies create a multiplicity of opportunities so our students can live, flourish—and continue to learn—in whatever country they will call home in the 21st century.

Dean Aoun

Dean of USC College
Anna H. Bing Professor

BOARD OF COUNCILORS’ CORNER

Howroyd Gives $10 Million
Leading entrepreneur makes education a philanthropic priority

S pend just a few minutes speaking with Los Angeles entrepreneur Janice Bryant Howroyd and it becomes clear why the quality people most often associate with her is “inspirational.” Indeed, Essence magazine has featured Howroyd in its book, S of the Most Inspiring African Americans.

Recently appointed to the Board of Councilors, Howroyd has wasted little time in bringing her brand of inspiration to USC College. In January, Howroyd, founder and CEO of ACT-1 Personnel Services, pledged $10 million to the College.

“Janice Howroyd’s generous gift to student aid will provide access for students who could not otherwise afford a college education,” says College Dean Joseph Aoun. “Her exemplary achievements and dedication to support education will serve as a role model for all of us in the College community.”

“My gift is meant to support Dean Aoun’s vision of what USC College will become,” Howroyd says. “Under his dynamic leadership, I think the College has no set boundaries on what it can achieve.”

In her own career, Howroyd’s achievements have yet to reach any limit. Born in North Carolina, Howroyd began ACT-1 in 1978, opening a single office in Beverly Hills that focused on serving the entertainment industry. Today, ACT-1 is the largest certified woman-minority owned staffing agency company in the U.S. With branch offices located across the country, ACT-1 employs some 300 full-time workers and manages the placement of more than 65,000 temporary workers in the entertainment, technical, clerical, engineering, accounting, and professional services industries.

In the last five years, Howroyd has diversified her business, and in addition to the core human resources services, the ACT-1 Group now provides technical services, creative communications and travel services, and owns an accredited university geared toward working adults. ACT-1 also offers leading edge solutions through Agile-1, its workforce technology and management division, and through A-Check America, a background-check and drug-screening company. The ACT-1 Group was ranked as the largest African American-owned business in its category by Black Enterprise magazine in 2003 and projects more than $520 million in revenues in 2004.

Howroyd was the first African American to be named one of the 50 Leading Woman Entrepreneurs in the World by the Star Group and has received numerous other business and leadership awards. She is featured regularly in the national media and has written columns on business and other issues for a number of print and online publications.

With her gift to USC College, Howroyd is building an impressive record of supporting education. She has long supported scholarships and programs designed to encourage young people to pursue their educational goals. Last year she agreed to co-chair a $100 million capital campaign at her alma mater, North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University, and then pledged a gift of $10 million to the school, one of the largest alumni donations ever made to a historically black college or university.

When Howroyd’s children joined the Trojan spirit. She and her husband joined the USC Parents’ Council, which oversees the USC Parents’ Association. She also served as the honorary chair of the USC Black Alumni Association’s 26th Annual Alumni Awards and Scholarship Benefit.

To her, what makes USC stand out is how it combines strong academics with so many other student opportunities—a nationally prominent sports program, a diverse student body, a choice of social activities, politically active groups, and, something that Howroyd considers core to any well-rounded education, a strong commitment to community service.

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

—Eva Emerson

Dean Aoun

Howroyd


during a recent trip to Beverly Hills Press, Howroyd’s two children joined her at the College for the first time. "We had to show them around the campus, including our house, which is very close to campus," says Howroyd. "They are thrilled to be a part of the Trojan family."
Ribbon Cut on Dornsife Imaging Center


At the ceremony, USC President Steven B. Sample said, “This new facility will serve as an interdisciplinary catalyst for important scientific, medical and educational breakthroughs that will improve human health and well-being. The Dornsife’s investment of their family’s name, and their vision for what the research center will accomplish, are legacies that will last for generations.”

The new Dornsife Imaging Center will provide increased access for USC neuroscientists to the functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) system, which enables scientists to capture images of the human brain and its activity in exquisite detail.

Business executive David Dornsife, a USC trustee and vice president of the Hedco Foundation, also spoke before he and his wife, Dana, joined USC officials in cutting the red ribbon draped across the building’s entrance. “As part of the USC community, my family and I have experienced first-hand the benefit of the high-quality education and research provided by USC,” Dornsife said. “We’re confident USC will make major discoveries and strengthen its position as a major player in the field.”

The tremendous range of research projects that scientists will pursue at the Center include studies of the biological causes of violence and how ‘episodic memory’—the mental diaries of our lives—are produced and stored in the brain. Other projects will probe the neurological basis of dyslexia and how the brain processes the emotions of shame and guilt. Users are expected to include 30 faculty and more than 100 graduate students and postdoctoral researchers from a variety of academic units. The Center will be co-directed by Hanna Damasio. “Our hope,” said College Dean Joseph Aoun, “is that work undertaken at the facility will lead to new insights into the brain-based disorders and diseases that prove devastating for millions of Americans.”

—E.K.

Left to right: USC President Sample, Dana and David Dornsife, and Dean Aoun

Damasios continued from page 1

His work has shown that emotions play a central role in human decision-making. His books on the mind include Descartes’ Error: The Feeling of What Happens, and Looking for Spinoza: What Makes the Human Mind Unique. They are widely read by the lay public as well as by scientists.

Through basic research, medical case studies and philosophical analysis, he has investigated the biological roots of consciousness and helped to reveal its role in survival.

And there’s his equally creative wife Hanna Damasio, a neurologist and neuroscientist acclaimed for developing new brain imaging techniques and imaging methods in the study of brain lesions. She is the author of the first atlas of the brain based on computerized images, Human Brain Anatomy in Computerized Image. A second edition is due for release in early 2005. Her award-winning book Leuece Analysing the Mind is widely used in brain imaging work.

They came to USC from the University of Iowa College of Medicine, where Hanna Damasio directed the Laboratory for Human Neuronomany and Neuroimaging and developed a prominent research center dedicated to the investigation of language and other aspects of behavior and cognition. “The Damasios’ vision, scientific leadership and breadth of knowledge in modern neurology will allow us to ask and answer new questions about the human mind and behavior,” says Joseph Aoun, dean of the College. “They will be vital catalysts in our quest to unlock the mysteries of the mind and to better understand higher brain functions, including creativity, learning, memory, consciousness and language.”

Both Damasios are members of the American Academy of Arts & Sciences and graduates of the University of Lisbon Medical School; he is a member of the Institute of Medicine of the National Academy of Sciences. “USC College has the sort of vibrant academic environment where one can dream of brain science and the humanities coming together to produce a better future,” says Antonio Damasio, who will direct the USC Institute for the Study of the Brain and Creativity. The interdisciplinary Institute will examine how knowledge from modern neurology can contribute to the elucidation of the creative process and how such knowledge can assist individuals and institutions in the betterment of human affairs—namely through the resolution of human conflict and through education.

The core of the Institute will be a laboratory focused on mind and behavior. Hanna Damasio will direct the laboratory and work closely with the USC Dana and David Dornsife Cognitive Neuroscience Imaging Center, which will co-direct. “The Dana and David Dornsife Cognitive Neuroscience Imaging Center played a critical role in recruiting the Damasios,” says Aoun. “This is a perfect example of the transformational power individual giving can have on a program. Because of the Dornsife’s philanthropy, we are attracting first-rate neuroscientists to campus. The possibilities for exploration in this important area of research are practically limitless.”

“The new brain imaging methods offer unprecedented possibilities for the study of human nature,” she says. “But for those studies to succeed neuroscience must form partnerships with, for example, the social sciences, engineering and psychology. The structure and faculty of USC are ideal for such collaborations.”

The Institute will approach three themes from a neurobiological perspective.

By looking at the broad topic of governance, scientists will examine how social emotions contribute to the understanding of economic, business and political institutions, including their ethical dimensions in the age of globalization.

The theme of artistic and scientific creativity will analyze the creative process that goes into the production of films, music, literature, the visual arts and architecture. By approaching this area from a neuroscience standpoint, the Damasios may look at why some people are more creative in certain areas than others.

Under the theme of education, scientists will investigate how neuroscience can be applied to improve the way classroom curriculum is designed. By studying the learning process from a neurobiological perspective, they may glean new insights that teachers can then use to improve educational techniques and curriculum design.

Says Dean Aoun, “Because the study of the mind and human behavior does not fall within the domain of a single discipline, scholars from across the USC campus, from neurobiology, cognitive neuroscience, and the schools of cinema, education and communication, will be actively involved in this cutting-edge area of research that has important societal implications.”

— Nicole St.Pierre

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terrain. Explains Sarah Pratt, dean of academic programs and professor of Slavic languages and literature: “A new language, especially lan-
guage taught within the context of culture the way we do it here in the
College, lets a person see that things we take for granted are not necessarily
universal.”

Learning a new language broadens “the flexibility of mind to understand
how and why other people might not see things the same way we do,” Pratt adds.

The Language Center, which opened in 1997, is dedicated to help-
ing USC students learn languages and understand cultures from all areas of
the world, in line with the university’s vision to be a global institution with
international visibility and reach.

“How do we learn foreign lan-
guages?” Dan Bayer, executive
director of the Language Center asks rhetorically. “It’s not just about memo-
rising a system, or flash cards or
fill-in-the-blanks. It’s about your abili-
ty as a student to communicate in
a different language that gives a sense
of the other as opposed to self.”

Tech Support

Foreign language classes in the
College are becoming increasingly
teach-tech savvy. “Today, we not only have an array of formats in which to present
our courses,” says Danielle Mihran,
director of the Center for Excellence
in Teaching (CET) at USC and a
French lecturer in the College, “but
also a variety of learning environ-
ments—both real and virtual—in which to teach.”

She attributes the change in the in-
classroom experience to the enormous advances that have taken place in
media technology and the under-
standing of how people learn.

Problem-solving solutions based
on real-world problems are made possible through visualization and
modeling software in computer simulations. Electronic communica-
tions systems connect students to a vast array of information as well to
studying, evaluation and are graded through
Blackboard, a university-wide elec-
tronic course management system. On
Blackboard, students can see their
grades, view their classroom materials
and complete their homework assign-
ments. The teachers can keep track of
students who are logging on, tally how
many times they have attempted
workbook exercises and figure out
grading percentages.

“It used to be that the businesses and
journalism schools had all the technol-
ogy while we were whipping out our
overhead projectors,” says Fiéldes-
Vierna. “It’s nice to see language
instruction on par with other disci-
plines and it makes use of the skills
and capacities that our students
already possess.

Although some of the technological
advances seem obvious now, at the
time they were seen as radical. “It was
really a leap of faith,” says Bayer of
the Language Center. “If Dr. Vierna
had not taken the jump, languages
would not be as technologically capaci-
ted as they are today.”

Other departments are following suit. The Italian program is cooperat-
ing with the College Language Center to develop an online, multi-user com-
puter game, called the “Virtual Italian
Experience,” that will help guide stu-
dents through their first year of
classes. “The game begins in a virtual
USC classroom environment (based
on a room in the von Kleinsmid
Center). As learners progress, they travel virtually to Italy to broaden their
learning environment.

In separate projects, East Asian lan-
guages & cultures has developed a
first-level multimedia workbook and is developing a second-year multimedia
textbook to help students master the
Chinese language. Students will
work remotely to design and build
movies and films using technology to teach languages.

Lively animation and richer audio-
visual stimulation can make the learning more fun, less stressful and
more contextualized,” says Audrey Li,
director of the Chinese language pro-
gram, professor of KALC and an
integral force behind the multimedia
project. Or as Bayer simply states, using technology to teach languages
today “makes the online experience
more interesting for our students and
helps motivate them to succeed.”

—Katherine Yongmu Kim

A Fast Fact …

Aided by strong recruiting and an international base of
fiercely loyal alumni, USC for the third year in a row is
the nation’s leader in
enrolling foreign students.

International Learning

Spanish Instructors Sofia Ruiz-Alfaro (left),
and Claudia Soria

being detained at the U.S. border. And
they compare the sentiments of
gender characters in the post-Spanish
Civil War novel Vidaú with those of the
women in Picasso’s portraits.

This class—also known as Spanish
4, the most advanced level of Spanish
in the Basic Program at the
College—is a writing-and-reading
intensive course that introduces stu-
dents to themes in Hispanic cultures,
such as feminism, the Mexican
Revolution and immigration. A major
component of the class also involves
reviewing grammar skills. Soon, stu-
dents taking this course will be able to
view all of their materials and com-
plete all of their workbook exercises through an online, audio-visual, multi-
media reader.

Sofia Ruiz-Alfaro and Claudia Soria,
both full-time lecturers in the Depart-
ment of Spanish and Portuguese who
are also doctoral graduates of the pro-
gram, were awarded a 2004-05 grant
from the Fund for Innovative
Undergraduate Teaching through
CET for their reader project.

Currently, the class uses a tradi-
tional text and workbook, Avanzando,
for core reading and grammar. But the
two teachers found that the vocabu-
larly and the exercises in the
workbook did not reflect the thematic
areas that they wanted to teach. So
they incorporated comics, movies,
Dorm Life Goes Global

Parkside combines college living and international learning

On the third floor of the International Residential College at Parkside, three young women—freshman-year suitemates—are in their rooms, with the doors opened, studying for their finals. At first glance, their suite is much like others you would find in an American university—books and papers strewn across the floor, bunk beds, micro-wave ovens. But there is something very different about this living experience.

There are eight women who live in this suite: two are Indians born and raised in Thailand, there are from the United States, one is from Brazil, one is from the Dominican Republic and one is from Hong Kong. The three from the U.S. are African American, Korean American and Chinese American. Dipika Ratnaphat, a third-generation Indian Thai, is giving a tour of her suite, comparing Parkside to the international school she attended in Bangkok.

At Parkside, American and international students and faculty live together, eat together, speak each others' languages and learn about each others' religions and cultures. There are 680 students who live in the residential college, and over 25 percent are from other countries.

Ratnaphat, a USC College student majoring in Chinese (she is already fluent in Thai, Hindi, Punjabi and Spanish) and journalism, says that being so far away from home is a lot easier when there are so many others in the same boat. She spent Thanksgiving with the dorm's resident advisor. “It’s really added to my education. I’ve really benefited,” he says.

Global Living

Based on the British system of residential colleges—where faculty and students reside together on campus—Parkside opened in January 2002. There are currently three other residential colleges on campus—Binkley, North and New—but Parkside is the only one that has an overriding academic theme: to promote internationalization.

“We’re not just international students or majors,” says Dan Tauss, Parkside’s Area Director and USC College graduate student in international relations. “But we get the students interested in internationalization in some way.”

Each year, resident advisors (RAs) decorate their floors to represent a different country. A central lounge on the third floor of the suites has a closet, which when opened, reveals a washing station for religious ceremonies, such as Ramadan. The top floor of the Parkside Apartments, where residents have their own kitchens, has a Muslim theme on the north end and a Jewish theme on the south end.

The Collaborative Learning Center, a large study space on the first floor of the suites, holds vitrines of artifacts—wood carvings, instruments, fabrics—from around the world, donated by USC College alumn Helen Donegan. Each week, international language groups, led by a fluent speaker, are held in the common room for those who want to practice their conversation skills.

The groups are offered in Chinese, Vietnamese, French, Korean, Spanish, Turkish, Japanese, Taiwanese, Farsi, Arabic and Russian.

A Real Influence

USC University Professor Michael Waterman, USC Associates Chair in Natural Sciences, is in his second year as Faculty Master at Parkside. “One of the goals,” he explains, “is to form a community that includes the students and the faculty.”

On Tuesday nights, he holds a Masters Dinner in the Senior Commons Room. A door that is attached to the cafeteria is opened up so that students can go and get their dinners, and come sit on the chairs and couches in the Commons Room to hear a presentation. “The topics vary from politics to art to climate change to films,” Waterman says.

On Wednesday evenings, he hosts a small dinner—limited to 12—of Parkside residents. “I drive off-campus and bring some ethnic food for the dinner: Thai, Cuban, Oaxacan, Italian,” he details. “Students help me set the table, serve the food and clean up after.” It is an opportunity for me to interact more closely with the students and I have greatly enjoyed these evenings.

David Schwartz, a professor of genetics and chemistry at the University of Wisconsin, was recently a guest at one of these dinners. He was moved by the openness and intimacy of the conversation. “I truly believe that these dinners that Professor Waterman is hosting do change a student’s perception of the university in many wonder-fully positive ways,” Schwartz wrote. “I wish I had such an opportunity when I was a college student.”

Other USC College professors live at Parkside:

Stephen Ludman, professor of anthropology, is a senior faculty resident; Ricardo Ramirez, assistant professor of political science and American studies & ethnicity, and Mitch Earlewine, associate professor of psychology, live in the suites with their families.

The Best Place To Live

Nitin Sharma, from Ludhiana, India, has been an RA at Parkside for three years. He is explaining two programs at the dorm: Reel World Dinners and Reel L.A. The Reel World dinners occur several times a semester and focus on a different culture each time, with speakers, films, and food. Reel L.A. is an annual springtime documentary-making competition, where students are given cameras and sent to an ethnic neighborhood in Los Angeles to film and edit their projects on Saturday, to be screened and judged on Sunday night.

“Others see this as the best dorm on campus,” says Sharma, a senior majoring in economics and math, and computer science. “One of the reasons is that it’s the nicest place to live.”

“I feel very lucky,” he says of his experience at Parkside. “I’ve had so many advantages—the types of people I’ve had the opportunity to interact with. Different passions, different backgrounds and international interests. The ways in which I’ve gotten to know a good number of faculty who either live here or are associated with Parkside, or come here to lecture. I’ve really benefited,” he says happily. “It’s really added to my educational experience.”

—J.Y.K.
International Learning

80 Years of International Relations

Largest undergraduate program in the country celebrates anniversary

The Los Angeles University of International Relations (LAUIR) was chartered on April 30, 1924, to “furnish opportunities for the training of statesmen for the consular and diplomatic service, business men for commerce and business administration, of politicians for world service, and of teachers for departments of world affairs in the colleges and universities.”

Four years later, the USC Board of Trustees arranged for an official affiliation between the LAUIR and the university, with shared faculty, libraries and school requirements—the origins of the USC College of International Relations (SIR).

Today, the school is the largest undergraduate International Relations program in the country. There are several joint programs in the IR department, such as the Global Business major with the Marshall School of Business, or the Global Communication minor with the Annenberg School of Communication.

The school, says director and professor Steve Lamy, “is committed to creating academic programs that prepare our undergraduate and graduate students for leadership positions around the world.”

The following photos highlight the history of international relations at USC on the occasion of the 80th Anniversary of the SIR.

Teaching to Learn

TIRPers teach IR in local high schools

The comments from student volunteers at USC’s Teaching International Relations Program (TIRP) play like a broken, albeit cheerful, record: “The funny thing I’ve found,” they all say in one way or another, “is that through teaching international relations, I actually learn the concepts even better.”

The brainchild of Professor Steven Lamy, director of the USC College School of International Relations, TIRP was founded over a decade ago in the USC College School of International Studies (CALIS), the organization that oversees TIRP.

TIRP was founded over a decade ago in the USC College School of International Studies (CALIS), the organization that oversees TIRP.

“TIRP is truly student-run,” says Teresa Hudock, director of the USC Center for Active Learning in International Studies (CALIS), the organization that oversees TIRP.

The value of TIRP for the program’s volunteers becomes clear in a classroom 10 miles north of USC’s campus: three TIRPers look on as groups of high school students role play nation-states.

One TIRPer warns a group acting as globalization, also relate directly to the daily lives of high school students. “Part of our goal is to show students how multinational organizations and international policies affect their everyday lives,” says Devyn Llopis, a freshman majoring in IR and a TIRP program coordinator.

Engaging the students on such accessible topics is invaluable, and often proves one of the most fruitful ways both sets of students learn. “In one session, a student from El Salvador volunteers in one of TIRP’s Spanish language courses for immigrants where she finds that these high schoolers frequently share anecdotes or experiences that relate directly to the material at hand. Last year, the program served over 200 Spanish-speaking high school students. However, it is the more than 200 USC undergraduate volunteers who teach weekly in the classrooms that are most often surprised by the benefits they reap.

IR major Kristen Taylor says that volunteering for TIRP has made her more actively engage her mind with topics and concepts covered in her classes at USC. “I am thrilled to have the ability to share what I’ve been learning, because I’ve realized that the best way to learn about something is to teach it to others,” she says.

The span of topics covered, such as globalization, also relate directly to the daily lives of high school students. “Part of our goal is to show students how multinational organizations and international policies affect their everyday lives,” says Devyn Llopis, a freshman majoring in IR and a TIRP program coordinator.

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The span of topics covered, such as globalization, also relate directly to the daily lives of high school students. “Part of our goal is to show students how multinational organizations and international policies affect their everyday lives,” says Devyn Llopis, a freshman majoring in IR and a TIRP program coordinator.

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“From Pakistan to USC”—Pakistani civil servants, in the U.S. to learn “administrative know-how,” were aided by a special program developed for them at USC in 1958. As they posed (above) in front of USC’s YWCA building prior to a reception, they were briefed on the ways of the university by Robert Berliner, professor of International Relations and Public Administration.

“Foreign Flavor”—The number of international students attending USC grew dramatically in the ‘60s when the university boasted more than 1,200 enrolled. That figure paled as the years passed and by the late 1970s, USC counted more than 3,000 students representing 108 nations. Photo shows dance by international students on a Doheny lawn platform in 1962.

“The Biggest”—Today, the School of International Relations has the largest number of undergrads in the country. This year, 635 students majored in IR, with an additional 65 majoring in IR (Global Business). There are also 78 minors and 75 graduate students in the joint masters and Ph.D programs. Above, Director and Professor Steve Lamy (left) and his Spring 2003 class in “Foreign Policy Analysis”, pose with with guest speaker, the Honorable Warren Christopher (center), former U.S. Secretary of State and a USC alumnus.

Where Are They Now?

Graduates of the College’s School of International Relations have held leadership positions throughout the world. Here are a few of their accomplishments:

Ghazi Algosaibi (BA, 1965), Saudi Arabian ambassador to Kuwait.

Santiago Angarita (BA, 1951), served as Colombia’s consul general in several American cities.

Warren Christopher (BA, 1945), the 63rd Secretary of the United States.

Josefina Coto (BA, 1951), first woman to enter the Mexican foreign service.

J.D. Crouch (Ph.D., 1987), Deputy National Security Advisor to the United States.

Larry Bernard Cy (MA, 1985), Montana house of representatives.

Festus Higero (MA, 1968), member of Ugandan parliament.

Genta Hawkins Holmes (BA, 1962), former U.S. ambassador to Australia (Clinton administration).

Steve Hubler (MA, 1985), U.S. regional refugee coordinator at the U.S. embassy in Ethiopia.

Young Hoon Kang (MA, 1966, Ph.D., political science, 1968), former Prime Minister of Korea.

Antonio de Lago (MA, 1953), Brazilian ambassador.

Sandra Lee (MA, 2003), Fulbright scholar for the study of Arabic at American University, Cairo.

Hussein Nabulsi (BA, 1954), manager of the Arab World Bank, Damascus.

Richard Perle (BA, 1964), chairman of the Defense Policy Board and close adviser to Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld.


Claude Ross (BS, 1939), U.S. Ambassador to the Central African Republic, Haiti and Tanzania.

Earle Seaton (MA, 1961), Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Seychelles; after retiring, served on the bench in Uganda.

Fast Facts…

USC College offers 40 semester- and year-abroad programs in 23 countries around the world. Each year, more than 350 College students spend a semester or more studying overseas.

In 2005, the College’s School of International Relations will host its first annual undergraduate research conference. Called “Challenges to World Order” the conference will focus on issues related to international security.
The tale of global climate change follows the same general plot line as the archetypal cautionary fable of the Tragedy of the Commons, but writ large. In this case, the commons is global and the shared resource that all depend on is a complex system ruled by multiple factors and numerous feedback loops—the planet’s very climate and ecosystem.

Just as nature doesn’t recognize the sovereignty of nations, environmental problems do not stop at international borders. That makes coming up with solutions to global environmental issues especially challenging, but also critical in an increasingly interdependent world.

“Climate change is among the foremost issues facing the world today. It’s been a quagmire,” says Sheldon Kamieniecki, a professor of political science at USC College and one of the country’s leading scholars of environmental policy and global environmental issues.

But some things are changing. After more than seven years of negotiations, the Kyoto Protocol, an agreement to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases linked to global warming signed by more than 30 industrialized nations—but not the United States—goes into effect Feb. 16, 2005. Last November, the international Arctic Council published a report with irrefutable evidence of the observable effects of global warming now hitting the Arctic region.

In December, the United Nations sponsored the 10th international meeting on climate change, which was attended by more than 150 nations, and where top environmental officials began to talk about beginning negotiations to take the next steps to further curb emissions. Plus, some businesses, long opposed to any climate change-related regulations, have begun to join in efforts to address the issue, or at least have stopped trying to argue whether climate change is real or not, Kamieniecki says. “To this day, however, climate change remains the most contentious issue within the U.S. environmental policy arena,” Kamieniecki writes in his soon-to-be-published book Corporate America and Environmental Policy: Does Business Always Get Its Way? (Stanford University Press, 2005). He devotes an entire chapter to how the debate on climate change over the last two decades has been heavily influenced by business lobbyists, including utilities, the oil and gas industry, the auto industry and agricultural interests.

“It’s quite clear from looking at the success of the fossil fuel industry in keeping the issue [of how to regulate the emission of greenhouse gases] outside of public debate, that business interests have had enormous power in setting environmental policy in the U.S. in the last decade,” Kamieniecki says.

The result has been that very little actual policy has been enacted in the United States, and that the U.S., despite being the largest emitter of carbon dioxide, has refused to ratify the Kyoto Protocol.

“They blocked the issue from ever getting onto the formal agenda, by shifting the nature of the debate from how to respond to whether there is even a problem and questioning the quality of the scientific research that shows global warming is taking place,”

However, Kamieniecki points out that perception of global climate change has shifted. Recently, a handful of Fortune 500 companies who previously supported efforts to refute climate change science and policy, such as Ford, General Motors, Texaco, Daimler Chrysler and DuPont, have left the lobbying organization formed for that purpose. Other large corporations—including Boeing, IBM, DuPont, Royal Dutch/Shell, BP, Alcoa, Intel, PG&E and Toyota—have joined with the Pew Center on Global Change to promote responsible corporate leadership in climate change issues.

Scientists have shown that carbon dioxide and other gases in the atmosphere promote balance temperatures on the Earth through the greenhouse effect, but that excessive emissions of the gases from vehicles and industry are driving at least part of the current global warming trend.

Anthony Michaels, professor of biological sciences, says that the key questions right now on global climate change are political, not scientific. “It’s unambiguous that the Earth’s climate is warmer now and that part of this is due to human influence. This is no longer primarily an issue of science,” says Michaels, director of the USC Wrigley Institute for Environmental Sciences, who studies this movement of carbon dioxide between the oceans and the atmosphere.

Beyond confirming the role of the nanoplankton in the marine nitrogen cycle, Capone’s study has broader implications for understanding the movement of carbon dioxide between the oceans and the atmosphere.

“This amount of fixed nitrogen provides a substantial boost to marine life, supplying the key nutrient for new biological growth equal to about 10 percent of the total global marine biomass. The greater the biomass, the more carbon dioxide is removed from the atmosphere.

Michaels predicts that scientists still have a key role to play in the plan laid out in the Kyoto Protocol to create a market-based strategy to control emissions by creating a global “cap and trade” system, with nations able to buy and sell credits for carbon dioxide emissions. “For the system to work, it will need verification mechanisms and careful monitoring. That’s something we can do very well,” he says.

For his part, Kamieniecki sees the need for political scientists and natural scientists to work together on the global climate change issue.

“Together, I think we can accomplish a lot.”

--E.J.

A Fast Fact... The USC Center for High Performance Computing now ranks as the seventh-fastest in the world among supercomputers in academic settings.

The Blue Planet: National boundaries disappear when Earth is viewed from a satellite flying 700 km above the planet. PHOTO COURTESY OF NASA GODDARD SPACE FLIGHT CENTER

The Global Commons
Climate change considered from both political and scientific perspectives

This is a policy issue.”

Beside Business Always Get Its Way?

Corporate America and Environmental Policy:

USC College of Letters, Arts & Sciences
Spring 2005
CRCC Zeros in on Africa
Scholars conduct research to aid organizations in Armenia, Tanzania and Rwanda

Faculty, students and researchers working with the USC College Center for Religion and Civic Culture (CRCC) certainly are not homebodies. Research projects conducted through CRCC have taken these scholars to locales as diverse as Tanzania, Brazil, India, Armenia, Rwanda and Romania.

Although CRCC, founded in 1996, initially focused almost exclusively on documenting the civic role of religion in Los Angeles, the Center quickly found itself a more global enterprise. And though local projects remain of equal importance, the scope and applicability of international research could not be ignored by this team of College researchers. So what is the common bond between these once local and now increasingly global projects?

“Action research,” says Grace Dyrness, CRCC’s director of community research and development. This practical approach to scholarship, which can also be dubbed applied research, sends scholars out into the field not only to conduct academic studies, but also to use their research to provide feedback to their project’s subjects. Ultimately, the goal is to offer recommendations to civic leaders and groups who can then apply the findings in their various local settings.

“This is profound pragmatism at a philosophical level,” says Dyrness. Donald Miller, director of CRCC and the Leonard K. Firestone Professor of Religion, agrees. “We’re connecting theory with practice.” This shared connection is the driving sentiment in two recent CRCC research projects. Both projects, though conducted on separate continents, looked at the role of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in local communities.

The first, funded by the Templeton Foundation of the Philadelphia-based Metanexus Institute and led by Dyrness, Miller and recent sociology doctoral graduate Gregory Staniczak, analyzed the lives of staff members working with a faith-based NGO, World Vision International (WVI). With research conducted in Tanzania and Rwanda, the team looked at the role of this NGO in an individual’s spiritual transformation and the benefits of spirituality for organizational participation and efficacy. As much of WVI’s work in sub-Saharan Africa is to alleviate the impact and spread of HIV/AIDS, the CRCC research findings are both urgent and necessary.

For the project, the CRCC team conducted over 150 interviews. “It’s truly amazing to see the impact of this NGO in the community,” says Dyrness. In the end, the project’s researchers intend for the findings of this NGO in the community to offer “best practice models” to NGOs conducting work in the area. Dyrness believes that these models will portray to NGOs how to capitalize on the assets of a community and how to leverage those assets to create positive change.

“AIDS, the CRCC research findings are both urgent and necessary. The research findings will also, once completed, be presented in the form of “best practice models” to NGOs in those two nations. Yet, at the heart of all this applicable world research is a common ground in Los Angeles that CRCC-affiliates are proud to call their scholarly home.

“CRCC provides a great community where individuals with similar research interests can gather and talk about common methodological and theoretical issues,” says Fisher. “The most valuable aspect of CRCC is its human capital—the creative minds that gather regularly to foster a sense of academic community centered around the world study of religion.”

A similar interdisciplinary project connecting CRCC with the USC School of Policy, Planning and Development as well as the College departments of religion, political science and sociology, examined how faith-based NGOs impact the development process in Romania and Armenia—countries that are both in a period of great transformation. Tim Fisher, a Ph.D. student in sociology in the College, helped conduct the research in Armenia. “Faith-based NGOs are restoring a middle layer of society that was underdeveloped—and in many cases, non-existent—in Soviet times,” he says of the project’s findings. “They’re helping communities organize and create associations where people can begin to address their own needs with available resources.”

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Beginning in March, the Fisher administrators, placing them in prestigious institutions, the program has graduated more than 50 students. Their chosen identities as museum professionals allow them to immediately assume careers in the increasingly complex universe of art museums.

The Next Chapter in Museum Studies

As one program ends, a global beginning emerges. Over the passage of a quarter century as a formal program, the USC Museums Studies Program has developed into one of the finest training programs in the country for students entering curatorial, educational and administrative careers in the increasingly complex universe of art museums.

Armed with a master's degree in art history from USC College and intensive exposure to the pragmatics of the art museum world, students have found themselves prepared to enter the museum field with an array of intellectual and practical skills along with the cultural values that allow them to immediately assume their chosen identities as museum professionals.

Under the direction of USC College Art History Professor and Fisher Gallery Director Selma Holo, the program has graduated more than 100 museum curators, educators and administrators, placing them in prestigious museums around the country. Beginning in March, the Fisher Gallery will host the USC Freeman Fellows Internship Program's final exhibition organized by a group of five student curators. Called "Invisible Desires," the exhibition was curated from the Fisher Gallery's 20th century collection and includes a captivating assortment of conflicting styles, movements and media.

The final graduating class searched for a hamburgers bun, I mentioned that the patties would be one-third of a pound. You can imagine my surprise when I came into the office the next day only to find one-third pound buns at my desk!" says Stone, a junior political science major from Houston, Texas. "I was excited for the challenge," she says Stone, interning in Shanghai as a Freeman Fellow. "I have found myself prepared to enter the museum field with an array of intellectual and practical skills along with the cultural values that allow them to immediately assume their chosen identities as museum professionals.

Collaborations are being formed with local institutions such as the Getty's Museum Leadership Institute, the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History, the Huntington Botanical Gardens, the Skirball Cultural Center, L.A. County Museum of Art, the Japanese-American Museum and the Museum of the West at the Autry National Center. The next level, says Holo.

Great Expectations

Interning in Asia teaches more than career skills

On her first day in Shanghai, Tiffany Stone was shown an empty site in a mall and told that by the end of two months she was expected to make the space a fully operating restaurant with a Formula One auto-racing theme. "I was excited for the challenge," says Stone, a junior political science major from Houston, Texas.

Stone, interning in Shanghai as a USC Freeman Fellow, was one of 18 USC undergraduates sent by the USC Freeman Fellows Internship Program to live and work in Asia for the summer. The program, which annually sends up to two-dozen USC undergraduates to Asia, hopes to teach participants cross-cultural skills while also allowing them the chance to test out career options. It is not uncommon for more than half of the fellows to be College majors.

"The students we send on the program are globally minded world citizens," says Janette Brown, associate director in USC's career planning and placement center. "True to form, the students often take on a diplomatic role in their assigned offices. While at work on her restaurant project, Stone was taught about cultural miscommunications first hand. "I learned that in business in a foreign country, always explain things twice," she recalls. "When talking to a baker about the specifications for a hamburger bun, I mentioned that the patties would be one-third of a pound. You can imagine my surprise when I came into the office the next day only to find one-third pound buns at my desk!"

Junior Freeman Fellow Amanda Weiss, an East Asian languages and cultures major from Glenview, Illinois, had similar experiences in Taiwan. "Losing your ability to make yourself understood is frightening," she says. "One woman couldn't understand a thing I said in Mandarin, making me very self-conscious. I eventually overcame this fear, but it was a battle."

Because of the success of the Freeman program, in 2004 USC started the Mexico Summer Internship Program, which is funded in part by the USC Center for International Business Education and Research. This past summer the program sent 11 students to intern in various industries in Mexico City; eight were College majors.

"The Mexico program reinforced my interest in the environment and Latin America," says senior intern Amanda Weiss, who interned at the Mexican Mural of the Environment. "I now hope to involve both in my post-graduation plans."

Through both programs, the students not only learn about a given industry, but also to test their personal boundaries.

By the end of the summer, Stone's fully serviceable Formula One restaurant was one such accomplishment. "I overcame the creation of everything from the uniform for the wait-staff, to the décor, to the menu," she says. "And in the process, I also realized my own powers of adaptability and strength."

---K.S.
Seeking Cultural Clues in Vietnam

A professor and student trace the roots of a global religion

In many ways, the little known religion of Caodai seems the ultimate product of California’s New Age movement: In a painting of the official pantheon, Buddha hovers over Lao Tse, Jesus Christ and Confucius, with the Chinese goddess of mercy, Quan Am, sitting to the left. Caodai espouses vegetarianism, meditation, gender equality and tolerance of all the world’s religions. Its teachings come from divine messages, often written in verse received in séances by spiritual mediums.

But this inclusive religion is actually a product of a completely different cultural and historical milieu—that of 1920s French Indochina. And while Caodai wasn’t born in California, like the Vietnamese immigrants who first brought its teachings to the U.S., it is starting to prosper here.

USC College’s Janet Hoskins, a professor of anthropology and South East Asian scholar, and her former student Vy-Uyen “Judy” Cao (’04) have studied Caodai, its growth in California and the contrasts in how it’s practiced here and in Vietnam. The research project literally has taken them around the world, from suburban Pomona and the Silicon Valley to southern Vietnam.

From its inception, Caodai has envisioned itself as a global religion, says Hoskins. Created in 1926, Caodai seeks to unite East and West in a universal faith. Its tenets blend the Asian philosophies and religious traditions of Buddhism, Daoism and Confucianism with Roman Catholicism, humanism and other European ideals. Among the best known saints are Chinese leader Sun Yat-sen, Vietnamese poet and prophet Triang Trinh and French author and humanist Victor Hugo.

“In some ways it was a concept ahead of its time,” says Hoskins. “Now the leaders believe the world may be more receptive to their message of unity.”

Caodai in California

There are now 26 Caodai temples in California, with the largest congregations in Orange County and near San Jose. The community has started building a replica of Caodai’s most important temple in Riverside, and has hopes to build meditation and study centers to attract more interest from the English-speaking community.

Hoskins discovered the resurgence of the Caodai movement in California by chance. She saw what looked like a small temple in a converted suburban house in Pomona, about “five minutes from the house I grew up in,” she says. Hoskins approached Gao, then a senior psychology major, to take part in her new study because she needed someone who could speak and translate Vietnamese to help with her interviews of Caodaiists. Through interviews, Hoskins and Gao began to gather a better view of the religion from its own followers, including temple elders, younger members and a few American converts, most notably a Vietnam War Veteran.

“We’re trying to come up with a personal view of a religion that has been in America for more than 20 years now, but that few know about outside of the Vietnamese communi-
ty,” says Gao.

Journey to Vietnam

In July of last year, Hoskins and Gao flew to Saigon, now called Ho Chi Minh City, to visit the major temples of Caodai. Despite repression by the Vietnamese socialist government, Caodai is the third largest religion in the country, with an estimated 5 million followers and some 1,300 temples in South Vietnam alone.

From Ho Chi Minh City, they traveled to Tay Ninh, the town where Caodai was founded and home of the largest and most important Caodai temple. Brightly painted—called “the kind of temple Walt Disney might have built for Fantasyland” by The Lonely Planet Guide to Vietnam and “a congregation of kitsch” by journalist Ron Gluckman—and a growing tourist attraction, the Tay Ninh temple is comparable to the Vatican in its importance to followers.

On the trip, they interviewed 20 Caodaiists. Hoskins says that many people told them that Caodai had survived a difficult time since the fall of Saigon in 1975, but that new temples are being built and the older ones renovated. “Interest in religion is increasing all over Vietnam, and tourism has helped Caodai because the Tay Ninh temple is the second largest tourist attraction in South Vietnam,” she says.

“One of the most interesting things was to see the different sects of Caodai, which had branched off from the original over the last 80 years,” says Hoskins. “The California community is so much smaller, that they tend to emphasize the similarities between the branches. In Vietnam, the differences are much clearer.”

On the negative side, in Vietnam spirituality and séances are illegal and new regulations that took effect last November make it illegal for people to discuss religion on the Internet, Hoskins says.

Hoskins, Gao and USC sophomore Bao-Viet Nguyen, who is now working with Hoskins, are preparing a paper on their work for a February conference on Religion, Immigration and Social Justice organized by USC’s Center for Civic and Religious Culture. In April, they will present at a UC Riverside conference marking 30 years since the fall of Saigon.

—K.E.
Historian to examine cultural identity, oral narratives and fairy tales

Myung Choi is telling a story. A legend, to be exact, on the origin of the Korean people.

“There are this godly figure, Hwanung,” she narrates. “He wanted to come down and rule the human world.” She pauses to shift focus. “Actually, the story is about a tiger and a bear who want to become humans.”

Choi (M.A., East Asian Languages and Culture, 04) is a first-year doctoral student in history at USC College. Her master’s thesis applied the Russian theory of “saranatology” to Korean folk tales and Chinese ghost stories.

“The tiger and the bear have to stay in a cave for three months eating only garlic and mugwort,” she continues. “The tiger, being more masculine, runs out after ten days and loses his opportunity to become human. The bear endures the test, becomes a woman and marries Hwanung. From that, Korean people came forth.”

A Fast Fact …

USC’s Korean Heritage Library has emerged as one of the six leading Korean collections in North America, with impressive holdings of more than 46,000 books, 1,600 serials, 1,500 video cassettes and DVDs, 2,330 reels of microfilm, and 240 maps (including 180 rare maps).

East Meets and Greets West

The President of the Republic of Korea Roh Moo-Hyun and First Lady Kwon Yang-Suk recently met with USC President Steven B. Sample and USC College Dean Joseph Aoun. The visit provided an opportunity to discuss USC’s Korean Studies Institute and the Ahn Chang Ho Family House, a recently renovated historical structure located near the USC Korean Heritage Library. The Ahn House, which was once home to celebrated Korean educator and independence activist Dosan Ahn Chang Ho, will soon house the College’s Korean Studies Institute along with exhibits of artifacts that belonged to Ahn and those of significant importance to the Korean community. Also in attendance at the Los Angeles meeting were three children from the Ahn family.

At USC College, Choi’s scholarship has honed in on the Southland region. She is planning to do her Ph.D. dissertation on the Korean community in Los Angeles. More than a quarter million Koreans live in the Southern California-metropolitan area, with over 90,000 in Los Angeles alone.

“Myung plans to study Korean immigrant culture within the larger context of U.S. Western and urban histories,” says professor of history Phil Ethington, Choi’s advisor. “Most students of urban immigrant communities have taken a social history approach, but Myung Choi’s approach is intensely cultural, in a very learned way.

“Her biculturalism,” Ethington adds, “having grown up in Korea and yet having become a U.S. citizen a decade ago, gives her a remarkable ability to explicate the transnational cultural currents.”

Choi explains that there is no other place for her to study than Los Angeles. “L.A. is the best place to study Koreans and Korean Americans,” she explains. “I live here. USC has great resources and is so close to the Korean community. I don’t have to look far for my interviews or cultural resources.”

As 2004 marks the centennial of Korean American immigration, Choi hopes to trace back to the first Koreans who landed in Hawaii as sugar cane plantation workers at the beginning of the century. Through research and interviews, she hopes to discover what attracted Koreans to Los Angeles in the 1920s and how the Koreatown community grew in the following decades.

“I want to try to see how these stories and experiences are passed on to the next generation,” she says, lamenting the loss of culture in younger Korean Americans. She adds that she is sad that folk tales and legends are not being passed down.

Through recapturing stories, Choi hopes to give the younger generation some kind of cultural bedrock and to educate others on her community. “I want to do this research to tell people, ‘This is who we are,’” she explains. “That this is our experience as immigrants in the United States.”

—K.Y.K.
Network Across Borders

USC neuroscientists link up with Mexico's National University

Larry Swanson may be best known for his anatomic studies of the brain networks that control hunger, thirst, sleep and other basic drives, and how these behaviors are influenced by emotions. But, over the past few years, he has turned his eye to a different kind of network, one made up not by neurons but by the scientists and graduate students who study the brain.

What began as a single collaborative project between Swanson and Mexican neurobiologist Jorge Lariva has grown into a partnership that links neuroscientists at USC and the prestigious Neurobiology Institute of Mexico's National University (the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México or UNAM) located in Juriquilla, about 100 miles north of Mexico City.

This November, eight graduate students and a number of leading scientists from Mexico, including Lariva and the Institute's director, Carlos Arámburo, traveled to USC to participate in the 12th annual Provost's Neuroscience Symposium. From left (front row): Professors and students from Mexico's Institute of Neurobiology at UNAM, according to Swanson, rivals the Salk Institute in San Diego and one of the world's foremost research centers in molecular biology. A trip like this provides an excellent opportunity for our students to meet renowned scientists, the people whose work is in textbooks and is discussed in journal clubs. Students are exposed to critical discussions about their research and gain a broader perspective on the international neuroscience community.

"More important than any individual collaboration, the relationship between our Institute and USC allows students and researchers to make new connections," says Arámburo. "A trip to USC has shaped some of these outcomes. The notion that all boats rise together can't possibly be true," Wise says. "By definition, integration means there are winners and losers. So this project is a balanced assessment and an attempt to explain what has produced these patterns." Steve Lamy, director of the College's School of International Relations says that Wise's scholarship is "first-rate" and that her research has brought a great deal of attention to USC.

In February, Wise departed for Ottawa, where she will hold the Fulbright Chair of North American Studies at Carleton College. The U.S. Department of Education awarded her the Fulbright-Hays Senior Faculty Award and she will use it to complete her research in the fall at the Universidad de los Americas in Puebla, Mexico. —K.Y.K.
International Learning

Global Scientist
In conversation with Nobel Laureate George A. Olah

Since 1977, Nobel Laureate George A. Olah and his colleagues at the Loker Hydrocarbon Research Institute have pioneered a global network of science, with a “scientific family” that now spans six continents. Olah, the Donald P. and Katherine B. Loker Chair in Organic Chemistry and Distinguished Professor of Chemistry, emigrated from Hungary in the 1950s to become one of the world’s pre-eminent scientists.

Q: Has science become more internationalized in recent years?

A: Science is and has always been an international enterprise. You know, there is no separate American science or German science or Indian science. A scientific finding doesn’t stop at national boundaries. The Internet and other electronic means allow instant communication between scientists all around the world and these have been of tremendous advantage.

Q: Why do you think so many budding chemists come to USC to start their careers in science?

A: We have always been an international group at the Loker. Our graduate students and postdoctoral fellows came from all over. They came here because of the work we were doing—it’s similar that if you want to become a conductor, and you want to enhance your career, you go to study with one of the leading conductors of the world.

Q: For many years, scientists left their native countries to train, and often remained in the U.S., leading to what was called the “brain drain.” Now, people are talking about “brain gain.” Are more scientists returning to their native countries than in the past?

A: During the second half of the 20th century, the U.S. became the leading scientific power in the world and it still is. The U.S. has a very strong base in science and technology, and has created an atmosphere that helps scientists to live up to their potential. Things are, however, changing. As possibilities to pursue science in other countries improve, I think more people who study here will go home.

Many countries are acquiring the same level of facilities we have. Facilities in Germany, Japan, etc. for example, are quite comparable to the U.S. now, and in some cases even better. The leading role of the U.S. in the sciences is not something that will automatically last forever.

Q: How has the international reputation of USC changed during your tenure here?

A: In October, the Loker Institute and the chemistry department held a symposium and dinner to honor George A. Olah on the 10th anniversary of his receiving the Nobel Prize in Chemistry. In attendance were a few who accompanied Olah to the official Nobel ceremony held in Stockholm in 1994, including (from left) chemist G.K. Surya Prakash of USC College; chemist Peter Stang of the University of Utah; Olah; and philanthropist Katherine Loker.

Q: How has the international reputation of USC changed during your tenure here?

A: We always have been an internationalized in recent years, attracting talented students from around the world—and the sciences, but also in the humanities and so on. Building up the reputation of a university does not happen overnight—it’s a long process.

I’ve been most impressed by the fact that the quality of our undergraduate students here has improved in recent years. That is a great thing because it means that talented young people see something here that attracts them.

To read more of this conversation, go to

www.usc.edu/college/news/olahQ_A

Collective Action Key to World Safety

The go-it-alone principle won’t solve planet-wide problems, writes economist Todd Sandler in his new book "Global Collective Action" (Cambridge University Press, 2004). Pressing global problems—from terrorism to pollution—will only worsen in the coming decades unless governments band together to solve them, he says.

In the new book, Sandler clearly defines the principles of international cooperation—and the factors that promote or inhibit it—at the regional and global level. He also offers sound policy recommendations in areas including the promotion of global health, the control of rogue nations, intervention in civil wars, global warming, and the fight against transnational terrorism.

Global collective action—which occurs when two or more nations cooperate to get something done—is not without its successes. The global community responded well to smallpox, but has fallen short when it comes to reducing drug trafficking or effectively combating transnational terrorism.

“The main pitfall right now is that nations don’t cooperate very much in terms of dealing with terrorism,” says Sandler, the Robert R. and Katheryn A. Dockson Chair in Economics and International Relations. “Each nation is most interested in securing its own borders. This means that attacks are then transferred to less secure countries where the prime target nation has interests.”

For example, he says, the United States is like a “fortress” now, but the percentage of transnational attacks against its interests worldwide holds at roughly 40 percent—the same level as before the Sept. 11 attacks and the subsequent massive increase in domestic security. Security alerts, Sandler contends, are ineffective because terrorists know how to manipulate the system. When they increase their “chatter” —a possible signal for an impending attack—the U.S. is forced to spend millions of dollars protecting bridges, buildings and other public places. This money spent on deterrence is not refunded when no terrorist attack ensues.

“The terrorists want to cause us economic hurt, and they can do that by making us believe there is going to be another attack,” Sandler says. The answer lies in a more global approach, according to Sandler. The United States has taken the lead on the so-called “war on terror,” but little headway has been made because governments continue to place more importance on their autonomy than on their national security, he says.

“The likelihood of getting a more global approach is zero until there is an attack even worse than 9/11,” he says. “It really takes one or two nations not to cooperate to spoil what everybody else achieves.”

Sandler proposes solutions ranging from small, discreet Special Forces units stationed across the world so they can be deployed quickly without undetectedly signaling their activities to the media, to more global cooperation in terms of deterrence, intelligence and punishment of terrorists.

—Usha Sutliff, USC News
Teaming Up for Drug Discovery
New program links chemists and pharmaceutical scientists

Traditionally, the development of new drug therapies followed a linear course, with little interaction between the chemists who created new compounds, pharmacologists who studied the activity of the compounds in living systems and physicians who evaluated the most promising drug candidates in clinical trials. But as the drug discovery process has grown more sophisticated, the field has increasingly become an interdisciplinary and collaborative endeavor.

In response, USC College and the USC School of Pharmacy have launched the Interdisciplinary Program in Drug Discovery (iPIDD), a new program designed to strengthen graduate student training.

"By providing increased opportunity for interaction among chemists and pharmacologists, iPIDD will better prepare graduate students for working within the interdisciplinary model of drug discovery that is quickly becoming the norm in both industry and academia," says College Dean Joseph P. Aoun.

"Students want this kind of interdisciplinary training, they want this kind of broad exposure," says program director Charles McKenna, professor of chemistry and pharmaceutical sciences who has long done collaborative research on drug discovery. "Working in an integrated pharmaceutical company, they will need to know more than just how to synthesize compounds. They will need to be able to talk with the pharmacologists and biologists."

"Drug discovery is a focal point of the School of Pharmacy’s research and graduate education programs," says Timothy M. Chan, dean of the School of Pharmacy. "I am delighted in this joint effort with the department of chemistry because it provides us with a unique opportunity to synergize the development of a new direction for graduate education."

—E.E.

Science in Focus

Science Notes

Linking Aggression to Early Malnutrition

For the first time, scientists have shown that early malnutrition may lead to low IQ and later antisocial behavior, says a team from USC College’s Social Science Research Institute.

The work, reported in the American Journal of Psychiatry, is an important step in identifying early risk factors for adult violence and developing prevention strategies, says author Janghong Liu, a postdoctoral fellow.

For 14 years, the team tracked the nutritional, behavioral and cognitive development of more than 1,000 boys and girls of various ethnicities on Mauritius, an island off the coast of Africa.

Researchers first assessed the children’s nutrition at age 3, evaluating whether they were getting enough protein, vitamin B, iron and zinc—all key to healthy brain development. Following up at ages 8, 11 and 17, the team looked at the children’s behavior in school and at home.

Compared to those without nutritional deficiencies, the malnourished children showed a 41 percent increase in aggression at age 8, a 10 percent increase in aggression and disinquity at age 11 and a 51 percent increase in violent and antisocial behavior at age 17.

"If it’s causal, there’s an intervention implication," says study co-author Adrian Raine, the Robert Granford Wright Professor of Psychology, who notes that iron deficiency remains a significant problem in the United States. The good news? "Biology is not destiny. Through better nutrition we may be able to change a biological disposition to aggression."

—Usha Sutliff, USC News Service

A New View of a Cancer Protein

USC College scientists have captured the first-ever views of a cancer protein in action, revealing new details about how it works. The series of high-resolution ‘snapshots’ of the tumor-causing protein may lead to new insights into how viruses cause cancers and identify new targets for anti-viral and anti-cancer therapies, says Xiaojing Chen, an associate professor of biological sciences.

The protein, called “large T” antigen, comes from the SV40 virus, which causes tumors in monkeys. In the lab, it can turn healthy cells into cancerous ones. But scientists have puzzled about how large T accomplishes this and other key functions.

Reporting in Cell, Chen and his team used x-ray crystallography to create the first atomic-level 3-D images of the protein as it unzips and unwinds the double helix of DNA, using energy from the cellular fuel molecule ATP to power the mechanical work. The finding helps elucidate a critical moment in the cell—the copying of genetic material that precedes cell division, and also marks a focal point for cancer research.

—E.E.
Tuning in to Dyslexia

Scientists suggest new explanation of common reading disability

Most researchers agree that dyslexia stems from an inability to link specific sounds to written letters and words. But any consensus quickly breaks down when scientists discuss the underlying biological causes that lead to these difficulties.

USC College neuroscientists are adding fuel to the debate. In work presented at a meeting of the Society for Neuroscience, Zhong-Lin Lu, Frank Manis and Anne Sperling showed that dyslexic children have a harder time than non-dyslexics filtering out a signal from background “noise” during tests of visual perception. The team, which also includes the University of Wisconsin’s Mark Seidenberg, speculates that the deficit may affect the whole brain.

If confirmed, the research could lead to a better understanding of the physical basis of the learning disability as well as improved identification of children with dyslexia. That could lead to earlier interventions.

The most common reading disability, dyslexia affects between 5 and 15 percent of Americans, with an estimated 14 million suffering from a severe form of the reading disability. Dyslexia may show itself as problems in learning to read, writing legibly, and learning math, according to experts. Dyslexics may also do poorly on tests of visual tasks. The children hit a button when they saw a rectangle of black-and-white stripes appear on a computer screen. Adjusting how much the stripes contrasted with the background, the team compared the ability of the children to detect two different patterns, a flashing pattern that stimulates the M pathway and a stationary one processed by the P pathway.

They found that dyslexics and non-dyslexics were equally able to detect both M- and P-type patterns. It was only when researchers added visual noise—in the form of TV “snow”—on top of the pattern did a difference emerge. Under the “noisy” conditions, both the M- and P-type patterns had to be 10 percent more contrasting for children with dyslexia to detect them compared with non-dyslexics.

“People with dyslexia may have a harder time distinguishing a signal from the noise—not because they can’t perceive the signal, as had been thought, but because they are not as adept at filtering out the background,” says Lu, professor of psychology and an expert on vision and attention.

“The biggest gain we could get right now would be identifying children with dyslexia by age 4 or 5, before the reading problem becomes acute,” says Manis.

“The biggest gain that we who work on dyslexia could get right now would be identifying children with dyslexia as early as ages 4 to 5, before the reading problem becomes acute,” he says. “If a student is failing to learn to read by the end of first grade, to me that’s an emergency. Early identification would allow us to begin aggressive interventions for those at-risk of dyslexia during the first grade, when they’re supposed to be learning to read.”

“The biggest gain we could get right now would be identifying children with dyslexia by age 4 or 5, before the reading problem becomes acute.”

—Frank Manis, Professor of Psychology

Zhong-Lin Lu, Anne Sperling and Frank Manis conduct research to better understand the physical basis of dyslexia and identify children with the disability.

The team has planned a number of follow-up studies to further test the hypothesis.

“People with dyslexia may have a harder time distinguishing a signal from the noise—not because they can’t perceive the signal, as had been thought, but because they are not as adept at filtering out the background,” says Lu, professor of psychology and an expert on vision and attention.

“The study needs to be replicated, with different kids, different types of vision tasks and with auditory processing tasks. I’d like to do this in younger kids as well—if it’s there, we should be able to pick up on this difference even in kindergartners,” says Manis.

“In fact, the deficit we found is not specifically visual—we think of it as a sign of a basic problem in sensory perception. Next, we want to look for this same deficit in the brain’s auditory pathways,” says Sperling, whose doctoral dissertation was based on the study. She earned a Ph.D. in neuroscience from the College in August and is now a post-doc in neurology at Georgetown University.

In terms of impact on reading, poor filtering ability could distort speech perception in infancy, complicating the development of categories of phonemes [speech sounds] and later, letter recognition and the child’s appreciation of spelling-sound links, Sperling says.

“The biggest gain that we who work on dyslexia could get right now would be identifying children with dyslexia as early as ages 4 to 5, before the reading problem becomes acute,” he says. “If a student is failing to learn to read by the end of first grade, to me that’s an emergency. Early identification would allow us to begin aggressive interventions for those at-risk of dyslexia during the first grade, when they’re supposed to be learning to read.”

—E.K.
The Gift that Keeps on Giving
Non-profit with USC ties teaches philanthropy

What do you give 42 vice presidents for the holidays? Scott Cook (B.A. mathematics and economics, ’74), co-founder of Intuit Inc., handed out "giving certificates" to his executives. At an annual holiday dinner for the financial software company that developed Quicken and Turbo Tax, Cook gave each of the Intuit vice presidents a $500 Charity Check as a year-end gift.

A Charity Check is similar to a gift certificate, except instead of being used at a retail store, they are redeemed by a handpicked charity. As the Charity Checks Web site claims, "With a gift certificate, you can buy goods; with a giving certificate, you can do good."

"To boot, Charity Checks are tax-deductible. It’s the classic innovation—for virtu-..." says Cook, who also donated $20,000 to launch the pilot program. A Charity Check is similar to a gift certificate, except instead of being used at a retail store, they are redeemed by a handpicked charity. As the Charity Checks Web site claims, "With a gift certificate, you can buy goods; with a giving certificate, you can do good."

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When you move to your new home —
don’t volunteer to pay capital gain tax on the one you leave behind.

If you are thinking of selling your home of many years — whether or not you plan to buy a new residence — a sizable portion of your increased value may be subject to federal and state capital gains tax, even after using your $250,000 or $500,000 exemption. It is easier than you think to avoid this tax, which can take as much as 25% of the increased value.

You may be able to eliminate a portion of this unwanted tax by transferring a percentage interest in your home — prior to sale — to a USC charitable remainder unitrust. Not only might you avoid the tax, you will also get a charitable deduction for part of the value transferred (this can mean tax savings on your other income) and you receive a substantial yearly income for the rest of your life. In addition to these financial and tax benefits, you may designate the remainder value of your trust to create a lasting legacy to the USC College.

To learn more about how this concept might be adapted to your personal situation:
E-mail redfield@usc.edu or phone
(213) 740-1628.
USC College Office of Advancement
3551 Trousdale Pkwy., ADM 204
Los Angeles, California 90089-4015

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Car Talk

Liberal arts alum on the road to success

If you think your commute is bad, consider Jeff Schwartz’s (B.A., international relations ’88, M.A. ’91, Ph.D. ’93, political science). The President and CEO of Orange County-based Autobytel is in his car for three to four days a week. So what is the solution for his highway ennui? He does what any other self-respecting automotive marketing executive would do.

He tracked out his car.

“I have a 7,500-pound, turbo diesel, black Ford Excursion that’s outfitted like a mobile office,” says Schwartz. “I have a full-time driver, and in the back, I have a desk, internet access, a printer….full connectivity. It’s a mean-looking car!”

But Schwartz, a Los Angeles native, swears he’s not a car guy. “I’m a marketing guy,” he insists. And he has the success of his company to prove it.

Autobytel is the most visited automotive site on the internet, with 10 million unique visitors to the site last month alone. Through Autobytel, consumers can research new and used cars, compare reviews and ultimately buy their cars online. The company has the success of his company to prove it.

“Two key things: integrity and teamwork,” he answers. “We pride ourselves on the integrity of the company, and with over 400 employees, it takes a lot of enthusiasm, teamwork and energy to build a company in a market like this.”

Don’t feel too bad for Schwartz and his long Monday-through-Friday rides to and from the office. On the weekends, he takes a break from his commute, when he turns into an admitted sports car enthusiast. “Typically, there’s a Ferrari or Porsche in the driveway,” he says gleefully. “I love driving fast cars.”

He says the road to automotive marketing was circuitous. Schwartz was a teaching and research assistant in the College working on his dissertation on campaign finance in the Los Angeles City Council, when he started working for a not-for-profit organization. A board member there was an executive president for The Walt Disney Company, and he recruited Schwartz to do public affairs for Disney. Eventually, he rotated within Disney to corporate management, and due to Disney’s corporate partnership with General Motors, Schwartz said he had to learn automotive marketing. Soon, he became enamored.

Anticipating that the Internet was going to affect how cars were bought and sold, Schwartz joined Autoweb in 1999. He served as the company’s vice president of corporate affairs, and was instrumental in overseeing the growth of the company’s key market—K.Y.K.

He admits sports car enthusiast. “Typically, there’s a Ferrari or Porsche in the driveway,” he says gleefully. “I love driving fast cars.”

Much Can Be Seen in Little

Rare Jewish coins hold academic significance

Alumni and friends gathered at the home of USC Trustee Alan Casden and his wife Susan, a member of the USC College Board of Councilors, on Oct. 4, 2004, to view a rare collection of 35 ancient Jewish coins. The event was hosted by USC College of Letters, Arts & Sciences.

Despite their small size—some only seven millimeters across—the coins reveal great insights about the culture when Judaism was in its formative period. “The timeline of the coin exhibition traced the struggle for Jewish freedom,” says Casden, who has been an avid collector since he first visited Jerusalem in the 1960s. “Each coin tells a story.”

Rare Jewish coins with detailed inscriptions are not only a favorite among collectors and history buffs like Casden, but are used by scholars at USC and beyond to understand better the culture, political systems and artistry of the past. Although once primarily economic objects, today their value has greater meaning, says Casden. “It is understanding who made them, handled them and labored for them.”

Casden, who endowed the USC Casden Institute for the Study of the Jewish Role in American Life, has more than 1,500 ancient coins in his collection.

“Today, the study of Jewish life is thriving at USC College,” says Dean
Trojans Establish Endowed Chair in Humanities

Jim Corfman (B.A., History, ’64) is marveling over the Trojan swimmers at the 2004 Summer Olympics. “Those boys are incredible,” the founding member of the College’s Board of Counselors says. And he should know. Corfman was an All-American Trojan his senior year for the 200- and 500-meter freestyle; a co-captain of the swim team in 1964 and captain of the water polo team in 1963.

He swam varsity for three years (he was not allowed on the team as a freshman) and his junior and senior year the USC swim team was NCAA champions. Corfman admits he came to USC from his childhood town of Newport Beach “for the swimming program.” But he left the school a great believer in liberal arts education.

As proof, Corfman and his family established an endowed chair in USC College this winter.

“It is my belief that a majority of students need a well-rounded education for their undergraduate degree,” Corfman says from his home in Woodside, Calif. “The humanities offers that. It gives a person the ability to look at different things, and in some cases, view other cultures and religions. It helps build your thought process.”

This belief has clearly trickled down to his five children—four of whom have graduated from the College. His eldest daughter, Samantha, graduated magna cum laude with a double major in cinema and English. His son Jeff majored in economics, his daughter Lindsay majored in psychology and his third daughter, Catie, studied international relations. His fourth daughter, Amanda (to whom he refers to as “the Wildcat” for her unlikely choice of Arizona as her alma mater), graduated with a degree in psychology.

He says that he gave the children some opportunities, but he also let them pick their own. As four of them chose USC, Corfman and his wife Carole “couldn’t have been any happier.”

Corfman is CEO and president of Corfman Capital, a management company that runs or manages hedge funds. Prior to that, he was at Volpe, Welty & Company, a Bay Area investment banking firm that, in addition to client portfolio management, has also taken biomedical and high-tech companies public.

In his capacity on the Board of Counselors since 1997, Corfman says he has seen the College change “dramatically.” He attributes the positive changes to previous Dean Morton Schapiro and current Dean Joseph Aoun, who successfully expanded the quality of students and educational facilities.

“It was something I could not believe could happen in that timeframe,” Corfman says. “I thought it was a pipe dream. This turnaround is unheard of in academia and it doesn’t look like it’s going to slow down. The College is on a roll, which is really nice to see.”

“The Corfman family also supports the College’s new USC Molecular and Computational Biology Building, and Jim is still an avid fan of the swim and water polo teams. “We endowed a chair because the better professors there are, the better students there are. The quality of students needs a stable quality of professors and this endowed chair in the humanities might be a small help.”

—K.Y.K.

Trojans Establish Endowed Chair in Humanities

The 1964 NCAA Championship Swim Team.

The Corfman family (from left to right): Cate (’91, International Relations), Camile, Jim (’64, History), Lindsay (’00, Psychology), Amanda, and Jeff (’99, Economics).

Joseph Aoun. “These objects of rarity place essential information into the hands of USC historians, archaeologists, art historians, classicists—and their students who study the ancient world.”

At the event, USC President Steven R. Sample spoke about how the Casdens are true catalysts for enhancing our understanding of the world. “USC benefits not only from Alan’s commitment to advancing the study of real estate, business, Jewish history and ancient civilizations, but also from Susan’s commitment to promoting artistic development, Asian cultural studies and Pacific Rim initiatives.”

On display was Alan Gaden’s favorite coin: a Year One silver shekel; the first Jewish coin ever minted.

—N.S.
H e has led the 'Trojans to a 25-1 record since starting as USC's quarterback his sophomore year in 2003. In those 26 games at USC, the 6’5”, 225-pound, left-hander has had 6,078 career passing yards and 77 touchdown passes. In the 2004 season, he won the Davey O'Brien National Quarterback Award, the Heisman Trophy and his second consecutive National Championship, and in January, made the widely publicized decision to return to USC for his senior year. Although Matt Leinart passed up the NFL draft and a potential multimillion-dollar paycheck, he says he has no regrets to finish his degree in sociology at USC College.

The College's own answers a few questions for us while recovering from a recent elbow operation.

What do you enjoy about your Sociology major?

ML: I especially like my social psychology class with Dr. Julie Albright. Among the things I enjoy about the class is its focus on relationships and interactions between people and how it’s possible to read people. It’s something you can see in action every day.

You talked about pursuing “multiple careers.” How will your education here help you accomplish that? Can you elaborate on some of your plans?

ML: Well, I plan on getting my degree and I’ll go from there. Obviously, I’d like to play in the NFL. But I’ve made a lot of connections at USC and have met a lot of people here with a great deal of influence. If football doesn’t work out, I’ve got the knowledge from my degree and the Trojan Family network to start again.

You’ve said: “College football and this whole atmosphere here is ultimately more satisfying and will make me happier than any amount of money could make someone happy.” What is it about USC that you enjoy so much?

ML: I enjoy the atmosphere, my friends, the people on campus and being in Southern California — just being around campus is a good feeling. And with the way the sports program and academic program are going, there’s no better feeling than to be a Trojan.

People just can’t seem to believe you’re giving up millions. How do you feel about the heat?

ML: I was trying not to care what other people were saying. I knew a lot of people were saying I’d be crazy to give up the million. But it was my decision and I was going to do what made me happy. But now, a lot of people have congratulated me on my decision to finish my degree in sociology.

What is the significance of the Number 11?

ML: It was the number I wore playing baseball. I wore No. 7 in football, but when I came here, Sandy Fletcher had that number. So I chose 11.

Who do you most liken yourself to as a quarterback and why?

ML: Tom Brady. He’s just a great QB who plays with a lot of poise.

Comments on the 2004 Season?

ML: Last season was fantastic. A lot of people questioned our ranking at the start of the season and didn’t think we deserved to be No. 1, so it felt great to be able to go wire-to-wire and prove them wrong. There were definitely a lot of challenges along the way and we faced some adversity, which made us better. Coming back against Stanford and holding off Cal are the kind of games that make you stronger and prepare you for tests down the line. We finished the year on top beating our rivals in back-to-back weeks and blowing out Oklahoma. You couldn’t have asked for anything better.

—Interviewed by K.Y.A.

Exemplary Scholars

aubenheimer Awards — recognizing exemplary teaching, research and service — were given on Dec. 8 to four College faculty members. The award is the College’s highest honor. Recipients are Mark Thompson, professor of chemistry; John Wilson, professor of political science and law; and Edward Finegan, professor of linguistics and law. Each received a $3,000 award. Janelle Wong, assistant professor of gender studies, social work and law, was given the unique USC College Award for Excellence and won a Junior Faculty Award and $1,500 for showing unusual promise in research, teaching and service.

In a departure from previous ceremonies, University Professor Michael Waterman was presented — by USC Provost Lloyd Armstrong, Jr. — with a unique USC College Award for Excellence for his stellar service to the USC and College communities. College Dean Joseph Aoun and Waterman then presented Armstrong with a plaque that recognized his many years of outstanding visionary leadership and his exemplary commitment to placing USC College at the heart of the university. Armstrong has announced that he will step down from the Provost’s position next year.

A Fast Fact …

USC ranks third in the world when it comes to citations on papers on earthquake research, behind the U.S. Geological Survey (No. 1) and Caltech (No. 2) and ahead of UCLA (No. 4) and the University of Tokyo (No. 5).

RE-DISCOVER the Liberal Arts

Think analytically. Write critically.

Publisher great books and great thoughts about ourselves and the universe in which we live. It’s not too late to earn a Masters Degree in the exciting area of Liberal Studies. USC College plans to launch a new M.A. degree program in fall 2005 and is interested in hearing from prospective students.

The flexible curriculum will be broadly based in the liberal arts with thematically based courses offered in the natural sciences, social sciences and humanities. Interested in “The California Dream”? Want to “Explore the Oceans”? Curious about “The Future of Fiction”? These are just some of the courses that may be offered through the new program.

Courses will be linked by thematic areas. You may choose to study a country or city, such as Ireland, Scotland, Prague and even Los Angeles from a variety of academic perspectives.

The program will be designed primarily for individuals who wish to pursue their graduate work in the evenings and is suitable for working professionals. The degree can be earned on a part-time basis in three and half years by enrolling in one course per semester. Courses will be taught by regular USC faculty and eminent professors. For more information contact Jane Cody at 213-740-8555.
GOODALL PHOTO BY KATHERINE YUNGMEE KIM

B

stand on their back legs—upright—to
were in a tree, and he watched them
Impenetrable Forest. Several chimps
observation in Uganda’s Bwindi
“becoming bipedal made us human.”
Research Center at USC, claims that
size that sets humans apart. In his
rather than language, tool use or brain
walking with two-footed locomotion—
rather than language, tool use or brain

“one is bipedal. Of more than 4,000
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Evolutionary Key to Becoming Human

So asserts USC College
anthropologist Craig Stanford
in his latest book, Upright: The
Evolutionary Key to Becoming Human
“Of the more than two hundred
species of primates,” Stanford writes,
“one is bipedal. Of more than 4,000
species of mammals, one—the same
one—is fully bipedal when walking.”
It is this trait—to stand upright and
walk with two-footed locomotion—
rather than language, tool use or brain

“Bipedalism arose more than once
in early human evolution,” Stanford
comments. “Natural selection tin-
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of these evolutionary experiments
failed, a few succeeded and one ulti-
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that humans are not part of an evolu-
tionary ladder, but part of a tree—one
with not only many branches, but with
multiple trunks.

Craig Stanford, chair of the anthropology
department and a professor of biologi-
cal sciences, is also a professor at the
Chinese Academy of Sciences. He is
currently at work on a collaborative
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Beijing, on the behavior and ecology of
a rare golden Chinese monkey, a
“shaggy, blue-faced, beautiful animal”
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“I study primate behavior to literal-
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mate behavior to potential human
origins.”

On Our Own Two Feet

Jane Goodall
Speaks at Bovard
Auditorium

Jane Goodall, the famed primatologist,
delivered a speech in the Bovard
Auditorium at the University of Southern
California on Oct. 25. A crowd of more
than 1,000, mostly students, welcomed
Goodall with a standing ovation.
“Shes a pioneering scientist,” says
Craig Stanford, chair of the anthropol-
ogy department, who has worked with
Goodall for over 15 years. He com-
mended her “brave” efforts to make the world aware of pressing environmental and
conservation issues.
Goodall has been a Distinguished Adjunct Professor in the USC College Department of
Anthropology and the USC Department of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy
since 1990. She discussed her life work with the wild chimpanzees in Tanzania, her efforts
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A Fast Fact …
The Philosophical Gourmet Report, which evaluates graduate
programs in philosophy, ranked USC College’s philosophy of
language program number one nationally (ahead of MIT and
UCLA).

Distinguished
Speakers Series

February 23
Garity Center LA, 6:15 pm
Collectors, Collectors and their Sources
Malcolm Baker
Director, USC College Arts Program in the History of Science and Technology
March 16
San Diego, 11:30 am
Science and the Future of the California Coast
Tanya Mitchelh
Director, USC College Arts Program in Environmental Design
April 7
Downtown LA, 1:30 pm
Rock Science: Looking For Life on Mars
Kenneth Haneson
USC College/Weigh Center for Nanoscience
May 5
Silicon Valley, 11:30 am
How the Brain Determines Appetite and Appetite
Larry Swanson
USC College Medical Lions
Department of Neuroscience
Cultural Defense
Teaching. Renteln's latest book, "Associates Award for Excellence in political science, was awarded the USC Award for Service the American Statistical Association.

George and Louise Kawamoto Chair in American Statistical Association
Los Angeles Times
the year's best by the
ars were deemed among
field of politics.
Kevin Starr
Professor of History
Distinguished Professor
in Letters, Arts and Sciences and professor
Forsburg
are:
the Advance-
Three USC sci-
the American
Broida prize by
2005 Herbert P.
and professor of
Gabilan Chair
Professor of Religion
the Atomic Level
will serve as president.
Mellon Distinguished Scholar
Richard Fox, professor of history, has been awarded the Mellon Distinguished Scholar-in-Residence at the American Antiquities Society for 2005-2006.

Two-Time Winner
Michael Messner, chair of the sociology Department, received the North American Association for the Sociology of Sport’s 2004 Outstanding Book Award for "Taking the Field: Women, Men and Sport" (Univ. of Minnesota, 2002). Messner is the first two-time winner of the award—his book "Playing at the Game" was awarded the award in 1990.

Physicist Honored
Professor of Physics and Astronomy
Clifford Johnson received the 2005 Maxwell Medal and Prize from the Institute of Physics, the leading physics society in the United Kingdom. The medal recognizes Johnson's outstanding contribution to string theory, quantum gravity and its interaction with strongly coupled field theory.

Dino Researcher Recognized
Luis Chiappe, adjunct associate professor of earth sciences and a curator at the L.A.G. Natural History Museum, was awarded the Friedrich Wilhelm Bessel Research award by the Alexander Humboldt Foundation of Germany. The award is given to scientists and scholars from abroad who are considered outstanding researchers in their fields.

American Physical Society
Hanna Reulier, a graduate student in chemistry, was awarded the 2005 Herbert P. Bosla prize by the American Physical Society. The award recognizes outstanding experimental advances in the field of atomic and molecular spectroscopy and physical chemistry phenomena that he discovered in atomic, molecular and plasma science.

National Science Foundation
Will Benzol, associate professor of earth sciences, received funding from the National Science Foundation to lead a collaborative study of new material/chemical phenomena that he discovered in atomic, molecular and plasma science.

Scientific Study of Religion
Professor of Religious Donald Miller was elected president of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion for 2004-2005.

Book Review
Bill Handley’s new collection "Fire in the Ashen: Selections and the American War" was reviewed in the Los Angeles Times Book Review. Handley will serve as president of the Western Studies Association National Conference in 2005.

International Studies Association
Ann Tickner, professor of international relations, was elected president of the International Studies Association (ISA) for 2006-2007.

American Psychology President
Gerald C. Davison, professor and chair of psychology, has been named president-elect of Division 12 of the American Psychological Association (APA). Division 12 is the APA’s clinical psychology division. The clinical psychology division of the APA, known also as the Society of Clinical Psychology, is the largest organization of clinical psychologists in the country.

Parents Award for Teaching
Julie Albright, a lecturer in sociology, was awarded the first USC Parents Association Teaching and Mentoring Award.

Alumni News
Teaching Award
The California State University at Los Angeles Outstanding Teaching Award for 2005-2006 was recently awarded to Dominita Dumitrescu (M.A.,Spanish, ‘97, Ph.D., Spanish, ‘98). She is a full professor of Spanish linguistics at the institution.

Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow
César López (B.A.,Political Science, ’96) has returned to USC as a Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in the program in American studies and ethnicity.

Ambassadorial Appointment
Gracene Wilson (M.A., International Relations, ’81) is a senior career officer with Australia’s department of foreign affairs and trade. He was recently appointed Australia’s Ambassador to Mongolia.

Joining the Dodgers
Howard Sunnick (B.A., Political Science, ’83), a public affairs executive with Control Associates, Inc. for almost 20 years, has joined the Los Angeles Dodgers as a senior vice president for public affairs.

American Bar Association
Todd M. Ebersole (B.A., Political Science and Environmental/Biological Sciences, ’81) was appointed vice chair and chief editor for the American Bar Association’s Tort, Trial and Insurance-Medical and Law Committee’s Annual Survey Journal. For the past five years he has served as legal counsel to GRINA HealthCare.

Columnists for the Arts
The 2004 Music Award for "Columnist of the Arts," given by the Arts and Cultural Alliance, was awarded to Naomi Johnson (M.A.,International Relations, ’81). Donson’s long-running “Art Beat” column appears in the Sarasota Herald-Tribune.

Vice Chairman
The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. appoints Suzanne Nora Johnson (B.A.,Interdisciplinary Studies, ’79) vice chairman of the firm. Johnson previously served as head of the firm’s global investment research division and chair of the global markets institute. She is on the Board of Trustees at the College.

Law Practice Formed
Kimberly Vaughn (B.A., Psychology, ’80,F.D., J.D., ’83) has started a law practice, Mozaffari & Vaughn, LLP, which focuses primarily on the areas of estate planning, probate and general business law.

The Vietnam Files
David Premderger (B.A., Linguistics, ’75) launched a Web site, www.vietnam-
Donson’s long-running “Art Beat” column appears in the Sarasota Herald-Tribune. records from
the Vietnam War, created and maintained by the Marine Corps from 1960-1975.

Student News
Academic Exellence
USC’s chapter of the Alpha Lambda Delta was awarded a Bronze Award by the National Council of Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society. The Council honors academic excellence during a student’s first year at college. In 2003-2004, USC’s chapter saw an 11 percent increase in membership.

Web site Operator
Toby Scammell, a sophomore international relations major, was featured in a story in thections.com.au. Scammell created a Web site designed to help both individual and institutional investors "prepare for and respond to the financial impacts" of terrorist attacks.
Letter to the Editor

My name is Contessa (Pacilli) Palmero (B.A., '01), and I am writing this letter as a tribute to a wonderful and successful woman whom I knew. I had the pleasure of knowing her after my graduation but unfortunately did not keep in touch with her after my graduation but unfortunately did not keep in touch with her until I read the magazine.

When I read their obituaries side by side, it reminded of how short life really is. Both men were not only my teachers but they were my friends. I kept in touch with them after their graduation but unfortunately was not informed of their passing until I read the magazine.

I am writing this letter as a tribute to both. I think I speak for those who knew them when I say “cheers” to a wonderful and successful life these men led. I will never forget them and will always cherish the times I spent with both. You both will be missed greatly.

Sincerely,
Contessa (Pacilli) Palmero (B.A., ’01)
What sorts of legal restrictions should we have in biomedical research? What legislation needs to be promulgated for environmental preservation? What is an appropriate use of intervention in the affairs of other nations, and what are their moral bases? What constitutes a fair punishment?

Scholars will discuss such legal and moral issues at the new Center for Law and Philosophy, an interdisciplinary collaboration between the USC College of Letters, Arts & Sciences and the USC Gould School of Law. This Center will enhance the interdisciplinary exchange among philosophers, political theorists, legal theorists and practitioners who are interested in the intersection of law and philosophy.

“We have created an atmosphere for interdisciplinary dialogue on legal and moral issues of societal significance that need to be addressed in a principled and effective manner,” says USC College Dean Joseph Aoun. “Spanning disciplines to focus on real-world topics is a priority for the College and the opening of the Center for Law and Philosophy expands our expertise in this important program. This is the third exciting joint program. This is to create a joint J.D./Ph.D. in interdisciplinary collaboration between the USC College of Letters, Arts & Sciences and the USC Gould School of Law. This Center will enhance the interdisciplinary exchange among philosophers, political theorists, legal theorists and practitioners who are interested in the intersection of law and philosophy.

“The Center really plays to our strengths here at USC,” says Marmor, who specializes in legal and political philosophy. His writings include discussions about the nature of law and legal reasoning, the relations between law and morality, and the objectivity of values. Lloyd is a political philosopher who is interested in questions of social justice, in “how to organize a pluralistic society in a way that is both functional and fair to all of its members.” She has written extensively on the work of Thomas Hobbes, who wrote in the 17th century during the English Civil War, a time she refers to as “another period of crisis where there were a host of conflicting religious views that needed to be accommodated.”

Presently, there are over a dozen professors from both schools who are affiliated with the Center, and their areas of expertise intersect with legal philosophy in a variety of places. Sharan A. Lloyd, a philosophy professor in the College, who was recruited to work in biomedical ethics for the Good Luck or Bad Luck? program that is not only time-effective, but also coherent and coordinated.

Also planned are “coffeehouse discussions,” where students, faculty and staff in the USC community will talk about issues of contemporary interest, such as just war theory and international law, distributive justice and the tax code; and environmental ethics and environmental law. These “coffeehouses” will be held twice a semester on campus, and will be open to the university community.

Good Luck or Bad Luck?

In March 2006, the Center will hold its first conference, “The Morality of Fortune and Misfortune.” The four panels will look at how luck or fate can play a role in moral responsibility—what is distributive justice if you’re born into wealth and power? Is it bad luck or the government’s responsibility if your house is destroyed in a flood?—by examining cases in private law as well as in the attitudes to fate in early modern or ancient philosophy.

“The Law School is a national leader in interdisciplinary legal education, and the Center for Law and Philosophy further extends USC’s ability to examine how the law intersects with and affects other disciplines,” says Matthew L. Spitzer, dean and Carl M. Franklin Professor of Law at the USC Gould School of Law. “Philosophical and moral questions are at the heart of nearly every legal issue. By critically examining how the law is informed by philosophical traditions—and vice versa—I’m certain this Center will make vital contributions to both fields.”

—Katherine Youngme Kim

Sharan A. Lloyd

Law School and Virginia S. and Fred H. Rice Professor of Law, is an expert in family law, and his articles have included such topics as coercion, blackmail and equality norms in child custody cases. Gideon Yaffe, an associate professor of philosophy and law, focuses on the concepts of free will and responsibility. “It is no longer feasible to have a strict division of labor between philosophers thinking about foundational questions of ethics and values, and legal theorists thinking within the confines of law,” explains Lloyd. “It is just as unfeasible given the moral importance and the complexities of the issues that law addresses.

“So we have to become better educated—philosophers about law and legal theorists in the foundations of philosophy—and to learn from one another. This Center is the way to do that.”

The Agenda

One of the Center’s primary goals is to create a joint J.D./Ph.D. in Philosophy program. Although a joint master’s program in philosophy and law is already in place, the increasingly specialized world of philosophy calls for a joint doctoral program that is not only time-effective, but also coherent and coordinated.

At the Intersection of Law and Philosophy

New Center examines legal and moral issues