"The human brain is far and away the most complex structure in the known universe," says Richard E. Thompson, a chief architect of a massive university-wide effort to unlock the mysteries of the brain. Thompson, director of USC's Program in Neural Information and Behavioral Sciences (NIBS) and Keck Professor of Psychological and Biological Sciences, speaks with wonder about the object of his research.

This year, USC and the College are celebrating the 10th anniversary of HEDCO, a state-of-the-art academic village that has headquartered NIBS and drawn together faculty and students from an array of disciplines to study the human mind. The celebration on November 9 included a full-day symposium with keynote speaker Floyd E. Bloom, M.D., editor in chief of Science. The day concluded with the installation of Irving Biederman as the Harold W. Dorisne Professor in Neuroscience. As a professor of psychology, computer science and neuroscience, Biederman exemplifies the HEDCO scientist.

The worlds of technology, medicine, education and social science have all been enriched by HEDCO discoveries over the past decade. This premier research facility has given USC the ability to bring together more than 60 faculty members (making it the largest interdisciplinary program at the University) who represent the best talent from areas such as biology, psychology, mathematics, gerontology, linguistics, philosophy and engineering.

Leading neuroscientists from all over the world contributed to the HEDCO vision—a place where cross-disciplinary interaction between researchers would stimulate new discoveries about the mysteries of the brain. They foresaw a need for a teamwork approach that would allow scholars from multiple disciplines to pool their knowledge to achieve breakthroughs that wouldn’t be possible otherwise.

What has been accomplished during the past 10 years in this leading center for neuroscience? A startling abundance and variety of research. The synergy created by this brilliant group of researchers has produced research illuminating a number of...

...continued on page 2
You will begin to know the new themes of the College through the pages of this and future newsletters. You will meet the exciting and talented faculty and learn about their teaching and research—work that has enormous value to the community and the world. We will also bring you stories of noted alumni, of important gifts, and of faculty achievements...

I am very happy to bring you this first issue of The College, the newsletter of the College of Letters, Arts and Sciences. Its publication will allow us to begin sharing with you—our alumni, parents, students and friends—the excitement that is unique to being at the intellectual heart of the University. Our plan is to publish four times per year. We hope that you will not only enjoy reading these newsletters but that they will also inspire you to communicate with us.

The College is at a great place. Our service learning programs, increased SAT scores and innovative, neighborhood-based curricular offerings led the editors of TIME/Princeton Review to name USC "The College of the Year." What an endorsement! We're rightfully proud.

However, with the new millennium comes the need for a new approach to education. As a higher education economist by trade, I've taken an eye on how American colleges and universities are handling liberal arts education in the current atmosphere of rapid technological and societal change. What makes me excited is that the College is creating the model that the others will soon imitate.

It's a model that argues that students don't need training for today's realities as much as they need education for tomorrow's possibilities. Look back at what students of computer programming learned twenty years ago. We now know that they didn't need to become lifelong Fortran experts as much as they needed to learn how to evolve in a world in which the computers of tomorrow will bear no resemblance to the ones of yesterday or even today.

Working with the president and the provost, the College's faculty have led the development of a new core curriculum, as well as a number of other innovations that can set the national standard for how universities help students acquire the critical thinking skills and perspective necessary to thrive in the new global economy. The fact is that we've arrived at a point in history in which nothing will benefit a young student as much as a first-rate liberal arts education. The students think we're on the right track.

As you will read in this issue, our renewed commitment to undergraduate education is resulting in the highest retention rate and reported student satisfaction levels that USC has ever enjoyed.

There's no getting around the fact that the reputation of a university's liberal arts program usually drives the reputation of the entire university, even at a school with highly regarded professional schools such as USC. During the past year, the College leadership and faculty have identified five strategic themes that will become the focus of College excellence and planning during the next few years. They are undergraduate education, the humanities, life sciences, international and East Asian studies, and environmental studies.

Even beyond our innovative new curriculum, we're developing the finest undergraduate experience available anywhere by making the best use of our resources, including professional school faculty, cultural assets, residential life, and pioneering community volunteer programs. And in the spirit of Dean Jean Schaefer, who you will meet again in the pages of this publication, we're increasing one-on-one faculty advising, mentoring, and student-faculty research collaboration.

I'm happy that we have this new way to celebrate together developments and accomplishments. I'm proud of the College's progress so far, but I'm even more excited by what's still to come. ▲

Dean's Chair Endowed

Morton Owen Schapiro has a new title. This spring he will be officially installed into the Anna H. Bing Dean's Chair in the College of Letters, Arts and Sciences. This dean's chair (the 12th dean's chair at USC) honors a magnificent lady, who served the University as a Trustee and has been a generous patron for many years. The Leo S. Bing Chair in English and American Literature and the Aerol Arnold Chair in English are among her many other meaningful contributions to USC.

The dedication of this prestigious chair will be celebrated in the spring, with members of the Bing Family and Dr. Carl Franklin, who also contributed to this important endowment. ▲

..."HEDCO TURNS TEN" continued

areas, including how humans acquire language, how the circuitry of the brain affects motivation, the process by which diseased brain cells spontaneously die through disease, and how the hormone estrogen affects memory, helps the brain withstand the effects of aging, and wards off disease.

Research is not the only academic activity conducted in HEDCO. It also advances USC's undergraduate education experience through an innovative neuroscience minor and an honors program in psychobiology that produced USC's 1995 valedictorian, Alaina Kipp.

Researchers are palpably excited by a sense that they've only scratched the surface. The new frontiers being explored by HEDCO scientists involve:

- the development of "bionic brains" and artificial intelligence;
- the investigation of the brain's aging process in order to understand brain-related disorders such as Alzheimer's, which affects over 5 million Americans and has a $600-billion impact on the nation's economy;
- the use of computational neuroscience to build models of brain systems to discover how we learn;
- the study of the genetic basis of brain function and behavior; and
- the study of how we store memory.

The recent establishment of the Alfred E. Mann Institute for Biomedical Engineering will add another dimension to this scientific collaboration, turning science fiction into reality through such anticipated developments as artificial sight and computer chip implants to replace defective brain cells.

"We certainly don't know the limits of the mind," Thompson says. "But HEDCO has given us a number of answers during its first decade. You can be sure that the next decade will provide more answers, and quite possibly some breakthroughs that will change the way we live." ▲
GENERAL ED: An Education for Life

by Melissa Payton

Two years ago, USC revamped its undergraduate curriculum, creating a new general education core program based in the College. The new program emphasizes interdisciplinary minors and guarantees smaller classes taught by senior faculty...

"I think our idea of General Education as education for life is starting to really work," said Sarah Pratt, dean of academic programs for the College. "Students are 'getting it'—they're understanding the goal of General Education—and faculty are connecting with the students."

One telling sign of success is that freshman retention zoomed to 95 percent at the end of the 1997-98 year, the first year the new GE requirements took effect. Other evidence: Strong student evaluations, despite the required nature of the courses, and without accompanying grade inflation; rising interest among the nation's top high school graduates in attending USC; and positive feedback from faculty who teach the courses.

"One thing that we did not foresee was the degree to which teaching freshmen would energize a cohort of well-established research faculty," Pratt says.

"What's great is that you get an opportunity to see the wide range of students and student interests at this university," says Lawford Anderson, professor and chair of earth sciences, who teaches a GE course called "Crises of the Planet."

"The GE kids are wonderful," says William O. McClure, a professor of neurobiology who teaches "Microspheres 230, "Topics in Neuroscience." "They're wild and wooly, and they come up with some off-the-wall questions."

The new GE system, with six uniform course requirements taught by tenure and tenure-track college faculty, has an overarching theme—education for life. If the old system, with its 11 requirements that varied according to a student's major, had any theme at all, it was "general education—all over the place!" Pratt said. "It was just overgrown; it started out comprehensive and comprehensible across the university, but it came to be driven more by revenue than by a clear educational focus."

The goal of the changes was not only to improve the GE offerings and expose undergraduates to some of USC's best faculty, but also to allow more students to fulfill minors. By trimming the requirements to six, "We freed up 20 units," said Pratt. "Minors that fulfill the guidelines range from 16 to 32 units, so students have lots of units to do things with now."

"The result is breadth with depth," noted Provost Lloyd Armstrong Jr., who accepted recommendations from two committees that spent more than two years each studying the problems with the old system and drafting proposals for change.

"One of President Sample's highest priorities has been to increase our graduation rate, and the existing GE program was detrimental to that goal. We know that there were undergraduates who got two-thirds of the way through the system, found out they were missing a GE requirement and just got so frustrated that they walked away," Armstrong said.

"Not only does the new GE program solve this problem, but we're getting our cutting-edge research faculty into the classroom with our freshmen," he continued. "It is giving our undergraduates a world-class education that we can say is distinctive USC; it can't be duplicated anywhere else."

"Students are taking heed," Pratt said. "Comments on course evaluation forms suggest that they understand that GE courses provide the basis not only for future study, but also for careers—and life."

"We're getting away from the 'Oh, it's just GE' syndrome. Students are saying this is interesting, this is worthwhile, I can carry this with me for the rest of my life."

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Message from Robert F. Erburo, Chairman of the Board of Councilors

Having spent most of my professional career in publishing, I am especially pleased that the College now has its own newsletter. As a graduate of the College, I know how important it is to students, and as an alumnus of USC, I know how crucially important the excellence of the College is in defining the University.

The goal of this and future issues of the newsletter will be to capture for you, the reader, what defines "the College" as unique within the University. This is no easy task. How do you define the life of the mind and the life of the spirit? Yet these things are precisely what characterize the College and set it apart from the professional schools. The College may indeed be the place where you prepare for a career, but perhaps most importantly, it is the place where you prepare for life and a lifetime of learning.

The curriculum in the College, regardless of major, concerns the whole field of human achievement and prepares students to think about and add to these ideas. It promotes thought about values, continuing intellectual development, and ongoing moral and spiritual growth. Whether they are studying science in HEDCO, preparing for a career in politics with courses in International Relations, or satisfying a general education requirement with a course in philosophy, students in the College are gaining the basic tools of intellectual inquiry and truths.

Henry Adams, writing nearly a century ago, describes the intellectual journey of students in the College: "They were intelligent, but what paths would their intelligence select?... They were scientific, and what control would their science exercise over their desires?... They were wild, but what corruptions would their relaxations bring? They were peaceful, but by what machinery were their corruptions to be purged? What interests were to vitally a society so vast?... What ideals were to enable it?..."

It is my hope that you will enjoy rediscovering the College with us. ▲
HADEN FIGHTS ON FOR OLD SC
by Michael Beatrice

Pat Haden '75 has been a leader at USC, both on the football field and in the boardroom. He quarterbacked the USC Trojans from 1972-1975, leading them to three Rose Bowl appearances and two national championships, including the legendary 1974 come-from-behind victory against Notre Dame. His performance on the field earned him an NCAA Player of the Year award.

With many accomplishments to choose from, Haden says he is “proudest to have been able to balance academics, football, and a social life successfully” while at USC. “This ability to balance has served me well throughout my life.”

Haden graduated magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa in 1975 with a degree in English literature. Upon graduation, Haden was awarded a Rhodes Scholarship to study philosophy, politics and economics at Oxford University. He credits his studies in the humanities, particularly literature, as the foundation for his career endeavors. “Mastery of the written word was important in law school and in the practice of law, and is certainly critical in media work,” Haden said.

While embarking on a distinguished football career in the NFL, Haden studied at Loyola Law School in Los Angeles, earning his J.D. in 1982. Since 1987, he has been a general partner in the private equity firm of Riordan Lewis & Haden and at one time served as counsel to the law firm of Riordan & McKinzie. However, Haden never quite gave up football. He has stayed active through broadcasting and currently works as a college football commentator for NBC.

When Haden visits campus these days, he notices a difference from when he attended the University. “The students seem brighter,” said Haden “and there is a focus on undergraduate education that wasn’t as present before.”

Among those he sees on campus is his son, a current USC freshman. Haden encourages him and others like him to take advantage of the availability of minors. “If you’re a business major,” he said, “minor in art, history, cinema, philosophy—anything that will broaden you intellectually. Stretch your imagination and your mind. Have fun.”

Twenty-five years after his last Rose Bowl victory, Haden’s legacy with USC continues to unfold. He serves on USC’s Board of Trustees and the College’s Board of Councillors, where he lends his insights on the future of liberal arts education at the University.

When asked why he fights on for USC, Haden has great answers. “I’m proud of the University—where it’s been and certainly what it has become. Also, it’s where I met my wife, Cindy Grier ’74, where I made life-long friendships, and where I gained the skills and knowledge that helped shape my career, philosophy of life, and my recreational interests. My time at USC was the most important in my life.” ▲

“Dean Joan” – more than a title
by Michael Beatrice

Though Joan Schaefer is officially dean of women emerita, in Trojan circles everywhere she is fondly known as “Dean Joan.” Her role at USC, she says, really developed “not by title, but by what I created it to be.”

Dr. Stephanie Adams McGraw ’60, one of the first students to have the pleasure of meeting Dean Joan, said, “It is rare to find people in our lives who exemplify a way of living that we want to emulate.” Schaefer, she said, “believed in us and our ability—indeed, our responsibility—to develop our best selves and contribute to society in meaningful ways.”

Schaefer said she has always urged students to fortify their minds as well as their spirits by studying liberal arts. She considers programs like music, fine arts and poetry essential to building what she calls “a foundation for life and a love for learning.” “If you don’t know of mankind’s journey, you aren’t really involved,” she added.

In keeping with this philosophy, the Dean Joan M. Schaefer Scholarships in the College reward two students each year who follow in Schaefer’s footsteps of scholarship, leadership and service. “It is the ultimate honor to have a living legacy named in one’s lifetime,” she said. Her goal is to reach a $1 million endowment by June of 2000.

When Gerald S. Papazian ’77 volunteered to co-chair the Dean Joan M. Schaefer Scholarship Campaign Committee, he hoped that the scholarships would go alumni a chance to honor Dean Joan’s dedication. He found they were that and more—gifts to the scholarships, he said, became “emotional tributes to the impact that Joan has had on each of our lives.”

Dean Joan found another outlet for her passions as director of the USC-Cambridge University International Summer School. Students in the program, she said, “come back with an understanding of self, a development of knowledge, and a discovery of new ideas. Modern society rushes students and leaves no time for them to do that.”

Schaefer believes USC is a remarkable environment for students. “They develop as individuals and scholars and carry forth the finest portraits of what liberal arts gives them,” she said. She noted that one of the most important aspects of the USC experience is the personal touch. “Students want personal contact with counselors, or deans like myself, or faculty, and they want it very much.”

Countless graduates now look back on their personal contact with Dean Joan and see her as not just a mentor, but also a friend. Dean Joan observs with a smile, “Alumni are still sending me their children and grandchildren.” ▲
Computational Finance Expert Joins Math Department

By Eric Markin

He’s one of the world’s leading experts on the sophisticated, probabilistic financial-market techniques used by Wall Street arbitrageurs and investment bankers. Even so, USC’s newest full professor of mathematics says students who hope to learn to beat the market need to adjust their expectations.

“The basic models we use don’t teach you how to take advantage of the market, but that you cannot take advantage of the market,” explains Jaksa Cvitanic, who arrived at USC this semester from Columbia University. A member of the search committee who recruited him calls him “the best young researcher in the field in the United States.”

Cvitanic is expected to become the nucleus of an interdisciplinary group in computational finance involving mathematics, economics and business, with a research laboratory in the College and a trading laboratory in the Marshall School of Business.

The field of computational finance is in high academic demand, and so are its graduates. Cvitanic’s former graduate students are found at such firms as Goldman Sachs and J.P. Morgan. Cvitanic’s research grows out of the work of Myron S. Scholes and Robert Merton, 1997 Nobel laureates in economics. Scholes and Merton showed how, in a perfect, “frictionless” market without transaction costs, money managers could insulate themselves from risk using sophisticated hedging strategies.

In an influential paper, Cvitanic showed that if the market imposes any transaction costs, however small, optimal strategy changes. A static, one-time, one-transaction strategy, while expensive, works better than a dynamic one involving multiple trades. He is now co-editing The Handbook on Mathematical Finance and serves as associate editor of three journals—Annals of Applied Probability, Asia-Pacific Financial Markets and Mathematics of Operations Research.

A native of Croatia, Cvitanic received his B.A. in mathematics from the University of Zagreb and his Ph.D. from Columbia University, where he subsequently became a professor before moving to USC. He says he likes Manhattan Beach, his current home, better than Manhattan. ▲

We Want To Hear From YOU!

If you’d like to see a special professor profiled in a future issue of The College, let us know! Send us a note describing your experience with your favorite faculty member, and be sure to include your name, class year, address and phone number. Mail your response to Birgitta Granberg, College of Letters, Arts and Sciences, USC, Los Angeles, CA 90089-015. You can also fax it to (213) 740-4989, or e-mail it to granberg@usc.edu. ▲

James F. Han, an expert in the application of spectroscopy and computational chemistry to chemical catalysis, is the first holder of the Ray R. Irani Chair in Chemistry at USC’s Loker Hydrocarbon Institute. Irani is chairman of Occidental Petroleum Corporation.

Urban geographer Michael Dear and his collaborators have published Urban Latino Cultures/La Vida Latina en L.A., which explores Los Angeles latino culture through the eyes of photographers, artists, poets, historians, architects and scholars.

Mark E. Thompson, associate professor of chemistry, was honored with a Distinguished Inventor Award by the Intellectual Property Owners Association for his work on organized light emitting diodes for flat panel displays.

Adrian Raine was installed as the first holder of the Robert Grandford Wright Professorship in the College of Letters, Arts and Sciences.

Linda Duguy has been named director of the USC Sea Grant Program and deputy director of the USC Wrigley Institute for Environmental Studies. The National Sea Grant College Program, part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, is a federal-state-university partnership that promotes the understanding and responsible use of marine and coastal resources in coastal and Great Lakes states and Puerto Rico.

Daniel C. Lynch, assistant professor of international relations, has received a Fulbright Grant for travel abroad. He will depart in May for Bangkok, Thailand, where he plans to research oppositional cultures and nationalism in the transition from authoritarian rule.

Dementia expert Margaret Gatz, professor of psychology, is the 1999 recipient of the American Psychological Association Retirement Research Foundation’s Master Mentor Award.

The Raubenheimer Awards, recognizing exemplary teaching, research and service to USC, were given in October to four faculty members in the College of Letters, Arts and Sciences. Honored were Sheldon Kamieniecki, professor and chair of political science, Robert Gurabich, professor of mathematics, and Alexander Zholkovsky, professor of Slavic languages and literature. The Raubenheimer Senior Faculty Awards are the highest honor the college bestows. In addition, Richard Meyer, assistant professor of art history, received the 1999 Raubenheimer Outstanding Junior Faculty Award. ▲
School Of International Relations Celebrates...

At a gala celebration on September 16, the School of International Relations in the College of Letters, Arts and Sciences marked its 75th anniversary. The school, the oldest of its kind in the western United States and the third oldest in the world, is looking back at its storied past while taking on the challenges of the new.

Among its illustrious graduates are such distinguished U.S. diplomats and elected officials as House of Representatives members Cynthia McKinney ’77 and Bob Barr ’70, both of Georgia, and Christopher Cox ’73 of California, as well as Genna Hawkins Holmes ’62, the current U.S. Ambassador to Australia, recent graduate Wimsey Schneidman ’87, deputy assistant secretary of state for Africa, and Claude Gordon Ross ’39, three-time U.S. Ambassador.

Rufus von KleinSmid, USC’s fifth president, chartered the school’s predecessor in 1924, a mere five years after the end of World War I. The war took a heavy toll on America’s fighting men and was followed by a severe economic downturn. America developed a distaste for foreign affairs, which took the form of isolationism and refusal to participate in the League of Nations.

Von KleinSmid recognized this as a dangerous turn of affairs and dedicated the independent Los Angeles University of International Relations to “serious study of the problems involved in international relations, in the hope that an acquaintance with such problems will promote world peace.”

In those early years, the main purpose of the LAUR was to stage the Institute of World Affairs, an annual event that allowed academics to exchange views with foreign dignitaries and business leaders. (The institute continued in various forms until the early 1980s.)

Four years after its founding, LAUR merged with USC to offer undergraduate courses in international relations, with the first bachelor’s degree awarded in 1931 and the first Ph.D. in 1938. It was the first such school in the West.

Today the school is developing courses that will help its students understand and interpret new forms of nationalism, particularly in former Eastern Bloc countries, and prepare them for a globalized, networked economy.

The school also places increasing emphasis on developing countries and new security concerns in a world no longer dominated by two superpowers.

Economics, the environment, new definitions of political entities and gender issues are becoming increasingly important. The school has been quick to anticipate the expanded definition. In 1976 Jonathan Aronson, now department chair, joined the faculty. John Odell, a former editor of the journal International Organization, was recruited a few years later, and Peter Rosendorff, an economist, joined the school recently to broaden its expertise in international political economy.

"Twenty years ago, economics was considered low politics," Aronson recalled. "Security was high politics. But when you are less concerned about being destroyed by nuclear bombs, you start to worry about your pocketbook more."

Employment opportunities for graduates have changed over the years. While IR students once expected to find jobs either in academia or in diplomacy, nowadays they more frequently work outside the Foreign Service. Students find jobs in every sector. They work in international banks, they work in think tanks, and they work in consulting.

"To meet the varied interests and employment prospects of its students, the school is becoming truly interdisciplinary, embracing faculty members from history, economics, sociology, anthropology, geography and communications as well as international politics. Indeed, the school maintains dual or joint degree programs with the Law School as well as the political science and economics departments, and is in the process of establishing new programs with journalism, communications and the School of Policy, Planning and Development."

Hayward Alker, John A. McGon Professor of International Relations and an expert in the development of computer systems for analyzing new sources of conflict around the world, said, "The school is shaping an academic and research program that will meet the challenges of an increasingly highly interconnected, still highly gendered and increasingly multicultural world."
In the late 1950s, Claude Ross ('Tony' to his friends) was an avid language student at USC and a member of Delta Phi Alpha, the German honorary society, and Pi Delta Phi, the French honorary society. Language studies were part of Ross' degree program in foreign service, but his involvement in the French society had a great deal to do with its president, a girl of Greek parentage named Antigone Peterson. Soon he was studying Greek as well.

Sixty years later, Tony Ross is now known as Ambassador Ross, but he still considers Antigone, his wife of 59 years, his greatest career asset. He notes that Antigone, who was a Phi Beta Kappa in her junior year, would have pursued a Foreign Service career of her own if women had been allowed to serve at that time.

Ross graduated in 1939, summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa, with a bachelor's degree in foreign service from the School of International Relations, one of 34 students to earn that degree. He and Antigone were married the next year, shortly after he received his first Foreign Service assignment (to Mexico City).

The war years were spent in Latin America—Quito and Guayaquil. Antigone was delighted when her husband's first assignment after the war was Athens. Now fluent in Greek, and with Antigone by his side, Ross was just as enthusiastic about this plum assignment.

In the years that followed, the Ross family (which grew to include two sons) spent time in Noumea, New Caledonia, and Beirut. It was Tony's student status in the National War College from 1956 to 1957 that first exposed him to Africa, where he would eventually become an ambassador. From 1957 to 1960, he served as political counselor in Cairo, and from 1960 to 1962 he was deputy chief of mission to Conakry, Guinea.

In 1962, the Ross family traveled back to Washington where Tony worked in the Department of State, holding important responsibilities related to former French Africa under Governor Williams. It was these relationships, his expert knowledge of the region, and his distinguished Foreign Service career that led Claude Gordon Ross to be appointed Ambassador to the Central African Republic by President John F. Kennedy in 1963. He was the first graduate of USC's School of International Relations to become an ambassador. Another school graduate, Geeta Hawkins Holmes, is the current Ambassador to Australia.

When Ambassador Ross retired, he had served as ambassador twice more—to Haiti and Tanzania—and as principal deputy assistant secretary for African affairs. His son Christopher followed in his footsteps and was Ambassador to Algeria and then to Syria before retiring recently.

In conjunction with the 75th Anniversary Celebration of the School of International Relations, the College made contact with one of its most illustrious alumni to get his thoughts about his education and the University today. Joseph Aoun, dean of faculty, visited the Rosses in Washington D.C.

"My education was excellent preparation for my career," the Ambassador told Aoun, "and it gave me breadth of cultural knowledge, as well as specific knowledge of political science, economics, diplomatic history, and international maritime and commercial law that I needed to pass the Foreign Service Exam."

Discussing the interests that led him to a career in the Foreign Service, Ambassador Ross cited his early love of history and geography, an urge to travel and learn about new cultures, and the ability to enjoy change. His career has provided him with "great adventure," he said, and "a great sense of pride in being able to serve my country." He emphasized that Antigone has been a distinct asset to his career, noting that not only has she been willing to follow where his career has taken him, but has also been an active participant along the way.

Ambassador Ross and his wife make their home in Washington, D.C., but travel frequently. The Ambassador is active in the Washington Institute of Foreign Affairs, as well as Diplomatic and Consular Officers Retired (DACOR), of which he has been president. In 1986, he was awarded the Foreign Service Cup "in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the conduct of foreign relations of the United States."

The School of International Relations can claim many distinguished alumni. However, Ambassador Ross will always stand out as the first to honor the School by becoming an ambassador. ▲

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**Alumnus is Leading Figure in Thailand**

"I have been quite busy lately taking care of my companies (5) and a political party," writes Kantathi Suphamongkhon. Of course, he's used to being quite busy—after all, he earned his 1984 Ph.D. from the School of International Relations while also teaching international law, international relations and international organizations, and also serving as advisor on foreign affairs to the Prime Minister of Thailand.

After completing his Ph.D., Dr. Suphamongkhon returned to Thailand and spent 9 years with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He started his diplomatic career in the ministry's International Organizations Department, where he focused on multilateral diplomacy while Thailand served its two years as a member of the United Nations Security Council. He later served in the Political Affairs Department and the International Organizations Department, represented Thailand as a diplomat at the United Nations in New York, served as advisor on foreign affairs to the Speaker of the House of Representatives in the Thai Parliament, and directed the ministry's Policy and Planning Division. In 1996, he was appointed as advisor on foreign affairs to the Prime Minister.

In addition to serving as executive director of the Thai Rak Thai political party, which he founded, and serving the Thai House of Representatives as a Member of Parliament, Suphamongkhon has also owned and operated five companies. Among his companies are Kanta Enterprise International Company Ltd., Athakazi Company Ltd., and Kanta Sukki Company Ltd. He's also a member of the board of directors of the Post Publishing Public Company Ltd., which publishes the Bangkok Post (Thailand's leading English language newspaper) and numerous magazines. ▲
June Salz Pollak & George Pollak:
GIVING FOR THE FUTURE

by Birgitta Granberg

Paulina (June) Salz Pollak ’49, M.A. ’51, Ph.D. ’61, and her husband, George Pollak, have created the Salz-Pollak Endowed Faculty Research Fund in Humanities.

“We have no children,” said June, “so philanthropy is our way of reaching into the future and making a difference.” The fund will provide sabbatical and/or summer research grants in the department of English, and augments the Excellence in Humanities Initiative, designed to strengthen undergraduate experience in humanities courses.

“This is an exceptionally important and thoughtful gift,” said Morton Owen Schapiro, dean of the College. “Not only does it provide support for faculty that would be difficult to obtain any other way, but it furthers the goals for the Humanities Initiative.”

With three USC degrees, June Pollak is definitely a Trojan, but her loyalties stretch to higher education in general and in particular to California State University at Fullerton, where she was a founding member of the faculty and a full professor since 1968. Thanks to a generous gift from the Pollaks after June’s retirement in 1994, the library at Cal State Fullerton has been named the Paulina June and George Pollak Library.

The Pollaks married in 1969, but they note that they should have met much sooner, since both grew up in Los Angeles and attended Fairfax High School within years of each other. June Pollak’s intention was to become a concert pianist. She planned to major in music at USC, but her piano teacher was not a member of the faculty. Her advisors counseled her to continue studying music with him and major in something else at USC, so she chose English.

English eventually won out over music as a career, and June completed her bachelor’s degree Phi Beta Kappa, and earned a master’s two years later. She credits faculty member Frank Baxter with inspiring her interest in Shakespeare, English Renaissance literature, Milton and English drama.

By separate gift, the couple’s home in San Juan Capistrano to San Diego and back every day, George retired. He went on to spend a number of years in private employment much closer to home.

In retirement, the Pollaks are as active as when they had careers. They are avid readers, mostly of non-fiction, and they travel extensively, having been to Eastern Europe, the Middle East, Scandinavia, France, the Caribbean, Alaska and Southeast Asia since 1990. Both devote a great deal of time to volunteer work.

When making their gifts to both USC and Cal State Fullerton, the Pollaks chose a charitable remainder trust. In one case their trust was funded by real estate, and in the other, with U.S. government bonds. “It’s a win for everyone,” say the Pollaks. “We have the satisfaction of supporting areas we believe, we receive a substantial tax deduction, and we receive a lifetime income from our funds.”

If you would like further information about how you can support the College and benefit from life-income plans and tax advantaged gifts, please contact the Office of College Development at (213) 740-4990.

Recent Gifts to the College

The Maurice Amado Foundation approved a grant over three years in support of the Institute for the Study of Jews in American Life.

William Anderson is funding a chair in chemistry and recently gave an additional $25,000 for instrumentation for the department.

Mark Benjamin ’71, a new member of the USC Board of Governors, has contributed an unrestricted gift of $50,000, which will be used to fund scholarships.

USC Trustee and member of the College Board of Councilors George Boone DDS ’46, and his wife, Mary Lou DH ’52, MA ’94, have pledged $250,000 to establish the Mary Lou and George Boone residence at the Wrigley Institute for Environmental Studies on Santa Catalina Island. The Boones’ generous pledge will fund the first residence in a $4-million campaign to build new housing for faculty and students at the center.

Charlette Collins ’70 and her husband, Dan Collins, designated a Provost’s Associate membership to the College.

Ianna Waring Greer ’73 and her husband, Randall Greer ’71, recently designated a Presidential Associates membership to the College.

The John Randolph Haynes and Dora Haynes Foundation granted $248,718 for the Center for Religion and Civic Culture under the direction of Dan Miller, professor of religion. The grant will be used to explore the civic role of religion.

With a gift of $200,000, the James Irvine Foundation recently completed its pledge of $1.8 million to the Southern California Studies Center to create meaningful links between USC’s academic programs and the community.

James W. Leinen contributed $25,000 to the Fredric C. Fox Graduate Endowment for Professional Writing.

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation has granted $450,000 for a project integrating language technologies as central pedagogical tools.

A gift of $475,000 was coordinated by the Ralph M. Parsons Foundation to establish the Core Facility for Genomics and Molecular Genes.

Three gifts from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation have enriched the College over the last few months. Dr. Stephen E. Bradford, assistant professor of chemistry, was presented with a $25,000 fellowship award. The Population Research Laboratory, under the direction of Professor David Herr, received $243,392 for a joint project with the School of Cinema Television and Population Communications International to bolster the professional training program in social content media production. Dr. Gayla Mangin in the Department of Psychology received a grant of $149,218 to study children’s exposure to multiple forms of violence, the impact of the exposure, and children’s coping mechanisms.

Dr. Irving Reel, professor emeritus, contributed $5,000 to the Loker Hydrocarbon Institute.

Leon (BUIS ’74) and Carol Schwartz have made an additional contribution to the Michal Joel Schwartz Fellowship.

Toyota has given a prototype alternative fuel powered car, which can run on gasoline or electricity. The car is in use at the Catalina Island facility where it is especially useful since gasoline powered vehicles cannot operate near the hyperbolic chamber or the dock.

Carmen and Louis Warschauer, both graduates of the College, contributed $180,000 to endow a lecture series in the Institute for the Study of Jews in American Life.

Andrew Woodard ’92, masters in urban and regional planning ’96, has contributed to the John B. Hubbard Fellowship through the Woodard Family Foundation.

Requests

Frances Jameison Johnson Estate
E. Joseph McGovern Trust
G. Donald Montgomery Estate
Whitney K. Towson Estate