HIGHLIGHTS

2009-2010

usc College
of letters, arts & sciences
This issue of USC College Highlights focuses on some of the outstanding achievements of our faculty, students and alumni during the 2009–10 academic year. We celebrated and acknowledged many of these achievements as they occurred. Still, we know that it is easy to lose track and perspective in the flurry of our daily activities. We will better appreciate the strength and vitality of our community if we take the time, once a year, to collect and share this information.

The diverse members of our community have distinguished themselves in many ways: receiving awards and accolades, producing important new scholarship, making new scientific discoveries, finding new support for exciting research initiatives, creating new centers of study, developing innovative academic programming, and promoting community outreach. Collectively these achievements tell the story of a lively, diverse, engaged and extremely accomplished College community.

These highlights illustrate the strength of our community. Given our size, it is not possible in this type of publication to express all of the many and varied accomplishments of our faculty, students and alumni. For additional examples and ongoing updates, please visit USC College’s Web site at college.usc.edu, which acknowledges and honors in stories, images and videos the numerous compelling stories within the College.

Howard Gillman
Dean, USC College of Letters, Arts & Sciences
Anna H. Bing Dean’s Chair
JODY AGIUS VALLEJO (sociology) was featured in Investment Advisor magazine’s February cover story titled “Invest Globally, Advise Locally.”

FRANK ALBER (biological sciences) was named a 2009 Pew Scholar in the Biomedical Sciences. He will receive a $240,000 award over four years to help support his research. Alber is among 17 early-career scholars The Pew Charitable Trusts considers to be America’s most promising scientists.

GORDON BERGER, professor emeritus of history and former director of the USC East Asian Studies Center, was awarded the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon by the Government of Japan for his contributions to the advancement of Japanese studies and the promotion of the understanding of Japan in the United States.

JOHN BOWLT, professor of Slavic languages and literatures, and director of the Institute of Modern Russian Culture, was awarded Russia’s Order of Friendship for his Russian-American cultural work.

LEO BRAUDY, USC University Professor, Leo S. Bing Chair in English and American Literature, and professor of English, was named a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

KARL CHRISTE (chemistry) was elected a fellow of the European Academy of Sciences.

ANTONIO DAMASIO, David Dornsife Professor of Neuroscience, professor of psychology and neurology, and director of the USC Brain and Creativity Institute, received a Doctor Honoris Causa from the University of Leiden. His book Descartes’ Error: Emotion, Reason, and the Human Brain (Penguin Books, 1994) was named one of the “20 Books That Changed Our Vision of the World” in the past two decades by the French journal Science Humaines. Damasio also received the first Richard Wollheim Memorial Award from the British Psychoanalytic Council and an honorary doctorate in economics from the Copenhagen Business School.

ERIC FRIEDLANDER, Dean’s Professor of Mathematics, was elected president of the American Mathematical Society.

AMY GERSTLER (Master of Professional Writing Program) had her collection of poetry, Dearest Creature (Penguin, 2009), selected by The New York Times Book Review as one of its “100 Notable Books of 2009.”

JOSHUA GOLDSTEIN (history) was awarded the 2009 Kurt Weill Prize for outstanding scholarship on music theater since 1900 for his book Drama Kings: Players and Publics in the Re-creation of Peking Opera 1870–1937 (University of California Press, 2007).

KO HONDA (mathematics) was awarded the Mathematical Society of Japan’s 2009 Geometry Prize.


ABRAHAM LOWENTHAL, Robert F. Erburu Professor of Ethics, Globalization and Development, and professor of international relations, received the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce’s Stanley T. Olafson Award, which honors an outstanding member of the world trade community in Southern California who has contributed to the advancement of world trade and international relations.

PETER MANCALL, professor of history and anthropology, and director of the USC-Huntington Early Modern Studies Institute, was elected a fellow of the Society of American Historians.

JILL MCNITT-GRAY (kinesiology, biological sciences and biomedical engineering) was elected president of the American Society of Biomechanics.

SUSAN MONTGOMERY (mathematics) has been selected by the Association for Women in Mathematics to be the 2011 Noether Lecturer, honoring women who have made fundamental and sustained contributions to mathematical sciences.
KEVIN STARR, USC University Professor and professor of history, won the 2009 Los Angeles Times Book Prize in history for *Golden Dreams: California in an Age of Abundance, 1950–1963* (Oxford University Press, 2009). Starr was also presented with a County Scroll by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors for his many contributions to promote literacy and education.

LARRY SWANSON, Milo Don and Lucille Appleman Professor of Biological Sciences, and professor of biological sciences, neurology, and psychology, was elected to the National Academy of Sciences for his excellence in original scientific research.

LYNN SWARTZ DODD, lecturer in religion and curator of the USC Archaeology Research Center, received her second grant to use the synchrotron beam at Argonne National Laboratory and conduct research on ancient artifacts.

RICHARD F. THOMPSON, USC University Professor and William M. Keck Professor of Psychology and Biological Sciences, received the American Psychological Foundation’s Gold Medal Award for Life Achievement in the Science of Psychology. The award recognizes a distinguished career and enduring contribution to advancing psychological science.

FRANCILLE WILSON (American studies and ethnicity) was elected president of the Commission on the Status of Women for the City of Los Angeles.

The Los Angeles Times and USC College are jointly sponsoring a series of six, statewide public opinion polls that began in November 2009 and will continue throughout California’s crucial 2010 elections for governor and U.S. Senate.

THE WEST BANK AND EAST JERUSALEM ARCHAEOLOGY DATABASE that is publicly available through USC’s Digital Library was awarded the American Schools of Oriental Research (ASOR) Open Archaeology Prize, sponsored by the Alexandria Archive Institute, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and the David Brown Book Company. Lynn Swartz Dodd, lecturer in religion and curator of the USC Archaeology Research Center, developed the database in collaboration with the USC Digital Library staff.
DAVID ALBERTSON (religion) has been awarded a $24,933 National Endowment for the Humanities’ Enduring Questions Grant, which will fund a new undergraduate course in Spring 2011 on the power of visual images in religious texts.

DONALD ARNOLD (biological sciences) received a $2 million grant from the National Institute of Mental Health to examine subcellular targeting of light-responsive opsins for mapping and manipulating neuronal activity.

SARAH BOTTJER (biological sciences and psychology) received a National Institutes of Health training grant for more than $1.3 million to support the collaborative training of doctoral students in hearing and communication neuroscience with the House Ear Institute. The College seeded the proposal preparation.

DOUGLAS CAPONE, William and Julie Wrigley Chair in Environmental Studies, and professor of biological sciences, received two National Science Foundation awards totaling $1.3 million for his nitrogen fixation work.

FRANK CORSETTI (earth sciences) was awarded $400,500 from the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation for the International Geobiology Summer Course at USC.

LINDA DUGUAY, director of the USC Sea Grant program and research associate professor of biological sciences, was awarded a $3.68 million omnibus grant for 2010–14 for the USC Sea Grant program by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

KATRINA EDWARDS (biological sciences and earth sciences) and her research team were awarded a $25 million grant from the National Science Foundation to establish the Center for Dark Energy Biosphere Investigations (C-DEBI), a new Science and Technology Center headquartered in USC College.

MOH EL-NAGGAR (physics and astronomy) was awarded a $360,000 grant to investigate biotic-abiotic nanoscale interactions in biological fuel cells by the Air Force Office of Scientific Research’s Young Investigator Research Program.

THOMAS JORDAN, USC University Professor and W.M. Keck Foundation Chair in Geological Sciences, was awarded a $1.6 million federal stimulus grant to continue developing the PetaShake Project — an advanced computational research platform designed to support high-resolution earthquake simulations on a regional scale.

STEVEN LOPEZ (psychology) received an award from the National Institutes of Health for more than $1.2 million to study disparities in mental health care for Latinos.

SERGEY NUZHDIN (molecular biology) was awarded a $563,000 stimulus grant to purchase an Illumina Solexa Genome Sequencer. The funds also cover the salaries of technicians and bioinformaticians to operate the technology. >>>
**SELECTED GRANTS AWARDED** (continued)

**GEORGE OLAH**, Distinguished Professor of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering and Materials Science, Donald P. and Katherine B. Loker Chair in Organic Chemistry, and director of the Loker Hydrocarbon Research Institute, was awarded a $1.8 million grant from the Department of Energy for his work on the methanol economy.

**MANUEL PASTOR** (American studies and ethnicity) was awarded $375,000 from the Ford Foundation for his work on community action for social justice.

**RICHARD ROBERTS** (chemistry) has been awarded a five-year, $2.5 million research grant from the new National Institutes of Health Transformative Research program.

**BRUCE R. SMITH**, dean’s Professor of English, received a $24,901 start-up grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to create the Cambridge World Shakespeare Encyclopedia.

**SIMON TAVARÉ**, George and Louise Kawamoto Chair in Biological Sciences, and research professor of biological sciences and mathematics, succeeded in renewing grant support from the National Institutes of Health for USC’s Center of Excellence in Genomic Science. The grant will provide approximately $12 million in funding over the next five years.

**GEOFF WISEMAN** (international relations) was awarded a $200,000 grant from the Social and Behavioral Dimensions of National Security, Conflict, and Cooperation competition, a joint venture between the National Science Foundation and the Department of Defense, for his two-year research project titled “Engaging Intensely Adversarial States: The Strategic Limits of Public Diplomacy.”

**GIDEON YAFFE** (philosophy) was awarded a $305,000 grant from the Mellon Foundation to study criminal choices and neuroscience.

**LOWELL STOTT** (earth sciences) and **GARY ROSEN** (mathematics) along with Gisele Ragusa of USC Rossier School of Education, were awarded a $1 million State Department of Education California Postsecondary Education: Improving Teacher Quality Grant: Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) pipeline grant.

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**SELECTED PUBLICATIONS**

**MICHEL BAUDRY** (biological sciences); **RICHARD F. THOMPSON**, USC University Professor and William M. Keck Professor of Psychology and Biological Sciences; and graduate students **MICHAEL FOY**, **YOUNG KIM**, **HOMERA ZADRAN** and **SOHILA ZADRAN** co-authored “17-β-Estradiol Increases Neuronal excitability through MAP Kinase-induced Calpain Activation,” which appeared in the December 22, 2009, issue of the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.


**ANTONIO DAMASIO**, David Dornsife Professor of Neuroscience and director of the USC Brain and Creativity Institute (BCI); **HANNA DAMASIO**, Dana Dornsife Professor of Neuroscience and BCI co-director; **MARY HELEN IMMORDINO-YANG**, assistant professor in the BCI and the USC Rossier School of Education; and **ANDREA McCOLL**, a doctoral student in the BCI, had their paper, “Neural Correlates of Admiration and Compassion,” published in the May 12, 2009, issue of the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS). The PNAS editorial board elected the article to receive the Cozzarelli Prize for an exceptional paper published in 2009.
HANNA DAMASIO, Dana Dornsife Professor of Neuroscience and co-director of the USC Brain and Creativity Institute, co-authored “Distributed Neural System for General Intelligence Revealed by Lesion Mapping,” which appeared in the March 9, 2010, issue of the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

MYRON GOODMAN (biological sciences and chemistry) and graduate student QINGFEI JIANG co-authored “The Active Form of DNA Polymerase V is UmuD’2C–RecA–ATP,” which appeared in the July 16, 2009, issue of the journal Nature.

KENNETH NEALSON, Wrigley Chair in Environmental Studies, and professor of earth sciences and biological sciences; MOH EL-NAGGAR (physics and astronomy); MANDY WARD (earth sciences); graduate student HOWARD HARRIS; and ANNA OBRAZSOVA, a staff member in the Nealson laboratory, co-authored “Electrokinesis Is a Microbial Behavior that Requires Extracellular Electron Transport,” which appeared in the January 5, 2010, issue of the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

MAGNUS NORDBORG (biological sciences), postdoctoral researchers SUSANNA ATWELL and GLEINDA WILLEMS, and graduate students YU HUANG and BIARNI VILHIÁLMSSON co-authored “Genome-wide Association Study of 107 Phenotypes in Arabidopsis thaliana Inbred Lines,” which appeared in the June 3, 2010, issue of the journal Nature.

GEORGE OLAH, Distinguished Professor of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering and Materials Science, and Donald P. and Katherine B. Loker Chair in Organic Chemistry, and director of the Loker Hydrocarbon Research Institute; SURYA PRAKASH, George A. and Judith A. Olah Nobel Laureate Chair in Hydrocarbon Chemistry, professor of chemistry, and scientific co-director of the Loker Hydrocarbon Research Institute; and GOLAM RASUL (chemistry), co-authored “Vicinal Dihalonium Ions: Diprotonated and Dimethylated Chlorine and Bromine Dications,” which appeared in the April 13, 2010, issue of the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.


ARIEH WARSHEL (chemistry and biochemistry) and his fellow researchers ZHEN CHU, SHINA KAMERLIN and PANKAZ K. SHARMA co-authored “Ketosteroid Isomerase Provides Further Support for the Idea that Enzymes Work by Electrostatic Preorganization,” which appeared in the March 2, 2010, issue of the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

ARIEH WARSHEL (chemistry and biochemistry) and his fellow researchers ANDREI V. PISLIAKOV, JIE CAO and SHINA KAMERLIN co-authored “Enzyme Mil- lisecond Conformational Dynamics Do Not Catalyze the Chemical Step,” which appeared in the October 13, 2009, issue of the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.
SELECTED FACULTY BOOKS

JONATHAN ARONSON (international relations) with Peter Cowhey, Transforming Global Information and Communication Markets: The Political Economy of Innovation (The MIT Press)

ITZHAK BARS (physics and astronomy) with John Terning, Extra Dimensions in Space and Time (Springer)

FRANCIS BONAHON (mathematics), Low-dimensional Geometry: From Euclidean Surfaces to Hyperbolic Knots (American Mathematical Society)

T.C. BOYLE (Distinguished Professor of English), Wild Child: And Other Stories (Viking)

DANI BYRD (linguistics) and TOBEN MINTZ (psychology and linguistics), Discovering Speech, Words, and Mind (Wiley-Blackwell)

PERCIVAL EVERETT (Distinguished Professor of English), I Am Not Sidney Poitier (Graywolf Press)

VICKI FORMAN (English), This Lovely Life: A Memoir of Premature Motherhood (Mariner Books)

AMY GERSTLER (Master of Professional Writing Program), Dearest Creature (Penguin)

SARAH GUALTIERI (history, and American studies and ethnicity), Between Arab and White: Race and Ethnicity in the Early Syrian American Diaspora (University of California Press)

JAMES HIGGINBOTHAM (Distinguished Professor of Philosophy and Linguistics, and Linda MacDonald Hilf Chair in Philosophy), Tense, Aspect, and Indexicality (Oxford University Press)

EMILY HODGSON ANDERSON (English), Eighteenth-Century Authorship and the Play of Fiction: Novels and the Theater, Haywood to Austen (Routledge)

ROBIN D. G. KELLEY (American studies and ethnicity, and history), Thelonious Monk: The Life and Times of an American Original (Free Press)

CAROLYN M. MALONE (art history and history), Saint-Bénigne in Dijon Around the Year 1000, “A Church More Wondrous Than Those of All Gaul”: A Political, Liturgical and Theological Interpretation (Brepols)

GERARDO L. MUNCK (international relations), Measuring Democracy: A Bridge between Scholarship and Politics (The Johns Hopkins University Press)

MARY ELISE SAROTTE (international relations), 1989: The Struggle to Create Post-Cold War Europe (Princeton University Press)

MARK SCHROEDER (philosophy), Noncognitivism in Ethics (Routledge)

KEVIN STARR (USC University Professor and professor of history), Golden Dreams: California in an Age of Abundance, 1950–1963 (Oxford University Press)

ANTÓNIA SZABARI (French and Italian, and comparative literature), Less Rightly Said: Scandals and Readers in Sixteenth-Century France (Stanford University Press)

ANN MARIE YASIN (classics and art history), Saints and Church Spaces in the Late Antique Mediterranean: Architecture, Cult, and Community (Cambridge University Press)
SELECTED STUDENT ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENTS

UNDERGRADUATE

17 FULBRIGHT SCHOLARSHIPS (2008–10)
53 McNAIR SCHOLARS (2008–10)
14 MELLON MAYS UNDERGRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS (2008–10)
ADDITIONAL HONORS INCLUDE: U.S. Department of State Critical Language Scholarship; Carnegie Junior Fellowship; Liberty Mutual Responsible Scholarship; Carnegie Endowment for International Peace Internship; Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange Scholarship

GRADUATE

NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION GRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP
NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH NATIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE AWARD FELLOWSHIP
HENRY LUCE FOUNDATION / AMERICAN COUNCIL OF LEARNED SOCIETIES DISSERTATION FELLOWSHIP IN AMERICAN ART
FORD FOUNDATION DIVERSITY FELLOWSHIPS
AMERICAN PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE SERVICES PREDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP
SECOND PLACE, IEEE PRESIDENTS’ CHANGE THE WORLD COMPETITION

ALUMNI

CELIA C. AYALA (B.A., sociology & Spanish, ’76) was appointed chief executive officer of Los Angeles Universal Preschool.

MONICA BENNETT (B.A., psychology, ’08) was awarded a 2009–10 Fulbright Scholarship to Spain, where she will teach English as a second language in Arroyomolina, southwest of Madrid.

MICHAEL BRINKMEIER (M.S., physics, ’92) was re-elected as a member of Parliament in the German state of North Rhine-Westphalia and serves as the spokesman for the Christian Democratic Party in the field of science and innovation.

JERRY BUSS (Ph.D., chemistry, ’57) was elected to the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame for his role in helping shape today’s NBA.

ROB CAVALLO (B.A., English, ’85) was named to the newly created position of chief creative officer of the Warner Music Group.

SAMUEL K. FENG (B.A., history, ’81) was appointed by California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger to a judgeship with the San Francisco County Superior Court.

PAUL KREKORIAN (B.A., political science, ’81) was elected to the Los Angeles City Council for the second district.

DENNIS MULHAUPT (B.A., international relations, ’77) was nominated to the Broadcasting Board of Governors by President Barack Obama.

ZHIGANG PENG (Ph.D., seismology, ’04), now assistant professor in the School of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences at the Georgia Institute of Technology, received the Seismological Society of America’s Charles Richter Early Career Medal.

MARGO REID BROWN (B.A., international relations and political science, ’85) was appointed chief deputy director of the new Department of Resources, Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) by California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger.

DAN TERKLA (Ph.D., comparative literature, ’92) has been named the 2011 winner of the Kemp Foundation Award for Teaching Excellence, Illinois Wesleyan University’s highest teaching honor.

JOSEPH A. WAPNER (B.A., philosophy, ’41; L.L.B., ’48), the presiding judge in television’s The People’s Court from 1981 to 1993, received the 2,392nd star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.
Selected Academic Program Innovations and Expansions

College 2020
College 2020 thematic research clusters will serve as the basis for investments in new research initiatives and related academic programs for undergraduates and Ph.D. students. The selected clusters for 2001–11 are Science, Technology & Society, led by Andrew Lakoff, associate professor of anthropology, sociology and communication; Climate Change in Southern California, led by Douglas Capone, William and Julie Wrigley Chair in environmental Studies and professor of biological sciences, and David Hutchins, professor of biological sciences; and Genocide Resistance, led by Wolf Gruner, Shapell-Guerin Chair in Jewish Studies and professor of history.

USC College-Keck School of Medicine Academic and Advising Program
A new partnership between USC College and the Keck School of Medicine of USC will enhance pre-health undergraduate programming and advising, and serve as a key tool in the recruitment and retention of pre-health majors. Dr. Kenneth Geller has been appointed director of the program.

Online Geographic Information Science and Technology Master of Science and Graduate Certificate Programs
USC College launched a new Web site for its online Geographic Information Science and Technology (GIST) Master of Science and Graduate Certificate Programs. The online courses are designed to enhance students’ spatial thinking abilities, build knowledge of the field and develop skills in geospatial technologies.

Institutes and Centers

The USC Shoah Foundation Institute for Visual History and Education, directed by Dr. Stephen Smith, has been awarded $1,550,023.80 over three years from the Leichtag Family Foundation toward funding the institute’s Teacher Innovation Network including its annual Master Teacher Workshop. The institute also received the 2010 Walter Cronkite Civic Engagement Leadership Award from the organization, What’s Your Issue.

The Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration, co-directed by Manuel Pastor (American studies and ethnicity), has received approximately $650,000 in funding since its inception in 2008, including support from the California Community Foundation, the James Irvine Foundation and the Evelyn and Walter Haas, Jr. Fund.

The Huntington- USC Institute on California and the West, directed by William Deverell (history), received a $204,465 grant from the National Science Foundation to support a project titled “Archive for the History of Southern California Aerospace.”

The Center for Religion and Civic Culture, directed by Donald Miller (religion and sociology), is funding research in 23 countries on charismatic and Pentecostal Christianity. Grants totaling $3.5 million will be awarded to five centers, and another 16 individual scholars and their teams, to conduct research in Asia, Africa, Latin America, or the former Soviet Union. The USC research initiative is supported by a grant from the John Templeton Foundation.

The USC-Huntington Early Modern Studies Institute, directed by Peter Mancall (history and anthropology), received a three-year $883,000 grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

Mark Benthien, the Southern California Earthquake Center’s associate director for communication, education and outreach, joined other experts in a U.S. Geological Survey Congressional Briefing titled “Citizen Science and Earthquakes: Reducing the Risk Through the Power of People.”

The USC Spatial Sciences Institute was created to serve as a university-wide resource in support of research benefiting from Geographic Information Science and Technology (GIST). The institute complements and is an extension of the College’s master’s and certificate programs in GIST.
COMMUNITY
OUTREACH AND SERVICE

Founded in 1972, the JOINT EDUCATIONAL PROJECT (JEP), is one of the oldest and largest service-learning programs in the country, offering USC students the opportunity to combine academic coursework with experiences in the community surrounding the campus. More than 68,000 students logging 1,000,000+ service hours have participated in JEP since its inception. Administered through JEP, Professors Aimee Bender and Cecilia Woloch (English) created THE WRITER IN THE COMMUNITY course in which undergraduates teach poetry and fiction to children in the community.

The USC CENTER FOR URBAN YOUTH, directed by Gayla Margolin of psychology, was established to improve the lives of urban youths in myriad ways — from assessing and treating learning and behavioral problems to counseling victims of violence to addressing obesity. Working with local Inner City Education Foundation Public Schools, USC professors and students conduct and implement research based on the most pressing needs.

The CENTER FOR ACTIVE LEARNING IN INTERNATIONAL STUDIES (CALIS), run by the School of International Relations, builds strong civic engagement programs aimed at teaching youths in grades 6-12 about world issues.

Partnering with Quiksilver, Inc. and the Quiksilver Foundation, the USC Wrigley Institute for Environmental Studies created the QUIKSCIENCE CHALLENGE, a competition for teams of middle school and high school students who create projects and portfolios on an ocean science subject. This team competition is designed to spark the interest of students in science and the ocean and to develop their capacity for leadership.

The EDISON CHALLENGE is a joint project of the USC Wrigley Institute and Edison International, the electric utility that serves much of southern California through its subsidiary, Southern California Edison (SCE). The Edison Challenge gives middle and high school students in the SCE service territory a chance to improve K-12 science education through “hands on” projects, bringing together teams of teachers and students in grades 6-12 to create environmental science projects and to compete for prizes.

As California Poet Laureate, Professor of English and Creative Writing Carol Muske-Dukes established the MAGIC POETRY BUS, a statewide poetry project that brings poets, actors and playwrights to public schools and juvenile halls. The Magic Poetry Bus joined with Get Lit: Words Ignite, a literacy project in which inner city teens learn and recite traditional poetry by heart as well as perform spoken-word poems.

Michael Quick, executive vice dean in USC College, serves as moderator of the NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM OF LOS ANGELES COUNTY’S FIRST FRIDAYS SERIES, having organized 18 events drawing more than 30,000 attendees from the community and USC. First Fridays mixes scientific presentations on a variety of topics with food and entertainment.

Members of a student team from Santa Monica High School who participated in the 2010 QuikScience Challenge
In 2009–10, USC College raised **MORE THAN $43 MILLION** in cash and pledges. The ongoing generosity of our dedicated alumni, parents and friends enables the College to promote even higher levels of excellence in undergraduate education, graduate training and outstanding research and scholarship. This year’s achievements were highlighted by the following gifts:

A gift of **$175,000** from **ELIZA AND DEAN CASH** to establish the Eliza and Dean Cash Scholarship to support the College’s Problems Without Passports program.

A gift of **$1.5 MILLION** from **WARREN CROSS** to support construction of the Warren Cross, M.D. Director’s Suite and Conference Center in the new Brain and Creativity Institute building.

A gift of **$2 MILLION** from **JOYCE CAMMILLERI** — made through the California Community Foundation — to fund both the construction of the Joyce J. Cammilleri Auditorium in the new Brain and Creativity Institute (BCI) building and BCI’s research and programmatic needs.

A **$3 MILLION** gift from the **QUIMBY ESTATE** to establish the Frederick and Dorothy Quimby Memorial Scholarship.

Sixty-two percent of USC College’s Class of 2010 participated in the **SENIOR GIFT CHALLENGE**, totaling more than $6,600.