highlights
2010–11

USC | DANA and DAVID
DORNSIFE COLLEGE
of LETTERS, ARTS and SCIENCES
“We are the heart of the university. And for millennia our world of scholarly inquiry and scientific discovery has been the driving force for human progress and enlightenment.”  —DEAN HOWARD GILLMAN • MARCH 23, 2011
his issue of USC Dornsife Highlights focuses on some of the outstanding achievements of our faculty, students, staff and alumni during the 2010–11 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.

As of March 2011, a community that has been known over the years as the College of Liberal Arts, “LAS” and USC College embraced a new name: the USC Dana and David Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences. The historic naming gift of $200 million is an unprecedented testament to the quality and importance of the ongoing accomplishments of the faculty, students, staff and alumni who make up the heart of the university. This year they have once again distinguished themselves in many ways: receiving prestigious awards and accolades, producing important original scholarship, making groundbreaking scientific discoveries, obtaining additional support for exciting research initiatives, creating new centers of study, developing innovative academic programs, and promoting community outreach.

It is not possible in this type of publication to express all of the many and varied accomplishments of our faculty, students, staff and alumni. For additional examples and ongoing updates, please visit USC Dornsife’s Web site at dornsife.usc.edu, which acknowledges and honors in articles, images and videos our community’s numerous compelling stories.

Howard Gillman
Dean, USC Dana and David Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences
Anna H. Bing Dean’s Chair
JODY AGIUS VALLEJO (sociology) received a fellowship from the American Association of University Women.

THORSTEN BECKER (earth sciences) was appointed visiting associate professor at the University of Tokyo.

YEHUDA BEN-ZION (earth sciences) was elected a fellow of the American Geophysical Union and awarded the Humboldt Research Award (Humboldt-Forschungspreis) from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. Ben-Zion was also ranked 5th in total citations by Thomson Reuters’ Science Watch list of the Top 20 Authors in Earthquake Studies.

AIMEE BENDER (English) won the 2010 SoCal Independent Booksellers Association Award in Fiction for her latest novel, The Particular Sadness of Lemon Cake (Random House, 2010).

PETER BERTON, professor emeritus of international relations, was awarded the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Neck Ribbon by the Government of Japan.

TIM BIBLARZ, associate professor and chair of sociology, received the 2011 American Sociological Association Sex & Gender Section’s Distinguished Article Award for “How Does the Gender of Parents Matter?”

RICHARD BRUTCHEY (chemistry) received a 2010 Cottrell Scholars Award from the Research Corporation for Science Advancement.

DAVID CARON (biological sciences) was named a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

ANTONIO DAMASIO, University Professor, David Dornsife Professor of Neuroscience and director of the USC Brain and Creativity Institute, was awarded the Honda Foundation of Japan’s Honda Prize, one of the most prestigious international recognitions for scientific achievement. Damasio’s latest book, Self Comes to Mind (Pantheon, 2010), was selected by the Financial Times as one of its “Books of the Year” for 2010 and has already been published in nine different languages.

BILL DEVERELL, professor of history and director of the Huntington-USC Institute on California and the West, received a 2011 Gold Crown Award from the Pasadena Arts Council.

KATRINA EDWARDS (biological sciences, earth sciences, and environmental studies) was named a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

PERCIVAL EVERETT, Distinguished Professor of English, won the 2010 Premio Vallombrosa - Gregor von Rezzori Prize for international fiction and was awarded the 2010 John Dos Passos Prize for Literature from Longwood University. Everett also won a 2010 Hurston/Weight Legacy Award in fiction for his novel, I Am Not Sidney Poitier (Graywolf Press, 2009) and was inducted into the South Carolina Literary Hall of Fame.

VICKI FORMAN (English) won the 2010 PEN USA Literary Award in Creative Nonfiction for her memoir, This Lovely Life (Mariner Books, 2009).

SUSAN FORSBURG (biological sciences) received the 2011 Roche Diagnostics Alice C. Evans Award from the American Society of Microbiology for her contributions to the advancement of women in science.

MARGARET GATZ, professor and chair of psychology, and professor of gerontology and preventive medicine, received an honorary doctorate of medicine from the Karolinska Institutet in Sweden.
JIM HAW, Ray R. Irani Chairman of Occidental Petroleum Chair in Chemistry, professor of chemistry and environmental studies, and director of the Environmental Studies Program, was tapped for his environmental expertise to be featured in videos, along with ABC Castle television actors Stana Katic and Seamus Dever, for the Sierra Club’s The Alternative Travel Project.

FR. JAMES HEFT, Alton M. Brooks Professor of Religion as well as president and founding director of the Institute for Advanced Catholic Studies, received the Theodore M. Hesburgh Award for Leadership Excellence from the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities. Heft also chaired each of the six sessions of the international symposium convened by the Vatican’s Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace to debate Pope Benedict XVI’s latest encyclical, Caritas in veritate (Charity in Truth), and how it applies to the United States.

JAMES HIGGINBOTHAM, Distinguished Professor of Philosophy and Linguistics, Linda MacDonald Hilf Chair in Philosophy and chair of the Department of Linguistics, was named a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

MARY HELEN IMMORDINO-YANG (Brain and Creativity Institute) was named a “Rising Star” by the Association for Psychological Science for her early career contributions.

PATRICK JAMES (international relations) was named an Eminent Scholar at Beijing Foreign Studies University.

JANE JUNN (political science) was selected as one of LA Weekly’s “Best of L.A. People 2011.” Junn also gave the Pi Sigma Alpha Keynote Address at the 2011 American Political Science Association Teaching and Learning Conference.

ROBIN D.G. KELLEY (American studies and ethnicity, and history) received the following awards for his book Thelonious Monk: The Life and Times of an American Original (Free Press, 2009): Best Book About Jazz, Jazz Journalists Association; Ambassador Award for Book of Special Distinction, English Speaking Union; a PEN Open Book Award, PEN American Center; the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers Deems Taylor Award; the American Musicological Society’s Music in American Culture Award; and a 2010 Hurston/Wright Legacy Award in nonfiction. Black, Brown and Beige: Surrealist Writings from Africa and the Diaspora (University of Texas Press, 2009), which Kelley co-edited with Franklin Rosemont, won an American Book Award from the Before Columbus Foundation.

KAREN KEMP (Spatial Sciences Institute) was appointed a fellow of the University Consortium for Geographic Information Science.

LON KURASHIGE (history, and American studies and ethnicity) was part of an Organization of American Historians’ Historical Studies delegation that traveled to South Africa in October.

DAN LAI

ER-VOS, Ruth Ziegler Early Career Chair in Jewish Studies and assistant professor of sociology, won the Theda Skocpol Dissertation Award from the American Sociological Association’s Comparative and Historical Sociology Section.

STEVEN LAMY, vice dean for academic programs and professor of international relations, received the Donald Perryman Fund for the Social Studies Scholar Award, which honors a university scholar who has made a significant contribution to the quality of K–12 social studies in Southern California.

KAREN LANG (art history) was granted the Leverhulme Trust Visiting Professorship at the University of Warwick, England.

SONYA LEE (art history, and East Asian languages and cultures) was awarded a senior fellowship at the National Gallery of Art’s Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts in Washington, D.C.; membership at the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton; and an American Council of Learned Societies ACLS Fellowship.

PAUL LERNER (history) was awarded a Humboldt Fellowship to perform research at the Simon Dubnow Institute for Modern Jewish History at the University of Leipzig. Lerner was also awarded an American Council of Learned Societies ACLS Fellowship.

STEVEN LOPEZ (psychology) received the Society of Clinical Psychology’s Stanley Sue Award for Distinguished Contributions to Diversity in Clinical Psychology.

NANCY LUTK

EAUS, professor and chair of anthropology, and professor of gender studies and political science, was awarded a Harry Ransom Center Fellowship at the University of Texas at Austin for her project “A Transnational Friendship: Miguel Covarrubias and Rene d’Harnoncourt (1930–1957).”

ALEXANDER MARR (art history) was selected as a R.H. Smith Scholar in Residence (Renaissance Sculpture) at the Victoria and Albert Museum, London.
SUSAN McCabe (English) was selected as one of the editors for the University of California Press’ New California Poetry series. McCabe was also awarded a residency fellowship at the American Academy in Berlin.

MICHAEL MESSNER (sociology and gender studies) received the California Women’s Law Center’s 2011 Abby J. Leibman Pursuit of Justice Award.

RICHARD MEYER (art history) was named curator of the exhibition Naked Hollywood: Weegee in Los Angeles, 1946–1955, which will open at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles in November 2011.

SUSAN MONTGOMERY (mathematics) was invited to give the 32nd Annual Association for Women in Mathematics Emmy Noether Lecture at the joint mathematics meetings in New Orleans.

BRIGHDE MULLINS, director of the Master of Professional Writing Program and associate professor of the practice in English, was named a 2010 United States Artists Fellow in literature. Mullins was also accepted as a member of the Los Angeles Institute for the Humanities.

VIET THANH NGUYEN (English, and American studies and ethnicity) received an American Council of Learned Societies Fellowship.

MARK RICHARD (Master of Professional Writing Program) won a Pushcart Prize for his memoir House of Prayer No. 2: A Writer’s Journey Home (Nan A. Talese, 2011).


GEORGE SANCHEZ, vice dean for diversity and strategic initiatives, and professor of American studies and ethnicity, and history, has received the first Equity Award from the American Historical Association.

MARK SCHROEDER (philosophy) had his paper, “Hybrid Expressivism: Virtues and Vices,” that was published in Ethics, selected by The Philosopher’s Annual as one of the 10 best philosophy papers published in 2009. Schroeder also won the American Philosophical Association’s 2010 Article Prize for his article, “How Expressivists Can and Should Solve their Problem about Negation.”

KEVIN STARR, University Professor and professor of history, was inducted into the California Hall of Fame. Starr also received the Native Daughters of the Golden West’s California Image Award.

KAREN STERNHEIMER (sociology) was given an honorable mention for the Pacific Sociological Association’s Dean S. Dorn Outstanding Contributions to Teaching Career Award.

SIMON TAVARÉ, George and Louise Kawamoto Chair in Biological Sciences, was elected a fellow of the Royal Society.

MARK THOMPSON (chemistry, materials science, and environmental studies) was ranked 12th in Thomson Reuters’ Science Watch list of the Top 100 Chemists, 2000–2010, which celebrates the achievements of chemists who achieved the highest citation impact scores for chemistry papers published since January 2000.

KAREN TONGSON (English and gender studies) was named editor-in-chief of the Journal of Popular Music Studies, the official publication of the International Association for the Study of Popular Music.

JAMES VAN CLEVE (philosophy) was selected as a fellow at the National Humanities Center in the Research Triangle Park of North Carolina.

MICHAEW WATERMAN, University Professor, USC Associates Chair in Natural Sciences, and professor of biological sciences, computer science and mathematics, received an honorary doctorate from Tel Aviv University.

JOHN WILSON, professor of geography and director of the Spatial Sciences Institute, was made a visiting professor for senior international scientists at the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Beijing.

CECILIA WOLOCH (English) received a 2011 National Endowment for the Arts Literature Fellowship.

At the 30th annual USC Academic Honors Convocation, four of the five Distinguished and University Professors named were from USC Dornsife. SCOTT SOAMES, professor of philosophy and director of the School of Philosophy, and ARIEH WARSHEL, professor of chemistry and biochemistry, were named Distinguished Professors. ANTONIO DAMASIO, David Dornsife Professor of Neuroscience and director of the USC Brain and Creativity Institute (BCI), and HANNA DAMASIO, Dana Dornsife Professor of Neuroscience and co-director of the BCI, were named University Professors.
TING CHEN (biological sciences and computer science) was awarded a $608,732 grant from the National Science Foundation for the computational analysis of metagenomic sequencing data.

LINDA DUGUAY, director of the USC Sea Grant program and research associate professor of biological sciences, was awarded more than $1 million grant from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

PHILIP ETHINGTON (history and political science) was awarded a $249,826 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities for “Broadening the Digital Humanities: The Vectors-CTS Summer.”

RICHARD FLORY (sociology) was awarded a $300,000 grant from the California Emergency Management Agency for “Congregations as First-Responders.”

ERIC FRIEDLANDER, Dean’s Professor of Mathematics, was awarded a $510,018 grant from the National Science Foundation for “FRG: Collaborative Research: Homotopical Methods in Algebraic Geometry.”

JACQUES HYMANS (international relations) was awarded a $212,000 grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to investigate the politics and technology of nuclear proliferation.

ELSI KAISER (linguistics) was awarded a $323,327 grant from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development to study the role of cognitive coherence in referenced resolution.

PEGGY KAMUF, Marion Frances Chevalier Professor of French, and professor of comparative literature and English, was awarded a $189,000 grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation for the Mellon Dissertation Seminar in the Humanities “The Essential Humanities.”

SUSAN LUCZAK (psychology) was awarded a $565,955 grant from the National Science Foundation to examine marine viral dynamics and incorporation into microbial association networks.

HOWARD GILLMAN, dean of USC Dornsife and Anna H. Bing Dean’s Chair, and PETER MANCALL, professor of history and anthropology, and the director of the USC-Huntington Early Modern Studies Institute, were awarded a $1.6 million grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to support 10 two-year postdoctoral fellows in the humanities and humanistic social sciences in USC Dornsife.

HANNA REISLER, Lloyd Armstrong, Jr. Chair for Science and Engineering, and professor of chemistry, was awarded a $564,000 grant from the National Science Foundation for “Photodissociation Dynamics of Transient Species: Hydrogen-Bonded Dimers and Trimers.”

SERGIO SAÑUDO-WILHELMY (biological sciences and earth sciences) received an $819,448 grant from the National Science Foundation to study the oceanography of B-vitamins and evaluate how nutrients and trace metals influence their synthesis, cycling and biogeochemical impact.

ASTRID SCHNETZER (USC Sea Grant program and biological sciences) received a $710,000 grant from the National Science Foundation for experimental studies to understand and evaluate acclimation of marine plankton assemblages to increased CO₂ and temperature.

TRAVIS WILLIAMS (chemistry) received a $260,000 Early Career Development (CAREER) Award from the National Science Foundation for the development and application of bifunctional catalysts.
ARIEH WARSHEL, Distinguished Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry, and postdoctoral researcher ANDREW ADAMCZYK co-authored “Converting Structural Information into an Allosteric-energy-based Picture for Elongation Factor Tu Activation by the Ribosome,” which appeared in the June 14, 2011, issue of the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.


MATTHEW PRATT (chemistry and biological sciences) and fellow researcher BALYN ZARO co-authored “Chemical Reporters for Fluorescent Detection and Identification of O-GlcNAc-modified Proteins Reveal Glycosylation of the Ubiquitin Ligase NEDD4-1,” which appeared in the May 17, 2011, issue of the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.


YANHONG LI, a postdoctoral researcher in the molecular and computational biology program, co-authored “Membrane Nanotubes Induced by Aqueous Phase Separation and Stabilized by Spontaneous Curvature,” which appeared in the March 22, 2011, issue of the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.


JED FUHRMAN, McCulloch-Crosby Chair in Marine Biology and professor of biological sciences, DAVID HUTCHINS (biological sciences), and graduate students CHERYL-EMILIANE CHOW, ANDREW KING and YUANYUAN FENG co-authored “Global Declines in Oceanic Nitrification Rates as a Consequence of Ocean Acidification,” which appeared in the January 4, 2011, issue of the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

RICHARD EASTERLIN, University Professor and professor of economics, and his fellow researchers LAURA ANGELES-CU MCEVY, MALGORZATA SWITEK, ONNICHA SAWANGFA and JACQUELINE SMITH ZWEIG, co-authored “The Happiness-Income Paradox Revisited,” which appeared in the December 28, 2010, issue of the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.


MAGNUS NORDBORG (biological sciences) and graduate student YU HUANG co-authored “Association Mapping of Local Climate-sensitive Quantitative Trait Loci in Arabidopsis thaliana,” which appeared in the December 7, 2010, issue of the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.
LARRY SWANSON, Milo Don and Lucille Appleman Professor of Biological Sciences and professor of biological sciences, neurology and psychology, and MIHAIL BOTA (biological sciences), co-authored “Foundational Model of Structural Connectivity in the Nervous System with a Schema for Wiring Diagrams, Connectome, and Basic Plan Architecture,” which appeared in the November 30, 2010, issue of the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

MOH EL-NAGGAR (physics), KENNETH HENRY NEALSON, Wrigley Chair in Environmental Studies and professor of earth sciences and biological sciences, and postdoctoral researcher THOMAS YUZVINSKY co-authored “Electrical Transport along Bacterial Nanowires from She-wanella oneidensis MR-1,” which appeared in the October 1, 2010, issue of the Science.

ARIEH WARSHEL, Distinguished Professor of Chemistry and Biochemistry, graduate student ANNA RYCHKOVA and postdoctoral researcher SPYRIDON VICATOS co-authored “On the Energetics of Translocon-assisted Insertion of Charged Transmembrane Helices into Membranes,” which appeared in the October 12, 2010, issue of the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

ZHONG-LIN LU, William M. Keck Chair in Cognitive Neuroscience and professor of psychology and biomedical engineering, and GUI XUE (psychology) co-authored “Greater Neural Pattern Similarity Across Repetitions Is Associated with Better Memory,” which appeared in the October 1, 2010, issue of the journal Science.

LARRY SWANSON, Milo Don and Lucille Appleman Professor of Biological Sciences and professor of biological sciences, neurology and psychology, and RICHARD H. THOMPSON (biological sciences) co-authored “Hypothesis-driven Structural Connectivity Analysis Supports Network over Hierarchical Model of Brain Architecture,” which appeared in the August 24, 2010, issue of the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.


Faculty Books

LOIS BANNER (history and gender studies), MM—Personal: From the Private Archive of Marilyn Monroe (Abrams)

MARJORIE BECKER (history), Piano Glass/Glass Piano (Tebot Bach)

AIMEE BENDER (English), The Particular Sadness of Lemon Cake (Random House)

T. C. BOYLE (Distinguished Professor of English), When the Killing’s Done (Viking)

LEO BRAUDY (University Professor, Leo S. Bing Chair in English and American Literature, and professor of English and history), The Hollywood Sign: Fantasy and Reality of an American Icon (Yale University Press)

ANTONIO DAMASIO (University Professor, David Dornsife Professor of Neuroscience, and director of the USC Brain and Creativity Institute), Self Comes to Mind: Constructing the Conscious Brain (Pantheon)

ALICE ECHOLS (Barbra Streisand Chair of Contemporary Gender Studies and professor of English, gender studies and history), Hot Stuff: Disco and the Remaking of American Culture (W. W. Norton & Company)

MICHAEL GRAHAM FRY (international relations), And Fortune Fled: David Lloyd George, the First Democratic Statesman, 1916–1922 (Peter Lang Publishing)

CHRISTIAN R. GROSE (political science), Congress in Black and White: Race and Representation in Washington and at Home (Cambridge University Press)

NORA HAMILTON (political science), Mexico: Political, Social and Economic Evolution (Oxford University Press)

DEBORAH HARKNESS (history), A Discovery of Witches (Viking)

PATRICK JAMES (international relations), Constitutional Politics in Canada after the Charter: Liberalism, Communitarianism and Systemism (University of British Columbia Press)

SONYA LEE (art history and East Asian languages and cultures), Surviving Nirvana: Death of the Buddha in Chinese Visual Culture (University of Washington Press)

ALEXANDER MARR (art history), Between Raphael and Galileo: Mutio Oddi and the Mathematical Culture of Late Renaissance Italy (University of Chicago Press)

CHERYL MATTINGLY (anthropology, and biological sciences), The Paradox of Hope: Journeys through a Clinical Borderland (University of California Press)

LORI MEEKS (religion and East Asian languages and cultures), Hokkeji and the Reemergence of Female Monastic Orders in Premodern Japan (University of Hawaii Press)

MICHAEL A. MESSNER (sociology and gender studies), King of the Wild Suburb: A Memoir of Fathers, Sons and Guns (Plain View Press)

CAROL MUSKE-DUKES (English), Twin Cities (Penguin)

MARK RICHARD (Master of Professional Writing Program), House of Prayer No. 2: A Writer’s Journey Home (Nan A. Talese)


ARAM SAROYAN (Master of Professional Writing Program), Door to the River: Essays & Reviews from the 1960s into the Digital Age (Black Sparrow Press)

CRAIG B. ST ANFORD (anthropology and biological sciences), The Last Tortoise: A Tale of Extinction in Our Lifetime (Belknap Press)

KEVIN STARR (University Professor and professor of history), Golden Gate: The Life and Times of America’s Greatest Bridge (Bloomsbury Press)

KAREN STERNHEIMER (sociology), Celebrity Culture and the American Dream: Stardom and Social Mobility (Routledge)

GIDEON YAFFE (philosophy and law), Attempts: In the Philosophy of Action and the Criminal Law (Oxford University Press)
STUDENT & ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENTS

UNDERGRADUATE

22  Fulbright Fellows (2008–11)
68  McNair Scholars (2008–11)
1   Churchill Scholar
21  Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowships (2008–11)

At the 30th annual USC Academic Honors Convocation, 15 out of 19 student award winners were from USC Dornsife.

GRADUATE

Fulbright Fellowship
National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowships
Association of American Colleges and Universities’ K. Patricia Cross Future Leaders Award
Ford Foundation Diversity Fellowships
Biophysical Society Student Travel Award
National Institutes of Health’s National Research Service Awards Individual Predoctoral Fellowship
Western Psychological Association Foundation Student Scholarship

ALUMNI

RONALD L. BROWN (B.A., history, ’76) was appointed public defender of Los Angeles County, a position that oversees more than 700 defense attorneys who represent indigent defendants in criminal court.

CARYN LERMAN (M.A., psychology, ’83; Ph.D., psychology, ’84), Mary W. Calkins Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and the Annenberg Public Policy Center at the University of Pennsylvania, was elected a member of the Institute of Medicine, one of the nation’s highest honors in biomedicine.

JEFF MARSEE (B.A., economics, ’71) was named the new superintendent/president of San Joaquin Delta College in Stockton, Calif., following a nationwide search.

DIVINITY MATOVU (B.A., political science and African American studies, ’08) was named one of “20 Amazing Young Women Who Are Already Changing the World” by Glamour magazine for her leadership at Ugandan nonprofit Amagezi Gemaanyi Youth Association, which she co-founded in 2008.

TEA OBREHT (B.A., art history and creative writing, ’06) won Britain’s prestigious Orange Prize for Fiction for her debut novel The Tiger’s Wife (Random House, 2011) making her the youngest winner of the award.

MALIA OSHIMA PAUL (B.A., international relations and East Asian languages and cultures, ’95) was named deputy chief of staff by Hawaii Lieutenant Governor Brian Schatz. A licensed attorney, she played a key role in Schatz’s campaign for lieutenant governor.

ROBERT F. PADGETT (B.A., history, ’68) was elected to a five-year term on the University of Southern California Board of Trustees. A retired emergency room physician, Dr. Padgett is the outgoing president of the USC Alumni Association Board of Governors.

RODNEY SWAIN (Ph.D., psychology, ’92), associate professor of psychology and interim dean of the College of Letters and Science at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, has been named dean of the college.

LOUIS ZAMPERINI (B.S., physical education, ’40) is the subject of a book titled Unbroken (Random House, 2010) by Laura Hillenbrand, author of best-selling novel Seabiscuit. The book recounts the Olympic athlete and World War II hero’s life and war-time experiences.

LYDIA GREEN (B.A., linguistics, ’09) and GARY LEE (B.A., political science, ’07) received Fulbright Fellowships to the United Kingdom and South Korea, respectively.
NEW BACHELOR DEGREE PROGRAMS

The BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NEUROSCIENCE degree brings together faculty from several departments. The BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN COGNITIVE SCIENCE degree combines natural science with linguistics in an effort to understand mental processing. The BACHELOR OF ARTS IN VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS STUDIES allows students to take advantage of faculty strength in the Department of Art History together with USC’s professional schools in the arts.

NEW INTERDISCIPLINARY MINORS

Students who choose a MINOR IN STATISTICS will acquire a basic understanding of the mathematics underlying modern statistical analysis and inference techniques, learn how to handle and analyze large data sets, and gain insight into the applications of modern statistics. The MINOR IN PHOTOGRAPHY AND SOCIAL CHANGE was created in collaboration with the USC Annenberg School for Communication & Journalism, combining coursework in communication, political science and fine arts, for students who want to use their work to draw attention to societal conflicts and promote social action. The MINOR IN SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND SOCIETY brings together faculty from several schools and allows students to choose between three areas: Science as a Social Institution; Technology and Modern Life; and Health, Environment and Science Policy. The MINOR IN ETHICS AND MORAL PHILOSOPHY provides students headed for medicine, biology, psychology, and other health care professions with a broad humanistic perspective not found in professional education, and the critical tools to deal with the ethical issues that may arise in their professional lives.

NEW GRADUATE PROGRAM

The DOCTORAL PROGRAM IN COMPARATIVE STUDIES IN LITERATURE AND CULTURE was established to graduate new Ph.D.s whose rigorous training in their fields has been enlarged by the cross-disciplinary perspectives of the program’s faculty and broader student cohort. Upon completion of the degree, students will earn the Ph.D. in comparative studies in literature and culture, to be further specified as appropriate in parentheses (comparative literature), (French and Francophone studies), (Slavic languages and literatures), or (Spanish). The new program replaces the Ph.D. programs in comparative literature, French, Slavic languages and literatures, and Spanish.

NEW SCHEDULING MODELS

BLOCK PROGRAMMING was implemented in environmental studies and in American studies and ethnicity, which allows groups of 20 students who sign up for the same classes to concentrate on particular areas of academic inquiry for a period of three or four weeks, moving on to another area for each portion of the semester.

In Spring 2011, USC Dornsife began offering a small number of courses in a new semester format, the MAYMESTER. These courses are full four-unit, stand-alone offerings that take place during the four weeks after graduation and provide opportunities for research and experiential learning off campus, throughout the United States or abroad. The inaugural course offerings included: “The Poet in Paris” in Paris, France; “Integrated Ecosystem Management in Micronesia” in Guam and Palau; and “Developing Countries in World Politics: The Nixon Administration’s Policies Toward India and Pakistan,” archival research at the Nixon Library in Yorba Linda, Calif.

PROBLEMS WITHOUT PASSPORTS

Problems Without Passports, which allows undergraduates to focus on an issue that transcends national boundaries, offered program destinations in Brazil, Ireland, England, Belize, Egypt, Cambodia, Turkey, and Washington, D.C.

FIRST-YEAR INVESTIGATIONS

First-Year Investigations was launched as a series of introductory seminars taught by USC Dornsife faculty for USC Dornsife undergraduates, to help them understand the resources available during their careers at USC.

IRANIAN STUDIES INITIATIVE

USC Dornsife and the Farhang Foundation launched an Iranian Studies Initiative at USC, which will offer students Persian language classes beginning in Fall 2011. The initiative’s second phase, still in planning stages, will allow students to choose a specialization in Iranian studies.

MIDDLE EAST STUDIES PROGRAM

The Middle East Studies Program combines offerings in the humanities and social sciences to deliver a wide range of courses leading to a major and minor in Middle East studies, including Middle Eastern languages such as Arabic and Persian and opportunities to study abroad in Egypt, Jordan or Israel/Palestine.
The CENTER FOR APPLIED MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES, led by director Susan Friedlander (mathematics) and associate director Alexander Tartakovsky (mathematics), received a more than $1.1 million grant from the Defense Threat Reduction Agency to research nonlinear filtering and change-point detection methods for course of action analysis. 2010 marked the 20th anniversary of the Center for Applied Mathematical Sciences.

The CENTER FOR RELIGION AND CIVIC CULTURE (CRCC), directed by Donald Miller (Leonard K. Firestone Professor of Religion, and professor of religion and sociology) received a $150,000 grant from the California Community Foundation to support the Cecil Murray Center for Community Engagement. The CRCC also received a $200,000 grant from the James Irvine Foundation to support the Passing the Mantle Clergy and Lay Leadership Institute.

The CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF IMMIGRANT INTEGRATION, directed by Manuel Pastor (American studies and ethnicity) and Ange-Marie Hancock (political science and gender studies), received approximately $500,000 in grant funding from agencies including the California Community Foundation and the Evelyn and Walter Haas, Jr. Fund.

The EAST ASIAN STUDIES CENTER, directed by Stanley Rosen (political science), received two grants totaling more than $1 million from the U.S. Department of Education for the USC/UCLA Joint East Asian Studies Center’s foreign language and area studies fellowship program.

The PROGRAM FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AND REGIONAL EQUITY, directed by Manuel Pastor (American studies and ethnicity), received approximately $1.6 million in grant funding from agencies including Atlantic Philanthropies, Inc., the James Irvine Foundation, the Ford Foundation and the National Science Foundation.

The SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EARTHQUAKE CENTER, directed by Thomas Jordan (University Professor and W.M. Keck Foundation Chair in Geological Sciences), received a $2 million grant from the California Earthquake Authority for “Uniform California Earthquake Rupture Forecast Version 3” and a $964,968 grant from the National Science Foundation for “Geoinformatics: A Petascale Cyberfacility for Physics-Based Seismic Hazard Analysis.”

The USC SHOAH FOUNDATION INSTITUTE FOR VISUAL HISTORY AND EDUCATION, directed by Stephen D. Smith, received a $488,373 grant from the Leichtag Family Foundation and a $500,000 grant from Dana and Yossie Hollander for the institute’s online educational application, IWitness.

Roberta Marinelli was appointed director of the USC WRIGLEY INSTITUTE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES. Marinelli previously served as the program director of the Antarctic Organisms and Ecosystems Program at the National Science Foundation and station representative at the Palmer and McMurdo stations in Antarctica.

The National Science Foundation-funded CENTER FOR DARK ENERGY BIOSPHERE INVESTIGATIONS (C-DEBI), directed by Katrina Edwards (biological sciences, earth sciences, and environmental studies), explores life beneath the seafloor and makes transformative discoveries that advance science, benefit society, and inspire people of all ages and origins.
COMMUNITY OUTREACH & 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 (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, has built strong civic engagement programs that have taught 25,000 youths in grades 9–12 about world issues during the last 10 years.

The TEACHING INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS PROGRAM, founded by Vice Dean for Academic Programs Steven Lamy in 1993, has guided more than 2,500 USC students in international courses to teach in local high schools and serve as mentors.

Partnering with Quiksilver, Inc. and the Quiksilver Foundation, the USC Wrigley Institute for Environmental Studies created the QUISKSCIENCE 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.
In 2010–11, USC Dornsife raised MORE THAN $235 MILLION in cash and pledges. This unprecedented total includes the historic gift of $200 million from Dana and David Dornsife. Their unwavering support, and that of our valued benefactors, serves as the driving force behind USC Dornsife’s commitment to scholarly inquiry in service of human enlightenment and progress. This year’s achievements were highlighted by the following gifts:

**A gift of $200 MILLION from DANA AND DAVID DORNSIFE** — the largest single gift in USC’s history — to name USC’s College of Letters, Arts and Sciences.

**A gift of $150,000 from MELISSA AND ROBERT ALVARADO and a gift of $150,000 from MARY AND KEVIN WHITE** — both made through the USC Associates — to support the Dean’s Discretionary Fund, which provides resources to address the highest priorities of USC Dornsife.

**A gift of $250,000 from the FARHANG FOUNDATION** to establish the Farhang Foundation Iranian Studies Initiative.

**A $400,000 grant from the QUIKSILVER FOUNDATION** to continue the QuikSCience Challenge in the USC Wrigley Institute for Environmental Studies for two additional years, which will bring the program to its 10th anniversary.

**A planned gift of $900,000 from HERBERT HIRSCHMANN** to establish the Herbert Hirschmann Scholarship Fund to benefit students in the Environmental Studies program.

**A gift of $1 MILLION from JOYCE J. CAMMILLERI** — made through the California Community Foundation — to name the Joyce J. Cammilleri Lobby in the new Brain and Creativity Institute building.
“Given the importance of the College of Letters, Arts and Sciences and given the diversity of its disciplines, I’m not exaggerating when I say that the naming of the College is like naming a university. Dana and David Dornsife have in essence named the core of our entire university.” —PRESIDENT C. L. MAX NIKIAS • MARCH 23, 2011