MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

DEAR GRADUATE STUDENT:

Because we live in California’s benign climate, we often lose sight of what spring means to people in less temperate zones. Yes, Virginia, there are places where farmers wait well into May for the ground to defrost so they can plow and plant. The first flowers of each year—usually crocus—often poke their heads up through snow. Springtime comes with a burst of greenness in a world that’s been devoid of color for months and brings the promise of a new harvest.

Because these experiences lie deep in our communal psyche, wherever we were raised, the rhythms of nature have turned spring into a metaphor for new beginnings and revitalized energies. It is a time for making new starts, planting seeds, cleaning house, and refreshing our environment. Those themes link the stories in this issue of the Graduate Quarterly.

Like good farmers everywhere, leaders of the academic community know that diversity ensures the best harvest. At UCLA, we believe that the presence of students from backgrounds diverse by gender, race/ethnicity, nationality, socioeconomic experience, and sexual preference is essential to our goals. California State University has been a key partner in achieving this prized diversity. In this issue, we see what CSU alumni have to say about their decision to do graduate studies at UCLA and their experiences here.

Not only in spring, but always at that time of year, a new cohort of scholars leaves UCLA, PhDs in hand, to assume new roles and begin new lives. For many, this means taking up places in the chain that passes knowledge from one generation to the next, a chain extending back through their academic mentors to the very foundations of universities. The transition of graduate students to faculty brings renewal to the academic community. Postdoctoral scholars, including those whose excellence is celebrated in this issue, make a similar contribution.

UCLA’s Career Center has enhanced its programs to help job-hunting PhDs, not only those seeking academic careers but also the increasing number who are finding exciting roles outside the academy. In this issue, you’ll read about the program and about a handful of UCLA alumni who chose a nonacademic path.

We think of spring as a time to plant growing things. What’s growing over on the western edge of campus is the beginnings of a residential community for single graduate students. Besides providing inexpensive and convenient accommodations for those who live there, the new Weyburn Terrace Housing—the largest on-campus housing complex for graduate students in UCLA history—will also facilitate relationships among graduate students and between them and the scholarly community at UCLA.

If you take a look around your environment, my guess is you’ll find a few green sprouts that provide cause for hope. Tend them with care.

Claudia Mitchell-Kernan
Vice Chancellor, Graduate Studies
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Career Minded

Turning a doctoral degree into a university teaching job is an option, but not a mandate. Because doctoral programs have traditionally been the training ground for university faculty—and because more than 80 percent of graduate students say they want academic careers—this may seem like an astonishing idea.

By Jacqueline Tasch

Dana Landis, Doctoral Career Services Supervisor at the UCLA Career Center.
However, Dana Landis, Doctoral Career Services Supervisor at the UCLA Career Center, thinks it’s an idea worth considering.

Dr. Landis and the Career Center offer advice and help to graduate students seeking all kinds of jobs, including those in the academic world. “I have no investment in which alternative you choose,” she tells graduate students. “What I’m really invested in is you having a choice. If you go into an academic job, let it be that you chose it, let it be that you saw all your options and felt hopeful about going in either direction, and you picked a professorial position.”

In urging doctoral students to consider alternative careers, not as a last resort if academic jobs are unavailable, but as an attractive and competitive option, Dr. Landis is not alone.

The university community as a whole is recognizing the need to inform graduate students about a variety of career options. The Graduate Career Consortium, which includes representatives of career centers at major research institutions like UCLA, has “started to push for more in-depth services to PhDs because as a group we could see that needs were changing,” Dr. Landis says. While career centers still help doctoral students prepare for academic careers, they’re also offering information on other career directions.

Among other campus career professionals, UCLA “is seen as one of the best models for the collaboration between a Career Center and a Graduate Division,” said Albert Aubin, senior associate director of the Career Center, explaining that communication between the two units creates the best outcomes for graduate students. “When we go to meetings of career professionals, they’re always amazed at what we’ve accomplished.”

To improve an excellent program, UCLA has created a full-time staff position, which Dr. Landis is the first to hold, that’s devoted exclusively to helping doctoral students pursue jobs in or out of academia. Besides counseling PhDs—with help from other staff members whom she informs about issues of interest to PhDs—she devises workshops to help job-seeking students and leads a support group for them.

Dr. Landis brings to her work a kind of knowledge that comes only from personal experience. During the second year of her doctoral studies in clinical psychology at an-

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**Career Tips: Finding a Job Outside Academia**

**RE-VISION YOUR EXPERIENCE**
To pursue a career outside academia, look at your experience from a nonacademic point of view. Consider how it fits with other experiences you’ve had. It’s not that academic experience is irrelevant to business or government jobs—not by a long shot—it just needs a bit of translation.

**TALK ABOUT WHAT YOU CAN DO, NOT WHAT YOU KNOW**
Unless your dissertation topic is directly relevant to the job you’re seeking, telling people in detail about your findings may be a turn-off. Instead, tell them about the research, communication, and people skills you gained in the process.

**RESEARCH = HOW TO GATHER AND EVALUATE INFORMATION**
In an information-saturated world, people who know how to find out the facts and how to assess and analyze them are needed more than ever before. Talk about your skills in data analysis, online searches, and interviewing.

**TEACHING = HOW TO COMMUNICATE**
Work as a teaching assistant builds a lot of skills corporations are seeking: You can organize and present information in an understandable and interesting way; you can speak in front of groups and lead discussions; you can evaluate performance.

**MANAGING PEOPLE, MANAGING TIME**
Whether it’s in a classroom or a laboratory, most graduate students learn how to organize a team and lead its members toward the accomplishment of a goal. To complete a doctoral education, graduate students also learn how to organize their work, set priorities, and meet deadlines.
Dr. Landis spent her first year in the new position making connections around campus and learning what kinds of help graduate students need. Last fall, she offered her first series of workshops. Topics included writing CVs and cover letters and assembling a credentials file; identifying job opportunities; and preparing for academic interviews. The last subject was handled in separate workshops for science and engineering and for humanities and social sciences. “When you get into the nitty-gritty of academic interviewing, the discipline really matters,” Dr. Landis said. Faculty participated in both sessions, and videotapes are available for viewing at the Career Center.

Winter quarter workshops provided a first look at the alternative job market. One reason was that in winter, “people are often finding out that they haven’t landed academic positions, so we wanted to come in with more information about their options and help them think about what their next steps might be.” The workshops offered ideas about reassessing your skills, interpreting your experience for a nonacademic market, and transforming a CV into a resume.

“Because they’re trained to be professors, graduate students talk about their research experience in the same esoteric academic language that would make sense to a hiring committee at an academic institution,” she says. “Then they try to squish the same wording and the same focus into a small resume and hand it to someone in business.” Instead, students need to rethink and rephrase what they’ve learned.

This spring, workshops focused on internships as a way to make the transition to a nonacademic career. Career panels of alumni in nonacademic jobs provided advice and inspiration.

Dr. Landis also organized a panel of alumni for a program in the Department of Psychology. “That was a great evening,” said Dena Chertoff, graduate adviser. “Graduate students were extremely enthusiastic and grateful to get information about how to search for nonacademic jobs.” Among other programs for specific departments, a seminar for anthropology students included information on both academic and nonacademic job hunting.

Graduate student Yeshi Mikyas helped Dr. Landis prepare a program for Graduate Women in Science, which was attended by more than 50 people. Yeshi, whose degree will be in medical and molecular pharmacology, has taken Dr. Landis’ advice to integrate what she’s gained through her doctoral studies with other professional and life experiences as she looks for a career. “The more I do that, the less I’m panicking,” she says.

While nonacademic jobs in the sciences—at research units and government agencies—may be more widely known, Dr. Landis says students in the humanities and the social sciences also have alternatives.

“Many skills that PhDs acquire are highly valued in applied settings outside the academic environment,” Dr. Landis says. In particular, humanities PhDs often have better people skills than their science colleagues, and they have “exquisite communications skills—they’ve been writing lovely papers from their first minute on campus,” she says.

And one more thing. After distributing and receiving evaluations of her workshops, Dr. Landis is finding that “doctoral students are really good at qualitative feedback. Our programs have gotten a lot stronger because they’ve been so good about telling us what they need.”
What kinds of careers are available to students who take a path away from academia? All kinds—and they’re interesting and challenging. The *Graduate Quarterly* asked four alumni who chose alternative careers to talk about their work and how they made their decisions.

ROBERTA PANZANELLI,
PhD Art History

Polychrome (brightly painted) sculpture is one element that links Roberta Panzanelli’s dissertation research at UCLA with her job as a research specialist at the Getty Research Institute. At the Getty, among other tasks, she’s researching an exhibition on polychrome sculpture, which is becoming a hot topic in the world of art history. Several institutions are trying “to reconstruct with a degree of accuracy” the ancient sculptures in their respective collections, she says, adding the colors in which they originally appeared. “Monochromatic or white-on-white sculpture is a recent invention,” she explains. For centuries, sculpture was always painted, sometimes in hues that now seem garish—“you have no idea how colored they were,” she says.

At UCLA, her dissertation described sculptures that were not only painted but also dressed in wigs and costumes. These figures were used in a reconstruction of holy sites in Jerusalem that became a late 15th-century pilgrimage destination in Piedmont, Italy. Varallo was a sort of “Franciscan version of Disneyland,” Dr. Panzenelli says, and it still draws visitors.

Between the dissertation and the exhibition still in the research stage, Dr. Panzanelli’s career direction took a sharp turn. She left UCLA in 1999 with a PhD in art history, aiming for an academic career. When she was offered a job in the Getty Research Institute’s scholars program,
“I was absolutely convinced I would return to academia,” she says. “This was supposed to be a short interim experience, and it became my life.”

About a year ago, Dr. Panzanelli was working on another exhibition when she reached the fork in the road. The exhibit, shown in the Research Institute, was called The Geometry of Seeing: Perspective and the Dawn of Virtual Space. Dr. Panzanelli enjoyed assembling manuals and treatises on perspective from the Getty’s “fantastic library” and organizing them into an exhibit. Her work “satisfied my need to communicate on a broader level than just with students,” Dr. Panzanelli says, and “with a kind of immediate and tangible visibility that is rare in academia. In exhibitions, you get to see the product and you get to see the people and they ask you questions.”

At that time, “I made a decision to stop looking for a university job,” she says. While life has taught her not to “see anything as final in my life, ever,” Dr. Panzanelli says, “for the time being I’m very content.”

KRISTIN LANG, PhD, Anthropology

Kristin Lang doesn’t think “people need to have only one love in their life.” Since she was an undergraduate at UCLA, she’s had two: anthropology and journalism.

As a freshman, Dr. Lang got her start with a half-hour news magazine on campus radio. She soon moved on to big-time media: Entertainment Tonight, Extra, ABC, KCAL, Inside Edition, and a CBS affiliate in Santa Barbara County. Today she’s executive producer and on-camera reporter for the investigative units at UPN’s Los Angeles affiliate and Fox 11 News.

Dr. Lang always knew her career would be in journalism not academia, but she saw no reason to interrupt her pursuit of a PhD. When people ask why she went to graduate school, she says, “I made a name for myself early on as the person who could find anybody,” she says, using search engines, phone calls, and the old-fashioned anthropological method of “talking to people and finding things out.” Also, after presenting her work before audiences of 200 or 300 at academic conferences, she says, “to talk to a camera, to talk to a group of people, to conduct a business meeting doesn’t even faze me.”

The PhD itself comes in handy when she’s job hunting. “What it says to an employer is that you’re willing to work longer and harder on any one given thing than the vast majority of people,” she says. “You have a tremendous work ethic.”

If the PhD has helped her at work, journalism also contributed to her graduate studies. “The fast, getting-things-done, cranking-it-out pace of the newsroom helped speed me through graduate work” in five years, she says, with one small problem. After learning to write in the tight journalistic style, “making the papers long enough was a problem.”
Nandini Gunewardena was known by her first name in much of rural Sri Lanka, where she was coordinating millions of dollars in social projects for the World Bank.

Before taking the job, she had hesitated over the World Bank’s reputation for imposing policies without understanding the people who were supposed to benefit. She told her interviewer: “My first priority is the people, the women in particular, who are the most vulnerable in any society. I’m an anthropologist. I need to spend time in the field.”

Under her direction, the project “yielded some fabulous results,” she says, both large—the reallocation of project funds to women, who usually control money in Sri Lankan households, and reductions in the incidence of low birth weight and in malnutrition rates of children under five years old—and small. After learning how to handle the family budget, for example, one woman redirected the 15 rupees her husband spent each day on cigarettes to purchase a nutrition supplement for her children.

In her work, Professor Gunewardena drew on a familiarity with rural populations in Sri Lanka that she acquired through her dissertation research in anthropology at UCLA. Her project, "Bitter Cane: Transformation of Women’s Roles in the Sugar Economy of Sri Lanka” captured the negative outcomes, particularly for women, of a national development strategy to cultivate sugar rather than purchasing it on the world market.

Her PhD in hand, Professor Gunewardena went back to Sri Lanka as a postdoctoral fellow. “My CV sort of circulated,” she says, and she was a consultant on research and projects funded by USAID, CARE International, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA) before the World Bank called.

Professor Gunewardena decided on a career in applied anthropology as she finished her master’s degree work. Trips to Central Africa and Sri Lanka heightened her concern “about the persistence of poverty, gender disparities, women’s health issues, and infant mortality, and related issues,” she says. “I felt that I could make a contribution more effectively as a practitioner anthropologist.”

More recently, her career goals changed again. Back in Los Angeles, she learned that UCLA’s Anthropology Department needed someone to teach courses in applied anthropology. She is now a part-time lecturer and continues to do international consulting.

“I’m trying to keep a foot in each world,” she says, but more of her weight appears to be on teaching these days. “My hope is that the students I teach will be able to absorb the ideas and passions that I hold,” she says, “and translate what they’ve learned from me into actions that are not gender-biased and can further advance social justice.”
With a National Science Foundation fellowship for her graduate studies in psychology and experience in a prestigious research project on African American family formation, Pamela Taylor was a good candidate for a tenure-track faculty position, except for one thing. By the end of her second year at UCLA, she knew she didn’t want the job. Preparing for comprehensive exams, she saw “so much anxiety” among her colleagues, she says, much of it focused “not so much on getting the answers right as on making sure you said the right thing about the work of faculty authors.” She saw the close linkage between the academic life and publishing: “I didn’t want always to have to worry that I was only a good person if I published good work.”

Then, too, she observed that a new tenure-track assistant professor was working as hard as or harder than the graduate students. She thought: “I want a life. I want to go to the movies without feeling guilty. I want to leave work at work and not take it home every night.”

UCLA’s Career Center provided help in finding a job outside academe. Searching its alumni database for a potential role model, Dr. Taylor found Yolanda Nunn, president and founder of a management consulting firm that assisted nonprofits. During an informational interview, “we just really got along,” Dr. Taylor recalls, and a few weeks after she graduated, she was employed to evaluate programs in drug treatment and prevention, youth leadership, and schools. Because of her research expertise, agencies “knew I readily understood the underlying issues,” she says. “At a fundamental level, I knew exactly what was going to help.”

Later, Dr. Taylor became one of three start-up research analysts for the Proposition 10 Commission, now called First Five L.A. Using money from an increased cigarette tax, the agency develops programs for children up to age 5.

Then, about a year ago, a former mentor called to tell her about a job at UCLA that “is perfect for you”: Director of Institutional Research and Information Services for the Graduate Division. So Dr. Taylor is back in the academy after all.

For her, the issue is choice. “Not being a professor I feel I have more options.” An administrator during the day, she can enjoy her free time any way she likes: attending a Dodger game or working on a study of interethnic dating in college, which she and a colleague once dreamed up between innings. “This is more balanced for me,” Dr. Taylor says.
Breaking Ground

Weyburn Terrace Housing will be the largest on-campus resident community for graduate students in UCLA history.

For the moment, there’s not much to look at: The site on Veteran a few hundred yards from Westwood Village has been graded and prepared for construction, and underground parking structures are being built. Come back in Fall 2004, however, and you’ll see a cluster of seven graceful buildings, none higher than four stories, and all with landscaped interior courtyards. Nearly 1,400 people will come and go on foot and by shuttle from their homes to the nearby campus.

“We believe that when this project is finished it will be one of the best facilities for single graduate students in the country,” said Director of Housing Michael Foraker.

Since Mira Hershey Hall, which housed 335 single graduate students, closed in 1998, only about 1,200 of UCLA graduate students have benefited from campus housing programs. Most of these live in the family housing units at University Village and Barrington Manor five miles south of campus in Mar Vista. The lack of housing for single graduate students—the majority—was addressed in the Student Housing Master Plan for 2000-2010. UCLA made a commitment to guarantee new graduate and professional students access to university housing for the first two years.

To figure out the quantitative needs, UCLA Housing administration did some math. Each year, about 3,000 new graduate students arrive on campus, and two thirds are single. About half of these are likely to accept an offer of housing, and 95% of those who live in campus housing the first year are expected to return for the second year. All those calculations suggest that about 2,000 beds will be needed to meet the demand. Nearly 1,400 of those will be available in September 2004, with the rest to be built after neighboring Warren Hall, now used for medical research, is demolished.

To figure out the qualitative needs, the Housing administration asked graduate students what they want. About two

Weyburn Terrace Housing will be available in Fall 2004. Because of UCLA’s Master Plan commitments, preference will be given to single first- and second-year graduate students. Vice Chancellor of Graduate Studies Claudia Mitchell-Kerman has appointed a committee of graduate students and faculty from around the campus “to consider and establish policies for allocating housing and to discuss ways in which a graduate community could best be developed,” said Associate Dean William H. Worger, who will serve as its chair. The committee will meet throughout spring quarter, and their decisions will be reported later.
“The survey suggests that single graduate students generally have three priorities, in no particular order: convenience, privacy, and affordability,”

thir—thirds preferred unfurnished to furnished apartments, and about two thirds selected two-bedroom two-bath units over studio apartments. Nearly all had cars (to park), and nearly all wanted links to UCLA’s computer backbone from their rooms. About two thirds of those surveyed had less than $25,000 in income, so the cost of housing was an important issue.

“The survey suggests that single graduate students generally have three priorities, in no particular order: convenience, privacy, and affordability,” said Foraker. “We believe this project matches the expectations of the graduate students who were surveyed.”

The seven buildings contain 547 two-bedroom, two-bath units, and 295 studios, matching the survey’s two-to-one preference ratio. All are equipped with refrigerators, microwaves, stoves, rugs, and blinds, but they are otherwise unfurnished. Rents will include all utilities (including central heat/air conditioning), cable TV, and high-speed Internet access through the UCLA backbone.

The UCLA shuttle will provide service to and from campus. “Our research confirms that students are often on the core campus until 10 or 11 at night,” said Foraker. “Now they won’t have to jump in a car and commute 12 or 15 miles up the road to go home.”

Rents are expected to be about $850 per person per month. The most recent rental rate survey by the Community Housing Office found studio rents near campus in a range from about $700 per month to about $1,000. Rates for two-bedroom apartments ranged from $1,300 to nearly $2,000. Apartments in the community rarely offer utilities, cable TV, or Internet access as part of the rent.

“We think if we can give students the privacy they want, the services we describe, and shuttle service to and from campus, an estimated cost of $850 per person per month will be very competitive,” said Foraker.

Although its apartments are certainly practical, the project also has aesthetic values. With its tile roofs, “it’s architecturally a marvelous project,” said Foraker. The design was purposefully linked to the architectural characteristics of the main campus, for example, with the use of UCLA brick. The building design follows the model of classic Los Angeles courtyard housing, with buildings angled around an open space that includes some smaller units. Eventually the courtyard buildings will adjoin a large grassy area similar in size to the one outside of Royce Hall.

Weyburn Terrace Housing offers an attractive package, said Foraker. “It’s new, it’s based on student needs, and it’s intimately linked to the campus it serves.”

Michael Foraker, Director of Housing
BUILDING A GRADUATE COMMUNITY

On-campus housing for graduate students may offer the greatest benefits to the students themselves, but it also pays off for the larger academic program at UCLA.

Weyburn Terrace Housing “will provide the basis for an on-campus graduate community with students drawn from all parts of the university—academic and professional schools, local, state, national, and international students, all brought together,” says Associate Dean William H. Worger, who represents the Graduate Division on housing issues. “We anticipate that such a community will contribute greatly to the development of graduate life and to the growth of interdisciplinary study.”

By its nature graduate education tends to isolate students within a department, providing limited opportunities to meet colleagues outside their discipline or even in the same program. The residential sprawl of Los Angeles, with some of the least expensive housing options farthest away, makes the problem worse.

On-campus housing should make a decided contribution. “We think we have enough of a critical mass here to develop a very vibrant community that will afford the kind of interaction that’s not possible now,” said Director of Housing Michael Foraker. The shuttle to and from campus offers one opportunity to meet, and the two-bedroom apartments have spacious living rooms and adjacent eating areas for social gatherings. In addition, each building has a laundry room with adjacent study lounge, and the outdoor courtyards will be “very inviting places for students to converse with colleagues or maybe do light reading,” said Foraker.

The Weyburn Terrace project is also expected to help UCLA in competition with other universities for the best graduate students. The quality, affordability, and proximity of housing is a key factor in recruiting, especially with graduate students from outside Southern California, who may find house-hunting in the Los Angeles metropolitan area a bit daunting.
UCLA’s Graduate Division recently completed a study of UCLA doctoral and master’s students who hold degrees from the California State University (CSU) system as part of the CSU Outreach Project. The project is designed to build bridges between the California State University system and its campuses and UCLA. The purpose of the study was to gain an understanding of CSU student pathways to graduate school and how these students’ successful journeys to UCLA might assist administrators and faculty at the CSU and at UCLA to increase the number of CSU students who continue their education at the graduate level. At its heart, this study seeks to identify ways to improve access to graduate school for students at the CSU. Overall, the CSU student population is more diverse than the UC and tends to come from more disadvantaged family backgrounds. Many CSU students are first generation college goers, and often CSU students are likely to be the first in their family to pursue an advanced degree.

The findings of this study are based on interviews that were conducted in the summer and early fall of 2002 with current graduate students who hold degrees from the CSU. In total, 122 CSU degree holders were interviewed, 65 are pursuing doctoral degrees and 57 are pursuing master’s degrees. Represented in the sample are students from 17 of the 23 CSU campuses and from 41 degree programs at UCLA. Women make up 65% of the sample, and broken down by race/ethnicity the sample is 6% African American, 7% Asian American/Pacific Islander, 18% Latino/Mexican American, 2% Native American, 56% White/Caucasian, and 11% Decline to State.

Highlighted here are findings common to CSU degree holders enrolled in both Master’s and Doctoral degree programs at UCLA.
One common misconception about CSU students is that their academic accomplishments confine them to CSU institutions and that they were likely not able to gain admittance to UC or similar institutions. Results in this study run contrary to this notion. Although some interviewed students stated that they were not academically eligible to attend the UC, by far the majority of the students in the study stated that they were UC eligible and had chosen to attend a CSU institution for reasons unrelated to academic eligibility. The most discussed reasons were the proximity of the local CSU campus to the student’s home, often very important because of the student’s desire or need to live at home, and the affordability of the CSU campus as compared to the UC and to private institutions. Other reasons students discussed included the availability of special and unique degree programs and scholarships at the CSU, and the accessibility of the CSU, allowing students to attend part-time and in the evenings.

Though the decision to pursue graduate study proved different overall for CSU students now pursuing master’s degrees as compared to those pursuing doctoral degrees, common between the two groups was the importance of mentors. Many students commented that they would not have considered themselves graduate school material if it had not been for a faculty mentor or a group of faculty who encouraged graduate school. Typical were the comments of this master’s student: “the professors in my department encouraged me to go. I didn’t think of myself (as graduate school material), but they encouraged me.” Both faculty and students initiated mentorship relationships. These relationships often included assistance in finding research opportunities and funding, as well as advice for how to prepare for graduate school, select schools, and write a competitive application. Mentorship that was initiated by the faculty member proved to be an important part of the pathway for many of the underrepresented students in the study.

For those students who did not have a specific mentor, general encouragement for graduate school often came from more than one CSU faculty member, or in the case of many of the students who are currently pursuing master’s degrees, from family members and work associates. Similar to encouragement coming from a specific mentor, this support was vital to increasing degree aspirations.

Students noted that involvement in academic and extra-curricular activities at the CSU was an important part of their preparation for graduate school. For example, research opportunities at the CSU proved to be a beneficial part of the preparation phase for the majority of the students, though these experiences were more essential for those students pursuing doctoral degrees at UCLA as compared to master’s degrees. For students in the life and physical sciences these experiences were usually considered critical to preparing academically for graduate level work. As one current chemistry doctoral student noted, “if I hadn’t had the extensive lab experiences while I was an undergraduate (at the CSU) I would have either had to earn a master’s degree before starting the doctorate, or worked in a lab for several years.” Though students in the humanities and social sciences were less likely to engage in research while at the CSU, often due to a lack of opportunity, for those students who were able to participate in research the experience was no less important. Many students noted that having participated in research increased their intellectual curiosity, gave them an understanding of what would be required in graduate school, and provided critical information about the graduate school environment.

Students also spoke of the importance of increasing the awareness of graduate school opportunities at the CSU. Though the students in this study were the ones who succeeded in making it to graduate school, the majority felt that there was a lack of a graduate-school-going culture at the CSU overall and that this can make it more difficult for students who were committed to pursue their interests, much less for those who had not developed graduate school aspirations. Students suggested that the CSU culture could further promote graduate school by increasing the conversation about graduate school both inside and outside of the classroom and by increasing the discussion of ongoing and current research both in the classroom and through guest speakers. Students also suggested that students at the CSU need to be encouraged to take higher-level courses, and that certain aspects of the curriculum, such as writing, could be emphasized to a greater extent.

In addition, students stated that there was often a lack of information and assistance about how to apply to graduate school, select a school, and put together a competitive application. Illustrative are the comments of one student who knew prior to attending the CSU that she was interested in graduate level work: “It would have been difficult for me to get to graduate school if I had not already known I wanted to go.” CSU students, like other graduate students, felt that it takes a lot of self-initiative and
passion to succeed to make it to graduate school. Many of the PhD students stated that it is more difficult to get to graduate school coming from a CSU which they felt does not put a strong emphasis on graduate school attendance at the PhD level.

In terms of how students felt they were received once they reached the UCLA campus, both in the recruitment phase and the adjustment phase, the majority of the students felt that they were well received and that where they had earned degrees in the past was of little importance to both students and faculty colleagues at UCLA. Some students did note that students at UCLA who come from schools with prestigious names get extra attention and respect as compared to students from unknown schools and locally known schools such as the CSU, but for the most part students stated that this did not negatively impact them. Illustrative of this sentiment are the statements of this student: “I don’t get any extra respect like someone from Stanford or some school like that, but I also don’t get any disrespect.”

Lastly, in terms of CSU students’ transitions to graduate level work at UCLA, one of the biggest challenges for students was adjusting to the pace of the quarter system as compared to the semester system at the CSU. The demands of the workload of graduate school, as compared to even graduate level work at the CSU, was also an issue for some students, as was adjusting to the theoretical orientation of UCLA as compared to the practical orientation of the CSU. Capturing this attitude are the comments of this student who completed a master’s at the CSU prior to attending UCLA: “During my first year I was not prepared for the demands of the workload. I never felt like I had so much on the line at the CSU, and at UCLA it feels like I have so much on the line everyday.” Funding graduate school and long commutes were also issues for students. Among master’s students many discussed that they had delayed attending graduate school because of issues related to financing and funding. Some students also mentioned that the lack of diversity at UCLA as compared to the CSU they attended was an adjustment for them. Though some transition issues did arise for many of the students, outweighing these issues was an overall sense among the students that they were well prepared for graduate work and that they were satisfied and happy with their chosen educational and career paths.

African American Studies Graduate Student Conference

By Kelvin White

The Ralph J. Bunche Center for African American Studies and the Afro-American Studies Interdisciplinary Program (IDP) hosted the first annual African American Studies Graduate Student Conference on February 28 at the Bunche Library Media Center, 135 Haines Hall. Opening remarks were made by the Bunche Center’s director, Dr. Darnell Hunt, and the IDP curriculum coordinator, Dr. Lisbeth Gant-Britton. Special remarks were made by Dr. Jim Turner, Assistant Vice Chancellor of the Graduate Division, and Dr. Scott Waugh, Dean of Social Sciences. Moderators/respondents for this year’s conference were Professors Paul von Blum, Negussay Ayele, and Ysamur Flores-Pena.

This year’s presentations crossed multiple disciplines, namely history, ethnography, African American studies, English, and Latin American studies. Students, faculty, and prospective graduate students came together to enjoy intellectual conversation relating to various themes salient to African American studies. The conference was divided into three different panels, each having a different theme.

This year’s participants included Denise Burgher, an MA student in Afro-American Studies who presented her paper, African Eunuchs: A Third Sex, in which she argued that in the past and at present, black eunuchs are the text upon which Islam resolves and manifests its greatest gender contradictions. Gigi Rabe’s research shows how politics, economics, and religion have influenced Jamaican ska and raises questions about whether or not this music is an important force in maintaining racial harmony in a country with diverse ethnicities. Lisa Nevins, in Monster’s Call: The Affirmation of America’s Subconscious Racism Depicted in Halle Berry’s Role in the Film, Monster’s Ball, discussed issues related to the character, Leticia—a portrayal that made Berry the first African American woman to win the Best Actress Oscar.
California Forum for Diversity in Graduate Education

By Glen T. Winans, Assistant Dean, UCLA Graduate Division

On Saturday April 5th, 2003, the UCLA Graduate Division hosted the 13th Annual California Forum for Diversity in Graduate Education. More than 1,100 of the most promising underrepresented undergraduate and master’s degree students from public and private California universities and colleges spent the day at UCLA attending workshops on all aspects of graduate education and met with recruiters representing graduate programs at over 75 universities. Included were over 400 UCLA undergraduate students.

A group of current UCLA doctoral students participated as workshop speakers, met individually with interested students, and conducted tours at the Planetarium and Visualization Portal in Boelter Hall. Various UCLA faculty and Graduate Division staff were joined by faculty and staff from other universities as workshop speakers. Dr. Roosevelt Johnson, Program Director of the National Science Foundation, delivered the morning Keynote Address in Ackerman Union.

The purpose of the Forum is to accelerate the flow of students from underrepresented groups into advanced level degree programs in all academic disciplines. UCLA Graduate Division hosted the first Forum in 1991, and remains a proactive force in supporting the Forum and other outreach and diversity initiatives in graduate education.
three out of four graduate students say academic life at UCLA is very good or excellent. By and large, they are impressed with the quality of the faculty and the academic standards in their departments, although satisfaction with mentoring is not always high.

Graduate students seeking PhDs are getting experience that builds strong CVs for their job search, particularly the 87% who plan to seek academic positions. Most have worked on research with faculty, published journal articles, and attended or presented at conferences.

Some interesting differences emerge when answers from graduate students in different disciplines are compared. Survey results support the notion that the humanities and social sciences have a different “culture” than the physical or health sciences and engineering.

These are some of the most striking results of the Higher Education Data Sharing Consortium’s (HEDS) Graduate Student Survey (GSS), which was sent to thousands of graduate students across the country in 2002. At UCLA, the 7,900 registered UCLA graduate students who had e-mail addresses received it, and a representative sample of more than 1,500 replied. The HEDS survey asks students what they think of their academic program, their research and teaching experiences, the university’s resources, funding, quality of life outside the classroom, and other topics related to graduate school.

Some of the findings are highlighted here. The Graduate Division will release a complete report, which will include aggregate data from peer institutions, at the end of the Spring Quarter.

ACADEMIC LIFE

UCLA graduate students in all departments rated academic standards and faculty quality very high, while attitudes toward student-faculty relationships varied by school or field. Graduate students in the School of Nursing (72.7%), health sciences (64.8%), and the humanities (64%) were more likely to rate these relationships very good or excellent than those in the physical sciences (56.8) and social sciences (43.9).

Percentage who rated the following very good or excellent:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Master’s</th>
<th>PhD</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Academic standards</td>
<td>71.9</td>
<td>76.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall academic experience</td>
<td>72.3</td>
<td>75.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intellectual quality of faculty</td>
<td>82.7</td>
<td>86.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relationship of faculty and students</td>
<td>53.1</td>
<td>55.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program space and facilities</td>
<td>39.4</td>
<td>41.5</td>
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MENTORING

Only 40.6% of graduate students completely or generally agreed that faculty are very good mentors. In the Social Sciences 35.5% completely or generally disagreed. Faculty in the humanities, followed by those in the health sciences, were most likely to be rated very good at mentoring students. Master’s degree students appeared less satisfied than doctoral students with the kinds of input usually expected of mentors.

Percentage who responded that they usually:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Master’s</th>
<th>PhD</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Received advice on standards for academic writing</td>
<td>24.2</td>
<td>36.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Received advice on developing thesis/dissertation proposal</td>
<td>24.8</td>
<td>36.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Received feedback on research</td>
<td>33.5</td>
<td>52.3</td>
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Nearly half of PhD graduate students said the process of selecting an adviser is clear, compared to less than a quarter of master’s degree students. Students in engineering and the sciences were most likely to identify an adviser during their first two years of graduate study and to meet with that adviser at least weekly.

STUDENT LIFE

Less than half of graduate students rated student life very good or excellent. African American, Latino, and international students were most likely to rate student life poor, however, only 2% of respondents said they experienced or witnessed prejudice of any type. First- and second-year students in the humanities were the most likely to meet peers outside the classroom, and first- and second-year students in engineering were least likely to do so. Among more advanced students, those in the social sciences were least likely to socialize with each other.

Among campus services, the bookstore and shuttle bus received the highest ratings. About 62% of doctoral students and 56% of master’s students rated Graduate Division services adequate or more than adequate.
Percentage who rated the following excellent:

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<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Master’s</th>
<th>PhD</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bookstore</td>
<td>35.2</td>
<td>34.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shuttle Bus</td>
<td>28.7</td>
<td>29.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Athletic Facilities</td>
<td>21.0</td>
<td>23.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Insurance</td>
<td>20.2</td>
<td>13.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Financial Aid Office</td>
<td>20.5</td>
<td>11.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office of International Students</td>
<td>7.9</td>
<td>13.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PROFESSIONAL PREPARATION**

Less than 40% of UCLA graduate students said they got adequate training before they began their own research, but the sciences shine in this area: Most graduate students in health science (73.9%), life science (70%), and basic biomedical science (66.7%) were satisfied with their pre-research training. More than 88% of UCLA students said they collaborated with faculty on research.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Master’s</th>
<th>PhD</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Published research papers as sole author</td>
<td>17.9</td>
<td>75.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Published Research papers as a co-author</td>
<td>35.1</td>
<td>86.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attended a professional conference</td>
<td>67.6</td>
<td>96.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delivered a Paper/Poster at a Conference</td>
<td>48.6</td>
<td>93.6</td>
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Because of the criteria established by many journals and conferences, it’s not surprising that fewer master’s degree students have publishing and presenting experience. In addition, master’s degree programs often provide specific preparation for non-academic jobs, explaining the reversal of emphasis in career advice.

Students in engineering and the sciences, where faculty usually set the research agenda for their labs, were most likely to co-author papers with faculty. Those in the humanities, social sciences, and professional schools were less likely to be co-authors with faculty as their careers advanced, presumably because they develop their own areas of research.

**FINANCIAL ISSUES AND OTHER HURDLES**

Work and financial commitments were most likely to be rated a major obstacle to progress in graduate school: About 27% of doctoral students and 31% of master’s degree students said this was so. Master’s degree students relied more heavily on need-based aid and loans or personal and family funding, while doctoral students were more likely to have teaching or research assistantships.

Students in the humanities were most likely to agree that faculty encourage and help students apply for financial support, especially in the first two years. In Engineering, followed by the sciences, students were more likely to say faculty advisers had the primary responsibility for ensuring a student’s financial support.

But money isn’t everything. In their open comments, students were asked what they would choose if they could change one thing about their experience to make it more successful or fulfilling. Financial support ranked third.

**THE BIG QUESTION: WOULD YOU DO IT AGAIN?**

The litmus test of satisfaction with graduate education is, perhaps, willingness to repeat the experience. Here’s a summary of what students had to say.

If choosing a graduate career again, would you definitely select:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Master’s</th>
<th>PhD</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Same University?</td>
<td>43.7</td>
<td>38.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Same Field of Study?</td>
<td>57.4</td>
<td>54.7</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Of course, people may have a change of mind or heart for reasons other than the quality of the education offered—for example, once they begin, they’re better informed about the demands of graduate education and of their disciplines. Also, people might give a different, more positive answer a few years after completing a degree, once the intensity of the struggle is past and the rewards are in hand.
Andrew Lear
Classics

In ancient Greece, pederasty “was a broadly practiced custom for over 1,000 years,” says Andrew Lear, who is earning his doctoral degree in the Department of Classics. Because of its context in modern society, “people tend to write about pederasty as if it were one thing, as if it had an ethos,” he says. “In Greece, it didn’t have an ethos—it was part of life.” Rather than asking “pederasty—yes or no,” people had many different attitudes about pederasty depending on their context: “pederasty this and that.”

From 700 BC to 480 BC, for example, “we don’t have any evidence that heterosexual relationships in Greece were regarded as romantic,” Andrew says. At the same time, “there’s all this very romantic stuff about boys.” Andrew thinks this is because the relationship of men and boys “was idealizable.” Whereas women were either wives chosen by someone else or prostitutes available for a price, “boys could say no”—and doing so may have enhanced their attractiveness. One vase fragment depicts a bearded man with his hands on a boy’s shoulders. Cartoon-like bubbles show the man saying, “Let me?” while the boy says, “Won’t you stop?”

This is the core of Andrew’s dissertation, “Noble Eros: The Idealization of Pederasty From the Greek Dark Ages to the Athens of Socrates.” While the subject of vases—specifically the Grecian vessels designed for serving and drinking wine—will take only one chapter in the dissertation, it is a key part of his overall research project. Vases represent “this big black hole” in the study of the ideology surrounding pederasty, he says. “They are neither completely collected nor carefully analyzed.”

In the years since his study of vases began, while Andrew was acquiring a master’s degree at the University of Virginia, he has found that even many classicists are uninformed about the objects, which combined pragmatic purpose with artistic decoration. “Some people are intimidated by the quantity of evidence”—about 40,000 figured vases have been discovered—“and by their poorly recorded history,” he says.

More of Andrew’s research on vases will go into a book he’s co-authoring with Professor Eva Cantarella of the University of Milan, titled Images of Greek Pederasty, to be published later this year by Routledge. The book will discuss 110 vases that depict scenes of pederastic courtship in ancient Greece, with 120 to 130 illustrations.
If this doesn't sound like your grandfather's classics discipline, Andrew would emphatically agree. "Classics are kind of hip now," Andrew says, due in good part to increasing interest from feminist and gay studies, which focus on gender as a construct. The field has also been improved, Andrew says, "by an influx of women." While the field in general is still dominated by men, half of the senior professors in UCLA's Classics Department are women.

Among them is Kathryn Morgan, whom Andrew met while he was working on his master's degree at the University of Virginia. Andrew "can absorb and synthesize large bodies of information and then extract the salient items that allow him to formulate or criticize a hypothesis," Professor Morgan says. "Coupled with this is a fruitful unwillingness to take for granted the 'sacred cows' of whatever type of scholarship he is engaged in. He always asks unexpected and fundamental questions."

Andrew's co-chair is Sarah E. Morris, chair of archeology. Because Andrew's dissertation has put him at a crossroads of disciplines, he's had broader opportunities for funding. His time at UCLA has been supported by the Department of Classics through a summer research grant and a PhD candidate stipend, the Division of the Humanities through the Lenart Travel Fellowship, and the Department of Art History through the Dickson Fellowship, which he was awarded two years in a row. He also won the Bourse Chateaubriand, France's equivalent of the Fulbright, for travel and study in 2000-2001.

All of these awards have supported Andrew's research in Europe. He spent 2000-2001 at the Sorbonne, following a bit of European travel looking at vases. The next year, he was at King's College in London, where he returned after spending Fall 2002 at New York University as a visiting scholar. One faculty member has dubbed him "the president of the UCLA Away club," and another wondered aloud if Andrew would have to come back for his orals or might do them by teleconference.

Andrew is coming home, however, probably in 2004, to collect his PhD and find a job in academia. At 43, he's already maneuvered through a number of career changes. As an undergraduate at Harvard, he was told "a poet should major in English," so he did, following it with a master's degree in creative writing—particularly short stories—at City University of New York.

He taught English at the University of Rome for several years—"a perfectly alright job by Italian standards" that nevertheless left him longing for all the intellectual projects he had never developed. That longing brought him back to Harvard, where he taught Italian—and won several awards for teaching—while auditing a range of classes, most of them in the Classics. He has been a freelance fiction editor for a major New York publisher, and he also has worked as a translator. He was nearly forty when he left the University of Virginia for UCLA.

"It's a very good collection of scholars here, and a very warm collection of people," he says. "I felt at home from the day I walked in here."
When it came time to look for a doctoral program in geography, Naomi Pope knew exactly where she wanted to go: UCLA not only had one of the most distinguished departments in the field, it also had Professor Allen Scott, whose work on the cultural economy of cities—and in particular Hollywood—dove-tailed with her research goals. She took it as a positive sign when the Association of American Geographers
These areas had remained derelict for so long, and then all of a sudden waves of new people were taking them on—young, artistic, with a culture of their own.

decided to hold its 2002 annual meeting in Los Angeles, making it convenient for her to pay a visit to Professor Scott. And then there was a final bit of serendipity. On the flight into Los Angeles, she told her seatmate about her plans for graduate studies. The woman helpfully pointed out UCLA’s campus from the air. “I’ve got this nice little guesthouse in back of my place,” the woman said, “and you could rent it if you come here. I live right across the street from campus.”

UCLA’s decision to admit Naomi was just about as clear-cut, for she had a rather impressive resume, including a Chancellor’s Fellowship and awards from the Fulbright Foundation and the Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada. This financial support is due in great part to the excellence of Naomi’s master’s thesis work at the University of British Columbia, which was presented at 2003’s annual conference of the Association of American Geographers.

Naomi did a comparative study of Seattle’s Belltown and Vancouver’s Yaletown, former industrial areas that have been transformed into thriving new media economies. Geography at the graduate level embraces a range of physical and social sciences, so mapping, interviews, demographic analysis, and economic studies all had a place in her work.

After listing all of the media firms in each area, Naomi selected a random sample for closer examination, describing aspects such as firm size and employee demographics, goods and services they used or produced, sociocultural and other aspects of their location, and interconnections with other organizations both locally and globally. Her goal was to show how all these factors contributed to building centers of art, creative design, and innovation.

Belltown and Yaletown had similar demographics and similar social ambiance, Naomi found, but Belltown’s economic ties were local, thanks to the giant Microsoft, while Yaletown’s economic network reached into Asia and the Pacific. In Vancouver’s Yaletown, one element of the neighborhood economy was the movie industry. Intrigued, Naomi decided that her doctoral studies would compare the film industries in Canada (Vancouver/Toronto) and Hollywood.

And this brought her to Professor Scott, whose work in urban and regional economic development has focused lately on the movie industry. “She’s interested in what makes these economic clusters tick. That’s very much the focus of my work as well, so there’s a very good match.”

Professor Scott finds his new protégé “highly motivated and extremely focused on where she wants to go and what she wants to do.” Although it is not common for a student to approach the department with a mentor already selected, the department “makes it a rule that entering graduate students have to have arranged for a preliminary adviser,” Professor Scott says, “so they don’t float around—they immediately link up with someone and have some direction.”

The program also provides direction through its curricular structure. First-year doctoral students like Naomi take three courses each quarter: a core geography course, a graduate elective in geography, and a related course outside the department. In her first quarter at UCLA, Naomi took a sector analysis class in the School of Planning, where she participated in a group project on Hollywood. She’s also taken a film school class on independent film financing and an anthropology offering on ethnography of media. This spring, she’s taking her first class with Professor Scott, on the creative industries and their role in new economies.

Her second year will be devoted to work as a teaching assistant and preparation for 16 hours of written comprehensive examinations. The subjects are still to be negotiated with a committee she has yet to choose—the classes she’s taking outside her department are intended to help her select its members. In the third year, she’ll finally get to a dissertation proposal and the research and writing to follow.

Meantime, as a geographer, she’s finding Los Angeles different from what she expected. Although it’s a huge and sprawling place, “I’m finding these smaller communities like Westwood that have such an eclectic yet established identity.” And, although she owns a car, “I use it much less than I expected,” she says. “I try to walk as much as possible.”

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Michael Taylor
Geology

Looking to the south-southeast from the north shore of Tangra Yum Co (Co means lake). The children are from the town of Oombu.

Michael Taylor had already embarked on a career as a geologist with the U.S. Geological Survey at Wood’s Hole Oceanographic Institute in Massachusetts when Professor An Yin came by to present a paper, “The Tibetan Plateau in Four Dimensions.” Although the geography was new to Michael, he knew quite a bit about plate tectonics, a major factor that shaped both the undersea environment and Tibet. Impressed by Professor Yin’s work and enthusiasm for the sciences, Michael decided on a career change and says he “pursued it pretty aggressively.”
In 1999, Michael found himself headed toward the Tibetan Plateau himself, to see those four dimensions himself. To visit the plateau, an immense upland that contains almost all of the world’s territory above 5,000 meters, most travelers arrive by air at Lhasa. From there it’s a three- to five-day drive across roads barely worth the name to central Tibet, where Michael pursues his research.

The plateau is not a particularly inviting place: very dry rolling terrain, high winds, sparse vegetation, and wild grazing animals. For geologists, however, it’s paradise. The mountains that ring the plateau were formed about 55 million years ago when the continental land mass now called India collided with the rest of Asia. “If you want to learn about deformation of the continental crust—how continental collisions look in the initial stages, Tibet is one of the best places to go,” Michael says.

On a typical day, he and his colleagues “get up, have some breakfast, and go mapping.” The first step is to identify an area and an interesting question that might be answered by examining it: what’s the history of the plateau? how do earthquakes happen? how do faults begin? “Then we hike to that area and look at the rocks and how different rocks are in contact with each other,” Michael says.

Team members carry a map board, pencil, compass, and GPS to provide their location. “We go out there and try to sketch the geology as we see it,” Michael explains. Drawing skills are highly valued. Using a topographic base with contour lines that show elevations, Michael adds relevant information, for example, about where different kinds of rock exist and how their contacts intersect with topography.

Michael is now a veteran traveler to Tibet, examining how the plateau continues to be deformed by the geologic stresses it experiences. Using data gathered by satellites, Michael is able to measure the motion of the earth’s surface in the present day, comparing that to what can be inferred about past motion. His work examines zones where faults move horizontally and where there’s geometric interplay between different fault systems. Both characteristics can also be applied to California’s San Andreas fault.

Indeed, one of the advantages of the Tibetan Plateau is that it allows study of fault structures without the kinds of changes due to time and human interference that make the San Andreas and other California faults less accessible and thus more difficult to understand. Even if the freeways and malls would disappear, California’s land mass is still much older than Tibet’s. Study of any fault system increases understanding of the seismic cycle—quakes and the intervening periods—on all fault systems, and that is one goal of geologists.

The writing of Michael’s dissertation will be made easier by experience he has gained as a graduate student with Professor Yin. A paper about his Tibet findings won Michael the American Geophysical Union’s Outstanding Student Paper Award in the Tectonophysics section for 2001. Professor Yin “strongly encourages his students to first-author all their papers,” Michael says, and provides guidance on article writing and all other aspects of being a graduate student.

“The success of scientists is gauged by their writing and their publications. If it’s not published, it didn’t happen,” Michael says. “That doesn’t get brought home to you until you’re a graduate student.”

Professor Yin’s students also learn about grant applications. While the professor “pretty much funds everything,” Michael says, “we help him in writing proposals.” The National Science Foundation and the Lawrence Livermore National Laboratories are primary sources of funding of UCLA’s research on the Tibetan Plateau, but Professor Yin requires his students to apply for multiple funding sources, Michael says. “He lets us be independent.”

According to Professor Yin, Michael has taken advantage of that opportunity to become “the most independent student I have supervised in my 16 years at UCLA. Mike’s best quality is his enthusiasm for research. He is hard-working and perseverant.”
When Song Wang began a year of laboratory rotations in UCLA's ACCESS program, seeking a place to do his doctoral studies, it wasn't just the scientific ideas that interested him. He wanted a setting that wasn't too crowded with other apprentices. "If you go into a humongous lab, there are a whole lot of postdocs and graduate students," he explains. "An entering-level graduate student can often get..."
lost,” missing opportunities for mentoring and interesting work. Song also sought an expanding area of research where he could “perform good experiments and move on to the next stage in my career.”

Oliver Hankinson’s laboratory in the Department of Pathology and Laboratory Medicine met Song’s criteria. Its postdoctoral fellows and graduate students were looking at a number of interesting questions about how environmental pollutants including dioxins and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) cause toxic effects at the cellular level. These compounds, which have received a lot of attention in the mainstream press, are created by a variety of natural and manmade events, from brush fires to automobile exhaust and cooking of food, and they move through the food chain from soil to animals to humans.

Dr. Hankinson had discovered a protein called ARNT which associates with the aryl hydrocarbon receptor (AHR) and dioxins in the nuclei of cells. The AHR/ARNT combination (called a dimer) attaches itself to a chromosome and regulates gene activity. This process drew Song’s attention. He looked at how AHR and ARNT regulate certain metabolic enzymes as well as the expression of other genes, including those that regulate cell proliferation.

The enzymes have “good intentions,” he says: They work on PAH molecules to make them water soluble and thus easy for the body to eliminate. However, when they are out of balance, the enzymes cause accumulation of highly reactive metabolic derivatives of PAHs, which can then lead to mutations and cancer. The presence of dioxin, which resists breakdown, probably triggers the prolonged activation of the genes involved in cytokine production and cell proliferation.

“We haven’t answered all the questions about how that happens yet,” Song says, “but we’re trying hard.” In the meantime, findings of the studies he’s participated in have been published in several top-rung journals.

Song has been the first to apply several new techniques—for example, ChIP (Chromatin Immunoprecipitation) assay and RNA interference procedures—to studies on the mechanisms of dioxin and PAH carcinogenesis, and he is continuing to reap the rewards of these innovations, Professor Hankinson says, calling this “a major achievement of his work.” In addition, Song “reads voraciously,” Professor Hankinson says. “He is probably more apprised of recent developments in mechanisms of dioxin and PAH carcinogenesis than myself. His suggestions are routinely penetrating and useful.”

Song says he enjoys the process of “looking through the abundance of existing knowledge to see where you can develop a contribution. That’s a fun thing for me to do.”

While clinical research is valuable, he says, it is basic scientists who are “going deep into the molecular mechanisms” of diseases, where causes can be identified and cures developed.

At the moment, Song is reviewing opportunities to do postdoctoral research unrelated to his dioxin studies: in stem cells, tumorigenesis, or neuroscience. Then, he thinks, a research position in the pharmaceutical industry might complete the American period of his resume.

Song hopes someday “to transplant some of this knowledge back into China,” where he grew up in Tianjin, a major city not far from Beijing. When he was a boy choosing a career direction, bright students like himself were often steered toward science. Although this wasn’t done “forcefully, without asking my opinion,” Song acknowledges that a science career was not entirely his choice. It was just that careers in business and law had not developed in China to the extent they have today.

The academic environment in China continues to grow, Song says. At one time, Chinese scholars might have remained in the West because that was the only way to access the resources they needed to do their work. “Now, China is developing so fast that in a few more years, there may be a very good environment for science,” he says. It’s an environment that appeals to Song. “I would like to contribute to the development of my country,” he says, “perhaps the development of its health care system.”

When Song was in high school, he chose basic biological science over medical school, with consequences he’s come to appreciate. While clinical research is valuable, he says, it is basic scientists who are “going deep into the molecular mechanisms” of diseases, where causes can be identified and cures developed.
The Fifth Annual Postdoctoral Fellows Reception

Five postdoctoral fellows—in nursing, biological chemistry, surgery, psychology, and chemistry and biochemistry—received awards and the 15 nominees from whom they were selected were honored for their contributions to UCLA at the fifth annual Postdoctoral Fellows Reception and awards ceremony, held at the Faculty Center on March 19.

Referring to the 15 nominees as exemplars of the 1,100 or so postdoctoral fellows who work at UCLA, Vice Chancellor of Graduate Studies Claudia Mitchell-Kernan praised not only their research contributions but also their efforts as teachers, mentors, and managers. “Of all your contributions, the most important from my perspective is your role in the university’s educational enterprise,” she said. “Your dedication and self-motivation provide extraordinary models for graduate students who are just beginning on the path toward academia.”

The reception and awards were established in 1998 to recognize the important contributions that postdoctoral fellows make to the interrelated missions of research, teaching, and public service at UCLA. Nominees come from virtually...
every discipline at UCLA, from the basic and applied sciences to the professional schools, the social sciences, and the humanities. The award is accompanied by a $3,000 cash prize. A selection committee composed of faculty and academic administrators evaluated such factors as creativity, productivity, and impact on the field of research.

Besides Vice Chancellor Mitchell-Kernan, the following spoke at the ceremonies: Paul D. Boyer, 1997 Nobel Laureate in Chemistry; Vijay Dhir, Dean, The Henry Samueli School of Engineering and Applied Science; Leonard Rome, on behalf of the Provost, Medical Sciences, and Dean, David Geffen School of Medicine; and David I. Meyer, Senior Associate Dean for Graduate Studies, David Geffen School of Medicine.

This year’s winners and brief descriptions of their work follow.

**Lorraine Evangelista, PhD**, of the School of Nursing, is examining the ways that culture, age, gender, and other factors are related to compliance with regimens prescribed for heart failure patients. She was the first person to study delay in seeking treatment for the symptoms of heart failure, and she found a racial difference.

**Siavash Kurdistani, MD**, of the Department of Biological Chemistry, is studying a mechanism thought to repress gene activity. Its improper functioning has been linked to a range of human diseases from parasitic infections to cancer. Dr. Kurdistani came to UCLA by an arduous route, escaping from Iran to Pakistan by himself at the age of 17 and working his way through high school and UCLA, where he won the Arthur Furst Award for outstanding undergraduate research.

**Maryam Radimeh Sartippour, PhD**, of the Department of Surgery is engaged in research suggesting that green tea may increase the effectiveness of existing drugs used to treat breast cancer. In laboratory experiments green tea extract inhibited the growth of breast cancer cells, perhaps by suppressing angiogenesis, or the proliferation of blood vessels required to sustain malignant growth.

**David Sherman, PhD**, of the Department of Psychology, has developed evidence that people are most open to hearing threatening information when they feel secure in themselves. Thus, when the goal is to persuade people to take action on issues such as diet, safer sex practices, and dental care, scaring them might be less effective than making them feel competent and valued.

**Hsian-Rong Tseng, PhD**, of the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, designs and in many cases builds artificial molecular switches and machines for incorporation into Molecular Electronic Devices and NanoElectroMechanical Systems, which are fueled with chemicals, electricity, and light. He once asked an undergraduate to remove the word *fail* from a lab report. Failure is not in his vocabulary.
Afro-American Studies


Anthropology

Applied Linguistics & TESL


Art History


Atmospheric Science


Biomedical Engineering

Biomedical Physics

Bioscience


Chemistry & Biochemistry


Classics


Computer Science


Earth & Space Sciences


East Asian Languages & Cultures


Economics

Education


Electrical Engineering

Electrical Engineering


English


Talley.” Published in Essence of Poetry: Judd Morrissey and Lori Talley’s My Name is Captain, Captain.” Published in The Iowa Review Web, vol. 5, No. 2, April, 2003.

Talley.” Published in Essence of Poetry: Judd Morrissey and Lori Talley’s My Name is Captain, Captain.” Published in The Iowa Review Web, vol. 5, No. 2, April, 2003.

Epidemiology
French & Francophone Studies


Germanic Languages


History


Indo-European Studies


Italian


Linguistics


Management


STUDENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS


Molecular & Developmental Biology


Molecular, Cell, & Developmental Biology


Molecular, Cellular, & Integrative Physiology


Molecular Biology


Music


Musicology


Near Eastern Languages & Cultures


Nursing


Oral Biology


Organismic Biology, Ecol & Evol


Organismic Biology

Public Policy


Sociology


Spanish & Portuguese


Theater


Urban Planning


Women’s Studies


World Arts And Cultures


Claudia Brazzale, Peter Carpenter, Sandra Chatterjee, Cindy Garcia, Carol McDowell, & Raquel Monroe: Organizing committee of “Dance Under Construction: Trans-Bodies: Migration, Space, Sexual- ity, and Memory”, 5th Annual Graduate Student Dance Theory Conference.

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“There’s no secret about success. Did you ever know a successful man who didn’t tell you about it?”

- Kin Hubbard (1868 - 1930)

Graduate Students:
Have you made a presentation, published an article or premiered your original work recently? If so, the Graduate Division welcomes you to share your professional accomplishments with us for publication in the Graduate Quarterly.

pssssttt... You can submit them online at: www.gdnet.ucla.edu/asis/accomplishments
The Graduate Student Expenses Survey was administered in Winter 2003 to all registered graduate students. We received responses from 1946 students, who represented about 24% of the total graduate student body enrolled that quarter.

Of those students responding to the survey:
- 90.9% had no children/dependents
- 47.3% lived alone
- 72.6% lived in non-UCLA affiliated apartment
- 77.9% lived 10 miles or closer to campus
- 82% owned or leased an automobile
- 42.9% reported that they only use BruinGO program
- 87.7% had UCLA health insurance
- 5.7% paid additional money to cover spouse/dependents
- Married students and/or students with domestic partners (n=546) reported high expenses in nearly all categories compared to single students (n=1344)
- Students with children/dependents (n=165) also reported higher expenses in nearly all categories compared to students with no children/dependents (n=1758) However, they reported spending less on personal/miscellaneous and personal/entertainment expenses
- Students with roommates (n=1007) generally reported lower expenses than students living alone (n=921).
- University housing students reported higher rent, household/food, phone expenses but lower expenses on personal/miscellaneous and personal/entertainment items than student who did not live in university housing.

Congratulations to the randomly-selected winners of the $100 prize drawing:
- Charlotte Yan
- Gintaras Duda
- Raquel Monroe
- Keith Thomsen
- Young Cho