The power of arts and humanities

2006 Nobel laureate George Smoot

Dog trivia fetches $10,000
Around Cal

Berkeley remains a top Peace Corps source

On the top 25 list of large schools that produce Peace Corps volunteers, UC Berkeley has moved up a notch to third place, with 82 alumni currently in service worldwide, according to 2006 rankings released in February by the Corps. Berkeley remains in first place, however, for producing the largest number of volunteers — 3,236 — throughout Peace Corps history.

Scott Biddy named new vice chancellor

Chancellor Robert Birgeneau recently appointed Scott Biddy as vice chancellor for University Relations. Biddy, in his former role as associate vice chancellor for University Relations, was responsible for helping UC Berkeley reach record-breaking levels in fundraising. In his new position, Biddy leads fundraising and public affairs for the campus.

Filippenko and Keasling draw top honors

Two noted UC Berkeley professors, Alex Filippenko and Jay Keasling, recently received top honors for their academic achievements. Filippenko — a world-renowned expert on exploding stars, black holes, galaxies, and cosmology — received the prestigious Richtmyer Memorial Award of the American Association of Physics Teachers. Discover Magazine named Keasling, professor of chemical engineering and bioengineering, its 2006 Scientist of the Year for his ambitious efforts to “rebuild life itself.”

BP selects Berkeley to lead $500 million energy research consortium

Global energy firm BP announced Feb. 1 that it has selected UC Berkeley, in partnership with Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, to lead an unprecedented $500 million research effort to develop new sources of energy and reduce the impact of energy consumption on the environment. The funding will create the Energy Biosciences Institute, which initially will focus its research on biotechnology to produce biofuels. Pictured above, BP America chairman Robert Malone makes the announcement, flanked by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger (left) and Chancellor Robert J. Birgeneau.

textcenter.berkeley.edu/goto/ebi

Hidden Egyptian papyri arrive

Ancient papyri from an Egyptian excavation conducted for UC Berkeley more than a century ago have finally arrived on campus after a circuitous journey worthy of a mystery novel. The prized items — some more than 4,000 years old — are now ensconced in their new home at the Center for Tebtunis Papyri in The Bancroft Library.

tebtunis.berkeley.edu

For more on these stories and the latest campus news, visit the NewsCenter or subscribe to Berkeley Online at cal.berkeley.edu.
Near Eastern Studies Professor Cathleen A. Keller found out during a four-year hunt to reconstruct the reign of one of ancient Egypt’s rare female leaders. The resulting exhibit, “Hatshepsut: From Queen to Pharaoh,” brought Hatshepsut out of the shadow of her more famous compatriot Cleopatra. Because Hatshepsut’s reign was both unusually long — from 1479 B.C. to 1458 B.C. — and was a highly inventive period of prosperity and artistic achievement, she was a key figure in Egyptian history, says Keller.

As queen, Hatshepsut was appointed regent for her young nephew, Thutmose III. Instead of stepping down when he came of age, she positioned herself as leader, eventually naming herself pharaoh. After that, she was depicted in statues and other iconic representations as a man, reflecting the patriarchal society and association of power with being male.

For centuries, scholars maintained that because Hatshepsut was a woman, she was incapable of furthering her own ambitions. Says Keller: “I think it’s pretty clear that wasn’t the case.”

With more than 300 items ranging from thumb-sized scarabs and beads to colossal statuary and reliefs, the exhibit opened at the De Young Museum in San Francisco in 2005, before moving to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York and the Kimball Art Museum in Fort Worth. Numerous museums worldwide contributed to the exhibit, including The Bancroft Library’s Center for the Tebtunis Papyri and Berkeley’s Phoebe Apperson Hearst Museum of Anthropology.

Why would a female pharaoh be depicted as a man?

The ancient Greek philosopher Socrates once likened his purpose to that of a gadfly “always fastening upon you, arousing and persuading and reproaching you.”

Today, scholars in the arts and humanities perform this vital role, posing the difficult, critical questions that often go to the core of what it means to be human. Questions of belief and moral values. Questions that look at the past as a way of understanding our present and our future. These inquiries serve as a framework for the pursuit of knowledge Berkeley faculty and students undertake as they explore and respond to the needs of an increasingly complex world.
Leon Litwack made his stage debut in the pro-labor operetta *The Cradle Will Rock*.

"Performance has always been interdisciplinary, a combination of words, sound, space, bodies, image, collectivity," says department chair and award-winning scholar Shannon Jackson. Art history, literature, music, rhetoric, anthropology, sociology, emerging technology disciplines — "all these fields have something to say about performance. At Berkeley we're tapping into and extending that potential."

Studying the arts is different at Berkeley, adds Jackson. "We're not a traditional arts school precisely because we are part of a leading public research institution. Here we see performance as a vehicle for advancing Berkeley's long-standing commitment to critical reflection, to civic engagement, and to cross-disciplinary collaboration."

What’s in a name? In 2001, the department of Dramatic Arts morphed into Theater, Dance, and Performance Studies (TDPS) — and, since then, has rocketed to the top of its field.

The department’s doctoral program is now one of the most competitive in the nation, with 100 applicants for four to five spots each year. For undergraduates, the program has developed a campus-wide allure.

The secret to its success? Capitalizing on Berkeley’s multidisciplinary breadth and enthusiasm: engineering and science majors take acting classes and work on productions, while TDPS majors venture into political science or new media studies; a recent graduate’s Ph.D. dissertation on gaming is cochaired by a professor in the industrial engineering department; and in 2005, Pulitzer Prize-winning Berkeley history professor

John R. Searle

found the mind a fascinating arena. These days, the study of consciousness — thanks in no small part to Searle’s work — is not just respected across multiple disciplines. It’s hot.

"Americans love to know about themselves," says Searle. "What you’ve got in your skull is about three pounds of this gook. It’s about the texture of oatmeal. How can that be conscious?"

To explore the question, Searle ignored the traditional separation between the mental and the physical, and melded the two together: The brain’s system of neurobiological processes creates a state of consciousness. "Brains," he says, "cause minds."

Searle may be best known for his "Chinese Room" thought experiment, which counters the idea posited by artificial intelligence enthusiasts that the brain is, in essence, a computer — and vice versa. Unlike the mind, Searle asserts, a computer does not have to think or have understanding to process information.

The recipient of a National Humanities Medal, Searle has been at Berkeley for 47 years. He was a Faculty Research Lecturer in 1986-87 and received a Distinguished Teaching Award in 1999. His research usually takes him on interdisciplinary journeys: Neuroscience, mathematics, psychology, literature, even skiing — nothing is off limits. "To do philosophy well you have to know everything," he says. "We don't have established methods for resolving questions. For me, that's part of the fun. It's wide open."
She sued unsuccessfully to protect Uncle Tom's Cabin from unauthorized translation. While Stowe, the celebrated abolitionist, wrote passionately against the 1850 Fugitive Slave Law's protection of a master's right to his or her slave property, she initiated litigation attempting to prevent her "intellectual property"—her characters—from passing into unfettered circulation and out of a property relation to herself.

"It's a delicious historical irony," says Best. "If Stowe sued now, says Best, the law likely would be on her side: "The balance has shifted. Look at Mickey Mouse. The last Congress extended the copyright of Disney and other corporations to 95 years so that certain characters are kept from falling into the public domain."

During China's late Ming and early Qing dynasties, actors were considered the lowest of the low. Yet as the country's disparate social spheres grew closer in education and wealth, actors and the theater began to occupy an important ideological niche among cultural elites, says Comparative Literature and East Asian Languages and Cultures Professor Sophie Volpp in her forthcoming book, The Worldly Stage: The Figure of the Theater in 17th Century China. Volpp's work is the first to explore how the theatrical culture of the day might have influenced the elite's conception of the world as a stage. By the 17th century, the fashion for China's educated elite was to have private acting troupes, and these literati began to write plays in greater numbers. The salon style performances became something of a sport, with actors traded, sold, and gifted as luxury goods. This embrace of the theater was as much social critique as art and entertainment—a sophisticated end run around the middle elite, says Volpp.

The plays referenced in The Worldly Stage are still performed today. Ling Xianzi, an original 55 acts in 20 hours, has a living tradition, says Volpp. "Why am I having a clown play a gentleman?" Volpp quotes the playwright Li Yu, "Because today most gentlemen are clowns.

Perry Pollan, for example, was stagin..."
Approach or sense of mission. I think our public mission gives us a distinctive sense of an intellectual endeavor that’s shared among faculty and students across all our departments. We’re also a very diverse campus, and this diversity helps sustain an unparalleled level of intellectual excitement.

Cascardi: Yes, my first academic job was teaching at Harvard, and when I came to Berkeley, I was amazed by how much more frequently the undergraduates here would raise their hands in class. They ask many more challenging questions, often from widely differing perspectives. I’m sure the distinctive qualities of our undergraduates help us to compete successfully with the likes of Princeton, Harvard, and Stanford when we recruit new graduate students and faculty members.

Broughton: And increasingly we’re seeing a lot of crossover work with very different disciplines like engineering, law, and stem-cell biology. This is part of the excitement of arts and humanities at a large research university like Berkeley, where there are tremendous opportunities for wide-reaching collaborations.

Cascardi: I also find that the mix of students from diverse backgrounds generates a special kind of energy in the classroom. I remember once...
teaching the novels of Henry James and Jane Austen to a class of undergraduates where students of Asian and Hispanic descent were strongly represented, and they posed some fresh and very challenging questions about how those novels present language and social relationships. It was a wonderful intellectual experience.

**Broughton:** I think many of us have had similar experiences — I certainly have. Several years ago I gave a freshman seminar on philosopher David Hume’s great skeptical work, *Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion*. My students included practitioners of three major world religions, as well as agnostics and atheists, and despite their very different perspectives, they engaged in lively, open discussion. In fact, I think it was precisely because they disagreed so profoundly with each other that they found their classroom debates to be so satisfying.

**Cascardi:** Yes, and the best faculty members want to go where the brightest young minds are. To recruit the best faculty, we have to recruit the best graduate students, but right now, we’re losing some of our top candidates to schools that are offering far higher levels of graduate student support.

**Broughton:** We also face unrelenting efforts by other leading universities to recruit our faculty members. To meet this challenge, I think it’s crucial that we build up our endowment. Endowed chairs can support faculty scholarship and research, and provide graduate-student fellowships, and they can also help Berkeley offer more competitive faculty salaries.

**Cascardi:** As I see it, we have to provide broader and better support for research and teaching if we want to sustain the range of excellence that makes arts and humanities at Berkeley so consistently rich and lively. Berkeley should continue to be a place where arts and humanities programs are marked by excellence across the board, not just in one or two areas.

**Broughton:** Imagine life without arts and humanities — it would be a one-dimensional existence. To study arts and humanities is to study what gives life a three-dimensional meaning. That’s why it’s so important for California’s young people to have access to great programs in arts and humanities at Berkeley.

**Broughton:** And our students go on to use their arts and humanities training in an incredibly wide range of careers. Some of my own philosophy students have gone on to programs in business, medicine, and law, as well as philosophy. Others have taken jobs at nonprofit organizations or have gone straight into professional positions in global enterprises. By studying arts and humanities, tomorrow’s leaders develop the analytical skills and cultural understanding that equip them for informed and humane work in a multicultural world.

**Cascardi:** More generally, I think the arts and humanities have a special role to play in the public world. That’s one of the reasons why the Townsend Center has launched a new series of events that will bring major figures — like U.S. Poet Laureate Robert Pinsky and the acclaimed pianist Alfred Brendel — to the campus to talk about that special role.

**Broughton:** Berkeley’s programs in arts and humanities play a key role in educating and training the next generation of leading scholars and teachers, and that means our graduate students in arts and humanities are essential to our intellectual community.

**Cascardi:** I’ve sometimes been asked, “Why, given the numerous crises around the world, do students choose to major in arts and humanities?” I believe they choose arts and humanities because these disciplines encourage them to analyze, interpret, and re-imagine the worlds that are opening to them. They also realize they can deepen their sense of the human complexities confronting us. In fact, I think the major conflicts in the world around us will remain unresolved if we don’t understand their religious, cultural, and historical roots.

**Broughton:** Berkeley’s programs in arts and humanities play a key role in educating and training the next generation of leading scholars and teachers, and that means our graduate students in arts and humanities are essential to our intellectual community.
According to reigning scientific theory, our universe was born suddenly and dramatically 13.7 billion years ago in a massive explosion — the so-called “Big Bang.” An event of comparable magnitude occurred on the Berkeley campus last October 3, when physics professor George F. Smoot was named co-winner of the 2006 Nobel Prize in Physics.

Smoot led a team that obtained the first images of the newly formed universe, findings that confirmed the predictions of the Big Bang theory.

Searching for a Very Old Explosion

The premise was simple enough. If the universe began as a fireball, it should still contain residual heat — a background temperature of 2.7° K above absolute zero, as well as minute temperature variations indicating the beginnings of structure in the early universe that evolved into galaxies and clusters of galaxies. But detecting that heat — which required highly precise measurements of the universe's cosmic microwave background radiation (CMB) in carefully selected locations in space — would be anything but simple.

In 1974, Smoot submitted a satellite proposal to NASA to search for, measure, and map tiny fluctuations in the cosmic microwave background. Fifteen years later, Smoot and NASA scientist John C. Mather — co-winner of the Nobel, and a Berkeley Ph.D. — together led the building and launch of NASA's Cosmic Background Explorer (COBE) satellite to gather the necessary data. Even with COBE's supersensitive equipment, the effort was, as Smoot wrote in his 1994 book *Wrinkles in Time*, like “listening for a whisper during a noisy beach party while radios blare, waves crash, people yell, dogs bark, and dune buggies roar.” Once the listening was over, Smoot had his team “really probe” to make sure “there wasn't some mistake or something wrong.”

In April 1992, Smoot’s team — his group involved more than 40 people, and the COBE satellite project an estimated 1,000 individuals — made a momentous announcement. Confirming Big Bang theory, they had mapped the universe as it looked when it was about one-ten-thousandth of its current age, or about 300,000 years after its creation. “In human terms,” remarked Smoot, “it's like looking at an embryo that's a few hours old.”

What Comes After a Nobel Prize?

Upon hearing of Smoot's selection by the Nobel committee, UC Berkeley Chancellor Robert J. Birgeneau exclaimed, “There are few more exciting moments than this in the life of a university — I know the entire campus community is enormously proud of George's achievement and joins me in sending him hearty congratulations.”

University of Cambridge theoretical physicist Stephen Hawking — one of the world's most prominent cosmologists, and a visitor to Berkeley this March 13 (see page XX) — called Smoot's discovery the “most important of the century, if not of all time.”

Without a doubt, a hard act to follow.
Since that momentous 1992 announcement, Smoot has continued to dedicate himself to exploring the early universe, and teaching and inspiring Berkeley students. Regarding the former, he has collaborated on a number of experiments that have confirmed the COBE satellite results. These include the UC Berkeley–led Millimeter Anisotropy eXperiment Imaging Array (MAXIMA) experiment and its southern complement, Balloon Observations Of Millimetric Extragalactic Radiation and Geophysics (BOOMERANG), as well as the more-recent Wilkinson Microwave Anisotropy Probe (WMAP). Smoot is now involved with the European Space Agency’s Planck satellite, scheduled to launch in 2008.

Together with his Berkeley colleagues in cosmology, astronomy, and physics, Smoot is in the early stages of planning for a new Center for Cosmological Physics at the University. The Center, expected to be announced this spring, will bring new prominence to Berkeley’s longstanding strengths in cosmology and allied sciences, and attract the most promising researchers of the next generation to the Cal campus.

George Smoot is a professor in the Department of Physics at Berkeley and an astrophysicist at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBNL). His Nobel Prize is the 20th for Berkeley since E. O. Lawrence in 1939, and the University’s eighth in physics.
**Dually noted**

Two music professors win book awards

Richard Taruskin and Kate van Orden of Berkeley's Music Department staged a one-two sweep of the American Musicological Society's 2006 book awards.

Taruskin, whose specialties include Russian and 20th-century music, won for outstanding musicological scholarship for his six-volume *The Oxford History of Western Music*, which the Times Literary Supplement called "a visionary addition to our understanding of our culture."

Commissioned to write a one-volume classroom text, Taruskin instead spent 10 years producing a 4,000-page, 20-pound tome. "I was carried away with the possibility of saying my two cents about everything."

Taruskin's work focuses on the implications of literacy in Western music. "The Western classical repertoire is exceptional in the world in that it is literate," he says. "Most music is not written down."

Such literacy creates both limitations and possibilities: "People who play classical music never learn to improvise. Everyone plays the repertoire as written," he says. "But they play with much greater accuracy and more highly developed technique. When music is written down, it can become much more complex."

The book covers the last thousand years of musical history in the West, starting with the first notations in 9th-century Europe — written to fulfill Charlemagne's decree that musical practice in the empire's churches become uniform. The first notations were mnemonic neumes that showed the rise and fall of the voice, for cantors performing Gregorian chants. "From these," Taruskin says, "you can trace the development of our modern notation."

Taruskin is one of only three people to win the Otto Kinkeldey Award twice (previously in 1997 for Stravinsky and the Russian Traditions.) The other double winners, Daniel Heartz and Joseph Kerman, are both Berkeley Music Department professor emeriti.

Kate van Orden, an associate professor specializing in cultural history, received the Lewis Lockwood Award for outstanding musicological scholarship published in the earlier stages of a scholar's career for *Music, Discipline, and Arms in Early Modern France*.

Through detailed studies of dance, kingship, and warfare, van Orden's book develops a political argument about music and military culture, exploring how music became a disciplinary agent of the state both on and off the battlefield.

That music, which was used on the battlefield to coordinate forces, throws court festivities in a new light, says van Orden. "Something that seems very frivolous like equestrian ballet is actually a rehearsal of a new military technology, the light cavalry force."

By the end of the 16th century in France, the long-established battle strategy of knights wearing armor and "basically crashing into each other with lances" was challenged by horsemen armed with pistols, says van Orden. Horse ballet was also new at the time, and, along with dancing, was a courtly activity — as well as a way to practice coordinating movement on the battlefield. Instead of wearing restrictive armor, groups of cavalrymen rode in coordinated rotation schemes in order to fire.

Van Orden's research enabled her to reconstruct the famous equestrian ballet (pictured on the left page) performed for the engagement of Louis XIII in 1612. Under her direction, the work received its modern premiere at the Berkeley Festival of Early Music in 2000 and was revived in 2002. "•

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**Faces of Excellence**

[Image]
As an undergraduate, **Catherine Duffy** studied theater, and in her free time, volunteered as a community organizer.

The two worlds seemed separate — until she discovered the synergistic intersection of art and activism at Berkeley.

"Community art often gets a bad rap for not being successful, and at the same time some wonder how art can really contribute to social or political change," says Duffy, now a doctoral student in the department of Theater, Dance, and Performance Studies and a research assistant for **Shannon Flattery**, the artist-in-residence at Berkeley’s Arts Research Center. "Shannon’s work succeeds in both."

A Boston-based artist and anti-violence activist, Flattery founded the "**Touchable Stories**" model to help individual communities define concerns and give them public expression. In January 2006, Flattery moved to Richmond, California — recently ranked the 11th most dangerous city in the United States — to immerse herself in the community and begin collecting more than 100 oral histories from residents and civic leaders. She also hosted a series of dinners where participants brought food and stories to share.

Based on themes voiced by the community, Flattery, in collaboration with local artists, is creating an interactive large-scale "living maze" set to open this spring.

The Touchable Stories (www.touchablestories.org) process not only provides a backbone for the creation of an art installation, but also builds community, says Duffy: "There are so many things happening in Richmond: violence, death, pollution, its history. People need to tell their stories. There’s a benefit just in the telling, in knowing it will get out there."
to conduct his own research project investigating genetic mutations in Chlamydomonas.

Known as SPUR and funded entirely by alumni contributions, the program is helping motivated undergraduates get excited about research. It offers students a unique opportunity to develop as scientists with a level of independence that has often been reserved for graduate students. Not only does this help make Berkeley students more competitive, it develops the kind of creative thinking skills so essential to the success of any scientist.

“You learn all the techniques” says SPUR recipient Laura Lagomarsino, “But then you are also given a certain amount of freedom, and your thoughts are valued.”

For Lagomarsino, research in plant and molecular biology has also given her academic career a clear direction. “Now, I know exactly what I want to do and what I want to study.” Her mentor, Assistant Professor Chelsea Specht, attests that Lagomarsino has gained confidence both in the strength of her ideas and her ability to do research.

The program also benefits the mentors who work closely with undergraduates on their research. For Sean Schoville, a Ph.D. candidate in the department of Environmental Science Policy and Management, having the hands-on help of undergraduate SPUR student Matthew Stuckey has been a huge benefit. “These undergraduates are some of the brightest students,” he says. “Working with them gives me a great opportunity to see their minds grow and mature.”

Last fall semester, the program sponsored 19 student researchers, half of whom initiated their own projects. The others opted to work on projects proposed by faculty members.

Subhajit Poddar
Poddar, fourth year in plant and microbial biology, studies the green algae Chlamydomonas under the mentorship of Professor Krishna Niyogi. His research has focused on identifying and cloning genes responsible for two compounds involved in photosynthesis. Using genetics as a tool to understand physiology, Niyogi and his team are isolating genes that are important in determining plant responses to stress and high light conditions. SPUR funds have helped Poddar purchase essential lab equipment necessary to maintain laboratory populations of Chlamydomonas.

Laura Lagomarsino
Lagomarsino, third year in genetics and plant biology, is using nuclear and chloroplast genes to develop a phylogeny, or map of ancestral relationships between species of the genus Heliconia, a tropical plant. Her mentor, Assistant Professor Chelsea Specht in the Department of Plant and Microbial Biology, uses molecular and evolutionary biology to understand lineages of related plants. SPUR funding has allowed Specht to provide Laura with necessary laboratory materials to expand her research.

Matthew Stuckey
Stuckey, fourth year in environmental economics and policy and conservation resource studies, is researching how the butterfly Colias behrii colonized the Sierra Nevadas. Through mentorship with Professor George Roderick and graduate student Sean Schoville, Stuckey has been working on cloning nuclear genes to assess genetic variation within and among populations of Colias behrii. Roderick’s team is using genetics to understand how organisms have colonized new areas. SPUR funds have helped provide chemicals and lab supplies necessary for molecular cloning — a technique essential for Stuckey’s research.
When a Berkeley alumnus recently tested a student’s knowledge of Cal history, it was anything but a trivial pursuit. At stake was a gift of $10,000 — and thanks to the quick thinking of students working at the Cal Calling Center, the pop quiz led to a very generous contribution to The Cal Fund.

It was late June, and Esther Huang ’07 was working her fourth day as a trainee at the Calling Center. She had yet to get a contribution when she dialed the number of Daryl Connell M.B.A. ’67.

Connell, excited to speak with a Cal student, reminisced about his years at Berkeley and quickly offered a $1,000 gift to the University. “I was thrilled,” recalls Huang of the generous gift. “It felt like there was a rush of adrenaline running through my body.”

Here’s where the story gets even better. An excited Huang turned the call over to Zareen Khan ’07, a Team Leader in training at the Calling Center who thanked Connell for his gift. During their conversation, Khan mentioned that the team at the Calling Center was about $30,000 shy of its goal for the fiscal year, which ended in just two days. Jokingly, Khan asked the donor if he’d care to offer that much instead of his original $1,000 gift.

Connell, who had not previously given to his alma mater, increased his offer to $10,000 — but with a catch. With the correct answer to this Cal trivia question, he’d contribute the full $10,000: What was the name of the dog for which the Sproul Plaza fountain was nicknamed win the 1960s?

“It was one of those nights,” Connell recalls of the conversation. “I was just so excited that Cal had finally called me.”

The stakes were high, and so was the pressure at the Calling Center. Khan quickly called out to the very busy Calling Center floor, asking if any of the 30 or so student callers knew the name of the dog in question. That’s when Matt Kelly ’08 — another student trainee, working just his second day as a caller — shouted out “Ludwig,” the correct answer. Khan relayed Ludwig’s name to Connell, and the $10,000 gift to Cal became a reality.

In all, the $10,000 pledge brought the Calling Center significantly closer to meeting its fundraising goal for the fiscal year. And it brought Connell back in touch with the school he loved. “Berkeley is one of the best things that ever happened to me in my life,” he says fondly.

So did Huang’s beginner’s luck bring in any other gifts like that one during the course of the summer? “No, not even close,” she says. “The next largest amount I raised was $250.”

Huang believes that, in the case of Connell’s generosity, she was just in the right place at the right time — and had plenty of help. “I was lucky to contact someone who is generous, to have an amazing supervisor to help me out, and to work with bright students who know their Berkeley trivia,” she says.

And in case you’re unfamiliar with the story of Ludwig’s Fountain: In the early 1960s the dog, a German shorthaired pointer who belonged to a student, would spend his days splashing around the Sproul Plaza fountain, delighting passersby. The UC Board of Regents officially named the fountain after Ludwig in 1961.
This year the College of Letters & Science has invited all of its freshmen to read a book of note — then share their impressions and observations at campus events that foster community and dialogue.

Entitled “On the Same Page, ’the new initiative seeks to capture students’ interest with a book of exceptional cultural and intellectual impact and then sustain that interest with a series of activities that engross them in the themes and ideas derived from the work. This year’s selection: Stephen Hawking’s A Briefer History of Time, a shortened version of Hawking’s landmark volume that explores the nature of space and time, the search for a unified theory encompassing all the forces of physics, and the history and future of the universe.

L&S freshmen received a free copy of the book in November, in time to read over the winter break. The college has organized a host of related events for the spring semester, the highlight of which will be a sold-out March 13 presentation by Hawking at Zellerbach Hall.

“We wanted the program to start off with a bang, and Hawking really captures people’s imagination,” said Mark Richards, executive dean of the college. “On the Same Page” is his brainchild, though the idea had been in the works for some time. “The opportunity of having Hawking come to campus and having this book launch the program was too good to pass up,” he says.

An anonymous donor underwrote the cost of the books this year, and the college hopes donations will continue to sustain the program in the future.

Activities related to the program include Freshman and Sophomore Seminars on relevant topics and faculty-led discussions in residence halls. Some faculty members also incorporated the book into their regular courses.

The program is specifically designed to strengthen students’ identity with the spirit of a liberal arts education, according to Alix Schwartz, director of academic planning in the Undergraduate Division of the College of Letters & Science.

“’On the Same Page’ will welcome freshmen into a community of scholars who delight in tackling big and important ideas,” she says. “We will be able to gauge the success of the program by the level of buzz created around the book and its author in residence halls, classrooms, cafes, and plazas.”

In the future authors will be drawn from a variety of fields and may include playwrights, poets, composers, filmmakers, or politicians. The program name, Richards says, was chosen deliberately in anticipation of such future possibilities.

“The metaphorical reading of the title leaves us with a certain amount of latitude, as the book may someday not be a book,” he says. “Students may receive a DVD or a CD in the mail as part of this program.”

The deans are already thinking ahead to next year’s program and hope to line up an author by early spring. But Hawking will be a tough act to follow.

We live in a strange and wonderful universe. Its age, size, violence, and beauty require extraordinary imagination to appreciate. The place we humans hold within this vast cosmos can seem pretty insignificant. And so we try to make sense of it all and to see how we fit in.

— From A Briefer History of Time by Stephen Hawking

To view a webcast of Stephen Hawking’s presentation at Zellerbach Hall, be sure to visit links.berkeley.edu following his March 13 appearance.
Making Connections

UPCOMING EVENTS

Ignite your intellect by attending the Discover Cal Lecture Series.

“Globalization and the Flow of Knowledge”
AnnaLee Saxenian, Dean, School of Information
Steven Weber, Director, Institute of International Studies
March 21 Blackhawk Museum, Danville
March 22 Google, Mountain View

“Being Good When Times are Bad: Reflections on Ethical Life from Stoic and Buddhist Traditions”
Anthony Long, Professor, Classics
Duncan Ryuken Williams, Associate Professor, Japanese Buddhism, East Asian Languages and Cultures
May 1 The Westin South Coast Plaza, Costa Mesa
May 2 Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, Los Angeles

Visit discovercal.berkeley.edu for more details and online registration.

Students and donors mingled at the Achievement Award Fall Feast, a potluck Thanksgiving celebration held in November:

1. Phyllis Friedman (right) and Ashley Gayles, the Phyllis E. Friedman Achievement Award Scholar
2. Erica Antonsen (left), the Class of 1968 Achievement Award Scholar; with Jesse Ante ’68, M.S. ’70
3. In December, the Guatemalan government awarded Jorge Molina-Sinibaldi ’68 (center) the National Order of Cultural Patrimony to honor his contributions in the field of architecture. Pictured with Molina-Sinibaldi are Gert Rosenthal (left), Guatemala’s minister of foreign affairs, and Oscar Berger, president of Guatemala.
4. University Librarian Thomas Leonard (right) with Library board members Robert D. Haas ’64 (left) and George A. Miller ’61 at the annual library dinner in the North Reading Room of Doe Library.
5. The School of Public Health honored the Kaiser Permanente Endowed Chair in Health Policy and Management at a Faculty Club reception in October. Pictured, from the left, are Robert M. Crane, senior vice president, research and policy development at Kaiser Permanente; Dean Stephen M. Shortell of the School of Public Health; Professor James Robinson, the chairholder; and Raymond J. Baxter, national senior vice president, community benefit, Kaiser Foundation Health Plan and Hospitals.
6. Consul General of Sweden Barbro Osher (right) and Bernard Osher (not pictured) hosted a tribute to retiring Department of Scandinavian professor Carol Clover (second from right) at their San Francisco home. Also attending were Marlene and Helgi Tomasson.
7. Keith Alexander Ph.D. ’83 (left), Jim Trainham Ph.D. ’79, and Laura Dietsche Ph.D. ’93 enjoy a reception, hosted by the College of Chemistry, at the annual meeting of the American Institute of Chemical Engineers in San Francisco.
1. Tito Moruza ’43 and Margaret de Longpre Moruza ’44 of Berkeley, and Valerie Lank Forbes ’69 and Mel Forbes ’74 of Australia (pictured left to right) joined alumni from around the world to celebrate the 75th anniversary of International House during Homecoming in October. Both couples met at I-House.

2. Julianne Cartwright Traylor ’69 (left) and Bea Moorhead Heggie ’47 also attended the International House anniversary celebration at Homecoming.

3. At a University House reception marking the 15th anniversary of the founding of the Incentive Awards Program, donor Bernard Osher (center) sits with the program’s inaugural cochairs, William Coblenz (left) and Richard Goldman (right).

4. Doug Goldman, M.D., ’74 (left), founding member of the Goldman School of Public Policy’s Board of Advisors, welcomes Jim Losi M.A. ’76 to the Board at a dinner. The October event featured a lecture by Professor Dan Kammen entitled “Science, Policy, and the Clean Energy Future.”

5. Goldman School of Public Policy Advisory Board chair Jim Marver M.P.P. ’74, Ph.D. ’78, with Alumnus of the Year, Georgia State University President Carl Patton M.P.P. ’74, Ph.D. ’75, Dean Michael Nacht and the 2004 Alumna of the Year, REDF president Carla Javits, M.P.P. ’85, enjoy an October alumni recognition dinner at the Berkeley City Club.

6. Class of 1996 Reunion Gift Committee volunteers gathered with spouses and classmates at the Blue & Gold Reunion in October. Included in this picture are ’96 alumni Chris Andrews, Kelly (Brennan) Brown, Judy Chou, Andy Choy, Robert Dickinson (committee cochair), Bob Jensen (committee cochair), Jenny (Tsai) Louie, Felicia Sze, and Dana Wagner.

7. Peter S. Van Houten ’56, M.A. ’62, Ed.D. ’73 leads a campus walking tour during Homecoming weekend. Throughout his 50 years on campus as a student and administrator, including time as the director of student advising and associate dean of students, Van Houten has developed an encyclopedic knowledge of Cal.

8. Students relieve midterm stress on Sproul Plaza during Student Homecoming Week. More than 35 student-sponsored events — including a mock duck hunt, networking events with alumni, a soapbox car race, and a food fair — filled the days leading up to Homecoming weekend.

9. Bill Ausfahl ’61 presents Chancellor Birgeneau with a check for the $17.3 million donated to the University by members of classes celebrating reunions in 2006.
It was a simple idea. Give people a way to post their home videos on the Internet — an experience not unlike sharing your holiday photos online with your family. A very large, international family, it turns out, that's online 24 hours a day.

In just two years, YouTube has changed the online paradigm for uploading and sharing video snippets ranging from anime and music videos to historical footage, television shows, and news clips. Along the way, it's created a new video haven allowing videobloggers and hipsters (or wannabe hipsters) to create fresh content or even parodies of other popular video postings.

As the technology spread, so too did videos of hysterically laughing babies, guys singing on treadmills, urban ninjas, and suicidal kiwis as they were gabbed about in emails, chat rooms, and news stories. (The most popular postings can be found on youtube.com under the “Video” tab. At the toolbar on the left under the “Browse” category, select “Top Favorites” and under the “Time” category, select “All Time”.)

Conceived of during the dinner party musings of three twenty-something friends, Steve Chen, Chad Hurley, and Jawed Karim, YouTube was founded in January 2005. Its growth has been astounding. Last fall, the company was sold to Google for $1.65 billion and was named Time magazine’s “Invention of the Year” for 2006. YouTube now airs 100 million videos, and people watch more than 70 million videos daily on its site.

We recently took a look at some YouTube video offerings featuring UC Berkeley and discovered some of the gems on the following pages. But viewer discretion is advised. After all, it’s YouTube and anything goes.
1. “The Play” is reenacted using student-produced, 3D computer-generated animation set to the real announcers’ audio.

2. The 2006 Big Game Bonfire at the Greek Theatre.

3. Little tykes practice their Cal cheers with great enthusiasm.

Joan Didion’s words about her Berkeley student experience (as narrated by a bear).

E ven those of you who did not know him lost a friend when the dean at the College of Engineering, A. Richard Newton, passed away at the age of 55.

Rich was an immensely reassuring presence on the Berkeley campus, like an overarching hemisphere of foliage whose shading canopy we, his colleagues, came to rely on as an almost natural feature of our landscape. When he was unexpectedly diagnosed with pancreatic cancer, then died just a few weeks later, it was for us as if some grand and reassuring tree had blown over, leaving a huge empty space against the sky.

Rich’s amazing sense of necessity and possibility girded up almost everyone around him, so that seemingly impossible things did happen. Somehow, his exuberance managed to root new and imaginative ideas, coax expensive buildings to rise from the ground, make new programs become incarnate, and, perhaps most important, magnetize the best and most talented people in the world to the university’s call. A regular at events such as the World Economic Forum, he was always welcomed as a global thinker on issues of technology and globalization.

Orville Schell is the dean of the Graduate School of Journalism. An earlier version of this piece appeared in the San Francisco Chronicle on January 5, 2007. To read Dean Schell’s full essay, visit links.berkeley.edu.

Contributing Photographers: Steve McConnell (p. 1, papyri); Ben Ailes (p. 1, Biddy); Cathleen Keller (p. 3); Edward Casati (p. 5); Hsu Pei-Hung (p. 7); Martin Sundberg (p. 8); Peg Skorpinski (pp. 12, 13, and 15); Peter DaSilva (p. 16); University of Wisconsin Plant Teaching Collection (p. 19); Sean Showille (p. 20); Cyril Manning (p. 21); Philip Waterson, LBIPP, LRPS (p. 24); and Bart Nagel (p. 33).