

College News

An update of events and progress in the UCLA College of Letters and Science.

New Deans Join College Leadership

Two distinguished faculty have been named acting deans of the College of Letters and Science.

Reynaldo Macías and Nicholas Entrikin have assumed leadership roles in the College of Letters and Science.

Macías has been named acting dean of the Division of Social Sciences, the largest academic division in the College.



Reynaldo Macías, interim dean of social sciences

Macías brings to his new position 35 years of academic leadership and national service, as well as a long career in research and teaching about language, education, literacy, teacher preparation and multicultural curriculum issues.

Macías became dean when Scott Waugh was named UCLA's acting executive vice chancellor and provost.

Macías has served on the UCLA faculty since 1998, and is currently chair of the Department of Chicana and Chicano Studies. He holds joint faculty appointments in the departments of Education and Applied Linguistics.

In 1994, Macías was honored by the National Association for Bilingual Education as a pioneer in the field. He has served as the assistant director of the National Institute for Education, responsible for Reading and Language Studies. And, in 1996, he was appointed by President Clinton to the Advisory Board for the National Institute for Literacy.

In the International Institute, Entrikin, a professor of geography and director of the interdepartmental program in Global Studies, has been named interim dean and vice provost.

Entrikin assumes leadership of the institute July 1 from Ron Rogowski, who completed his two years as interim dean and vice provost, and now begins a long-



Nick Entrikin, interim dean and provost of the UCLA International Institute

planned schedule of scholarly work in his field, including a Humboldt Fellowship.

Entrikin has extensive involvement in international issues, both in his research and in university administration. He is a cultural geographer who studies the philosophy of geography and the geography of Europe.

As director of the global studies interdepartmental program, Entrikin directed UCLA's newest undergraduate field. Global studies provides UCLA undergraduates with an interdisciplinary education on the principal issues confronting today's globalized world.

May 21 marked the College's annual Science Poster Day, a program that highlights the research conducted by undergraduates. Coordinated by UCLA Undergraduate Research Center for Science, Mathematics and Engineering, 2007 Poster Day featured research by more than 130 students.



Continued High Marks for UCLA

In UCLA's second comprehensive survey on the academic experience and campus life, seniors again report strong rankings for the university.

Two years ago, UCLA initiated an ambitious project to survey seniors graduating from the College of Letters and Science to learn their views about life at UCLA and their experience in the classroom. The result produced responses to a wide range of questions, including high levels of satisfaction for the UCLA experience overall, campus life, and their academic experience.

In the current senior survey, that trend continues.

UCLA seniors continue to report strong satisfaction with their academic experience and campus life and feel intellectually challenged by the curriculum and the faculty.

Broad campus experiences were also ranked highly, including a wide range of experiences with students from diverse backgrounds.

"Students see a very competitive environment at UCLA, but at the same time they are both challenged and satisfied with their academic experience," said Judith L. Smith, vice provost for undergraduate education. "We are encouraged by the positive responses and believe that our graduating seniors are well prepared

to pursue post-baccalaureate studies in a variety of areas."

Janina Montero, vice chancellor for student affairs, said survey results also show that students embrace the diversity of their experiences on campus.

"There was a high level of satisfaction expressed overall about campus life," Montero said. "On the other hand, we learned more clearly there is not as much interaction between groups as we would hope. We want to enhance the sense of belonging, receptivity to hearing others, and the exchanging of different ideas and points of view. We also want all students to feel comfortable about expressing their views among their peers on campus."

Students also provided feedback about their education plans after graduation. A majority indicated plans to pursue post-baccalaureate degrees—53 percent said they plan to pursue a master's degree, 14 percent said they plan to seek a law degree, 14 percent said they plan to pursue a medical or health science professional degree and 12 percent expressed interest in a doctoral degree (students were allowed to select more than one category).

This was the second annual senior survey, which was a collaborative effort of the UCLA Division of Undergraduate Education, Student Affairs and the Alumni Association. In assessing their overall campus experiences, 86 percent agreed or strongly agreed that UCLA has more to offer than most universities in the way of

UCLA Senior Survey 2006

(Student Views: Satisfied/Very Satisfied)

Overall UCLA experience: 94%

Academic experience: 93%

Intellectually challenged by faculty in my major: 92%

Student and campus life: 91%

academic opportunities, 79 percent agreed or strongly agreed that UCLA's social opportunities are greater and 74 percent said the campus has more leadership opportunities to offer than most universities.

The vast majority of students praised the value of their education. Eighty-four percent agreed or strongly agreed that, given the cost, a UCLA education is an excellent value. Students also expressed beliefs about alumni contributions to the campus—79 percent agreed or strongly agreed that financial contributions from alumni are important to maintaining UCLA's excellence, and 64 percent agreed or strongly agreed that they plan to support UCLA financially in the future.

The survey results can be found at www.college.ucla.edu/seniorsurvey.



Awards

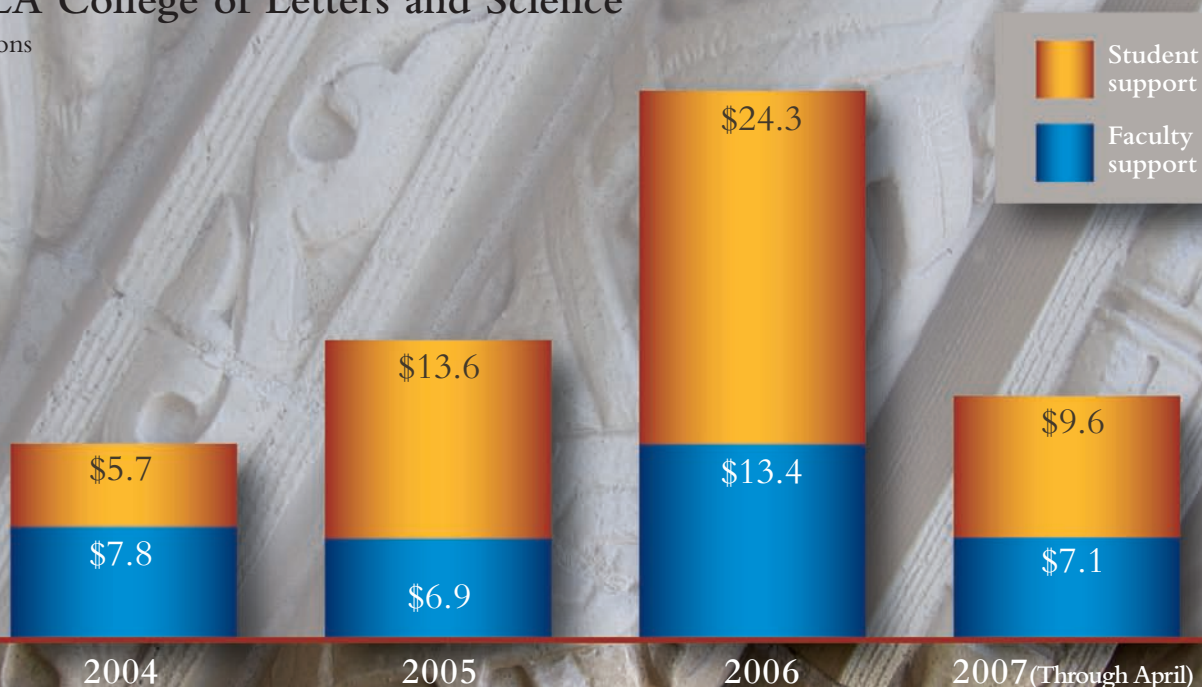
Paul Terasaki (B.A. 1950, M.A. 1952, Ph.D. 1956) accepts the 2007 Honorary Fellows Award of the College of Letters and Science from Executive Dean Patricia O'Brien. Terasaki, along with his wife, Hisako, were honored at the College's annual dinner on April 17. The Terasakis were named Fellows for their commitment to excellence and philanthropic leadership in the College of Letters and Science.

Also honored at the event were six recipients of the Charles E. and Sue K. Young Undergraduate Awards and the Young Graduate Student Awards. These awards are made possible with generous support from Louis (B.A. 1935) and Evelyn Blau. For more on the student winners, see page 14.

Initiative to Ensure Academic Excellence

UCLA College of Letters and Science

\$ millions



COLLEGE LEADS THE CAMPUS IN THE ENSURING ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE INITIATIVE

As of April 30, the College of Letters and Science has raised \$88.3 million for student and faculty support as a result of its focus on the “Ensuring Academic Excellence Initiative”—the largest total for any academic unit on campus.

Of these gifts to the campus’ five-year Ensuring Academic Excellence Initiative, \$35.2 million are designated for faculty support, resulting in the creation of 23 new endowed chairs since the initiative began in June 2004. Fundraising for student support to the College now totals \$53.1 million.

Through April, the College has raised \$16.7 million for the Ensuring Academic Excellence Initiative in the 2006–07 academic year—“well on our way,” said Patricia O’Brien, executive dean of the College, “toward another outstanding year.

“This success in our fundraising for the College is a result of our focus on our high-priority needs: student and faculty support,” said O’Brien.

National Honors for Math Department

UCLA’s Department of Mathematics has been recognized for achievement by the American Mathematical Society.

The UCLA mathematics department has received the American Mathematical Society’s 2007 Award for an Exemplary Program or Achievement in a Mathematics Department.

UCLA’s department is “an outstanding model of all that a mathematics department can be,” the society declared.

The award, given annually, recognizes a mathematics department that has distinguished itself by undertaking an innovative or particularly effective program.

The society praised UCLA’s mathematics department for creating “a comprehensive vision for its undergraduate, graduate

and postdoctoral training programs that involves important interactions with the Institute for Pure and Applied Mathematics (IPAM) at UCLA, which is funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF). UCLA has become one of the biggest pipelines to mathematical careers in the United States.”

The mathematical society also lauded UCLA’s “first-rate faculty of internationally-recognized mathematicians” and noted the “tremendous growth” in the department’s undergraduate program over the past 10 years, as well as the substantial growth in its graduate program since 2000.

The department attracts many of the best graduate students in California, the United States, Europe and Asia, said Christoph Thiele, professor and chair of mathematics. It also offers opportunities for undergraduates to participate in research.

In 2000, the department’s graduate program was awarded a \$5 million Vertical Integration of Research and Education grant by the NSF. The program, under the direction of Professor Robert Greene, initiates changes in how professional mathematicians are trained, promoting interaction between mathematics and other fields. The program now includes a projected 195 students for fall 2007. In 2005, the NSF renewed the grant.

The mathematics department also runs successful K–12 math education programs and has had a decades-long relationship with California public schools.

This fall, five new faculty members will join the department.

“We have hired distinguished faculty that any mathematics department would be happy to have,” said Thiele. “We are delighted they chose UCLA.”