

# fiat lux

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## A Love of Learning



"My job is a bridge: to help connect the traditional world of libraries to the world of technology," says Karen Munro, an e-learning librarian at Berkeley.

For a Cal undergraduate, starting a research project in Berkeley's libraries can mean feeling drowned in information. The vast collection boasts over 10 million books, 70,000 periodicals, and an ever-proliferating array of electronic databases. That's where the library staff steps in. By teaching students to locate, sift, and evaluate information, librarians help them acquire the skills they need for that term paper due in two weeks, for their future schooling and careers, and for the rest of their lives.

Many of Berkeley's librarians focus on teaching. A typical week for Karen Munro, a librarian who recently completed her first year at Cal, will find her in a classroom teaching research skills to undergraduates; at the reference desk orienting students to relevant resources; or collaborating with faculty to draft research assignments through the Mellon Library/Faculty Fellowship for Undergraduate Research.

As Berkeley's e-learning librarian, she's also building an innovative online tutorial to help biology students learn how best to use Melvyl, the UC-wide library

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### IT STARTS HERE.

Berkeley's excellence is founded on its library. Opened in 1868 with one thousand books, the University Library now holds over ten million volumes, and ranks as one of the world's great research collections. Join us in supporting the growth and preservation of this stellar library.

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# “I Believe in the Library”

Neil Lyons ('58), who has given to the Library Fund for nearly twenty years, says, “I believe in the library. To me, the library is the backbone of campus.” Annual fund donations are in many ways the backbone of the Library, supplementing funding for acquisitions, reference services, cataloging, and staff.



Each year, new annual fund donors join with loyal supporters from past years, and invest in the continued growth of Berkeley's University Library. Because the Library stands at the center of a Berkeley education, Mr. Lyons says, “the way to benefit the most people on campus is by supporting the Library.” Giving to the Library is thus a way to insure maximum impact for donor dollars.

Now retired from a management career in the food industry, Lyons lives in Shasta County. One of his daughters, and his aunt, also graduated from UC Berkeley. His other daughter, a professor at University of Maryland, has drawn on the Bancroft Library's collections for her research on colonial history.

Neil Lyons especially appreciates the forward-thinking spirit of the Library. “The stereotype of libraries as conservative or stuffy institutions is not borne out by Berkeley. The Library continues to reinvent itself as technology provides,” he says. He cites the mass digitization projects through which more materials are available online, to the general public as well as to students and faculty. Lyons has also been impressed by the Library's initiatives to expand the Asian collections.

The University Library is honored by the generosity of our 6,000 donors who recognize the importance of sustaining a world-class library at the heart of the Berkeley campus. Your gifts make a tremendous difference. 🌱

*Do you have a Library story? We'd love to hear it! Your memories, funny stories, or other anecdotes are warmly invited. Write to [give@library.berkeley.edu](mailto:give@library.berkeley.edu), or phone 510/643-4715.*

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# A Puff of Smoke

## STUDENT'S RESEARCH ANSWERS LINGERING HEALTH QUESTION

Wael El-Nachef's research on waterpipe smoking answered a question that had been in the air since he was a boy. Traditional to people of his Syrian background, smoking the waterpipe was a common recreation for his grandfather and among his family and friends.

"There would always be discussions about the health issues," El-Nachef recalls. "Is it worse than cigarettes? Better? Harmless? For myself, I knew in my heart it was bad." But with little information readily accessible about the health consequences, it was easy to rationalize his own use. And as waterpipe smoking became more popular among Arab-Americans and non-Arabs, El-Nachef was motivated to find out the facts.

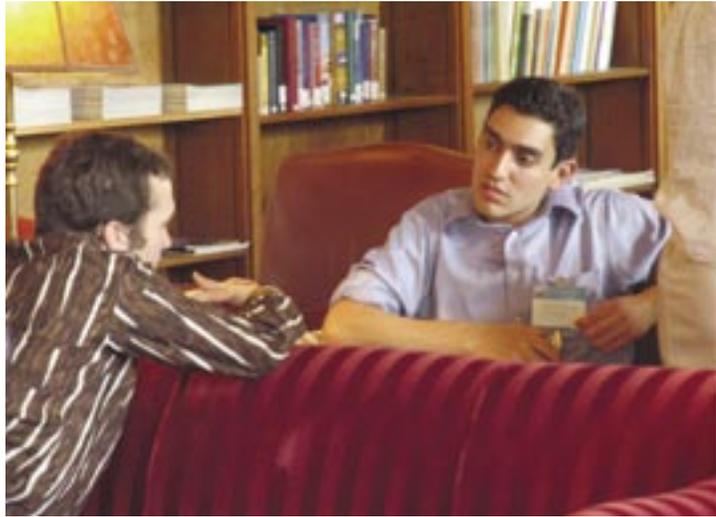
His research, conducted for a special study course for honors candidates in public health, established the serious health impact of carbon monoxide inhalation during waterpipe smoking. The finished paper garnered a Library Prize for Undergraduate Research last year.

Now in his first year at Feinberg School of Medicine at Northwestern University, El-Nachef describes medical school as "very, very intense. There's *no* free time." His medical training is inspired by his commitment to social justice. As he puts it, "many human rights issues manifest themselves as adverse health outcomes, and my training in medicine will help me advocate for these rights in concrete ways."

This summer, he hopes to explore his interest in international health by volunteering with the Palestine Children's Relief Fund, which works to secure medical care for children throughout the Middle East.

Born in Cleveland, El-Nachef grew up first in Mississippi, then in Michigan, where he attended his first year of college. He came to Cal as a sophomore, prompted both by his family's move to California, and by his eagerness to be at an academically excellent school that would welcome political and social involvements.

El-Nachef credits a class on library resources



Wael El-Nachef (on the right) talks with Andrew Strauss at a celebration for winners of the Library Prize for Undergraduate Research. El-Nachef, who graduated last year with a double major in public health and rhetoric, is now in medical school.

as key to his success with his waterpipe research. Offered at the Sheldon Margen Library of Public Health as part of a toxicology course, the class "really opened my eyes, and showed me how much there is to learn. I saw that finding resources in the library is a skill, and it can be enhanced through education. All students should do it!"

He described a consultation with a reference librarian as extremely productive, while noting that the reference staff "is not there to hold your hand. They want you to learn how to learn. The point is for me to be able to navigate all these different kinds and sources of information."

One result of his assiduous research process, which involved visits to multiple libraries as well as a systematic review of the electronic literature, is a new insight into the nature of the library. "Before doing research, I had the traditional view of libraries as shelves and shelves of books that sit there. Now, I don't even necessarily think of the library as a place. Especially in science, almost all the journals I need are online. The library is more of an intangible, a tool that connects you to all the resources." 🌿

**"I think El-Nachef is making a very important contribution to our limited knowledge in this area of growing exposure and limited health data."**

**— Dr. S. Katharine Hammond**

# The Library as First Resort

BY UNIVERSITY LIBRARIAN THOMAS C. LEONARD



Nataliya Tyaglo takes a break from her studies in the North Reading Room. She graduates in May with a major in interdisciplinary studies and a minor in education. This semester she is working on her honors senior thesis, which explores American conceptions of marriage.

At the center of campus, in the heat of final exams, Cal students competed for space in the Library this winter. We opened the Gardner Stacks in the Doe-Moffitt complex 24 hours a day during exam week. Students rushed in at all hours, with some surprises.

As is now common in the study areas we have refurbished, students filled every table. They lined up to reserve group study rooms, the disappointed then taking over hallways to spread out their work and to talk. We got used to walking around and through the young people, but remain startled at some of their

copying skills. They put toiletry kits on the book shelves. We found a tent pitched in the stacks, and an air mattress. We seem to be passing from study hall into study resort. We keep the Free Speech Movement Café open during all Library hours, and students have figured out: *they never have to leave.*

We thought it would be bad form to interrupt their studies with questions. Indeed, we were sheepish about the way we had scheduled nearby construction when we thought we would have few visitors. I learned from a student e-mail, sent at one a.m., that the “peace and quiet” of the Library fell short.



Cal sophomores did speak up about libraries in the seminar I taught last semester on all of our construction projects, an effort to see what sense students could make from the more than \$125 million recently spent or now supporting construction on the Bancroft Library, Great Rooms in Doe, the C.V. Starr East Asian Library, and the new Hargrove Music Library. Students, after all, see these projects as fields of mud and fences in their way, and the noise does indeed rattle the whole campus.

We began with readings on libraries in ancient and medieval times, then hung out at construction sites. Behind every library, the sophomores observed, there is a “heartless space.” They saw these on hard hat tours into “the empty gaping interior of the building before it is put together.” We spent so much time seeing how structural problems were being solved that anything not a dusty construction site won applause. The improvised space for the Bancroft collections in downtown Berkeley became a “country club for books.” The scrimshaw reading room of the present East Asian Library was a “warm and comfortable atmosphere to study and relax in,” another student insisted. One student said that a rip in a “worn and authentic” leather



Named for a 1935 alumna, the Jean Gray Hargrove Music Library opened in July 2004. Considered one of the best university music collections in the U.S., the library holds treasures such as the autograph score of a Stravinsky ballet, an eleventh-century chant manuscript, Italian librettos, and archives about the history of music in the Bay Area.

door in the North Reading Room in Doe was too lovely to fix. These Cal students resembled the finals crowds—grateful to a fault.

The Library has things to learn about what students are seeking. The sophomores

were a diverse bunch, but they all thought that what they had learned in the Library would stick with them. I learned from one sophomore about a scavenger hunt that required a photograph of the Cal Band, high-stepping through the Library (my talented student had done her part, I believe). Another sophomore said that “study buddies” and close friendships were a normal part of “library bondings” at Cal. In a quick journal entry, a student wrote “Entering the library gives you a sense of importance that you cannot find sitting in front of a computer. Libraries are full with knowledge that is almost contagious for someone who enjoys the feeling of learning.”

**We found a tent pitched in the stacks, and an air mattress. We seem to be passing from study hall into study resort.**

Thomas C. Leonard  
Kenneth and Dorothy Hill University Librarian

Fiat Lux, or Let there be light, is the motto of the University of California.

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# At the Ref Desk

A sampling of reference desk questions collected by Karen Munro from the Moffitt and Environmental Design Libraries. These queries are selected from Munro's blog at [bibliophagus.blogspot.com](http://bibliophagus.blogspot.com). An online, updated compilation of reference questions, the blog has been used in library school curricula in the U.S. and Canada, to show future librarians what actually happens at a reference desk.



I'm looking for primary sources about African-American soldiers during WWII. I'd like to find newspaper articles and also letters and diaries.

How can I get online access to this article my professor said we had to read on Soviet culture?

I'm looking for information about a fortification in the Great Wall of China. The building is called Jiayuguan Pass.



I'm interested in writing about YouTube as a new manifestation of the New England Town Hall Meeting phenomenon. I need articles about the history of the town hall meeting before 1900.



I need articles about McDonald's and personal responsibility — i.e., the phenomenon of people suing fast food companies for their own obesity, etc.

How do I search the catalog in Hebrew?

I'm looking for articles about capoeira and samba, as social resistance and creative expression.



I'm looking for articles or books about auto row buildings—parts shops, dealers, auto body shops, etc.



Where can I find magazine pictures of Paris from the 1950s?

*A Love of Learning, continued from page 1*

catalog. Launching this semester, the tutorial will serve as a model for other Berkeley librarians who want to teach online.

Creating effective online instruction, such as this tutorial, requires multiple skills. Elizabeth Dupuis, associate university librarian for educational initiatives and director of Doe/Moffitt Libraries, is one of the pioneers in the field. As she says, "e-learning librarians must draw upon expertise about instructional design, graphic design, human-computer interaction, and subject knowledge to create a seamless package of content that resonates with the given audience." Karen Munro's role demonstrates how librarians' responsibilities are expanding to meet users' needs in an increasingly complex and technological world.

As a Mellon Library Fellow, last year Munro partnered with ethnic studies professor Catherine Ceniza Choy. One goal was to develop a new research assignment that would draw on the Library's rich resources and re-energize Dr. Choy's large-enrollment class on Asian-American studies. With Munro's help, Choy selected and digitized an array of unusual primary materials for her students. The ease of online access meant that with a few clicks, her students could view archival documents such as early 20th century Filipino student journals and Filipino-American magazines. These materials added depth to the students' understanding of the "lived experience of Filipino and Southeast Asian Americans themselves," as Dr. Choy said.

Munro accepted the position in Doe/Moffitt Libraries in late 2005, after four years as literature librarian at the University of Oregon in Eugene. Over the past year, she's been impressed by the wide array of compelling classes at Cal, and the high level of student achievement. "Even first and second year students," she comments, "are given challenging assignments where they have to use primary materials." This level of

expectation underscores the need for well-honed research skills.

Born in Canada, Munro earned her BA in English Literature at Montreal's McGill University, and an MFA in fiction at the Iowa Writers' Workshop. She then enrolled in the library school at University of British Columbia for her master's of library science.

Munro's love of literature has found new avenues of expression at Berkeley. Awarded a fellowship at Townsend Center for the Humanities, she is pursuing a project about the ways in which technology changes in printing, binding, papermaking, distribution, and now digitization, have affected the creation and study of literature over time. Her research has led her down into the library stacks, where, she says, "it's been a pleasure to spend time reading about Virginia Woolf obsessively sorting fonts and Mark Twain swearing at his typewriter. Every age has its baffling, complicated, occasionally maddening new technology." 🌿

## THE LIBRARY ASSOCIATES

Join more than 6,000 other friends, book lovers, alumni and faculty who recognize that the influence of a great research library extends beyond the university it serves to the many communities of which it is a part.

The Library adds an astounding amount of printed and electronic resources each year, including rare and unique materials. In order to continue to acquire, organize, and make accessible new information, the Library depends on the support of those who understand how important a world-class library is to the education of students who will one day shape our future. Your gift is crucial to the continued excellence of the University Library.

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# Then & Now

A CAMPUS VIEW IN 1939 AND IN 2007



In the University Library's history over the past century, almost every room and passageway has been used or under consideration for every conceivable function, from circulation and collections to course reserves, staff desks, and reference. While resembling a game of musical chairs, these changes reflect the Library's continual efforts to bring "inquisitive minds and recorded knowledge together," as Kenneth G. Peterson wrote in his 1968 dissertation on the Library. In the 1939 photo above, students are lined up to use the course reserves service, outside the North Reading Room on the second floor of Doe Memorial Library. Today, this area houses one of the thirty reference desks located around campus. Reference services have grown dramatically over the decades; in the past year, over 110,000 queries were handled in person and electronically.



# Exhibits & Events



Fernando Botero's powerful and controversial series of paintings and drawings depicting the treatment of detainees at Abu Ghraib prison were on display in Doe Library through March 23. The exhibit was sponsored by the Center for Latin American Studies.

*Photo: Jan Sturmman/ CLAS*

## **Past Tents: The Way We Camped**

*Exhibit at California Historical Society  
678 Mission Street in San Francisco  
Through September 21, 2007*

Bancroft librarian Susan Snyder's 2006 book about the history of camping in the West is now an exhibit. On display are the remarkable gear, diaries and photos, camp attire, and many other materials that accompanied outings to our newly minted state and national parks and forests.

## **The Changing Face of Europe**

*April 20 through August 31, 2007  
Brown Gallery, Doe Library*

Europe's transformation from the postwar destruction of 1945 to the New Europe of today is documented in this exhibit. Photos, maps and short texts convey its remarkable demographic, political, and cultural metamorphoses.

## **Wit, Wine & Wonder:**

**A Benefit Gala Hosted by Rita Moreno**  
*Thursday, April 5, 2007 at 6:30 pm  
Bonhams & Butterfields, San Francisco*

The evening will honor Isabel Allende, tenth winner of the Hubert Howe Bancroft Award, and will feature an exhibit on Mark Twain, dinner, and a live auction. Proceeds benefit the Bancroft Library's Mark Twain Papers and Project. For more information, visit [bancroft.berkeley.edu](http://bancroft.berkeley.edu) or call 510/643-0116.

## **Lunch Poems: Student Reading**

*Morrison Library in Doe Library  
Thursday, May 3, 2007, 12:10 to 12:50 pm*

One of the year's liveliest events, the annual student reading features winners of the following prizes: Academy of American Poets, Cook, Rosenberg and Yang. It also includes students nominated by UC Berkeley's creative writing faculty, Lunch Poems volunteers, and representatives from student publications.

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