

# fiat lux

S U M M E R 2 0 0 7 • N O . 4

## Teaching Students to Fish

UNDERGRAD CLASSES REDESIGNED THROUGH LIBRARY/FACULTY PARTNERSHIP

### 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.*

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

"Oh Lord Have Mercy"

A Student's Gratitude

Wit, Wine, & Wonder

Isabel Allende

Fine Art of Giving

Then & Now

Laying the Library Foundation



Thanks to the Library's Mellon Project, Cal undergraduates are developing their information literacy skills through innovative research assignments. By learning how to locate, winnow, and evaluate information, students acquire a skill that—like knowing how to fish—will serve them throughout their lifetimes.

In one of the most ambitious projects in education today, Berkeley Library staff have teamed up with faculty and other campus partners to revitalize undergraduate education. Through the Mellon Library/Faculty Fellowship for Undergraduate Research, dozens of courses—in chemistry, American politics, French cinema, geography, and other fields—have been redesigned to provide more dynamic learning experiences, and to bring Library collections alive for undergraduates.

The Mellon Library/Faculty Fellowship for Undergraduate Research was made possible through a \$749,000 grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, extending from January 2004 to December 2007. Core partners included the Library, Office of the Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education, Office of

*continued on page 12*

# University Librarian's Letter

"OH LORD HAVE MERCY!" (SEE FOLDER 701)

Sayings have histories, and we can now be pretty sure that this one jumped into popular culture around 1900. In his new book, *Louis Armstrong's New Orleans*, Thomas Brothers asked, "How did church music find its way into the entertainment world of sin-loving New Orleans?" Folder 701 in a local archive had the story of the day a band played, a man called up the words of the store-front churches, "and the women in the dance hall loved it." The rest of popular music in the 20th century would become the echo chamber.



Isabel Allende with University Librarian Tom Leonard

"Oh Lord Have Mercy!" and its variants has occupied the minds of some of Berkeley's finest authors (and heaviest users of the Library). Adam Hochschild of the Graduate School of Journalism was able to trace the spiritual conversion that produced the hymn "Amazing Grace" back to these words. "Lord have mercy on us," John Newton cried out in a storm at sea in 1747. In *Bury the Chains: Prophets and Rebels in the Fight to Free an Empire's Slaves*, Hochschild cites his discovery from a memoir published in 1813. He says that "a great library always seems a place that allows miracles of time travel, and so a special bow to the one I used most, at the University of California, Berkeley."

Berkeley historian Lawrence Levine was one of the great explorers of American popular culture, from the sacred to the profane. He oversaw the 30th anniversary edition of *Black Culture and Black Consciousness: Afro-American Folk Thought from Slavery to Freedom* before his death last fall. In an archive of slave narratives he found the testimony that shouting "Lord, have mercy!" while being whipped on a plantation did little good. "Marse Jim, have mercy!" was the right appeal, an ex-slave recalled for the Library of Congress. "The

Lord rule Heaven, but Jim Smith rule the earth."

Many Cal grads heard Professor Levine bring African American material into focus for the first time; still more students here will remember the rich treatment of these sources in Leon Litwack's acclaimed History 7B. Dr. Litwack, a champion of the Library for five decades, gave his last lecture in that course in May. *His Trouble in Mind: Black Southerners in the Age of Jim Crow* explained how rock lyrics of the student's day — sung by Eric Clapton for instance — were rooted in the Blues. And these words stemmed from the political predicament of blacks in America. In the 1930s, in "Cross Road Blues" Robert Johnson sang

I went to the crossroad, fell down on my knees.

I went to the crossroad, fell down on my knees.

Asked the Lord above, 'Have mercy save poor Bob, if you please.'

From a Litwack course, you knew the desperate choices in the lives of Americans who lacked political power.

Scratchy recordings and crumbling manuscripts presented challenges for all these scholars, but there was a survival rate to this cultural record that, even two centuries later, makes this past tangible and inspiring. Hochschild took home one of our books, published in 1808, to marvel at "pages almost the texture of linen." No saying is yet popular among librarians today when they see the transient web pages and finicky computer files that are our record of cultural change. But "Mercy" is certainly going to be one of our appeals.

Thomas C. Leonard

Kenneth and Dorothy Hill University Librarian

# A Student's Gratitude

CAL SENIOR APPRECIATES LIBRARY COLLECTIONS, STAFF

*We spoke with Rachel Starbuck this spring about her studies at Berkeley, her love of browsing the stacks, and a memorable search for a Chinese-English biological dictionary. Here are her words.*

“I’m in my last semester at Berkeley, and am majoring in Chinese/ East Asian studies. My senior thesis is on Amy Lowell and Witter Bynner, two early translators of Chinese poetry. I transferred to Berkeley as a junior, after completing two years at City College in San Francisco, and have been studying classical Chinese as well as advanced modern Chinese.

One of my favorite things to do at the Library is browse the stacks. I have found some wonderful materials in this way, like when I was searching for translations from classical Chinese into English predating 1950.

I also found Joseph Needham’s history of Chinese science through browsing. Once I found it I felt I had hit a treasure chest. Just looking at the online catalog, you can’t tell what a venerable, giant, fascinating old edition it is! I have gotten a lot out of browsing in the stacks. Seeing the physical books, paging through them, and seeing the index gives me so much more information, plus it’s more fun.

Last year I translated a recent science fiction novella for a class in Chinese literature. The book has a lot of biological terminology, so I needed a Chinese-English biological dictionary in order to translate the terms. It was very difficult to track down the book I needed. Finally someone at East Asian Library said “You should talk to Bruce Williams.”

Bruce explained that many of their books were in storage in preparation for their move to the new C.V. Starr East Asian Library. He dropped what he was working on, got a key, and took me to the big storeroom. Although we couldn’t locate that title, he then personally brought me back to the East Asian Library

and showed me the section where books like that would be, all the while giving me an incredibly knowledgeable lecture on biological terms in Chinese and Japanese. The book was finally located in the Library’s storage facility in Richmond, and it will return to campus to be shelved in the new C. V. Starr East Asian Library.



Library fan Rachel Starbuck graduated in May with a departmental citation, and plans to study in Taiwan next year.

Bruce spent lots of time with me trying to find this book, and helping me understand all the other related holdings. It was really impressive how much time he was willing to spend with me and how seriously he took my project. ”

*Bruce Williams has served at the East Asian Library since 1993. He works in public service, reference, and rare books, and on Western language, Tibetan and Mongolian acquisitions.*

*The new C.V. Starr East Asian Library opens in October 2007 with several events celebrating this first freestanding building on an American university campus ever constructed for East Asian collections. See back cover for more information. 🌿*



# “Wit, Wine, and Wonder”

ISABEL ALLENDE AND RITA MORENO  
HELP RAISE FUNDS FOR MARK TWAIN PROJECT



Rita Moreno with Robert Hirst of the Mark Twain Project, at the Bancroft Library Gala.

On April 5, 2007, the Bancroft Library presented a black tie dinner and celebration featuring Isabel Allende. She was awarded the 10th annual Hubert Howe Bancroft Award for her “imaginative re-creations of the history and myth of California.”

Allende has written sixteen books of fiction and memoir, and researched 1999’s *Daughter of Fortune*, set in Gold Rush California, at the Bancroft Library.

Accepting the award, Allende said “I love libraries and the Bancroft most of all, because it is the brain of California. In its rooms are all the unforgettable characters that have ever lived in this place, the history, the dreams and memories of this unique part of the world ...”

Rita Moreno was the host for the celebration. Among the 250 guests were UC President Robert Dynes and Berkeley Chancellor Robert Birgeneau; Nobelists George Smoot, Daniel McFadden and Charles Townes; State Librarian Emeritus Kevin Starr; noted winemaker John De Luca; KQED’s Michael Krasny; and author Amy Tan.

“Wit, Wine, and Wonder” was chaired by Camilla and George Smith, longtime friends of the Bancroft. The proceeds from the event and the auction will benefit the Mark Twain Papers and Project. The world’s largest archive of documents by and about Mark Twain, the Project has been producing award-winning academic and popular editions of his works since 1965, and will launch an online edition this fall. 🍷

## UC Berkeley University Library Advisory Board, 2006-2007

### CHAIRMAN

Robert Birgeneau  
*Chancellor of the University*

### VICE CHAIRMAN

Thomas C. Leonard ’73 (Ph.D.)  
*Kenneth and Dorothy Hill University Librarian*

### PRESIDENT

S. Allan Johnson ’62, ’69

### CO-VICE PRESIDENTS

Mollie P. Collins ’65

Shannon M. Drew ’50

Robert M. Berdahl  
*Chancellor Emeritus*

Scott Biddy  
*Vice Chancellor, University Relations*

Albert H. Bowker  
*Chancellor Emeritus*

George W. Breslauer  
*Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost*

Carol Clarke ’60

Whitney M. Davis  
*Professor of History of Art and  
Chair, Academic Senate Library Committee*

Marilyn J. Drew ’53

David Duer ’68  
*Director, Development & External Relations*

Charles B. Faulhaber  
*Director, Bancroft Library*

Carmel Friesen ’50

Jane H. Galante ’49

Richard L. Greene ’60, ’63

Robert D. Haas ’64

Watson M. Laetsch

Charlene C. Liebau ’60

Raymond Lifchez ’72

William R. Lyman ’65, ’69

Marie L. Matthews ’52

Donald A. McQuade  
*Professor, Dept. of English*

George A. Miller ’61

Harvey L. Myman ’70, ’92

Anthony A. Newcomb ’65  
*Emeritus Dean & Professor, Dept. of Music*

Marie Luise Otto ’59, ’60

P. Buford Price  
*Emeritus Professor, Dept. of Physics*

Lila S. Rich ’55

Joseph A. Rosenthal

Robert Schechtman

*Student Representative*

Camilla Smith

G. Stuart Spence ’52

Janet Stanford ’59

Carl J. Stoney ’67, ’70, ’71

Craig Walker

*Chair, Friends of The Bancroft Library*

Phyllis Willits ’49, ’54

Thomas B. Worth ’72, ’76

Theo Zaninovich ’64

### HONORARY ADVISORY BOARD

Richard C. Atkinson  
*President Emeritus, University of California*

David Pierpont Gardner  
*President Emeritus, University of California*

Marion S. Goodin ’38, ’40

Ira Michael Heyman  
*Chancellor Emeritus*

Esther G. Heyns

J. R. K. Kantor ’57, ’60  
*Emeritus University Archivist*

Robert G. O’Donnell ’65, ’66

John W. “Jack” Rosston ’42

*Past President*

Katharine W. Thompson ’48

Sheryl Wong ’67, ’68

*Past President*

# Remarks by Isabel Allende

UPON RECEIVING THE HUBERT HOWE BANCROFT AWARD

Thank you for this most prestigious and undeserved award. Let me assure you that I do not use the word “undeserved” in false modesty; I really mean it. I come from a family of book thieves. I should not get an award from a library.

I grew up in the house of my grandfather, with several crazy uncles. One of them, Uncle Pablo, always wore, even in summer, a heavy black coat with big pockets to hide the books he stole in his friends’ houses, bookstores and libraries. He taught me at an early age that books belonged to humanity in general and to him in particular. He was a collector. Like Mr. Bancroft, he collected anything that was printed on paper: books, maps, old photographs, letters, journals, travel logs. His stuff was all over the house. In his bedroom the walls were covered with bookshelves and the only furniture was a soldier’s cot in the middle illuminated by a light bulb hanging from the ceiling, where he slept and read. One night, during one of those famous Chilean earthquakes, we heard a terrible noise, as if a train was loose in the house. We ran to Uncle Pablo’s bedroom, where the noise came from. The bookshelves had collapsed on top of the bed, burying my uncle under a mountain of volumes. We dug into the cloud of dust and pulled out books desperately until we managed to rescue him bruised but alive. “It would have been an elegant literary death...” was all he said when he was able to speak.

According to my uncle, books have secret lives. At night the characters come out of the pages and roam in the house, talking, mingling, sharing their stories. The night of the earthquake I assumed that the characters had no time to return to their own books and they ended up in just any page in the wrong place. Heroes, villains, damsels, pirates, courtesans, saints and demons, all in a jumble. The stories got all mixed up, the plots and the literary



Allende accepts the 2007 Hubert Howe Bancroft Award from Bancroft Library Director Charles Faulhaber.

time and space were lost. I suppose that some experimental modern novels were born in a cataclysm like that Chilean earthquake.

My uncle was not the only book thief in the family. Once my brother was caught stealing in a bookstore in London and taken to court. He almost died of shame and fear; he was convinced that he was going to be sent to the gallows. When the judge asked him why he has done it, he shakily confessed that he was a student, he had no money and he wanted that particular book more than anything in the world. At this point the owner of the bookstore, moved to tears, decided not to press charges. The judge condemned my brother to pay for his sin by working in that same bookstore during the summer: a perfect example of British equanimity. My brother never stole a book again. Or maybe he did, but was not caught.

**“I come from a family of book thieves. I should not get an award from a library.”**

*continued on page 6*



KQED's Michael Krasny with John de Luca, senior advisor to UC President Dynes, and his sister Teresa de Luca.

*Allende, continued from page 5*

I have been tempted many times. The only thing that I could steal without Catholic guilt would be a book, given that they belong to humanity in general, but I don't need to. I am not a collector and there are libraries. In large and beautiful buildings like the Bancroft Library I can find everything I need or want. Well, not EVERYTHING. Bancroft doesn't have a lot of dirty books, for example . . . Thanks to



Amy Tan and Charles Faulhaber converse while browsing the "Mark Twain at Play" exhibit.

libraries I don't have to store the books, to take care of them or cry because one of my relatives steals them; gentle librarians do the heavy work, I just enjoy the reading. When I wrote "The Infinite Plan," a story placed in California, and "Daughter of Fortune," a historical novel about the gold rush, I had everything I wanted at the library.

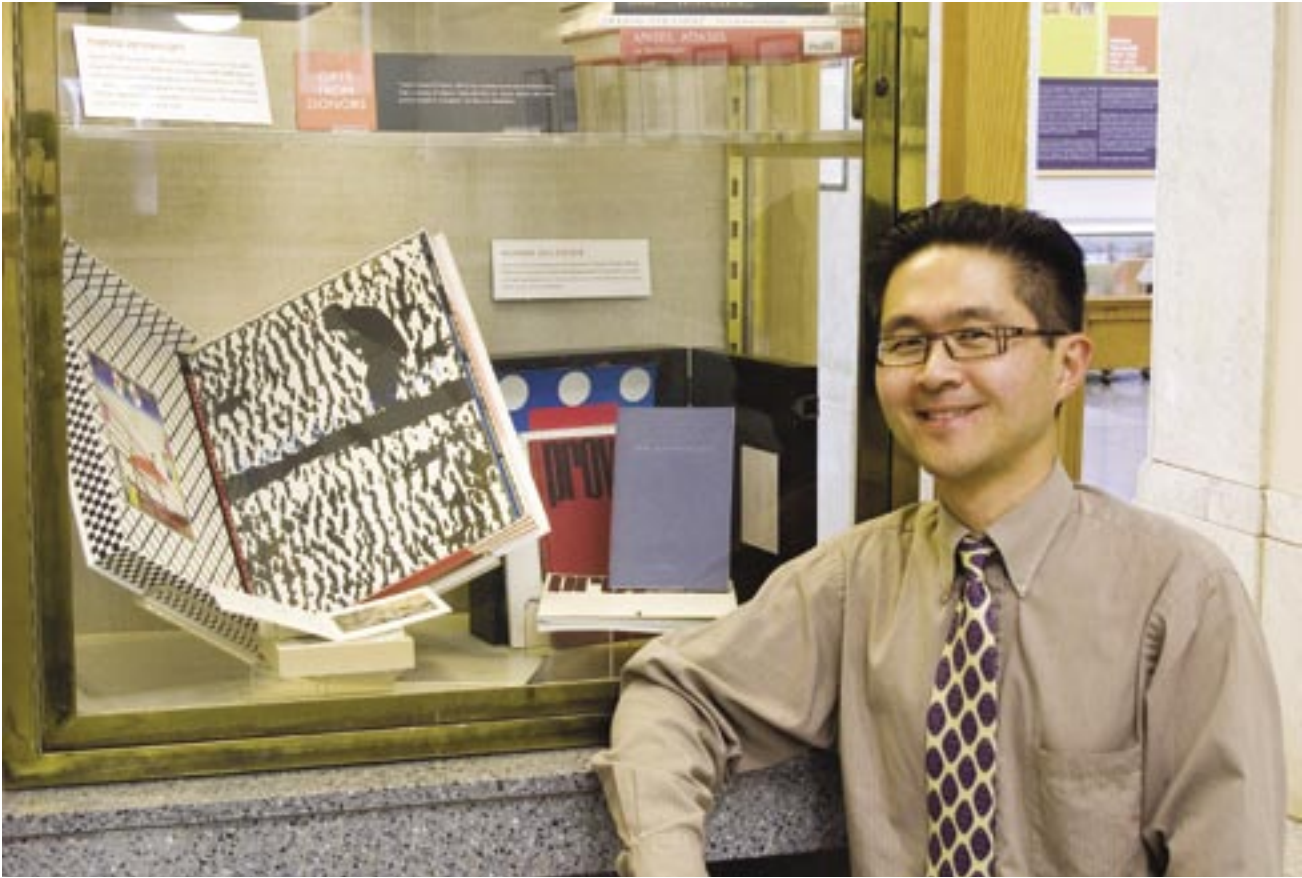
Libraries are magic places. Assuming that my uncle was right, when they close at night the space is alive with literary spirits chatting away, having affairs, making shady deals, fighting, complaining, plotting, and gossiping. Can you imagine the wonderful characters that emerge every night from the special collections in the Bancroft? Native Americans, Father Serra, Vallejo, Mark Twain, gold-diggers and ladies of the night sit down for tea or drinks with Amadis de Gaule, Pliny the Elder, Diderot and Cervantes. They go around handling medieval manuscripts and incunabula with no concerns for fingerprints; they go in and out of the old photographs and fine drawings; they travel inside the maps; they read private letters and sentimental journals. What an orgy!

I love libraries and the Bancroft most of all, because it is the brain of California. In its rooms are all the unforgettable characters that have ever lived in this place, the history, the dreams and memories of this unique part of the world that the West is. California is my country by choice. I came here in 1987 on a quick book-tour and fell in lust with a guy and in love with the land. That was 20 years and I am still in lust with the man and in love with the land. Here I have written 15 books and I have become a true California: I go to therapy, I drink green tea, and I eat tofu.

Thank you for this extraordinary award. Many times, many thanks, as the Chilean poet Pablo Neruda once said. I am deeply honored and a little ashamed. It doesn't seem right that I would be on the receiving end. I am in debt. It is I who should find a special way of honoring and awarding the Bancroft Library. 🌿



# The Fine Art of Giving



Richard Sun at a Doe Library exhibit that displayed treasures from the Fine Arts Collection, including books donated by him. To the left is shown *Kamaitachi*, an extended photo-essay by contemporary photographer Hosoe Eiko.

It's something most of us take for granted — looking up a book in the library catalog, locating it on the shelves, and checking it out. But library staff know first-hand how many people and discrete tasks are required for this process to happen. Library friends like Richard Sun relish supporting a key stage of the process: building the collection. Thought-provoking and adventurous libraries require careful collection development, so that students can find the books they need, and some surprises, awaiting them in the stacks.

Using knowledge of fine art photography developed over a lifetime's interest, Sun has been donating hand-selected books to the library since 2003. This year, he bolstered his support by establishing a \$50,000 endowment

for the Fine Arts Collection at Berkeley. The income from the endowment will be used to acquire new photography materials.

Most donors of books offer the Library an existing collection in whole or in part. Since Berkeley's collection is so comprehensive, many titles are already owned. Unlike other book donors, however, Sun selects and purchases specific titles for the Library. He takes a true librarian's interest in Berkeley's photography collection being as comprehensive — and as competitive — as possible. Donigan Cumming, Germaine Krull, Duane Michals, Man Ray, and Sebastião Salgado are a few of the artists whose books Sun has donated.

Having given over 100 books to Berkeley since 2003, Sun does careful research before

*continued on page 8*

**[Photographs]  
trade  
simultaneously  
on the prestige  
of art and the  
magic of the real.**

**— Susan Sontag,  
from *On  
Photography***

*The Art of Giving, continued from page 7*

initiating a gift. He begins by identifying a photographer of note, creating a complete list of his or her publications, and

health and medical sciences and his MPH in epidemiology, later followed by an MD at UC San Francisco. He spent five years as chief of the HIV/AIDS Epidemiology Branch of the California Department of Health Services and currently works on medical policy issues within Medi-Cal managed care.

Sun, whose interest in photography dates from his first introduction to cameras in elementary school, notes that the present times are an especially exciting era for photography. According to art history department chair Pat Berger, "Over the course of its 150-year history, photography has completely changed the way we see and the way we understand ourselves in relation to the past. Photographs materially embody memory but they also actively shape our perceptions of things and events. In the hands of a master, the camera is more than just a recording device, it is an instrument of persuasion that can be used artfully to create alternative worlds."



Selected recent gifts from Library friend Richard Sun.

assessing critical interest in each book. Sun checks the online UC catalog to determine

whether any libraries in the system own the titles, knowing that interlibrary loan ensures that books from the other ten campuses are readily available. Only books that Sun feels would enhance Berkeley's collection are targeted for purchase and donation. While his research is often time-consuming, the process parallels his personal interest and self-education in photography.

Sun studied at Cal from 1983 to 1986 as part of the five-year UCB-UCSF Joint Medical Program, earning his master's in

## 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.

Library Associates receive complimentary copies of the quarterly newsletter as well as invitations to special occasions at the Library. For more information or to make a gift, contact us at (510) 642-9377 or [give@library.berkeley.edu](mailto:give@library.berkeley.edu). Or visit our website at [www.lib.berkeley.edu/give/](http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/give/)



Post-World War II books by Japanese photographers that Sun has donated exemplify Berger's statements. Shomei Tomatsu's 11:02 *Nagasaki* and a reprint of Kikuji Kawada's *The Map* lead readers to contemplate the aftermaths of two atomic bombings over 60 years ago. Within the black wooden confines of *The Japanese Box* are found reprints of works by Nobuyoshi Araki, Daido Moriyama, Takuma Nakahira, and others portraying a Japan of the 1960s and 1970s that few Westerners could imagine. And contemporary female photographers Hiromix, Tomoko Sawada, and Miyako Ishiuchi explore women's roles in society from youth to old age in *Girls Blue*, *Omidai*, and *Mother's*.

The Fine Arts Collection at Berkeley is considered the strongest and most comprehensive in any library west of the Mississippi. Head librarian Kathryn Wayne has managed the collection since 1997. When Sun's most recent donation arrived this winter, it was the largest single gift he had ever given — 62 volumes. "It was just an unbelievable experience," Wayne remembered, "opening the boxes and boxes of books, bubble wrap everywhere, and finding all these incredible publications." Wayne recently curated a Library exhibit displaying treasures from the Fine Arts Collection, including books donated by Richard Sun.

Sun's gifts and endowment are strengthening the Library's collections in key ways. As a donor who likes to see results, he has found an endowed fund to be an excellent way to witness measurable gains from his gift. He comments that he "hope[s] other Cal graduates will consider donating books or starting an endowed fund. A great university like Berkeley needs a great library. And a great library needs endowments as part of its funding mix, in order to grow and thrive."

For more information about Library donations and endowments, please contact the Library Development Office at 510/643-9377 or [give@library.berkeley.edu](mailto:give@library.berkeley.edu), or visit [www.lib.berkeley.edu/give](http://www.lib.berkeley.edu/give) 🐾

# Then & Now

A CAMPUS VIEW IN 1953 AND IN 2007



This 1953 view of the circulation area in Doe Library, which is now the Heyns Reading Room, reflects the changes in library services over the decades. When Doe Memorial Library first opened in 1911, the collection was stored in the building's core. Until the 1990s, access to the stacks was very restricted. Most students filled out a form to request books, and waited for staff to return with them. In the Library today, people are much closer to the information. Millions of books can be freely browsed in over two dozen libraries located around campus. The 2007 photo below shows the circulation area at the Marian Koshland Bioscience and Natural Resources Library.



# Laying the Library Foundation

## 2007-2008

*The City of Learning was a dream born in California in the late 1800's to create a great research university on the shores of San Francisco Bay in the Berkeley hills.*

Inspired by Cal's greatest benefactress and following a worldwide competition in 1900, the *International Competition for the Phoebe Hearst Architectural Plan for the University of California* provided a grand plan for the Berkeley campus. Once John Galen Howard was appointed Supervising Architect in 1901, the Hearst Plan was initiated, and, until November 1924, Howard would guide the building of the Berkeley campus.

The "1908 phase" of the Hearst Plan involved the building of the core of the campus — Hearst Memorial Mining Building (1902-07), Hearst Greek Theatre (1902-03), California Hall (1903-05), Sather Gate & Bridge (1908-10), Durant Hall (1908-11), Sather Tower (1913-14), and, of course, Doe Library (1907-11 and 1914-17). With the laying of the



Phoebe Apperson Hearst, one of UC's early and most generous benefactors, sponsored an architectural competition in 1895 to select a master plan for the campus. Above right, supervising architect John Galen Howard's 1917 rendering.



cornerstone of the Charles Franklin Doe Memorial Library in 1908, this plan — and the Berkeley campus — found its heart. Nearly 100 years later, the University Library and its many subject specialty libraries remain at the heart of the campus, both physically and intellectually.

In the fall of 2008, the University of California, Berkeley will announce an ambitious public campaign to support University programs for decades to come. An essential part of this campaign will lie with the Library.



A 1909 photo showing the placement of the lintel and entablature over the north entrance to Doe Memorial Library.

Laying the Library Foundation begins with a one year campaign to raise \$3 million for the Library Fund in 2007-2008, in preparation for the major Library campaign beginning in fall 2008. The full campaign will address the need to expand and enhance Library programs and collections, especially those benefiting the education of undergraduate and graduate students, the core of the University's mission.

Donors will be asked to consider generous support for the 2007-2008 Library Fund to help sustain the finest library of any public research institution in the country. During this annual fund campaign, extraordinary gifts will be recognized in very special ways. Information will be provided to all Library friends in a mailing this fall.

Contributions may be made to the Library Fund as direct gifts or as one or two year pledges.

Donors also may wish to consider irrevocable planned gifts. Until December 31, 2007, the Internal Revenue Service will allow direct contributions of up to \$100,000 from both Roth and traditional IRAs for donors at least 70½ years of age. More information is available from UC Berkeley's Office of Gift Planning by calling (800) 200-0575.

Donors to class reunion campaigns will have any gifts to the Library Fund credited to their class campaign totals. For reunion classes whose campaigns support the Library, any gifts to those campaigns also will be provided with special recognition in the Library.

Help us celebrate the Doe Library Centennial in 2008.



Watch for the "Laying the Library Foundation" mailing this fall.

**This summer, the University Library is beginning a campaign effort to expand the resources of the Library Fund to help address Berkeley's current and future collections needs.**



*Mellon, continued from page 1*

Educational Development, Graduate Student Instructor Teaching and Resource Center, Educational Technology Services, American Cultures Center, and Undergraduate Division of Letters and Science.



Dr. Brandi Catanese and Mellon Library Fellow Corliss Lee plan resources for a future course. Dr. Catanese's Mellon course on African American studies was offered in fall 2006.

**By working with faculty on course design, Mellon partners enabled the Library's richness to be woven into the undergraduate curriculum.**

Librarians and project partners hosted an intensive summer institute for the past five years, creating a supportive peer environment for Mellon Faculty Fellows to rethink courses. Through the academic year, faculty and their teams refined and evaluated the courses and assignments. Almost fifty faculty have participated in the Mellon Project.

To date, Mellon faculty and partners have redesigned courses affecting approximately 8000 students. Comments from those students testify to the project's impact. The research assignments, while challenging, were seen as engaging and fulfilling. In course evaluations, students noted that they had been pushed to think deeply about the course content, to explore different viewpoints, and to make more thorough use of Library resources.

## **PARTNERING TO IMPROVE STUDENT LEARNING**

Berkeley students are high achievers, and highly diverse. One third of today's undergraduates are the first in their families to go to college, and one third are eligible for Pell Grants, which require family incomes below \$45,000. Students at a demanding university like Berkeley can often use academic support to succeed, and numerous campus organizations — including the Library — contribute to that purpose.

Many involved with the Mellon Project agree that the collaboration between campus units was central to its success. Cross-disciplinary teams composed of librarians with teaching, assessment, and collections expertise; faculty; education technologists; and graduate student instructors worked together to build research skills within the curriculum. While partnerships can be challenging, they can also be powerfully effective. The success of the Mellon Project derived from a shared goal: to improve student learning.

The Library's Mellon Project Manager Pat Maughan says this initiative has been one of the capstones of her career. The project has been a "wonderful experience in terms of really going outside the walls of the Library" to be integrated into the curriculum and the learning process.

## **A SUSTAINED PROCESS OF INQUIRY**

Corliss Lee tells new students that "the Library is like everything at Berkeley: it's big, it's world-class, and it's confusing." Lee earned her undergraduate and master's degrees at Berkeley, so she knows first-hand what she's talking about.

Making the Library less confusing was one of her goals in partnering with Dr. Brandi Catanese on "African American Life and Culture." Dr. Catanese is assistant professor of African American Studies & Theater, Dance, and Performance Studies. Offered in fall 2006, her course attracted over 75 students,

primarily freshmen and sophomores.

By focusing on redesigning courses for freshmen and sophomores, the Mellon Project introduced research skills to students soon after their arrival in Berkeley. Students can then draw on and refine those skills throughout their academic careers.

In applying for the Mellon Fellowship, Dr. Catanese and her colleague, Dr. Leigh Raiford (with whom she submitted the application, since they will alternate years of teaching the course) intended to take a fresh look at the African American studies course. To reinvigorate it, they wanted to find ways to introduce a research component, and to engage with both humanities and social sciences perspectives.

The team helped Dr. Catanese develop an assignment that led students through manageable stages and culminated in a final paper. First, students were asked to locate a historical primary source—a written text, piece of music or visual art, a film or other document that speaks to black identity in America. The kicker? Whatever they chose, it must have been created before the year of their birth. This requirement encouraged students to explore songs, films and books from a less familiar time.



Berkeley student Kelley Crites, at work in the Reference Hall in Doe Library.

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

The *Fiat Lux* newsletter of the Library at the University of California, Berkeley, is published quarterly by the Library Development Office, University of California, Berkeley, Room 131 Doe Library, Berkeley CA 94720-6000. Telephone: (510) 642-9377. Email: [give@library.berkeley.edu](mailto:give@library.berkeley.edu). Your feedback and suggestions are warmly invited.

Kenneth and Dorothy Hill University Librarian: Thomas C. Leonard

Director of Development and External Relations: David Duer

Director of Annual Giving: Wendy Hanson

Director of Communications: Damaris Moore

Major Gifts Officer: Tracy Mills

Design: Mary Scott

Photography: Beth McGonagle (p. 7), and Peg Skorpinski (p. 1-6, 9, 12-14).

Printed on recycled paper and with soy-based ink.

The assignment allowed students to discover the riches of the Library's collections for themselves. Among the choices were the collected poems of Langston Hughes; Sam Cooke's song "A Change is Gonna Come"; and "The Black Panthers: a sermon," by a minister of the Unitarian Church in San Francisco.

Next, students created an annotated research bibliography and a working hypothesis; an analysis of the secondary research; and finally, an eight to ten page research paper exploring their chosen document. By guiding students through consecutive stages of research in this way, Dr. Catanese enabled them to delve into a

**The success of the Mellon Project derived from a shared goal: to improve student learning.**

*continued on page 14*

*Mellon, continued from page 13*

process of inquiry sustained over time.

Corliss Lee created a customized web page, full of friendly advice and practical tips, that helped students identify research interests and materials. Library liaison to the Ethnic Studies and American Studies departments and to the American Cultures Center, Lee also works at the Moffitt Library and Bancroft Library reference desks. With over 15 years of experience at Berkeley's Library, she has developed a deep knowledge of how its many collections connect to course needs.



Mellon Library Fellows Brian Quigley and Sarah McDaniel discuss the new public health course with Dr. William Satariano.

Through the assignment, students found they could become, as the course materials promised, “an active researcher in the field of African-American Studies, rather than simply a student of other scholars’ research.” The critical and analytic skills they developed are a strong foundation for more advanced work throughout the humanities and social science curriculum.

## AT A PUBLIC HEALTH CLASS

Brian Quigley is the head of the Mathematics Statistics Library, but like many Berkeley librarians he also wears other hats. As a Mellon Library Fellow, he has helped redesign classes on topics such as technical communications, statistics, and computing.

Through working on Mellon courses, Quigley was immersed in an environment of shared ideas, constructive support, and experimentation with other Library Fellows and campus partners. Dedication was required—for instance, the 7 am meetings that were sometimes the only hour they could convene—but the team’s pooled knowledge enabled more efficiency and creativity overall.

Sarah McDaniel, interim head of Instructional Services in Doe/Moffitt, concurs with Quigley and others about the power of collaboration. As she notes, “the Mellon project got a bigger group of people talking about research assignment design, and coming to a shared understanding.” McDaniel worked on assessment strategies for many Mellon courses, often preparing groups of graduate student instructors for their roles as well.

This spring, Quigley and McDaniel are seeing the results of their work with Dr. William Satariano, professor of epidemiology and community health, on “Introduction to Community Health and Human Development.” This is a core course for the recently developed undergraduate major in public health, and enrolls about 120 students.

Dr. Satariano’s goal for the Mellon Fellowship was to create an assignment for the new course that would compare how public health issues are represented in scientific literature and in the popular media. He comments “I can’t say enough about Brian and Sarah’s work. I consider them almost co-instructors—their contributions have been invaluable in fashioning the course, and in grounding the broad idea of the assignment.”



Through Dr. Satariano's Mellon course, public health students learn to scrutinize the subtleties of language and presentation in popular media reports on subjects such as obesity, asthma, breast cancer, HIV/AIDS, or Alzheimer's.

Later in the course, students create their own fact sheet on a health issue, based on an article that surveys the scientific research. They then locate popular media articles on the topic, dissecting the presentation and noting omissions and discrepancies. Through their analysis, students learn to be critical consumers of the wealth of information on health issues that inundates us today.

The course assignments also take students through a learning curve towards becoming skilled library researchers. The ability to track down relevant information is often the difference between excellent and average work. Students learn to search PubMed and other article databases, receiving several in-person training sessions.

The Mellon project has "raised my awareness of all the multiple ways you can instruct research-based skills," Quigley says. "In this project, we practiced staging assignments so the students learn research skills from them. Rather than being told how, students learn by doing."

#### SO MUCH INFORMATION, SO LITTLE TIME

Through one-to-one assistance, in-class presentations, web pages and online reference services, Library staff are daily engaged in teaching students to be savvy information



Mellon Faculty Fellows at the 2006 Summer Institute, a two-week intensive during which faculty, Library staff, and other campus partners worked on developing undergraduate research-based assignments that challenge students to make rich use of the Library's print and digital resources. In the back row are Philip Stark, Jonathan Simon, D. Paul Thomas, Nelson Maldonado-Torres, Nathan Sayre, William Satariano, and William Berry. In the front, Leigh Raiford, Leti Volpp, Brandi Wilkins Catanese, Catherine Ceniza Choy, and Elaine Tennant.

users and researchers. The Mellon Project incorporated this expertise into course design, developing undergraduate research assignments that help instill these necessary skills.

The Library offers an infinite number of discoveries within its walls and through the electronic resources it makes accessible. By working with faculty on course design, Mellon partners enabled the Library's richness to be woven into the undergraduate curriculum.

Mellon Project Director Elizabeth Dupuis serves as associate university librarian for educational initiatives and director of Doe/Moffitt Libraries. She comments "The Library's leadership of this initiative has been a wonderfully rewarding way to demonstrate our organization's deep commitment to teaching and learning issues, and our ability to translate visionary ideas into practical application." 🌿

**"This has been terrific. I have learned so much. The course I teach based on this seminar will be truly different from anything else I have done."**

**— Mellon Faculty Fellow**

# Exhibits & Events



## ***The Changing Face of Europe***

***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.

## ***Missionaries, Merchants, and Movable Type:***

***Collectors and Collections of the C. V. Starr***

***East Asian Library***

***Sept. 10, 2007 through February 2008***

***Brown Gallery, Doe Library***

Berkeley's East Asian collection began in 1896 with John Fryer's deposit of his personal library of 2,000 volumes. Fryer's gift, and special purchases such as the Murakami and Mitsui acquisitions, were vital to creating a working collection of Chinese, Japanese, and Korean materials for the use of faculty and

students. These gifts and purchases have enriched the East Asian Library in ways not anticipated and always unique, reflecting the interests and idiosyncrasies of their original owners.

## ***Grand Opening of the***

***C.V. Starr East Asian Library***

***October 18-20, 2007***

The C. V. Starr East Asian Library will formally celebrate its opening on October 20, 2007, the first freestanding building on an American university campus ever constructed for East Asian collections. Events taking place in conjunction with the opening—a university presidents' forum and conferences on various topics relating to East Asian studies and collections—will convene during the preceding week. The 20th will kick off with an address by the Chancellor and wrap up with a gala performance of "Mei Lanfang" by the Guangzhou Ballet Ensemble of China at Cal Performances.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA

ROOM 131 DOE LIBRARY

BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA 94720-6000

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION

U.S. POSTAGE

**PAID**

BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA

PERMIT NO. 45