LEAVING A LEGACY TO BE PROUD OF

The CGU Community lost one of its most renowned members when Albert B. Friedman passed away in November 2006.

Professor Friedman taught at CGU from 1963 to 1988 and was awarded emeritus status upon his retirement. During his life, Friedman was a noted scholar of medieval literature and the popular ideals of the Middle Ages. His work was a defining force in the genre of “hallowed revival” in the United States, a period marked by a renewed interest in English and Scottish ballads.

In addition to being intimately proud of Friedman’s long association with the school, we are pleased to announce that he has bequeathed nearly a million dollars to support the.name of Claremont Graduate University. CGU now dedicates a field of study to individuals like Professor Friedman who have had a positive impact on the university in their estate planning. Hereby providing future generations of scholars the same opportunities that Professor Friedman provided his students.

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On January 12 CGU convened a remarkable conference called “What Works?” As we tackle important social issues, how do we know what will work? How can we learn more, share more, do better? The workshop, funded by the Wallace Foundation and the Irvine Foundation, brought together about a hundred leaders from government, business, civil society, and academia. About 15 award-winning leaders of nonprofit organizations were there—they’d done things that work, and we were trying to learn their lessons. Trade Joe was there. How did Joe Coulombe – founder of Trader Joe’s markets—and his colleague figure out what we would like (and would be good for the planet)? Others included social venture capitalists, business people active in social programs, a judge, the dean of a law school, foundation officials, and a score of CGU professors who are passionate about applying social sciences and the humanities to do better in tackling the challenges of our region and our world. A few professors expressed what we might call the purist’s dream. Imagine the perfect mathematical model of all the factors that affect the various benefits and costs of a particular kind of social program. Dream of perfect data on all the benefits and costs and intervening variables, including measures of all relevant judgments and perceptions. Imagine lots and lots of cases so we can estimate the model and thus say what programs have worked, in what sense, when, and where. And then imagine we can extrapolate the patterns of the past to the future. Dream on. It hasn’t happened yet in any area of social policy, and it probably never will. This admittedly sweet dream is useful only in reminding us of how inevitably limited is social science in providing policy advice. There are, however, alternatives. When I was a graduate student, I worked one summer in Peru’s Institute of National Planning. The Peruvian government asked me to help evaluate more than 200 foreign aid projects, ranging from rural roads to immunization to environmental protection to the development of the fishing industry. Trained in economics and statistics, I dreamt of a social benefit–cost analysis of each project, then taking those results and adding variables about sector, donor, project design, participation, and who knows what, and then estimating an econometric model of what aid projects worked, in what senses, where. In the real world of Peru, there were almost no data on social benefits, and only a few on costs. Peruvian policymakers couldn’t agree on metrics for “social benefits.” Reality wasn’t like my textbooks. Disappointed, I wrote to one of my professors, the great statistician Frederick Mosteller. I described the evaluation task and bitterly complained of its impossibility, implicitly blaming him for the dream model of evaluation I thought I had been learning from him. Professor Mosteller wrote back: “People can never agree on benefits and costs. But they can and do agree on outrageous successes and outrageous failures. Find these among your projects. Study them. Compare them. Share your results, and learn some more.” I followed his advice. It worked, in several senses. The Peruvians and the donor discussed the results together. The specificity of the examples kindled a great conversation about what works where. Participants shared folk wisdom, debated alternatives, and came up with some new ideas about better projects and better collaboration. “What works?” became “What might work and how might we do better at making it happen?” The process resulted in some creative new initiatives for Peru. Aid increased. Collaboration improved. And any Peruvian box was promoted and then was plucked away by the United Nations Development Program to replicate this process in two Central American countries. As we think about what works where, can we also be inspired by Professor Mosteller’s advice? Might our university censure leaders from government, business, civil society, and academia to consider together examples of outrageous success (and, if we have to, of outrageous failure)? Might we thereby kindle our creativity, developing together new initiatives and new ways to learn? We think so—and with our partners in the “What Works!” event, we’ll be exploring these questions through training, research, more convenings, and an online community. If you would like to join us in these efforts, please send an e-mail to paul.thomas@cgu.edu.

Robert Klitgaard
President and University Professor

January Conference asks “What Works?”

By Pat Flory

The answer to this question is of particular interest to those dedicated to making change and anyone wanting to develop innovative solutions for societal problems and issues. But a quick and easy answer is not always easy to find, given that our society is filled with cultural diversity, complex resource issues, and policy decision-makers with their own individual value systems, as conference panelist Christopher Edley, Jr., dean of the University of California Berkeley Law School, pointed out.

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As we think about what works where, can we also be inspired by Professor Mosteller’s advice? Might our university censure leaders from government, business, civil society, and academia to consider together examples of outrageous success (and, if we have to, of outrageous failure)? Might we thereby kindle our creativity, developing together new initiatives and new ways to learn? We think so—and with our partners in the “What Works!” event, we’ll be exploring these questions through training, research, more convenings, and an online community. If you would like to join us in these efforts, please send an e-mail to paul.thomas@cgu.edu.

Robert Klitgaard
President and University Professor

Explore new ideas and models, even from other disciplines.

In creating a successful leadership training program for principals of schools in New York City, panelist Sandra J. Stein, CEO of the NYC Leadership Academy, looked to medical training programs as a way to build “muscle memory” in situations that require rapid decision-making.

Be willing to make mistakes, and learn from them.

In San Francisco, panelist Denise Shephard, along with fellow venture capitalists, adopted a neighborhood south of Market Street. While they successfully met their commitments, they ultimately decided to fold the chapter. She says that you have to make mistakes to be successful but that you need to have a framework around this. “You need to ask your constituencies (and stakeholders) what can they bear?”

In closing remarks CGU President Robert Klitgaard addressed a need that was identified, nearly unanimously by all of the breakout session groups, for an “intellectual clearinghouse.” The website, he said, would be available by the following week to the conference attendees.

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**FOCUS: A Study of a Large Subgenus of the Passionflower Genus Passiflora**

**FACULTY:** Professor Lucinda McDade, Botany Department

Shawn Kromski, the chair of the botany department and CGU professor of botany, as well as Judith B. Friend director of research at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden (RSABG), is part of a team of researchers that have recently been awarded a major grant from the US National Science Foundation. The grant total is $1.2 million, of which CGU researchers at RSABG will receive $600,000.

The research group will study a large (more than 100 species) subgenus of the passionflower genus Passiflora (Passifloraceae). As plant aficionados know, members of this genus are famous for their spectacular flowers.

The project will bring a postdoctoral scholar, Shawn Kromski, to RSABG and also includes collaborators at Missouri Botanical Garden, Harris Stone State University (Missouri), and Keene State College (New Hampshire). The team will undertake fieldwork to collect plants of a number of species and gather a great deal of data from the DNA of the plants in the botanic garden’s molecular lab (part of the CGU botany department’s facilities).

Especially exciting is that the research team will grow plants of as many species as possible in the botanic garden’s facilities. By early 2009, visitors to RSABG may be able to arrange a special tour of the greenhouses (used for plant education and research) to see a spectacular display of blooming passionflowers.

**FOCUS: Molecular Clock on a Neutral Network**

**FACULTY:** Assistant Professor Alpan Raval, School of Mathematical Sciences

Claremont Graduate University’s Teacher Education Internship Program (TEIP) received a $325,000 grant from the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CCTC). The grant is a renewal of last year’s grant from the CCTC. To date, this grant has brought TEIP $575,000 in funding support.

This year’s grant funds provide support for 125 TEIP students during the 2007-08 school year as they teach in area schools and work towards a preliminary teaching credential and MA in Education. A portion of the funds will be used by the K-12 districts that hire CGU students, either to provide an on-site buddy for the TEIP student, or for release-time so the TEIP student can participate in professional growth activities.

CGU’s partner in administering the grant is the Corona-Norco Unified School District.

“The program is effective because the clinical and the practical are addressed simultaneously. What our teachers learn with us at CGU feeds what they do in the classrooms and, likewise, the real-world experience they are gaining in schools adds depth to the discussions happening at the university,” said Galley.

**FOCUS: Predicting Politics**

**FACULTY:** Clinical Professor Mark Abdollahian, School of Politics and Economics

Promising politics is often difficult. That is why Claremont Graduate University students are lucky to have the opportunity to learn from Mark Abdollahian, a clinical professor in the School of Politics and Economics (SPE), whose computer predictive models use a mix between computational mathematics, political science, and economics to predict political outcomes.

Abdollahian believes predictive modeling with computers is the future for accurate determination of political climates. “It is a widely held misconception that if models are not accurate 100 percent of the time, they are of little value; whereas to really be useful to decision makers, your predictions only have to perform better than other contending approaches. That is how analytic models with 60, 70, or 80 percent accuracy rates can outperform other approaches over time.”

Along with SPE Professor Jacek Kugler, recent CGU graduate Kristin Johnson, and graduate student Jon Compston, and Keung-Koak Kang, Abdollahian is working to determine preconditions for state fragility and political violence given political and economic determinants. The project simulates the interactive macroeconomic and political effects in computer models, producing information that can give policy makers a chance to weigh options before action is taken. With graduate students Brice Nicholson and Matthew Nickens, he recently unveiled to the Macroeconomic and Political Interactions (MPI) project simulate the interactive macroeconomic and political effects in computer models, producing information that can give policy makers a chance to weigh options before action is taken. With graduate students Brice Nicholson and Matthew Nickens, he recently unveiled to the Washington Post.

Abdollahian notes that while good predictive models will become more prevalent, CGU continues to enjoy a distinct comparative advantage, empowering students with the courses, tools, and experience that only a handful of programs in the world can currently offer. Decision makers from the US government, the World Bank, and across the private sector rely on his models to shape policy, create sustainable development, and to buy and sell companies.

“We create the world we live in each and every day,” believes Abdollahian. “If we don’t like something, it’s up to us to change it. That is the power of prediction.”

**FOCUS: Teacher Education Internship Program**

**FACULTY:** Assistant Professor DeLacy Galley, School of Educational Studies

Assistant Professor of Mathematics Alpan Raval recently had a paper accepted by the prestigious Physical Review Letters that features groundbreaking research.

The paper, “Molecular Clock on a Neutral Network,” lends insight into the discrepancy between terrestrial species, and is a step towards clarifying the discrepancies in the technique for estimating the time of emergence of a new species.

There are currently two ways to attempt to find the time when a new species first emerged in evolution: DNA/protein analysis or dating of fossils. However, these methods often do not agree, as the accumulation of mutations in DNA or protein sequences often exhibit large amounts of variability. Such sequences are called “erratic molecular clocks.”

Raval’s research, which involves mathematics and biology, focuses on identifying the conditions under which protein sequences could be good or erratic molecular clocks. This leaves much of the guesswork behind while studying speciation in evolution. With this information in hand, evolutionary geneticians can expect to map the history of all species with more precision than was previously possible.

“Estimating dates for the emergence of new species over the course of evolution is a pressing problem, and a common method used to address it is the so-called ‘molecular clock’ technique,” Raval said.

“The best molecular clocks will be proteins that can withstand mutations at many different sites, but not withstand simultaneous mutations at these sites, making them traceable over millions of years of evolutionary history.”

“The idea of a molecular clock is extremely important in genetics, potentially allowing researchers to determine the date when two species diverged,” said John Angus, dean of the School of Mathematical Sciences. “Alpan’s paper sheds light on the nature of the statistical error that can occur in such dating schemes. This can have a great impact on estimates of when certain species arose.”

**Evaluation Study of Middle-School Mathematics Program**

**FACULTY:** Research Faculty Members Rebecca Eddy and Tiffany Berry, School of Behavioral and Organizational Sciences

Rebecca Eddy is the principal investigator for a new $300,000 education evaluation project, her third with book publisher Prentice Hall. For this project, Eddy teamed up with Tiffany Berry on an 18-month evaluation study of Prentice Hall’s middle-school mathematics program, Connected Mathematics Project 2 (CMP2).

The evaluation involves six schools and more than 20 teachers across the nation. It requires tracking program implementation and measuring outcomes, including student achievement, student attitudes toward math, and other factors, such as teacher practice and parent involvement.

The study began in the spring of 2007, and will last through the entire 2007-2008 school-year. Plans are currently underway to extend the study to participants across multiple years. Results will be published and provided to Prentice Hall in order to improve internal product development as well as submission to the What Works Clearinghouse. Originally a National Science Foundation-funded program, CMP2 is unique in that it is focused on mathematical reasoning and problem-solving skills that, unlike memorization models, promote applications of mathematical concepts to real-world situations.

“There is so much we can learn about what
drives students’ interests and motivations for learning by studying curriculum in the classroom,” Eddy said. “We can also answer critical questions about curriculum design and teacher practice that may impact student achievement.”

FOCUS: Scholarship Grant for Pre- and Post-doctoral Scholars
FACULTY: Botany Department

The Fletcher Jones Foundation in support of pre- and post-doctoral scholars at the botanic garden, home of Claremont Graduate University’s graduate program in botany. The scholarship funds will be expended over three years in support of young plant scientists who are at critical career development stages – either immediately before or after completion of the PhD degree. Funds over the three-year grant will be allocated each year toward stipend and supplies for a pre-doctoral student and his or her dissertation-year work and salary and research supplies for a post-doctoral scholar conducting innovative research.

“In the sciences, recently minted PhDs usually spend one to several years in a post-doctoral position,” said Lucinda McDade, the Judith B. Friend director of research at RSABG and chair of CGU’s botany department. “The experience these young scientists will receive at the botanic garden will position them to compete for permanent positions in academia and industry, and to be successful in those positions.”

The RSABG is an 86-acre native plant garden in Claremont. Its research department facilities include a world-class botanical library, an herbarium of more than one million species, and two research laboratories.

“We are extremely excited about the support of the Fletcher Jones Foundation for graduate and post-graduate education at our school,” said McDade.

The Fletcher Jones Foundation, based in Los Angeles, was established by the founder of Computer Sciences Corporation, a pioneer in the fledging computer and software industry of the 1950s and 60s, and still a leading company today. The Fletcher Jones Foundation was endowed from the estate of Fletcher Jones, who died in 1972. Since that time, the foundation has been governed by an independent board of trustees. Its central mission has been and continues to be the support of private, independent colleges and universities in California.

FOCUS: Special Education Faculty Shortage
FACULTY: Professor Deborah Deutsch Smith, School of Educational Studies

Claremont Graduate University’s School of Educational Studies (SES) Professor Deborah Deutsch Smith has been awarded a national grant – $1.2 million over three years – from the US Department of Education’s Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP).

The grant will provide for a follow-up to the OSEP-funded needs-assessment study on special education faculty shortage that Smith directed nine years ago. The findings from that project have been used in many educational laws, and cited in 99 percent of all applications for federal funding for special education doctoral training.

“In that study, we demonstrated that there is a clear connection between the special education faculty in higher education and special education teachers in the schools,” Smith said. “The shortage of these special educators – at critical levels nationally – is in large part due to a severe shortage of college and university faculty. The supply and demand streams are very much out of balance.”

The need for updating the research arose due to changing state and federal laws. New regulations raised the qualification standards for special education teachers, and policy makers need to assess whether the nation has the capacity to train enough new teachers to meet these standards.

In addition to Smith’s grant, SES is doing other work to resolve critical shortfalls in both special education doctoral graduates and special education teachers. The school has strong and innovative doctoral and teacher education programs, as well as financial support to assist students while they prepare to become leaders in the field of special education.

FOCUS: High-Performing Teachers in Low-Performing Schools
FACULTY: Professor Mary Poplin, School of Educational Studies

Professor Mary Poplin recently completed a two-year study analyzing high-performing teachers who are working in nine low-performing elementary, middle, and high schools in two Los Angeles County districts. Her analysis has uncovered several insights into the effective teaching of urban youth and could affect schools and university teacher education programs.

The study – funded by the John Randolph and Dora Hayes Foundation – involved a combination of observations, surveys, and interviews. With this information Poplin was able to isolate traits and beliefs of these successful teachers. The teachers’ most obvious three traits included their strictness, their management of the classroom through instructional intensity, and their constant encouragement of their students to be excellent – in school, home, and society.

Most of the teachers believed that the new standards and accountability focus – as required by the No Child Left Behind Act – have been largely positive for urban students of color and for their work. These findings went against some common assumptions. For instance, many of teacher education focus on nurturing the children and providing a supportive environment. And in some cases, the schools’ principals were surprised that the “strictest” teachers had performed so well, as they had assumed more nurturing teachers would be higher performers. However, students often said they appreciated and understood their teacher’s strictness.

“I think she is so effective because she is tough and mean and a lot of people are scared of her, so they all do their homework and study,” one middle-school student noted.

Interestingly, Poplin also found little correlation between teaching experience and levels of success, with the high-performing teachers putting in anywhere from three to 33 years of experience in the classroom.

John Rivera is the project’s policy director. Graduate students who worked on the project’s research team included Dena Durish, Linda Hoff, Sue Kawell, Pat Pawlak, Laura Strauss, and Cloe Veney. Ivannia Soto-Hinman, a CGU alum, also worked on the project from its inception.

Paul Zak Featured on ABC Science Affiliate

Paul Zak, director of Claremont Graduate University’s Center for Neuroeconomic Studies, was featured on ScienceCentral, which has distribution deals with ABC science producers, and reached an estimated 8 million homes.
The Drucker School concludes a spectacular 2007

The Drucker School was named among the top 10 business schools in America in terms of faculty and classroom experience by the Princeton Review. Contributions are up

Additionally, the Drucker School has announced a $1 million donation to launch the Doris Drucker Fellowship Program, a new scholarship program to honor Doris Drucker and reward talented and exceptional women entering careers in management and leadership. The gift, made by Masatoshi Ito, will allow five Doris Drucker Fellows to be awarded to MBA students entering in the fall semester. The gift also marks the start of a campaign to fundraise from other sources to expand the number of Doris Drucker Fellows in future years.

"Mr. Ito's gracious, unsolicited offer to endow these fellowships in my name is truly exceptional," said Drucker School Dean Ira Jackson.

Since October, Jackson has been publishing a monthly column that runs in the Inland Valley Daily Bulletin and San Bernardino Sun. Jackson's columns are geared toward business, management, leadership, and ethics, and embody the philosophy of Peter Drucker.

The sister publications have a combined daily circulation of more than 100,000.

Additionally, since September, Wartzman has been writing a semi-monthly column for BusinessWeek. The column — titled "The Drucker Difference" — runs every other Monday on BusinessWeek's website and periodically in the print edition of the magazine.

"The Drucker Difference" will tie the teachings of Peter Drucker to events in the news. It will also highlight the work of scholars and practitioners in all sectors — business, government, and the nonprofit world — who have been influenced by Drucker.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for us to fulfill our basic mission: to take Peter Drucker’s ideas and ideals to new audiences," Wartzman said.

The Drucker Institute has recently announced this year’s winner of the Peter F. Drucker Award for Nonprofit Innovation. For more information on the award and this year’s winner, the "Made in NY" Production Training Program, please visit www.druckerinstitute.com/whatsnew/8.htm.

The word is spreading

With all this good news, it’s more important than ever to spread the Drucker School message — and that’s just what Jackson and Rick Wartzman, director of the Drucker Institute, are doing.
In recent months, the School of Religion received more than $1 million toward the programs and chair in Mormon studies, and...
It was an uncommonly cold Thursday afternoon in Claremont; a perfect day for a fireside chat about global warming with the director for Southern California Edison’s (SCE) Environmental Affairs, Michael Hertel (PhD, government, 1972). For more than 30 years he has advised one of the largest suppliers of electricity in the nation regarding policy and procedures that balance the need for profitability with the ever-growing global need to be environmentally responsible.

As Hertel stated, global warming is a complex problem with no consensus on possible solutions. George Blair, professor in government and mentor to Hertel at the then Claremont Graduate School, called these challenges “marble-layer-cake problems,” recalled Hertel. “It’s where chocolate bumps into vanilla cake and creates interesting edges that are a combination of both.”

It’s a challenge that Hertel finds especially rewarding. “You have to be intellectually honest, to look for answers and weigh the quality of the evidence that you’re gathering. It’s a very transdisciplinary approach to thinking,” he said, something he says he was trained to do at CGU. “You don’t ignore other points of view. You have to take a balanced perspective or you’re going to suffer the consequences of bad decisions.”

On a regular workday, Hertel drives a silver Prius to SCE headquarters. There, he and a team of six professionals grapple with tough environmental and policy decisions everyday.

In April 2007, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change released a 21-page report that is the most definitive analysis on the subject to date. The study strongly links human activities to global warming. Hertel agrees with their conclusion but notes that there is still a lot to learn about the phenomena. For example, how much carbon dioxide do our oceans and forests absorb? Can they absorb more? What happens when the oceans warm and become more acidic, releasing that carbon back into the atmosphere?

It’s a discussion that actually began in the 1800s, at the beginning of the industrial revolution, and then given an extra boost of attention in 1938 with the publication of Guy Stewart Callendar’s paper, “The Artificial Production of Carbon Dioxide and its Influence on Temperature.” Callendar estimated a gradual .03 degree
Scientists calculate how carbon levels may affect climate. He wasn’t off by much. Models built on his theory, combined with modern technologies, continue to help scientists calculate how carbon levels may affect climate. 

Any other pollutant, “said Hertel. And it’s going to take the world to distribute it around the planet in about 60 days, but we begin to introduce cars in a big way, as well as air conditioners that consume electric power. I am sure that countries like China will keep growing; if they can grow, they will.”

There’s no place for pointing fingers in this conversation through. Carbon dioxide is a ubiquitous commodity. “Every time you drive – even if you drive a Prius – you’re burning fuel,” said Hertel. “And that fuel had to be extracted, processed, and transported. All of that produces carbon dioxide. It takes fuel to make fuel.”

“Whether you’re in China or the United States, fossil fuel-based energy is so fundamental to all our economies that it’s going to be a long time dealing with any other pollutants,” said Hertel. “And it’s going to take some really innovative thinking and understanding to get to a solution.”

Finding what works…

As of 2007, more than 170 countries have ratified the Kyoto Protocol, which was initiated at the 3rd Conference of the Parties in 1997. Hertel said that Kyoto is a fascinating, complicated, problem to solve. “It’s a very transdisciplinary approach to thinking…one that carefully considers politics, economics, science, and technology.”

Hertel continued to explain, that closer to home, several states have attempted to enact laws and policies that could, in theory, curb carbon emissions. In California, the 11th largest emitter of greenhouse gases in the world, transportation accounts for the lion’s share of emissions, about 40 percent (electricity production, both in and out of state, accounts for about 25 percent). In 2006, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed the Global Warming Solutions Act, designed to reduce greenhouse gases by returning the state’s emissions to 1990 levels by 2020. That’s about a 30 percent reduction from the forecast growth in GHG emissions.

To illustrate how difficult reaching the target will be, a state law requiring reduced rates of CO2 emissions, from new cars has been blocked by a refusal of the US Environmental Protection Agency to grant a necessary waiver from the national Clean Air Act. California officials were counting on the law to get about 20 percent of the required GHG reduction. Now that may be doubt.

The San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station, just north of San Diego, is another example of how complicated the greenhouse gas atmosphere can be. It’s a project that Hertel has personally worked on for more than 30 years. After 15 years of study at a cost of more than $40 million, the California Coastal Commission decided to require extensive marine monitoring of fish and fish larvae. In the end, the project will restore 150 acres of coastal wetland and construct an offshore artificial reef help reef to mitigate the estimated impact on marine fish populations of the cooling water systems of the plant. Now, the State Water Resources Control Board may add a conflicting layer to this by requiring cooling towers on all power plants cooled by ocean water, including San Onofre, which the California Coastal Commission originally said was not necessary. Since both agencies have equal authority, it can complicate matters and could mean increased GHG emissions from the use of fossil fuel to replace the lost nuclear generation, risks to the reliability of electricity supply, and increasing costs for this effort and, ultimately, for consumers.

It’s a fascinating, complicated, problem to solve,” said Hertel. “If you look at it from the outside it seems simple. When you get to the middle you find that there are things you hadn’t thought of. And it’s not because those people who make our laws and think about these things are not smart – they’re very intelligent. It’s just that these problems are often intricately layered and complex.”

Solving global warming requires a very transdisciplinary approach to thinking…one that carefully considers politics, economics, science, and technology.”

Mike Hertel
For the second year in a row, CGU’s MFA students showcased their artwork at the 13th Annual Los Angeles Art Show (LAAS), held at the Barker Hangar in Santa Monica in January. Also for the second consecutive year, CGU had the only university art program to be invited to exhibit at this prestigious, internationally acclaimed art exposition.

Karl Benjamin, CGU professor emeritus and art alumnus, helped select the works from current MFA students, a group of 32 artists. Newly named chair of the CGU art department and art critic David Pagel, along with gallery owner George Stern, founding president and current board member of the Fine Art Dealers Association, which organizes the LAAS, provided additional oversight. Stern is also on the Advisory Board for CGU’s School of Arts and Humanities.

“This is a rare opportunity to showcase the enormous talents of the CGU art students before one of the finest art communities in the United States,” Stern said.

Benjamin also praised the quality of work coming out of CGU, saying, “I’m impressed with not only the quality of the student works being produced at CGU, but at the variety of work and approaches these works represent.”

The Claremont students who participated are Y. Heyden Gellis, Asad Faulwell, Julie Dunker, Elizabeth Carney, Lek Namnath, and Judy Bonzi. Said Bonzi: “CGU’s invitation is a testament to the quality of work coming out of its program. Unlike many art schools there is no single collateral vision imprinted on the students. Rather, there is a vibrant collection of interesting voices addressing varying concerns with personal flair and commitment.”

On January 25, Stern led a private tour of the LA Art Show for some 50 alumni, students, and friends. During the tour the featured student artists discussed their work with guests that included CGU alumnus, trustee, and chair of the School of Arts and Humanities Board of Advisors Priscilla Fernandez, School of Arts and Humanities Dean Marc Redfield, and art professors Connie Zehr and Michael Brewster.

Earlier in the week, the student artists and selected guests joined CGU’s First Lady Elaine Klitgaard for the VIP Opening Night Gala of the LA Art Show, a grand celebration attended by celebrities and international art connoisseurs.

Meet David Pagel, Chair of the Art Department

This fall, David Pagel began his tenure as the chair of the art department. Pagel is also a freelance writer, art critic for the Los Angeles Times, and an associate professor of art theory and history at CGU. In his career, Pagel has taught 12 different graduate seminars and organized over 30 exhibitions. He received an MA in art history from Harvard University.

The Flame: Can you explain the importance of CGU exhibiting their work at LA Art Show?

Pagel: This exhibit gives our students the opportunity to show their work to a large and knowledgeable audience. For some, it’s among the first time they present work to a public not made up of fellow students and faculty. The conversations that result are unpredictable – and very beneficial to our students.

The Flame: What new art shows are you planning for the remainder of the year?

Pagel: Spring is almost entirely dedicated to weekly solo exhibitions by our graduating class of 2008. I have just installed a 12-artist exhibition, “Apocalypse Yesterday,” that addresses the aftermath status of contemporary life. This summer I am the co-curator, with Terre Sultan, director of the Blaffer Gallery at the University of Houston, of “Damaged Romanticism: A Mirror of Modern Emotion,” an 18-artist exhibition that explores the ways various threats to democracy manifest themselves in contemporary art.

The Flame: What are the long-term plans for the art program?

Pagel: We are expanding and improving our sculpture facilities; updating and expanding our digital labs; creating more cross-disciplinary connections with other departments and schools – especially cultural studies and English, and strengthening our relationship to arts institutions, communities, and individuals in Southern California.
At its inception in 1960, CGU’s religious studies department was housed in the School of Arts and Humanities. But the department expanded to the size that, in 2000, it was large enough to establish its own identity within the university, the School of Religion. Its founding dean, Karen Torjesen, has worked tirelessly to keep the expansion going; in only the past few years the school has added faculty, increased student enrollment, and introduced two new faiths to their religious councils. And now, the school’s so big it’s crossing continents.

One of the school's initial goals was to expand its curriculum beyond the traditional Judeo-Christian studies. This led to the creation of eight councils, including Islamic studies, Zoroastrian studies, and the Council for the Study of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormon studies). Not only do these programs aid the school in its goal of studying religions in their relationship to each other, but CGU’s study of the Mormon faith is the first of its kind at a secular university.

But Torjesen is not only working to expand the religion program’s depth, but also its geography. That is why, over the past few years, the school has been broadening its curriculum to include religious cultures and traditions from around the world. Additionally, Torjesen says, the school has been actively seeking international students and faculty to create classrooms full of diverse opinions, experiences, and beliefs.

“Religions flourish in so many different contexts around the world, and this breadth is so culturally rich and intellectually challenging,” she said. “I want our students to understand and interact with that reality.”

To facilitate this, Torjesen added a course on Meso-American religion that will be taught by Sylvia Marcos, an anthropologist from the University of Mexico in Cuernavaca. In addition to their coursework at CGU, students in the class spend two weeks in Mexico interacting with other Mexican anthropologists, and visit the midwives association and the ethnobotanic gardens to meet with traditional healers.

Torjesen was also recently in Cairo, Egypt to sign an agreement with Al-Azhar University, the leading Muslim university in the world. The agreement will allow for student exchanges between CGU and Al-Azhar. In the beginning of 2008, discussions with Hebrew University in Jerusalem, Israel commenced. Torjesen is negotiating an exchange of students, including a research fellowship so that a student from Hebrew University can come to CGU to work and teach modern Hebrew.

Last year Torjesen spent one month in China, on a trip that had been in development for the past four years. Torjesen has long been interested in religion in China. Members of her husband’s family had been missionaries around the turn of the century, and she has heard many stories of their time there. In her role as dean of the School of Religion she had also met with several Chinese dignitaries when they visited Claremont.

Outreach to China seemed like a natural fit for the School of Religion, due to the country’s enormous population (over 1.3 billion), its ancient culture, and its pluralistic religious beliefs. The People’s Republic of China is officially atheist, and organized religion was banned for a time. However, there was a religious resurgence in the 1970s and freedom of religion, with restrictions, was guaranteed in the country’s 1978 constitution. Currently, China officially recognizes five religions: Buddhism, Catholic Christianity, Islam, Protestant Christianity, and Taoism. However,
approximately 660 million and 400 million exceed these five classifications. The depth of the country’s spirituality far exceeds the most popular religions in the country, with adherents respectively (though there is overlap in those numbers, as many Chinese consider themselves both Buddhist and Taoist). There are also approximately 40 million Christians themselves both Buddhist and Taoist). There are also approximately 40 million Christians, with about 39 million Buddhists and Taoists. There are also approximately 40 million Christians, with about 39 million Buddhists and Taoists. 

Karen Torjesen with Minister Ye Xiaowen

In 2003, Torjesen hosted Ye along with his traveling companions, a delegation of Chinese leaders of the five religions the government recognizes. Over a dinner at the President’s House—which also included the leaders of several of the School of Religion’s religious councils—Torjesen was able to chose Mao Zedong and Lin Biao of making connections to China and lay the foundation for her study of their religious identity.

This time Ye was able to host Torjesen at his office in Beijing. He was very interested in strategies for promoting religious pluralism in his country, and asked Torjesen how America manages to be home to so many disparate religions without conflict. He was also concerned about religious extremism in the Catholic, Protestant, and Muslim faiths, particularly in the context of how the American government typically engages religious fundamentalists on the issue of pluralism.

“It was a great conversation for me, because so much of what we’re doing at the school is based on how religions are able to coexist and interact,” says Torjesen. “And I was encouraged that Minister Ye was looking to foster that in his own country.”

When Torjesen became the dean of the School of Religion, one of her first priorities was to establish a connection to China. Now that she’s been there, she is eager to formalize relationships, and start an exchange of students with some of the universities she visited on her trip. And she’s already pining to go back.

“When I got back to America, I was ready to book my next trip,” she says. “But of course, there’s so much going on at the school that it’s difficult to get away for any extended period of time. As soon as my schedule allows, I’ll be on the next available plane.”
faculty achievements

David Amies (School of Arts and Humanities) was involved with the art exhibition “Some Paintings: The Third (2007)”, LA Weekly Annual Bernardi,” curated by Doug Harvey.


Dale Berger (School of Behavioral and Organizational Sciences) recently published “Drinking and driving among high school Mexican-American men,” with D.D. Anlysis & Prevention inappropriateness of stepwise regression. His work “Drinking and driving among high school Mexican-American men,” with D.D. Anlysis & Prevention inappropriateness of stepwise regression. His work received a grant of $50,000 from Microsoft Research to develop “An Online Community for Teachers to Support, Observe, Collect and Evaluate Assisted Communication with Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder.” The project leverages ongoing research and will lead to the design, development, and evaluation of a support environment that lets teachers, therapists, and parents evaluate longitudinal communication data for individual children and for groups of children, discuss findings, and complement this data with other child-specific data using modern data analysis and data mining tools.

Peter Boyer (School of Arts and Humanities) presented "Recovery of Motivation with Multifaceted Learning" at the Portland (Maine) Symphony Orchestra and the Williamsport (Pennsylvania) Symphony Orchestra; and three of his works were performed by the Montreal Philharmonic Orchestra in the Czech Republic. The Montreal Philharmonic also recorded these works for a new CD to be released by Albany Records. The recording "The Music of Peter Boyer", with the London Symphony Orchestra conducted by Boyer were remastered and released on the Propulsive Music label. This reissued CD has been broadcast by more than 100 radio stations around the United States, including many NPR affiliates. Boyer’s anthems "O Mano's Wings" has been accepted for publication by Shanence Press, one of the nation’s leading educational music publishers, and his work "I Dream a World" has been published by Paracene Publishing. Boyer recently orchestrated music from the ABC television show Lost (by composer Michael Giacchino) for a live performance by the Honolulu Symphony.

Patricia Easton (School of Arts and Humanities) presented "Discourses and the Birth of Psychiatry: The Cartesian Doctor, François Bayle (1622-1709)" at the South Central Seminar in the History of Early Modern Philosophy held at the University of Tulsa.

Tom Horan (School of Information Systems and Technology) was recently appointed to the Health Information Technology Commission by the American Evaluation Association in Baltimore, Maryland. Berger and several students presented at several conferences: “Exploring new horizons for positive psychology:” “Applications demonstrating the central limit theorem and statistical power,” and “Effectiveness of computer-based instruction in statistics: A meta-analysis,” with A.T. Saw and G. Soza, at the meeting of the Western Psychological Association in Vancouver, British Columbia, and “Teaching statistics with interactive Internet tutorials,” with A.T. Saw and G. Soza, a poster presentation at the meeting of the United States Council on Teaching Statistics in Columbus, Ohio.

Henry Krzips (School of Arts and Humanities) presented "New Politics - Max Moskow" for the Founders Room Talk Series at the Honickl/Mudd Library. He also presented "A Mass Media Care for Anorexic: Adorno, Kafka, and Zizek" at the Modern Languages Association Annual Conference in Chicago and at the Association of Psychoanalytic Culture and Society Annual Conference at Rutgers University. A version of this presentation was also published in the International Journal for Zenith Studies. Krzips was special editor of the January 2008 edition of the journal Psychoanalysis, Culture and Society. He also published a substantial update of his article “Measurement in Quantum Theory” in the Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy. He was coorganizer of the Bradshaw Conference, Event and Process, and presented "The New Politics and the work of Alan Badiou.”

Gondy Leroy (School of Information Systems and Technology), with Gianluca De Leo (Old Dominion University), Jeannie Fryer (School of Educational Studies), Stephen K. Vaughn (Desert/Mountain Educational Service Center), and Selen Johnson (ARC of North Carolina Child Development Center), received a grant of $50,000 from Microsoft Research to develop “An Online Community for Teachers to Support, Observe, Collect and Evaluate Assisted Communication with Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder.” The project leverages ongoing research and will lead to the design, development, and evaluation of a support environment that lets teachers, therapists, and parents evaluate longitudinal communication data for individual children and for groups of children, discuss findings, and complement this data with other child-specific data using modern data analysis and data mining tools.


new faculty:

Hedley Morris

Professor of Mathematics and Financial Engineering
PhD, University of London

WHY CGU? I have come to CGU as a full-time faculty member to assist with the expansion in the financial engineering (FE) program.

TEACHING: In the math department we take in external projects from industry and have teams of students work on them. A good part of my time is devoted with the supervision of these external projects. One is for Boeing to develop a CAD tool and the other is for Johnson & Johnson in the Artificial Intelligence area. I will also begin my FE teaching with a course on Financial Time Series.

TEACHING STYLE: W. B. Watts has three quotes I love “Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire,” “Talent perceives differences, genius unity,” “Think like a wise man but communicate in the language of the people.” My teaching philosophy revolves around these three ideas. My objective is not solely the imparting of facts but the firing of an enthusiasm to learn that will last a lifetime.

RESEARCH: A single mathematical problem has many applications in apparently unrelated realms. As a consequence I am working on a white paper translation from elementary particle physics to cosmology passing through Wall Street on the way.

FAVORITE BOOK IN HIS FIELD: Any math book I don’t understand.

INSPIRATION: The few seconds when it seems like you know something nobody else does.

INTERESTS: I have four children and two grandchildren. Who has time for other interests?
McDade also attended a meeting devoted to the basin of Mediterranean climate regions of the world (California is one of five Mediterranean climate areas) in Zurich, Switzerland.

Jennifer Merolla (School of Politics and Economics) cosponsored a conference for the Politics of Race, Immigration, and Ethnicity Consortium with Adrian Pantoja (Pitzer College). Merolla recently conducted field work in Mexico with Elizabeth Zeichmeister (University of California, Davis). Various media outlets reported on a study conducted with John Geer and Brett Benson, both of Vanderbilt University. They did an experimental poll that examined bias against Mormon political candidates. Merolla was coauthor with Joan Schiroedd (School of Politics and Economics) and Mirya Holman, a CGU graduate student, of an article entitled “The Parade of Protestants and Women in Elected Office in the United States” in the Journal of Women, Politics & Policy.

Holly Morris (School of Mathematical Sciences) had several journal articles published: “Gate capacitance model with polycrystal deposition effect for MOS device” with E. Cumberbatch, H. Ahelo, and V. Tyree, in the Journal of Semiconductor Technology and Science; “The Gate to Body Capacitance of a MOSFET by Asymptotic Analysis” with E. Cumberbatch, H. Abbebe, and P. Vernier, in the Optimization: Practical Considerations” with H. Abebe, V. and "SPICE BSIM 3v3.1 Model Parameters Extraction and its annual symposium.

J. Mark Porter (Botany Department) presented a talk on Polemonium (Polemoniaceae) species found in the Four Corners region of the Southwest to the New Mexico Native Plant Society at its annual symposium.

Linda M. Prince (Botany Department) published “A brief nomenclatural review of genera and tribes of Tricheaceae” in Allos.

Linda Perkins (School of Arts and Humanities) was a featured speaker and workshop leader at the California National Organization for Women’s regional conference on " Issues on Women of Color" in Pomona, California.

Craig Pierre (Peter F. Drucker and Masatoshi Ito Graduate School of Management) received the 2008 Asia-Pacific Human Resource Leadership Award from the Asia-Pacific Human Resource Congress. Pierre was the keynote speaker at the following: "From Knowledge Work to Shared Leverage" at the Drucker Society of Japan and the Drucker Society of Korea in Seoul; "The Leadership/Ethics Connection” at the Korean Association of Business Ethics in Seoul; and "Shared Leadership” at the Korean Management Association Conference in Seoul. He presented “The Global Leadership Challenge” at the 50th anniversary celebration of Drexel University in Geonggido, Korea. Pierre published “When the romance is over: Follow-up perspectives of aversive leadership” with Michelle Bligh, Jeffery Kohel, Joseph Justin, and John Stowell in Applied Psychology: An International Review.

Henry Schiroedd (School of Political and Economic) had four pieces published in The Front: A Woman’s Commentary. The pieces are: “Vayeitze: Between Laughter and Tears,” and three shorter pieces under “Another View”– “Vayeitze,” “Vayehi,” and “Da varim.”

Jean Schiroedd (School of Politics and Economics), along with Sue Thomas, published a book chapter entitled, “The Significance of Social and Institutional Expectations” in an edited book, Relinking Modern Presidents: Are We Ready for a Woman in the White House? Schiroedd also had an article, “The Parade of Protestants and Women in Elected Office in the United States,” written with Jennifer Merolla (School of Politics and Economics) and Mirya Holman (PhD student), published in the Journal of Women, Politics & Policy.

Gail Thompson (School of Educational Studies) recently reviewed materials for Millmark Education’s Concepts Links “Ecosystems” social studies series for elementary school students Thompson gave three presentations entitled “I Didn’t Know That I Wasn’t Supposed to be Smart” at the Advancement Via Individual Determination “Up Where We Belong: Accelerating African-American Male Student Achievement” Conference in Atlanta, Georgia. She gave a presentation called “A Mindset Is a Difficult Thing to Change: How Educators’ Attitudes, Behaviors, and Expectations Can Perpetuate Inequality of Educational Opportunity” at the Racial Achievement Gap Summit hosted by the Honorable Jack O’Connell, California’s superintendent of public instruction. She gave this same presentation at Vistarion College Preparatory High School, which was founded by School of Educational Studies Board of Trustees and former CGU Trustee, Rob Loveless, and at Los Amigos Elementary School in Palmdale, California. Another presentation by Thompson called ‘Letting Caged Birds Fly: K-12 School Factors that Impede African
In November 2007, Jack Schuster, who has been a professor of education and public policy since 1977, received the Howard R. Bowen Distinguished Career Award from the Association for the Society of Higher Education at its annual conference in Louisville, Kentucky. The Distinguished Career Award has special meaning for Schuster, as it was named after the late Howard Bowen, the inaugural recipient of the award in 1965. Bowen – president of Claremont Graduate University from 1970-71, and chancellor from 1970-1974 – was a colleague of Schuster’s and an esteemed member of the CGU faculty. “It’s a thrill to receive this award as my career winds down,” Schuster said. “And it’s hugely meaningful to know that the award is named after Howard Bowen.” Meanwhile, he and his wife Diane, who earned her education professor Phil Dreyer.

The 2007-2008 academic year will be Schuster’s last at CGU. After he retires this June, he says he may remain “A staunch advocate of faculty rights and social justice, Jack Schuster’s contributions to the excellence of colleges and universities everywhere are matched by very few scholars in American higher education today,” said fellow education professor Phil Dreyer.

American Students’ Academic Progress,” was rebroadcast on Tony Brown’s Through Ebony and A Morden magazine and online.

Journal, a weekly PBS television series, and “Bias Proof Your Minnesota.” An interview featuring her book American Students’ Academic Progress was given at the 34th Annual Countywide Conference on Gifted/Talented Students in St. Paul, Minnesota. “It’s a thrill to receive this award as my career winds down,” Schuster said. “And it’s hugely meaningful to know that the award is named after Howard Bowen.” Meanwhile, he and his wife Diane, who earned her education professor Phil Dreyer.

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The voices of women are typically excluded from dialogues between students and professors, and this exclusion has the additional effect of discouraging the very diversity of women’s perspectives within each tradition. This book remedies both forms of omission—highlighting the contributions of women in interreligious dialogues and delineating the significant differences between “conservative” and “progressive” voices within their respective traditions.

...continued from page 29...

William Marshak, PhD, Psychology, 1967; he received the Outstanding Scholarship and Graduate Award from the College of Humanities and Social Science at California State University, Fullerton, where he is an associate professor of psychology and the chairman, counseling senior status with the Health Risk Reduction Project at University of California, Los Angeles.

DRUCKER

Thomas Allen, Executive Management, 1994; he was appointed an advisor to Landmark Consulting, where he will provide strategic business, marketing, and social-change technical counsel to the company. Prior to founding, Allen was executive vice president and chief operating officer of the Internet firm, Oingo-Ohno's chief executive officer, and during his tenure the company's revenue grew from $1 million to $10 million.

Lori Barjac, MA, PhD, 1987, will be providing expert financial information and market insight to members of BBO.com, a web-based lifestyle portal serving small businesses and Generation Jones. Since 1991, Barjac has been a national management, marketing, and financial expert and an advocate for financial literacy and small business. Daniel M. Harrington, Executive Management, 1994; PhD, Psychology, 1989; was named to a leadership position in the Department of Directors of ASTM International, originally known as the American Society for Testing and Materials. ASTM International is one of the world's largest international standards and delivery systems, and its standards are used in research and development, production, quality systems, and commercial transactions. Harrington is currently president and CEO of the Lehigh Cement Co. in Allentown, Pennsylvania.

...continued from page 30...

Robert J. Bunker, PhD, Political Science, 1970; he completed his term as futurist in residence at the FAI Academy in Quebec, Virginia. Among his projects included special research projects, research collaboration with FBI Behavioral Science Unit personnel, and law enforcement outreach, as well as working with academic students and faculty. He remains a member of the Futures Working Group, a collaboration between the Behavioral Sciences Unit and the Society for Policy Analysis.

The Mind of the Market: Companionship, Ape, Competitive Humans, and Other Tales From Evolutionary Economics

Henry Hill and Company, 2008

Michael Shermer, PhD, History, 1992

Why do we hold on to stocks long after we should have sold them? Why do we pay more for shirts with popular brand names that only appear on the inside of collars? Why do we become so inundated on learning that others get paid more than us for the same work, when we were satisfied before? Because evolution wired us this way.

...continued from page 31...

Claremont alumni enjoy a lecture from CGU Professor Lori Anne Ferrell, author of the award-winning exhibition at the San Diego Museum of Natural History, Dead Sea Scrolls: Image and Reality, which is the first comprehensive exhibition at a major museum in California to examine the Dead Sea Scrolls exhibition.

IN MEMORIAM

Jelene G. Carsden, Ceramics, 1978

Paul Brown, PhD, Government, 1972

Margaret Dikkes, MA, Biology, 1942

Dawn Dixon, MA, Executive Management, 1985

Conrad Freidkin, PhD, Education, 1991

Shawn Song (Shaan) Lin, MBA, Information Science, 2003

Larry Nagel, Forensics, Education, 2002

Richard Ogseby, MA, English, 1970; PhD, English, 1975

Thomas Rimrodt, MA, Politics, 1997

Carol Baker Thurp, PhD, Religion, 2003

Craig Valtos, PhD, Philosophy, 1966
PayPal President Hosts Alumni and Friends

PayPal President Rajiv Dutta, MBA, 1982, hosted a reception on September 25 for Druker School and CGU alumni as well as friends of the university at PayPal Headquarters in San Jose, California. The gala event offered the opportunity to meet and interact with one of Druker’s most prominent and engaging graduates.

During the program, Dutta told the compelling history of the emergence of eBay and PayPal and recounted his involvement and work in building PayPal’s status as the global standard for digital payments. He reported that today, they have more users than all the credit cards of the world combined.

In his remarks, Druker School Dean Ira Jackson said that Dutta’s work was reflective of the Druker imprint, and spoke of the excitement in knowing that businesses such as eBay are reflecting Druker’s work. In his remarks, he commended Dutta for “doing well and doing good.” A spirited and engaging question and answer session followed with Dutta and Jackson responding to audience queries.

Alumni Enjoy Private International Exhibition at CGU

On December 2, 2007, more than 100 alumni and friends joined Claremont Graduate University President Robert Kliger for a private reception and exhibition preview of “What a Great Space You Have – (L.A.)” at CGU’s East and Peggy Phelps Galleries.

Among the special guests were the exhibition curator Marc Glode from Germany and artists Nicole Cohen from New York and Ruby Auremic from Berlin. CGU art students Courtney Davidson and Ivan Limas had worked featured in the show and joined the celebration.
Michael Shermer Keeps an Open Mind

Michael Shermer is one of America’s leading skeptics. And there’s not much doubt about that.

In the spring of 1992, shortly after earning his PhD in history of science from our School of Arts and Humanities, Shermer founded the Skeptic Society and launched Skeptic, a magazine devoted to debunking supernatural and pseudoscientific beliefs as well as challenging conventional wisdom. The magazine now has a circulation of over 50,000. In addition, since 2001 Shermer has been a monthly columnist for Scientific American, one of the most popular science magazines in the world.

Shermer has also authored several books. In 1997 he wrote Why People Believe Weird Things, an exploration of why people believe ideas or myths that defy logic or lack empirical evidence. The book features a foreword by the late famed evolutionary biologist Stephen Jay Gould.

Like Gould, Shermer’s research involves evolutionary theory. Also like Gould, Shermer has worked to reconcile the perceived tension in many people between faith and evolution. “People say to me, if they accept evolution, they’ll have to give up their religion,” Shermer says. “And that is completely not true. So part of what I’m trying to do is reconcile these beliefs and show that not only do they not conflict, but they are sometimes complementary.”

In his 2006 book, Why Darwin Matters, Shermer engages the criticisms of evolution and makes the argument that Christian conservatives’ mistrust is unnecessary. “Science cannot invalidate religion, and science cannot discern truths about the divine,” Shermer said. “But by reflexively dismissing this theory people miss out on an incredibly important, uniting principle.”

As evidence of evolution’s applicability, Shermer’s latest book, The Mind of the Market: Compassionate Apes, Competitive Humans, and Other Tales from Evolutionary Economics, released early in 2008, is on evolutionary economics. “It’s basically a case for capitalism based on evolutionary theory,” said Shermer.

Shermer has now returned to CGU’s campus to teach a transdisciplinary course this spring entitled Evolution and Society. The course is an overview of how evolutionary theory enhances our understanding of several disciplines, including economics, psychology, and religion.

Though Shermer has over 20 years of college teaching experience, his writing and publishing duties have kept him out of the classroom since 1998. When he remarked to his friend, School of Politics and Economics Professor Paul Zak, that he was itching to return to teaching, the idea of a return to CGU was born.

“I really enjoyed my time here, the flexibility and autonomy of CGU’s classes,” Shermer said. “So when Paul told me about the transdisciplinary studies program here, and since my work traverses across so many disciplines, coming back seemed like a natural fit.”

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Phelan Wyrick Receives Attorney General’s Award

Some students’ doctoral research garners dust in libraries. Phelan Wyrick’s is being used to combat national and international gang violence.

Wyrick, who earned an MA in psychology in 1997 and a PhD in social psychology in 2002, collaborated with the Westminster Police Department as a research associate while a doctoral student at the School of Behavioral and Organizational Sciences. His research on Vietnamese-American gangs and gang prevention issues not only helped him write his dissertation, it also led to a position at the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention of the United States Department of Justice (DOJ). Wyrick led the development of the Gang Reduction Program, working with colleagues at the DOJ to provide strategic assessment methods and training to supplement already existing gang prevention methods in the United States. The program was piloted in Los Angeles, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, North Miami Beach, Florida; and Richmond, Virginia, with dramatic results.

In fact, Los Angeles authorities recognized the pilot program produced better results than those currently in existence and committed to implementing the model in locations throughout the city. Further, the Department of Justice has adopted a similar framework for gang prevention in 10 additional cities across the country. In 2007, Wyrick’s work in this area earned him the prestigious Attorney General’s Award for Outstanding Contributions to Community Partnerships for Public Safety.

And with such positive results in the United States, the Gang Reduction Program has gone international. Wyrick is part of a team sponsored by the US State Department and DOJ to train authorities from several Central American countries to advance anti-gang activities in this hemisphere.

As part of the training, Wyrick discusses gang prevention measures and addresses misconceptions about gang involvement. “Gangs are very successful at spreading myths; one of them is that once you’re in, you can never get out. To be effective in reducing gang activity, you have to get past the misconceptions,” he says. Wyrick also introduces former gang members who share their own stories to help dispel such assumptions.

Wyrick remains optimistic about the prospects for the future at home and abroad. “I feel I’ve been able to help raise the legitimacy of the prevention side of this issue and bring it to the right people’s attention,” he says. “And I hope to continue to see serious dedication to implementing gang-prevention in a more informed way.”
Ngoc-Dung Firpo Has Come a Long Way

Through School of Educational Studies (SES) student Ngoc-Dung Firpo hails from halfway around the world, the inspiration for her research comes from much closer to home: her children.

Born and raised in South Vietnam, Firpo decided to leave her homeland in 1980 after the strict living conditions became increasingly difficult to bear. In the middle of the night, she and her sister boarded a cramped vessel that stole out of the country with extremely limited middle of the 57 people aboard died during the weeklong voyage, Firpo observed that an early degree could both propel and hinder a young person’s professional career: Daniel earned a master’s degree at the University of Southern California and is now a doctoral student in CGU’s School of Information Systems and Technology; Verena found medical schools less eager to accept such a young student (though she is now a third-year PharmD student at the University of California, San Francisco’s School of Pharmacy). So spurred on by an interest in her own children, Firpo’s doctoral work at CGU examines gifted students’ options after graduating from college at early ages.

As her children faced life as teenage college graduates, Firpo observed that an early degree could both propel and hinder a young person’s professional career: Daniel earned a master’s degree at the University of Southern California and is now a doctoral student in CGU’s School of Information Systems and Technology. Verena found medical schools less eager to accept such a young student (though she is now a third-year PharmD student at the University of California, San Francisco’s School of Pharmacy). So spurred on by an interest in her own children, Firpo’s doctoral work at CGU examines gifted students’ options after graduating from college at early ages.

David Drew, a professor at SES who has worked closely with Firpo, sees her research reflecting the same values she depended on to get her through her perilous escape from Vietnam: “She’s got courage, determination, a willingness to work hard, and a love and appreciation of education,” he said. “These characteristics contributed to her survival then, and they contribute to her success as a professional and as a parent.”

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By January 1981, weeks after arriving in the United States, her degree helped her secure an ESL teaching position in the Hayward Unified School District. Three years later, Firpo completed her master’s degree in education at San Francisco State University.

“They must meet the highest standards of performance in the profession.”

Rodney Wilson is Simply the Best

PRSI offers a unique blend of services: public relations, crisis management, marketing and advertising, media management, political and legislative consulting, and logistics management for delegations in the United States and abroad.

And where does PRSI find a staff that allows them to excel in so many areas?

“We have hired over 40 CGU or CMC graduates,” Wilson says. “The background and education that Claremont provides fits right in with our company outlook and attracts graduates looking for a career in public policy, public relations, and public affairs.” Currently, CGU student Peter “Ted” Gomez is PRSI’s director of public affairs. He works alongside fellow CGU student Hisamichi “Miles” Shinohara and Ian Feldman.

In 2007, these students helped PRSI win 16 major marketing awards in a wide range of categories. The crown jewel was the Silver Award for their multi-phased information campaign that allowed the Shingle Springs Rancheria Indian Tribe to construct an interchange off Highway 50 to give commercial access to the tribal land.

PRSI’s campaign resulted in the local county signing a $194 million public services agreement with the tribe.

“The Silver Award was deeply satisfying because we were recognized and honored by our peers,” said Wilson. “But there are few things better than a simple ‘Thank you’ from a client and knowing you’ve not only impacted his or her life, but the lives of their families, friends, and perhaps thousands or hundreds of thousands of others. A feeling like that is simply the best.’’
If there was ever a living example of the mantra, “Think globally, act locally,” it’s Desmonette Hazly. Hazly, a doctoral student in the School of Politics and Economics, is researching the link between socioeconomic conditions and the development of parallel informal governments and economies that we see among terrorists and gangs. This work has brought her into contact with those living on the margins of Southern California society, but rather than proscribing solutions from behind her laptop, Hazly has become involved in community outreach.

“Obviously, people who are disenfranchised don’t just disappear,” Hazly says. “They have to survive any way they can, which often requires engaging in unlawful behavior. I realized this, and I decided to do something about it.”

Hazly started locally. She founded her own company, Odissi International, through which she was able to create and implement community and economic development projects she herself designed. In her programs, at-risk youth and ex-convicts learned the skills they would need to compete in the job market. In addition to requisite reading and language skills, Hazly, who is also a Cordon Bleu chef and culinary school graduate, teaches her students how to prepare high-quality meals. As a result, several of her graduates have gone on to work for restaurants and catering services.

Hazly’s work hasn’t gone unnoticed. Los Angeles Trade Tech College has been commissioned to develop LA Live, Los Angeles’ downtown entertainment center, and they estimate the project will produce 2,400 jobs in the hospitality and culinary industry. To fill those jobs they have turned to Hazly. She has been hired to create and coordinate courses to educate local community members, groups that have been historically disenfranchised, so that they may fill these new positions.

As the news reminds us daily, the world is shrinking, flattening, and becoming much more integrated. This reality of global corporations, global products, and even global citizens generates great concern and worry for some, but it represents opportunity for Hazly.

As successful as she has been locally, Hazly has recently seized the opportunity to expand her work into the most populous country in the world—the People’s Republic of China. Hazly was in Beijing to participate in a conference on literacy at Beijing Normal University, and she began realizing how comparable the challenges are that face America’s and China’s workforces.

In China, 70 percent of the population lives in rural communities— but this is changing. As the country becomes more technologically advanced, people are moving from the country to the city looking for work. Like many of those living in impoverished urban environments in America, these individuals in China, known as “floaters,” lack the skills to compete for jobs in an advanced industrial society. And like those who are disenfranchised in America, these floaters often engage in informal and hazardous employment to survive, with no real means of gaining access to the mainstream economy.

“This is an emerging problem for the Chinese government,” says Hazly. “Until recently people were assigned a job, and that was their job for life. Now, with increasing competition, there need to be models in place for people to learn new skills, and advance in their careers.”

And that’s where Hazly comes in. Recognizing the depth of China’s problem, she has been appointed chair of the first U.S.-China workforce development conference to be held in Beijing in 2009, with participants from the US Departments of Labor and Education, and US Chamber of Commerce, as well as the California Employment Development Department and California WorkSource. Like her work in California, the goal in China will be to create frameworks to educate disenfranchised people so that they can compete in this rapidly interconnected economic environment.

“The United States is very competitive with China, but they are competitive partners,” said Hazly. “Our economies are mutually dependent on each other. So by working together to enhance their workforce, we can not only reduce the number of incidents of recalled and knockoff products being produced there, but increase the safety of the products the United States legally imports.”

Despite her impressive achievements, Hazly still puts a high priority on her own education.

“Education is a privilege that many people in the world do not have the opportunity to enjoy. I feel that my education obliges me to assist those who are less fortunate so that they may live with dignity and hope.”

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CGU Postseason Wrap-up

Of course, CGU has no sports—and no fellowships to achieve. One hundred percent of every dollar given to the Alumni Annual Fund supports the best in graduate education and research. We don’t recruit coaches and ball players; we invest in students who excel in calculation and analysis. What some schools spend on lighting up the scoreboard, we invest in lighting up research to find answers to the world’s toughest challenges. We have no marching bands, no cheerleaders, no bragging rights for our sports season, but we can brag about 83 years of excellence in graduate-level research and teaching, and an all-star lineup of faculty, alumni, and students.

Be part of a winning season by making your gift to the CGU Annual Fund. Gifts can be made online at www.cgu.edu/giving, or by calling our Office of Annual Giving at (909) 621-8127.