What works?
Longtime Professor Albert Friedman Planned for the Future

The CGU Community lost one of its most esteemed members when President Albert Friedman passed away in November 2006. Professor Friedman taught at CGU from 1960 to 1968 and was awarded emeritus status upon his retirement. During his life, Friedman was a noted scholar of medieval literature and the popular culture of the Middle Ages. His work was a defining force in the gothic revival in the United States, a period marked by a renewed interest in English and Scottish ballads.

In addition to losing an indubitable pillar of Friedman’s long association with the school, we are pleased to announce that he has bequeathed nearly a million dollars to support the CGU program. CGU’s Office of Alumni and Donor Relations has worked with the Friedman family to develop a series of events commemorating the CGU School of Religion Goes Global

Over the past few years the School of Religion has added faculty, increased enrollment, and introduced two new faiths to their religious councils. And now the school’s so big it’s crossing continents.

To read more about the academic and personal legacy of Albert Friedman, visit www.readflame.com.

For information on how you can make an estate gift to CGU, please contact Director of Planned Giving Jim Dinges at 909-607-3249 or jdinges@cgu.edu.

LEAVING A LEGACY TO BE PROUD OF
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’ve done things that work, and we were trying to learn their lessons.

Trader Joe was there. How did Joe Coulombe—founder of Trader Joe’s supermarkets—and his colleagues 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, where, and why. 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 dream. 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 donors 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 boss 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 conceive leaders from government, business, civil society, and academia to consider together examples of outrageous success (and, if we have to, 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 research, training, more convenerings, and an online community. If you would like to join us in these efforts, please send an e-mail to paul.thomas@ucsd.edu.

Robert Klitgaard
President and University Professor

January Conference asks “What Works?”

By Paul Flowers

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.

Yet as the day progressed, universal patterns or guides emerged on what does work.

Be willing to act.

Panelist Eugene E. Garcia, Arizona State University’s vice president for education partnerships, said that “we can talk something to death and actually we need to act more than we do anything else.”

Evaluation, as a tool.

In developing evaluations, panelist M. Christine DeVita, president of the Wallace Foundation, concluded that they should be “tough on the problem, not the people.”

“Rigor is not death,” according to the New York City Education Chancellor’s Office, which recommends that government leaders who then reform land-use laws, positively impacting the lives of some 400 million people.

Know your audience, be it retailer or student.

Robert Klitgaard, founder of Trader Joe’s, said finding demographic coherence is an important aspect of what works for his corporation. The next step is to work closely with your team, vendors and partners to provide the best product for that audience.

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 constituents (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.

Included on the site would be a video of the conference, an evaluation instrument developed by Professor Pierskull, along with links to various organizational websites such as the Wallace Foundation, the Campbell Collaborative, Doing What Works, Promising Practices Network, and others. The site, Klitgaard said, would be available by the following week to the conference attendees and partners. It was. And now that’s another thing that works.
Lucinda McDade, 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 Krossnik, 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 cultivation and research) to see a spectacular display of blooming passionflowers.

Claremont Graduate University’s Teacher Education Internship Program (TEIP) recently 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, to either provide an onsite tutoring site for the TEIP student, or for release-time so that the TEIP student can participate in professional growth activities.

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

“Our 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 Garley.

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 relationship between evolutionary and demographic processes, 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 gueswork behind while studying speciation in evolution. With this information in hand, evolutionary geneticists 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.”

Rob Edwards 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.

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drives students’ interests and motivations for learning by studying curriculum in the classroom,” Eddy said. “We can also help 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

Gilberto Ocampo, a beneficiary of the grant, is studying plants in the Portulacaceae (Purslane family). Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden (RSABG) recently received a scholarship endowed from the estate of Fletcher Jones, the founder of Computer Sciences Corporation, a pioneer in the fledgling computer and software industry of the 1950s and 60s, and still a leading company today. The Fletcher Jones Foundation, based in Los Angeles, was established by the founder of Computer Sciences Corporation, a pioneer in the fledgling 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.

The grant 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 fledgling 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.

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.
The Drucker School concludes a spectacular 2007

Though it’s been a great year for the Peter F. Drucker and Masatoshi Ito Graduate School of Management, the past few months have been truly exceptional.

Rankings are high

The Drucker School was named among the top 10 business schools in America in terms of faculty and classroom experience by the Princeton Review. In a study based on surveys of 10,000 students at the nation’s top business schools, the Drucker faculty was ranked 6th in the nation, and classroom experience 10th.

In describing the Drucker School, the Princeton Review cited “small classes, high standards and a focus on values,” along with student descriptions of an “intimate environment which lends itself to a great deal of interaction with faculty and other students.” They go on to say Drucker “is an industry leader in value-centered management training and multidimensional strategic thinking,” and that the faculty is viewed as accessible and “awe-inspiring.”

“At the end of the day the value of a graduate education is determined by the quality of the classroom experience and the quality of the faculty,” said Drucker School Dean Ira Jackson.

The Drucker School was named among the top 10 business schools in America in terms of faculty and classroom experience by the Princeton Review.
Bradshaw Conference becomes an “Event”

Claremont Graduate University hosted its 5th annual Bradshaw Conference during December 6-8, 2007. Titled Event: How Change Occurs, the conference focused on the work of Alain Badiou, Giles Deleuze, and Alfred North Whitehead. Each year, the conference was cosponsored by the Thornton F. Bradshaw Endowment, which supports collaborative projects in the humanities. Each year the conference is funded by the Thornton F. Bradshaw Endowment, which supports collaborative projects in the humanities. Each year the conference is sponsored by the Center for Process Studies, a research project established to further the work of Alfred North Whitehead.

The conference commenced with keynote speakers Justin Clemens and Oliver Feltham. CGU students Hollis Phelps and Daniel Pettus also presented papers. Phelps’ paper on the intersection of Radian and Deleuze’s understanding of the event was much admired by conference participants and attendees, and Pettus’ paper on the political event sparked discussion and debate.

The Bradshaw Conference is funded by the Thornton F. Bradshaw Endowment, which supports collaborative projects in the humanities. Each year the conference is organized by the

In the past, Balitzer served on the boards of the Winston S. Churchill Association of America, the Japan America Symphony Association, the Korean American Museum, and as Chairman of the Boating & Watersports Commission of California as well as a member of the Ports of Los Angeles/Long Beach Harbor Safety Committee. He has an advisor to the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles since 1984, organizing its programs in Washington, DC, and throughout Asia.

Currently, Balitzer is board chair of the Foundation for California, a nonprofit foundation that sponsors conferences on important issues of public policy, and is on the board of the John Brown Cook Association, providing support for student internships.

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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.

An 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
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 change in the future.

What we know is that from 1852 to 2004 the atmospheric carbon dioxide concentration increased about 33 percent, with most of the change occurring since 1970.

This increase in man-made carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is primarily the result of burning fossil fuels, such as coal, petroleum, and natural gas. Air pollution in metropolitan areas was once our focus of attention. Now we recognize the rise in concentrations of carbon dioxide as a truly global issue – carbon dioxide emitted anywhere in the world distributes itself around the planet in about 60 days. Last year China built the equivalent of two large coal-fired power plants every week, said Hertel. “They’re just beginning to introduce cars in a big way, as well as air conditioners that consume electric power. And I assume 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 our economies that reducing carbon dioxide emissions is fraught with complications.”

As Hertel related, there are currently only three ways to reduce carbon. First, reduce consumption of fossil fuels; this is certainly not easy, but possible with conscious effort. SCE has a rebate program to encourage consumers to purchase energy-efficient appliances, recycle their old appliances, and generally make use of energy-efficient merchandise. SCE is also leading the nation and is the primary fuel used in the production of electricity supply, and increasing costs for this effort and, ultimately, for consumers.

Second, switch to cleaner-burning fuels. Nearly 17 percent of SCE’s energy mix comes from renewable energy sources, like wind and solar, making them among the top alternate energy users among electric utilities in the nation. And research into new energy sources like bio-methane and hydrogen are yielding promising results that might become commercially viable in the near future.

Third, develop better technologies that burn fossil fuels more efficiently or don’t emit greenhouse gases, at a price that is affordable for all countries. This last option is one that Hertel finds particularly interesting, especially coal gasification, a technology that uses steam and oxygen to turn coal into a synthetic gas that primarily consists of hydrogen. The gas is then combusted to generate electricity. The carbon dioxide normally emitted is extracted and then injected deep into the ground where it is “sequestered.”

This is a technology that could benefit many countries, even the United States, where there are about 250 years of coal reserves if we continue to burn coal at the current rate. Coal is used to generate about half of the electricity currently produced in the nation and is the primary fuel used in the production of energy on the East Coast.

But there are still two challenges: how to make it commercially competitive, and how to assure that carbon dioxide stored in the ground stays there and does not harm the environment.

Hertel described a number of interesting research projects underway to solve the problem of capturing carbon dioxide. One project is just off the gulf coast of Texas at the Frio Formations. Researchers there are attempting to store carbon dioxide in the pores of limestone, a mile underground. If all works as planned, 5,000 tons of liquefied man-made carbon dioxide will be stored permanently and safely.

Another idea in the process of being licensed by engineers at The Ohio State University uses discarded eggshells, consisting mainly of calcium carbonate, to bind with the carbon dioxide in gasified coal. What’s left behind is pure hydrogen. But even though 455,000 tons of eggshells are produced each year, the researchers acknowledge that this “may not be adequate to produce hydrogen for the whole country.”

After speaking with Hertel, it is clear that global warming is proving to be one of the most challenging and critical issues facing mankind. Finding solutions will require creativity, innovation, and leadership. It will take many people trained with critical thinking skills to help guide us to a solution, one that carefully considers politics, economics, science, and technology.

To the end, it’s not an either-or proposition. It’s rather this, plus that, plus something we haven’t tried yet,” Hertel said. “I’m energized by these difficult problems. Now the tasks are finding what works, what’s the best answer, and how do we get there.”

Solving global warming requires “a very transdisciplinary approach to thinking…one that carefully considers politics, economics, science, and technology.”
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 alumna, 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 Terrie 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,
the depth of the country’s spirituality far exceeds these five classifications.

Buddhism and Daoism are by far the most popular religions in the country, with approximately 600 million and 400 million adherents respectively (though there is overlap in those numbers, as many Chinese practice themselves both Buddhist and Taoist). There are also approximately 40 million Christians and 20 million Muslims living in China. In addition, there are several minority religions, such as Hinduism and Donghunism, and relatively new religious sects such as Xiantianism and Falun Gong. Then there are several relatively new religious sects such as bodhisattvas, who have spiritual components, but are not themselves organized religions.

Still, all this can not come close to clarifying the various religions, philosophies, spiritualities, and ways of life that are prevalent in China. But that is exactly why the country is clearly so fascinating for religion students and scholars, including Torjesen.

“I’ve been astonished watching from afar the changes taking place in how religion is practiced in China,” she said. “I was very eager to see up close how these changes were manifesting themselves.”

Her trip had three main goals: gain insight into how religion was approached in that country; discover how religion is placed within the university context; and develop relationships with Chinese scholars.

To help her achieve this, Torjesen enlisted Zhili Wang, a Chinese native and CGU alum, to help organize the trip. Wang was the executive director of the China Project, Center for Process Studies, and director of the Institute for Postmodern Development of China (IPDC), which also included the head of several of the School of Religion’s religious councils—Torjesen was asked to organize the group and to visit the school.

In addition, Torjesen learned much about how religion was taught in Chinese universities— and how much this differed from typical American schools.

Religion— as many Americans understand it—is rarely taught in China,” she said. “The Chinese are much more interested in the philosophical aspects of religion, rather than metaphysical beliefs. So most of their religious teaching is done in philosophy and sociology departments. Here they filter religious teaching through courses in Confucian philosophy, Western philosophy, or Marxist philosophy.

These ideas also permeate into the idea of religion writ large in the country. The Chinese government— which had antagonistic relationships with religion in the past—is now making alliances with religion. However, unlike many Western practices of faith, in China spirituality plays such a large part, the government is largely interested in religion for its ethical teachings.

Though the emergence of a semi-capitalist society in China is bringing unprecedented growth and modernization, many in the country also think it is weakening the country’s social fabric. In attempts to arrest this, the government is turning to religion as a way of strengthening ethics in society. Additionally, in a time of such rapid change, many in China value religion for the timeless cultural practices and cultural identity it imparts.

Torjesen learned much more about this in her meeting with Ye Xiaowen, the minister of the Bureau of Religious Affairs, a cabinet-level position. Most countries do not have a Bureau of Religious Affairs, but in China it is an office commensurate with education or transportation. Surprisingly, Torjesen had met with Ye previously, when he had wanted to meet a few years earlier.

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 heads of several of the School of Religion’s religious councils—Torjesen was able to discuss the process 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. Torjesen offered the view that 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 cooperation agreement with 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 also 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 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.”

Ira Jackson takes the Drucker Legacy East

Peter Drucker believed that management was a liberal art that necessarily involved interdisciplinary and international conversation. Last September, Drucker School Dean Ira Jackson embraced this philosophy as he traveled to Asia, addressing management business leaders, scholars, and entrepreneurs in China, Korea, and Japan.

In Beijing, Jackson was the keynote speaker at the 2nd Annual Peter F. Drucker Management Forum, during which the Bright China Academy was renamed the Peter F. Drucker Academy. At the forum, Jackson spoke to an audience comprised of Bright China conference leaders and approximately 500 entrepreneurs. After offering ten suggestions for successful social entrepreneurship in China, Jackson added, “I offer the American experience not as panacea or a paradigm, but simply as an example and for inspiration...you will find your own version and adaptation of social entrepreneurship.”

Jackson concluded by quoting Peter Drucker: “The best way to predict the future is to create it.” Jackson related Drucker’s optimism to China’s prospects, stating that, “The Drucker Academy and Bright China’s leadership in the area of social entrepreneurship are creating the future of China, today. We will stand with you and support you in this noble endeavor every step of the way.”

Another significant step towards strengthening the Drucker School’s relationship with Asia’s leading and burgeoning entrepreneurs occurred during Jackson’s visit to Korea. In September, a cooperative student exchange agreement between Inha University in Seoul, Korea and the Peter F. Drucker and Masatoshi Ito Graduate School of Management was officially instated. Jackson participated in the university’s signing ceremony and official opening of Peter Drucker courses in Korea, and was keynote speaker for the event.

This significant exchange agreement enables second-year, full-time MBA students of both schools to participate in an exchange program during the fall semester. The agreement sets the course for enhanced educational interaction and opportunities, and establishes an important collaborative bond between the schools as well as the countries.

During his time in Seoul, Jackson was also keynote speaker at the Peter Drucker Society of Korea’s Innovations award ceremony, during which innovation awards for social responsibility, innovation, and lifelong learning were awarded to corporations, NGOs, and city governments.

Jackson also addressed Korea’s CEO Forum about the leadership role that Korea’s Peter Drucker Society is playing in applying people-oriented management practices to all sectors of society.

Karen Torjesen with Minister Ye Xiaowen
David Ames (School of Arts and Humanities) was involved with the art exhibition “Some Paintings: The Third (2017)” at Weekly Annual Bernalia, curated by Doug Harvey.


Patricia Easton (School of Arts and Humanities) presented “Descartes and the Birth of Psychiatry” at the Caravaggio Dinner, with François Bayle (1622-1709)” at the South Central Seminars in the History of Early Modern Philosophy held at the University of Tulsa.

Tom Hora (School of Information Systems and Technology) was recently appointed to the Health Information Technology Concentration of the American Evaluation Association in Baltimore, Maryland. Berger and several students presented at several conferences: “Exploring new horizons for positive psychology,” at the Annual Convention of the American Psychological Association in New York City; “Interactions with interactive Internet tutorials,” with A.T. Saw and G. Sosa, 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. Sosa, at a poster presentation at the meeting of the United States Council on Teaching Statistics in Columbus, Ohio.

Henry Kripke (School of Arts and Humanities) presented “New Politics – Mess Media” for the Founders Room Talk Series at the Honnold/Mudd Library. He also presented a paper at the American Academy of Artificial Intelligence Annual Conference at Rutgers University. A version of this presentation was also published in the International Journal for Zeik Studies. Kripke was special editor of the January 2008 edition of the journal Psychonautics. For his society, he also published a substantial update of his article “Measurement in Quantum Theory” in the Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy.

Gondy Leroy (School of Information Systems and Technology) recently published the following articles: “New Politics – Mess Media” at the South Central Seminars in the History of Early Modern Philosophy held at the University of Tulsa.


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 dedicated to 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 whole range of applications 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 really else does.

Interests: I have four children and two grandchildren. Who has time for other interests?
McDade also attended a meeting devoted to the bios 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 Women in Elected Office in the United States in the article entitled “The Paradox of Protestantism and Women in Mediterranean climate regions of the world (California is one conducted with John G eer and Brett Benson, both of Vanderbilt University. They did an experimental poll that examined bias against Mormon political candidates. Merolla was coauthor with Joan Schroedel (School of Politics and Economics) and Mirya Holman, a CGU graduate student, of an article entitled “The Paradox of Protestantism and Women in Elected Office in the United States” in the Journal of Women, Politics & Policy.


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

Craig Pierce (Peter P. Drucker and Masatoshi Ito Graduate School of Management) received the 2008 Asia Pacific Human Resource Leadership Award from the Asia Pacific Human Resource Congress. Pierce was the keynote speaker at the following: “From Knowledge Work to Shared Leadership” 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 Dankook University in Gyeonggi-do, Korea. Pierce published “When the romance is over: Followers perspectives of arenas leadership” with Michelle Bligh, Jeffrey Kohles, Joseph Justin, and John Stovall in Applied Psychology: An International Review.

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. Prine (Botany Department) published “A brief nomenclatural review of genera and tribes of Thecaceae” in Alis.

Henry Schellhorn (School of Mathematical Sciences) presented “An Algorithm for Optimal Stopping with Path-Dependent Rewards Based on Projection and Malliavin Calculus” at the INSMAM conference in Corfu, Greece. The proceedings were published by the American Institute of Physics.

Jean Schroedel (School of Politics and Economics) was coauthor with I. Muhe El-Din at the 2007 Nanotechnology Conference; “Mesh-free Gate MOSFETs” with E. Cumberbatch and H. Abebe at the Computers; and “Multilevel Solver for Discrete PDEs on kD-Engineering Education Simulations. Conference on Differential Equations and Computational Science.”

On the Road with Joseph Smith: An Author’s Diary by Richard Lyman Bushman (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2007) After living with Joseph Smith for seven years, biographer Richard Lyman Bushman went “on the road” for a year. He delivered the final proofs of his landmark study, Joseph Smith: Rough Stone Rolling, to Knopf in July 2005 and then cross-country from coast to coast, delivering numerous addresses on Joseph Smith at scholarly conferences, academic symposia, and forums. This candid memoir concludes 11 months later with an article written for Common-Place in August 2006.

Gail Thompson (School of Educational Studies) recently reviewed materials for Millmark Education’s Concept Links “Economies in Social Studies” series for elementary school students. Thompson gave three presentations entitled “I Didn’t Know I Was 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 entitled “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 Vistamar College Preparatory High School, which was founded by School of Educational Studies Board of Trustees and former CGU Trustee, Rob Lovelace, and at Los Angeles Elementary School in Palmdale, California. Another presentation by Thompson was called “Lettting Caged Birds Fly: K-12 School Factors that Impede African
Education Professor Jack Schuster earns lifetime achievement award

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 a esteemed member of the CGU faculty.

“IT’s thrilling to receive this award as my career winds down,” Schuster said. “And it’s hugely meaningful to acknowledge the prominent scholars who were previous recipients, many of whom I count as friends. “I guess this is as close as I’ll get to Cooperstown,” he added, referring to baseball’s venerable hall of fame.


The 2007-2008 academic year will be Schuster’s last at CGU. After he retires this June, he says he may remain involved with the School of Educational Studies “in some fashion.” Meanwhile, he and his wife Diane, who earned her PhD from CGU, have established the Jack and Diane Schuster Higher Education Student Fund to support the activities of students in the higher education program. “We’ll be delighted if others choose to contribute to this fund,” he added.

“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 given at the University of South Florida in Tampa, which was also viewed the faculty by faculty at three other universities, and gave a keynote address at this same presentation at the City Universities (a consortium of state universities) of New York’s Black Male Initiative Conference. Other presentations were: "I Didn’t Know that I Wasn’t Supposed to Be Smart," at the 54th Annual Graduate Conference on Gifted Education in Los Angeles, and "Expect a Miracle" to educators, teachers, administrators, and staff affiliated with Communities in Schools, a nonprofit organization that works to improve the academic skills of children from low-income backgrounds. She also conducted a three-hour workshop entitled “Wings of a Dove: Helping African American Students to soar Academically,” to 150 teachers, to improve the academic skill of children from low-income communities in Schools, a nonprofit organization that works to improve the academic skills of children from low-income backgrounds.

Carol Wilson (Botany Department) has been awarded a grant from the American Iris Society to support her ongoing research on Iris pseudacorus (tall bearded Iris). These are the “bearded” irises famous for their ornate flowers. The grant will fund work in the molecular lab and greenhouses (facilities utilized by the CGU botany program and for research at Rancho Santa Ana Botanic Garden), and also provide general support for a collecting trip to China. Wilson has already conducted fieldwork in many parts of the world with the goal of finding and collecting plants that belong to the genus Iris.

Paul Zak’s (School of Politics and Economics) research, funded by a John Templeton Foundation grant, was published in "Oxytocin Increases Generosity in Humans" in PLoS One. The article received major media coverage, including ABC News, E! News, CTV Today, and the Los Angeles Times.

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For more alumnones and photos, visit
http://alumnicommunity.cgu.edu/alumnones
The voices of women are typically excluded from dialogues between what is considered an expert and a novice. This exclusion has the additional effect of obscuring the very depth of women’s perspectives within each tradition. This book remedies both forms of omission—highlighting the contributions of women in all traditions while dealing with the significant differences between “conservative” and “progressives” voices within their respective traditions.

The Mind of the Market: Compassionate Apes, Competitive Humans, and Other Tales From Evolutionary Economics
Henry Hill and Company, 2008

Why do we hold on to stocks long after we should sell them? Why do we pay more for shoes with popular brand names that only appear on the inside of a collar? Why do we become indifferent upon learning that others got paid more than us for the same work, when we were satisfied before? Because evolution taught us this way. The Mind of the Market uncovers the biological and psychology that shapes the way we think about money.

Unintended Consequences: The United States at War

This groundbreaking study examines ten major wars fought by the United States, from World War I to the present day. It highlights the unforeseen consequences of the American military intervention in the context of the political and intellectual development of people of Mexican descent in the United States, and situates it within the 19th-century civil rights and radical movements.

The Quest for Order in a World of Change
Peter Drucker

Peter Drucker’s teachings continue to inspire leaders everywhere. Cohen studied under Drucker from 1973-1976, and became the first graduate of the executive PhD program. Cohen Allen was executive vice president and chief operating officer of the San Jose, Olmico County Sheriff’s department. He also holds a State of California Incident Command Certification, part of the Department of Homeland Security.

Drucker

Thomas Allen

Focused Anecdotal Records: An Standards-Based Tool for Authentic Assessment
Onto Books, 2007

Mending A Torn World

Druckenmiller, F.

Information Systems and Technology

Jonathan Wahl, PhD, Information Sciences Institute, Santa Barbara, and promoted to full professor of information science by the School of Business at the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia.

Politics and Economics

Robert J. Banker, PhD, Political Science, 1993, completed his tenure as full professor in residence at the FAI in Quarterly, Virginia. His works included special research projects, research collaboration with IFI, Behavioral Science Unit, and law enforcement outreach, as well as participation in the ASA and academic students and faculty. He remains a member of the SA Working Group, a collaboration between the Behavioral Sciences Unit and the Society of Policy Firms Investors.

McGowan, M.A., Politics and Economics, 2005, was appointed deputy secretary for economic development and commerce of the State of California by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. Since 2006, McGowan has served as the Economic Development Secretary for the State of California.

Ray Garubo, PhD, Education, 1990, was appointed a member of the faculty and as an associate chair for teacher education with the College of Education at the University of Phoenix, Las Vegas campus.

Nancy Walker, PhD, Politics and Policy, 1999, is the only female California Commissioner on the Committee on the Credentialing to the Committee on Accreditation. The committee is charged with deciding initial and continuing professional education preparation programs. Workhs has 20 years of classroom experience and is currently pursuing an EdD in education administration with a leadership program through a joint program between California State University, Fullerton, and the University of California, Irvine.

Religion

George Brooks, PhD, Religion, 1976, completed the Certificate of the Dual Sea Sculls exhibition, 2002, which was sold in museum bookstores in conjunction with the Dead Sea Scrolls exhibition.
PayPal President Hosts Alumni and Friends

PayPal President Rajiv Dutta, MBA, 1982, hosted a reception on September 25 for Drucker 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 Drucker’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, Drucker School Dean Ira Jackson said that Dutta’s work was reflective of the Drucker imprint, and spoke of the excitement in knowing that businesses such as eBay are reflecting Drucker’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 Klitgaard 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 Anewic from Berlin. CGU art students Courtney Dousaelder and Ivan Limas had work 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 Skeptics Society and launched his PhD in history of science from our School 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 forward by the late famed evolutionary biologist Stephen Jay Gould.

As evidence of evolution’s applicability, 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 collegiate 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 intimacy 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.”

In fact, Los Angeles authorities recognized the pilot program produced better results than their current one and have 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.
Ngoc-Dung Firpo Has Come a Long Way

Though 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 supplies and uncertain chances of success. Indeed, seven of the 57 people aboard died during the weeklong journey that finally ended at an Indonesian refugee camp.

In 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.

“When living in Vietnam I always wanted to go to the United States for my education,” Firpo says. “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 school 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.”

As her children are more than academic: both her children were accepted into California State University, Los Angeles’ (CSULA) Early Entrance Program; Daniel at 12, Verena at 10.

To get her children to school, Firpo endured two-hour commutes between Edwards Air Force Base – where her husband was stationed – and Los Angeles. After realizing how much time she was spending to get to the university’s campus, she decided to return to school for a second master’s degree, this one in teaching English to speakers of other languages. In 2003, mother, son, and daughter graduated from CSULA together.

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“My vision is to continue expanding our client base into other states and other countries,” said Wilson. “There are few challenges we’ll walk away from.”

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” Gover is PRSI’s director of public affairs. He works alongside fellow CGU students Hiromichi “Miles” Shinohara and Ian Feldman.

In 2007, these students helped PRSI win a major marketing awards in a wide range of categories. The crown jewel was the Silver Anvil for their multi-phased information campaign that allowed the Shingone 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 $191-million public services agreement with the tribe. “The Silver Anvil 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.”

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

– Public Relations Society of America

This quote is taken from the Public Relations Society of America’s criteria for selecting the winners of their top award – the Silver Anvil. It represents the forging of public opinion that has successfully addressed a contemporary issue with exemplary professional skill, creativity, and resourcefulness.

It was no surprise to them that School of Politics and Economics doctoral student Rodney Wilson won a 2007 Silver Anvil Award.

Wilson, co-founder of Pacific Research & Strategies, Inc. (PRSI), developed his company and his career around a simple vision: help clients influence public discourse on issues of importance to them and the well being of the community.

Though the original focus of PRSI – when it was founded in 1985 – was politics and public policy, the company’s innovative communications approach has fueled an expansion to foreign governments, businesses, and non-profits, including Fortune 100 companies and the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles.

Recently PRSI organized a conference in Bali, Indonesia for the Wiesenthal Center, bringing together Muslim, Jewish, Hindu, Buddhist, and Christian leaders to denounce the connection between religion and violence and to look for ways to foster tolerance and cooperation between various religions. PRSI generated over 250 stories in the world press for the conference.

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Rodney Wilson is Simply the Best

PRSI offers a unique blend of services: public relations, crisis management, 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” Gover is PRSI’s director of public affairs. He works alongside fellow CGU students Hiromichi “Miles” Shinohara and Ian Feldman.

In 2007, these students helped PRSI win a major marketing awards in a wide range of categories. The crown jewel was the Silver Anvil for their multi-phased information campaign that allowed the Shingone 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 $191-million public services agreement with the tribe. “The Silver Anvil 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.”

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

– Public Relations Society of America

This quote is taken from the Public Relations Society of America’s criteria for selecting the winners of their top award – the Silver Anvil. It represents the forging of public opinion that has successfully addressed a contemporary issue with exemplary professional skill, creativity, and resourcefulness.

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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 prescriptive 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 – China. Hazly was in 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 US-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 knock-off 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.”
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.