



Catalyst

Research . Engagement . Partnership

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WE'D LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU

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Giving to School Increases

Contributions to the School of Education increased by over 700 percent this year to nearly \$300,000. Harold Levine, dean of the School, attributes the increase to growing recognition of the young School's contributions to strengthening teaching and learning in public schools.

"We are honored by the tremendous increase in support to the School," said the Dean. Aside from the growth in

dollars, the School enjoyed a four-fold increase in the number of individual contributors.

"For all of us, this is the most gratifying aspect of the growth in support," said the Dean. "We are not only building great programs and graduating more top-level educators; we are building a community of people who care about education and believe that we are making a difference."

School Graduates Largest Class to Date

This June, the School of Education hosted its third graduation ceremony honoring the achievement of 270 graduating students, the largest graduating class since the School's establishment three years ago.

Over 1,300 graduates, family, friends and supporters filled the seats of Freeborn Hall, hearing remarks by UC Davis Provost Virginia Hinshaw, School alumna and 2004 California Teacher of the Year Dawn Imamoto, and graduate Patricia Woodward (Ed.D). The keynote address was given by Maggie Carillo

Mejia, superintendent of the Sacramento Unified School District, who talked about the importance of teaching and the challenges facing urban educators.

The Education Graduate Student Association presented its gift of \$300 to the School to establish a library for graduate students and a gift of \$100 to begin a library at the Early Childhood Education Center of Oak Park (EC²), scheduled to open in fall 2006.

In his comments, Dean Harold Levine told the graduates to ask themselves

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Sharon Dugdale

M E E T Our Faculty

Sharon Dugdale Guides Academic Programs

Sharon Dugdale begins and ends each work day with a bike ride or a brisk walk. In between, the quintessential Davis-ite tackles the daily joys and challenges of managing the academic side of the School of Education.

“Sharon brings the analytical strengths of a researcher, the passion of an educator, and a great sense of fairness to bear on every decision she makes in her role as a faculty member of the School and as our associate dean,” said Dean Harold Levine.

Dugdale arrived at UC Davis in 1990 from the University of Illinois. Her research addresses several interrelated themes in the areas of mathematics education, instructional technology and

teacher development. Much of her work over the years has involved the impact of technology on mathematical content, teaching methods and learning strategies, including students’ development and use of mathematical ideas.

On one recent grant, Dugdale and Kurt Kreith, Prof. Emeritus in Mathematics, launched the California Mathematics Education Technology Site (CMETS), a multi-year initiative with a mission of helping teachers throughout the state make effective use of technology to enhance the teaching and learning of mathematics.

Sponsored by the California Mathematics Project, the project researched effective uses of technology, conducted teacher development institutes and prepared a cadre of teacher leaders who took

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SAVE THE DATE

Check the School’s Web site at <http://education.ucdavis.edu> for details of upcoming events.

If you’d like to receive updates and information on events, please send a note to djustice@ucdavis.edu.

N E W S & E v e n t s

School Staffer Establishes Fund to Benefit Co-Workers

Corinne Kosmitzki, manager of Student Services in the School, recently made a generous gift to establish the School of Education Staff Award Fund.

“I wanted to express my appreciation for the colleagues with whom I work every day in a small, tangible way. I hope others will join me,” said Kosmitzki.

The fund will be used to support the recognition of exemplary service by a

member of the School’s staff.

“This is such a wonderful gift, not only because it comes from one of our staff, but also because it is intended to recognize the contributions our staff make to the School every day,” said Dean Harold Levine.

School District Recruiters Comment on Recent School Grads

In March, 62 recruiters from 34 school *continued on page 4*

Speakers Talk with Students about State of Education in California

In May, two influential and respected experts on California education policy and schooling visited education graduate students to engage in provocative conversation about the future of education.

Don Shalvey

Don Shalvey, president and co-founder of Aspire Public Schools, is largely credited with beginning the charter school movement in California in collaboration with Reed Hastings, president of the State Board of Education from 2000-2003. Superintendent of the San Carlos School District for seven years, Shalvey was responsible for the first charter school in California.

Shalvey, who describes himself as a “hopeful romantic” emphasized the importance of public school and said that charter schools are “part of the public school menu,” accounting for just 2 percent of the state’s school attendance. He acknowledged that not all charter schools serve children well.

“When you let fresh air in, you’ll get flies,” he said. “Our goal at Aspire is to better serve the kids who are least served.”

Ultimately, Shalvey said oversight is crucial to ensure charter schools are managed well and

Associate Professor Tom Timar (on the left) chats with Peter Schrag before Schrag’s discussion with graduate students about education policy in California.

meet the goals they set. “Together, we [public school advocates and charter school administrators] have the potential for a shared sense of mission.”

Peter Schrag

Peter Schrag, former editor and columnist at the Sacramento Bee, has written extensively about education policy in California.

“It is rare that there is any group dealing with emerging education issues that Peter is not involved with in some way,” said professor Patricia Gándara.

Schrag focused his comments on education policymaking in California, offering a brief history of school finance in the state and then opening the floor to questions. According to Schrag, there is an “enormous gap” between what politicians expect and the resources schools have to meet those expectations.

“The longest distance exists between what’s in the minds of policymakers and the minds of teachers,” said Schrag.



Charter School expert and president of Aspire Public Schools, Don Shalvey, discusses the implications of the growing charter school movement with students in Professor Patricia Gándara’s education policy proseminar.



districts participated in a two-day recruitment fair that enabled them to interview several credential students for fall jobs. In a survey of recruiters, all agreed that the event was well organized and the candidates were excellent. Here are a few of the comments they shared.



A teacher-graduate student team, who participated in the Collaborative Classroom-Based Inquiry Project, describe the research they conducted together in a mathematics classroom.

“I always look forward to the interviews at UC Davis. Candidates this year [were] outstanding and well-prepared.”

“The student teachers I interviewed were excellent. Their answers about behavior management, planning and instruction, meeting the needs of ELL students, inclusion, working in inner city schools, were just excellent. Kudos to their teachers! Their passions reflect on you.”

Young Scholars Program Wraps Another Successful Year

The advanced science program, hosted by the School of Education, introduces up to 40 high-achieving high school sophomores and juniors to the world of original research in the biological, agricultural and environmental sciences. Participants work one-on-one with research faculty in state-of-the art laboratories for six weeks. Each student works on an individual project and prepares a journal quality paper and presentation about his or her work. This year, several students' efforts were covered by their local papers. For more information on the program, go to <http://ysp.ucdavis.edu>.



Arthur Shapiro, evolution and ecology professor at UC Davis, gives a lecture to high school students participating in the Young Scholars Program this summer.

Collaborative Classroom-Based Inquiry Project

Student-Teacher Research Teams Present Findings

In May, UC Davis undergraduate and graduate fellows from the fields of mathematics and science joined their K-12 teacher research partners in presenting their research for the 2004-2005 school year. Researchers involved in the Collaborative Classroom-Based Inquiry Project (CCBI) work together in local schools to collect and analyze data related to teaching and learning.

Some of the highlights included research on the connection between writing and achievement in mathematics, the effects of group work on science learning and a lesson study project in ninth grade earth science.

“This project validates things that are very important to us in education,” said Cindy Passmore, education professor and co-principal investigator for the project. “It is designed to be interdisciplinary, and its focus is on the working life of teachers and the learning of their students.”

Funded by the National Science Foundation, CCBI is a collaboration between the UC Davis Division of Mathematical and Physical Sciences, the School of Education and the following school districts: Dixon, Folsom Cordova, Natomas, Vacaville and Del Paso Heights.



Growth on the Horizon

The CRESS Center is in the midst of writing its strategic plan for 2005-2008.

Building on the founding programs of Teacher Research, Extension Services, the Subject Matter Projects, Collaborative Grants and Community School Partnerships, CRESS will develop strategic initiatives addressing literacy across the content areas, evaluation, assessment for learning, student engagement, and equity and access for all learners.

A policy group is being assembled to advise on the development of two new positions to implement this broader vision. Look for position descriptions to post later this year.

Teacher Leaders at the CRESS Center

The CRESS Center is privileged to have four outstanding teacher leaders on loan this year to co-direct traditional core projects in transition.

The Area 3 Writing Project has brought on Bob Crongeyer, Karen Smith, and Michelle Lowe to co-direct project work representing the elementary, intermediate and secondary levels, respectively.

The Teacher Research Network has brought on Susan Christianson to assist with the revisioning and retooling of the network for 2005-2006.

CRESS welcomes these committed teacher leaders who are raising the bar

for authentic teacher participation in the design and delivery of high quality professional development.

CCSP Highlights Link between Family-School Partnerships and Academic Achievement

The Center for Community School Partnerships (CCSP) has expanded its training in Family and School Partnerships. The updated training emphasizes the relationships between schools, parents and nontraditional guardians (e.g., grandparents and other extended family). The train-the-trainer approach allows training of and interaction between parent-teacher teams.

Maria Salinas, consultant for CCSP, has been working with local schoolteacher Scott Clary from Beamer Elementary School in Woodland, California to assess parent engagement strategies. As a result, a curriculum has been developed for families and schools that focuses on greater cultural competence and communication opportunities between parents and school staff.

Key components of the curriculum include underscoring the link between parent involvement and student achievement, reviewing research aimed at closing the achievement gap and providing educators with concrete skills that will assist them in inviting, welcoming and working with parents at their schools. The model is distinctive in that it includes training for educators as well as parents and takes an in-depth look at multiculturalism, equity, power and identity.



CRESS Executive Director, Lisa Villarreal (on the right), talks with a teacher at a recent assessment workshop led by the Subject Matter Projects.

Who's Who Alumni Profile

Mary Catherine Swanson

Mary Catherine Swanson ('67 credential)
Founder and Executive Director AVID
(Advancement Via Individual
Determination)



Mary Catherine Swanson

Twenty-five years ago, Mary Catherine Swanson launched one of the most successful education reform programs in the United States, the only reform program created by a public school teacher. The AVID program has enrolled more than 200,000 underachieving middle school and high school students in more than 2,000 schools, 36 states and 16 countries. Since 1990, almost 40,000 AVID students have completed high school and gone to college; more than 77

percent enrolled in four-year colleges and universities. Recent recognition of Swanson includes the U.S. Department of Education's A+ Award, the Pioneering Achievement in Education Award from the Charles A. Dana Foundation, the McGraw Prize in Education, CNN/*Time Magazine's* America's Best Teacher, and a feature on *60 Minutes II*.

What AVID achievements make you proud?

The AVID college preparatory program for disadvantaged students takes lots of hard work, rigorous curriculum and structured support. Ninety-five percent of AVID students go to college with an 89 percent retention rate into the sophomore year of college. The students

are amazing! They get through and give back again and again. They know someone or something gave them special opportunities, and they want to do the same for others. Our democracy depends on the success of all students. Our students become trailblazers of hope, courage and excellence.

What do you value from your teaching credential education at UC Davis?

It was a wonderful program. I entered UC Davis because of the intern program. My student teaching was during the summer. I taught full time at Woodland High School while getting my credential. My supervisors came from Davis often and coached me in a real teaching situation. The Woodland faculty members were extremely supportive and good mentors. I told my husband, "I love this so much I would do it paid or not."

.....

Swanson is married to Thomas E. Swanson ('67 B.S. UC Davis College of Agriculture & Environmental Sciences; '69 M.S. International Agricultural Economics). Their son, Tom Swanson, Stanford University graduate and high school teacher, began AVID at his school. Tom's decision to enter teaching is Mary Catherine's proudest moment. She is looking forward to joining her husband in retirement in 2006 after 40 years of extraordinary leadership.

You can find out more about Mary Catherine Swanson and AVID by visiting <http://avidonline.org>.

KEEP IN TOUCH

We'd like to hear from you!
Please send us news and updates to
ed-alumni@ucdavis.edu
or call (530) 754-4824.

Cal Aggie Alumni Association 2005 Awards



UC Davis 2005 Young Alumna of the Year, Dawn Imamoto pictured on the left at the School's 2005 Graduation with Professor Emeritus Dave Wampler and Dean Harold Levine. Imamoto served as the alumna speaker at this year's graduation, with Wampler serving as marshal.

Dawn Imamoto ('95 credential). The Cal Aggie Alumni Association has chosen

to honor teacher Dawn Imamoto as Outstanding Young Alumna for 2005.

Since graduating from UC Davis, Dawn has become an exemplary and energetic leader in educating California's youth. In 2004, she was selected as one of

five California Teachers of the Year.

Joaquín Galván ('93 M.Ed.) is an endless supporter of UC Davis. A key volunteer leader for the alumni association's Chicano/Latino Alumni Chapter, he is active in outreach to Latino alumni. A UC Davis employee for more than 20 years, he serves as a retention coordinator in the Learning Skills Center. Galván works as a student advisor, leads workshops and is heavily involved in the campus's Special Transitional Enrichment Program, which helps incoming freshmen adjust to college life academically and socially. He was awarded the UC Davis Staff Award in February 2005.

A Sampling of Recent Alumni Accomplishments

Terri A. DeMitchell ('90 M.A.) won Mayhaven Publishing's Award for

Children's Fiction for her book, *You Will Come Back*, a mystery for middle school readers set along New England's coast. This book is her first published children's work of fiction. She also recently co-authored an article with her husband Todd ('90 M.A.) titled "Statutes and Standards: Has the Door to Educational Malpractice been Opened?" The article appeared in the *Brigham Young University Education and Law Journal*.

Todd A. DeMitchell ('90 M.A.) presented a paper (with Vincent J. Connelly) in July 2005 at the Oxford Round Table at St. Anne's College, Oxford University, titled "Academic Freedom and the Public School Teacher: An Exploratory Study of Perceptions and the Law." He has recently had articles accepted for publication by the *Education Law Reporter*, *Phi Delta Kappan*, *International Journal of Educational Reform*, the *Sage Encyclopedia of Educational Leadership and Administration*, and *ELA Notes* (Education Law Association). DeMitchell is Professor of Education and Justice Studies at the University of New Hampshire.

Xavier De La Torre (2003 Ed.D.) received the Edgar L. Morphet Dissertation Award for "significant scholarship" from the National Council of Professors of Educational Administration. His dissertation is titled "Selection for a Social Distance Perspective: Superintendents' Perceptions of Equally Qualified Candidates."

FACULTY Features

Education Graduate Group Chair Honored by Peers for Outstanding Teaching

Wendell Potter, Chair of the Graduate Group in Education, received a 2005 Distinguished Teaching Award from the Academic Senate. Potter, according to



Physics Professor and Education Graduate Group Chair Wendell Potter (pictured in the middle) confers with Cindy Passmore, education professor, and Winston Ko, Dean of Mathematical and Physical Sciences.

his peers, has changed the face of physics instruction at UC Davis. Reforms initiated by Potter led to the creation of a new introductory physics course, Physics 7, in 1996. Although the class includes about 1,500 students per quarter, most of the work takes place in sections of 25 students.

The class emphasizes discussion and exploration of ideas in physics, encouraging students to “make sense of it for themselves,” according to Potter.

Faculty Publications, Presentations and Grants

Steven Athanases

Athanases, S. Z., with Abrams, J., Jack, G., Johnson, V., Kwock, S., McCurdy, J., Riley, S., & Totaro, S. “Curriculum for Mentor Development: Problems and Promise in the Work of New Teacher Induction Leaders.” *Journal of Curriculum Studies*.

Athanases, S. Z. “Performing the Drama of the Poem: Workshop, Rehearsal and Reflection.” *English Journal*.

Athanases will present a paper, “Acts of Advocacy: Beginning Teachers Promoting Equity in and beyond Classrooms,”

in December at the National Reading Conference in Miami.

Patricia Gándara

Gándara received a \$20,000 grant from the University of California, Office of the President, to evaluate educational programs for the Mexican Institute of the Exterior.

Tom Timar

Timar, Thomas. “Exploring the limits of entitlement: The Williams Case in California.” *Peabody Journal of Education*.

Timar received a \$156,000 grant from the William and Melinda Gates Foundation to conduct a study of the High Priority Schools Grant Program to improve student achievement in the state’s lowest achieving schools.

In collaboration with Dean Harold Levine and fellow researcher Anne Driscoll, Timar is working on an evaluation for the California County Superintendents Educational Services Association’s Administrator Training Program.

Cary Trexler

Trexler received a \$16,000 grant from Cornell University to establish a Good Agricultural Practices Network for Education and Training.



Assistant Professor Cary Trexler



Jamal Abedi

School Welcomes New Faculty

The School of Education is pleased to welcome professor Jamal Abedi to its faculty. Abedi comes to UC Davis after serving on the education faculty at UCLA for the past 20 years. His research interests include psychometrics and test and scale development. His recent work includes validity studies for the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) focusing on the impact of language background on students' performance. Abedi has developed a culture-free instrument for measuring creativity, which has been translated into a number of languages and administered in several countries.

last academic year. Dugdale notes the recent establishment of the agricultural education teaching credential within the School and the participation in a new statewide science/math initiative as crucial to the School's ability to help address the shortage of qualified teachers in these areas.

The School is also recruiting for a new colleague in environmental science education, welcoming a new faculty member focused on testing and measurement, and partnering with the UC Davis MIND Institute in framing a faculty position in education and neurodevelopmental disorders. Other recent faculty hires have added strength in literacy and educational policy and particularly buttressed our programs in educational leadership.

"It's an exciting time to be in the School," said Dugdale. "With new faculty coming on board to support the continued growth in the quality and diversity of our programs, this is truly a special place to be."

Dugdale said she was initially attracted to Davis for a number of reasons, including the "positive, active interest and involvement in education" of faculty across campus and the very positive connections to K-12 schools fostered by the CRESS Center.

The bike paths were also a key selling point. "For 20 years in Illinois, I had enjoyed living and working in an environmentally conscious, bicycle friendly university town," said Dugdale. "I immediately felt very much at home bicycling to and from campus in Davis."

Meet our Faculty - continued from page 2

increasing responsibility within the project and in their professional community.

In addition to playing a key role in research on mathematics education, Dugdale focuses her energy on reviewing and strengthening current programs, planning for new programs, and establishing well-reasoned and effective policies and procedures to support the growth of the School.

In her role as associate dean, Dugdale is enthusiastic about the School's approach to building strategically in several areas. For instance, the School has added several new faculty in key areas of growth. Building on campus strengths in mathematics, science and agriculture, the School hired two new faculty focused on education in these areas



Associate Dean Sharon Dugdale takes an active role in student affairs as well as providing leadership for the academic program. Here, she addresses students at a meeting of the Education Graduate Student Association.

STUDENT News & Notes



Co-leaders of the Education Graduate Student Association, Melissa Salazar and Alex Hess.

Meet the EdGSA

The Education Graduate Student Association is alive and well at UC Davis. In just two years of formal recognition as a student organization, EdGSA membership has grown to more than 300 students, providing graduate students at every level—from teacher credential students to Ph.D. candidates—with a forum for sharing resources and providing support, as well as giving students a voice in the School.

“We hope to create a more unified student-faculty relationship and provide students with answers to important questions,” said Melissa Salazar, co-president of the EdGSA.

According to co-president Alex Hess, the group gives students the opportunity “to take active roles in the School and to participate in activities.”

In the last academic year, the group raised funds to support a library for graduate students and to begin a library for the Early Childhood Education Center (EC²) that the School will help open in fall 2006.

Two PhD Students Awarded Prestigious Fellowship

Graduate students Enrique Sepulveda and Thao Mai have received the prestigious Dissertation Year Fellowship for 2005-06. This \$30,000 award supports promising doctoral students during their final year of study.

“It’s remarkable to have two students from the same college or school receive

this award,” said Dean Harold Levine. “I am so pleased for them.”

School of Education Students Earn Thousands in Scholarships

In recognition of their outstanding academic achievement, several students from the School of Education have been awarded scholarships for the upcoming academic year. The School is proud of its students’ accomplishments and congratulates them on their success.

California Retired Teachers Association Mabel Outler Scholarship

- Thanh Lu, Multiple Subject
- Carissa Walker, Multiple Subject
- Greg Watson, Multiple Subject

California Retired Teachers Association Laura E. Settle Scholarship

- Kristiana Duarte, Single Subject Social Studies

Susan Schnitzer Scholarship

- Jose Bermudez, Multiple Subject

Boyd Family Foundation Fellowship

- Jorge Aguayocisneros, Single Subject Mathematics

Herbert Kraft Fellowship

- Alex Hess, Ph.D. candidate

“This is the second year in a row that one of my students has received the Kraft Fellowship,” said professor Cary Trexler. “This is an indication of the cross-disciplinary nature of their work and the contributions they are making to both the School of Education and the College of Agriculture & Environmental Sciences.”

VOLUNTEER Leadership



Board members: Bottom Row (l-r), Jorge Ayala, Dean Levine, Meg Stallard, David Murphy; Davis Campbell (middle); Top (l-r), Lou Vismara, Margaret Fortune, Dave Gordon
Not pictured: Bob Campbell, Mark Friedman, Francisco Rodriguez and Glen Thomas.

Board of Advisors:

Meg Stallard

Chair, member of the UC Davis Foundation

Jorge Ayala

Superintendent,
Yolo County Office Of Education

Davis Campbell

President, California School Boards
Association Governance Institute

Bob Campbell

Vice President, SBC

Margaret Fortune

Senior Education Advisor to the Governor

Mark Friedman

President, Fulcrum Property

Dave Gordon

Superintendent, Sacramento County Office
of Education

David Murphy

Superintendent, Davis Joint Unified School
District

Francisco Rodriguez

President, Cosumnes River College

Glen Thomas

Executive Director, CCSESA

Lou Vismara, M.D.

Consultant, President Pro Tem Donald Perata,
California State Senate & State Commissioner,
First 5 California

Board of Advisors and Education Partners Building Partnerships for the Future

As the School of Education grows, it continues to build partnerships with people and organizations sharing its goal of strengthening schools and schooling. Education Partners and the Board of Advisors are two groups integral to these ambitions.

“We are grateful to have the interest and support of so many committed people,” said Dean Harold Levine. “We really can’t accomplish our goals without these kinds of partnerships.”

Education Partners

Education Partners has been established to engage volunteers, including alumni,



friends and area educators, with each other and the work of the School. The group has recently begun work on projects involving education careers, key issues in education and recognition of people making special contributions to education.

To be a part of Education Partners, email Carina Yamaguchi at c Yamaguchi@ucdavis.edu or call (530) 754-4824.



Board members, (from left to right) Mark Friedman, Bob Campbell and Jorge Ayala, discuss a key point during a brainstorming session at a recent board meeting.

Board of Advisors

The Board of Advisors provides strategic advice, assisting the dean with development and advocacy for the School. The board is comprised of volunteer leaders from education, business, policy and the community. Board members recently met in June to have conversations with faculty and discuss highlights of the School’s programs.



Education Partners met to discuss ways in which they could help the School make connections and raise awareness about its work. The group has several key projects lined up for the coming academic year.

Graduation – continued from page 1



Scenes from Graduation 2005: Top, teacher supervisor Joanne Galli-Banducci (pictured on the right) takes a moment to pose for a picture with students; keynote speaker Maggie Carillo Mejia, Superintendent of Sacramento City Unified School District, addresses the graduates; Dean Harold Levine welcomes David and Dolly Fiddymment, good friends to the School.

how they can stay connected to the School and their colleagues.

“We are motivated by a sense of responsibility to others,” said the dean. “That’s the value of education for the teacher—helping others, giving back.



And that desire to give back permeates all of our relationships.” As the group of new alumni reflected upon their futures, the dean encouraged them to consider their legacy and give back to the School of Education. “You entered as a student, but you leave here today as an alum and a colleague.”



UPCOMING E v e n t s

GIVING MATTERS

Thank you very much for including the School of Education in your philanthropy.

For more information about giving, please contact Ann Pridgen, Director of Donor Relations and Development, at (530) 754-2131, ampridgen@ucdavis.edu or visit <http://education.ucdavis.edu/giving>.

The *Catalyst* is published three times a year by the UC Davis School of Education to update educators, policymakers, alumni and friends.

Distinguished Educational Thinkers Series

David Conley
October 10, 5:15 p.m.
University Club, Lounge

John Goodlad
November 14, 5:15 p.m.
Alumni & Visitors Center

Jeannie Oakes
January 23, 2006, 5:15 p.m.
Alumni & Visitors Center

Bennett Shaywitz & Sally Shaywitz
March 8, 2006, 4 p.m. & 6 p.m.

MIND Institute Auditorium
UC Davis Medical Center, Sacramento

Geoffrey Saxe
April 24, 2006 - 5:15 p.m.
University Club, Lounge

Words Take Wing: Honoring Diversity in Children's Literature

Pam Muñoz Ryan Lecture
February 1, 2006, 11 a.m. & 5:30 p.m.
Mondavi Center

Tickets available at www.mondaviarts.org
or call (866) 754-ARTS.



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