



# Catalyst

Research . Engagement . Partnership

## Largest Class to Graduate in '08

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Meet Our Faculty	2
News & Events	3
Alumni News & Notes	4
Faculty Features	6
Centers Updates	8
Student News & Notes	10
Upcoming Events	12

The School's graduation ceremony, held this year on June 11 at Mondavi Center, will honor the largest number of graduates since the School was established in 2002.

In all, 256 students are slated to graduate, with 126 credentials, 195 MAs and 27 doctorates awarded.

Fabian Núñez, Speaker Emeritus of the California State Assembly, will be the keynote speaker at the event. The alumna speaker will be Rosa Flores Carlson (EdD '94), president of Porterville College. George Yonge, Professor Emeritus, will

serve as Marshal. This year's student speaker is Benjamin Seaberry, an EdD candidate and executive dean of information technology at Diablo Valley College.

Ten students from the Capital Area North Doctorate in Educational Leadership (CANDEL) program will be its first graduating class. CANDEL, designed for professionals in community colleges and K-12 schools and districts, is offered jointly by UC Davis and Sonoma State University. This fall, the program will welcome its fourth cohort of students.

## State of the School Report Celebrates Five Years of Accomplishments

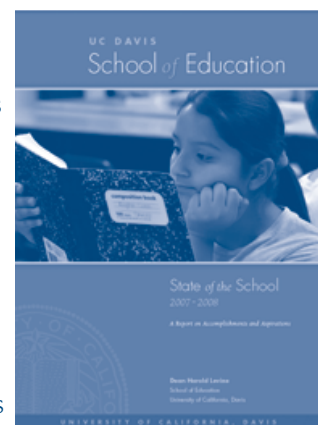
In lieu of a fall *Catalyst*, Dean Harold Levine released a special "State of the School Report" to celebrate the School's accomplishments over its first five years.

The report highlights the School's growth, in both people and programs, including growing from just over 100 students to nearly 400. We've added four new academic programs and grown our endowment from \$0 to nearly \$2 million.

We could not have accomplished so much

without our alumni, donors and friends' enthusiastic support.

You can find a link to the report on the News & Events page of our Web site: [education.ucdavis.edu](http://education.ucdavis.edu).



### WE'D LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU

Please direct correspondence to:

Catalyst  
School of Education  
University of California  
One Shields Ave  
Davis, CA 95616-8609  
[education.ucdavis.edu](http://education.ucdavis.edu)

Editor: Donna Justice  
Director of Communications  
[djustice@ucdavis.edu](mailto:djustice@ucdavis.edu)  
(530) 754-4826

# M E E T Our Faculty



Cynthia Carter Ching



Lee Martin



Peter Mundy



Heather Rose



Katharine Strunk

## Five New Faculty

This year, five scholars joined the School's faculty.

Since the inception of the School of Education in 2002, we have been focused on strengthening faculty expertise in areas aligned with the needs of our schools: English learners; math, science and technology; neurodevelopment and education; literacy; and policy.

"Our five new faculty bring broad and deep expertise in virtually all of these areas, as well as providing innovative and exciting perspectives on some of the most vexing issues facing educators throughout the nation," said Dean Harold Levine.

### Cynthia Carter Ching

Cynthia Carter Ching joins the School as an associate professor. She has served on the faculty at the University of Illinois and studies innovative technologies for supporting learning, from elementary school classrooms to online undergraduate and graduate instruction.

### Lee Martin

Lee Martin joins the School as an assistant professor. His research on how to best prepare students for future learning within, and beyond, schools will add significantly to the School's efforts in developing a broad program in the learning sciences.

### Peter C. Mundy

Peter Mundy joins the School as a professor and as director of educational research for the M.I.N.D. Institute. The latter position is supported by

the Lisa Capps Endowed Chair in Neurodevelopmental Disorders and Education.

Mundy comes to UC Davis from the University of Miami, where he was a professor in psychology and pediatrics. He also served as the director of the Center for Autism and Related Disabilities, as well as directing the Child & Developmental Psychology Division of the University of Miami Department of Psychology.

In his dual posts, Mundy, an expert in education and social issues for children with high-functioning autism, will connect the latest research on neurodevelopment and education with classroom settings and work closely with a new preschool established through a partnership among the School of Education, the M.I.N.D. Institute and St. HOPE Public Schools.

### Heather Rose

Heather Rose joins the School as an assistant professor. Rose, who holds a doctorate in economics from UC San Diego, was previously a Research Fellow at the Public Policy Institute of California. Her work spans a variety of topics related to the economic analysis of educational practices and student performance outcomes.

### Katharine Strunk

Katharine Strunk joins the School as an assistant professor. Strunk's work focuses broadly on issues of teacher labor and California school finance. Her current research assesses how collective bargaining agreements affect district resource allocation and student outcomes. She also examines how teacher compensation impacts student performance.

## Words Take Wing: Francisco Alarcón in 2009



Robert D. San Souci, Words Take Wing guest author for 2008, signs books after his evening lecture in February.

Award-winning children's author Robert San Souci gave two lectures to nearly 1,200 area schoolchildren, teachers and the public in February as part of the School's children's literature lecture series.

San Souci was the fourth author to speak in the annual series, "Words Take Wing: Honoring

Diversity in Children's Literature." The event features children's authors and illustrators discussing the art of crafting words and images.

On January 28, 2009, the series will feature Francisco Alarcón, Chicano poet, children's author and professor at UC Davis, and Maya Christina Gonzalez, a children's book illustrator who has collaborated frequently with Alarcón.

Alarcón is the author of 10 volumes of poetry, including, *From the Other Side of Night / Del otro lado de la noche: New and*

*Selected Poems* (University of Arizona Press 2002), *Sonetos a la locura y otras penas / Sonnets to Madness and Other Misfortunes* (Creative Arts Book Company 2001), *No Golden Gate for Us* (Pennywhistle Press 1993), *Snake Poems: An Aztec Invocation* (Chronicle Books 1992), *De amor oscuro / Of Dark Love* (Moving Parts Press 1991, and 2001), *Body in Flames / Cuerpo en llamas* (Chronicle Books 1990).

His most recent book of bilingual poetry for children, *Animal Poems of the Iguazú / Animalario del Iguazú*, will be published by Children's Book Press of San Francisco in June.

For more information about Alarcón's appearance, visit the Words Take Wing Web page at [education.ucdavis.edu/news\\_events/wtw.html](http://education.ucdavis.edu/news_events/wtw.html). Tickets will be available through the Mondavi Center this summer. For information on tickets, visit the Web at [mondaviarts.org](http://mondaviarts.org) or phone (866) 754-ARTS.

## New Ag Ed Major

Concerned that training of agricultural teachers is not keeping up with the demand for these specially trained educators, UC Davis has developed a new agricultural and environmental science education major, offered for the first time this school year.

The new major, a collaborative effort by the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences and the School

of Education, will provide students with a broad background in agricultural and environmental sciences, as well as the social sciences related to human-resource development. It will equip them for teaching careers in schools and other educational programs, including nature preserves and environmental camps.

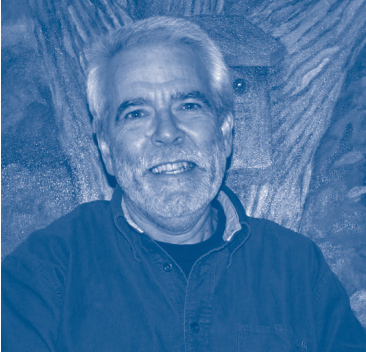
After completion of the undergraduate degree, students will be prepared to enroll in the School of Education's credential program.

### SAVE THE DATE

Check the School's Web site at [education.ucdavis.edu](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](mailto:djustice@ucdavis.edu).

## Alumni Profile



Mark Cary

"The context for my gift is discussions I had with my mother about what she wanted to do with 'our' inheritance. We all agreed that she should use it to make a difference while she was alive. She decided to establish endowed scholarships [for college students]. It was astounding to me that one could, in one lifetime, amass the means to help someone else."

### Mark Cary ('75 Credential)

This fall, Mark Cary and his wife, Marcia, established the Mark Cary Award, an endowment to support PhD students planning careers as teacher educators. The School expects to make the first award in 2009.

In an interview (excerpted below), Cary talked about his decision to establish the fund and his experiences at UC Davis:

"Marcia and I established this fund, in part, as a way to acknowledge the opportunities we've had. I received my credential from UC Davis and the program provided a structure in which I could continually evolve as a teacher.

"The program provided me with schemas for thinking about teaching. It gave me a foundation to keep asking new questions and exploring possible answers. In fact, it had a huge influence on my life.

"It's my hope that in establishing this fund for a PhD candidate that it will help the School attract people who are naturally committed to teacher education and sympathetic to understanding the importance of self-reflection, both for teachers and their students.

"My own experience at UC Davis was one where my supervisors approached the art of teaching in a way that I, with my background in science, understood well: ask questions, test ideas, solve problems.

"I'm hoping that the endowment will highlight the School's focus on bridging research and practice in K-12, along with

the emphasis on student reflection and assessment."

Cary is a life-long educator, having been a teacher and school principal. He has had a long-standing commitment to teacher education, having served on several state accreditation reviews of teaching credential programs. He also worked with Education here at UC Davis during our days as a Division, mentoring student teachers in his classroom, as well as working as a supervisor and a teacher-in-residence.

## Alumni Recognized for Leadership in the Field

**Brian Shay** ('02 Credential and Master of Arts in Teaching) has been awarded a Fulbright-Hays Scholarship. He will be working for five weeks with 15 other math and science teachers from the U.S. to learn more about India's education system. The Fulbright program awards grants for international exchange of scholars and is considered one of the most prestigious awards programs in the country.

**Dan Meyer** ('03 BS, '04 Credential, '05 MA), a teacher in Mount Hermon, California, has been honored for improving algebra instruction by creating and posting a video lesson on a challenging algebra concept that was downloaded more than 6,000 times in two weeks. The "Pushing the Envelope with Cable Technology and Programming" award will be presented to Meyer in June by Cable in the Classroom, the cable industry's education foundation.

*continued on p. 5*



# ALUMNI News & Notes

from on p. 4



Liz Altschule ('05 Credential, '06 MA) pictured in the center, was joined at the School's Reception to Honor Teachers by fellow teachers from West Sacramento Early College Prep. From left are Deisy Cabrera, DJ Halcon, Liz Altschule, Tina Mills, and the School's Associate Dean Paul Heckman.

**Elida Garza** ('07 EdD), a graduate of the Joint Doctoral Program in Educational Leadership, was hired in July 2007 as the superintendent of Greenfield Union School District in Bakersfield, California.

**Emily Prieto** ('02 BS, '05 MA, '07 PhD), director of the Latino Resource Center at Northern Illinois University, was featured in the spring 2008 issue of *ADELANTE!*, a newsletter created by the National Hispanic Science Network and the Summer Research Training Institute. While at UC Davis, Prieto won the Walker Award for Outstanding Academic Staff Adviser for 2005.

**Chris Watson** ('92 BS, '93 Credential), an eighth grade science teacher at Arden Middle School in Sacramento, California, led his middle school students to a first place finish in the California Science Olympiad Tournament. This is the fifth time in six years Watson's students have won first place. They compete in the national tournament in May.

## Alumni Recognized for Excellence in Teaching

**Geri Rohlf** ('76 BA, '80 Credential), a teacher in Auburn, Washington, was inducted into the Teacher Hall of Fame. Only five teachers are inducted each year.

**Alison Eeds** ('04 BA, '06 Credential, '07 MA), a teacher at Vacaville High School, was selected as the 2008-09 Teacher of the Year at her school and for the Vacaville Unified School District.

**Christopher John "CJ" Addington** ('93 Credential), a physics teacher in Roseville, California, was selected the Placer County Teacher of the Year.

**Jennifer Horton** ('05 Credential, '06 MA), a science teacher in Lincoln, California, received a "Teachers Who Make a Difference Award" from the Placer County Office of Education.

**Barbara Desmangles-Simpson** ('71 BS, '72 Credential), a curriculum support teacher in Rio Linda, California, was featured in the *Sacramento Bee* on September 14, 2007, for her long-standing commitment to being a teacher of teachers and for striving to serve teachers and students in under-served communities.

**Kathleen Hulley** ('68 MA, '72 Credential, '73 PhD), a professor of humanities at New York University, was given the 2007 Award for Teaching Excellence in Liberal Arts Programs. The Award for Teaching Excellence is presented to faculty members whose deep concern for student growth and development is made manifest by continuing self-study, long hours of classroom preparation, and a creative talent for communicating enthusiasm for the subject matter.

**Trina Lee** ('03 Credential, '04 MA), a teacher in Rocklin, California, received a \$10,000 Toyota TAPESTRY grant to conduct research with her students on ground level ozone in Placer County.

continued on p. 12

### KEEP IN TOUCH

We'd like to hear from you!  
Please send us feedback, news and updates  
to [ed-alumni@ucdavis.edu](mailto:ed-alumni@ucdavis.edu)  
or call (530) 754-2131.

# FACULTY Features



Jamal Abedi

## Professor Receives Lifetime Achievement Award

Professor Jamal Abedi will receive a lifetime achievement award for his contributions to the field of educational research in December.

The California Educational Research Association (CERA) makes this award each year to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to educational research, evaluation, or measurement over a long and illustrious career.

Abedi will be accepting the award at CERA's annual conference in December.

"Jamal is a preeminent scholar in the field of educational research, particularly in the assessment of English learners" said Dean Harold Levine. "This award is just one more indication of the esteem in which Jamal is held by his peers."

CERA's mission is to serve all who conduct educational research in California and the West by providing a forum for presenting research. Their annual conference is the state's premier event for educational researchers.

## Research Presentations and Grants

### Grant to Improve Teacher Quality

This fall, the California Postsecondary Education Commission awarded UC Davis with a four-year Improving Teacher Quality Grant in the amount of \$273,127.

The project is a strategic alliance among Robla School district, UC Davis and Sacramento County Office of Education to work closely with 26 teachers in K-2 classrooms to improve their understanding of children's mathematical thinking and problem solving abilities.

Associate Professor Rebecca Ambrose is the principal investigator for this project.

### Grant from NASA for Science Teachers

Rick Pomeroy, teacher educator and supervisor, is the co-principal investigator

on a NASA Science Mission Directorate. The \$497,000 grant will fund professional development to science teacher educators through 2010. His co-investigators are Stephanie Shipp of the Lunar Planetary Institute and Timothy Slater of the University of Arizona.

### Bilingual Education Conference

In March, Michele Fortes, teacher educator and supervisor, made two presentations at the California Association for Bilingual Education Conference: "Developing Writing Skills through Family Histories" and "Developing English through Poetry."

### Mathematics Conference

This fall nine faculty and doctoral students presented research at the annual conference of the North American Chapter of the Psychology of Mathematics Education.



Rebecca Ambrose works with students in a third grade classroom.

# FACULTY Features

## Faculty and Students Present Research at Major Education Conference



Barbara Merino

In April, School of Education faculty and students shared their research at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association (AERA) in New York with an audience of researchers, practitioners, policymakers.

Below is a partial list of faculty presentations and highlights.

“Assessment Issues and Challenges for Students With Disabilities: Implications for Classroom Teachers and School Culture” - *Jamal Abedi*

“Beginning Teacher Research: A Pathway for Empowerment Through Literacy Development in English Learners” - *Rebecca Ambrose and Barbara Merino*

“Hawkins Award: To See the World in a Shutter Click: A Learner-Centered Approach to Technology in Early Childhood” - *Cynthia Carter Ching*

“Bakke Beyond College Access: Investigating Racial/Ethnic Differences in College Completion” - *Michal Kurlaender*

“GroupThink: Measuring and Improving Set Semantics in Elementary School Mathematics” - *Lee Michael Martin*

“Fostering Argumentation in a Science Classroom: The Role of Hybrid Discourse” - *Cynthia M. Passmore*

“Are Teachers’ Unions Contracts Really to Blame? How California Teachers’ Union Collective Bargaining Agreements Relate to District Resource Distribution and Student Outcomes” - *Katharine Omenn Strunk*

“Narrative Development in Cantonese-Speaking ELL Children in the U.S. and Canada” - *Yuuko Uchikoshi*

“California Educational Research Association: Effects of Principals’ Pay and Pay Satisfaction for Student Achievement at the Elementary School Level” - *Philip Young*

### Three Studies Highlighted

To read the full release for each of the studies below, visit UC Davis News and Information at [www.news.ucdavis.edu](http://www.news.ucdavis.edu).

**More Minorities Go to College, but Many Don’t Graduate** - Even though the number of black and Hispanic students entering college has increased dramatically over the last 30 years, students from these groups still lag well behind white students in earning college degrees, according to Kurlaender.

**Are Teachers’ Unions Really to Blame?** Teachers’ unions get most of the blame when restrictive labor contracts prevent school districts from changing teachers’ working conditions. But Strunk argues for a “more holistic” analysis of the effects of teacher contracts on a district’s allocation of resources and subsequent student outcomes.

**Computer Games Can Make Kids More Social, Not Less** - Contrary to common wisdom, computer games and other technologies can foster community-building, a strong sense of identity and higher-level planning even in very young students, according to Carter Ching.



Yuuko Uchikoshi

# CENTERS Updates



Mary Vixie Sandy

## CRESS Center News & Notes

### **CRESS Director Appointed to California Council on Teacher Education**

Mary Sandy, Executive Director of the School's CRESS Center, has been appointed to the board of the California Council on Teacher Education (CCTE).

Founded in 1945, the CCTE is a non-profit organization devoted to stimulating the improvement of the pre-service and in-service education of teachers and administrators. The Council attends to this general goal with the support of a community of teacher educators, drawn from diverse constituencies, who seek to be informed, reflective, and active regarding significant research, sound practice, and current public education issues.

### **New Center for Education and Evaluation Services Launched**

The Center for Education and Evaluation Services (CEES) provides evaluation services, technical assistance, survey development and administration, and evaluation design. For more information about CEES services, contact Director Theresa Westover at (530)-754-9523 or [tnwestover@ucdavis.edu](mailto:tnwestover@ucdavis.edu).

### **New Director for SNAP**

Christine Monroe is the new site director for the Sierra North Arts Project (SNAP). Previously, Chris served as a leader in Pioneer Union District's award winning program for arts education. (Pioneer Union is in El Dorado County.)

Visit SNAP on the Web at [education.ucdavis.edu/cress/snap](http://education.ucdavis.edu/cress/snap).

## FOR MORE INFO

### CRESS Center

Mary Sandy, [mvsandy@ucdavis.edu](mailto:mvsandy@ucdavis.edu)  
[education.ucdavis.edu/cress](http://education.ucdavis.edu/cress)

### Center for Community School Partnerships

Renee Newton, [rnnewton@ucdavis.edu](mailto:rnnewton@ucdavis.edu)  
[ccsp.ucdavis.edu](http://ccsp.ucdavis.edu)

### Edward Teller Education Center

Carey Kopay, [ckopay@ucdavis.edu](mailto:ckopay@ucdavis.edu)  
[etec.ucdavis.edu](http://etec.ucdavis.edu)

### Center for Applied Policy in Education

Julie Maxwell-Jolly,  
[jrmaxwelljolly@ucdavis.edu](mailto:jrmaxwelljolly@ucdavis.edu),  
[cap-ed.ucdavis.edu](http://cap-ed.ucdavis.edu)

## The Center for Community School Partnerships

### **AfterSchool Network and Technical Assistance Update**

In January, the California AfterSchool Network hosted a forum on the positive effects of afterschool programs on rates of juvenile crime.

To read the presentations and related materials, visit the AfterSchool Network Web site at [www.afterschoolnetwork.org/](http://www.afterschoolnetwork.org/) home. The site also contains an overview of afterschool program funding and a searchable database of programs in California.

Contact Executive Director Andee Press-Dawson at [apressdawson@ucdavis.edu](mailto:apressdawson@ucdavis.edu) for more information.

California After School Technical Assistance (CASTA), a statewide technical assistance (TA) project leveraged to provide strategic support to After School Education and Safety (ASES) and 21st Century Community Learning Center (21st CCLC) programs in California, is now housed in CRESS. Visit the site at [ccsp.ucdavis.edu/casta](http://ccsp.ucdavis.edu/casta).



## Ed Policy Center Hosts Research Symposium

By Claudia Morain, News Service

In April, the School's Center for Applied Policy in Education (CAP-Ed) hosted "Connecting the Dots, Closing the Gap," presentations and conversations with the authors of 10 papers, commissioned by California Superintendent of Public Instruction Jack O'Connell's P-16 Council. The day-long event presented research findings and recommendations on critical school reform topics.

Researchers from six University of California campuses, the University of Washington, the University of Nebraska and Policy Analysis for California (PACE), a Berkeley-based research center, gathered at UC Davis to present ten policy briefs.

The research was coordinated by CAP-Ed through a collaboration of the California Department of Education and the University of California.

The P-16 Council was convened by O'Connell in 2004 to help improve coordination and integration of education in California, from preschool through college. Dean Harold Levine sits on the Council.

The policy briefs and papers are available online at [cap-ed.ucdavis.edu](http://cap-ed.ucdavis.edu).

• "Narrowing the Multiple Achievement Gaps in California: Ten Goals for the Long Haul," by Norton W. Grubb, UC Berkeley.

Achievement Gap," by David Plank, Joan McRobbie, Daniel Klasik, Sinead Mullen and Imeh Williams, PACE.

- "A False Dilemma: Should Decisions about Education Resource Use be Made at the State or Local Level?" by Thomas Timar, UC Davis, and Marguerite Roza, University of Washington.
- "The Achievement Gap in California: Context, Status and Approaches for Improvement," by Eva Baker, Noelle Griffin and Kilchan Choi, UCLA.
- "Teaching All of California's Children Well: Teachers and Teaching to Close the Achievement Gap," by Julie Maxwell-Jolly, UC Davis, and Patricia Gándara & Socorro Shiels, UCLA.
- "Accessing High-Quality Instructional Strategies," by Edmund Hamann and Janelle Reeves, University of Nebraska at Lincoln.
- "Organizational Strategies for Addressing California's Education Achievement Gap" by Douglas Mitchell, Robert Ream, Sarah Ryan and Jose Espinoza, UC Riverside.
- "School Climate and Student Achievement," by Susan Yonezawa, Makeba Jones, Hugh Mehan and Larry McClure, UC San Diego.
- "Improving High Schools as a Strategy for Closing California's Achievement Gap," by Russell Rumberger, UC Santa Barbara.
- "Partnering with Communities to Promote Student Success," by Nancy Erbstein and Elizabeth Miller, UC Davis.

- "State Policies for Closing the



Researchers gathered at UC Davis to present ten policy briefs.



Melissa Salazar, a PhD candidate, will graduate in June.

"Something that has surprised me, especially every time I get to glimpse of the outside world and remove myself from the academy, is how easily I can talk about various issues in education with the general public. When I get into a conversation with folks about what I have researched, or something that I heard presented at a conference, or something that I have read in a journal, I feel lucky that I have had the opportunity to spend these years learning all I can about education. For all the sacrifices I went through to go to graduate school, it is nice to realize that I might have achieved what I set out to do: to feel more confident about understanding the complexities that exist in our educational system."

## PhD Student Honors, Service and Awards

**Shonte Stevenson** has been awarded a Spencer Dissertation Fellowship for the 2008-09 academic year. This fellowship is one of the most competitive and prestigious awards available, with only 6 percent of the 500 applicants awarded.

**David Ulate** was invited to the 2008 David L. Clark National Graduate Student Research Seminar in Educational Leadership and Policy. Professors Paul Heckman and Gloria Rodriguez nominated Ulate for the competitive award.

**Irina Okhremtchouk** serves on the board of the California Educational Research Association. She also serves as the executive co-editor of their newsletter.

## Student Profile

### Debbie Travis

Ten students are slated to graduate from the first class of the Capital Area North Doctorate in Educational Leadership (CANDEL). All are leaders in their organizations, and all leave the program eager to put their experiences to use for the improvement of their schools and colleges. We asked one graduate to talk with us about her experiences in the program and what she sees in her future.

Debbie Travis entered the CANDEL program, already a vice president at Sacramento City College, with simple

expectations: enhance her learning and earn a doctorate. She leaves feeling better prepared to engage in conversations about student learning and equitable student outcomes, knowing there are not necessarily any "right" answers.



Debbie Travis

"In part, I wanted the checkmark next to 'doctorate.' I just felt I needed that professionally," said Travis. "But this experience has proven to be much more than a checkmark for me."

"I have learned that beyond having a passion for education, you have to have the capacity to get out of the box that holds the rules and the regulations. You have to have conversations with the people you work with and be comfortable that you might not end up with any simple answers."

"My work in this program has stimulated my learning and my willingness to work through the difficult questions. My mantra has been 'look again.'"

While Travis was working toward her doctorate, she was promoted to interim president at Sacramento City College. In that capacity, she also played a key role in forging a partnership with the School of Education and Washington Unified School District to establish West Sacramento Early College Prep, now in its first year of operation. She earned a degree in English at UC Irvine and later an MBA.

She has been in education for 20 years.

## Reception to Thank Teachers

### Event Held in Honor of National Teacher Appreciation Week



Maria Martinez

Over 100 alumni, students, faculty and friends of the School of Education gathered on May 8 to honor teachers.

The School held a special reception as part of National Teacher Appreciation Week to thank educators for their service to the profession and to celebrate teaching and teachers.

“I am so pleased to have the occasion of National Teacher Appreciation Week to bring all of you together and just say “Thank you,” said Dean Harold Levine, to the guests. “Thank you for all that you do for your students and colleagues every day, and thank you for your commitment to this profession.”

Levine also thanked Annie’s Homegrown, who made it possible for each guest to receive *Words of Gratitude*, a book co-authored by UC Davis Professor Robert Emmons.



Ruben Reyes ('83 BA, '84 Credential) has vivid memories of working on his teaching credential at UC Davis because his daughter, Andrea, (pictured with him) was born during spring break. Andrea Reyes now teaches at Natomas High School.

He also thanked friends and alumni who have provided support for teachers through the School, such as Dolly and David Fiddymont, who have established a chair in teacher education, Mark Cary of Woodland, Nancy Patten of Martinez, and Susan Schnitzer of Portland.

The dean began his formal remarks acknowledging current difficulties in education, but emphasized the power of working together for the long-term best interests of all children.

“Through all of our efforts, and the

dedication of teachers in particular, we will continue to work so that every child gets the best education possible,” said Levine. “That is why we are all here for the long haul.”

Guest speakers at the event included Megan Sheridan ('05 BA), teaching credential candidate and student teacher, Ruben Reyes ('83 BA, '84 Credential), principal of Main Avenue Elementary in Sacramento, and Maria Martinez, a teacher at Beamer Elementary School in Woodland. Martinez has also served as a mentor and supervisor of our student teachers and is in the first class of our new MA for Practicing Teachers program.



Megan Sheridan

*“Why do we teach? It is an important question. One that many credential students find staring back at them after a brutal day out in the trenches, but for me the answer is simple...I teach because of the students. I teach because I am passionate about education. I teach because there is nothing more rewarding in the world than to see a light bulb go off in a young person’s mind. I teach because the smile I give to a student might be the only smile he receives all day.”*

- Megan Sheridan

## GIVING MATTERS

### Annual Fund

During the spring, UC Davis students ask education alumni for their support. Thanks to our many alumni who have said, "yes" through their generous pledges and gifts!

Your annual contribution helps support:

- Scholarships for aspiring teachers in credential and MA programs & for doctoral students in pursuing their research and dissertation writing
- Faculty who work closely with policymakers and educators to strengthen teaching and learning
- Programs that directly benefit teachers and students in our schools.

If you have not yet given and would like to make a difference in education, you can give to the School online: [giving.ucdavis.edu](http://giving.ucdavis.edu). Thank you very much for your generosity and commitment!

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



School of Education  
University of California  
One Shields Ave  
Davis, CA 95616-8609

## UC Davis To Celebrate Centennial

UC Davis has been nearly 100 years in the making, and now is the time to mark your calendars for the 2008–09 centennial, when the university will pay tribute to its past and look to the future.



Check out the Centennial Web site at [centennial.ucdavis.edu](http://centennial.ucdavis.edu) to keep track of all the events and opportunities to get involved.

On the site, you can read a calendar of events, sign up as a volunteer and share your Aggie Pride with stories about your experiences at UC Davis.

## UPCOMING E v e n t s

### School of Education Graduation Celebration

June 11, 2008 - 4 p.m.  
Jackson Hall, Mondavi Center

### UC Davis at the State Fair

August 15 – Labor Day, Sept. 1, 2008

### School of Education Open House

October 10, 2008 - 4 p.m.  
Putah Creek Lodge

## Alumni News - from page 5

This spring, Toyota Motor Sales U.S.A., Inc. recognized 78 science teachers from across the country with \$550,000 in grants via the Toyota TAPESTRY: Grants for Science Teachers program.

## Alumni Research Publications and Presentations

*Katie Allard* ('01 BA, '02 Credential, '03 MA), *Teresa Lazsdowski* ('05 Credential, '06 MA), *Cortney Roseberry* ('05 Credential, '06 MA) and *Brian Shay* ('02 Credential and Master of Arts in Teaching) have made several presentations this year at the California Mathematics Conference, the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics and at the Teachers Teaching Technology International Conference.

## Fifth Annual Words Take Wing: Honoring Diversity in Children's Literature Lecture

*Francisco Alarcon*

January 28, 2009

10:30 a.m. & 7:00 p.m., Mondavi Center

For details on these and other events, visit the School's Web site at [education.ucdavis.edu](http://education.ucdavis.edu).

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PAID  
U.C. DAVIS