On any given day in the Charles E. Young Research Library Department of Special Collections, many graduate students are hard at work. Some sort through literary manuscripts, while others examine black-and-white photographs from the 1920s or take notes on architectural drawings. But these are not researchers studying in the reading room; they are actually working for the Library as part of the Center for Primary Research and Training (CFPRT). Launched in July 2004 with a generous lead gift from the Ahmanson Foundation, the center connects UCLA graduate students with unprocessed, unique collections of primary sources.

And every student has a story about how working in the center has enhanced his or her educational experience. For Liron Elkan, who received her degree in architecture in June, working in the center provided a fresh perspective on her studies. Processing nearly seven hundred architectural plans documenting post-war development in Southern California reinforced the theory-based analysis of modern urbanization she studied in her classes, and the massive organizational task presented a chance to learn new skills. “My position has been helpful to me in many ways,” she says, noting that having a paying job helps balance and structure academic life. “It is also a source of dignity,” she adds.

History candidate Xóchitl Flores-Marcial came to the center to find materials reflecting her interest in Nahuatl language and culture. While she recognizes that teaching...
assistant positions help develop speaking and leadership skills, she appreciates being actually “in the trenches” with primary sources and contributing something of lasting value to the Library. Her work in the Byron McAfee collection, which includes twentieth-century research materials and colonial-period Nahuatl manuscripts, helped reinforce her belief that more students should get involved in a project that contributes to scholarship in their field. “Scholarship should not be only about the finished product,” Flores-Marcial notes. “It should also be about a deep understanding of the sources used and the work involved in making them available.”

English candidate Eric Gudas, who has worked at the center since its opening, studies twentieth-century poetry and is himself a published poet. It was thus a natural fit for him to reprocess the manuscripts in the papers of Kenneth Rexroth, a San Francisco critic, poet, lecturer, and writer often associated with the 1960s beatnik movement. Gudas enjoyed the project so much that he began working on other parts of the collection in ensuing quarters and is about to tackle the papers of another acclaimed poet, Edgar Bowers. Explaining how his work with these papers has impacted his education, Gudas says, “In the future I will be more likely to incorporate primary research material into my own work, because of the comfort level I have gained working with such material at the CFPRT.”

More than half of the students who initially commit to a quarter at the center request to stay on for additional quarters. Mike Devine, an English Ph.D. candidate who has worked on two literary collections over three quarters, said in a written evaluation of his experience that “publishing records, personal correspondence, lawsuits - all of these become instructive and invaluable details for contextualizing literary works and periods. A graduate student might first think of such things as historical trivia, but working at the CFPRT reveals how essential and revealing such details can be, and how essential archival work is to understanding literature and art in a culturally holistic way.”

The center’s role in supporting the intellectual and financial needs of graduate students helps UCLA recruit and retain stellar graduate students, which is a central focus of Chancellor Albert Carnesale’s Ensuring Academic Excellence initiative. By this summer twenty-nine master’s and doctoral candidates from six departments will have participated in the program, which provides compensation at a rate competitive with other on-campus employment. Each receives individual training and assistance from a professional archivist or librarian, and most projects result in finding aids, or inventories, that are published online.

“This is the best on-campus job I’ve had,” says medieval historian Stacey Graham. Graham spent her last academic year at UCLA working in the center while preparing to file her dissertation in June, and researching and cataloging the Library’s medieval manuscripts was a meaningful way to apply her specialized skills. And, she adds, “Can I mention that it has been great to work with some of the coolest old books on campus?”
NEW DEPUTY AND ASSOCIATE UNIVERSITY LIBRARIANS

Susan E. Parker has joined the UCLA Library as deputy university librarian and chief financial officer, and Sarah Watstein has been named associate university librarian for research and instructional services.

Parker’s UCLA position is a new one at the Library; its responsibilities include fiscal and strategic planning, capital space planning and facilities oversight, assessment and evaluation activities, and other administrative initiatives and projects. Prior to coming to UCLA, Parker was associate dean at the Oviatt Library at California State University, Northridge, where she supervised public services and headed up the library’s $23-million reconstruction and renovation following the 1994 Northridge earthquake. She also spent eleven years at the Harvard Law School Library and began her academic library career at Tufts University.

Watstein came to UCLA from the Virginia Commonwealth University Libraries, where she was associate university librarian for public services. Among other responsibilities, she managed the Libraries’ efforts to support instruction and oversaw the renovation of the main academic library. Prior to that, she worked at Hunter College of the City University of New York, New York University, and Teachers College of Columbia University. Watstein began her academic library career at California State University, Long Beach.

NEW ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

Susan Kanowith-Klein has joined the UCLA Library as associate director of development. Kanowith-Klein has been affiliated with UCLA since 1991, most recently as assistant director of development and alumni relations in the School of Public Health and prior to that as director of the Science Education Partnership in the David Geffen School of Medicine. She earned her B.A. in biology from Skidmore College and her M.S. in microbiology and Ph.D. in immunology from Rutgers University.

RECENT EVENTS

Above: University Librarian Gary E. Strong (right) and David Hirsch, Jewish and Middle Eastern studies librarian (left), with Homa Garemani at a private view of Iranian studies collections in the UCLA Library. Mrs. Garemani and her son, Noyan, donated a collection of illuminated Arabic and Persian manuscripts and rare books to the Library. Photo credit: UCLA Photographic Services

Gordon Theil (center), head of the Music Library, with Jerry Moss (left) and Herb Alpert (right) at a reception celebrating their donation of the A&M Records Collection to the UCLA Library. Other guests at the event included Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost Daniel Neuman; Christopher Waterman, dean of the School of Arts and Architecture; record industry executives including Lou Adler and Mo Ostin; and former A&M recording artists and employees. Photo credit: Lee Salem Photography
DEAR FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS OF THE UCLA LIBRARY,

When Chancellor Albert Carnesale announced his Ensuring Academic Excellence initiative in 2004, here at the UCLA Library we began exploring ways to support it. Although we knew that the Library’s basic goals to develop and expand our extensive collections and innovative user services serve all facets of the university’s teaching and research mission, we wanted to find a way to be more proactive in our support of the initiative’s efforts to recruit and retain the very best graduate students and faculty.

We found it with the Center for Primary Research and Training. Launched just over a year ago with a generous lead gift from the Ahmanson Foundation, the center integrates the Library’s special collections more fully into UCLA’s instruction and scholarship and makes the university more attractive to top graduate students, who in turn attract the most distinguished faculty.

As you can read in the cover article, graduate students enjoy working in the center for a number of reasons. It combines a substantive educational experience with a rate of compensation comparable to similar on-campus employment options, like teaching or research assistantships. Working with collections in their areas of expertise that have not been fully investigated, the students have opportunities to discover possible thesis or dissertation topics. And they also learn valuable archival and organizational skills that will prove useful in their future academic and professional careers.

The creation of the center also has a practical benefit for the Library. One of the most pressing needs faced by special collections staff in research libraries across the country is finding the people, time, and money to organize unprocessed or under-processed collections, because until these collections are processed, they cannot be used by researchers. By creating the center, the UCLA Library has taken a leadership role in developing a solution.

In the pages of past issues of this publication, you may have read about major special collections the Library has acquired, like rare Persian manuscripts and the papers of writer Susan Sontag, fashion designer Bonnie Cashin, and sociologist Rose Hum Lee. Students in the center make rare and unique materials like these and countless other collections more accessible to scholars and researchers both on campus and around the world.

Now that the center is well established, we’re looking for funding to continue to support it in perpetuity and to expand its scope to special collections in the Arts Library, Louise M. Darling Biomedical Library, and Music Library. I hope you’ll consider joining the chancellor’s efforts to support academic excellence at UCLA – and the work of students like Liron, Xóchitl, Eric, Mike, and many others to come – with a gift for this unique and valuable program.

Gary E. Strong
University Librarian
If the definition of a good life is getting paid for doing what you love, then Larry Lauerhass has a wonderful life. Lauerhass has made a career out of collecting, teaching, and traveling and has spent most of it at UCLA in a variety of positions. He has also made UCLA the main focus of his philanthropy.

Lauerhass started collecting books in high school, beginning with collections on literature of the 1890s and on Aubrey Beasley. Mentored by Los Angeles book collectors Karl Zamboni and Ward Ritchie, he won the Vroman Prize for Best Student Library, awarded by the Pasadena bookstore.

After earning a bachelor’s degree in political sciences from University of North Carolina, where he was influenced by Gilberto Freyre’s *The Masters and the Slaves*, Lauerhass came to UCLA in 1957 to pursue a master’s degree in an interdisciplinary program in Latin American studies. He also continued to nurture his interest in rare-book collecting by working in the Library’s special collections to help process rare books on Mexico.

Lauerhass’s lifelong passion for travel developed after he switched his studies to the Ph.D. program in history. A Ford Foundation Foreign Area Fellowship enabled him to study in Brazil during 1963-64, which resulted in a lasting connection with the country and enduring friendships with many of its people.

After returning from Brazil, Lauerhass went to UC Riverside as its first Latin American historian. But University Librarian Robert Vosper lured him back to UCLA after three years to become the Latin American bibliographer in the then-named University Research Library. While learning about libraries from the inside, he worked with Vosper to build one of the country’s great Latin American collections.

Lauerhass received his Ph.D. from UCLA in 1972, the same year his wife, Frances, earned her doctorate in Romance languages and literature, with an emphasis on Golden Age Spanish literature. While lecturing in the history department and working at the Library, Lauerhass also attended library school and received his master’s degree in library science in 1974.

Lauerhass retired from the Library in 1993 but has continued to teach and to work with the UCLA Latin American Center, where he served as executive director until 1985. He also served as director of the Education Abroad program in Brazil in 1995. He remains interested in the broad area of national identity and the role of monuments in its development and is currently teaching a seminar on this subject at the UCLA-DC Center for American Politics and Public Policy.

Lauerhass’s philanthropy has included the establishment of two endowments at UCLA, one for the Library and one in the history department. The Ludwig Lauerhass Jr. Endowed Collection in Brazilian Studies supports the purchase of rare materials on Brazil for the Department of Special Collections in the Charles E. Young Research Library.

Lauerhass’s life has revolved around books – reading, research, collecting, and teaching. And he’s the first to admit: it’s a wonderful life!
UCLA LIBRARY EVENTS
Jazz in Los Angeles: Photos from the Music Library Special Collections
July-September 2005
Charles E. Young Research Library Lobby
Photos from the Howard Morehead, Mark Weber, and Big Band collections, together with album covers, charts, and other related materials

The Sleepy Lagoon Case: Constitutional Rights and the Struggle for Democracy
Through August 2005
Charles E. Young Research Library
Department of Special Collections
Photographs, correspondence, newspaper coverage, and other materials drawn from collections related to this 1942 murder trial and its aftermath

The A&M Records Collection
Online exhibit accessible at <http://www.library.ucla.edu/amrecords>
Recordings, manuscript musical arrangements, photographs, promotional materials, and other materials celebrating the intellectual and creative history of A&M Records

IN MEMORIAM
We are saddened by the loss of UCLA Professor Emeritus Henry J. Bruman (1913-2005). Professor Bruman came to UCLA in 1945 to expand and guide the growth of the geography department. Until his retirement in 1983, he taught and mentored generations of students, and he also helped create one of the country's premier map libraries. We offer our heartfelt condolences to his friends and colleagues.