

Summer 2009

Volume Twelve

UCLA COLLEGE

R E P O R T

CAMPBELL HALL

UCLA COLLEGE OF LETTERS AND SCIENCE

College News

An update of events and progress in the UCLA College of Letters and Science.

The World's a Classroom? Thanks to Technology, It Can Be

Molecular biologist Robert B. Goldberg teaches an honors course on genetic engineering that is being attended in class at UCLA and in real-time through fiber optic connection at UC Davis, 370 miles away.

The UCLA professor called on one of the students in his classroom during a discussion about whether the genes in your chromosomes can be patented. He then called on another student—this one at UC Davis.

Undergraduates from both campuses are participating in a distance-learning honors course on genetic engineering and its implications—a class that uses state-of-the-science technology, including high-quality audio and video over a high-speed fiber optics network. The students can see and hear one another and the professor in each classroom in real time.

The instructor, Robert B. Goldberg, a UCLA distinguished professor of molecular, cell and developmental biology, taught the course with Japan's Kyoto University, separated by a 17-hour time difference, in 2004. He envisions expanding this form of distance learning and encourages other professors to do so as well.



"There is the potential to bring people from different parts of the globe together in a global village of education. What an amazing experience for the students."

Robert Goldberg's honors course, "Genetic Engineering in Medicine, Agriculture and Law" taught simultaneously at UCLA and UC Davis (on screen in the background).

"We have the potential to connect, in one class, students from the United States, Europe, Asia, and South America—like what's done on television news where someone's in Washington and someone's in Baghdad and someone's in Moscow," said Goldberg, a member of the National Academy of Sciences who has won awards for his teaching. "There is the potential to bring people from different parts of the globe together in a global village of edu-

cation. What an amazing experience for the students.

"It's seamless; there's no lag with the fiber optics cable," he said. "It's like being in the same classroom. It's a really novel opportunity to see what people at other campuses in different cities, with very different backgrounds, think about issues. This class can be a really good model for interactive higher education teaching."

www.youtube.com/view_play_list?p=3D6BD220BC6AC096

College Awards 2009

RENEE AND MEYER LUSKIN NAMED COLLEGE HONORARY FELLOWS

Renee and Meyer Luskin received the 2009 award as Honorary Fellows at the College of Letters and Science awards dinner on April 27. That night the Luskins announced their endowment of the Renee and Meyer Luskin Fund for Civic Engagement.

The College Awards Dinner also marks the annual presentation of the Charles E. and Sue K. Young Undergraduate Awards, and the Young Graduate Awards—honors funded with support from Louis (B.A. '35) and Evelynne Blau.

