

Annabella Pulizi

Dr. Assad Meymandi

conducted the Slee Sinfonietta, a professional chamber orchestra in residence, and taught orchestral conducting.

MUSIC, MEDICINE AND GENOMICS

The College of Letters and Science continued its Deans' Speaker Series this past spring, welcoming Assad Meymandi, adjunct professor of psychiatry at the University of North Carolina School of Medicine at Chapel Hill. During his talk, which packed a room of more than 100 at the Davis campus, Meymandi spoke about music, medicine and genomics and their relation in healing ailments for thousands of years.

Of his talk, Dean of the Division of Social Sciences George R. Mangun said, "The campus was extremely lucky to welcome such a respected and lively lecturer, with a talk that ranged from the humanities to medicine."

During his lecture, Meymandi asserted that "Music is part of the cycle of natural life . . . we inhale and exhale, our hearts beat in systole (contraction) and diastole (expansion and relaxation) . . . Discoveries in the past 60 years show us the promise of music in healing." Adding the power of the Genome Project to his assertion, Meymandi cited geneticist and musician Susumu Ohno, who found that music is like DNA in repetition and development.

ALWAYS KEEP YOUR CAMERA WITH YOU

UC Davis economics senior Marilyn Murray (left) and Natasha Sandor of UC Santa Barbara happened to be in the Five Guys burger restaurant in Washington, D.C., in the spring, when President Obama dropped in for a cheeseburger with jalapeños. Murray and Sandor were both interns at UC's Washington, D.C., Center; Murray was taking Professor Larry Berman's seminar on the presidency during the spring quarter. "I carry my camera with me everywhere because you never know who you will meet or what you will see while living in Washington, D.C.," Murray says.



Lee Mannon

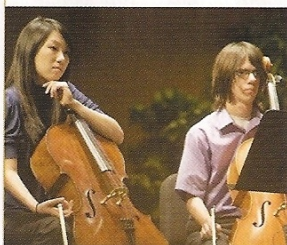
Marilyn Murray, President Barack Obama and Natasha Sandor

It might be hard to top this, though. The President's burger run was also captured by CSPAN; http://www.politico.com/blogs/anneschroeder/0509/Video_of_POTUS_at_Five_Guys.html. You can see Murray and Sandor talking to Obama at about 4:25.



UC Davis/Cheng Saechao

Yo-Yo Ma at a UC Davis master class



THE DAY YO-YO MA DROPPED BY

by Stephen Hudson, a freshman majoring in music and mathematics

As a music major here at UC Davis, the most spectacular activity that I've had the privilege to participate in recently was a master class at the Mondavi Center with Yo-Yo Ma, the extensively recorded, world-famous cellist. The program began with three young cellists from the San Francisco Conservatory and winners of the Mondavi Center Young

Artists Competition, ages 11, 12 and 13; each played a solo piece, followed by some intensive work with Ma.

Ma has a fantastic feel for teaching, and a very warm, comfortable and yet persistent way of getting students to adjust their playing without feeling intimidated in the slightest way. I learned quite a lot about expression and grace on the cello just by watching him work with little technical problems the first three students were having, enough to make the experience incredibly educational, aside from the excitement and good music.

However, not only did I get to see Yo-Yo Ma work with others: I got to play for him myself. An octet of students from UC Davis Applied Music Professor Susan Lamb Cook, myself included, went on stage as the last item on the program. We played a beautiful piece by Brazilian composer Heitor Villa-Lobos, which went wonderfully (or at least it seemed so to me).

One thing that struck me about Ma was how generous and selfless he was; he took the time to shake hands with each of us and chat with us a little after our piece, even finding out which of us were music majors and what the rest of us were studying. He was even helping out with moving a piano and getting music stands in the right arrangement, which is unheard-of for someone as famous as he is. Another part of the experience that stands out was how inspiring Ma was in person. I was impressed by how he was so unassuming and laid-back, yet completely passionate about what he did and why he did it.

One of my favorite comments from the whole afternoon, something that will stay with me for quite a while, was when Ma explained earnestly that although sometimes we practice because others expect us to do well, that shouldn't be our primary motivation. "You should play not because you want to be good, but because you need to make a sound," the great cellist told us.

Reprinted, in edited form, from UC Davis' website spotlight "Class with the master."



UPCOMING EVENTS, FALL 2009 AND WINTER 2010



EARTH AND PHYSICAL SCIENCES BUILDING DEDICATION **NOVEMBER 5, 2009, 4:00 PM-6:00 PM**

Earth and Physical Sciences Building, California Avenue

The Earth and Physical Sciences Building will be dedicated in November, an important milestone for many of the students and faculty who will be a part of its new life. The building, which will house the Department of Geology as well as contain important classroom spaces for organic chemistry and physics, was completed over the summer.

The teaching facilities for physics classes are especially notable, as they are for a particular set of classes that most students entering the sciences take. The Physics 7 series uses an inquiry-based instruction model, developed by UC Davis professors in

the mid-1990's. Student success in learning the class material, as well as applying knowledge to other areas of study, has been phenomenal.

The dedication will include a tour of the building, as well as remarks from incoming Chancellor Linda Katehi and Dean of the Division of Mathematical and Physical Sciences Winston Ko, among others.

DESIGN SPEAKER SERIES

The Design Program received a grant for a lecture series from Energy



Design Resources. The series focuses on energy efficiency and sustainability in the light of global climate change. Six speakers gave lectures last year, and the final two speakers are slated for the fall quarter. All lectures are free and open to the public. More information can be found at: <http://designspeakers.ucdavis.edu/home.html>.

20-YEAR PUBLICATION ANNIVERSARIES

The fall quarter marks 20 years of two publications from the top-ranked University Writing Program: *Prized Writing* and *Writing on the Edge*. A celebration of the publications will be held in December. More information can be found at the UWP website: <http://writing.ucdavis.edu/>.

