Robert and Natalie Reid Dorn Endowed Chair on Infancy

Dr. Jay Belsky
Professor
Human Ecology

RESEARCH
I have been able to support graduate students focusing on variation in children's responsiveness to environmental exposures and developmental experiences, travel to meet with colleagues whom I am collaborating with on this project, and plan an international conference focused on it. In addition, the Dorn Endowed Chair has enabled me to work with collaborators on other work looking at a host of child-development issues in Norway and in Portugal. Funds are also used to enable graduate students to attend the major conference in the field of child development.

TEACHING
Each year I teach an undergraduate class on Social and Personality Development, with graduate TAs (who meet with students, grade papers, and give guest lectures) and a special topics graduate seminar on topics of my choosing--having to do with an evolutionary perspective on human development over the past three years. Graduate students in these classes do extensive readings, write papers and/or prepare powerpoint presentations.

STUDENT TRAINING
Formal Research Assistant support will begin next year.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES AND/OR DEPARTMENTAL UPDATES
An international conference that I have put together
Publication of scientific papers.

ACTIVITIES DIRECTLY SUPPORTED BY THIS FUND
- My travel to national/international conferences
- Plan international conference
- Support graduate student travel

The Impact of Philanthropy

Endowed chairs and professorships are distinctions awarded to faculty or Cooperative Extension specialists in recognition of past and potential contributions to the individual’s academic and research discipline. These endowments provide funding to support teaching, research and outreach responsibilities. They also give UC Davis greater impact as a world-class university.

With these positions, we are able to attract and retain the brightest teachers and researchers, who contribute to the scholarly activity and effective functioning of their academic units through teaching, seminars, or other intellectual pursuits that benefit students and external stakeholders.

These important faculty positions, like the Robert and Natalie Reid Dorn Endowed Chair on Infancy, are made possible only by the generosity of donors who believe strongly in the need to support an area of study that will benefit society.

I hope you will save the date and join us at our Donor Recognition Event and 25th Annual College Celebration on Friday, October 11, 2013 so we may thank you in person.

Sincerely,

Mary Delany
Interim Dean