

Eric Schroeder, a University Writing Program lecturer since 1984, is both a recipient of the Academic Federation Excellence in Teaching Award and an indefatigable contributor to UC Davis and its community.

In the mid 1980s, Eric pioneered the first computer classroom on campus outside the Computer Science Department. Discovering 25 unused Macintoshes donated by Apple Computers, he negotiated with the Registrar's Office for a classroom and designed our first general-use computer classroom. Twenty years later, his success is clear. The University Writing Program and other departments regularly schedule classes in our computer classrooms. These classrooms, along with Eric's expertise, presentations, and publications, helped make UC Davis a recognized leader in computer-assisted instruction.

After founding the Computer-Aided Instruction program, Eric took on several other noteworthy projects. He co-founded and co-edited *Prized Writing*, a collection of student essays designed to showcase the excellent writing done by UC Davis undergraduates. *Prized Writing* lets students know their writing is valued, it gives instructors models of student writing to use in their classes, and it helps the community (including high school students) see how talented our undergraduates are and how much we value undergraduate education. For years Eric volunteered to run the contest, help edit the essays, and do the layout. *Prized Writing* could continue without Eric, but without him, it probably would not have been born.

In 1989, Eric co-founded *Writing on the Edge*, our nationally recognized journal about writing and teaching writing. Without release time or compensation, for almost 20 years Eric has laid out the journal and served as interview editor. Largely because of him *Writing on the Edge* has been granted interviews with some of the most well-known contemporary writers and writing teachers. It is testimony to Eric and his co-editors that *Writing on the Edge* is still going strong. With contributors and subscribers from around the world, the journal has brought the University Writing Program and UC Davis widespread recognition.

Eric's scholarly work has been highlighted in UC Davis Magazine and on the UC Davis web homepage. In his annual Integrated Studies class, *Performing Shakespeare*, students produce and perform a Shakespeare play. Eric directs the plays, taking on an extra two units' worth of work to give the students enough time to rehearse. Each year he offers at least two performances, filling Wyatt Pavilion.

Also highlighted on the UC Davis web page and in UC Davis Magazine have been Eric's classes on the Sixties and on the Vietnam War. He takes his students on field trips (to Sacramento's Vietnam Memorial, for instance) and he engages them as scholars and field researchers. Recently his students interviewed Vietnam vets and submitted oral histories to the Library of Congress's Veterans' History Project. Researchers using this material will be encountering not only important primary research about the Vietnam War but also something of what makes UC Davis unique.

A nationally recognized expert on Vietnam War literature, Eric is the author of *Vietnam, We've All Been There: Interviews with American Writers*. Recently, he participated in a discussion, "Can an Image Change the World?" preceding the Mondavi Center talk by Kim Phuc, who more than thirty years ago gained fame as the little girl running from napalm

dropped by American bombers. In 1995, on the twentieth anniversary of the war's end, Eric organized an international conference on campus. Eric spent more than a year and a half planning the conference, traveling to Vietnam to meet potential participants, working on publicity and arrangements, and raising funds. "Vietnam Legacies: Twenty Years Later" received glowing reviews and brought UCD wide recognition.

Eric's contributions are wide-ranging and innovative, but he has also contributed in more conventional ways. He currently directs the Summer Abroad program, which, under his stewardship, has grown larger, more diverse, and more financially stable. Summer Abroad sends over 700 students abroad annually.

Eric has taught not only in the UWP (where he once served as Director of Composition), but also in English, American Studies, Integrated Studies, Nature and Culture, the Freshman Seminar Program, the Davis Honors Challenge, and in summer abroad courses in Scotland, South Africa, and Australia. His service includes membership on program, Academic Federation, Academic Senate, and administrative advisory committees, a term as Chair of the Academic Federation, and work for the American Federation of Teachers (acting statewide president, local president, and Northern California vice-president). He also does community service as president of the Tilden Wildcat Horseman's Association, is a board member for a group dedicated to preserving open space for equestrian use and a member of the Volunteer Mounted Patrol for a regional park district, and volunteers as a teaching assistant for a UC Davis scuba-diving course.

Congratulations to Eric Schroeder!