Mind matters: Oppenheimer takes inventive approach to examining decision-making

Jennifer Greensstein Altman

Danny Oppenheimer, an associate professor of psychology and public affairs, arrived at the University as an assistant professor in 2004, just after completing his Ph.D. at Stanford University. He was promoted to associate professor last July. He earned his bachelor’s degree at Rice University in 2000. His research focuses on understanding how human beings make decisions in various settings. For example, a study he conducted on the ease of processing information yielded revealing findings about how people determine in which stocks to invest.

In the study, Oppenheimer examined the three- or four-letter stock-ticker symbols that identify companies on the New York Stock Exchange and the American Stock Exchange to test how people’s judgments of value are affected by how easily they can process information. He found that, soon after an initial public offering, stock prices were higher for companies that had pronounceable ticker symbols (such as Rite Aid Corp.’s RAD versus Reader’s Digest Association Enc.’s RDA). Oppenheimer and one of his graduate students, Adam Alter, published their results in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences in 2006.

The findings since have been replicated by researchers on stock markets in several other countries.

“Danny’s research shows, powerfully and persuasively, that choices and decisions depend not just on what people think about, but also on how they feel while they are thinking, and on how they interpret those feelings,” said Deborah Prentice, the Alexander Stewart 1886 Professor of Psychology. Oppenheimer injects fun into his studies of human behavior. His paper on the use of long words is titled “Consequences of Erudite Vernacular Utilized in Several Other Countries.”

Danny Oppenheimer (third from left), an associate professor of psychology and public affairs, loves teaching “Introduction to Psychology” because he sees students “get excited and passionate” about the subject. Here, he talks to (from left) graduate student Matthew Frulij, a teaching assistant for the course, and freshmen Zak Herman and Kaya Ten-Pow after a session of the class.

An explosion of color greets students at the main entrance to Butler College’s new dormitories, where a mura1 of bright fractal shapes, “Up and Away,” spans two floors and seven walls (top left). The work of Odili Donald Odita (top right), associate professor of fine art at Temple University’s Tyler School of Art, and his crew (left) was commissioned by the steering committee for Princeton’s public art initiative. To read more about the mural project, visit <www.princeton.edu/main/news>.

Schmidt Fund to support transformative technology

Google CEO Eric Schmidt and his wife, Wendy, have created a $25 million endowment fund at Princeton for the invention, development and utilization of cutting-edge technology that has the capacity to transform research in the natural sciences and engineering.

Support from the Eric and Wendy Schmidt Transformative Technology Fund will be awarded through a campus-wide peer-reviewed competition under the auspices of the University’s dean for research. The first competition will be announced later this fall.

“While progress in science and engineering can be catalyzed by entirely new theoretical insights, it is more often the case that revolutionary advances spring from the arrival on the scene of new technologies that allow investigators to explore unresolved questions with new tools, or to ask previously unapproachable questions,” said President Tilghman. “This fund will allow Princeton’s scientists and engineers to explore truly innovative ideas that need the creation or application of new technologies, including the kinds of technological breakthroughs that most funding sources are too risk-averse to support.

“We are deeply grateful to Eric and Wendy not only for providing this support, but for providing the capacity and...
Open house set for new offices at 701 Carnegie

The University has expanded its reach on the Internet by establishing a presence on social media websites such as Twitter and Facebook, and posting videos on YouTube. Since the University launched its presence on the sites in 2008, Princeton has attracted a presence on social media websites such as Twitter and Facebook, and posting videos on YouTube. Since the University launched its presence on the sites in 2008, Princeton has attracted

The Princeton University Bulletin (ISSN 0031-8856) is published weekly in September, October, January, February, March, April and May, and monthly in November, December and June. This frequency coincides with the academic year and excludes University breaks and exam weeks. The Bulletin is published by the Office of Communications, 22 Chambers St., Suite 201, Princeton, NJ 08542. A total of 15 issues will be published between September 2009 and June 2010. A publication schedule can be found at <www.princeton.edu/bulletin> or by calling (609) 258-3601. Please send in your pull requests to the Bulletin at PullRequests@princeton.edu. The University has posted nearly 9,000 fans on its Facebook page, which was launched in March 2008. The page has more than 5,300 followers on Twitter since launching its page at twitter.com/princeton in March. Princeton has posted some 100 videos on YouTube since April 2008. The most popular video, showing the Princeton stagecoach, has been viewed more than 17,400 times. The site can be found at <www.youtube.com/princetonuniversity>. The Princeton University home page has a “share” button that lets readers post the story to one of 120 social media websites. Stories have been shared more than 1,300 times since the feature was introduced in 2008.

The University’s social media and career websites are managed by the Office of Communications.

For “Nassau notes,” go to <www.princeton.edu/main/campuslife/media/social>.
Eleven faculty members submit resignations

The following faculty members have submitted the resignations:

Effective July 1, 2009: Scott Ashworth, associate professor of politics, to accept a position at the University of Chicago; Joshua Clinton, associate professor of politics, to accept a position at Vanderbilt University; Per Brandt, professor of economics, to accept a position at the Institute for International Economic Studies.

Effective July 6, 2009: Jesse Rothstein, assistant professor of economics and public affairs, to accept a position at the University of California-Berkeley. His B.A. from Macalester College. He will join the faculty effective Sept. 1, 2009. He earned his Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin, where he has taught since 2002. Heconesu previously served as an instructor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology for three years and spent a year as a member of the Institute for Advanced Study. A specialist in mathematical analysis, Ionescu has earned fellowships and grants from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, the National Science Foundation and the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation. He is a graduate of King's College London and a fellow at Princeton. He began a three-year term on Sept. 1, 2009. A specialist in international macroeconomics, conducting research focusing on monetary policy, time consistency and financial crises. His work has appeared in publications such as the Journal of International Economics, Econometrica, the International Economic Review and the Journal of Economic Theory.

Kehoe came to Princeton from the University of Minnesota, where he had served on the faculty since 2002 after an earlier stint from 1984 to 1992. He has been a member of the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis since 1997. Kehoe also taught at the University of Pennsylvania for seven years. A graduate of Providence College, he holds a Ph.D. from Harvard University in economics. A specialist in mathematical analysis, Ionescu has earned fellowships and grants from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, the National Science Foundation and the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation. He is a graduate of King's College London and a fellow at Princeton. He began a three-year term on Sept. 1, 2009. A specialist in international macroeconomics, conducting research focusing on monetary policy, time consistency and financial crises. His work has appeared in publications such as the Journal of International Economics, Econometrica, the International Economic Review and the Journal of Economic Theory.

In English, Andrew Cole will join the faculty effective Jan. 1, 2010, from the University of Chicago, where he has taught since 2000. A specialist in literary and critical theory, he is the author of “Literature and Heresy in the Age of the Reformation” and the forthcoming book “From Modern to Medieval: Hegel, the Dialectic and Other Stories.” He also directed the Princeton Liebman Studies, a journal. Before joining the Princeton faculty, Cole served for a year as an instructor at Duke University, from which he earned his Ph.D. He is a graduate of Loyola University Chicago and holds a master’s degree from Miami University of Ohio.

In Spanish and Portuguese languages and cultures, Bruno Carvalho began a three-year term on Sept. 1, 2009. An expert in Luso-Brazilian languages and cultures, he is a graduate of Dartmouth College and holds a Ph.D. from Harvard.

In electrical engineering, Paul Cuff began a three-year term effective Sept. 1, 2009, after earning his Ph.D. from Stanford University. A graduate of Brigham Young University, he specializes in information sciences and systems.

In philosophy, Shamsia Dasgupta began a three-year term on July 1, 2009. Dasgupta studies epistemology, ethics and logic. He holds a B.S. from the University of Chicago and a Ph.D. from King’s College London and a Ph.D. from New York University.

In mechanical and aerospace engineering and international affairs, Alexander Glaser began a three-year term on Sept. 1, 2009, after receiving his Ph.D. from Harvard. A specialist in the history of medicine, he holds an M.D. from Columbia University in Germany, and an M.S. from the University of Oxford.

In politics, Jonathon Kastellec, who focuses on political science and public law, began a three-year term on Aug. 1, 2009. A specialist in the history of ideas, he holds a Ph.D. from Princeton University, where he earned his Ph.D. A specialist in international macroeconomics, conducting research focusing on monetary policy, time consistency and financial crises. His work has appeared in publications such as the Journal of International Economics, Econometrica, the International Economic Review and the Journal of Economic Theory.

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Conference explores the arts and the economic crisis

Leading figures in the arts world will convene at Princeton for a two-daylong conference on “The Arts and the Economic Crisis” on Saturday, Nov. 14, in McCosh 10. Speakers will include: Academy Award-winning actor Phillip Seymour Hoffman; Rocco Landesman, chair of the National Endowment for the Arts; renowned director Peter Sellars; Nobel laureate novelist and Princeton professor emeritus Toni Morrison; and acclaimed poet Paul Muldoon, chair of Princeton’s Lewis Center for the Arts.

These speakers will be among the artists, representatives from national arts organizations and advocacy groups, and scholars participating in panels and discussions with the aim of exploring the current state of the arts in America and how the arts are, at this critical moment, shaping culture.

Discussion topics at the conference will include: “Meta-Views: The Economic Crisis and America’s Art Ecology”, “Taking Measure: The Practice of the Arts in Hard Times”; and “Art in the Time of Crisis: Arts Inventing Culture.”

The conference, which will run from 9:30 a.m. to 9:30 p.m., is part of the Lewis Center’s Performance Central Program. It is free and open to the public, but online registration is required.

ONLINE: More information
www.mccarter.org

Photographer, scholars to discuss ‘Intended Consequences’ exhibition

A panel discussion on Jonathan Torgovnik’s portrait series, “Intended Consequences: Rwandan Children Born of Rape,” is set for 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 28, in 16 Robertson Hall.

Traveling to Rwanda over the course of three years, Torgovnik interviewed and photographed women who were raped during the African nation’s genocide and bore children from their assailants. The resulting photo series is on view in the Bernstein Gallery of Robertson Hall through Friday, Nov. 15.

Torgovnik has created a campaign with Amnesty International to give voice to the women, most of whom spoke for the first time about their experiences as part of this project.

Torgovnik will be joined on the panel by Carl Auerbach, a professor of psychology at the Ferkauf Graduate School of Psychology of Yeshiva University whose research focuses on fatherhood, and Charli Carpenter, an assistant professor of politics at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst whose interests include gender and political violence, comparative genocide studies and humanitarian affairs.

The discussion is sponsored by the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs.

ONLINE: More information
wws.princeton.edu/bernstein_rep/
09-07-2009

Lecture examines international development and religion

Katherine Marshall, a longtime World Bank official and Princeton graduate alumna, will discuss the interplay between international development efforts and religion in a lecture set for 4:30 p.m. Monday, Oct. 26, in 16 Robertson Hall.

“Development and Religious Actors: The State of Play” is the title of the talk by Marshall, who is a senior fellow at Georgetown University’s Berkley Center for Religion, Peace and World Affairs and a senior adviser for the World Bank.

Marshall’s work has focused on international development in some of the world’s poorest countries. She worked at the World Bank from 1971 to 2006 in a wide range of leadership assignments, many of which focused on Africa. From 2000 to 2006, as counselor to the World Bank’s president, her mandate covered ethics, values and faith in development work. She led the bank’s work on social policy and governance during the East Asia crisis years and also worked extensively in Eastern Africa and Latin America.

In addition, she was involved in many task forces that addressed leadership issues, conflict resolution, the role of women and issues for values and ethics.

Marshall is the author of several books about religion and development, including “Development and Faith: Where Mind, Heart and Soul Work Together” (with Marisa Van Saanen) and “Mind, Heart and Soul in the Fight Against Poverty” (with Lucy Kessough). She writes a blog, “Faith in Action,” for the Newsweek/Washington Post website “On Faith.”

Marshall is a core group member of the Council of 100, an initiative of the World Economic Forum to advance understanding between the Islamic world and the West. She serves on the board of the International Development Ethics Association and is a former trustee of Princeton University. She earned her master’s in public affairs in 1969 from the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs.

The lecture is the first in this year’s “Crossroads of Religion and Politics” series, which is sponsored by the Wilson School and the Center for the Study of Religion.
Legendary photographer Gowin celebrated in new exhibition

The Princeton University Art Museum celebrates photographer and faculty member Emmet Gowin’s legacy as an artist and educator with an exhibition titled “Emmet Gowin: A Collective Portrait,” which is on view through Sunday, Feb. 21.

Gowin, a professor of visual arts in the Lewis Center for the Arts, has taught photography at Princeton since 1973 and plans to retire at the end of this year. To mark the occasion, the exhibition features some 55 works including photographs by Gowin’s principal mentors, Harry Callahan and Frederick Sommer; highlights from Gowin’s multifaceted body of work; and photographs by 20 of his students, ranging in graduation year from 1976 to 2008. Those students have gone on to pursue paths as diverse as architecture, design, publishing, fine arts, filmmaking and photography as a medium, a discipline and a way of life.


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Postdoctoral scholars join Society of Fellows in Liberal Arts

Six new postdoctoral scholars have joined the Society of Fellows in the Liberal Arts this year.

The society, created in 2000 by a gift from Charter Trustee Lloyd Cotsen, is an interdisciplinary community that seeks to bring innovative approaches to scholarship and teaching at Princeton. It offers outstanding young scholars who have recently received their Ph.D. the opportunity to enhance their teaching and research over a period of three years.

The interim director of the society for 2009-10 is Scott Burnham, the Scheide Professor of Music History, Susan Stewart, the Annan Professor of English, will serve as director for 2010-14. The society includes Princeton faculty members who serve as faculty fellows and meet regularly with the Cotsen Fellows in the Joseph Henry House for informal and formal discussions, seminars and lectures. The full complement of 15 postdoctoral fellows is drawn from a range of disciplines in the humanities, related social sciences and natural sciences.

The Cotsen Fellows for 2009-12 were selected from a pool of more than 930 applicants. They teach half-time in their academic department or program or in the Council of the Humanities and pursue their own research. They are:

Russ Lee, a Perkins-Cotsen Fellow and a lecturer in English, who holds a Ph.D. in literature from Duke University. This fall, he is teaching a freshman seminar titled “Enlightenment From Below: Milton, Spinoza, Rousseau, and the Societies of Revolution.”

Cullen Blake, an NSF-Cotsen Fellow in astrophysical sciences, who earned his Ph.D. in astronomy at Harvard University. Blake will search for extrasolar planets, teach undergradu- 

From left, the 2009-12 Cotsen Fellows are Russ Lee, On Barak, Hester Schade, Nikolaoos Panou, Kerin Yasar and Cullen Blake, pictured with Scott Burnham, interim director of the Society of Fellows in the Liberal Arts.

On Barak, a Cotsen Fellow and lecturer in history, who holds a joint Ph.D. in history and Middle Eastern and Islamic studies from New York University. He will teach courses in the history department, including a seminar on modernity and its critics in the modern Middle East. He also will launch a new research project on energy and empire.

Rusas, a Hel- lenic-Cotsen Fellow and lecturer in comparative literature, who received a Ph.D. in comparative literature from Harvard University. In 2008-09, he was a postdoctoral fellow in a graduate program in Hellenic Studies. With the Soci- ety of Fellows, he will conduct an
Carmona calculates a cooler planet

Chris Emery

Some people fight global warming by driving fuel-efficient cars. Others weatherproof their houses or plant trees.

Princeton’s René Carmona does math.

As the United States and other countries around the world debate how to best reduce the production of greenhouse gases, Carmona hopes to bring the objectivity — and rationality — of mathematics to bear on the problem.

In recent months, Carmona, Paul Wythes ’55 Professor of Engineering and Finance, has leveraged his expertise in mathematical modeling of financial markets and other complex systems to develop models to guide cap-and-trade policies intended to curb greenhouse gas emissions.

“It’s a very politically charged issue,” said Carmona, who also is a professor of operations research and financial engineering. “My intention is to demystify cap-and-trade and at the same time understand its weaknesses and loopholes. There have been mistakes in the past, yet our research shows that a cap-and-trade system can work. But only if you do it right.”

Carbon dioxide traps sunlight, and hence heat, in the Earth’s atmosphere, and the gas has been fingered as the main culprit in global warming. Generally speaking, cap-and-trade policies set a ceiling on a nation’s total carbon dioxide emissions and then allow major carbon producers such as power companies or manufacturers to buy and sell carbon credits.

The carbon credits are distributed among the companies when the policy first goes into effect, and the companies can only emit as much carbon as they are credited with producing. This creates a carbon market in which companies must either emit less carbon dioxide by investing in new technologies, operating more efficiently or producing less, or they must buy excess credits from other companies.

That’s where the money is made. Critics of cap-and-trade policies often point to problems encountered in Europe after the European Union Greenhouse Gas Emission Trading System was first instituted in 2005. Experts generally agree that the system initially allocated too many credits — more than warranted by the actual emissions. “They gave out all these certificates for free, and no one bothered to cut emissions,” Carmona said.

Soon after the system was put in place, power producers raised prices, leading critics to charge that they were gouging consumers by pretending they were compensating for costs incurred from the new policy, despite the fact they didn’t actually have to reduce emissions. While the price surges were due in part to other factors, public outrage over the matter may have been warranted in some cases, Carmona said.

“In France, for instance, much of the power comes from nuclear plants, but those plants don’t release carbon dioxide,” he said. “These companies saw windfall profits, but Europe emitted the same amount of carbon.”

Yet Carmona is bullish about cap-and-trade. He insists that these early mistakes on the part of regulators and policy architects don’t mean that the idea is untenable, but rather reflected a first stab at solving a complex problem.

Since then, he said, European leaders have learned from their early mistakes and the policy is now working as originally intended. A report released by the German Marshall Fund in August found that the EU policy reduced carbon dioxide emissions by 50 to 100 million metric tons each year, 2.5 to 5 percent annually, since it was implemented.

That outcome jives with the results of Carmona’s simulations of cap-and-trade scenarios. He found that such policies, in fact, can reduce carbon emissions without causing undue disruptions to economies, and that how the carbon credits initially are distributed is crucial. “Somebody has to pay for reducing carbon,” he said. “We’ve found that who pays more, the producers or the users, depends on how you distribute the credits. High-models differ from early work, he said, in that they more fully account for unpredictability of events such as weather, natural disasters or wars that might impact carbon markets. His techniques borrow from financial mathematics, which focuses on understanding and managing risk.

“By acknowledging that the world is uncertain, dynamic models including random factors are more realistic,” he said. “This way we can better identify when knobs regulators can turn to control the system.”

Last spring, Carmona hosted a workshop at the Mathematical Sciences Research Institute in Berkeley, Calif., on the use of mathematical models and bargaining toward a workable climate change. A paper on his research has been accepted by SIAM Review, the flagship journal of the Society of Industrial and Applied Mathematics, and will be published in an upcoming issue.

Carmona plans to continue improving his models to account for such things as market underresponse to cap-and-trade policies. In one scenario, a hedge fund could buy a large number of the credits and then drive up the price. Another possibility is that manufacturers and power producers abandon a country’s cap-and-trade system in favor of emissions policies for countries with less strict regulations, a phenomenon he refers to as “leakage.”

He hopes these efforts will encourage mathematicians, economists and engineers to get more engaged in the public discussion of cap-and-trade policies, and perhaps help avoid an environmental catastrophe that might be more threatening than the current economic crisis. “Academics didn’t get involved early enough to shape the market,” he said. “We should get involved in the climate change discussion sooner, so that it’s not just the major emitters providing information to politicians.”

“It’s crucial that we get involved in figuring these things out,” he added. “We can’t afford to have a repeat of Europe’s false start with cap-and-trade policies. We may not get a third chance.” — René Carmona

Schmidt Continued from page 1

Schmidt’s new position involves a great deal of flexibility to make investments that are likely to have the broadest and most transformative impact,” Tilghman said.

The Schmidt Fund will be used to support the invention or implementation of entirely new technologies that will have a major impact on a field of research or to acquire a piece of equipment or an enabling technology that will change the direction of research in a field. Unlike most endowments, the fund will not need to be spent in years when there are no sufficiently promising projects, understanding that with risk comes, or face penalties. There have been windfall profits, but Europe emitted the same amount of carbon.”

Two chosen for endowed professorships

Two faculty members have been named to endowed professorships, effective Sept. 1, 2009. They are:

• Kai Li, the Paul M. Wythes ’55 P86 and Marcia E. Wythes P86 Professor in Computer Science.

• Nino Luraghi, the David Magic ’97 Class of 1987 Professor of Classics.

Board approves four promotions

The Board of Trustees has approved the promotions of four faculty members, all effective July 1, 2009. The faculty members and their departments, by the academic rank to which they are being promoted, are:

Professor — Martin Ruef, sociology.

Associate professor (with continuing tenure) — Zahid Hasan, physics; Ulrich Müller, economics.

Senior lecturer (for a three-year term) — Rebecca Latzer, dance in the Lewis Center for the Arts.
Irrespective of Necessity: Problems With Using Long Words Needlessly. The study found that using long words unnecessarily detracts from a reader's evaluation of a piece of writing.

"People can rate something as very intelligent if it has long words in it, but if you use simpler language, they rank it as even more intelligent," he said.

The paper, published in 2005 in the journal Applied Cognitive Psychology, received international media attention and garnered a 2006 Ig Nobel Prize. The Ig Nobels, which honor "research that makes people laugh and then think," are bestowed by the scientific humor journal Annals of Improbable Research and presented annually at Harvard University.

Oppenheimer is the co-editor of an upcoming book that reports some surprising results of studies of charitable giving. "The Science of Giving: Experimental Approaches to the Study of Charity" is a collection of research reports that discern what factors affect people when they are deciding to make donations.

In one study conducted by Oppenheimer, subjects were asked about several charities' efficiency rates — the percentage of each dollar donated that goes directly to the cause, rather than to overhead for the organization. When given a choice between several charities — one with a lower efficiency rate, one with a higher rate and one that did not publish its rate — the subjects in the study chose to donate the most money to charities that did not release any efficiency information.

"A lot of websites for charities proudly proclaim how efficient they are, but we've shown that that's going to hurt their ultimate donation rates," Oppenheimer said. "I hope that having empirical data in the public domain will allow charities to be more effective in their fundraising."

Engaging in class and on the court

Oppenheimer's enthusiasm for his research is reflected in engagement with students in the classroom, where he is "one of the most popular and effective teachers we have," in the psychology department, Prentice said. His lectures are "fast-paced and unpredictable," according to senior Connor Diemand-Yauman. "You can sense an almost palpable level of enthusiasm for the subject matter."

When teaching "Introduction to Psychology," Oppenheimer grabs the class's attention by showing optical illusions and tossing bags of M&Ms to students who volunteer to be part of classroom demonstrations. He even brings a 5-year-old into class to demonstrate how children's mental abilities differ from those of adults.

"Every time I teach the class, it reminds me why I went into psychology, because the class covers the most interesting and fun stuff in the field," Oppenheimer said. "This is most students' first exposure to psychology, and it's great to see them get excited and passionate about it."

He is "by far one of the best and the most captivating professors I've ever had," said senior Jenny Newton. "He's the reason I became a psychology major. He makes the material fun, engaging and meaningful."

Oppenheimer also teaches in the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, where he currently is leading a task force for undergraduates on higher education testing issues. Applying his expertise in psychometric testing, Oppenheimer is guiding the students through an exploration of the various approaches to evaluating higher education quality. The class will prepare a report that makes recommendations about which testing strategies schools and governments should be using.

In his lab, Oppenheimer does much of his work in conjunction with graduate students, whom he regards very highly.

"Students here are like peers, not like students," he said. "I really collaborate almost exclusively with my students." Graduate student Anuj Shah, who selected Oppenheimer as his adviser, said he values how available he is for conversations and advice.

"I chat with him almost every day," Shah said. "I can go knock on his door and he'll invite me in for a chat, and I don't consider the week complete unless I've had a couple of solid talks with him about research or things beyond the department."

Shah also credits Oppenheimer with encouraging him to pursue a wide-ranging approach to his research.

"He has always pushed me to go after big questions," said Shah. "It's a hard approach for me, and it doesn't always bear fruit. But I like to think that this approach and his advising have gradually made me a stronger thinker."

Oppenheimer's involvement with students goes beyond the classroom. He is faculty fellow — and devoted fan — of the men's and women's volleyball teams, and likes to attend student dance and theater performances.

Taylore Carroll, a senior who is captain of the women's team, said Oppenheimer "will go above and beyond to help us out in any way that he can. He has been an extremely valuable resource, teacher and friend to our team." In addition to advising players on academic issues, Oppenheimer, who played intramural volleyball at Stanford, attends most games and some practices to offer encouragement to the teams.

Oppenheimer also enjoys being in the audience for concerts and theatrical performances in which his students participate.

"One of the biggest perks of Princeton is that the students are so multidimensional and multitalented," he said. "It's much more fun to see a show or a sporting event if I have a student to root for."

Oppenheimer's dedication to his students' academic and extracurricular lives makes him a valuable mentor, students said.

"He can put on his 'professor hat' and pick out every weak point in my independent work while challeng- ing me to think more critically and creatively, and then play me in vol- leyball at the Mathey courtyard," said Diermand-Vauman. "That's a rare combination in a professor."

'GRAND' GLOBAL EXPERIENCES

More than 100 students who completed summer internships through the Princeton Environmental Institute and the Grand Challenges Program recently reported on what they learned during their experiences with faculty, research labs, governmental agencies, nongovernmental organizations, nonprofit organizations and industry enterprises in more than 20 countries. To read more about the students' experiences and their presentations at the Summer of Learning Symposium, visit www.princeton.edu/main/news. TOP: Senior Fatu Conteh (in white slacks at left and in Princeton shirt at right) traveled to Jorit, Ethiopia, to supervise the establishment of five hand-dug wells in and around the village.

ABOVE: Sophomore Ming Lu (left) and junior Molly O'Connor collected soil samples for laboratory analysis in Botswana. LEFT: Senior Justice Hauheee led a session on her internship during the symposium. RIGHT: Junior Eric Stern discussed his summer experience. The PEI/Grand Challenges internship program focuses on topics such as energy, climate, infectious disease, global health, sustanable development, conservation and environmental justice.