



THE DICKENS PROJECT



UC SANTA CRUZ



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“Precious few humanities initiatives have brought together students and readers, scholars and teachers as well as the Dickens Project has done.”

– Jill Lepore, *The New Yorker*, 2011

THE UNIVERSE AND BEYOND

Every summer in the redwoods of UC Santa Cruz, Charles Dickens scholars and enthusiasts gather for one week to discover how Victorian fiction lives on in our contemporary world.

An academic conference, book club, summer camp, and reunion of friends, the Dickens Universe welcomes faculty, students, and members of our global community. Through the pages of our much-loved 19th-century novels, we explore and celebrate the many ways Victorian fiction continues engaging today’s experiences and challenges.

The other 51 weeks of the year, the Dickens Project continues this internationally acclaimed work in universities, secondary schools, and communities nationwide.

Founded in 1981 and headquartered at UC Santa Cruz, the Dickens Project operates both as a research consortium made up of nearly 50 U.S. and overseas universities and as an incubator for projects that bring 19th-century literature into the lives of students and adults alike.

Through scholarly collaboration, teacher training, and local reading events, the Dickens Project builds vital and diverse communities around 19th-century fiction. The Project demonstrates how reading these novels collectively creates space and language to ask difficult, necessary questions about ourselves and the world we live in.

“Dickens brings together a delightful cast of characters both inside and outside of fiction.”

– GERARD COHEN-VRIGNAUD
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF
ENGLISH, UNIVERSITY OF
TENNESSEE

“The Dickens Project is home: where I can stretch myself, grow among friends, value others, share a mutual love of teas and dancing, celebrate reading, walk in the woods, discover connection and renewal, collective wisdom, inquiry, and joy.”

– GORDON HULTBERG, HIGH
SCHOOL ENGLISH TEACHER

Our vision is to develop new tools and opportunities for people to read together, to think together, and to reflect on the new insights about our present that emerge when we join forces to explore the imaginative worlds of the past.

SCHOLARLY COMMUNITY

At the core of the Dickens Project is a strong belief that scholarly research should be part of public conversations that build on the continuing critical relevance of 19th-century literature.

Our two annual conferences support scholastic collaboration that is a driving force behind much of the preeminent research in Victorian Studies. In addition to the Universe, the Project hosts a graduate student conference every spring in which students can test ideas and benefit from intensive faculty feedback. Scholars of all levels hone their research and build professional relationships.

“...[Charles Dickens was] the greatest novelist of his age, the man who beyond all English writers, with the single exception of Shakespeare, had the largest and most widespread grasp upon the hearts and human sympathies of his fellow countrymen...”

– THE OBSERVER, 12 JUNE 1870

dickens.ucsc.edu



FUNDS RAISED NOW HELP SHAPE THE FUTURE OF THE DICKENS PROJECT

We take pride in being an inclusive community for all individuals with a passion for 19th-century literature, and we are committed to providing access for those who wish to join our Universe. By expanding our scholarship and grant programs, NEH seminars, community outreach efforts, and curriculum development for teachers, the Dickens Project can continue to make these novels a vibrant, beloved part of how people understand the world.

GENERAL SUPPORT

Your gift of unrestricted support gives the faculty director the ability and flexibility to expand the Project strategically and provide funding where it is needed most. This fund supports special research initiatives, outreach to local schools, library exhibits, website development, and overseas conferences. It also includes opportunities for direct student support in the form of scholarships and grants.

FRIENDS OF THE DICKENS PROJECT

The Friends of the Dickens Project is a community-based volunteer group that provides vital enhancements to the academic and social dimension of the Dickens Universe. Your donation to the Friends group enables eminent scholars from non-consortium universities to attend, supports social events (afternoon teas, the Grand Dessert Party, the Friday Victorian ball), and provides assistance for Universe attendees with mobility challenges and other special needs.

FRIENDS OF THE DICKENS PROJECT ENDOWMENT

The Friends of the Dickens Project endowment secures long-term support for the Dickens Universe in its current location at UC Santa Cruz. Your contribution enables the Dickens Project to have a lasting impact on the lives of Victorian literature enthusiasts and students of all ages and backgrounds.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

This fund supports an annual essay contest for students at California Community Colleges. Contest winners are granted a \$3,000 scholarship to attend the Dickens Universe and earn five units of college level academic credit.

HIGH SCHOOL AND TEACHER SCHOLARSHIPS

Through a strong partnership between the Dickens Project and the Neighborhood Academic Initiative (NAI) in Los Angeles, as many as four high school students from underserved communities and their teachers attend the Dickens Universe every year. Your gift to this fund provides critical support to these students and teachers, and allows us to expand this program to more high schools in other communities. Scholarship awards vary based on travel expenses and need.

GRADUATE STUDENT TRAVEL GRANTS

The cost of travel to Santa Cruz is often a limiting factor for graduate student participation. Gifts to this fund help bring deserving graduate students from member institutions to the Dickens Universe and other Dickens Project-sponsored events throughout the year by providing up to \$300 in travel grants. The professional development of graduate students is a central goal of the Dickens Project and one of the ways in which it contributes to nurturing the next generation of 19th-century teacher-scholars.

THE DICKENS PROJECT GRADUATE STUDENT FELLOW

This fellowship (\$55,000) fully funds one UC Santa Cruz graduate student to spend a year with the Dickens Project, exploring ways to integrate their research in 19th-century literature into public outreach projects. The Dickens Project Fellow gains valuable experience working closely with the Project to help coordinate its conferences and community engagement.

CONTACT US:

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