

devotion everyday on our streets and in our communities. "Big Jim" as he was affectionately known was dedicated and professional, and when we called on him, he was ready to lay down his life for us.

On October 6, 2002, the National Fallen Firefighters Foundation will honor James and many other firefighters who made the supreme sacrifice. Every year at the National Firefighters Memorial in Emmitsburg, Maryland, survivors join together to celebrate how these brave men and women lived and what they represented in their communities. Members of the Sanford Fire Department who served as pallbearers for Mr. Haigler and a department escort will accompany Mrs. Haigler and Dustin to the ceremony. In addition, Congress, with my support, passed into law a resolution calling for all flags to be lowered to half-staff on the day of the National Firefighters Memorial Service.

The National Fallen Firefighters Memorial reminds us that our country is filled with hometown heroes, who embody the American spirit. The Haigler family, the Sanford community and the family of firefighters can be proud of the sacrifice that James Haigler made. The citizens of North Carolina and I will make sure that the memory of this hero does not soon fade.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. LORETTA SANCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 3, 2002

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, October 2, I was absent during the beginning of the legislative session as I was discussing the state of our Nation's health care with the United Domestic Workers of America/National Union of Hospital and Health Care Employees in Philadelphia.

I request that the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD reflect that had I been present and voting, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall No. 427, "yes" on rollcall No. 428, "no" on rollcall No. 429, "no" on rollcall No. 430, "yes" on rollcall No. 431, "yes" on rollcall No. 432, "no" on rollcall No. 433 and "no" on rollcall No. 434.

#### RECOGNIZING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF DANIEL JURAFSKY

### HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 3, 2002

Mr. UDALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Daniel Jurafsky and to submit for the RECORD a recent article from the Rocky Mountain News describing these accomplishments. Dr. Jurafsky recently was one of twenty-four scholars chosen as MacArthur fellows, awards granted annually by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.

Daniel Jurafsky is an associate professor of linguistics and computer science at the University of Colorado in Boulder. Dr. Jurafsky focuses on designing computer and other systems that use everyday language to communicate with their users. A major part of his re-

search is concentrated on identifying patterns in syntax that are relevant to the underlying semantic structure of communications. With the help of his colleagues, Dr. Jurafsky has found that by recognizing these patterns, computers can be more efficient and accurate in their interpretation of language because they can connect what is heard to what is most likely meant by that language.

Every year the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation rewards a small group of exceptionally creative individuals by naming them MacArthur Fellows. The foundation gives fellowship awards to those individuals who are pursuing unique approaches to their fields of study and those taking intellectual, scientific, and cultural risks. Jonathan Fanton, president of the MacArthur Foundation, has said it is "a vital part of the Foundation's efforts to recognize and support individuals who lift our spirits, illuminate human potential, and shape our collective future."

Clearly, these criteria describe the University of Colorado's awardee. Dr. Jurafsky's research is all about enabling better communications between people and computers, which is so important in our 21st century technology-driven lives.

Dr. Jurafsky is an incredibly talented and dedicated individual who is well liked and respected by his colleagues. I am certain that the foundation made an excellent choice in awarding Dr. Jurafsky this prestigious fellowship. I am honored to represent such an exemplary individual.

#### CURATOR CHOSEN FOR "GENIUS AWARD"

MacArthur Fellow to receive \$500,000 to spend as he likes

(By Bill Scanlon, Rocky Mountain News—September 25, 2002)

One day, you're working 70 hours a week and playing the drums in your spare time.

The next day, you're awarded a half-million dollars for being one of the 24 most creative and intellectually brilliant scholars in the nation.

"I was shocked," University of Colorado linguistics professor Daniel Jurafsky, 39, said Tuesday, after hearing that he was one of 24 Americans chosen as MacArthur Fellows.

The no-strings-attached awards are to nurture geniuses who are "a source of new knowledge and ideas" and have "the courage to challenge inherited orthodoxies" and to take intellectual, scientific and cultural risks.

For Jurafsky, that means time to pursue his passion for helping computers communicate better with people—and vice versa.

No-strings-attached means he could use some of the money to buy a hot tub for his funky century-old Boulder house, or to buy a Corvette or Jaguar.

"No, that's not my style," Jurafsky said Tuesday. "If it doesn't involve work or music, I'm not interested. And I have a nice old set of drums—Ludwig."

It's a good thing Jurafsky likes to travel, because otherwise he'd have a tough time deciding how to spend the half-million dollars.

"I may spend some of it on research expenses or to help pay for graduate students or postdocs," Jurafsky said. "If the department said, 'If only we had a big computer,' maybe I could buy them one. But really, computers are so inexpensive now. And unlike the sciences, we in the humanities don't have big expenses for equipment."

The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation has been presenting the awards since 1981—to 635 scholars in all. The board

searches for extraordinary originality, dedication, self-direction, exceptional creativity and promise for important future advances.

Linguistics chairwoman Barbara Fox said the MacArthur Fellow award is perfect for Jurafsky.

"He's brilliant and creative and wonderfully unique. He's generous and kind and a wonderful person."

Fox said Jurafsky "makes the department a community. He knows how to get people to work with others."

Part of the mystique of the MacArthur awards is that the nomination process is secret—the winners are caught completely by surprise.

"They call you up," Jurafsky said. "They say, 'Sit down.' They ask you if you're alone." After he heard on Friday, they told him he'd have to keep it to himself for four days. "They told me I could tell my parents, but no one else," said Jurafsky, who is not married.

Jurafsky wants to improve on Google and other search engines. Now, someone who wants to know who shot Abraham Lincoln can type in "Lincoln" and "assassination," and get back references to 1,000 Web sites.

"But suppose you want to ask an entire question and get back one short answer?" Jurafsky said. "You type in, 'Who assassinated Abraham Lincoln,' and you get back, 'It was Booth.'"

He's on sabbatical this year, but starting in January Jurafsky will teach an introductory course in linguistics and a graduate course in psycholinguistics.

When he's not jamming with some of his fellow scholars and jazz lovers, you can sometimes see him in the chorus at CU musicals. "I'm a baritone," he said.

Jurafsky's optimistic about today's students and the future of the human race. "The freshmen today know a lot more about computers than most faculty," he said.

"They're completely capable of carrying on five instant-messaging conversations while doing their homework."

"We do want to teach them programming, but their comfort level is there. Seven years ago, incoming students were afraid of computers. It's like night and day."

Jurafsky foresees a day when computers can assist translation.

People from around the world can communicate, typing in whole sentences that the computer can instantly translate "close enough so the other person can understand it. It's definitely possible."

#### HONORING THE CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF REAL ESTATE BROKERS, INC.

### HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 3, 2002

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the California Association of Real Estate Brokers, Inc. for their many contributions to the real estate industry.

The California Association of Real Estate Brokers, Inc. (CAREB) is the state chapter of the National Association of Real Estate Brokers, the oldest minority real estate association in America. CAREB has been instrumental in promoting the participation of minorities in the real estate industry and has been responsible for many of the anti-discrimination and fair housing laws which now exist locally and across the country.