

Rare air

Capturing climate change in a can

It's totally sick!

UC Irvine's dance crew culture

Party on

College Democrats' dynamic president





Dear fellow Anteaters,

"I have a vision that one day this will be a world-class university." These were the words of Daniel Aldrich Jr., UC Irvine's first chancellor, as he greeted celebrants at the campus's site dedication in 1964. They are hopeful and optimistic words, but they also laid down a challenge for future generations to never be satisfied, never be complacent, never say, "We're good enough."

Today, 49 years later, Aldrich's challenge is being met, and his vision has become reality. UC Irvine has earned international acclaim for excellence in teaching, research and service. *Times Higher Education* magazine recently ranked it the No. 1 university in the United States – and No. 4 in the world – under 50 years of age. In 2012, the Center for World University Rankings placed UC Irvine 47th internationally, and Shanghai Jiao Tong University's Academic Ranking of World Universities put it 45th. *Kiplinger's Personal Finance* included UC Irvine among its 2013 "Best Values in Public Colleges," and *The Princeton Review* named it a 2013 "Best Value College."

But the challenge remains: sustaining and advancing the quality of education UC Irvine offers its students; maintaining an environment that allows our faculty to contribute at the highest level, in both the classroom and the research lab; and continuing to be an outstanding place to work. With your support and participation, we will achieve these goals and keep on proving true Chancellor Dan's prescient words.

Sincerely,

Michael V. Drake, M.D.
Chancellor

On the cover

UC Irvine atmospheric chemistry professor Donald Blake, Ph.D. '84, hoists one of the canisters used by his team to capture samples of the world's cleanest air. The experiment has lasted 30 years, the longest continual atmospheric measuring of multiple air contaminants at mobile sites on the planet. The data offer a crucial baseline from which to observe global trends and unhealthy spikes of regional contaminants. Story on page 2.



Chasing clean air:

Led by Donald Blake, UCI scientists have been on a decades-long quest to measure atmospheric pollution.



Majoring in Kaba Modern:

Hip-hop crews come of age on campus. Plus: The king of tut: Alumnus Mike Song has everyone – and his mother – dancing “Gangnam Style.”



Life of the party:

To make the most of his UC Irvine education, Jose Quintana has thrown himself into politics.



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C H A S I N G

CLEAN AIR

Led by Donald Blake, UCI scientists have been on a decades-long global quest to measure atmospheric pollution

Conditions couldn't be worse. The air is dead, not a leaf stirring on the trees lining the dusty Mexican highway. Farmers are burning grapevines, garbage and weeds. Acrid smoke billows upward, then settles like a grimy blanket across miles of hills.

Exhausted after driving since 2 a.m. from suburban Irvine to this northern Baja stretch, UC Irvine atmospheric chemist Tai Chen '87, Ph.D. '96 takes a midmorning break at a roadside motel. He knows from long experience that winds may pick up later and improve his chances.

After a nap, he's back out, jostling his red Jeep along a rutted cutoff that can't properly be called a road. He clears a rise and gazes at the vast azure Pacific, the tiny fishing village of Punta Baja below. An ocean breeze blows straight at him

when he finally steps out onto a rocky promontory. Maybe it will work. He begins to unload his equipment.

For decades, UC Irvine scientists from the Blake-Rowland laboratory, headed by atmospheric chemist Donald Blake, Ph.D. '84, have chased down the world's cleanest air. Every three months, like clockwork, they go to Alaska, the southernmost tip of New Zealand and numerous points between, all to capture a minute's worth of air in each of 80 stubby metal canisters. They walk, hitchhike, drive, fly and clamber to the literal edges of the Earth, peninsulas jutting into open ocean or windswept islands – wherever the air will be free of local pollution.

Dawn breaks at El Mirador, north of Ensenada, Mexico. Travel funding is scarce for the air monitoring. UC Irvine chemist Tai Chen drove through the night to reach his first destination. But the scenery can be beautiful.

The samples are brought back to the basement of Rowland Hall and broken down via sophisticated chromatographs into trace amounts of dozens of gases, which are painstakingly recorded. They become part of the longest continual measurement of multiple air contaminants at mobile sites on the planet, offering a crucial baseline from which to observe global trends and unhealthy spikes of regional contaminants.

The data have been used for scores of air pollution and climate change studies, including by the World Meteorological Organization and the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

"Long-term data are required to understand the big picture. Climate changes over decadal time scales, so it requires observations over the same time scale," says NASA's upper atmosphere research program

manager, Ken Jucks. "It's critical for understanding whether our science is correct and whether policy changes are correct."

There are other longitudinal experiments – for example, one at a Hawaiian site that primarily measures carbon and another involving stationary monitors in various countries. The beauty of the UC Irvine effort, many say, is that data collection can be adjusted to avoid local pollution that would obscure global trends. Members of the Blake team have driven across New Zealand when the winds are blowing the wrong way, just to grab the cleanest air possible.

Jucks credits Blake, a UC Irvine Distinguished Professor of chemistry, for orchestrating the time-consuming project.

"It's critical for understanding whether our science is correct and whether policy changes are correct."

"Don is a unique guy. He's somebody that everybody in the science community knows and likes to work with," Jucks says of Blake, who recently received the American Chemical Society's 2013 Award for Creative Advances in Environmental Science & Technology. "He has a sense of humor, he knows his science, and he's a very likeable person who always sees the

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A muddy dirt turnoff through the El Rosario arroyo is part of the last leg to reach Punta Baja, a coastal Mexican fishing village that is one of many remote sampling sites.

A broken-down fence provides a picturesque foreground to Baja hills. Many of the places the team visits are not wealthy.

big picture. If it helps to advance the science, Don is always willing. When you do something like long-term measurement, most of the payoff comes from work that others are doing with your data.”

NASA provides about \$220,000 annually for spartan travel costs and graduate student stipends related to the testing, which is an ongoing snarl of logistics for Blake and his staff, interrupting their regular studies and lives. They tried to quit about a decade ago, when the researcher who loved it most, Murray McEachern, died. But Jucks’ predecessor at NASA wouldn’t let them.

Blake is typically unassuming when asked about the project. “It apparently is continuing to produce data for many scientists at this critical time on our planet, so we keep doing it,” he says. “The experiment is also a labor of love, a living tribute to Sherry [F. Sherwood Rowland]. It’s pretty much a rite of passage at the Blake-Rowland lab.”

That rite of passage began in 1978, when now-deceased UC Irvine Nobel laureate Rowland and Blake noticed that methane concentrations had changed markedly over 18 months at a single South American location. They decided they needed to keep an eye on this and other key gases around the world. They went to various sites sporadically until 1983, when NASA began funding the work. For 30 years straight, lab members have been traveling the length of the Pacific Rim across the four seasons, from 71 degrees north to 47 degrees south latitude.

“It’s so important to have this long-term data, to be able to pull something back from 25 years ago and see what’s changed now,” says Isobel Simpson, a senior

“It’s so important to have this long-term data, to be able to pull something back from 25 years ago and see what’s changed now.”

researcher with the Blake-Rowland lab who analyzes the data and writes scholarly papers on her findings.

Post-9/11 security concerns and international unrest have created additional travel and bureaucratic hurdles. But Blake’s team still keeps going.

The first time Chen made the trip was in 1986. He was 21, spoke no Spanish and was scared. His assignment was Baja, the same trip he makes this time. He got so lost that kindly locals took pity on him and led him to the spot they thought he was seeking. He collected his samples and climbed back in his car. Sometime after



UC Irvine atmospheric chemist Tai Chen finally prepares to take a one-minute sample of air from La Lobera in Baja, Mexico. He has driven many hours to reach this spot.

Tai Chen / UC Irvine



Steve Zyklus / University Communications

UC Irvine atmospheric chemistry professor Donald Blake checks fresh air samples brought in from around the world by members of his team. The data derived from the samples are used by scores of scientists, including at the World Meteorological Society and the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

midnight, before reaching the border, a man claiming to be a police officer pulled him over. Chen was terrified. He tentatively held out his wallet with his ID.

"He said if I gave him the \$50 I had, it would cover the fine," Chen recalls. He handed over every dollar he had and drove back to Irvine that night. Now 47, he's amused to hear newer lab members telling the story, unaware that the hapless scientist was him. As with many such tales, the details have become exaggerated over time, with the "fine" now up to several hundred dollars.

The work's reach has also grown over the decades. A leading French scientist will soon release research

relying on the data. Closer to home, two UC Irvine teams published a pair of papers last year proposing different reasons why the alarming rise in methane levels at the end of the 20th century had slowed: modifications in either fossil fuel use or rice farming practices. The question isn't academic – methane is a potent greenhouse gas that contributes to atmospheric climate change.

Both papers cited work by the Blake-Rowland lab. But the fossil fuels hypothesis now seems more likely. Blake's own team members confirmed this by poring over their long-term measurements not just of methane but of a lesser-known cousin, ethane, which is a by-product of fossil fuels but not agriculture.

On this trip, Chen easily makes it past the giant new immigration checkpoint in Tijuana. At dawn, he sees the waning crescent moon above Ensenada, with Venus nearby. To his tired eyes, the sky looks like a boy winking at him. A good omen. He clears four military checkpoints – "just bored kids with machine guns" – and chats with mussel fishermen in Punta Baja. By the time he has unloaded his equipment, it's 3:30 and the sun is sinking. He has a limited window in which he must get the air. Tomorrow he needs to be in a latitude to the north.

Chen checks the connection on a canister. He swings his arm in an arc, reaching as high as he can, and opens the valve to the sky. ●

Janet Wilson, University Communications



Tai Chen / UC Irvine

Fishermen stand on a point at Punta Baja in Baja, Mexico. Local residents in many countries often help UC Irvine scientists find the right spot or give them other friendly assistance.



Majoring in Kaba Modern

Hip-hop crews come of age on campus

Anyone who belongs to Kaba Modern, one of the top dance crews to emerge from UC Irvine, invariably pulls a lot of all-nighters. Instead of hitting the books, though, members spend long hours popping, breaking and locking – that is, honing their hip-hop moves in order to win competitions and perhaps even land a career in dance.

“We go over and over technique,” says Dana Roy, a fifth-year dance major who joined Kaba Modern her freshman year. “We usually practice three days a week, but if we’re getting ready for a competition or performance, it’s five or six hours every day. Sometimes we literally go until the sun rises.”

Kaba Modern’s synchronized style has helped put UC Irvine on the hip-hop map. The troupe gained fame in 2008 when six members vied for the title of “America’s Best Dance Crew” on MTV, coming in third. It’s won prestigious competitions with seamless performances, taking first at the Prelude Norcal Urban Dance Competition in 2011 and second in 2012 and placing first in the U.S. at Hip Hop International in 2007 and third in 2008.

“The thing that sets us apart is that we’re a big family. We know how to work together,” says Darren Wong ’11, a Kaba Modern member since 2008 and the group’s artistic director in 2011. “Our style changes every year, but we’re known for our popping and isolations – controlling every limb of your body. We’re known for our versatility.”

Kaba Modern was created in 1992 by freshman Arnel Calvario as an offshoot of Kababayan, a Filipino American student group. Other UC Irvine crews soon followed, including Common Ground, Modern Completely Insane Anteaters (MCIA), Chinese Association Dance Crew (CADC) and B-Boys Anonymous (BBA).

"Kaba created a monster of a scene at UCI," says troupe veteran Mike Song '09, now a renowned choreographer/dancer. (See related story.) "It was the first collegiate dance crew. There weren't any others at the time."

The teams are popular performers on campus, where hip-hop dominates events such as Shocktoberfest. UC Irvine's Bren Events Center is the site of the West



Photos: Steve Zylus / University Communications



Coast's first major hip-hop competition, VIBE, created in 2005 by Asian American fraternity Lambda Theta Delta.

"The dance culture is unique to UCI," says Song, who still visits Kaba Modern for training sessions. The collegiate crew has about 30 members, and more than half are UC Irvine students (the rest attend other Southern California schools or work). There's also a kids' group and Kaba Modern Legacy, featuring Song and other alumni.

While hip-hop thrives on UC Irvine's walkways and impromptu stages, the movement has grown up independent of the university's official dance programs.

"Hip-hop exists almost entirely outside the dance department," says Jennifer Fisher, UC Irvine associate professor of dance. "We concentrate on concert dance – dance as a performance art in theaters. Kaba

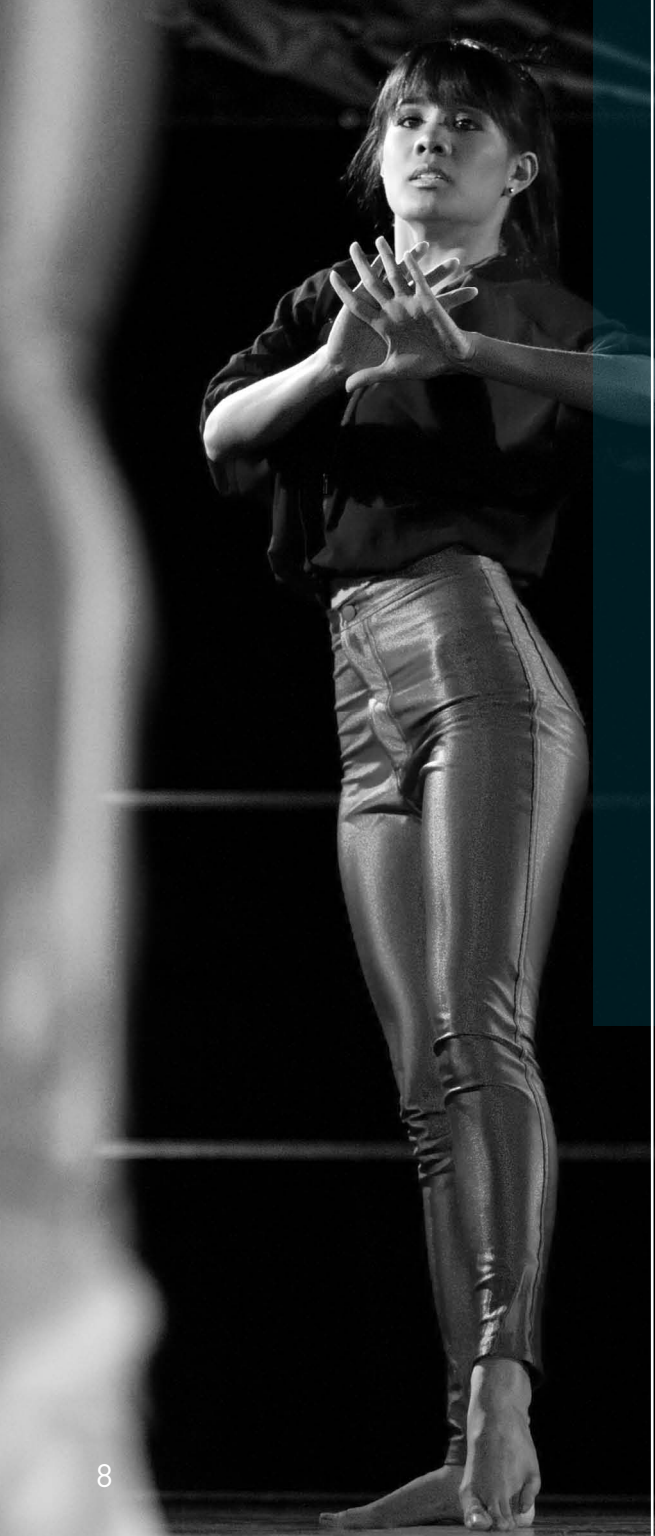
Modern and CADC are competitive crews, and art is not about winning a prize or being part of a social club. It's about making people think, revealing something about the human condition or saying something about life."

"It's not that street-dance crews don't do these things," she adds. "They might, but when you dance to impress judges, that's a different goal. Still, you don't have to see dance in the theater to respect it. Everything doesn't have to be art. Hip-hop is about being cool, creative and a bit belligerent."

She's been a fan since first seeing Kaba Modern perform on campus about eight years ago.

"I remember thinking, 'This is technically stunning,'" Fisher recalls. "They have a commitment to virtuosity. They value unison. You have to rehearse endlessly to achieve that feeling of solidarity. They resemble a corps de ballet. I admire what they do tremendously."





Steve Zylus / University Communications

Hip-hop started in the 1970s with kids B-boying or break dancing on the streets of New York City. It's evolved into a family of styles, such as popping (which includes tutting), locking, house, whacking and krumping.

"Hip-hop is a continuation of dances related to the African diaspora," says Fisher, who specializes in dance history and has presented papers about hip-hop. "The movement began with disenfranchised black and Latino youth who had nothing but their bodies and creativity. The kids doing hip-hop today are not growing up in the same atmosphere. They're kids who grew up on the mean streets of Irvine, but they still contribute to the field."

From the start, hip-hop dancers have been influenced by popular culture, especially cartoons, kung fu movies and anime.

"Consider tutting," says Fisher, referring to the angular arm and wrist moves that Song and his mother execute in their "Gangnam Style Mom" video. "It's not King Tut – it's Steve Martin's imitation of King Tut."

Hip-hop also encourages dancers to invent their own moves – to improvise, as Song and other Kaba Modern members do.

"The idea is that you take what you've been taught by the masters and immediately make it your own. That's not true in modes of dance such as ballet, where you keep your mouth shut for a long time," Fisher says.

That leaves some students torn between pursuing street dance or classic performance dance.

"Do they study jazz or modern dance at UCI, where they can take master classes with a legend like [Professor Emeritus] Donald McKayle, or do they get involved in hip-hop as an extracurricular activity?" Fisher says.

A few, such as Roy, attempt to do both. "I trained in jazz and ballet. I'd never done hip-hop before coming to UCI," she says. "I joined Kaba Modern because I loved the energy they showed to the crowd."

Roy was the group's coordinator in 2010 and 2011 and now hopes her hip-hop experience will segue into a career. Other Kaba Modern standouts – Song, Jia Huang and Cindy Minowa among them – have worked on music videos, movies and TV shows and toured with such celebrities as Rihanna and Miley Cyrus.

As hip-hop continues to evolve, Fisher says, some dancers have started taking it to the level of art. It's already crossing over into ballet, jazz and modern dance. Wong has even begun teaching a one-unit course at UC Irvine in break dancing, a sign of the growing acceptance of the style.

"We're in the middle of history," Fisher says. "I want to see someone take hip-hop and make it about longing, about wanting love in your life, about the human spirit. Then you're getting into *our* territory." ●

Kathryn Bold, University Communications



The king of tut

Alumnus Mike Song has everyone – and his mother – dancing ‘Gangnam Style’

Dancer/choreographer Mike Song '09 has been renowned in the world of hip-hop since his undergraduate days at UC Irvine. He's executed his smooth robotic moves on film, television and stage, but the performance that garnered the most attention was a simple video he made last year with his mother.

“Gangnam Style Mom,” a two-minute clip of the duo dancing in the family living room, went viral, drawing more than 7 million views on YouTube and turning Laura Song into an unlikely hip-hop sensation at age 60. The Songs even appeared on “The Ellen DeGeneres Show.”

Suddenly, everyone wanted to dance “Gangnam Style.” (The song, by South Korean rapper Psy, pokes fun at Gangnam, an upscale neighborhood in Seoul.) Even those who knew nothing about street dance were practicing wrist rolls and twisting their arms into 90-degree angles.

Song can move like a well-oiled machine, rotating his arms and wrists into shifting geometric shapes, every twitch in perfect sync to the music.

Just watch him dance as a janitor to Kanye West’s “Mercy” on YouTube (<http://tinyurl.com/ucimag-mikesong1>). He’s the king of “tutting.” The name comes from Egyptian pharaoh Tutankhamun, because dancers strike angular poses, much like those seen in hieroglyphics.

“My dance style is pretty clean, with a heavy basis of intricate musicality,” he says. “I like to catch all the little nuances.”

Born in Redondo Beach, Song began dancing in high school, inspired by such American and Korean pop artists as Michael Jackson, Usher and Yoo Seung Jun. He worked on his technique by attending free hip-hop classes at Culture Shock L.A. and studying videos of Steffan “Mr. Wiggles” Clemente and other street-dance legends.

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After enrolling at UC Irvine as an economics major, Song joined dance team Kaba Modern – which he says changed his life and helped launch his dance/choreography career.



Steve Zylius / University Communications

Mike Song performs at the VIBE 2013 hip-hop dance competition, held in January at UC Irvine's Bren Events Center. See it on YouTube: <http://tinyurl.com/ucimag-mikesong1>.

Song enrolled at UC Irvine as an economics major and joined Kaba Modern, the campus's acclaimed urban dance team. (See related story.) He was the group's artistic director when Kaba Modern placed first in the U.S. and second in the world at the 2007 Hip Hop International event in Las Vegas. A year later, he and five other members gained fame when they competed on the first season of MTV's "America's Best Dance Crew," finishing third.

"UCI changed everything," Song says. "Until then, dancing was a really serious hobby. At UCI, I realized I could do this for a living. After we appeared on 'Dance Crew,' a career fell into my lap."

He's a sought-after choreographer, recently working on "Step Up Revolution," the 2012 three-dimensional dance film in which Song performs in the office mob scene and as a robotic cop in the closing sequence.

His choreography/dancing credits also include "Dancing with the Stars" and "So You Think You Can Dance"; commercials for Ford and Disney; the music video for Jennifer Lopez's "On the Floor"; and Jabbawockeez's

live show MÜS.I.C in Las Vegas. He hopes to create his own dance show and direct movies.

"Mike Song is such an inspiring individual," says Saaya Anzai, a Kaba Modern coordinator and UC Irvine dance major. "He's not only a talented dancer, he's a positive and amazing person to be around. Despite all the exposure and fame he's gotten for the past few years, he never loses sight of where his roots are, and he always cares for the Kaba Modern family."

Song has become a mentor to hip-hop hopefuls, teaching classes at competitions and other events worldwide. He's also made popular tutorials on tutting (www.mikesong.com/category/tutorials).

Even his mother, an avid line dancer, begged him to teach her hip-hop. "I began to show her some moves and realized that she learned really fast," Song says. "So I decided, 'Hey, I need to YouTube this.'"

Performing on "The Ellen DeGeneres Show" together "gave us both something to laugh about," he says. "It was awesome family bonding."

It's not the typical hip-hop dancer who wants to bust a move with his mother or post a message on YouTube encouraging fans to be positive and "show some love to your mom today." But that's Song for you: He dances to his own beat. ●

Kathryn Bold, University Communications

"My dance style is pretty clean, with a heavy basis of intricate musicality. I like to catch all the little nuances."



Former President Bill Clinton and Jose Quintana pause for a photo op during the Democrats' pre-election rally at the Bren Events Center.

Life of the party

To make the most of his UC Irvine education, Jose Quintana has thrown himself into politics

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When former President Bill Clinton appeared at UC Irvine last October to rally Democrats before the election, he got some savvy political advice from undergraduate Jose Quintana. President of the College Democrats at UCI, he briefed Clinton on how to execute a proper Anteater salute.

"We were backstage at the Bren Events Center, and I showed him how to do the 'Zot!,'" Quintana says. "He hadn't heard of it, but I said, 'If you do this, the students will go crazy.'"

Clinton took the stage and gave the hand sign to a crowd of about 5,000. "He said, 'How am I doing?' People erupted," Quintana recalls.

That memorable encounter with Clinton wouldn't have occurred if he hadn't made a commitment to get the most out of his UC Irvine experience. The first in his family to attend a university, Quintana is working on bachelor's degrees in political science and sociology and has become active on the party circuit – the Democratic Party, that is.

"One of my mentors," he says, "[associate professor of political science] Caesar Sereseres, asked me, 'What are you doing to get your money's worth at UCI? What sets you apart? How do you spend your time outside the classroom? Are you making meaningful relationships? Are you leaving your mark here?'"



Quintana found the answers to those questions when he joined the College Democrats (more: <http://ucirvinedemocrats.webs.com>). "I've always been interested in politics. At UCI, I wanted to put that into action," he says.

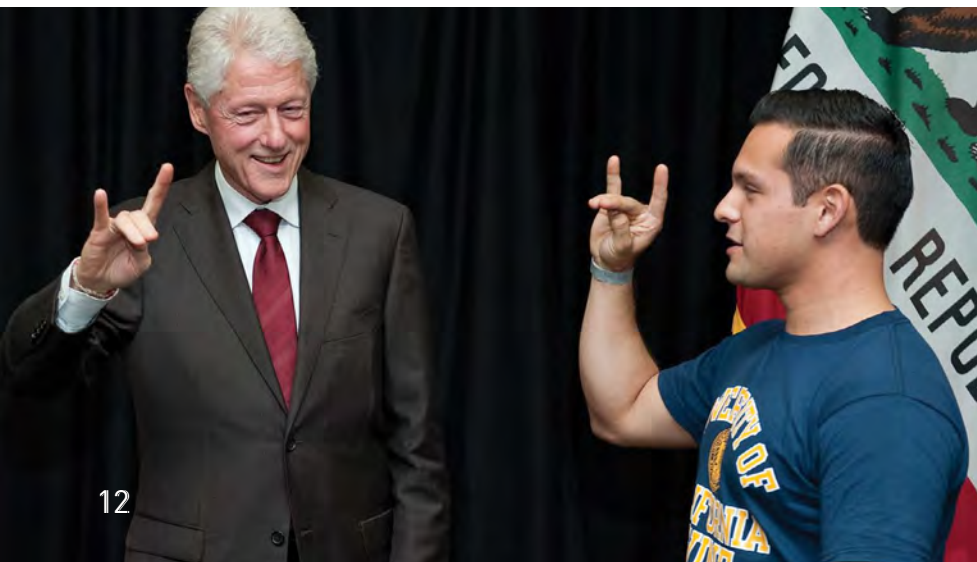
The group, which has about 25 active members, participates in politics at all levels, informing the campus about issues that affect UC Irvine and the community and supporting Democratic candidates. (Its counterpart is the College Republicans at UCI, <http://collegerepublicansuci.webs.com>.)

As president, Quintana spends a lot of his extracurricular time setting the club's agenda, fundraising, recruiting members and encouraging students to vote. He's also sold more than his share of bobas on Ring Mall and distributed countless fliers.

"I'm trying to get more students at UCI involved," he says. "Students here are really into their studies. They're focused on getting good grades and graduating quickly. It's part of the reason our group isn't as big as it could be."

Quintana has also established meaningful relationships, as Sereseres encouraged him to do, by networking with Democrats in the community. A few days before Clinton's appearance, he got a call from the California Democratic Party asking if his club wanted to co-host the event. (UC Irvine was not a sponsor; the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee funded the rally.)

Quintana shows Clinton how to properly execute the "Zot!" sign.



Peter Hyman / UC Irvine

Quintana addresses the crowd at a political rally staged by the California Democratic Party.

"I told them, 'Of course.' After that, everything moved really quickly," Quintana recalls. He was invited to kick off the event with a five-minute speech. That's when he got a valuable lesson in politics, the kind you can't get in a classroom.

"I wanted to talk about Proposition 30 because I knew a lot of students would be there, and if it hadn't passed, we would have all faced a tuition hike," Quintana says. "At first, [the organizers] didn't want to allow it. It wasn't part of the agenda, but at the last minute, they said, 'Go ahead.'"

"I learned that a lot of people have a say in how these things work, and they have competing points of view. You have to stand your ground and learn how not to get pushed around."

In short, he heeded his mentor's advice and set himself apart. Among those impressed by Quintana's poise at the podium: Leslie Millerd Rogers, Student Affairs chief of staff.

"It's our practice to reach out to student leaders if we know they're facing challenging circumstances. When a UCI student organization hosts a former president of the United States with just a few days' notice, it's time to check in," she says.

"From the minute I met Jose, I knew he was focused and could keep a cool head. He knew how to have fun while being respectful of the occasion, and he always looked to include not only members of the College Democrats but all students. He listens, absorbs, assesses and then makes his path. What a remarkable, calm student leader."

Steve Zylus / University Communications

Because of his leadership skills, he recently was named UC Irvine's undergraduate representative on the UC Office of the President's Advisory Council on Campus Climate, Culture and Inclusion. The council works with a UC Board of Regents committee to address challenges in enhancing and sustaining a tolerant, inclusive environment on the university's 10 campuses.

Quintana, who transferred to UC Irvine from Orange Coast College in fall 2011, gained important leadership qualities by first participating in the School of Social Sciences' Summer Academic Enrichment Program. (See related story.) He lived on campus for five weeks

with other first-generation college students and took courses in research, statistics, writing, communication and other skills.

"I'm not shy about speaking in front of a crowd, but the critiques at SAEP really helped me," Quintana says. "When I spoke at the rally, I felt like I was in charge. I didn't blank out."

His parents, who began working straight out of high school, have always stressed the importance of going to college. They immigrated to the U.S. from Mexico a couple months before Quintana was born. At first, they were so poor that they lived in a relative's garage.

"My mom and dad both held two jobs for many years," Quintana says. "Eventually, they became U.S. citizens and now work as letter carriers for the Postal Service."

After graduating in 2014, he hopes to pursue a master's degree in public policy or attend law school. And he hasn't ruled out a career in politics.

"Even as a young kid, I was always watching the news, and politics is a big part of that," Quintana says. "I want to influence politics in some way."

Clinton would approve. He might even flash a "Zot!" ●

Kathryn Bold, University Communications

How SAEP students spend their summer vacations

For first-generation college students such as Jose Quintana, adjusting to university life can be especially challenging. There are no parents to show them the ropes, share stories of their alma maters or offer guidance on succeeding in the competitive world of higher education.

The School of Social Sciences' Summer Academic Enrichment Program helps these students reach their full potential at UC Irvine and beyond. During the intensive, five-week residential program, participants learn the lay of the campus while taking courses taught by UC Irvine faculty that strengthen their research, writing and other skills.

It's no laidback summer camp, as Eileen Lee '12 discovered. "There was no time for the gym. There was no time for going out. There was only SAEP," she wrote on the Main Street UCI blog.

Lee soon adapted to the grueling schedule and by the third week had sharpened her study habits, which contributed to her earning bachelor's degrees in psychology

and sociology and graduating with the Chancellor's Award of Distinction and the School of Social Sciences' Order of Merit.

Thanks to SAEP, "I conquered my fear of statistics, public speaking and research," noted Lee, now pursuing a master's in demographic & social analysis at UC Irvine.

SAEP students have an impressive graduation rate of 95 percent. More than two-thirds go on to master's and doctoral programs, public policy and public health programs, law school or teaching programs.

"I can safely say SAEP has changed the lives of everyone who has ever participated in it," Lee blogged.

For more on SAEP, visit www.socsci.uci.edu/saep.

Calming influence

Marcelle Holmes leads campus efforts to help stressed-out students and promote wellness

Today's college students are under more stress than ever. With budget cuts and rising fees, they're carrying heavier loads inside and outside the lecture halls.

"There are all kinds of pressure – from parents' expectations mixed with their own," says clinical psychologist Marcelle Holmes, assistant vice chancellor of Wellness, Health & Counseling Services at UC Irvine. "We have students who were in the top 10 percent of their high school class facing obstacles for the first time. They need to develop resilience to bounce back after failure."

"At UCI, that's the spirit of what I do – enable students to accomplish what they came here to do," she says.

Holmes, who joined UC Irvine in August after serving as associate dean of students and dean of women at Pomona College, is working to help the campus's 28,000 students achieve their academic dreams by providing them with resources for avoiding excessive stress, building and maintaining a strong body and mind, and, yes, weathering the occasional crisis.



Her office includes the Health Education Center, which offers counseling and education on health-related issues such as alcohol and eating disorders. The center has a new wellness room where students can meditate, play fitness games on Nintendo Wii and practice yoga or deep breathing. Such calming activities can have significant psychological benefits, Holmes says.

A growing number of researchers, including UC Irvine biophysicist Shin Lin and psychiatrist Dr. Roger Walsh, have found that meditation, tai chi and other mind-body practices can improve mental and physical health. In a 2011 study, Walsh showed that “therapeutic lifestyle changes” such as getting more exercise, spending time outdoors and even helping others can be as effective as drugs or counseling in treating an array of mental illnesses, including depression and anxiety.

Holmes herself is a certified yoga instructor who has led meditation sessions for students and given presentations on mindfulness – living in the moment instead of worrying about the future or dwelling on the past.

“I’m no stranger to anxiety. Yoga has helped me manage stress better,” she says. “When it comes to anxiety, you’ve got to find that sweet spot. If you have too little, you’re not motivated to do anything. And if you have too much, you become paralyzed. We want students to be engaged, not overwhelmed by stress.”

Her office works to ensure that those students who do become overwhelmed have a strong safety net.

“If we have a student of concern, we try to get ahead of the problem and reach out before there’s a threat,”



A certified yoga instructor, Marcelle Holmes has led campus workshops on meditation, mindfulness and other methods for reducing stress.

Steve Zylus / University Communications

she says. “We can play a key role by recognizing signs of distress and identifying a student in trouble.”

Those students can be referred to UC Irvine’s Counseling Center, which offers a broad range of mental health services, including individual, couples, family and group counseling as well as psychotherapy. The center also provides urgent care, crisis response, consultations and outreach programs for the campus community.

“Students will have a difficult time taking maximum advantage of UCI’s academic and co-curricular resources if they have trouble adjusting to the campus, managing their stress, taking care of their health, coping with disabilities, developing healthy and wholesome relationships, and crystallizing their identity or career direction,” says Thomas Parham ’77,



vice chancellor for Student Affairs, which oversees Wellness, Health & Counseling Services. “[Marcelle] Holmes is clinically astute and a commanding presence when urgent issues demand a professional who can frame the issues, build a consensus and render a decision.”

Holmes hopes to strengthen ties among her office’s different units (Career Center, Health Education Center, Student Health Center, Disability Services Center, Campus Recreation, Counseling Center, Campus Assault Resources & Education) so they can better assist students.

“One of my goals is for more integrated services,” she says. “There should be seamless support, so a student knows about all the options for counseling or what kind of health education is available.”

For Holmes, helping students reach their potential is her greatest reward.

“I absolutely loved college and graduate school and want to create the same kind of supportive environment that nurtured me,” she says. She earned bachelor’s degrees in French and psychology from Vassar College and a doctorate in clinical psychology from the University of Michigan; her mother and father have master’s degrees in psychology.

“I hope to make it easier for UCI students to make healthful choices and to cultivate a lifestyle of good self-care. It’s my dream job,” Holmes says. ●

Kathryn Bold, University Communications

“At UCI, that’s the spirit of what I do – enable students to accomplish what they came here to do.”

Campus counseling

Whether dealing with an emotional problem or participating in a wellness activity such as meditation, students can find myriad resources on campus, including:

Campus Recreation, www.campusrec.uci.edu:

Yoga classes, exercise, wellness programs.

Counseling Center, www.counseling.uci.edu:

Services include the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer Mentoring Program; peer educators that offer mental health workshops; a life coach program; counseling (psychotherapy/psychiatry); and an urgent-care assessment.

Campus Assault Resources & Education, www.care.uci.edu:

Offers comprehensive programs to serve those affected by sexual assault, relationship abuse and stalking.

Disability Services Center, www.disability.uci.edu:

Helps students with disabilities reach their potential through educational assistance like auxiliary aids, note-taking, assistive and adaptive technologies and other resources.

Student Health Center, www.shc.uci.edu:

Serves student healthcare needs; offers a dental clinic, eye clinic, vaccinations, mental health counseling and nutrition education.

An Anteater goes to **Washington**

Dr. Ami Bera becomes the first UCI alumnus elected to Congress



Dr. Ami Bera

On Jan. 3, when new members of the 113th U.S. Congress were sworn into office, it became official: There was an Anteater in the house – the House of Representatives.

Rep. Ami Bera '87, M.D. '91 is the first UC Irvine alumnus to be elected to Congress. The doctor-turned-Democratic politician unseated Republican incumbent Dan Lungren in the election last November and now represents California's 7th Congressional District, located east of Sacramento.

It was a tight contest. Votes were still being counted – and Lungren had yet to concede – when Bera headed to Washington, D.C., for the Nov. 13 freshman orientation. Two days later, the Associated Press called the race in his favor.

The son of immigrants from India, Bera was born in Los Angeles and raised in La Palma. He earned a bachelor's degree in biological sciences and a medical degree at UC Irvine.

"I grew up in the best public education system in the country. I paid \$393 a quarter to go to medical school," Bera says. "Obviously, it's not that way today. I decided to run for Congress because I feel we have to make those investments in the next generation."

During his undergraduate days, he honed his leadership skills by getting involved in extracurricular activities. Bera was the biological sciences' representative to the Associated Students of UC Irvine; a volunteer with the Student Parent Orientation

Program – better known as SPOP; and an intern in the UCDC internship program, which introduced him to political life in Washington, D.C.

"I got a great education," he says. "The university offers a lot of opportunities, but no one will hand them to you."

Bera worked his way through medical school and, with the help of federally funded student loans, graduated with less than \$10,000 of debt. "I've always understood that I didn't get here by myself," he notes.

He practiced medicine in the Sacramento area and served as that county's chief medical officer. Bera also was a clinical professor of medicine and associate dean of admissions at UC Davis' School of Medicine before embarking on his new career in politics.

"The biggest adjustment has been the time away from my wife and daughter [15-year-old Sydra]," he says.

Dr. Janine (Williams) Bera '89 is a physician too – and an Anteater. They met while studying in Langson Library, when he was a second-year medical student and she was pursuing a bachelor's degree in social ecology. "She says I went up to [speak to] her first, and I say it was the other way around," Bera jokes.

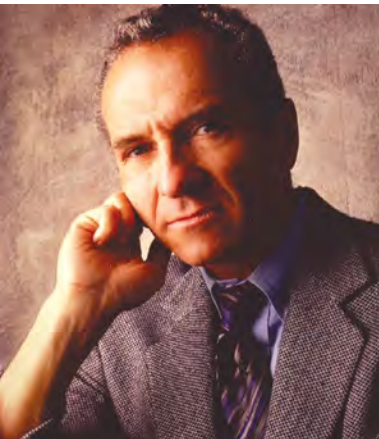
As a freshman congressman, he hopes to make good on his campaign promises to lower healthcare costs and strengthen the public education system. He also hopes to encourage others to follow a path of service, particularly Indian Americans.

"If in some small way I'm able to inspire kids about running [for political office] or getting involved in some kind of civic engagement, that will be a big accomplishment," Bera says. ●

Kathryn Bold, University Communications

Odds are in his **favor**

Mathematician who developed card-playing strategy wins UC Irvine Alumni Association's highest honor



Edward Thorp is a man who has gambled in life and won. But it wasn't luck that brought him success – it was a keen understanding of mathematics, probability and statistics.

A former UC Irvine mathematics professor, Thorp is widely known for his research that led to a now-famous card-counting strategy for winning at blackjack. He also co-created the world's first wearable computer, designed to improve the odds of winning in roulette. In 1969, he launched the first market-neutral hedge fund, which evolved into one of the most successful hedge funds in the country.

Edward Thorp

Thorp is this year's recipient of the UC Irvine Alumni Association's highest honor, the Lauds & Laurels Extraordinarius award. He will be joined on Thursday, May 16, by 17 other distinguished Anteaters, all of whom are being recognized for their outstanding contributions to the university and their communities. The event, sponsored by the UCIAA, will be held on campus in the Student Center's Pacific Ballroom.

As a founding member of the Department of Mathematics, Thorp played a key role in developing it into what is now widely considered an internationally renowned mathematics program. He currently runs his own investment company in Newport Beach.

Thorp and his late wife, Vivian, funded an endowment to attract talented mathematicians to UC Irvine. Under an investment strategy he formulated, that endowment could, over time, become the largest endowed chair in the world.

Also among those being honored at the 43rd annual Lauds & Laurels gala is alumnus Daniel Russell, an expert on how people use the Internet to conduct searches and research and to organize information. He created a popular Internet search puzzle, "A Google a Day," which appears daily online and in *The New York Times*.

Since the first Lauds & Laurels event was held in 1971, the UCIAA has recognized about 800 outstanding Anteaters – alumni, students, staff, faculty and community members in a variety of fields.

The awards ceremony has a dual purpose: Net proceeds from table sponsorships and individual ticket sales go to the UCIAA student scholarship fund. Last year, the association granted more than \$85,000 in scholarships and fellowships. Tickets to the gala are \$250, with 10-person tables available by calling 949-824-2586. ●

Kim Lane, UC Irvine Alumni office



The complete list of 2013 Lauds & Laurels honorees:

Distinguished Alumni

- Toby Weiner '84, M.F.A. '86, Claire Trevor School of the Arts
- Richard Thompson '73, School of Biological Sciences
- Gregory Lai, M.B.A. '88, The Paul Merage School of Business
- Keith Curry, Ed.D. '11, School of Education
- Krishna Shenoy '90, Ph.D., The Henry Samueli School of Engineering
- Georgina Dodge '91, Ph.D., School of Humanities
- Daniel Russell '77, Ph.D., Donald Bren School of Information & Computer Sciences
- Karen Noblett, M.D. '91, School of Medicine
- Richard Cote '76, M.D., School of Physical Sciences
- Ted Scharf, Ph.D. '95, School of Social Ecology
- Janice Cimbalo '87, '92, School of Social Sciences

Outstanding Undergraduate Student

Pichaya Kositsawat (social sciences)

Faculty Achievement

Arthur Lander, M.D., Ph.D.

Outstanding Graduate Student

Victoria Lowerson (social ecology)

Outstanding University Service

Luis Mota-Bravo, Ph.D. '83

Outstanding Student-Athlete

Kevin Tillie (social sciences)

Extraordinarius

Edward Thorp, Ph.D.

Staff Achievement

Michael Poston



Photo courtesy of Ohio University Press

Charles Hood

Charles Hood [M.F.A. Poetry, '84] an essayist, poet and short-story writer, has won the Hollis Summers Poetry Prize for *South x South: Poems from Antarctica*, published this spring by Ohio University Press. Hood has received a Fulbright fellowship, an artist residency with the Center for Land Use Interpretation, and an Antarctic Artists and Writers Program grant from the National Science Foundation. He teaches photography and writing at Antelope Valley College.

Mike Jung [Arts '96] published his first children's novel, *Geeks, Girls & Secret Identities* (Arthur A. Levine Books/Scholastic), last October. The book was named a gold medal winner by the National Parenting Publications Awards, a silver medal winner by the Parents' Choice Awards, the best middle-grade science fiction book in the 2012 Young Adult Books Central Choice Awards, and a finalist for the best middle-grade fantasy and science fiction book in the 2012 Children's & Young Adult Bloggers' Literary Awards.

Edith Maxwell* [Humanities '74] has published her debut murder mystery, *Speaking of Murder* (Barking Rain Press), writing under the pseudonym Tace Baker. *Speaking of Murder* features a Quaker linguistics professor, Lauren Rousseau, who solves murders in small-town Ashford, Mass. Maxwell was a linguistics major at UC Irvine.

Dr. Brian Montague [Biology '97] has been honored with a prestigious 2012 Patients' Choice Award. After graduating – as a valedictorian – from UC Irvine with a bachelor's degree in biology and a minor in Spanish, he earned a medical degree at Johns Hopkins University, then completed his medical and critical-care internship at UCLA, where he was voted Outstanding Intern of the Year by faculty and colleagues. Montague was chief resident during his radiology residency at UC San Diego and completed his medical training at Stanford University, specializing in interventional radiology. He currently works at SDI Diagnostic Imaging in Tampa Bay, Fla.

Yassi Motamed [Social Ecology '07] has been selected as Secondary School Teacher of the Year by the Newport-Mesa Unified School District. She teaches algebra and pre-algebra at TeWinkle Middle School in Costa Mesa. She likes to ensure that she connects with students both inside and outside the classroom, helping them feel accepted as they learn.

Sally Seaver [Social Sciences '86, Physical Sciences '88] published *The Continental Cataclysm* (Kuhn & Seaver Publishing) last December. The book explores the geological evidence and physics analysis behind Seaver's new theory on the development of continents and her assertion of a cataclysmic event that challenges the currently accepted theory of continental drift.

* UC Irvine Alumni Association member

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Alumni in the news

Derrick Agnoletti [Sociology and Dance '05] is a member of the Joffrey Ballet and recently performed in the demanding "Le Sacre du Printemps (The Rite of Spring)":

"... Agnoletti first came to Joffrey in 2003 after training for most of his life as a swimmer – even winning a state championship and swimming on the UCI NCAA swim team. After his high school swim coach sent him to ballet class to learn more coordination, Agnoletti became hooked and spent his years prior to Joffrey throwing himself into both dance and a variety of water sports. Even with his extensive athletic training in swimming, water polo, volleyball and ballet, Agnoletti says 'The Rite of Spring' is one of the most physically taxing ballets he's ever done." – "Joffrey Ballet Reconstructs 'Le Sacre du Printemps,'" KCET.org's Artbound, Jan. 23

Edward Patrick Alva [Studio Art '10] served as assistant editor of "The Invisible War," a documentary about sexual assault in the U.S. military. He discussed his reaction when he first learned that the film had been nominated for an Academy Award:

"I was ecstatic and in a state of disbelief for a while. It is extremely gratifying knowing that the countless hours of work and dedication that [were] put into the project paid off. What I think is most important is that the nomination will allow for even more public exposure to this issue of sexual assault in the military and will, hopefully, be a catalyst for change to occur." – "And the award goes to ...," Video Studio blog, Claire Trevor School of the Arts' art department, Jan. 23

Bill McBride [Chemistry '76; MBA '92] is a retired technical consultant who has become a popular blogger, thanks to his prescient analysis of the housing industry:

"McBride founded his finance blog, Calculated Risk [www.calculatedriskblog.com], to warn the world about a looming housing market collapse. As his analyses proved increasingly on the mark, he gained the attention of notable economists and his audience grew.

"These days, Calculated Risk has become a go-to source for Wall Street, the media, academics and anyone else looking for authoritative analysis of housing and the broader economy. When McBride makes a prediction – as when he called a housing bottom early in 2012 – the housing world takes note." – "Blogger keeps finger on pulse of housing market," *Los Angeles Times*, Jan. 27

Dave West [Aerospace engineering '07; Mechanical & Aerospace engineering, M.S. '09] gave up a career as an aerospace consultant to follow his dream of a simpler life, establishing the Hollyhill Hummingbird Farm in July 2011:

"'Originally, I was just trying to produce all my own food,' said West, 31, who added that the plan involved enough food for eight people – himself, his parents and a couple of close relatives plus a little extra to give away. 'But once I got going, I started loving it more and more and came to the conclusion that this is what I want to be doing, full force.'" – "Cupertino hills farm offers lessons and a break from Silicon Valley life," *The San Jose Mercury News*, Dec. 28, 2012

Anteaters celebrate **homecoming**

The 2013 Homecoming Street Festival drew about 4,000 alumni, students and community members to campus in January for the annual celebration of all things Anteater.

Sponsored by the UC Irvine Alumni Association, the festival on Mesa Road included a Greek village, food trucks, a beer garden, carnival games, entertainment, and guest appearances by Peter the Anteater and UC Irvine coaches.

After the festival, the crowd moved inside the Bren Events Center to watch the men's basketball team defeat Cal State Northridge, 79-69.

More: www.alumni.uci.edu/events/homecoming



A spirited crowd cheers the men's basketball team to victory.



Senior forward Michael Wilder greets Anteater fans.



Current and former students, families and friends pack Mesa Road during the Homecoming Street Festival.



Photos by Steve Zylus / University Communications

The homecoming court reacts as Andrew Le (far right) is announced homecoming king. Jennifer Johnson (far left) was named queen.

▶ Have **news to share?**

Just got a promotion? Changed jobs or published a book? Let your fellow Anteaters know what you are up to with a UC Irvine alumni class note. Visit www.alumni.uci.edu/connect/class-notes.php

Athletics

Scholar-athletes to be feted May 29

UC Irvine Athletics will recognize students who have excelled in the classroom as well as in competition at the “Salute to Scholar-Athletes” banquet Wednesday, May 29, at the Bren Events Center.

There will be a guest reception with scholar-athletes and head coaches at 5:30 p.m., followed by a dinner and awards ceremony at 6:30 p.m. The annual banquet is a fundraiser for student-athlete scholarships.

Awards include the Big West Scholar-Athletes of the Year; UCI Scholar-Athletes of the Year; and those for academic achievement, academic excellence, leadership and outstanding performance.

For more information about event sponsorship or purchasing a table, contact Kerry Boznanski at kboznans@uci.edu or 949-824-5550. ●



UC Irvine Athletics

Athletic Director Michael Izzi and Deputy Athletic Director Paula Smith flank track star Charles Jock '12 at last year's "Salute to Scholar-Athletes" banquet.



UC Irvine Athletics

Volleyball players Austin D'Amore, Kevin Carroll, Dan McDonnell, Will Montgomery and Carson Clark savor their 2012 national championship victory.

Men's volleyball garners L.A. Sports Award

The men's volleyball team has received a 2012 L.A. Sports Award for the best winning moment in the Division I local schools category.

In January, fans voted online for UC Irvine's May 5 victory over USC in the NCAA championship. The Anteaters swept the Trojans, 3-0, at the Galen Center, clinching their third national title in six years.

The team was recognized at the L.A. Sports Awards banquet, held in March at the Beverly Hilton. The event aired multiple times on Fox Sports West and Prime Ticket. ●

Fitness clinic honors women's excellence in sports

UC Irvine Athletics celebrated National Girls & Women in Sports Day in February by holding a free fitness clinic for about 130 participants.

The seventh annual clinic, open to Orange County youths from 5 to 12, was run by UC Irvine student-athletes and featured events in soccer, volleyball, basketball, track & field and cheer.

National Girls & Women in Sports Day began in 1987 as a way to honor former Olympic volleyball player Flo Hyman and has evolved into a celebration of the past and current achievements of female athletes.

The daylong festivities included free admission to the UC Irvine women's basketball game against Hawaii at the Bren Events Center, where the Anteaters defeated the Rainbow Wahine, 64-52. ●



Peter the Anteater and fitness clinic participants practice making the "Zot!" sign at UC Irvine's Crawford Field.



Steve Zylius / University Communications

UC Irvine seniors (from left) Stevie Ibarra, Jacqueline Ho and Marlon Castillo show off the new Zot Com social media center. By interacting with sports fans online, the interns aim to encourage Anteater pride.

Trending now: UCI Athletics launches social media hub

Tweets, shares, likes, posts and other mentions of Anteaters that have proliferated throughout cyberspace have now come together in a physical space – the new Zot Com digital media command center, launched in February by UC Irvine Athletics.

Located on campus in the lobby of the Mesa Office Building, the hub features three 47-inch television screens and three 30-inch monitors powered by four computers that follow UC Irvine sports-related content across a range of platforms, including Facebook, Twitter, YouTube and Instagram.



“This helps us to engage with our fans and build a stronger community,” says Robby Ray, assistant athletic director. “If someone tweets about Peter the Anteater, or if people share an image of Leonardo DiCaprio wearing a UCI baseball cap, as he did a few years ago, it will be on display in our center. Then we can grab it and share it [on other platforms] with our fan base.”

Five UC Irvine undergraduates have been trained to interact with fans online – answering their questions, sharing content and commenting on posts.

“They also create detailed analytic reports to share with our full-time staff,” Ray says. “One of the unique aspects of social media is that it’s all measurable. We can see what’s effective in real time and react to it on the fly.”

Zot Com was inspired by several high-profile digital media command centers, including Gatorade’s Mission Control, the NHL New Jersey Devils’ Mission Control and the University of Oregon’s Quack Cave. The hubs are still relatively rare on college campuses – Oregon’s and UC Irvine’s are among the first – but that could change as more schools discover how vital social media has become in connecting with fans.

The Anteaters’ sports programs have 17 Facebook pages (including one for Peter), eight Twitter feeds, two Instagram feeds, an official YouTube channel and a website, www.ucirvinesports.com. Coaches, student-athletes, and marketing and communications staff share access to the user accounts, moderating and contributing content related to teams and players.

“A key focus for us has been, ‘How do we provide engaging, relevant content and not duplicate it across different platforms, while providing a good user experience?’” Ray says. “The center will help us coordinate efforts.”

UC Irvine Athletics has partnered with Tickr (www.tickr.com) to filter the Web for mentions of the Anteaters, organize them on a timeline, and display it on a single page.

“A key focus for us has been, ‘How do we provide engaging, relevant content and not duplicate it across different platforms, while providing a good user experience?’”

Last December, the department also launched an “Eaters all Win” program powered by row27 Studios that rewards Anteater fans for their social media support. Participants receive points for posting content about UC Irvine sports on Twitter, Facebook or Instagram; checking in on Foursquare with their mobile devices; buying tickets to events; and donating to the Anteater Athletic Fund.

On game days, they can send their photos of Anteaters in action to “UC Irvine Fan Photo” (<http://ucirvine.crowdcameo.com>) and earn points if their images are displayed on the video board – often before the game clock runs out. Points can be redeemed for sports memorabilia, game tickets, special promotions and other prizes. For more on the program or to sign up, visit www.eatersallwin.com.

“We want to energize our fans,” Ray says. “In this digital age, it’s important to recognize and reward not only those who support us by attending our events but also those who are digital advocates for the Anteaters.” ●

Kathryn Bold, University Communications

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UCI turning the corner on **autism**



Steve Zylius / University Communications

“UC Irvine has world-class molecular geneticists, biophysicists, neurobiologists, behaviorists, pharmacologists and clinical researchers, many of whom are already engaged in the study of autism and are excited by the opportunity to work together in an integrated program,” says Dr. J. Jay Gargus, director of the Center for Autism Research & Treatment.

Editor’s note: In April, National Autism Awareness Month, William and Nancy Thompson will be honored at the 2013 UC Irvine Health School of Medicine Gala for their commitment to improving treatment and finding cures for autism spectrum disorders. In the next issue of UC Irvine Magazine, we’ll tell you more about the gala and UC Irvine’s efforts to help the growing number of children and families affected by autism.

With \$14 million from the William & Nancy Thompson Family Foundation and the Children & Families Commission of Orange County, UC Irvine is helping lead the charge against a disorder that affects about 1 in 88 children in the U.S.: autism.

The funding created the Center for Autism & Neurodevelopmental Disorders of Southern California, which will provide unparalleled access to assessment, diagnosis, care coordination, family support and education for children, teens and young adults.

Along with facilitating this continuum of care, the generous funding will augment an aggressive UC Irvine research campaign to find new treatments that is affiliated with the new center.

“In addition to all that the Center for Autism & Neurodevelopmental Disorders of Southern California will offer, we must stand behind world-class research,” says William Thompson, chairman of the William & Nancy Thompson Family Foundation. “This is taking place right now at UC Irvine. Real breakthroughs must start with research that is directed toward novel treatment approaches, and the research team at UC Irvine is distinctively set up to do this. These efforts walk hand in hand with our clinical, educational and advocacy efforts.”

Under the leadership of Dr. J. Jay Gargus, professor of physiology & biophysics and pediatrics, the Center for Autism Research & Treatment (CART) will launch an innovative drug discovery effort uniting multidisciplinary campus scientists in a common purpose: to develop an effective pharmaceutical therapy for the core deficits of autism.

“UC Irvine has world-class molecular geneticists, biophysicists, neurobiologists, behaviorists, pharmacologists and clinical researchers, many of whom are already engaged in the study of autism and are excited by the opportunity to work together in an integrated program,” says Gargus, a nationally recognized metabolic/genetic specialist.



“We have amazing pieces of the puzzle coming together here. UC Irvine is truly distinctive in this aggressive push to a cure.”

“CART presents a distinctive chance to have a transformational and lasting impact on autism worldwide because of our focus on how molecular, cellular and brain functions are altered and how drugs affect each level. We are confident that the program and its goals are feasible because all of the necessary pieces are already in place at UC Irvine.”

The center’s role is particularly important today, he says, because major pharmaceutical companies have mostly neglected autism, and breakthroughs in decoding the human genome are now providing researchers an unprecedented opportunity to understand the innermost workings of autism.

More than a decade ago, it was discovered that cancer is a genetic disease, making the defective genes a target of drug discovery campaigns – and resulting in the first round of cancer drugs specific to the molecular lesion. Thus began an optimistic new era of cancer treatments.

Gargus thinks autism research is at a point where it can begin duplicating the trajectory of cancer research. “It is now clear that most autism, like cancer, has a genetic basis and that while rare forms of both are caused by mutations in single genes, many defective genes in a pathway generally need to work together to produce disease,” he says.

By determining the mechanisms by which malfunctioning genes affect the common neural pathways linked to autism, Gargus believes, it will be possible to design or repurpose existing drugs to normalize the function of those channels. Like cancer therapy, this may well require a synergistic cocktail of drugs that act on distinct but interacting targets.

Three separate drug discovery efforts by UC Irvine neuroscientists involving these neural pathways are being integrated into CART.

Pharmacology professor Kelvin Gee is testing compounds that stabilize the firing rate of brain cells; psychiatry & human behavior professor Gary Lynch is using molecules called ampakines to increase growth factors in brain cells that allow for normal signaling; and Daniele Piomelli, the Louise Turner Arnold Chair in the Neurosciences, is finding that boosting natural, marijuana-like chemicals in the brain can improve transmission between neurons.

While not originally focused specifically on autism, their work on these compounds addresses biological machinery implicated in the disorder.

“We’re approaching this from different points of view to see what can work,” says Gee, who has also created the basis of a treatment for fragile X syndrome – a form of autism – that is currently undergoing clinical trial. “The more disciplines you can get under one roof, the more lightbulbs you get to turn on. I think it’s great.”

“We’re really raising the bar high,” Lynch adds.

Because these compounds have been found effective in rodent models, and some have already been found safe for people, Gargus notes, they’re much closer to reaching early-stage testing in human patients.

“We have amazing pieces of the puzzle coming together here,” he says. “UC Irvine is truly distinctive in this aggressive push to a cure.” ●

Tom Vasich, University Communications

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Letter from Vice Chancellor **Gregory R. Leet**



Spring is a time for renewal and regeneration. We can see it all around us on our beautiful campus. The trees are blooming, flowers are budding, and there’s a feeling of hope and promise for the future in the air. So it seems a fitting time to report that UC Irvine’s “Shaping the Future” campaign has surpassed its \$800 million milestone ahead of schedule and is moving steadily toward reaching its \$1 billion goal in 2015.

The university is truly honored by the continued expression of confidence and support from trustees, faculty, staff, alumni, parents, students and community friends. “Shaping the Future,” UC Irvine’s first comprehensive campaign, is experiencing an extraordinary level of participation and generosity – from both longtime and first-time contributors to the university. This unprecedented support will shape the future of UC Irvine for decades to come through four strategic initiatives: Global Connections, Health, Learning & the Mind, and Smart Energy & Sustainable Environment.

The “Shaping the Future” campaign began during the 2005-06 academic year and was publicly launched in 2008 with \$400 million in private donations from individuals, corporations and foundations already in place. The ongoing commitment of UC Irvine’s most ardent supporters continues to exceed all expectations in realizing the university’s mission of academic excellence, groundbreaking research and public service. The campaign already has created new, state-of-the-art facilities; advanced life-changing research and discovery; enriched our students’ experience; and funded fellowships and scholarships.

Our world and financial reality is substantially different now than when “Shaping the Future” began. In order to ensure that our priorities are still as dynamic and relevant as required for the balance of the campaign, under the direction of Chancellor Michael Drake and UC Irvine Foundation Chair Hazem Chehabi, the steering committee has redoubled its efforts and infused itself with new members. These include Amer Boukai ’85 and ’87; Jane Buchan, Ph.D., CAIA; Edwin Fuller; and John David Gerace ’87. Campaign Chair Doug Freeman, working with the committee, is leading the way to help donors positively affect our students and faculty. UC Irvine is enormously grateful for their dedicated service.

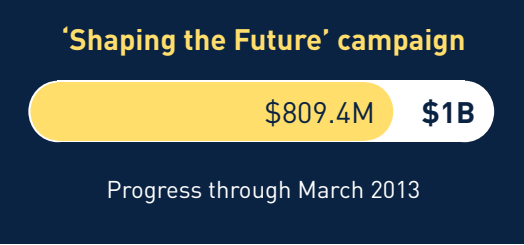
In closing, I wish to again thank UC Irvine’s deeply committed supporters. With their partnership, the “Shaping the Future” campaign is making an enduring difference in UC Irvine’s ability to transform our world.

Best regards,

Gregory

Gregory R. Leet
Vice Chancellor | University Advancement

“Shaping the Future” campaign
www.ucifuture.com



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Events

Celebrate UCI, April 20



Steve Zylius / University Communications

Abraam Girgis struggles to keep his Hula-hoop going during Wayzgoose 2011.

In what has become a favorite rite of spring, the university will welcome thousands of visitors to its annual open house, Celebrate UCI. The event features games and kiddie rides, food, live entertainment, academic information, a classic car show, tram tours, the Wayzgoose festival and more. Housing, admissions, financial aid and other offices will be open to the public. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, April 20. Aldrich Park. Free admission and complimentary parking. More: www.celebrate.uci.edu.

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'Kei Akagi & Friends in Concert,' April 26 & 27

The Claire Trevor School of the Arts' Faculty Artist Series will present Kei Akagi, Chancellor's Professor of music and director of jazz studies, in concert with fellow musicians. 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, April 26 & 27. Winifred Smith Hall. \$11-\$15. More: 949-824-2787 or www.arts.uci.edu/tickets.



Daniel A. Anderson / University Communications

World-renowned jazz pianist and composer Kei Akagi

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'Orfeo ed Euridice,' May 17 & 18

The UCI Symphony Orchestra, the UCI Choirs and vocal arts students will perform "Orfeo ed Euridice," Christoph Willibald Gluck's opera based on the myth of Orpheus, with Stephen Tucker conducting. 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, May 17 & 18. Claire Trevor Theatre. \$11-\$20. More: 949-824-2787 or www.arts.uci.edu/tickets.

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Commencement 2013, June 14-16

UC Irvine will hold its 48th annual commencement ceremonies for those receiving bachelor's and master's degrees (except M.F.A. graduates). Friday through Sunday, June 14-16. Bren Events Center. More: www.commencement.uci.edu.

► More **campus events**
<http://today.uci.edu/calendar>

Business school breaks ground on new building



Artist rendering of The Paul Merage School of Business' new building

In January, The Paul Merage School of Business broke ground on its new building, set for completion in 2014.

At 78,000 square feet, the five-story structure will be 76 percent larger than the existing building. It will be home to a high-tech, 300-seat auditorium; several of the Merage School's Centers of Excellence; the Charles Schwab & Co. trading and technology lab; and the 70-seat Lyman Porter Colloquia Room with an attached outdoor terrace for events.

Other features include the 70-seat and 90-seat Experian case-study classrooms, the Corporate Partners Executive Conference Room, the Judy Rosener multipurpose classroom and 20 small-group-study rooms. There also will be ample space for academic and administrative offices, indoor/outdoor dining areas and a 4,000- square-foot grand terrace overlooking a courtyard.

"The new Merage School building will put us at the forefront of innovation, collaboration, research and technology," said Andrew Policano, dean of The Paul Merage School of Business. "It's the next-generation building for the next generation of business, providing new ways for our faculty and students to interact with each other and serving as the true hub of the vibrant Orange County business community."

The cost of the building is estimated at close to \$50 million, with \$40 million allocated by the state and \$10 million to be raised from private donations by business school supporters and community members. For more information on the Building for the Future campaign, visit <http://merage.uci.edu/Tools/Participate/index.aspx>. ●

Law school grads rank second in state for passing the bar

The UC Irvine School of Law's inaugural graduating class passed the California bar exam at a rate of 90 percent last July, ranking second in the state only to Stanford University (94 percent).

Of the 51 members of the class of 2012 who took the exam, 46 passed on their first try. Three who took the exam in other states also passed.

UC Irvine's 90 percent pass rate is well above the 77 percent average pass rate for first-time takers from accredited schools, according to the State Bar of California.

"We are extraordinarily pleased that our first graduating class had such a tremendous showing," said Erwin Chemerinsky, UC Irvine law school dean. "It reflects not only the high academic merit of the students but also the strength of our educational program." The law school held a swearing-in ceremony and reception for the new state bar members last December. ●



Newly minted lawyers Yimeng Dou '12 (left) and Sam Lam '12 from the inaugural class of UC Irvine's School of Law give each other a celebratory high five during a swearing-in ceremony at the campus's Student Center.

Steve Zylius / University Communications

Desert research center gets funds for improvements



Daniel A. Anderson / University Communications

The Steele/Burnand Anza-Borrego Desert Research Center

The California Wildlife Conservation Board has awarded \$2.833 million in Proposition 84 funds for new construction at UC Irvine's Steele/Burnand Anza-Borrego Desert Research Center in Borrego Springs.

The facility supports field research by biologists, astronomers, anthropologists and others in the vast Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, in eastern San Diego County.

The Proposition 84 money matches \$2.833 million from UC Irvine that was used to complete an earlier phase of the project, which provided seismic upgrading, a new roof and utility improvements. The upcoming work is expected to include:

- A new laboratory building.
- Two residential structures – a dormitory capable of housing 24 students and a four-unit apartment complex for long-term researcher use.
- A patio courtyard.
- Additional locker-room facilities.
- A small storage building.
- An outdoor staging area.
- Improved parking.

University officials hope to begin construction as early as May. ●

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Freshman applicants for fall hit record high

Freshman applications to UC Irvine for fall admission rose to a record high this year, with about 61,000 vying to become Anteaters. More than 15,000 transfer students also applied, bringing the total to 76,235, a 9 percent increase over the previous year and the fourth-highest among the nine undergraduate campuses in the University of California system.

"The numbers demonstrate once again the high demand for a UC Irvine education," said Brent Yunek, assistant vice chancellor for enrollment services. "It's exciting to see this level of enthusiasm from California residents, underrepresented minorities, and international and out-of state students."

Data from freshman applicants show:

- An 11.3 percent increase in overall freshman applications – from 54,465 to 60,619.
- A 5.6 percent increase in California residents – from 47,491 to 50,133.
- A 50 percent increase in nonresident applications – from 6,974 to 10,486.
- A 21 percent increase in underrepresented minorities among California-resident applicants, due primarily to a 26 percent increase in Chicano applicants. ●

The Donald Bren School of Information & Computer Sciences saw the largest increase in applicants of any UC Irvine academic unit, with a 31 percent jump. Here, computer science major Allan Beckman offers app design guidance to Troy Marino as part of a project in which UC Irvine students mentor budding app developers from local middle schools.



Steve Zylus / University Communications

UCI awarded \$1 million for deep-ocean power science lab

The W.M. Keck Foundation has granted \$1 million to UC Irvine to build a campus laboratory in which researchers can explore the potential of using the deep ocean's low-temperature and high-pressure conditions to generate carbon-free power from methane hydrates.

Three-dimensional, ice-like structures with natural gas locked inside, methane hydrates are found under the Arctic permafrost and in ocean sediments along nearly every continental shelf in the world. They're difficult to recover, though, because they require low temperatures and high pressure to remain solid. The new laboratory will investigate novel strategies for utilizing the natural gas contained in methane hydrates through high-pressure combustion and for immediately capturing and mitigating any carbon dioxide emissions.



Daniel A. Anderson / University Communications

The facility, to be called the W.M. Keck Foundation Deep-Ocean Power Science Laboratory, will be a joint project of UC Irvine's Henry Samueli School of Engineering and School of Physical Sciences. It will be built in an existing two-story space in the campus's Engineering Gateway building. ●

Derek Dunn-Rankin, professor and chair of mechanical & aerospace engineering at UC Irvine and lead investigator on the project

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Apple honors UCI's iMedEd Initiative



Steve Zylius / University Communications

Digital notes, outlines and diagrams downloaded onto iPads aid students during lecture courses in the UC Irvine School of Medicine. It's part of the iMedEd Initiative.

The iMedEd Initiative – UC Irvine's innovative medical education program based on iPad tablet computing – has been chosen as a 2012-13 Apple Distinguished Program.

This year, iMedEd Initiative joins select programs that Apple is honoring nationwide as exemplary learning environments that integrate the company's technology into education and meet criteria for visionary leadership, innovative learning and teaching, ongoing professional learning, compelling evidence of success, and a flexible learning environment.

"The iMedEd Initiative has been selected as an Apple Distinguished Program for its innovative, digital-based educational platform that conforms to the 21st century learning styles and needs of students throughout the world," said Dr. Ralph V. Clayman, dean of the UC Irvine School of Medicine. ●

Beckman Foundation awards eye institute \$3 million



The first-floor Gavin Herbert Eye Institute, shown here in an artist's rendering, will be named the Arnold & Mabel Beckman Foundation Center for Vision Care in honor of the late inventor and his wife.

The Gavin Herbert Eye Institute, which is part of UC Irvine Health, has been awarded a \$3 million grant from the Arnold & Mabel Beckman Foundation for fellowships and instruments that advance research to prevent blindness caused by such diseases as age-related macular degeneration and retinitis pigmentosa.

“We are grateful to the Arnold & Mabel Beckman Foundation for demonstrating confidence in the quality of scientific discovery taking place at The Gavin Herbert Eye Institute,” said Dr. Roger Steinert, professor and chair of ophthalmology at UC Irvine and director of The Gavin Herbert Eye Institute. “Researchers here share the late Dr. [Arnold] Beckman’s commitment to excellence and will use this grant to strategically support our bold goal of eradicating blindness by 2020.”

The grant includes \$1 million for state-of-the-art instruments designed to perform promising medical procedures such as stem cell transplantation for retinal degeneration. The other \$2 million establishes fellowships for young researchers to contribute to stem cell studies and other exciting new avenues of eye research. ●

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Engineering professor **Satya Atluri** honored by president of India



Satya Atluri, Distinguished Professor of mechanical & aerospace engineering

The government of India has named UC Irvine Distinguished Professor Satya Atluri as a 2013 recipient of the Padma Bhushan award.

The country's third-highest civilian award, the Padma Bhushan honors distinguished service of high order. Atluri teaches in the Department of Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering and directs the Center for Aerospace Research & Education at The Henry Samueli School of Engineering. His widely cited research spans several disciplines and has led to greater aircraft safety and durability.

"As a teenager growing up in India, I followed with awe the two or three Padma Bhushan awardees in the sciences each year," wrote Atluri in a note to colleagues. "I never dreamed that one day I would be considered to be worthy of this award, but here it is, proof only of the fruits of labor and commitment to science, education and research. I want to share my immense joy on this occasion and thank UCI for giving me a job and an opportunity to think, to teach and to publish."

Atluri is one of six honorees in the category of science and engineering and one of 24 total to receive the honor this year. The awards will be conferred by President Pranab Mukherjee this spring. ●

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Sociologist elected to National Academy of Education



Kristen Salisbury / UCI School of Social Sciences

Rubén G. Rumbaut, UC Irvine professor of sociology, has been elected to the National Academy of Education. He's one of 12 new members admitted this year for outstanding contributions in educational research and policy development.

"Professor Rumbaut's insightful work on the critical role of education in creating an accomplished and diverse populace has key lessons for educators and policymakers," said Barbara Doshier, dean of UC Irvine's School of Social Sciences and professor of cognitive sciences. "We are delighted to see his work recognized by this important honor."

Rubén G. Rumbaut

Rumbaut is internationally known and widely cited for his research on children and young adults raised in immigrant families of diverse nationalities and socioeconomic classes. He has authored, co-authored or edited numerous publications on the topic, including 14 books – with two more forthcoming. ●

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13 from UCI named **AAAS fellows**

Twelve UC Irvine researchers and one administrator have been made fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the world's largest general scientific society.

A total of 702 AAAS members were honored in 2012 for their efforts to advance science or its applications. New fellows received an official certificate and a gold-and-blue rosette pin in February at the organization's annual meeting in Boston. The new UC Irvine fellows are:

- Bruce Blumberg, professor of developmental & cell biology, pharmaceutical sciences and biomedical engineering
- Andrew Borovik, professor of chemistry

- Ken Cho, professor of developmental & cell biology
- Ron Frostig, professor of neurobiology & behavior
- David Gardiner, professor of developmental & cell biology
- Wen-Hwa Lee, Donald Bren Professor of biological chemistry
- Jacob Levin, assistant vice chancellor for research development
- Hartmut Luecke, professor of molecular biology & biochemistry, physiology & biophysics and computer science
- Markus Ribbe, professor of molecular biology & biochemistry and chemistry
- Ann Sakai, professor of ecology & evolutionary biology
- Rozanne Sandri-Goldin, professor and chair of microbiology & molecular genetics
- Thomas Schilling, professor of developmental & cell biology
- Gregory Weiss, professor of chemistry and molecular biology & biochemistry ●



Rozanne Sandri-Goldin was named an AAAS fellow for her work in molecular virology.



Bruce Blumberg was honored for his contributions to the field of developmental biology.

Getting to know **Lorelei Tanji**, university librarian



Steve Zylus / University Communications

Lorelei Tanji

What she does: Lorelei Tanji heads UCI Libraries, a sprawling information center that encompasses 3.2 million books; 143,000 government documents; 132,000 journals and serials; and 135,000 audiovisual materials. Interested in local or regional history? How about Southeast Asian American culture? Special Collections & Archives includes a wealth of materials on these subjects. The Critical Theory Archive draws researchers from around the world in search of manuscripts by key scholars in the field, such as French philosopher and former UC Irvine professor Jacques Derrida. In 2011-12, UCI Libraries' facilities received 1.9 million visits, and its website received 6.1 million virtual visits.

Bookmark: In her spare time, Tanji reads books about gardening, home improvement and design, helpful tomes as she settles into her new home in University Hills. She just started Walter Stahr's *Seward: Lincoln's Indispensable Man* and looks forward to Doris Kearns Goodwin's *Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln*, the inspiration for Steven Spielberg's Oscar-winning film. She reads books in print and on various mobile devices (Nook, iPad, cellphone).

21st century librarian: Since the introduction of the Internet, things have gotten more exciting in the field of librarianship, Tanji says: "Librarians are information providers, and we provide a service that helps people do research in both a digital and print environment. Our role is to leverage technology in terms of access and discovery of information." Librarians, she notes, are involved in the entire "life cycle" of research – finding information; developing topics; and creating, publishing and preserving a final product.

Music to her ears: Tanji holds a master's degree in library & information science and another master's in music from UCLA, as well as a bachelor's degree in music from UC Davis. A skilled violin and piano player, she began her career at UC Irvine in 1990 as a fine arts librarian, responsible for art, art history, dance, drama and music. "You can go into library work with any major," Tanji says. "There are librarians with engineering, biology and history backgrounds. Librarianship is a good way to combine disciplinary expertise with a passion for information and lifelong learning."

Human resources: Staff is critical to any library's success, Tanji says: "Our staff makes things work here. They open the doors, greet people, and deliver high-quality research services and collections." UCI Libraries, she adds, is one of the largest employers of students on campus. "By working at the library, students become aware of the library services, workshops and resources that can help them succeed in their academic careers," Tanji says. "I was a student library assistant at UC Davis, and it helped me feel confident about asking questions. Librarians may not know everything, but we know where to look and who to ask." ●

Laura Rico, University Communications

3 physical sciences professors earn **Sloan Foundation grants**

Three faculty members from the School of Physical Sciences are among the 126 outstanding U.S. and Canadian recipients of 2013 Sloan Research Fellowships. Awarded annually since 1955 by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, the fellowships go to early-career scientists and scholars whose achievements and potential identify them as rising stars.

The UC Irvine honorees are:

- Matt Law, assistant professor of chemistry, who is researching low-cost and Earth-abundant alternatives to the expensive materials now used in making solar panels.
 - Jeffrey Streets, assistant professor of mathematics, whose research focuses on geometric evolution equations and their application to topology, geometry and mathematical physics.
 - Jing Xia, assistant professor of physics & astronomy, whose research in condensed-matter physics is aimed at making next-generation electronic devices and robust quantum computers. ●
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In memoriam: Beatriz Noronha da Costa



Beatriz Noronha da Costa

Beatriz Noronha da Costa, associate professor of studio art, died Dec. 27 in New York at the age of 38.

Born in Germany, she studied art at France's Ecole d'Art d'Aix-en-Provence and pursued graduate studies at Carnegie Mellon University. Da Costa joined the art department at UC Irvine's Claire Trevor School of the Arts in 2003 and had joint appointments in electrical engineering

and computer science. She was a founding member of UC Irvine's graduate program in arts, computation and engineering, which grants a two-year M.F.A./M.S.

Da Costa was a proponent of social justice and challenged inequity in her art, which took form in robotics, microelectronics, sculpture, performance, photography and video. She produced work that bridged the arts and sciences and ran workshops that translated technical and scientific developments in ways that were accessible to the public.

Da Costa was diagnosed with stage IV metastatic breast cancer in 2009. Her final projects – "The Life Garden," "Dying for the Other," "The Delicious Apothecary" and "The Anti-Cancer Survival Kit" – dealt with her experience living with cancer. She continued to work and create art until the very end of her life, even as she faced significant physical challenges. She's survived by her mother; her extended family and network of friends; her partner, UC Irvine art professor Robert Nideffer; and her beloved dog, Lucinha. For more information, visit www.beatrizdacosta.net. ●

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Steve Zylus / University Communications

A 'fro-tastic season

Men's basketball turned a lot of heads this year, not just because of the Anteaters' competitive play but because of senior forward Michael Wilder, aka "The 'Fro," who became famous for his fabulous hair as well as his fighting spirit. Here, Wilder shows fine form while driving the ball down court during the homecoming game against CSU Northridge. UC Irvine won that game and made it as far as the NCAA Big West Tournament championship. The Anteaters will be back to take another shot at the title next year – but without The 'Fro, who graduates in June. For more on Wilder, visit <http://news.uci.edu/features/free-fro/>.

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Get ready to Celebrate UCI!

UC Irvine's annual open house takes place Saturday, April 20. The event includes the Wayzgoose Festival in Aldrich Park, featuring food, games and entertainment. For more information, visit www.celebrateuci.edu.

Steve Zylus / University Communications