Multi-faceted outreach program driven by simple premise: Better teachers make better students.
Redefining security

By Richard Matthew

American universities have always played a crucial role in addressing national security issues. This has never been more true than today, especially at UCI.

Since the end of World War II, the dominant U.S. security challenge has been to prevent another world war. Universities established centers to study global conflict, the Soviet Union and nuclear weapons, and their research prompted policies designed to expand trade and democracy worldwide. These practices promoted cooperation over confrontation and enmeshed nations in new alliances in pursuit of prosperity and peace.

In recent decades, dramatic advances in information and transportation technologies – resulting in the Internet, cheaper air travel, more automobiles – have, in their own way, diminished the likelihood of a third world war. Concurrently, however, these powerful, inexpensive technologies, thriving under the conditions of political transparency and economic openness, have redefined what constitutes a national security threat.

Environmental impacts, for example, have led some scholars to predict devastating climate change ahead. New infectious diseases, such as HIV-AIDS and SARS, have raged across the planet. Computer hackers and identity thieves have caused billions of dollars in damage with mere key strokes. And al Qaeda has ushered in an era of unprecedented terrorism. The open systems that reduced the threat of world war seem sadly vulnerable to global pollution, crime, disease and terror.

UCI has a well-established research record in many of the areas now on our national security agenda, and faculty experts across the campus are engaged in a number of new security-related initiatives. In one such effort, UCI is weaving disparate strands of research and education into a robust and pioneering center focused on unconventional security affairs. This center will investigate causes, develop new ways of assessing risks, explore the implications of existing policies, and prepare the technological and private sectors for the security demands that will be placed on them.

We might wish this shift in focus had come about for different reasons. But, as history shows, we have no choice now but to put our energy and talent into solving these contemporary problems.

Richard Matthew is associate professor of social ecology and political science in the Schools of Social Ecology and Social Sciences. He heads the initiative to establish a new center for unconventional security affairs at UCI.
Ayala earns extraordinary tribute
The title of University Professor is an honor thus far bestowed on only 35 faculty members within the University of California system.

UCI’s Francisco Ayala, Donald Bren Professor of Biological Sciences, recently became the latest bearer of the title given officially by the UC Board of Regents to recognize scholars of international distinction and exceptional teaching ability. Ayala is considered one of the most distinguished scientists in ecology and evolutionary biology worldwide. He also has earned a reputation as a teacher with extraordinary ability to engage and inspire students at all levels.

More: www.today.uci.edu/univprof

Francisco Ayala received the National Medal of Science, the nation’s highest science honor, from President George W. Bush last year.

DID YOU KNOW?
High marks in admissions, quality
Records were reached when 34,359 high school seniors applied and 17,926 were admitted to UCI for fall 2003. The admitted students’ credentials also make them the most academically talented in UCI history, with an average SAT score of 1246 and average GPA of 3.87 – both all-time highs.

New hospital project sets sail
With the UC Regents’ approval in May of a new, state-of-the-art hospital at UCI Medical Center, the university is on its way to bringing a landmark center for medicine to Orange County.

“We are delighted with the regents’ decision,” says Dr. Ralph Cygan, CEO of UCI Medical Center. “This will give Orange County and the surrounding communities a medical facility comparable to any in the world.”

While most of the hospital’s $365 million in construction costs will be funded by previously approved state bond funds, the project’s capstone of $50 million is being raised from private sources. Groundbreaking is tentatively scheduled for early 2004, and construction of the main hospital is expected to be completed by 2008.

More: www.ucihealth.com

Health care, cancer experts are newest Donald Bren Professors
Established in 1988 to attract the most creative and accomplished minds to UCI, the Donald Bren Endowment has added two new stars to UCI’s College of Medicine – Dr. Sheldon Greenfield and Professor Wen-Hwa Lee.

Greenfield is Donald Bren Professor of Medicine and a physician internationally known for his pioneering role in creating and advancing quality of care and health services research. He comes to UCI from Tufts University in Boston where he served as professor of medicine and community health, and director of the Primary Care Outcomes Research Institute.

Lee is Donald Bren Professor of Biomedicine in the Department of Biological Chemistry. He gained renown for identifying a tumor-suppressor gene that plays a vital role in the cellular battle against cancer. Lee previously was professor of pathology, the Alice P. McDermott Distinguished University Chair and founding director of the Institute of Biotechnology at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio.

Turning discoveries into therapies
In a crucial step toward speeding laboratory research into useful treatments, the National Institutes of Health has awarded UCI’s Reeve-Irvine Research Center a five-year, $2.6 million grant to confirm or refute new findings in spinal cord injury research.

“New results only become breakthrough treatments if they are confirmed independently by other scientists,” says center director Oswald Steward. “Our laboratories can accelerate that process and help determine where tomorrow’s treatments may lie.”

More: www.reeve.uci.edu

Oswald Steward is leading efforts to confirm spinal cord research discoveries.
Ambitious outreach program centers on the premise that better teachers make better students

To Everly Fleischer, building the largest educational outreach effort in UCI’s history is a lot like making a molecule.

A research chemist for some 40 years, Fleischer knows it takes the right combination of atoms binding together to make a functional particle. It’s intricate, demanding work – the same kind of skill required to direct UCI’s FOCUS outreach program in math and science. Like a molecule, FOCUS – short for Faculty Outreach Collaborations Uniting Scientists, Students and Schools – is a synthesis of complex parts, in this case outreach and educational training programs based on an important, underlying concept: Better teachers make better students.

UCI has many successful math and science outreach programs – from the Irvine Math Project to the Science Fair Initiative – that target Southern California schools and touch thousands of students. But these programs are now elements of the much larger FOCUS.

The National Science Foundation granted UCI $14.2 million last year to develop an all-encompassing program that would improve teacher skills and student achievement in math and science, and fundamentally change how universities and public schools work together to solve what many see as a crisis in American education. The effort is tied to President Bush’s “No Child Left Behind” initiative to strengthen and reform education.

“We are trying to change and influence 3,000 teachers who instruct 105,000 students,” Fleischer says. “It’s one big challenge, but if it succeeds, these ideas could become a blueprint for similar efforts nationwide.”

HELP WHERE IT’S NEEDED MOST

Key FOCUS collaborators are three high-need Southern California school districts – Compton, Santa Ana and Newport-Mesa. Along with having longstanding ties to UCI outreach programs, these districts serve students from economically disadvantaged families who, in many cases, do not speak English as a first language. With state budget cuts affecting public schools, these are the children who are, in fact, being left behind.

“The objective is to increase student achievement, but how?” asks Jeff Hruby, co-director of the FOCUS math projects. “The key is providing better instruction. Nothing affects students as much as high-quality teaching.”

Fleischer points out that FOCUS will combine the efforts of dozens of UCI faculty and outreach personnel to attack this issue three ways. One is by bringing together under one umbrella UCI’s already successful outreach programs, such as those in physics, chemistry, engineering and molecular biology. A second effort encourages and supports math and science students at UCI and local community colleges who aspire to become teachers.

But it’s the third element of FOCUS that holds the most promise – and presents the biggest challenge.

It’s called the Teacher Leadership Cadre – TLC – a forward-thinking approach to professional development that requires all teachers to improve their teaching skills and course content. What’s different about TLC is that it puts the schools, and a select group of teachers, in charge of their own professional development activities.

“Usually, teachers attend professional development courses, but there’s no follow-up on what they learn,” Fleischer says. “What we are doing is helping the schools assess their specific needs and supporting their efforts to have professional development become part of the teachers’ everyday activities.”

At the heart of TLC are two teacher mentors, one for math and one for science, at each participating school. Overall, there are 56 of these TLC pioneers, and they’re already brimming with ideas.

“There’s a need for subject mastery and innovative ways of teaching,” says Lakeyshua Washington, a biology
teacher at Compton Centennial High School. “At its core, the content we teach has to be applicable to our students’ lives and more hands-on. Already, the teachers are enthusiastic about receiving new information.”

PLAYING TO STRENGTHS

Overcoming the challenges FOCUS presents is nothing new for Fleischer. Along with his work as a chemistry professor at UCI, he has served as dean of physical sciences in the 1970s, dean of arts and sciences at the University of Colorado during the ‘80s, and executive vice chancellor at UC Riverside in the early ‘90s. He then returned to UCI as a professor emeritus and was “completely happy” conducting molecular chemistry research.

Then last year, soon after UCI received the grant, two colleagues deeply involved with the effort approached him about the job. “At first, I asked, ‘What is FOCUS?’” Fleischer remembers. “My interest grew as I realized this was an opportunity to set math and science pedagogy on a new path, with a profound and meaningful benefit to society as a whole. This realization made leading the charge an appealing challenge for me.

“Two things I bring to the program are management experience and the ability to work with faculty. My strategy right now is to get good people involved and get their programs going.”

This strategy has worked well for Fleischer, both as a molecule builder and an academic leader. For FOCUS, he knows that by using the proper technique to combine the perfect elements, the final product – like a molecule – can be greater than the sum of its parts.

And like good chemistry, Fleischer and the entire FOCUS team are refining the formula to build a better learning environment.

– Tom Vasich

More: www.today.uci.edu/focus
Self-described ‘gizmologist’
Simon Penny sees a new culture – and area of study – emerging from the digital age

Simon Penny believes society is on the edge of a change as resounding as the Industrial Revolution. He sees the emergence of a digital culture that blends art and technology into new social practices only now being imagined by Penny and others in his field.

Artist, engineer, researcher and teacher of interactive media art, Penny came to UCI from Carnegie Mellon University in 2001 to start a cross-disciplinary graduate program marryng these interests. As director of UCI’s ACE (arts, computation and engineering) Graduate Program, which begins this fall, he holds a joint appointment as professor in the Claire Trevor School of the Arts and in The Henry Samueli School of Engineering.

He also leads the New Media Arts Layer of the California Institute for Telecommunications and Information Technology [Cal-(IT)²], a research collaboration between UCI and UC San Diego.

Penny’s art installations have been exhibited in the United States, Europe and his native Australia. His latest work, “Body Electric,” was recently presented at the Williamson Gallery of the Art Center College of Design in Pasadena. Curator Stephen Nowlin says, “Penny’s work promotes a relationship between human and machine that’s different from the way we’re accustomed to sensing the world.”
uci.edu caught up with Penny to find out what this impending digital revolution – and his work – is all about.

Q. Are you an artist first or an engineer?
A. The two practices attend to different aspects of the work. I’m both and neither. One day I’m a cognitive scientist, or an ethnographic researcher, or a painter, or a tinkerer in a tool shed. The next day I’m involved in developing machine vision systems. My work demands that I practice and integrate all of those things.

Q. How does the shift toward a digital culture affect you as a teacher?
A. My educational mission is to build classes and programs that enable students to be well-rounded professionals in this new area – mixing computer science, the arts and engineering, plus elements of the humanities, social sciences and biosciences.

Among other things, I teach what I call ‘gizmology,’ which addresses the practical issues of how you make an interacting machine system that integrates electronics and mechanics. It’s relevant for artists doing kinetic sculpture or interactive museum exhibits, for instance, and for people interested in animatronics, or theme park design. In a sense, it’s an introduction to robotics. I also teach more historical, theoretical classes where we look at cognitive science, anthropology and the history of technology. Then we stitch it all together to produce a kind of ‘hybrid vigor.’

Q. What’s hybrid vigor?
A. It’s a term from genetics and our motto for the ACE program, reflecting how the combination of computer science, engineering and cultural studies inevitably produces something wild, vigorous and complex.

The ACE program is composed of three different master’s degrees – in engineering, computer science and the arts – but all of the candidates take the ACE core courses together.

Essentially, we’re examining interactivity – not just someone sitting at a computer poking buttons and pushing a mouse around, but what happens when 120 people all are working with handheld geo-positioned interactive devices, or when five people in different places operate in the same virtual reality environment. They might be playing a medieval battle simulation game or designing a new car.

This is profoundly new, exciting stuff. We don’t know what kind of art or cultural practices or technology will result. The sky is the limit.

Q. How does the Cal-(IT)^2 research come into play?
A. The agenda of Cal-(IT)^2 is to research communications and information technologies that will hit the market in 10 to 20 years. The arts layer is similarly forward-looking, studying emerging practices such as multi-user, role-playing game environments, and seeing how we can adapt these environments to education, research or disaster management practices, for example. I hope that ultimately the ACE program and the arts layer – along with UCI’s Beall Center for Art and Technology – will function together to prototype emerging digital practices and train a new generation of professionals.

Q. Where do the artist, researcher, teacher and tinkerer in you converge?
A. I try to integrate the way we are as people into these new digital technologies. Industry and academic research have not addressed this issue very well. We still sit hunched over, staring at a flickering screen because we’re forced to encode our thoughts in ways digestible by the machine. I would like to see computational systems that understand more of the complex dynamics of human behavior.

In ‘Body Electric,’ the installation I created with Malcolm McIver of Caltech, the viewer doesn’t get the sense of interacting with a lot of computer technology. Via a multi-camera machine vision system with real-time 3-D computer graphics, the viewer plays the role of a fish that ‘sees’ its prey through a self-generated electric field.

There is a largely undocumented history of artists prototyping new media technologies decades ahead of the curve. The conventional assumption is that artists may come into a research program at the end and make it pretty. I believe that artists are most valuable in the blue-sky, first-cut envisioning of new technologies. My colleagues and I at UCI and elsewhere are forging a new range of specializations. There are centers and edges to all disciplines; we’re just defining a different center and a different set of edges.

– Fran Tardiff

More: www.today.uci.edu/penny
With a strong dose of optimism and heartfelt care, UCI’s geriatrics team is raising seniors’ spirits and sights

The health problems Dr. Laura Mosqueda sees as director of UCI Medical Center’s Program in Geriatrics may vary, but there is one condition that many new patients have in common – low expectations.

Mosqueda treats this problem immediately with large doses of optimism and encouragement dispensed in a health-care setting where no one places limits on what older people can do.

“A lot of the seniors we see don’t have high enough expectations for their future health, but we tell them it doesn’t have to be that way. Our job is to help patients function at their highest possible level,” says Mosqueda, who has earned a national reputation for leadership and innovation in the field of geriatrics.

As physician and educator, the associate professor of clinical family medicine in the UCI College of Medicine is making medical care for seniors more comprehensive, interdisciplinary and compassionate.

Her efforts have led to the creation of a new Senior Health Center that will open at UCI Medical Center this fall. She was also instrumental in the recent opening of the nation’s first Elder Abuse Forensic Center, which brings together UCI medical experts and representatives of Orange County Adult Protective Services and other agencies in a coordinated battle against elder abuse.

“Dr. Mosqueda has a passion for providing great medical care to Orange County’s senior citizens,” says Dr. Ralph Cygan, CEO of the medical center. “She is a national leader in geriatrics and one of the country’s leading experts on the important issue of elder abuse. Under her leadership, UCI has been able to recruit a team of outstanding geriatricians, and UCI Medical Center has become a regional leader in providing compassionate care to older adults.”

In addition to geriatricians, Mosqueda’s team includes psychologists, social workers, nurse practitioners, pharmacists and other experts.

GOING THE EXTRA MILE

“The heart and soul of what we are is our team. Everyone has a true commitment to serving the elderly,” Mosqueda says. “We have a very loving approach. We do everything we can to help, including house calls, working closely with families and being available when needed.”

The new Senior Health Center and Elder Abuse Forensic Center are both achievements that grew out of Mosqueda’s dedication to improving seniors’ lives.

The health center is directed by Dr. Hilary Siebens, a specialist in geriatrics and a national leader in rehabilitation medicine who was recently recruited by Mosqueda from Harvard Medical School. The center will offer a comprehensive outpatient program for older patients as well as disabled people of all ages.

While Siebens oversees the new Senior Health Center, Mosqueda is leading an unprecedented collaboration involving professionals in the medical, social services, legal and law enforcement fields in protecting seniors through the Elder Abuse Forensic Center.

The Cestoni family (Phyllis, above left, with daughter Irene Briggs, and Dominic, far right) get the attention and advice they need from UCI’s geriatrics team.
With 2 million American seniors victimized each year, and many more “hidden victims,” Mosqueda is eager to see results.

PASSION FOR CARE

Whether she is treating patients, educating medical students or collaborating with community leaders, Mosqueda focuses on one goal: improving quality of life for seniors. Her students are learning to do the same, partly through a program in which she pairs them with healthy seniors.

“Seniors in the community serve as educators and role models for our students,” Mosqueda says. “The reality for most seniors is that they’re pretty darn healthy, and it’s important for students to see that.”

– Sherry Angel

More: www.today.uci.edu/seniorhealth

Participants meet regularly in office space provided by the Orange County Social Services Administration to review cases and develop action plans. Through the center, funded primarily by a grant from the Long Beach-based Archstone Foundation, Mosqueda hopes to provide a resource to help agencies nationwide fight elder abuse.

They had reached their mid-80s and were facing health problems that couldn’t be addressed in a routine 15-minute doctor’s visit.

Dominic Cestoni’s wife, Phyllis, was showing signs of dementia and depression that had not been diagnosed, and he was getting increasingly frustrated and rundown as he struggled to meet her needs – without fully understanding what was happening to her.

They needed answers, but their doctors in New Jersey weren’t even asking the right questions. Then, about three years ago, the Cestonis moved to Southern California to be near their daughter, Irene Briggs. They became patients of Dr. Laura Mosqueda, director of the Program in Geriatrics at UCI Medical Center, and their situation changed for the better.

There have been consultations with geriatricians, neurologists, nutritionists and other specialists. Visits to their home. Family meetings. And every appointment with Mosqueda and her team has surpassed the 15-minute mark.

“She shows a deep concern for the problems we have,” Dominic says. “I couldn’t ask for anything better.”

Today, Dominic and Phyllis live in an apartment behind Briggs’ Huntington Beach home, and Phyllis, who has been diagnosed with dementia, has a 24-hour caregiver. Dominic says he is feeling much better now that his wife is receiving the attention she needs, and he is able to take better care of his own health.

Briggs is enormously relieved that her parents are in such good hands. “Dr. Mosqueda and her team are so knowledgeable and involved with their patients – it’s amazing. Everything is done in a very caring, genuine manner. They involve whomever they need to in order to make sure things are going well for both of my parents.”
From the moment Socrates inspired Plato, a close mentoring relationship has been at the heart of the educational ideal. But for today’s students, whose undergraduate existence is often marked by long hours in large lecture halls, that ideal can be as fleeting and dimly perceived as the shadows in Plato’s allegorical cave.

Close collaborations

While UCI is not immune to large classes for certain offerings, it does provide extraordinary – and well-recognized – opportunities for independent projects outside the classroom that closely connect undergraduates with faculty. In addition to sowing the seeds of collaboration, these projects sharpen students’ skills, amplify passions for learning and shape career paths. And while such opportunities exist across campus – in honors seminars, senior thesis projects, internships and field studies – there is no greater resource than UCI’s Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program. This flexible, student-focused endeavor supports research

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Hands-on research helps UCI undergraduates learn more about their subjects – and themselves
partnerships with both faculty involvement and university resources. The projects defy generalization, and so, too, do the research topics.

For example, a student may decide to choreograph a dance performance, or analyze the usefulness of emergency room imaging technologies. From music to politics, from the vast abstractions of philosophy to the physical properties of the smallest particle, students in the program engage in research, discovery and, ultimately, self-discovery.

“I had an interest in tying together my science background and my newly developed interest in law,” says Star Lopez, a political science major who, with two other students and faculty advisers Caesar Sereseres and Sherilynn Sellgren, examined the American phenomenon of expert court testimony.

“Coming into the project, I hoped my research would make me more competitive for graduate school,” Lopez acknowledges. “Little did I know that was the least of the benefits. I learned important leadership skills and treasure the lasting relationships I have formed with my co-investigators and faculty advisers.”

UNPRECEDENTED ACCESS

“The undergraduate research experience allows students to get to know faculty members, graduate students and postdoctoral fellows in a way that can never happen in large classes,” says Susan Bryant, dean of the School of Biological Sciences. She proudly notes that 65 percent of all biological science majors who graduated in 2003 participated in UROP.

Much like the real world of research, the program offers grants and stipends to support students’ work. In 2002-03, more than 500 UCI undergrads received UROP grants to pursue their research with faculty guidance. The maximum grant was $1,000, with a $3,000 summer stipend available. Most students presented their findings at the campus symposium held each spring. Eight won the additional honor of having their findings published in The UCI Undergraduate Research Journal – widely recognized as the gold standard among such publications in the UC system.

OPPORTUNITY TO SHINE

The students are proud of what the experience has enabled them to accomplish outside of regular courses.

“You never realize just how much you can handle until you throw 20 hours of research a week into an already busy schedule,” says neurobiology major Ted Yanagihara. “I’ve learned as much from the research as from my classes.”

Information and computer science major Ping Chen echoes that sentiment. “UROP enables you to know a field in much greater depth than is possible in any 10-week course,” he says.

And then there is the sense of validation a student receives. "When UROP supports your idea, no matter how crazy it might seem, it’s incredibly encouraging," says dance major Dorothy Chang, whose project involved organizing the experimental Bare Bones Dance Theater.

For Said Shokair, director of UROP since its founding in 1995, these comments are music to his ears. “This is the beauty of what we have here at UCI – a culture committed to undergraduate research at the departmental, school and campuswide levels.”

“UROP truly is a jewel in UCI’s crown,” says Robert Newsom, acting dean of undergraduate education. “It capitalizes on our two greatest resources: our highly selective undergraduate program and our distinguished research faculty.”

Though the program prides itself on putting students first, the experience can be very gratifying for the faculty mentors. Richard Robertson, professor and chair of anatomy and neurobiology, says, “We are, after all, a research university – not a research institute. Teaching, and especially the one-on-one mentoring of undergraduate students, is one of the most important and rewarding parts of my job.”

– Charlie Dodge

More: www.today.uci.edu/undergraduate
Rudy Hanley ‘72 was only 14 when he and his family fled Soviet-occupied Hungary in 1957. But Hanley, now president and chief executive officer of the Orange County Teachers Federal Credit Union (OCTFCU), insists that his Hungarian heritage shaped the person he is today. “The way you are, the way you think, the way you act are all a result of the culture that formed you,” he says.

Hanley arrived in the United States by way of Austria with his parents and younger brother. After the family settled in East Los Angeles, the boys spent six months learning English in a “foreign adjustment” program with other immigrant children before being mainstreamed into public school.

Following high school, Hanley enlisted for a three-year hitch in the Army, then returned to Southern California and married. He worked for a supermarket chain while he and his wife contemplated their future. Ultimately, Hanley made an important decision: to enroll at UCI. With the help of the GI Bill, he was able to support his family, which by then included two daughters. He continued working at the supermarket – on the midnight shift, stocking merchandise – while attending classes during the day.

His degree in mathematics led to a job teaching math and computer skills to junior high school students. Two years into Hanley’s teaching career, an attorney friend sold him on the merits of law school. He became a student again, juggling a challenging curriculum, a family and a full-time job. Three years later, he earned his law degree from Western State University College of Law.

**A CHANGE IN COURSE**

Hanley had planned to become a corporate tax attorney, but fate intervened. The Credit Union National Association, based in Washington, D.C., had launched a campaign to retain tax-exempt status for credit unions. When CUNA offered Hanley a job, he moved to Washington and provided legal counsel to the project for six months.

His work with the national organization gave sharp focus to his career goals. “I decided the ‘people helping people’ philosophy on which credit unions are built was a perfect match for me,” he says.

Returning again to California, Hanley worked for the California Credit Union League, assisting credit unions with legal, technical and operational issues. In 1982, he assumed the helm of OCTFCU.

The organization Hanley leads is now 280,000 members strong and has more than $4 billion in assets. Founded in 1934, it is the largest educational credit union in the country and the seventh-largest credit union overall.

Hanley is proud of OCTFCU’s success and equally proud of the more than 20 UCI graduates the organization employs. He raves about the quality of his fellow alumni, saying, “We are grateful for the wonderful, well-educated students the university produces.”

Hanley also is passionate about expressing his gratitude to UCI. “We benefit greatly from the university’s efforts, and we feel strongly that all of us alumni should do everything we can to support the institution that made our success possible.”

He certainly is doing his part. A longtime member of UCI’s Chief Executive Roundtable and Chancellor’s Club, Hanley has encouraged the UCI graduates employed by OCTFCU to stay involved with the campus through the UCI Alumni Association. Hanley is himself a UCIAA lifetime member and an active participant on committees benefiting class reunions, homecomings and career nights, among other activities.

The former math major has a special affinity for the School of Physical Sciences, where he is an ongoing sponsor and two-time keynote speaker at the school’s annual career night. Hanley was named the school’s Laurels & Laurels Distinguished Alumnus in 1999.
Hanley’s family is grown now – one daughter is a high school English teacher and the other a credit union vice president. He still juggles myriad activities, but now finds time to relax. He enjoys reading books about management and leadership – “preferably with a glass of cabernet and a good cigar.” He also likes to travel, having visited France, Austria, Yugoslavia, Ireland and an assortment of U.S. cities.

HUNGARY FOR MORE

Hanley also has returned twice to Hungary, the country that left an indelible imprint on his character. 

“In Hungarian, the word ‘you’ is always capitalized, and the word for ‘I’ is always spelled with a lowercase letter. This symbolizes the attitude we have toward the importance of others,” he says. “We were raised to be grateful for everything we have, and I still carry this attitude with me.”

Hanley has achieved success in his adopted country, but, true to form, he insists the credit goes to those around him. “I have been blessed in virtually every facet of life,” he says. “I had wonderful parents, a country that took me in, and work in an industry that truly has a heart.”

– Anna Lynn Spitzer

More: www.today.uci.edu/hanley
Men’s golf wins third consecutive Big West title

The UCI men’s golf team brought their “A” game to El Dorado Hills, Calif., in April, capturing the Big West Conference championship for the third straight year. Coach Paul Smolinski’s squad finished eight shots ahead of Long Beach State, Idaho and Cal Poly San Luis Obispo.

In a banner year for the Anteaters, senior Jeff Coburn was named Big West Conference Player of the Year, and Smolinski was named Big West Coach of the Year for the third year in a row.

Coburn had five top-10 and three top-20 finishes this past season. Joining Coburn on the all-conference first team was senior Mike Lavery, individual champion at the Big West tournament.

Senior Ryan Armstrong and junior Vinnie Poncino were All-Big West second team honorees.

Senior Jeff Coburn hit ‘em long and straight to lead the champion Anteaters.

Engineering professor earns presidential honor

Martha Mecartney has earned high praise, indeed, for her exemplary achievements in increasing minority student participation in science and technology fields. The professor of chemical engineering and materials science in The Henry Samueli School of Engineering received the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring at a March ceremony in Washington, D.C.

Mecartney was lauded for her record of individually mentoring students and creating an innovative program called “Fast Track to the Professoriate” that encourages minority student participation in science and engineering doctoral programs. She also has been involved in University of California systemwide undergraduate research programs for minority students and has developed programs for more than 800 kindergarten through 12th-grade students and teachers from low-income communities.

“Mentoring has meant so much to me in my career,” Mecartney says. “It’s that personal touch that offers encouragement to students who have traditionally been underrepresented in engineering. It can make such a difference.”

UCI Libraries are region’s largest information resource

While the UCI Libraries are part of the campus’s academic core, few realize that more than half of the libraries’ 2 million-plus annual visitors come from the community. Along with students, faculty and staff, alumni and community members can explore the range of library services and collections, including more than 2.2 million volumes, some 20,000 print journal subscriptions, and access to more than 11,000 online journals and scholarly resources — all of which make the UCI Libraries the region’s largest information resource.

Alumni and community members also are invited to attend the libraries’ lecture and exhibit programs that offer a unique view into the scholarly and research aspects of the campus, and to join the Partners of the UCI Libraries, who sponsor community activities such as the Libraries Book Club, which encourages reading and discussion of important books.

More: www.lib.uci.edu

Around the circle
UCI students performing dance professor David Allan’s ballet, “O-La-Know”

**Biologist helps tell big fish story**

Although he had never seen an animated film before, Adam Summers performed swimmingly as a technical consultant on the Disney-Pixar animated film “Finding Nemo.” Summers, assistant professor of ecology and evolutionary biology in the School of Biological Sciences, is an expert in how fish move, feed and interact with their environment. During more than three years of production, he imparted graduate-level ichthyology lessons to the film’s story creators, artists and animators.

“They’re extremely dedicated, consummate artists given every resource and freedom to do whatever they needed to make wonderful entertainment,” says Summers.

He notes, for example, that Bruce, the film’s great white shark character, is such a close-to-nature rendition because his creators scrupulously studied a preserved great white at the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco.

“And when they fibbed, they knew they were doing so for the sake of the story,” adds Summers. “Fish don’t have lips or eyebrows. But, hey, it’s a movie. How else would fish talk or ‘act’ surprised?

“I’d do it again in a heartbeat,” he says of the experience.
Main events

Aug. 23
UCI Arboretum. Summer Bulb Sale. Each year, plant lovers visit UCI’s botanical showplace to view and purchase bulbs of exquisite blooming plants. Most of the bulbs available at this summer’s sale are from the arboretum’s valued collection of South African species, but many are from the newly added collection of species distinctive to Alta and Baja California, and the coastal islands. These rare bulbs are being made available for the first time. The sale will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Aug. 23. Admission is $2. The arboretum is located on North Campus at Jamboree Boulevard and Campus Drive.

P R E S E N T A T I O N S

Aug. 27, Sept. 24, Oct. 29
Health Education. Nutrition, Weight & You. Diet and exercise program to achieve weight loss goals

Sept. 13
UCI Extension. Assessing Your Career Direction. With Carol Mattson, professional career counselor

Oct. 2
International Center for Writing & Translation. Elvis in the Third World. With Peter Nazareth, professor of African American World Studies and of English, University of Iowa

A T H L E T I C S

Aug. 30, 31
Women’s Volleyball. UCI Tournament. UCI vs. UC Berkeley, Hofstra, Rice, San Diego State, West Virginia

Sept. 12, 13
Sunset Classic. UCI vs. Florida State, Houston, St. Mary’s

Sept. 14, 17
Men’s Water Polo. UCI vs. USC, Loyola Marymount

A R T S

Oct. 11, 25
UCI Chamber Series. Performances by faculty artists

Oct. 31, Nov. 1
UCI Symphony Orchestra. From Russia to America. Selections from Tchaikovsky, Barber, Walker. With guest artist Alyssa Park, violin

Nov. 14-22
Departments of Dance, Drama and Music. Sweeney Todd – The Demon Barber of Fleet Street. Tony Award-winning Stephen Sondheim musical

STAY IN TOUCH:

UCI Alumni: Please send us any new personal or professional information about yourself. By mail: Updates, The UCI Foundation, 4199 Campus Dr., Ste. 400 UT, Irvine, CA 92697-5602; by e-mail: advance@uci.edu; by fax: 949.824.8666; or by phone: 949.824.8662.