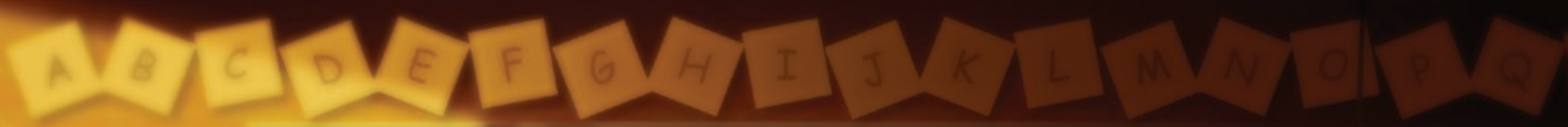


UCR

THE MAGAZINE OF UC RIVERSIDE

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**The Importance
of Bedside Manner**

Crickets Go Silent to Survive

Words and Birds

**Autism:
Searching
for the Light**

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Uncommon

UCR's new Commons is open and anything but common.

Immerse Yourself in Culture and Arts

For more on UCR events, visit www.events.ucr.edu.



11.15.07

Whirling Dervishes of Turkey

The Mevlevi Order of Whirling Dervishes performs sacred music and ritualized dance of the mystical Sufi sect of Islam, including a message delivered in person by the 22nd generation granddaughter of Mevlana (Rumi).

www.culturalevents.ucr.edu



12.1-29.07

Katherine McPeak: Project Gallery Three

McPeak shows her work as a part of Sweeney Art Gallery's Project Gallery Three, a series of exhibitions by second-year Master of Fine Arts graduate students in the art program at UCR.

sweeney.ucr.edu



Through 1.5.08

Jay Wolke: Architecture of Resignation

The UCR/CMP presents an exhibit of photography, exploring the relationship between the historical and contemporary Italian landscape.

www.cmp.ucr.edu



1.13.08

Bobby McFerrin

Grammy Award winner Bobby McFerrin, creator of the song "Don't Worry, Be Happy," performs with a style that is uniquely his own.

www.culturalevents.ucr.edu



1.24-26.08

The Bacciarelli Issue

In "The Bacciarelli Issue," a performance created by M.F.A. graduate students in creative writing and writing for the performing arts, the characters write themselves while exploring the mysterious Bacciarelli protocol.

theatre.ucr.edu



1.26-3.29.08

The Signs Pile Up: Paintings by Pedro Alvarez

This Sweeney Art Gallery exhibition of Cuban painter Pedro Alvarez showcases his work rooted in Cuban history. His paintings focus on the economic crisis in 1991 after the fall of the Soviet Union, and addresses global concerns of colonialism and its presence in society.

sweeney.ucr.edu



2.6.08

Chancellor's Distinguished Lecture Series

Featuring Gioconda Belli, author and poet, 8 p.m. in the University Theatre. Information: (951) 827-3144



2.22.08

Daniel Bernard Roumain: Sonata for Violin and Turntables

Composer and violinist Daniel Bernard Roumain pairs with DJ Scientific to combine a classical instrument with innovative beats and rhyme for an evening of original music.

www.culturalevents.ucr.edu



3.6-8.08

UCR is Dancing 2008

The annual production of UCR is Dancing showcases original choreography by UCR students.

www.dance.ucr.edu

Moving Forward

Dear Friends:

For those of you whom I have not yet had the opportunity to meet, I want to say what an honor it is to be serving as acting chancellor of UCR. My wife and I have quickly come to feel at home on the campus and in the community. We want to thank everyone who has helped to make us feel so welcome.

From my first day on campus I have said that I do not intend to be a caretaker, but rather that I want to help move the campus forward during my tenure here. With the help of a first-class senior leadership team, I have identified the top priorities on which to focus during the year ahead. Let me say a little about each.

First, we are actively engaged in planning of the medical school. We have developed the curriculum for the third and fourth years (we already teach the first two) and are in the process of developing a "bullet proof" business plan. Our goal is to have the proposal before the Academic Senate early in the new year.

The new School of Public Policy is currently under review by the Academic Senate. We will continue to facilitate this process, with the goal of enrolling our first students as early as fall 2009.

The downtown ARTSblock – consisting of the Sweeney Art Gallery, the UCR/California Museum of Photography and the Culver Center of the Arts – continues to be a priority for both the campus and the community. This year we will launch an exploration for an expanded program of arts and culture, befitting the size of our campus. We can't, of course, create a larger program in just a year, but we can lay a foundation upon which the campus, in collaboration with the city of Riverside, can build.

Under the leadership of Vice Chancellor Al Diaz, UCR will implement recommendations emerging from a staff climate survey and a subsequent series of focus groups. Staff have

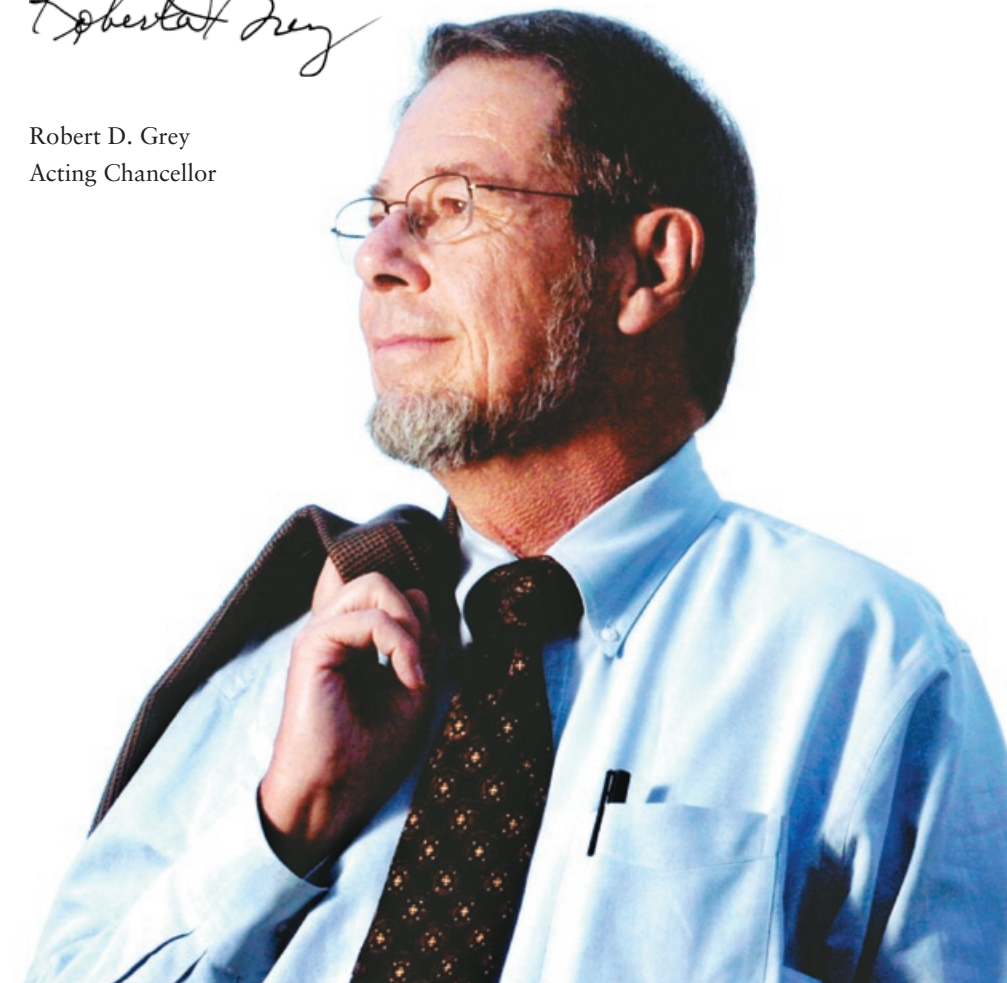
been actively involved in this process, which centers on issues related to communications, recognition and professional development.

Finally, of utmost importance to UCR in the coming year is the development of a sound plan that addresses future enrollment at the undergraduate, graduate and professional school levels. For that plan to succeed, we will need to further invest in scholarships for undergraduates, fellowships for graduate students, and endowed professorships and chairs for faculty.

So, as you can see, my intent is for UCR to make significant strides in the year ahead. I look forward to working with our faculty, students, staff and community to help achieve these goals.

Robert D. Grey
Acting Chancellor

**“I do not intend
to be a caretaker,
but rather ...
I want to help
move the campus
forward during my
tenure here.”**





UC Riverside Welcomes Acting Chancellor



Robert D. Grey, a former provost and executive vice chancellor at UC Davis, has been appointed to serve as acting chancellor at UC Riverside. Grey succeeds Chancellor France A. Córdova, who ended her term July 1 to become president of Purdue University.

Grey served eight years as the chief academic and financial officer at UC Davis and as the chief governance official for the UC Davis Medical Center before leaving in 2001. Before that, he was the founding dean of the Division of Biological Sciences at UC Davis.

His research field is cellular and molecular biology, and he was a member of the UC Davis faculty starting in 1967. Grey has also served as consultant for a number of universities on academic issues and has served on numerous advisory boards and committees.

A national search for the permanent UCR chancellor is under way. Named to serve on the 17-member advisory committee are:

- UCR faculty representatives Joseph Childers, professor of English; Jodie Holt, chair and professor of plant physiology, and plant physiologist; and Manuela Martins-Green, professor of cell biology. They will be joined by David Clarke, from the Department of Materials at UC Santa Barbara, and Mary Croughan, vice chair of the universitywide Academic Senate.
- Staff representative Adrienne Sims, president of UCR Staff Assembly.
- Student representatives Denny Chavez, president of the Associated Students of UCR, and Alex Cortez, president of the Graduate Student Association.
- Alumni representatives Jack Clarke Jr., president of the UCR Alumni Association, and Barbara Robinson, chair of the UCR Foundation.
- UC regents Benjamin Allen, William De La Pena, Odessa Johnson, Joanne C. Kozberg and Bruce D. Varner.
- Ex officio members UC President Robert C. Dynes, convener of the committee, and Richard C. Blum, chairman of the UC Board of Regents

Wyatt R. (Rory) Hume, UC provost and executive vice president for academic and health affairs, and Linda Morris Williams, UC associate president, will serve as consultants to the committee.



New Alumni and Visitors Center Opens

Each year, thousands of UCR alumni, parents and friends rely on the UCR Alumni Association to provide them with the information that keeps their connection to the university alive. Now, alumni, parents and friends have a place they can call home. The recently completed Alumni and Visitors Center has been designed to serve as the front door to the campus and to be a distinctive arrival point to welcome visitors and showcase alumni achievements.



Guests enter a lobby area that serves as the hub of the 13,865-square-foot, split-level building. The center also includes the Goldware Library (with a fireplace seating area and publications by UCR authors), the Erickson Conference Room, the Johnson Board Room, the large Redmond Dining Room and the Arroyo Vista Cafe, which will provide daily luncheon service. The cafe and the meeting spaces are available to both the campus and the community.

The center will offer catering menus, audiovisual equipment and a professional staff to assist in planning meetings or special events.

The UCR Alumni and Visitors Center will also serve as the headquarters for the UCR Alumni Association offices.



More New Faces, Changing Roles

Acting Chancellor Robert Grey is not the only new face on campus this year. UCR has hired 55 new faculty members and made several administrative appointments.



Dr. Phyllis A. Guze has been named executive director, medical school planning.

She is chair emeriti of the Department of Medicine at the Veterans Administration Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System and a longtime professor of medicine at UCLA. Guze has been working one day a as a consultant on UCR's medical school project since March and, working with faculty from UCR, helped to develop a proposed curriculum that is before the Academic Senate.

She is advising Grey on preparation of the medical school plan with the assistance of six campus-community work groups and Deloitte Consulting. Additionally, she is working with the biomedical faculty to develop clinical clerkships.



Susan A. Harlow has been named acting vice chancellor for advancement, replacing William Boldt, who left UCR for a position at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. Harlow will oversee the units of development, alumni and constituent relations, event management and protocol, government, community and industry relations, and strategic communications.

Before coming to UC Riverside in May 2005 as associate vice chancellor for development, Harlow was an associate vice president at Children's Hospital Los Angeles.



David Stewart has been appointed dean of the A. Gary Anderson Graduate School of Management. He comes to UCR from USC, where he was the Robert E. Brooker professor of marketing and chair of the Department of Marketing.

His research has examined a wide range of issues including marketing strategy, consumer decision-making, public policy issues and health care marketing. Both the American Academy of Advertising and the Academy of Marketing Science have recognized him for lifetime contributions to research and practice in advertising and marketing.



UC Riverside Biologist Receives Prestigious MacArthur “Genius” Fellowship

Cheryl Hayashi, a biologist at UC Riverside and a national expert on the genetic structure of spider silk, has won a \$500,000 MacArthur Fellowship, one of the most prestigious awards in the country. She is one of only 24 MacArthur Fellows for 2007 named by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.

Commonly known as a “genius award,” the MacArthur Fellowship is a “no strings attached” grant to individuals who show exceptional creativity in their work, promise for important future advances and potential for the fellowship to facilitate new work.

Hayashi’s lab has shown that spider silks are created not just by the spinning process, but also by ancient protein structures handed down genetically over millions of years of evolutionary history. Her research group uncovered the molecular structure of the gene for the protein that female spiders use to make their silken egg cases – a discovery that will help biotechnologists develop applications for spider silk and shed light on spider evolution.

In seeking the genetic origins of spider orb-web silks, Hayashi’s research group also discovered evidence indicating that wagon-wheel-shaped nets are extremely old, so old that dinosaurs may have seen them.

Additionally, her lab identified the genes and determined the DNA sequences for two key proteins in the “dragline silk” of the black widow spider – an advance that may lead to a variety of new materials for industrial, medical and military uses.

Hayashi plans to use the award money to travel abroad so she can work on spiders with researchers in other countries.



Grab a Book and Read for the Fun of It

The addition of The Edwin H. and Wendy L. Allen Leisure Reading Collection, the University Libraries will offer a little mystery, suspense and romance this fall along with the usual academic resources

The collection is the gift of Eddie Allen, ’73, who has established a \$50,000 endowment for leisure-reading books that will be housed in the Tomás Rivera Library.

The UCR alumnus said he spent many hours on weekends reading in the Rivera Library. He lived in the dorms and did not have a car, so the library was the logical place to spend time.

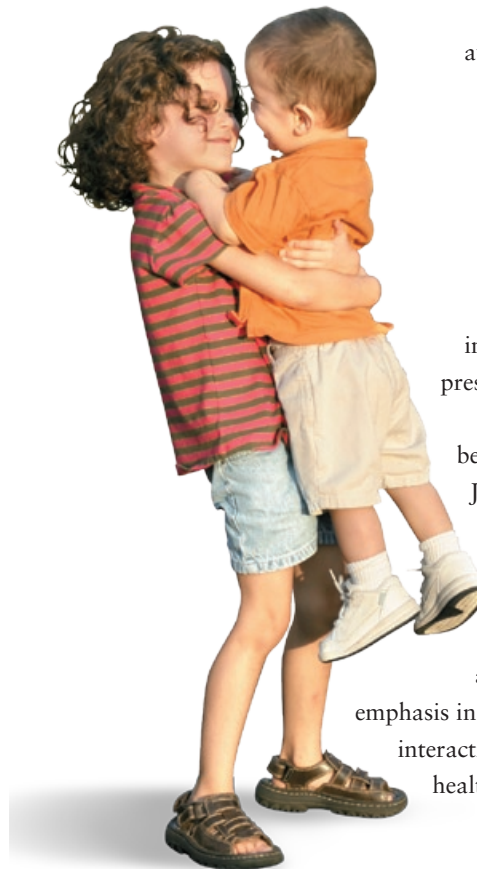
“Much as university students take study breaks to go to the gym or have a cup of coffee, I hope that being able to dip into a good unassigned book will encourage them to take a reading break,” he said.

All books purchased with funds from Allen’s endowment will bear a bookplate designed in his honor. Allen chose the bookplate from a selection designed by Sara Stilley, a library assistant in the Book Arts Program in Special Collections of the Libraries.



Keeping Kids Safe

The Edward J. Blakely Center for Sustainable Suburban Development at UC Riverside won a \$1.17 million grant from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) to study the cultural differences, approaches and concepts regarding appropriate supervision of children to prevent injury in the home and community.



It is the largest grant ever awarded to the center, which was established in 2003 to study all issues related to the growth and development of suburbs around the world. The center was founded with a \$2 million initial gift from Ali Sahabi, president of SE Corp.

The four-year study will be led by Assistant Professor Juliet M. McMullin of the Department of Anthropology. McMullin specializes in medical anthropology with an emphasis in health inequalities and the interaction between concepts of health and cultural identity.



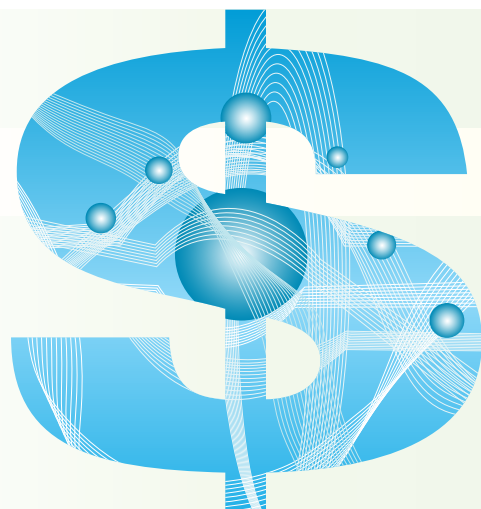
Seven Scholars with Expertise in the Middle East and Islam Join UCR

Seven scholars who join the UC Riverside faculty this fall bring expertise in the Middle East and Islamic world, and insights into global issues such as the war in Iraq, Arab identity, Islamic feminism and what some are calling an Islamic reformation.

“These faculty have expertise in literature, politics, religious studies, women’s studies, and media and creative writing,” said Stephen Cullenberg, dean of the College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences.

These scholars will help expand and develop the internationalization of the curriculum of the college, along with other thriving and new programs in Latin American studies, Global Studies and Southeast Asia, the dean said.

Joining the faculty are Reza Aslan, assistant professor of creative writing; Susan Ossman, professor of anthropology; Laila Lalami, assistant professor of creative writing; Muhamad Ali, assistant professor of religious studies; Sherine Hafez, assistant professor of women’s studies; Jeffrey Sacks, assistant professor of comparative literature; and Ebru Erdem, assistant professor of political science.



STEM CELL RESEARCH GETS A BOOST



UC Riverside has been awarded a stem cell research facility grant of \$2,795,473 by the California Institute for Regenerative Medicine (CIRM), California’s stem cell research initiative.

CIRM approved grants totaling more than \$50 million to finance construction of shared research laboratories at 17 academic and nonprofit institutions. These facilities are scheduled to be complete and available to researchers within six months to two years of the grant awards.

The grant to UCR will fund dedicated laboratory space adjacent

to Noel T. Keen Hall to be used for the culture of human embryonic stem cells (hESCs), particularly those that fall outside federal guidelines. The grant will support the development of a core laboratory to be used by multiple investigators and provide an environment for scientific research on hESCs under CIRM’s medical and ethical standards.

The grant will also provide UCR with funds for the design and renovation of laboratory space, equipment for the new research facilities and operating expenses for three years.

Autism: Searching for the Light

Parents of autistic children must often weave their way through a long and complex maze to get their children the help they need.

By Lisa O'Neill Hill

Anne Jones had a 5-year-old son, a teaching credential and a master's degree in education by the time her second child, a girl, was born. But neither her maternal wisdom nor her professional experience prepared her for the journey ahead.

From the beginning, the differences in her children's development were glaring. Her son had been precocious and quick. Her daughter struggled with language and had trouble making eye contact. A pediatrician raised the possibility of autism.

Shortly after the child's fourth birthday, Jones, director of teacher education at UCR, took her daughter to UCLA's Neuropsychiatric Institute. A neuropsychologist confirmed what the pediatrician had suspected: autism spectrum disorder.

With that diagnosis, Jones officially entered the realm of the fastest-growing serious developmental disability in the country. Autism is more prevalent than childhood cancer, juvenile diabetes and pediatric AIDS combined.

Like parents across the country, Jones would advocate for her child's needs, navigate the complicated structures that would provide therapies for her daughter and encounter teachers who were ill-equipped to help her child learn.

Between 1987 and 2002, California's autism caseload increased by 634 percent, according to the Department of Developmental Services. The number of students with autism enrolled in grades K-12 in California schools has increased more than 1,000 percent during the past 22 years, jumping 183 percent between 2001 and 2007.

Educators and social service providers are struggling to keep up with the unprecedented explosion to meet the demand for programs that can include a combination of intensive behavioral therapy, speech and language therapy and special education services.

According to the California Legislative Blue Ribbon Commission on Autism, some local education agencies indicate that it costs at least \$30,000 a year to educate a pupil with autism in a public school program and \$40,000 a year to send a pupil to a nonpublic school program. This compares with approximately \$8,000 for the average student, according to a 2007 report compiled by researchers from Stanford University.

Jones said her daughter attended school in a district flush with money that was able to fully fund special education programs. She said she also was fortunate that her child's preschool teacher was a licensed speech pathologist.

"We got very lucky," she said. "I don't know that I would have known to advocate for the services we received. It's incomprehensible to me what the average parent is dealing with. Even if you're highly intelligent and educated, if you're outside of the realm of education, you don't know what to ask for."

UCR is seeking to fill that void.

At other UC campuses and at universities across the country, scientists are devoting countless hours to finding the causes of autism in hopes of helping future children affected by the disorder. Now, UCR is poised to make a unique contribution, one that is geared toward the present.

UCR is opening a resource center designed to help families connect with educational and other services. Founded by Jan Blacher, a professor in the university's Graduate School of Education and a nationally recognized autism expert, SEARCH (Support, Education, Advocacy, Resources, Community and Hope) is the first center in the UC system to focus on helping families navigate the maze of autism issues. The center will offer services in English and Spanish, and has received an endorsement from the Latino Caucus of the California State Legislature and State Superintendent of Instruction Jack O'Connell.

"It can be an incredibly overwhelming task and it doesn't end because in most of these developmental disabilities, the needs of the child change over their life cycle," said Steven Bossert, dean of UCR's Graduate School of Education, speaking about the challenges parents face in finding services for their autistic children. "Some service providers drop out at different ages."

In California, the state's Early Start Program provides intervention and other services to children with autism who are younger than age 3. The California Department of Developmental Services contracts with 21 nonprofit regional centers to provide those services.

But once a child turns 3, school districts become responsible for educating children with autism. And, experts say, there are often delays in interventions and therapies.

Faced with an overwhelming amount of information and numerous treatment options, families are unsure where to

turn. Many of the therapies are evidence-based interventions but some families swear by less traditional, more controversial therapies such as special diets.

Complicating matters is that much about autism remains a mystery and that there are several different kinds of autism. Some experts believe that better diagnosis or a broadening of the diagnostic spectrum accounts for the surge in the population. But a study by UC Davis' MIND Institute discounted those theories, finding that the increased numbers truly represent an upswing.

"There's a small segment of the population that believes there is no increased incidence in autism at all," Blacher said. "To me, the argument is moot because as soon as you advertise or write about something like SEARCH, it's clear there are more kids that need services right now than we probably have resources for."

And because of the growing numbers, public educators are guaranteed they will have children with autism in their classrooms, Blacher said. UCR is also trying to help in that arena.

Over the last couple of years, Blacher reports many calls and inquiries from teachers and school districts who wanted to know if UCR had a master's degree in autism. So she convinced the university to put together a new master's program that will allow current teachers to get a master's degree in education with an emphasis in autism. Blacher said the university is hoping to have its first students a year from now.

University Extension is also developing a certificate in autism aimed at serving people who might become teachers, said Sharon Duffy, acting dean of UCR Extension and associate dean of the Graduate School of Education.

"It's such a significant need," Duffy said. "The M.E.D. and the certificate in autism at extension are both in response to lots of calls and inquiries from teachers and school districts asking us to provide more support to educators."

"Everyone is aware of the need to serve this group. Because our program is relatively small, we are able to infuse things maybe more quickly than a larger program," she said. "I think that we probably would say that today we are not doing enough and that's why we're looking at these new programs and new ways of getting research-based knowledge and practices to all the types of educators that need to know about autism, which includes administrators."

An autism diagnosis involves deficits in three core areas: social interaction, use of language, and behavior and interests.

How the disorder manifests itself can depend on where a child falls on the spectrum. Some children are withdrawn, have few language skills and self-stimulate by flapping their hands or flicking their fingers near their eyes, a practice known as "stimming." Others have strong language skills, especially when it comes to a particular area of interest.

Scientists have yet to determine the exact cause of autism spectrum disorders and suspect there might be many causes. Children with autism have different brain shapes and structures than those who do not have autism, according to the Autism Society of America. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention cites genetic predisposition and environmental factors as likely causes.

Boys are four times more likely to be diagnosed with autism spectrum disorders than girls. Symptoms can emerge before 18 months or earlier, but most children are not diagnosed until they are between the ages of 3 and 4, according to the Centers for Disease Control.

There is no cure.

"Autism is an issue that has come front and center and is now considered a public health crisis," said Barbara Firestone, president, CEO and founder of the Help Group, the nation's largest nonprofit of its kind serving children with autism and other related special needs. She is also vice chair of the California

Legislative Blue Ribbon Commission on Autism, created in 2005 by a resolution co-sponsored by the Help Group, written by Senate President Pro Tem Don Perata and supported by Assembly Speaker Fabian Nuñez.

One in 150 children will be identified as being on the autism spectrum and a child is diagnosed with autism every 20 minutes, said Firestone, the author of a newly released book called "Autism Heroes: Portraits of Families Meeting the Challenge."

"Those numbers continue to escalate and as a state we are looking at how best to address and how best to serve individuals living with autism throughout their life span and their families," Firestone said. "California is at the forefront in many ways with its system of care. Yet there are many challenges and many gaps."

The commission established three task forces: early identification and intervention education and professional development, and transitional services and support.

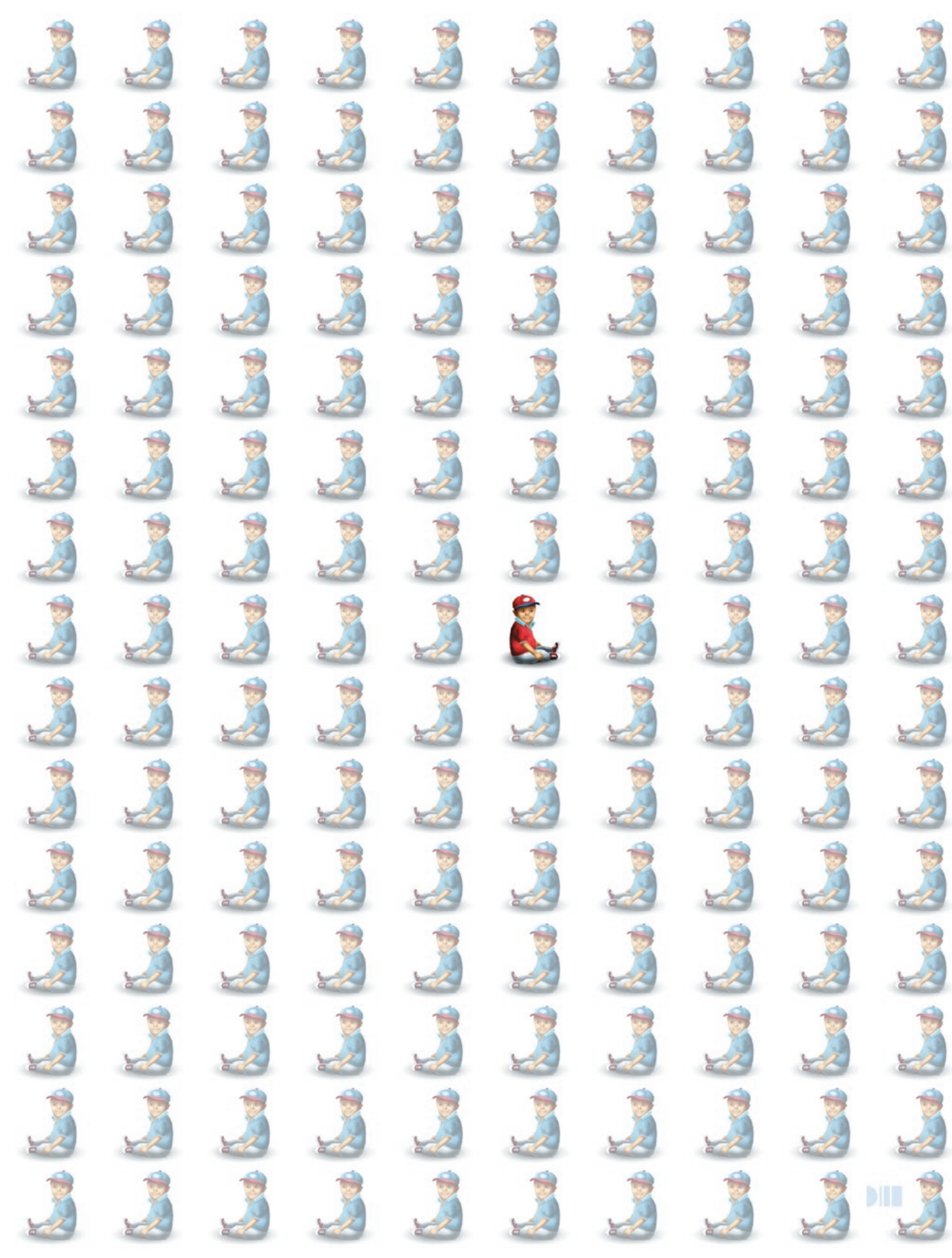
One of the big issues with autism spectrum disorder is early diagnosis. Therapies are most beneficial when children are young, said Firestone, who chaired the early identification and intervention task force.

"Many people do not receive a timely diagnosis and families do not have access to appropriate intervention," Firestone said. "We know that the medical system is overwhelmed and underfunded, and ill-prepared to deal with the enormity of this challenge. Simultaneously, denial is a powerful defense mechanism for parents. It can contain the anxiety that parents feel when they first suspect that their child is not developing normally. Their denial is reinforced when they seek guidance from professionals who more often than not tell them on their first visit or two, 'Don't worry. Your child will grow out of it.' This interplay of denial and 'don't worry' can give false hope and significantly delay early identification and intervention."

There is hope, however.



Illustrations by Daniel Mather



Taft Community College, located in Kern County, California, has a Transition to Independent Living Program that began 12 years ago with funding from Kern Regional Center. It is, according to the Blue Ribbon Commission, the only city college with a program on campus geared toward people with autism.

The program is geared toward young adults who want a postsecondary educational experience that teaches them to live on their own. Participants include adults with autism and cerebral palsy. But, there is a four-year waiting list.

When the program began in 1995, none of the participants were diagnosed with autism. Now, one-third of the students involved have been diagnosed with autism, said Jeff Ross, Taft's director of student support services.

A number of community colleges have expressed interest in starting their own versions and Ross said he and others are hoping to start at least six more programs in the state in the next couple of years.

UCLA recently opened a similar program called Pathways, Ross said. The Help Group's Steps to Independence Program, which will serve young adults on the autism spectrum who are transitioning out of the school system and need additional support and training, will be available soon.

"There is such a tremendous need for developing and expanding programs that can best serve these young people," Firestone said. She described the group as a "tsunami" of children who will need independent or semi-independent training and housing opportunities.

Work is being done elsewhere at the statewide level. In response to the crisis, Assembly Bill 2513 created the California Department of Education's Superintendent's Autism Advisory Committee to develop recommendations on ways that public and private schools can better serve children with autism.

Under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), children with

autism and other special needs must have an individualized education program (IEP) that requires input from teachers, parents and others about an appropriate education plan for the child. Educators and parents sometimes disagree. Some parents hire lawyers or advocates to ensure they get the best shot at programs and therapies they believe are in the best interest of their child.

"Not everyone needs a lawyer," said Adriana Araiza, 36, whose son was diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder. "If you're very smart and you have time on your hands and you speak English very well, then you can go in there and defend yourself and get what you need for your children."

She and her husband hired a lawyer to advocate for services for their son.

Araiza said she knows school administrators have good hearts and want to help children. But, she says, it's vital that the children get the services they need when they are young and most receptive to improvement.

"I want him to be just like any other student," Araiza said. "(I want) for him to be able to go to kindergarten. I think the school district is going to help me do that. I think they are doing the best they can with the resources they have and, hopefully, they'll work at getting more resources so they can get better programs."

UCR alumnus Jack Clarke Jr. is an attorney with Best, Best & Krieger in Riverside. He has expertise in special education law and represents school districts when parents and schools cannot agree on the "appropriate" education for a child with special needs. Districts have done an honorable job of increasing the availability of programs for children with autism and for training teachers and staff, he said.

"There is almost an assumption by some parents that whatever is happening in the public school system is not going to be sufficient," Clarke said. "That is very unfortunate because it doesn't lend to an

atmosphere, to a real discussion about the needs of a child."

Clarke said that only an "exceedingly small number" of disagreements go as far as the courts.

"So that means that on the whole, people are talking, programs are being created and, for the most part, disputes are being resolved informally," he said. "That doesn't mean we don't have work to do."

Some parents insist that their child be placed in a general education classroom despite educators' advice, said Kathie Yugo, autism program specialist with the Corona-Norco Unified School District.

And that is not always successful, Yugo said.

"Sometimes it just doesn't work because the child is not able to access the curriculum. His needs are so great, he can't. The parents are saying as part of this team, I want to try this, I want him to be around typical peers," she said. "In some cases, the child can go into general education classrooms for subjects they can tackle, such as art or science."

Jones, UCR's director of teacher education, said school districts are in a difficult position, faced with a high demand for services and a finite amount of money.

As an educator, she said she understands the problem.

"Teachers are called upon to do the impossible. I empathize and I understand that there are parameters they need to work with. At the same time, I need to passionately advocate for my child."

Jones recalled one of her daughter's teachers looking at her and saying, "This is not my fault. Nobody said I'd have a kid like this in my class."

She was stunned.

"(My daughter) is very low maintenance so if this is overwhelming to a classroom teacher, it gives me pause to really think about what kind of experiences other kids are having," she said.

Jones says her daughter's teachers are reluctant to accept the fact that a child

can have special needs and be gifted. Jones says her daughter is an incredible artist and has been since the day she picked up a crayon.

In Los Angeles Unified School district, the second largest in the country, there are only two autism specialists. The district serves about 730,000 students, 85,000 of whom have special needs. More than 7,000 students have been diagnosed with autism.

Parents have moved into California from out of state having done research about the services offered here, said Debbie Moss, one of the autism specialists for the Los Angeles Unified School District.

“I think in some respects we’re so behind,” Moss said. “We have to do a better job of training our teachers and preparing them.”

Teachers who work with students with autism need more than what they learn in books, Moss said. They need hands-on experience working with the children.

The master’s degree and autism certificate programs being offered by UCR Extension and a certificate program is being offered at California State University, Los Angeles, she said.

“We’re finally getting the attention we need, but even still it’s not enough,” Moss said. “We’re doing a balancing act as far as putting money into what causes it, which is critical, but we also have to put money into what we do with the students we have now.”

But despite the funding issues, the complexities, the challenges and the gaps in the systems of care, there is a lot to feel good about, Firestone said.

“We’re all searching for the treatments and interventions that hold the most promise for kids, and the good news is that there are evidence-based early intervention practices that can result in significant positive outcomes for many young children with autism,” she said. “There has never been a more promising time in the history of autism. We’re well out of the dark ages. The stigma is being lifted.” ❧

The SEARCH Starts Here

A new center at UCR aims to help parents get the help they need.

By Lisa O’Neill Hill

Jan Blacher saw a void and did something about it.

A professor in the Graduate School of Education and a nationally recognized expert in families and disabilities, Blacher envisioned a way for UCR to make a unique contribution to autism, a burgeoning public health crisis.

“While other campuses of the UC system are focusing on cause and cure, nobody was focusing on education issues from the parents’ perspective,” Blacher said. “That’s where I saw UCR stepping up to the plate and filling the need.”

Blacher founded a resource center called SEARCH (Support, Education, Advocacy, Resources, Community and Hope) to help families of children with autism, particularly low-income and Spanish-speaking families who have been underserved.

The center will work with school districts, regional centers, the Riverside County Office of Education, and other agencies and institutions to help families find appropriate services.

SEARCH also will educate teachers. Given that 1 out of 150 children will be diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder, it’s no longer a matter of if educators will have a student with autism, but *when*, Blacher said.

“Any public school teacher can pretty much expect to see one of these kids,” she said. “It’s clear that a lot of educators are lacking the skills they need.”

Blacher said she hopes SEARCH will work with the proposed UCR medical school to provide information to physicians in training and approach the issue in a multifaceted way. She would like UCR to be identified as the information source for autism in the Inland Empire. She said she knows there is money out there to support the effort.

Steven Bossert, dean of the Graduate School of Education, said there is a clear need for the center, particularly because the populations of Riverside and San Bernardino counties are booming.

“We are in contact with the regional centers. We’ll work in tandem. Each of us has something to bring to the table. We’ll also work directly with families to provide both advice and services,” Bossert said.

“I think most importantly, especially for the Inland Empire, it’s just nice for them to have a center to help them navigate the world of autism,” said Erica Howell, one of two fellows from the Doug Flutie Jr. Foundation for Autism who will work with Blacher. The other fellow is Araksia Kaladjian.

Many families of children with autism are overwhelmed at the number of service agencies they have to deal with. Bossert said one parent commented that, as his child moved from elementary to middle school, there were more than 40 service agencies in the region he had to interact with.

“Although many of the parents that are contacting us are getting services, they’re very confused,” Blacher said. “It’s not their job to know the literature, or to have a life-span perspective on autism.”

One clinician working with children with autism and their families said he views the center as a type of clearinghouse.

“Dr. Blacher and UCR have my unwavering support in this effort because I believe that information is what we need the most,” said Dr. Jose Fuentes, a neuropsychologist with a private practice in Loma Linda. “There has to be a central voice that helps inform families of those services.”

Find out more about the SEARCH center at searchcenter.ucr.edu.



Subtleties in Doc Talk Can Be Bad Medicine

A physician's communication skills can have significant effect on a patient's health.

By Betty Miller

If your last visit to the doctor left you irked, dissatisfied or discouraged, the reason may lie less in what the physician said than in how he or she said it.

Research by UCR psychologists suggests that a physician's ability – or lack thereof – to communicate warmth, compassion and support may help determine the success or failure of the recommended treatment. The physician's behavior and manner may help explain why some patients follow their doctors' orders while some do not, and which physicians are more likely to be sued for malpractice.

The key may be nonverbal communication, a field of research that Robert Rosenthal, a distin-

of researchers to focus on how body language and tone of voice can influence the results of jury trials, student performance and patient outcomes.

"Subtle things are really exciting," said Rosenthal, who taught at Harvard University for 37 years before coming to UCR. He is known for his foundational work in statistical analyses of social science literature and in the application of content filtering – the process of separating semantic meaning from tone of voice, which is essential to nonverbal communication research.

Rosenthal applied content filtering to a medical setting in the mid-1960s when one of his under-

vowels – from one-minute audio clips of physician interviews about their experience with alcoholic patients. Then they rated the level of anger in the doctors' voices. Content filtering leaves the tone of voice intact, but muffled, as if heard through a wall.

"We found a huge correlation between hostility in the doctor's voice and his inability to get alcoholic patients into treatment," Rosenthal said.

Inspired by that project, UCR Distinguished Professor of Psychology Robin DiMatteo, then a Harvard graduate student of Rosenthal's, began studying physician-patient interaction.

DiMatteo, one of the nation's leading researchers of doctor-patient communication, and her graduate students have advanced the use of content filtering with digital recordings and computer software that make analysis of thousands of physician-patient interactions easier and more precise.

"Most people who do this work are students of Dr. Rosenthal's," she said.

Nonverbal responses are important because they accentuate verbal communication, DiMatteo said. "When you lean forward and make eye contact, that underscores and brings importance to the verbal message," she said. "There are nonverbal signs of rapport when people are getting along. They match cues. They start to mirror each other's postures."

After completing her Ph.D. in

"There are nonverbal signs of rapport when people are getting along. They match cues. They start to mirror each other's postures." Robin DiMatteo, distinguished professor of psychology

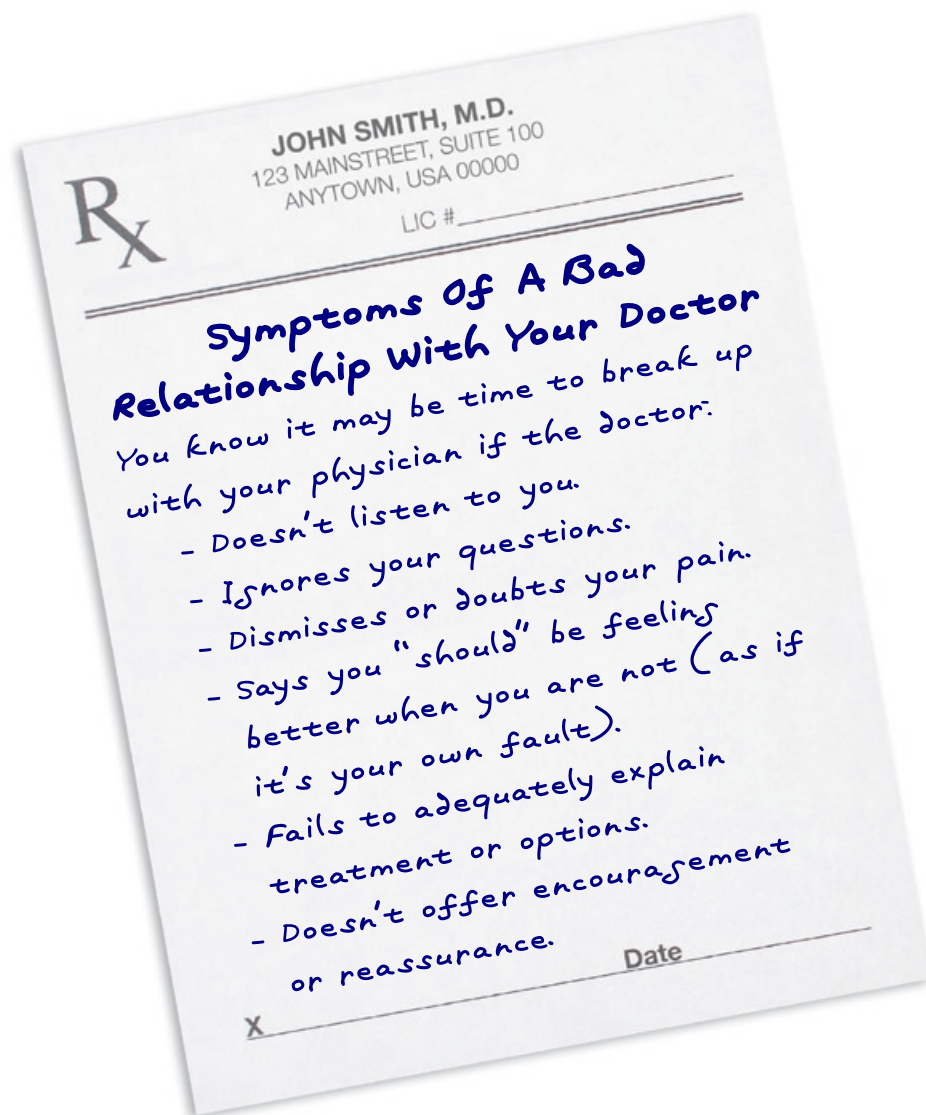
guished professor of psychology began studying more than 50 years ago when he ruined a series of experiments vital to his dissertation. That error led to groundbreaking research into experimenter bias and self-fulfilling prophecy – a discovery known as the Rosenthal Effect – and ultimately challenged two generations

graduate students at Harvard, Susan Milmoie, became interested in why some doctors at Massachusetts General Hospital were more successful than others in getting alcoholics into treatment.

Researchers removed the highest and lowest frequencies of speech – those that contain consonants and



Illustration by David Cutler



social psychology with Rosenthal, DiMatteo moved to California in 1976 and found a medical community more open to humanistic psychology. An early research project in the family medicine department at the San Bernardino County Medical Center, (now called the Arrowhead Regional Medical Center) found that patients were more likely to make return appointments with doctors who had good communication skills.

“Good interpersonal skills protected doctors from no-shows,” she said. “There’s a monetary outcome for this. Doctors who communicate well have more patients.”

Poor communication skills can lead to malpractice suits. In a 2002 study of surgeons and family practice physicians, Rosenthal and researchers in Boston and Toronto found that a surgeon’s interpersonal skills were a strong indicator of whether a patient was

likely to sue for malpractice.

“Surgeons whose tone of voice was rated as bossy or domineering were more likely to be sued,” he said. “Family practice physicians who sounded like they cared about a patient were less likely to be sued. Doctors may make errors, but if they have a good relationship with their patients and something goes wrong, the patients are more likely to say the doctors did the best they could.”

Physicians’ voices change depending on the characteristics of their patients, DiMatteo’s research has found. Doctors generally are more hostile when the patient is depressed and more supportive when the patient is nervous.

There also is evidence to suggest that ethnic minority and poor patients receive less information and less positive communication from their doctors, and they ask fewer questions and participate less in the medical visit. That disparity in care is an issue DiMatteo began exploring in 2006 with a two-year, \$267,501 Investigator Award in Health Policy from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

One early result from that research project is the discovery that patients who are more severely ill with a serious disease are less likely to follow a physician’s recommendations for treatment, and patients in the worst health with less serious diseases are more likely to adhere to treatment.

Those findings have significant implications for health-care professionals, DiMatteo said.

“Patients may have doubts about the efficacy of their treatments, particularly if some have failed them, and their expectations for and interactions with their providers may be reduced in quality as they grow more severely ill,” DiMatteo and colleagues wrote. “For patients in poor health with serious disease conditions, adherence may even seem futile, and patients may become depressed,

pessimistic, socially withdrawn and hopeless about surviving.”

Disparities in communication dynamics may prove to be a “smoking gun” in helping to explain disparities in health care treatment and results, and may suggest a way to improve medical care for minority and impoverished patients, DiMatteo said.

With growing evidence that good nonverbal communication may be essential to healthcare, the foundational work of Rosenthal and ongoing research by DiMatteo may well affect



“We found a huge correlation between hostility in the doctor’s voice and his inability to get

alcoholic patients into treatment.”
Robert Rosenthal, distinguished professor of psychology

the training of future physicians.

“The whole field of doctor-patient communication owes a lot to Robin,” Rosenthal said.

Interpersonal sensitivity could well be a criterion used to admit students to medical schools, he said.

“Students who apply to medical school are so smart that you have to break ties on some dimension,” Rosenthal said. “One way you can make future selection decisions is to pick those who are more sensitive to people.”

In addition to improved selection of physicians, training of physicians may also be valuable, Rosenthal said. But it’s not enough to develop a training program; it’s critical to analyze the effectiveness of programs that attempt to teach physicians how to improve their interpersonal skills, he said.

“Most research on doctor-education programs has not looked at patient outcomes such as death rates and number of days of hospitalization,” he said. “That’s what I really want to know. Do their patients get sick less often and die less often? My biggest wish is that anybody who trains people for any profession, especially the helping professions, scientifically investigates the effectiveness of what they’re doing.”



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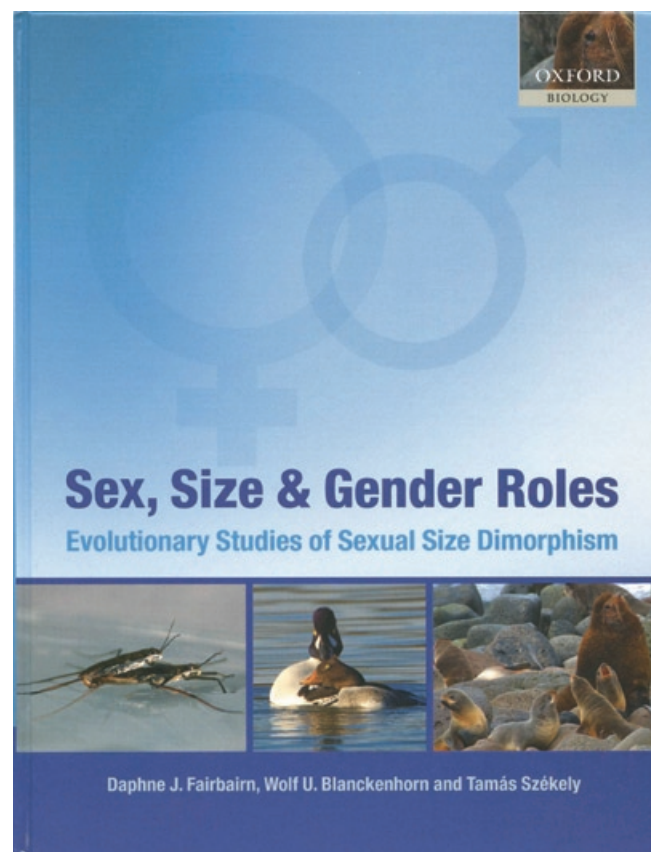
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Sex, Size and Gender Roles: Evolutionary Studies of Sexual Size Dimorphism

By Daphne J. Fairbairn, Wolf U. Blanckenhorn and Tamas Szekely
Oxford University Press
September 2007, 360 pages

What makes males and females so different in body size and morphology? The answers are presented through a comprehensive collection of studies relating to the adaptation and development of the different genders in terms of sexual selection as well as the mechanistic reasons for genetic development.

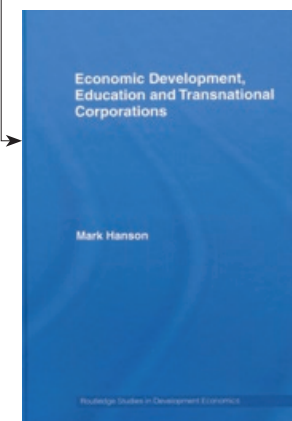
Fairbairn is a UCR professor of biology.

Economic Development, Education and Transnational Corporations

By Mark Hanson
Routledge
August 2007, 192 pages

In the early 1960s, Mexico and South Korea were agrarian societies and both were equally undeveloped. The development strategies used by each country resulted in dramatically different results. Hanson's monograph concentrates on comparing and contrasting these countries and answering the wider question of why some Third World nations have developed economically and educationally faster than others.

Hanson is a UCR professor emeritus of education.

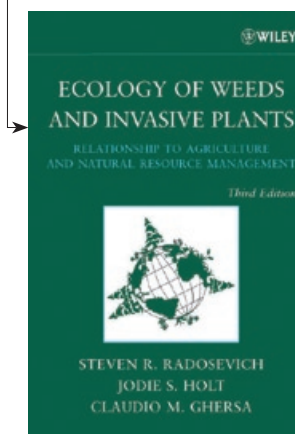


Ecology of Weeds and Invasive Plants: Relationship to Agriculture and Natural Resource Management

By Jodie S. Holt, Steven R. Radosevich and Claudio M. Ghersa
Wiley-Interscience
August 2007, 454 pages

The third edition of this reference gives readers an in-depth understanding of how weeds and invasive plants develop and interact in the environment so they can manage and control them more effectively. The guide includes an introduction to weeds and invasive plants in various environments and an overview of their ecology and evolution.

Jodie S. Holt is chair of the UCR Department of Botany and Plant Sciences and a professor of plant physiology.

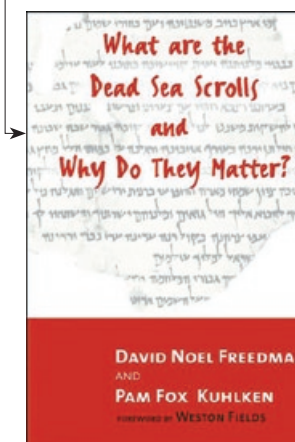


What Are the Dead Sea Scrolls and Why Do They Matter?

By Pam Fox Kuhlken ('04 Ph.D.) and David Noel Freedman
Wm. B. Eerdmans Pub. Co.
March 2007, 131 pages

Scholarly volumes on the Dead Sea Scrolls are full of indexes, footnotes and jargon. This book gives behind-the-scenes glimpses into research on the Scrolls and is good for the reader who seeks a brief, quality introduction to this subject.

Kuhlken is a UCR alumna.



Monarchisms in the Age of Enlightenment: Liberty, Patriotism and the Common Good

By John Christian Laursen, Hans Blom and Luisa Simonutti
University of Toronto Press
May 2007, 306 pages

Monarchism is often overlooked as a once-preferred form of government. In the 18th century, monarchies were sometimes considered the answer to the chaotic and sometimes violent experiments in Republicanism.

"Monarchisms in the Age of Enlightenment" considers the theory of monarchy in several countries and strives to correct misleading stereotypes about this form of government.

Laursen is a UCR professor of political science.



The Farmworkers' Journey

By Ann Aurelia López ('67)
University of California Press
June 2007, 361 pages

Illuminating the dark side of economic globalization, this book gives an insider's view of the migrant farm workers' binational circuit that stretches from the west-central Mexico countryside to Central California. Over the course of 10 years, Ann Aurelia López conducted a series of intimate interviews with farm workers and their families along the migrant circuit.

López is a UCR alumna.



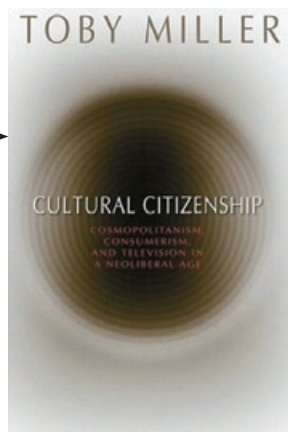
These books are available for purchase at the UCR Bookstore and online at www.bookstore.ucr.edu. They have been discounted up to 30 percent.

Cultural Citizenship: Cosmopolitanism, Consumerism, and Television in a Neoliberal Age

By Toby Miller
Temple University Press
December 2006, 248 pages

Miller combines fact, theory, observation and speculation to examine how media coverage of Sept. 11 and the Iraq war, and “infotainment” – such as the food and weather channels – have affected the idea of citizenship in America as well as within the global community. “Cultural Citizenship” illustrates how a need to “belong” has altered our definition of citizenship as a result of our culture’s dependency on television.

Miller is a UCR professor of English, sociology and women’s studies.



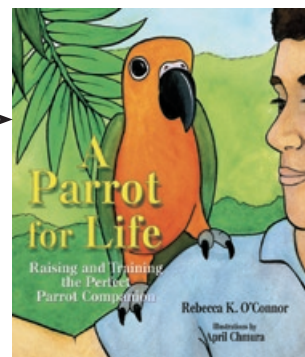
A Parrot for Life: Raising and Training the Perfect Parrot Companion

By Rebecca K. O’Connor ('94,'07 M.F.A.); illustrated by April Chmura
TFH Publications
January 2007, 176 pages

“A Parrot for Life” examines several topics important to raising a healthy and happy parrot. Covering such subjects as health care, training, the relationship with other pets and significant events in an owner’s life, this book details the facets of caring for parrots.

This book covers a variety of topics including housing, nutrition, health care, training and travel. It also provides a discussion on keeping a parrot healthy and content throughout an owner’s life changes, such as marriage, moving and adopting other pets.

O’Connor is a UCR alumna.

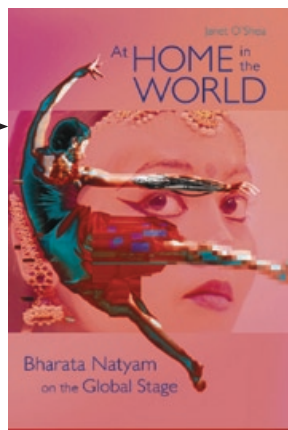


At Home in the World: Bharata Natyam on the Global Stage

By Janet O’Shea ('01, Ph.D.)
Wesleyan University Press
May 2007, 236 pages

A dance style once reserved for the courts and temples of India, Bharata Natyam has been internationally extended and adapted. O’Shea follows the transformation of the dance as it has spread across the world, and examines how it is reflected in the struggles of identity, regionalism and globalism of India and other nations.

O’Shea is a UCR alumna.



Music in the Post 9/11 World

By Jonathan Ritter and J. Martin Daughtry
Routledge
June 2007, 360 pages

“Music in the Post 9/11 World” explores how music has played a major role in the world’s reaction to the events of Sept. 11. A combination of the effect on artistic expression and commentary, and the environment in which music has been created and performed since Sept. 11, is discussed through examples of political and military actions as well as influences from the media.

Ritter is a UCR assistant professor of music.

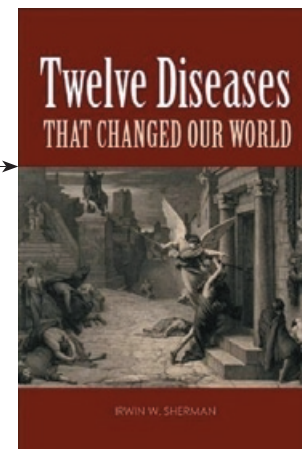


Twelve Diseases That Changed Our World

By Irwin W. Sherman
ASM Press
September 2007, 224 pages

Diseases have significantly shaped the course of the world’s history. From the 14th century plague to HIV/AIDS today, diseases have fundamentally altered the shape of society, politics and culture. Examining hemophilia, blight, tuberculosis, cholera, smallpox, bubonic plague, influenza, malaria, yellow fever, syphilis, porphyria and AIDS, the book covers the histories of the diseases and also addresses public-health responses and societal upheavals.

Sherman is a UCR professor emeritus of zoology.



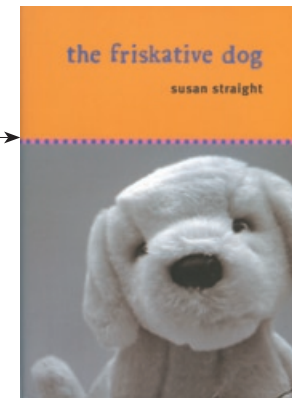
The Friskative Dog

By Susan Straight
Knopf Books for Young Readers
March 2007, 160 pages

When Sharron’s father leaves the family’s house one day and doesn’t return, Sharron and her mother are left to put their life on hold, wondering if he will ever come back. Friskative Dog, a stuffed toy and present from her father, has been Sharron’s constant companion and becomes even more important after the disappearance of her father. When the dog also disappears, it becomes obvious to everyone just how significant it has been to Sharron.

Straight explores love and loss through Sharron’s understanding of her parents’ relationship in terms of her own emotional attachment to Friskative Dog.

Straight is a UCR professor of creative writing.



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Also published:

A Garden of Integrals
By Frank E. Burk ('69)
Mathematical Association of America
May 2007, 304 pages.

Turbulence and Nonlinear Processes in Astrophysical Plasmas
By Gary P. Zank and Dastgeer Sahikh
American Institute of Physics
October 2007, 434 pages.



The Vahid family: (clockwise from the bottom) Maya, 9; wife Amy; Kelsi, 13; Frank Vahid; and son Eric, 16.

A Path (Re)Discovered

UCR Professor Frank Vahid discusses how he and his wife stumbled upon the path of home-schooling – and never left it.

My wife, Amy, and I didn't originally set out to home-school our kids. But we were surprised at the opposition by our 5-year-old son's principal to our planned three-week China trip.

"That's too much time away from school. He'll be considered truant. Don't you care about his education?" she said.

In fact, we viewed the trip as a splendid educational opportunity. But it seemed this principal, and many people, viewed classrooms and books as being the only sources of real education, versus merely being tools of mass education.

So we tried a private school for a few months, but found the homework and testing to be excessive. Thus, like hikers diverted off their charted path by an unforeseen barrier, we veered away from classroom-based schooling and hesitantly embarked on a lesser-known approach – home-schooling.

Like most people, we had concerns.

Will our son be properly socialized? Will he make good academic progress? Will we know how to teach him? Will home-schooling be too hard on Amy or strain the family? But like diverted hikers finding their new path delightful, we discovered home-schooling to be surprisingly effective and fun. Socialization opportunities were plentiful through sports teams, neighborhood kids, cousins, religious organization activities, family friends and more. Academic progress was great, mostly due to self-paced learning, subject choice and hands-on experiences. And home-schooling was a lot of fun – the same joy and bonding we experienced when helping our children first learn to walk or recognize letters would be repeated over and over again as we helped them learn about planets, animals, states, negative numbers and so on.

We adored the flexible lifestyle – we traveled when we wanted, slept in after late

nights with friends or family, spent time with out-of-town relatives when they were here and worked extra hard during less-busy times. By the time our third child reached school age, we were solidly on the home-schooling path and we haven't looked back.

And thus our kids became three of the 1 million American children – 2 percent of school-age kids – who are home-schooled today, an approach that was common before the compulsory schooling laws of the late 1800s were introduced (Benjamin Franklin was home-schooled, for example) and that is now being rediscovered by many.

Recent studies show home-schoolers tend to grow up well socialized, to attend and finish college, to hold good jobs and perhaps, most importantly, to be happy and content with their lives. Such studies, along with increasing resources and options, make the decision to home-school even easier for parents today than for us back in 1995.

In 2005, UCR started a home-school admissions program, making it the first of any California public university to do so (or top-50 public university to do so). It has attracted dozens of accomplished applicants who demonstrate enthusiasm, intellectual vitality and maturity, and who have achieved above-average UCR grades and are seemingly adapting to college life just fine.

There are many paths to raising a child. It is now clear that home-schooling is a valid one and sometimes even a great one. We have that principal from 12 years ago to thank for unintentionally helping us discover home-schooling, a path that has worked wonderfully for my wife, my kids and me – to put it succinctly, we are having a blast.

I look forward to others discovering that path, too, and to watching the home-school movement continuing to grow and evolve in the coming decades.

Frank Vahid is a professor of computer science. He and his wife recently authored the book "Homeschooling: A Path Rediscovered" to share the idea of home-schooling with parents, teachers, administrators and anyone else interested in the raising and education of children. 📖

Fran Bilderback



As the former business manager for UCR's Student Health Services, Fran Bilderback

knew well the value of making a smart investment – in the accounts she managed, in the campus she loved and in the generations of young people she served. After her retirement, Fran continued to impact the lives of exceptional students and to honor members of her own family by making investments in tax-advantaged charitable gifts to UCR.

Her Roots

A Riverside native, Fran was among the first staff members to join the campus when it opened in 1954. She went on to serve the university for more than 32 years.

Her Gift

To honor the memory of her father, a mining engineer, Fran contributed assets from an IRA to establish the Alexander Scott Bilderback Endowed Scholarship. In keeping with her dedication to the health sciences, she designated funds from her scholarship to support students pursuing the emerging field of bioengineering – an interdisciplinary program that combines bioscience with engineering applications to develop new advances in medical technology.

Her Legacy

She seeks to inspire UCR students to imagine new solutions to today's global challenges and to become leaders in 21st century medical research.



A Concerted Effort to Survive

Male crickets were being attacked by a lethal parasite. Soon, a mutation spread throughout the population that rendered the crickets silent, providing UCR researchers with important information about evolution.

By Litty Mathew

Deep in the Hawaiian island of Kauai, a page-turner of a mystery is unfolding. It has all the seedy elements—sex, murder, manipulation and survival.

While most residents are unaware of the ongoing drama, UCR's Marlene Zuk, an evolutionary biologist, is on the case.

And things are heating up.

Her task: Keep tabs on the island's nonnative male field crickets, *Teleogryllus oceanicus*. A killer has been on the loose, preying on the love-struck males.

Like many crimes, this one is committed by someone close to the victim. In this case, an ungrateful guest, *Ormia ochracea*, a parasitoid fly, kills its host so that its own offspring may live.

The fly finds the male cricket just the same way the female cricket finds him—through his mating chirp. This little fly can hear in cricket-call frequency, an unheard-of feat for any other fly. Once she locates her host cricket, she lands on its back and deposits larvae, which burrow into the body until they are ready for their grand exit, killing the cricket in a gruesome, explosive manner.

Is this the end for our hapless hero?

Not quite. Zuk's team did observe a dramatic decline in these field crickets but in the case of the mutating cricket, there's a plot twist—a dramatic physical change.

The research team found that greater than 90 percent of male field crickets on Kauai shifted, in less than 20 generations, from having normal wings to mutated "flatwings" that no longer produce the cricket equivalent of Barry White to attract female crickets for mating.

Like all mutations, the wing alteration arose spontaneously, but it has been a mixed blessing to the male crickets. Keeping quiet has a big benefit (staying alive) and one potential drawback (your soul mate may never find you).

While Zuk, an expert in sexual selection, has studied crickets for a while, it was when the Society for the Study of Evolution met in Hilo, Hawaii,

in 1991 that she started exploratory fieldwork.

"I had heard that the *Teleogryllus* were introduced to the islands," explains Zuk, "so I collected a bunch and dissected them there. No one knew that those populations were subject to an acoustically orienting parasitoid, so that was an exciting discovery to begin with."

During subsequent years, Zuk and her researchers discovered that the crickets-and-fly drama was taking place on three islands—Kauai, Oahu and Hawaii—as well. Her team's quiet sleuthing discovered that noisy male crickets were dying out and those with wings that lack the file and scraper that

**"People usually think that evolution takes millions of years but we saw it in the virtual blink of an eye, less than 20 generations."
— Marlene Zuk**



produce the love song were surviving.

The biggest result from this year's field work is that the proportion of flatwings on Oahu skyrocketed from only four males out of the sample population in 2005 to nearly half in 2007. The mutated males still get the girl—they stick close to the males who still produce song.

In field cricket circles, it's not enough just to attract the female with a call. The male has to perform a special courtship song once she is nearby. But since many males have become the strong and silent type, they skip the

foreplay. Kauai's female crickets seem willing to accept this brevity, perhaps because they have evolved to be less picky due to the increased population of silent males on the island.

"It had long been proposed that natural enemies, predators and parasites might locate food by orienting to the mating calls of their prey or host," says William Cade of the University of Lethbridge in Canada, who first researched the relationship between crickets and the *Ormia* fly in Texas. "Zuk's recent discovery that *Ormia* has actually caused males to lose the physical structures on their wings and that this evolution has taken place in a few generations is very significant. Selection must be especially strong to cause male wings to become smooth and female-like. And this has to be one of the fastest cases of evolution ever discovered in any species."

"Virtually everything we've discovered has been a surprise—really the biggest one isn't the fact that the crickets didn't go extinct, but the speed at which the mutation spread and evolution occurred," says Zuk. "People usually think that evolution takes millions of years, but we saw it in the virtual blink of an eye, less than 20 generations."

As for the next chapter, it's full of questions. Will all singing males eventually die out? If so, how will the females find their nonmusical guys? And where will the flies go to continue their life cycle?

Zuk sees her work as having implications that go beyond studying the life cycle of a cricket and a parasitoid fly.

"It's important to understand how evolution works, since that explains so much about the diversity of life on Earth," she explains. "Our work adds to the understanding of how quickly organisms can change."

To see a graphic and grisly video of how the *Ormia* fly larva emerges from its host, visit www.newsroom.ucr.edu/cgi-bin/display.cgi?flash=1418.



Words and Birds

UCR alumna Rebecca O'Connor makes a career out of her two passions – writing and birds.

By Bettye Miller



“Security breach. Security breach.”

UCR alumna Rebecca O'Connor waits for Ty, her 13-year-old African grey parrot, to respond.

Ty ducks his head and imitates the sound of a ringing telephone.

Not the desired response.

O'Connor tries again, but this time shows Ty the almond in her fingers.

“Security breach. Security breach.”

Eyeing the nut, Ty responds with a perfect imitation of a car alarm.

O'Connor calmly praises the bird as she slips the nut between the bars of his cage in the living room of her Banning home.

“I have been chasing after birds for as long as I was able to walk,” says the nationally known pet parrot behaviorist and author. “There’s something magical about a bird. They’re hard to understand and worth the work to understand.”

Words and birds. Those are the passions in O'Connor’s life.

As a child, O'Connor says, her career choices alternated between veterinarian and writer. She enrolled at UC Davis as an avian science major, where she discovered that her chemistry and calculus skills did not equal her love of birds. She switched to English/creative writing.

When the grandmother who raised her became ill, O'Connor returned to her native Riverside, where she enrolled in UCR’s creative writing program (she

got her B.A. in 1994 and her M.F.A. in 2007), and started a business serving court summonses and subpoenas to make ends meet.

“It was good money, but I was totally miserable,” she recalls of the business she started while attending UCR. “I was writing some, but not publishing anything. One day I went to a drive-through McDonald’s and the woman at the window said, ‘You served me with an eviction notice.’ Nobody likes a process server.”

O'Connor decided to become a full-time animal trainer. She moved to Florida to train birds and other animals for a free-flight show at Disney’s Animal Kingdom and later worked in animal shows in Ohio, Texas and Australia.

Now a full-time freelance writer and author of nine books, she continues to consult with animal shows and private bird owners, and speaks at parrot conferences throughout North America.

“I’ve probably trained every genus of birds,” she says. “I’ve worked with parrots, cranes, falcons, ducks, eagles, hawks and chickens.”

She owns three well-mannered parrots, a hunting dog, a flock of homing pigeons and Anakin, a 5-year-old peregrine falcon. A licensed falconer for 13 years, O'Connor looks forward to hunting season when she and Anakin pursue ducks near the Salton Sea.

Falconry as a sport is more than 4,000 years old, but did not become popular in the United States until about the 1920s. It’s a sport O'Connor says may not last another 100 years as habitat for predator and prey is swal-



**“I have been chasing after birds for as long as I was able to walk ... There’s something magical about a bird. They’re hard to understand and worth the work to understand.”
– Rebecca O'Connor**

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lowed by development.

“Connecting with a falcon in a way that he’s seeking me out” while soaring 1,000 feet above the Salton Sea is exhilarating, O’Connor says.

“Falconry is about taking native birds and hunting native game. When you start your day seeing the sun rise it’s hard to get caught up in the nonsense we’ve created. There’s a balance there.”

O’Connor says that working as an animal trainer in live shows was educational, but she missed writing.

“I had this moment when I turned 30 and I said to myself, ‘You have a degree. You’ve been having fun with animals. What now?’ I made it a goal to finish a novel while I was 30.”

The result was “Falcon’s Return,” a romance novel for young adults published by Avalon Books that was a finalist in the Holt Medallion for best first book. While the book didn’t make her wealthy, O’Connor says it taught her a valuable lesson: “I could finish a manuscript.”

O’Connor’s love of animals figures prominently in her writing.

“It’s a combination of two perfect worlds,” she says. “If I were to die tomorrow I hope I would leave behind a body of work that helped people understand the earth and their connection to it. I want people to explore their relationship with animals and the earth, and relish it.”

“Falcon’s Return” features a falconer as a central character. Nature reference books followed, published by Thomson Gale, an academic publisher of books for teens and young adults.

“A Parrot for Life,” written for parrot owners, was published earlier this year by TFH Publications and is in its second printing. The book recently was picked up by national pet supply chains PetSmart and PETCO.

In press is the falconry memoir she wrote for her master of fine arts degree, a manuscript that will be published by

Red Hen Press in 2008 or 2009, and she is contracted to write a book about rescue parrots for TFH Publications. She also is starting to work on a detective series that will feature an animal behaviorist as the central character and a novel about an orphan searching for the last falconer in a future when the American plains have been “rewilded” with predators to rejuvenate the ecosystem.

“It’s a statement about two extremes,” she says of the latter project. “We can neither put nature in a bottle nor remove ourselves from humanity. The two require balance.”

Another book in progress is “Single ... with Pets! An Animal Trainer’s Insights on Dating and Relationships,” a humorous exploration of how many of the tools she uses in working with animals can be used with people to create open, strong and meaningful relationships.

“Some men think that’s manipulation,” she says. It’s not. “It’s communication. Manipulation is shaming, guilt and nagging, which aren’t tools in my training arsenal.”

As a parrot consultant, O’Connor says, she doesn’t train birds.

“I train people. Everything in your environment is a product of your actions. If your dog barks or your parrot screams or your spouse doesn’t treat you well, you have to make a more conscious effort to reinforce what you like. If you teach a bird when you say ‘hello’ that he will get a treat and when he starts screaming you walk away, he will work for the positive.”

Unlike dogs and cats, which have been domesticated over a period of 4,000 years, parrots are wild.

“They don’t care if we’re upset. African grey parrots are brilliant, but they’re not children. They don’t think like humans. They’re wired differently. That’s what makes them so wonderful.” ❧



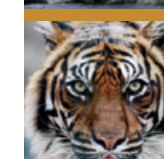
FALCONRY LIFE LESSONS FROM REBECCA O’CONNOR

1. Life is simple, as simple as a glorious sunrise and a good hunt.
2. Honesty is the foundation of every great relationship.
3. Trust is delicate and requires constant care.
4. The living creatures we love the most do not “belong” to us.
5. The best meals are fought for and toasted.
6. Grace, style and precision are a combination often dismissed as luck. If you work hard, you will always be “lucky.”
7. Magic comes in moments of desperation. So don’t give up.
8. Anything is possible. So keep your eyes open.
9. Sometimes life requires having a little faith in something that is too high above you to see.
10. The things you discover while looking into the skies are worth the occasional stumbling. So keep looking up.

Express your UCR Pride...
Join the UCR Alumni Association for Life



Oliver Ryder '68
Distinguished Alumnus
Proud UCRAA Life Member



“How the campus has changed! New buildings, the freeway modification, Student Center renovations and the new Alumni and Visitors Center all speak volumes about a thriving university campus.

Soon after my UCR graduation, the value of my academic training and the richness of my educational experiences became clear. These realizations have only grown with time. I gained so much from my many opportunities here—disc jockeying in KUCR’s first years, theater performances, campus colloquia, memorable campus concerts, and campus political activism are just a few gems I recall.

It is with pride and gratitude—and recognizing a very good deal—that I became a lifetime member of the UCR Alumni Association.”

Oliver Ryder is the Kleberg Associate Director/Genetics at the Center for Reproduction of Endangered Species, Zoological Society of San Diego. He is a world leader in the application of genetics to wildlife biology.

Become a lifetime member of the UCRAA.
To join, call (951) UCR-ALUM (827-2586)

www.alumni.ucr.edu/membership

Nominate an Alumnus

Nominations are sought for the 2008 award for Distinguished Alumni, Alumni Service, Outstanding Young Alumnus and Honored Alumni award.

Nomination/application forms are available online at www.alumni.ucr.edu or by contacting the Alumni Office. The nominations deadline is Dec. 1. Recipients will be honored at the 22nd Annual Alumni Awards of Distinction Banquet on April 26.

Be on the Board

The UCR Alumni Association (UCRAA) is seeking nominations and applications for its board of directors. The two-year terms begin July 1, 2008.

UCRAA supports campus activities and events and assists current students in their academic and career pursuits. The association provides alumni opportunities to promote the growth and prestige of UCR through its various programs, such as student recruitment, legislative advocacy, scholarship selection and networking activities.

To serve on the board, individuals must be graduates of UCR and current members of the UCRAA.

Applications are available online at alumni.ucr.edu or by contacting the Alumni Association. Deadline is Jan. 7, 2008.

Travel with Friends

Join the UCR Alumni Association on a river cruise through Ukraine and Romania. The tour is scheduled for April 22-May 4. Want to try something different? Discover the treasures of Japan, May 19-29 or experience the Italian Lake District, June 7-15. Contact the UCR Alumni Association to request a detailed travel brochure.



How to contact the UCR Alumni Association
(951) UCR-ALUM or (800) 426-ALUM (2586)
ucralum@ucr.edu
www.alumni.ucr.edu

For more information about these and other alumni events, visit www.alumni.ucr.edu



2.12

All-UC Alumni Career Conference

8 a.m. – 8 p.m., UCLA Campus



2.21

Alumni Association Winter Quarter Meeting

Executive Committee Meeting, 1:30-3 p.m., Alumni and Visitors Center, Erickson Conference Room; UCR Alumni Association Board Meeting 3-6 p.m., Alumni and Visitors Center, Johnson Board Room.



2.22-23

“Come Play, Come Celebrate and Come Home”

Homecoming 2008, Various Campus Locations
Visit www.homecoming.ucr.edu for more details.

Events include a homecoming happy hour, a hike to the “C,” campus tours, a back-to-class series, college alumni events and reunions, a tailgate party and the homecoming basketball game.



3.3-4

UC Day in Sacramento Legislative Conference

UC Day brings alumni from all 10 UC campuses together to meet with elected officials on UC-related issues. This is an opportunity to meet in small groups with legislators in their offices and discuss issues affecting higher education.



4.5

Alumni Family BBQ and UCR Baseball Game

Noon. Family BBQ at UCR Sports Complex; 2 p.m. vs. Long Beach State at UCR Sports Complex.

50s

'57 **Hal Durian**, a UCR charter student, is a retired history instructor and is now a local history columnist with The Press-Enterprise newspaper in Riverside. Hal recently completed a documentary film, “Influenza, Epidemic, 1918-1919, in Riverside and Worldwide.” Hal resides in Claremont with his wife, Barbara. They have been married for 43 years. Their son, **Matthew Durian**, is a 1995 graduate of UCR. Hal was the oldest UCR alumnus to make the climb to the big “C” as part of UCR’s 2007 Homecoming activities.

'58 **Robert Allan Forsyth** married Zahra Momehzadeh on May 24 in Sedona, Ariz. ... **George Harper** and **Bette Harper** ('60) will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on Dec. 22. The couple met at UCR and married during Christmas break when they were still students. George is a retired physician.

60s

'63 **James Welch** was a math teacher at Glendora and Monrovia high schools for 14 years. He was also a technical writer and manager of a technical publications company for 20 years, and an information engineer at Hewlett Packard for two years. He retired in 2002.



Rina Gonzales

UC Riverside, '99, Major in Political Science, Minor in Ethnic Studies

Gonzales is deputy city attorney for the city of Riverside.

- Tell us a little about your job.**

I am a deputy city attorney for the city of Riverside, and my specific practice area is municipal law. I act as general counsel for two city departments, the library and museum, as well as provide assistance to the city’s Development Department and the city of Riverside Redevelopment Agency. A typical day for me involves drafting/reviewing contracts and answering questions on legal issues as they arise.
- I have heard you volunteer for the Inland Empire Latino Lawyers Association. Why is that an important cause for you?**

Access to the justice system is a concern near and dear to my heart. To me, doing pro bono work is something I must do as a member of my community. When you help someone to improve their life, you help not only that person, but the entire community. As an example, the community benefits when a negligent landlord is requested to bring their rental unit to habitable conditions.
- Tell us one thing that you are most proud of in your life.**

The one thing that I am most proud of is reaching my academic goals by the age of 25. In high school, I made the decision that I wanted to be a lawyer. I stayed focused and committed to this decision. Fortunately, I was accepted to and graduated from a first tier law school and then passed the California Bar Exam.
- How do you spend your time away from work?**

Lately, I have been traveling. This year I visited Washington, D.C. during the Fourth of July and also took a trip to Cabo San Lucas in August. When I’m in town, I am either scrap-booking, shopping or spending time with my friends.
- What advice do you have for students who are considering a career in law?**

Get a mentor who is a lawyer who likes their job and have that mentor introduce you to other lawyers. Get an internship and become involved in campus organizations. And, last but not least, do well in college (grades) and spend time studying for the LSAT exam.

Names printed in **Blue** indicate members of the UCR Alumni Association. To update your membership, or to share information and photos for possible use in Class Acts, visit www.alumni.ucr.edu.

'67 **David Drum** is a freelance health and business writer. He recently wrote "Failure to Atone: The True Story of a Jungle Surgeon," by Allen Hassan as told by David Drum. Hassan was the only medical doctor in a small jungle hospital during the Vietnam War and he experienced the horror of war ... **Robert K. Warford** ('69 M.A.) was inducted into the International Academy of Trial Lawyers in 2006. The academy was chartered in 1954 and is recognized as the most prestigious organization of trial lawyers in the world. Bob is also a member of the American Board of Trial Advocates, and is a fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers. He is a partner in the law firm of Reback, McAndrews & Kjar, and manages the San Bernardino office of the firm. He specializes in the defense of medical malpractice and other professional negligence lawsuits.

'68 **Ken Goddard** is working with an international team of marine biologists to develop crime scene investigation protocols in order to investigate damaged coral reefs. Ken is the federal crime lab director for National Fish and Wildlife Forensics ... **Dean Jones** received his education specialist degree in educational leadership from the University of Idaho.

'69 **Garry Smith** retired in 2006 and is living large in Arizona Rim country.

70s

'71 **Robert John Schultz** ('92 administrative credential) is superintendent of Eureka Union School District. He is married to **Betty Lou Esgate** ('71) and has three children, two stepchildren and four grandchildren. Robert is also a freelance writer.

'72 **Elliot Duchon**, ('72, '74 M.A.) was chosen as Superintendent of the Year for 2007 by the Association of California School Administrators Region 19, which includes all of Riverside County. Duchon is superintendent of the Jurupa Unified School District.

'73 **J. Raymond Buriel** ('75 M.A., '77 Ph.D.) was selected as a recipient for a 2007 Wig Distinguished Professor Award for excellence in teaching at Pomona College. Ray is the Harry S. and Madge Rich Thatcher professor of psychology and professor of Chicano studies. He joined Pomona College in 1977. This is his second Wig Award ... **Linda Dunn** is chief deputy district attorney for the family protection unit of Riverside County. Her experience includes working as a correctional officer, a probation officer and a firefighter. After law school, she worked for Legal Aid, the state of Oregon, and then went into private practice in Riverside. She joined the Riverside County District Attorney's office in 1989 and has handled more than 100 trials ... **Pauline Miller** is the People with Arthritis Can Exercise (PACE)

instructor for the city of Highland's Senior Center. She has been involved with PACE since 1995 and has been teaching since 1997. She was previously employed as a registrar with the Air Force Inspection Agency in New Mexico.

'74 **Dean Alger** (M.A., '78 Ph.D.) is working in the Minnesota Office of the Secretary of State. He has lived in Minnesota for the past 25 years. Dean is serving as consultant to the secretary of state. He focuses on voter education, and civic and political engagement.

'75 **Gary Amstutz** ('77 M.B.A.) and Mary Ann Amstutz celebrated their 26th wedding anniversary in July. Gary is vice president of Alion Science and Technology in McLean, Va. The couple has two grown sons.

'76 **George Givens** received his M.B.A. degree from the University of Phoenix in February. His graduation was held in Anaheim in June.

'77 **Randy Hough** (M.A.) was elected vice president and secretary of the United States Chess Federation. Randy is an active chess player and former chess master. He has been a National Tournament Director since 1985, having directed several national championships. He has been an International Arbiter since 1989. Randy was a government affairs representative for the city of Los Angeles before retiring in 2005 ... **John Westcott** was named a Teacher of the Year finalist at Fullerton

College, where he has taught journalism part time for the past four years. He began teaching a class on beginning news writing at Saddleback College in Mission Viejo in the fall and continues teaching two classes at Fullerton College.



'79 **Desdemona Cardoza** (M.A., '82 Ph.D.) is provost and vice president for academic affairs at California State University, Los Angeles. As provost, she will be the university's chief academic officer. Desdemona, a professor of psychology who joined the Cal State L.A. faculty in 1988, was formerly dean of the university's College of Natural and Social Sciences. She has authored journal articles on ethnic identity, attitudes toward immigrants, and Latinos and higher education. ... **Mark Gard** is the athletic director at Jurupa Valley High School, where he also coaches boys basketball. Mark was the athletic director at Avalon High School on Catalina Island in 1985-86 ... **Mary L. Sanders** (Ph.D.) was named a primary partner for the Indiana Center for Families In Transition (ICFFIT), where she serves the courts and families of Indiana as a custody evaluator. Her extensive experience in providing evaluations with children, adolescents, adults and families is complemented by her therapeutic experience with children and families. She has provided assessment services, including testifying, for various judicial jurisdictions and for the Marion County Juvenile Public Defender's Office. Mary currently resides in Indianapolis, Ind. ...

Cherie Stehula-Lonjers married **Robert Lonjers** ('78). They have three children ... **Anita Summers** is married and has two children, Sara and Rachel. She loves to travel and has been to all the continents with the exception of Africa. She enjoys making homemade chocolates and is involved in ostomy support since her surgery in January 2004 ... **Donald F. ("Fritz") Zimmer Jr.** is a partner with Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP in San Francisco and vice chairman of the firm's products liability and mass tort practice group. He was elected to the board of directors for the International Association of Defense Counsel (IADC). Fritz serves as vice president of the Foundation of the IADC and completed his work as chair of the Open Forum Committee. He was a member of the IADC Trial Academy faculty in 2002 and has served on several committees within the organization. Fritz is a products liability specialist with an emphasis on medical devices, pharmaceuticals and toxic substances. He also handles matters involving commercial and employment litigation.

80s

'80 **Katherine (Child) Jonelis** ('85 M.A.) is the records specialist for SCF Arizona where she is responsible for the creation and maintenance of the records retention and disposition program for the largest provider of workers' compensation insurance in Arizona ... **Thomas D. Tostenson** graduated from Phoenix

Seminary in May with a doctorate of ministry degree. Tom is a full-time board certified hospital chaplain at St. Joseph's Hospital and Medical Center in Phoenix, Ariz. In addition, Tom is a member of the faculty of Grand Canyon University, where he teaches biomedical ethics and regularly guest lectures at Arizona State University on the subject of patient's rights. A 1987 graduate of Talbot School of Theology at Biola University, Tom has served as a chaplain in the United States Navy and in the Nevada and Arizona legislatures. He served on the committee that founded the UCR Alumni Association chapter in Washington, D.C., in 1992-93. Tom and his family reside in the Phoenix Village of Ahwatukee.

'81 **Gregory P. Fontana** is vice chairman of surgery and pediatric surgeon-in-chief at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles. He is also an attending cardiac surgeon at Cedars-Sinai and associate clinical professor of surgery at the David Geffen School of Medicine. Greg's clinical and research expertise is in surgery for congenital heart disease and in minimally invasive surgery. Widely published in peer-reviewed journals, Greg serves on the editorial board of the Journal of Cardiac Surgery and the Heart Surgery Forum. He has been a technical adviser for many television dramas and motion pictures, including "Chicago Hope" and "John Q." Greg is married to Jeannie Fontana. They have three children ... **Guy Gilmore** is publisher and president of the

St. Paul Pioneer Press. Guy has been vice president of circulation at the newspaper since 2005. Before joining Pioneer Press, Guy was president and publisher of the Allentown Morning Call. He has held top circulation jobs at the Baltimore Sun, Portland Oregonian and the Nashville Tennessean Banner.

'82 **Michael Anthony Mellano** ('88 Ph.D.) is the farm manager of Mellano & Co. in San Diego County. Michael's grandfather founded the family-owned and family operated business in 1925. The Mellano family, including Michael's wife, **Valerie** ('88 Ph.D.), and uncle, **Mike Sr.** ('69 Ph.D.), has worked closely with the University of California on numerous projects that contribute to agriculture as a whole.

'83 **Judith Posnikoff** ('85 M.B.A., '93 Ph.D.) is one of the founders and a managing director of Pacific Alternative Asset Management Co. LLC, an institutional fund-of-funds firm based in Irvine, Calif. As a member of the investment management committee, Judy is involved in all stages of the investment process and specifically focuses on the complex customized portfolios of the firm's Asia/Pacific institutional accounts. Other partners in the firm include alumni **James (Jim) Berens** ('89 M.A.), **Patricia Watters** ('93 M.A. '95 Ph.D.) and **William (Bill) Knight** ('81 Ph.D.).



'84 **Ruben Barrales** was elected to the board of directors for the Public

Policy Institute of California (PPIC). The Public Policy Institute of California is a private, nonprofit organization dedicated to improving public policy in California through independent, objective, nonpartisan research on major economic, social and political issues. Ruben is president and CEO of the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce. He has had a distinguished career as both an elected official and an advocate for business ... **Cynthia (Gorsline) Barry** graduated in June 2007 with an M.B.A. degree from the University of Phoenix. She is the director of contracts for Warner Bros. Studio in Burbank ... **Gregg C. Fonarow** is the director of the Ahamanson-UCLA Cardiomyopathy Center and director of UCLA's Cardiology Fellowship Program. He holds the Eliot Corday Chair in Cardiovascular Medicine and Science at UCLA. Gregg's research interests center on heart-failure management, preventive cardiology, quality of care and implementing treatment algorithms to improve clinical outcomes. Gregg developed and implemented a hospital-based atherosclerosis treatment protocol at the UCLA Medical Center called Cardiovascular Hospitalization Atherosclerosis Management Program (CHAMP). He is also the chair of the steering committee for the American Heart Association's Get With the Guidelines program. He serves as principle investigator for national studies in heart failure including OPTIMIZE-HF and IMPROVE-HF. He has published

more than 200 articles in peer-reviewed journals, received the outstanding UCLA Cardiology Faculty Teaching Award in 1997 and was honored by the American College of Cardiology with the W. Proctor Harvey Young Teacher Award in 1998 ... **Adella Schroth** (Ph.D.) is the museum curator of the San Bernardino County Museum.



'85 **Michael Givel** (M.A., '88 Ph.D.) is an associate professor of political science at the University of Oklahoma, Norman.

'86 **David Christensen** is senior vice president for medical affairs and chief medical officer at Children's Hospital in Omaha, Neb. David is responsible for providing leadership to the medical staff and ensuring quality and clinical excellence in patient care. Prior to joining Children's Hospital, David served as medical director at Mary Bridge Children's Hospital and Health Center, MultiCare Health System in Tacoma, Wash.



'87 **Marjorie Arca** was named to the Milwaukee Business Journal's Forty Under 40 list for 2007. The list recognizes the professional accomplishments of young business leaders in the greater Milwaukee area. Marjorie is a pediatric surgeon at Children's Hospital of Wisconsin, where she is considered one of the rising leaders in her field ... **Mark Lawler** is the senior vice

president and chief technology officer for Compli, headquartered in Portland, Ore.

'88 **Josefina Canchola** received a California Senate appointment to serve as a member of the Board of Vocational Nursing and Psychiatric Technicians. She was sworn to duty in September and will serve until June 2011. She was also appointed to the Community Program Commission by the city of Santa Fe Springs, and also received the University of California Office of the President's "Staff Recognition and Development Program Award" in the area of student services ... **Martha Gomez** received the Certificated Management Administrator of the Year for 2007 from the Jurupa Unified School District. Gomez is the director of language services and student programs for that district.

'89 **Larissa (Cason) Dean** married Kevin Dean in April 2007 in Morgantown, W. Va. The couple moved to Morgantown in September, where Larissa practices law with the firm of Spilman, Thomas & Battle PLLC ... **Russell Paulsen** is executive director of the Hurricane Recovery Program for the American Red Cross, supporting victims of Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma.

90s

'90 **Andrew Cohen** is a plastic and reconstructive surgeon in Beverly Hills. He specializes in

all aspects of aesthetic surgery of the face and body. He lives in West L.A. with his wife, Jill Ornitz Cohen, and their sons Noah, Gabriel and Jonah ... **Craig Justice** (Ph.D.) is Irvine Valley College's vice president of instruction. Craig formerly served as dean of instructional programs and services at Chaffey College where he was also an economics instructor from 1974 to 2001 ... **Elizabeth Kerwin-Nisbet** married Dale Nisbet in 2003. Both are park rangers and live and work in Harpers Ferry National Historical Park in Harpers Ferry, W. Va. Elizabeth and her husband have worked in national parks across the country including the Grand Canyon, Canyonlands, the Washington Monument in Washington, D.C., Yellowstone, Everglades, Sequoia Kings Canyon and others. Elizabeth sang for the UCR choral society and madrigals with Professor Bill Reynolds. She still sings classical music and this summer performed in Italy during the Amalfi Coast music festival.



'91 **Elizabeth Dermody Leonard** ('93 M.A., '97 Ph.D.) went on sabbatical to the University of Limerick, Ireland, as a visiting fellow in women's studies. She taught a course on women and the law and also presented a paper at the Sociological Association of Ireland's annual meeting ... **Daryl F. Mallett** married Barbara R. Biggs in December 2006. Their son, Christian Michael Mallett, was born in January ... **Daniel Solomons** is president of Hyrian

OnDemand, a company that recruits personnel for small- to medium-size companies with 50 or more employees ... **Suzanne Sutherland** relocated from Northern California to Phoenix, Ariz., three years ago. She started a new career path with Insight Enterprises and was promoted to sales manager of the western region. Insight Enterprises hosts the annual Insight Bowl in late December, one of two bowl games in Arizona.

'92 **Kenneth Chamberlain** is the first Web producer for the National Journal's Congress Daily. For the past 13 years he was at nonprofit organizations in Alexandria, Va. ... **Jeffrey Walker** is a partner at Snyder, Walker & Mann and has made a name for himself as an up-and-coming trial defense attorney, winning as lead counsel in a number of complex medical malpractice disputes. Jeff has been fascinated with various aspects of the medical profession ever since his college days. He has handled and tried multiple cases involving cardiology and gastroenterology issues.

'93 **Nathan Barry** has bicycled across the United States. He also ran for mayor of Sacramento and has held 31 different jobs. He is looking forward to building his next boat ... **Roy Brown III** is a chief petty officer in the United States Navy band. He served eight years in the Marine Corps before transferring. He has toured and recorded with various artists including Big Mountain and Jack Costanzo. He attended the advanced musicians course at the Military School of Music

in Norfolk, Va. Roy and his family have relocated to Japan ...

William Choi married Christi Hedrick in September. William is currently with AlixPartners, a leading consulting firm specializing in turnaround, restructurings and litigation support. After graduating from UCR, he received his Ph.D. in economics from Duke University ... **Ming Hsun Lee** has been a licensed acupuncturist in California since 2002 ... **Anthony Vultaggio** launched "Results Driven Radio," a show that uses the medium of chat to promote change. The show debuted in September in the Los Angeles market on KRLA (870 AM). Anthony has served as a life coach and business consultant.

'95 **Jason Fried** is the political organizer for the Service Employees International Union in the West Bay area of California ... **James Mitchell** ('96 teaching credential) received his Ph.D. from the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, specializing in English language and literature.

'96 **Catherine Emily Marin** is a nurse practitioner and an instructor for an associate's degree nursing program. She is happily married and has two children.

'97 **Nesha Crossman** and her husband, **Micah Crossman** ('97), announce the birth of their son Owen Michael. He joins two siblings, Ethan, 7, and Hannah, 4. After seven years of service to UCR, Nesha announced her resignation from her most recent position as the director of major Gifts/Annual Giving, effective

TAKE FIVE



Swapan Nag
M.B.A., '86

Nag is the CEO of Nag Inc. and president of Engineering Systems. His firm also provides the technology platform for U.S. Doctors for Africa, a nonprofit organization. He was a keynote speaker during the June UCR commencement ceremonies.

- 1. Tell us about your work with business, Nag Inc.**
Five years after graduating from UCR, I realized that I needed to start my own business. I established the business in 1991 to provide utilities and local government with Geographic Information Systems (GIS) services. We have worked at several counties and their constituent towns and cities in the greater Los Angeles and Washington, D.C. metropolitan areas. We develop decision-support systems for utilities like natural gas, water, wastewater and stormwater, and transportation networks, urban planning, redevelopment and public safety emergency response, among other application areas. For private industry we work mainly in the fields of real estate and healthcare.
- 2. How did getting your M.B.A. from UCR prepare you for owning your own business?**
I had 13 years of work experience before attending UCR for my M.B.A. As a research assistant to James Pick and Edgar Butler, I learned to use GIS software to display census variables for jurisdictions in the border areas of the U.S. and Mexico. My engineering background made me realize that the interactive capability between digital databases and the graphic user interface is ideal to represent complex information and analysis of business infrastructure. This created the foundation for my work after graduation.
- 3. Where do you see yourself in life in 10 years?**
Retired, I hope. Perhaps spending part of my time in Burma, where I lived my first 18 years, and India, where my family found refuge after the military government took over Burma in the early '60s. With my experience in working with local government, I can see myself helping to establish economic self-sufficiency in less developed areas.
- 4. Enough about Swapan Nag the businessman; who is Swapan Nag when he is not at work?**
He is the gardener tending the native habitat around the home he shares with families of bobcats, foxes, coyotes, raccoons, black bears, rattlesnakes and a host of other native species of wildlife.
- 5. You seem to have found your passion at Nag Inc. What advice would you give to students who are searching for that perfect career fit?**
I believe I am most fulfilled at moments when I stop thinking to focus completely on doing what needs to be done, instead of expending energy on trying to rationalize about why or how it needs to be done. The perfect career track for me is NOW, when I am doing something about it, not yesterday or tomorrow. Disclaimer: Please warn your students about taking advice from a guy who, at 61, still hasn't made up his mind what he wants to do when he grows up.

Oct. 4, 2007. The family is looking forward to having their mom take some time off to raise their three future UCR alums ... **Jacalyn Lopez Garcia** is the director for the UCR/Center for Virtual Research. She also teaches photography, multimedia and art classes at Los Angeles Mission College, Riverside Community College and at the College of the Desert ... **Luis Jarquin** married Maria and together they have a daughter.

'98 **Erik Barthel** finished his medical doctor studies at the USC School of Medicine in May. He is in residency for general surgery at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center. He also received an M.S. in 2000 and Ph.D. in 2003 in physical chemistry from UCLA.

'99 **Jojo Cuarto** was married in November 2004 and became a father to Jarod Thai Cuarto in October 2005 ... **Albert Roman** received his doctorate in public administration and was promoted to director of human resources of the Pajaro Valley Unified School District.

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'00 **Susan Balt** (Ph.D.) received the Association of California School Administrators 2007 Region 19 Administrator of the Year Award. Region 19 includes all of Riverside County. Balt is the director of special education in the Val Verde Unified School District. **Julie Barrett** (M.S.) is the business develop-

ment director of WWCOT, a full-spectrum architecture and design firm. Julie manages strategic marketing programs and identifies and develops relationships with new clients. She is a specialist in architecture, construction and engineering fields with more than 20 years of experience ... **Anna Lo** started Satellite Prospector in 2005. Her company offers satellite products and services such as Dish Network satellite television service and XM/Sirius satellite radios ... **Eric Riggs** (Ph.D.) is co-director of the Center for Research and Engagement in Science and Mathematics Education and an associate professor of geology and geoscience education in the Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences at Purdue University.

'02 **Daniel Guerrero** is director of public relations for Kor Hotel Group. Daniel directs company strategies to engage media, consumers and key market segments. He joins Kor Hotel Group with a background in destination management/marketing and special expertise in global media relations and marketing cooperative partnerships. Most recently, he was the director of communications for the West Hollywood Corporation/Convention & Visitors Bureau ... **Ryann Nieves** is the program manager of legal services at the L.A. Gay and Lesbian Center. She is a two-time participant in the AIDS/Lifecycle event.

'03 **Janni Aragon** is a sessional instructor of women's studies and political science at the

University of Victoria in British Columbia. She also does consulting for various nonprofit organizations ...



Lisa Cosio married **Rob Laws** ('01) in May 2007 in Diamond Bar, Calif. Lisa is the resident services coordinator for campus apartments at UCR. Rob is a hospital distribution representative for Cardinal Health. UCR alumni in the bridal party included **Kristy Luckey** ('04), **Kristen (Canale) Gonzalez** ('03), **Jen Hanson** ('03) and **Alexis Corjon** ('03) ...

Joseph Manlolo graduated from the Medical College of Wisconsin, School of Medicine, in May and started his residency in internal medicine at Brown University at the Rhode Island Hospital ... **Robert Gaines** (Ph.D.) was selected as a recipient for a 2007 Wig Distinguished Professor Award for excellence in teaching at Pomona College. Robert is an assistant professor of geology and joined the faculty in 2004.

'04 **Tiffani King** co-founded and is chief financial officer of Triune Mortgage Inc., a mortgage corporation and real estate company. The company offers an internship to UCR students that allows them to experience a career in real estate and home finance while earning units toward graduation ... **Gladys Negrete** received her master's degree from UC San Diego's Graduate School of International Relations. She concentrated on public policy to pursue her interests in issues affecting immigrant communities ...

Cecilia Rodriguez graduated from Cal State Fullerton with a master of science degree in counseling (marriage and family therapy) ...



Joel Smith (M.F.A.) is a choreographer at Scripps College in Claremont. He didn't start dancing until he was in college. He was also a competitive swimmer for 13 years. Joel did a few commercials and worked with singers Ricky Martin and Thalia. He creates solo numbers that examine masculinity and social roles, and performs with his Casebolt and Smith Company.

'05 **Bryan Burke** is a manager at Walgreens in Corona. He oversees 30 employees and learned the ropes of the position during a 10-week summer internship in his sophomore year at UCR ... **Seth Wagerman** (M.A., '07 Ph.D.) is an assistant professor of psychology at California Lutheran University. He has published articles and made presentations on his research.



'06 **Neil Aitken** is founding editor of Boxcar Poetry Review. He is pursuing a Ph.D. in English literature and creative writing at USC ... **Joanna Bell** is an intern with Rep. Ken Calvert (R-CA 44th). She has enjoyed the research and policymaking component of her job. Joanna assisted with education research and a bill to cut interest rates on student loans.

WE REMEMBER

FACULTY AND STAFF

Martin Barnes, professor emeritus of entomology, passed away in April. He was 86. Dr. Barnes worked at UCR for 46 years as an economic entomologist and professor in the Department of Entomology, where he also served as chair before retiring in 1991. He is survived by sons Wayne Morris of University City, Mo.; Martin Killian of Vers, France; Brian McRae of Fairbanks, Ak.; daughter Delia Elizabeth of Berkeley, Calif.; sister Martha Jane Dowds of Pasadena; and 11 grandchildren.

Charles Castro, a professor emeritus from the UCR Department of Nematology, died in January. He was 77. Dr. Castro was appointed associate specialist in nematology at UC Riverside in September 1961. In 1970, he became a full professor of nematology.

Gene Gonzales, died in September. Gonzales was a special programs coordinator in the Office of Student Business Services. He was a former UCR student and worked at UCR for more than 10 years.

Ralph Burton March died Aug. 6 in Chapel Hill, N.C. He was 88. Dr. March, an eminent insect toxicologist, arrived at UCR in 1948 and became head of the Division of Toxicology and Physiology from



Ivan Hinderaker, UC Riverside's longest-serving chancellor, died Sept. 23 in Irvine. He was 91. Hinderaker, widely revered as a champion of students, the community and the arts, was named UCR's third leader on July 1, 1964, and served until his retirement in 1979.

He endeared himself to students during the anti-war protests in the 1960s by inviting protesters into his office for coffee and doughnuts, said founding faculty member Francis Carney.

"He wasn't a pushover. He preferred negotiations. That was Ivan's way," he recalled.

Robert Hine, also a founding faculty member, recalled Hinderaker walking up to a group of anti-war protesters gathered around the flagpole and "talked, talked, talked. I think a lot of chancellors did not do that."

"He was a kindly, well-intentioned man who got us through the hectic days of the '60s and '70s," Hine said. "I did not always agree with Ivan's decisions, but he led us safely through those years."

Hinderaker and former UC Regent Phil Boyd pushed for construction of the carillon tower, a landmark on the UCR campus. He continued to financially support the instrument long after he'd retired. He was also instrumental in forming the UC Riverside Foundation Board of Trustees, which continues to support the campus.

Hinderaker is survived by his brother and sister-in-law, Theodore and wife Laura Hinderaker of Tucson; grandson Blake Hinderaker and his wife, Daniella, of Fremantle, Australia; and daughter-in-law Janice Hinderaker of Albury, Australia. He was preceded in death by his wife, Birk, and his son, Mark.

1969-72 and chair of entomology from 1978-83. He served as the first dean of the Graduate Division from 1961-69. He is survived by John S. March, Susan E. March, Kathleen Davidson and three grandchildren.

Benjamin C. Shen, a distinguished professor of physics, passed away in July. He was 69. Dr. Shen worked for UC Riverside for 38 years and served as chair of the

Department of Physics and Astronomy in 1988-90, 1991-93 and 2003-05. He is survived by his wife, Mayling; and two daughters, Christine and Kathy; and their five grandchildren. The Shen family has donated \$100,000 to the Benjamin C. Shen Memorial Fund, which will be used by the Department of Physics and Astronomy for student fellowships.

ALUMNI AND STUDENTS

'65 **Thomas Crist** (teaching credential), educator for 42 years, May 2007.

'74 **Frank Johnson**, first football player drafted out of UCR by the Los Angeles Rams, July 2007.

'82 **Stacey Herrmann**, a teacher and coordinator of curriculum and training, July 2007.

'07 **Beatriz Santiago**, a sociology and women's studies student, August 2007.

Jack Clarke Jr. ('80)

Attorney and president of the UCR Alumni Association



Jack Clarke Jr. carries on a family tradition of focusing on good education.

By Lisa O'Neill Hill

Jack B. Clarke Jr.'s parents regarded a good education as an absolute necessity, and his father had so much reverence for the law that he emphasized the word whenever he said it.

"He would almost trumpet the word," said Clarke, a partner in the litigation department of the Riverside office of Best, Best & Krieger.

Those core values resonate with the longtime attorney who specializes in representing school districts in hearings about the education of students with disabilities.

"Representing the school district is, from my perspective, the same thing as advocating for the child," he said.

Clarke, who graduated from UCR in 1980, is a pioneer in special education law.

"This is something that most people in the community may not touch upon but for those people who are affected by it, it is extremely important," he said.

Clarke follows in his father's footsteps in his commitment to community service. Jack Clarke Sr. was the first African-American member of the Riverside City Council, served on the Riverside County Board of Education and was active in many civic groups.

In his downtime, Clarke Jr. cherishes time with Sheila, his wife of nearly 17 years, and children, Jack, 7, and Chynna, 10. A member of UCR's Athletic Hall of Fame for his success in karate, he still practices martial arts.

Clarke is active in his church and a nonprofit foundation that emphasizes principles of living.

"I look around the world and we're in such a state of disarray," Clarke said. "I'm just looking for things to soften the lines."



UCR Commons Up and Running

When students arrived for their first day of classes this fall, they found that the new UCR Commons was open for business.

The building is the first phase of the 112,940-square-foot-building, which was designed by students and includes new dining options, meeting and conference space, and room to socialize and study.

"The Commons has always been a place for the campus to gather and this new facility

will serve the needs of our campus extremely well," said Todd Wingate, director of the University Commons. "With multiple meeting rooms, expanded office suites, new dining venues, cool student lounges and lots of places to simply hang out, I think students and the rest of the campus community will very happy with the new building."

The second phase of the Commons will include an outdoor piazza, a laptop garden, an

activity center and additional dining and retail spaces. It is scheduled to open in late 2008.

The opinions of the students and campus community will continue to be considered as an important part of construction, said Wingate. Additions and renovations to the main building may be made to support students' needs as construction continues.

To see a slideshow of more images of the new Commons, visit www.ucrmagazine.ucr.edu.

