President Mark G. Yudof announced last week that he has selected Jane Close Conoley, dean of UC Santa Barbara’s Gevirtz Graduate School of Education, to serve as acting chancellor of UC Riverside.

The appointment will be effective upon approval by the UC Board of Regents. Dean Conoley will serve until the appointment of a successor to Chancellor Timothy White, who will become chancellor of the California State University system at the end of December. Her official appointment will begin Dec. 31, the day after Chancellor White steps down.

“Jane Conoley is an established leader and scholar who cares deeply about providing access to opportunity for those who aspire to higher education,” Yudof said. “We’re very pleased that she has agreed to serve the UC Riverside community in this vital role.”

Conoley, professor of counseling, clinical and school psychology, at the Gevirtz Graduate School of Education, became dean of the school in January 2006 after serving for 10 years as dean of the College of Education and Human Development at Texas A&M University, where she was a professor of educational psychology.

“I am very pleased that Jane Conoley will serve UCR as interim chancellor,” White said. “She has a keen interest in advancing UCR’s strategic goals, supporting our students, and engaging with our community. Her combination of experience and enthusiasm will serve UCR well during this time of transitional leadership.”

The author or editor of 21 books, she was the Edith S. Greer Professor of Educational Psychology at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 1996; she had chaired the Department of Educational Psychology from 1989 to 1994 and served as associate dean for research and curriculum at the university’s Teachers College from 1994 to 1996. She also taught educational psychology as a faculty member at Syracuse University and Texas Woman’s University between 1976 and 1996.

“I am thrilled and honored to have the opportunity to serve as acting chancellor for UCR, a dynamic and forward-looking institution that has rightly received national recognition for its commitment to student success,” Conoley said. “I’m eager to meet with faculty and students. I’m sure I will learn much from my association with UCR.”
UCR Announces Location for Cost-saving Human Resources Center

**Intellicenter-Riverside, a LEED Gold-certified building in Meridian Business Park, will house “UCPath” Project**

By Kris Lovekin

The University of California has agreed to purchase Intellicenter-Riverside, an office building in Riverside’s Meridian Business Park, to house consolidated payroll and human resources services expected to save the UC system $80 million to $100 million in state funds annually by the end of 2014.

UC agreed to purchase the 150,000-square-foot, three-story building located at 14350 Meridian Parkway developed by Dallas-based KDC Real Estate Development & Investments. The office is on land managed by the March Joint Powers Authority.

Intellicenter-Riverside is six miles from the UCR campus and will house operations of UCPath (UC payroll, academic personnel, timekeeping and human resources) beginning in July 2013.

Initially, only the third floor will be used for UCPath. The other two floors will be available for lease to other entities. Through this arrangement, UC expects the investment to have paid for itself in 11 years.

Chancellor Timothy P. White applauded the purchase. “It is very gratifying to see the hard work of many people in Riverside and Oakland, as well as elsewhere in the UC system, moving this project forward. I am proud and grateful for their efforts.”

Intellicenter-Riverside is part of developer KDC’s national “green” speculative office building program that includes six LEED-certified buildings in major markets across the country. The Riverside project was awarded LEED Gold Certification from the U.S. Green Building Council. UC joins other prominent occupiers of Intellicenter buildings including: Travelers, Daimler-Chrysler, Morgan Stanley, University of Georgia and Moffitt Cancer Center.

“The University of California knew purchasing such an efficient building would be a huge cost savings in the long run while still providing a healthy and productive environment for their employees,” said John Brownlee, executive vice president of KDC. “We are proud to have provided a product that will enhance the efficiency of the university’s system.”

UCPath is a main component of a cost-saving plan called Working Smarter. The UCPath center will open for business in July 2013 with approximately 140 employees. The UCPath center will eventually employ as many as 500 people. The UCPath Center will initially serve five locations: UCLA; Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center; UC Santa Cruz; UC Merced; and the UC Office of the President. All other campuses and medical centers will make the transition by October 2014.

What people in the Inland Empire are saying...

“It’s a great day when we can create partnerships that bring new jobs to Riverside County, and at the same time foster more effective use of public funds. ... The taxpayers are well-served with this new service center located in Riverside.” — Marion Ashley, a member of the March Joint Powers Authority and a Riverside County supervisor

“UCPath’s selection of the Intellicenter building in the Meridian Business Park on March Joint Powers Authority land is a significant step forward for the March JPA and the region. ... The jobs UC is bringing to our area are a boon and will ultimately provide employment for graduates of our local universities.”
The Nov. 6 Election: UC System Celebrates Prop 30 Passage

Eight UCR alumni and staff were also voted into office

By Lilledeshan Bose

The Nov. 6 election was a momentous one for the United States in many ways. President Obama was re-elected. Women were voted into office in historically large numbers. Laws regarding LGBT rights and decriminalizing marijuana were approved.

For the University of California community, the best news was voters’ approval of Proposition 30.

According to UCR Chancellor Timothy P. White, its passage means the University of California will avoid an additional $250 million in mid-year budget reductions, nor lose an additional $125 million next fiscal year. The cuts would have meant significant tuition increases to students and their families.

“It is gratifying to know that Californians value the impact of public higher education, its students, faculty, and staff,” Chancellor White said. “The electorate recognized our importance to the future of our state, and declared they are willing to tax themselves for it.”

In a letter to the campus on Nov. 7, President Mark Yudof also thanked the entire UC community, saying, “The passage of Gov. Brown’s budget initiative has created an opportunity to bring stability to the funding of public higher education in California. The task ahead of us now is to do everything possible to strengthen the capacity of the university to serve people in every part of the state through academic excellence and public service.”

Eight UCR alumni and staff were also voted into office on Nov. 6. They are:

- Paul J. Cook (’00 M.A., political science) — House of Representatives District 8
- Mark Takano (’88 T.C., ’10 M.F.A., creative writing) — House of Representatives District 41
- Roger Hernández (’02 B.A., political science) — 48th Assembly District
• Jose Medina (’76 B.A., Latin American studies) — 61st Assembly District
• Holly Mitchell (Attended UCR from 1982 to 1986) — 54th Assembly District
• V. Manuel Pérez (’95 B.A., political science and ethnic studies) — 56th Assembly District
• Anthony Rendon (’00 Ph.D., political science) — 63rd Assembly District
• Dr. Raul Ruiz, previously the senior associate dean for community engagement and partnerships at the
UCR School of Medicine — House of Representatives District 36.

To cap off election season, National Public Radio correspondent Ari Shapiro gave a talk at UCR on Nov. 12. The
award-winning journalist had traveled the country with Republican presidential candidate Mitt Romney,
and it was Shapiro’s first public speaking appearance since the election.

The 90-minute talk, co-sponsored by UC Riverside Presents and KVCR 91.9 FM, was attended by more than
300 people. According to Shapiro, the most enjoyable part of covering the election was the opportunity to talk
to a variety of people across the country and tell the story of America.

Chicana Literature, Creative Arts Scholar Named Tomás Rivera Chair

Theater professor Tiffany Ana López, the granddaughter of migrant farmworkers, fills chair honoring UC
Riverside’s fourth chancellor

By Bettye Miller

Fleeing an abusive home and on her own
at age 15, Tiffany Ana López planned a
career as a Burger King franchise owner.
The life of a scholar was unimaginable.
But a series of mentors — high school
teachers, community college instructors
and a Latina poet at Cal State Sacramento
— encouraged her to dream big.

López, now a professor of theater at
UCR, has been named the Tomás Rivera
Chair in the College of Humanities, Arts
and Social Sciences. She becomes the
second scholar to hold the prestigious en-
dowed chair at UCR, succeeding Juan Felipe Herrera, who has held the position since 2005. Gov. Jerry Brown
named Herrera the California Poet Laureate in March, a two-year appointment that will take the Latino poet
into classrooms and community centers throughout the state.

“I am incredibly proud to be honored in this way,” said López, a longtime admirer of Rivera for his creativ-
ity as a poet and author, his scholarship and his administrative leadership. “When you’re an endowed chair
you’re a living memorial. Like Tomás Rivera I feel duty-bound to serve the public by emphasizing that students
finish their degrees and have a sense about what they want to do to change the world when they leave the uni-
versity. Our students represent passion, hope and the future.”
Rivera was UC Riverside’s fourth chancellor, serving from 1979 until his death after a heart attack in 1984. Rivera was the first Hispanic and first minority chancellor in the UC system. The endowed chair, funded by Rivera’s family and other donors, provides financial support for teaching and research to a senior faculty member. The chair-holder also coordinates the annual Tomás Rivera Conference.

In announcing the appointment of López, Stephen Cullenberg, dean of the College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences, said, “Tomás Rivera was a world-class poet, author, scholar and administrator. Tiffany Lopez’s record of creativity, scholarship and administration make her a perfect fit for the Tomás Rivera endowed chair. She brings passion, sensitivity and deep knowledge to every project she engages. We are looking forward to the many new and exciting projects she will develop while she holds the Tomás Rivera chair.”

Concha Rivera, wife of the late Tomás Rivera, said she looks forward to López assuming the duties of the endowed chair.

“She is a very qualified and multitalented person. She brings an array of new ideas that will propel the endowed chair into the future,” Rivera said. “I’m looking forward to her vision for the Tomás Rivera Conference, which will celebrate its 25th anniversary next year, and for Dr. López to work with the (Tomás Rivera) archive and other projects that the endowed chair involves.”

López joined the UCR English department in 1995 as the university’s first specialist in Chicana/o literature. She currently is a professor in the Department of Theatre. Her research focuses on issues of trauma and violence and the ways that theater, literature and art provide avenues for personal healing, community building and social change.

“I left home to escape horrific domestic violence and the violence of poverty,” she explained. “I try to help students develop a vocabulary to talk about issues that impact all of us. That empowers them to be more present with their work and their goals, and enables them to be better students and understand their own histories.”

The granddaughter of migrant farmworkers and the first in her family to attend college, López describes herself as “an accidental academic.”

A Burger King restaurant manager at age 16, the future she envisioned entailed earning an A.A. degree so she could become a franchisee. Three instructors at Cosumnes River College in Sacramento encouraged her to transfer to California State University, Sacramento to earn her bachelor’s degree instead.

She enrolled in a program for students who showed promise and were at-risk, and found a mentor in the English department, Chicana poet Olivia Castellano.

“She created employment for me and transitioned my frame of reference to an institution of higher learning,” Lopez said. “She involved me in a program tutoring families of migrant farmworkers in English composition. She was a poet who trained me to become a professor of literature and to understand the transformative nature of education, and instilled in me the need to understand what it means to be an artist.”

After completing her bachelor’s degree at CSU Sacramento, López spent a year participating in creative writing workshops with foundational Chicano literary figures such as Sandra Cisneros, Ana Castillo and Rudolfo Anaya. She went on to earn a master’s degree and a Ph.D. at UC Santa Barbara, where she edited an anthology, “Growing Up Chicana/o” (William Morrow & Co., 1993), which Publishers Weekly praised as 20 stories that “affirm the potency of Chicano literature.”

Since then, López has edited Chicana/Latina Studies: The Journal of Mujeres Activas en Letras y Cambio

She was a Fulbright Scholar to Spain in 2004 and has received grants from the Ford Foundation and Rockefeller Foundation for her work on intellectual diversity and the creative arts. As a community artist, López has collaborated with theaters such as The Mark Taper Forum, The Latino Theater Company, and Breath of Fire Latina Theater Ensemble; and is an ensemble member of Company of Angels. She is a faculty advisory board member for the Barbara and Art Culver Center of the Arts and a member of a Mellon working group on medical narratives. She is a member of Campus Women Lead and the National Advisory Board of Mujeres Activas en Letras y Cambio Social.

At UCR she has participated in the College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences First Year Experience Program and the Mentoring Summer Research Internship Program. She was recognized for her work with students by a Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in Mentoring Undergraduate Research in 2009.

López said she has spent her career trying to pass on to her students what she gained from her education and how to live a life of vision and promise.

“I see myself in my students,” she said. “I understand what they are searching for in terms of a mentor and a language to better navigate not only their work at the university but also their lives. It’s not just about getting them through the subject matter or a degree. It’s what Tomás Rivera talked about in ‘And the Earth Did Not Devour Him’ — the seed of love in the darkness. At UCR we are sowing seeds.”

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**GETTING PERSONAL**

**Ralph Ambrose: The Efficiency Expert**

*The assistant director of the Office of Constituent Management and Technologies for University Advancement leads the fullest life possible through a philosophy of trouble-shooting and efficiency.*

*By Konrad Nagy*

Just call Ralph Ambrose ('97) the efficiency expert. Except that unlike the efficiency expert from the movie “Office Space,” Ambrose, who is the assistant director of the Office of Constituent Management and Technologies for Advancement, sets out to save your day, not make it worse.

Both at work and at home, the self-proclaimed “IT Guy” loves solving problems, saying he believes that solving technical problems frees people up to be creative.
“I like finding solutions that allow people to do what they’re good at. It’s not about replacing people with machines. It’s about putting the machine in its proper role,” Ambrose said. “Where machines are good at automation and repetitive tasks, people are good at creativity and building relationships with other people,” he said.

“It improves morale, in my belief, when people do what they’re good at, when the repetitive tasks are stripped from their workload. It speaks to self-actualization, that need that we all have.”

In his almost two years at UCR, the campus has benefited from the efficiency expert’s meticulous attention to detail.

Ambrose’s problem-solving prowess translates into assisting internal IT needs, troubleshooting, helping people get access to the network and The Raiser’s Edge (UCR’s alumni and donor database), providing reports to external sources such as UCOP and U.S. News & World Report and Ambrose’s favorite, application development.

“My goal is to build up my department and establish rigorous quality-control procedures,” he said.

At home, Ambrose’s love of efficiency and finding solutions has translated into a family nickname: “The Packing King.” Whether it’s packing for a trip or loading up the dishwasher, day-to-day life presents several opportunities for Ambrose to solve problems.

“One time I packed my sister’s car and used the space so efficiently that my brother-in-law said, ‘It’s like a Chinese wooden knot puzzle.’ But don’t worry, they could still see out the back!” he says, chuckling.

Living a life of efficiency has enabled Ambrose to pursue his varied interests as well. He’s fluent in three languages (English, Spanish and Tagalog), is an avid cyclist, has trained in the martial art of Aikido, and volunteers at his daughters’ school, where he has taught students programming and Web design.

The science fiction aficionado is even trying his hand at writing a young-adult fantasy novel. “I wanted to make it something that my kids could read and learn from, so it touches on some of the themes I studied as an anthropology major,” he said.

DID YOU KNOW?

Biweekly Pay Transition Assistance Available for Eligible Employees

New payroll schedule begins Jan. 20

To assist all nonexempt staff and employees transitioning to the biweekly pay schedule that begins on Jan. 20, UCR is offering two temporary transition-assistance programs for employees who meet eligibility requirements. These programs have been established in recognition of the fact that some employees may need extra financial help during the transition.

Eligible employees include those in career, contract and limited appointments (including probationary). Additional eligibility information can be found in the Transition Assistance Program Matrix ucpath.ucr.edu/biweekly/files/bwpc_assistance_matrix.pdf.

The application period is Dec. 3 to Jan. 11. Eligible employees may apply for either or both of the following programs: the Short-term (no interest) Loan (ucpath.ucr.edu/biweekly/short-term_loan.html) and the
The details for the Vacation/Compensatory Time Accrual Cash-Out Program are as follows:

• Vacation/CTO that is accrued through Jan. 19 will be available for cash-out

• Vacation/CTO hours requested for cash-out will be committed to the Vacation/Cash-Out Program once the application is received in Payroll

• Vacation/CTO hours requested for cash-out will be committed to the Vacation/Cash-Out Program once the application is received in Payroll. If, as a result, employees are left with fewer than 24 hours of vacation time, they will be eligible to use up to 24 hours of vacation, in advance of accrual, during the December curtailment period

• Those employees who request the Vacation/CTO Cash-Out Program are responsible for maintaining vacation/CTO balances sufficient to fulfill the hours requested for cash-out (e.g., if 80 hours are requested, then the employee must ensure 80 hours are still available for cash-out on Feb. 1)

Participation by exclusively represented employees is subject to the collective bargaining requirements of the Higher Education Employer-Employee Relations Act. At this time, all affected nonrepresented RX, TX, SX, EX, HX, CX and PA employees who meet the requirements of the UCR transition assistance programs may participate.

For more information on the conversion to biweekly pay, please visit: ucpath.ucr.edu/biweekly. For more information on the Transition Assistance Programs, please visit: ucpath.ucr.edu/biweekly/assistance.html. You can also contact Heidie Rhodes in Human Resources at extension 2-2463 or email heidie.rhodes@ucr.edu.

UCR Teams With Local Agencies to Reduce Water Use With 244 New Toilets

*High-efficiency toilets replacement program is co-sponsored by Western Municipal Water District*

*By Ross French*

The Office of Housing, Dining & Residential Services is collaborating with the Western Municipal Water District and other local agencies in a program that will reduce UCR’s environmental footprint, allowing the university to swap out 244 toilets in the Oban Student apartment complex with new, high-efficiency models.

UCR is just one of the sites benefiting from the expansion of WMWD’s very successful High-Efficiency Toilet Program. Since beginning in early 2012, a total of 1,500 high-efficiency toilets have been installed within the Western service district.

When the WWMD Board voted to expand the program with another 1,675 toilets over the second half of the year, UCR jumped at the opportunity to retrofit the Oban complex.

“Since the funding was restored, we’re taking advantage of the opportunity,” said Hassan Ghamlouch, director of Housing, Dining & Residential Services Operations. “This meets our ongoing sustainability ongoing efforts of reducing water and all utilities use.”

In 2009, the university converted about 600 toilets in university-owned apartments. The retrofit has saved 5,468 cubic feet of water worth $7,382 annually. Oban, formerly known as “Summer Ridge,” was purchased by
the university in late 2009 and missed the retrofit.

The new toilets use 1.28 gallons per flush, compared with older toilets that use more than 3.5 gallons. Once installed, the 1,675 toilets are anticipated to save 1,400 acre-feet of water, the equivalent of what 3,000 average family households use annually. It is a water savings of almost 400,000 gallons over the lifetime of each toilet.

The High-Efficiency Toilet Program is the result of a partnership between the cities of Corona and Riverside, the WMWD, and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.

The retrofit work will be done during Winter Break, beginning on Dec. 17.

Who Says?

UCR staff and faculty weigh in on the issues of the day via media outlets at home and abroad

“If you don’t do it regularly, you’re not going to get the benefits. It’s kind of like going to the gym once a year. What would be the good of that?”

— Sonja Lyubomirsky, professor of psychology, on the need to have a consistent “attitude of gratitude” in order to be truly happy
THE HUFFINGTON POST

“Sometimes life is like a fun-house mirror, the glass and then the real thing. I had just watched the TV show ‘The New Normal,’ a comedy about what used to be called untraditional families, for the first time, and the same day I read about Mitt Romney’s son Tagg and his wife, Jennifer, having twins through a surrogate pregnancy, using the same surrogate mother they had back in 2009.”

— Susan Straight, professor of creative writing, on what is considered ‘normal’ and ‘traditional’ and how those definitions are changing
THE NEW YORK TIMES

“Providing language access is important for two reasons: ...It gives assistance to those who need it. And it will make a difference.”

— Karthick Ramakrishnan, associate professor of political science, on how the addition of more Asian languages to voter materials works to encourage more civic participation from Asian Americans
KPCC-FM

“Sleep deprivation can significantly weaken immune function, and that can make you more susceptible to infection. Going to bed at a reasonable hour ensures that you’ll enter cold and flu season with your immune system in top form.”

— Paul Lyons, senior associate dean for education, on how to stay healthy during the cold and flu season
MAUI NEWS

“There is this impression that back in the old days, people would write their own petitions and weave campaign signs. It is silly. There has always been a level of professionalization in politics. If there is money to be spent, it has always been spent in politics.”
— Shaun Bowler, professor of political science, on how this year’s election ranks among the top in California history for campaign spending
  LOS ANGELES TIMES

  “It’s … the most devastating wood-destroying fungus of houses that we know of.”

— John Menge, plant pathologist, on poria incrassate, a house-eating fungus that can destroy an entire structure in months
  THE HUFFINGTON POST

  “Buy firewood from a local source close to your home to prevent the spread of insects and diseases, such as the goldspotted oak borer, sudden oak death and emerald ash borer.”

— Thomas Scott, conservation biologist, on the importance of buying local firewood to avoid moving harmful insects and plant diseases into and around California
  WESTERN FARM PRESS

Research and Scholarship
Nov. 4 to Nov. 27, 2012

A Vision of the Mexican Revolution

The latest ARTSblock exhibit, called “Mexico at the Hour of Combat: Sabino Osuna’s Photographs of the Mexican Revolution,” looks back more than 100 years to a vision of the Mexican revolution from Sabino Osuna. The virtually unknown photographer took dramatic images of the revolution from 1910 to 1914.

Osuna was a commercial photographer in Mexico City whose work shifted from portraiture and architectural studies to photo history when the revolution began. The title of the exhibit is also the name of a 118-page book edited by UCR Professor Emeritus Ronald Chilcote. Published by Laguna Wilderness Press, it is based on the Osuna Collection of 427 glass negatives of the Mexican Revolution, held in UC Riverside Libraries Special Collections & Archives.

The show coincides with the anniversary of the Mexican Revolution (Nov. 20, 1910), when Francisco “Pancho” Villa and Pascual Orozco led the first insurrectionist attack. The exhibit continues through Jan. 5 and will tour the country after that.

Nanotechnology Research Moves From Lab to Market

The University of California, Riverside has granted an exclusive license to The Idea Zoo Inc. to commercialize nanotechnology research developed in the lab of Yadong Yin, an associate professor of chemistry.

The Idea Zoo, a leading developer and licensor of advanced materials and technologies headquartered in Santa Clara, Calif., was granted exclusive rights to seven patents that cover various aspects of advanced super-paramagnetic colloidal nanocrystals (CNCs). Specifically, the patents focus on magnetically tunable photonic crystals and the ability to commercialize them.
The Idea Zoo will undertake the development and commercialization of CNCs spanning several industries ranging from high-security applications to commercial applications for on-demand color-changing products. The agreement spans the life of the patents. UCR will receive royalties from products developed from these licensed technologies and will receive equity in The Idea Zoo Inc.

**Buy Firewood Locally, Prevent the Spread of Disease**

When choosing firewood, natural resources experts ask that people use local firewood to avoid moving harmful insects and plant diseases into and around California.

“Buy firewood from a local source close to your home to prevent the spread of insects and diseases, such as the goldspotted oak borer, sudden oak death and emerald ash borer,” said Thomas Scott, a UCR conservation biologist who studies these invasive pests.

“Firewood is one of the least-regulated natural resource industries in California,” said Scott, a UC Cooperative Extension specialist, “but this is a situation where the university can play a critical role in changing behavior through research and education rather than regulation.”

Scott and his UC Cooperative Extension colleagues are working with the U.S. Forest Service, the California Firewood Task Force and other agencies to educate and discourage woodcutters, arborists, firewood dealers and consumers from transporting infested wood.

Firewood can harbor harmful insects and plant pathogens. Moving around infested wood can introduce those pests and pathogens to new areas where they might take hold and could have devastating impacts to trees, our natural resources and local communities. Even wood that looks safe can harbor destructive pests.

**Redhead Mice Develop Melanoma Without UV Light**

Researchers, including UCR chemists, have found that the type of skin pigment predominantly found in red-haired, fair-skinned individuals may itself contribute to the development of melanoma, suggesting that blocking UV radiation, which continues to be essential, may not be enough.

Led by scientists at the Massachusetts General Hospital, the research team performed lab experiments, in the absence of any UV radiation, on strains of mice that were nearly identical genetically except for the gene that controls the type of pigment melanin produced. When the researchers genetically disabled all pigment production in a group of red hair/fair skinned mice, they found that something about the pigment itself, and not other aspects of being red-haired and fair-skinned, was leading to melanoma.

Yinsheng Wang, a professor of chemistry whose lab was involved in the research, said, “Our contribution to the research, which provides a key line of evidence to support the research paper’s central hypothesis, lies in the quantitative measurement of the level of oxidative DNA damage in mouse skin tissues.”

The UCR component of the research was supported by a grant to Wang from the National Cancer Institute of the National Institutes of Health. Besides Wang, Jin Wang, a former postdoctoral fellow, and Candace Guerrero, a graduate student, are UCR co-authors on the research paper. Study results appeared online in *Nature* on Oct. 31.
Awards and Honors

Nov. 4 to Nov. 27, 2012

Economist Wins Grant to Study Domestic Violence in Latin America

Domestic violence in Latin America devastates families and may weaken the region’s workforce over time, according to economist Jorge Agüero, who has received a $35,000 grant from the Inter-American Development Bank to study the issue.

Violence against women is costly, but the impact on their health and participation in the workforce, and on the ability of their children to lead productive lives, has not been quantified previously, said Agüero, assistant professor of economics and principal investigator of the research project, “Causal Estimates of the Intangible Costs of Violence Against Women in Latin America and the Caribbean.” The co-principal investigator is Martin Benavides, executive director and a senior researcher at the Group for the Analysis of Development (GRADE) and a professor in the Department of Social Sciences at the Pontifical Catholic University in Lima.

The research project is believed to be the most comprehensive study of the intangible costs of domestic violence in Latin America.

Researchers to Study Impacts of Pollutant Nitrogen on Plant Species Diversity

A group of scientists, including UCR researchers, have received a one-year $100,000 grant from the John Wesley Powell Center for Analysis and Synthesis of the U.S. Geological Survey to examine the evidence for impacts of pollutant nitrogen on plant species diversity across the United States.

The group, called the Powell Center Working Group on Diversity and Nitrogen Deposition, will synthesize data sets on the impacts of nitrogen deposition on plant diversity.

“Documentation of the impacts of nitrogen deposition on plant diversity are generally lacking in the U.S., but observations from Europe indicate biodiversity losses in areas with high levels of nitrogen pollution,” said Edith B. Allen, a professor of plant ecology in the Department of Botany and Plant Sciences and the grant’s principal investigator. Other principal investigators are at the U.S. Geological Survey and the University of Colorado at Boulder.

Zhong Yan Wins Student Thermal Research Competition

Zhong Yan, a Ph.D. student in the electrical engineering department, won the Student Thermal Research Competition for a paper he presented at a conference organized by the International Microelectronics and Packaging Society. The event was held from Nov. 12 to 14 in Los Gatos.

Zhong’s presentation was called “Graphene Heat Spreaders for High-Power GaN Transistors.” Zhong conducts his research in the Nano-Device Laboratory of the electrical engineering professor and Materials Science and Engineering founding chair Alexander A. Balandin. Balandin co-authored the winning paper.

Physics Postdoctoral Scholar Receives High Honor at CERN

Sudan Paramesvaran, a postdoctoral scholar at UCR, has won the Compact Muon Solenoid (CMS) achievement award for the Hadron Calorimeter subdetector at CERN, near Geneva, Switzerland.
CERN is the location of the Large Hadron Collider (LHC), a powerful particle accelerator. UC Riverside faculty, postdoctoral scholars and graduate students are involved in the LHC’s CMS experiment.

The Hadron Calorimeter subdetector is an integral part of the CMS detector, and measures the energy of hadrons —particles composed of quarks and gluons. It is one of the central components of CMS, and is the primary detector for the reconstruction of hadronic jets and missing energy, a key signature for physics beyond the Standard Model (a comprehensive theory that explains the interactions between all fundamental elementary particles).

Paramesvaran serves as the Hadron Calorimeter (HCAL) Operations Manager for the 2012-2013 data-collection run of CMS.

Four UC Riverside Mathematicians Honored by American Mathematical Society

Four UCR mathematicians were named Fellows of the American Mathematical Society (AMS) for 2012, the program’s initial year. They are Richard E. Block, Michel L. Lapidus, Reinhard E. Schultz and Victor L. Shapiro.

The four mathematicians join an inaugural class of 1119 fellows, representing more than 600 institutions. Lapidus and Schultz are professors of mathematics. Block and Shapiro are distinguished professors emeritus of mathematics. As fellows, they will present a public face of excellence in mathematics.

The Fellows of the AMS designation recognizes members who have made outstanding contributions to the creation, exposition, advancement, communication, and utilization of mathematics. Among the goals of the program are to create an enlarged class of mathematicians recognized by their peers as distinguished for their contributions to the profession and to honor excellence. The AMS is the world’s largest and most influential society dedicated to mathematical research, scholarship and education.

UCR Staffer Joins Choir Tour to Italy

Staff member Kathy Blondel had the chance to sing for Pope Benedict XVI in Rome, Italy, early this month.

Blondel, who works in Printing and Reprographic Services as the manager of document services, is one of 88 members of the Celebration Singers choir. On a recent 10-day visit to Rome, the group performed five concerts at some of the region’s most iconic venues, including St. Francis Basilica in Assisi, the Basilica of Santa Trinita in Florence and St. Paul Outside the Walls Major Basilica. The group also had an audience with the pope.

A longtime member of the Riverside Master Chorale as well as the choir at St. Patrick’s Catholic Church in Moreno Valley, Blondel was the only Californian who was part of the tour, called the Italian Music Festival.