Homecoming 2013: One of the Best Weekends at UCR

By Lilledeshan Bose

So Scotty Highlander didn’t beat the Guinness World Record for the most hugs per hour.

But the ursine mascot did set a personal record, completing 1,862 hugs in one hour on Feb. 27. If he was short of the official record of 2,436 (set by Jayasimha Ravirala of India), it didn’t matter to the campus, which was celebrating Homecoming 2013 with gusto.

For a whole week, Homecoming 2013 was one nonstop celebration. It started with Scotty’s Birthday Party at the bell tower on Feb. 26 and culminated in the Homecoming men’s and women’s basketball doubleheader and HEAT Music Festival on March 2.

More than two dozen scheduled events involved hundreds of students, parents and alumni.

Unlike previous Homecoming events, both the men’s and women’s basketball teams played at home this year. On March 2, the women hosted UC Santa Barbara at 1 p.m. (UCSB won, 62-42) and the men played against the University of the Pacific at 5 p.m. (Pacific won, 70-68). The game was attended by Interim Chancellor Jane Close Conoley, Vice Chancellor for University Advancement Peter Hayashida and Provost Dallas Rabenstein, who cheered the Highlanders from their courtside seats, along with hundreds of others.

The traditional Homecoming Bonfire, held on March 1, included fireworks, an oxygen bar, a mechanical bull, and music from DJ Triple XL from KISS FM 102.7, DJ Destructo. The following day, scheduled events included a hike to the “C.” Student Vicki Leung said on Facebook, “The hike to the ‘C’ was a workout, but rewarding.”

Other events included tours of the UCR Botanic Gardens, the 20th anniversary reunion of the Pan African Theme Hall, a reunion of campus ambassadors and tour guides, and “Back to Class” presentations by Matt Barth, professor of engineering and director of the Center for Environmental Research and Technology, Mary-lynn Yates, dean of the College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences, and Juan Felipe Herrera, professor of creative writing and California poet laureate.

March 2 was also Parents Day, with the parents of UCR students invited to visit the campus.

Between Saturday’s games, the family-friendly Fifth annual Highlander Scot Fest took place at the Ab-
erdeen-Inverness Residence Hall dining room, with music, carnival-style games and a barbeque meal. The alumni association handed out 1,000 foam bear paws.

The HEAT Music Festival wrapped up the Homecoming festivities with six hours of music on three stages around the HUB and bell tower. Porter Robinson and Tyga headlined the show. On Facebook, audience member Andy Lam said, “Porter Robinson was amazing and made the night.”

On a wrap-up of the weekend’s events on UCR’s Facebook page, students commended various staff members and volunteers who made Homecoming 2013 one of the best weekends at UCR. Abdulaziz Alrassi said, “They deserve [a shoutout] for everything they did, thank you so much!”

As for Scotty Highlander, all is not lost: Chris Salvador, Associated Students of UC Riverside senator, said that UCR would submit the record of 1,862 hugs that Scotty received to Guinness as the most hugs recorded by a costumed mascot in one hour.

Three Members of UCPD Among Six Honored at Riverside City Hall

_Group recognized for work in apprehending three men responsible for 25 robberies in Riverside and San Bernardino counties, including six near UCR_

_By Kris Lovekin_

UCR police detectives John Enriquez and Trish Harding, and Sgt. Seth Morrison were honored at the Riverside City Council meeting on Feb. 26 for work they did in partnership with the Riverside Police Department to arrest suspects in six robberies on or near the university campus.

Riverside Police Department detectives Rick Cobb, Rick Wheeler and Mark Ellis were also recognized.

“Three of the men arrested are believed to be responsible for 25 robberies in Riverside and San Bernardino counties, so this was not only a benefit for the campus, it will help the whole area,” said John Freese, assistant police chief at UCPD. Enriquez, Harding and Morrison have a combined 35 years of service with the UCR police department.

UCPD continued the trend with the arrest of two more robbery suspects this week.

The robberies made UCR students more watchful, and prompted more to ask for escorts from campus.

Ruth Jackson Bids UCR Farewell

.Names library milestones during her tenure

On Feb. 28, Ruth Jackson, outgoing university librarian, sent out a campuswide letter thanking colleagues for the opportunity to serve UCR for the past 10 years. In it, she said, “The Libraries [have] accomplished much over the past 10 years and it would not have been possible without your input and the support of the University administration.”

Jackson added that the Libraries’ success is indicated by the number of students who use the libraries (more than 5,000 per day). Transactions on the online information system exceed 2.5 million. She also commended Wanda Scruggs, director of development, for formalizing the Libraries’ fundraising programs.
She said, “I feel that I am leaving a solid foundation for our faculty, the new university librarian, and the university upon which to continue building to support the potential for greatness that UCR has. The Libraries will be an essential component of instruction, research and campus life as UCR redefines its future and its goal to become a member of the American Association of Universities.” Jackson will remain at UCR for several months with an assignment associated with the Tuskegee Airmen Archive.

Jackson recounted the various milestones during her tenure:

- Celebrated 3 millionth volume in 2012; 490,000 of those are electronic. Provided students and faculty access to nearly 93,000 e-journals.

- Successor Steven Mandeville-Gamble can use 11 open and fully funded lines for the Libraries to be more completely staffed after a major layoff.

- Brought the Water Resources Archive and Collections (WRCA) and the Tuskegee Airmen Archive, two high-profile resources. Implemented a leisure reading collection, made possible by the Allen family’s $50,000 endowment. In 2006, the Eaton Collection of Science Fiction and Fantasy was ranked the largest and best among research libraries in the U.S.

- Poised to receive the first $1 million-plus gift when the J.K. Klein estate in New York is settled. The Libraries will receive $420,000 to 670,000 annually for approximately six years from the Student Technology Fee to bolster the student technology base and access to electronic resources. The Libraries have received more than $4 million in federal grants over the past 10 years. The Haynes Foundation will award $25,000 to support digitization projects with the Water Resources Archives collection.

- The refurbishing of the Tomàs Rivera Library

- The Libraries are fully wired and wireless, circulating laptops and Nooks, and supporting wireless printing. Document delivery is now to the desktop for faculty so that they rarely have to come to the Libraries to pick up materials.

- The Libraries played a positive role in the accreditation of UCR’s new School of Medicine, working to ensure the availability of an array of e-resources that would be needed to meet accreditation requirements. Access to e-resources in the biomedical sciences exceeds that of the University of Washington Medical School and is generally fully equivalent to the other UC campuses.

- The reorganization of several areas of the Libraries has been completed.

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UCR Pipe Band to Host Annual Piping and Drumming Competition on March 23

Harry Moore Memorial Solo Piping & Drumming Competition Returns to Canyon Crest Country Club

By Ross French

The sounds of bagpipes and drums will fill the hills and valleys around the Canyon Crest Country Club as UCR hosts the fourth annual Harry Moore Memorial Solo Piping and Drumming Competition on Saturday, March 23.

“We are proud to once again be hosting what has become the premier solo piping and drumming event in
the west,” said UCR Pipe Major and event organizer Mike Terry. “It’s a great afternoon of music, revelry and fellowship. Everyone who is a fan of the pipes and drums is welcome to come out and spend the day with us.”

The competition begins at 9 a.m. with pipers in grades I through IV will compete in a total of 12 events covering a variety of styles, including slow air, piobaireachd, 2/4 march, hornpipe/jig and strathspey/reel. There are also competitions for solo snare and solo tenor drummers as well as bass drummers. The competition is sanctioned by the Western United States Pipe Band Association.

In addition to the competition, there will be bagpipe and drum exhibitions, performances by Highland dancers, and vendors offering Celtic products. UCR’s Taiko drummers are also slated to appear.

A piper competes during the Harry Moore Memorial Solo Piping and Drumming Competition at the Canyon Crest Country Club in Riverside.

Following the competition is the Kitchen Piping Competition and Pub Party, featuring the band Galway Hooker. The Kitchen Piping Contest will feature some of the top professional and Grade I pipers playing a fun five minute piece, with judging based on both musicality and showmanship. The winner will receive a $1,000 prize and their name engraved on a perpetual trophy. Second and third place receive $500 and $250, respectively.

“There are professional and other top pipers who are attracted to this contest, not only because of the prize money, but the prestige of winning against other premier competitors,” Terry said.

Admission to the competition is $5 for students with ID and $15 for the general public. The entry fee for competitors is $20 and must be submitted no later than March 5. Canyon Crest Country Club is located at 975 Country Club Drive in Riverside. More information about the competition is available on the UCR Pipe Band’s website.

**Community College Students Acquire Hands-on University Research Experience**

*Students from three local colleges performed genomics experiments in state-of-the-art lab at UCR on Feb. 23*

*By Iqbal Pittalwala*

Twenty-eight students from three local colleges spent the bulk of Feb. 23, in a laboratory at UCR to gain the kind of university-level research experience they likely will remember for a long time.

Selected from Mount San Jacinto College (MSJC), Moreno Valley College (MVC) and Riverside City College (RCC), the students are participating in a four-week research project, called the “Sequence to Success DNA Bar-coding Challenge.” The project aims at surveying the diversity of Salvia — a common drought tolerant plant — in Western Riverside County. The participants characterized Salvia plant communities from their respective campuses.

The visiting students analyzed leaf samples in the Neil A. Campbell Science Learning Laboratory. In the process, they learned DNA extraction and sequencing, used DNA barcoding software to identify species, and applied various other molecular biology and bioinformatics techniques on the leaf samples they had collected.

The students, who are U.S. citizens or permanent residents and meet Hispanic or low-income criteria as defined by the U.S. Department of Education, will present the results from their work at a special poster pre-
sentation to be held at UCR on March 23.

Their four-week research experience is supported by a five-year $3.93 million grant to UCR in 2011 from the Department of Education. It aims specifically at supporting underrepresented student populations in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields, steering them on to a path leading to bachelor’s and advanced degrees. MSJC, MVC and RCC are formal partners with UCR for the duration of the grant.

“This grant aims to increase the number of community college students transferring into the STEM fields and improve their success and retention in the university,” said Richard Cardullo, a professor of biology, the faculty director of the Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI)-STEM Program in the College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences (CNAS) and the co-principal investigator of the grant. “The idea is to introduce research to community college students who are majoring in the STEM fields, and bring to their attention the advantages of a four-year university like UCR. If we can spark their interest in science and technology, we’ll have succeeded.”

Sophomores in the UCR Dynamic Genome Program worked alongside the visiting students to guide the research. The visitors also received rigorous coaching from James Burnette III, a molecular biologist and academic coordinator in CNAS who develops research-intensive undergraduate lab courses; and Alejandro Cortez, a laboratory assistant in the Department of Botany and Plant Sciences.

Jose Luis Orozco of MVC, who participated in the Sequence to Success DNA Barcoding Challenge on Saturday, is interested in becoming a research physician, spending time in the clinic and conducting research in a laboratory environment.

“This opportunity took me one step closer to my goal,” he said. “I plan to participate in research while in college so it benefits me now as I plan to make the transition to a four-year university.”

In the Neil A. Campbell Science Learning Laboratory at UC Riverside, the visiting students applied various molecular biology and bioinformatics techniques on leaf samples they had collected.

Participant Giovanna Jocelyn Mendez, also of MVC, has a dream: to understand math and science.

“Knowing the language of mathematics has opened a completely new world of possibilities,” she said. “I want to become a chemical engineer because it plays with math, physics, and chemistry. The research experience at UCR exposes me to the potential that the sciences have for me.”

Maureen Wanjiru Njuguna of MSJC would like to transfer to a four-year institution and earn first a bachelor’s degree and later advanced degrees in chemical engineering.

“As a chemical engineer I would like to travel back home to Kenya and work on a project in the rural areas to foster better hygiene,” she said. “The opportunity at UCR provides me the edge I need to successfully complete my undergraduate studies and the upper hand I need to apply to both the master’s and doctoral pro-
grams.”

Joseph Renteria of RCC wants to become a physician specializing in oncology or emergency medicine. Participating in the Sequence to Success DNA Barcoding Challenge allows him, he said, to demonstrate his scientific skills in a discipline he is passionate about.

“It provides an opportunity to gain an advantage over other students with the same goals,” he said.

Cardullo said the event on Saturday was an enormous success and far exceeded his expectations.

“We had 28 highly motivated students who get what it means to be serious about education,” he said. “These young people are intensely curious and coachable, with their eyes set firmly on the next steps they will take in their career paths.

“UCR well reflects the changing demographics in the country and California,” he added. “We have a well documented broken pipeline of STEM-educated workers in the country that needs to be fixed. We at UCR are ahead of many other universities in addressing this problem through events like the Sequence to Success DNA Barcoding Challenge.”

Approximately 50 students in total from MSJC, MVR and RCC applied to take part in the Sequence to Success DNA Barcoding Challenge. The selected students received no stipend and incurred no fees to participate.

“The success of the event on Saturday has encouraged us to host the research experience every year of the remaining duration of the grant,” said Nhi Viet Tran, the coordinator for STEM Connections in CNAS. “We also plan to expand the program beyond the life sciences by including the physical sciences and the chemical sciences.

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**Smokers Create Long-lasting Damage**

*Studies find that toxicity caused by second-hand smoke remains long after a smoker leaves the premises*

*By Frances Fernandes*

Researchers are finding that, long after a smoker leaves the premises, the toxicity caused by second-hand smoke remains and transforms into something even more deadly.

Relatively new research into Third-Hand Smoke (THS) – the remnants of cigarette smoke after it has dissipated into the air – is suggesting myriad harmful effects from exposure to the dust and to surfaces that have absorbed the microscopic particles of smoke.

Several of these new studies were discussed at the UC Global Health Day, Feb. 23, during a session organized by Professor Manuela Martins-Green of the Department of Cell Biology and Neuroscience. She and fellow UC researchers presented their work on the long-lasting presence of THS toxicants in the environment and on their effects in various physiological processes including healing of wounds, function of the liver and lung, and the effects on behavior.

Studies with mice – under conditions that mimic exposure to humans – show that wounds do take longer to heal, and could result in wounds that become chronic. In the liver, THS causes dysfunction potentially leading to cardiovascular disease and diabetes. In the lung, the effects are related to fibrosis, which could have con-
sequences for pulmonary disease and asthma. In behavior, UCR investigators are finding that THS exposure leads to hyperactivity, an effect that has been shown in children living in the homes of smokers.

None of these issues has yet been explored or tested in humans. However, if the long-term damage that these studies would seem to portend is substantiated, it would have significant economic implications for hotel rooms, cars and homes. Already, researchers note, second-hand cars that were driven by smokers lose value at a steeper rate.

UCR researchers have been studying THS for the last couple of years with the support of several grants from UC Tobacco-Related Disease Research Program, which administers UC’s portion of tobacco tax revenue and other anti-smoking funders.

UCR recently received more than $800,000 to pursue cigarette-related toxicity research.

Five UCR labs are working in tobacco-related research, putting this campus among the lead institutions for research in this area.

Although the picture is still incomplete, researchers already know that, when smoke compounds such as nitrosamines and benzene-derivatives – already known carcinogens – and nicotine react with ozone, for example, a new toxicant results with increased risk. This and other chemical transformations take place as smoke remnants age. Researchers fear this residue could be particularly harmful to toddlers and the elderly as well as anyone who comes in close contact with contaminated surfaces.

“This area of research is new,” says Professor of Cell Biology Prudence Talbot. “It will take a number of years to understand the impact of THS on human health. However, at this point it is advisable to inform individuals about possible dangers of THS exposure.”

Talbot’s research uses mouse embryonic stem cells to evaluate the toxicity of smoke from traditional and harm-reduction cigarettes. She is also using the hamster oviduct to evaluate harm to the female reproductive tract.

For campus employees who want to quit smoking or support someone else in quitting, UCR Faculty and Staff Wellness provides on-going access to several types of cessation/quit resources and assistance.

http://wellness.ucr.edu/smoking_cession_resources.html

The University of California smoke-tobacco-free campus policy goes into effect Jan. 2, 2014.

Turning UCR’s Aspirations Into Reality

Provost Dallas Rabenstein addresses UCR’s long-term goals at Town Hall meeting

UCR will continue to rise to academic excellence, despite budget setbacks. This message was at the forefront of the Town Hall meeting held by Provost Dallas Rabenstein on Feb. 25.

On the agenda were updates on the university budget, faculty retention, student enrollment and the implementation of the strategic plan, “UCR 2020: Path to Preeminence.”
“By some measures we are an excellent university ... by others we are already an outstanding research university,” Rabenstein said. To achieve UCR’s goal of membership in the Association of American Universities (AAU), he said, the university must grow its already-excellent faculty base upon which to build research; triple competitive federal grant support; increase faculty size by 150; and increase the graduate and professional student population to 20 percent of the total student population.

All these strategic moves are under way at UCR, whose university profile is currently strengthened by the newly opened School of Medicine. Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development Michael Pazzani is also spearheading the goal of tripling federal research funding.

At the crux of UCR’s strategy, however, is the UCR budget. With the passage of Proposition 30, California will budget a funding increase of $89 million for the UC beginning in 2012-13. That means that while there is no new state funding for 2012-13 from Proposition 30, there will also be no new reductions in state funding for 2012-13. UCR’s share of the funding increase amounts to $7.4 million, which is being used to offset the mid-year budget cut for 2011-12.

And while the UCR budget for 2013-14 is not yet known (and will depend on the final budget passed by Sacramento), the campus’s highest priority in 2013-14 will be to restore funding to faculty positions and teaching assistant positions, Rabenstein said.

A bigger emphasis on campus fundraising will also help UCR achieve its goals; to do this, the university must foster new research initiatives; go after more multi-investigator grants and give incentives for and assistance with proposal preparation. The campus is currently in the quiet phase of the comprehensive campaign, with its preliminary goal of raising $400 million via leadership gifts. The public launch of the comprehensive campaign will begin in 2015, and will likely end in 2019.

The development of a new UCR “Budget Vista” data book will be able to provide transparency in UCR’s budget in the future.

To watch the whole Town Hall meeting, go to http://provost.ucr.edu/webcasts/vision_feb13.html.

GETTING PERSONAL

Bonnie Bacon

Lead Teacher, Child Development Center

By Konrad Nagy

Few people can say that they wake up ready, excited and eager to go to work each day. But Bonnie Bacon, lead teacher at the Child Development Center, is one of them.

Bacon is in charge of the infant-toddler class, which is made up of 20 children between the ages of 2 and 3. She refers to them as her “kids” — all children of UCR staff, faculty and students.

With a team of four other teachers, Bacon creates lesson plans and organizes learning materials to meet the needs of a developing child through art, music, toys and anything else they might need. She helps her students develop their social and fine motor skills, which are crucial for toddlers.

The Truth About Child’s Play
Bacon’s classroom directly reflects the great diversity of the campus. Her kids come from several different cultures, and many languages are spoken in her classroom. It’s not unusual to hear Spanish, French, Chinese, Japanese and even Turkish spoken at the CDC.

“I’m so proud of the diversity in my classroom and at the university. I love all the different cultures,” Bacon said.

But where all her kids come from different backgrounds, they share a common desire: to play. Bacon and her team work to channel the children’s desire to play into a vehicle for learning.

“We firmly believe that children, at this age especially, learn through play. We want to provide opportunities for them to grow,” she said.

The more complex the play, the more the children are absorbing from their surroundings. One milestone that Bacon likes to see is when a child, after playing with blocks in a linear fashion, begins to stack the blocks and make different shapes and structures. Her kids don’t recognize it immediately, but they each learn and develop skills through their natural desire to play, without rote routines like flashcards.

“I love watching their development and seeing them move to the next step. It’s always a joy to watch them figure stuff out and see each milestone that they reach,” said Bacon.

Though she’s been working at UCR for almost nine years, Bacon has a total of 36 years of teaching experience and has been working with young children since she was in high school.

“When you work with kids, you learn quickly that they’re all different. I don’t view the differences as a challenge because there are no ‘challenges’ when working with children – it’s all in a day’s work.”

Every day, Bacon sets developmental goals for each child through various assessments. Ultimately, she wants to watch the children grow and to meet their unique goals through play.

This involves introducing new toys and puzzles to the children, such as Play-Doh, beads, crayons, blocks and other toys, which help the children to work on different levels of muscle development.

“We introduce different steps, ask them questions, basically, pull what we want out of the children through play.”

**Community Support**

For all Bacon does for her kids, she acknowledges the need for a strong support group and finds it among her co-workers and the campus community.

“I’ve always felt that UCR is one big family and that there is always someone there – no matter what you need – to give help and offer support,” she said. “UCR is an amazing place to work. Every day I’m thankful that I work here.”
Bacon attributes her success with her kids in the classroom to her team.

“I couldn’t do what I do without them. I work with an amazing team where we support each other and work well together,” said Bacon. “I love my job and I’m lucky to have a job that I love.”

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**DID YOU KNOW?**

The Harlem Shake Craze Reaches UCR

You know the Harlem Shake meme. It begins with a single person dancing alone to DJ Baauer’s “Harlem Shake,” while others around the dancer pay no attention. Fifteen seconds into the video, the beat drops and the camera cuts to everyone else in the room dancing wildly. Usually only 30 seconds long, the viral video has spawned versions around the world, from airplanes to offices to underground mines since February.

UCR has not been immune to the craze; several videos have been created on campus. The biggest was a gathering of more than 300 students at the bell tower, organized by members of Associated Students Program Board and Campus Housing to promote Homecoming. The groups used Facebook to invite students to the event; more than 300 showed up and performed on Feb. 13. The video has been viewed more than 20,000 times.

Some claim the meme obscures the origins of the actual Harlem Shake. “It is telling that the comic who recorded the dance, and the Australians who then made the first hugely popular recording, appear not to have close links to African-American heritage,” said Toby Miller, professor of media and cultural studies. “This is the way that Black popular culture is appropriated elsewhere, and sometimes with minimal attribution or reward.”

“On the other hand, it is in the nature of music, like speech, that its point of origin is often quickly obscured or mythologized,” he added.

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**Who Says?**

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

“This is a momentous historical moment we’re in, and we have to move.”

*Armando Navarro, professor of ethnic studies, on organizing the National Leadership Summit for Immigration Reform at UCR on March 16. The summit aims to forge a consensus on how to overhaul the nation’s immigration system.*

**THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE**

“Having something that’s hard and tough is actually very difficult to achieve in an engineering sense, and yet biology can do this based on architecting these multi-sectional composites. ... Our goal is to understand biology, specifically bio-materials, how they’re made, how they’re architected, and use the strategies done by biology or achieved by biology to make new engineering materials.”

*David Kisailus, assistant professor of chemical and environmental engineering, on how understanding*
the peacock mantis shrimp — a crustacean with a club-like appendage that can smash with more than 200 pounds of force — will help researchers develop tougher materials

**NBC NEWS**

“Ideally, unmanned vehicles need to be operated with a very limited energy supply, which is why understanding how the hummingbird maximizes its use of energy is tremendously beneficial. ... Current technology is not successfully mimicking how living things fly. Drones don’t hover, and must rely on forward motion. Research done using hummingbirds, like ours, can inform the development of the next generation of drones.”

*Marko Princevac, associate professor of mechanical engineering, on how research that explains hummingbirds’ flight can be used to improve existing technologies*

**SCIENCE DAILY**

“Hispanic is a unique umbrella concept. It is unique because it embraces both those with immigrant roots and those whose ancestors were here before the United States came to them. It is also unique because, unlike the other umbrella terms, it refers to a multiracial people with a common ancestral language and, in some respects, widely shared cultural characteristics.”

*Carlos Cortes, professor emeritus of history, on the term “Hispanic” and the implications of its usage*

**HISPANICAD.COM**

“I find this downright Orwellian. ... When the movers and shakers in the industry get so chummy with ordained powers, how can they be expected to make the kinds of films that deliver a genuine cultural critique of Washington politics?”

*Charles Evered, associate professor of theater, on the appearance of first lady Michelle Obama during the Oscars*

**YAHOO! NEWS**

“It is one of the pre-eminent global indigenous film festivals. It is an extraordinary film festival and (programmer) Elizabeth Weatherford has done an extraordinary job.”

*Michelle Rajeja, associate professor of English, on the Native FilmFest, a festival hosted by the Agua Caliente Cultural Museum to inform the community about cultural, land and water rights issues facing all indigenous people*

**THE DESERT SUN**

“Opinions are changing much faster than expected.”

*Benjamin Bishin, associate professor of political science, on a recent survey that found 61 percent of California voters support allowing same-sex couples to wed and how support from Barrack Obama and other*
political leaders has been a factor in shifting attitudes toward same-sex marriage

THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE

Research and Scholarship

Feb. 21 to March 5, 2013

Conway Publishes Paper on Introducing Undergrads to Books in the Age of Dante

A paper by Melissa Conway, distinguished librarian and head of Special Collections & Archives, appears in the Winter 2013 volume of *Pedagogy: Critical Approaches to Teaching Literature, Language, Composition and Culture* (Duke University Press).

“Introducing Undergraduates to Books in the Age of Dante — in Twenty Minutes or Less” outlines a 20-minute introduction to medieval manuscripts in the age of Dante, using a combination of Internet resources for the study of medieval manuscripts and actual medieval manuscripts. An outgrowth of her research of dated manuscripts in Florentine libraries produced between 1265 and 1321, the article provides access to primary materials in digital format and provides teachers with a way to introduce students to book production in the Middle Ages.

“The main thrust of my lecture is not so much to teach students about manuscript production as to help them better understand the material world in which Dante created his masterpiece,” Conway wrote. “Undergraduate students are rarely aware of how laborious and costly book production was or how scarce access to books was among the laity before the invention of printing. Unless they understand that books were produced one at a time by skilled artisans using expensive materials like parchment, they cannot grasp fully what it took to develop Dante’s astounding erudition, evident in the hundreds of biblical, mythological, literary, philosophical, and historical allusions in the ‘Divine Comedy.’”

Conway also made two presentations at the Loscon 39 science fiction convention in Los Angeles in November: “Jay Kay Klein: A Man and a Camera,” about Jay Kay Klein, a prominent science fiction fan and photographer; and “The Eaton Collection,” the largest publicly accessible collection of science fiction, fantasy, horror and utopian literature in the world, which is located at UCR.

Cranor Book on Toxic Substances Now Available in Paperback

“Legally Poisoned; How the Law Puts Us at Risk from Toxicants,” a book by UCR philosopher Carl Cranor that advocates reforming U.S. policies regulating exposure to toxic substances, will be republished by Harvard University Press in March.

This new edition adds weight to Cranor’s contention that all chemical compounds should be tested before they are sold in the United States.

For three decades, Cranor, who has served on science advisory panels for the state of California and on Institute of Medicine and National Academy of Sciences committees, has studied U.S. regulatory policy and philosophic issues concerning risks, science and the law, and the protection of susceptible population from new
and existing technologies and toxicants.

Americans are exposed to hundreds if not thousands, of suspected toxic substances every day, substances that can affect the development and function of the brain, immune system, reproductive organs or hormones. But no public health law requires product testing of most chemical compounds before they enter the marketplace.

“The only way to reduce toxic contamination is to require testing of products before they come in to commerce,” Cranor says. “If they appear to pose adverse health effects, they should not be permitted, or they should be required to be reformulated so the problems disappear.”

**Two Vortex Trails With One Stroke**

As of today, the consensus of hummingbirds is that the bird’s flight generates a single trail of vortices, but UCR research proposes that the hovering hummingbird instead produces two trails of vortices that help generate the aerodynamic forces required for the bird to power and control its flight.

High-speed image sequences—500 frames per second—of hummingbirds hover-feeding within a white plume were used to study the vortex wake from multiple perspectives. Particle image velocimetry, a flow-measuring method in fluid mechanics, was also used to analyze the flow around hummingbirds, to record the particles surrounding the birds, and to extract velocity fields.

The results showed two distinct jets of downwards airflow—one under each wing of the hummingbird per stroke.

Therefore, Douglas Altshuler, former assistant professor of biology at UCR and leader of the research, Marko Princevac, associate professor of mechanical engineering, Sam Pournazeri, former Ph.D. graduate student in Princevac's lab, and Paolo S. Segre, former UCR graduate student, proposed in the journal *Experiments in Fluids* that the hummingbird’s two wings form bilateral vortex loops.

This study could find application in aerospace technology and in the development of unmanned vehicles for medical surveillance after natural disasters.

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**Awards and Honors**

**Feb. 21 to March 5, 2013**

**Evered Film Nominated for Saturn Award**

“A Thousand Cuts,” a psychological thriller feature film co-written by Charles Evered, noted playwright and associate professor of theater; Eric Barr, professor of theater; and Marty James, actor-editor-producer, has been nominated for a Saturn Award from the Academy of Science Fiction, Fantasy and Horror Films in the Best DVD/Blue Ray Release category.

The film is about a stranger with a haunted past who shows up at the home of Hollywood’s hottest horror director determined to teach him what real horror is all about.

Evered said he is thrilled about the film’s nomination. “When you consider the films we are nominated with all had budgets in the $14 million to $20 million range, and we shot this for a literal fraction of that and in 10 days, it’s really very rewarding.”
“'A Thousand Cuts' isn’t the movie that many people expect,” Barr said. “Instead of a horror film, it’s a psychological thriller that examines the responsibility filmmakers have for the violence they put into their movies. ... The nomination and the attention the movie is getting is a great way of acknowledging ... the UCR Department of Theatre as a great place to study with an engaged and productive faculty.”

Winners will be announced in June.

**Astronomer Awarded Sloan Research Fellowship**

Naveen Reddy, an assistant professor of physics and astronomy, has been awarded a prestigious Sloan Research Fellowship from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, a philanthropic, nonprofit grant-making institution. He received $50,000 that will be used to further advance his research.

Reddy, who joined UCR in 2011, specializes in the physics of the early universe, and in extragalactic astronomy. He is especially interested in distant galaxies, their evolution in cosmic time, and the nature of heavy-element production in these galaxies. Currently, he is working on several projects aimed at understanding the history of star formation and buildup of stellar mass in the universe.

“It is a great honor to receive this award and the support of the Sloan Foundation for my research,” Reddy said. “This recognition will help expand my research group’s study of faint galaxies in the distant universe.”