Several armed robberies of students have taken place in the last few weeks, both on- and off-campus. The robberies are unusual for UCR, which has not seen such frequency of instances in recent years. Although many of the crimes have been resolved by arrests, students, faculty, staff and parents are understandably concerned.

**UCR’s Response: What is Being Done?**

**Immediate Actions:**

- Increased patrols by University of California police and city of Riverside police in areas near campus
- Temporary reassignment of the UCPD University Neighborhood Enhancement Team officers to saturate the affected area
- 24-hour bicycle patrols in the UCR Housing areas adjacent to Linden Street and Canyon Crest
- New surveillance video cameras being installed in cooperation with city of Riverside
- Foliage and shrubbery pruning along sidewalks to increase openness, light levels
- Establishment of UCR Task Force on Campus Safety with university and community representation
- Night-time lighting is being reviewed and will be improved where needed
- Campus is reviewing options for a new neighborhood tram system to be used by students
- University and local apartment owners are meeting with law enforcement to consider joint actions
- New public awareness campaign launched, focusing on pedestrian safety corridors, and personal safety actions that can be taken
- Since January, UCPD has partnered with the city of Riverside police to identify and arrest numerous responsible suspects and current investigations are under way.

**Assets Already in Place**

- Armed, uniformed police patrols [UC Police Department]
• Community service officer patrols [UC Police Department]
• University Neighborhood Enforcement Team [UCPD in partnership with Riverside Police Department]
• Video surveillance cameras and emergency call boxes
• Escort service, public transit
• Crime prevention trainings
• Safety walking corridors
• Emergency e-notifications and campus alarm siren
• Crime Free Multi-Housing Program for complex owners and managers

More Information

A University is Like a Small City

Universities are like small cities – with thousands of students, faculty, staff and visitors coming and going at all times. However, just like cities large and small, crime can happen anywhere. Violent crime at college campuses is generally rare, often lower than many specific neighborhoods, public beaches or parks, shopping malls and districts.

We Take Safety Seriously at UCR

The safety of our students, faculty, staff, and neighbors is of the utmost importance. UCR has its own police force, the University of California Police Department. Our officers have power of arrest, and can carry firearms. Our police watch closely for signs of crime on our campus, and in the neighboring areas – and we work closely with the Riverside Police Department and other law enforcement agencies.

Please Take Precautions

We urge our community members to pay special attention to their own safety – to look out for friends and neighbors, and report suspicious behavior. Lock car doors, lock and chain bikes. Don’t leave your valuables on display.

We also urge everyone to take precautions for their own safety – like using ride services and shuttles to prevent individuals from walking alone. Call the UCR Escort Service if you would like someone to walk you home or to your car. We ask you to stay in well-lighted areas with a lot of foot traffic at night. We ask you to avoid walking while texting or with earphones that don’t allow you to be fully aware of your environment.

Study Finds Link Between ‘Critical Mass’ and Respectful Racial Climate

New study addresses a key issue in pending Fisher v. University of Texas Supreme Court case

By Kris Lovekin

A new study by William Kidder, assistant provost at UCR, analyzed surveys from nearly 10,000 African-American and Latino undergraduates and concluded that universities that maintain higher levels of “critical mass” have African-American and Latino students who are more likely to feel respected on campus.
The study, “Misshaping the River: Proposition 209 and Lessons for the Fisher Case,” was published in the *Journal of College and University Law*, a peer-reviewed journal at the University of Notre Dame Law School. The study compares 2008 through 2011 student survey results at the University of Texas at Austin and other leading U.S. research universities.

On the campuses with more African-Americans in the student body, including UT Austin and UCR, between 72 percent and 87 percent of African-Americans felt students of their race were respected on campus. By contrast, on the campuses with fewer African-Americans in the student body, including UC Berkeley, UCLA and UC San Diego, between 32 percent and 71 percent of African-Americans felt respected on campus. Latino undergraduates were also more likely to feel respected on the university campuses where there were higher levels of diversity.

Kidder found that in 98 out of 98 head-to-head comparisons, the campuses where African-Americans were 5 percent to 10 percent of the student body had more favorable survey results regarding students feeling respected as compared to the less diverse campuses where affirmative action was banned.

During oral argument in Fisher v. University of Texas at Austin, justices discussed “critical mass” and “racial isolation” dozens of times. Chief Justice John Roberts pointedly asked, “How am I supposed to decide whether you have an environment [with] particular minorities who don’t feel isolated?” A ruling is expected soon.

The racial interactions on campus can be influential in academic success, according to Sylvia Hurtado, professor at UCLA and Director of the Higher Education Research Institute.

“Lower racial diversity not only results in increased reports of campus incidents but members of underrepresented groups and majority students show lower scores on college outcomes as a result of negative cross-race encounters.”


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**Introducing the International Student Resource Center**

*The former International Education Center changes its name*

By Steve Whitestone

On April 1, UCR’s International Education Center changed its name to the International Student Resource Center (ISRC). The new name reflects the primary focus and mission of the center to support the success and wellness of international students at UCR. Study abroad services — once the responsibility of the International Education Center — will become part of a new unit, Off Campus Academic Experiences.

“We will continue to enhance what is already a very active slate of programs and services for international students,” said ISRC director Karen McComb. “I particularly look forward to developing deeper relationships with campus departments who are exploring how to best support the growing international student population.

“Domestic students benefit from ISRC programs as well,” said McComb. “Students who have experience living and working with peers from other cultures are very much in demand in today’s international marketplace. Our intercultural programs, along with those of our colleagues across student affairs, help all UCR students become more informed and engaged global citizens.”

The International Student Resource Center will also provide critical support to the campus’s efforts to in-
crease international student enrollment. “This new structure will support UCR’s plan to increase enrollment of international undergraduate and graduate students,” said James Sandoval, vice chancellor of student affairs.

The International Student Resource Center retains its address on the second level of University Village (Suite 204) as well as its Web address, internationalcenter.ucr.edu.

New Librarian Sets the Tone for Future of UC Riverside Libraries

_Already lauded for his foresight and vision, Steven Mandeville-Gamble wins over crowd with the gift of a rare first edition_

By Ross French

In the weeks since he joined UCR as the new university librarian, Steven Mandeville-Gamble has impressed staff and faculty with his leadership skills and friendly, outgoing personality. But Mandeville-Gamble made an even better impression at his welcome reception, held on March 22 at the Raymond L. Orbach Science Library, by presenting a gift that had the audience buzzing.

Saying that he wanted to give back to the campus for hosting the reception in his honor, Mandeville-Gamble presented the library with a first American edition copy of Charles Darwin’s “The Expression of the Emotions in Man and Animals” from his personal collection. Published in 1873, the book elicited a “wow” from Melissa Conway, head of special collections at the Rivera Library.

“The first American edition of Darwin’s classic ‘Expression of Emotions in Man and Animals’ is a wonderful surprise and a very generous gift,” Conway said. “We are building a History of Science Collection as a complement to our outstanding Eaton Science Fiction Collection.”

“It has been a wonderful three weeks. ... I am so delighted by the staff I get to work with every day in all the departments of the library,” Mandeville-Gamble said during his remarks. “I have been delighted with my interactions with the faculty and the administration, and I could not be happier to be here.”

“We had the good fortune to have a number of really highly qualified candidates for the position, but in the end, it was Steven Mandeville-Gamble who clearly distinguished himself from all of the others,” said Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost Dallas Rabenstein during his introduction. Rabenstein added that he was impressed with Mandeville-Gamble’s vision, enthusiasm, depth of knowledge and commitment to creating a 21st century library. “It became very clear that Steven was the one who could provide leadership for the library moving into the future.”

“I have a fairly big vision of where the library is going, but that vision can’t happen without people,” Mandeville-Gamble said. “I think the people are here and I think we will make a great team. I am very much looking forward to it.”

“Let’s start an interesting partnership, and let’s go places,” he added.

Mandeville-Gamble came to UCR from George Washington University, where he was associate librarian.
While there he helped to raise $23 million dollars in contributions and endowments. His parents, Gary and Linda Mandeville-Gamble, travelled from their home in Ashland, Ore., to join the festivities.

Mandeville-Gamble was also presented with welcome gifts by Wanda Scruggs, the library’s development officer, and Patricia Smith-Hunt, head of preservation services and chair of the Librarian Association of UCR, and Julia Ree, president of the Library Staff Association.

Riverside International Film Festival Set for April 17 to April 21

*A gala is set for 6 p.m. Friday, April 19, at UC Riverside’s Culver Center for the Arts*

By Kris Lovekin

Everyone likes free movies, right?

UCR students, staff and faculty can get in free with a UCR identification card to the Riverside International Film Festival (RIFF), set this year from Wednesday, April 17, to Sunday, April 21, at the Riverside Regal Cinemas at Riverside Plaza.

“This is our 11th year and UCR has been a supportive sponsor of the festival,” said festival founder Dr. Harkeerat Dhillon. “I would love for the UCR community to come see what we are doing and to submit films for the festival.”

There are films from Germany, India, Mexico, France, and co-productions from Romania, Italy, Brazil, Turkey, Israel and Russia. There are also independent films from Hollywood, and a student film competition.

A gala celebration is set for 6 to 8 p.m. Friday, April 19, at UCR’s Culver Center for the Arts in downtown Riverside. Cost for that event is $75.

UCR has sponsored the festival in the past. Former Chancellor Timothy P. White asked that some of this year’s sponsorship money be set aside to pay for students, staff and faculty who want to attend films, as a way of building a connection between the campus and the community.

“The festival has been growing every year, which is a good sign for me and for the festival,” Dhillon said. Film selections are still in process, but a facebook page has been set up so people can keep up with details: [www.facebook.com/RiversideFilmFestival](http://www.facebook.com/RiversideFilmFestival).

Noor Khodr created the film festival banner with film reel and orange. Noor will receive $250 as well as All Access Passes to this year’s festival. The poster is displayed around the Riverside Plaza as the face of the 2013 Riverside International Film Festival.

UCR Men’s Soccer Team to Host Chivas Guadalajara Legends Team on April 20

*As many as 3,000 fans expected to attend exhibition fundraiser at Ramona H.S.*

By Ross French

As many as 4,000 fans are expected to watch the UCR men’s soccer team take on the Chivas de Guadalajara
Legends team in a celebrity exhibition match at Ramona High School on Saturday, April 20, at 7 p.m.

The Legends squad is made up of former starters for the Chivas Guadalajara team and includes Gustavo Sedano, Guadalupe Castañeda, Jose Luis Montes de Oca, Johny García, Felipe Robles, Paulo Cesar “Tilon” Chavez and Hector “El Pirata” Castro. Known by their faithful fans as C.D. Guadalajara, the team is one of the most popular squads in the Mexican league, and is the only football club in the country to field a team made up exclusively of Mexican players.

“Chivas de Guadalajara has a strong following in Southern California, and we expect a tremendous turn-out,” said UCR Director of Intercollegiate Athletics Brian Wickstrom, adding that the site of the game was moved to Ramona High School because of the larger capacity of its soccer/football stadium. “We wanted to be sure that everyone who wants to come see this match will have the opportunity to do so.”

The exhibition match is part of the Highlanders’ “nontraditional season” and is used to help the squad prepare for its regular season campaign. On Feb. 20, the Highlanders defeated UCLA, 1-0, in an exhibition in front of 1,000 fans at the UCR Soccer Stadium, with junior Ivan Garcia putting home the game-winning goal.

“Much like our match against nationally ranked UCLA several weeks ago, this provides another excellent opportunity to reach out to the Inland Empire soccer community while showcasing our Division I program, this time against top international professionals,” said UCR Head Coach Junior Gonzalez.

Although the match doesn’t count in the standings, the Highlanders are taking it very seriously.

“While it will be a fun evening, we are playing to win,” Gonzalez said. “This is an opportunity for our guys to go up against some players who were front-line starters in the Mexican League. We want to win this match and take this momentum into the 2014 season.”

The Highlanders are coming off of their first-ever, 10-win season as a Division I program, and in midseason, the National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA) ranked them as the 19th best team in the nation.

Tickets for the match are $15 per person, and $10 each for group purchases of 15 or more. Children 3 years and younger are admitted free. Purchase tickets online or by calling (951) 827-4653.

April 19 Conference Honors Legacy of Tomás Rivera

Leading Latino artists will discuss how the Chicano poet and UCR chancellor inspired their work in celebration that includes workshops, Grammy Award-winning musicians and evening theatrical performance

By Bettye Miller

Award-winning artists Luis Alfaro, Josefina Lopez and Barbara Carrasco — two playwrights and a muralist who were inspired by Tomás Rivera — will lead the 25th anniversary conference honoring the legacy of the former UCR chancellor and Chicano poet on Friday, April 19.

The all-day annual conference — “Literacy & Legacy — A Celebration of the Life and Work of Tomás Rivera” — begins at 8:30 a.m. in the Highlander Union Building at UCR and includes afternoon workshops with prominent Latino artists, musicians, playwrights and screenwriters. It concludes in the evening at University Theatre with the staged reading of “And the Earth Did Not Devour Him,” Rivera’s classic novel adapted into a new play by Tiffany Ana López, professor of theater and the Tomás Rivera Chair in the College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences. The reading will be directed by award-winning filmmaker and theater director Juliette Carrillo.
Actor Alma Martinez, one of the original cast members of the play and film “Zoot Suit,” will join the post-play conversation with the audience. Her acting career spans 35 years in film, television and theater in the U.S., Mexico and Europe. She has premiered the work of playwrights JoAnne Akalaitis, Luis Alfaro, Cherrie Moraga, Arthur Giron and Milcha Sanchez Scott, and has been a guest artist at the Sundance Institute. Martinez is a longtime artistic associate of Luis Valdez and El Teatro Campesino and has appeared as the lead actress in most of Valdez’s most significant work.

Registration for the conference is required by April 12 and may be made online. The conference is free and open to the public. Parking costs $6 in Lot 30 and $8 in Lot 6 (pay by space). Permits may be purchased at the kiosk on West Campus Drive, near the campus entrance at University Avenue. Registration for Master Class Workshops is limited and priority will be given to those who preregister for all conference events.

The annual conference honors the legacy of Rivera, who was UCR’s chancellor from 1979 until his death after a heart attack in 1984. Rivera was the first Hispanic and first minority chancellor in the UC system. He also was an award-winning writer of poems, short stories and literary essays.

“Tomás Rivera occupies a historic role for his rare combination of talents in creative writing, academic scholarship, and administrative leadership,” said Tiffany López, conference organizer. “In speeches, he invoked the phrase ‘civic morality’ to convey his hope that we never lose sight of serving the community as ambassadors of knowledge. He understood arts and education as particularly important because of their abilities to dramatically transform how people understand themselves and the world. He saw all of us linked together as storytellers, ‘searchers’ on a quest with the spoken word our ‘seed of love in the darkness.’”

The conference will begin with a plenary featuring Luis Alfaro, Josefina López and Barbara Carrasco in a discussion about “Reflections on 25 Years of Making Art to Make a Difference,” followed by lunch and a live musical presentation by Grammy Award winners Martha Gonzalez and Quetzal Flores.

Afternoon Master Class Workshops will include:

Luis Alfaro, “Playwriting and Performance from/for the Community.” Alfaro works in theater, performance, poetry, short fiction, and journalism. He is the recipient of a John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation Fellowship, popularly known as a “genius grant,” and is the only playwright to receive two Kennedy Center Fund for New American Play awards in the same year. A former resident artist at the Mark Taper Forum for 10 years, his plays and performances have been seen throughout the Americas and Europe. He won an Emmy for his short film, “Chicanismo,” and his first screenplay, “From Prada to Nada,” was produced and released by Lionsgate in 2011.

Josefina López, “Finding Your Voice – How to Get in Tune with Your Soul’s Mission & Message.” López works across the genres of theater, film, poetry, novels and essays. She is the founding artistic director of Casa 0101, a cultural center in Boyle Heights that nurtures a new generation of Latino artists. López is best known
Barbara Carrasco, “Visual Narrative – The Art of Mural Making.” Carrasco is an internationally recognized artist and muralist who has been involved in community arts and outreach programming for The Getty Museum, Self-Help Graphics, and the Center for Political Graphics. Her works have been exhibited throughout the U.S., Europe, and Latin America, and have been featured in numerous publications such as Ms. Magazine, Los Angeles Times, New York Times and FlashArt. In 2008, The Girl Scouts of America created a merit patch in community leadership based on her iconographic image of Dolores Huerta, which has also become the signature logo of the Dolores Huerta Foundation, for which Carrasco is a founding board member.

Miguel Garcia, “Brown and Out – Creating Queer Plays & Theater Festivals.” Garcia is a playwright who in 2011 produced “Brown & Out,” Casa 0101’s first play festival celebrating the Latino/a LGBTQ experience. He also produced Casa 0101’s “Occupy the Heart,” a play festival that explored the Occupy Wall Street movement and featured his short play “Unoccupied Spaces.” In 2012, he produced “Brown & Out 2” at the new Casa 0101 Theater, and facilitated a writing workshop for residents of Jovenes Inc., a homeless shelter in Boyle Heights for transitional age youth. “Brown & Out” was accepted into the 10th International Dublin Gay Theatre Festival, with performances scheduled in May.

Martha Gonzalez and Quetzal Flores, “Collective Songwriting – Testimonio, Healing, Knowledge Production as Community.” Gonzalez is the recipient of a Fulbright Garcia-Robles fellowship (2007-2008) for her research on transnational musical social movements across the Americas and Europe. She is also a Ford Dissertation Fellow (2012-2013), as well as a recipient of the Doman Award for Excellence in Teaching (2011) from the University of Washington, Seattle. Her academic interests in music have been fueled by her musicianship as a singer and percussionist for East L.A’s Quetzal for 17 years. She has collaborated, and/or toured with artists such as Los Lobos, Jackson Brown, ¡Cubanismo!, Taj Mahal, Tom Waits, The B-side Players, Teatro Campesino, and Laura Rebolloso. Quetzal Flores is the founder of the band Quetzal, which won both a Grammy and a Latin Grammy for its 2012 album “Imaginaries.” The group has had considerable impact on the Los Angeles music scene. The relevance of Quetzal’s work has been noted in a range of publications from dissertations to scholarly books, resulting in invitations from the U.S. Library of Congress and Kennedy Center to perform and speak in September 2011 as a part of the “Homegrown” music series. The traveling exhibit “American Sabor: Latinos in U.S. Popular Music,” sponsored by the Smithsonian Institute, featured Quetzal as leaders and innovators of Chicano music.

Mujeres de Maiz, Felicia “Fe” Montes and Joanna Mixpe Ley, “Harvesting Hope and Healing Through Poetry.” Mujeres de Maiz is a grassroots, multimedia women’s activist art network based in Los Angeles. The organization’s mission is to unite and empower women of all ages, colors and sexualities by creative safe community spaces that provide art education, mentorship, art exhibition, and publishing opportunities.

Plant Sale Returns

*Plant sale celebrates its 40th anniversary on April 6 and 7*

By Sean Nealon

The spring plant sale at the UCR Botanic Gardens will celebrate its 40th anniversary on April 6 and 7.

Nearly 10,000 plants, including many rare and unusual varieties, as well as old favorites, will be on sale from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 6 and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 7.
The plant selection includes colorful, heat-loving trees and shrubs, flowering perennials, miniature roses, rare cacti and other succulents, patio and houseplants and wildflower seeds. In addition, a special selection of showy, water-efficient, heat-loving and California native plants selected for spring planting will also be available.

Most of the plants for sale will have a detailed information sign and color photo to help make selections. A detailed plant list is available at the garden website, http://gardens.ucr.edu/.

Also, volunteers with the UC Cooperative Extension Riverside County Master Gardener Program will be selling more than 100 varieties of heirloom tomatoes, herbs, vegetables and beneficial flowers.

There will also be a series of free classes during the plant sale:

11:30 a.m. April 6, “Design a Water-Wise Garden with Color Year ‘Round,” presented by Nan Simonsem, a master gardener and owner of Nanscapes, a garden-design business in Riverside.

2 p.m. April 6, “Edible Landscaping — Eat Your Yard!” presented by Christine Markel Lampe, a master gardener with a home garden that is beautiful and edible.

10 a.m., 12 p.m. and 2 p.m. April 7, “Tomatoes!” a children’s class.

11 a.m. April 7, “Creating a Fairy Garden,” presented by Dona Jenkins, a master gardener and the owner of GardenMoonlight, which is dedicated to creating magical and whimsical gardens.

1 p.m., April 7, “Planting a Summer Vegetable Garden, presented by Lucy Heyming, a master gardener who is also the host of “Gardening with Lucy” on the city of Riverside cable channel.

For more information about the sale or the botanic gardens, call (951) 784-6962, email ucrbg@ucr.edu or visit www.gardens.ucr.edu.

The botanic gardens cover more than 40 acres and feature nearly 3,500 plant species from around the world. Enjoy beautiful vistas and numerous scenic trails, including gentle pathways graded for wheelchair access. A wide array of blooming plants can be seen the year around.

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**Business School Adds Master of Finance, Flex MBA**

*Master of Finance and Flex MBA programs are geared toward full-time and part-time students*

By Sean Nealon

The UCR School of Business Administration is launching two graduate programs this fall: a Master of Finance and a Flex MBA.

The Flex MBA allows students to tailor the schedule to their needs and complete the program in as little at 20 months or up to several years. The Master of Finance degree is for full- or part-time students and concentrates specifically on finance.

“The Master of Finance program is the result of hard work by many at the business school,” said Yunzeng Wang, interim dean of the business school. “Our finance faculty has been instrumental in designing the program, and our dedicated staff members have been diligent in preparing for the program’s launch this fall.
Through this new and essential academic offering, we are glad to offer yet another path to excellence for students.”

The school will host information sessions to talk about the new programs, as well as its traditional MBA and master of professional Accountancy degrees. Sessions are scheduled for: April 10 and 25, May 9 and 22, and June 5. All the sessions will be held at 6 p.m. in Anderson Hall.

The Master of Finance can be completed as a full-time student in nine months or as a part-time student in two years. It’s geared toward students with quantitative backgrounds in fields such as business, mathematics, physics, economics, engineering and statistics.

Globalization, rapid advances in computational technology, financial innovation, and shifting regulatory regimes have all contributed to job opportunities for additional finance professionals with education beyond the bachelor’s degree.

Recognizing the importance of strong quantitative skills, major financial firms and insurance companies have often found that undergraduate education in finance or broad-based management education not sufficient.

This was evident during the 2008 financial collapse. The financial engineers who designed the instruments that were problematic in the collapse were narrowly trained and, with hindsight, did not recognize the big-picture impacts of their actions.

Graduates of the Master of Finance program will be able to understand and explain the risks and potential returns of sophisticated financial instruments.

Graduates often find work in fields such as commercial banking, investment banking, hedge funds, private equity and venture capital, financial planning and insurance.

The Flex MBA is meant to serve a variety of students such as full-time students who want to earn an MBA on a fast track or who seek to take longer with their studies; international students; working professionals seeking a graduate degree without interrupting their careers; or individuals who need to accommodate responsibilities at home and with family.

After the program launches in the fall quarter, students can enroll in the winter, spring or fall quarter. Evening classes will be offered.

One slower-paced scenario is for a student to take two classes in the fall, spring and winter quarters and take summers off. In that situation, it would take four years to earn the degree.

Application deadlines for both new programs are May 1 for international students and Sept. 1 for domestic students. For more information about the programs call (951) 827-6200 or email ucr_agsm@ucr.edu.

Stars Align for Eaton Science Fiction Conference

Luminaries from the worlds of SF literature, television, film and scholarship will gather for the UCR conference and symposium on April 11-14

By Bettye Miller
Scholars and science fiction fans will explore the explosion of the genre across the media landscape when UCR’s Eaton Science Fiction Conference convenes April 11-14 at the Marriott Hotel in downtown Riverside.

With seven concurrent tracks for attendees to choose from, the 2013 conference will be largest in the 34-year history of the conference, said Melissa Conway, head of Special Collections and Archives of the UCR Libraries and conference co-organizer. It also is the first time the UCR Libraries and College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences have partnered with the Science Fiction Research Association, the largest and most prestigious scholarly organization in the field, to present the event.

Award-winning author Ursula K. Le Guin, special effects creator Raymond F. Harryhausen and Spider-Man co-creator Stan Lee will be recognized, in absentia, with the J. Lloyd Eaton Lifetime Achievement Award in Science Fiction.

Registration for students is $95; general registration is $170; and single-day registration is $95. Registration may be made at the door for all events except the awards banquet on Saturday evening.

The conference will include the fourth Science Fiction Studies Symposium on Thursday, April 11, from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. in the Spanish Art Gallery at the Mission Inn Hotel & Spa. The symposium, “SF Media(tions),” is open to registered conference attendees only. Featured speakers are: Mark Bould, reader in film and literature at the University of the West of England and co-editor of the journal Science Fiction Film and Television; Istvan Csicsery-Ronay Jr., professor of English at DePauw University, a senior editor of Science Fiction Studies and one of the founding editors of Humanimalia, an online journal of human/animal interface studies; and Vivian Sobchack, professor emeritus of film, television and digital media at UCLA and the 2012 recipient of the Society for Cinema Studies’ Distinguished Career Award.

“The past several decades have witnessed an explosion in science fiction texts across the media landscape, from film and TV to comics and digital games,” Conway said in explaining the conference theme, “Science Fiction Media.”

The conference will explore science fiction as a multimedia phenomenon from popular mass media in the form of Hollywood blockbusters, to niche and subcultural forms of expression such as MUDs (multiplayer Internet games based on genres such as fantasy and science fiction) and vidding (the process of producing fan-made music videos, which typically pair scenes from TV shows and movies with a particular piece of music), added Rob Latham, conference co-organizer and a professor of English at UCR.

Conference events begin at 8:30 a.m. daily and continue into the evenings with author readings, a Friday night screening of “Spectres of the Spectrum,” and an awards banquet Saturday evening during which winners of the Student Science Fiction Short Story Competition will be announced and the recipients of the Eaton Lifetime Achievement awards will be recognized.

Eaton Lifetime Achievement award recipients are: Ursula K. Le Guin, who will receive the award for 2012, author of 20 science fiction and fantasy novels and winner of Hugo and Nebula awards; Raymond F. Harryhausen (2013 award), creator of a type of stop-motion model animation known as Dynamation and part of the ARKO team that won an Oscar for special effects in 1949 for “Mighty Joe Young”; and Stan Lee (2013), former president of Marvel Comics and co-creator of Spider-Man, the Hulk, the X-Men, the Fantastic Four, Iron Man, Thor and other superheroes.

Previous recipients of the Eaton Lifetime Achievement Award are Ray Bradbury (2008), Frederik Pohl (2009), Samuel R. Delany (2010) and Harlan Ellison (2011).
Among the science fiction writers who will be presenting on different panels are: Larry Niven, author of “Ringworld” and a five-time winner of the Hugo Award and a Nebula; Gregory Benford, astrophysicist and winner of a Nebula Award and a United Nations Medal in Literature; David Brin, astrophysicist and two-time winner of the Hugo Award; Audre Bormanis, writer/producer for “Star Trek: Enterprise,” “Threshold,” “Eleventh Hour,” “Legend of the Seeker” and “Tron: Uprising”; Kevin Grazier, science adviser for “Battlestar Galactica,” “Defiance,” “Eureka” and “Falling Skies”; and James Gunn, winner of a Hugo Award and the 2007 Damon Knight Memorial Grand Master, presented for lifetime achievement as a writer of science fiction and/or fantasy by the Science Fiction and Fantasy Writers of America.

Members of the Art Director’s Guild will make special presentations in three separate panel discussions on Saturday, April 13.

The first of these panels, “Production Designers — Building Worlds,” begins at 10:30 a.m. and will include: Mimi Gramatky, a production designer who was nominated for an Emmy for “An Inconvenient Woman”; Kirk Petrucelli, a production designer whose credits include “The Incredible Hulk,” “Fantastic Four: Rise of the Silver Surfer” and “Lara Croft Tomb Raider: The Cradle of Life”; Christa Munro, an art director whose credits include “Jack Reacher,” “Mission: Impossible – Ghost Protocol” and “The Ring Two”; and Oliver Scholl, a production designer who has worked on such films as “Mission to Mars,” “Batman Forever” and “Stargate.”

At 2 p.m., panelists who will discuss “The Art Department — Bringing Imaginary Worlds to Life” include: Robert Stromberg, a two-time Academy Award winner for art direction for James Cameron’s “Avatar” and Tim Burton’s “Alice in Wonderland”; Dylan Cole, a digital matte painter and concept artist best known for his work on feature films like “The Lord of the Rings” trilogy, “Avatar” and “The Chronicles of Riddick”; Stefan Dechant, a supervising art director whose credits include “Lincoln,” “Minority Report” and “The Lost World: Jurassic Park”; and Todd Cherniawsky, a production designer with Asylum Design Works whose credits include, “Zero Dark Thirty,” “Transformers: Dark of the Moon” and “War of the Worlds.”

At 4 p.m., “Life Imitates Art — (Or why did the first Motorola flip phone look like a Star Trek Communicator?)” will feature: Cate Bangs, an art director and set designer whose television and film credits include “Desperate Housewives,” “Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil” and “Robin Hood: Men in Tights”; Alex Hajdu, an art director who has worked on the film “Battle Beyond the Stars” and TV programs such as “Private Practice and “Night Stalker”; Andrew Leung, a concept artist, matte painter and VFX designer whose most recent work is “Real Steel”; and Geoff Mandel, a production artist and designer who was the scenic artist for “Star Trek: Insurrection,” the sixth and seventh seasons of “Star Trek: Voyager” and the first season of “Star Trek: Enterprise.”

UCR is the home of the Eaton Collection of Science Fiction and Fantasy, the largest publicly accessible collection of its kind in the world. The collection embraces every branch of science fiction, fantasy, horror and utopian/dystopian fiction.

The collection, which attracts scholars from around the world, holds more than 300,000 items including English-language science fiction, fantasy and horror published in the 20th century and a wide range of works in Spanish, French, Russian, Chinese, Japanese, German, and a dozen other languages; fanzines; comic books; anime; manga; science fiction films and television series; shooting scripts; archives of science fiction writers; and science fiction collectibles and memorabilia.

GETTING PERSONAL
Dana Morita

**Programmer Analyst, Web Developer for UCR Libraries**

By Konrad Nagy

“I always forget how crowded the campus is around lunch time,” Dana Morita said.

The programmer analyst and Web developer for UCR Libraries usually eats lunch at her desk, but today she’s sitting in the shade by the bell tower, checking out the campus scenery and talking about her work and her family.

Morita develops and maintains Web applications, creates content and promotional graphics for websites, and works on an ever-growing number of projects aimed at improving the visibility and accessibility of the UCR Libraries’ Web presence.

She got her start at UCR as an undergraduate in BCOE. The computer science major quickly learned that she had a knack for creating websites and began devoting much of her free time to honing that skill.

Her work was quickly noticed and landed her a job as a student worker.

“I’ve been here ever since,” Morita said proudly.

Her path wasn’t without challenges; Morita had to deal with the many stigmas against women in math and science fields. Working through the gender bias, she pushed herself to succeed.

“It was sometimes a struggle because some people didn’t think I had what it takes to survive in this industry. It just made me work harder to prove them wrong. It empowered me to excel in things I never pictured myself doing before.”

Born and raised in Riverside, Morita met her husband at UCR while they were both students. Now, the couple have a 1-year-old daughter. Like most new parents, finding personal time is difficult. Still, Morita finds plenty to keep herself busy. She loves arts and crafts and keeps an active site of her work ([scrappn.com](http://scrappn.com)). She also reviews iPhone and iPad apps for Beat Week ([beatweek.com](http://beatweek.com)), an online magazine.

One other hobby she’s particularly passionate about is digital photography. She said, “Ever since I got my first digital camera (in 1999), I became an avid photographer, capturing as many memories as I could. They weren’t always the best pictures, but I wanted a way to document and remember events and everyday things. If you talk to my colleagues, they can tell you how often they see me with a camera in my hands, not to mention how many times they have dodged it.”

**DID YOU KNOW?**

Feng Shui Expert Coming to UCR
Shelley Sparks, a Feng Shui expert and licensed landscape architect, will discuss how to make practical, easy and beautiful additions to your garden and how they can help bring harmony to your life on April 13 at the UCR Botanic Gardens.

Sparks, who owns a business called Harmony Gardens, believes people live happier and healthy lives when environments are brought into balance. She is the author of “Secrets of the Land, Designing Harmonious Gardens with Feng Shui” and an ebook, “Keep Plants Healthy, Monthly Actions for Beautiful Gardens.”

Her talk is scheduled from 9:30 a.m. to noon on April 13. The cost is $25 for members of Friends of the UCR Botanic Gardens and $30 for nonmembers. Reservations are required; email amyucrgb@gmail.com or ucrbg@ucr.edu or call (951) 784-6962.

Tobacco Website Now Up

Do you have a question about the UC’s tobacco policy but didn’t know where to find answers? Fear not; the website www.tobaccofree.ucr.edu is now accessible and has everything you need to know about UCR’s nonsmoking policy and how it will be implemented and enforced.

Save the Date: 2013 Community Partner Fair

The third annual Community Partner Fair will be held from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 24, at HUB 302.

The event, sponsored and hosted by the Staff Assembly, provides businesses in the local community to connect with the entire campus—students, faculty and staff. As the date of the event draws near, additional information will be provided.

UCR Student Meets the Man Whose Life He Helped to Save

Senior history major Alex Fishburn donated bone marrow that helped Grant Vietor overcome leukemia

By Ross French

When Grant Vietor and his family arrived at L.A./Ontario Airport on Wednesday, March 27, they were expecting to meet UCR student Alex Fishburn and his family, who would be hosting them during a long weekend visit to Southern California. They weren’t prepared to see the Southwest Airlines baggage claim area filled with dozens of well-wishers holding signs, as well as television cameras from local Los Angeles news stations.

“I thought there was some pop star coming down the stairs, but I guess it was me,” Vietor said, smiling.

Their moment in the spotlight is a result of the common bond that they share – the same blood courses through the veins of both men, thanks to Fishburn’s donation of bone marrow stem cells that helped Vietor, a 46-year-old teacher and coach from Sioux Center, Iowa, overcome life-threatening leukemia, a cancer of the blood and bone marrow.

As his wife Bonita and children Moriah, Isaac and Christien looked on, Grant Vietor walked up to the 22-year-old senior history major from Upland, Calif., shook hands and hugged, sharing a few private words as the crowd around applauded. Meetings between donors and recipients are extremely rare, so although their lives had been intertwined for more than a year, it was the first in-person meeting between the two men and their families.
“A year ago, I was probably going to die. And thanks to him I have life now and am doing great,” Vietor said. “I wanted to make sure that I really thank him and his family for what he has done for me and my family. That’s very important to me. As a teacher and a coach, you are always trying to give back and make good character choices for the kids. This is a great character choice he made right here. It says a lot about our youth.”

For Fishburn, finally getting to meet the man whose life he helped to save brought a bit of reality to what he described as a surreal experience.

“He looks lively and fine, a little bit better than I imagined,” Fishburn said.

Their story began in 2008 when Fishburn registered for the National Bone Marrow Registry. Since less than one-in-500 potential donors match with patients, he didn’t give it a second thought.

“I never really thought much about it. It was checking a box and signing my name,” he said. “I never really expected for anything to come from me signing up for it.”

Fishburn graduated from Upland High School and began his college career at Citrus Community College in Glendora, finding his passion in the study of history, particularly the areas of Colonial America, the early modern period, English philosophy, and the Scottish Enlightenment. He transferred to UCR in the fall of 2011 to earn a degree in history, with a long-term goal of going on to graduate school to earn a Ph.D. and to become a professor.

Across the country, Vietor had been diagnosed with leukemia in late 2010. He underwent treatment and went into remission, but in December, 2011 the cancer returned. Vietor was told that he needed a bone marrow transplant.

Back in California, Fishburn got the fateful call from the National Marrow Donor Center. His cells were a perfect match with a 46-year-old man with an aggressive form of leukemia who would die without a bone marrow transplant. Without hesitation, Fishburn agreed to donate some 6 million peripheral blood stem cells (PBSC).

The PBSC donation process is fairly simple and is conducted in an outpatient setting. Fishburn received five injections of a drug called filgrastim that increased the number of blood-forming cells in the blood stream. Then the donor goes through a process called apheresis, where blood is removed from one arm, the stem cells are removed, and the blood is then returned to the donor. The process lasted just a few hours and he returned to class the next day, while the cells were whisked off to South Dakota to be implanted in Vietor.

“After a few hours I went home and then waited to hear how he was doing. I didn’t know if he was going to die or not – the situation sounded like it was immensely grim,” Fishburn recalled.

On Feb. 14, after several days of intensive chemotherapy that killed the cancerous cells in Vietor’s body, doctors at Avera McKennan Hospital in Sioux Falls, S.D., implanted Fishburn’s cells in Vietor. The treatment began the long process of rebuilding the critical part of his immune system.

The donation worked exactly as planned. On March 2, 2012, Vietor was able to return to his home to continue his recovery. On June 19, 2012, the results of his bone marrow biopsy came back with the news that he was cancer-free. He returned to his teaching job in August 2012 and, on Feb. 19, 2013, a subsequent bone marrow biopsy came back negative as well. While his recovery isn’t over, Vietor was cancer-free.

“As the school year has gone on, I can feel my strength getting better and better,” he said. “It’s baby steps, but I am getting stronger as time goes on. Hopefully I’ll continue to do that.”
Though the donation process is anonymous, organizations like LifeStream of San Bernardino and The National Marrow Donor Program will often connect donors and recipients if both parties agree. The Vietors reached out to the Fishburn family in January 2013, first by email, then over the phone. Bonita and Alex’s mother, Beverly, hit it off and soon there were plans for the Vietors to come to California for a visit.

Over the long weekend, the families planned to take in a baseball game at Angel Stadium of Anaheim and visit the beach for a taste of “sunny Southern California” – a far cry from the snowy, 22-degree weather the Vietors left behind in Iowa. And perhaps more importantly, Vietor and Fishburn had the opportunity to sit down and talk, away from the cameras and noise.

“I am excited to meet him, to get to know him and his family,” Fishburn said.

“It’s very important for me to get to know Alex, and I will know him as long as I live,” Vietor agreed. “It’s just amazing that we have come together this way. It’s going to be great to get to know him.”

While he acknowledges an important role in the process, Fishburn is quick to point out that he does not consider himself to be a hero.

“I appreciate that compliment, but I think I am quite far from a hero in this situation,” he said. “I think the people who are the most heroic are the ones that take their time and devote their lives to developing the technology and putting the forethought and thoughtfulness into it, rather than someone who checked a box and happened to be lucky.”

“The Mexican as Told by Us Mexicans”

A staged reading will be presented on April 5

By Tyler Stallings

UCR ARTSblock presents “The Mexican as Told by Us Mexicans: A Staged Reading,” written by Virginia Grise and Ricardo A. Bracho, on Friday, April 5, at 7 p.m. in the Culver Center of the Arts, located in the 3800 block of Main Street in downtown Riverside.

In 1910, the Mexican Revolution began against the autocratic rule of Porfirio Diaz. In 1911, famed socialist author Jack London published a short story, “The Mexican,” which details a Mexican boxer’s journey from Veracruz, Mexico, to joining a revolutionary junta in El Paso, Texas, and ultimately to a prizefight in Los Angeles.

“The Mexican as Told by Us Mexicans” is a theatrical retelling of London’s short story by two renowned queer Chicano playwrights, Virginia Grise and Ricardo A. Bracho. The performance, which will include actors reading from a script, with minimal stage movement, will feature Ryan Vincent Anderson, Elisa Bocanegra, Sam Breen, Zilah Mendoza, Martin Morales, Juan Parada, Sarita Ocon, Deb Vargas, and Juan Villa. Dr. Tiffany Ana López, UCR Professor of Theatre and Tomás Rivera Endowed Chair, has organized the event.

The staged reading will take place in the Black Box Studio at UCR Culver Center of the Arts. The dramatists will participate in a post-production talk back, or Q & A, with the audience after the performance. Arrive early as reservations are not accepted and seating is limited.

Lopez says about the staged reading, “Virginia Grise and Ricardo Bracho are two leading artists working at the forefront of American and U.S. Latina/o theatre. Their new work uses textual smash up, humor, and provocation to boldly invite audiences to revisit a classic work of American literature while also imagining its import across time, most especially how its representation of Mexicans and what it means to be Mexican has been received in different perhaps even disparate ways by a wide-ranging readership. I’m very excited to be the
producer of this staged reading and see the work performed for the Riverside community as part of the 25th Anniversary Celebration of the Tomás Rivera Conference.” (See tomasriveraconference.ucr.edu)

“The Mexican as Told by Us Mexicans: A Staged Reading” is a collaboration between the UCR ARTSblock; the UCR theater department; the Culver Arts Research Laboratory (CARL) Residency Project; and UCR faculty: Tiffany Ana Lopez, professor of theatre; Deb Vargas, associate professor of ethnic studies; Erica Edwards, associate professor of English; Keith Harris, associate professor of media and cultural studies; and Jennifer Doyle, professor of English and director of the Queer Lab.

Who Says?

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

“Even if noncitizens would not personally lose any voting power under districting plans that exclude them, they would stand to lose access to public benefits and some measure of policy influence. ... So, even a limited change in the current rules — leaving congressional representation alone but allowing states and local governments to exclude noncitizens from the drawing of political districts — would cause significant political upheaval, to elected representatives with significant noncitizen constituencies and to the immigrants living in those districts.”

Karthick Ramakrishnan, associate professor of political science, on the principle of “one person, one vote,” established to make sure districts are drawn to equal population size, and possible repercussions if it allows the exclusion of noncitizens

LOS ANGELES TIMES

“Latinos have been the victims of media stereotypes for decades and decades.”

Carlos Cortés, professor emeritus of history, on his role as a cultural consultant for the children’s TV show “Dora the Explorer,” and making sure that stereotypes are not inadvertently inserted in the show

THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE

“You sign up for it, might as well. When it actually happens, it’s surreal.”

Alex Fishburn, undergraduate, whose bone marrow donation saved the life of a man from Iowa

ABC NEWS

“We wanted to move away from this bipolar view [of Serra] and show the complexity of the period. Spanish and Indian culture blended in the missions and that, I think, is a very important story that’s often drowned out. The missions were really about missionaries and California Indians. ... This [exhibition] is like a super mission [people] can visit to really understand what it was like in the 18th century.”

Steven Hackel, associate professor of history, on his role as co-curator of “Junípero Serra and the Legacies of the California Missions,” an exhibition which will run Aug. 17 to Jan. 6, 2014 at the Huntington Library

LOS ANGELES TIMES
“As a writer I have fought with Achebe. Railed against the anthropological bent of some of his work. Strug-gled with his complicated positioning of gender. Chaffed against his statements that were often presented as unassailable truths. ... And yet in the end, I have to admit that I did not only admire him, at some level, as a literary son, I loved him. Everything that I have described is the complicated struggle between father and son. And in the same way as it is with fathers and sons, I realize only after his death just how much I loved him.”

Chris Abani, professor of creative writing, on the recent passing of writer Chinua Achebe

WALL STREET JOURNAL

“Where we are now is kind of exciting because I think everybody agrees that people are sincere about their reports. They have these experiences and the question is of meaning or indication. I’m open to the possibility that we won’t be able to fully explain it. But my default assumption is naturalistic and scientific, and I would like to see more and more understanding — a better understanding of the underlying brain processes in these experiences.”

John Fischer, distinguished professor of philosophy, on the $5 million grant he received to study immor-tality

MOTHERBOARD

“Sometimes I get flak from my readership ... because they’re used to the heroic mode, where not only does someone solve their own problem, they save the world. Nobody does.”

Nalo Hopkinson, associate professor of creative writing, on her new novel, “Sister Mine”

LOS ANGELES TIMES

“I had his words, all these years, on the old answering machine, until I began to write this essay, exactly ten years after he died. The little beige plastic square sits on a wedge of wooden shelf in my kitchen. ... Then a windstorm slammed all the doors and windows in my house, and my dog lost her mind, and she ran into the kitchen and knocked the machine off the shelf, and the message I had saved for ten years was erased. The ma-chine still works. But my brother’s voice is gone.”

Susan Straight, professor of creative writing, speaking about her deceased brother

THE BELIEVER

Research and Scholarship

UCR Represents at the 27th Fungal Genetics Conference

UCR was well-represented when several researchers in the Department of Plant Pathology and Microbiology attended the 27th Fungal Genetics Conference on March 12-17 at the Asilomar Conference Center in Pacific Grove, Calif. The conference attracted nearly 1,000 attendees. Katherine A. Borkovich, the chair of the department, was the scientific co-chair for the conference. She helped establish the research topics for the conference and helped organize 20 plenary and 28 concurrent session talks. Groups with students and postdoctoral scholars in attendance were faculty members Borkovich, Hailing Jin, Howard Judelson and Jason Stajich. In total,
17 people from UCR attended the conference.

Stajich co-chaired a concurrent session, organized a workshop and gave a workshop talk. Several students and postdoctoral scholars presented talks or posters. Arne Weinberg, a postdoc in the Jin laboratory, won a poster award from the American Society for Microbiology journal *Eukaryotic Cell*, while Steven Ahrendt, a graduate student in the Stajich group, won a poster award from the Genetics Society of America.

**Public Lecture to Address Brain-mapping Project**

How the human brain, the most complex object in the known universe, does what it does remains a mystery. While it’s true that scientists understand much about the composition of neurons (nerve cells) and how they send and receive electrical and chemical signals and how large bundles of neurons connect major areas of the brain to each other, a gap persists in our knowledge on how signals from individual neurons combine to produce activities such as walking, recognizing a melody, playing a musical instrument or understanding mathematics.

The “Brain Activity Map Project,” a collaborative research initiative, aims at allowing scientists to fill in this gap by constructing a functional brain map designed to understand complex brain processes.

Ralph J. Greenspan, the associate director of the Kavli Institute for Brain and Mind at the University of California, San Diego, will give a talk on the Brain Activity Map (BAM) at 1:10 p.m. April 4 in the Genomics Building Auditorium.

The hour long talk, titled “The Brain Activity Map,” is free and open to the public. Parking on campus costs $6.

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**Awards and Honors**

**UCR Alumnus Elected to the National Academy of Engineering**

UCR alumnus Charlie Gay (’68 B.S., ’79 Ph.D., chemistry), the president of the Solar Division of Applied Materials Inc., a leader in solar photovoltaic manufacturing equipment, has been elected to the National Academy of Engineering (NAE) for his seminal leadership contributions to the development of the global solar photovoltaic industry.

Founded in 1964, the NAE provides engineering leadership in service to the nation. Academy membership honors those who have made outstanding contributions to engineering research, practice, or education and is among the highest professional distinctions accorded to an engineer.

An industry veteran with more than 35 years of solar experience, Gay’s contributions across solar energy technology, manufacturing and deployment have helped the global solar photovoltaic market become a $50 billion industry and enabled the cost of solar to come down by a factor of 50 since 1978. More than 85 percent of all solar panels manufactured in the last three decades have been made using the groundbreaking metallization and packaging technology solutions developed by Gay and his teams over the duration of his career.

“It is an honor to join the ranks of NAE’s prestigious members, whose innovations in engineering continue to improve our world,” Gay said. “Over the past several decades, we’ve seen significant technological advance-
ments and cost reductions in solar energy, many in the last few years alone as we enter the zone of inflection where solar energy is now cost-competitive with residential power. There has never been a more exciting time to influence the world’s long-term energy supply.”

As founder of the Greenstar Foundation, Gay has worked continuously to apply solar technology to improve people’s lives by delivering solar power to villages in developing countries. The Greenstar model has received recognition from international awards programs as diverse as the World Bank, the Stockholm Challenge, the Davos Conference and the Tech Awards. More recently, Gay was chairman of a project to electrify all the homes and schools in the rural Shaanxi Province of China.

UCR Ph.D. Student in Ethnomusicology Receives Grant from Thai University

Graduate student Supeena Insee Adler has received a research grant from the Project of Empowering Network for International Thai Studies (ENITS), administered by the internationally renowned Institute of Thai Studies at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, Thailand, with support from the Thailand Research Fund (TRF).

ENITS grants support research and encourage graduate students in Thai studies or related disciplines who are enrolled in institutions outside Thailand.

Adler, a native of Thailand, received her M.A. in Southeast Asian Studies at UCR in 2010 and is a doctoral student in ethnomusicology in the UCR Department of Music. She conducted dissertation research in Bangkok and other provinces for eight months in 2012 and 2013. The 80,000 baht (approximately $2,700 U.S.) grant supports research for her dissertation, “Music for the Few: Nationalism and Thai Royal Authority.”

“Chulalongkorn University is similar to Harvard in prestige and standing, and their Institute of Thai Studies is authoritative,” said Deborah Wong, professor of music and Adler’s advisor. “This fellowship indicates that Supeena’s dissertation project is regarded by specialists as noteworthy.”

An ethnomusicologist and an experienced Thai classical musician, Adler is exploring an old, specialized, even esoteric music ensemble — khreuang sai pji jawa — that is closely connected with royalty and features Thai stringed instruments and the Javanese oboe.

“Supeena has conducted close, on-the-ground ethnographic research to ascertain who now performs this profoundly circumscribed music,” Wong said. “Her broader purpose is to ask how and why such esoteric music is framed by an ideology that conflates kingship and nationalism in an environment that is intensely nostalgic for a time when the royal court was the political and cultural center of Thailand.”

Adler said the title of her dissertation, “Music for the Few,” refers to the very exclusive group of people who have participated in this traditional Thai musical ensemble.

“So far, I have found no evidence of other musicians playing this music who are not related to the great musicians or to the royal household,” Adler said. “The number of musicians with the ritual right to perform and teach it has shrunk dramatically. The repertoire is now extraordinarily small — less than 25 pieces — though some musicians claim it was much larger in the past. No new compositions have been composed for this special ensemble since it was started during King Rama VI (1910-1925). The lineage requirements for the musicians who perform it are very select precisely because it is meant to be performed only in front of the king and for funerals of great musicians who played in this ensemble, but 80 years of a constitutional monarchy and struggles over the Thai nation have both narrowed the performance contexts for the music and intensified musicians’ beliefs in its importance.

“I consider it an endangered music, in part because of the very strict custom that the only musicians able
to perform are those who have direct contact with a teacher who has played in khreuang sai pii jawa, and they must have special traditional permission to perform.”

Adler gave a presentation on her research, titled “Endangered Thai Music Culture: The Current Situation of the khreuang sai pii jawa Ensemble,” at the ENITS conference, hosted by Chulalongkorn University, in July 2012.