UCR Natural Sciences and Engineering Ranked Top 10 in the World in Leiden Ranking

By Kris Lovekin

UCR ranked 10th in natural sciences and engineering in the annual Leiden ranking of the top 500 major universities in the world in terms of research impact. UCR’s scientific impact in the natural sciences and engineering exceeded that of Princeton, Yale and Caltech.

Overall in all sciences, the campus was ranked 35th in the world, and 29th in North America. The rankings come from the Centre for Science and Technology Studies at Leiden University in the Netherlands. This ranking covers citations to research publications from 2008 through 2011.

Unlike some rankings based on surveys or reputation, the Leiden ranking is based on measures of scientific and research impact and collaboration, as measured in data from the Web of Science bibliographic database produced by Thomson Reuters.

UCR also ranked among the top one hundred universities in the world in social sciences and humanities (79), life and earth sciences (95), and biomedical and health sciences (90).

“Our faculty’s scientific impact is truly remarkable, as measured by objective data, said Dallas Rabenstein, executive vice chancellor and provost. “I could not be more proud of the research accomplishments of the UCR faculty.”

Impact is determined by several indicators, including the average number of citations of the publications of a university, and the proportion of publications that belong in the top 10 percent most frequently cited.

According to the Centre for Science and Technology Studies, the Leiden ranking “offers more advanced indicators of scientific impact and collaboration and uses a more transparent methodology.”
Interim Chancellor Cites Progress at Annual State of the Campus Address

By James Grant

Interim Chancellor Jane Close Conoley highlighted recent faculty and student accomplishments, continuing community support, and overall campus progress in her annual “State of the Campus” address to the Citizens University Committee.

“A few days ago, the University of Leiden in the Netherlands published a ranking of the 500 top universities worldwide,” said Conoley. “The great news is that UCR was ranked 10th in the world in its impact on the natural sciences and engineering – excelling above [schools such as] Princeton, Yale and Caltech.”

The Leiden ranking was based on the frequency with which UCR faculty members’ published research has been cited by other scholars around the world in their own scholarly studies.

Conoley also celebrated the fact that several UCR faculty members have brought in more than one million dollars in extramural research funding during the past year. She told the audience of about 150 that she hosted a special party at the UCR Chancellor’s Residence – and the room was packed.

“I like having million-dollar friends!” she quipped, while noting that the research funds “support individual research -- but often address community problems and are a key support for graduate student education.”

She noted also that UCR students continue to excel, with the most recent admissions cycle showing strong demand for a seat at UCR – and continually rising academic qualifications in the pool of applicants for fall 2013.

UCR students are also highly active in community outreach and service, she said. She noted that the student group “Healing Highlanders,” which supports people in addiction recovery, has won the UC President’s Award for Outstanding Student Leadership. The award will be presented to the campus at the May 15 meeting of the UC Regents.

None of the progress made on the campus, she said, would have been possible without strong community support and connections. The Inland Southern California community was instrumental in helping UCR receive approval for the new School of Medicine, she said. The School has had 2,400 applications for the 50 spots available for the class that begins this August.

The School of Medicine still needs community support, she said, thanking California State Sen. Richard Roth and Assemblymember Jose Medina, who have proposed legislation to provide $15 million in annual support to the school. Similar annual support is received by all the other UC medical schools.
“But even if we are successful in the Legislature, we still need the governor to support the UCR medical school,” Conoley said. “As we approach the May revise, it will be important for us to lobby the Governor’s Office unceasingly.”

Before closing, Conoley gave an update on the new C-Center, the proposed arena that is planned to host UCR convocations, commencements, court sports, and community events. The campus is now asking for statements of interest from potential developers. The arena is planned to be created on the West Campus, at the northwest corner of Iowa Avenue and Martin Luther King Boulevard.

The Citizens University Committee started in the late 1940s to lobby the UC Regents for a campus in Riverside. It still meets regularly.

Music, Art, Food and Fun at Spring Splash 2013
Organizers work to assemble a great festival for UCR audience at May 4 festival

By Ross French

The tagline for Spring Splash 2013 at UCR is “more than just music,” an apt description for the annual music festival that has been taken to the next level by student organizers at the Associated Students Program Board (ASPB).

While the annual event’s emphasis has traditionally been to bring up-and-coming acts and stars from a variety of musical genres to campus, student organizers made a dedicated effort to improve the entire festival experience with art, attractions, and food and drink in addition to the music.

The festival is on Saturday, May 4, from 2 to 7 p.m. on Pierce Lawn and will feature performances by rappers 2 Chainz, Rick Ross and Ab-Soul and indie rock band Walk the Moon. There will be plenty of food with five food trucks, including UCR’s Culinary Chameleon, and a beer garden for guests 21 and over. Entertainment options will include a Ferris wheel and spinning ride, a Eurobungee, a green-screen photo booth, a virtual graffiti wall, inflatable art exhibits, and even a petting zoo featuring a zebra.

Aiza Redubla, director of marketing at ASPB and co-administrator of Spring Splash, said the festival is organized by and for the students.

“ASPB works hard each year to give students the best entertainment programming possible,” said Redubla, a junior business administration major. “Spring Splash is the preeminent example of our commitment in that every aspect we organize, from attractions to food trucks, free water stations to net-zero waste systems, and of course, popular music artists- we do it for the students.”

Organizers are also promoting the sustainability efforts being made to keep the event “green.” These include water stations where guests can refill their water bottles, solar generator stations, and composting and recycling efforts to reduce waste.

“The students really embraced sustainability, and we hope our guests will do so as well,” said Danielle Espino, campus activities coordinator for ASPB.

About 13,000 tickets were distributed for the show, with the majority going for free to UCR undergraduates whose student fees help to subsidize the show. Tickets for non-undergraduate students, including staff, faculty, graduate and UCR Extension students, sold out almost immediately after the announcement of the final lineup.
The scheduled performers for Spring Splash are:

Ab-Soul – The stage name for Herbert Stevens, Ab-Soul is a native of nearby Carson and is a contemporary of rapper Kendrick Lamar. His most recent album is 2012’s “Control System.”

Walk the Moon – A four-piece indie rock band from Cincinnati, Walk the Moon is described as a “poppy, art-rock quartet.” They released their debut album “I Want! I Want!” in November 2010, then signed with RCA Records to release their self-titled album in June 2012.

Rick Ross – Named as the “Hottest MC in the Game” by MTV in 2012, Ross is the stage name for William Roberts. He is known for his albums “Deeper Than Rap,” “Teflon Don,” and “God Forgives, I Don’t.”

2 Chainz – The stage name for Tauheed Epps, 2 Chainz is a hip hop artist who released his solo album in August 2012. Three songs, “No Lie,” “Birthday Song,” and “I’m Different” charted in the top 50 of the Billboard Hot 100. His second solo album is expected sometime this spring.

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Retiree Health Benefit Changes Coming in July

By Anne Wolf

Retiree health is a benefit employers rarely offer, but UC has chosen to maintain it as part of its employment package. About half of current faculty and staff will be affected by new eligibility rules for retiree health benefits that go into effect on July 1, 2013. These rules were approved by the Board of Regents in December 2010 as part of a series of reforms to address the $14.5 billion unfunded liability in the retiree health program, and to help sustain the long-term viability of the program.

The regents also approved a new pension tier for employees hired or re-hired July 1, 2013 and later. The new pension tier does not apply to current employees unless they leave employment and return at a later date.

To help employees understand the changes to retiree health, we sat down with Gary Schlimgen, Executive Director of Retirement Programs & Services, to field some of the most commonly asked questions.

**Can you remind people what changes regarding retiree health benefits are going into effect on July 1?**

First, let me point out what is not changing. A retiring employee will still be eligible to enroll in UC’s retiree health plans if that employee:

- Is a member of the UC Retirement Plan (UCRP)
- Is enrolled in or eligible to be enrolled in UC benefits on the day he/she retires
- Is age 50 or older with 10 years or more of UCRP service credit at retirement

What’s changing is the formula for determining how much of UC’s contribution to the health premium a retiring employee will get. Beginning July 1, the formula is changing for all new employees and for about half of our current employees.

Under the revised rules, if you retire at age:
• 50 – 55: you can enroll in UC-sponsored health insurance for retirees but UC will not be contributing toward the cost of coverage. Access to our retiree health plan at a group rate is still a valuable benefit, with comprehensive coverage at a reasonable cost.

• 56 and older: you will receive a portion of UC’s contribution to retiree health based on your age and years of service at retirement. The percentage ranges from a minimum of 5 percent at age 56 with 10 years of service to 100 percent at age 65 with 20 or more years of service. There is a graduated eligibility chart that outlines the percentage.

*To which employees do the new rules apply?*

The new rules will apply to all new hires and to current employees in a UCRP-eligible appointment as of June 30, 2013, who:

• will have less than five years of UCRP service credit as of June 30, 2013

• have five or more years of UCRP service and whose age plus years of service credit is less than 50 on June 30, 2013. Age is measured in whole years. For example, someone who is 37 years old with 10.5 years of service would be under the new rules, as their age plus service does not equal 50.

*There have been a lot of comments about this “age plus service greater than 50” rule. What was the thinking behind this rule?*

The process that was undertaken to re-evaluate and design a more sustainable program looked at many factors. UC’s post-employment benefits are designed to reward long service. Currently, someone can retire as early as age 50 with retiree health, which doesn’t make sense for workforce planning and retention. Many thought a better idea was to foster retention by rewarding people who stay and encouraging later retirements by putting the maximum UC contribution at age 65 with 20 years or more of service. In this manner, the UC contribution towards retiree health rewards long-serving employees and provides for closer coordination with Medicare. A retiree may still be eligible for 100 percent of the maximum UC contribution, but at a later age.

At the same time, we wanted to protect employees who are already close to retirement age. There was concern that employees close to retiring would not have enough time to adjust their planning for higher medical premium costs, so the president recommended, and the regents approved grandfathering them under the current rules.

I can understand the disappointment for those employees who do not meet the age plus service credit criteria. They will still be eligible for retiree health with the current minimum of 10 years of service and at least age 50, but the amount of the UC contribution will be different. The retiree health eligibility rules have changed before, with the last time being in 1990 when graduated eligibility was established.

*UC is also slowly reducing its contribution to retiree health premiums to a floor of 70 percent. Can you explain the 70 percent contribution floor? Many people think that if they get 100 percent of the UC contribution to retiree health that UC pays 100 percent of the premium.*

The key is the UC contribution, which is currently 80 percent, on average, of the total cost of retiree health premiums. This will go down to 70 percent in the future Those retirees who receive 100 percent of the UC contribution get the full amount UC sets, which even today may or may not cover the full premium, depending on the plan a retiree chooses. Those who don’t get the full contribution get the percentage associated with their years of service credit at retirement.
UC has been reducing the contribution since 2010; so current retirees have already felt the impact of changes to the retiree health program.

**Do these changes also apply to employees who are represented by unions when they retire?**

As with any change in terms and conditions of employment, which include benefits, these changes are subject to the collective bargaining process for represented employees. We are committed to having all future retirees pay the same rates for the same benefits. The collective bargaining process is ongoing.

**Some employees have questioned whether UC can change these benefits for current employees. Aren’t they guaranteed?**

Retiree health benefits have never been guaranteed and are not “vested” in the same way that pension benefits are. Any pension benefits you’ve already accrued are yours and can’t be changed. But retiree health benefits are separate and can be changed or eliminated at any time. UC has no plans to eliminate these benefits; they are important for recruiting and retaining our faculty and staff.

**It’s been more than two years since the Regents approved the changes to post-employment benefits. Can you briefly recap how these changes came about and who was involved in making them?**

UC is facing a $24 billion unfunded liability for its pension and retiree health benefits, along with increasing annual costs. UC needed to find ways to control the costs and manage the unfunded liability to be able to sustain these benefits for the long term. Our benefits are an important component in recruiting and retaining excellent faculty and staff, but changes were needed to ensure we can continue to provide these post-employment benefits well into the future.

Back in 2009, UC President Mark G. Yudof appointed a Post-Employment Benefits Task Force to develop recommendations for sustainable post-employment benefits. The task force, which included senior leaders, faculty, staff and retirees from around the system, conducted extensive consultation that included surveys, town halls at campuses and Web chats. President Yudof continued the consultation process before finalizing recommendations that had the support of the Academic Senate, the staff advisors to the regents and the Council of UC Staff Assemblies. He then brought those recommendations to the Board of Regents, which approved the measures in December 2010.

**These are pretty significant changes. How do these changes compare with what other employers are doing?**

Actually, few employers offer health benefits to retirees. A 2012 Kaiser Family Foundation study showed that 25 percent of employers with 200 or more employees nationwide still provide them. Many organizations that do offer them are evaluating changes as well.

At UC, we know retiree health benefits are very important and we have no plans to eliminate these benefits. But we need to modify them in order to ensure they remain financially sustainable. Also, as national health care reform becomes more fully implemented, it’s likely there will be additional changes in the future.

**Editor’s note:** We have received several comments asking about the retiree health benefits eligibility rules for UCRP members with five or more years of UCRP service credit whose age plus service will be 50 or greater as of June 30, 2013. For this group, the eligibility rules are not changing (see chart below), as the
members would have five years of service and their age plus service is at least 50. The chart below also applies to Safety members.

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**Student Films to be Shown at MCS Film Festival May 15**

**By Ross French**

Students and alumni of the Department of Media and Cultural Studies will have their short films exhibited at the inaugural MCS Film Festival on May 15 in HUB 302.

Co-sponsored by the Associated Students Program Board (ASPB), the event is free for UCR students. Admission for nonstudents is $5.

“We hope to provide a platform that will encourage MCS students to continue making boundary-breaking work that brings excitement and excellence to both the MCS department and the UCR campus,” said Thelma Annan, creative director of the event and a senior MCS major from Ontario, Calif.

There were 11 submissions in the categories of “short,” “documentary,” and “drama.” A team of UCR faculty judges picked winners in each category, as well as an overall winner that represented the goals and ideals of the Department of Media and Cultural Studies. Winners will receive a custom plaque.

The event will draw inspiration from the Oscars and will include a red carpet, a custom backdrop for pictures, live music and food.

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**Young Oak Kim Center Plans Spring Events**

UCR Korean-American research studies center will host lecture, documentary film and quiz show for middle-school students

**By Bettye Miller**

The Young Oak Kim Center for Korean American Studies at UCR is presenting series of events that include a screening of a documentary about women of the Korean Diaspora and the annual YOK Quiz Bowl for middle-school children.

The events are free and open to the public.

The 2010 documentary film “The Woman, The Orphan, and The Tiger,” directed by Jane Jin Kaisen and Guston Sondin Kung, will screen on May 6 from 2:10 p.m. to 4 p.m. in Interdisciplinary 1128. The film, a favorite at numerous film festivals, follows a group of international adoptees and other women of the Korean Diaspora in their 20s and 30s. The filmmakers explore how trauma is passed on from previous generations to the present through a sense of being haunted and relate the stories of three generations of women: the former comfort women who were subjected to military sexual slavery by the Japanese military between World War I and II; the approximately 1 million women who have worked as sex-workers around U.S. military bases in South Korea from the 1950s to the present; and the around 200,000 children who were adopted from South Korea to the West since the 1950s.

On May 16, the 2nd Annual YOK Quiz Bowl returns at 1:45 p.m. to YOK Academy, 615 South Shatto Place,
Los Angeles. The program tests the knowledge of middle-school students about Korean-American war hero Col. Young Oak Kim. Participants will have read “Unsung Hero: The Story of Col. Young O. Kim,” an English translation by YOK Center Director Edward T. Chang of the Korean title “The Beautiful Hero Young Oak Kim,” which was written by award-winning journalist Woo Sung Han.

The YOK Center will present a $300 prize to the first-place winner of the contest, and $150, $75, $50 and $25 gift cards for second, third, fourth and fifth place, respectively. The top 50 students in the quiz show will win a trip to the YOK Center at UCR.

Col. Kim is revered in Korea and by Korean-Americans. A highly decorated U.S. Army veteran of World War II and the Korean War, he was the only Korean-American officer in a mostly Japanese-American unit in the Army. He earned numerous decorations from the United States, Italy, France and Korea, and became a role model in the Los Angeles community after his retirement from the military. He helped found the Go For Broke Monument in Los Angeles that honors the U.S. military service of Japanese Americans during WWII, as well as the Japanese American National Museum, the Korean Health, Education, Information and Research Center and the Korean American Museum.

The curriculum at Young Oak Kim Academy emphasizes and stimulates student interest in science, technology, engineering, and math careers.

Quiz show participants will tour the UCR campus on May 30.

UCR Student Group Wins President’s Award for Leadership

*Healing Highlanders, which supports people in recovery, will receive award at May 15 Regents meeting*

By Frances Fernandes

Healing Highlanders, a University of California, Riverside student group that supports people in recovery from addiction, has won the UC President’s Award for Outstanding Student Leadership. It will be presented at the May 15 meeting of the UC Regents.

“Each student touched by recovery support programs such as this one is potentially a life saved,” said UCR Interim Chancellor Jane Close Conoley. “The Healing Highlanders show the compassion and understanding that students snared by drugs, alcohol and similar disorders so desperately need, and in so doing they transform lives and they transform themselves.

“We have to remember that addictive disorders are diseases like any other and we must be proactive in providing support so that these students can complete their studies successfully.”

The Healing Highlanders is a service-based student organization that provides a nurturing environment for recovering students so that these students can complete their studies successfully. The group addresses a full spectrum of addictive disorders, which cover a vast range of issues including drugs, alcohol abuse; eating disorders and self-harm.

The President’s Award is given by UC Office of the President to two campus-based organizations each year for work that enhances multi-campus collaboration, addresses issues systemwide and advances the University of California’s mission of teaching, research and public service. It comes with a prize of $2,000. The other recipient this year is UCweVote, a project of the UC Student Association.

Group founder and Student President Mariel Bello credited fellow students for their unstinting efforts in
supporting fellow students with addictive disorders, and sharing research on collegiate recovery with other UC campuses.

Research at the Center for the Studies of Addiction and Recovery at Texas Tech, one of most established Collegiate Recovery Communities in the country, indicates that students with addictive disorders who receive consistent support not only remain in long-term recovery, but graduate at higher rates and with better GPAs than the general student population.

Collegiate Recovery programs are a fairly new concept, and are spreading rapidly across the nation, said the group’s advisor, Audrey Pusey, associate director for residence life. Pusey is a founding member of the Association of Recovery in Higher Education, a national organization formed to accelerate the growth, support and communication between mature and emerging collegiate recovery programs.

“UCR students are on the cutting edge of the kind of proactive program that really promotes change,” Pusey said. “They create a sense of community that students in recovery urgently need to succeed academically and maintain long-term recovery, and they serve as a resource for students who may be continuing to struggle with addiction-related problems.”

The Healing Highlanders organized a conference focusing on campus recovery communities last fall that drew participants from all over the country, including the chief of the Recovery Branch of the National Office of Drug Control Policy and leaders in addiction research and treatment.

“The conference opened our eyes as to what is happening on a national level,” Bello said. “It’s epidemic.”

The Centers for Disease Control has been warning that prescription drugs have now overtaken traffic accidents as the leading cause of accidental death — killing more young people than cocaine and heroin combined.

Those are statistics that the UCR School of Medicine takes to heart, says Dr. Emma Simmons, associate dean of student affairs and member of a steering committee advising the Healing Highlanders.

“We know that 22 percent of college-age youth nationwide use prescription drugs for non-medical reasons,” she said. “As a school focusing on primary health care, it’s vital that we train this next generation of doctors in the hazards of over-prescribing pain killers and recognize the signs of addiction disorders.”

Neurological studies of the brain show that the “addictive brain” is a genetic disorder which, like any other disease, may be latent or active, Simmons said. This disease differs from others in that the treatment involves not medication but fellowship, which teaches the brain a different way of functioning.

“More and more young people are seeking help,” Pusey said, “and there are increasing numbers of students who are reaching the college campus having already been through an in-patient or out-patient treatment center.” Problems arise when they arrive on college campuses without support and are dropped into an environment where experi-
mentation with drinking and drug use can be seen as part of the “rites of passage” in the college experience, she said.

“How do you tell your peers that you can’t drink with them on Thursday night because you have a disease called addition?” Pusey said. “The Healing Highlanders provide a community in which students can share their journey with other students who have experienced the same struggles.”

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New Clinic Aims to Improve Health Outcomes for Disabled Patients With Complex Medical Needs

*Medical school faculty member Dr. Scott Allen partnering with Inland Empire Health Plan and Riverside County Regional Medical Center to provide tailored and coordinated medical care*

By Kathy Barton

For adults with disabilities, a significant barrier is finding health care that is appropriate to their needs, accessible, respects their dignity and promotes their independence. A new clinic at Riverside County Regional Medical Center (RCRMC), supported in part by a grant from the Riverside Community Health Foundation, aims to fill this need and improve health outcomes for this vulnerable population.

“As simple as it may sound, health care services for the disabled are not always that accessible,” said Dr. Scott Allen, medical director of the Access Clinic and associate clinical professor in the UCR School of Medicine. “Accessibility means a number of things. At a minimum, it means physical accessibility of the building, the clinic space, the exam table and the diagnostic and therapeutic areas. On a more broad level, it means services that are easy to access when they are needed and it means services that are tailored to the patient’s needs and culture.”

The Access Clinic is a primary care clinic that uses the “patient-centered medical home” model of care – a provision of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act – to more efficiently coordinate medical treatment between adult disabled patients, their family and caregivers, and their primary-care physician and specialists.

A primary goal of the clinic is to coordinate medical care among multiple providers, which might include specialist providers, such as nutritionists, physical and occupational therapists, ophthalmologists and psychologists. The clinic is working with RCRMC, the Inland Empire Health Plan (IEHP) and UCR medical school to develop a referral network of sub-specialists and other providers.

It currently operates eight half-days each week Monday through Friday and is accepting new patients. The clinic is housed within the Family Medicine Clinic at RCRMC and is staffed by Dr. Allen, Dr. Emma Simmons, associate dean for student affairs in the UCR medical school, Melissa Seinturier, a nurse case manager, and
According to Allen, adults with disabilities often have multiple physical and mental health conditions and often go without adequate primary care, leading to increased risk for preventable diseases, such as diabetes and coronary heart disease, and premature death. A grant to RCRMC from the Riverside Community Health Foundation is helping fund equipment needed to make the clinic more accessible to patients with physical limitations.

“It’s essential that health care providers and non-profit organizations partner to create a strong network of services and resources to enhance access to affordable, quality care,” said Dr. Dan Anderson, President/CEO of Riverside Community Health Foundation. “We’re excited that this partnership and these grant dollars will improve care for adults with disabilities in our area. Riverside Community Health Foundation’s mission is to close health care gaps exactly like this one.”

“The Access Clinic offers a unique service to patients with complex medical issues who will benefit from a multidimensional level of care,” said Douglas Bagley, CEO of Riverside County Health Care system. “We are fortunate to have such specialized physicians and services in our clinics. We are looking forward to growth in this program as more patients become aware that it is here.”

“Medical home models already have a proven track record for improving health outcomes and using health care funding more efficiently,” said Dr. G. Richard Olds, dean of the UCR School of Medicine. “Adapting this approach to this special, and vastly underserved, patient population could very well become a model for other patient populations that have complex health care needs.”

The Access Clinic currently accepts adults with chronic disabilities – such as cerebral palsy, developmental delay, Down syndrome, quadriplegia, autism, and disabling mental health conditions – who are disabled and covered by the Inland Empire Health Plan. The clinic can be reached at (951) 486-5573.

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Getting Fresh UCR Oranges to Campus Diners Means Going the Extra Mile

*After some trial and error, the “greenest” way to get UCR oranges from the field to thirsty campus customers goes through Redlands*

By Ross French

The history of UCR is inextricably intertwined with citrus. For more than 100 years, citrus groves at UCR’s Agricultural Operations facility have helped researchers develop and safeguard the citrus that we enjoy.

So when UCR’s Dining Services was seeking a supplier for oranges to fill the campus’s demand for fresh-squeezed orange juice, it seemed reasonable, and environmentally friendly, that they could team up with Agricultural Operations to pick UCR-grown fruit that could be used in the campus’s popular juicing machines in the Lothian and Aberdeen & Inverness Dining Commons and the Highlander Union Building.

But what seemed great in theory didn’t make sense on paper – specifically, the accounting ledger. UCR staff spent hours cleaning and sorting fruit that could be used in the juicers – the campus’s Zumex juicers cannot
take an orange larger than 2.75 inches in diameter – and the cost escalated quickly. What’s more if the campus’s Valencia or navel orange supply didn’t meet demand, then the orange juice disappeared from the menu.

“It seemed like a great idea, but financially, it just wasn’t viable,” explained Cheryl Garner, executive director of Dining Services. “The people at Agricultural Operations are not farmers – harvesting the fruit is not their primary job, and the cost of labor was very high. Then we spent hours scrubbing them and sorting them so that we could get the right size of orange for our machines. We had to find a better way.”

The Agricultural Operations and Dining Services teams, with some help from Matthew Burke in UCR Materials Management and UCR Director of Sustainability John Cook, teamed up with the Redlands Foothill Groves packinghouse to supply the services that UCR staff couldn’t do as quickly, easily or cheaply. One of the few remaining citrus packinghouses in the Inland Empire, RFG is a cooperative that serves a variety of Southern California citrus groves, taking in and distributing citrus for juicing and for retail sale under the Sunkist brand.

Their crews harvest the trees and truck the fruit 20 miles to Redlands, where it is washed, sorted, inspected for bugs and disease, and then graded. The facility can store fruit up to 12 weeks in refrigeration units, but most of the fruit is quickly distributed to a number of clients throughout Southern California, including UCR Housing and Dining Services.

“It truly was a win/win for our students and it allowed us to offer this product all the time,” Garner said.

What made the partnership ideal is that none of the Agricultural Operations fruit is wasted, while Dining Services gets exactly what it needs to serve its customers. And since RFG harvests groves throughout Southern California, all the citrus that UCR purchases is “locally grown,” even if it didn’t necessarily come from UCR’s own groves.

“The standard for calling something ‘locally grown’ is 250 miles,” Cook said. “In this case, the packinghouse is 20 miles away, and they provide us with services that we cannot do ourselves in a cost-effective manner.”

The savings to the campus have been tremendous, according to Burke, procurement supervisor for food and MRO commodities at Materials Management. Since joining the co-op, UCR has seen its cost reduced by more than 50 percent, paying 14 cents per pound rather than 33 cents per pound from outside vendors. Burke estimated that the annual savings to the campus was $21,913.

“We are able to proudly say that we drink juice made from UCR oranges. Even though we cannot provide 100% UCR oranges, we now know that we will drink UCR oranges when they are in season and at their sweetest moment,” Burke said.

Sue Lee, management services officer for Agricultural Operations, explained that the number of trees available for harvest from UCR’s groves varies from season to season, depending upon the type of research being done at that time. For example, if a grove is being used to test a new insecticide, it is excluded from the harvest and the fruit is destroyed.

“Since the Ag/Ops groves are primarily used for research purposes, the fact that some of the fruit can be harvested and consumed, rather than destroyed, is a benefit to the campus,” Lee said.
Nominations for Staff Assembly Executive Board, Outstanding Staff Wanted

By Lilledeshan Bose

The elections for the 2013-2014 Staff Assembly Executive Board are coming up, and nominations for the 2013-14 candidates are now being accepted.

There are 11 positions on the Staff Assembly Executive Board, nine of which will be elected during this election cycle. The vice president, elected this spring, will assume the role of president during the 2014-2015 academic year.

Tim Willette, current Staff Assembly president, encouraged staffers to take part in the Staff Assembly. “Over the last two years, in serving on the Executive Board, I have gained a new perspective on how all of us—students, faculty, and staff—work together in accomplishing the UC mission, as well as insights on how each of our groups play integral roles in ‘Living the Promise’ here at UCR,” he said.

Interim Chancellor Jane Close Conoley also reiterated the importance of the organization to engage the UCR community, and urged supervisors to support staff who wished to serve on the executive board.

Nominations are accepted online at staffassembly.ucr.edu/elections.html. After the nomination period, candidate information will be posted on May 6. Voting will be open from Thursday, May 9, at 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. on Wednesday, May 15. Results will be announced at the spring general meeting on Monday, May 20, from noon to 1 p.m. in HUB 302.

For more information, visit the Staff Assembly Executive Board website (staffassembly.ucr.edu/elections.html) or reach out to current board members to learn more about their positions. You may also send an email to staffassembly@ucr.edu or call 951-827-STFF (951-827-7833).

The Outstanding Staff Awards are also accepting nominations, which are due on May 17. All career staff members in good standing are eligible for nomination for the following categories:

- People Helping People Award
- Staff Who Make a Difference Award
- Tartan Soul Award
- Diversity Award
- Volunteer of the Year Award

Managers are especially encouraged to nominate deserving employees as a way of validating their hard work.

The Outstanding Staff Awards Ceremony will be held on Tuesday, June 4, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Chancellor’s residence. For information, please contact Stephanie Reyes (x22738).
GETTING PERSONAL: Matthew Funk

Lead Custodian of UCR ARTSblock

By Bethanie Le

With 20 years of service, Matthew Funk, the lead custodian of UCR ARTSblock has become an expert on the lay of the land at UCR.

“When I did the graveyard shift, I would walk the campus twice at night. ... I remember when I got here, Bourns was a parking lot. That wasn’t here. The Chemical Sciences Building wasn’t here — that was a parking lot. UCR has changed a lot,” he says. “It’s such a beautiful campus.”

As lead custodian, Funk enjoys the physical aspect of his job best. “I’m always on my feet at my work — when I’m sweeping, mopping, or cleaning the bathrooms,” he said. Funk even stays active when he’s not on the job, with the help of a handy app called My Fitness Pal — a calorie-counting program that has helped him lose 70 pounds.

“I’ve been working on my weight for the last 440 days. ... My Fitness Pal is like a Facebook community ... [With help from the app], I went from a size 42 pants to a 36. I was wearing 2X, 3X shirts — [now I wear] large shirts that I never imagined I could wear. The last time I was able to wear a large shirt was in high school when I was 16 years old,” he said.

Staying healthy is a lifelong commitment for Funk: “My daughter asked my wife and me how long we were going to be on this and I said, ‘Forever.’ I don’t want to stop. I don’t want to be where I was. When I look at [old pictures of] myself, all I see is belly and I can’t believe that I let myself go like that. My Fitness Pal is a whole lifestyle change.”

Movies are another passion — one that makes Funk’s work environment perfect for him, since UCR Artsblock screens movies regularly. “I’m a movie buff,” Funk said. “I study on the Internet about movie theaters and drive-ins — something that bores a lot of people, but not me. I think it’s fascinating to see the work involved,” Funk said enthusiastically.

The Top: Favorite Drinking Places Around UCR

Welcome to Inside UCR’s newest feature, The Top!

Each issue, we’re presenting a list of UCR staff and faculty favorites — from restaurants to Zen gardens to restaurants and events. This week, staffers talk about their favorite drinking spots off- and on-campus. Next issue, we’re featuring favorite walking routes around UCR. If you’d like to share yours, email lille.bose@ucr.edu.

1. The Boba Tea House

“Since our office is at the UV, I don’t really steer far away from Starbucks when I need a cup of coffee. However, as for regular nonalcoholic drinks, I have visited Boba Tea House from time to time. I like the drinks there
because the sweetness factor is never excessive and the flavor too powerful. There are times when I order a taro milk tea elsewhere and I can taste the powdery mix, but the drinks at Boba Tea House are usually well-blended and refreshing to taste.” — Vicki Tieu, extramural funds accountant

767 W. Blaine St., Suite A, Riverside, (951) 784-7148, www.bobateahouseinc.com

2. Ivan’s @ Hinderaker

“If I get something on campus, I’ll probably get a breakfast tea at Ivan’s. The problem with tea is that I need to let it steep before I add my sugar and cream. Ivan’s is close, so I can easily go back to get sugar and cream after it’s done steeping. Also, I don’t like the vanilla-flavored cream they use at The Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf, and they get so busy there. Add the walk and the delay in getting your order and it’s just too much time. I’m too busy for all that. I should add that the service at Ivan’s is also great.” — Ralph Ambrose, assistant director, Constituent Management and Technologies

“My absolute favorite is Ivan’s at Hinderaker! They always make my drink the way I like it and I never [have to] wait long.” – Delma Lee, alumni services coordinator.

Hinderaker Hall, UC Riverside

3. Baker’s

“I like to drink coffee every morning, but I’m not very picky. When I don’t prepare it myself, I usually drive by Baker’s before work. I like their cinnamon coffee. It’s good, not too expensive and the employees are always polite and friendly.” — Juanita Segura, HR coordinator, Child Development Center

3522 Adams St., Riverside, (951) 509-6764, bakersdrivethru.com

4. The Coffee Bean Truck and Starbucks

“I love the Coffee Bean truck in the Physics courtyard on-campus; they make some cold-blended espresso drinks you cannot get at a brick and mortar Coffee Bean and the leafy courtyard with its’ shaded tables is a lovely place to sit. The place off-campus that comes to mind is the drive-through Starbucks at the southeast corner of Blaine and Iowa. Whether I drive through, or sit inside to enjoy the free wi-fi, the staff is exceptionally efficient and friendly. I usually enjoy a grande hot latte, but sometimes treat myself to a grande hot Café Mocha. — Janice Leslie, financial and administrative officer, AEE Administrative Unit

Starbucks, 1280 W Blaine St Riverside, (951) 686-5947, starbucks.com

5. Cask ‘n Cleaver Steakhouse

“Cask ‘n Cleaver is close to the university, with a large bar and restaurant, so it’s a good after-work spot. The University Advancement Team usually meets there for happy hour every quarter. The next meeeting is on May 2, after 5 p.m.” — Kris Lovekin, director of media relations

13333 University Ave., Riverside, (951) 682-4580, www.caskncleaver.com

6. The Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf

“I usually go to the Coffee Bean on campus and get a bold coffee to start my day. The morning crew knows me and has my order ready when I walk-in.” -- Nick Difilippo, communications and technology specialist, Alumni Relations

Located at the HUB across from Latitude 55
7. The Getaway Cafe

“My favorite place to grab a drink around campus is at the Getaway Café. It’s great to get a cold draught beer with colleagues to wind down and check in. I enjoy the energy of the students and the always friendly staff.” – Stu Krieger, Professor and Chair of the Theater Department.

3615 Canyon Crest Dr., Riverside

8. Goodwin’s Organic Foods & Drinks

“Goodwin’s has good coffee and grinds.” – Spenser Kalnin, Director of Marketing and Membership for Alumni Relations.

191 West Big Springs Road, Riverside, (951) 682-2667, www.goodwinsorganics.com

9. Tio’s Tacos

“Tio’s Tacos is one of my favorite places to get a delicious agua fresco on a warm spring/summer day. Even though Tio’s offers rows of inviting flavors, I always choose fresh pineapple – love the pulpy bits. [It] is a world unto itself, a folk art Mecca. Even though I’ve been many times, the artist, Martin Sanchez, is always adding to his collection of recycled assemblage.” – Kate Anger, continuing lecturer, Department of Theatre

3948 Mission Inn Ave., Riverside, (951) 788-0230, riverside.tiosmexicanfood.com

Did You Know?

Recognize A Great Co-worker

If you work with fantastic colleagues, you should recognize them! The Staff Assembly sponsors a “Get Recognized” program for UCR career employees once a month, from September to May. All you have to do is fill out an online form and say why the someone’s work should get recognized. Nominations for the month of May must be submitted by May 10. The Recognition Committee reviews submissions each month and selects a winner. Recipients of the award get a gift and are highlighted in the Staff Assembly Notes and Website.

For more information, go to staffassembly.ucr.edu/recognition/getrecognized.html.

Excess Equipment Sale to be held on May 7

The next Excess Equipment Sale will be held on May 7 from 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. at the Equipment Management Warehouse located in the Corporation Yard. It is open to the general public.

Riverside One of 10 Happiest Cities for Young Professionals

According to CareerBliss.com, an online career site, Riverside is one of the top 10 cities where the nation’s most satisfied young professionals live and work. Riverside ranked No. 6 in CareerBliss.com’s list of 10 Happiest Cities for Young Professionals, based on analysis of more than 45,000 employee-generated reviews between April 2012 and March 2013. Young professionals (defined as employees with less than 10 years of experience) in a full-time position) were asked to evaluate 10 factors that affect workplace happiness, such as work relationships, compensation, growth opportunities and more. Riverside’s Career Bliss score was 3.84 out of 5. To read the whole story, go to www.forbes.com/sites/jacquelynsmith/2013/04/24/the-10-happiest-cities-for-young-professionals.
Awards and Honors

Hailing Jin Receives $700,000 Grant

Hailing Jin, an associate professor of plant pathology and microbiology, has received a nearly $700,000, three-year grant from the National Science Foundation to investigate the role of small ribonucleic acid (sRNAs) in the fungal pathogen-host interaction.

“The goal is to understand novel strategies aggressive fungal pathogens use to successfully infect their host plants,” Jin said. “We chose Botrytis cinerea, the cause agent of gray mold that can infect more than 200 plant species, including most vegetables and fruits, for this study.”

Sweeny a Rising Star

Kate Sweeny, assistant professor of psychology, has been named a Rising Star by the Association for Psychological Science (APS). She is one of 19 psychologists from North America and Europe recognized in the April issue of Observer, an APS publication that reports on psychological research and issues of national interest to psychological scientists. The Rising Stars are “young luminaries poised to revolutionize the field” of psychological science, the editors wrote.

Sweeny’s research addresses the question of how people manage difficult life events.

“My first line of research examines the understudied experience of awaiting uncertain news,” she told Observer. “People frequently face difficult waiting periods when they anticipate news regarding their own or their loved ones’ health, professional prospects, and academic outcomes, and my research reveals how people cope with this type of uncertainty and seeks to identify successful strategies for navigating painful waiting periods.”

Her second line of research examines one particular type of difficult life event: seeking health care. “My lab examines patients’ expectations for care, characteristics of physician-patient communication, and other psychosocial aspects of health care visits.”

Research and Scholarship

Astronomers Break Records in Finding the Furthest Supernova

Bahram Mobasher, a professor of physics and astronomy, is a member of an international team of astronomers that reported earlier this month that the NASA/ESA Hubble Space Telescope has broken the record in the quest to find the furthest supernova of the type used to measure cosmic distances. This supernova exploded more than 10 billion years ago, at a time when the universe was in its early formative years and stars were being born at a rapid rate.

The supernova, designated SN UDS10Wil, belongs to a special class of exploding stars known as Type Ia supernovae. These bright beacons are prized by astronomers because they can be used as a yardstick for measuring cosmic distances, thereby yielding clues to the nature of dark energy, the mysterious force accelerating the rate of expansion of the universe.

Finding remote supernovae opens up the possibility to measure the universe’s accelerating expansion due to dark energy. However, this is an area that is not fully understood — nor are the origins of Type Ia superno-
Knowing what triggers Type Ia supernovae will show how quickly the universe enriched itself with heavier elements, such as iron. These exploding stars produce about half of the iron in the universe, the raw material for building planets, and life.

The team’s results will appear in the May 10 issue of *The Astrophysical Journal*.

**Fischer Delivers Address**

John Fischer, distinguished professor of philosophy, delivered the presidential address, “The Path of Life,” at the annual meeting of the Pacific Division of the American Philosophical Association in San Francisco in March. Fischer is president of the Pacific Division for the 2012-13 academic year.

His work on moral responsibility has influenced not only the field of philosophy but also legal theory, particularly criminology, Terence Parson, Pacific Division vice president and a philosophy professor at UCLA, said in introducing Fischer.

Parson noted that one prominent philosopher regards Fischer’s contributions to examining life and death as “lasting, rigorously argued and rich, on a par with those of Bernard Williams and Thomas Nagel in recent years, Epicurus and Lucretius in antiquity. His work will continue to have lasting, influential impact in the philosophical world.”

Fischer also is known widely for mentoring students, Parson said. “He’s been a mentor for an entire generation of people working on free will, and has done a good deal to show people the ropes and help them along in their careers, as advisor, critic, as a person of good advice and wisdom.”

**Gudis Talks at the Getty**

Cathy Gudis, associate professor of history, participated in a panel discussion — “How Do People Re-Invent Spaces?” — at an April 14 Zócalo/Getty Museum conference on “Does Architecture Matter?”

Gudis, who also is director of the UCR Public History Program, described buildings as “containers for memory,” and said that architectural and other changes need to be recorded to illustrate the history of the city’s built environment.

She will participate in another Getty symposium on May 31, “Urban Ambition.” The all-day event will focus on architectural discourse, professional practice, the layered built environment of Los Angeles, and artistic interpretations of L.A.

Zócalo Public Square is a not-for-profit ideas exchange that blends live events and humanities journalism. It is a project of the Center for Social Cohesion at Arizona State University and the New America Foundation, and is based in Los Angeles and Phoenix.

**Schwabe Presents at Water Research Forums**

Kurt Schwabe, an associate professor of environmental economics and policy and the associate director of the Water Science and Policy Center, was recently invited to present at two water research forums.

The first was the “Rosenberg International Forum on Water Policy,” which meets every two years or so
and discusses the most pressing water-related issues in various parts of the world. At the eighth forum held in March 2013, the focus was on water scarcity and food security in the North African/Middle East regions (MENA) and was held in Aqaba, Jordan.

Schwabe discussed and commented on three papers that were making policy suggestions to the governments of the Middle East and Northern African regions on how to address water scarcity and food security in these regions and what to expect regarding the economic and social impacts of various policies.

Then, at the “Urban Water Roundtable: Bringing Together the Best in Current Research and Applications,” held at Arizona State University (ASU) April 18-19, 2013, Schwabe was invited by the ASU Global Institute of Sustainability to make a presentation on the role agriculture will play in influencing the amount of water scarcity confronting urban water managers, and to identify supply-side, demand-side, and institutional opportunities and limitations for addressing future water scarcity.

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**Who Says?**

“The loss of a young person is a terrible tragedy, and my understanding from those at Extension is that she was a talented and bright young woman who was going on to great accomplishments. We are sending condolences to her family.”

*Jane Close Conoley, interim chancellor, on Lu Lingzi, a former UCR Extension student that was killed in the Boston Marathon explosions*

**LOS ANGELES TIMES**

“It’s a first step towards developing solar cells that could actually be significantly more efficient than today.”

*Christopher Bardeen, professor of chemistry, on pentacene — a special coating that could dramatically improve the percentage of energy harvested from solar cells*

**YAHOO! NEWS**

“Here in the United States we are falling woefully behind other countries on (math and science). The funding from the Southern California Gas Company is providing us with a means to reach hundreds of students by offering opportunities for their teachers to participate with scientists in learning current environmental issues they are facing.”

*Cameron Barrows, associate researcher at the Center for Conservation Biology, on the $10,000 environmental grant given by Southern California Gas Co. that will fund a two-day institute at the Palm Desert Center*

**EQUITIES.COM**

“Koreans always want to reach for number one status. The nation’s rapid economic growth has been about striving for the top spot.”

*Edward Chang, professor of ethnic studies, on Psy’s new release, “Gentleman,” and South Korea’s desire to see their culture being celebrated on a global scale*

**QUARTZ**
“Making genetic material unpatentable is tantamount to destroying access to genetic tests based on the breakthroughs of the DNA era, because no business would invest capital in a product that anyone else can copy without consequences.”

Michael Pirrung, distinguished professor of chemistry, on why patenting human genes is essential for innovative biomedical product development

LOS ANGELES TIMES

“The Monrovia peak was last burned in 1924. It’s an explosive carpet bomb basically ready to go off from Monrovia all the way over that mountain and down to the San Gabriel River on the other side.”

Richard Minnich, Department of Earth Sciences Chair, on Monrovia being at a greater fire risk in the upcoming hot, dry season

KPCC-FM