Rabenstein to Step Down as EVC/Provost

Distinguished professor of chemistry plans to return to researching, writing and teaching after June 2014

Dallas Rabenstein

By Ross French

Dallas Rabenstein, the executive vice chancellor and provost at UCR, has announced that he will step down from the administrative post on June 30, 2014, at the end of the 2013-14 academic year.

“Dallas has been a steadfast leader through difficult times for UCR,” Chancellor Kim A. Wilcox wrote in a letter to the campus announcing the move. “He assumed his current role in February 2009, at the beginning of a deep recession. The resulting financial contraction placed unprecedented budgetary pressure on the University of California system; UCR could not have had a more conscientious steward of our financial resources during this challenging era.”

Rabenstein was instrumental in the creation of “UCR 2020: The Path to Preeminence,” the campus’s long-range strategic plan which compiled the insights of 140 faculty, administrators, students, staff, alumni and community leaders and will help set the course for the university through the decade.

Rabenstein was originally appointed to the interim EVC/provost position in February 2009 by then-Chancellor Timothy P. White, with the agreement that he would serve through June 2010. However, after a pair of nationwide searches and two waves of finalists, the search committee and White agreed that retaining Rabenstein in a permanent capacity was “in the best interest of the campus.”

“My appointment in this position has lasted considerably longer than I ever intended,” Rabenstein said in an email to his fellow deans. “I have enjoyed being EVC/P, although I wish the California economy had been better. I look forward to working with you for another year, but after five-and-a-half years, it will be time for me to return to my other professional life.”

The “other” life that he is referring to is as a distinguished professor of chemistry. Rabenstein’s research emphasis is on design, synthesis and characterization of peptidomimetics, particularly peptoids; and structure and function of the blood anticoagulant heparin.

“While my plans for after June 30, 2014, are still up in the air, I definitely want to continue doing research
and writing. I also would like to do some teaching,” Rabenstein said. “I do plan to stay at UCR – I love this place and the people here – faculty, staff and students!”

Wilcox said he would appoint a search committee in the early fall to identify a worthy successor for Rabenstein, with the goal of making an appointment by June 2014.

A celebration will be held in the spring to honor Rabenstein and his contributions to the campus.

Looking to Learn Something? Check Out lynda.com

*Online training service provides thousands of tutorials to UCR staff and faculty*

*By Ross French*

Need to make a pivot table in Excel, but don’t know how? Looking to learn everything about Adobe Creative Suite or Microsoft Office? Thanks to a partnership between lynda.com, UCR Computing and Communications and the Office of Human Resources, tutorials on those subjects and many more are as close as your computer and the campus’s R'Space portal.

Lynda.com is an online learning company with a vast library of instructional videos covering the latest software, along with creative and business skills. Taught by accomplished teachers and recognized industry experts, lynda.com tutorials are a high-quality resource for faculty and staff looking to develop skills in Microsoft Office, the Adobe Creative Suite, project management, time management, and a wide range of other topics. UCR purchased a subscription to lynda.com in 2011 for all staff and faculty members. The service is free to staff and faculty.

The UCR HR office is promoting the use of the lynda.com training following a 2012 staff survey that showed that one of the staff’s top requests was for computer training, said Seana Nuñez-Grider, senior employment and development analyst in Human Resources.

“The results of the needs survey told us that our staff members want training on things like Excel, Word, Access, and other computer programs. That’s when we realized that so many of our staff didn’t realize that lynda.com was available to them,” she said. “We have a need to offer more than training in soft skills, and this service can help fulfill that need.”

Neal G. Malik, occupational wellness specialist in Human Resources, said, “I found lynda.com to be extremely helpful. Learning new software can be extremely intimidating, but lynda.com allows even beginner users to learn at their own pace.”

Nuñez-Grider agreed, saying that she has used the service herself. “I’ve taken some of their courses, and they’ve been great,” she said. “Lynda.com offers just-in-time training on so many different subjects. You can watch a three-hour session on using charts in Excel, or you can watch a four-minute video on selecting the data to display as a chart, if you need a quick reminder on that one piece.”

The training isn’t limited to computer programs. The site also offers practical courses on subjects including project management, leadership, or even conflict management.

To access the lynda.com portal, log into your R'Space account and find the lynda.com link under Authorized Applications. To get started, view the “How to use lynda.com” course, and learn how to find, access, and view lynda.com tutorials.
Creating a ‘Window to the Brain’

Researchers develop novel transparent skull implant that could provide new treatment options for disorders such as brain cancer and traumatic brain injury

By Sean Nealon

UCR researchers have developed a novel transparent skull implant that literally provides a “window to the brain,” which they hope will eventually open new treatment options for patients with life-threatening neurological disorders, such as brain cancer and traumatic brain injury.

The team’s implant is made of the same ceramic material currently used in hip implants and dental crowns, yttria-stabilized zirconia (YSZ). However, the key difference is that this material is processed in a unique way to make it transparent.

Since YSZ has already proven itself to be well-tolerated by the body in other applications, the team’s advancement now allows use of YSZ as a permanent window through which doctors can aim laser-based treatments for the brain, importantly, without having to perform repeated craniectomies, which involve removing a portion of the skull to access the brain.

The work also dovetails with President Obama’s recently announced BRAIN (Brain Research through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies) Initiative, which aims to revolutionize the understanding of the human mind and uncover new ways to treat, prevent, and cure brain disorders. The team envisions potential for its YSZ windows to facilitate the clinical translation of promising brain imaging and neuromodulation technologies being developed under this initiative.

“This is a case of a science fiction-sounding idea becoming science fact, with strong potential for positive impact on patients,” said Guillermo Aguilar, a professor of mechanical engineering at UCR’s Bourns College of Engineering (BCOE).

Aguilar is part of a 10-person team comprised of faculty, graduate students and researchers from BCOE and School of Medicine, who recently published a paper, “Transparent Nanocrystalline Yttria-Stabilized-Zirconia Calvarium Prosthesis” about their findings online in the journal *Nanomedicine: Nanotechnology, Biology and Medicine.*

Laser-based treatments have shown significant promise for many brain disorders. However, realization of this promise has been constrained by the need for performing a craniectomy to access the brain since most medical lasers are unable to penetrate the skull. The transparent YSZ implants developed by the UCR team address this issue by providing a permanently implanted view port through the skull.

“This is a crucial first step towards an innovative new concept that would provide a clinically viable means for optically accessing the brain, on-demand, over large areas, and on a chronically recurring basis, without
need for repeated craniectomies," said team member Devin Binder, a clinician and an associate professor of biomedical sciences at UCR.

Although the team’s YSZ windows are not the first transparent skull implants to be reported, they are the first that could conceivably be used in humans, which is a crucial distinction. This is due to the inherent toughness of YSZ, which makes it far more resistant to shock and impact than the glass-based implants previously demonstrated by others. This not only enhances safety, but it may also reduce patient self-consciousness, since the reduced vulnerability of the implant could minimize the need for conspicuous protective headgear.

In addition to Aguilar and Binder, authors of the paper are: Yasaman Damestani, a Ph.D. student working with Aguilar; B. Hyle Park, an assistant professor of bioengineering; Carissa L. Reynolds, a Ph.D. student working with Park; Javier E. Garay, an associate professor of mechanical engineering; Yasuhiro Kodera, a project scientist who works in Garay’s lab; Masaru P. Rao, an assistant professor of mechanical engineering; Jenny Szu, a lab technician in Binder’s lab; and Mike S. Hsu, a staff research associate in Binder’s lab.

This research was supported, in part, by the UCR Chancellor’s Strategic Research Initiative.

‘I Don’t Do Vases or Swans’

Nationwide, the number of scientific glassblowers has declined, but Stan Sheldon is practicing the craft at UCR

By Sean Nealon

A postcard-size sign hangs from the ceiling of the second floor of Pierce Hall. It says: “GLASS SHOP.”

The shop is the domain of Stan Sheldon, the university’s scientific glassblower. Scientific is the key word. Sheldon makes custom glass pieces for chemists, engineers and other researchers on campus. He doesn’t do vases or swans.

Sheldon, a 1969 graduate of UCR who has worked at the university on and off for nearly 30 years, works in the glass shop on Wednesdays. That is quite a decline from decades ago when there were two glass shops with three full-time glassblowers on campus.

The decline mirrors what has happened nationwide. Scientific glassblowing peaked in the 1960s when the Cold War caused the government to ramp up spending on scientific research, said Robert Ponton, who runs the American Scientific Glassblowers Society. He said membership in the society is down about 20 percent from the peak.

Today, as research has shifted from the bench to the computer and from a macro- to a micro-scale, there is less of a need for custom-made glass pieces, said Ponton, who spent 30 years as a scientific glass blower.

At UCR, Sheldon got his start glassblowing in 1973. He did an 18-month apprenticeship under Josef Poppl in the same Pierce Hall shop he works in today.

In the following 30 years, he used his glassblowing skills periodically when working at labs at UCR, UC Irvine, Brigham Young University and Imperial Valley College.

Then, in 2006, Volker Herbert, who was a full-time glassblower at UCR, retired. Sheldon, who then was working and continues to work in the chemistry lab of at the university, heard about Herbert’s retirement and
offered his services. The university hired him for one day a week because of the declining demand for glassblowing and budget considerations.

Every Wednesday, Sheldon has lunch with Herbert, who is fond of saying: “When a professor had a bad dream at night I always said I had an interesting job the next day.”

Today, the glass shop looks much like it did when Sheldon apprenticed 40 years ago. It’s filled with industrial-looking equipment used to heat, cut, drill and cool the custom-made glass pieces. Glass tubes of various diameters are stacked in mailbox-like slots. A stack of completed, hand-written work orders form a nearly foot-high pile of pink paper.

Sheldon, who is 67, says he will think about retiring when he hits 70.

“I get real satisfaction helping these young scientists,” he said.

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**UC Announces New Medical Plans for 2014**

*UC's revamped menu of plans for 2014 offers better value and clearer choices; four plans to be discontinued*

**By UCOP**

Some big changes and new choices in medical plans are coming to Open Enrollment this fall.

UC is offering a revamped menu of plans for 2014 that offers better value and clearer choices, including two new plans: Blue Shield Health Savings Plan, which features a UC-funded health savings account; and UC Care, UC’s own PPO plan that offers members access to UC doctors and hospitals.

Kaiser Permanente, Health Net Blue and Gold, Western Health Advantage and Core (administered by Blue Shield) will still be available. Four plans — Anthem Blue Cross PPO and PLUS, Anthem Lumenos with HRA and Health Net Full HMO — are being discontinued.

“The 2014 plans provide clear and distinct choices to meet our employees and retirees’ diverse and changing needs,” said Michael Baptista, executive director of Benefits Programs and Strategy. “The designs of these plans have very little overlap. Everyone can choose a plan based on what’s most important to him or her, whether that’s having predictable costs or the widest choice of doctors.”

UC employees and retirees will continue to have a broad choice of providers—including UC medical center doctors, hospitals and medical groups—and plan designs to fit their needs. And UC will continue to cover an average of more than 85 percent of the cost of the premiums.

The 2014 plan offerings are the result of a comprehensive review of UC’s medical plan portfolio. UC con-
considered proposals from new and current medical plan vendors in an effort to continue providing high-quality medical insurance that is more specific to individual needs, while limiting cost increases to employees and the university. The review also offered an opportunity to leverage UC’s outstanding medical centers and take advantage of the changing medical-insurance marketplace.

“We know how important quality medical insurance is to our employees and retirees, and we are continually looking for ways to ensure good benefits while limiting cost increases for employees and the university,” said Baptista. “Health care reform and a changing medical-insurance marketplace provided a good opportunity to rethink our benefits while still maintaining choice and quality.”

Two Plans In, Four Plans Out

The two new plans offer broad, nationwide networks of doctors and hospitals through Blue Shield, including UC’s medical centers, and both are expected to have lower monthly premiums than Anthem Blue Cross PPO, Anthem Blue Cross PLUS and Health Net HMO.

UC Care is a new health plan created just for UC employees, retirees and families. You can get care from UC doctors and medical centers as well as the entire Blue Shield network of providers. You pay a fixed copayment when you use UC and other select providers near all UC campuses and coinsurance when using the other 65,000 Blue Shield providers. You also have coverage for out-of-network care.

The Blue Shield Health Savings Plan is a high-deductible PPO plan paired with a health savings account (HSA) that lets you pay your out-of-pocket health care costs with tax-free dollars. UC provides an initial contribution and you can also make pre-tax contributions. You can use the funds any time for qualified medical expenses or save them for future health care needs. Your HSA balance carries over from year to year and you own the balance in the account, even if you transfer to another medical plan or leave UC. Blue Shield’s large PPO provider network offers a wide choice of doctors and hospitals or you can see out-of-network providers if you want to pay more.

UC is eliminating the Anthem Blue Cross PPO and PLUS plans and the Health Net full HMO plan because they no longer provide the right value. “The costs for these plans continue to increase at a much faster rate than the other plans,” Baptista said. “Neither the university nor employees can continue to absorb double-digit annual increases.”

The Anthem Lumenos PPO with health reimbursement account is being replaced with the Blue Shield Health Savings Plan. Employees are finding plans with health savings accounts to be more popular because of the tax incentive advantages, the portability of the account and the ability to use the account to save for future retirement insurance needs.

Plan costs have not been finalized, and information about monthly premiums will be available closer to Open Enrollment.

New for retirees
Retirees and employees planning to retire in 2014 will have similar choices as employees. All six employee plans will be available to retirees not yet eligible for Medicare.

Medicare-eligible retirees in California will have five plan options: Kaiser Senior Advantage, Health Net Seniority Plus, Blue Shield PPO, Blue Shield PPO without prescription drug coverage and Blue Shield High Option Supplement to Medicare.

The Blue Shield Medicare plans are very similar to the current Anthem Blue Cross Medicare plans.

For Medicare-eligible retirees living outside California, UC is taking a new approach. For those Medicare-eligible retirees with all covered family members in Medicare, UC will fund a Health Reimbursement Arrangement (HRA) which retirees will use to purchase individual coverage through Extend Health, a company that sponsors a Medicare Exchange.

With the assistance of Extend Health’s licensed and trained benefit advisors, each covered family member will choose an individual Medicare plan that’s best for them. That includes Kaiser, if available in the retiree’s location. With the growing market for individual plans, many retirees will have more choices, many of which could meet their needs better than the UC plans currently available.

UC plans extensive communication and education about medical plan choices throughout the fall to help faculty, staff and retirees make good choices. Watch for a website dedicated to information about the 2014 medical plans, which is scheduled to launch in mid-September. Visit At Your Service (atyourservice.ucop.edu) for a link to the website where you can read more about each plan.

Additional news stories, in-home mailings and campus events are planned. Also, watch for your Open Enrollment brochure, which will be mailed in mid-October.

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**UC Outlines Benefits Changes Resulting From Supreme Court’s DOMA Ruling**

By UCOP

The U.S. Treasury Department and Internal Revenue Service recently issued additional guidance regarding the Supreme Court’s ruling on the Defense of Marriage Act, and UC Human Resources has completed its operational review of changes required as a result of the June 26 ruling. As a result, HR can now provide additional information regarding taxes and UC benefits for employees and retirees affected by the ruling.

Per IRS guidance, changes to federal tax treatment apply to all same-sex married couples, regardless of where they live. In light of that guidance, UC will continue to update records for those who identify themselves as having a same-gender spouse, and taxes will no longer be withheld on the value of UC’s contribution to benefits for a spouse and/or a spouse’s children.

The IRS has also issued initial guidance regarding individuals’ ability to recoup taxes paid in previous years. Employees and retirees are now able to reclaim taxes for open taxable years—usually up to three years. They will be able to recoup both income tax and FICA taxes (Social Security and Medicare).

Typically, employers apply for refunds of FICA taxes on behalf of employees and the IRS provides a process to follow. However, UC and other employers do not yet have the necessary instructions for reclaiming FICA taxes. Until those instructions are released, UC is not able to provide amended W2 forms for employees.
An employee's tax advisor could provide guidance on reclaiming income tax without a revised W2 form.

UC HR has also created the chart below to provide information on the effect of the DOMA ruling on all UC benefits for employees and retirees with a same-gender spouse. The ruling and benefits changes do not apply to same-sex domestic partners.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Benefits</th>
<th>If you married prior to Supreme Court ruling</th>
<th>If you marry after the Supreme Court ruling</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Taxes on Imputed Income | • UC's contribution to health insurance for an employee's or retiree's spouse and for the spouse's covered children is no longer taxable.  
• The employee portion of the cost of covering a spouse and his or her children can be deducted on a pre-tax basis.  
• Employees and retirees must self-identify by submitting a UPAY 850 (employees) or UBEN 100 (retirees) form in order to be sure they are no longer taxed. (Be sure to sign the form.)  
• UC is awaiting further guidance regarding recouping FICA taxes. UC will assist employees and retirees in understanding their rights once the guidance is clear. | • If your domestic partner was enrolled in your benefits prior to your marriage, you will need to submit a UPAY 850 (employees) or UBEN 100 (retirees) form to indicate he or she is now your spouse in order to no longer be taxed on imputed income. (Be sure to sign the form.)  
• If you enroll your spouse in benefits, you will be required to submit documentation as part of UC's family member eligibility verification process. |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Benefits</th>
<th>If you married prior to Supreme Court ruling</th>
<th>If you marry after the Supreme Court ruling</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Health Insurance Coverage and Special Enrollment Period | • You may enroll your spouse and other eligible family members in UC benefits through the end of 2013. Coverage is effective as of the date on the enrollment form. Note: You will be asked to identify your spouse's gender so that your health plan can provide appropriate benefits, such as free men's and women's preventive health care screenings.  
  • You may also enroll your spouse and eligible family members during any Open Enrollment. Benefits are effective Jan. 1, of the following year.  
  • If your spouse is enrolling you in his or her employer's health plan, you may de-enroll from (employees) or suspend (retirees) UC coverage. | • You may enroll your spouse and eligible family members in UC benefits within 31 days of your marriage date. Benefits are effective as of the date of the marriage. Note: You will be asked to identify your spouse's gender so that your health plan can provide appropriate benefits, such as free men's and women's preventive health care screenings.  
  • You may also enroll your spouse and other eligible family members during any Open Enrollment. Benefits are effective Jan. 1 of the following year.  
  • If your spouse is enrolling you in his or her employer's health plan, you may de-enroll from (employees) or suspend (retirees) UC coverage. |
| Health Flexible Spending Account               | • Your spouse's medical expenses can now be paid from a Health FSA from the effective date of enrollment.  
  • An employee can enroll in the Health FSA or elect a mid-year increase in contributions.  
  • If your spouse is enrolled in his or her employer's Health FSA, you can de-enroll from the UC Health FSA or elect a mid-year decrease in contributions. | • Your spouse's medical expenses can now be paid from a Health FSA beginning with the effective date of enrollment.  
  • An employee can enroll in the Health FSA or elect a mid-year increase in contributions.  
  • If your spouse is enrolled in his or her employer's Health FSA, you can de-enroll from the UC Health FSA or elect a mid-year decrease in contributions. |
| Dependent Care Flexible Spending Account      | • Your same-sex spouse's earned income is now considered in determining how much you can contribute to the DepCare FSA.  
  • Your spouse must be working, going to school or looking for work for you to be eligible for the DepCare FSA.  
  • An employee who marries can enroll or make a mid-year change in contributions. | • Your same-sex spouse's earned income is now considered in determining how much you can contribute to the DepCare FSA.  
  • Your spouse must be working, going to school or looking for work for you to be eligible for the DepCare FSA.  
  • You can enroll or make a mid-year change in contributions. |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Benefits</th>
<th>If you married prior to Supreme Court ruling</th>
<th>If you marry after the Supreme Court ruling</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| COBRA Coverage for Same-sex Spouse | • COBRA coverage is now legally required.  
• No change for UC since we already provide this coverage.  
• No tax implications because payment for COBRA coverage is made on an after-tax basis. | • COBRA coverage is now legally required.  
• No change for UC since we already provide this coverage.  
• No tax implications because payment for COBRA coverage is made on an after-tax basis. |
| Distributions to Beneficiaries | Same-sex surviving spouses are no longer treated as “non-spouse” beneficiary for purposes of rollover rules. | Same-sex surviving spouses are no longer treated as “non-spouse” beneficiary for purposes of rollover rules. |
| 403(b) Hardship Withdrawals | • A same-sex spouse no longer needs to be the primary beneficiary of the plan in order to use the spouse’s medical or educational expenses as the basis for a hardship withdrawal.  
• Fidelity Retirement Services is analyzing what’s needed to implement the change.  
• The effective date of the change is not yet known. | • A same-sex spouse no longer needs to be the primary beneficiary of the plan in order to use the spouse’s medical or educational expenses as the basis for a hardship withdrawal.  
• Fidelity Retirement Services is analyzing what’s needed to implement the change.  
• The effective date of the change is not yet known. |
| W-4 Form | You may change your marital status on your W-4 form at any time by signing into your account on At Your Service. | You may change your marital status on your W-4 form at any time by signing into your account on At Your Service. |

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**Staff Assembly Board Readies for Exciting 2013-14 Year**

*President Robert Wolfer sees a time of change and opportunity ahead*

By Ross French

Between his job as information technology manager in the Graduate School of Education and his position as president of the UCR Staff Assembly, Robert Wolfer is always on the move. But if you do get a chance to stop and talk to him, you’ll hear a man who is really excited about the incoming school year.

“No question, 2013-14 is going to be a fantastic year for UCR Staff Assembly,” Wolfer said. “We have a great board that is really very energetic and engaged. We have a lot of fun and informative events scheduled throughout the year.”

The Staff Assembly is an association of employees dedicated to promoting the interests and welfare of all
UCR staff. It seeks to inform, involve, connect and recognize staff at one of the fastest-growing campuses in the UC system. All career staff employees are considered members of the organization, and may participate in all events, including campus outreach events, quarterly general meetings and annual events such as the holiday party, Chancellor’s Welcome Back Barbeque, and Community Week.

Wolfer spoke highly of his predecessor, Tim Willette, whom he served under as vice president/president-elect last year.

“Tim was such a selfless president, and he is a passionate advocate for staff,” Wolfer said. “He set a high bar, and I am glad that he will be with us as past president this year.”

Wolfer said that this era of change at UCR is also a time of great opportunity.

“There are many senior management positions open this year, and these are all ‘change opportunities,’” he said. “As staff, we have the opportunity to get involved, to participate in vision sessions and town halls, and to be heard.”

As an example, Wolfer cited the fact that the Staff Assembly board had the opportunity to meet with Chancellor Kim Wilcox after he was appointed by the UC Regents.

“We had the opportunity to share the thoughts and concerns of the staff members we represent,” Wolfer said. “Chancellor Wilcox was engaged, interested, and asked good questions. It was a great meeting.”

One major goal for the year is to increase participation in Society ’54, the fundraising organization that helps to support Staff Assembly’s scholarship, assistance and general programs through annual donations or regular payroll deduction. Donors who reach the $54 level receive a participation certificate, a Society ’54 pin, as well as early entry to the annual holiday party.

“People become a part of Society ’54 for a variety of reasons,” said Director of Fundraising Amanda Raymer-Gomes. “Some just want to give back and help their peers, while others may do it because they particularly enjoyed a Staff Assembly event. Regardless of their reason, we welcome their support. Every dollar that we receive goes right back out to support the staff here at UCR.”

For information, visit the Society ’54 Web page (staffassembly.ucr.edu/society_54) or send an email to Raymer-Gomes (amanda.raymer@ucr.edu).

Another major event will take place Dec. 4 to 6 as UCR plays host for the fall 2013 meeting of the Council of UC Staff Assemblies (CUCSA). Staff delegates from throughout the UC system will meet at the Mission Inn and on campus to discuss issues that face all staff members.

“This is an opportunity for staff members from other campuses to come and learn more about UC Riverside, how we do things, and what makes us the most diverse campus in the UC system. We are very excited for their visit,” said Vice President/President-elect Andy Plumley, whose “day job” is assistant vice chancellor of Housing Services.

Wolfer encouraged staff members to visit the newly revamped Staff Assembly website (staffassembly.ucr.edu) and to become engaged through social media.

“We have a Facebook page and Twitter account, and will be keeping our website updated with the latest information,” Wolfer said. “These will be some of the best ways for staff members to keep abreast of the events
taking place across campus.”

### 2013-14 Staff Assembly Board

President: Robert Wolfer  
Vice President/President-elect: Andy Plumley  
Director of Events: Tamra Johnson  
Director of Professional Development: Seana Nuñez-Grider  
Director of Communications: Ross French  
Director of Fundraising: Amanda Raymer-Gomes  
Director of Involvement & Recognition: Stephanie Reyes  
Co-directors of Outreach: Sylvia Vargas & Jennifer Campbell  
Treasurer: Jackie Rodriguez  
Secretary: Adeli Nol  
Immediate Past President: Tim Willette

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**Science Fiction, Technoculture Studies Take Off**

*New program will examine literature, film and implications of a growing technological landscape*

**By Bettye Miller**

Going where few universities have gone before, UCR will launch a Science Fiction and Technoculture Studies (SFTS) program this fall.

"It is a logical extension of humanities research at UCR, given the presence of the renowned Eaton Collection of Science Fiction and Fantasy, the largest publicly accessible collection of science fiction, fantasy, horror and utopian literature in the world, said Stephen Cullenberg, dean of the College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences (CHASS).

“We are delighted to announce the debut of the new Science Fiction and Technoculture Studies (SFTS) program,” said Cullenberg, adding that the program will explore links between science fiction studies, science and technology studies, and technoculture studies.

“Like other science and technology studies programs around the country and the world, this program will examine the histories and cultures of science, technology and medicine to understand the role that culture plays in the production of science and how changes in science and technology have shaped culture,” the dean said. Alluding to the SFTS mission statement, he noted that the UCR program “also uniquely emphasizes the
role of popular culture and the genre of science fiction in particular in mediating public understandings of science, serving as an imaginative testing ground for technological innovation, and articulating hopes and anxieties regarding technocultural change.”

The SFTS program initially will offer a designated emphasis at the Ph.D. level, with an undergraduate minor to be added soon.

Over the past several decades, science fiction has moved from being a somewhat marginal genre to a major form of commentary on our increasingly technological world, said Rob Latham, professor of English and a senior editor of the journal Science Fiction Studies.

“UCR’s new SFTS program will give our students the tools to grapple not only with significant works of popular literature, film, and other media but also with the ethical and sociological implications of the technological landscape they inhabit, which science fiction is uniquely suited to address,” he explained. “It’s only appropriate that UCR should be the venue for this program, given the preeminence of the library’s Eaton Science Fiction Collection as the world’s largest archive of materials in the field.”

The program moves beyond the study of science fiction as a literary genre, “situating it within a longer cultural history of technological and scientific development in which the genre has played a central but often unacknowledged role,” said Sherryl Vint, professor of English and convener of the Cultures of Science Working Group, sponsored by the UC Humanities Research Institute. This multi-campus group of UC faculty promotes collaboration between those who study the social and economic implications of contemporary science and those who study their representations in cultural forms.

“Conflations of science and the science fiction imagination define moments of intense technological change, such as the Space Race or the Human Genome Mapping Project,” she added. “Recently, industry has begun to pay attention to how this science fiction imaginary can marshal resources – material and intellectual – for technological innovation. Our program will build links between the cultural study of science in other disciplines such as sociology and history, enabling our students to understand and intervene in these ongoing exchanges among research, policy and popular culture.”

Program Complements Renowned Collection

Planning for the science fiction studies program began in 2007 when Cullenberg decided that the College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences should have an academic unit to complement the Eaton Collection. Latham, a literary scholar of science fiction and technoculture studies, joined the UCR faculty a year later. He was followed in 2010 by Nalo Hopkinson, an award-winning author of science fiction and fantasy, and in 2012 by science fiction media studies scholar Vint.

Cullenberg said this cluster of faculty complements existing science fiction and technoculture studies strengths among CHASS faculty in a range of departments, including anthropology, comparative literature, creative writing, English, ethnic studies, history, media and cultural studies, philosophy, theater, and women’s studies.

The Eaton Collection and the conference it hosts attract scholars from around the world.

The Eaton Collection, which numbers more than 300,000 items, is housed in the Tomás Rivera Library, where it is visited by scholars from around the world. With the arrival of University Librarian Steven Mandeville-Gamble in March, the collection has begun acquiring works in the history of science.
“Science fiction is the engine of myth-making for technological societies,” Mandeville-Gamble said. “It allows those societies to explore the hopes, fears, and aspirations around how new technologies transform the world. UCR, with its traditional strengths in science and science fiction, is poised to open a world of inquiry to its students by bringing these strengths together in this new program.”

Melissa Conway, head of Special Collections & Archives of the UCR Libraries, said she is delighted by the launch of an academic program that will encourage young scholars to make use of the Eaton Collection.

“I have always found the interaction between science and science fiction fascinating,” Conway said. "In my own lifetime, I have seen things that existed only in the imagination of science fiction writers become commonplace — from the moon landing to genetic engineering, the Internet and smartphones. As Jules Verne said, ‘Anything one person can imagine, other people can make real.’ Eaton’s comprehensive collection — ranging from the proto-science fiction of Thomas More’s ‘Utopia’ to the latest science fiction published — is the perfect resource for exploring the pivotal but too-often-overlooked role that science fiction has played, and will continue to play, in technological and scientific breakthroughs.”

Originating with the personal library of Dr. J. Lloyd Eaton, an Oakland, Calif., physician and book collector, the collection’s holdings range from the 1517 edition of Thomas More’s “Utopia” to a rare first edition of the science fiction classic “The Time Machine,” by H.G. Wells. Among its archival collections are the papers of science fiction authors Richard Adams, Gregory Benford, David Brin, Michael Cassutt, Robert L. Forward and Anne McCaffrey.

As part of its scholarly mission, the Eaton Collection began hosting an Eaton Conference in 1979, an event that has attracted a number of famous writers, including Ray Bradbury, Samuel R. Delany, Harlan Ellison and Frederik Pohl.
A librarian at heart, Lee is devoted to the mission of the library. “The library does many things for people, but above all, it has a responsibility to connect people to knowledge and to get people into using the mechanisms that will connect them to that knowledge,” she said.

In her free time, Lee is also devoted to the preservation of knowledge, culture and history. She enthusiastically volunteers for various local causes, hoping to make Riverside a better place for her children and future generations.

Recently, Lee, who serves as the vice chair of the Save Our Chinatown committee, opposed a proposal that would have allowed a local developer to build over a historic Chinatown site in downtown Riverside.

The committee rallied for the land to become a memorial park. Even though there hasn’t been a definitive agreement about the land, Save Our Chinatown’s actions blocked the developer from immediately building over the historic site.

In the same vein, when Lee’s children were in grade school, she joined the Riverside Unified School District GATE (Gifted and Talented Education) Advisory Committee to help staff and other parents make decisions regarding curriculum and education.

“My hope is that my being on Earth has made a difference,” she said.

Lee describes her activism as “taking information from the past and making it available now and to people in the future.”

“Because,” she added, “someone has to talk about heritage and the future for the sake of posterity.”

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**Did You Know?**

**UCR Day at the L.A. County Fair**

The L.A. County Fair is offering free admission to UCR students, faculty and staff on Sept. 20. All you need is to present your UCR ID and a coupon for free admission. The coupon is available at the office of the Assistant Vice Chancellor and Dean of Students, at Room 381 in the Highlander Union Building. The coupon is required for all college-day discounts. Participants are also encouraged to wear UCR’s school colors! For more information, go to [www.lacountyfair.com/2013/educationcommunity/collegedays.asp](http://www.lacountyfair.com/2013/educationcommunity/collegedays.asp).

**The Barn Announces Fall Lineup**

The Barn’s fall series begins on Thursday, Oct. 3, as part of the campus’s Welcome Week. The lineup includes the ninth installment of Comedy Apocalypse, Chuck Inglish and Suedehead. The regular Wednesday
night performances begin on Oct. 23. For more information, go to fineartsticketoffice.ucr.edu or call 951-827-4403. The shows start at 7:30 p.m.

**The Barn Fall 2013 Lineup**

Oct. 3, Branches & Gypsies, Judges, free.

Oct. 23, Mad Caddies, Suedehead, $12

Oct. 30, Elephant Revival, $12

Nov. 6, John Brown’s Body, Stick Figure, $15

Nov. 13, Chuck Inglish (from Cool Kids), King’s Dead, $20

Nov. 20, KUCR’s Comedy Apocalypse IX, $12

**The Wellness Program Wants Your Videos**

Move More for 3-4 is an awareness messaging campaign sponsored by the UCR Faculty and Staff Wellness Program and UCR Ergonomics Program. The campaign’s goal is to encourage everyone to increase movement/activity throughout the day to promote better health, reduce ergonomic risks, and create a positive, healthy culture change.

Now in its second phase, the campaign is asking for Move More videos starring UCR employees. Create and submit your videos with co-workers to earn rewards. Winning videos will be awarded a healthy breakfast for the entire group. For instructions, go to the Move More website (wellness.ucr.edu/move_more/move-more.html).

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**The Top: Summer’s Five Best Moments of Highlander Pride**

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 events. This week, we’re highlighting the top five moments this summer that made us all proud to be Highlanders. Have more? Email lille.bose@ucr.edu.

1. On Aug. 18, UCR alumna Brenda Martinez became the first American woman to ever medal in the 800 meter race at the IAAF Track and Field World Championship in Moscow, Russia. She took the bronze with a personal record time of 1:57.91 (Watch the video www.youtube.com/watch?v=EatNPB6sVeM).

2. Washington Monthly magazine ranked UCR second among national universities in its ninth annual College Ranking Survey, which appears in the September/October issue. Measures of social mobility, including enrollment of low-income students, net price and having a better-than-predicted graduation rate, helped propel UCR to the No. 2 ranking with an overall score of 93.5 out of a possible 100 points.


4. UCR was recognized as one of the top 150 universities in the world with the release of the annual Shanghai Jiao Tong University Academic Ranking of World Universities. Overall, UCR was placed in the 101–150
range among the 500 ranked schools.

5. On Aug. 9, the inaugural class of 50 students in UCR’s School of Medicine marked the beginning of four years of hard work at the School of Medicine’s White Coat Ceremony. The effort to establish the school took a concerted community effort over many years. It was capped off recently with a state budget deal that included $15 million in annual funding, thanks to the successful advocacy.

Who Says?

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

“UCR’s new Science Fiction and Technoculture Studies program will give our students the tools to grapple not only with significant works of popular literature, film, and other media but also with the ethical and sociological implications of the technological landscape they inhabit, which science fiction is uniquely suited to address. It’s only appropriate that UCR should be the venue for this program, given the preeminence of the library’s Eaton Science Fiction Collection as the world’s largest archive of materials in the field.”

Rob Latham, professor of English, on the launch of UCR’s new Science Fiction and Technoculture Studies program, which will initially offer a designated emphasis at the Ph.D. level

WIRED MAGAZINE

“What worries me is that there are a lot of these moving into natural systems that we don’t see.”

John Trumble, distinguished professor of entomology, on a recent study that shows how pests have been expanding their territory at an average rate of 3 miles each year for the last 50 years

DISCOVERY NEWS

“[The San Bernardino County seat Gary Miller occupies] was not one the Republicans should have won, and holding it is going to be difficult. But there are scenarios in which he could still win.”

Shaun Bowler, professor of political science, on GOP Rep. Gary Miller, viewed by some as one of the most vulnerable House members in next year’s elections, mainly because he holds a seat that the opposite party expected to win last year

LOS ANGELES TIMES

“The Toronto Film Festival began very much as an alternative to mainstream cinema. It was about trying to get away from Hollywood domination, to support local filmmaking and other international cinemas. What’s happened in the case of Toronto in recent years is that it’s become a marketing device for Hollywood.”

Toby Miller, professor of media and cultural studies, on the relationship between Hollywood and the Toronto Film Festival

BBC AMERICA

“Typically when you look at pieces of zirconia, it would look very much like your coffee cup, a white, non-transparent material. One of the breakthroughs here is we were able to make a material that is typically non-transparent and make it transparent. That was the enabling technology.”
Research and Scholarship

Physicists Recognized for Repairs on Pixel Detector at CERN

A team of UCR physicists recently received recognition for its work on the Compact Muon Solenoid (CMS) pixel detector, a particle tracker integral to the study of fundamental particle physics. Martina Malberti, Kira Burt, Manuel Olmedo and Mauro Dinardo make up part of the group responsible for repairing malfunctioning channels in the forward pixel detector.

The group has been working on a project called the CMS experiment, located at the Large Hadron Collider (LHC), part of the CERN complex in Switzerland. The project seeks to uncover new physics that will help to complete the Standard Model of physics, a comprehensive theory that explains the interactions between all fundamental elementary particles, accounting for most measurements to date.

Melissa Conway Teaches Course at the California Rare Books School in UCLA

Melissa Conway, head of Special Collections & Archives of UCR Libraries, co-taught an intensive, one-week course titled “Medieval and Renaissance Manuscripts” at the California Rare Books School at the Graduate School of Education and Information Science at UCLA in August.

Conway and her co-instructor, Lisa Fagin Davis, are the co-authors of “The Directory of Institutions in the United States and Canada with Pre-1600 Manuscript Holdings,” a survey of the almost 500 institutions — many of them public libraries — holding 45,000 pre-1600 manuscripts.

With so many libraries in possession of these documents, the chances are high that any librarian will have to take care of a manuscript or fragment during his or her career, Conway said.

The course gave an overview of the historical production of manuscripts, introducing students to the variety of manuscripts that survive in greatest numbers—Bibles and biblical commentaries, liturgical books, lay prayerbooks and historical documents. Class sessions included hands-on training in identifying the parts of a Book of Hours — lay prayerbooks, the best-sellers of the Middle Ages — and working with detached leaves from different countries and time periods.

Five BCOE Faculty Members Designated Co-principal Investigators on GAANN Grant

Five members of the faculty in the Bourns College of Engineering Department of Chemical and Environmental Engineering are co-principal investigators on a new Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need
The grant will provide fellowships for five graduate students who will pursue research in sustainable energy and environmental development. The five-year $536,668 grant is being administered by Akua Asa-Awuku, Mark Matsumoto, Nosang Myung, Sharon Walker and Charles Wyman.

Beginning with their selection in the fall of 2013, the Sustainable Energy and Energy Development (SEED) fellows will work under the guidance of faculty and other engineers and scientists at UCR’s research centers, including the Bourns College of Engineering’s Winston Chung Global Energy Center and the Center for Environmental Research and Technology.

In addition to their academic work, the fellows will engage in a series of professional development programs to enhance oral, writing, teaching, entrepreneurship, and networking skills. The SEED fellows will partake in K-12 outreach activities to broaden teaching skills and continue to develop the next generation of engineers.

**Awards and Honors**

*Reza Abbaschian Awarded Albert Sauveur Achievement Award*

Reza Abbaschian, William R. Johnson, Jr. Family Professor and dean of the Bourns College of Engineering, has been named by ASM International as the recipient of the Albert Sauveur Achievement Award for 2013. The award will be presented at the Materials Science & Technology 2013 Conference and Exhibition in Montreal, Quebec, Canada, from Oct. 27 to 31. The award recognizes Abbaschian as an “outstanding scientist and researcher in solidification fundamentals and materials processing, educator and leader in advancing the materials profession.”

*Jerome S. Schultz Elected ACS and AIChe Fellow*

Jerome S. Schultz, a distinguished professor and chair of the Department of Bioengineering, has been elected as Fellow of American Chemical Society (ACS) and The American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChe). He was recognized for his research initiatives in the areas of biosensors and synthetic membranes.

*Grad Student Wins National Book Contest*

UCR graduate student Elias Serna won the first prize in the Antiquarian Booksellers’ Association of America’s National Collegiate Book Collecting Contest. His collection of nearly four dozen books and art materials documenting the Chicano Movement is composed of many rare items. He will receive the $2,500 prize in an awards ceremony Oct. 18 at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. UCR Libraries will receive a $1,000 prize.

Serna, a Ph.D. candidate in English, is the first UCR student to win the national contest.

*Grad Student Writes Book on First Female Rocket Scientist — His Mother*

George Morgan, a graduate student in the low-residency, M.F.A. in creative writing and writing for the performing arts program in Palm Desert, has published a nonfiction book, “Rocket Girl: The Story of Mary Sherman Morgan, America’s First Female Rocket Scientist” (Prometheus Books, 2013). The book is a nonfiction account of Mary Sherman Morgan, the first female rocket scientist and his mother.

Published in paperback, it was an Amazon Best Book of the Month, Nonfiction, for July.

“Rocket Girl” tells the story of Mary Sherman Morgan’s crucial contributions to the development of a new
rocket fuel that powered the country's first satellite, Explorer 1, and her son's determination to uncover his mother's lost legacy.

George Morgan first wrote “Rocket Girl” as a play, which was performed at Caltech. The production was so well-received that it earned Morgan a position as playwright-in-residence there. Morgan is a member of the Writers Guild of America.

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**People**

*California Poet Laureate Reads Poem at Bay Bridge Inauguration*

Juan Felipe Herrera read a poem commissioned for the Bay Bridge inauguration on Labor Day. The traditional chain-cutting ceremony celebrated the completion of the bridge’s eastern span, which features the largest self-anchored suspension span in the world. The poem, titled, “Bay Bridge Inauguration Poem, September 2, 2013, for all bridge dreamers, bridge builders & bridge crossers,” was framed and displayed in a state facility near the bridge.

*New Assistant Vice Chancellor for Governmental and Community Relations*

Sue McKee was appointed assistant vice chancellor for governmental and community relations. McKee, who previously served as UCR’s director of state relations and interim director of governmental and community relations for the campus, has had 21 years of experience at UCR.

McKee will continue to have primary responsibility for state relations. She will also oversee the local, regional, and federal advocacy functions of the campus.

*Weihsin Gui’s New Book Receives Critical Acclaim*

Weihsin Gui’s new book, “National Consciousness and Literary Cosmopolitics: Postcolonial Literature in a Global Moment” (Ohio State University Press, August 2013), is receiving acclaim from important scholars in the field of postcolonial literary studies.

In “National Consciousness,” Gui argues that postcolonial literature written within a framework of globalization “still takes nationalism seriously rather than dismissing it as obsolete,” according to the publisher. “Authors and texts often regarded as cosmopolitan, diasporic, or migrant actually challenge globalization's tendency to treat nations as absolute and homogenous sociocultural entities.”

Bishnupriya Ghosh, professor of English at UC Santa Barbara, called Gui’s book a “well-written and carefully executed monograph in postcolonial and Anglophone literary studies. Weihsin Gui’s knowledge of his field is erudite, and his aligning of salient critical perspectives is precise yet rich.”

“Few books have as good a feel as this one does for literature’s contribution to the ongoing challenge of figuring out what comes after globalization,” said John Marx, associate professor of English at UC Davis. “By making connections among disparate theories and fields of literature, Weihsin Gui shows how the next generation of postcolonial critics will be renovating literary study, especially study dedicated to thinking about literature in social and political terms. The future of postcolonial scholarship, in short, is available now in this volume.”
A Day in the Life of an Orientation Leader

By Katrina Honer

Every summer, from July to August, more than 4,000 first-year students and 2,500 families arrive at UCR to attend the event that marks the beginning of a newly admitted student’s undergraduate career: Highlander Orientation.

This summer, I was an orientation leader.

Highlander Orientation is a two-day, overnight program where incoming freshmen become official students of the university. They are integrated into the UCR way of life through a series of presentations, workshops, and interactive group activities that cover everything from college expectations and academics to social life.

Ultimately, orientation is where first-years register for their fall college classes. There are a total of 10 sessions that students can choose to attend. The program begins with students checking in at the Pentland Hills residence hall, where they receive a folder containing a program itinerary, resource materials and placement scores, as well as a room assignment for their overnight stay in Pentland.

Orientation’s success is due to the energy and enthusiasm put forth by the 50 undergraduate and graduate orientation leaders, who lead their individual student and family groups through each component of the program.

I went through more than 90 hours of training, which included brushing up on the academic requirements for the four colleges at UCR, campus resources, small and large group facilitation, and UCR history.

We also learned and embraced the four core values of UCR’s “Tartan Soul”: integrity, accountability, responsibility and respect.

At the start of every session, we donned our favorite piece of Tartan gear. (The most popular was the Tartan kilt.) We decorated our faces with blue and gold face paint, or UCR spirit tattoos, then marched out to the Pentland lawn, single-file, singing “Everywhere We Go,” to meet the 13-15 students we led each session.

Orientation leaders were expected to have high levels of energy, enthusiasm, and creativity; these traits definitely came in handy. When we weren’t busy escorting students from one activity to the next, we had to engage our students and make them feel welcome — even during breaks. To keep energy levels high, we initiated spirit battles, line-dancing, taught UCR chants and songs, and provided icebreakers.

During orientation, I saw all kinds of first-years: From frustrated students who cried when they didn’t get the perfect fall schedule to kids who were too cool to participate in activities. I also saw students who bravely stepped outside their comfort zone to try something new.

Since orientation leaders are bombarded with questions left and right from both students and family members, the most important part of the job is knowing how to respond to their concerns in a positively honest manner.

I learned so much from the students I met and the orientation leaders I worked with this summer. I gained an incredible amount of knowledge about UC Riverside and a deeper appreciation for what it means to be a Highlander.

Being an orientation leader has helped me discover and embrace my own Tartan Soul. Upon completion of orientation, I have no doubt that every student who attends will quickly discover theirs.
Top First-year Questions and My Positively Honest Answers

Q: What is the best major that will get me into medical school?

A: A major does not correlate to a future career. While it is true that you should excel in science, it takes more than a good grade point average, (or a B.A. in biology or political science), to get accepted to a graduate, law or medical school. Students must find a major they are truly passionate about and will be able to excel in. That way, the goal of getting to that dream graduate program will become more attainable.

Q: What are the easiest classes to take?

A: No class is either easy or hard. One class may be difficult for one student but easy for another. Overall, every class is going to require work and effort. Unfortunately, there is no such thing as an easy A in college.

Q: How safe is the campus?

A: The biggest concern that many families stress about is safety on and around campus. Like any other city, crime can — and does — happen, but UC Riverside is a very safe campus due to the number of free resources students can utilize to stay safe. These include the campus-escort safety service, and free self-defense classes at the Student Recreation Center. Campus officers ensure safety when they patrol on foot, bike, and car during the night. Crime can be avoided if students are aware of their surroundings, lock up their valuables, and do not leave their belongings unattended.

Q: Is there a curfew in the residence halls?

A: There is no curfew but if a student stays up all night, they are still responsible for arriving on time to class the following morning and need to hold themselves accountable for their own actions if they cannot manage to do so.