Writers Week Returns to UCR

The 37th annual celebration of writers and writing will be held Feb. 4-6

Award-winning novelists, poets and journalists will discuss their craft Feb. 4–6 during the 37th annual Writers Week at UCR. Writers Week is the longest-running, free event devoted to writing and writers in Southern California.

More than a dozen nationally and internationally famous authors will participate in discussions and readings during Writers Week, along with some just beginning their careers. Works by Writers Week authors will be available for purchase at the venue on the days of their presentations.

“Including some of the most accomplished and significant novelists in the country, like Percival Everett and Steve Erickson, to some of the top young artists of the day, this year’s Writers Week promises to be one of our most memorable yet,” said Tom Lutz, director of the annual event and a professor of creative writing at UCR.

Writers Week 2014 is made possible by support from the UC Riverside College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences and the Los Angeles Review of Books.

UC Riverside has the only undergraduate creative writing program in the University of California and offers a Master of Fine Arts in creative writing and writing for the performing arts.

Schedule

All activities take place in the CHASS Interdisciplinary Building South, Screening Room 1128. Admission is free.

Tuesday Feb. 4

11 a.m.: Mark Haskell Smith, the author of five novels: “Moist,” “Delicious,” “Salty,” “Baked,” and “Raw: A Love Story” and the nonfiction book “Heart of Dankness: Underground Botanists, Outlaw Farmers and the Race to the Cannabis Cup.” A former successful screenwriter (“Anaconda” and others), his prose work has
Nicelle Davis, author of “Becoming Judas” and “Circe.” Two more books will publish in the next two years: “In the Circus of You” in 2014 and “The Walled Wife” in 2016. She is the director of the Living Poetry Project. She is an assistant poetry editor for Connotation Press, and is managing editor of The Los Angeles Review. She has taught poetry at Youth for Positive Change, Homeless Youth Center, and Writing in the Schools. She currently teaches at Antelope Valley College.

Kate Gale, managing editor of L.A.’s premier literary publisher, Red Hen Press. She teaches in the M.F.A. program at San Diego State University. She is author of five books of poetry, six librettos and has two forthcoming books in 2014: “The Goldilocks Zone” and “Echo Light.”

Daniel Chacon, author of “Unending Rooms,” a collection of short fiction; a novel, “and the shadows took him”; and another collection of stories, “Chicano Chicanery.” His fiction has appeared in numerous anthologies. He co-edited “The Last Supper of Chicano Heroes: The Selected Works of Jose Antonio Burciaga,” and co-hosts the literary radio show “Words on a Wire” (KTEP.org). He is a professor in the bilingual M.F.A. in Creative Writing at the University of Texas at El Paso.


Krys Lee, whose debut book “Drifting House” made the San Francisco Chronicle and Kansas City Star 2012 best books of the year lists. She was awarded The 2012 Story Prize Spotlight Award and was a finalist for the 2012 BBC International Story Prize. She is a professor of creative writing at Yonsei University’s Underwood International College in Seoul, South Korea.

Wednesday, Feb. 5

Reading by Douglas Kearney, whose first full-length collection of poems, “Fear, Some,” was published in 2006. “The Black Automaton” was chosen for the National Poetry Series and was a finalist for the Pen Center USA Award in 2010. His poems have appeared in journals such as Callaloo, jubilat, Ploughshares, and nocturnes. He teaches at CalArts and Antioch.

Daniel Alarcón, author of “War by Candlelight,” “Lost City Radio” and “At Night We Walk in Circles.” Alarcón is a co-founder of Radio Ambulante, a Spanish-language storytelling podcast, and his writing has appeared in McSweeney’s, n+1, and Harper’s. He was one of The New Yorker’s “20 under 40” and one of Granta’s “Best Young American Novelists.”

Danzy Senna, author of the national bestselling novel “Caucasia,” winner of the Book of the Month Award for First Fiction and the American Library Association’s Alex Award. The book was a finalist for the International IMPAC Dublin Literary Award, was named a Los Angeles Times Best Book of the Year and has been translated into eight languages. She is also the author of the novel “Symptomatic” and the memoir “Where Did You Sleep Last Night? A Personal History.”

Steve Erickson, one of the country’s foremost innovative novelists, is the author of a dozen books, including the novels “Days Between Stations,” “Tours of the Black Clock” and “Zeroville,” and two nonfiction books, “Leap Year” and “American Nomad.” He teaches in the M.F. A. Writing Program at CalArts and is the editor of California’s most prestigious literary magazine, Black Clock. He is also film critic for Los Angeles Magazine.

Tribute to the late poet Wanda Coleman. Among the participants reading her work will be California Poet Laureate Juan Felipe Herrera, professor of creative writing at UCR. Wanda Coleman passed
away this fall; she was scheduled to appear. Known as the unofficial poet laureate of Los Angeles, Coleman came up through the Watts Writers Workshop in the 1960s and published essays, memoirs, novels, and poetry.

**Thursday, Feb. 6**

**11 a.m.: Ben Stoltzfus**, UCR professor emeritus of creative writing and comparative literature and the author of the novels “The Eye of the Needle,” “Black Lazarus,” and “Red White & Blue.” He also has published a collection of short stories, “Cat O’Nine Tails.”

**1 p.m.: Arturo Madrid**, the Murchison Distinguished Professor of the Humanities at Trinity University and the recipient of the National Endowment of the Humanities’ Charles Frankel Medal. He is the author of a family memoir titled “In the Country of Empty Crosses. The Story of a Hispano Protestant Family in Catholic New Mexico.”

**2:30 p.m.: Aimee Suzara, a poet, playwright and performer based in Oakland.** Her poetry book, “SOUVENIR,” was recently published. Her poems have appeared in numerous journals and anthologies.

**4 p.m.: Reading by poet Victoria Chang**, whose work has been published in American Poetry Review, Kenyon Review, POETRY, The Nation, New Republic, Virginia Quarterly Review and Best American Poetry. She has published three books of poems: “The Boss,” “Salvinia Molesta” and “Circle.”

**5:30 p.m.: Ben Ehrenreich**, author of the novels “The Suitors” and “Ether.” He won a National Magazine Award for feature writing in 2011 and currently splits his time between Los Angeles and Ramallah, where he is working on his first nonfiction book and is Los Angeles Review of Books’ Middle East correspondent.

**7 p.m.: Percival Everett**, author of more than 20 novels, three collections of short fiction, and two volumes of poetry. His novels include “Percival Everett by Virgil Russell,” “Assumption,” “I Am Not Sidney Poitier,” “Wounded” and “Erasure.” He has won numerous awards, including the PEN Center USA Award for Fiction, the Academy Award from an American Academy of Arts and Letters and the Hurston/Wright Legacy Award. He teaches fiction writing and critical theory and is currently Distinguished Professor of English at the University of Southern California.

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**Higher Ed Leaders Aim to Reinvigorate Master Plan**

*By Carolyn McMillan*

Leaders of California’s three public higher education systems jointly addressed the UC Board of Regents on Jan. 22, and discussed their plans for strengthening implementation of the state’s Master Plan for Higher Education.

Enacted in 1960, the Master Plan made California the first state in the nation to promise a place in higher education for anyone who wanted one. It was landmark legislation that has been credited with helping California build a skilled and educated workforce and establish itself as an international powerhouse of publicly funded research and knowledge.

The purpose of the Master Plan remains as relevant today as when it was enacted more than 50 years ago, but California itself is a far different place, UC President Janet Napolitano told the board.

“We must look at the Master Plan today in terms of how we collaborate, how we cooperate.... always with...
the education of the next generation in mind,” she said.

To that end, Napolitano, California State University Chancellor Timothy P. White and California Community College Chancellor Brice W. Harris sketched out a variety of new ways the three systems plan to work together to better serve students.

Among their goals: developing a new student-centered Web portal that makes it easier for community college students to track their academic progress toward being eligible to transfer to a UC or CSU campus.

Although still in the formative stages, the three system leaders envision a shared website that would make the transfer process more transparent — both in terms of which courses any particular students need to transfer to CSU or UC, and what kind of financial aid is available to them.

Napolitano said a “stretch goal” for the effort would be to provide real-time feedback that is tailored to an individual student’s academic record. Creating such a system would necessarily be complex, and involve pulling data from multiple systems and jurisdictions.

“It’s easier said than done, but I don’t think that’s an excuse for not doing it,” Napolitano said.

The three leaders also plan to intensify their joint outreach to California’s K-12 students and their families; and to capture administrative savings by developing shared systems for procurement and other business practices.

Although the three public higher education systems already work together on a variety of shared issues, the kind of close collaboration now under way between the three segments is significant.

All three leaders are relatively new in their positions, and share a commitment to ensuring that all California students know that college is in reach, Harris said.

“All too often, for the economically disadvantaged, college is not seen as in their future,” Harris said.

He and the other segment leaders hope to change that thinking by sending a personalized communication to every California seventh-grader and their parents that encourages them to begin planning for college. Families would receive information on financial aid, college eligibility and more, he said.

“We want to make sure all students know they can access higher education in one of our three institutions,” Harris said.

White, who attended a community college, transferred to a CSU and earned an advanced degree at UC, called himself a product of the Master Plan.

“Like me, it is fundamentally strong, but a bit tattered around the edges,” White, UCR’s former chancellor, said.
He noted that California has changed dramatically since the Master Plan was first enacted, both in terms of demographics and finances.

“We have so many students who are first in their families to go to college, so many students from lower socio-economic backgrounds,” White said. “To serve California’s future and address its problems, a much wider swath of its humanity has to access public higher education.”

The three systems can strengthen the Master Plan framework — and funnel more money into delivering a high-quality education to California students — by leveraging the cost-savings from developing shared procurement systems and other business practices, he said.

“It’s time to collectively come together,” White said. “It’s not about us. It’s about California — its economy and its society.”

The Master Plan for Higher Education

California, in 1960, adopted the Master Plan for Higher Education. It outlined distinct missions for the University of California, the California State University System and the California Community Colleges with respect to the students they serve, the educational programs and degrees they offer, and their role in performing research.

Inherent to the Master Plan is the promise that higher education is available to any Californian who wants it. For UC and CSU, this means finding a spot for all California resident students who meet eligibility requirements. For the community colleges, it means finding a place for any California resident who seeks higher education.

Carolyn McMillan is the manager of content strategy in UC’s Office of the President.

UC Riverside’s Tabla Conference Hailed as a Success

More than 130 guests attend event for Queer and Trans students with ties to South Asia, the Middle East and North Africa

By Ross French

More than 130 people from 30 different colleges and universities attended the inaugural Tabla Conference at UCR on Saturday, Jan. 18. The conference is the first college conference to explore the intersections between sexuality, gender identity and expression, and cultural ties to South Asia, the Middle East and North Africa.

UCR LGBT Center Director Nancy Tubbs said organizers and participants hailed the conference as a great success.

“Many participants expressed their difficulty in finding community around these multiple identities, so the Tabla Conference was a rare opportunity,” Tubbs said. “Likewise, other participants were excited to learn more about being better allies.”

“Tabla was such an amazing and meaningful experience that I know I will carry with me the rest of my life,” said student Megan Awwad, who helped organize the conference. “The different workshops and performances allowed us to explore both our painful and joyous experiences. Tabla allowed for us to cry, laugh, heal and to be empowered all while creating an atmosphere of a chosen family.”
The conference was organized by UCR student group NAMES & Neighbors with the support of the LGBT Resource Center and the Middle Eastern Student Center. Co-sponsors included the departments of Ethnic Studies, Women’s Studies, Media & Cultural Studies, and Creative Writing, the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, the Associated Students Program Board, the UCLA LGBT Campus Resource Center, and POSE, a Southern Californian organization of Iranian American LGBT Allies.

The conference included performances by hip-hop artist Tru Bloo and spoken-word artists Amir Rabiyah and Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha, who also did the keynote address. All three also led sessions on subjects including disability justice, writing, and hip hop.

“Tabla bonded people in a way no one ever thought or expected was possible and we were able to become brothers and sisters of this unique family,” said UCR alumna Shayan Hashim. “The diverse creativity was apparent through workshops of art, hip-hop, healing rituals, religious and political discussions, and simple yet important readings.”

UCR Middle Eastern Student Center Director Marcela Ramirez said the Tabla conference was “another of UCR’s many firsts when it comes to creating inclusive spaces for students with multiple identities to honor their history and cultural ancestry.

“Making those healing connections and building community are a part of the UCR student experience. I was honored to be a part of this ground-breaking conference and cheers to NAMES and Neighbors for a job well done,” she added.

Tubbs said that many participants said they hope the conference will return in 2015, but added that organizers may consider a different format.

“Tabla may return, but perhaps in a retreat format,” Tubbs said. “This would allow more opportunities for deeper dialogue and mutual support. As our speaker Amir Rabiyah pointed out, this is a community that cannot take for granted finding people who share our experiences.”

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University Policy on Sexual Harassment Undergoing Review

*Employee comment on the policy encouraged*

By Lilledeshan Bose

As a result of the Violence against Women Reauthorization Act (VAWA), signed by President Obama earlier this year, the UC’s policy on sexual harassment is undergoing a formal review.

The University of California is committed to creating and maintaining a community where all persons who participate in university programs and activities can work and learn together in an atmosphere free of all forms of harassment, exploitation, or intimidation. Every member of the university community should be aware that the university prohibits sexual harassment and sexual violence, and that such behavior violates both law and university policy.

VAWA will take effect on March 7, and includes several provisions to improve and expand how institutions address domestic and sexual violence. Some of the changes applicable to the University of California include:

- Reporting campus crime statistics beyond the crime categories the Clery Act already mandates, to
include incidents of domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking, as well as crimes motivated by national origin and gender identity

- Providing primary prevention and awareness programs for incoming students and new employees, in addition to ongoing education programs to promote awareness of rape, acquaintance rape, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking
- Conducting annual training for personnel who investigate and review asserted offenses
- Adopting policy to address and prevent campus sexual violence


For more information, contact Heidie Rhodes at [heidie.rhodes@ucr.edu](mailto:heidie.rhodes@ucr.edu) or extension 2-2463.

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**Supplemental Instruction Program Helps UCR Students Excel in Tough Classes**

*Report from Office of Undergraduate Education shows program is beneficial to students who participate regularly*

**By Ross French**

When student Karen Escobedo received a failing grade on her freshman chemistry midterm, she knew she was going to need a little help to pass the class. Fortunately, the help she needed was available at the Academic Resource Center’s Supplemental Instruction (SI) program, which helps students earn better grades in historically challenging lower-division courses.

“I knew I needed to change my study habits, and attending SI was my first step,” Escobedo recalled. “The SI leader posed questions during the sessions that made me think outside the box and I began to understand the material better.”

With the extra help, Escobedo did pass her chemistry class and few months later, she herself became an SI leader, working with students who were struggling with math.

A recent report from the UCR Office of Undergraduate Education confirms that Escobedo’s experience is not unique. Every year, hundreds of UCR students are earning better grades with the assistance of the SI program.

The results showed that supplemental instruction has had a positive impact on grades in a variety of historically challenging courses – classes that historically have large numbers of students who receive D or F grades or who withdraw from the course. Students who attended SI had a mean course grade of 2.65, compared to 2.43 for students who did not attend the program. The improvement was regardless of ethnicity, sex, class standing, income status or whether the student was a first-generation college student.

“It is not always clear how intervention programs have an impact on student performance, so it is encouraging to see that SI does,” said Interim Director of Evaluation and Assessment Gary Coyne, who analyzed the data from the 2011-12 academic year with Ph.D. student Michaela Curran of the Office of
Undergraduate Education. “It is particularly encouraging to see the positive impact of SI in many of the comparisons that control for factors that one might expect would affect course grades, like when we match students with similar high school GPAs.”

In 2011-12, 4,289 students participated in SI courses, which accounts for 24 percent of all enrolled UCR students. SI was shown to have a positive impact for students both in and out of learning communities, with both heavy users (more than 10 visits) and occasional users (two to nine visits) seeing improvements.

“The model of SI requires students to be a proactive learner. Rather than sitting in their seat and watching someone else going over the concepts, students are encouraged to form small groups and work collectively on the given assignment,” said Ali Saadat, coordinator of the Supplemental Instruction program.

Students participating in First-Year Learning Communities in the College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences and the Bourns College of Engineering are required to attend 20 hours of SI sessions each quarter in which students take a common sequence of classes to build an academic community and promote academic success and retention. All other SI participation is optional.

“Some students attend only one one-hour session, but our evaluation suggests that attending just once is not often enough,” said Steven Brint, vice provost for Undergraduate Education. “Students who attend SI at least several times in the quarter are more likely to receive full benefit in terms of improved grades.”

Brint added that the fact that as many as 20 percent of first-year students have sub-2.0 GPAs at the end of their first quarter is indicative that they aren’t adequately prepared by their high school experience to succeed in college-level courses.

“The data shows that some students in engineering and science earn poor grades during the first quarter of their freshmen year,” Brint said. “The reasons vary from a lack of preparation to a deficiency in the study skills that are necessary to flourish at a university. In both of these cases, SI can help these students elevate their learning skills.”

SI sessions are led by undergraduate students who have previously taken the same course and performed well, with a minimum grade of B+ or A-, depending on the program. Applicants go through five days of intensive training prior to the start of the academic year, including SI session simulations and role playing.

Saadat said that the SI leaders attend the classes along with their students, but they do not just reteach the content during their 50- to 60-minute review sessions. “Their role is to highlight the main topics and concepts that were covered in the lecture and connect these concepts,” he said. “They become a facilitator who would go around each group and check the students’ understanding. An ideal SI session is the one that if someone enters the room, cannot tell who the SI leader is.”

“One of the secrets of the success of SI is that many students feel more comfortable asking questions to peer educators than to professors or even to teaching assistants,” Brint said. “This is natural enough. Peers are easier to relate to and less likely to raise anxieties among students. Many students don’t want to appear confused or in need of help when they talk to professors, even when they are confused and in need of help.”

The SI program faces some challenges, including limited room availability during daylight hours that don’t conflict with lecture, discussion or office hours. But despite these, Brint said that he would like to see the program expand, both within CNAS and BCoE as well as to the College of Humanities, Arts and Social Science.

“We would like to expand the Supplemental Instruction program and I hope more faculty will want to get on-board with it,” Brint said. “UC Riverside has a reputation for taking average students and making them elite learners, and it is programs such as this one that allow that to happen.”
Sophomore Ana Sevilla thinks that more faculty members should consider adding SI to their classes.

“I would encourage them to add an SI session to a course because it is also a great way to demonstrate to the students that professors/teaching assistants care about the students,” she said. “The faculty member would see a raise in test scores and would be able to know which students are truly passionate and/or trying in that certain subject.”

Escobedo agreed.

“I believe in the SI program and that it really has helped students excel in their classes. I have seen it myself when I hold my sessions,” she said. “I’ve received emails from students letting me know that SI helped them and I know the SI program will only continue to do so.”

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**UCnet to Launch Feb. 6**

by UCOP

The Office of the President (OP) is launching a new website on Feb. 6 that aims to make life easier for faculty, staff and retirees.

The new site, called UCnet (ucnet.universityofcalifornia.edu), is the fruit of more than two years of development by OP’s communications team and is part of a broader strategic initiative to improve the university’s websites. UCnet is meant to make it simpler for employees and retirees to keep up with what’s happening at UC, find information about benefits and policies and quickly access personal accounts. It’s also designed to allow users to learn about and engage with colleagues around the system and build a stronger sense of community.

UCnet will replace At Your Service as the source of information about benefits and the portal to At Your Service Online and Fidelity retirement accounts. At Your Service Online, the password-protected portal that employees use to access their personal pay and benefits information, will still exist. UCnet will also offer timely news about UC and a wide array of tools and resources such as a gateway to systemwide data and interest groups.

“UCnet is designed to be a source of news and a home for resources and transactions for UC employees and retirees,” said Paul Schwartz, UC’s director of internal communications. “Our goal was to give employees and retirees a site that makes it easy to get information, conduct personal business and stay connected with the UC community.”

UCnet is one of three new websites created by OP communications in the past year to improve university information and resources offered online. The other two are www.ucop.edu, the OP’s website, which launched last year, and UCal, universityofcalifornia.edu, a site for prospective students, parents and other external audiences.

UCnet is organized into five sections, each with its own distinct focus. The home page, where most readers will start, will serve as UCnet’s “front page,” containing top news about what’s going at UC, a sampling of top items from other sections of UCnet and links to other important parts of the site.

The News section will offer visitors news stories about the university. It will be organized around five categories including administration, employment and people. All in all, UCnet’s news section will offer a much
A special seminar series on population health research at UC Riverside, begun last fall, has been extended to the winter and spring quarters of 2014. The first seminar of the winter quarter will feature a seminar by Professor of Sociology Robert Parker titled “A Harm Reduction Approach to Preventing Alcohol Related Injuries: The Case of Violence and Alcohol Regulatory Strategies” scheduled for 4 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 18, in Room G650 of the School of Medicine Education Building.

The seminars are open to the entire campus community. The series is sponsored by the School of Medicine in coordination with faculty in the UCR School of Public Policy, the College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences, and the Graduate School of Education.

“We had a tremendous response from across campus to last fall’s seminars, so we decided to extend the series into 2014 so that we can highlight the work of more faculty doing research in population-based health outcomes,” said David Lo, distinguished professor of biomedical sciences in the School of Medicine. “A major part of the mission of the School of Medicine is to improve community health in Inland Southern California, and as part of that mission, we believe that it would be especially valuable to bring together a cohort of researchers on campus with interests in population health research.”

The remainder of the series is as follows:

- Monday, Feb. 24: Mindy Marks, associate professor, economics, “Baby Boomlets and Baby Health: Hospital Crowdedness, Treatment Intensity, and Infant Health”

- Monday, March 3: Tanya Nieri, assistant professor, sociology, “Zumba Fitness, Physical Activity, and Health Disparities: Revolution without A Pause?”

- Monday, April 21: Chikako Takeshita, associate professor, women’s studies, “Childbirth with Dignity...
Conference to Examine New Religious Movements

U.K. scholar of religions Eileen Barker will deliver keynote address at UC Riverside Feb. 14

By Bettye Miller

New religious movements have long been a part of human history. At what point are they no longer considered “new,” and if they relocate or retool despite their age, do they become “new” again?

International scholars will address these and other questions at a daylong conference, “When New Religious Movements Get Old,” on Feb. 14 at UCR. Eileen Barker, author of “The Making of a Moonie: Brainwashing or Choice?” and professor emeritus at the London School of Economics, and will present the keynote address.

The conference begins at 10 a.m. and continues until 6 p.m. in the Interdisciplinary Building. It is free and open to the public. Registration is requested by e-mailing ryan.mariano@ucr.edu.

The event is sponsored by the Holstein Family and Community Endowment and the UCR Department of Religious Studies.

“While Scientology, the Moonies, Hare Krishnas (ISKCON), Jehovah’s Witnesses, various Guru movements, and even the Church of Latter-day Saints are seen as ‘new’ religious movements, the LDS nears its second century of existence, while the Jehovah’s Witnesses are 150 years old,” said Ivan Strenski, the Holstein Family and Community Professor of Religious Studies at UCR.

The enormous variety of new religious movements (NRM) makes it impossible to generalize much about them, he added. “But, we can ask – and we will – what happens when the so-called ‘new’ religious movements get on in years? How have the Jehovah’s Witnesses changed in their century-and-a-half existence? How, as well, has a very ancient religious movement, Yoga, become ‘new’ again in being imported into the West? Or, how have NRMs, old in the West, likewise become ‘young’ again by being imported into the post-communist world, or by being retooled for a presence on the Internet?”

Barker will be joined by scholars from universities in Denmark, Lithuania and California. Her topic is “New and Not-So-New Religious Movements: Changes in ‘the Cult Scene’ over the Past Forty Years” and will explore features that might be expected in an NRM in its early years and changes that it is likely to undergo over time. She also will consider relevant changes in the wider society since the 1970s.

Barker is professor emeritus of sociology with special reference to the study of religion at the London School of Economics. The author of more than 350 publications, her research focuses on new religions and the reactions they elicit. Since 1989 she has also been investigating changes in the religious situation in post-communist countries.

In 1988, supported by the British government and mainstream churches, she founded INFORM, a charity based at the LSE which provides information about new religions. She is a frequent advisor to governments, other official bodies and law-enforcement agencies around the world. She was the first non-American to be
elected president of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, and in 2000 received the American Academy of Religion’s Martin E. Marty Award for the Public Understanding of Religion.

Responding to her address will be Wade Clark Roof, the J.F. Rowny Professor of Religion and Society emeritus and director of the Walter H. Capps Center at UC Santa Barbara. A former chair of the Department of Religious Studies, he is author, co-author, editor, or co-editor of 14 books including most recently the Encyclopedia of Global Religions (two volumes with M. Juergensmeyer) and dozens of journal articles and book chapters. He is a former president of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion and is frequently cited in the media on religious and spiritual trends within the U.S.

Topics and presenters include:

“Who New?” Pre-Totemism and Post-Communism

Alexandra Maryanski, professor of sociology at UC Riverside — “The Missing Link in Durkheim’s Totemic Principle: An Old (New Religious) Problem Solved.” Maryanski is the author of four books including “On the Origin of Societies by Natural Selection” and more than 50 articles. Her areas of specialization include religion, social networks, evolutionary sociology, and neurosociology or the study of the social mind. She is currently finishing a book on Emile Durkheim.

Milda Ališauskienė, associate professor at Vytautus Magnus University, Lithuania — “When New Religions Become Old in The Post-Communist Societies.” Ališauskienė has 15 academic publications about contemporary religiosity in Lithuania and Eastern Europe, and has presented papers on NRM in post-Soviet Europe at more than 20 national and international academic conferences. She has directed the New Religions Research and Information Centre in Lithuania since 2009.

Everything That Was Old Is New


Richard Flory, associate research professor of sociology and director of research in the Center for Religion and Civic Culture at USC — “Between Innovation and Inertia: Balancing Charisma and Routinization at the L.A. Dream Center.” Flory is the author and/or editor of several books including “Spirit and Power: The Growth and Global Impact of Pentecostalism” and “Growing up in America: The Power of Race in the Lives of Teens.”

“You Don’t Look a Day Over 150!”

Annika Hvithamar, associate professor at the Department of Cross-Cultural and Regional Studies, University of Copenhagen — “When the Jehovah’s Witness Truth Gets Old.” Hvithamar teaches the history of Christianity and has published in the area of civil religion, nationalism, globalization, Russian Orthodoxy, and contemporary minority Christianity (Jehovah’s Witnesses). She also has written textbooks for primary and secondary education.

Bending the Frame: American Yoga and the Category of Religion

Gerald James Larson, professor emeritus of religious studies, UC Santa Barbara, and Tagore Professor
Emeritus of Indian Cultures and Civilization, Indiana University, Bloomington — "Modern Yoga: The Wild Card in the Indic Religious Deck?" Larson is the author or editor of 12 books and more than 100 scholarly articles on cross-cultural philosophy of religion, history of religions, classical Sanskrit and South Asian history and culture, including “Religion and Personal Law in Secular India: A Call to Judgment.” His most recent publication is Volume XII of the Encyclopedia of Indian Philosophies, co-edited with the late Dr. Ram Shankar Bhattacharya, titled “Yoga: India’s Philosophy of Meditation.”

Chris Chapple, the Navin and Pratima Doshi Professor of Indic and Comparative Theology at Loyola Marymount University — “Inscribing and Defending Public Space: Yoga in Schools.” Chapple’s research focuses on the renouncer religious traditions of India: Yoga, Jainism, and Buddhism. He has published several books, including “Karma and Creativity,” “Nonviolence to Animals, Earth, and Self in Asian Traditions,” “Hinduism and Ecology,” and “Reconciling Yogas.”

Jennifer Aubrecht, a Ph.D. student at UCR — “Visibilizing Vivekananda: Yoga Histories at Wanderlust Vermont.” Aubrecht researches the intersections of yoga practice and philosophy and modern dance history. She is particularly interested in theories of embodiment and performances of spirituality in each discipline, as well as the cross-cultural flows of movement practices and philosophies between the Indian subcontinent and the United States.

Amanda J. Lucia, assistant professor of American religions at UC Riverside — “Innovative Yoga Gurus: Charisma, Devotees, and the creation of NRMs.” Lucia’s ethnographic and historical research engages both immigrant Indian Hindus in the United States and American metaphysicals who seek out forms of Hindu spirituality. She is the author of “Reflections of Amma: Devotees in a Global Embrace,” which will be published in March.

GETTING PERSONAL: Alyssa Cotter

*Job: Assistant Director of Programs, Office of Alumni & Constituent Relations*

By Lilledeshan Bose

Alyssa Cotter, the assistant director of programs at the Office of Alumni & Constituent Relations, never worked in alumni relations before she joined UCR in 2013. “I wanted to work with volunteers and had the opportunity to create a new program from the ground up. I was lucky enough to get this job.”

In her work, she’s responsible for the UCR Alumni Association Scholarship Program and the Alumni Career Network.

A new program, the Alumni Career Network provides career resources to UCR alumni — no matter what stage they are in their career. Cotter coordinates networking events, finds alumni for the career blog posts, and connects alumni with students and other alumni who are seeking career advice.

Within the alumni scholarship program, she manages multiple scholarship committees comprised of
alumni volunteers from up and down the state. The committees are responsible for reading and selecting recipients for the scholarships that are overseen by the Alumni Office.

“I felt that this position would be a good fit for me, and I was right; I’ve enjoyed it every day,” she says.

Working in public service was always something Cotter wanted to do, after all. Her parents both worked for the city of Pomona — her dad as a police officer and her mom as a community services officer — and she wanted to follow in their footsteps. So after her earning her undergraduate degree, she went straight into the master’s program at CSU San Bernardino to get a degree in public administration.

Prior to coming to UCR, Cotter worked in a nonprofit organization and spent most of her time out in the community. These days, she still considers meeting people on- and off-campus to be the best part of her job. “From the networking events to the scholarship committee meetings to the UCR basketball games, I’ve had the opportunity to meet students, alumni and staff from all walks of life.”

She adds, “It’s an amazing place to work. Working in such a large organization is new to me, and there are so many resources available to employees.”

These resources include the Wellness Program, which Cotter is part of as a Wellness Ambassador. “Being active has always come naturally to me, and as a Wellness Ambassador, I can encourage faculty and staff to be active, and create friendships at the same time.”

It’s no surprise, then, that all her spare time is currently spent training for her first half-marathon, coming up on Feb. 2. “When I’m not training, I spend my time with my husband, camping, and supporting the Los Angeles Kings!”

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Realizing Her Dream: One Student’s Rise to the Top

UC Riverside’s Irma Ortiz takes advantage of university scholarships to develop as a young scientist

By Iqbal Pittalwala

In 2009, when she was an undergraduate student at UCLA, Irma Ortiz attended a talk on that campus by Linda Walling, a professor of genetics at UCR. When Walling, a specialist in the areas of plant defense responses and plant-insect interactions, gave another talk at UCLA two years later, Ortiz finally found the courage to approach Walling and introduce herself.

“I knew, right then and there, that I wanted to do research in UCR’s graduate program in plant biology,” said Ortiz, now a Ph.D. graduate student in Walling’s lab, where she also researches plant defense mechanisms.

Today, Ortiz and her lab-mates identify and deploy gene-based strategies for insect resistance in plants. Recently, the lab found that transgenic tomatoes that over-express the protein leucyl aminopeptidase A (LAP-A) are more resistant than regular tomatoes to insect feeding.

“We are working on understanding LAP-A’s activity on other tomato proteins that results in plant resistance to insects,” Ortiz said. “One thing I like about doing scientific research is that it makes every day different. I do different kinds of laboratory work, analyze new data, and write. I am also finishing up my courses.”

Ortiz grew up in Panorama City, Calif., and attended James Monroe High School in nearby North Hills.
Quiet by nature, she is driven by a determination to succeed. Like many UCR students, she is the first in her family to graduate from college. Her parents, immigrants to the United States from Mexico, regularly attended meetings in her elementary school and high school to support her education.

“They understood the importance of a college education,” Ortiz said. “They did not pressure me to have a specific career or get a post-secondary education. They accepted that I would be a science major at UCLA. All they told me was to do what made me happy.”

An early challenge for Ortiz was the unavailability of members in her family who could advise her on college applications. She turned, therefore, to her high school for support, meeting with limited success. She also solicited advice from university recruiters who visited Monroe High.

“Finally, I researched the requirements to qualify for the University of California campuses as well as the scholarships available to students underrepresented in the sciences,” she said. “This was a turning point in my life. I don’t think I would be in graduate school if it weren’t for all the mentors I had at UCLA. Now, I want to give back by providing career and research mentoring to underserved undergraduate students.”

Attending UCLA presented some challenges for her. She found it intimidating initially to be on a large campus in a hectic metropolis. Living at home with her parents, she commuted to school, working part-time to pay for her textbooks. Inevitably, at first her grades suffered, but then things turned around for her when she took advantage of the resources available at UCLA to underrepresented students like her.

Upon graduating with her bachelor’s degree, she took a year off to work further on her undergraduate research project.

“At UCLA I heard about UCR’s NSF CAMP Bridge to the Doctorate program,” she said. “I attended a Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans conference in 2011, and found out from UCR Dean Joseph Childers that I could apply to a graduate program and the CAMP Bridge to the Doctorate program.”

She applied, got accepted, and joined UCR in January 2012.

“Irma joined my laboratory with the highest recommendations from her UCLA research mentor, an impressive publication record and a passion for research in organism interactions and student mentoring,” Walling, Ortiz’s adviser said. “She is bold and has rapidly expanded her scientific toolbox to include writing computer code to purifying proteins from plants and E. coli.”

According to Childers, the dean of the Graduate Division, UCR graduate programs work because of their commitment to producing not only world-class scholars and scientists, but first-class citizens of the world.

“Students like Irma are an important part of UCR’s recipe for producing a diverse, nurturing, but also challenging intellectual environment in which our graduate students train to meet their life goals,” he said. “The point is not simply to attract top students — it is to ensure their success. When we have students like Irma, who take advantage of everything UCR graduate programs have to offer, that success is virtually guaranteed.”

Ortiz’s honors include a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship “honorable mention,” accorded to meritorious applicants. Because of a fellowship she received from the CAMP Bridge to the Doctorate program for her first two years and a Ford Foundation Fellowship for the next three years, Ortiz can focus on her graduate work without financial burden. She has found useful the workshops the CAMP Bridge to the Doctorate program offers on teaching and mentoring students.

“I mentor an undergraduate student in the Chicano Link Peer Mentor Program once a week,” she said.
“I attend meetings held throughout the quarter by the UCR Chicano Student Programs on how to be a good mentor to first generation college students.”

What drew Ortiz to agricultural research are the strategies scientists use to enhance plant success and plant resistance to pests and pathogens.

“These strategies will increase the world’s food supply,” she said. “I joined UCR’s graduate program in plant biology to explore these strategies. Let’s face it: in 2050, the world’s population will exceed 9 billion and we must produce 70 percent more food to feed this burgeoning population.”

Her family’s history, too, plays a big role in her wanting to continue doing agricultural research.

“My paternal grandfather worked in U.S. fields, such as those in Riverside, through the Bracero program, the guest worker program, in the 1950s,” she said. “He came to the U.S. for months at a time and then would go back to Calera, his hometown in Zacatecas, Mexico. He would return to the U.S. when that labor was needed again.”

Ortiz often keeps in mind for inspiration her family history and roots — when she is in the lab, when she grows tomatoes in the growth chambers and greenhouse, when she treats plant tissues with plant hormones or when she collects, freezes and grinds the tissues — as she works diligently to find a LAP-A protein interactor involved in plant defense signaling. This research would lead, eventually, to making tomatoes more resistant to caterpillar feeding — an important goal that could impact agricultural sustainability in California, the nation and the world.

“I see the difficulties some Mexican families experience when they have a bad season,” she said. “My grandparents worked on agriculture most of their lives. My parents depended heavily on that income. How then could I not work in agriculture?”

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**Did You Know?**

*Winter Town Hall Scheduled*

Chancellor Kim Wilcox will preside over a Town Hall meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 19. It will be held at the HUB, from 2-4 p.m.

*Free NEH Federal Grants Workshop on Campus*

Congressman Ken Calvert is hosting a National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) federal grants workshop on Wednesday, Feb. 5, from 2-5 p.m. Registration starts at 1:30 p.m. at the Alumni and Visitors Center. The workshop is free and open to the public.

Mark Silver of the NEH Research Division will first provide an overview of NEH funding opportunities and offer tips for writing competitive proposals, focusing especially on research grant programs. In the second half of the workshop, he will run a mock application review panel.

Participants will read, discuss, and rank proposals following NEH’s procedures in order to understand more fully how applications are evaluated and recommended for NEH funding.

For more information, please contact Courtney Cuevas at (951) 277-0042 or email Courtney.Cuevas@mail.house.gov.
The Top: 10 Notable Fanzines in the Eaton Collection

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

Each issue, we’re presenting a list of UCR staff and faculty favorites— from walking spots to Zen gardens to events. Here, Professor Rob Latham talks about 10 of the most noteworthy sci-fi fanzines in the Eaton Collection of Science Fiction and Fantasy. If you have a favorite spot you’d like featured or an activity you’d like to share, email lille.bose@ucr.edu.

No genre has inspired such an evangelical fervor in its fans like science fiction. These days, there are countless conventions, websites and portals for communication between the authors, fans, publishing houses and various pop culture kibitzers. But before fans congregated on io9 and Locus message boards, there were fanzines.

You could say the fanzine is the Internet’s precursor. These amateur publications began in the 1930s as a way for science fiction fans – who were geographically spread out – to share their ideas with one another. Created with mimeograph machines during people’s private time, fanzines included letter columns, author interviews and book reviews.

Some were more sophisticated than others, depending on the editor’s skills. But “they were totally labors of love,” said Rob Latham, English professor at UC Riverside and senior editor of the journal Science Fiction Studies. (Oddly enough, the term “fanzine” was coined by editor Russ Chauvenet in the October 1940 edition of his fanzine Detours – 10 years after the first official fanzine was actually created!) From the beginning fanzines fostered a feeling that SF fans were part of a community. They became a way that professional writers, editors, readers and fans were able to communicate. The Eaton Collection is home to nearly 100,000 fanzines, which grew out of the collections of four prominent fans: Terry Carr, Fred Patten, Bruce Pelz, and Rick Sneary. (Nerd pride alert! The Eaton Collection was a “major draw” for Latham, who moved from the University of Iowa to UC Riverside in 2008.)

Here are 10 notable fanzines you can find in the Eaton Collection.

1. The Comet

Published in 1930 by the Science Correspondence Club in Chicago and edited by Raymond A. Palmer and Walter Dennis, the Comet is widely heralded as the first fanzine ever.

2. Spockanalia

The first media fanzine – meaning a fan publication based on science fiction found in a mainstream medium – was, of course, based on “Star Trek” and was called Spockanalia.

“Media fanzines took off in the 1970s with ‘Star Wars’ and all those movies,” Latham said. “‘Star Trek’ was seen as the most intellectually interesting and responsible [product of pop culture]; an SF fan could say they were a fan of ‘Star Trek’ and not be embarrassed, whereas they might get embarrassed by saying they were fans of other things that passed for SF in pop culture. Some media fanzines published fan fiction and pushed stories forward; ‘Star Trek’ actually went off the air in 1969, and it was a decade before the movies came out. So fans sustained a cult interest that made it clear that you could return to it. The fans kept it alive,” he added.

3. The Fantasy-Times

In 1955, editors James V. Taurasi, Sr. and Ray Van Houten won the first Hugo Award for Best Fanzine for the Fantasy-Times. “Zines nominated for Hugos meant fans gave awards to other fans. The ones that won
usually had the broadest possible influence or interest, and are called genzines – general interest ‘zines,” Latham said.

4. & 5. Warhoon and Yandro

The biggest, most longstanding genzines, which were active from the 1950s to the 1980s.

6. Le Zombie

Le Zombie’s editor Bob Tucker started out as an SF fan and eventually became a professional writer. “He was famous for having invented certain terms that started in fan culture and now are widely used,” Latham said. “He invented the term ‘space opera,’ which is now used to refer to things like ‘Star Wars’ movies. Before there was an academic discourse on SF, there was critical terminology and literary criticism of the genre going on in the ‘zines such as Le Zombie,” Latham explained.

7. Shangri L’Affaires

Shangri L’Affaires is the official publication of the Los Angeles Science Fantasy Society. Established in 1940, it’s one of the longest-running zines around, and has changed editors numerous times.

8. Amra

Many zines were specialized based on an editor’s interest. “Amra was a major ‘zine in the 1960s that was responsible for getting people more interested in fantasy rather than just science fiction,” Latham said. “It came out around the time that J.R.R. Tolkien’s books were being introduced in America, and people were getting interested in sword and sorcery,” he said.

9. Psychotic. (Later known as the Science Fiction Review)

“To me, the most important fanzine editor was Richard Geis,” Latham said. Geis edited a fanzine but changed its name from Psychotic. to Science Fiction Review. “He was very much a proponent of the New Wave of science fiction,” Latham said. Geis edited his ‘zine during the 1960s and 1970s, when there was an infusion of counterculture interest among the SF fans. “[His ‘zines] were very much on that edge. They had very psychedelic covers, and were interested in the newer, younger writers who were dealing with themes such as gender, sexuality and politics – which had not really been part of the genre before then.”

10. Australian Science-Fiction Review

“The Australian Science-Fiction Review was probably one of the most intellectually rigorous and interesting of the zines,” Latham said. Started in 1966 (around the time an academic interest in SF was growing), the Australian Science Fiction-Review was one of the first few ‘zines that pushed the fan culture into a more academic direction.

Not all fans were appreciative of the fanzine’s efforts and resented the fact that academics – and not fans – were writing about SF. As Dana Benatan said, “We have to take SF out of the classroom and back in the gutter where it belongs!”

Who Says?

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

“It’s Dr. King’s most under-appreciated speech. Former supporters, black as well as white, backed away from this too compassionate, too radical, too political King.”
Vorris Nunley, associate professor of English, on Martin Luther King Jr.’s sermon, “A Time to Break the Silence”

CNN.COM

“Looking at the implications of a vegetarian diet on longevity, there is data that suggests vegetarians of various types live longer than nonvegetarians.”

Paul Lyons, senior associate dean for education at UCR’s School of Medicine, on the connection between a vegetarian diet and longer lifespans

LOS ANGELES DAILY NEWS

“You would have to drive that brand-new diesel truck 143 miles to put out the same mass of particles as one charbroiled hamburger.”

Bill Welch, CE-CERT’s principle development engineer, on the particulate pollution emitted from charbroiled food

NPR

“There is such a pressure in academia to consistently publish papers that people feel whether they’re aware of it or not that producing publishable research is more important than producing credible research.”

Kevin Esterling, professor of political science, on the reasoning behind the incorrect conclusions that plague social science research

DAILY CALIFORNIAN

“We’re not going to make normal rainfall this winter. We are in what’s called a La Nada — the neutral phase of the El Niño cycle. The last El Niño or wet year was 2010-11, and we’ve been dry ever since.”

Richard Minnich, professor of geography, on California’s drought cycle

THE DESERT SUN

“Students need to double- and triple-check the information they receive to make sure it’s OK, because at the end of the day it’s going to fall back on that student whether they’re able to transfer out or not.”

Ricardo Vargas, assistant director of transfer recruitment and evaluations, advising prospective transfers to maintain and research the GPA requirements of their desired four-year university

U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT

“Being in one of the sunniest regions in the world, Inland Southern California is perfectly positioned to be a focal point for the solar energy industry.”

Ronald Loveridge, director of UCR’s Center for Sustainable Suburban Development, on the Solar Energy Conference that UCR is hosting on Feb. 6.

AZOCLEANTECH

“Our study confirms Darwin’s observations and numerous anecdotal reports of island tameness.”
Theodore Garland, professor of biology, on his research showing how island species are tamer than their land counterparts

UNIVERSITY HERALD

Research and Scholarship

Ramakrishnan to Take Part in NRC Study on Immigration

Karthick Ramakrishnan, associate professor of political science, is one of 17 researchers invited by the National Research Council (NRC) to conduct a study on the integration of immigrants into American society. The two-year study will be conducted in parallel with a companion study on the economic, fiscal and labor market effects of immigration.

The aim of the project, according to the NRC, is to facilitate a more informed and fact-based discussion of the issues surrounding current immigration in the U.S. Ramakrishnan and the committee are charged with summarizing what is known about how immigrants are integrating into American society, discussing the implications of this knowledge for informing policy options, and identifying any important gaps in existing knowledge and data availability.

Sponsors of the study of immigrant integration are the Carnegie Corp. of New York, the Russell Sage Foundation, the National Science Foundation, and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. The study of the economic, fiscal and labor market effects of immigration is being sponsored by the MacArthur Foundation.

The NRC is a private, nonprofit institution that provides expert advice on pressing challenges facing the nation and the world.

The Immortality Project Awards Third Essay Prize

The Immortality Project, a research project funded by the John Templeton Foundation at UCR, has awarded its third essay prize to Jesse Bering for “Life after death: The idea of life after death lives on in near-death experiences and messages from beyond the grave. What’s the evidence?”

The essay, which discusses supposed evidence of life after death from paranormal phenomena, such as near-death experiences and communication with ghosts, was published in the Nov. 13, 2013, issue of Aeon Magazine.

A goal of The Immortality Project is to advance discussion of the project themes in popular venues by offering essay prizes. The three-year project is funded by a $5 million grant the John Templeton Foundation awarded in 2012. A majority of the grant will be awarded to scientists, theologians and philosophers conducting research related to immortality. Winners of the science funding competition will present preliminary results of their research during a conference June 20-21 at UCR.

Mellon Foundation Awards UC Riverside $405,000

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation awarded UC Riverside $405,000 to design new software that will allow scholars from around the world to help edit and curate the English Short Title Catalog (ESTC), a searchable database of every known publication in the English-speaking world from the birth of the printing press in 1473 to 1800.
The foundation previously awarded UCR’s Center for Bibliographical Studies and Research (CBSR) $48,500 to develop a plan to help curate the expanding database and simplify how researchers harvest information from it.

The new grant continues that effort by funding the development of software that will enable scholars to add information about individual publications that could be useful to other researchers, said Brian Geiger, Director of the UC Riverside Center for Bibliographical Studies and Research.

The ESTC lists more than 500,000 items. The catalog is a joint effort of the CBSR, the British Library and the American Antiquarian Society and is widely regarded as the single most authoritative source for the identification of early modern editions. It is freely available for searching at http://estc.bl.uk.

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**Awards and Honors**

**UCR Volleyball Player Receives Southern California Sports Broadcasters Scholarship for 2014**

UC Riverside junior volleyball player Megan Reza was named the recipient of the 2014 Southern California Sports Broadcasters Association scholarship. The $5,000 award is presented annually to a student attending any of Southern California’s four-year colleges who plans on pursuing a career in radio, television or Internet broadcasting.

A media and cultural studies major, Reza began interning in the UC Riverside Athletics Media Relations Department in January 2013 serving as a reporter for the Highlanders postgame highlight videos, interviewing coaches and student athletes for preseason previews and feature stories and updating the athletics department’s website at gohighlanders.com.

The Southern California Sports Broadcasters Association is honored Reza on Jan. 27 at its annual award luncheon at the Lakeside Golf Club in Toluca Lake, California.

**Perry Awarded Prize for Service to Philosophy and Philosophers**

John Perry, distinguished professor of philosophy, has been awarded the 2013 Philip L. Quinn Prize by the American Philosophical Association (APA) for service to philosophy and philosophers. He is a former president of the APA’s Pacific Division.

Perry was the longtime chair of the philosophy department at Stanford University and director of the Center for the Study of Language and Information before joining UCR with a half-time appointment in conjunction with his phased retirement from Stanford. He co-hosts the popular radio program “Philosophy Talk,” which airs weekly on 100 radio stations in 30 states, Denmark and Australia.

In 2012 he published “The Art of Procrastination, A Guide to Effective Dawdling, Lollygagging and Postponing,” an entertaining, philosophical self-help book for procrastinators in which he articulates a strategy of “structured procrastination” that he says can convert procrastinators into effective human beings.

**Hackel Book Named One of 2013’s Best**

“Junipero Serra: California’s Founding Father” by UCR history professor Steven W. Hackel was named one of the best nonfiction books of 2013 by Zócalo Public Square, a project of the Center for Social Cohesion at Arizona State University.
The book “dispels the myths (both laudatory and demonizing) surrounding the man who founded missions up and down California in the 18th century,” project leaders said. “But it is far more than a corrective. It’s a tale of Spain, Mexico, and America; of faith, politics, and pioneering; and of a man who was neither wholly sinner nor saint.”

Zócalo Public Square, describes itself as a not-for-profit Ideas Exchange that blends live events and humanities journalism.

**Joel Smith Dance Work Named Top Dance Performance**

“O(h),” a new dance work by Joel Smith’s company casebolt and smith, was named one of the top 10 dance performances of 2013 by San Francisco Chronicle dance critic Allan Ulrich. Smith, assistant professor of dance, is co-artistic director of the company along with artistic partner Liz Casebolt.

Ulrich, one of the nation’s leading dance critics, said of the dance/theatrical work, “The usually parched summer dance diet was enlivened by a visit from this slick Los Angeles duo who prowl for the banalities of routine modern dance and skewer the pomposities with needles dipped in acid. Where have they been all our lives?”

casebolt and smith has performed all over the world. Dance Spirit Magazine has named Smith one of “LA’s Finest” contemporary male dancers.