Everything You Need to Know About Investiture

Times, dates, details and numbers on Chancellor Kim A. Wilcox’s formal celebration into office

By Lilledeshan Bose

Chancellor Kim A. Wilcox was appointed as the ninth chancellor of UCR by the UC Board of Regents on Aug. 8, 2013. A first-generation college graduate, Wilcox is now chancellor at one of the most exciting times on the UCR campus, with the new School of Medicine and School of Public Policy, expanding research opportunities and the potential to broaden the campus’s international reach.

On April 24, his investiture into office will be celebrated at 2 p.m. in the Student Recreation Center. Below is a look at the event by the numbers:

3,961: Paper invitations sent out

25,000-plus: Email invitations sent to faculty, students and staff

1,000: Attendees expected at the Student Recreation Center

1: Chancellor receptions held at the bell tower (this is the first!)

4: UCR-themed refreshments to be served at the reception, such as blue-and-gold cupcakes, fresh fruit, blueberry or Peach cobbler, and the nonalcoholic UCR Mojito

2: Days needed to prepare the Student Recreation Center for the festivities (one day to set up, one day to tear down)

3: Ceremonial objects at investiture: the UC seal, the Chancellor’s Medal and the UCR Mace. At the center of the Chancellor’s Medal is the UC seal. The back of the medal will display the names of the campus’s chancellors and year he or she was inaugurated.

The academic mace, first used in the 14th century, is derived from the club of Hercules. The UCR Mace was
first suggested by Ramon J. Rhine, former chair of the Academic Senate. It was designed by Professor Emeritus George Helmkamp with Eugene L. Ethridge of the chemistry department. Rhine first carried the mace on Oct. 6, 1987 in the UC Founders’ Day Faculty Procession.

104: Years the present design of the UC seal, created by Tiffany and Co., has been in use. The seal incorporates symbolic icons and phrases that represent the image of the university.

3: Lectures that are part of the Chancellor’s Symposia on “The Future of the American Research University.” Everyone is invited to attend these free events featuring lectures by national thought leaders in higher education. There will be free public parking and refreshments provided.

- “Innovations in Higher Education,” featuring Arizona State University President Michael Crow, 3 p.m. Friday, May 9, at the Tartan and Tweed Room, Student Services Building.
- “Globalization and the University,” featuring University of Washington Vice Provost for Global Affairs Jeffrey Riedinger, 4 p.m., Friday, May 16, at the Genomics Auditorium.
- “The Public University of the 21st Century,” featuring Association of Public and Land-grant Universities President Peter McPherson, 4 p.m., Friday, May 30, at the Genomics Auditorium.

---

Orchid Named After UC Riverside Researcher

“Lophiaris silverarum” is known to grow only in central Panama

By Iqbal Pittalwala

One day about eight years ago, Katia Silvera, a postdoctoral scholar at UCR, was on a field trip with her father in a mountainous area in central Panama when they stumbled upon an orchid they had never seen before.

Unable to identify it, they contacted German Carnevali, a world authority on orchids. The orchid turned out to be an unnamed species. So Carnevali recently named it after the Silveras: Lophiaris silverarum.

“Lophiaris” is the genus name, comprising about 40 species in the world. Carnevali, the director of the Natural Resources Department at the Scientific Center of Yucatan, Mexico, announced the new orchid species in a research paper published in the March issue of the journal Phytotaxa.

It can take many years to officially name a plant species, the time depending on how well the plant group is studied and whether there is funding to do research on that particular group.

“Orchids are a difficult and confusing taxonomic group,” said Silvera, who joined the lab of Norman Ellstrand, a professor of genetics at UC Riverside, in 2011. “People who specialize in the orchid family usually spend years naming different species based on DNA and morphology. Sometimes plants can look alike morphologically, but DNA informs us that they are very different species, which makes naming the species difficult.”

Silvera explained that because the orchid family is so large, there are many species that have not been found before. As a result, new orchid species are being named every year and the number is rising.

“The diversity of orchids is best seen in the tropics, where, unfortunately, habitat is being destroyed very fast,” she said. “As a result, we are rapidly losing the diversity of orchid species. Although there are many orchid species unnamed in nature, it is actually quite difficult to determine for sure that an orchid is unnamed.
They are difficult to find and difficult to tell apart. Orchid species are the raw materials for hybrids, and there is a lot to discover about how these species evolved and became such a successful group. Orchid research will only thrive if efforts to conserve tropical rainforests are put in place.

The orchid family contains the largest number of plant species in the world. They are the most collected group of plants by hobbyists. Close to 30,000 known species exist worldwide; many remain undiscovered. Panama alone has about 1,100 known orchid species. The United States has about 200 known orchid species.

Orchids are unique in that the flower’s female and male reproductive parts are fused together. An interesting aspect is that orchids can easily hybridize or cross. As a result, some 300,000 orchid hybrids are man-made and commercially available to the public. Not found in nature, they only occur in laboratories and greenhouses for commercial purpose.

Currently, *Lophiaris silverarum* is known to grow only in central Panama. It is not known if it grows in other areas of Central America. The plant blooms only in November, the flowers lasting about a month. It is not sold in the U.S. because it is very rare and it reproduces very slowly.

“We are in the process of propagating the species in vitro in Panama for commercial purposes,” Silvera said. “My father, Gaspar Silvera, is the owner of a small orchid company in Panama that specializes in propagating native orchid species but because *L. silverarum* grows slowly, taking about four years to reproduce in vitro, from seed to the first bloom, it will take many years before it is available to the public in Panama first, and then made commercially available outside of Panama.”

Silvera grew up in Panama, and was always surrounded by plants. As a child she developed a fascination for plants and began learning as much as she could about them. Because her parents own a commercial orchid business, she learned about orchids and their diversity very early on.

She studied plant biology at the University of Panama. After graduating, she worked with the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute in different aspects of plant biology, even as a tour guide. For her graduate studies she came to the United States. She received a master’s degree at the University of Florida and a Ph.D. at the University of Nevada, Reno.

Silveva’s research focuses on the evolution of photosynthesis in orchids. At UCR she processes plant material collected in the field in Panama. Currently, she also holds a postdoctoral fellowship from the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (STRI) that allows her to study orchid species in the field in Panama, collect samples, and transport them to UCR for analysis.

She has been awarded a membership in the National Scientific Investigators System by the Panamanian government, an honor bestowed only on distinguished researchers in Panama.

Her postdoctoral appointments at STRI and UCR run through October 2014.
President Napolitano Holds Webchat with Staff

On Wednesday, April 16, President Janet Napolitano held an hourlong webchat with UC staff from throughout the university. Following are excerpts from the conversation. To watch the video of the webchat with Napolitano, go to www.youtube.com/watch?v=YHofxmTnaHE.

On salary increases for nonrepresented staff

I know there have been some unfortunate and regrettable historic lapses, but let me be very, very clear: We have in our budget a 3 percent increase in pay effective July 1. And the direction to the chancellors and to the system is to be ready and able to carry out that pay increase. ... I am committed to a regular, predictable salary program for nonrepresented staff. And I’m very conscious of the need to maintain fairness and equity between represented and nonrepresented staff. So, I’m keeping my eye on this goal and this target and have no intention of backing off as of this July. ... This will be the third year of the last four that there has been a salary program for nonrepresented staff, and I anticipate that that will continue.

On career development and advancement opportunities

When I was visiting the campuses, I heard two things: lack of support for professional development opportunities and lack of information about career advancement opportunities within the institution, and so we’re working on both of those. ... I have been really impressed not only with the quality of the staff we have but also with the longevity they have, which really demonstrates their commitment. So, we’re working with our HR folks and also working with the chancellors, looking at professional development and ways we can support that. ... One of my goals is to have a systemwide system for alerting people of jobs and job opportunities. That is easier said than done.

On employee benefits

I don’t anticipate any increases to employee contributions to UCRP beyond this July. That’s our current thinking and our current planning. ... With respect to health care, with the transferral to UC Care, we are still seeing increased health care costs, but we’re beginning to see the rate of increase is going down. We have a number of employees now who are paying, if they have single coverage, about $12 a month, about $30 a month for a family. So we will do everything we can — and I think UC Care will help us in this regard — to keep the rate of increase down for health care costs.

On educational benefits/tuition discounts for UC staff and their families

There’s always the possibility of looking at this, but these are dollars that would have to be replaced elsewhere. I know we’ve looked at this before, and it was, among other things, a big money issue. The university in the past few years, has taken the position that to the extent there are dollars, they need to go into things like trying to get on a regular, predictable salary schedule. My mind is open on these things and I’m open to staff suggestions. ... I know we have offered staff a reduction on the cost of taking online courses. I’d like to see us do more in that regard as online increases, and I believe it will because it is going to be a very needed tool in our toolbox as we increase our capacity. As we move forward with our long-term budget and budget planning, that is something we can always take another look at.

On her advice regarding skills staff need to advance at UC

To advance, people need to acquire leadership skills, need to acquire project management skills, need to understand how the budget works. One thing I advise young staff is to, in addition to having a mentor, is to volunteer to take on a project. That kind of experience is, to me, worth a lot, as much as a lot of leadership training you can take.
On her goals for UC

I have a lot of goals, but if I have to boil them down to three:

- Maintain our leadership as a public research university; that implies the accessibility but also the academic excellence
- Keep the university on more stable financial footing so that neither students nor staff nor faculty are so susceptible to economic change
- Make sure that the University of California really represents the diversity that is California in all respects, consistent with the law but also sensitive to the changes that are occurring in California.

On the role of the Office of the President

Our role is to support the campuses in their teaching and research missions. We have to analyze everything we do in terms of are we value-added to the campuses. That’s why I put such weight on the selection of chancellors: because the chancellors — and their staff — have the front line responsibility for carrying out the mission of the university. We come in to do things that no individual campus can do as well. There’s no need for everything to be run out of Oakland. We can outsource that to a campus that’s already doing a very good job say in a particular area. On the other hand, there are some things we do that each individual campus really can’t and they’d just as soon have us deal with them. So it’s a balance. One other thing we do as a value-add is really advocate and speak for the university writ large: advocate with the public, advocate in Sacramento, advocate with the media, advocate in Washington, D.C.

A Visit to D.C. at Cherry Blossom Time Means A Higher Profile for UC Riverside

By Kris Lovekin

Chancellor Kim A. Wilcox traveled to Washington, D.C., from April 7 to 9 as part of UCR’s effort to raise its profile at the national level, as it relates to research as well as student access and success.

He met with members of Congress from the Inland Empire, including Rep. Mark Takano, Rep. Raul Ruiz, and Rep. Ken Calvert. At these meetings, Wilcox emphasized UCR’s research strengths, conveyed his vision for the campus, and discussed UCR’s commitment to serving its students and the community.

Wilcox also advocated support for strong funding of various federal research agencies regarding issues of importance to students, such as Pell Grants. He also met with former UCR Chancellor France Córdova, who recently became director of the National Science Foundation, a major funder of UCR research.

While in D.C., Wilcox also attended the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities’ National Capitol Forum on Hispanic Higher Education. UCR is one of four institutions in the nation that is both a premier research university as well as a Hispanic-serving institution. This designation means the campus is eligible for certain large federal grants, as well as student internships.

In an effort to tell UCR’s story at the national level, the chancellor met with journalists at the Chronicle of Higher Education and at Inside Higher Ed, providing context about what one university in Southern California can do to make a difference nationally.

An interview with Sara Hebel of the Chronicle of Higher Education resulted in a story that says: “Gradu-
ation rates are nearly the same for students across racial and income groups at the University of California at Riverside. In a recent conversation with The Chronicle, Kim A. Wilcox, Riverside’s chancellor, discussed what works and what doesn’t for improving student success, and what’s at risk if the nation’s colleges do not do a better job of bridging socioeconomic divides.” A video of the full interview is available online here: chronicle.com/article/How-One-University-Has/145829.

Part of UCR’s story about student success is its participation in the University Innovations Alliance. UCR is one of 11 public research institutions committed to confronting a major challenge facing the American economy in the decades ahead — an undereducated workforce — by dramatically increasing collegiate degree attainment rates, particularly for underrepresented and low-income students.

With cooperation from the Lumina, Ford and Gates foundations, each university will adopt three to five innovations to test and scale during the grant period. Each innovation will be drawn from what one of the campuses is already doing. In UCR’s case, first-year learning experience programs will be considered a model project.

The alliance was one of the topics discussed by Wilcox during an event that attracted approximately 75 alumni from the Washington, D.C., area, including UCR graduates Rep. Mark Takano (’10 M.F.A.,) and Federal Aviation Administration Administrator Michael Huerta (’78).

“My goal in these meetings has been to tell the UCR story,” Wilcox said. “Our campus is uniquely positioned to demonstrate the importance of the public university in the nation’s economic and scientific strength and, at the same time, to provide a quality educational experience to a diverse population of students.”

Wilcox also visited Washington, D.C., in late March to join other leaders from the University Innovations Alliance. The group was invited to a meeting with White House officials from the Domestic Policy Council, which plays a leading role in setting higher-education policy in the Obama administration.

Wilcox will continue to be active at the national level to expand UCR’s federal research portfolio and to share UCR’s unique scientific expertise and effective student programs with policymakers and federal agency officials.

Ganim to Present CHASS Distinguished Research Lecture

By Bettye Miller

John Ganim, professor of English, will present the annual CHASS Distinguished Research Lecture on Wednesday, April 30, at 2 p.m. in Interdisciplinary Building Room 1128. His topic is “The Middle Ages and Its Others.” The lecture is free and open to the public.

The CHASS Distinguished Lecturer Award honors outstanding research contributions of CHASS faculty.

Erica Edwards, associate professor of English and chair of the CHASS Executive Committee, said Ganim was nominated because of the breadth and impact of his scholarship, his leadership in the rapidly growing specialty of medievalism, and the reach of his most recent work, “Orientalism and Medievalism.”

“One of our colleagues in English describes you as an ‘unequivocal star in the field of medieval studies, yet also a popular teacher and an indefatigable champion of your colleagues and leader of your campus,” she wrote in a letter informing Ganim of the honor.
The lecture traces the intertwined histories of the Middle Ages and the Orient as they are represented in histories of literature, architecture, and language, revealing an identity crisis in the idea of a purely Western Civilization, Ganim said.

“The definition of medieval culture, especially literature and architecture, from its earliest formulation in the Renaissance through to the 20th century, has been a site of a contest over the idea of the West, and by definition, that which is non-Western,” he explained. “Early humanists claimed that medieval culture, including Gothic architecture and medieval romance, was largely the result of foreign, particularly Eastern, influence. Seventeenth- and 18th-century antiquarians sought the Phoenician origins of Britain, linking ancient civilizations to the Druids. Victorian World’s Fairs often included medieval installations adjoining the pavilions of their newly conquered colonies.”


He has served as president and trustee of the New Chaucer Society, and as chair of the Executive Committee of the Middle English Division of the Modern Language Association. He held a Guggenheim fellowship in 2001. At UCR, he has been department chair and graduate advisor. He is an International Associate, Network for Early European Research, sponsored by the University of Western Australia and the Australian Research Council and a principal investigator on an Australian Research Council multi-year grant to study Australian Medievalisms.

Unity Poem Project Submissions Deadline is July 1

California Poet Laureate Juan Felipe Herrera will present “The Most Incredible & Biggest Poem on Unity in the World” at California Unity Poem Fiesta Oct. 9

By Bettye Miller

“The Most Incredible & Biggest Poem on Unity in the World” is about to get even bigger as California Poet Laureate Juan Felipe Herrera issues a last call for contributions to the project that already is brimming with lines submitted by hundreds of Californians.

July 1 is the deadline to submit original poetry that relates to the theme of “Unity.” Submissions may be sent as a Word document to Herrera at poetlaureate@arts.ca.gov. Contributions to the Unity Project will be assembled into one poem that will be read at the California Unity Poem Fiesta at UCR on Oct. 9.

Sponsors of the event include UCR, University of California, California Arts Council, The California State University, and Cal Humanities.

Herrera, a professor of creative writing at UCR, launched the Unity Project soon after Gov. Jerry Brown appointed him California Poet Laureate in March 2012. The appointment ends in September and will culminate in the Oct. 9 poetry festival.

“The goal is to inspire unity, to inspire creative thinking and writing and holding hands in as many ways as possible,” Herrera said. Submissions may be in the form of a few words, a sentence, a poem, a rap, a group or class poem, or a song.
Herrera noted that since his appointment he has visited schools, colleges and many communities to share poetry and express their creativity “because it will change the world in you and just maybe everywhere. Believe it or not, one poem, one phrase, one word, one voice can be magical. We need unity in these times, and most of all, we need your call for unity to be heard.”

In the last two years poems expressing the unity theme have been sent to communities as varied as Newton, Conn., after the mass shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School; to Boston after the bombing at the Boston Marathon; and to the Philippines after a super-typhoon decimated the island of Leyte.

Among the contributors to “The Most Incredible & Biggest Poem on Unity in the World” is University of California President Janet Napolitano. Here is her poem.

**Emphasis**

*It's all a matter of emphasis, you see.*

*I could look at you and perceive  
only the differences  
Clothed in harsh, convenient labels:  
gender, skin color, religion  

*I could speak with you and hear  
what we might share  
Described more tellingly:  
lover of music, reader of novels  

*I could turn to the sciences and know  
what inalterably binds us  
Down to the sub-cellular level:  
genomic patterns, anatomical structures  

*What joins us, however  
Deserves more study and attention  
Seven billion people share the Earth  
Each person having*
a mind

a consciousness

a soul

Emphasis should be on what matters most

And it is on these three things.

Janet Napolitano

February 2014

Orbach to Return to UC Riverside to Present on Development of Clean Energy

Former chancellor to appear as part of School of Public Policy Seminar Series

By Ross French

Raymond L. Orbach, former UCR chancellor and undersecretary for science at the U.S. Department of Energy during the George W. Bush administration, will return to campus on Friday, April 25, for a presentation about developing clean energy and the importance of international partnerships to make that happen as part of the UCR School of Public Policy Seminar Series.

The presentation will run from 4 to 5:30 p.m. in Genomics Auditorium 1102A and will be followed by a reception in the Genomics Lobby. It is free and open to the public. An RSVP is requested.

“Ray Orbach was a transformative and beloved chancellor at UCR, presiding over a period of unprecedented growth and maturing of the campus,” said Anil Deolalikar, dean of the School of Public Policy. “In addition, he is one of the foremost experts on energy policy in the United States, having served as the highest-ranking science policy administrator in the U.S. Department of Energy during the last decade. The School of Public Policy is honored to welcome him back for this special public policy seminar.”

Orbach, who currently holds the Cockrell Family Regents chair in Engineering at the University of Texas in Austin, said his lecture will focus on the interplay between science and diplomacy in the formation of the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor, a global attempt to harness the fusion processes of the sun for a clean and unlimited source of energy.

Orbach will also be attending Chancellor Kim A. Wilcox’s investiture on Thursday, April 24.

“My wife Eva and I are delighted at the prospect of visiting the beautiful and distinguished University of California, Riverside again,” he said. “We look forward to seeing all of our friends, both on and off the campus. We are especially pleased to attend the investiture of Chancellor Wilcox, and to add our congratulations.”

Orbach was chancellor at UCR from 1992 to 2002, when he was appointed as the director of the Office of Science at the Department of Energy by President Bush. In 2006, he was named as the inaugural undersecretary for science, serving as the chief scientist for the Department of Energy and providing advice to the secretary of energy on all scientific and technical programs in the DOE. He returned to higher education in August, 2009, when he became the first director of the Energy Institute at the University of Texas at Austin, a position
that he held until December 2013. He is a fellow of the American Physical Society and the American Association for the Advancement of Science and serves as a member of 20 scientific, professional and civic boards.

The seminar is the fifth in 2014 for the new UCR School of Public Policy, which was formed in 2013 to train the next generation of leaders via evidence-based policy research to equip them to address the challenges facing our society, including poverty, disease, illiteracy, climate change, energy security, pollution and more. The series continues on Thursday, May 8, as Darcy Nikol Bryan, M.D., speaks on “Medicaid: A Physician’s Perspective” from 12:30 to 2 p.m. in HMNSS 1500.

SciFi Author Nalo Hopkinson to Speak April 23

The award-winning writer will appear in the Afternoons in Special Collections & University Archives Series

By Bettye Miller

Award-winning science fiction author Nalo Hopkinson will discuss her new book, “Sister Mine,” on April 23 at 3:15 p.m. in Special Collections & University Archives, located on the fourth floor of the Tomás Rivera Library. Her appearance is part of the ongoing Afternoons in Special Collections & University Archives Series. Hopkinson is a professor of creative writing at UCR.

There will also be a small exhibition titled “Dear Ms. Butler ... Your Friend, Nalo Hopkinson,” which features correspondence from the Octavia Butler papers from the Huntington Library. Butler was the first science fiction writer to receive a MacArthur Fellowship, known colloquially as the “genius grant.”

Born in Jamaica, Hopkinson often draws upon Caribbean history, language and storytelling traditions in her work. She received an M.A. in writing popular fiction from Seton Hill University. Her teaching specialty is creative writing, with a focus on the literatures of the fantastic such as science fiction, fantasy and magical realism.

She is currently working on “Donkey,” a contemporary fantasy novel, and on “Blackheart Man,” a fantastical alternate history set in an imagined Caribbean. She is a recipient of the John W. Campbell Award, the World Fantasy Award, the Gaylactic Spectrum Award, and a two-time recipient of the Sunburst Award for Canadian Literature of the Fantastic. Her novel “Midnight Robber” received honorable mention in Cuba’s Casa de las Americas prize for literature written in Creole.

UC Riverside Named to Princeton Review Green College List

Survey profiles schools that demonstrate exemplary commitments to sustainability in their academics, campus infrastructure, activities, and career preparation

By Ross French

The Princeton Review’s Guide to 332 Green Colleges: 2014 Edition, has recognized UCR as one of the top green colleges in North America. This survey was conducted in collaboration with the Center for Green Schools at the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) and appears in the annual, downloadable book that was released on April 17.
UCR received a green rating of 93 points out of a possible 99. UCR has appeared in every issue of the guide in the five years it has been published.

“UCR is proud to be included once again in Princeton Review Green College Guide – our fifth year in a row to make it,” said Director of Sustainability John Cook. “Next year we will move the needle with 4 megawatts of onsite solar, 16 LEED Certified Buildings and a 3 percent reduction in overall potable water use.”

The Princeton Review chose the schools for this guide based on a 50-question survey it conducted in 2013 of administrators at hundreds of four-year colleges across the United States and Canada. Survey data included the schools’ course offerings, campus infrastructure, activities and career preparation to measure their commitment to the environment and to sustainability.

“Among 10,116 college applicants who participated in our 2014 ‘College Hopes & Worries Survey,’ 61 percent said having information about a school’s commitment to the environment would influence their decision to apply to or attend the school,” said Rob Franek, senior VP/publisher of The Princeton Review. “To all students seeking to study and live at ‘green’ colleges, we strongly recommend these schools.”

In the survey report, UCR was commended for:

- Spending 17 percent of food budget on local/organic food
- Providing transportation alternatives such as indoor and secure bike storage, shower facilities and lockers for bicycle commuters; a school-developed bicycle plan; free or reduced-price transit passes and/or free campus shuttle
- Having a formal sustainability committee
- Having 18 percent of new construction LEED-certified
- Having a 50 percent waste-diversion rate
- Making a sustainability-focused degree available
- Requiring 10 percent of students take a sustainability course


Free Admission to Premiere of Mexican Documentary Plays

Renowned Mexican theatre company presents two plays in downtown Riverside

Renowned Mexican theater company Lagartijas Tiradas al Sol (Lizards Lying in the Sun) will present two plays in downtown Riverside on May 11 at 7 p.m. at the Fox Entertainment Plaza’s Showcase (3635 Market St., Riverside). Admission is free and open to the public.

The first play, “Montserrat,” tells the story of director/actor Gabino Rodríguez’ search for his mother. It will be followed by the premiere of “El camino donde nosotros lloramos” (“The Path Where We Shed Tears”),

Free Admission to Premiere of Mexican Documentary Plays

Renowned Mexican theatre company presents two plays in downtown Riverside

Renowned Mexican theater company Lagartijas Tiradas al Sol (Lizards Lying in the Sun) will present two plays in downtown Riverside on May 11 at 7 p.m. at the Fox Entertainment Plaza’s Showcase (3635 Market St., Riverside). Admission is free and open to the public.

The first play, “Montserrat,” tells the story of director/actor Gabino Rodríguez’ search for his mother. It will be followed by the premiere of “El camino donde nosotros lloramos” (“The Path Where We Shed Tears”),

Free Admission to Premiere of Mexican Documentary Plays

Renowned Mexican theatre company presents two plays in downtown Riverside

Renowned Mexican theater company Lagartijas Tiradas al Sol (Lizards Lying in the Sun) will present two plays in downtown Riverside on May 11 at 7 p.m. at the Fox Entertainment Plaza’s Showcase (3635 Market St., Riverside). Admission is free and open to the public.

The first play, “Montserrat,” tells the story of director/actor Gabino Rodríguez’ search for his mother. It will be followed by the premiere of “El camino donde nosotros lloramos” (“The Path Where We Shed Tears”),
Based on the company’s travels.

Both plays are performed in Spanish with English subtitles. The presentations will be followed by an audience question-and-answer session. Seating is first come, first served. For more information, contact Julie Ward at jaward@ucr.edu or (951)827-3566, or visit ucmexus.ucr.edu/events/lagartijas-flyer.html.

The event is sponsored by UC MEXUS and the General Consulate of Mexico in San Bernardino.

---

What Does Past Global Warming Teach Us?

*Free public lecture at UC Riverside on April 23 will discuss an event 56 million years ago that best mirrors present-day warming*

By Iqbal Pittalwala

A biologist who uses fossil plants to reconstruct past climates and local environments will give a free public lecture on Wednesday, April 23, at UCR.

The talk by Scott L. Wing, curator of fossil plants in the Department of Paleobiology at the National Museum of Natural History (part of the Smithsonian Institution), is titled “Global Warming 56 Million Years Ago: What It Means for Us.”

The hourlong talk will begin at 5:30 p.m. in Conference Rooms D and E, UCR Extension Center (UNEX), 1200 University Ave. The lecture is hosted by the university’s College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences and the new Environmental Dynamics and GeoEcology (EDGE) Institute.

Parking at UNEX is free for lecture attendees.

“I am a biologist interested in evolution and ecology,” Wing said. “I study fossils because they provide a long-term record of evolutionary, ecological, and environmental change.”

Human emissions of greenhouse gases are altering environments and climate globally and will continue to do so for many thousands of years into the future. The past event that best mirrors present-day warming occurred 56 million years ago and is called the Paleocene-Eocene Thermal Maximum, or PETM. The PETM began with a geologically sudden release of an amount of carbon roughly similar to that in modern fossil fuel reserves, causing global warming of 4-8 degrees Celsius.

“I will talk about the PETM, explain what we know about its causes, and what we have learned about its effects on ecosystems in North America and elsewhere — effects that included rapid extirpation of local populations of plants, colonization of northern regions by tropical species, and, interestingly, rapid evolution,” Wing said. “The lessons of deep time have ever more relevance as we rapidly mold our planet in the ongoing geological epoch some call the Anthropocene, or Age of Humans.”

Humans are adding carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases to the atmosphere, which will change the global climate. Climatologists estimate the rate and magnitude of future climate change using general circulation models (GCMs). Wing’s paleoclimate reconstructions based on fossil plants are important to climatologists and, to the extent that they reveal GCM strengths and weaknesses, to policymakers and the public as well.
“How accurate are GCMs? Strictly, their predictions can only be tested by waiting to see how climate changes in the decades and centuries ahead, but some idea of their accuracy can be gained by comparing ‘postdictions’ for past times against climate reconstructions for those past times based on fossil plants,” Wing said.

He studies the composition and diversity of flora through time as both respond to changing conditions. His research, based largely on field work and collections, has focused on the Cretaceous and early Cenozoic, a period of globally warm climate when flowering plants were emerging as the dominant form of terrestrial life.

Wing collects data on fossil morphology and taxonomy and analyzes them through statistical characterization of trends in morphology, composition, or diversity of florae, and comparison of floral change with indicators of environmental change. He makes climatic interpretations based on fossil plants for comparison with paleoclimatic estimates derived from computer simulations.

He has a long-running project examining climatic and floral change across the Paleocene/Eocene boundary, a time of global climatic warming. The project has been directed at quantifying temperature and precipitation change and also change in floral composition and diversity over about 5 million years spanning the boundary. His field work has been in western North America, Pakistan, and Argentina.

In a second long-term project he studies the abundance and diversity of angiosperms in the Late Cretaceous. Angiosperms are the youngest major group of terrestrial organisms, prompting the question: how did they achieve such high diversity and abundance over a relatively brief geological interval (~100 – 60 million years ago)?

Wing is a member of a large team of paleobotanists who are adding data on fossil plant assemblages to a Web-accessible database maintained at the National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis. In the long run this database will allow scientists to better quantify changes in the diversity and composition of terrestrial florae across the whole history of life on land.

Educated at Yale University, Wing received his bachelor of science degree in 1976 and his doctorate in 1981.

For more information about his talk, please call (951) 827-3182 or email jennifer.reising@ucr.edu.

On May 7, Scott Doney of the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution will give a talk at UCR titled “Climate Change and the Ocean.”

Indigenous Choreographers at Riverside
April 29-May 2 conference welcomes Native dancers and scholars from the U.S., Canada and New Zealand

By Bettye Miller

ndigenous choreographers and dance scholars from the United States, Canada and New Zealand will gather at UCR April 29-May 2 to explore connections between traditional and contemporary dance and Native traditions, spiritual healing and understandings of how to live as a Native person in the world.

The conference, Indigenous Choreographers at Riverside, is free and open to the public. Parking is free for the May 1 performance at the Culver Center in downtown Riverside, 3824 Main St.

“The UCR Department of Dance has a history of being in the forefront of cultural dance studies,” said
Jacqueline Shea Murphy, chair of the dance department. A decade of indigenous contemporary choreography programs at UCR began in 2004 with the groundbreaking “Red Rhythms: Contemporary Methodologies in American Indian Dance” conference that was supported by a major grant from the Ford Foundation.

Indigenous Choreographers at Riverside is part of a yearlong celebration of UCR’s Ph.D. in critical dance studies. The conference is presented by the Department of Dance with additional support from the College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences Dean’s Office, the Culver Center of the Arts, the Costo Chair in American Indian Affairs, UCR Native American Education Programs, the National Dance Project, the University of California Institute for Research in the Arts, UCR’s departments of Ethnic Studies, Music, and Global Studies, the Center for Ideas and Society, and Native American Student Programs.

Jack Gray, a Maori choreographer, dancer and visiting assistant professor in the Department of Dance, said the conference creates opportunities for indigenous choreographers and dance scholars to explore issues of importance to Native people, such as questions of power, geography, guardianship of land and water, and the impact of institutions and political situations.

“It also gives us a chance to try some new things,” he said. “For example, in New Zealand, Maori people have the same ancestors and language, the same cosmology. There are different tribes and clans, but there is the same formal expectation of how you enter a room when we gather, and what you take into a room. If you don’t use the same things in contemporary dance, like feathers that are used in traditional dance, can you still do the dance and be respectful?”

Gray teaches and performs around the world, and is the founder of Atamira Dance Collective, a platform for contemporary Maori dance artists. He grew up in New Zealand in the 1970s and ‘80s, a time of heightened recognition of Maori culture, language and political movements.

“I grew up in an urban environment and away from my tribe,” he said. “I use dance to get closer to my traditions. ... It feels like many Native people in the U.S. don’t know who they are or are not saying who they are. We need to produce ways to be on the land, which is your birthright, and to be yourself. Dancers are the ones who pay respect and feel that on a practical level.”

The idea that artists “can activate indigenous ways of being and doing that are important to Indian people is both exciting and radical,” Shea Murphy said. “I am excited to have brought people here to teach a way of being that is contemporary and rooted in traditional ways of being in the world.”

Indigenous Choreographers at Riverside begins on Tuesday, April 29, at 4 p.m. with a welcoming event for indigenous choreographers, featuring performances and interactive discussions in ARTS 166. Among the conference highlights are:

**Wednesday, April 30:** Ceremonial donation of the archive of Rulan Tangen, founding artistic director and choreographer of DANCING EARTH Indigenous Contemporary Dance Creations. The ceremony presenting the archive — which includes programs, posters and videos of Tangen’s performances over many years — will begin at 2 p.m. in the Costo Room of Special Collections & University Archives, located on the fourth floor of the Tomás Rivera Library. Choreographer Daystar/Rosalie Jones will be a special guest. Jones, who was the first dancer in the U.S. to do indigenous choreography, donated her archive to UCR as part of the Red Rhythms: Contemporary Methodologies in American Indian Dance conference in 2004.

**Thursday, May 1:** “Evening of Indigenous Choreography,” 7-9 p.m., Culver Center of the Arts Atrium. Featured choreography will include: “Origi-Nation: Roots and Seeds,” DANCING EARTH, Rulan Tangen; “Elder Grandmother Speaks: Visioning in Life and Art,” Daystar/Rosalie Jones; “Turangawaewae — Standing Place,” Jack Gray, with performer Tria Andrews; “Something Bigger Than Me,” Bianca Hyslop, Atamira Dance
Company; and “We Wait in the Darkness,” Rosy Simas Danse.

**Friday, May 2:** Symposium, “Indigenous Dance and Indigenous Development and Poroporoake (Closing Circle),” 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in ARTS 166. The morning session will include a discussion of the Thursday evening performances with Michael Tsosie, an independent tribal scholar; UCR dance professors Wendy Rogers and Anthea Kraut; Karyn Recollet of Sudbury University; and Mique’l Dangeli of the University of British Columbia. The afternoon discussion will focus on structures and support for indigenous dance, with participants Cliff Trafzer, who holds the UCR Costo Chair in American Indian Affairs; Michelle Raheja associate professor of English; Kim Marcus, Serrano and Cahuilla traditional ceremonial leader; and Shannon Wray of the Native Performing and Media Arts Group.

---

**GETTING PERSONAL**

**JC Allen**

*Job: Manager of Mail Services*

Behind every UCR package, invitation and even acceptance letter, there is the Mail Services Department, which includes messenger services and the campus post office. Tucked away behind Parking Lot 23, the UCR Postal Center— with its stacks of papers, boxes, trays and bins— is managed by JC Allen Sr.

Proudly working at UCR for 14 years, Allen is responsible for all of the mail processing in and out of the campus.

“My typical day is getting to the Mail Center about 8 a.m. in the morning where the Mail Services team is already busy processing incoming mail received from the U.S. Post Office. This mail is sorted for delivery to each campus department. Then, we pick up and process mail that is being sent from the campus. We’re the last leg of the communication line between the university and potential students,” Allen explained.

Allen’s job is much more than stamps and addresses. He says that it provides him an opportunity to give back a little of the blessing that he has received from UCR.

“It’s been a pleasure working here. The basic goal of a university is educating its students. It’s extremely rewarding to know that you have a little piece to do with that,” Allen said.

“I have served in the U.S. Marine Corps, I have worked in the aerospace industry, with city government in Los Angeles and Long Beach. I would have to say, in comparison, that UCR has been the most enjoyable stop of my journey.”

When Allen is not busy managing Mail Services, he enjoys spending time with his wife and best friend, Kathy.

“We try to spend as much time as we can together. Our children are all grown and independent and that is a good thing. ... Kathy and I greatly enjoy our time at Second Baptist Church in Riverside, where I serve as Associate Pastor. My wife was a professional bowler and continues to be very active in the sport, so we spend much of our time at bowling tournaments together,” said Allen.
The Top: Volunteers Share Their Best Moments at Commencement

By Bethanie Le

In the Top, we present a list of UCR staff and faculty favorites — from restaurants to Zen gardens to events. This week, we’re highlighting staffers' favorite moments from their experience volunteering at Commencement.

“As an academic advisor, I meet students as they arrive at UCR. Over a few years I witness them grow in confidence, knowledge, strength, and understanding. I volunteer to help them and their families mark and celebrate their achievements, to see the smiles and cheers earned through focused effort and sacrifice, and to offer my congratulations with more than just words. I volunteer to see the students I have advised one last time, to say goodbye, wish them well, and thank them for so many entertaining memories.” — Gerardo R. Sanchez, academic advisor, Department of Philosophy

“It is exciting to be a part of this momentous occasion for our students. I love hearing ‘Pomp’ and ‘Circumstance’ and get a chill seeing all the students process in.” — Tamra Johnson, human resources manager, School of Business Administration

“Many years ago I worked at the Campus Bookstore and assisted students finding the correct textbooks for their classes. I befriended a couple of students who had physical challenges. I met them and worked with them at different times, but during their time at UCR they became the best of friends. One was blind and the other was wheelchair-bound. But, what I saw was the one giving sight to one and legs to the other. The year they graduated, I had tears in my eyes as I saw the one in the wheelchair being pushed by the one without sight going across the stage. A true picture of friends helping friends, eyes for one, legs for the other, and guidance for both. That is my most unforgettable Commencement moment.” — Denise Correll, lead college advisor, CNAS

“The personal benefit of volunteering is that so many people participate to make each ceremony special for the graduates. It’s incredible to see it all come together.” — Alyssa Cotter, assistant director of programs, Office of Alumni & Constituent Relations

If you’d like to volunteer for Commencement 2014, email Laura Blevins laura.blevins@ucr.edu or call (951) 827-3144. Registration starts in May.

Bohnnett Foundation Grant Allows UCR LGBT Resource Center to Upgrade Computer Center

CyberCenter provides LGBT students a safe, nonjudgmental space

By Ross French

A grant from the David Bohnett Foundation will allow the Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Resource Center at UCR to continue to offer LGBT students a safe place to do research and academic work, student group projects, job searches and social networking.

A grand re-opening celebration for the David Bohnett CyberCenter, located within the LGBT Resource Center in Costo Hall, was held on April 9. Paul Moore, program officer for the David Bohnett Foundation, was in attendance to present the grant, which includes six new iMac computers, a printer and a scanner.

“Since the UCR CyberCenter opened in 2006, it has become more than a resource. It is really an integral part of
UC Riverside’s LGBT community spaces,” said LGBT Resource Center Director Nancy Tubbs. “Many students, including those who are not out to their families or fellow students, are very careful about people seeing their Internet history. They can be uncomfortable writing papers on LGBT issues or doing research on the subject. The CyberCenter provides a safe place for students to access the internet and it is great outreach for students who take advantage of printer access and other resources.”

“To me, the cyber center establishes a portal to which some students can access their educational material in situations where they are unable to do so,” said Vincent La, a second-year medical school student. “It allows them to get their class notes, study guides, and other resources in a nonjudgmental space.”

There are 60 active CyberCenters funded nationwide, including locations in Tulsa, Orlando, Salt Lake City, Dallas, Tucson, Seattle, San Francisco, Los Angeles and New York City. Each is equipped with five to 10 computer stations loaded with a broad range of updated programs and software for business and personal computing. Computer access is always free and training on job searching, best Internet practices and online security is readily available.

UCR’s Stacey Grady Overcomes Cancer, Arthritis to Finish in Boston Marathon

Ten months after surgery, the director of the Well competes in the prestigious race

By Ross French

Runners who want to compete in the legendary Boston Marathon must overcome a variety of challenges. But UC Riverside staff member Stacey Grady overcame all of those and more to fulfill her dream of being one of the 36,000 runners competing in the annual Patriot Day race, held on April 21.

Grady, who frequently runs five miles or more with a group of UCR employees during her lunch breaks from her job as director of the UCR student-wellness center The Well, finished the 26.2 mile course in a time of 4:10.03, placing 20,030th overall and 8,036th among women. She did this despite a lifelong battle with osteoarthritis and being just 10 months removed from surgery for colon cancer.

“I’ve just been working to prove that you can overcome the odds,” Grady said by phone after the race Monday. “The crowds out there were absolutely phenomenal. It was an amazing experience.”

At the age of 11, Grady was diagnosed with osteoarthritis, a disease that causes cartilage to become stiff and lose elasticity, resulting in pain, swelling and decreased range of motion. By the age of 30, Grady was beginning to show symptoms of the disease and she began a series of “significant treatments,” including bone marrow treatments every 12-18 months. Running short and medium distances help to keep her strong and fit and to alleviate the symptoms of the disease.

A frequent competitor in 10K and half-marathons throughout Southern California, she set her mind on running the Boston Marathon in 2011, following a strong performance in the San Diego Rock & Roll Half Marathon. She qualified for Boston on her third attempt in February 2013, finishing the Surf City Marathon in San Diego in a time of 3:39.42 – just under the qualifying cut-off time of 3:45 – despite making a stop for a therapist to work on her knees.

But just a few months later, in May 2013, Grady took ill and passed out while sitting in her office following an on-campus run.

“I was feeling fine and I came into the office that afternoon and we were supposed to take a hike to the ‘C’ that
evening,” she said. “I blacked out. They took me to the hospital and found internal bleeding and shortly thereafter I was diagnosed with colon cancer.”

Doctors quickly scheduled surgery and on June 21, 2013, the cancer was removed. Grady then faced a four-month recovery period where she was limited to speedwalking to treat her arthritis. Her oncologists began coordinating with her arthritis experts to find a strategy that would allow her to continue her therapeutic walks and runs without hindering the cancer treatments and she began running again.

In October 2013 she started running longer distances, building up her mileage toward half-marathons. In January she won her age group in the Tinker Bell 10K at Disneyland in Anaheim, then followed it with a strong 1:44:23 in the half-marathon the next day. Grady then repeated the 10K/half-marathon duo in mid-March at the Princess Half Marathon weekend at Disney World in Florida, finishing the 10K in 46:36 and the half in 1:51:58. Just eight weeks before the marathon, doctors cleared her to increase her distances and gave her the OK to run in Boston.

“I came into Boston with a 20-mile and 18-mile training runs,” she said. “I wasn’t trained up, but the goal was to come out, have the experience and cross the finish line.”

She also had to promise her doctors that she would make stops along the way at medical aid tents.

“I had a few medical stops. The plan was always to do some medical check-ins along the way,” she said. “They fixed me up with ice at miles 20, 22, 24 and 26. I had an awesome care team taking care of me out there. They got me through it, so it was good.”

Grady gave thanks to her husband, whom she calls her No. 1 supporter. She also gave thanks to her campus running group, which includes Robert Smith, Alvin Xu, Leslie Rose, Scot Metoyer, Thomas Barnett, Tony Ontiveros, Hadeel Elamin, Jennifer Miller and Wendy Hatfield.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

*UC Sponsors California Dream Loan Program Bill*

UC sponsored SB 1210, a bill to create the California Dream Loan Program. The program aims to help undocumented students who are ineligible for federal financial aid. The bill could potentially benefit more than 2,000 UC students. To read more, go to [www.universityofcalifornia.edu/news/uc-sponsors-bill-close-financial-aid-gap-undocumented-students](http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/news/uc-sponsors-bill-close-financial-aid-gap-undocumented-students).

*Free Nicotine Replacement Therapy and Tobacco Cessation Support Available*

Free Nicotine Replacement Therapy and Tobacco Cessation support in the form of the nicotine gum (4 mg) and nicotine patch (21 mg) are now available to all staff, faculty, and students. Improve your chances of quitting; for more information, go to [tobaccofree.ucr.edu](http://tobaccofree.ucr.edu).

*Free Screening of “Girl Rising” Scheduled for Thursday, April 24*

UC Riverside Extension and Osher Lifelong Learning Institute will present the documentary “Girl Rising,” which shows how educating girls and young women in the developing world can transform families, communities and countries while breaking the cycle of poverty. The screening will be held Thursday, April 24, 6 p.m. in the UCR University Theater. Admission is free, but a reservation is required. Reservations can be made by calling (951) 827-4105. Free parking is available.
Who Says?

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

“The aging of American farmers coupled with fewer students in agriculture studies and the fact that so many younger people don’t look at it as a profession to get into is very worrisome.”

*Milt McGiffen, plant physiologist, concerned about the future of American farming due to the scarcity of young farmers.*

**MSNBC.COM**

“The reason we write fiction is to make you feel something.”

*Susan Straight, professor of creative writing, on the end goal that she wants to achieve with her writing*

**LOS ANGELES TIMES**

“The importance of the genome architecture was initially thought to be critical for only higher eukaryotes. But we found, to our surprise, that the genome architecture is closely linked to virulence even in the case of the malaria parasite.”

*Karine Le Roch, associate professor of cell biology, on the UCR-led research where a 3D model of the human malaria parasite genome at three different stages has been generated*

**RED ORBIT**

“In the past, Washington-based insider groups worried that being too critical of the president would endanger efforts to pass immigration reform. With immigration reform stalled, attention is shifting to deportations.”

*Karthick Ramakrishnan, associate professor of political science, on the multiple protests around the U.S. urging President Barack Obama to issue a moratorium on deportations*

**THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE**

“I think the more people see about costs, the better. So much of health care costs are sort of hidden; they get passed through insurance, passed on to workers. So I don’t mind a little consumer outrage at the high treatment costs.”

*Mindy Marks, associate professor of economics, on her support for the release of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services’ data, saying that it could help patients make better decisions about care*

**ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER**

“What this paper is about is this idea that traditionally in civil-rights movements, groups that press for rights are routinely told don’t go too fast, don’t go too far or there will be backlash.”

*Benjamin Bishin, associate professor of political science, on his co-authored paper, ‘Testing Backlash: The Influence of Political Institutions on Public Attitudes Toward Gay Rights’*

**WINDY CITY MEDIA GROUP**
“If you don’t have a vector like a psyllid, no big deal, but when you have a vector alive and moving around, then you have a big problem.”

_Elisabeth Grafton-Cardwell, research entomologist, on how the presence of psyllid poses a serious risk_

**NEW TIMES**

---

**Research and Scholarship**

**Graduate Student Recognized**

At the Society of Toxicology (SOT) annual meeting, which took place in March 2014 in Arizona, Virunya Bhat, a graduate student working in the lab of David Eastmond, a professor of cell biology and neuroscience, was recognized for writing “One of the Best Papers Advancing the Science of Risk Assessment” in 2013. Each of the authors received a certificate.

Bhat and Eastmond conducted the research in collaboration with Susan Hester and Stephen Nesnow of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. The research paper describes a comparison of risk assessment estimates derived using gene expression data and those derived from more traditional toxicological endpoints.

At the SOT meeting, Bhat and Hester organized a workshop titled “Toxicogenomic Technologies Can Improve the Assessment of Xenobiotic-induced Liver Injury and Inform Human Relevance.” They also chaired the session.

Bhat, a Ph.D. candidate in the environmental toxicology graduate program, is the recipient of the 2013 Perry J. Gehring award for the best graduate student abstract in risk assessment. Under Eastmond’s direction, her dissertation project is a collaboration with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and deals with incorporating newer data types, such as toxicogenomic data, into the chemical risk assessment process to make it more efficient and less reliant on long-term animal testing.

**Eighteen Graduate Students Honored With National Science Foundation Fellowships**

Eighteen graduate students at UCR have received Graduate Research Fellowships (GRFs) from the National Science Foundation (NSF) this year. The highly competitive fellowships are awarded to individuals early in their graduate careers based on their demonstrated potential for significant achievements in science and engineering.

The NSF awards the GRFs directly to graduate students selected through a national competition. The NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program provides three years of financial support within a five-year fellowship period ($32,000 annual stipend and $12,000 cost-of-education allowance to the graduate institution) for graduate study that is in a field within NSF’s mission and leads to a research-based master’s or doctoral degree.

The UCR students who won the GRFs this year are:

- Osinachi Ajoku (geosciences)
- Christina Armenta (psychology)
- Michelle Chebier (environmental engineering)
- Javier Fajardo (chemistry)
- Oscar Gonzalez (neurosciences)
- Eric Robert Lucien Gordon (entomology)
- Denise Jackson (microbiology)
- Wei Li (environmental engineering)
- Julisa Amanda McCoy (sociology)
- Elizabeth Ann McDevitt (psychology)
- Nicholas Nobles (computer science and engineering)
- Brooke Elizabeth Pickett (ecology)
- Michael Ryan Pina (organismal biology)
- Edwin Sabas Preciado (material science)
- Sarah Marie Reinhard (neuroscience)
- Peter Michael Ruberton (psychology)
- Kevin Fernando Welzel (entomology)
- Jacklyn Whitehead (bioengineering)
UC Riverside lab offers Brazilian undergraduates an opportunity to do high-quality research

Three undergraduate students from Brazil spent nearly three months doing research in the laboratory of David Reznick, a distinguished professor of biology at UCR. The students, who are supported by an international Research Experience for Undergraduates grant from the National Science Foundation, left the United States on April 16. Two more students from Brazil will visit Reznick’s lab this summer and stay for three months.

The three students — Diego Rafael dos Santos Peixoto and Marianna de Miranda Gonzalez from the Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro; and Priscila Wilker Cortes from the Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro Faculdade de Formação de Professores — arrived in the U.S. on Jan. 23 to do research work that is part of Reznick’s ongoing study of the evolution of placentas in the fish family Poeciliidae.

Awards and Honors

Matt Daugherty Receives PBESA Award

Matt Daugherty, an assistant extension specialist in the Department of Entomology, received the PBESA Plant-Insect Ecosystems Award from the Pacific Branch of the Entomological Society of America (PBESA) on April 8. Given to him in Tucson, Ariz., the award was accompanied by a plaque.

The award is given to an individual with outstanding accomplishments in the study of insect interrelationships with plants.

Daugherty’s research focuses on population and community ecology, particularly as they relate to the management of non-native arthropod pests and pathogens.