Home Sweet Home

Former UCR baseball player Troy Percival helped the Angels win the World Series. Now he will be the head coach for the Highlanders.

In July, Director of Intercollegiate Athletics Jim Wooldridge named former Highlanders standout and 14-year major leaguer Troy Percival the fifth head baseball coach in UC Riverside’s six decades of NCAA competition.

“As we went through the hiring process for this position, it became clear that we had a special candidate in Troy Percival,” said Wooldridge. “First and foremost, a coach is a teacher and a leader, and Troy’s former coaches and teammates from both his collegiate and professional playing days all spoke very highly of him in that regard.

“Troy is a also winner who has seen just about everything one can as a baseball player at every level of competition. When he speaks to his team, his players know that he speaks from experience.

“And lastly, Troy is Riverside. He has lifelong ties to the university, to the community, and to the region, and that is of particular importance as it relates to recruiting and generating interest and excitement around our baseball program here in the Inland Empire.

“All of this combines to make Troy the perfect coach to lead UC Riverside Baseball back to the top of the Big West Conference and to the NCAA Tournament.”

Percival was a catcher during his three years with the Highlanders, and was drafted after his junior year by the California Angels in the sixth round of the 1990 Amateur Draft.

Following a year as a catcher in the minors, Percival was converted to a relief pitcher, and during his rookie season of 1995, he finished fourth in American League Rookie of the Year balloting, going 3-2 with three saves and a 1.95 ERA, striking out 94 batters in 74.0 innings. The Angels made him their full-time closer in 1996, and he rewarded them by recording 36 saves and striking out 100 batters in 74.0 innings. Percival earned his first of four All-Star nods that season as he finished fourth in the league in saves.
Two years later he would notch 42 saves, the second most in Angels history at the time, en route to his second All-Star selection. Percival recorded 30 or more saves in each of the next six seasons, including the 2002 campaign where he went 4-1 with a 1.92 ERA and 40 saves. He also was credited with seven saves during the Angels 2002 postseason run, including Game 7 of the Halos’ World Series victory over the San Francisco Giants.

By the time his professional career ended in 2009, Percival had 358 saves on his big-league résumé, which is still ninth on Major League Baseball’s all-time career list.

“I’m really excited about the opportunity to take over as the head baseball coach at UC Riverside, and I’d like to thank Jim Wooldridge for the confidence he has shown in me,” said Percival. “It’s been a dream of mine for quite some time to be a collegiate head coach. I truly believe that the most formative years for a baseball player are your collegiate years, and I can’t think of any better place to live out that dream that back here at UCR.

“I played at UCR, I’ve remained active with the program over the years, and I know the importance that Highlanders baseball has in the community. Part of what makes UC Riverside Baseball so special is that the coaches never stop coaching. They are still there for you long after you’ve left the program, and I plan on carrying on that legacy during my time here as head coach.

“On the field, our goal is to take the program to a level where every year we are battling for a Big West Conference Championship and a trip to the NCAA Tournament, and I believe that is well within our reach.”

Since his retirement from major league baseball, Percival has worked as a volunteer pitching coach for Riverside Poly High School (2010-12), and for the past two seasons has been the head coach at his high school alma mater, Moreno Valley High School. He also spent a year working in the Angels organization as a roving pitching instructor.

Percival has remained active with the Highlanders since being drafted by the Angels, working out with the team in preparation for spring training, and attending alumni games and golf fundraisers for the program. He also famously paid for and built the Highlanders’ locker rooms at the Riverside Sports Complex prior to the 2007 season.

Fans who purchase baseball season tickets in the next 40 days will receive a free Troy Percival autographed baseball, and will be entered to win a trip to an Angels game with Coach Percival. To purchase tickets, or for additional information, please contact the UC Riverside Athletics Ticketing Department at (951) 827-4653.

The UC Riverside Baseball Team is coming off of a 2014 campaign that saw the Highlanders finish fifth in the Big West Conference, which earned four NCAA postseason berths. UCR’s 26 wins on the year came against the 18th toughest schedule in the nation as ranked by boydsworld.com. That win total includes eight victories over 2014 NCAA Tournament Teams. UC Riverside had six players selected in the 2013 Major League Baseball First-Year Player Draft, and another who signed as a free agent.

**Chancellor Kim Wilcox Participates in D.C. College Access Workshop**

*Kim Wilcox is among dozens of national education leaders who attended the White House summit*

By James Grant

Chancellor Kim A. Wilcox was one of dozens of national education leaders from 10 states who participated...
in a White House Workshop on College Opportunity on July 29. He was part of the delegation sent to the summit from Riverside County.

The event, convened by U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, brought together superintendents and school district representatives, higher education officials, and business and community leaders from various districts to discuss ways to collaborate to increase college access and success. Various school districts from Riverside County to Albany County, N.Y., participated.

“Bold action is needed to develop innovative commitments that will promote real progress toward college completion and help us again lead the world in college graduation,” said Secretary Duncan. “The vision and actions shared during today’s session will help move us in that direction and help open the doors of college to every American.”

Riverside County participants included:

• Kenn Young, superintendent, Riverside County Office of Education
• Dr. Judy White, superintendent, Moreno Valley Unified School District
• Michael McCormick, assistant superintendent, Val Verde Unified School District
• Mark LeNoir, principal in residence, Riverside County Office of Education
• Dr. Sandra Mayo, president, Moreno Valley College, Riverside Community College District
• Ms. Robin Kisinger, California Division director, Advancement Via Individual Determination
• Pat Kelly, superintendent, Murrieta Valley Unified School District
• Tim Ritter, superintendent, Temecula Valley Unified School District
• Kim A. Wilcox, chancellor, UC Riverside

Earlier this year, the White House and the Department of Education began working with leaders from more than 140 colleges, nonprofits, foundations and other organizations to spur new action in:

• Connecting more low-income students to a college that is a good fit for them and ensuring that more graduate.
• Increasing the pool of students preparing for college through early interventions.
• Leveling the playing field in college advising and SAT/ACT test preparation.
• Strengthening remediation to help academically underprepared students progress through and complete college.

The meeting culled some of the best ideas from around the country as the White House and U.S. Department of Education continue to collaborate on how to make college more affordable and within reach of every American.
The Top: Seven Best Moments of UCR Baseball

By Bethanie Le

Welcome to The Top!

Each issue, we present a list of UCR staff and faculty favorites — from walking spots to gardens to events. In honor of Troy Percival being named the new UCR head baseball coach, we’re highlighting the seven best moments of UCR baseball history.

If you have a favorite spot you’d like featured or an activity you’d like to share, email lille.bose@ucr.edu

1. 1965: UCR’s First Scholarship Athlete

John Lowenstein was not only UCR’s first scholarship athlete, but by 1970 he was also the first former Highlander to play in a Major League Baseball game. Lowenstein played for three years with the Highlanders before getting drafted by the Cleveland Indians. He went on to have a 16-year career, winning the World Series in 1983 with the Baltimore Orioles.

2. 1967: First Annual Riverside Baseball Invitational (RBI) Tournament

The Highlanders hosted UCLA, BYU, Mississippi State, Yale, Wyoming, Ohio State and Washington in the first annual Riverside Baseball Invitational Tournament. The tournament would continue for more than two decades, becoming the marquee college baseball event in Southern California. It drew some of the top Division I teams from across the nation. The list of players who took the field in the tournament is a veritable Who’s Who of college baseball: Barry Bonds of Arizona State University (ASU), Craig Biggio of Seton Hall, Bob Welch of Eastern Michigan, Hubie Brooks of ASU, Wally Joyner of Brigham Young University (BYU), Fred Lynn of University of Southern California, and Jack Morris of BYU.

3. 1975: Highlanders’ First Ever NCAA Tournament

In his second season as head coach, Jack Smitheran guided the Highlanders to their first NCAA Tournament appearance. Along the way, they beat Arizona and Stanford and claimed that year’s RBI Tournament championship. In the NCAA Tournament, they defeated Chapman in the West Regional before falling to Cal State Northridge.

4. 1977: Winning a National Championship

UC Riverside won its first national championship posting a 43-19 overall record. Future major leaguers Eric Show (Padres) and Steve Lubratisch (Angels) were key members of the squad, which defeated Eckerd 4-1 in the championship game.

5. 1982: Highlanders Win Their Second National Title

The Highlanders won their second national title going 35-24, including a perfect 7-0 in the NCAA Tournament, which was hosted on UCR’s home field. The final victory of the season came in the form of a 10-1 win over Florida Southern. Future big league pitcher Calvin Jones (Mariners) was a member of that championship team.

6. 2003: Record of Wins in a Season

In the program’s second season after making the transition to Division I, the Highlanders earned their first
NCAA Tournament appearance and became the first UCR team to accomplish the feat. UCR went 41-17 setting a program Division I-era record for wins in a season, and finished in third place in the Big West Conference with a 14-7 record.

7. 2007: Highlanders Win Their First Big West Conference Championship

The Highlanders won their first Big West Conference Championship and made their second trip to the Division I NCAA Baseball Tournament. That team went 38-21, including a 16-5 record in conference play, beating the likes of nationally ranked USC and UCLA while sweeping No. 14 Cal State Fullerton and No. 11 Long Beach State.

Princeton Review Includes UC Riverside Among Top 379 Colleges in Annual Guide

Just 15 percent of America’s 2,500 four-year colleges are profiled in the book

By Ross French

UCR is included in the 2015 edition of the Princeton Review’s annual college guide, “The Best 379 Colleges.”

The survey includes detailed profiles of the colleges with rating scores for all schools in eight categories. The book also includes 62 ranking lists of top-20 schools in a variety of categories based on The Princeton Review’s surveys of 130,000 students attending the colleges, an average of 343 per campus.

Only 15 percent of the nation’s 2,500 four-year colleges are profiled in what the Princeton Review calls its flagship college guide.

“We base our choices primarily on data we obtain in our annual surveys of administrators at these schools and at hundreds of other colleges,” said Rob Franek, Princeton Review’s senior vice president. “We take into account input we get from our staff, our 27-member National College Counselor Advisory Board, our personal visits to schools, and the sizable amount of feedback we get from our surveys of students attending these schools. We also work to maintain a wide representation of colleges in the book by region, size, selectivity and character.”

UCR was praised widely by those students who participated in the survey. The introduction in the book reads: “Students at the University of California—Riverside are in love with many things—the ‘small class size’ and ‘beautiful campus’ come up often—but the educators here receive the lion’s share of the praise. Professors here are ‘very skilled in teaching’ and ‘have passion to teach and help their students.’”

The campus was also complimented for its diverse student body and commitment to “make the world a better place.” Students were described as “friendly, engaging, outgoing and eager to learn,” and graduates were described as “hav(ing) integrity, accountability, excellence and respect.”

The H.N. and Frances C. Berger Foundation is funding an innovative scholarship program that aims to bring back a Coachella Valley high school graduate as one of the area’s trained physicians. The gift to the School of Medicine was awarded as a mission-based scholarship to incoming medical student Jay Thetford, a resident of Cathedral City, who intends to practice medicine in the Coachella Valley.

“A key strategy for keeping UCR-educated physicians in our region is helping students alleviate the cost of medical school through these mission-based scholarships,” said G. Richard Olds, UCR vice chancellor of health affairs and dean of the School of Medicine. “We are grateful for the Berger Foundation’s gift, which will help a very promising medical student from the Coachella Valley fulfill his dream of becoming a doctor.”

Thetford, who is beginning medical school at UC Riverside this month, said he is interested in practicing in a primary care specialty in the Coachella Valley following medical school and residency training. “I see the Coachella Valley as an excellent place to practice medicine, not only because of my personal connection having grown up there, but also because I am driven by expanding the human right to health and improving care for vulnerable populations,” he said.

A graduate of Cathedral City High School and UC Berkeley with a major in molecular biology and a minor in global poverty and practice, Thetford said his experience in the medical school’s Future Physician Leaders program and at UC Berkeley “amplified” his commitment to serve underserved patient populations. Many areas of the Coachella Valley have severe physician shortages. For instance, the Coachella Valley Healthcare Initiative in 2010 found that Desert Hot Springs has just one physician for every 9,440 residents.

“One of my primary responsibilities as a doctor will be to advocate for the wellbeing of my community and facilitate progress toward the expansion of health care,” Thetford said.

The scholarship funded by the Berger Foundation will help him achieve that goal by providing the Coachella Valley native the cost of medical school tuition for four years.

“We believe this scholarship is an investment in medical care in the Coachella Valley,” said Christopher M. McGuire, vice president of programs for the H.N. and Frances C. Berger Foundation. “It’s important for the vitality of our community to create opportunities for our young people to receive professional training and then remain here providing those services.”

The medical school’s mission-based scholarship program is one example of the school’s strategy to address workforce shortages by retaining UCR-trained physicians in the region. The Berger Foundation-funded scholarship is for a student who commits to practice medicine in the Coachella Valley. Other scholarships that are part of the program provide an incentive for students to alleviate medical school debt while remaining in Inland Southern California for at least five years following medical school education and residency training. Similar scholarships have been established by First 5 Riverside and by a Riverside couple, Dave and Nina Mitchell.

Should the recipients of the mission-based scholarships practice outside of the region before the end of those five years, the scholarships become repayable loans.

The H.N. and Frances C. Berger Foundation is a private foundation that generously supports educational and other charitable projects. Since 1988, the Berger Foundation has contributed over $400 million to charities throughout Southern California and the United States.
Public Policy Professor Named to State Commission

Karthick Ramakrishnan begins term on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs board

By Bettye Miller

UC Riverside political scientist Karthick Ramakrishnan has been appointed to a four-year term on the California Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs, effective Aug. 4.

Ramakrishnan, a professor of public policy and political science, was appointed by Assembly Speaker Toni G. Atkins (D-San Diego) to the 13-member commission. The board works to elevate the political, economic, and social issues of Asians and Pacific Islanders by contributing to and strengthening how state government addresses the needs, issues, and concerns of the diverse and complex Asian and Pacific Islander American communities.

“Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders are the fastest-growing groups in California, and I am thrilled to join the commission to be able to offer my research expertise and advice on how to address the diverse needs of this population,” Ramakrishnan said.

He also noted that one-third of the Asian-American population in the United States lives in California, so what happens to the population here has very significant national ramifications for the group.

Ramakrishnan directs the Immigration Research Group at UC Riverside, which is relevant to understanding the Asian-American population.

“Asian-Americans are, by far, the most heavily immigrant racial group in the United States,” he noted, adding that issues like language access, naturalization, and barriers to voter registration remain key factors that are important to increasing civic engagement among this group.

Ramakrishnan is a former research fellow at the Public Policy Institute of California. His research includes civic participation, immigration policy, and Latino and Asian-American politics. He holds memberships in the Association of Asian American Studies and the University of California Asian American and Pacific Islander Policy Multicampus Research Program. Ramakrishnan also directs the National Asian American Survey and AAPIdata.com, a Web resource that seeks to make data and reports more accessible to journalists and policy makers.

Twilight Garden Tour Offered

Tour is set for Aug. 15 at the botanic gardens

By Sean Nealon

Taking advantage of the cooler summer evenings, the Friends of the UCR Botanic Gardens will host “Twilight Tours” at 6:30 p.m., Friday, Aug. 15, at the gardens.

The docent-led tour will last about two hours and will be followed by desserts and refreshments on the patio. The cost is $7 for Friends of UCRBG members and $10 for nonmembers, payable at the door. There is also a nominal fee for parking on campus.

Reservations are required. Call (951) 784-6962 or email ucrbg@ucr.edu. For more information about this
event or the UCR Botanic Gardens, contact the Gardens at (951) 784-6962 or ucrbg@ucr.edu or mail to Botanic
Gardens, University of California, Riverside, CA, 92521-0124.

Getting Personal: Neal Malik

*Job: Registered Dietician, Housing, Dining, & Residential Services*

All it took was one major diagnosis. That was enough for Neal Malik to completely reorient his life and be-
come a registered dietician so he could teach others about their health.

“When I was in college during my sophomore year, I was diagnosed with a chronic disease because I was not follow-
ing a healthy lifestyle at the time,” said Malik. “It was the worst thing and the best thing that has ever happened to me
because it has changed my trajectory in life. From then on, I wanted to help others prevent diseases and to just help them
feel better.”

Today, Malik works in Dining Services and utilizes his experience in college to in-
spire the UCR population to live healthier.

“I will always have the disease and will always have to take medication for it. But by improving my lifestyle, my doctors have decreased my medication. I am living proof that by changing your habits, you can really make yourself feel better,” he states.

As a registered dietician, Malik’s day consists of multiple projects that he tackles one at a time. His primary
responsibility is to check that UCR’s nutrition database, which contains all of the recipes of any meal served on
campus, is up-to-date and accurate. Additional services that Malik performs in his occupation include: advis-
ing chefs on food purchases, revising menus of UCR’s residential cafeterias, and inventing nutrition education
programs with topics that range from portion sizes to healthier eating habits.

“My favorite thing about my job is the creativity because I really get to use my expertise, knowledge and
experience to put together fantastic programs for faculty, staff and students,” Malik says.

Amid his many projects, Malik makes it a priority to keep an eye out for student health by creating a safe
environment for students with food allergies and to properly inform them about wellness and healthy eating.
Malik’s ultimate goal is to foster an overall healthier campus culture for everyone.

Malik views his job as a lifestyle instead of an occupation because during his free time, he applies what he
 teaches on a day-to-day basis.

“Most of my free time is spent practicing what I preach. So one of my hobbies is working out at the Student
Rec Center. I’m there pretty much every day — they know me there!” he says, chuckling.
Beyond fitness, Malik also enjoys playing guitar, an instrument that he has been practicing for 15 years, (in his college years, he was the guitar-player for a band called My Favorite Band), watching TED talks and traveling with his wife.

“My wife and I try to explore somewhere new every six months or so. Australia and Thailand are the two big places that are on our bucket list. Costa Rica has been on our list for a while and now we’re going to go this December,” Malik declares excitedly. — *Bethanie Le*

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**DID YOU KNOW?**

**UCR Helps UCLA After Water Main Break**

A 93-year-old water main broke on July 29 near UCLA, sending an estimated 20 million gallons of water onto the campus. The 30-inch water pipe is controlled by the L.A. Department of Water and Power. While no injuries were reported from the flooding, the ensuing flood made national news and caused extensive damage to Pauley Pavilion and many other structures on campus, including three parking garages.

More than 900 vehicles — owned by staff, faculty, students and visitors — were damaged by the flood. To help the owners find out more about filing claims with the DWP and answer other insurance-related questions, Erica Healander and Richard Rycraw with the UCR Office of Risk Management headed over to UCLA to assist its staff. According to Healander, “We went out there just because we like to help other campuses in need in hope that they’ll return the favor if we ever need it.”

**Riverside Ranked 8th Coolest City in America by Forbes**

Riverside has been ranked eighth in Forbes magazine’s list of coolest cities in America. The ranking was based on things like diversity, local attractions, age, population growth and the arts. There was no human polling. Also on the list were cities such as Austin, San Francisco, Denver and Los Angeles — which tied for 16 with San Jose.

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**Awards and Honors**

**Cardullo Named Howard H Hays Chair and Director of University Honors**

Richard Cardullo, professor of biology and a distinguished teaching professor at UCR was named the Howard H. Hays Chair and director of University Honors on August 4.

The chair endowment will provide funding in support of research in conjunction with University Honors and in accordance with University policy.

Cardullo’s research has focused on the molecular, cellular, and physical determinants of fertilization in a variety of animal systems. He has also conducted research on how people learn, especially in K-12 and undergraduate environments. His research has been published in both scientific and educational journals. As a member of the University Honors Faculty Committee, he has contributed to a number of classes in UCR Honors, including ignition seminars on the nature of creativity and discovery, lectures on epistemology, as well as classes on the nature of research. In 1999 he was awarded the UCR Academic Senate Distinguished Teaching Award and in 2007 was appointed to the UCR Academy of Distinguished Teachers.
Cardullo has held a number of leadership positions both on and off campus. He was the graduate advisor for both recruitment and continuing students in the department of biology, served as the department chair for Biology from 2004-2009 and was the divisional dean of life sciences in the College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences (CNAS) from 2010-2012. He has been the project director for three graduate training grants and is currently the faculty director for the UCR California Alliance for Minority Participation (CAMP) and the CNAS faculty director for the STEM Pathway programs.

At a national level, Cardullo has been actively engaged in efforts to transform how faculty teach and students learn. In 2006 he was recognized as a National Academy of Sciences Life Science Leadership Fellow, and in 2012 he was selected as one of 40 educators nationally as an HHMI/NIH/NSF Vision and Change Fellow.

He currently serves as the chair of the board of the Biological Sciences Curriculum Study in Colorado Springs, a nonprofit organization that researches the teaching and learning of science, and is the president of the Pacific Division of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Grad Student Wins Thomas M. Frost Award for Excellence

On May 2014, Ashkaan K. Fahimipour, a fourth-year Ph.D. student in the Department of Biology, and a colleague published a research paper in Ecology Letters, a top journal in the field of ecology, in which they manipulated many ecosystems at once to examine how the connections between species change over time.

That paper, titled “The Dynamics of Assembling Food Webs,” has now been selected as this year’s recipient of the Thomas M. Frost Award for Excellence in Graduate Research, sponsored by the aquatic section of the Ecological Society of America. Named for a creative scientist, the prize honors his commitment to aquatic ecology and graduate student education.

Fahimipour and coauthor Andrew M. Hein of Princeton University will receive a plaque and a cash award this month in Sacramento, Calif., at the 99th annual meeting of the Ecological Society of America.

Cranor Honored by the Phi Beta Kappa Society

Carl Cranor, a distinguished professor of philosophy and faculty member of the Environmental Toxicology Graduate Program, has been awarded the prestigious Romanell-Phi Beta Kappa Professorship in Philosophy for 2014-15. Cranor is known globally for his research on the regulation of toxic substances, the ethics of risk, and the philosophy of law and science.

The Romanell Professorship is awarded to one philosopher every year by the Phi Beta Kappa Society, the oldest and most widely known academic honor society in the United States. The annual award carries with it a stipend of $7,500.

“Play the LA River” Awarded Grant

ArtPlace America has awarded a $185,000 grant to researchers from UC Riverside and UCLA to support “Play the LA River,” the project of a collective of artists, designers, community organizers, scholars and urban planners called Project 51.

Catherine Gudis, associate professor of history and director of UCR’s Public History Program, is co-founder of Project 51. She is a co-principal investigator of the ArtPlace America grant with Allison Carruth, associate professor of English and affiliate of the Institute of Environment and Sustainability at UCLA, and Jenny Price, an artist, writer, and historian who is the Barron Visiting Professor in the Environment and the Humanities at...
Princeton Environmental Institute.

“Play the LA River” will invite communities across Los Angeles to sites along the Los Angeles River through a yearlong, multi-pronged public art initiative that launches in September. Through playful activities, interactions, festivals and performances, the project will bring the 51-mile river to life as a vital civic corridor and public space in Los Angeles and surrounding cities. The engagement is designed to reconnect residents with their waterfront while asking them to help imagine what future development along the river might be.

The project has also received support from the UC Humanities Research Institute’s California Studies Consortium, the UCLA Department of English, and the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority.

Tang Receives Young Investigator Award

Ming Lee Tang, an assistant professor of chemistry, has received a Young Investigator Award from the Army Research Office for her proposal “Creating magnetic plasmons at visible frequencies: towards isotropic negative index metamaterials.”

Tang’s research utilizes bottom-up self-assembly of 3D assemblies of plasmonic nanoparticles for the manipulation of visible light. Plasmonic nanoparticles are metal nanoparticles that are very efficient at absorbing and scattering light.

“Nanoparticles made of gold and other noble metals can be made into parts of artificial molecules, much like atoms form the basis for molecules,” Tang said.

These nanoparticles can absorb or scatter light in specific regions of the visible spectrum. By building 3D assemblies of nanoparticles Tang’s lab can control interactions of light with matter.

UCR Gets Honorable Mention

The Graduate Enrolled Student System at UCR is a repository of records that delivers a comprehensive view of graduate students’ financial support. This enables more efficient management and processing of graduate students’ awards. The system received an honorable mention from the 2014 Larry L. Sautter Awards. The Sautter awards recognize campuses that use information technology to make university operations more effective and efficient to better serve faculty, staff, students and patients.

The annual award, which is sponsored by the UC Information Technology Leadership Council, recognizes innovations in IT that advance the university’s missions of teaching, research, public service and patient care, or that improve the effectiveness of university processes. The award encourages sharing these solutions across the UC system.

Larive Receives Volunteer Service Award from the American Chemical Society

Cynthia Larive, a professor of chemistry and the divisional dean for chemistry, mathematics, and physics and astronomy in the College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences, has received the 2015 Award for Volunteer Service to the American Chemical Society. The award recognizes individuals who have contributed significantly to the goals and objectives of the society. Larive will receive the award in spring next year at the national meeting of the society in Denver, Colo. Later, she will present an address at the fall national meeting of the society in Boston.
Research and Scholarship

Pazzani Paper Recognized as a Classic

A 1996 research paper authored by Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development Michael J. Pazzani and two colleagues has been selected by the Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence (AAAI) to win the 2014 Classic Paper Award.

The AAAI, which promotes theoretical and applied artificial intelligence research, established the award in 1999 to honor authors of papers, chosen from a specific conference year, that were deemed most influential.

“The Classic Paper Award this year is given to the paper deemed most influential from The Thirteenth National Conference on Artificial Intelligence held in Portland, Oregon in 1996,” said Manuela Velosa, the president of the AAAI. “Pazzani and his colleagues are being recognized for significant contributions to the field of personalizing Internet content and learning user profiles.”

Pazzani, the first author of the research paper, wrote it when he was a professor of information and computer science and cognitive science at UC Irvine. He received the award on July 29, at the 28th AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI-14) in Québec City, Canada.

The research paper in question is “Syskill & Webert: Identifying Interesting Web Sites,” published in the proceedings of The Thirteenth National Conference on Artificial Intelligence (AAAI-96). Pazzani’s coauthors are Jack Muramatsu and Daniel Billsus.

UCR Engineers Develop Versatile Platform Technology to Produce Biofuels More Efficiently

A team of researchers led by Professor Charles E. Wyman at the Bourns College of Engineering have developed a versatile, relatively nontoxic and efficient way to convert raw agricultural and forestry residues and other plant matter (known as lignocellulosic biomass) into biofuels and chemicals.

The patent-pending method, called Co-solvent Enhanced Lignocellulosic Fractionation (CELF), brings researchers closer to solving the long elusive goal of producing fuels and chemicals from biomass at high enough yields and low enough costs to become a viable alternative or replacement for petroleum-based fuels and chemicals.

Schwabe Delivers Expertise on Water

Kurt Schwabe, an associate professor of environmental economics in the Department of Environmental Sciences, has been invited to a number of events as a panelist and speaker. Recently, he was an invited speaker at the Southern California Water Dialogue, which explores the common interests among Southern California water agencies, environmental organizations, and public interest organizations. In early October, Schwabe will be an invited speaker at the San Gabriel Valley Water Forum, and in late October he is an invited speaker at the 8th Biennial Bay Delta Science Conference to be held in Sacramento, Calif.

Who Says?

“These studies show that being a man with a wider face can be both a blessing and a curse and awareness of this may be important for future business success.”

Michael Haselhuhn, assistant professor of management, on how men with wider faces are more competi-
tive negotiators, as compared to men with narrower faces

FOX BUSINESS NETWORK

“Fall isn’t the time that we get a lot of rain during El Niño years. The rains tend to come in late winter and spring. If we get an El Niño, we’ll have to be patient. ... There’s a lot of biomass out there that can burn.”

Richard Minnich, professor of earth sciences, on prospects for El Niño and how the climatic changes could affect the spread of wildfire

SAN DIEGO UNION TRIBUNE

“If you had asked me three years ago if (the Republican Party’s standing among Asians) could get any worse, I would’ve said it can’t, but it did. They need to stop the bleeding.”

Karthick Ramakrishnan, professor of political science, on how Republican outreach to immigrants, minorities and Asian Americans has declined in recent years

THE WASHINGTON POST

“The position has forced me to let go of some of my literary biases. ... Poets today have to float and be transparent and pick up everything we can.”

Juan Felipe Herrera, California’s poet laureate and professor of creative writing, in an article that examines the history of poet laureate positions

THE NEW YORK TIMES

“The Fragile X is one of the neurodevelopmental disorders. It’s a genetic disease, and it’s associated with autism.”

Iryna Ethell, professor of biomedical sciences, on the UCR School of Medicine study on Fragile X Syndrome, linking an enzyme to the development of autistic behaviors

CBS NEWS

“It has really been a brute-force approach.”

Mark Hoddle, director of the Center for Invasive Species Research, on the USDA’s response to the Asian longhorned beetle by chopping tens of thousands of trees down and replacing them with less beetle-friendly varieties

WALL STREET JOURNAL

“In 1996, however, the Internet experience was a one-size-fits-all experience. Now, the personalization of content may be the most common application of artificial intelligence encountered by the average person.”

Michael Pazzani, vice chancellor for research and economic development, on his 1996 research paper on personalizing Internet content and learning user profiles

EUREKALERT!