Janet Lucas Appointed Interim Director of Athletics

Longtime administrator has more than 20 years of intercollegiate athletics experience

By James Grant

Veteran athletics administrator Janet Lucas will lead the UC Riverside Division I Athletics program on an interim basis, Chancellor Kim A. Wilcox announced on Oct. 30.

Lucas, who has been working as the executive associate athletics director and senior woman administrator at UC Riverside since 2006, has agreed to take over following the resignation of Jim Wooldridge, which also took effect on Oct. 30.

Before UCR, Lucas had worked for three years at California State University Northridge, as the senior associate athletic director and senior woman administrator. She was the interim athletics director at Northridge from August 2005 to August 2006.

“Janet Lucas knows UCR, the NCAA and the Big West Conference and she has a breadth of knowledge that makes her the right person to lead our athletics program at this time,” Wilcox said.

Lucas said she is honored to be a part of the UC Riverside community. “I share UCR’s values concerning the relationship between academics and athletics,” she said. “I look forward to leading the department in the development of an integrated and quality student-athlete experience that embraces and fosters academic, athletic, and personal success.”

In a letter to the campus community, Wilcox noted the accomplishments of Jim Wooldridge since July, 2013. He was UCR’s head men’s basketball coach for six seasons before that. “His enthusiasm for and commitment to UCR Athletics has inspired hundreds of our student-athletes and fans,” Wilcox said. “On behalf of the entire campus, I thank Jim for his service to UC Riverside and our region and wish him well in his future pursuits.”

She previously spent 15 years at James Madison University in Harrisonburg, Virginia, reaching the position of senior associate director of athletics/senior woman administrator prior to heading west to Northridge in 2004.
Lucas earned a B.S. degree from Wake Forest University, graduating cum laude in physical education. She received an M.S. in sports administration from Ohio University.

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**Sleep Researcher Awarded Federal Grants Totaling $2.7 million**

*Research has implications for improving sleep and memory for aging adults, college students*

By Bettye Miller

UC Riverside psychologist Sara C. Mednick has been awarded nearly $2.7 million in federal grants to continue researching the neural mechanisms of learning and memory, which has implications for improving sleep and memory for aging adults and the health of college students who pop so-called “smart drugs.”

Mednick previously led a team whose groundbreaking research confirmed the mechanism that enables the brain to consolidate memory and found that Ambien, a commonly prescribed sleep aid, enhances the process.

The National Institute on Aging, the National Science Foundation and the Department of Defense-Office of Naval Research have awarded Mednick grants to support research into sleep processes that are important for learning and memory, and how those processes might be manipulated to improve both.

Supported by a five-year, $1.25 million grant from the National Institutes of Health-National Institute on Aging, Mednick is expanding on research published last year which demonstrated for the first time the critical role that sleep spindles play in consolidating memory in the hippocampus region of the brain. Her team also showed that pharmaceuticals could significantly improve that process, far more than sleep alone.

Sleep spindles are bursts of brain activity that last for a second or less during a specific stage of sleep. The hippocampus, part of the cerebral cortex, is important in the consolidation of information from short-term to long-term memory, and spatial navigation. The hippocampus is one of the first regions of the brain damaged by Alzheimer’s disease.

The new study, which began in fall 2013, will investigate doses of Ambien needed to boost sleep spindles and whether declarative memory – the ability to recall facts and knowledge – improves as well. The next study will test the same question in older adults.

“Older adults have poorer sleep and less sleep spindles. They also experience decreases in verbal memory,” Mednick explained. “Maybe these decreases in cognition are related to less sleep. A question we hope to answer is, can we slow the cognitive aging process?”

In another project, Mednick and UC Berkeley neuroscientist Michael Silver will share a $450,000, three-year grant from the National Science Foundation to study the role of neural transmitters that are known to be important for brain plasticity and memory consolidation.

The researchers will study whether a prescription drug used to treat dementia associated with Alzheimer’s disease and Parkinson’s disease – Rivastigmine – can improve declarative memory. Rivastigmine is known to activate acetylcholine, a neuromodulator known as the “memory molecule.” Acetylcholine plays a role in attention and arousal and works to activate muscles.

A $995,381 grant from the Office of Naval Research will support a study of the effects of psychostimulants such as Adderall and Ritalin – used to treat attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) – on cognition and sleep.
“Off-label use of these drugs has been increasing dramatically in the college population, and there has been very little research on their impacts on healthy populations and on sleep,” Mednick said. “I am interested in how these drugs may be influencing sleep-dependent memory consolidation.”

The military is interested out of concern that the practice of giving so-called “go” and “no-go” pills to keep servicemen and women alert for long periods of time may affect cognition.

About one-third of college students – approximately 11 million young adults – take the ADHD medications without prescriptions, assuming that these so-called “smart drugs” will make them smarter and take the place of sleep, Mednick explained.

“Research shows they aren’t getting better grades, but they believe they will,” she said. This study will help determine if these drugs can replace sleep, “or if there is something so important about sleep that no pharmacological intervention can replace. What are the links between sleep disruption and cognitive decline?”

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Grab Your Kilt and Your #MiniScotty and Get Ready For Homecoming 2014

*Weekend of fun includes bonfire, fireworks, music, “Back to Class” presentations, basketball, and even complimentary parking*

*By Ross French*

It’s time to iron the pleats in your kilt, fold up that #MiniScotty figure, and celebrate Homecoming 2014.

The annual celebration will take place Friday, Nov. 14, and Saturday, Nov. 15. Organizers hope that a significant number of the campus’ nearly 100,000 alumni will join the more than 20,000 current undergraduate and graduate students for a weekend filled with fun and festivities. A full list of events are available on the Homecoming website (www.homecoming.ucr.edu).

Also new in 2014 is the MiniScotty photo contest. Members of the UCR community can find a die-cut paper figure of the school’s beloved mascot, Scotty Highlander, in the most recent issue of UCR Magazine, assemble him, then take creative photos and post them to their favorite social media platforms, such as Facebook, Twitter or Instagram, using the hashtag #MiniScotty. Prizes will be awarded for photos with the most school spirit, creative location, and clever caption. The figure is also available for download on the UCR Homecoming website.

Student-oriented Homecoming Week activities will begin on Wednesday, Nov. 12, with the nooner at the bell tower, featuring live music from singer/songwriter Micah and giveaways such as screen-printed T-shirts. On Thursday, Scotty Highlander will celebrate his birthday at the bell tower with free cupcakes, a photo booth and other activities.

The Homecoming fun kicks off in earnest on Friday night with the UCR women’s basketball team hosting Santa Clara University at 5 p.m. in the Student Recreation Center Arena. The annual Homecoming Bonfire party begins at 6 p.m. near Parking Lot 19 and the UCR Softball Field. Activities include a photo booth, oxygen bar, a mechanical bull, Eurobungee and inflatable jousting as well as performances by SkyFire,
a group whose performance includes fire and Tesla coils.

Other music will be provided by DJ Truth, DeeJay Simplex and Kennedy Jones. At 8 p.m., shortly after the conclusion of the women’s basketball game, the bonfire will be lit and the sky will light up with a spectacular fireworks display.

“The bonfire is free, and we invite all parents and alumni who are in town for the weekend to attend,” said Adrian Cazares, coordinator for Associated Students Program Board. “It will be a lot of fun.”

Saturday’s schedule includes a full day of events, including Parents’ Day, where parents of current UCR students can explore the campus, and Scot Fest, a pre-game celebration before the Homecoming men’s basketball game against UC San Diego.

The day’s events start bright and early with the ninth annual Spirit of the Tribes 5K, sponsored by the Native American Student Programs Office.

Other events include a pair of hikes up to the “C,” faculty presentations on water policy and the drought; the Sustainable Integrated Grid Initiative; invasive species in California; immortality; and women’s education in the early American Republic. There also will be several alumni reunions and receptions, tours of the Rivera Library, the Botanic Gardens and the new Student Recreation Center.

The UCR Parents’ Association Meeting will take place at 11:45 a.m. in Highlander Union Building 302. It will feature a welcome from Chancellor Kim Wilcox, performances by the UCR Spirit Squads and presentations from students participating in undergraduate research.

The Scot Fest takes place from 1 to 3:30 p.m. around the bell tower. The event includes a food truck festival, carnival-style games, college booths, photo booths, caricature artists, music and more. Scot Fest will lead directly into the men’s basketball game with UC San Diego at the Student Recreation Center Arena, beginning at 4 p.m. Tickets may be purchased online at www.gohighlanders.com or by calling (951) 827-4653.

Provost D’Anieri to Hold Conversation About the Structure of UC Riverside

Provost Town Hall scheduled for Nov. 12

UC Riverside’s new provost, Paul D’Anieri, is holding a campuswide discussion about how to structure UC Riverside as the university moves into a time of hiring 300 new faculty members.

A conversation with the provost has been set for 4 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 12 in HUB 302. All are welcome.

The conversation will focus on “The Structure of the University” and D’Anieri will discuss and seek input on different options for organizing the university’s academic units, including forming a College of Arts and Science or maintaining the current arrangement. The question is one raised in the drafting of UCR’s strategic plan.

“I think the faculty will likely be most interested, but I welcome interested staff and students as well.”

D’Anieri said he is open to a wider discussion about campus priorities. He plans to share his own thoughts and observations, developed since his arrival July 1 and informed by frequent conversations with the campus community, especially the deans and the Academic Senate.

At UCR, D’Anieri is the chief academic and operating officer for the campus, providing academic leadership to
the entire university, managing day-to-day operations of the campus, overseeing resource allocation, and serving as a member of the campus leadership team.

In the chancellor’s absence, the provost serves as the chief executive officer of the University of California, Riverside. The provost is responsible for implementation of the campus strategic plan, UCR 2020: The Path to Preeminence.

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**UC Riverside Celebrates 3 Megawatts of Solar Power on Nov. 13**

*The solar farm is the largest in the University of California system*

By Kris Lovekin

UC Riverside has opened a brand new solar farm that will produce up to 6.6 million megawatt hours of electricity each year. That is the equivalent of powering 960 homes for a year.

The ribbon cutting, at 11:30 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 13, will include Chancellor Kim A. Wilcox, local government officials, student leaders, and representatives of SunPower Corporation. It will be held on the solar farm site, which is next to UCR’s Community Garden. Parking will be available in Lot 30.

The project supports the systemwide University Policy on Sustainable Practices, which called on each campus to contribute to the production of up to 10 megawatts of onsite renewable power by 2014. UCR accounts for 4 megawatts of this commitment. Wendell Brase, UC Irvine’s vice chancellor for administrative and business services, will attend the ribbon cutting. He is co-chair of UC President Janet Napolitano’s Global Climate Leadership Council.

UCR’s solar array is currently the largest solar array in the University of California system. Other campuses are also quickly adding more solar technology. For instance, UC Irvine opens a large system next year:

UCR signed a 20-year power purchase agreement that allowed SunPower Corporation to construct, operate and maintain the facility, with the university purchasing the power. UCR spent $350,000 on site clearing and preparation, as well as interconnections costs with the existing substation. The projected savings to the university is $4.3 million over the length of the contract. UCR will also receive carbon and LEED credits that provide additional financial and environmental savings.

The solar farm went online as scheduled on Friday, Sept. 19. It has 7,440 panels across the 11-acre site using GPS tracking to slowly follow the sun across the sky. The massive sea of shiny panels is visible from Highway 60 as thousands of cars pass the campus.

“This is a big step forward, and we plan to do more,” said John Cook, director of the UCR’s Office of Sustainability. “On a hot and sunny day we will be producing nearly a third of UCR’s total energy needs with this system. But over the course of the year, with variable weather, it will amount to 3 percent of our total energy needs.” He said Riverside’s typical sunny climate will make UCR an especially efficient place to invest in solar technology.

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**Free Health Fair Scheduled for Nov. 8 in San Bernardino**

*UCR School of Medicine chapter of American Medical Student Association partners with Inland Empire*
Health Plan for second annual event

By Kathy Barton

Health screenings, flu vaccinations and a variety of health resources will be provided at the 2nd Annual Health Fair scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 8, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Delmann Heights Community Center in San Bernardino.

The health fair is organized by second-year medical students at UCR, with co-sponsorship by the UCR School of Medicine and Inland Empire Health Plan (IEHP).

Members of the community are invited to attend the free event. The Delmann Heights Community Center is located at 2969 N. Flores St. in San Bernardino.

A variety of health screenings will be available, including blood pressure, diabetes, glaucoma, hearing, mental health and body mass index. There will be flu vaccinations to the first 300 people attending and prescription glasses to the first 100 attendees.

Information on California Covered enrollment, affordable housing, bilingual health care resources, women’s health, after-school programs, homeless services, hospice and elderly care, and financial fitness will be provided. Fitness activities, including yoga, meditation and high-intensity exercise, will also be part of the event.

For younger participants, there will be face painting, and balloon animals. Free soccer balls and sports jerseys will also be given to children as part of a soccer activity. There will be light refreshments, raffle prizes, a free library and gently used clothing.

The event is organized by the American Medical Student Association chapter at UCR with the support of local physicians and medical students. “Our mission for organizing this event is to provide medical students with an opportunity to reach out to a medically underserved community by providing health-promoting services in a fun, family-centered way,” said Diana Tran, a second-year medical student at UCR.

Salton Sea Sustainability Issues Addressed

Nov. 10 panel to discuss UC Irvine’s Salton Sea Initiative, UC Riverside research

By Bettye Miller

Created by accident and once a popular tourist destination, the Salton Sea has been the receptacle for run-off of salt, fertilizers and pesticides from the nearly half a million acres of agricultural land that surrounds it. The Salton Sea Initiative at UC Irvine is a multidisciplinary group investigating the sustainability challenges that face the Salton Sea region.

The Center for Ideas and Society at UC Riverside will host a panel on the ecological challenges facing the sea and the communities that surround it on Monday, Nov. 10, from 4 to 5:30 p.m. in College Building South. The event is free and open to the public.

The panel will feature Gregor Yanega, an ornithologist and academic advisor for the Salton Sea Initiative at UCI; Mark Matsumoto, UCR professor of chemical and environmental engineering; and Michael Anderson, UCR professor of soil chemistry.
The Salton Sea is one of the world’s largest inland seas and, at -227 feet below sea level, one of the lowest places on Earth. It is located in a geological depression between the Imperial and Coachella valleys that has alternated between freshwater lake, saline lake, and dry desert basin for hundreds of thousands of years.

The current sea formed when the Colorado River breached canal gates leading into the Imperial Valley in 1905-06. Marine life was introduced and the Salton Sea became a popular tourist destination during the 1940s, ’50s and ’60s. It remains an important stopover for migratory birds. However, increasing salinity in the last half of the 20th century has left the Salton Sea uninhabitable by most marine fish.

In 2013 UC Irvine established the Salton Sea Initiative to help address multiple sustainability issues facing the region, among them desalination, biological remediation, nutrient removal, public health issues, economic development, land use, and water allocation.

The Salton Sea panel is part of a series of lectures, seminars and workshops the Center for Ideas and Society will present in 2014-15 exploring “the nature of nature” in a world where the distinctions between what is natural and man-made grow increasingly blurred, said Georgia Warnke, professor of political science and director of the center.

This exploration includes a collaboration with Proteus Gowanus, an interdisciplinary gallery and reading room in Brooklyn, New York, that supports artists and non-artists in creative engagement with a diverse public, she said.

“The initiative and the Proteus series will ask the question, ‘What is natural?’” Warnke explained. “The institutions will share speakers and resources in order to examine the premises, presuppositions and concerns behind efforts to restore native plant habitats, to reintroduce wild species into environments from which they have been displaced, to re-create extinct species, to re-create ourselves and more.”

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A University-sized Sale With Something for Everyone

The monthly Surplus Equipment Sale brings bargain hunters to the UCR campus

By Ross French

On the first Tuesday of each month, they come. Some faces are familiar, some are new, but they all line up in the UC Riverside Corporation Yard, standing in the late-morning light, waiting for the doors of the surplus warehouse to slide open.

For behind those doors is a menagerie of items that UCR no longer needs or wants. And on one day each month, for just a few hours, this unique collection of treasures is available for purchase by almost anyone at UCR’s surplus equipment sale.

“We have regulars who we see every month. People who work on campus, retirees, the general public,” said Judy Hodge, surplus equipment assistant. “It’s fun to see them and chat with them every month.”

No one is quite sure how long the sale has been taking place, although it has certainly been longer than three decades. “I’ve been here 34 years, so I know it is at least that long,” said Campus Storehouse Logistics Manager Dolores Cordova, who took over operations of the sale in 2010.

Most of the buyers are seeking a specific item. On this day, some early birds go directly to the desks and office
chairs, trying them out for fit and feel, while others go to the computers and start checking them for functionality. A woman peruses the lost and found items, quickly purchasing a necklace, while a young man ponders purchasing a pair of sunglasses, trying them on before deciding they weren’t the right look for him and putting them back down.

Looking across the room is like looking at a slice of UCR history. Desks, chairs and file cabinets, some perhaps dating back to the campus’ earliest days; computers and other electronic equipment, maybe just a generation or two from being “state-of-the-art;” and even unclaimed lost and found items, including jewelry, electronic gadgets, books and clothing. Virtually any piece of equipment on the UCR campus has a chance of ending up at the surplus warehouse.

“Anything that departments don’t want or need anymore, they send to us,” Hodge said. “If it is in good shape, we’ll set a price for it and put it up for sale.”

The sale also contains lost and found items, which are held for three months to give their owners a chance to claim them. If they go unclaimed, they are put into the sale.

Ryan Charette coordinates the monthly sale for Equipment Management and evaluates most of the items that come through.

“It becomes pretty easy to see what has value and what does not,” he said. “A lot of it is visual. For a chair, we’ll look at it and see if it is stained, see if it rises. If it all works, we’ll sell it, if not, we get rid of it.”

He said that about 60 percent of surplus items are retained for sale. The rest is disposed of, or, in the case of scrap metal and e-waste, recycled. The sale makes a big difference in the campus’ sustainability efforts. In the 2013-14 fiscal year, the campus resold between 450 and 500 units of furniture, diverting 33,850 pounds of furniture from landfill.

Cordova said that her staff sets item prices based upon their prices on eBay and other outlets. “If an object doesn’t sell, we’ll reduce it at the next sale, and so on, until it sells,” she said.

Each month an email is sent out to the campus and to the regular customers listing what is available, and an updated list appears on the Materials Management web page. The majority of items listed on the site are around $100 or less, with file cabinets going for $15-$20, desks for $40-$50, computer monitors for $40-$45, but the site also lists some larger, unique specialty items. Recent eclectic listings include two 50-pound frames holding 16 panels of pure quartz glass for $500 and Faxitron RX-650 compact cabinet X-ray irradiator for $18,000. Vehicles such as cars and work trucks are sold via public auction.

The most popular items are usually bicycles. Like lost and found items, bikes are kept in storage for at least three months to give their owners the opportunity to claim them before entering the sale. Bikes with licenses are often reunited with owners, while bikes without licenses usually end here.

Candy McReynolds, an analyst in anthropology/sociology, found the perfect weekend cruiser, complete with a basket on the front handlebars. The only drawback? The front spokes had a U-lock weaved through them.

“I didn’t need anything extravagant, just something that would get me around to and from where I need to go,” she said, as she waited for excess equipment staff member to appear with a bolt cutter to remove the lock.

Mark Hilado and Zach Diaz came away with a nice mountain bike for Hilado’s father.

“I had heard about the bikes and definitely wanted to pick one up,” Hilado said. “At 25 bucks each, it is a pretty good steal.”
He said that they had made at least four previous trips to the sale and had come away with a computer monitor, a desk, and a bunch of other knickknacks.

“Flash drives, clothes, we always walk away with something,” Hilado said, adding that his strangest purchase was a Japanese comic book that featured Buddha and Jesus Christ. “It was a nickel, so of course I bought it.”

At 4 p.m., the doors shut and the sale closes. For the next four weeks or so the warehouse will only be open to savvy UCR employees who come, recharge form in hand, looking for equipment and furniture for their departments.

“Departments have the first choice. They can come in anytime throughout the month and see what we have and purchase it,” Hodge said. “A lot of people don’t know we are here, so we’d love to see more students, faculty, and staff come out and see what we have.”

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**UC Riverside Temporarily Closes One Building of the Child Development Center**

*Families of about 14 children must seek alternative child care*

*By Kris Lovekin*

On Oct. 22, UC Riverside temporarily closed one building in the Child Development Center in order to clean up mold growing behind the baseboards.

“After consulting with experts in the field who tested the air, we have decided that caution requires us to take swift action to protect the health of our children and the staff at the center,” said Jim Sandoval, vice chancellor of student affairs.

That cautious approach means the families of about 14 children are making other child care arrangements on very short notice.

There are two buildings at the Child Development Center, and while most of the 84 children from Building A can be moved to Building B temporarily, there are 14 children under the age of 5 who will not be able to come to the center at all.

“We have licensing requirements that mean we can only put a certain number of children in each classroom,” explained Renee Jacobs, executive director of the Child Development Center. She notified parents and staff about the mold problem on Oct. 17, and then on Oct. 20 delivered the news that cleaning up the mold could take six weeks.

Mold is naturally occurring in the environment and will grow when there is a source of water, said Russell Vernon, director of UCR’s Office of Environmental Health and Safety. He said the cleanup will involve finding and fixing the source of the moisture, cleaning the area with a bleach solution and then installing new drywall and baseboards.

Vernon said one of the mold types showing up in preliminary testing is aspergillus. It is common in the environment and does not usually cause illness. However, an individual with a weakened immune system may be susceptible to infection. “Basically, it is important to find the source of the water inside the walls and to get this fixed.”

Campus building officials said it is too soon to give a reopening date. The job must be done without a hard
“We will be making recommendations for alternative care to the families of the 14 children impacted,” said Jacobs. “We are looking at creative solutions to make this easier for our families. We understand how inconvenient it is, and we are doing everything we can to help.”

Most of the children at the UCR Child Development Center have at least one parent who is a member of the UCR community. The center is also available to the community at large.

To the greatest extent possible, teachers will be kept with the children who know them, but in some cases staff members will have to be flexible, depending on the requirements of their contract.

“I want to thank everyone for their cooperation in what is a difficult time,” said Ron T. Coley, the vice chancellor for business services, including the units that will be cleaning up the building and testing it for safe air quality. “We have to err on the side of safety,” said Coley. “And we need to make sure that the community is informed.”

He said he was confident that his team could get the building repaired, cleaned and tested in short order.

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**UC Riverside to Host Inland Empire Black Health Expo**

*Free event to be held Saturday, Nov. 22, and is open to the entire community*

By Ross French

Members of the region’s African-American community are invited to attend the Inland Empire Black Health Expo on the campus of the University of California, Riverside on Saturday, Nov. 22, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Highlander Union Building.

There is no cost to attend the expo, but those who plan to attend are asked to RSVP online at http://go.ucr.edu/bhe.

“The purpose of the expo is to create an environment specifically dedicated to improving health care disparities in the African American community,” said fourth-year neuroscience major Maryam Bello, the president of African Americans United in Science (AAUS) at UCR. “I hope it serves as a catalyst that drives African Americans and healthcare professionals to become more involved in improving minority health disparities.”

The expo will include workshops and speakers, community resources, information on Ebola, health screenings including blood pressure, health-related vendors, presentations on fitness, heart health, mental health, infectious diseases and more.

“A lot of people don’t realize the simple changes they can make to better their lives,” fourth-year biological sciences in anthropology major and Vice President of AAUS Dijon Gatewood said. “I hope that through this expo, we can help the black community become more aware of the importance of health.”

The expo is sponsored by AAUS, in conjunction with Healthy Heritage Movement, UCR African Student Programs, J. W. Vines Medical Foundation, UCR School of Medicine, Riverside Community Health Foundation, the Black Voice News, Western University – College of Allied Health Professionals, PhRMA, PepsiCo, Colgate, Schools First Credit Union, African American Health Initiative, Inland Empire Black Nurses Association, and
Organizers said they hope the expo will become an annual event.

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**UC President Napolitano Signs MOU with Mexican Energy Officials to Further Partnership**

*by UCOP*

UC President Janet Napolitano and Mexican Secretariat of Energy (SENER) Deputy Secretary of Energy Leonardo Beltrán signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory on Oct. 30.

The MOU focuses on developing collaborations and exchanges in fields of shared interest and expertise between Mexico and UC. It is part of a broader UC-Mexico initiative Napolitano launched in January to strengthen ties between the university and Mexico.

“T’m very pleased that we can take this important step with SENER to promote academic exchange and research between UC and Mexico,” Napolitano said. “This is just the beginning of a collaboration that will benefit California and Mexico, and produce research and ideas that impact the world.”

The signing took place during part of a multiday visit to the Berkeley lab that included a delegation of the heads of various Mexican research centers, led by Beltrán.

“Within the framework of President Peña Nieto’s energy reform, SENER is committed to promote renewable energy, energy efficiency, energy storage and sustainability projects in Mexico,” Beltrán said. “The deepening collaboration and projects we are developing between Mexico and California will contribute to the much-needed efforts against climate change. The ultimate goal is that Mexico and California work together in these areas that are needed to secure a more sustainable future and a long-lasting regional economic development.”

The group will tour various parts of the lab including the Advanced Light Source and the FLEXLAB, the first test lab of its kind in the world. FLEXLAB allows users to develop and test efficient building systems individually or as an integrated system all at once, under real-world conditions.

“Berkeley Lab is proud to be the site for the signing of this historic MOU. Now is the right time for California to work on these issues of common interest with Mexico as they focus on their energy sector,” said Berkeley Lab Deputy Director Horst Simon. “I’m looking forward to seeing more collaboration between UC and SENER that will further our mutual research efforts and continue our tradition of bringing science solutions to the world.”

Chancellor Kim Wilcox participated in the signing ceremony and meetings during the two-day visit.

The Berkeley Lab, SENER and the UC Institute for Mexico and the United States (UC MEXUS), based at UC Riverside, also announced a program to support training stays for Mexican postdoctoral research fellows at the Berkeley lab and UC campuses.

The purpose of the postdoctoral stays will be to accomplish specific laboratory, library or field research or to undertake specialized training. The first three postdocs chosen as part of the program will begin work at the Berkeley Lab in January 2015.
Genocide of California Indians Examined

Nov. 7 conference will focus on the deaths of 100,000 Native Americans during Gold Rush era

By Bettye Miller

The Gold Rush brought prosperity to many of the estimated 300,000 prospectors who flocked to California between 1848 and 1855. For a large majority of California Indians, however, the Gold Rush was lethal.

An all-day conference at UC Riverside on Friday, Nov. 7, will address what a growing number of scholars have come to regard as the genocide of California Indians. The symposium, “Killing California Indians: Genocide in the Gold Rush Era,” will bring together historians and Native Americans from throughout the state.

The event begins at 9 a.m. and continues until 4 p.m. in Highlander Union Building 379. It is free and open to the public. Sponsors are the Rupert Costo Endowment, California Center for Native Nations, Native American Education Program and Native American Student Programs.

More than 120,000 Indians were living in California when the Gold Rush started in 1848. Between 1848 and 1868, as many as 100,000 Indians died from disease, malnutrition, enslavement and murder, said Cliff Trafzer, distinguished professor of history, Rupert Costo Chair in American Indian Affairs, and director of the California Center for Native Nations at UCR.

Articles published in California newspapers of the time and other sources make it clear that the experience of Native Americans during the Gold Rush meets the United Nations definition of genocide, Trafzer said.

“Some say it was not genocide, it was ethnic cleansing,” Trafzer said. “Indian people say, ‘What’s the difference?’ More than 80 percent of California Indians died in a 20-year period. Our hope is that the conference will encourage more research by our students on aspects of the genocide and will create an awareness among Californians and people around the world that this took place. We hope it will encourage the state Department of Education to recognize that what happened to California Indians was genocide and is worthy of inclusion in state textbooks.”

Participants in the morning panel include:

- Jack Norton, emeritus professor of Native American studies at Humboldt State University and author of “Genocide in Northwestern California, When Our Worlds Cried.” He is of Hupa/Cherokee descent and an enrolled member of the Yurok Nation. He was the first California Indian to be appointed to the Rupert Costo Chair in American Indian Affairs at UC Riverside.

- Brendan Lindsay, assistant professor of history at Sacramento State University and author of “Murder State, California’s Native American Genocide, 1846-1873.” He earned his Ph.D. in history at UCR.

- James Fenelon, professor of sociology and director of the Center for Indigenous Peoples Studies at California State University, San Bernardino. He is Lakota/Dakota from Standing Rock, and wrote “Culturicide, Resistance, and Survival of the Lakota (SiouxNation)” and co-authored “Indigenous Peoples and Globalization.”

Participants in the first of two afternoon panels will be:

- George Harwood Phillips, emeritus professor of history at the University of Colorado, Boulder and the second scholar named to the Rupert Costo Chair in American Indian Affairs at UCR. Among his books are

- Michelle Lorimer, who teaches in the CSU San Bernardino Department of History. She earned her Ph.D. in history at UCR. Lorimer and Trafzer co-authored an article, “Silencing California Indian Genocide in Social Studies Texts,” that was published in 2013 in the peer-reviewed journal American Behavioral Scientist.

- Benjamin Madley, an assistant professor of history at UCLA. He is transforming his dissertation, “American Genocide: The California Indian Catastrophe, 1846-1873,” into a book for Yale University Press.

The conference will conclude with a Native American community panel whose participants include:

- James Ramos, San Bernardino County supervisor, Third District, and past chairman of the San Manuel Band of Mission Indians
- Larry Myers, chairman of the California Indian Heritage Center Foundation Board of Directors and former longtime executive secretary of the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC), Pomo
- William Mungary, former NAHC chairperson and current board member of the California Indian Heritage Center Foundation, Paiute/Apache
- Steven Newcomb, indigenous law research coordinator at the Sycuan education department of the Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation in San Diego County, co-founder and co-director of the Indigenous Law Institute, and a columnist with Indian Country Today, Shawnee/Lenape
- Daisy Ocampo, a UC Riverside Ph.D. student, Caxcan-Zoque
- Sean Milanovich, tribal cultural specialist, Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians
- Gregg Castro, former tribal chair of the Salinan Nation, researcher and scholar in Salinan cultural history and language preservation, advisor to the California Indian Storytelling Association, Salinan/Ohlone
- Meranda Roberts, a UC Riverside Ph.D. student, Paiute

For more information contact Trafzer at clifford.trafzer@ucr.edu.

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**Molecular Geneticist Awarded McClintock Prize**

*UC Riverside’s Susan R. Wessler is recognized for contributions to the study of fragments of DNA called transposable elements*

By Iqbal Pittalwala

Susan R. Wessler, a distinguished professor of genetics and a world-renowned expert in transposable elements, has been awarded the McClintock Prize for Plant Genetics and Genome Studies for her exceptional contributions to and leadership in the study of plant transposable elements for the last three decades. Transposable elements are DNA pieces that can move from one genomic location to another and duplicate themselves in the process.

Given in recognition of career scientific accomplishments, the award, now in its second year, is presented by
the Maize Genetics Executive Committee (MGEC) each year in memory of Nobel laureate Barbara McClintock to “one of the most creative minds and productive scientists in the study of plant genome structure, function and evolution.”

“This is an unexpected and humbling honor,” Wessler said. “I am especially pleased to be receiving an award named after a scientist whose discovery of transposable elements in maize started a revolution in biology and greatly influenced my career. I had the great privilege to know Dr. Barbara McClintock for the last ten years of her life. During that time I visited her lab at Cold Spring Harbor, where we spent hours discussing science and life. I cherish those memories and have passed them down to my two daughters who are both pursuing careers in science.”

Barbara McClintock (1902-1992), one of the world’s most distinguished cytogeneticists and one of the foremost women scientists in 20th century America, is most noted for her pioneering research on transposable elements in maize. For this work she was awarded the Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine in 1983, the first woman to receive an unshared Nobel Prize in that category.

Wessler first met McClintock in the early 1980s when Wessler was a postdoctoral scholar at the Carnegie Institution of Washington in Baltimore. Many of the strains she used later in her research as a faculty member at the University of Georgia were ones that McClintock had isolated and characterized genetically. McClintock guided Wessler in seeing what was important about these strains. Wessler recalls being on the phone on one occasion with McClintock for nearly three hours as the latter went line by line over a paper by Wessler that eventually was published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Around the time McClintock won the Nobel Prize, Wessler and a fellow-postdoctoral scholar had two research papers accepted in the journal Cell. Soon after, when Wessler entered McClintock’s lab in Cold Spring Harbor, McClintock came up to her to congratulate her on the two papers. “I said to her ‘What are you congratulating me for? You just won the Nobel Prize!’ But she brushed that aside and went back to praising the papers I had just published,” Wessler said.

Wessler began her career at the University of Georgia in 1983 and worked in various capacities at the university—including director of the Center for Plant Cellular and Molecular Biology and University of Georgia Foundation Chair in Biological Sciences—until she joined the faculty of UC Riverside in 2010.

Her laboratory focuses on plant transposable elements and the evolution of plant genomes. It has pioneered the use of computational and experimental analyses in the identification of actively transposing elements.

The human genome has 2.5 billion letters—about 1000 textbooks of 1000 pages each with no pictures. More than 50 percent of the human genome (the equivalent of ~500 of these textbooks) is derived from transposable elements. The analysis of genome sequences from both plants and animals has led to the surprising finding that transposable elements comprise the single largest component—over 75 percent of some important plant genomes including maize, wheat and barley.

“For several decades, Sue Wessler has been the world leader in the study of the mobile DNAs that are the major drivers of plant genome evolution, so her recognition with the McClintock Prize is highly deserved,” said Jeff Bennetzen, an MGEC member, who announced the award today. A colleague of Wessler’s for decades, Bennetzen is also the Norman and Doris Giles Professor of Genetics and Georgia Research Alliance Eminent Scholar at the University of Georgia.

Wessler is a member of the National Academy of Sciences, a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sci-
ences, and a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Professor. In 2011, she was elected home secretary of the National Academy of Sciences and named the recipient of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology 2012 Excellence in Science Award. Last year she was elected a member of the American Philosophical Society.

Wessler graduated with a bachelor’s degree in biology from Stony Brook University, of the State University of New York, in 1974 and earned her doctoral degree from Cornell University in 1980. She is co-author of The Mutants of Maize (Cold Spring Harbor Press) and of more than 120 research articles. She is one of the principal authors of Introduction to Genetic Analysis, a leading textbook used in introductory genetics courses in colleges and universities throughout the world.

Science of Superheroes Explained

**Assistant professor helps organize exhibit that explains the science behind Captain America’s shield and Wolverine’s skeleton**

By Sean Nealon

Two years ago, while in Pittsburgh for an engineering conference, Suveen Mathaudhu visited the ToonSeum, a museum dedicated to comic and cartoon arts.

Mathaudhu, who is now an assistant professor of mechanical engineering at the Bourns College of Engineering, always had an interest in science and comics and likes to combine the two by sprinkling comic book examples into his papers and presentations.

At the museum, Mathaudhu started talking to Joe Wos, who then was the executive director of the Toonseum. Mathaudhu told him about his academic background and interest in comics. Wos asked him if he would be interested in curating an exhibit that would combine engineering and comics.

Mathaudhu said yes and Comic-Tanium was born. The exhibit, which is now on display through Jan. 5 at the ToonSeum, combines the real world of materials science and the fictional worlds of comic book heroes, such Iron Man, Captain America, Spider-Man and Batman.

“The goal is to get kids interested in materials science and engineering,” said Mathaudhu, a Riverside native who started at UC Riverside this fall. “They typically don’t think of engineering that is something cool or interesting. But when you make the connection that Spiderman and Hulk are scientists, kids start connecting to what scientists and engineers do.”

The exhibit, which was previously shown in San Diego and Washington, D.C., includes comic art reproductions, vintage comic books, movie props, and other artifacts with related scientific images and stories.

It shows how comic characters and real-world scientists and engineers use the tools and techniques of minerals, metals, and materials to save their worlds. For example:

- The fictional element vibranium, which is a component of the indestructible alloy used in Captain America’s shield, is used to introduce real-world alloys that could lower the weight of cars and improve fuel efficiency;

- Wolverine’s adamantium skeleton is used to introduce the materials tetrahedron, which illustrates the four areas (processing, structure, properties and performance) that engineers study to create new and better materials;
• Magneto from the X-Men series controlling and manipulating electromagnetic fields is used to introduce scientists’ harnessing the magnetic properties of materials to improve motors, smart phones and medical equipment.

In addition to being an assistant professor of mechanical engineering, Mathaudhu is a faculty member in the materials science and engineering program. Prior to being hired at UC Riverside, Mathaudhu, who graduated from high school at La Sierra Academy in Riverside, was a program manager at the U.S. Army Research Office and an adjunct assistant professor at North Carolina State University.

His research focuses on the underpinning mechanisms that will make metallic materials and composites lighter and stronger. He is also an expert on the science of superheroes as depicted in comic books and their associated movies, and frequently speaks to the media and consults on this subject.

Mathaudhu along with the sponsors of the Comic-Tanium exhibit – The Minerals, Metals & Materials Society (TMS), TMS Foundation and ToonSeum – are in the process of creating an updated version of it that would include video and also modules that could be used by elementary school teachers teaching science and math.

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### Engineering College Hosts International Lecture Competition

*Students from South Africa, Ireland and Malaysia take top three spots*

**By Sean Nealon**


The following students took the top spots:

* First, Raphael Smith, South Africa, “The design, construction and testing of a hermetically sealed breast platform for dual-modality mammography.

* Second, David Bishop, University of Ulster, Ireland, “Addressing an unmet need in von Willebrand disease: A biosurface solution.”

* Third, Losini Amarasan, Multimedia University, Malaysia, “Silica fibre: The next material for thermoluminescence dosimeter (TLD).”

Ten finalists took part, including Corey Hardin, who is working on his Ph.D. with Javier Garay, a professor of mechanical engineering at the Bourns College of Engineering. His talk was called “CAPAD processing of rare earth doped zirconia for high temperature light emission applications.”

“This is the first time the Bourns College of Engineering has hosted an international competition like this,” said Reza Abbashian, dean of the college who also served as one of the judges of the competition. “It shows our increasing international stature as a college.”

The Young Persons’ World Lecture Competition (YPWLC) has been organized and held annually by the Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining since 2005. The competition is an extension of the UK Young Persons’ Lecture Competition, and is organized by the Younger Members’ Committee.

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### GETTING PERSONAL

**Name: Georgios Vidalakis**
Job: Extension specialist, plant pathologist and the director of the Citrus Clonal Protection Program (CCPP)

By Bethanie Le

“My job has transformed my life. I don’t know if it was luck or if the stars were in the right position or anything but everything happened exactly the way that it was supposed to.”

That is what Georgios Vidalakis has to say about his position as an extension specialist, plant pathologist and the director of the Citrus Clonal Protection Program (CCPP).

Vidalakis’ passion for his job dates back to 1997 when he was beginning his master’s thesis at the Agricultural University of Athens, Greece. His advisor called him into her office and casually said, “You know, I think you should go for a Ph.D. in citrus virology.” Vidalakis responded back with, “What’s a Ph.D?” Little did he know, that very moment is what led him to his job at UCR today.

“When [my advisor] asked her friends around the world about where I should go to be trained in citrus virology, everyone answered UC Riverside,” said Vidalakis. “So I applied in 1999 and was accepted by Professor David Gumpf, the director of the Citrus Clonal Protection Program at that time, and by Dr. Joseph Semancik, professor of plant pathology. I was so blessed to be able to work with these two excellent advisors.”

Vidalakis graduated from the Ph.D program in plant pathology in 2004, but his journey with UCR did not end there.

“In 2003, unfortunately Dave Gumpf passed so the position of the director of the CCPP was open and advertised,” said Vidalakis. “I was a young graduate at that point and didn’t think that I had a chance to compete for the position, but many people recommended me to apply. So I applied and received an offer. I returned to UCR in October of 2005.”

Nine years later, Vidalakis is in charge of the introduction of all citrus varieties in California. As an extension specialist, Vidalakis is the link between the university and the public. He takes all the information and technology developed at UCR to the citrus industry and answers any questions that the citrus industry may have. Vidalakis is also a researcher on citrus pathogens.

“At the time of the interview to be director of the CCPP, I was 29. I don’t think it would have been possible for a young graduate like me to receive an opportunity like this if I was still in Europe. I was born on the island of Crete and it is a small country and your options to have a successful career as a young graduate are limited. So to receive an exceptional education from UC Riverside with a scholarship is what I really believe is the American Dream,” said Vidalakis.

“This job has also transformed me on the personal level,” Vidalakis explained. “I met my wife right here at UCR. She is also a plant pathologist. She is from Italy and she had a scholarship from the Italian government for four months, but it has been 10 years now because we met, fell in love and started a family.”

DID YOU KNOW?

UC Employees get Discounts on Home Solar Panels
Mosaic is offering UC employees a $1,000 rebate to get home solar panels installed. Details are available at the UC employee discount page: http://www.ucop.edu/local-human-resources/op-life/employee-discounts/index.html.

**Ten cities honored for efforts by households to reduce greenhouse gas emissions**

The cities of Riverside, Claremont and Rancho Cucamonga were top finishers in a competition among California cities to cut carbon emissions. The city of Riverside edged out second-place Claremont to be crowned the state’s “Coolest California City.” Claremont and third-place Rancho Cucamonga each were named “Cool California Cities.” The cities were presented with an award on Oct. 23 at an Air Resources Board meeting. The board also recognized all participating Challenge cities, including Arcata, Burlingame, Chula Vista, Corona, Long Beach, Lynwood and Mission Viejo.

All 10 cities engaged nearly 4,000 households to take simple, everyday actions to reduce their carbon footprint. In total the participants saved more than 800,000 pounds of carbon dioxide, equivalent to removing more than 140 California homes from the grid or 80 automobiles from the road for a year.

All cities received a portion of $100,000 in prize money based on the number of households that signed up by May 30, and how many points they earned at the close of the contest on Sept. 29. The largest sum — $32,950 — went to the city of Riverside.

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**Who Says?**

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

“Chasing down everybody (with Ebola) is extremely conservative and extremely expensive. ... It suggests to the population that they’re at some significant risk of coming down with Ebola, and I don’t think they are, but I understand that that’s a reasonable public health response.”

*G. Richard Olds, dean of the School of Medicine, about Ebola quarantines in the U.S.*

**CBC NEWS NETWORK**

“In Brazil, there are three species of wandering spiders — named for their tendency to wander around on the ground looking for food — that are often considered ‘deadly.’ *Phoneutria fera, P. nigriventer* and *P. keyserlingi* all have bad reputations, but it’s extremely rare for these spider bites to cause human deaths.”

*Richard Vetter, staff research associate in entomology, on how a lot of the fear surrounding spiders is based on myths*

**YAHOO! NEWS**

“With a few historical exceptions, the party in the White House loses support during mid-terms.”

*Shaun Bowler, distinguished professor of political science, on how attention shifts to the Senate during midterm elections in the U.S.*

**BBC NEWS**

“People want their streams back — all of them, including the Santa Ana.”
LOS ANGELES TIMES

“We anticipate that this odor-based insect lure could be of use to growers in California and other parts of the world.”

Anandasankar Ray, associate professor of entomology, on UCR’s discovery of a series of naturally occurring smells that is effective in luring Asian citrus psyllids

KPCC-FM

“In the 1960s, people were more forgiving of (drinking and driving) and even joked about it. ... But during the ‘70s and ‘80s, concern about the deadly consequences soared.”

Robert Nash Parker, professor of sociology, on the evolution of public attitudes about drinking and driving

PRESS-ENTERPRISE

“There’s no medium like superheroes that reaches across ages, cultures and genders. ... Everybody knows superheroes like Superman, Spider-Man and Batman.”

Suveen Nigel Mathaudhu, assistant professor of mechanical engineering, on how stories behind beloved comic characters are an aid in teaching science and engineering to kids and the general public

TRIBLIVE

Research and Scholarship

Paulo Chagas Performance Reflects Experience of Torture

Paulo Chagas, professor and chair of the Department of Music, conducted a performance of his digital oratorio “The Refrigerator” on Oct. 25 at the prestigious Umuarama Auditorium in Campinas, Brazil.

Composed earlier this year, the oratorio reflects on his personal experience of torture as a 17-year-old during the military dictatorship in Brazil. The piece is composed for two voices – mezzo-soprano and baritone; an instrumental ensemble – violin, viola, cello, piano, percussion; electronic sounds; and digital image projection in real time.

Chagas said the aesthetics of “The Refrigerator” associates the torture with the darkness of ignorance and proposes a musical path of illumination and transcendence. The 40-minute piece includes video with dozens of photos of prisons, images of torture, and scenes of people in daily life.

Nick Toscano on the Glassy-winged Sharp Shooter

On Oct. 25, Nick Toscano, an entomologist and UCR alumnus, discussed the university’s involvement in managing the glassy-winged sharp shooter, an exotic pest that spreads the devastating Pierce’s Disease to grape plants in Temecula, and how that helped save the wine industry there. A former director of the UC Statewide Integrated Pest Management Program, Toscano has taken a lead role in efforts to control the glassy-winged
sharpshooter.

His presentation at the Callaway Vineyard & Winery was organized by the UCR Alumni Association. Seventeen people attended the presentation.

Toscano is credited with developing California’s first commodity-specific integrated pest management program, introducing programs to control all major pests of fresh market tomatoes and iceberg lettuce. He also has developed pest management programs for strawberries, cotton, and alfalfa.

**Graduate Students Discuss Consciousness**

Graduate students Isabelle Barsegh, cell biology and neuroscience, and Patrick Ryan, philosophy, will address the question, “What is Consciousness,” in a Dueling Disciplines event on Wednesday, Nov. 12, at 3:30 p.m. in INTS 1128. Dueling Disciplines is a series of events presented by the Center for Ideas and Society that brings scholars together to discuss topics from the perspectives of their disciplines.

Barsegh is a third-year Ph.D. candidate whose research focuses on uptake of synaptically released glutamate by astrocytes, which is essential for maintaining a healthy level of excitatory activity in the brain and for shaping neuronal synaptic currents.

Ryan is a sixth-year Ph.D. candidate in philosophy. His research considers what psychopathology can teach us about the structure of thought and action. His dissertation develops the idea that thought has the kind of structure proper to organisms rather than the kind of structure that characterizes machines.

**Scanlon and Raschke Participate in International Olympic Symposium**

Thomas Scanlon and Wendy Raschke, both faculty in the UCR Classics Program, attended the Third International Scholars’ Symposium on “Sports, Society, and Culture in Ancient Olympia,” this past summer, from July 9-12 in Olympia, Greece.

The symposium was organized by the International Olympic Academy (IOA), in cooperation with Harvard’s Center for Hellenic Studies, and hosted scholars from around the world, including professors from Greek and American universities and selected advanced students from Greek universities. The IOA is the educational branch of the International Olympic Committee, which oversees the Olympic Games, and the Academy is located on a beautiful campus right next to the archaeological site of the ancient Olympic Games in Greece.

The theme of the symposium, “Revisiting the Past, Understanding the Present,” established comparisons between Antiquity and the modern Olympic tradition and used the work of various scholars to show the significance of the past in dealing with contemporary challenges.

At the symposium, Scanlon and Raschke gave lectures and held workshops for the assembled scholars, and visited the ancient Olympic site. In addition, Scanlon has published a two-volume edition of articles, titled “Sport in the Greek and Roman World,” which appeared in October with Oxford University Press.

**PAMLA Holds Annual Conference at Riverside**

For only the third time in its century-long history, the Pacific Ancient and Modern Language Association (PAMLA) held its annual conference in Riverside, co-sponsored by the UC Riverside Departments of English and Comparative Literature. The event, held Oct. 31-Nov. 2 at the Riverside Convention Center, was attended by more than 900 scholars.

The conference theme was “Familiar Spirits.” In addition to many regular standing sessions not focused on the theme, there were papers and sessions on magic, conjuring, spirits, hauntings, Spiritualism, and manifesta-
tions as well as presentations that treat the familiar, familial, and the commonplace in relation to the paranormal, strange, and uncanny, said Distinguished Professor John Ganim, the incoming vice president of PAMLA and co-chair of the site committee.

“PAMLA used to be called the Philological Association of the Pacific Coast,” said Ganim, “but modernized its name some years ago to clarify its goals and mission. But I miss the echo of the word ‘philology.’” Still, said Ganim, the new name makes it easier to understand its affiliation with the Modern Language Association of America, the largest organization of literature scholars in the world.

The association traces its history to the late 19th century, when the new campuses of the University of California and Stanford University were transforming knowledge in all fields, and especially in the studies of language and literature, he added.

In addition to Axelrod, the late Professor Emerita Ruth Roberts was a past president. The incoming president, Cheryl Edelson, received her Ph.D. from UCR, as did the current executive director, Craig Svonkin. The other Riverside site committee co-chair is also a UCR alumna, Lora Geriguis, chair of the English department at La Sierra University.

Researchers Evaluate Effectiveness of Water Policies

As California enters its fourth year of severe drought, Southern California water agencies have turned to new pricing structures, expanded rebate programs and implemented other means to encourage their customers to reduce consumption.

Some of those policies have greatly reduced per capita consumption, while others have produced mixed results, according to a report published in the UC Riverside School of Public Policy journal Policy Matters. The journal is published quarterly by the School of Public Policy, and provides timely research and guidance on issues that are of concern to policymakers at the local, state, and national levels.

Water policy experts Kurt Schwabe, Ken Baerenklau and Ariel Dinar reviewed some of their recent research that was presented at a UCR workshop on urban water management in June 2014. Schwabe and Baerenklau are associate professors and Dinar is professor of environmental economics and policy. The workshop highlighted efforts by Southern California water agencies to promote water conservation, relevant research findings by UC faculty, and challenges that remain to further reduce water demand.

Awards and Honors

Steven Gould Axelrod Receives PAMLA Award

Steven Gould Axelrod, distinguished professor of English, received the Pacific Ancient and Modern Language Association (PAMLA) Distinguished Service Award in a ceremony Nov. 1. Axelrod has been instrumental in helping PAMLA to develop in the areas of American literature and poetry. Like the previous recipients of this award, he has spent thousands of hours working on behalf of PAMLA, encouraging hundreds of scholars to get involved in the organization’s annual conference and prestigious journal.

He is a former president of PAMLA and is a member of the advisory board of Pacific Coast Philology. At UCR he occupied the McCauley Chair in Teaching Excellence and currently serves in the Academy of Distinguished Teachers. He is the author of “Robert Lowell: Life and Art” (Princeton, 1978); “Robert Lowell: A Reference Guide” (G. K. Hall, 1982); and “Sylvia Plath: The Wound and the Cure of Words” (Johns Hopkins 1990).

**Bryan Wong Wins R&D 100 Award**

Bryan Wong, who started this fall as an assistant professor of chemical and environmental engineering in the Bourns College of Engineering, recently won an R&D 100 Award — recognized as the “Oscars of Invention” and bestowed by R&D Magazine — for his work on triplet-harvesting plastic scintillators.

The new cost-saving material, which Wong and others developed when he worked at Sandia National Laboratories, can be used in radiation detection devices that are designed to prevent the illicit movement of radioactive and nuclear materials.

The quest for improved radiation detection scintillators has a long history dating back to the early 1900s, and suitable materials have remained of immense interest for identifying and differentiating fissionable nuclear materials from benign radioactive sources.

**Graduate Student Wins EPA Fellowship**

Jennifer Rae Eberwein, a Ph.D. graduate student in the Department of Botany and Plant Sciences, has been awarded a graduate fellowship of $84,000 for two years by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Eberwein, who works with Darrel Jenerette, an associate professor of landscape ecology, is studying the effects of anthropogenic nitrogen deposition (from air pollution) on soil trace gas emissions of carbon dioxide, nitric oxide, nitrogen dioxide and nitrous oxide in the Colorado Desert. The fellowship will support this research.

**Zarinebaf Awarded Fulbright Fellowship**

Fariba Zarinebaf, associate professor of history and director of the Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies Program, was awarded a Fulbright fellowship for 2013-2014 to study the political, commercial and legal interactions between European and Ottoman states in the port of Galata (the former Genoese port of Constantinople) during the late 18th and early 19th centuries.

Galata was home to many diverse ethnic and religious communities and largely functioned as a cosmopolitan port. More than 15 different languages were commonly spoken in Galata and nearly all of its residents were multilingual.

“Ottoman ports functioned as spaces of connectivity as well as competition and conflict depending on the ebb and flow of trade, diplomacy and treaties of friendship and commerce (Capitulations) that were signed between the Ottoman and European states. The history of Galata has received very little attention from historians in part due to the richness of its layered history and the variety of sources one would need to study in different languages and archives,” Zarinebaf said.

For her project, “Ottoman- European Encounters in the Port of Galata: Capitulations, Commerce and Cosmopolitanism in the Ottoman Empire, 1750-1850,” Zarinebaf conducted her research in Istanbul, where she lived for ten months during her fellowship. While in Istanbul, Zarinebaf was able to understand Galata’s past through hundreds of archival documents that included commercial treaties, consular petitions, lawsuits, court records, tax records, maps, memoirs and reports by European ambassadors. She is planning to conduct her next phase of research in the archives of France (Paris, Marseilles and Nantes).

In addition to her archival research, Zarinebaf was also able to conduct field work, travel to other ports, give numerous talks and participate in a graduate seminar at Boğaziçi University in Istanbul. She plans to compile
her research into a book and hopes her research provides a more layered understanding of the topic.

“I think today we see the disappearance of cosmopolitanism that was once an important feature of port cities in the Middle East as a whole,” said Zarinebaf. “It is crucial to preserve and study the legacy of this past experience as something that was very unique and valuable.”

Highlander History: Men’s Soccer at UCR

By Bergis Jules

Men’s soccer at UCR started as an intramural sport in the fall of 1956 and although the coaches, Professors Wydfrig Evans (classics) and Gino Rizzo (Spanish), had a tough time recruiting players for that first team, they were eventually able to field a team that would host UCLA in an exhibition game on campus in November of 1956. In fact the inspiration for starting the UCR soccer team came from the success of the UCLA team and its legendary coach Ed Stuart, who was a friend of UCR soccer head coach Evans.

UCLA was also happy to help get the program off the ground by not only agreeing to a take part in an exhibition game but also giving some soccer lessons to the UCR team, none of whom had any experience playing soccer, and also offering to donate 18 pairs of soccer boots to the UCR team. The charity ended there, though, as the conference champion UCLA team went on to defeat UCR 9-1 in the first exhibition game in November of 1956 followed by a 3-2 defeat in a second exhibition game the following month.

Despite the early challenges of building a team, there seems to have been wide campus support for the formation of the team and a 1956 Highlander newspaper article captured the mood on campus: “The administration and staff are solidly behind the soccer effort. Dean Olmstead states: it is traditional in liberal arts colleges to encourage widespread participation in competitive athletics; for this reason I welcome the introduction of soccer at UCR since it increases the available opportunities for competitive sports participation.” In just a few short years in 1961, the UCR soccer team would improve tremendously and ended the season ranked second in the conference behind UCLA. Today, UCR men’s and women’s soccer are Division I programs and members of the Big West Conference.

Tech Incubator Opening on Nov. 12

A business incubator in downtown Riverside created by business leaders and officials from the University of California, Riverside, city of Riverside and Riverside County will be the site of a grand opening event at 5:30 p.m. Nov. 12.

Riverside ExCITE Incubator, located at 3499 10th St., is already the home of three companies, all of which have been created by UC Riverside professors. There is additional space for several more companies. The space is available to any start-up companies in the community, not just those connected to UC Riverside.

“It has been hard to create new companies based on technology developed at the university out of the university,” said Michael Pazzani, vice chancellor for research and economic development at UC Riverside and one of the directors of the incubator. “This will make it easier. It will also encourage faculty to start new companies and commercialize the technology they develop.”

Pazzani, along with Rusty Bailey, the mayor of Riverside, and John Tavaglione, who represents Riverside on the county Board of Supervisors, will speak at the grand opening event. There also will be tours and refreshments. The event is open to the public.
The incubator is designed to facilitate the successful incubation and acceleration of start-up companies engaged in entrepreneurial research and development of advanced technologies.

The incubator aims to increase the number of successful start-up businesses in the region by providing a location for business synthesis, mentorship and management; access to financial resources and information; access to marketing and professional services; and technology transfer from domestic and foreign universities, organizations and governments.

Below are details about the three companies that are already located at the incubator:

- FrackOptima, founded by Guanshui “Alex” Wu, a UC Riverside professor of mechanical engineering who is also president of the company, provides software and consulting services to the oil and gas industry in the area of hydraulic fracturing. The company works with companies such as Shell and ConocoPhillips to design safer and more economical multiple-stage hydraulic fracturing treatments along horizontal wells.

- Fundamental Brain Games and Services, LLC, or Fundamental, is a technology start-up that develops and distributes the latest in evidence-based research knowledge in the area of brain fitness and training, through game applications on smart devices and customized services that support brain fitness. Its products will dovetail with the UCR Brain Game Center to bring the latest cognitive scientific research to the public as quickly and as effectively as possible. The company is led by Aaron Seitz, a professor of psychology, and Victor Zordan, an associate professor of computer science and engineering.

- SmartDocFinder is a big-data-driven service to select health care providers in a personalized manner. SmartDocFinder employs unique data aggregation, machine learning, personality profiling and text analytics techniques to extract and combine the right knowledge from a wide range of data sources, from health outcome metrics to provider reviews, to provide personalized provider recommendations. The company is co-founded by Vagelis Hristidis, an associate professor of computer science and engineering, and Matthew Wiley, a computer science and engineering, Ph.D. candidate.