UCR Business School Receives $2.5 Million Gift

Money from the A. Gary Anderson Family Foundation will create endowed chairs for faculty members and scholarships for local graduate students

By Sean Nealon

The A. Gary Anderson Family Foundation announced on Nov. 13 that it is giving $2.5 million to the School of Business Administration to create three endowed chairs for faculty members and provide scholarships for graduate students from Inland Southern California.

The gift is the latest show of support from the A. Gary Anderson Family Foundation, and was announced at a gala at the Victoria Club in Riverside that celebrated the 20th anniversary of the naming of The A. Gary Anderson Graduate School of Management (AGSM). The foundation has made previous gifts exceeding $8 million.

“The history of support from the Anderson family has helped us become a top business school,” said Yunzeng Wang, dean of the School of Business Administration. “This latest gift will make us even better and allow us to expand our reach regionally, nationally and internationally.”

Erik Anderson, president of the A. Gary Anderson Family Foundation, looks forward to seeing the School of Business Administration increase its stature.

“With this latest gift we are looking to help the school recruit top-tier faculty members and top local students,” Anderson said. “Our continued investment in the school’s strategic vision is an integral part of the commitment of our foundation to the people in Inland cities.”

While the latest A. Gary Anderson Family Foundation gift is for $2.5 million, it has potential philanthropic impact of almost $5 million.
The family foundation committed $1.5 million to create three A. Gary Anderson Endowed Presidential Chairs for faculty members. That money would be matched with another $1.5 million courtesy of program announced in July by UC President Janet Napolitano that matches funding for endowed chairs.

These endowed chairs will be used by AGSM to attract highly qualified professors as the school seeks to nearly double its tenure-track faculty to 50. Areas of growth include entrepreneurial leadership, supply chain management and logistics, accounting, marketing and finance.

The family foundation is also providing $1 million for AGSM Scholars Initiative, a scholarship program that will increase the enrollment of Inland Southern California students pursuing graduate degrees. Up to 85 percent of that money may be used as matching funds to attract new philanthropic support. That could mean an additional $850,000.

The remaining $150,000 will be used for outreach activities, such as the financial literacy component for area high school students attending UC Riverside’s annual economic forecast conference.

The gift will help the A. Gary Anderson Graduate School of Management meet its goal of being ranked among the top 50 business schools in the nation.

Leading up to 2020, the school plans to continue to increase graduate school enrollment, which has grown from 150 to 300 in just the past three years; increase the size and enhance the quality of its faculty; and launch research centers in areas including entrepreneurial leadership, economic forecasting and supply chain management and logistics.

To accommodate current and future growth, the School of Business Administration is beginning a feasibility study for a new building to house its programs.

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**Chancellor Kim A. Wilcox Issues Statement of Support for UC’s Long-Term Tuition and Financial Aid Stability Plan**

By James Grant

On Nov. 10, Chancellor Kim A. Wilcox issued a statement of support for the proposed UC Long-term Tuition and Financial Aid Stability Plan proposed last week by UC President Janet Napolitano.

The plan provides for annual increases of up to 5 percent each year to provide stability to the tuition students pay as well as to the funding the university system can expect. As noted by UC administrators in announcing the plan, the past two decades have seen wide volatility in UC tuition due to California state budget swings.

The statement follows:

“In the last 20 years, the UC system has seen wide swings in tuition paid by students and their families. The recent financial crisis caused double-digit increases to tuition.

“Tuition volatility often made it difficult for students and families to plan for college and graduate school expenses. At the same time, the funding cuts and resulting budget unpredictability adversely affected all UC Campuses. As a result, today, the UC system receives $460 million less in state funding than it did in 2007/08, even though UCR and other campuses now serve more students than ever.
“Meanwhile, the University and our campus have redoubled efforts to improve operating efficiencies and reduce costs. The UC system has in the past four years achieved more than $660 million in savings and revenue generation through its ‘Working Smarter’ initiative.

“Here at UC Riverside, after years of belt-tightening, we have firm plans to grow our faculty and student body to further serve our region, the state, and the world. We also are on a mission to improve our campus’ course offerings, providing greater access for students to the classes they need to graduate, improving student services, and reducing class sizes. We also are committed to improving graduation rates and reducing time to degree and, at the same time, improving infrastructure, buildings, research facilities, and student services.

“Under the tuition plan, just as families will be able to plan more effectively, so too will the UC Riverside campus.

“This region and the state, our students, and their families, deserve to know that adequate funding exists to bring enhanced access to the world’s best public university system. The state economy has rebounded from the recession, and now is the time to re-invest in this and other campuses.”

— Chancellor Kim A. Wilcox

“The Things Money Can’t Buy”

*Center for Ideas and Society lecture series begins Nov. 18 in Palm Desert*

By Bettye Miller

The new season of the UCR Center for Ideas and Society lecture series in the Coachella Valley began on Nov. 18, at UCR Palm Desert. The theme of the 2014-15 series is “The Things Money Can’t Buy,” and speakers will explore topics such as democracy, immortality, longevity and ethics – subjects that illuminate the ways in which people create and explore a distinctly human life. Lectures are free, as is parking. They will be held inside the auditorium at UCR Palm Desert, 75080 Frank Sinatra Drive. Each presentation will be followed by a brief question-and-answer period.

The Center for Ideas and Society is an interdisciplinary research center at UC Riverside dedicated to advancing humanistic studies and creativity.

The upcoming lectures and themes are:

**Immortality:** “Would you choose to live forever?” Jan. 14, 6 p.m.

Immortality curmudgeons such as Bernard Williams argue that living forever would not be choice-worthy for human beings. John Fischer, UCR distinguished professor of philosophy and director of The Immortality Project, argues for a more optimistic view of immortality, one that offers an increasing amount of hope for humans.

**Longevity:** “More Precious than Gold: The Paths to Long, Richly Rewarding Lives,” Feb. 11, 6 p.m.

This discussion draws on the empirical work of The Longevity Project. Leslie Martin, professor and chair of psychology at La Sierra University and UCR alumna, will highlight some of the most powerful predictors of longevity as well as some of the biggest surprises.

**Ethics:** “A Theory of Jerks,” March 11, 6 p.m.
Are you surrounded by morons? Does the world seem to you to be full of boring idiots? If so, you might be a jerk! Eric Schwitzgebel, UCR professor of philosophy, offers a general theory of the nature of jerkitude. Schwitzgebel will also talk about their opposite – sweethearts.

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**Big Numbers for Homecoming, Big Winners for #MiniScotty**

*Homecoming attendance in 2014 is about 2,000 strong*

By Lille Bose

Homecoming, held on Nov. 14 and 15, was a well-attended affair, with about 3,000 participants — parents, alumni, staff, and the campus community — taking part in tours, reunions, Back to Class sessions, special events, performances, and break-out sessions. The gym was also packed with Highlander spirit as the UCR basketball team defeated UC San Diego.

After thousands of Highlanders assembled their own Scotty Highlander from a die-cut paper figure found in the Fall 2014 issue of UCR Magazine, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram were scoured for the hashtag #MiniScotty. Photos with the most creative locations, school spirit and clever captions — 14 winners in all — received Barnes & Noble gift cards.

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**From Zero to Sixty**

*UC Riverside’s 3 megawatt solar farm is the largest in the University of California system*

By Lille Bose

On Nov. 13, UC Riverside celebrated the opening of 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 the solar farm, located next to UCR’s Community Garden, was attended by Chancellor Kim A. Wilcox, local government officials, student leaders, and representatives of SunPower Corporation.

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 and the co-chair of UC President Janet Napolitano’s Global Climate Leadership Council, lauded UCR’s efforts at the launch. “UCR went from zero to sixty [in terms of using solar power],” he said.

Today, UCR currently has the largest solar array in the UC system. Other campuses are also quickly adding more solar technology. For instance, UC Irvine opens a large system next year, and UC Davis is set to operate a 16 MW solar farm in the future.

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.

John Cook, director of the UCR’s Office of Sustainability, acknowledges that the solar farm is a big step. It will amount to 3 percent of the campus’s total energy needs. “But we aim to do more.”

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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 at UCR 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.

Among other topics, the expo will include two panels that address disparities in mental health services for African Americans.

The first is a plenary session at 11 a.m. in HUB 302 that will address everyday challenges faced by young African American men and how they feel re-victimized when receiving mental health services. This session will include the screening of a video, “Beyond the Beats & Lyrics,” presented by the California Reducing Disparities Project (CRDP), which is funded by the Mental Health Services Act (Prop 63) and aims to improve access to and the quality of mental health care for underserved minority groups.

Panelists are:

- Terry Boykins, chief navigation officer at Street Positive, an organization that works to narrow the academic, economic and social achievement gap of under-served youth.
- Terrence Stone, founder and CEO of Young Visionaries Youth Leadership Academy, which aims to improve the lives of young people through education, employment, health, mentoring, and community service.

Several African American men between the ages of 18 and 26 who will discuss issues they have faced, such as attracting significantly more interest from law enforcement and, from mental health service providers, over-medication and intrusive counseling.

A workshop at 1:30 p.m. in HUB 367 will focus on disparities in mental health services for African Americans outlined in a report, “We Ain’t Crazy! Just Coping with a Crazy System: Pathways into the Black Population for Eliminating Mental Health Disparities.” That report, prepared by the California Reducing Disparities Project, is part of a multi-year effort by the California Department of Public Health to identify community-defined solutions and practices to eliminate disparities for major populations (African Americans, Asian-Pacific Islanders,
Latinos and Native Americans) and groups (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Questioning).

Panelists will include:

- Nicki King, a youth and family development specialist emerita in the Department of Human Ecology at UC Davis. She is project lead for the second phase of the African American CRDP, which is public dissemination of the findings.

- Carolyn Murray, professor of psychology at UCR. She helped conduct the statewide survey, and previously conducted a longitudinal study of socialization processes within African American families, funded by the National Institute of Mental Health.

- Jennifer Vaughn-Blakely, chair of The Group, a grassroots advocacy organization that addresses issues affecting residents of Riverside, especially African Americans.

“African American males are underserved and inappropriately served by the system,” says Nicki King, one of the panelists. Studies show they are less likely to receive treatment unless they are incarcerated, she said, which changes the purpose of treatment from therapeutic to control.

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**Bill Mayhew, Founding Member of UC Riverside, Died on Sept. 19, Age 94**

*Pioneering ecologist dedicated himself to securing natural reserves for the University of California*

By Iqbal Pittalwala

Professor Emeritus Wilbur (Bill) W. Mayhew, a founding member of UCR in 1954, died on Sept. 19.

Mayhew served as an active professor in the Department of Zoology until his retirement in 1989. Prior to that, Mayhew was a decorated veteran of World War II who completed his military service with a Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal, Purple Heart, and Presidential Unit Citation with two oak leaf clusters. After the war he earned his bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral degrees in zoology from UC Berkeley (1948, 1951, and 1953, respectively). His graduate research was conducted under the mentorship of A. Starker Leopold.

While at UC Riverside, Mayhew taught more than 5,600 students and field classes.

“Professor Mayhew was a visionary and leader,” said Kimberly Hammond, a professor of biology and the director of the UC Riverside Natural Reserve System. “He not only introduced thousands of students to the beauty of the natural world but he was deeply involved in the protection of natural California habitats throughout the state.”

In the early 1960s, with rare vision and foresight Mayhew, Ken Norris of UC Santa Cruz, and Mildred Mathias of UC Los Angeles foresaw the urbanization of California and the loss of natural areas for research and teaching. They were the founders of the UC Natural Reserve System, which today is comprised of 39 reserves with more than 130,000 acres of protected land for research and teaching.

Norris once wrote of Mayhew that he had ‘shown the way for people of all stripes and persuasions to take part in attempts to preserve and protect important parts of wild America, and he has often succeeded in the face of seemingly insurmountable problems in the way. Priceless wildlife reserves have been established because of him, including ones of thousands of acres of now totally unobtainable wildland adjacent to high-priced real
Mayhew’s wife, Corinne, and family were highly supportive of his legacy in protecting California’s critical habitat and energizing young minds about the natural world,” Hammond said.

At his passing, Mayhew was 94 years old.

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Seminars to Address City Management Challenges, Need for Regional Collaboration

School of Public Policy series features city manager panel Dec. 4, regional charter council advocate Dec. 10

By Bettye Miller

Two seminars presented in early December by the UC Riverside School of Public Policy will address challenges facing city managers and the need for regional collaboration to achieve common goals. Both are part of the Randall Lewis Seminar Series organized by the School of Public Policy’s Center for Sustainable Suburban Development.

The first seminar, “Challenges of City Managers: Past, Present and Future,” will be held on Thursday, Dec. 4, at 5:30 p.m. at CE-CERT (College of Engineering-Center for Environmental Research and Technology), 1084 Columbia Ave. Seating is limited. RSVP online here: http://research.ucr.edu/event/about.aspx?ec=CSSD120414.

A panel of three former city managers will discuss how the position of city manager has changed over the years, challenges such as shared governance, the cost of city government and regional cooperation, and what it takes to make a city an attractive place to live, work, play and do business. Panelists are:

- Ted Gaebler, co-author of “Reinventing Government” and an internationally recognized authority on new approaches to government issues. He served as city manager of Rancho Cordova, Visalia, San Rafael and East Palo Alto, and as CEO of Nevada County, California. He holds a B.A. from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, and an M.A. in government administration from the University of Pennsylvania’s Wharton Graduate School. He is an elected Fellow of the prestigious National Academy of Public Administration.

- Stephen Harding, adjunct professor of public policy at several universities who most recently served as interim city manager of Jurupa Valley and before that was city manager of Murrieta. He also was president of San Diego’s Southeast Economic Development Corp. (SEDC) and served as executive director of the Santa Ana Redevelopment Agency and Housing Authority. He holds a B.A. and an M.P.A. from California State University, Long Beach.

- Ronald Bates, a financial and transportation consultant to local governments and longtime city manager. His last full-time position was as city manager in Pico Rivera. He previously served as city manager in South Gate, Buena Park and La Habra Heights. He also served as mayor and city council member in Los Alamitos. In 2014 was awarded the National Public Service Award by the American Society for Public Administration and the National Academy of Public Administration. He earned his B.A. from California State University, Los Angeles, and his M.P.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Southern California.

The Dec. 10 seminar, “Regional Grand Bargain,” will feature William Dodge, a consultant and former executive director of the National Association of Regional Councils. The event begins at 5:30 p.m. at CE-CERT. RSVP online here: http://research.ucr.edu/event/about.aspx?ec=CSSD121014.
Dodge will discuss the value of creating regional compacts as a means and structure for collaborating across local jurisdictions to accomplish common goals. In a 2010 paper published in Public Administration Review, “Practitioner’s Perspective – Regional Charters: The Future of Local Government,” Dodge advocated the creation of regional charter councils to address current and unforeseen challenges.

“Regional charters, developed by local governments and regional citizens, can guide building the capacity to address crosscutting challenges and instill the confidence to negotiate sustainable, affordable, regional growth compacts,” he wrote. “Local governments have strengthened their capacities multifold in the past century, and earned our respect, and accompanying tax dollars, to provide state-of-the-art roads and sewers, public safety and recreation programs, and even bus service and affordable housing. With regional charters, they can build the capacity to address the toughest challenges and earn the respect or our grandchildren.”

Dodge writes a column, “Regional Excellence,” which is shared in various publications and on national websites. He recently served as the interim town administrator for Silverton, Colorado, and has been a visiting professor in graduate schools of public affairs and administration. He co-authored “Shaping a Region’s Future: A Guide to Strategic Decision Making for Regions” and wrote “Regional Excellence: Governing Together to Compete Globally and Flourish Locally.”

Dodge holds bachelor’s and master’s degrees in civil engineering from Cornell University, a master’s degree in foreign affairs and economics from the University of Virginia, and a certificate in urban and regional planning from Harvard University/Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He is a Fellow of the National Academy of Public Administration and the recipient of the Don Stone Intergovernmental Cooperation Award of the American Society of Public Administration.

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**Author Rebecca Skloot to Present Free Public Lecture at UCR as Part of Immortality Project Lecture Series**

*Her book, “The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks,” raises and addresses questions of ethical issues of race and class in medical research*

*By Ross French*

The story of a set of human cells that have been used extensively in medical research for more than six decades, the tragic history of the woman they were taken from, and the accompanying ethical issues of race and class in medical research will be discussed in a free public lecture by New York Times bestselling writer Rebecca Skloot, author of “The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks,” on Thursday, Nov. 20, in the Highlander Union Building, room 302.

Doors open at 5:15 p.m. and the lecture begins at 6 p.m. with a question-and-answer session to follow. A book signing will also take place at the conclusion of the evening.

Skloot’s book examines the history of the first-known human immortal cell line used for medical research, called HeLa, and the woman who unknowingly provided the cells, Henrietta Lacks. It has received several awards, including the National Academies Best Book of the Year Award, the American Association for the Advancement of Science’s Best Young Adult Book Award and the Heartland Prize for non-fiction.

Skloot’s appearance is part of the yearlong lecture series hosted by The Immortality Project, which was established at UC Riverside in 2012 by Professor John Martin Fischer with a $5 million, three-year grant from the John Templeton Foundation to undertake a rigorous examination of a wide range of issues related to immortality.
“‘The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks’ is about a certain kind of immortality – not as a conscious being, and not just in terms of ‘memories’ and ‘fame’, but as the ‘donor’ of cells that continue to multiply indefinitely,” Fischer said. “The book is beautifully written and raises issues about social justice and informed consent. It discusses these difficult and disturbing issues in a way that remains humane and personally compelling throughout.”

“I think one of the things that really makes ‘The Immortal Life’ powerful for students is that the story is so personal for them,” Skloot said. “Everyone in the world has benefited personally from HeLa cells in some way, and there’s always a point in the book when readers realize this, whether they’ve gotten vaccines developed using HeLa cells, were conceived through in vitro fertilization, or any number of other things. Students often tell me that their mother or father is alive because their cancer was treated with a drug made using HeLa cells... I look forward to being with the students at UCR and sharing with them the way the Lackses story affects us all.”

Ken Simons, director of African Student Programs at UC Riverside, read the book as part of the campus’ Diversity Book Club and was inspired to reach out to Fischer about inviting Skloot to campus to speak.

“I was moved by the book, by the story of Henrietta Lacks and her family, and the cross-cultural concepts of immortality. The story brings together questions of ethics, race and medicine in a thought provoking way,” Simons said. “With the concept of immortality front and center in my mind, I reached out to Professor Fischer and he agreed that the story was one that fit well into the concept behind The Immortality Project. There was a fantastic response by groups from across the campus who wanted to be a part of the event.”

Sponsors for the lecture include The Immortality Project Endowed Lecture Series/CHASS, HUB Distinguished Lecture Series, former Executive Vice Chancellor Dallas Rabenstein, the UCR School of Medicine, the Office of the Associate Vice Chancellor for Diversity, Excellence & Equity, the Office of the Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs, University Librarian Steven Mandeville-Gamble, Office of TRiO, and African Student Programs.

Fischer has been using the book as assigned reading in his CHASS First class on death and immortality during Fall ’14. “The students will read it throughout the fall quarter and each week they will make presentations on the book as they read it,” he said. “It will be particularly meaningful for the students to then attend the lecture.

Associate Vice Chancellor for Diversity, Equity and Excellence Yolanda Moses agreed, saying that she hopes other students will be moved to read the book.

“Rebecca Skloot has written a remarkable book about science, race, families and about a particular time in our country’s history,” she said. “While we had this book two years ago as a part of the Diversity Book Club reading for staff and faculty, I am particularly excited about the fact that this book will be read by UC Riverside students this time around.”

The book, which is available for sale at the UCR Campus Store, took a decade to research and write. It tells the history of Lacks, who was diagnosed with cervical cancer in 1951. She underwent surgery and radiation treatments at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, during which time a sample of her tumor was removed without her permission and given to Dr. George Otto Gey.

Lacks died on Oct. 4, 1951 at the age of 31, but Gey discovered that the cells behaved differently than most human cells, in that they did not die after a few divisions and could be used for the conducting of many experiments. The cell line was used by Dr. Jonas Salk in 1954 to develop a vaccine for polio and they have since been mailed to scientists around the world for research projects.

Lacks’ family became aware of the cell line in the 1970s and in recent years her descendants have become more
involved in overseeing the access to and regulation of the cell line and the DNA code.

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**Overseas Trip Strengthens Undergraduates’ Interest in Biology**

*UC Riverside’s Unique Bañares and Azeem Rahman spent eight weeks researching fish in Brazil*

By Iqbal Pittalwala

Undergraduate Unique Bañares never predicted that one day she would be doing evolutionary biology research, let alone field work in faraway, exotic Brazil. Four years ago, she was working in the UC Riverside Child Development Center, where, coincidentally, the daughter of David Reznick, a distinguished professor of biology, was a student.

“On a field trip one day, she told me, ‘My daddy works with fish here at UCR.’ This sparked my interest immediately and I thought this would be a great opportunity for research experience,” said Bañares, now a senior biology major and a premedical student. “I emailed Dr. Reznick right away about my interest in working in his lab, and he gladly took me in as an intern.”

Little did Bañares know then that she would eventually spend weeks in Brazil, which she did last summer researching Phalloceros fish – distinguishing between different species and examining placenta.

“Phalloceros was thought to be just one species but now we are finding multiple subspecies of the fish,” she said. “Our goal is to classify each, via examination of traits and molecular data.”

She was joined in Brazil by fellow-undergraduate Azeem Rahman, a third-year biology major who is minor- ing in anthropology. Rahman, unlike Bañares and most other biology majors at UCR, is planning a career in a biological field instead of medical school.

“We left for Rio de Janeiro in mid-July and returned mid-September,” he said. “We worked on quite a range of projects in Brazil, helping other graduate students there as well as working on our own project. This included traveling to a sparsely inhabited jungle island to take part in research on nutrient uptake of rivers and streams. Our own project included analyzing closely related guppy species by catching and dissecting them to find their life histories. We did not know what we would find, as we did not know the extent of the fish species relationships.”

Rahman and Bañares worked at the State University of Rio de Janeiro (UERJ for Universidad do Estado do Rio de Janeiro) in an ecology lab run by Eugenia Zandonà, a biologist who has worked on several projects with Reznick. Reznick and Zandonà have an exchange program that facilitates students from Brazil coming to UCR to do research, and vice versa. The research project, called “Placenta and life-history traits: evolution in the fish genus Phalloceros,” is being done in association with the International Research Experience for Undergraduates, and is funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF) and CAPES, the Brazilian equivalent of NSF.

“Doing research in Brazil was such an amazing experience,” Bañares said. “Here in Riverside, we work with fishes in tanks but in Brazil we actually got a chance to work out in the field. We had the opportunity to collect our own fish at different rivers and we also got the chance to travel to Ilha Grande, an island close to Rio de Janeiro, where we helped one of the UERJ post-docs conduct some experiments in environmental ecology.”
Brazil also impacted Rahman in many ways. It was the first time he did fieldwork biology.

“I found this type of research to be much more appealing,” he said. “I also met many Ph.D. students from around the world in Brazil who gave me great insight into the life of a research student.”

For both students, doing research on Ilha Grande turned out to be a rewarding experience.

“At one point we were jumping from boulder to boulder in the middle of streams there, going barefoot so that our feet could better grip on the moss,” Rahman said. “I even managed to catch a parasite after diving into a jungle pool above a waterfall.”

Not surprisingly, the trip to Brazil strengthened Bañares’s and Rahman’s interest in biology.

“As a pre-medical student, I tend to be more interested in the side of biology that deals with the human body and the science involved with diseases,” Bañares said. “However, since Brazil, I have gained more appreciation for my research position and the other fields of my major such as evolution and ecology. Also the trip overall has made me a more independent person. I gained a new sense of responsibility and I have learned so much about myself and working with others during my time there.”

Rahman did not expect Brazil would change his international outlook.

“For the last five weeks there, I lived with a local family and became close to many local Brazilians,” he said. “The neighborhood that I lived in was not affluent, and it was difficult to get around without knowing how to blend in with the locals. I quickly learned Portuguese and I am still practicing it with many friends I made there. What surprised me is the good English most people spoke in Brazil. I am currently tutoring some people there in English via video chatting.”

A lover of spicy foods, he admits the food in Brazil was a challenge for him.

“Brazilians seem to have no liking for spicy food,” he said. “I ultimately found much of the food very bland. Due to this, while I was there I lost 33 pounds.”

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**Business Incubator Now in Riverside**

*Partnership between UC Riverside, city of Riverside and Riverside County has already accepted several start-up businesses*

By Sean Nealon

A business incubator in downtown Riverside created by officials from UCR and Riverside County and business leaders launched on Nov. 12.

Four companies, three started by UC Riverside professors and one by an alumnus, were approved for the Riverside ExCITE Incubator, located at 3499 10th St. One of the companies has moved in and others plan to move in in the near future.

There is space for up to six companies and several others have expressed interest in moving in. 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, the 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 Riverside Mayor Rusty Bailey and John Tavaglione, who represents Riverside on the county of Board of Supervisors, spoke at the grand opening event.

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 four companies that are connected to the incubator:

- **FrackOptima**, founded by Guanshui “Alex” Xu, 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 well

- **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 UC Riverside Brain Game Center to bring the latest cognitive scientific research to the public as quickly and as effectively as possible. The company and Brain Game Center are 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 healthcare 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, ranging 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.

- **Walo** (pronounced way – low) is a technology startup that developed a free mobile app for iPhone and Android to navigate crowds and find wait times. Founded by David Langley, who attended California Baptist University in Riverside, and Patrick Edgett, a UC Riverside graduate, walo is built on a proprietary algorithm to display wait times for amusement parks, restaurants, hospital emergency rooms, California Department of Motor Vehicle locations, and US/Mexico border crossings. Walo utilizes crowd sourcing and data partnerships to collect millions of wait times every month. The app can be downloaded for free at www.waloapp.com.

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**GETTING PERSONAL**

*By Bethanie Le*

**Name: Bergis Jules**
**Job: University and Political Papers Archivist**

Although Bergis Jules has only been with UCR for about five months, he is learning a lot about the university's rich history in his job as the university and political papers archivist. Jules says that his main responsibility “is to collect and preserve records of enduring value to UCR, which means records that have historical significance and also records that document the business activity of the university.” Arriving from Washington, D.C., Jules decided to come all the way to California because he sees UCR as a leader, setting standards in a variety of areas — from the new School of Medicine to the high minority student graduation rates.

**What led you to UCR?**

Most recently I was the university archivist at George Washington University in Washington D.C. I have never lived on the West Coast and the position here seemed like a great opportunity. UCR is a university on the rise. That’s exciting to me! The new medical school just opened, as well as the School of Public Policy. It seemed like the perfect time to be part of the exciting changes happening here. Apart from what is happening at the university in general, I was really excited to be part of the new direction of the libraries at UCR. Libraries are a vital part of how any university functions, especially in supporting teaching and research, and I was excited to be part of the new bold and innovative direction the UCR Library is taking.

**What do you like best about UCR?**

The diversity represented among the student body at UCR is absolutely amazing. I have never worked on a campus like this. Diversity at UCR is real and goes beyond the glossy brochure and that is definitely one of the best things I like about being here.

**Describe your typical work day.**

A typical day can include several different activities and most of them revolve around management of the large records collections we already have in the UCR University Archives, which is located on the 4th floor of Rivera Library. Some of those activities include answering questions about university history and about the political papers we hold but also making contact with departments across campus and potential collection donors off campus. Of course, we do more than that, but those are activities that are vital to maintaining a strong university archives program.

**What do you like to do in your free time?**

Free time is family time for me these days. I have two daughters, Madeleine who is 3 years old, and Antonia just turned 1. They keep me and my wife, Anna, pretty busy. When I can get away I like to catch up on some football and soccer, especially my favorite teams, the Indianapolis Colts and Arsenal F.C.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

*Looking for a Leaf?*
Nissan is offering a discount to University of California staff, students and retirees on the purchase or lease of an all-electric Nissan Leaf. The deal lasts through Dec. 31 of this year. The UC does not endorse any particular product, but does pass along information about discounts. The program provides an additional $1,000 discount on top of whatever state and federal subsidies are available. Please see their promotional flier and/or contact your local Nissan dealer for more information.

Who Says?

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

“I can’t speculate on individual players, but you have to ask how the concussions issue changes the landscape from a law-enforcement perspective. I think it has to over time, because we now know that players are suffering repeated insults to the parts of the brain that cause changes in behavior.”

David Franklin, associate clinical professor of health sciences at the School of Medicine, on how legal issues related to football-induced brain damage could factor into future criminal trials and law enforcement policies

NEW YORK TIMES

“What my paper is doing is giving information to the entomologists and arachnologists so they can properly identify the spiders ... and it should stop some of the insanity that goes on when people find a large spider in their fruits.”

Richard Vetter, retired staff research associate in entomology, on how people often mistake harmless spiders for toxic ones

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

“If we are right, our results will really change how people view the origins of animals and other complex life, and their relationships to the co-evolving environment. This could be a game changer.”

Timothy Lyons, distinguished professor of biogeochemistry, on his study finding that a lack of oxygen in Earth’s atmosphere may have prevented animal species from flourishing sooner than 800 million years ago

ASTROBIOLOGY MAGAZINE

“In the past, it was a relative novelty to get ethnic politicians on the ballot. But candidates and voters have matured. ... Where they once voted along ethnic lines, they now look for more qualifications.”

Karthick Ramakrishnan, professor of public policy and political science, on immigrant politicians and how ethnic solidarity may be changing

LOS ANGELES TIMES

“While voters may agree with the ‘Right to know,’ they also recognize that rights come with responsibilities, and the responsibility in this case is to pay for the cost. ... Most voters agree with the professional analyses: the costs are too high to justify providing information to satisfy idle curiosity in the absence of any credible evi-
dence of a safety issue.”

Alan McHughen, cooperative extension plant biotechnologist and geneticist, on the results of recent GMO labeling initiative propositions

**FOOD NAVIGATOR**

“Human beings are remarkably good at getting used to changes in their lives, especially positive changes. ... If you have a rise in income, it gives you a boost, but then your aspirations rise too.”

Sonja Lyubomirsky, professor of psychology, on how having more stuff doesn’t always correlate to happiness because people adapt to it

**WALL STREET JOURNAL**

“About one in every six prisoners is infected with HCV, according to the best available data. In some localities, that number can exceed one in three. It is estimated that one of every three individuals in the community who is infected with HCV rotates through a jail or prison each year.”

Scott Allen, professor of clinical medicine and associate dean at the School of Medicine, on how the U.S. prison populations provides an opportunity to doctors to combat the current epidemic of hepatitis C virus infection

**HEALIO**

“This tells us there are ways to explore dark matter that we’ve never thought of before. We should have an open mind to see all possible effects that dark matter can have.”

Hai-Bo Yu, assistant professor of physics and astronomy, on the University of Chicago’s paper on the missing-pulsar problem. The paper says that the rapidly spinning stellar corpses (pulsars) are mysteriously absent because of dark matter

**WIRED**

Research and Scholarship

**Hailing Jin Published in Nature Communications**

RNA, a nucleic acid essential for all known forms of life, is made from DNA. Many RNAs are used to make proteins. However, these RNAs can be regulated by “small RNA” (snippets of RNA) that bind to them. This binding leads to the suppression of gene expression. Known as RNA gene silencing, the suppression plays an important role in almost all cellular processes.

To direct the silencing of target genes, small RNA binds to a protein called Argonaute protein (many organisms possess multiple Argonaute proteins). The small RNAs, processed from double-stranded RNA precursors, first form a short double-stranded RNA structure called a duplex structure, which must be “sorted” into an appropriate Argonaute protein, with one strand selected as the functional small RNA while the other strand gets degraded. Without this sorting, the silencing of genes would be inefficient and may not even occur. Just how
the small RNA sorting takes place has not been understood.

Now in a paper published in *Nature Communications*, Hailing Jin, a professor of plant pathology and microbiology, and colleagues report that the structure of the small RNA plays an important role in the small RNA sorting.

“Different Argonaute proteins prefer small RNAs with distinct duplex structures,” Jin said. “By using structure modeling, we also identified specific amino acid residues – so called motifs within the Argonaute protein – that are responsible for recognizing the small RNA structure.”

The findings suggest that by simply designing the small RNA duplex structure small RNAs could be directed into desired Argonaute proteins, which has beneficial potential for agriculture.

Jin, the director of the Genetics, Genomics and Bioinformatics Graduate Program at UC Riverside, was joined in the research by Xiaoming Zhang, DongDong Niu, Airong Wang, Angel Lee, Vinnary Tun and Chia-en A. Chang at UCR; Alberto Carbonell and James C. Carrington at the Donald Danforth Plant Science Center, Mo.; and Zonghua Wang at Fujian Agricultural and Forestry University, China.

The research was supported by grants from the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation and the Agricultural Experiment Station-Cooperative Extension.

*Umar Mohideen, an expert on the Casimir force, featured in “Strip the Cosmos”*

The Casimir force, also known as the Casimir effect, is typified by the small attractive force that acts between two close parallel uncharged conducting plates. Today, this force has become an interdisciplinary subject of study, playing an important role in condensed matter physics, quantum field theory, atomic and molecular physics, gravitation and cosmology, mathematical physics, and nanotechnology.

Umar Mohideen, an expert on the Casimir force, was featured in the first episode of a series called “Strip the Cosmos” on the Discovery Communications’ Science Channel.

Mohideen, the chair of the Department of Physics and Astronomy and a professor, was in the episode titled “Secrets of the Black Hole.”

*Middle Managers and Hermit Crabs*

Ideas from mid-level managers that can benefit an organization are less likely to be passed up to superiors as hierarchy in the organization increases, according to a just published paper by Boris Maciejovsky, an assistant professor of management at the School of Business Administration. “I like to call this hermit crab syndrome,” said Maciejovsky. “When mid-level managers feel their ideas are not reflected in top management decisions they withdraw, like a hermit crab retreating into its shell.”

Maciejovsky co-authored the paper, “Corporate Hierarchy and Vertical Information Flow Inside the Firm: A Behavioral View,” which was just published online in the *Strategic Management Journal*, with Markus Reitzig, a professor of strategy at the University of Vienna.

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**Awards and Honors**

*Sarjeet Gill Recognized by the Entomological Society of America*

Sarjeet Gill, a professor of cell biology and neuroscience and an entomologist in the Agricultural Experiment Station, has been selected by the Entomological Society of America for its Recognition Award in Insect Physiology, Biochemistry and Toxicology.

Sponsored by Apex Bait Technologies Inc., the award recognizes and encourages outstanding extension, research, and teaching contributions in urban entomology.
Gill received his doctorate in insecticide toxicology from UC Berkeley and joined the Department of Entomology at UC Riverside in 1983. He helped establish the Department of Cell Biology and Neuroscience and the Graduate Program of Environmental Toxicology, and served as chair of the department and director of the program. He is currently the editor of *Insect Biochemistry and Molecular Biology*, a premier journal in entomology, and he co-edited the series “Comprehensive Molecular Insect Science.”

Gill’s laboratory has two principal research foci. The first area is to elucidate the mode of action of insecticidal toxins derived from the bacteria *Bacillus thuringiensis*. These toxins are active against agricultural pests and vectors of human diseases. More recently, his work involves the bacteria, *Clostridium bifermantans*. The aim of the research is to gain a molecular understanding of the toxins involved, and how these toxins interact with cellular targets. A second area of research focuses on understanding mosquito midgut and Malpighian tubules function, and changes that occur following a blood meal and how toxins affect these functions.

Gill is a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and has served on numerous grant review panels at the National Institutes of Health and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

**UCR Wins Grand Challenges Explorations Grant**

UCR won a Grand Challenges Explorations grant, an initiative funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Eamonn Keogh, a professor of computer science in the Bourns College of Engineering, will pursue an innovative global health and development research project, titled, “Inciting Healthy Behaviors: Nudging using Prompt-Execute-Gauge, a Human Computation Game.”

Grand Challenges Explorations (GCE) funds individuals worldwide to explore ideas that can break the mold in how we solve persistent global health and development challenges. Keogh’s project is one of more than 60 Grand Challenges Explorations grants announced today by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

To receive funding, Keogh and other Grand Challenges Explorations winners demonstrated in a two-page online application a bold idea in one of five critical global health and development topic areas.

Keogh, a three time winner of a Gates Foundation grant, will work with Sang-Hee Lee, an associate professor of anthropology at UC Riverside, and Mindy Marks, an associate professor of economics at UC Riverside, on a multidisciplinary approach to explore “inciting healthy behaviors” using a cell phone based game. There are many behaviors that, especially in the developing world, people know are good for them, yet because of forgetfulness, those behaviors are not always performed, Keogh said. These include using a bed net every night to prevent mosquitoes spreading malaria, or remembering to take medicine every day.

**Highlander History: The Making of the ‘C’**

By Bergis Jules

*Welcome to Inside UCR’s newest feature, Highlander History!*

*Each issue, University Archivist Bergis Jules will present a piece of UCR’s past from the library archives. For more great stories about UCR traditions and history, follow @UCRArchives on Twitter or visit the University Archive on the fourth floor of Rivera Library.*

*“Though we may be the smallest campus, we’ll have the biggest ‘C.’ Let’s make the project a success.”*
That was the rallying call at UC Riverside when the Big “C” was being planned, in a Highlander story written by Doug Bruce in 1955.

It was 1954 when Riverside residents, UCR students, staff and the administration proposed constructing the Big “C” on a Box Spring Mountains site overlooking campus.

The proposed “C” was originally supposed to measure 56 feet by 80 feet. Following a tradition started at the Berkeley campus in 1905, UCR was to have its own “C” just one year after the university was founded as a way to begin building traditions on campus.

After several delays and supplies shortages, including an attempt by Riverside Junior College students to sabotage the effort by carving a giant R next to it, the Big “C” was completed in 1957, and was welcomed as “permanent evidence of UCR’s industry and school spirit.”

The structure ended up measuring 132 feet by 80 feet; today, it is still the largest “C” on a UC campus.

The building of the “C” was truly a UCR community effort, with the class of 1961 making the trek up the Box Spring Mountains to paint the final product after its completion, thus beginning a yearly tradition at UCR.

A Berkeley alumnus, E.L. Yeager, who owned a construction company in Riverside, donated all the equipment and materials for the building of the “C.” He, along with several other UC alumni residing in Riverside, agreed to help with the project because they realized that “to emphasize the character of the campus as part of the statewide University of California, UCR needed a ‘C.’”

The construction project was well-documented in the Highlander newspaper so please stop by University Archives on the 4th floor of Tomás Rivera Library if you would like to learn more.

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**UCR Provost Asks About the Structure of Things**

*The conversation continues at 1:15 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 2 in the Genomics Auditorium*

By Kris Lovekin

Paul D’Anieri, the provost and executive vice chancellor, led a robust conversation with a large audience of UCR faculty and staff at the Highlander Union Building about how the campus is organized.

He suggested in a forum on Wednesday, Nov. 12 that UCR could combine its two largest colleges into one, called the College of Arts and Sciences.

He said decisions related to undergraduate student advising, academic majors and classroom might be better decided by a college dean, rather than having every issue bumped up to provost. His highest priority, he said, is to make sure UCR students have enough seats available to graduate in four years.

This conversation will continue at 1 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 2, in the Genomics Auditorium. Any change in the university structure would have to be approved by the UCR Academic Senate and the systemwide academic council, a process that would take at least two years.

Faculty members raised a variety of issues, including how one dean could possibly understand the tenure and promotion needs of the vast number of disciplines that would live all under one college.
Frances Sladek, a professor of cell biology in the College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences, said it might just create more sibling rivalry as more people are competing for the resources for teaching assistants and faculty hires.

Norm Ellstrand, a professor of botany and plant sciences, said it is somewhat radical to include agricultural sciences in the same omnibus college, because the needs of ag research are so specialized. He suggested a straw poll of the faculty to determine if there is any interest in the change.

Kevin Esterling, a political science professor in the College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences, spoke in favor of keeping more decision-making one layer down.

D’Anieri said that the change in structure, by itself, would not create or diminish resources. He pointed out that he is a political scientist, and he is already making decisions that have to do with all of the academic departments. And he suggested that a dean is more in touch with the department chairs and the students than he is. He said student-related decisions might be better coming from a dean rather than a provost. “It has to do with seamless and continuous student advising,” said D’Anieri. It could eliminate some of the bumps and lead to better graduation rates.”

Chancellor Kim A. Wilcox supported the discussion. “We have an obligation to stop and think about what we want our future to look like.” He and D’Anieri both pointed to UCR 2020 as a guiding document for the future.

D’Anieri also announced that faculty will no longer have to use their sabbatical time to accept a foundation grant, for instance, a Guggenheim award. He also thanked the campus community for a warm welcome since his arrival in July.

D’Anieri complimented UCR staff, saying that the campus has dedicated and quality staff members. “Although there probably aren’t as many as we would want,” he said, referencing a chronic staff shortage.

Read more about the suggestion by the provost: http://scotmail.ucr.edu/attach/college_structure_ucr_final_11_5_14.pdf

Or watch the archive: https://provost.ucr.edu/webcasts/townhall_nov14.html