Chancellor Wilcox at the White House College Opportunity Day of Action

University Innovation Alliance Announces Commitment to produce 68,000 additional graduates by 2025 at White House event


By Kris Lovekin and Nicole Freeling, UC Newsroom

UC Riverside Chancellor Kim A. Wilcox and the other members of the University Innovation Alliance joined President Barack Obama, First Lady Michelle Obama and Vice President Joe Biden along with other college presidents and higher education leaders on Dec. 4 to announce new actions to help more students prepare for and graduate from college.

The University of California plans to expand several of its most successful K-12 outreach programs, and is also working to streamline the community college transfer process as part of larger efforts to help more California students earn a four-year degree.

The event, billed by President Barack Obama as the White House College Opportunity Day of Action, aims to increase the number of college graduates in the United States, especially among low-income students and members of underrepresented minorities. It emphasizes the president’s commitment to partner with colleges and universities, business leaders and nonprofits to support students across the country and help the nation reach its goal of leading the world in college attainment.

The University Innovation Alliance (UIA), 11 public research universities spanning the country, is making a new commitment to producing 68,000 additional college graduates and a total of 860,000 graduates by 2025. The UIA is identifying and piloting new innovations to improve student success and scale proven innovations that significantly improve graduation rates across campuses. The Alliance will also share what works with the broader higher education community to create a playbook of proven innovations that help students from all backgrounds complete.
“The University of California is a model for how the nation can better serve students across ethnicity and socio-economic status,” said UCR Chancellor Wilcox. “At my own campus in Riverside, more than 60 percent of our domestic undergraduates are first in their families to seek a college degree, and our student body includes 55 percent Pell grant recipients – which ranks us No. 1 in the nation among research intensive universities.”

He noted that UC Riverside serves more Pell recipients than all the campuses of the Ivy League combined. And UC campuses, as a whole, stand in contrast to the national trends.

UC stands as a model in higher education for how colleges and universities can better serve disadvantaged students. Not only does it enroll large numbers of low-income students, it also ensures that they have the tools with which to graduate at roughly the same rates as other students.

“Serving students from all walks of life is not just an ideal. It is who we are,” said UC President Janet Napolitano. “Yet there is always more we can do.”

In January, several UC chancellors met at a White House summit on college opportunity that was the precursor to today’s discussion.

Among the actions taken at that meeting, UC pledged to partner with the College Board to encourage more students who perform well on college admissions tests to complete the requirements to become eligible for UC.

In spring 2014, Napolitano sent a personal letter to all high-achieving, low-income students who scored well on a preliminary college admissions test, with information on how to prepare for college and the financial resources available to help pay for it. Since then, UC has embarked upon a more broad-based partnership with the College Board to increase the number of these students taking college preparatory and honors courses.

At Thursday’s discussion, the UC Office of the President committed to a number of additional actions to further expand educational opportunities for underserved students.

Among these efforts:

- The university is working to streamline the community college transfer process. Already, about third of undergraduates come to UC through the California Community Colleges system, but transfer rates are low at some community college campuses. UC is working with 24 of those campuses to boost transfer rates.

- The university will expand enrollment in CalTeach, a program that is helping to address the shortage of qualified math and science teachers. CalTeach encourages UC undergraduate STEM majors to pursue careers in K-12 education. A majority of the program’s graduates go on to work in high-poverty urban and rural schools.

- The university will provide transcript evaluation services to an additional 2,600 California public schools. The program provides schools with individualized transcripts that chart students’ progress toward completing the courses necessary for admission to California’s public four-year universities.

- UC will offer more workshops to K-12 educators on how to create vocational courses that also fulfill college prep requirements. The workshops, offered through the University of California Curriculum Integration Institutes (UCCI), bring together collaborative teams to create challenging courses that integrate the core academic subjects necessary to apply to college with career technical education subjects that provide job skills.

Across the country, lower-income students are much less likely to enroll in college than the general population. Of those who do enroll, many fail to complete their studies: national education statistics show that more than
half of students who receive Pell Grants, financial aid given to low-income families, leave college without earning a degree.

At the top-tier universities with the best rates of graduation and student success, low-income students are especially underrepresented. On average, Pell Grant recipients account for just 16 percent of undergraduates at selective private schools and 23 percent of students at selective public universities.

It’s a far different story at UC. In 2013, 42 percent of undergraduates — some 77,000 students — came from low-income families and 41 percent were the first in their families to go to college.

“The University of California is the standard-bearer among top universities in serving large numbers of students from socially and economically diverse backgrounds,” Napolitano said. “And we will continue to do all we can to ensure that every hard-working California student has a shot at a world-class UC education.”

---

UC Riverside Looks to the Physical Future of Campus

*UCR Physical Master Plan Study to assist campus leadership in meeting key goals for UCR 2020*

By James Grant

With ambitious plans to grow its faculty and student population in coming years, UC Riverside has begun a new look at the future of the 1,200-acre campus and its physical plan and facilities.

What teaching and learning facilities are needed to handle more students? How should the campus approach growth, while increasing sustainability? How should the beauty of the trees and plants on campus be preserved for future generations? How should researchers plan for facilities to house experiments in disciplines that haven’t yet been created? These and many other questions are being explored in a planning process that kicked off recently.

The inaugural meeting of the campuswide steering committee for the UCR Physical Master Plan Study took place in early December facilitated by Santa Monica-based architecture and planning firm Moore Ruble Yudell, which will assist the campus in creating a new study to guide responsible and sustainable campus development to the year 2025 and beyond.

The study will be used to assist campus leadership in meeting the key goals of the university’s strategic plan, UCR 2020.

UCR’s strategic plan currently calls for increasing enrollment from 22,000 to 25,000 students by 2020. In addition, the campus is considering adding as many as 5,000 additional new students by 2025 for a total student population of 30,000.

The campus also plans to grow its core faculty by 300 new ladder-rank scholars by 2020 from the current 650 and provide several new facilities to serve teaching, research, and other institutional needs.

The study also is needed to guide implementation of the UC-wide goal of becoming carbon-neutral in its operations by 2025. In addition, new state stormwater regulations will require UCR to actively manage new stormwater runoff onsite.

The study is anticipated to be completed by late 2015, after which a new UCR Long-Range Development Plan (LRDP) and related environmental approvals will be undertaken. While the study is underway, UCR will continue to advance priority projects, in accordance with the UCR LRDP of 2005, with amendments, as necessary,
Discussions Continue on a Proposed College of Arts and Sciences

by Kris Lovekin

Provost Paul D’Anieri has spoken with UCR faculty about the possibility of creating one large College of Arts and Sciences on campus, in essence merging the College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences and the College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences.

The discussions have been robust and well-attended, with detailed questions from UCR faculty who by and large seem skeptical of the change.

“We won’t do this over the objections of a majority of the faculty,” D’Anieri said after a discussion on Tuesday, Dec. 2, with nearly 100 of the faculty from the College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences who walked in the rain to the Student Services Building. A similar discussion was held Dec. 9 at the HUB with the faculty from the College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences.

D’Anieri said the model of a larger college supports more interdisciplinary research, and it would also help UCR make more strategic decisions on undergraduate education. “Key academic decisions should be made closer to the academic units, and by people with the budget authority to make them happen,” he said.

Some faculty members suggested that merging the two largest colleges on campus would dilute the power of any one department, and that it would be even harder to get resources from one remaining dean. “Do not submerge us in a College of Arts and Sciences,” said one faculty member in the CNAS meeting, to significant applause.

Jodie Holt, a divisional dean for CNAS, said agriculture is so significant to the campus reputation, and so thoroughly embedded within the sciences, that she would not want to see it get lost in a College of Arts and Sciences. “Most problems can be solved without this reorganization,” she said.

D’Anieri noted that there is already a great deal of diversity within the colleges, and that he is a political scientist making many important decisions related to the hard sciences, simply because of his role as the provost. “Good leadership can come from any of the disciplines,” he said.

Frances Sladek suggested a straw poll of the faculty about whether this merger would be a good idea for UCR.

D’Anieri promised that in addition to these informal discussions, he would be working through the Academic Senate to get a sense of the official faculty voice. He said if the decision is made to stay with the current structure, he is not afraid to continue making the decisions. He just wanted to have a robust discussion of what is best for UCR’s future. He said he was glad to be having the discussion, no matter which way it went.

He earned enthusiastic applause at the end of his presentation for the transparency of the process, and the chance for faculty to be heard.

Some faculty attending the Town Hall for CHASS on Dec. 9 voiced concerns about how the humanities would fare in a College of Arts and Sciences, particularly whether those disciplines would be regarded as a “service
department” focused on providing courses to satisfy general education requirements or might become invisible unless they were associated with the arts.

The humanities ought to be considered on their own terms, and would hopefully become stronger in a College of Arts and Sciences, D’Anieri replied.

“The example I give is that somebody in biology somewhere is going to figure out how to clone a human being. They’re not going to be able to ask if they should. That will be the philosopher,” he said. “They won’t be able to write the laws (about human cloning). That will be the political scientist.”

David Funder, distinguished professor of psychology, said there are concerns about cultural differences between CHASS and CNAS.

“There are two big issues: differences in teaching loads, and expectations for funding,” he said. For example, neuroscience professors in CHASS have a much larger teaching load than do neuroscience professors in CNAS. And while the research of a majority of CHASS faculty is not eligible for large NSF or NIH grants, many faculty do earn prestigious fellowships that support their research in the humanities, arts and social sciences. Tenure decisions sometimes are based on the grants brought in; he asked if CHASS faculty would be disadvantaged in a college of arts and sciences.

“Cultural differences in teaching loads and the way research gets done are significant,” D’Anieri said. “In a college of arts and sciences those differences are front and center, and that’s healthy.”

Steven Brint, vice provost for undergraduate education and a professor of sociology, noted some advantages to the larger college in achieving broader campus goals.

“Graduating students in a timely way, fostering collaboration, and increasing diversity all can be accomplished better under the structure of arts and sciences,” he said.

More information about the proposal is available here: https://scotmail.ucr.edu/attach/cas_discussion_update_nov21.pdf

The Nov. 12 Town Hall with the Provost is archived here: http://provost.ucr.edu/webcasts/townhall_nov14.html

---

**Registration Now Open for Jan. 9 Symposium on Glial-Neuronal Interactions**

*By Kathy Barton*

The 8th Annual Symposium on Glial-Neuronal Interactions in Health & Disease, scheduled for Friday, Jan. 9, 2015, is now accepting registrations from interested students and researchers.

Brian A. MacVicar, professor and director of the Djavad Mowafaghian Centre for Brain Health at the University of British Columbia, will present the keynote Glenn Hatton Lecture titled “Synaptic sensing and modulation by microglia: a role for neurodegeneration?” Dr. G. Richard Olds, vice chancellor for Health Affairs and dean of the UCR School of Medicine, will give a brief welcome address.

The annual symposium is intended to bring together a diverse group of researchers who study neuronal-glial interactions in brain and spinal cord functions. It is presented by the Center for Glial-Neuronal Interactions.
The symposium is scheduled for 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. in HUB 302 on the UCR campus. Registration is free, but required, for attendees from nonprofit organizations. For those attending from for-profit organizations, the registration fee is $175. Poster abstract submissions will be accepted through Friday, Dec. 19.

Additional symposium speakers include:

- Michelle Monje Deisseroth, M.D., Ph.D., Stanford Institute for Stem Cell Biology and Regenerative Medicine, “Myelin plasticity in health and disease.”
- Joshua Weiner, Ph.D., University of Iowa, “Roles for astrocytic gamma-Protocadherin adhesion molecules in neural circuit formation.”
- Rona Giffard, Ph.D., M.D., Stanford University, “Glia, microRNAs and models of cerebral ischemia, a new hope for therapy?”
- Anandora Bruce-Keller, Ph.D., Pennington Biomedical Research Center, Louisiana State University, “CNS Inflammation: Other Voices, Other Rooms.”
- Lloyd Kasper, M.D., Dartmouth School of Medicine, “Harvesting from the gut microbiome: the role of commensal bacteria in CNS demyelination.”

Visit the CGNI website to view the symposium schedule, to register and to submit a poster abstract.

---

**Conference to Examine Latino, Latin American Objects of Devotion**

*Dec. 12-13 event at the Culver Center draws international scholars, artists and museum curators*

*By Bettye Miller*

Scholars, artists and museum curators will examine sacred objects, rituals and visual culture of Latin America and Latinos in a conference at UC Riverside’s Culver Center of the Arts on Dec. 12-13.

The conference, “Objects of Devotion/Objetos de Devoción,” coincides with an exhibition by Mexican-British photographer Alinka Echeverría, whose photographic series “The Road to Tepeyac” captures pilgrims and the objects they carry on their backs to Tepeyac Hill in Mexico City to honor the Virgin Mary on her feast day.

“There’s something about these photos that has captured people’s imaginations,” said Jennifer Scheper Hughes, associate professor of history at UCR and co-organizer of the conference. “This conference picks up themes from Echeverría’s work about devotion, Latin American religion and sacred vision.”

The conference is free and open to the public. Registration is recommended and may be done online. The Culver Center is part of UCR ARTSblock, located in downtown Riverside in the 3800 block of Main Street. ARTSblock is a cultural complex composed of the Culver Center, the California Museum of Photography and Sweeney Art Gallery.

Conference sessions begin at 3:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 12, and conclude with a screening of “Walking the
Camino: Six Ways to Santiago,” a 2013 documentary that follows six pilgrims ranging in age from 3 to 73 on a 500-mile pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela in Spain. A discussion will follow with co-producer Annie O’Neil and UCR art history professor Conrad Rudolph, both of whom have made the pilgrimage.

On Saturday, Dec. 13, the first conference session is at 9 a.m. The day ends with the final screening of “Walking the Camino” at 7 p.m. A conversation about the film will follow. “Walking the Camino” screens at 3 p.m.

The conference features the participation of three Latin American/Latina women artists: Echeverría, who speaks on Friday and Saturday, in Spanish; Alma López, a visual and public artist whose work has appeared in more than 100 exhibitions around the world; and Colombian artist Adriana Salazar, who builds kinetic sculptures.

During the two-day conference national and international scholars will present more than 30 papers addressing many dimensions of religious materiality in the Latin American and Latino context, such as: relics, devotional practice, pilgrimage and iconography, visual and votive culture, contemporary engagements with the Virgin of Guadalupe, transgressive saints, and sacred objects and materials of the pre-Hispanic period. Plenary sessions will include conversations with artists and national/international scholars. One conference session on Dec. 13 will be held in Spanish.

“It was important to us in planning this conference to highlight the connections between Latin America and U.S. Latino experiences,” explained Jennifer Nájera, associate professor of ethnic studies and co-organizer of the conference. “Latino immigrants and their children maintain, challenge, and infuse new meaning into their religious practices and iconographies.”

On Thursday, Dec. 11, Luis León, author of “The Political Spirituality of Cesar Chavez: Crossing Religious Borders” (University of California Press, November 2014), will discuss the life and beliefs of the late farmworker advocate and union activist in a pre-conference lecture at 4 p.m. At 7 p.m. Teatro Latino will present a staged reading of the Migdalia Cruz play “The Have-Little.” The one-act play is a coming-of-age story about a 14-year-old girl growing up in a South Bronx tenement.

The Dec. 12 opening day of the conference coincides with the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, a religious observance that honors the belief that Mary, the mother of Jesus and Mexico’s patron saint, appeared to a poor Indian in Mexico City twice in 1531.

Hughes, who studies Latin American religious practice, said that Mexican and Mexican American religious practices are often stigmatized in the U.S. because of their strong visual component.

“The history of this country is rooted in Protestantism, which has traditionally been against iconography and the religious image,” she explained. “The Puritans did not have an image of what Jesus looked like. For them, the image of Jesus was a blinding light. That has sometimes led to disrespect for Mexican religious practices. The Mexican relationship to the Virgin Mary is very complex and nuanced, but has been disparaged as idolatry. We’re trying to explain that these are complex positionalities. An image can be holy. It is never just an icon. At one point it is God, it’s a painting, it’s a representation.”

Hughes said she was inspired by Alinka Echeverría’s images of people making a pilgrimage to Our Lady of Guadalupe on Tepeyac Hill in Mexico City. The photographer’s series of 300 images of people and objects they carry on their backs to the shrine, “The Road to Tepeyac,” has been exhibited all over the world. It will be on display at the California Museum of Photography through Jan. 24, 2015.

Echeverría was named International Photographer of the Year in 2012 by the Lucie Awards, won the HSBC
Prize for Photography in 2011, and has been nominated for the Paul Huf and Prix Pictet Awards.

Her work has been widely exhibited internationally, including at Maison European de la Photographie, Paris, National Portrait Gallery, London, and as part of the Moscow Photobiennale. She earned her M.A. in social anthropology at the University of Edinburgh in 2004, and studied photography at the International Center of Photography, New York.

---

**UC Efficiency Efforts Yield $664 Million for Academics, Research Over Four Years**

*by UCOP*

The University of California has generated $664 million in cost savings and new revenue from efficiencies over the past four years and passed on most of that money to campuses to pay for academics and research, the university’s core missions.

Through a series of initiatives and programs including transforming procurement methods and increasing the efficiency of UC’s travel practices, the university’s Working Smarter initiative has realized $426 million in cost savings and $238 million in fresh revenue since the program launched four years ago.

“Working Smarter is an essential program for the university,” said Nathan Brostrom, UC chief financial officer. “As a public institution, we have an obligation to do everything we can to make UC operations as efficient and cost-effective as they can be, which is especially important given the decline in state funding we’ve experienced over the years.”

Brostrom discussed Working Smarter’s progress at the UC Board of Regents meeting on Nov. 19.

The initiative, now in its fifth year, has already exceeded its initial goal of generating $500 million in positive fiscal impact over five years. In the coming year, Working Smarter will seek to increase administrative gains by involving staff across the university in smaller-scale efforts that can produce results more quickly.

The Working Smarter initiative is a key part of the university’s plan to address about one-third of its budget gap through a combination of administrative efficiencies, cost savings and new alternative revenues.

In its fourth year, Working Smarter produced $203 million in administrative efficiencies from nine different projects, the most successful year so far for the initiative. Successes included transforming the university’s procurement systems, which generated $124 million in savings, a purchase card program for procurement that saved more than $7 million and an equipment maintenance insurance program that produced more than $851,000 in savings, among others.

About a third of Working Smarter’s ongoing projects are still ramping up and are expected to produce additional financial gains in the years ahead.

UC also is working with its counterparts in California higher education to find ways to boost efficiency. Partnering with the California State University and California Community Colleges, UC is seeking areas where services can be shared and operational effectiveness can be improved.

---

**UC Pension Plan’s Funded Status Improves**
Thanks to strong investment returns and increased contributions from UC and employees, the funded status of the UC Retirement Plan (UCRP) increased to 80 percent from 76 percent as of July 1, 2014, Dwaine Duckett, vice president of human resources, told the UC Board of Regents on Nov. 19.

A higher funding level better positions UCRP for the long term.

“In the four years since the Regents approved a series of changes to post-employment benefits, we’ve gone through an intensive discussion and collective-bargaining process to ensure all employee groups – as well as the university – now make appropriate contributions,” Duckett said. “This has helped stabilize the plan and put it on a solid footing for the future.”

Duckett briefed the regents on the annual valuation report produced by the regents’ pension actuary, Segal Consulting.

The 80 percent funded status reflects an actuarial value of assets, which smooths investment gains and losses over a five-year period, reducing the impact of volatility in the investment market. On a market value of assets basis, which reflects a snapshot of the actual dollars in the trust as of June 30, 2014, the funded ratio increased to 87 percent from 79 percent.

In 2009 and 2010, the regents approved restarting UC and employee contributions to UCRP, a new pension tier for new employees (the 2013 Tier) and other measures to maintain financially sustainable pension benefits for employees.

UCRP provides retirement benefits to eligible faculty and staff who have at least five years of service credit. In fiscal year 2013-14, more than 64,000 retirees and beneficiaries received $2.7 billion in benefits.

As of July 1, 2014, UCRP has more than $52 billion in assets. There are more than 120,000 active members, of which about 14,000 are members of the new 2013 Retirement Plan Tier.


You can read the report to the regents here: http://regents.universityofcalifornia.edu/regmeet/nov14/f4.pdf.

---

Researchers Identify Chemical Compound That Decreases Effects of Multiple Sclerosis

UC Riverside-led mouse study shows the ligand indazole chloride improves motor function, imparting therapeutic benefits even when treatment is initiated at the peak of disease

By Iqbal Pittalwala

Multiple sclerosis (MS), an autoimmune disease of the brain and spinal cord, affects about 2.3 million people worldwide (400,000 in the United States). Affecting more women than men, it can be seen at any age, although it is most commonly diagnosed between the ages of 20 and 40.

An unpredictable disease that disrupts the flow of information within the brain and between the brain and the
body, MS is triggered when the immune system attacks the myelin sheath, the protective covering around the axons of nerve fibers. The “demyelination” that follows causes a disruption of nerve impulses. As the protective sheath – best imagined as the insulating material around an electrical wire – wears off, the nerve signals slow down or stop, and the patient’s vision, sensation and use of limbs get impaired. Permanent paralysis can result when the nerve fibers are completely damaged by the disease.

Given such debilitating effects, an aggressive search is on among scientists to find a cure for MS. Currently available therapies are only partially effective, however, in preventing the onset of permanent disability in MS patients. What would be immensely helpful is a drug that could minimize the degeneration of axons, thus reducing the rate and degree of MS progression. Better still would be if this drug could stimulate “remyelination,” the re-sheathing of the axons, restoring fast and uninterrupted flow of nerve impulses.

Now a team of researchers, led by a biomedical scientist at the University of California, Riverside, reports in this week’s issue of the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences that it has identified just such a drug in the lab: indazole chloride (Ind-Cl).

“This drug, which we administered on transgenic mice, can potentially halt the symptoms and reverse ongoing motor deficit due to MS,” said Seema K. Tiwari-Woodruff, an associate professor in the UC Riverside School of Medicine whose lab led the study. “Our study shows that Ind-Cl can remyelinate axons which have gotten injured not just in MS but also traumatic brain injury and spinal cord injury.”

Tiwari-Woodruff explained that Ind-Cl is a chemical compound that stimulates an estrogen receptor, ERβ, in the body. As is well known, pregnant women with MS get near-complete relief from MS symptoms in their third trimesters. Estrogen levels, which are high at this time, have neuroprotective benefits, alleviating the MS symptoms. After the birth of the baby, estrogen levels plummet in the mother and the MS symptoms return.

“This readily suggests that estrogen could be given to MS patients, except that high levels of estrogen are linked to breast and uterine cancers,” said Tiwari-Woodruff, who joined UCR earlier this year. “Further, men would largely be reluctant to take estrogen due to its feminizing effects.”

Enter Ind-Cl, a small compound Tiwari-Woodruff has worked with for about two years. This structurally unique ligand turns on the body’s estrogen receptors without the negative effects of excessive estrogen.

“More encouraging is that this compound works after disease onset,” Tiwari-Woodruff said. “This makes it promising because a patient with MS typically first visits the doctor when he or she has noticed some motor deficits – loss of balance, inability to pick up an object, an impairment in vision. By this time though, the axons responsible for these motor functions have been massively affected. But if a drug can be administered at this point that can help the patient gain some relief from the disease and further damage, we’d be on to something.

“Ind-Cl is just such a drug in that it inhibits selective inflammation of the central nervous system,” Tiwari-Woodruff added. “Our work on mice suggests that its effect is permanent. But perhaps more significant, Ind-Cl remyelinates, that is, it makes new sheaths around those axons that have not been lost for good. This means Ind-Cl not only inhibits inflammation but is capable of reducing axon degeneration and restoring neuronal function.”

Tiwari-Woodruff’s lab conducted electrophysiology tests to ensure that the remyelinated axons were retransmitting impulses. According to her, Ind-Cl can be developed for oral administration. To ensure that the remyelination her team observed in the MS mice was due to Ind-Cl and not to an immune response, the team administered Ind-Cl in mice whose oligodendrocytes, the cells responsible for remyelinating axons and myelin,
were selectively decreased.

“We found that remyelination occurred more efficiently in such mice after they were given Ind-Cl,” Tiwari-Woodruff said. “This means Ind-Cl works in two ways: through the immune system in terms of reducing brain and spinal cord inflammation, and directly by remyelinating the axons. This makes it an extremely promising drug.”

Tiwari-Woodruff noted that Ind-Cl can be tweaked to make analogs that could work even better at alleviating MS symptoms. Her colleague John A. Katzenellenbogen, an organic chemist at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) and a coauthor on the research paper, developed Ind-Cl. In addition, his group has already identified four analogs that the research team will soon test on MS mice.

“We expect some of these analogs will soon go to clinical trial,” Tiwari-Woodruff said.

Tiwari-Woodruff and Katzenellenbogen were joined in the study by Spencer M. Moore, Anna J. Khalaj, Zachary Winchester, JaeHee Yoon, Timothy Woo and Leonardo Martinez-Torres at UCR; Shalini Kumar at UCLA; and Norio Yasui at UIUC.

The research was funded by grants from the National Multiple Sclerosis Society and the National Institutes of Health.

What exactly causes MS is currently not known. It is commonly believed that a virus or gene defect and an active immune system are responsible for this neurodegenerative disease. Environmental factors could also play a role. The disease is seen in most ethnic groups, but is most common in Caucasians of northern European ancestry. Other MS information can be found here.

---

**GETTING PERSONAL**

By Bethanie Le

**Name: Jason Day**

**Job: Police Lieutenant**

As a UCPD lieutenant, Jason Day’s work is mostly about saving the day. But as the division commander for all patrol and investigative services, his work also includes going through emails, phone calls, reports and investigations of various cases. But no matter what kind of work he’s doing, being in the UCPD involves total focus, always.

“In this job, it’s the same thing, but never the same thing,” he says. “You always face domestic violence, assault and theft calls. They’re the same type of calls but it’s not always the same people and the same circumstances. This requires you to really think through the situation.”

He adds, “You cannot go on autopilot on this job because as soon as you do, you will lose your edge, put yourself in danger and put others in danger. Because you have to look at things through a bigger picture and really focus on how to be an effective manager, officer and supervisor, it’s always different and challenging.”

Luckily, as an employee who has been at UCR for 14 years, Day is the embodiment of Highlander Pride.
“I don’t say it lightly: I love this campus. I know the history of the buildings, the weird quirks that we have here. It’s just this environment, I like working here,” Day says.

“UCR is different from so many parts of the nation. It’s the culture, diversity and inclusiveness. This diversity that you cannot get anywhere else makes my life richer.”

That makes the other part of his job — recruitment — a welcome challenge as well. “It’s always this concern for me that we continue to bring in people that match or exceed the skill level and mindset that we have here at UCR,” Day says. “It’s not an easy search since I cannot bring just anyone in this department and make them an officer. Because our department is small, we cannot get one bad apple. I need all of my officers to be outstanding. And they are!”

That doesn’t mean that he can’t take a break from work, however. “I have too much energy to sit in my office for too long so at some point in the day, I’ll hit pause and walk the campus. It’s a really good way to get a pulse on what the campus is concerned about,” Day says. And when he’s not on campus, he tries to be outside as often as possible.

“Southern California is blessed with beautiful mountains, amazing beaches and world-renowned places. People fly to California to see these things and it’s just driving distance for us! So I spend much of my time outside and not in a building.”

**DID YOU KNOW?**

*Staff Assembly Christmas Party*

Diamonds are forever, but the holidays only come once a year. So come celebrate with your fellow staff members and enjoy an afternoon of games, refreshments, and chances to win great prizes at the Staff Assembly “Casino Royale”-themed Holiday Party on Wednesday, Dec. 10, from 3 to 5 p.m. in HUB 302.

The party will feature gaming tables, a prize cage, hors d’oeuvres, a photo booth, and an open bar with mocktails.

You are invited to join in the fun by dressing up in your finest — black tie or other formal wear — or just come as you are! Be sure to bring your $100 “Andy-Bucks” to exchange for $100 in casino money.

The Holiday Party is free and open to all staff members and student employees.

**Who Says?**

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

When most people think of Asian American, they think immigration, education, language access, and that’s about it...But it’s much more than that. This is a fuller sense of what Asian Americans are. And it gives you a sense of what an Asian American agenda might look like.

*Karthick Ramakrishnan, professor of political science and public policy, on how the results of a poll he conducted on Asian Americans shows that income inequality, affirmative action and gun control are issues of*
serious concern for Asian Americans

**NBC NEWS**

I think they are learning how to better apply themselves to certain types of tasks. ... Many tasks that we do involve understanding what to look for. This ranges from finding the cereal that we are looking for at the grocery store to the skills of radiologists and even athletes.

*Aaron Seitz, professor of psychology, on studies that show how action video games can enhance vision, attention and perception learning abilities in adolescents and adults*

**U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT**

Here we are at almost 2015 and the clock is ticking to 2017 and we have no consensus about what to do (about the Salton Sea).

*Mark Matsumoto, professor of environmental engineering, on the Salton Sea and ways to sustainably manage the lake*

**SAN BERNARDINO SUN**

I named it Caloplaca obamae to show my appreciation for the president’s support of science and science education.

*Kerry Knudsen, curator of lichens in the UCR Herbarium, on why he named his discovery of a new species of lichens after President Barack Obama*

**TORONTO SUN**

We’ve found that social kinds (of kindness) have somewhat bigger effects overall. ... It could be, ‘I helped my sister with her homework,’ or ‘I helped someone carry a package.’

*Sonja Lyubomirsky, professor of psychology, on how voluntary social acts aimed at benefiting others can ultimately make the person displaying the behavior more happy*

**THE HUFFINGTON POST**

Social media trends come and go, but I think the selfie is here to stay. In fact, its popularity and use is growing.

*Scott Silverman, CNAS scholars coordinator, on the role of the “selfie” in different social media trends*

**LOS ANGELES DAILY NEWS**

A lot of these kids don’t connect to the fact that a lot of these superheroes and super villains are actually scientists that in their line of work have discovered many of these things that gave them their powers.

*Suveen Mathaudhu, assistant professor of mechanical engineering, on his role as curator of the “Comic-tanium” exhibit at the Tooseum: Pittsburgh Museum of Cartoon Art and how the stories behind famous comic characters can act as an aid in teaching science and engineering to children and the general public*

**KPCC-FM**
Research and Scholarship

SISTERS Program Launched

On Nov. 21, UCR had the first meeting of the new program called SISTERS Program. SISTERS, which stands for Success in Science & Technology: Engagement with Role-models, uses a role model approach to encourage more girls to attend college and pursue a STEM career.

The SISTERS Program will pair 50 girls (7th and 8th grades) at University Heights Middle School with about 15 female UCR undergraduates who are already in STEM fields. The idea is that the UCR students will mentor the middle-school girls for a year. The middle-school girls will also have an opportunity to meet with UCR women faculty in the near future. On these occasions, the faculty members will talk to the students about how they got into STEM, what challenges they faced, and what they research at UCR and how. Field trips to museums and labs are also planned.

The goal of SISTERS is to empower the 50 middle-school girls to pursue STEM fields, while also boost their self-confidence; help them overcome bullying, stereotypes and other hurdles; and prepare them for STEM success.

The orientation meeting took place in the library at University Heights Middle School. At this meeting, Pamela Clute, a mathematics educator at UCR for more than 40 years and a passionate advocate for girls’ education, gave a short presentation. She discussed why STEM is important, how it impacts our everyday life and how a whole host of good jobs need STEM training.

All the UCR students doing the mentoring are members of the Science Ambassadors program at the College of Natural and Agricultural Sciences. The SISTERS program was the idea of Roselyn Tran, a fourth-year biology major and president of the Science Ambassadors.

Training the Brain to Treat Auditory Dysfunction

Many combat veterans suffer hearing loss from blast waves that makes it difficult to understand speech in noisy environments — a condition called auditory dysfunction — which may lead to isolation and depression. There is no known treatment.

Building on promising brain-training research at UCR related to improving vision, researchers at UC Riverside and the National Center for Rehabilitative Auditory Research are developing a novel approach to treat auditory dysfunction by training the auditory cortex to better process complex sounds.

The team is seeking public support to raise the estimated $100,000 needed to fund research and develop a computer game they believe will improve the brain’s ability to process and distinguish sounds.

“This is exploratory research, which is extremely hard to fund,” said Aaron Seitz, UCR professor of neuropsychology. “Most grants fund basic science research. We are creating a brain-training game based on our best understanding of auditory dysfunction. There’s enough research out there to tell us that this is a solvable problem. These disabled veterans are a patient population that has no other resource.”

Sweeny and Andrews in the Journal of Personality and Social Psychology

Waiting for uncertain news, such as the outcome of a job search or medical test, is easier for some people than
others. For the first time, University of California, Riverside psychologists have identified when and for whom waiting periods are most difficult, findings that may help in developing coping strategies.

Researchers know relatively little about the universal experience of awaiting uncertain news, according to Kate Sweeny, associate professor of psychology, and Ph.D. student Sara E. Andrews.

“Unlike coping with bad news, which, though painful, has the clear goal of identifying ways to improve a bad situation, coping with uncertainty requires people to manage hopes and dreams, fears and worst-case scenarios, all without the simple certainty of knowing exactly with what they are coping,” Sweeny and Andrews wrote in “Mapping Individual Differences in the Experiences of a Waiting Period,” published in the Journal of Personality and Social Psychology. “Waiting may be more anxiety-provoking than actually facing the worst-case scenario.”

Awards and Honors

Laila Lalami’s Book One of NYT’s Best of 2014

Creative Writing Professor Laila Lalami’s book, “The Moor’s Account” (Pantheon), made it to the New York Times’ 100 Notable Books of 2014. The list of the year’s notable fiction, poetry and nonfiction was selected by the editors of The New York Times Book Review. Estebanico, the first black explorer of America, narrates this fictional memoir.

Three UCR Students Awarded UC Global Food Initiative Fellowships

Three UCR students have been awarded UC Global Food Initiative fellowships that fund student-generated research, related projects or internships focusing on food issues. They are among 54 UC students who have been awarded the $2,500 fellowships.

The UC Riverside students are:

- Dietlinde Heilmayr, a second-year psychology graduate student, will work on a project involving community gardens.
- Darrin Lin, a Web design intern, will work on developing the website for the UCR California Agriculture and Food Enterprise.
- Undergraduate Daniel Lopez will work on a project that focuses on the on-campus food pantry.

“These are outstanding students who are passionate about this important global topic and will be able to make valuable contributions to this initiative through these fellowships,” UC President Janet Napolitano said. “I’m looking forward to seeing the results of their projects.”

Napolitano, together with UC’s 10 chancellors, launched the Global Food Initiative in July.

The bulk of the fellowship funding comes from the UC President’s Initiative Fund, with several campuses augmenting the funding to support additional student fellowships.

Highlander History: Starting KUCR
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.

“The station, to be designated KUCR, with 10 watts of power will be the highest powered UC student FM station.” (February 1965 Highlander article)

Students at UCR began discussing the possibility for a campus radio station in 1964, but it wasn’t until they lobbied the UC Regents in 1965 for funding to start a radio station on campus that the idea became a reality.

The UC Regents awarded students a $10,000 grant, but they also had wide student support, as both ASUCR and the Residence Hall Association offered financial support for initial costs, licensing and the purchase of a record collection.

The funding from the Regents went to equipment, renovation of the Crest House and cables to the dorms, because in the early years of KUCR, broadcasting was restricted to student housing. In a 1965 Highlander article, Dan Menkin, the first KUCR station manager, described the three main purposes for the new station: To train students in radio skills; to be a medium of communications for the student body and the Riverside community; and to offer publicity for ASUCR.

It took over two years for the station to go from unorganized student interest to the reality of broadcasting. The first show was broadcast in September 1966, and getting set up wasn’t without some controversy. After the Federal Communications Commission granted a broadcasting license to KUCR in February 1966, it revoked the license in April of the same year. This was because of complaints from the La Sierra College radio station KSDA alleging frequency encroachment from KUCR. The FCC shut down the station for a few months but reissued the license again in time for the first broadcast in the fall quarter of 1966.

To learn more about KUCR and its beginnings, visit the UCR Archives on the fourth floor of Rivera Library and check out the station’s website at kucr.org.

The Top: Highlights of 2014

Welcome to The Top!

Each issue, we present a list of UCR staff and faculty favorites — from walking spots to gardens to events. This week, we are featuring the year of 2014 in photos. From UCR becoming a tobacco-free campus to Chancellor Kim A. Wilcox’s Investiture, 2014 was a great (and busy) year for all Highlanders!

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

January 2014: UCR Becomes Tobacco-Free

UCR begins 2014 by officially becoming a tobacco-free campus as of Jan. 2, 2014.

February 2014: UCR Dance Marathon 2014

On Feb. 22, the third annual UCR Dance Marathon event raised a record-breaking $47,744 for the Guardian Scholars Program. The money goes to scholarship funds for students emancipated from foster care system.
Dance Marathon 2014 had more than 400 dancers in attendance and an anonymous donor chipped in a $20,000 matching gift.

March 2014: Winston Chung’s Campus Visit

Inventor, business leader and Fellow of the Bourns College of Engineering Winston Chung visited the campus on March 9 for a tour of the facilities of the Winston Chung Global Energy Center and an update on research funded through his generous support. The March 9 visit was the first time Chung returned to campus since 2011 when he was honored as the inaugural fellow of the college during commencement ceremonies. Chung’s $10 million gift in 2011 established the energy research center, along with the Winston Chung endowed professorships in energy innovation and sustainability.

April 2014: Solar tables

For the third year in a row, UCR started off the month of April by illuminating the bell tower blue light in recognition of Autism Awareness Month.

Thirteen solar tables were fully installed and operational on April 24. These environmentally friendly units provides the UCR community with more opportunities to plug in their wireless devices. Read more about these solar tables here

April 2014: Chancellor Wilcox’s Investiture

The investiture of Kim A Wilcox as the ninth chancellor of UCR was on April 24 at the Student Recreation Center. There were about 1,000 people, including guests from around the University of California system and other national academic institutions. A large public reception near UCR’s iconic bell tower followed the event. Learn more about it here

April 2014: “A Piece of My Mind”

“A Piece of my Mind,” written and performed by Eric Barr, professor emeritus of theatre, was held on April 26 in the Studio Theatre. The play is a frank examination of Barr’s heart infection, surgery and ultimately, his survival from near-fatal strokes. The show covers his rehab, recovery, and his return home after months in hospitals and nursing facilities. While death was always a potential outcome, “A Piece of Mind” is a celebration of life and the human spirit.

May 2014: Veteran’s Day Display

On May 23, the UCR Veterans Services along with volunteers from many other campus groups honored the lives of Americans lost in all U.S. wars through a display on the UCR Flag Pole Lawn. There were 6,778 U.S. flags on the University’s Flag Pole Lawn in remembrance of the 6,778 troops lost to date in the ongoing War on Terror.

May 2014: UCSB Candlelight Vigil

UCR students organized a candlelight vigil on the night of May 28 to memorialize the victims of the Isla Vista tragedy and to show support for the entire UCSB campus community.

June 2014: Commencement 2014

More than 5,400 students were eligible to participate in the 60th commencement ceremonies at the University of California, Riverside. The university welcomed friends and family to campus for seven ceremonies across four days, from June 13 to 16. Congratulations Class of 2014!

September 2014: Opening of Glen Mor 2
The newly constructed Glen Mor 2 Student Apartments housed its first set of residents beginning on Sept. 22. The 334,000-square-foot apartment complex is located at the corner of Big Springs Road and Valencia Hill Drive and it includes beds for 800 people, a parking structure, swimming pool, community spaces, academic resource center, computer lab, fitness center and a dining emporium for both residents and non-residents.

September 2014: Freshman Convocation

On Sept. 30, all first-year students were officially welcomed into the UC Riverside family at the annual New Student Convocation. An estimated 2,900 freshmen filled the floor and grandstands of the Recreation Center, with another 100-200 students watching a video feed in an overflow room at the nearby MAC gym of the SRC South. The R'Side Celebration, which featured food and music, followed afterwards.

October 2014: Student Recreation Center Expansion Grand Opening

On Oct. 3, the Student Recreation Center celebrated the opening of the student-funded Student Recreation Center South Expansion by trying to set a Guinness World Record by having as many as 1,000 students pop bubble wrap for a full two minutes in the SRC North arena. New amenities include an outdoor pool and aquatics facilities, the MAC court, indoor jogging track, climbing wall and 20,000 square feet of weight room and cardio fitness facilities. New tennis courts, as well as basketball courts, are built on the southeast corner of the existing 9-acre complex.

October 2014: The California Unity Poem Fiesta

UCR Professor Juan Felipe Herrera’s two successful years as California Poet Laureate along with his project, “The Most Incredible & Biggest Poem on Unity in the World” was celebrated during the California Unity Poem Fiesta on Oct. 9.

Highlights of the event included booths with hands-on poetry activities; readings of excerpts from the 170-page unity poem by students from Bethune Elementary School in Moreno Valley and other contributors; UCR’s Mayupatapi ensemble performing African-Colombian music; and free tacos for the first 500 guests. Speakers included Chancellor Kim A. Wilcox; Stephen Cullenberg, dean of the College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences; Andrew Winer, chair of the Department of Creative Writing; and Herrera.

November 2014: Ribbon-cutting Ceremony for New Solar Farm

The ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new West Campus Solar Farm was held at the UCR Community Garden on Nov. 13. This 11-acre site will produce 3 megawatts of electricity and the projected savings to the university is $4.3 million over the length of the contract. It is currently the largest solar farm in the UC system.

November 2014: UCR Business School Received $2.5 Million Gift

The A. Gary Anderson Family Foundation announced that it is giving $2.5 million to the UCR 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 on Nov. 13 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.

November 2014: Highlander Scot Fest

On Nov. 15, the 7th annual Highlander Scot Fest, a pre-game celebration, included a food truck festival,
carnival-style games, college booths, photo booths, caricature artists, music and more. Scot Fest led directly into the men’s basketball game with UC San Diego at the Student Recreation Center Arena.

November 2014: UCR Men’s Basketball Homecoming Game

The UCR Men’s basketball Homecoming game with UC San Diego at the Student Recreation Center Arena resulted in UCR winning the game with a score of 75-52. Homecoming & Parents’ Day 2014, held on Nov. 14 and 15, had a record attendance of 3,000 parents, alumni and campus community members.