UCR Hosts Vietnamese Politicians, Professors

A delegation from Vietnam spent several days touring the city of Riverside and the campus

By Kris Lovekin

Visitors to Riverside from Can Tho, Vietnam, are hoping that the political distance of the past is over. They spent several days touring the city of Riverside, including the citrus groves and the medical school of UC Riverside, from Jan. 20 to Jan. 22.

The group attended the mayor’s State of the City address, and visited California Baptist University and La Sierra University as well.

“The visit is historically significant because it happens on the 20th anniversary of the normalization of U.S.-Vietnam relations,” said professor David Biggs, a historian who has lived in Can Tho and studies Southeast Asia. “The visit has been in the works for a while, and Riverside is leading the way in developing new economic, research and educational ties with institutions in Vietnam.”

Can Tho, located in the Mekong Delta of Vietnam, is a sister city of Riverside, and that relationship will be celebrated with a signing ceremony during the visit.


For Vietnam, Biggs said, “this is a chance to demonstrate the potential for forging new business opportunities, research relationships and friendship between the countries at a very critical time, given world events.”
UCR Orchestra Presents ‘Heroes and Anti-Heroes’ Concerts Feb. 7–8

*Specially featured is Aaron Copland’s “Lincoln Portrait” with narration by UCR Chancellor Kim A. Wilcox*

By Bettye Miller

The UC Riverside Orchestra will present a concert, “Heroes and Anti-Heroes” on Saturday, Feb. 7, and Sunday, Feb. 8, that will feature a performance of Aaron Copland’s stirring “Lincoln Portrait” with narration by UCR Chancellor Kim A. Wilcox.

Performance times are 8 p.m. on Feb. 7 and 3 p.m. Feb. 8 in the University Theatre. Tickets are $10 general, $8 for students and seniors, and $6 for children, and may be purchased at the University Theatre Fine Arts Ticket Office Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and one hour before each concert, or online from Ticketmaster at www.ticketmaster.com.

The concert features music portraying heroes and anti-heroes, both from real life and from film, ballet, opera and folklore, said conductor Ruth Charloff. The orchestra will perform Prokofiev’s witty “Lt. Kije Suite,” his film score from a 1930s Russian comedy about an imaginary military hero dreamed up by mistake; Copland’s vignette of African-American folk hero John Henry; Kodaly’s “Háry János,” about a would-be hero with an oversized imagination; and excerpts from Copland’s ballet “Billy the Kid” and Bizet’s sizzling “Carmen.”

Specially featured is Copland’s “Lincoln Portrait,” a 15-minute composition that includes excerpts from speeches and letters of Abraham Lincoln, among them the Gettysburg Address.

Charloff said she invited Wilcox to narrate the piece because of his special interest in both music and Lincoln, and because of his abilities as a speaker. “The narrator has to deliver Lincoln’s inspiring words and also be aware of the music, since Copland composed his musical portrait to coordinate with Lincoln’s words in such a moving way,” she said.

An impressive list of public figures and actors have narrated “Lincoln Portrait” over the years, including Coretta Scott King, astronaut Neil Armstrong, journalist Walter Cronkite, athlete Julius Irving, poet Carl Sandburg, Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf, and actors Henry Fonda, James Earl Jones and Tom Hanks.

Copland composed “Lincoln Portrait” in 1942 at the request of conductor Andre Kostelanetz as part of a World War II patriotic war effort to create musical portraits of eminent Americans. The music was inspired by folk songs of the period, such as “Camptown Races” and “Springfield Mountain,” and words from the writings of the nation’s 16th president.

The piece was first performed by the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra on May 14, 1942, barely five months after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

Mathematics Enthusiast and Fitness Fanatic Entering New Phase

*Pamela Clute’s ‘transition’ schedule is keeping her connected to UC Riverside through speeches, STEM consulting, ‘ab attacks’ and power baking*

By Jeanette Marantos

Somewhere it’s officially noted that Pamela Clute has retired from UCR after more than 40 years of teaching, directing the ALPHA Center and creating innovative programs and partnerships in mathematics and science instruction. But Clute, a former assistant vice chancellor, doesn’t like to use the “R” word to describe her latest
phase in life.

“I like to talk about transition, not retirement, especially when it comes to UCR,” said Clute, who now holds the title special assistant to the chancellor. “I earned three degrees and a teaching credential, landed a job and found a husband (former state Assemblyman Steve Clute) all at UCR, so you can see why I say it’s my life. You can be sure I’ll always have some connections to the campus which shaped me as a person and as a professional.”

Yes, along with connections to just about everywhere else. Trying to write about Clute and her many interests is like building a multiple-choice quiz where the correct answer is always “All of the above.”

- Multi-award-winning baker who won $25,000 in the Pillsbury Bakeoff for her Peanut Butter Marshmallow Bars when she was just 16.
- Financed her college education in the 1970s by regularly playing blackjack in Las Vegas.
- Passionate teacher who focused on inspirational mathematics instruction.
- Co-founder and director of UC Riverside’s ALPHA Center, which over 16 years brought in $20 million in grants for college readiness programs, especially in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) learning.
- Inventor/instructor of UCR’s popular “Ab Attack” exercise class.
- Creator of the Federation for a Competitive Economy (FACE), a multi-partner effort to increase college readiness and double the number of college graduates in the Inland Empire.

“The common thread for me is I truly have this genuine need to do something for someone,” Clute said. “So when I find a receptive audience, whether it’s people who want to learn mathematics or work out or eat good food, I want to step in and fill the need. I just never want to let anyone down.”

Not likely. Less than a week into her “transition,” Clute already has 22 speaking engagements set up for the next two months, promoting engaging mathematics instruction and STEM learning in K-12 schools and colleges around Southern California. But she’s also busy creating a new date-infused brownie recipe for the Riverside County Fair and Date Festival baking contest, which she’s won in the past, and to balance out her love of sweets, the 65-year-old Clute will resume teaching her famous “Ab Attack” exercise class at UC Riverside’s new Student Recreation Center this spring.

Clute developed her Ab Attack routine about 25 years ago from the most difficult exercises she could find, and began teaching it to students in 1994. The twice-a-week class has become so popular that nearly 200 students sign up every quarter, even following the routine out in the hall once the class is full.

“Ab Attack is just 48 minutes of working core, and 12 minutes working glutes, six minutes a cheek, but it’s the most painful, excruciating yet effective workout,” Clute said. “The students moan and groan and it’s a point of pride if they can get through the routine. It makes me feel good that all those 19-year-olds want to work out with someone old enough to be their grandmother.”

Mind you, while she was attacking abs — a class she’s always taught for free — Clute also had waiting lists of students wanting to take her mathematics classes, especially Math 15 for non-math majors, and she was running UC Riverside’s ALPHA Center, overseeing a staff of more than 40 people while creating programs to better prepare K-12 students for college. Her focus was on programs that made students—particularly girls and minorities—stronger in STEM learning, especially mathematics.
The ALPHA Center closed in December 2014, with the best programs moved to other departments and organizations. And while she was phasing out the center, Clute focused on another challenging project: At the behest of former Chancellor Tim White, Clute spent the last five years building partnerships and potential college readiness programs for the Federation for a Competitive Economy (FACE) in San Bernardino and Riverside counties.

“FACE was really Chancellor White’s brainchild. He insisted that the best way of improving the economic vitality of the Inland Empire was for educators to work with government, nonprofits and business as a collective team to elevate the education attainment of local students,” Clute said. “Getting bi-county educators to develop an implementation plan took forever. It doesn’t sound like much… getting people in both regions to work together … but if you know the history, the bitter feuds between the two counties, you would understand this is huge.”

She likened the job to “herding butterflies,” but in classic Clute style she was filling a need, which has guided her direction throughout life. Even in the 1970s she didn’t want to burden her parents with paying for her college education at UC Riverside, so she developed a successful technique to win at blackjack (“It was always blackjack. I lost at everything else.”). She visited Las Vegas about twice a month, sometimes with partners and sometimes alone, and played through the night. “I didn’t get rich off of it, but it pretty much paid all my expenses.”

She doesn’t play anymore, outside of using card games to demonstrate probability theory to her students, one of her many creative techniques to make mathematics relevant to her students. Her skill also gave her some extra credibility with others who were dubious about Clute’s desire to become a math teacher, and not a mathematician.

“If you chose math education, people thought something was wrong with you, like, ‘She can’t cut it in mathematics so she’s going on into education,’” she said. “But it was my choice. I knew from the moment I was born I wanted to be a teacher and I agree with Lee Iacocca (former president of Ford Motors) when he said, ‘The best and brightest should go into teaching because we’re responsible for shaping the minds of the next generation. What could be more important?’”

Clute earned her B.A. in mathematics in 1971, and her teaching credential in 1972. She went to Redlands to teach seventh grade mathematics until Bruce Chalmers, one of her former UC Riverside mathematics professors, insisted she return to UCR to complete a master’s and a Ph.D.

She says, “I’ve really been blessed to be able to devote all my attention to my passion, and to my husband. I’ve put my focus on a bigger family — I’ve kept track, I have log books you wouldn’t believe — and I’ve had interactions with close to 100,000 students, probably more. That’s my love. Mathematics is my vehicle for instilling the desire to learn in others, and I hope that will be my legacy.”

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**Former Secretary of Labor, Political Commentator Robert Reich to Speak Feb. 10**

*School of Public Policy event will include a screening of “Inequality for All”*

By Bettye Miller

Former U.S. Secretary of Labor Robert Reich, who is widely regarded as a leading expert on inequality, work and the economy, will speak at UC Riverside on Tuesday, Feb. 10, as part of the School of Public Policy Seminar Series.
“An Evening with Robert Reich” will begin at 4:30 p.m. with a reception on the University Theatre patio. The documentary film “Inequality for All,” which examines widening income inequality in the United States, will screen in the theater from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Reich, who narrates the film, will answer questions about themes addressed in the documentary from 7 to 7:30 p.m.

The event is free and open to the public, but reservations are requested as seating is limited. RSVP online or by contacting Mark Manalang at (951) 827-5656 or markma@ucr.edu.

Reich is Chancellor’s Professor of Public Policy at UC Berkeley and senior fellow at the Blum Center for Developing Economies. He served as labor secretary in the Clinton administration, and was named one of the 10 most effective Cabinet secretaries of the 20th century by Time Magazine.

He is the author of numerous books, including best sellers “Aftershock” and “The Work of Nations,” and “Beyond Outrage: What has gone wrong with our economy and our democracy and how to fix it.” He is a founding editor of American Prospect magazine, chairman of Common Cause, and a political commentator on programs such as “Hardball with Chris Matthews,” “This Week with George Stephanopoulos,” and “Marketplace.”

“Inequality for All” premiered at the 2013 Sundance Film Festival, where it won a U.S. Documentary Special Jury Award for Achievement in Filmmaking. Directed by Jacob Kornbluth, the film examines widening income inequality and the effect of the growing gap on the U.S. economy and American democracy.

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Application Period for Next Staff Advisor to the Regents Now Open

By UCOP

The University of California Office of the President on Jan. 20 announced the opening of the application period for the next staff advisor-designate to the Regents. The position’s term runs July 2015 through June 2017.

The staff advisor program allows for two staff or non-Senate academic employees to participate in open sessions of the Board of Regents as well as designated committees of the board. The staff advisors bring the voice and perspective of staff and non-Senate academic employees to board deliberations.

The current staff advisors to the Regents are Donna Coyne, associate director of admissions at UC Santa Barbara, whose two-year term will expire in June, and, Deidre “De” Acker, ombuds at UC Merced, who began her term in July 2014.

“Serving as Staff Advisor is an opportunity to ensure staff input is considered in decision-making at the highest level,” Coyne said. “As a staff advisor, you can have a real impact in guiding UC forward.”

All employees are encouraged to learn more about the program at the staff advisor website. Questions about the staff advisor position or the application process should be directed to Juliann Martinez, UCOP Employee Relations, at 510-287-3331 or via email: Juliann.Martinez@ucop.edu. Applications will be accepted from Jan. 20 through March 6, 2015.

About the staff advisors to the Regents

A continuing goal of the UC Regents is to foster two-way communication between UC staff and the board. In January 2007, the Regents voted unanimously to establish positions for two staff advisors to participate in their deliberative process and to provide a staff perspective on matters coming before the board.
One new staff advisor is selected each year for a two-year term. The staff advisors serve as non-voting advisors to designated Regents’ committees; they attend and participate directly in committee and board meetings throughout their term of service, and visit many of the campuses to solicit input from staff. Staff interested in public policy, advocacy and understanding the future direction of the university are encouraged to apply.

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**Graduate Students Participate in Workshop on Electronic Cigarettes and Public Health**

*UC Riverside’s Monique Williams and Rachel Behar recently discussed their electronic cigarette research findings with the Food and Drug Administration*

*By Iqbal Pittalwala*

Electronic cigarettes, or e-cigarettes, are rapidly gaining popularity worldwide. Generally manufactured in China, they are available in the United States on the Internet, in malls and in local shops—all this without much information regarding their health effects or the quality control used in their manufacture.

As a way to address the predicament, two Ph.D. graduate students at UCR were recently invited by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to participate in a public workshop focusing on e-cigarettes and public health.

Monique Williams and Rachel Behar, who research e-cigarettes under the guidance of Prue Talbot, a professor of cell biology and neuroscience, flew to Washington, D.C., in December 2014 to share crucial findings from their work.

The workshop, which was attended by several hundred people and broadcast live on the Internet, took place Dec. 10-11 in the FDA White Oaks Conference Center, Silver Spring, Maryland. The first of a planned series of workshops intended to obtain information on e-cigarettes and the public health, its purpose was to gather scientific information and stimulate discussion among scientists about e-cigarettes.

Early on Dec. 10, Williams presented her research on particles and nanoparticles present in e-cigarette cartomizer fluid and aerosol, published in 2013 in PLOS One. E-cigarettes deliver aerosol by heating fluid containing nicotine. Cartomizers are disposable cartridges with built-in atomizers. Cartomizer e-cigarettes combine the fluid chamber and heating element in a single unit. In their study, Williams and colleagues used a variety of methods to analyze cartomizer content and aerosols.

“Some cartomizers had tin particles, which are cytotoxic,” Williams said. “The aerosol contained particles comprised of tin, silver, iron, nickel, aluminum and silicate. The aerosol also contained nanoparticles of tin, chromium and nickel. We found that the concentrations of nine of eleven elements in e-cigarette aerosol were higher than or equal to the corresponding concentrations in conventional cigarette smoke, and many of these elements are known to cause respiratory distress and disease. What the presence of metal and silicate particles in cartomizer aerosol shows is that we need improved quality control in e-cigarette design and manufacture. It shows, too, that we need more studies on how e-cigarette aerosol impacts the health of users and bystanders.”

Later the same day, Behar spoke about her research on the identification of toxicants in cinnamon-flavored e-cigarettes, published last year in Toxicology in Vitro. The study, done with colleagues, evaluated the volatility and cytotoxicity (the degree to which an agent has specific destructive action on certain cells) of 10 cinnamon-flavored e-cigarette refill fluids.

“Our data showed that cinnamon flavorings in refill fluids are linked to cytotoxicity,” Behar said. “This could
adversely affect users of e-cigarettes. Our findings are consistent with reports made by e-cigarette users in online forums and should help improve e-cigarette safety by informing companies and regulatory agencies about chemicals and flavors that are hazardous.”

Talbot is pleased that Williams and Behar were invited by the FDA to participate in the workshop.

“Both Monique and Rachel have published important papers dealing with the contents of electronic cigarette fluids and aerosols,” she said. “Their data could help inform the FDA as they determine how to regulate these new products.”

The focus of the first FDA workshop was product science (specifically device designs and characteristics, and e-liquid and aerosol constituents), product packaging, constituent labeling and environmental impact. Future workshops will address the individual health and population health effects of e-cigarettes.

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**UC Meets Milestone Goals to Address Sexual Violence on Campuses**

*These goals included the creation of a confidential student advocate and a support office on each campus*

By UCOP

The University of California will meet its January goals toward implementing a comprehensive approach to addressing sexual violence on campuses, including the creation of a confidential student advocate and support office on each campus, it was announced on Jan. 21.

These measures were among the seven recommendations the President’s Task Force on Preventing and Responding to Sexual Violence and Sexual Assault issued in September. An update on the task force’s progress was presented for discussion at the UC Board of Regents meeting at UC San Francisco’s Mission Bay campus.

“The task force acted with swift, deliberate purpose in meeting the timeline the members were given,” UC President Janet Napolitano told the board. “I am pleased to report that they will meet all four of the milestones they were charged with reaching by January. These are important steps in ensuring that UC policy on preventing and responding to sexual assault and sexual violence is consistent across the entire University of California.”

Over the past four months, UC has successfully implemented task force recommendations aimed at improving services and response to sexual violence and ensuring consistency across the system. These include:

Establishing a “CARE: Advocate Office for Sexual and Gender-Based Violence and Sexual Misconduct” on each of UC’s 10 campuses. The offices will have a full-time trained staff member on campus to provide crisis intervention to students and help them access campus resources such as psychological counseling, emergency housing and academic accommodations. The advocates will help students understand their reporting options and accompany them through the reporting process, if they choose to file a report. These are independent offices, separate from reporting and investigations.

Implementing a standardized two-team response model at all UC campuses for addressing sexual violence. A case management team will review all current sexual misconduct reports to ensure that institutional responses are timely and appropriate and that complainants and respondents receive fair, objective and equal consideration. A second team will focus on policies, community relations, prevention and intervention.

Launching a new systemwide website (http://sexualviolence.universityofcalifornia.edu and http://sexualvio-
lence.ucr.edu) designed to serve as a user-friendly, one-stop portal for quick access to campus resources and important information. In addition, key information such as how to get help and reporting options is being standardized across all primary campus sexual violence websites.

The university is also working diligently on the other task force recommendations slated to launch in July. These include developing a comprehensive education and training program on each campus, identifying common tracking systemwide to help identify themes and considerations for areas to target and establishing unified investigation and adjudication standards and sanctions.

Before Napolitano formed the task force in June 2014, all 10 UC campuses had systems and programs in place to educate, prevent and respond to sexual violence, but practices varied from one campus to another. The task force’s seven recommendations aim to strengthen existing services and programs and ensure the university has a consistent systemwide approach to addressing sexual violence on campuses.

Napolitano also requested that the task force address an additional issue: providing appropriate services to respondents, or those accused of violations. This eighth recommendation will be implemented systemwide in July.

Last year, the university significantly broadened and clarified its policy against sexual violence and harassment, including domestic violence, stalking and date rape. UC adopted an affirmative consent standard that defines consent as unambiguous, voluntary, informed and revocable.

The task force, led by Senior Vice President and Chief Compliance and Audit Officer Sheryl Vacca, includes UC regents, survivors of sexual assault and their advocates, students, faculty, police and other administrative staff.

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**Food Justice at the Forefront**

*Shouldn't food be a right, not a privilege? And what is the difference between being fed and being nourished?*

By Shelly Leachman and Alec Rosenberg, UC Santa Barbara and UC Newsroom

With a central theme of food justice, such subjects were explored during the three-day, inaugural California Higher Education Food Summit held Jan. 16-18 at UC Santa Barbara. Founded by a multicampus team of University of California staff and students, the first-of-its-kind conference is part of the ongoing UC Global Food Initiative.

The gathering convened some 150 students, staff and faculty from UC, California State University and community college campuses, and community and food agency leaders at large, to dissect and discuss the environmental, social and economic pressures that create barriers to food access, security and justice.

“All too often, the struggle students face in accessing affordable, nutritious food is marginalized,” said Katie Freeze, student chair of UCSB’s Associated Students Food Bank, which helped organize the conference. “Bringing these issues to light will enable the UC community to better address student hunger.”

And beyond.

In a wide-ranging and rousing talk addressing the “complexity and significance of food justice,” keynote speaker Nikki Silvestri said, “When we talk about justice, we are actually talking about everyone, from beginning to end.

“Locate yourself in the fight for food justice,” urged Silvestri, a noted thought leader in creating social equity
and former executive director of People’s Grocery in Oakland. “Who are you? Who are your people and what is your fight? And allow yourself to be surprised by the answer.”

*Increasing food security*

For Colin King, a fifth-year student at UC San Diego, the fight centers on food access for college students who are struggling with hunger. Working with his campus’s Associated Students staff, King is part of the team launching UCSD’s first food pantry.

“Nourishment costs more than simply feeding yourself,” said King, who got involved after witnessing a friend fall on hard times. “He was sleeping in his car and couldn’t afford food. Seeing what he went through is what inspired me initially. Coming to this conference has been so valuable for gaining a better understanding of food insecurity UC-wide, and for the tangible things we’ve learned to take home with us, to make our own pantry and food insecurity initiatives the best that they can be.”

A similar hope coursed through the conference on behalf of the broader UC Global Food Initiative (UCGFI), which is designed to coordinate resources systemwide to help ensure adequate nutrition — starting with access to food — for all. Unveiled by UC President Janet Napolitano in July, the UCGFI is working to harness the UC’s collective excellence in research, outreach and operations in a sustained effort to develop, demonstrate and export solutions — throughout California, the U.S. and the world — for food security, health and sustainability.

“There’s a lot of enthusiasm and extremely bright people who want to see changes that will improve people’s health on our campuses, in our community and beyond,” said Joanna Ory, a graduate student at UC Santa Cruz and among the recently selected UCGFI fellows in attendance at the summit. “It’s a really important issue and great to see so many people who care.”

*Making a difference*

More than two dozen workshops held over the course of the conference tackled subjects from culinary medicine to new models for student dining, the health implications of food insecurity and the role of higher ed in the greater food system. There also were presentations on the “Swipes for the Homeless” program that UCSB and UCLA have adapted to aid food-insecure students, how to build partnerships between university campuses and local farms, and the transformational potential of campus gardens. UCGFI projects include efforts to assess food security for UC students in order to better design programs and outreach efforts focused on addressing these issues.

“Hunger is a prominent thing on college campuses,” said panelist and UC Student Regent Sadia Saifuddin of UC Berkeley, who co-leads a UCGFI working group on food pantries and food security. “Ideally, we want to eradicate hunger, but we’re not there yet. These conversations are important.”

Fortino Morales helped bring a community garden to UC Riverside while a student there. Now he staffs it as UC Riverside community garden coordinator.

The food summit “opens your mind about what’s going on other campuses and what’s possible,” Morales said. “It’s exciting that food access and equity are at the center of this conference. There is a lot of interest in food justice.”

*Spreading nourishment*

At UC Davis, students learn to grow produce sustainably at the student farm and sell it for use in campus dining halls or through subscription market baskets in the community. A new program collects some of what’s left — surplus, blemished or odd-shaped produce — and makes it available at the student-run food pantry.
“It’s all local. It’s all organic. The students love it. The feedback is terrific,” said Misbah Husain, UC Davis food pantry director of internal operations.

UCGFI fellow Alyssa Billys, of UC Santa Cruz, is working to help coordinate the amount of produce from the student farm that is sold to campus dining.

“We have the farm right here,” Billys said of her campus. “Why can’t we access that (produce)? Having good brought to you by students, for students, is really empowering.”

Empowerment was the prevailing spirit of the first-ever summit.

“We define food justice as communities exercising their right to grow, sell and eat healthy food that is fresh, nutritious, affordable, culturally appropriate, grown locally, with care for the land, for people and for animals,” said panelist D’Artagnan Scorza, founder and executive director of the Social Justice Learning Institute in Inglewood. The UCLA alum and former UC student regent added, “One way we work to empower our community members is first by listening. It’s important for us not to speak for people, but to ensure they can speak for themselves.”

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**How Malaria-spreading Mosquitoes Can Tell You’re Home**

*UC Riverside research shows house-dwelling mosquitoes require minute changes in concentrations of exhaled carbon dioxide to trigger landing on human skin*

By Iqbal Pittalwala

Females of the malaria-spreading mosquito tend to obtain their blood meals within human dwellings. Indeed, this mosquito, Anopheles gambiae, spends much of its adult life indoors where it is constantly exposed to human odor – from used clothing, bedding, etc. – even when people are absent.

But is human odor enough as a reliable cue for the mosquitoes in finding humans to bite?

Not quite, reports a team of entomologists at the University of California, Riverside in a research paper published online earlier this month in the Journal of Chemical Ecology. The researchers’ experiments with female Anopheles gambiae show that the mosquitoes respond very weakly to human skin odor alone. The researchers found that the mosquitoes’ landing on a source of skin odor was dramatically increased when carbon dioxide was also present, even at levels that barely exceed its background level. The researchers suggest, too, was that the mosquitoes use a “sit-and-wait” ambush strategy during which they ignore persistent human odor until a living human is present.

“Responding strongly to human skin odor alone once inside a dwelling where human odor is ubiquitous is a highly inefficient means for the mosquito of locating a feeding site,” said Ring Cardé, a distinguished professor of entomology, whose lab conducted the research. “We already know that mosquitoes will readily fly upwind towards human skin odor but landing, the final stage of host location, which typically takes place indoors, does not occur unless a fluctuating concentration of carbon dioxide indicates that a human host is present. It may be that upwind flight towards human odor has more to do with locating a human dwelling, which emits human odor even when its occupants are absent, than locating a feeding site per se.”

Cardé explained that mosquitoes, once indoors, conserve their energy by ignoring omnipresent human odor in
an unoccupied room. Small increases in carbon dioxide indicate to the mosquitoes the probable presence of a human. This then triggers the mosquitoes to land on human skin.

The findings could help in the design on new types of mosquito control. One take-home message from this work is that studies defining which human odors mediate host finding and which compounds are good repel-lents need to precisely control exposure to above ambient carbon dioxide – an experimenter entering an assay room quickly elevates the level of carbon dioxide and thereby alters the mosquitoes’ behavior.

The research shows that when it comes to feeding on humans indoors, malaria mosquitoes have developed a striking adaptation to how carbon dioxide affects their landing on human targets in response to skin odor.

“It also would be useful next to see if mosquitoes’ response to skin odor is similarly affected by carbon dioxide in outdoor situations and how these interactions play out in human dwellings,” Cardé said.

Larvae of Anopheles gambiae can breed in diverse habitats. This mosquito has evolved to search in human dwellings for blood meals to carry out egg production. The mosquito enters houses throughout the night, peaking around midnight and continuing at a high rate until the early morning hours. Following a blood meal, the mosquito often remains in dwellings until it is ready to lay eggs. Mosquitoes also seek refuge inside human dwellings during the day, taking shelter from high daytime temperatures outside.

Cardé, who occupies the A. M. Boyce Chair in the Department of Entomology, was joined in the study by Ben Webster (first author of the research paper) and Emerson S. Lacey.

To conduct their experiments, the researchers used Anopheles gambiae originating from mosquitoes collected in Cameroon. They collected skin odor by using pieces of white polyester gauze worn by Webster in a cotton sock for 4-6 hours before the experiments began. The landing behavior of the mosquitoes in the experiments was recorded with a video camera equipped with night vision.

The research was supported by a grant from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases awarded to Cardé and Anandasankar Ray, a colleague at UCR who was not involved in the research.

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**GETTING PERSONAL**

*By Bethanie Le*

**Name:** Charles Scruggs

**Job:** Director, Health Professions Advising Center

Moving from Ohio to sunny California, Charles Scruggs, director of the Health Professions Advising Center (HPAC), is a new addition to the UCR family. Although Scruggs has only been on campus for five months, he is already beaming with Highlander Pride, as seen by his signature accessory: a blue and gold bow tie.

“It has been an amazing start so far,” Scruggs said.

As the director of HPAC, Scruggs is a resource for undergraduate students who are interested in pursuing careers in health care. He provides those who want to go to medical, dental or pharmacy school with information, advice and support to help them reach their goals. In addition to meeting with students, Scruggs plans the HPAC programs, which include various workshops and talks from physicians.
“Typically, I see five to six students a day. They’ll come in and we’ll talk about careers, course selections, letters of recommendation; we may be talking about prepping for a professional test like the Medical College Admission Test or Dental Admission Test. And when I am not doing advising, I spend a lot of time working on the HPAC programs,” Scruggs described.

Two things drew Scruggs to UCR. One, HPAC is overseen by the UCR School of Medicine. “That’s a unique model. Most offices like ours are usually overseen by a Career Center or the Provost Office,” he explained. Two, UCR is a very special campus. “I really love the diversity of the school! That is something that is very unique to UCR.”

Scruggs’ passion for pre-health advising stems from his five years as the director of the pre-professions advising center at the University of Cincinnati, where he worked before coming to UCR.

“In that position, I found out a lot about health care and about various health careers that I didn’t even know existed. To me, that’s all really fascinating; that is what led me to this position today,” said Scruggs.

A piece of advice that Scruggs likes to share with his students is, “College is very much a journey. Sometimes what you start out doing may not be what you end up doing, and that’s okay. It’s about learning more about yourself, other people and what you’re able to do to contribute to the world. That’s what makes you a success; not necessarily a title or a career.”

When Scruggs is not in his office at Pierce Hall, he likes to hike, participate in extreme sports like skydiving, try new restaurants, and travel.

“I try to go to a new country every year. I want to hit as many continents as possible. This year, I will be going to Australia in December,” Scruggs said.

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**DID YOU KNOW?**

**Campus Master Plan Workshops Set for Feb. 24**

Two Campus Master Plan workshops are scheduled for Feb. 24. The first is for campus students, staff and faculty, from 12:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m in Winston Chung Hall 205/206. The second is for the surrounding community from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. at University Extension, Rooms A & B. The event will be an opportunity for the UCR community and friends to inform the vision of the campus’ physical future. Participants can voice opinions on a variety of issues such as architecture, design, sustainability, traffic, transportation, and more.

**CAFE Launches at UCR**

UCR is launching CAFE, the California Agriculture and Food Enterprise. Led by professor of genetics Norm Ellstrand, it is an institute that will act as an umbrella for UCR interdisciplinary research and other activities associated with food and agriculture in the broadest sense. Ellstrand said the membership is very diverse: “We have researchers studying everything from the psychology of gardening to the interaction of diet and health to crop improvement during environmental challenges.”

To celebrate CAFE’s launch, the Global Food Initiative and the Global Studies program will host a lecture with writers Gustavo Arellano (Taco USA) and David Karp (food writer for Los Angeles Times and more) on Jan. 28, from noon to 2:30 p.m., at the Alumni and Visitor’s Center.
Uta Barth in the NYT Crossword Puzzle

The clue for No. 42, across in the New York Times’ Jan. 24 crossword puzzle was this: German-born photographer Barth. The answer, of course, is UTA. Uta Barth is a professor of art emeritus at UCR who is known internationally for her abstract photography. Last year, she won a $500,000 MacArthur Fellowship, one of the most prestigious awards in the country. She was born in Berlin, Germany.

Who Says?

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

“We discovered that we had developed the hottest wellhead in the world... We knew we had this very high energy heat source, but we didn’t know how to deal with the temperatures and pressures.”

Wilfred Elders, emeritus professor of geology, on harnessing the heat from magma and how volcanoes could become an abundant source of energy in the future

CNBC

“So if you’re looking for a restorative nap, you should sleep later in the day when you have an increased amount of slow wave sleep. ... And if you’re looking for a nap that might aid your creativity, you should sleep earlier in the day when you experience more REM.”

Sara Mednick, assistant professor of psychology, on how to best take a nap in different environments and times of the day

BBC

“Targeting this inflammatory pathway with drugs or antibodies could be a new therapeutic strategy to treat worm infections and the associated pathology.”

Meera Nair, assistant professor of biomedical sciences, on her laboratory’s discovery of a human protein that could lead to more effective diagnostic and treatment strategies for worm infections

SCIENCE DAILY

“When examining reports of thousands of spider bites of many species worldwide, we found almost no mention of infection associated with the arachnid-inflicted injury.”

Richard Vetter, retired staff research associate in entomology, on his research debunking myths about spider bites

WEBMD

“Our findings suggest that older Americans should remain capable at making decisions in familiar domains in which they have developed sufficient expertise.”

Ye Li, assistant professor of management and marketing, on how older adults’ years of acquired financial expertise offset their declining ability to efficiently process information in financial decision-making

USA TODAY
“You could imagine the some Republican businessperson could emerge who’s not well known — but probably well-financed — who could maybe make a go of it.”

*Benjamin Bishin, professor of political science, on Senator Barbara Boxer’s announcement that she will not seek a fifth term in 2016, and potential candidates who could replace her*

**THE DESERT SUN**

“We were really curious about why (geckos) would have lost this spectacular sort of innovation, what might be driving it and what might be the consequences of losing it.”

*Timothy Higham, assistant professor of biology, on his research on how some species of gecko lost their ability to climb walls*

**LOS ANGELES TIMES**

“This is a very broad way of describing human personality. It’s useful, but not intimate.”

*David Funder, distinguished professor of psychology, on machine-learning algorithms in social media sites using things such as Facebook likes to determine their human personality*

**NEW SCIENTIST**

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**Research and Scholarship**

*Heidi Brevik-Zender Awarded $35,000 Grant*

Heidi Brevik-Zender, associate professor of French and comparative literature, has been awarded a competitive $35,000 grant from the Borchard Foundation Center on International Education to convene a colloquium on “Fashion, Modernity and Materiality in French Studies” in western France this summer.

The July colloquium will explore fashion’s current and future impact on interdisciplinary French humanities scholarship. Participants will present new research on literature, art, history, music, and material culture in relationship to dress.

“The subject of fashion has emerged in recent decades as a vibrant arena for scholarship in French Studies,” Brevik-Zender explained. “Once considered ‘frivolous,’ fashion has become a dynamic lens through which to study literature, music, philosophy, art, and other forms of expression. In particular, academic analyses have linked fashion to the aesthetic expressions of modernity. In historical terms the period to be examined started with the French Revolution of 1789 and lasted to approximately World War II, a rich century-and-a-half of change and transformation that has been associated with the newness – the ‘modernness’ – that fashion evokes and embodies.”

Discussion topics will be wide-ranging, from fashion’s relationship to aesthetics, to material production and labor, to conflict and war, to memory, to gender, and to transnational identity. Presenters will be faculty members from across the U.S., Canada, England, Scotland, and France and representing institutions such as the University of Cambridge, Brown University, and New York’s Fashion Institute of Technology.
The Borchard Foundation Center on International Education was created in 1987 by the Albert and Elaine Borchard Foundation, based in Woodland Hills, Calif., to create a bridge between France and the United States through the scholarship and creativity of individuals involved in cultural, academic, and public affairs.

Awards and Honors

Director of UCR’s Presley Center awarded $300,000 to foster multicampus, multidisciplinary research

The director of UC Riverside’s Presley Center for Crime and Justice Studies will lead a UC systemwide effort to advance social science and law research in a project designed to foster collaboration and multidisciplinary research across the UC’s 10 campuses.

Steven E. Clark, a UCR professor of psychology and internationally known expert in eyewitness memory research, has been awarded a two-year, $300,000 UC Multicampus Research Programs and Initiatives (MRPI) grant to create the UC Consortium on Social Science and Law. The UC will award more than $23 million over four years to 18 collaborative proposals under the MRPI program.

The members of the consortium are international experts in a broad range of topics in the intersection of law and social science, including inequality and diversity, crime, juvenile justice, and legal decision-making — including how witnesses make decisions about reporting crime, how jurors make decisions in criminal and civil trials, and how judges make decisions and exercise judicial discretion.

“California is a national leader in matters of law, social policy, and social change, and diversity,” Clark said. “It is incumbent on UC’s academics to continue that leadership role through social science and law research and scholarship. The MRPI award presents a unique opportunity to make tremendous headway in these matters to the great benefit of UC and all Californians.”

The consortium will create the infrastructure needed to transform UC from a national leader in social science and law scholarship to the national leader, Clark said. It will not compete with existing campus programs or centers, but will promote cross-fertilization of ideas and sharing of resources, and enhance the ability of UC researchers to obtain federal funding.

Lan Duong and Mariam Lam Receive Choice Award

A book co-edited by Lan Duong, associate professor of media and cultural studies, and Mariam B. Lam, associate professor of comparative literature and Southeast Asian studies, has been named a 2014 Choice Outstanding Academic Title by the subject editors of Choice, a publishing unit of the Association of College & Research Libraries (ACRL), a division of the American Library Association.

Duong and Lam co-edited “Troubling Borders: An Anthology of Art and Literature by Southeast Asian Women in the Diaspora” (University of Washington Press) with Isabelle Thuy Pelaud, professor of Asian American studies at San Francisco State University, and Kathy Nguyen, a writer and editor in San Francisco.

Choice, founded in 1964, is the premier review journal for scholarly publications and is the leading North American source for reviews of new scholarly books and electronic resources. Subject editors this year selected 690 books out of more than 7,000 titles in 54 disciplines and subsections. These books were chosen for their “excellence in scholarship and presentation, the significance of their contributions to their fields, and their valuable treatment of the subject matter.”
“Troubling Borders” is the first anthology by and about Southeast Asian women in the diaspora and includes creative writing and visual art by 61 women of Vietnamese, Cambodian, Lao, Thai, Hmong, Cham, and Filipino ancestry.

**Cliff Trafzer Named Mentoring Champ**

Cliff Trafzer, distinguished professor of history and Rupert Costo Chair in American Indian Affairs, has been named a Champion of Mentoring by Sigma Beta Xi Inc., a nonprofit organization that provides research-based mentoring and development services to young men of color. Trafzer also is director of the California Center for Native Nations at UCR.

The award will be presented at a banquet Jan. 30 at Casino Morongo in the Cabazon area.

January is National Mentoring Month, an observance created in 2002 by the Harvard School of Public Health and MENTOR: The National Mentoring Partnership to raise awareness of mentoring in its various forms, recruit individuals to mentor, and promote the rapid growth of mentoring by recruiting organizations to engage their constituents in mentoring.

“Mentorship is one of the more critical determinants of a successful career in any field,” Corey A. Jackson, chair of the Inland Empire chapter of Sigma Beta Xi, wrote in a letter to Trafzer. “In recognition of the value the Inland Empire communities place on mentorship, we have established this award to reward champions of mentoring and outstanding mentors like you.”

**Amanda Lucia Receives Emory Elliott Book Award**

Amanda J. Lucia, assistant professor of religious studies, is the recipient of the Emory Elliott Book Award for 2014 for her book “Reflections of Amma: Devotees in a Global Embrace” (University of California Press). She will discuss her book at a reception in her honor on Tuesday, Feb. 3, from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Center for Ideas and Society, College Building South 114.

Mata Amritanandamayi, known globally as Amma, meaning “Mother,” has developed a massive transnational humanitarian organization based on hugs, Lucia writes. She is familiar to millions as the “hugging saint,” a moniker that derives from her elaborate darshan programs wherein nearly every day 10,000 people are embraced by the guru one at a time, events that routinely last 10 to 20 hours without any rest for her. Although she was born in 1953 as a low-caste girl in a South Indian fishing village, today millions revere her as guru and goddess, a living embodiment of the divine on earth.

“Reflections of Amma” focuses on communities of Amma’s devotees in the United States, showing how they endeavor to mirror their guru’s behaviors and transform themselves to emulate the ethos of the movement. This study argues that “inheritors” and “adopters” of Hindu traditions differently interpret Hindu goddesses, Amma, and her relation to feminism and women’s empowerment because of their inherited religious, cultural, and political dispositions. Lucia explores how the politics of American multiculturalism reifies these cultural differences in “de facto congregations,” despite the fact that Amma’s embrace attempts to erase communal boundaries in favor of global unity.

Choice, a publishing unit of the Association of College & Research Libraries and the leading North American source for reviews of new scholarly books and electronic resources, applauded Lucia’s research and fieldwork and called “Reflections of Amma” “a welcome addition to the literature on popular Hinduism (that) will be a classic in the field.”

The Emory Elliott Book Award is named for the late Emory Elliott, an internationally renowned scholar of American literature who died in 2009. The annual award is made possible by a generous donation from his wife, Georgia Elliott, and honors the book published by a CHASS faculty member during the previous academic year that best exemplifies the values that characterized Professor Elliott and his contributions to life and letters.
Highlander History: UCR’s Women In Sports Program

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.

The UCR women’s basketball team just beat UCSD 89-74 in the Big West Conference, so it’s a good time to remember the sport’s early history at the university.

UCR Women’s basketball and all other official participation in athletics by women at the university started with the Women’s Intramural Sports Program, called WISP, in 1963 — almost 10 years after the university was founded in 1954.

Though early women’s athletics at UCR were primarily intramural sports, intercollegiate or extramural women’s basketball started around 1968, and it seems that games were primarily against the Cal State and UC teams. The name of the women’s athletics program was later changed to the Women In Sports Program around 1968 as well to reflect the change in competition.

The early WISP program was a mix of several sports including lacrosse, volleyball, basketball, and swimming. According to the Highlander newspaper and yearbooks, there was a great amount of interest from the women on campus to participate, and UCR fielded some very strong teams.

By all accounts UCR women’s basketball quickly became popular. The team even recorded a victory against UCLA in 1971 and was considered the best UC women’s team that year based on its record. We hope our current team of excellent players continues the long history of success for women’s basketball and women’s athletics at UCR and wish them well the rest of the season. To check out the UCR Women’s basketball team schedule, go to http://gohighlanders.com/schedule.aspx?path=wbball.