*Inland Education Collaborative Awarded $5 million

Partnership of UC Riverside, Cal State San Bernardino, K-12 schools and businesses shoot for more college degrees, and better college readiness by 2020*

By Jeanette Marantos

The Federation for a Competitive Economy (FACE), a regional collaborative vision that began at UC Riverside, has earned a $5 million Governor’s Award for Innovation in Higher Education. It was selected as one of the top plans of the 57 submitted from around the state to improve college graduation rates in California, a committee of the California Department of Finance announced today.

The Governor’s Award proposal, prepared by California State University, San Bernardino in partnership with UC Riverside, multiple Inland Empire community colleges, school districts, governments and businesses, is fairly straightforward:

The “Inland Empire” of Riverside and San Bernardino counties is one of the most populous regions in California, with 4.3 million people, or about 10 percent of the state’s overall population, yet its students are less likely to earn college degrees. That’s a bleak statistic considering that California already ranks 45th in the nation in terms of students earning BA degrees.

FACE and its subcommittees, the Inland Empire Education Collaborative (IEEC), the FACE-Inland Empire Economic Partnership Educational Council and the Coachella Valley Economic Partnership, are tackling the problem from two sides: make sure inland high school students are ready for college when they graduate, and increase the number of inland college students who actually earn a bachelor’s degree.

“It’s rare to see this type of broadly-based regional effort,” said UC Riverside Provost, Paul D’Anieri. “What’s truly innovative and important about this grant is that it is a unique collaboration of all sectors of public higher
education along with the private sector. This should become the standard for how we collaborate to promote college success in the Inland Empire.”

The Governor’s Award proposal, submitted by Cal State University San Bernardino President Tomás Morales and Rachel Weiss, CSUSB’s director of research of sponsored programs, sets specific benchmarks for meeting those goals by 2020:

Use FACE and its 175 members to align educational policy and initiatives between the two counties to both improve college outcomes and keep those college graduates here, working jobs in the Inland Empire

Reduce the number of college freshmen who need remediation classes by 20 percent by increasing college readiness at the high school level, particularly in math.

Increase the number of bachelor degrees earned at inland universities by 15 percent

Increase the number of students completing their bachelor’s degrees within six years by 10 percent

Strengthen partnerships with Inland Empire industries to better align education with workforce needs, such as creating more college internship opportunities to give students a chance to better understand what employers need, and help them develop business relationships while they’re in college.

Beefing up math instruction at the high school level is a key part of the proposal, because math is one of the biggest hurdles to college completion, said Pamela Clute, a Ph.D. math instructor, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) advocate and UC Riverside’s special assistant to the chancellor.

According to the Governor’s Award proposal, more than half of CSUSB’s entering freshmen require extra classes in math, English or both, to make them capable of completing college level courses. University of California schools require a higher high school GPA for entering freshmen, said Clute, “but even UC schools have students who need additional help with math. The truth of the matter is, many high school students aren’t ready to handle the college math expected of them, and you can see it in how many students drop out of STEM majors after their freshman year. The just can’t cut the math, so they head for another major.”

Clute developed the FACE collaborative in 2009, at the behest of then-Chancellor Timothy P. White, who has since gone on to become president of the California State University system. UCR Chancellor Kim A. Wilcox has continued UCR’s support for the project, and now co-chairs the FACE-IEEP Educational Council with Morales.

FACE committee members have proposed several solutions to the remediation problem, including regional adoption of the Early Assessment Program test to see whether high schoolers are ready for college, and summer academies to help college-bound high school graduates brush up their math and English skills before entering college. But Clute said one of the most popular suggestions is requiring a fourth year of high school math for IE juniors students who score as “conditionally ready” on the Early Assessment Program test.

“Right now, only 6 percent (of IE’s high school juniors) are ready to take college math, based on that test, and 42 percent score as conditionally ready, so the idea is to create a structural math program for these ‘conditionally ready’ students in their senior year, so they can go into college without needing remediation,” Clute said.

“Everyone loves the idea, but the reason it hasn’t happened yet is you need to have a group of people who span all the grade levels, K through college, sitting down and designing curriculum. We have the team in place, but while that’s taking place, the assessments for juniors are changing because of Common Core. The old assessments have been thrown out and how they’re trying to realign everything and it’s a process to get everyone to sit down and figure it out.”
The Governor's Award is important for many reasons, she said. It’s expected to trigger additional funding from private foundations such as the James Irvine Foundation and the California Futures Foundation and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, who have expressed interest in FACE’s unique collaboration and its commitment to helping Latinos and other underrepresented groups have better access to and success in college, improving their career opportunities and the regional economy as a whole.

“The beauty of FACE is that we really have buy-in from all the different levels of education, along with local governments and industry,” Clute said. “The task seemed so daunting when we jumped into it, no one believed we could get this far, and the synergy isn’t just from higher ed. For instance, the only reason we have the Gates Foundation interested is because the Riverside County Office of Education floated this idea out to them. That’s buy-in.”

But perhaps the most important thing, Clute said, is the message the award sends to the region as a whole. “The Inland Empire is getting attention for what we’re doing right,” she said. “The governor received 57 applications, could only fund five of them, and we are one of those five.”

UCR Budget Redesign Initiative Will Transform Campus Budgeting, Financial Operations

Sustained effort will provide greater transparency, better tools, and streamlined processes for staff and faculty

By James Grant

In recent months, under the leadership of Provost Paul D’Anieri and Vice Chancellor for Planning & Budget Maria Anguiano, UCR has undertaken a transformational effort to redesign the Campus’ Resource Allocation and Budget Model.

“UCR has ambitious goals, including adding 300 new faculty members by 2020 and building new laboratory space,” said D’Anieri. “To achieve these goals, we must get the most out of our money. We are designing a budget model that will dramatically increase transparency and empower stakeholders across campus. It will provide incentives to bring in new revenue, to cut costs, and to ensure that our budget effectively serves our mission. UCR aspires to be a model not only within the UC system, but nationally for budgeting in a way that is simple, transparent, and mission-driven.”

Last fall, Anguiano and D’Anieri convened Phase I of the initiative, holding planning sessions with key faculty and staff to clarify needs as voiced by various stakeholders.

Said Anguiano: “We want to engage the entire UCR community to ensure that we move to a resource allocation methodology and budget process that is transparent and aligns resources with strategic goals.”

Anguiano says that key collective goals stated by participants include:

- Create a transparent and visible resource allocation model
- Streamline and improve the financial management process across the organization
- Better align funding, decision-making and programmatic evaluation with strategic goals
- Align responsibility with accountability across the organization
• Align incentives to promote revenue growth and reductions in cost
• Foster Universitywide collaboration and stakeholder involvement
• Support meaningful standard key performance indicators

Anguiano and D’Anieri recently announced formation of key committees and project teams to begin Phase II of the project. Committee recommendations are expected later this spring, with implementation of the new framework planned for fiscal year 2016-17.

Prize Awarded to Best Explanations for Origin of Ancient Ring-like Structures Seen on Seabed

UC Riverside scientists used crowdsourcing to expand the range of possible solutions to the riddle

By Iqbal Pittalwala

A few weeks ago, scientists at UCR launched a contest on the Internet that invited the public to submit explanations for what the origin might be of curious ring-like structures that formed half a billion years ago on a seabed in Wisconsin.

The contest offered a cash prize to the best response from submissions received between February 16, when the contest was announced, and March 11, the end of the contest.

Recently, three recipients of the prize were identified through their Reddit ID’s as Dainwaris, PoletoPole and Juapuman, and will each receive $200. While Dainwaris favored the structure being the holdfast of an ancient sponge or coral, the other winners, one of whom is from Kolkata, India, suggested that the rings were egg capsules akin to those seen made by modern moon snails for protecting embryos before hatching.

“Both explanations fit well with several of the key observations made about these structures, said Nigel Hughes, a professor of paleobiology in the Department of Earth Sciences, who invited the public to solve the ancient riddle.

Approximately 75 comments were received on the Reddit site that featured the contest. Some submissions were also received on other websites. The UCR panel of judges considered all submissions received by the deadline (4 p.m., Pacific Time, March 11). Submissions posted since the deadline will be considered, but are ineligible for the prize.

“We have analyzed the whole distribution of submissions,” said Eamonn Keogh, a professor of computer science and engineering and a data mining expert. He provided computer support and advice on the project. “Entries came in from North America, Europe and Asia. We didn’t receive as many entries from China as we thought we would, perhaps due to YouTube restrictions there.”

Besides Hughes and Keogh, the panel of judges included UCR graduate student Matthew Knauss, UCR alumna Ashlee Tyler, and the two amateur paleontologists, Gerald Gunderson and Ronald Meyer, who discovered the rings nearly three decades ago.

“Some entries are detailed, going point to point,” Hughes said. “Others are just one line long. While they span a range of options that have been on our minds, many provide specific links to information about possible mechanisms we would not have thought about.”
It was Keogh who suggested to Hughes of using crowdsourcing to include public participation.

“The number of submissions we received is a very manageable number,” Hughes said. “This sort of research project lends itself particularly well to crowdsourcing. People have wondered about the Wisconsin rings since they were discovered, and one can consider a variety of possibilities for their origin. So it struck as an intriguing problem, one in which we probably won’t necessarily be able to find a definitive answer but describe a range of possibilities. Quite possibly, crowdsourcing has value also in other paleontology research.”

Hughes mentioned that although the majority of people who visited the contest website were interested in natural history, some submitted explanations provided analogies of how the rings might have been made rather than identifying the specific maker.

“This is because several of the proposed ring-makers had not evolved at the time the rings for formed,” he said. “Neither of our winners’ proposed ring-makers is actually likely to have made the rings we see, but they provide great analogs of how they might have formed. Historical science is about observing natural processes happening today and thinking about how similar natural processes might fit observations about events in the past.”

Hughes and Keogh are planning to write a scientific description of the fossil and submit it to a peer-reviewed journal. The research paper will likely have a section that describes the crowdsourcing venture undertaken, list the breadth of explanations received and discuss what was learned from the exercise.

“We consider it to have been a success,” Keogh said. “We had no idea if this would generate lots of interest or little interest. We believe it has met the objective of giving us far more possible explanations than we had before.”

Hughes, too, is pleased the contest generated interest from the public on the Internet.

“To submit a serious entry, as many have been, requires a lot of work and some familiarity with paleontology – so it can be quite demanding,” he said. “We greatly appreciate the efforts of everyone who participated.”

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**UCR Freshman Adanna Duru Makes Top 10 on American Idol**

*By Kris Lovekin*

UC Riverside freshman Adanna Duru performed an energetic rendition of the Bruno Mars’ song “Runaway Baby” on Fox TV’s reality show “American Idol” Thursday, March 12, and ran away with some nice compliments from the judges.
Keith Urban, a celebrated country music icon, said Adanna possessed a “Tina Turner like cool factor.” The other judges are Jennifer Lopez and Harry Connick, Jr.

At 8 p.m. Thursday, March 19, fans of the 18-year-old with a powerful voice gathered at UCR’s Lothian residential restaurant to watch as the show revealed that she was in the top 10, based on previous online, text and telephone voting totals from a nationwide audience. The 11th contestant was “saved” by the judges, so no one was removed. The next chance to vote is during and after the show Wednesday and Thursday.

“It is exciting and nerve-racking at the same time,” said IJ Duru, Adanna’s proud mother and chief cheerleader.

Adanna Duru is not the only UCR Highlander in this Diamond Bar family. She has an older brother, Zim Duru, who is a third year student at UCR in neuroscience. He has been watching, tweeting and voting to support his sister. A younger brother, Koby, is 16 and still in high school in Diamond Bar.

“She’s a fighter,” IJ said of her daughter. “She’s enjoying the journey, and she is just living the dream.”

The journey started on the first day of the Fall quarter at UCR, when Adanna Duru and her mom had to fly to San Francisco for an audition and get back before she missed too much class. She finished the quarter by juggling a lot of competing priorities, but then asked for a leave of absence to pursue her singing dreams.

Adanna Duru said said that she performs because she loves it, and because she wants to help support her family. She gives voice lessons to earn money, and she does volunteer work as well. Her vast social media efforts enlist the #DuruNation to support her.

No stranger to television contests, Adanna competed in The Voice when she was 15, and made it onto a team led by Adam Levine. She told a local newspaper reporter that she is enjoying the American Idol experience even more.

The campus has held two viewing parties on campus. The first, for the season premiere, drew 50 or 60 people, including Adanna and her mom. It gave Adanna a chance to thank UCR for supporting her.

That first episode included two Highlanders, Adanna Duru and Rocky Peter Ajoku, who graduated from UCR in 2013. Both happen to be Nigerian-American. Even though his journey on the show ended before Adanna’s, Rocky still spends time on social media asking people to vote for Adanna.

“This is a UC Riverside pride thing, for sure,” said Tammy Giglio, a longtime fan of American Idol and a UCR staff member who has become an admirer of Adanna’s powerful voice and professional dance moves. “I hope she gets to the top 10, because those are the people who go on tour after the show,” Giglio said.

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Nomination Process for UC Retirement System Advisory Board Election Begins March 23

by UCOP

UC staff interested in running for one of two open seats on the UC Retirement System (UCRS) Advisory Board may submit nomination applications. Submissions began on Monday, March 23.

The application period runs through May 1, 2015.
The advisory board meets three times a year to discuss issues of interest to UCRS members, retirees and beneficiaries, and shares its opinions on these issues with the president of the university.

To qualify for the ballot, staff must be active members of the University of California Retirement Plan (UCRP) who are not members of the Academic Senate. Office of the President employees involved in making UCRS policy or providing legal advice about UCRS and employees in Internal Audit are not eligible to run.

Candidates must also submit a signed background information sheet that includes a candidate statement, a nomination petition with at least 50 valid signatures from active UCRP members, and a signed rules of campaign conduct form.

Nomination materials in both English and Spanish may be downloaded from a UCRS Advisory Board election website that is accessible through UCnet. They are also available at local benefits offices.

In mid-May, a list of qualified candidates and their statements will be posted at the UCRS Advisory Board election website.

All active, eligible UCRP members who are not part of the Academic Senate will then elect two candidates to sit on the board for a four-year term. The online election will be conducted by VR Election Services (VRES), from May 19 through June 17.

VRES has more than 25 years experience conducting retirement board elections, including elections for many of the largest public retirement systems in the country.

Final election results will be posted at the website by the end of June.

About the UCRS Advisory Board

The 11-member UCRS Advisory Board is comprised of a cross-section of the university community. In addition to the two seats held by elected staff representatives, the board includes members of the president’s executive cabinet; faculty appointed by the UC Academic Senate; and representatives of the Council of UC Emeriti Associations and Council of UC Retiree Associations.

The Advisory Board discusses issues relating to all members, retirees and their beneficiaries for the following plans:

- University of California Retirement Plan (UCRP)
- Tax-Deferred 403(b) Plan
- 457(b) Deferred Compensation Plan
- Defined Contribution Plan
- The 415(m) Restoration Plan

Chancellor Town Hall Set for March 30

A Chancellor’s Town Hall Meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 30 at 3:30 p.m. in the HUB, room 302. The meeting will include a discussion of the progress to date on implementation of a new budgeting system for the campus.
Space is limited, so please arrive early. The discussion will also be webcast in real time at http://chancellor.ucr.edu/ for those who are unable to attend in person. (The link will not be active until the event actually starts.) For any questions or comments you would like Chancellor Wilcox to address at the Town Hall Meeting, email townhall@ucr.edu.

“A Piece of My Mind” Premieres at Riverside International Film Festival

Documentary about the recovery and rehabilitation of theater professor Eric Barr to screen April 4

By Bettye Miller

A documentary about the recovery of UC Riverside theater professor Eric Barr from near-fatal strokes will premiere at the Riverside International Film Festival on Saturday, April 4, at 3 p.m. in The Box theater in downtown Riverside.

A panel discussion will follow screening of the 26-minute film “A Piece of My Mind” and will include Barr and his wife, Karen Genet; Keun Pyo “Root” Park, director of the documentary and assistant professor of directing and film production at UCR; and Robin Russin, director of Barr’s one-man play of the same title and professor of screenwriting at UCR.

The festival runs April 3-12. During the April 4 gala that follows the documentary and panel discussion Lifetime Achievement Awards will be presented to Tony Award-winning actor Joe Montegna and Grammy winner Mike Love, a founding member of the Beach Boys. Information about tickets and showtimes is available at http://riversidefilm.org/. The Box is located at 3635 Market St., in the Fox Entertainment Plaza.

The Riverside International Film Festival is in its 13th year and attracts submissions of feature and short films, documentaries, and animated films from Hollywood and around the world. This year’s festival will also feature music performances and host panels on music as it relates to film.

“A Piece of My Mind” began as a one-hour show Barr developed from emails and Facebook postings that chronicled his fight to survive near-fatal strokes, his struggle with grueling and frustrating rehabilitation sessions, and his gratefulness for the support of family and friends. It is candid, funny, and hopeful.

The longtime UCR professor and chair of the Department of Theatre, Film and Digital Production – now retired – suffered a massive heart infection after surgery to replace a valve and repair an aortic aneurysm two years ago. The infection produced numerous emboli (objects that block blood flow), which caused devastating strokes in both sides of his brain that left him paralyzed, unable to speak or swallow, and confused.

“The title says a lot,” said Root Park, the film’s director. “The film explores his ideas about facing death, his experience in the hospital and during rehabilitation, and how he applies the insights he gained to everyday life.”

Barr has recovered his speech and can walk for short periods without a cane. But he has not yet recovered use of his left hand, his short-term memory remains challenged, and he cannot be alone.

“I was alive but I ceased to be the person I knew,” he recalled. “I became a patient and a stroke survivor. I told my therapists from the beginning that I would write a show about this. As a theater guy I process something by writing about it and performing it.”

One message of the documentary and Barr’s one-man show is the crucial role of caregivers.

“I wouldn’t be alive without my wife,” he said. “When I returned home after six months, everything fell on my
wife. I was afraid the stroke would end up killing Karen, not me.”

One of the hardest lessons Barr said he’s learned is to ask for help.

“Suddenly you’re in a situation where you can’t do things on your own. It gets really frustrating after a while. You have to depend on people and learn to graciously accept assistance. That’s hard to do, surprisingly.”

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**Film Camp Offers Hope for Pediatric Cancer Patients**

*UCR senior and cancer survivor seeking support at April 2 screening to expand program to the Inland Empire*

By Bettye Miller

Brain cancer. Not the diagnosis Cassie Nguyen was expecting as a sophomore at Riverside’s Martin Luther King High School. Neither was the debilitating surgery that saved her life.

Today, Nguyen is an honor student and School of Public Policy ambassador at the University of California, Riverside, where she will graduate in June. She is a 10-year cancer survivor, American Cancer Society advocate, and the creator of Spotlight On Hope Film Camp, a free filmmaking program for pediatric cancer patients that until now has been held only in Los Angeles.

Nguyen hopes to bring the film camp to UC Riverside and the Inland Empire, and is screening short films written and produced by pediatric cancer patients in the program on Thursday, April 2, from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m. in Highlander Union Building 367. The event is free and open to the public. The screening is co-sponsored by University Honors and the Women’s Resource Center.

The Riverside resident said she hopes the screening will generate support to expand the program to the Inland Empire. She hopes eventually to establish a nonprofit foundation and offer film camps across the country.

Approximately 13,500 children are diagnosed with cancer each year in the U.S., and about 25 percent of them die, Nguyen said. Although Spotlight On Hope Film Camp does not reduce the death rate, it does provide a therapeutic outlet for pediatric cancer patients, she explained.

“I know how boring the hospital scene is,” Nguyen said, recalling the surgery to remove the tumor from her brain, a year of radiation and chemotherapy, and physical therapy to learn to write with her left hand and regain mobility to address on-going balance and difficult vision issues. “I wanted to do something to help kids take their minds off what was happening to them and give them something to look forward to.”

Nguyen suggested the film camp for young cancer patients while working as an intern for Think Ten Media Group, a production company based in Castaic that aims to use the power of media to create change and spread awareness of key issues.

She raised $700 to cover production costs of the first camp, held in September 2013, by selling plastic cancer bracelets to UCR faculty and students, family and friends in her junior year. She dedicated the first film camp to a younger cousin who died of sarcoma cancer at age 14.

Think Ten Media Group co-founders and filmmakers Ramon Hamilton and Jennifer Fischer helped Nguyen develop the Spotlight On Hope Film Camp for pediatric cancer patients at Children’s Hospital Los Angeles as part of their company’s arts education program. The UCLA School of Theater, Film and Television hosts the
When the film camp proved to be successful, Nguyen applied for and won a $10,000 scholarship from the Donald A. Strauss Public Service Scholarship Foundation in 2014, which funded 10 more film camps at UCLA. The foundation awards $10,000 scholarships to as many as 15 California college juniors annually to support public-service projects that the students carry out during their senior year.

Spotlight On Hope Film Camp allows patients to explore the art of green screen and special effects film-making while working in groups to create a short, green screen and special effects film. The participants, who range in age from 8 to 22, also learn about story/character development, camera technique, video and FX editing during three days of weekend classes.

“Being a pediatric patient myself, I understand how valuable a creative therapeutic outlet can be in the midst of your long, dreadful and difficult journey battling cancer,” Nguyen explained. “Spotlight On Hope Film Camp can help children live in a fantasy world that allows them to get away from all their troubles and create lasting memories.”

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**Spring Plant Sale Set for March 28 and 29**

*Nearly 10,000 plants, including many rare and unusual varieties, will be for sale*

By Sean Nealon

The 42nd annual UCR Botanic Gardens spring plant sale will be held from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, March 28 and from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday, March 29.

There will be nearly 10,000 plants, including many rare and unusual varieties, as well as old favorites, for sale. A full plant list can be found on the Botanic Gardens web site.

Attendees can choose from colorful, heat-loving trees and shrubs, flowering perennials, miniature roses, rare cacti and other succulents, patio and houseplants, wildflower seeds and more. A special selection of showy, water-efficient, heat-loving and California native plants selected for spring planting will also be available.

In addition, master gardeners from the UC Cooperative Extension Riverside County Master Gardener program will be selling herbs and summer vegetables, including many unusual varieties.

Most of the plants for sale will have a detailed information sign and color photo to help people make selections. Master Gardeners, Botanic Gardens’ staff and volunteers will be available to answer questions.

Several free talks are scheduled during the plant sale:

* Saturday, March 28th, noon, “Drought Tolerant Plants,” presented by Christine Lampe, a Master Gardener;

* Saturday, March 28th, 1:30 p.m., “Spring Vegetable Gardening,” presented by Kathy Swanson, a Master Gardener;

* Sunday, March 29th, 1 p.m., “Kids Tomato Planting Time,” presented by Janice Ponsor, a Master Gardener. Kids will be able to plant their own tomato plant and receive instructions on how to raise them. Space is limited.
The Botanic Gardens cover more than 40 acres and feature nearly 3,000 plant species from around the world. Enjoy beautiful vistas and numerous scenic trails, including gentle pathways graded for wheelchair access. A wide array of blooming plants can be seen year-round.

Odyssey of the Mind Tournament Challenges Students to Let Off STEAM

UC Riverside to host state tourney on Saturday, March 28 for more than 1,000 ‘OMers’ and their families

By Jeanette Marantos

STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics) may be the new darling in education acronyms these days, but challenging young students to do something creative and fun with those skills has been the mission of Odyssey of the Mind for more than 30 years.

For the uninitiated, Odyssey of the Mind is a gloriously chaotic contest where teams of five to seven students (ages kindergarten to college) have eight minutes to set up and perform their solution to a challenging problem. Their adult coaches can help them decipher the four to five pages of rules and give them instruction in using tools, but they can provide no other assistance.

California’s nine regional tournaments started in February — the Inland Empire’s regional contest was March 7 in Palm Springs — but the state tournament, with some 200 teams and more than 1,000 competitors and their families — will converge at UC Riverside on Saturday, March 28.

How challenging is the contest? Check out this year’s problems:

- Design and build some kind of vehicle that includes its own track system, so the vehicle can make a short journey with multiple stops and obstacles without touching the floor.
- Design and build rubber-band-powered devices to complete various tasks, then build in technical failures for the devices that are overcome during the performance.
- Create and perform a multi-level video game based on the story of Pandora’s Box, that includes a power meter to monitor the characters’ “health.”
- Design and build a balsa wood structure that can weigh no more than 18 grams, but can hold as much weight as possible, and releases five marbles while it’s being pressed by the “crusher board.” (Note: Previous winners have held more than 1,000 pounds!)
- Create a silent movie with at least one villain committing three acts of villainy, using only music made by a team-created instrument and artfully displayed subtitles to convey the story.

Oh, and after they perform their first problem, the competition requires the teams to solve another mystery problem later in the contest, with only a few minutes to think about and improvise their performance/solution.

“The problems they solve are quite amazing; really, I’m intimidated by them,” said LaRae Lundgren, associate vice chancellor of student affairs and enrollment services at UC Riverside, “To have that kind of intellectual curiosity and engagement on campus will be wonderful. These are very high-achieving students and we’d love to have those students interested in Riverside as a campus when they’re ready to apply to a university.”
Of course, that’s part of OM’s design, hosting its tournaments on university campuses to build college awareness with young students, said Lynn Larsen, associate dean of Brandman University’s School of Education and Odyssey of the Mind’s volunteer state director. Indeed, Larsen and her husband, Paul Larsen, a biochemistry professor at UCR, were thrilled last year when they learned that incoming UCR Chancellor Kim Wilcox had hosted the Odyssey of the Mind World Finals when he was provost at Michigan State University.

“Before he’d even stepped foot on campus as chancellor, Paul contacted him and said, ‘We’d like to talk to you about the possibility of hosting the state OM tournament at UCR,’ and he was completely on board,” Larsen said.

“We’ll basically be taking over UCR on Saturday, March 28. All the dining facilities in the HUB will be open for participants....the Highlander Dance Team and Bagpipe Band will play at the closing ceremonies, the UCR mascots are going to be posing for pictures but the neatest thing, the main reason my husband and I wanted host this on campus, is that it provides a chance for the OM kids and their families to experience life at a university. UCR is providing UC admissions and financial aid workshops for parents, and campus tours so the students can see what UCR has to offer. Besides all the fun, amazing things going on, we’re so excited for parents and students to find out more information about higher education.”

The Larsens themselves caught the fever in college, when they were childless grad students who volunteered to be OM judges. They were so impressed they vowed to one day get their own children involved. Today, their twins, Hannah and Zachary, are seniors at Arrowhead Christian Academy in Redlands, and seasoned competitors, with four state championships and World Finals behind them. At their last competition at the World Finals in 2013, their team finished in ninth place, out of some 800 teams from 26 countries.

They’ll help at the state tournament this year and they’re working with OM’s community service branch, Odyssey Angels, to design gift bags with creative activities for families staying at Ronald McDonald Houses. But as busy seniors, Larsen said they opted not to have a team this year so they could focus on a different problem: choosing which college to attend out of the many where they’ve been accepted. And she credits OM for helping to make them so college worthy.

“When kids participate in this program it’s a life-changing process,” said Larsen. “It taps into so many things we’ve lost in the schools, such as the arts, team work, problem solving and opportunities for highly creative kids to express themselves. The more creatively they interpret their problems, the better. We’re always looking for that moment when the judges say, ‘I wouldn’t have thought of that,’ or ‘I can’t believe they came up with that!’”

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The Top: Inspirational Women According to UCR Professors

*UCR professors share their answer to the question, “Who are the women that have inspired you most?”*

**By Bethanie Le**

Welcome to The Top!

Each issue, we present a list of UCR staff and faculty favorites — from walking spots to gardens to events. In honor of March being Women’s History Month, we asked a few UCR professors to name the women who inspire them most and why.

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

1. **Reza Aslan, professor of creative writing**
“The woman that most inspires me happens to be my wife, Jessica Jackley, the co-founder of one of the most important nonprofits in history, Kiva.org,” Aslan stated.

Kiva’s mission is to “connect people through lending to alleviate poverty.” Kiva allows people to lend money via the Internet to low-income, underserved entrepreneurs and students in over 70 countries. Leveraging the internet and a worldwide network of microfinance institutions, Kiva allows people to loan money to a borrower whom they connect with. When borrowers repay them fully, the lenders can use that money to empower another person by supporting a new loan.

2. Christine Ward Gailey, professor of anthropology

“I really admire single mothers who work and get an education. These women are so committed to setting an excellent example for their children and bettering their lives, despite the negative sniping by the right-wing media. These kinds of families are on the increase around the world because of wars, patriarchal abandonment, escaping violent spouses, rape leading to being shunned by communities, border and immigration separations, and simply deciding to have kids on one’s own. Their struggles for equal pay, safe environments, reduced violence, reproductive health care and access to abortion, and so on, are at the forefront of all women’s rights efforts.”

3. Michelle H. Raheja, associate professor of English

“In the wake of the announcement that Pope Francis will canonize Father Junipero Serra, the story of Toypurina, a late 18th century Tongva/Kizh leader and healer who resisted the genocide and compulsory Christianity of the Indigenous peoples of what is now known as California, becomes increasingly timely and critical. At the time of Toypurina’s birth, the Spanish colonization and subjugation of indigenous peoples in the Los Angeles Basin area had already begun, spearheaded by the efforts of Serra and in conjunction with the Spanish military. Toypurina witnessed the Tongva population of roughly 5,000 fall to 1,500 in a brief timespan due to disease, displacement, and starvation. She also witnessed the enslavement; institutionalized sexual violence of Native men, women, and children; land dispossession; and destruction of languages, cultures, spiritual beliefs, and nonpatriarchal/anti-oppressive gender dynamics as the Spanish mission system spread its web of violence throughout California. In an effort to quell this systematic destruction of her people, Toypurina collaborated with seven villages to organize a rebellion against Mission San Gabriel Arcangel in 1785. Although this rebellion is a key part of a long and inspiring series of Native resistances to genocide and settler colonialism from at least 1492 to the present, it was ultimately unsuccessful. Toypurina was captured and subsequently forced to convert to Christianity, divorce her husband, receive a Spanish name, move to northern California (never allowed to return to her home territories), and marry a Spanish soldier. She died when she was in her 30s, but her legacy lives on in the struggles of California Indians to survive, thrive, and continue to resist the physical and discursive forms of genocide inaugurated by Spanish and later U.S. colonization.

“As we approach Women’s History Month, I would like to remember and celebrate Toypurina, a little-known but critical local historical figure. I want to remember her toward the end of her life in a marriage to which she didn’t consent, forbidden to practice any of the important cultural and social aspects that gave her life meaning as a Tongva woman and leader, and knowing that she would live the rest of her life far from everything she had known and loved. But I also want to imagine the heroism she displayed in the face of insurmountable odds and the courage she mustered in defense of her people, her respected role as a leader and healer, and the care and love she had for this place we now call Los Angeles County.”

4. Susan Straight, professor of creative writing

Susan Straight, professor of creative writing, could not choose just one woman that she is inspired by. So she gave us six! She answered:

“Geneva Stevenson, my father-in-law’s aunt, who survived post-slavery Tennessee, Reconstruction Texas,
“Susan Strickland, a local heroine whose family was among the first in Riverside, who helped integrate Riverside schools as a teacher, and who inspires me every day right now.”

“Lucy Maud Montgomery, the author of “Anne of Green Gables,” who lost her mother, was raised by severe grandparents in a time hard on women, and who wrote for her entire life, inspiring millions of women writers.”

“Toni Morrison, the Pulitzer prize-winning novelist whose books changed the way I looked at language and landscape, and made me a writer.”

“Patt Morrison, the erudite and beautiful face of the Los Angeles Times, who writes about the people and places of southern California, and who loves books.”

“Every librarian I’ve ever met – most of them women – who guided my hands, and so many others, to just the right book, and sat patiently behind the desk while we found stories.”

5. Tiffany López, professor of theatre

“A woman who inspires me is Malala Yousafzai because she is a passionate advocate for the education of girls and a survivor of traumatic violence who practices forgiveness as crucial to fostering the strength of spirit needed to forge paths for personal healing and social change,” said López.

At the young age of 11, Malala started writing an anonymous blog for BBC Urdu, describing her life under Taliban rule in northwest Pakistan and expressing her views on how girls should be allowed to receive an education. The Taliban threatened her life; on Oct. 9, 2012, a masked gunman shot Malala in the head while she was coming home from school. Malala survived the assault and has continued to advocate for female education ever since. At 17 years old, she became the youngest person to receive the Nobel Peace Prize.
country, and are members of the Big West Conference, made up of nine schools in California.

“The person we are looking for will value victory on the field, but also victory in the classroom,” Wilcox said. “At the end of the day our athletes are students and they are here to earn a degree.”

Janet Lucas is serving in the position in the interim. “The program is in very capable hands while we make a decision about next steps,” Wilcox said.

The athletics director is a contract position, and the process will be confidential. People with candidates to suggest, or who wish to apply, may send information to the advisory committee at the email address: chancellor@ucr.edu.

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**Masterclass Introduces Local High School Students to Particle Physics**

*UC Riverside’s Department of Physics and Astronomy offers the interactive exercise for the eighth year in a row*

By Iqbal Pittalwala

On March 10 and 11, approximately 35 students from San Jacinto High School and Valencia High School visited the Department of Physics and Astronomy at the University of California, Riverside to participate in the International Particle Physics Masterclass, an annual program of the European Particle Physics Outreach Group. The Masterclass is an interactive exercise in which high school students analyze specific particle physics data.

The visiting students attended a series of special lectures and participated in exercises on March 10. They took part in a videoconference with CERN (the particle physics laboratory on the border of Switzerland and France) and high schools in Brazil, France, Belgium and Hungary on March 11.

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**Brown, Napolitano Report on Budget Discussions**

By Carolyn McMillan, UC Newsroom

Gov. Jerry Brown and University of California President Janet Napolitano have discussed the importance of California enrollment growth and opportunities for increasing degree production as part of their far-reaching discussions on UC’s budget.

In an update to the UC Board of Regents on the Select Advisory Committee on the Cost Structure of the University, Napolitano and Brown on March 18 described the meetings as both positive and productive.

“I think it’s important for us to remember what our main objectives are,” Napolitano told the board. “We want to keep tuition as low as possible and as predictable as possible. We want to extend the planning horizon line, moving to a longer-term approach that allows California families, our partners in state government, and the university itself to make good choices as they contemplate their shared futures. And we want to do all this without sacrificing a single iota of the quality of the university.”

*Critical look at cost structure*
The regents in January voted to establish the committee, of which Brown and Napolitano are the sole members, and charged it with developing and evaluating proposals to reduce the university’s cost structure while improving access, quality and outcomes.

The committee has since held two meetings, during which it heard from higher education experts from both inside and outside UC. A third meeting is scheduled for April.

Napolitano said that she welcomed the focus on UC, how it is funded, and the key role it plays in California’s economic growth and the well-being of its citizens.

She noted that Assembly Speaker Toni Atkins and Senate President Pro Tempore Kevin de León also were very engaged on the topic, and had each put forth proposals.

Napolitano said she also had met with graduate and undergraduate students to talk about UC’s funding challenges.

“I want to be sure their voices are being heard,” Napolitano said. “All of us want to make sure that we do what is right for higher education.”

Brown told regents that he was enjoying his in-depth discussions with Napolitano as he looked for ways to lower the university’s overall cost structure.

“We haven’t had a tie vote yet, so that’s good,” Brown quipped, adding later, “I think we’re moving in the right direction.”

Holding the line on enrollment

Amid UC’s budget negotiations and uncertainty about state funding, Napolitano told the board that she announced in early March that UC might hold California enrollment at its current level for the 2015-16 academic year. The university also plans to maintain out-of-state enrollment at current levels on the Berkeley and UCLA campuses.

Napolitano said the enrollment announcement was made in deference to the university’s admissions calendar, which is not in sync with the state budget process.

A final decision on whether UC can continue to increase California enrollment in the coming year will be tied, by necessity, to whether the university receives state funding to accommodate it, she said.

Retirement Review Helps You See if You’re on Track for Retirement

If you’re wondering whether you’ll have the money you need when you’re ready to retire, UC’s Retirement Review, featuring your personalized retirement readiness score, is just the tool to help you.

The updated version, based on your pay during November 2014 and your contributions to the 403(b), 457(b) and DC Plans as of Dec. 31, 2014, is now available.

Your retirement readiness score is the percentage of your current income you’re on track to have at age 65 from both parts of the UC Retirement System—the UC Retirement Plan pension benefit and the Retirement Savings Program.

Your retirement readiness score lets you quickly see in one place whether you’ll be ready for retirement when
you want to be. But remember: the calculation of your score assumes you will work for UC until you reach age 65. Chances are you’ll work for several employers during your career, so make sure you factor that into your planning.

It’s easy to see what you’re on track to have from your UC retirement benefits—and how that stacks up against what you may need in retirement. Your retirement readiness score can also reflect your non-UC sources of income if you enter information about those sources into the modeling tool.

*Here’s how to check your readiness score:*

From the www.ucfocusonyourfuture.com homepage, click the “Personalized Retirement Roadmap” tab and log in using your Fidelity username and password. You’ll immediately see your personalized retirement readiness score and suggested next steps.

Want to see what happens when you increase your 403(b) or 457(b) Plan contributions? Click “Explore Options” and enter amounts or move the sliders to try different changes. Your readiness score will update automatically.

Want to add your Social Security benefit or other non-UC retirement savings? Choose “Add non-UC sources of household income” and enter income in the appropriate categories. You’ll build a comprehensive estimate of how well you’re doing saving for retirement.

Many financial advisors suggest individuals plan to replace 80 percent of their income in retirement. Is your retirement readiness score at 80? Click “Check Retirement Review” to see your latest score and a breakdown of your potential sources of retirement income.

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**UCR Hosts Panel with Japanese Delegates**

*On March 12, a panel with a former Japanese ambassador and four Japanese delegates discussed U.S.-Japan Relations with UCR community.*

By Bethanie Le

On March 12, UC Riverside hosted a panel discussion with a former Japanese ambassador and a team of four Japanese delegates to engage the UCR campus in dialogue about Japan-U.S. relations.

This panel discussion was a part of a Japanese government project called “Walk in the U.S., Talk on Japan,” where delegates meet and hold discussions with local communities and various organizations in order to strengthen Japan-U.S. relations. The discussions provide the public with an opportunity to have an honest exchange of opinions on relations with Japan. The Japanese Consulate Office in Los Angeles invited UCR to be part of this delegation’s tour. The event was co-sponsored by UCR Extension and the School of Public Policy.

The individuals from the panel were dispatched to the U.S. because of their efforts in conveying the strengths and appeal of Japan. They are drawn from a variety of backgrounds, including a former ambassador, a business consultant, a female singer-songwriter, an English teacher and a college student.

The Japanese delegation included Ichiro Fujisaki, former Japanese ambassador; Takuro Yoneyama, former head of Mitsui and founder of Nisshin Global Corp., a global business that connects small Japanese businesses to foreign business partners and consumers; Azusa “Hanah” Tobimatsu, outreach coordinator of Japan Foundation, a legal entity with the objective of promoting international cultural exchange through a comprehensive range of programs around the world; Momoka Seino, a violinist and singer-songwriter; and Erika Takeda, a fourth-year student at Keio University.

Seventy-five UCR students as well as several teachers and high school students from the Riverside Stem Academy
and other community members attended the panel discussion and reception. UCR students included School of Public Policy Student Ambassadors, undergraduates majoring in public policy and global studies, students involved with Japanese clubs on campus, and students who are participating in a UCR faculty-led summer 2015 study abroad program to Japan. The event was designed for students who are interested in Japan, Japanese culture and Japanese-U.S. relations.

Prior to the panel and discussion with the larger group, the delegation met with Chancellor Kim Wilcox, Anil Deolalikar, dean of the UCR School of Public Policy, Sharon Duffy, dean of University Extension, Reiko Sato, lecturer in Comparative Literature and Foreign Languages, and Valerie Hodge, associate director of International Education Programs at Extension.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

*New survey seeks staff opinions on working at UC*

UC is launching a survey to learn more about what its non-represented (policy-covered) staff thinks about working at the university.

The survey aims to help UC better understand the views, experiences and needs of non-represented staff on topics related to working at UC, including career development, performance management and workplace collaboration.

This is the second staff engagement survey; the first was in 2012. Results from that survey were shared with UCOP senior leadership and the chancellor or senior administrators at each location. By comparing the results of the two surveys, UC Human Resources will get insight into areas where progress has been made and areas that need further effort and focus.

About 20,000 of UC’s roughly 50,000 non-represented staff will be randomly selected to participate in the UC Staff Engagement Survey. During the week of March 30, the representative sample of staff members will receive an email from Towers Watson, a firm conducting the survey on UC’s behalf, with an invitation to take the survey.

The survey is completely confidential. Individual responses to the survey and personally identifying information will not be shared with UC.

*ARAG legal plan members have identity theft protection*

Whether you’ve been a victim of identity theft or not, it’s good to know that, if you’re enrolled in ARAG, the UC-sponsored legal plan, you have identity theft services available to you. This benefit provides you with $1 million in identity theft insurance, as well as access to identity theft case specialists who work on your behalf to provide full-service identity restoration. You can also safeguard your personal information, and that of your family, by signing up to receive credit monitoring, Internet surveillance and child identity monitoring services. These are the same identity theft services that many UC employees already purchase through other companies.

To activate the full suite of these benefits:

- Log into ARAGLegalCenter.com with your member user name and password.
- On the right side of the home page, under “New Coverage Added!,” click on “Create Account.”
If you want to know more about how to take full advantage of these services, attend ARAG’s 30-minute webinar, How to use ARAG’s expanded ID theft services. The webinar is being offered on March 26 at 11 to 11:30 a.m. and April 2, at 2 to 2:30 p.m. To register, visit this website and choose the time that works best for you.

From the Staff Assembly: Outstanding Staff Awards, Elections, Society 54 and Community Partner Fair

The Outstanding Staff Awards are presented annually, with finalists being recognized at the Spring General Meeting and winners being announced at the Annual Staff Recognition Awards Ceremony at the end of spring quarter. The awards consist of: Staff Who Make A Difference Award, People Helping People Award, Tartan Soul Award, Diversity Award, and the Volunteer of The Year Award. The nomination deadline is April 2. Nominate a candidate here: http://staffassembly.ucr.edu/recognition_awards/outstandingstaffawards.html.

Staff Assembly Elections

Nominate yourself or someone else for a board position on staff assembly at http://staffassembly.ucr.edu/elections/. Nominations close April 24 and elections will be held on Monday, May 11.

Community Partner Fair

The Community Partner Fair is on Wednesday, April 15, from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the UCR Highlander Union Building (HUB) 302.

Coordinated and sponsored by the UCR Staff Assembly, the annual Community Partner Fair (CPF) invites companies and organizations to the UCR campus to demonstrate their products and services to the staff, faculty and students of UCR. It’s a great opportunity for organizations to connect with individuals in over 200 UCR departments who purchase more than $60 million annually in products and services.

For questions, go to http://staffassembly.ucr.edu/events_and_meetings/community_partner_fair.html or contact Liz Carrasco X21806.

Society 54 Challenge

Society 54 is made up of people who support the activities and programs of Staff Assembly through automatic payroll deduction. This spring, Staff Assembly will host the Society 54 challenge, a 54-day campaign to get as many staff members as possible to make a donation of just $4.50 per month.

Who Says?

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

“It’s a snapshot of our current understanding of seismic hazard in California based on the best available science that we can incorporate into such a model.”

David Oglesby, chair of earth sciences department and professor of geophysics, on a recent U.S. Geological Survey study that finds that the chance of a magnitude 8 or higher earthquake hitting California has increased about 7 percent

USA TODAY
“[A moth’s behavior is like a visit to a city’s Chinatown district.] There are many restaurants, likely they will serve similar food, and most of it will be suitable. However, if you have been to one in the past and know it is good, you may choose to return to that one.”

*Sean Prager, assistant specialist of entomology, on how African cotton leafworm moths show preference for certain plants they’d mated in before*

**SMITHSONIAN MAGAZINE**

“[The cost of gasoline] is pretty much the only price that everyone knows, and knows it on a daily basis. ... That makes it an important indication of how people are doing. If the price of a loaf of bread goes down, no one notices.”

*Rami Zwick, professor of marketing and associate dean of the UCR School of Business Administration, on the recent fluctuating gas prices and the nearly $1-per-gallon cost increase in the Inland Empire*

**THE PRESS-ENTERPRISE**

“The visual system among older adults is very plastic and has the ability to improve, and that perceptual learning [behavioral training] can be used to counteract age-related declines in contrast sensitivity.”

*G. John Andersen, professor of psychology, on his lab’s finding that a week of behavioral intervention can help improve the vision of older adults*

**BUSINESS STANDARD**

“We’ve found that the beetle is drawn to 138 tree species, and it attacks 13 agricultural crops, but it can only reproduce on avocado trees. Why, we don’t know, [but] this is the first time we’ve found it in such a large scale in Southern California, in commercial groves.”

*Akif Eskalen, assistant plant pathologist, on the spread of the polyphagous shot hole borer, a tiny beetle that specifically targets avocado trees and leaves them completely destroyed*

**YAHOO!**

“While genetic modification of crops can introduce new beneficial traits into existing crops, the resulting products need to be tested for long-term health effects before anyone makes assumptions about their impact on human health.”

*Frances Sladek, professor of cell biology, on her recent discovery that genetically modified soybean oil is healthier than conventional soybean oil*

**THE MEDICAL NEWS**

“Symbolically, it represents a real change and a recognition by the Republican Party, particularly the California Republican Party, of changing attitudes on gay marriage and gay and lesbian issues. ... It seems that in recent years social conservatives have been winning out and I think that’s what makes this so significant.”

*Benjamin Bishin, professor of political science, on a recent vote to recognize the Log Cabin Republicans by the California GOP and how Republican Party opposition to LGBT legislation has changed over time*

**CBS LOS ANGELES**
As a result of the progress made at the UCR campus, 10,893 low-income students are receiving Pell Grants this fall on our campus. Fifty-seven percent of our students are first in their families to seek a four-year degree, and 58 percent of our students receive Pell Grants.

Chancellor Kim A. Wilcox illustrating the extraordinary contribution UCR is making to the regional pipeline to college

THE CONVERSATION

Research and Scholarship

UCR Professor Hosts a CNN TV Series

Reza Aslan, professor of creative writing, will host a television series that will debut on CNN in 2016.

CNN describes “Believer” as a “spiritual adventure series.”

“In each episode, Aslan will immerse himself into one of the world’s most fascinating faith-based groups to experience life as a true believer,” CNN said in announcing the series on March 10. “The series will feature Aslan participating in endurance worship, spellbinding rituals, and unusual rites of passage to learn about rarefied worlds that have been molded by faith and tradition.”

Santa Monica-based Whalerock Industries will produce the program.

Aslan told the Press-Enterprise that the project is an opportunity to reach a broad audience. “This is very much along the lines of the work I’ve always been doing to explain different religions to people, and for people to discover the connections between their own faiths and that of other communities,” he said. “This is just a different platform.”

2015 John Stanley Memorial Colloquium Set For April 2

Two distinguished Spanish scholars who have been studying the development of political ideas in Latin America, Spain and Portugal in the late 18th century and 19th century will address the topic “Political Concepts in the Iberian World” in the 2015 John Stanley Memorial Colloquium on April 2 at 11 a.m. in College Building South 114.

Javier Fernández Sebastián from the University of the Basque Country will discuss “Vocabularies of Modern Politics in the Iberian Atlantic.” Gonzalo Capellán of the University of La Rioja will present “The Concept of Democracy in Nineteenth Century Iberoamerica.”

Both scholars play key roles in the Ibero-American Conceptual History Project (IBERCONCEPTOS) that began in 2004 and includes scores of researchers examining “the most important concepts, languages, vocabularies, discourses and political metaphors in circulation in the Ibero-American world during recent centuries,” according to the project’s website.

“The development of ideas in those places and in those times was much more sophisticated and complex than most of us realize,” said John Christian Laursen, UCR professor of political science. “Work produced so far in this project includes two large volumes of a Diccionario politico y social del mundo iberoamericano [Dictionary of Political and Social Concepts in the Iberoamerican world], which has covered concepts such as America, constitution, liberty, and public opinion in 12 countries and over the years 1770-1870.”

The colloquium is named in honor of John Stanley, whom Laursen said was a “much-loved political theorist”
at UCR from 1965 to 1998. The event is presented by the Center for Ideas and Society and the Department of Political Science.

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**Awards and Honors**

**UCR Professor Wins International Award**

Derick Fay, professor of anthropology, is the recipient of Center for a Public Anthropology’s Paul Farmer Global Citizenship Award.

This international award honors the world’s leading medical humanitarians and anthropologists in the 21st century. Only a select few—less than 1 percent of the faculty teaching anthropology courses across North America—receive this award. Dr. Fay is recognized for his exceptional participation in the Community Action Online Project as well as his wider activities in the public sphere.

Fay is also to be commended for how he effectively takes classroom knowledge and applies it to real-world challenges. In actively addressing important ethical concerns within anthropology, Fay provides students with the thinking and writing skills needed to be responsible, global citizens.

**Two UCR Professors are Finalists for 2014 Los Angeles Times Book Prize**

Katie Ford, associate professor of creative writing, and Fred Moten, professor of English, are finalists for the 2014 Los Angeles Times Book Prize for poetry. Ford was nominated for “Blood Lyrics: Poems” (Graywolf Press), and Moten was nominated for “The Feel Trio” (Letter Machine Editions), which also was a finalist for a National Book Award.

Five finalists were named earlier this month in each of 10 categories. Winners will be announced during the Los Angeles Times Festival of Books on April 18 at the University of Southern California. Eligible books are published in the United States in English during the prize year, with finalists announced in early March of the following year.

**Play by UCR Theater Professor Charles Evered Premieres in Los Angeles**

“Class,” a play by UCR professor of playwriting Charles Evered, will premiere at The Falcon Theatre in Los Angeles on March 18, produced by renowned director Garry Marshall. Performances continue through April 19.

The Falcon Theatre was founded by Marshall, best known for having directed the films “Pretty Woman,” “Valentine’s Day” and “The Princess Diaries.” Marshall was also responsible for the iconic television series “Happy Days,” “Mork and Mindy,” “Laverne and Shirley” and the television adaptation of “The Odd Couple.”

“Class” tells the story of Sarah, a young Hollywood starlet seeking lessons from Elliot, an esteemed acting teacher in New York City. In the course of their work together, they learn more about themselves than the craft – and in doing so change each other’s lives forever.

Evered, who is the artistic director in the UCR Department of Theatre, Film and Digital Production, notes that the play is about mentors and how people can have a positive or negative effect on a young person’s journey.

Read the entire press release online at http://ucrtoday.ucr.edu/27812.